



## Principal's Message

We were thrilled to welcome everyone back for a new school year. From the start of this year, we have joyfully celebrated a return to normalcy. It was hard to tell who was more excited about the first day of school... the students, or the parents who were finally able to return to campus after over two years of restrictions. From ELP parents being able to drop off our youngest students into their classroom, to our senior class celebrating the traditional Ring Mass all students have experienced a return to traditions and creation of memories.

What an exciting start to the school year we have had this fall. We have welcomed new teachers and new students to the MSA family. Our calendars are filled once again with a variety of celebrations and activities as we grow,

learn, play and pray together.

The return to normalcy has also meant a return to our highly engaging Kagan cooperative learning. Students are once again engaging in lessons that develop social skills, interacting positively with one another while solidifying knowledge and learning new content.

Of all events, it is likely that the Bazaar was the most highly anticipated! After a two-year hiatus, the joy and excitement of the return of the Bazaar was palpable. It is no wonder why the Bazaar is as popular as it is. Not only do the students love the days of fun and food, it is the best example each year of the wonderful things we can accomplish when the MSA family works together. It may sound cliché, but it truly does take the mammoth

effort of the whole MSA family to work together to such a high level of success for the bazaar.

We invite you to stay connected this year as we make the school year ahead one filled with wonderful experiences and new memories to cherish.

As we journey through the Advent season, and the candles glow more brightly, may our hope also increase as we seek God's presence in our lives and find greater joy.



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# National Honor Society

At the recent National Honor Society Ceremony the following students were inducted: Aidan Medeiros, Marcus Duarte, Chrishante Dill, Anijahé Martin, Ivanna Young, Emily Dunstan, Colin Cardoza, Nia-rene Outerbridge, Analía Machado, Cadence Grayston, Melanie Haller.

Also the new executive for the society were voted upon:  
President: Nicholas Weikl  
Vice President: Ian Da Silva  
Secretary: Brianna Benevides  
Treasurer: Mataeo Holder  
Historian: Colin Cordoza



## 2022 Canadian Universities and Colleges Tour

The 2022 Canadian Universities and Colleges Tour was a great success. Twenty-six students accompanied by Mrs. Charlene White and Mrs. Anna Faria-Machado, toured a total of 28 schools. In several locations, the students had choices of schools to visit. The itinerary included the following schools:

- Nova Scotia: Dalhousie University, Mount Saint Vincent University, St. Mary's University, Acadia University
- New Brunswick: Mount Allison University, University of New Brunswick, St. Thomas University
- Prince Edward Island: University of PEI, Holland College
- Ottawa, Ontario: Algonquin College, University of Ottawa, Carleton University
- London, Ontario: University of Western Ontario, Kings College University, Brescia University College, Fanshawe College
- Ridgetown, Ontario: Ridgetown Campus (U of Guelph)
- Waterloo, Ontario: Wilfred Laurier University, University of Waterloo
- Guelph, Ontario: University of Guelph
- Toronto, Ontario: York University, Seneca College, University of Toronto, Humber College
- Peterborough, Ontario: Trent University
- Oshawa, Ontario: University of Ontario Institute of Technology
- Niagara, Ontario: Brock University, Niagara College

Despite the busy schedule of tours, presentations, plane and bus rides, there was still time for some fun. The group visited Niagara Falls and enjoyed an evening at Canada's Wonderland. There were some lovely group dinners and several visits to Tim Horton's and Starbucks. While the weather was unusually mild for this time of year, the group experienced a few days of brisk weather, which provided a glimpse of what they will experience while attending school in Canada. Here are some testimonials from some members of the tour group:

Analía Machado

"This tour allowed me to engage in numerous activities socially, broaden my view towards the university life and experiences abroad within the communities, clubs and the vast programs offered. It brought a unique experience with friends, travelling and visiting new places. Each day became an adventure with laughs, journeying across provinces and seeing scenery. We made everlasting memories."

Anijahé Martins

"The highlight of the university tour for me was definitely the thrill of seeing what is to come after MSA... it was an incredible experience with my peers."

Liana Franco

"From this experience, I was able to visit and find some universities and colleges that offer the programs that interest me. My highlight from the tour was travelling to different parts of Canada that I hadn't travelled to and going on my first roller coaster ride while at Canada's Wonderland."

Chrishanté Dill

Students returned from the busy 10-day tour very tired but more knowledgeable on what university or college they will attend after leaving MSA.





## Ring Mass 2022



Our seniors celebrated their long-awaited Ring Mass on Friday, September 30. Bishop Wes blessed and distributed the rings at the mass attended by high school students and the seniors' family and friends.

That evening, the high school students enjoyed a back-to-school cruise on board the Good Vibrations.



## The Tradition of the School Ring

Have you ever wondered how the tradition of the MSA school ring started?

The school ring tradition started in the early 1950s. We were the first school on the island to start the tradition. Since then, the style and shape of the ring have changed. The original design of the ring had the school crest. Now seniors choose the gemstone of their choice. They can also customize an engraving in the ring, whether it be initials, their name, or even a small quote. In addition to being a sentimental touch, this can be extremely helpful as many seniors have lost their rings only to have them returned because of the engraving. One of our graduates was in university in Canada and lost his ring in the snow. When the snow melted a kind person found it, saw it belonged to an MSA graduate and was able to get it returned to Bermuda.





# Halloween

On Monday, October 31, MSA celebrated Halloween in a wonderful way. The day started with a story read by Ms Laing and Mike from Monsters Inc. Later in the day the elementary students showed us all their costumes during our Halloween Parade. Thanks to the bagpipers, Mr. Joey Cassidy and Mr. Aiden Stones for leading the parade. Students also took part in a pumpkin display and in story writing competitions.



## MSA BAZAAR

“It was a huge success. We broke the record...”

MSA ‘Returned to the Magic’ on October 14 and 15 with the return to our traditional bazaar and major raffle! After a two-year absence because of Covid, the Bazaar Committee was thrilled to bring back the fair to the MSA family and community. Despite rainy days preceding and during the bazaar, it was a huge success! We broke the record for total intake from both the fair and raffle, and the students far exceeded their pre-sales raffle goal of \$125,000. The winners in class sales were Grade 4 for elementary and Grade 7 for Middle/High School. Scy DeVent won \$1000 towards his tuition for the most overall sales.

With a stall decorating theme of Disney Magic Kingdom rides, the stall managers and students set out

to create ‘magic’ for fair goers. It was difficult judging the stalls, but darts won in the category of adult stalls, and Grade 10 was victorious in the high school category. A special congratulations goes to middle school teachers for jumping in this year to manage Kiddyland!

The Bazaar Committee would like to thank our long-standing stall managers who retired during Covid for their years of service to the Bazaar. We would also like to thank all of the new and existing managers who stepped up this year to make the return possible. Lastly, we’d like to thank the MSA family- students, teachers, and families- for all of their hours of support!







## “I was able to experience what it’s like to be a...”

During the summer of July 2022, I was selected by the French Alliance to participate in their French immersion program located in the south of France. While enjoying this experience, I was immersed in the French culture, and I was able to experience what it’s like to be a student in France. I met other students from Spain, Switzerland, Australia, to name a few. I stayed at a residence named Aragon.

During my daily morning schedules, I would have a croissant and cereal at Castel. French croissants are very delicious! I liked most of the dishes they served us, and I enjoyed the chocolate éclairs they gave us.

After that, I would walk with the other students to the bus stop, where we would be taken to the school. In my classroom, there were 12 students. Each week the teachers taught us about the French language and history. During class, I was able to learn the French vocabulary, the alphabet, some future tenses, and I also learned many more other parts of speech.

At lunchtime, we would eat upstairs in the school. An example of a dish they served us was ratatouille, which was very nice.

In the afternoon, we had a variety of activities to choose from, for example, sailing, extreme tubing, zip lining, or taking the train to go to Monaco. On Thursdays, we would go to a private beach. In the evening, our counsellors would hold parties for us. Overall, this was a wonderful experience that I will never forget as it allowed me to improve my French speaking and knowledge of France. Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation to Madame Kelly Exell for her continued support during my French journey and to the French Alliance for this wonderful opportunity.

Thank you for letting me share my experience in France. -Chrishanté Dill (Grade 11 student)



## Christmas Concert

We are excited to bring back our live Christmas performance! On December 6, 7 and 8, our students will be performing “Dear Santa” with dancing and singing. They will have you laughing, dancing and maybe even shedding a tear or two with the emotions that are packed into the show. Preparations are already underway to make this a spectacular event.

## Looking for a unique Christmas gift?

Why not gift some MSA branded merchandise? We have the perfect water bottle, stemless wine glass, large beach towel, and so much more. Visit our website [www.msa.bm](http://www.msa.bm) to see the full line of MSA branded merchandise.





Hello  
I'm New!

## Shannon Davis

Ms. Davis is our new high school Social Studies teacher. Her teaching career began just as Covid-19 broke out, which made her become computer savvy quite quickly.

Ms. Davis's smile is very infectious, and she is loving the cultural and family vibe at MSA. Ms. Davis has taken the task of heading up the High School Student Council. She is looking forward to building relationships with her students. Welcome to our family, Ms. Davis.



## Meghan Madeiros

Mrs. Medeiros is no stranger to MSA as she spent 13 years here as a student. Mrs. Madeiros did not set out to study teaching; she was planning to study Business. Thankfully for us she chose the latter.

She enjoys working with her students one on one to build confidence and see the student have that "light bulb moment." Mrs. Madeiros is married to an alumnus of MSA, and they have one son. Welcome back, Mrs. Madeiros.



## Warren Clarke

Mr. Clarke joins the MSA family as a Computer and CTS teacher. He hopes to be able to transfer his knowledge and skill with computers to his students. Mr. Clarke enjoys observing both personal and academic growth in his students as they develop new skills. Warren, along with his wife Melandra, is originally from Jamaica. Adjusting to the heat in Bermuda was easy as they are very much used to it. Mr. and Mrs. Clarke were blessed in late August with their first child, a son Elijah. Congratulations! In his spare time Mr. Clarke enjoys reading and football; however, it might be hard to fit those in with a new baby!! We extend a warm welcome to Mr. Clarke.



## Kristin Hamilton

Ms. Hamilton has joined MSA as an English Language and Social Studies teacher for Middle School. Her teaching includes active learning, such as through debates, music, and simulations. Ms Hamilton, once settled, plans to finish her degree in Administration with aspirations to one day having a position as deputy or vice principal. Welcome Ms. Hamilton to our MSA Family.



## Deepali Sood

Ms Deepali Sood comes to us from India where she was a Science and Math teacher. One of things she would like to bring to MSA is her knowledge and experience in STEM (Science, technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education through practical in-class applications and show their importance and how they are inter-related. Her favorite part of teaching is interacting with the students and understanding them better so that she can help them in class. Fun fact, Ms. Sood's first trip out of India, was coming to Bermuda. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking. A future goal is to start her own podcast/YouTube channel for the students to help them with their subject even after class time. We welcome Ms. Sood to our MSA family.





## The Addams Family

The Addams Family was a musical comedy put on by Gilbert & Sullivan and took place this October. We asked two of our alumni about their experience starring in this production. Phil Barnett was Gomez, the dad, and Holly Sinclair was one of the ancestors.

Why did you want to be the character that you played?

Phil: Not often does a role come up that can allow you to really explore creating such a vivid and over the top character who also is a deeply devoted and loving husband and father. There was also the opportunity for real nuance and emotional engagement beyond some of the larger-than-life characterizations. It was one of the meatiest roles I have ever had the pleasure of playing.

Holly: For me, I wanted to be part of the ensemble group rather than a main character. Being an ancestor was a blast! The ancestors were assigned to different roles depending on a few factors. As the shortest ancestor, I was chosen to be Napoleon!

What was your favorite part of the production?

Phil: Probably "Happy/Sad" where my character Gomez sings to his daughter, Wednesday, about the crazy dichotomy of life and love, and the opposing emotions and highs and lows. It is an incredibly touching and beautiful piece of music, and I reveled in every note and nuance of it!

Holly: I made some amazing new friends and got to renew relationships with some from years ago.

Phil also wanted to give a quick shout out to Julie Madeiros., "my music teacher in Grade 7 who started me out on this lifelong love affair with musical theatre as the "Pink Hussar" in the Christmas Show in 1980!"



## ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Alumna Lauren Allen published her first children's book.

Lauren attended Woodmont Nursery which at the time was operated by Mount Saint Agnes Academy. She then went onto kindergarten through to Grade 8 when she left to attend boarding school. She went on to attain a law degree from Exeter University and is looking to start a career in the reinsurance field. Throughout her journey, however, she has also delved into various projects to utilize her creative side.

She launched a local marine themed sun-shirt line that will be sold in Making Waves and has just released the first of a series of children's books entitled "An Itch to Fish" depicting the Bermuda experience through fishing. This book captivates how special it is to grow up in Bermuda and highlights some of our local species of fish. The children love seeing which fish is coming next and anticipating the rhymes of the predictable texts.

She and her mom Dina Allen, a teacher at MSA, are seen here with the ELP students after reading the book.

"An Itch to Fish" can be found in Bermuda Book Store, Brown and Co, Tabs and the BUEI. Lauren is busy with the next book, "Toad in the Road", coming soon.



# Mark Your Calendar!

January 21st

Home & School's Dessert Bingo

January 29 - February 4th

Catholic Schools Week

February 6th - 10th

Semester Break

March 3rd

MSA's Birthday

March 4th

Country & Western Event

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**[msa.bm](http://msa.bm)**

May 2023 bring you  
warmth, love, and light.



Merry Christmas from the faculty, staff and  
students of Mount Saint Agnes Academy!



@mountsaintagnesbda

