

Dear Principal, Teachers, Parents, Fellow Alumnae, Students and all at School,

How time flies! It seemed only a short while ago when I started on my 2-year tenure as Chairman of our alumnae association for the term 2007-2009. With 2009 coming to a close and the installation of the association's new executive committee and office bearers on 19 November 2009 for the term 2009-2011, it is time to bid farewell as outgoing Chairman.

I would like, once again, to express my sincere appreciation to all of you, without whose unreserved support and encouragement, all the new initiatives and projects I have planned and embarked on as Chairman in the last 2 years for our beloved alma mater and association would almost certainly not be achieved with such remarkable ease and success.

In particular, I thank the Principal, the Vice Principals, all the staff and students for their patience and accommodation throughout the construction of our new school gymnasium and training centre, which I understand is now a source of delight and pride of many of our students who enjoy the sports facilities daily. It was even featured in our local press! Without the generosity of the Chung family (good friends whose late mum was our fellow alumna in the 1930s) and the Class of '58 and '77, the whole project from idea inception to "ready-to-use" could not have been completed all within a matter of months.

Now from the real world to the virtual world: I highly commend the School's information technology team and our external web technical adviser for their invaluable help in the implementation of my scheme plan and design of our association's brand new, tailor-made, very own and unique interactive website (<http://alumnae.shcc.edu.hk>). After almost half a century of history, we now proudly can be independently "googled!" I have created much of the current web contents and one would expect impending plans to expand our web capability to include online payment platform to facilitate membership and donation payments and other additional useful features will soon materialize in the new term. I must also thank the Principal for agreeing to host the association's server in school and giving us a prominent link to the school's own website. As IT technology advances ceaselessly with lightning speed, it will require hands-on "tender loving" care, constant upkeep and meticulous maintenance to keep our alumnae website updated and relevant; always there to serve the alumnae and our alma mater. It should be a bridge to help strengthen the solidarity and sense of belonging between students past and present.

A round of applause too for my former publication secretary who has helped me put out 4 Newsletters; each packed with exciting news of achievements and celebratory events of our alumnae and current students, all nicely adorned with their lovely pictures. Thank you for all the well wishes, kind words, sources of alumnae news and beautiful photos that were always forthcoming which have made my writing and editing tasks that much more pleasurable.

Needless to say, my former executive committee has been the backbone without which no chairman can function properly. To those executive members who have since withdrawn from active service in this new term, and equally if not more importantly, to our association's President, Sister Agnes Law and our School Supervisor, Sister Cynthia Chan, your kindness, blessings, advice and dedication have been, and will remain, my source of inspiration.

“Vulgo enim dicitur: lucundi acti labores” (For it is commonly said: completed labours are pleasant” (M T Cicero (106-43 BC)). My term has ended and I am grateful that my position in the association has given me new friendships and certainly enriched me. To those serving another term, I, as well as other alumnae, trust and look to the new Chairman and executive committee team to bring what our association can do for our alma mater to even greater heights, starting with the assumption of the proposed HK\$50 million school extension plan. Having my last executive committee’s support and the blessing of the School Management Board to launch this cornerstone alumnae project during my Chairmanship, the huge responsibilities and expectations placed on the alumnae leadership for this to proceed have been awesome. With the new Chairman and her executive team in place, I urge all of you to endorse, facilitate and support them (as you have done me and my team) in this very exciting yet daunting mission.

God bless Sacred Heart, each and every one of you and your loved ones.

I wish you bountiful glad tidings and a very happy 2010!

Shirley Chua
Immediate Past Chairman
Sacred Heart Canossian College Alumnae Association
20 November 2009

cc School Supervisor and School Management Board