May/June 2009

St. Stephen's School
Founded in 1964

Parents' Association
Newsletter

Head's Corner
Lesley Murphy

Now Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams are finished, many seniors are taking a well-earned break until Prize Day on June 1 and the busy days leading up to graduation on Thursday, June 11. I will be taking the senior and post-graduate boarders on a valedictory trip to a secret destination on Thursday 27 – Saturday 29 May. For the rest of the students, regular classes run through June 1. Examinations run from Wednesday June 3rd to Monday June 8th, including Saturday June 6th (morning). There will be a special timetable on Tuesday June 9 and Wednesday June 10, culminating in the Arts Show and Senior Dinner on Wednesday evening. All students are expected to participate in end-of-year activities. The Graduation Ceremony is the morning of June 11th. For graduates, printed invitations to send to family and friends may be picked up in the front office of the school. All are welcome at graduation; no tickets are required. The school prom is also on the evening of June 11 and will be held at the Villa Appia Antica, via Appia Antica, 288A. All students and faculty are welcome to attend the Prom, a school sponsored and chaperoned event. I urge parents, especially of 9th and 10th graders, to consult with other parents before giving your sons and daughters permission to attend after prom events which are not organized or endorsed by the school.

Student Council Officers have been elected for the coming year and the faculty and student members of the Discipline Committee will be elected this week. Thanks to all who volunteered to serve the school in an official capacity, and congratulations to those who were elected and have already begun in office: we need strong, ethical, and dynamic leaders to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors, and take us into 2010. Go Andrea, Michael, Allie, Jamie, and Cristina!

St. Stephen's will house three programs during the summer. In July, the University of California at Davis offers a month long course for college students, and then we host a travelling group also from UC Davis. In addition, we are launching our own summer program for High School students, the details of which are available on our website. Please pass the word.

A huge thank you to the Parents Association for your generous support of faculty and staff requests, and for organizing the June 4th Terrace Cocktail to help realize a project that will benefit the entire school community, and significantly enhance campus life for day students

and boarders alike. A special thanks to Elisabeth Giansiracusa for her persistence and dedication to the publication of this newsletter.

2008-9 has been perhaps the most challenging and transformative year of my professional life, and as this first year of tenure as Head of St. Stephen's draws to a close, I can begin to assess the implications of my career choice with some sense of perspective. The school is a very different place seen from the Head's Office (a hub of activity, compared to the 'light at the end of the tunnel' as someone once described the IB Coordinator's office!): less personal and occasionally darker, perhaps, but more varied and, in a sense, more complete, since strategic, legal and financial operations are also managed there. Some moments might be described as absurd, others are nothing less than profoundly serious, but one thing that has not been lacking at any time is a sense of mission and purpose, and it has been energizing to feel the extent to which this has been supported and shared by the school community as a whole.

To those of you who will be leaving Rome at the end of this academic year, I wish you the best in your future studies and lives. It has been a pleasure for us to work with all of you to make your stay in the school as enjoyable and productive as possible. Graduating IB seniors will be asked to complete a questionnaire to evaluate the IB programme at St. Stephen's; all other departing students are invited to make an appointment to meet with Alex Perniciaro, our Admissions Coordinator, for an exit interview. We really want to know what you loved and hated about your experience here!

Special best wishes go to Vik Podagelyte, our Boarding Head, who will be leaving the Boarding Department to get married and begin an extra-mural family life, so to speak. I know the Boarding students love and appreciate her, and her white glove test will be sorely missed in the dorms! She will be replaced by Eleni Mantzarlis (class of 2000), our new Environmental Systems teacher.

Finally, I wish the best to the class of 2009 and their families. We look forward to hearing from you all after your relaxing summer as you embark on the next stage of your education. We hope you will all keep in touch – we are always pleased to hear about your experiences at university and beyond!

Have a good summer everyone.

Lesley Murphy

The President's Column

Carmen Moauro

You are cordially invited to the
End of the School Year

TERRACE COCKTAIL !!!

Who: SSS Parents and Faculty
When: Thursday, June 4th at 6:30 pm
Where: on the school terrace
Why: to preview the terrace renovation project

Dear St. Stephen's Parents,

This has been a very busy year for the Parents' Association. Thanks to your help, we were able to raise over 16,000euro which will go towards the funding of faculty projects at the end of this school year. Our last event will be a Terrace Cocktail for faculty and parents, scheduled for Thursday, June 4th at 6:30 pm on the terrace. The project for the renovation of the terrace will be unveiled amidst cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. I hope you will come and support the ongoing building improvements at St. Stephen's.
The following list highlights the activities and fundraisers we organized this year:

- 8 PA newsletters
- School Directory for SSS families
- 10 monthly PA meetings (8 with guest speakers)
- Welcome Cocktail in September for all parents and faculty (150 people)
- 4 grade level cocktails (150 people)
- 3 bake sales (1 with student group Bengt)
- Holiday Bazaar
- Arts Performance buffet dinner (200 people)
- St. Nick's dinner for 35 boarders and boarding staff
- International Dinner and Auction (120 people)
- Head of School Forum in May
- Two forums with SSS Guidance Counselor, Elisabeth Escobar
- One forum with child psychologist Dr. Palermo

As last year the PA will be providing the students with bus transportation to and from the After Prom, a privately organized party which takes place after the SSS prom. For those interested, details regarding bus transportation for this event will be forthcoming. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at m.carbonell@alice.it

Our last meeting will be held on Thursday, June 4th, at 12:30 at Via Aventina, 7. Class Representatives will be e-mailing parents with requests for nominations for the various positions on the PA Executive Committee. All positions are open and we encourage you to participate. Elections will take place at this meeting.

I would like to thank this year's PA Officers and Executive Committee members, Maria Antonietta Sansone, Carla Carbone, Elisabeth Giansiracusa, Meera Cordaro, Stephanie Levi, Keala Jewell, Patrizia Cavazzini, and Audrey Di Rienzo; Class Representatives: Fran Brunet, Peggy Scalise, Luana DeVita, and Laura Ferrara; Boarding Liason: Jo Donghi and Student Council Liason: Sveva Paternò. A special thanks to Elisabeth Giansiracusa, who for the second year in a row, has edited this newsletter with expertise and precision.

Finally, I would also like to thank eight departing parents who have been active in the PA for many years. They are Fran Brunet, 7 years - class representative, Patrizia Cavazzini, 6 years - Vice President of Academic Affairs and member of the Excom, Sveva Paternò, 6 years - Student Liason, Stephanie Levi, 3 years - Secretary, Audrey Di Rienzo, 4 years - member of the Excom, Keala Jewell, 4 years - Vice-President of Academic Affairs and member of the Excom, Helen Brudvig, 4 years - official PA cookie baker, and Dan Keller, 1 year - SSS alum who regularly contributed a father's valuable point of view to our meetings. We will miss you!!

from the editor: This is the last number of the SSSPA Newsletter in this incarnation. In the future, look to the school website for new and creative ways of accessing information. Many thanks to all the faculty/administrators/board members, parents, and students who have contributed to the newsletter over the years with timely, well-prepared, and interesting submissions when solicited. A special thanks to those who, in the spirit of community, have submitted – unsolicited - special interest articles, event notices, photos, award notifications, etc. just because s/he thought we all might like to know!

from the Director of Studies

Debbie Dostert

END OF YEAR EVENTS AND EXAMS

The end of the school year is full of special events and the End of Year Events 2009 was included in the last edition of the Parents' Association Newsletter. It is also on the school's website. I hope that you find the information useful as you plan for this final month.

There is a special school schedule on Monday, June 1, from 8:30 – 3:35. All classes (not just the usual Monday classes) will meet for 40 minutes and teachers will be helping students with examination revision. Our traditional Prize Day Assembly will take place from 10:00 to 11:30.

There will be no school on Tuesday, June 2, since it is an Italian national holiday. Students preparing for their examinations will use it as a reading day. Students are advised though to begin their revision immediately in order to do their best in examinations.

The Schedule of Examinations is attached. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, there are two exam sessions – 9:30 – 11:30 and 1:30 – 3:30. Lunch is served from 12:15 – 13:00. On Saturday and Monday, there are exams only in the morning, 9:30 - 11:30. Please note that there are examinations on Saturday, June 6 for ninth and tenth graders. Due to College Board SAT testing on Saturday, I did not schedule exams for 11th or 12th grade courses. Students who have examination conflicts, i.e. two exams at the same time, will be notified of the re-scheduling of one of the exams to a later time.

Students should arrive 10 minutes prior to a scheduled exam and be ready to enter the examination room when called in by the proctors. Examination rooms will be posted in the courtyard the day of the exam. While students are welcome to study at the school before and after their exams, the school must maintain a quiet atmosphere during the entire examination period.

All library books should be returned to the library as soon as possible and all textbooks must be returned to the book room. June 8th, the last day of exams, is the deadline!

There are special schedules on Tuesday, June 9 and Wednesday, June 10. These are school days and attendance is required from 8:30 – 12:25 on Tuesday and from 9:30 – 11:30 on Wednesday. I hope that students will also attend the Sports Awards Ceremony and the all-school barbecue on Wednesday.

Report cards and transcripts:

Second semester report cards will be posted on the school website during the last week in June.

Students who will be leaving at the end of the year and who will need a transcript sent to another secondary school should contact the Registrar, Anna Maria Agresti, in person or by email by Friday June 10.

Best wishes:

To those of you who will be leaving Rome at the end of the year, I wish you the best in your future studies. It has been a pleasure to work with you on your academic program and to make your stay at the school productive and enjoyable. Remember, we look forward to hearing from you – you are always welcome at Via Aventina.

My best wishes to the Class of 2009 and their families.

It has been a great pleasure working with all of the St. Stephen's students and their parents this academic year. I look forward to seeing you all at the Performing Arts Program on Wednesday, June 10th.

The 2009-2010 school year begins on Wednesday, September 2.

Final Examination Schedule June 2009

Morning session

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, June 3

Alg 1
Alg 2
Precalc

Thursday, June 4

Bio 1
Eng 3
Med Ren

Friday, June 5

Mod Euro
Econ 1
Baroque
Geom

Saturday, June 6

Lat 1

Afternoon session

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 3

Bio 2
Phys 2
Eng 2
Eng 1

Thursday, June 4

French (all levels)
Islamic Studies

Friday, June 5

Italian (all levels)

Found Chem/Phys

Monday, June 8

Latin 3 HL
Chem 2
Latin 2
Rom Top

Students who have two examinations scheduled at the same time will have one of the exams rescheduled to a later time. Mrs. Dostert will notify you of the time of the rescheduled exam.

IB Corner

Jennifer Ferrara

!

And so, the May 2009 IB Exam session has come to a close. Congratulations to all 79 students, juniors and seniors, who sat exams this year.

I watched your sons and daughters sit their IB Exams – earnestly applying their acquired knowledge and skills to communicate that knowledge to questions across a wide variety of subjects – recalling facts, creating responses, developing arguments, synthesizing ideas. I witnessed young men and women take one step further into adulthood as they worked through this stressful and intense period with dignity, grace, and seriousness. In the loud silence of deep thought, time condensed; in that uniquely concentrated atmosphere of the exam hall, it was possible to glimpse Danial, Matthew, Aman, Naomi, Chiappetta, Camille, Alex, Daniela, Iain, Flori, Francesca, Nicola, Camilla, Shirmin, Debbie, Francois, Mimi, Ioana, Linda, Thanos, Ranieri, Antonio, Anita, Kuk-Hyon, Astha, Gabri, Jelle, Vinu, Vini, Angus, Magda, Karl, Patrick, Clemi, Martha, Maria, Pedro, Brando, Adolfo, Sham, Gabriella, Hiroshi, Privitera, Sofia, Veronika, Tisei, and Diego (our seniors) as they were when they tentatively entered St. Stephen's for the first time, as the young adults they have become and as future doctors, writers, teachers, scientists, engineers, lawyers, CEOs, philosophers, mathematicians, architects, linguists, graphic artists, economists, musicians… the human beings they are now, and will be.

As their parents, you have been an integral part of this process on the home front, providing support and guidance, and you undoubtedly know the commitment and the effort your sons and daughters have put forth. I urge you to celebrate their accomplishments – irrespective of numerical results. The result that surely can be seen already is that each one of our students has grown and deepened through the SSS IB experience. They have learned about themselves and about their chosen subjects. They have become lifelong learners.

Best of luck to all of our graduating seniors. It has been my pleasure to work with you this year, as IB Coordinator, 12-grade Coordinator and for some, English teacher. I will miss you

– cheering you on, listening to you, encouraging you, having you sit in my office, chasing you down, hounding you...I have learned a great deal from each of you and I thank each of you for that.

Results
Results will be available July 6, 2009 12 GMT. Each student who sat IB Exams will be issued a PIN CODE with which they can access their results. They must come to my office and receive their PIN CODE personally between now and June 10.

Issue of Results directly to Universities
Based on student requests, I have asked that results be sent directly to universities.

Arrival of Diplomas
Students may pick up their diplomas as of September 1 from the registrar, Anna Maria Agresti. (email: registrar@ststephens-rome.com)

Legalization of Diplomas
I have submitted the request for legalization of results based on student requests. These legalized diplomas arrive with all the diplomas and will be available in September.
I will be available during the summer via email: ib.coordinator@ststephens-rome.com for any queries that arise.

11th Grade IB Candidates

By now, you should have a substantial first draft of your EE. Make sure that you have a copy of all the subject-specific criteria for your EE and clear ideas about how you need to proceed and develop your EE over the next three months. Make sure you meet with your supervisors before the end of this school year to address any questions you may have so that you are ready to turn in your 4000-word draft complete with bibliography on September 7. Use the summer well and come back for your final year prepared to work and learn…

College Admissions Information

Alison Lewis

Parents of the Class of 2009

Congratulations to each and every senior and post-graduate for a very successful year! It has been a huge pleasure to work with the class of 2009, and I hope that students will keep in touch as they head into their first year of university. Thanks also to you parents for all of the support you have given your children in this sometimes anxiety-provoking process.

Final Reminders:

IB results will be sent directly to the universities. Students heading to the UK should communicate with me when IB results come out, as offers currently are conditional.

Students who are taking a gap year and have not yet applied to university should be reminded to keep me posted about their plans so that I can assist them in their fall applications.

Housing in the UK: Housing fills up very quickly. After confirming their firm and insurance choices, the universities will send out a letter regarding housing. This must be completed by the student and sent in as soon as possible; neglecting to do so may cost you a place in student housing!

Students heading to the U.S.: Students should decline offers of admission from the universities where they were accepted, but which they will not be attending.

Parents of the Class of 2010

The end of the year is approaching, and 11th graders are thinking more concretely about college. Teachers of juniors have been asked to provide a prediction score for all students who are doing the IB Diploma. These predictions will be available by mid-May. Juniors applying to UK universities must see me before leaving for summer vacation to know their predictions so that they can compare these to the requirements of the university programs that they are researching. The UCAS website (www.ucas.com) is a good place to check qualifications for a particular course.

Mr. Masoni and I are holding mandatory personal statement workshops on Fridays during Activity Period until the end of May. Students are expected to write a draft of their personal statement to be peer edited and reviewed by Mr. Masoni and me.

I have met with all of the 11th graders individually, and roughly half of them more than once. I have provided students with a preliminary list of colleges from which to start their research. It is essential that students do careful research to find the right fit for them.

Juniors should be reminded to complete their Student Questionnaire and their CVs before the end of the year.

I have handed out the college handbook, which I encourage you and your child to read. If you would like to schedule a meeting with me, please contact Angela Marra, or email me at college.counselor@ststephens-rome.com.

Summer

Juniors have been asked throughout the semester to do some self-reflective thinking about who they are, and what they are looking for in a university. The summertime is a good opportunity for students to look over their student questionnaires, to look over the college lists I gave them, and to create their own lists. I strongly encourage students to visit universities, as this is the best way to find the right place.

When the 11th graders return for their senior year, they should have a well-defined list of universities that match with their IB predictions, grades, and desires in an institution.

Two more **important** things grade 11 students can do this summer is to **download U.S. college application forms** (usually available starting July 1st), and **register for the October SAT**. They will be much less frenetic if they can accomplish these simple things now.

Summer is also a great time to read, which hopefully students do because it's a pleasure, but also because it can help them improve their score on the Critical Reading and Writing sections of the SAT test. **I can't overstress the need to read; the students who do best on the Critical Reading and Writing sections of the SAT are invariably good readers**. You may want to encourage your son/daughter to set aside some time every day, one hour for example, to be used exclusively for reading.

I wish everyone a restful and fun summer.

Events and Announcements:

The deadline for the **June 6th SAT I/II** registration was May 5th. Most students will be taking the SAT II subject tests. The SAT II subject tests enable students to demonstrate their competency in areas outside of the SAT I. If your child missed the deadline to register, please contact me for a paper registration form, which is needed for standby testing.

2009 Applications Outcome:

The following is a list of colleges and universities where students have been accepted, given conditional acceptances, or been waitlisted. Congratulations!

University of Aberdeen
American University of Paris
American University of Rome
Boston College
Boston University
University of Bradford
University of Brighton
Cardiff University
Cass Business School
Universidad Central de Venezuela
City University
Clark University
Coventry University
University of Cumbria
Drew University
University of Durham
University of East Anglia
University of Edinburgh
University of Exeter
Fort Lewis College
George Mason University

The George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology
University of Glasgow
Goldsmiths College
University of Greenwich
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hampshire College
Imperial College of Science
University of Kent at Canterbury
King's College London
Kingston University
Knox College
Leeds College of Art & Design
University of Leeds
Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli
Linfield College
University of Liverpool
London College of Communication
London Metropolitan University
London School of Economics
University College London
Loughborough University
Loyola University New Orleans
University of Manchester
McGill University
University of Miami
Michigan State University
Mills College
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
New York University
Newcastle University
University of North Florida
Northeastern University
University of Nottingham
Pace University
Pennsylvania State University
Purdue University
Queen Mary
Rochester Institute of Technology
University of Rochester
Roehampton University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Royal Holloway
University of San Francisco
Santa Clara University
Savannah College of Art and Design

School of Oriental and African Studies
University of Sheffield
University of Southampton
University of St. Andrews
St. George's, University of London
St. John's University - Queens Campus
St. Olaf College
University of Strathclyde
University of Sussex
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi
Texas State University-San Marcos
Tufts University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
University of Warwick
Wells College
University of Westminster
Wheaton College
Willamette University
Winona State University
University of Wisconsin
University of York

Keynotes from the External Affairs Office

Michael Brouse

In the agenda-filled days of the hectic 21st century life-style, we have all, on occasion, forgotten to appropriately thank someone who deserves our gratitude. Fortunately, every once in a while some cycle of our lives (e.g. end of an academic year, retirement or even a transfer) occurs which makes us step back for a moment to reflect on the recent past and decide to whom we owe a word of thanks. The end of the academic year is one of the most propitious of these moments because, unlike many transitions, graduation is more joyous than traumatic. So with that in mind, I feel obliged to dedicate this article to expressing my gratitude to the following:

Thanks to: **Carmen Moauro** (for her volunteer hours in the Ext. Affairs Office every week)

Thanks to: **Anna Lyman** (part-time assistant in the External Affairs Office)

Thanks to: **Lesley Murphy** (who has made the transition this year so easy)

Thanks to: **Fra Angelico** (whose exhibit offered a wonderful learning experience for my class)

Thanks to: **Jeannette Barron** (for the terrific photos for next year's Student Diary)

Thanks to: **Dan Keller** (for his help on the project to revamp the SSS website)

Thanks to: **Elisabeth Giansiracusa** (for her patience as editor of the PA Newsletter)

Thanks to: **The Alumni Task Force** (**Fabiana De Rose '90, Dalia Mattioni '90, Alberto Moncada '77, Vik Podagelyte '99, Tina Rocchio '85 and Sayaka Sato '04)** for organizing the Career Fair in October 2008 and the next one (October 2009) and the other alumni events this year.

Thanks to: **Jo Ann Clark** and **Lee Schmidt** (my colleagues in the New York Office)

Thanks to: the **anonymous donor** (who gave us the 600,000€ challenge gift)

Thanks to: the **Muncipal Rose Garden** on the Aventine (for being so beautiful)

Thanks to: the **Faculty** who have already made generous donations to help us meet the challenge of the 600,000€ Matching Gift received in early 2009.

Thanks to: the **Parents** who have already donated this year to help us meet the challenge.

Thanks to: the **Parents who are about to make a donation** (by June 15, if possible) to help us meet the 600,000€ matching gift challenge.

Thanks to: **our readers** (for everything)

from the nurse

Alice Simmons

MANDATORY HEALTH FORM FOR ALL RETURNING AND NEW STUDENTS

Each of you will be receiving the revised health form for your child. The Italian government REQUIRES that each student must ANNUALLY submit the requested information including a physical examination completed by a licensed doctor. Your child's enrollment for next school year will be complete after this form is received by the school. You may send a copy by email to nurse@ststephens-rome.com. The original copy must be sent to the school address BEFORE August 1, 2009.

St. Stephen's Cultural Center Foundation

ST.STEPHEN'S CULTURAL CENTER FOUNDATION will be offering MASTER CLASSES for adults, starting the first week of October 2009.
Courses will be taught by our "teaching stars": Jack Ullman, Dr. Helen Pope, Pamela Christy, Edward Steinberg, Dott.ssa Antonella Micone, Richard Trythall, Anita Guerra, Marina Buening, Brad Masoni.
The final program will become available during the summer.
For more information, please feel free to contact Agnes Martin at: ssccf@ststephens-rome.com
Tel. 06.5750605

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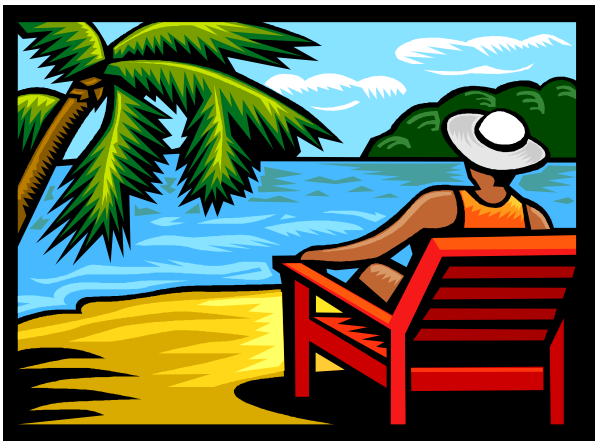

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and restful summer!!

The SSS Parents' Association