

# Building her future



C A M P A I G N N E W S L E T T E R

Issue I, Winter 2008

## The missing piece is your help

How do we build a bright future for our daughters? Piece by piece. Academic skills. Confidence. Leadership. Healthy lifestyles. An international perspective. Each piece adds to the whole picture – young women with endless potential.

St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School is launching a \$10 million capital campaign to complete Phase III and implement Phase IV of our Campus Master Plan. Phase IV will expand and improve the learning environment at SMLS. It will encourage students to learn independently and collaboratively, to further develop healthy eating habits, and to expand their minds through the world of music. The design, construction and materials will be environmentally friendly and sustainable, creating a healthy environment for learning and setting an important example for our future leaders.

The need is real. The plans are taking shape. The missing piece? Your support. In this, the first issue of *Building Her Future*, our campaign newsletter, you'll read more about Phase IV and how parents like you are stepping up to realize the vision.



## A Sneak Peek at Phase IV

It started in 2002 with the creation of our Enhanced Learning Centre. The soccer field followed. Then in 2006 Phase III was opened – a magnificent new Sport and Fitness Facility, Visual Arts Centre, Performance Studio Theatre and Junior Resource Centre. Now we're ready for the final phase of our Campus Master Plan.

Shevawn Adams, Chair of the SMLS Planning Committee, is excited about the vision for Phase IV and confident that other parents will feel the same. "If we can start



Shevawn Adams

### MESSAGE FROM CHAIRS

## A Message from Janet Kincaid and Kevin Shine, Capital Campaign Co-Chairs

Over the past 18 months, we have been working with a team of 12 dedicated volunteers on our Campaign Cabinet and meeting with families to talk about the School's financial needs, asking them to consider making a contribution toward our shared future through *The Future is Now* campaign.



Janet Kincaid  
Kevin Shine

The results have been deeply satisfying. After all, people who send their children to SMLS already have a strong belief in the value of education. They know that their daughters are developing a strong foundation in learning and leadership at the School. They know they are making a great investment. When we explain that tuition fees only cover the operating costs of the School, they are often very willing to make a further financial commitment.

**There is even more excitement now that we have raised our campaign goal from \$4 million to \$10 million, and begun planning Phase IV of the Master Plan.**

The original goal was based on Phase III – the construction of our wonderful double

gymnasium and Sport and Fitness Facility, the Performance Studio Theatre, the Visual Arts Centre and the Junior Resource Centre. We didn't wait to build these much-needed facilities: the Board made a decision that our girls should benefit immediately. We continue to raise money to pay for these facilities. Currently, our fundraising total stands at \$2.3 million. This past year we've seen real return on investment – in the shape of four sports championships, for example!

Now it's time to move forward again. This is a wonderful school, rich in all the things that money can't buy – culture, history, community, wonderful teaching. We deserve the physical assets to match, and by completing the Phase IV projects we will truly become one of Canada's premier girls' schools in all ways. Many of the puzzle pieces are in place. Now we need your support.

All of us support charitable causes that have personal meaning in our lives. We ask that while your daughter is at SMLS you consider the School as one of those causes. Together, we are "Building Her Future."

*our children off in a fabulous environment and get them excited about learning, it will prepare them for the challenges that lie ahead. After all, we are making an investment to send our girls to one of the best schools in Canada. Why wouldn't we do whatever we can to ensure it has the best possible facilities?"*

Planning is not yet complete but here are some highlights of the project:

#### ✦ Multi-purpose Classrooms

According to a recent study, students with the most daylight in their classrooms progressed 20% faster on math tests and 26% on reading tests in one year than those with the least daylight.

The current early learning centre is an old house with narrow corridors, steep stairs and relatively small classrooms. In Phase IV the old building will be removed and a new wing of light-filled multi-purpose classrooms will be created. The new building will sit further back from the street and will repeat the peaked roof rhythm of the existing streetscape, blending with the pleasant neighborhood that surrounds the School.

The rooms will be designed for maximum flexibility, so that the School can adapt quickly and easily to changes in student needs and enrolment.

please turn over ◀

C A M P A I G N G O A L \$ 1 0 M I L L I O N

Windows will be designed to promote passive solar heating and create an energizing learning environment.

#### ✦ Dining Hall

A 2001 research study found that 27% of Ontario girls aged 12 to 18 are at risk of developing eating disorders. At the same time, the overweight rate among Canadian adolescents has more than tripled in the past 20 years, rising from 5% to more than 17%. Clearly, healthy eating is one of the most important lessons we can teach our children. At the moment, 'Millies' eat their lunch in a space so small that classes must eat in 20-minute shifts.

In Phase IV, we will create a new dining hall capable of accommodating twice as many girls for their lunch period. The facility will be designed to allow some in-house food preparation, so that we can offer students more healthy choices. The Dining Hall will also be a gathering place where the School can come together for special events.

#### ✦ Senior Student Lounge

We are discovering more and more about the differences between male and female brains, and the significance of these differences for learning styles. Research suggests that girls learn best through discussion, involvement, collaboration and context. They naturally break into small groups to work on problems.

Yet at SMLS today there are few spaces where girls can work together in groups or socialize between classes and during the lunch break. The new Senior Student Lounge will fill this gap, providing a space for learning through discussion and collaboration.

#### ✦ Senior Resource Centre

Perhaps the most important lesson we teach girls at SMLS is how to learn independently. It is often said that today's students will have five or more careers during their lifetime. The ability to select, analyze and synthesize research is critical.

The current SMLS Senior Resource Centre, although well-stocked, is located at the apex of the School. The partial walls mean that students using the Centre experience visual and auditory distractions. The new Resource Centre will be designed to provide quiet, tranquil spaces where students can focus

and work effectively on independent and small group assignments.

#### ✦ Music Room

Research suggests that music creates a positive atmosphere conducive to learning. It builds anticipation and releases tension. Music can enhance imagination and increase information retention. It can inspire creativity, improve memory and help develop rapport between individuals.

Music is an important part of the SMLS program, but our current facilities are not optimal. The new Music Room will provide additional opportunities to explore instrumental and vocal music, helping to support the development of the whole person in each 'Millie'.

#### ✦ Environmentally-friendly Construction

We are all concerned about what's happening to our environment – climate change, habitat and species loss, worsening air and water quality. We believe that SMLS must be a leader in sustainability. That's why the School has already taken some steps, such as putting filters in the water fountains, providing the girls with personalized refillable water bottles, and conducting an audit of electrical systems to reduce energy consumption. We have also committed to making new construction as environmentally friendly as possible.

Among green construction measures being considered:

- ▶ Flexible design to ensure that spaces can be used for a variety of purposes without major renovations as needs change in the future
- ▶ Lots of operable windows to promote passive solar heating, reduce energy use and improve interior air quality
- ▶ Use of local, recycled, and rapidly renewable materials, to reduce greenhouse gases, solid waste and soil depletion
- ▶ Use of low-VOC paints and low-emitting carpeting to ensure good interior air quality
- ▶ Water-efficient landscaping and plumbing fixtures, to conserve fresh water resources

Perhaps most important, by "walking the talk" of environmental stewardship, we will be setting an example for our daughters, reminding them that we all share responsibility for a healthy and sustainable environment.

# Building Character

NINA STRAIT AND ROBERT GLEGG WANT THE BEST FOR THEIR DAUGHTERS. THAT'S WHY THEY ARE SUPPORTING THE SMLS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN.



Nina Strait  
Robert Glegg

First impressions are always important. For Nina Strait and Robert Glegg, St. Mildred's felt warm and inviting the very first time they walked through its doors. What appealed to them most was the fact that inside the traditional-looking building was a world of modern technology and top-notch teaching facilities. "You look at the exterior and you see pillars and a very conservative style," Nina says. "But on the inside, you find state-of-the-art facilities and a SmartBoard in every room. And the teachers reflect that drive to change with the times as much as the facilities." For them, St. Mildred's had the best of both worlds, and it made their decision to send their girls here very easy.

Their daughters, Jacqueline and Olivia, are in Grade 2 and Grade 3 respectively. Both girls are flourishing at the School, their parents say.

While 'Millies' learn traditional academic and social skills, Nina and Robert appreciate the fact that teachers keep the learning contemporary and relevant. "Checking things out on the SmartBoard is really important to motivate children," says Nina. "And I love the fact that Mrs. Steven uses songs from *High School Musical*, instead of the Latin hymns we used to learn in my school! Of course the kids are much more enthusiastic about singing songs they love."

The School's global outlook is also important to Nina and Robert. They appreciate the fact that students learn Mandarin and will some day have opportunities to participate in exchanges and international travel. They also value the regular communication and support from the School. Says Nina: "It's so important to know what your kids are doing, and SMLS really encourages that."

Recently Nina and Robert made a significant contribution to the School's capital campaign. Impressed by the impact of the new gym, they'd like to see the School move forward with other projects, including the cafeteria. "Our girls have many years ahead of them at SMLS," says Robert. "It's important to us that the School will be here and have great facilities."

Nina and Robert hope that Jacqueline and Olivia will graduate from St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School and carry its values into their future careers and lives. "The School encourages independent thinking, and gives young women the message that they can achieve anything," says Nina. "It builds character and lifelong friendships. We want that for our daughters."

## St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School Master Plan 2002-2009

