



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE

HOME OF THE KNIGHTS FOR 50 YEARS

December 15, 2010

An Important Message To All Parents of STMC Students

Re: The Future of Athletics and Community at STMC

*A School in the Tradition
of Blessed Edmund Rice*

*Teaching young people
how to learn and grow
surrounded by
a welcoming
Catholic community*

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Merry Christmas from St. Thomas More Collegiate! We hope this find you and your family well. We are writing with some very important news that will affect every family at STMC.

We are excited to announce that St. Thomas More Collegiate is officially moving forward with an historic campaign to build a stunning new athletic and community complex that features a **27,000-square-foot athletic and community centre** with an **NBA-sized double gym**, a lighted **artificial turf field**, with new **scoreboard** and **bleachers**, and a **field house**. This letter is to inform you of the timing of fundraising and construction, and how every family will be impacted.

As you know, STMC leaders have long been considering this ambitious project. Our physical education and athletics programs are too compromised by the current athletic facilities, which were built for an enrolment half our present size. We are struggling to deliver the well-rounded education we promise. Furthermore, the facilities are critical element of nurturing the community spirit that sets STMC apart from so many other schools. We need a fitting place where we can have concerts, celebrations, and community gatherings. There is no question that these new facilities will transform the STMC campus and benefit every single student.

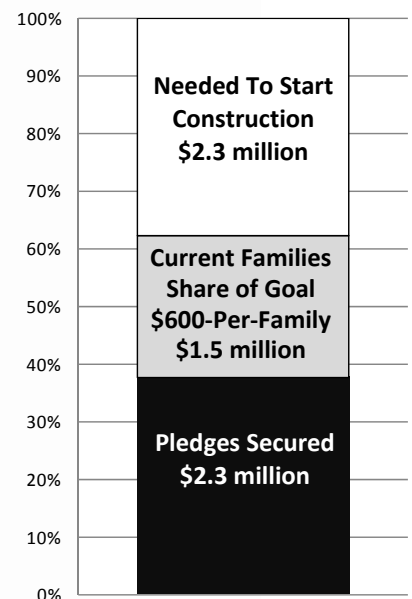
The STMC Board and Administrators were uncertain whether STMC could fundraise the \$8.2 million needed to accomplish this bold vision. We worried that most of our STMC families already stretch to give their children the very best education possible. We are deeply committed to keeping the STMC experience accessible to people from all walks of life.

However the study conducted this past Spring, which involved more than 200 people in discussion groups and individual interviews, indicated tremendous enthusiasm from parents, students, alumni, and staff, and a sufficient base of people willing to contribute major gifts. After much deliberation, we have decided to be bold on behalf of our present and future students and this great community, and pull out all the stops with an aim to start construction in 2011.

STMC will begin construction of the new Athletic and Community Centre as soon as a total of \$6.1 million is secured in five-year pledges and gifts. ***We are already more than halfway there.*** To date, **we** have secured \$2.3 million in pledges, and are counting on families to contribute another \$1.5 million over the next five years, bringing our total funding to **\$3.8 million**.

Continued...

Progress Towards Starting Construction on Athletic & Community Centre (\$6.1 million total needed)



Our pledges to date include a \$1.5 million challenge gift from the StanJean Foundation, who has offered to match all gifts up to \$1.5 million. To secure that gift, we have made a bold commitment to match it with a donation of at least \$600 per year from every current family, for the next five years. Over five years, an annual gift of at least **\$600 per family** will amount to a total contribution of \$1.5 million from current parents, which is only 18% of the \$8.2 million cost.

Please note that as a donation to a registered charity, such a contribution will be eligible for a significant tax credit of up to 43.7%, so the net after-tax cost of your \$600 donation could actually be \$338. See enclosed insert for more details.

These facilities will offer such significant and direct benefits to every student at STMC, we believe it is fair to expect every family to contribute. And most importantly, if the amount is spread among every family, the load is lightened for all.

We will also be looking to raise at least \$1.5 million from alumni, and \$1 million from foundations and community groups. And in particular, our timeline for starting construction hinges on finding approximately **50 "Angels" who will make an extraordinary five-year pledge to donate between \$2,000 and \$20,000 a year.**

Every family here now benefits from the contributions of past families. The current gym was built in 1964 by a group of visionary parents, from whose generosity all benefit today. So often, those past fundraising efforts have relied too heavily on the disproportionate contributions of a few. *It is imperative that current families, who will benefit most from these facilities, contribute one fifth of the cost.*

If we can count on at least \$600 from every family and find 50 Angels, STMC will begin construction on the new Athletic and Community Centre as early as April 2011, and be completed in time for the Class of 2012 to celebrate their graduation in the new facilities.

The registration package for next year will be mailed this January through March, and will contain a form to indicate your family pledge to this campaign. You can choose to pay your pledge on a schedule that works for you – at \$50/month, \$150/quarter, or even in two \$300 payments in July and August when no tuition payment is due.

In the meantime, a team of parents, alumni and staff who are passionate and informed about this project have volunteered to personally talk with families, to share pictures of the facilities, more details on the costs and timeline, and get your feedback. The campaign team will visit with as many families as possible. When they contact you, please be gracious to these volunteers and make some time to discuss this important matter with them. Regardless of what you can contribute, we want to make sure every family has accurate information and a chance to plan for and influence this high-impact project.

For more information, to arrange a visit with campaign volunteers, or to make a pledge or a one-time gift immediately, contact Jen Shelnett at the STMC Foundation at (604) 521-1801 ext 131.

Sincerely,

Darrell Hall
Principal

Donna O'Neill
Chair, STMC Ltd. Board

Sharing the \$8.2 Million Dream

