



Newsletter #5 - November 2011

A Newsletter for St. Thomas More Collegiate's Alumni, Alumni Parents and Friends

In This Issue

[Inaugural Alumni Survey](#)

[More Spirit Campaign](#)

[Christmas Mass and Reception](#)

[Class Captains Hard at Work](#)

[Alumni BBall Tourney](#)

[Knights Keep Marching In!](#)

[Knight Life](#)

[Alumni Marriages](#)

[Alumni Sports](#)

[The Class of 2029](#)

[Homecoming 2011](#)

[Reunion Updates](#)

[Your Prayers are Needed!](#)

[Marian High 2nd Annual Tea](#)

[Help STMC Go Social!](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Hello Shelnutt Family!

These are exciting times to be a Knight! We have had an action packed September and the months heading to the Christmas season are loaded with opportunities to re-connect with friends and visit your old school.

By now you have received an information package in the mail concerning the More Spirit Capital Campaign and the drive to raise \$1 million dollars in the next 100 days. Our goal is to break ground on our gym this spring and the alumni will play a key role in making that dream a reality. See details below.

In addition this newsletter is your *official invitation to respond to our Inaugural Alumni Survey. Details can be found below.*

We hope to see you at one of the many upcoming alumni events.

Hank Bouwman
Alumni Relations Officer
(604) 521-1801 ext 119
hank.bouwman@hotmail.com

PS: If you have any information you would like included in the next newsletter feel free to send it in.

Inaugural Alumni Survey

Your opinion will make a difference!

In an effort to re-connect and be more responsive to the needs of all our alumni, we have created an on-line survey which was developed in consultation with members of the Alumni Advisory Board and our Class Captains. The results of this survey will help us in three ways.

1. **Mr. DesLauriers ('76)**, our new principal, will use the information to assess the current status of the school and implement plans for future changes.

2. The Academic Counsellors will receive invaluable information regarding how we prepare students for the transition to life after STMC.

3. It will help shape the future direction of the Alumni Association.

Respondents to the survey can choose to remain anonymous or make their identity known. The names of all identified alumni will be placed in a draw for a series of prizes including:



- A \$200.00 Future Shop Gift Card - 2 donated by Dale ('89) and Colin ('91) Bosa of Bosa Properties.
 - A \$200.00 gift basket from A. Bosa Foods - donated by Victor ('90) and Bruno Benedet ('89).
 - Free golf in the GKO for two including dinner and cart.
- Keep an eye out for a separate email with your link to the complete the survey. The deadline to complete your survey and be entered the draw is December 31st.

We thank you in advance for participating in this very important undertaking.

Hank Bouwman
 Alumni Relations Office
 604-521-1801 Ext 119

New Facilities Update: The More Spirit Campaign and the Big \$1 Million-in-100 Days Drive!



The Good News Is... STM is now only \$1 Million away from starting construction on a beautiful new athletic & community centre! We've secured over \$5.2 million in gifts and pledges - that's 85% of the \$6.1 million cost.

Here's the rub: When the StanJean Foundation committed \$2 million, they asked us to promise that STM would begin construction in Spring 2012. But STM cannot begin construction until we have 100% of the \$6.1 million cost secured in gifts and pledges. We simply cannot afford to start construction unless we can pay for it.

We don't want to fail on our promise to a donor who - without ever sending a child here - has been so incredibly generous to the STM community.

So we've launched an all-out drive to raise \$1 million in 100 days, under the new name **The More Spirit Campaign** and the motto "**A Little MORE Goes A Long Way.**"

This week, every current family...every alumnus...every past parent and every friend of STMC will receive a letter calling urgently for donations and pledges now. We are looking for "**A Little MORE**" from everyone to get over the goal line. At this point, **EVERY GIFT COUNTS!** Gifts of any amount are needed.

Five-year pledges and ongoing monthly donations have the biggest impact on when we break ground. Please try to give or pledge **A Little More** and help STM to start construction on these desperately-needed new facilities. For more information or to make a donation visit www.MoreSpirit.ca.



School Christmas Mass



An Alumni Christmas Tradition
10:45am December 15th
The Annual School Christmas Mass is an event that many alumni come to each and every year. A highlight of that event is the school-wide sing-a-long that takes place after the mass which is led by our popular teacher choir. After a 2 year hiatus, **Mr. Morris** is making a triumphant return to sing, among other tunes, his signature classic ***Chestnuts Roasting On An Open Fire.***

After the singalong the Alumni Association will be hosting a reception for the alumni and the STMC staff. All alumni and friends are welcome to attend. It will be a great way to kick off the Christmas Season.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THE DATE!

Class Captains are Hard at Work

On October 19th we held a joint meeting of the **Advisory Board and all Class Captains**. There was great enthusiasm and the meeting helped formulate future Alumni Association activities and the direction of the current capital campaign. Updating our database and reconnecting with our alumni remains a significant challenge for the Alumni Association as we move forward and grow. We are still looking for class captains for a number of grad years. If we are going to successfully reconnect with all our alumni, we need class captains. Check out the [Class Captain Information Link](#) to see the current list of class captains.

We thank all those who are helping out already; however, if you would like to get involved as a class captain or have questions, please contact one of us.

Ben: hieltjes@shaw.ca or **Cam:** csylvest@capilanou.ca

Hank: hank.bouwman@stmc.bc.ca or **Jen:** Jen.shelnutt@stmc.bc.ca



Alumni Basketball Tourney

January 27-29, 2012

2 Gyms - St. Thomas More Collegiate and St. Francis de Sales

NO NBA - NO PROBLEM

Do you miss LeBron? How about Kobe? If you are suffering withdrawal and need a fix of good basketball, come out to the 12th Annual Alumni Basketball tourney. There will be lots of fun for the whole family.

There will be games on Thursday and Friday night and all day Saturday at the STMC gym. There will be lots of chances to socialize and meet old friends. You can even come out to the tourney ending banquet on Saturday.

For more details, go to [Alumni Bball](#)

If you have a team or are looking to play, access an entry form by clicking . . . [2012 Alumni Basketball Tourney Entry Form](#)



Darren and Meara
McCormick

The Knights Keep Marching In!

Each year a number of our alumni return to the school to contribute as guest speakers, committee members, coaches or even priests. This year is no different.



Father Jean-Pierre Ducharme ('95), seen here in the photo with our principal **Mich Delauriers ('76)**, said our Thanksgiving Mass in front of the student body and his parents. Father Jean-Pierre, who is based in Alberta, also visited several of our senior classes and spoke about his life as a Franciscan. It was a great day!

Abe Monte de Ramos ('02)

visited out PE classes for a few days and taught them Jiu-Jitsu. In this picture he is teaching the finer points of the sport to **Adrianna Anzulovich-Street ('16)**. Adrianna is the daughter of **Kevin Street ('78)** and the niece of **Adrian Anzulovich ('89)**.



Cpl. Alex Petruk ('04)

spoke to many of our classes prior to our Remembrance Day Service. Alex returned recently from serving a term with the Canadian military in Afghanistan. His experiences held the interest of all who had the privilege of hearing him speak. The Remembrance Day service is a powerful event. **Doc and Ann Smith** put together a presentation featuring a sobering video in which we pay tribute to all alumni who have passed away over the years. Afterwards, STMC hosts a reception for the family and friends of the deceased who are in attendance.

We ask you to keep all these people in your prayers.

Gabriella DeSousa ('11) and **Lauren Chimko ('10)** spoke to our senior students about the Sauder School of Business at UBC. Lauren is a second year student at Sauder while Gabbi is in her first year. The Sauder presentation was one of a series of post-secondary visits held at the school for our senior students in the Fall.

Natalya Lazarich ('09) is helping out our Drama Department by coordinating costumes for our spring production of ***You Can't Take It With Youth***.

Walid Muslih ('95) dropped by for a visit. Walid is one of the first students who I taught who went to the Colgate University in the Ivy League right after grade 12. Walid now has his MBA and is currently working in the field of finance in London England. It is always great when a Knight of Old drops by for a visit.

Finally **Patrick March ('05)** spoke to Mr. Zavarise's law classes. Patrick recently completed his law degree exams in England at the University of Leicester. He loved the experience of studying overseas and now plans to write his law exams and article in Canada. Congratulations and thanks Patrick!

Knights of Old Who Coach

Football: Luca Molinari ('11) and **Carlo Dalupang** are coaching football at the grade 8 grade level. **Matt Mitchell ('09)**, **Marc Taculod ('09)**, **Grant Fitzpatrick ('06)** and **Brandon Tuason ('06)** are all coaching the undefeated JV gridiron Knights and **Brian Higgins ('68)** and **Dom Sindalski ('04)** are at the helm of the undefeated Varsity Knights with **Bernie Kully ('94)**.

Wrestling: Brandon Tuason ('06) is doing double duty as a wrestling coach!

Curling: Alyssa DeSimone (10), **Titus Joel ('06)**, **Leandra Joel ('11)**, **Tysha Donnelly ('09)** and **Adam Grossi ('06)** are heading up the curling team. They hope to improve on last year's performance which saw the boys' foursome qualify for the BC's. This year the BC's are in Dawson Creek.

The **STMC Field Lacrosse team** will be coached by parent **Kevin Wilson** (who attended STMC until his grade 12 year). Kevin



also coaches our JV football team and has a son (**Kevin '14**) in grade 10. Kevin will be helped by **Matt Codron ('99)**. The Lacrosse moderator will be STMC teacher **Ms. Farano**.



Boys Basketball: Dan Cahill ('74) will be coaching the grade 8's with **Chris Hilliam**, father of **Moya ('06)** and **Ross ('11)**. **Al Wong**, alumni parent and father of **Jordan ('08)**, **Aleisha ('05)** and **Kristen ('12)**, will be helping new teacher **Mr. Flamia** and **Dom Zimmermann ('93)** to coach the JV's. **Denis Johnston ('98)** and **Micael Cheng ('08)** will be helping **Mr. Mitchell** coach the Varsity Boys team.

Girls' Basketball: Aleisha Wong and Laura Thierman (both of '06) will be the assistant coaches for the Varsity team which will be led by STMC teacher and alumnus **Joe Thierman ('76)**. **Tiff Hill ('08)** coached the Jr Girls Volleyball team this year with **Mrs. Palaposki (Bohemier)**. They had a successful season finishing 2nd in their league. Thanks Tiff!!

Knight Life



Joseph Elworthy ('92) was appointed the new executive director of the Vancouver Academy of Music in September. The Vancouver Academy of Music has been a significant player in western Canadian music education for more than four decades. Elworthy, a cellist who himself trained at the VAM before advanced studies at the Juilliard School and at Yale, succeeds long-serving Jerold Gerbrecht, Music Director since 1971. Our current band teacher Mr. Shoemaker has already spoken to Joseph and hopes to bring him to the school for a visit. Our congratulations go out to Joseph. Well Done!



Recently **Chiho Chan ('90)** was seen on a local news program. He and two others formed an organization called Customs for Teens (or C.U.T.). C.U.T. is an East Van volunteer based organization aimed at reaching out to at-risk youth. Not only does it teach practical automotive restoration skills but it gives troubled a positive outlet for their energy and enthusiasm. Through C.U.T. Chiho has been involved in the building of over 40 cars but , in truth, it is really the teens doing all the work. It sounds like an awesome

undertaking. This is yet another example of Knights making a positive difference in the world. Well done Chiho! For more info go to <http://www.cutprogram.org/index.html>

Jordan Spanjers ('05) acted in a recent Vagabond Players production of Spirit Level. The play was staged in the Bernie Legge theater located in Queens Park in New Westminster. I have to admit he was quite good and this December he will be in another production called Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge. It is interesting to note that there are a number of our alumni involved in the local theater scene. That is pretty cool!



Recent Marriages



I missed this marriage in the last e-mail. Oops! **Michael Cahill ('05)** married **Liana** early in the summer. Their wedding took place in Nova Scotia where they met while attending St. Francis Xavier University. The Cahills are currently living in Ottawa. Proud parents are **Dan Cahill ('74)** and his wife **Joni**. Mike is the older brother of **Chris ('02)** and **Sarah ('06)**.

James Burgon ('01) and **Olivia Holowatinc ('02)** got married in August. They were still glowing when they attended the 2001 reunion in September.

Cory Carrion ('04) married Magnus Manson recently. Congratulations to the happy couple!

It has been a busy few months for the **Burgon Clan** as **Genevieve Burgon ('04)** got married on the November long weekend to Ryan Osborne. Congratulations!

Editor's Note: If you would like your marriage mentioned in future newsletters, just contact me!

Alumni Sports Highlights



Marissa DiLorenzo ('10) has been named to the Great Northwest Athletic Conference academicall-star team for SFU's 2011 soccer season. DiLorenzo, currently in her sophomore year, is carrying a 3.68 grade point average and is taking a Bachelor of Arts, working towards an intended major in psychology. She is also working towards a minor in business. Congratulations on a job well done! For the full story hit [this link](#).



Deanna

Lexie Der ('11) is currently on her medical red shirt year at Boise State while recovering from a knee injury suffered during her senior year at STMC. She is recovering nicely and the future looks bright.



Lexie

Deanna Schaper-Kotter ('08) was in town recently and attended a Varsity Football game at Burnaby Lakes. Deanna is a senior on the women's volleyball team at Acadia in Wolfville, Nova Scotia.



Michael Belle ('10), a past GKO winner, was named the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Player of the Week recently. In his second year competing on the SFU golf team, Michael finished the season ranked 6th in scoring in the GNAC with a 74.3 average. For the whole story about Michael's accomplishments, go to [Mike's story](#).

Strong Knightly Presence at UBC



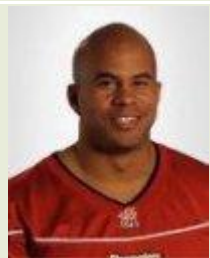
Sam Carino ('06) Woodson ('10) Sidhu ('10)



Bosa ('10) Dick ('08) Hilliam ('11)

The UBC Thunderbirds Football team enjoyed its best season in more than a decade. The Knights played an important role on this year's squad. The Knights who are on the UBC roster are **Sam Carino ('06), Phil Dick ('06) Sam Woodson ('10), Jordan Bosa ('10), Sabdeep Sidhu ('10) and Ross Hilliam ('11)**. The Thunderbirds playoff run ended a little early but there is a huge upside to this talented UBC squad.

Knights Continue to Shine in the CFL



Jon Cornish

The recent CFL Western Conference Semi-Final (also affectionately known as The **STMC Bowl**) featured two Knights of the Past who played prominent roles. **Jon Cornish ('02)** ran for over 100 yds in a losing cause for the Calgary Stampeders. Jon showed why he was a runner up for the prestigious title of Western



Calvin McCarty

Conference Canadian of the year. Meanwhile **Calvin McCarty('03)** scored a key touchdown for the Edmonton Eskimos who will now be playing in the Western Final. Well Done Knights!

Welcome to the Grad Class of 2029



Hayley Paige Creelman

Jessica (Witzel) Creelman ('06) and her husband **Kyle** welcomed their daughter **Hayley Paige** into the world in September. Hayley arrived just in time to greet her new cousin **Beck Nolan Witzel**. Beck is the second son of **Jordan Witzel ('00)** and his wife **Lindsey**. Jordan and his growing family recently relocated to Calgary where he is the Global TV weatherman. The proud grandparents are



Beck Nolan Witzel

STMC Hall of Fame members **Doug and Jean Witzel**. Proud uncles are **Chris ('93) and Adam ('96)** the entire

Ian Wallace ('00) wife **Ashlee** are of their daughter **Wallace**.

She was born at She weighed 4 lbs, Both Ashlee and are doing great! The family currently lives Chicago area!

Paul Freire ('99) is announce the most

addition to his growing family. Domenic was born on September 25. Domenic will siblings Raiden, Kiera, and Luca. One more and he will have a starting lineup for the Alumni Tourney in future years.



and his thrilled to announce the birth **Josephine Margaret**

8:20pm on August 13th, 2011. 14 oz and was 18 inches long. Josephine Wallace in the

pleased to recent





Geoff Boyd ('97) and his Jolene welcomed their new son Liam into their growing family. Liam is seen in the picture with his proud uncle **Chris Boyd ('00)**.

A Quick Look Back - Homecoming 2011 Knights over Vancouver College 14-7 September 17th, 2011



The Victors

At this year's Homecoming the Knights took on the #1 ranked Irish of VC. It was an awesome hard fought high school football game which the Knights won in dramatic fashion by the score of 14 - 7. We had a huge crowd spurred on by the newly created STMC Pep Band, led by Mr. Shoemaker . They were absolutely awesome.

Numerous Knights of Old returned to visit their old school. (See picture below.) Thanks must go out to the many alumni who helped to run the refreshment garden and to current parent Mrs. Rickaby (mother of Ryan and Rachel ('14).) Also a special thank you should go out to **Leo Bruneau ('91)** who supplied the Bouncy Castle, Pop Corn Machine and Hot Dog Cooker! Way to go Leo!!!!



Alumni group shot at half time.

Editor's Note: As a result of the generous support of the VC and STMC fans we were able to send a **\$400.00 cheque** to Covenant House from the 50/50 profits. Both schools also combined to send **\$350.00** to the local Food Bank plus literally hundreds of pounds of non-perishable foods. It simply does not get any better than that. Blessed Edmund Rice would have been proud! Thanks to all who helped to make this day happen!

Editor's Note: By the way the gridiron Knights are enjoying a dream season! The Varsity are ranked #1 and sport a 9-0 record, The JV's are 8-0 and the grade 8's are 6-1. Way to go Knights! Click here to see the **Senior Game Program**.

The Varsity Knights play Mount Douglas in the semis this Saturday (Nov. 26th) at UBC at 5:00pm.

The JV's and the Grade 8's have already qualified for the BC's. All provincial finals will be played at BC Place on December 3rd!

Reunion Updates! 3 Fantastic Events

Class of 1991 - 20 Year Reunion September 10th



Grads Of 1991 in our beautiful new courtyard!

This was an awesome event! The family barbeque in the afternoon had over 50 alumni in attendance. There were also numerous spouses and significant others. The highlight though had to be the kids. There were simply too many to count. The event featured an awesome array of food and for the young ones, they had a bouncy castle, face painting and balloon art. The new STMC courtyard was the perfect venue! A good time was had by all.

Later that night the Knights of Old met at a local pub where even more memories were shared. Thanks must go out to the organizing committee.

Steve Lewarne, Leo Bruneau, Dean Pelletier, Rocky Suffron and Steve Perizzolo and a host of others who helped out! Apologies if I missed anyone!

Class of 2001 - 10 Year Reunion September 17th



This was the best attended reunion that I have ever witnessed. Over 90 attendees (almost 70 of whom were grads) filled the STMC caf and spilled out into the courtyard. The event featured a catered meal, a photo booth and even the unearthing of a fake time capsule from years gone by. Now that was funny! These grads also managed to make a significant donation to the school. The grads of 2001 were a fun group during their high school years, and they showed during the night that they still know how to have fun and do it all in a first class manner.

A special mention must go out to **Renata Lisicka** who flew in from her home in Poland and was in attendance with her husband!

Special thanks goes out to the hard working organizing committee. I hate to miss anyone but **Jake Power, Jordan Foss, Jamie Garbutt, Cedric Villamin, Eliissa (Rondeau) Robb and Odessa Tapia** all played prominent roles. Once again, apologies to anyone I missed.

Class of 1986 - 25 Year Reunion Nov. 11, 12 & 13 2011



The 1986 Reunion was well organized and well attended. The group met at the Burnaby Mountain Golf Course Pub on the 11th. Over 45 grads were in attendance and among the group were several out of town guests: **Mike Watt (Japan), Francis Bautista (Florida), Brent Mykyte (Alberta) and Shawn McMillan (Kelowna)**. Lots of laughs and memories were shared.

On Saturday, the 12th, they gathered at STMC to see the many exciting changes that have taken place at the school. Once again the laughter was infectious. It was awesome to see. Even **Mr. Neumann**, who has retired from STMC, managed to make it out.

They completed their weekend with a Vancouver Giants game on Saturday night and a mass at Our Lady of Mercy on Sunday.

A very special thank you must go out to **Trevor Mueckel** and **Dave Goulet** who put this event together. You know the event was a success because they have already planned to make a class of 1986 get together an annual event. Well Done Knights!

For more pictures of all the reunions go the [reunion link](#) on the website.

We remember the following in our prayers!



David Abramovic from the grad class of **2006** passed away in August. Please remember his friends and family in your prayers.

We pray for the family of **Martin Walters ('92)**. Martin's wife Rachel and their unborn child passed away unexpectedly this past September in Alberta. Martin has since re-located to BC with his seven children. We ask all to keep Martin and his young family in your prayers as they deal with their tragic loss. ***The school and the Alumni Association are working together to help Martin and his family during this difficult time. If you would like to know how you can help out, please feel free to [contact me](#).***

There are also a number of members of the community dealing with health issues and other challenges. We ask all to keep these members of our community in your thoughts and prayers.

Marian High 2nd Annual Wine & Garden Party! Save the Date!

SATURDAY, JUNE 9TH, 2012

IN THE COURTYARD AT ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE

The date is set for the 2012 Garden Party! Planning is just beginning and help is needed! If you are interested in getting involved, please email **Monique Lambert Power** at mhpower@shaw.ca.

For further information on the Marian High Alumnae Association or to get on the mailing list go to the [website](#).

Help STMC Go Social!

STMC is working hard to communicate better and here are two ways we can share the most current news with you. In both places, we promise to keep it informative and occasional, so you won't be inundated with info you don't want.



If you "**LIKE**" [STMC's Facebook page](#), you will get the latest breaking news from STMC. Plus, you'll help us build a social network, because your friends will see that you've LIKED our page. Hank is on Facebook now too!

STMC's Facebook page is updated more frequently than our web site



or newsletter. So if you're on Facebook, do us a favor and give us a little thumbs up!

You can also "follow" us on Twitter, in two places: [STMCBurnaby](#) for general school news, and [STMC Athletics](#) for breaking sports news, including the fastest game results. Don't be afraid to give it a try!

**Contact Information for
the Alumni Relations Officer Hank Bouwman**
Phone: 604-521-1801 Ext 119
E-mail: hank.bouwman@stmc.bc.ca