

La Salle College Old Boys' Association Newsletter

c/o La Salle College 18 La Salle Road

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Bookings : 23362985 Wed 3:30-4:30p.m.



New Office Bearers and Committee Members of **LSCOPA** for the year 2001-2002



Mr. William Tong, the Returning Officer is driving a point home. He is flanked by the Office Bearers of outgoing cabinet.



During the Vote-Counting; the Old Boys had their buffet dinner at the General Purpose Room.



Mr. William Yan is elected President of La Salle College Old Boys' Association for the year 2001-2002. He is delivering his thank-you speech.



Mr. Hilton-Cheong Leen thanked the outgoing cabinet and expounded on La Salle Spirit.

LSCOPA AGM on 6th July 2001

The 2001 Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on 6th July 2001 at 7:15pm and it was attended by 234 members. The Returning Officer Mr. William Tong called the meeting to order at 7:25pm.

Since the number of nominated Office Bearers matched that of the posts vacant, the Returning Officer, in accordance with the Articles of Association declared the following Office Bearers elected ipso facto.

President	Mr. William Yan	Vice President	Mr. Wilfred Ng
Hon. Secretary	Mr. David Hsu	Hon. Treasurer	Mr. Paul Law

He invited all eligible members to vote for the twelve committee member posts and should any ballot paper carry more than twelve that particular ballot paper shall be void. There were 21 candidates competing for the 12 vacant posts.

In order to carry out the ballot in an open and fair manner, and in accordance with the Articles of Association, the Returning Officer appointed the following scrutineers to supervise and conduct the ballot count. They were Mr. Dennis Chow, Mr. Chan Fan, Mr. Henry Kho and Mr. Thomas Wong. The Ballot was declared closed at 8:00pm.

The AGM took a recess at 8:25pm whilst the ballots were counted. All attendants were invited to a buffet dinner. The AGM was reconvened at 10:35pm for the results of the ballot and Mr. Chan Fan declared that there were 226 ballots collected and counted. There was one void ballot due to incorrect insertion. Out of the 225 ballots, the followings were elected as the committee Members for the session 2001-2002.

Mr. Peter Chiu
Mr. Gerald Huang
Mr. Toby Leung

Mr. Paul Ngai
Mr. Stephen Ting
Mr. Philip Yeung

Mr. Dinesh Choithramani
Dr. Jeffrey Kong
Mr. Eric Ng

Mr. Steve Tsang
Mr. Roger Wong
Mr. Nelson Yip

Introducing New Faces in the Committee

Mr. Gerald Huang

Is now working in a construction consultancy. An active member of both Athletics and Volleyball Teams at La Salle; set a shot putt record in Hong Kong for 13 years, received his Business Administration, Town Planning and Geography Quali from Toronto U and U of Windsor, Canada. Like his 3 elder brothers, Lester, Peter and Mark, he shares the same love for his Alma Mater.

Mr. Steve Tsang

An Old boy of 1977 was once captain of Schools Table Tennis Team and School's football Team 78/79, studied in HK Polytechnic U and U of Birmingham and U of Manchester, Steve is a hospital Manager of Hospital Authority, is married with 3 children, Brian, the eldest is in the school's Football + Athletics Team, is currently the Champion in the Interschool 400M event.

Mr. Philip Yeung

Class of 1993, member of Spring Dinner organising committee for 3 years, is now an assistant team Manager in a Financial services Group.

Mr. Dinesh Choithramani

Initiated the 'Joint School Drama Night' in school was elected President of Student association in 1992, help in running the 60th Anniversary of La Salle; studied at Brown University majored in Computer Science and Business Economics is now working in the telecommunications sector.

Mr. Paul Ngai

Joined LSPS in 1962, went to Canada in Form 4 and later Studied in UBC returned this year to serve La Salle.



Board of Directors and members of La Salle Foundation 2001-2002.

La Salle Foundation Chairman's Report for the year 2000-2001

Activities Overview

1. The Board held two full meetings during the year. Special working meetings were also held to plan and organise activities of the Foundation as detailed below.

La Salle Primary School Redevelopment Project

2. The Foundation has been actively assisting the school authority in the redevelopment project, in pulling together the necessary resources to get the project off the ground and in co-ordinating in most project activities. The Board of Directors and many Members of the Foundation have been heavily involved in the Redevelopment Committee, the Fund Raising Sub-Committee, the PR and Publicity Sub-Committee and the Work Sub-committee.

3. The redevelopment project is well on track. Site formation and foundation works were completed, and construction of the superstructure is in good progress. It is anticipated that the school building would be completed by early 2002 while whole day schooling would begin in September 2002. As regards fund raising, the response has been very encouraging. As at May 2001, about HK\$20M had been received while another few millions pledged.

Overhaul of the air-conditioning plant of the La Salle College

4. The air-conditioning system of the La Salle College has been operating for more than 20 years, and its performance was found deteriorating over the years. Having secured commitment from the Education Department to shoulder 73.3% of the final cost of the air-conditioning plant overhaul, or up to \$1,466,000, the overhaul project finally commenced in late 2000.

5. With the support of the Foundation, a working group comprising fellow Old Boys was drafted in to plan and oversee the overhaul project. Apart from necessary rectification and improvement works, supplementary air-conditioning units were also installed at the school hall, staff lounge, student guidance center and the Old Boy's Room. With all these works completed in May 2001, boys and teachers of the College can now enjoy a much cooler school day in summer.

School Improvement Programme

6. The school authority is in the process of exploring whether and how the College could benefit from the Government's School Improvement programme. As the College is a 43-class non-standard secondary school, action is being taken to elucidate the entitlement of the College with reference to the schedule of accommodation for year 2000 school design. The Education Department would be approached upon completion of the fact-finding exercise in due course.

Professional Support

7. As both the College and the Primary School require professional support on a regular basis, the Foundation has taken the Initiative to call upon fellow Old Boys with professional expertise in architecture, building and engineering to provide on-going professional support to the College and the Primary School.

Finance

8. For the financial year ended 31 st March 2001, a surplus of \$423, 243 was recorded.

9. During the period, an investment income (comprising capital gain, dividend, and interest income) of \$168,955 was received. These together with \$12,400 of donation have accounted for the \$1,181.355 income recorded for the financial year 2000/ 2001.

10. On the expenditure side, a total of \$148,415 of donation was made. The majority of which was contributed to the La Salle Brothers (HK) Administration Fund for repair works inside the brothers' quarters. Besides, a general provision of \$600,000 for diminution in value of investment securities was made at the advice of the Auditor in compliance with the generally accepted accounting principles.

11. The accumulated surplus of the Foundation after making the provision stood at \$13.3M as at 31 st March 2001, with \$12.5M represented by bank deposits. Taking into consideration the committed contribution of \$3M to the La Salle Primary School Redevelopment Project, the Foundation would still be left with over \$9M of liquid assets.

Nicholas W F Ng
Chairman
La Salle Foundation

The Directors of the board for the year 2001-2002 are:

Office Bearers	Mr Nicholas Ng -Chairman Mr Sam Chen -Vice Chairman Mr Chan Fan -Secretary Mr Alan Chow -Treasurer
Directors	Bro Patrick Tierney Bro Thomas Mr Peter Chiu Mr Dennis Chow Mr William Tong Mr William Van Mr Simon Yau Mr Wilfred Ng



Kowloon Tong, a fashionable address in town, was only scattered with two to three story high town houses. The trees fencing around the building had effectively blocked all the views inside and the small video camera peering from each metal-framed door suggested this was a heavily guarded area. I, on the way to my new school on this very first day, was in no mood to look at the surrounding neighborhood in great detail.

The school, like a gigantic white castle perched on the top of the street, was flanked by an equally huge football pitch. The school entrance was now swarmed with nice cars. I regretted that I didn't get off from the bus in the previous stop to avoid being seen by fellow classmates from their chauffeur-driven limos.

As I came into the school building, my eyes were met with the sparkling marble floor and several school guards who dressed in suits and armed with walky-talkies, I thought I had gone into a five star hotel.

At this moment, I started to feel I was looked overtly strange in this landscape. I was a new comer to the Form 3 class, I wasn't acquainted with anyone, and without the rather smart school tie, my incomplete school uniform code had suddenly exposed myself to some uncomfortable visual scrutinies.

After a brief assembly, we were led by the Form Master into our classroom. As they were rumbling down their morning prayers, I began my discovery journey to the classroom and the others.

The classroom was parquet-floored with double-glazed windows, and it was air-conditioned, a very rare thing in Hong Kong's schools then. There were about forty students in the class, all boys! I puzzled if this would have any negative impact on our inclination. After coming out from the school several years later, I knew this was not a problem to me. But during the years I did see several boys who couldn't beat the boredom and behaved weird. However, I recognized my ineptness to get on with the other sex these days owed something to my boy school education.

My mind was stopped by a voice hailed from a small speaker hanging on the wall in the front of the class. It was the opening speech by our Principal spoken with a ruptured tone. Later I found out our that Principal dressed in a Romantic priest gown could chip in the class at any time only to switch off the air-con as well as the row of the lights by the window. The Principal was a pioneer in protecting our environment.

Our Form Master was Mr. Nair, an Indian residing in HK for a long time. He used a choking cologne and always called us handsome boys. However he had a tricky temperament and if he was irritated by an unknown event, he would bang the heads of students sitting at the front row. Over the year we had to take turns for those dreadful seats.

I was actually quite delighted to have him as my form master. He was the first person to speak in a native English tongue to me. After I had successfully made a self-introduction to him in English, I couldn't wait to be home to tell my parent of this feat. Later I also found out Mr. Nair could speak Cantonese and his son also studied in our school. His love for the school was not different from his affection for his hometown back in India.

The first day of the school involved large amount of paper works with a mandate to fill up all sorts of registration forms. I was so edgy about the experience to disclose the information on my birthplace (I really didn't want discrimination), age (I was little older) and my home address (did others know where Tsuen Wan was?)

Surprisingly this had not turned out into a nightmare. Later I also found out a large proportion of th students were having a similar background to me. We once talked about the power cutoff in the Wall City and the rat-fighting in Lok Fu Estate in the class.

As the day rolled on, I was amazed to see some classroom dramas. The class next to us always burst out in thunderstorm laughers first, and I bet this had a contagions effect, our class would follow suit in a second, and then the next class, until the last one down the other end of the corridor. The uproar was like a series of fireworks cracking in the sky that lightened up our days.

More class teachers came onto the stage, the first one was the Chinese History teacher who was nicknamed as "Dice" for his quite obvious built, he talked only the history of how his son as a jockey fared in the last race; the Biology teacher was funny enough and spent the whole class drawing a section of floral leaves or the diagram for Photosynthesis process; the P.E. teacher, you would never see him stop ranting at students until you could run at a marvelous speed; and our hypnotic Economic teacher whose job was to lull everyone to the far away dreamland of fantasy.

Of course I didn't forget to mention our Chemistry teacher, the only lady in this male kingdom. She quickly became the Snow White among forty dwarfs. The class discipline was best observed as everyone was vying for her attention. We could be foolish to kill ourselves just for simple dimple appearing on her smiling face.

As you could see our class was so interactive, lively and balmy, never short of intellectual exchanges between teachers and students or straightly amongst students themselves. We were encouraged to learn by motivation and imagination. Very soon I had found myself already immersed into this landscape and lashed onto this great heritage...

Yip Kin Shing (1987)

* K.S. is a general practice surveyor and the convener for the La Salle Old Boy's Surveying Professionals' network.

LSC Old Boy Surveying Professionals' Network has a mission to bring together all La Salle old boys in this profession. No matter you are

well experienced or green in the industry and whatever surveying disciplines you are from, you are welcome to join our network.

In the coming year, we plan to

* Organize social gatherings to share our experience and market intelligence. * Set up a web page and link to LSCOBA, com to publicize our network.

* Help our student members in the APC test -an epitome of La Salle Spirit. * Assist in the Schools' career talk.

To register your interest, please send e-mail to the network convener Mr. Jim Yip at jimyiphk@yahoo.com. We look forward to your participation.



The author: Rev. Bro. Cassian Brigant on his left is Bishop Bianchi, Bishop of Hong Kong at that time.



Rev. Brother Aimar-Pierre, The founder of La Salle College.

La Salle College, Kowloon

(From the Community Diary of Bro, Cassian) To celebrate the 70th anniversary of our aim a mater, the Editor publishes extracts of the Community Diary of Rev Brother Cassian Brigant The original of the manuscripts were written in French and was translated into English by Brother Vincent Corkery: it traces the story of the college from its beginning to 1950's, the Diary is reproduced with kind permission from Brother Patrick Terney; the Director of The La Salle Brothers of Hong Kong,

The Author

*Brother Cassian was born 1889 in France and was one of the many French Brothers who returned to fight for France in World War I. In his later years Brother Cassian was a colourful autumnal figure in the cultural life of Hong Kong; a respected Sinologist founder of the Teachers' Association, Founder of the immensely popular Annual Schools Music Festival and was awarded the **OBE**. He passed away 30 October 1957. We give here a first instalment of his Diary.*

In 1915 the exodus of the Portuguese community to Kowloon had commenced and in 1917 Brother Director of St. Joseph's College set up a primary school to cater for younger children. This was located in Chatham Road, not far from Rosary Church. The School only helped to underline the larger need, and it was soon evident that a proper college had to be established on the continent.

In 1924 Br Director Aimare Pierre roamed the hills of Kowloon in search of a suitable site. Once he had located it he began planning. In February 1928 the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir C Clementi, visited the proposed site and promised to help the Brothers to acquire it.

On 23 April following the 10 acres, [435,600 square feet] which constitutes the property of La Salle College was purchased from the Colonial Government.

The architects of the College, Little, Adams & Wood worked at the plans over the next nine months. Then once the approval from the Regime had been obtained work got under way. For a start there was a major leveling job to be done, as the property towered some 60 meters or more above the level of the road. Then came the piling for the foundations, some thirty holes had to be dug. Once this was done the walls went up fast.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE

The official ceremony of laying of the foundation stone, was a revelation of the extent of public interest in the work of the Brothers.

On 5 November 1930 His Excellency the Governor Sir William Peel and the Apostolic Delegate to the Chinese Government Mgr C Costantini, officiated. Mgr H Valtorta, Vicar Apostolic of Hong Kong, the clergy and a large number of notables were also present.

The governor paid a warm tribute to the work of the Brothers, tracing their story from their first arrival in 1875, and went on to compliment them on their success as educators in the world at large. Brother Director reported on the work in progress and expressed his gratitude to all who had assisted: the government which ever faithful to its liberal policies had facilitated the purchase of the property and subsidised the construction; the architects and the business community who spared no effort to erect a sumptuous academic centre.

What he did not mention was the immense part played by himself in the enterprise: his vision which penetrated the veils of the future to sense the increasing importance of Kowloon as a centre for commerce and industry, and his admirable generosity in adding to his duties as Director of St. Joseph's College the onerous task of securing for the new college every ultra-modern facility for quality education that was Christian and Catholic.

Another speech, one which won rounds of applause, was given by the Honourable J P Brega, a member of the Legislative Council, himself a former student of the Brothers, as he paid tribute to his former teachers and the work of the Brothers.

OFFICIAL OPENING

Work went forward without pause for more than a year under the constant supervision of Brother Director. Whenever he had a moment free he was there to inspect the work and in this way prevented several mistakes which would have been expensive, even impossible, to remedy later on.

By 3 December 1931 work had advanced sufficiently for 8 classes to be installed, with a staff of five Brothers and four lay teachers. However the Brothers continued to live at St Joseph's. The very first day 303 students sought admission.

On 6 January 1932 the school was definitely installed with a community of seven Brothers in residence including Brother Aimare-Pierre as first Director. On 11 January 30 boarders occupied the western wing. The following day Mgr H Valtorta arrived to bless the building and to celebrate the first mass -in the school hall, which was to function as a temporary chapel until 16 May. Already there were 14 classes with a total enrolment of 540 students.

Studies went forward and were in no way interrupted by the visits of important dignitaries who came to admire the new college. Such was the excellent impression received by Brother Visitor James who arrived for his first visit on 5 March.

To be continued in the next issue.