HNC launched its new state-of-the-art website at the start of Trinity term and the school community is encouraged to make the best use of it. Veritas Chat (VC) caught up with Jerome Mc Carthy, (JMC), PTA Vice President who has been spearheading this project, for more details on the website and how it will enhance communication amongst HNC’s stakeholders and support student learning and success.

material will be interactive using a number of visual aids and videos. One of these aids will be in the form of a learning site called Edmodo, which will involve interacting with students and teachers world-wide in various subject areas. We can eventually use the site to submit assignments and course-work.

VC - This is a state of the art site, are there any capabilities users should be aware of?
JMC - Some of the key capabilities that we would like everyone to know about are:
1. On-Line Agenda - All parties can access what activities are happening on which days. With each event, you see the relevant times of the event and who are the intended participants;
2. Recent Announcements - This is a communication tool to inform parents and local community stakeholders on what is happening or what is upcoming. Also, if there are any emergencies, such as school being dismissed for various reasons, this will be posted here.
3. HNC Blog - Students place articles on events and issues at HNC. These are engaging articles for all to be involved in.
4. Photo and Video Gallery - A fairly massive collection of photos and videos of events over the last few years - Walkathon, Bazaar, Sports events, etc. that epitomises the HNC spirit and shows the number of activities in which HNC is engaged.
5. Registration Pages: We capture details of students, parents and teachers, so that they can login into the Website to post/comment on articles and eventually have access to private information intended just for the relevant audiences.

VC - Who are some key members of HNC staff who were instrumental in the site’s development?
JMC -
1. Mr. Charles (I.T. Teacher) assisted from very early in the design, layout, requirements and back-end configuration of the website. His technical skill was a key contributor and he was instrumental in pulling together students and staff to participate in some of the back-end content management of the website. Mr. Charles was also instrumental in creating Twitter and FB accounts that can be linked from the website’s homepage.
2. Keitha Douglas (Administrative Assistant) was a key linkage between the PTA Executive Body and the school for flow of information. Keitha was very responsive and cooperated with all concerned to gather data, submit student information and ‘run-down’ teachers for information to be uploaded to build the website.
3. Mrs. Aqui (Principal) from the beginning, was the guiding light and cautious supporter in having enhanced student and parent participation in the affairs of HNC. She attended a number of review and brain-storming sessions to support the progress of the website. Without the support of the Administrative arm of the school, the PTA would not have been successful in launching this website.

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**Editor’s Note**

It has always been the intention to move Veritas Chat to a paperless format. Now with the introduction of the school’s website, Veritas Chat’s biannual issues can be found as a feature on the website, which not only hosts the events that take place in Holy Name but is also an interactive venue where stakeholders can both receive and contribute information. With this being our final paper issue we encourage all our readers to log on to the website and continue to support our newsletter: www.HNCPOS.edu.tt

We take this opportunity to thank KAP Designs for her gratis design and layout service these past five years.

Mitzi Chan Attong (Editor-in-chief), Tracey Hoford, Sue Salvary, Gizelle Darwent
The Apostolic Nuncio celebrated Mass at HNC

On the 17th January last year, the Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Nicola Girasoli, the papal ambassador in T and T, entered the Marian Hall like a burst of sunshine characteristic of his name ‘Girasoli’ which means sunflower. A joyful celebration began as the Nuncio used the Italian term “Mama mia” to express his appreciation of the beauty and manner of the girls. The Nuncio firstly thanked the Dominican sisters for the role they play in forming “committed Christians based on the values of the gospel”. He reminded us that “to love God above all other things is the basis of our Faith.” We can “teach science and math but it is difficult to teach how to love. Human love is based on reciprocity. Christian love is based on sharing not expecting the other to love us.” It was indeed a beautiful and prayerful celebration as the choir enlivened the liturgy with their singing. This Mass left a lasting impression on all gathered as we too became aglow with the love of Christ that emanated from the Apostolic Nuncio.

Holy Name Girls Entertain at Diplomatic Dinner

The Mass was only the beginning of a relationship between HNC and the Nuncio as he invited our students to provide background music at a diplomatic dinner at the Nunciature on 4th October 2013. There he presented His Excellency President of the Republic of T&T, Justice Anthony Carmona with a relic of St. Thomas Aquinas. Former Head Girls Taya Serrao (2012) and Mari-Elena Pino (2013) each played classical pieces, Fur Elise, Canon, Andante and River Flows In You on the keyboard while former Vice Head Girl Miriam Waterman (2012) treated all present to her soulful playing of Schubert’s Ave Maria, Phantom of the Opera and Swan Lake on the flute. Their generous contribution of talent made the evening very pleasant.

Staff Announcements

We bid adieu to two teachers: Mr Dial and Ms Bead, and to office assistant: Ms Miriam Waterman. We will miss them but wish them all the best.

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