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## A Letter from the Community of

# ST. TIMOTHY'S

Leading Students to Reverence Truth, Desire Goodness, and Rejoice in Beauty

Fall 2008

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### Staff at St. Timothy's (for the 2007-2008 academic year)

**Flori Suci**, Academy Director,  
Grades 5-7

**Christine Edmonds-Mutcher &  
Alison Nanda**, Kindergarten

**Naomi King**, Grades 1&2

**Rachel Bloomquist**, Grades 3&4

**Michael Klaassen**, Grades 5-7

**Uwe Lieflander**, Music Instructor

**Beatrice Partington**, French  
Grades 1-7

### Board of Directors

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**Dale Edmonds-Mutcher** Vice-  
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Paul University  
**The Very Rev'd Ghattas Hajal**, St.  
Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church  
**Rev. Dr. Hing Wong**, Ottawa  
Chinese Alliance Church

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### Latin for Latin's Sake

"New First Steps in Latin" is grounded in pedagogical practice. It is based on an old idea, that learning Latin plays an important role in the cognitive development of all young adolescents..." So begins the preface of the students' of St. Timothy's Latin primer developed, in part, by our very own 5/6 teacher, Mr. Klassen.

The introduction of this said primer is worth quoting in its entirety as it explains very clearly and precisely why a classical school teaches Latin to its students. I quote:

"Why study Latin? Latin is the language of the ancient Romans, and of the people who have based important parts of their cultures on them. The first reason to study Latin, then, is because knowing it is the best way to know about these important peoples and their histories.

By studying Latin, you will also learn how to think and talk about language in general. You will learn many grammatical terms that apply to other languages as well as to Latin. By analyzing the structure of Latin sentences, you will train your mind to think logically and you will understand your own language better. You will learn to pay attention to detail and to be precise; in Latin every letter can make a difference. These are skills that will serve you well in everything you will do.

You will also train your memory. Nothing you learn in the beginning is unnecessary later. You will build constantly on what you learned earlier, and what you learn this year will be the

foundation for next year's work.

Many English words have developed from Latin roots. Very soon you will find that you have become better at deciphering the meaning of unfamiliar English words.

We encourage you to bring energy and enthusiasm to the study of Latin. Be conscientious, organized, and precise. Although we cannot promise you that learning Latin will be easy, we can promise you it will be both constructive and rewarding."

And from there each family at St. Timothy's was launched into daily recitations: "o, s, t, mus, tis nt. As in: amo, amas, amat, amamus, amatis, amant." And: "bam, bas, bat, bamus, batis, bant. As in: amabam, amabas, amabat, amabamus, amabatis, amabant." And late night discussions on the nominative, accusative, or genitive forms of the first declension nouns. Not to mention the driving-to-school discourses on the masculine or feminine properties of water, letters, and native lands.

Although we have not always been the most studious of families we have tried our best to learn our Latin and have, despite ourselves, enjoyed the struggle. Still, we have, at times, needed encouragement and that is why Tim Kennedy, former president of the Board, circulated an interesting article to the parents involved in the St. Timothy's project. What follows is an excerpt from Harry Mount's article, "A Vote for Latin," to further explain why St. Timothy's is so excited about its Latin programme.

**Continued on page 2 ... Latin**

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## Memory Work A Fall Sampling

### Psalm 37: 1-11

1 Do not fret because of evildoers,  
Nor be envious of the workers of  
iniquity.

2 For they shall soon be cut down  
like the grass,  
And wither as the green herb.

**3 Trust in the Lord, and do good;  
Dwell in the land, and feed on His  
faithfulness.**

**4 Delight yourself also in the Lord,  
And He shall give you the desires  
of your heart.**

5 Commit your way to the Lord,  
Trust also in Him,  
And He shall bring *it* to pass.

6 He shall bring forth your  
righteousness as the light,  
And your justice as the noonday.

7 Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently  
for Him;

Do not fret because of him who  
prosperes in his way,  
Because of the man who brings  
wicked schemes to pass.

8 Cease from anger, and forsake  
wrath;

Do not fret—*it* only *causes* harm.

9 For evildoers shall be cut off;  
But those who wait on the Lord,  
They shall inherit the earth.

10 For yet a little while and the  
wicked *shall be no more*;

Indeed, you will look carefully for his  
place,

But it *shall be no more*.

11 But the meek shall inherit the  
earth,

And shall delight themselves in the  
abundance of peace.

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The Community of St.

Timothy's would like to wish all  
our friends and supporters a  
very blessed Advent and  
Christmas.

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### **Latin...Continued from page 1**

Mount writes:

Why is this [learning Latin] a good thing? Not all Romans were models of virtue - Caligula's Latin was pretty good. And not all ... Latin students are going to turn into Jeffersons. But what they gain is a glimpse into the past that provides a fuller, richer view of the present. Know Latin and you discern the Roman layer that lies beneath the skin of the Western world. And you open up 500 years of Western literature (plus an additional thousand years of Latin prose and poetry).

Why not just study all this in English? What do you get from reading the "Aeneid" in the original that you wouldn't get from Robert Fagles' fine translation, which came out just last year? Well, no translation, however fine, can ever sound the way Latin was written to sound. To hear Latin poetry spoken smoothly and quickly is to hear a mellifluous, rat-a-tat-tat language, the rich distilled, romantic, pure, heady blueprint of its close descendant, Italian. But also, learning to translate Latin into English and vice versa is a tremendous way to train the mind. I think of translating concise, precise Latin into more expansive, discursive English as like opening up a concertina; you are allowed to inject all sorts of original thought and interpretation. As much as opening the concertina enlarges your imagination, squeezing it shut - translating English into Latin - sharpens your prose. Because Latin is a dead language, not in a constant state of flux as living languages are, there's no wriggle room in translating. If you haven't understood exactly what a particular word means or how a grammatical rule works, you are likely to be, not off but just plain wrong. There's nothing like this challenge to teach you how to navigate the reefs and whirlpools of English prose.

With a little Roman history and Latin under your belt, you end up seeing more everywhere, not only in literature and language, but in the classical roots of Federal architecture; the spread of

Christianity throughout Western Europe and, in turn, America...The novelist Alan Hollinghurst describes people who know history's turning points as being able to look at the world as a sequence of rooms: Greece gives way to Rome, Rome to the Byzantine Empire, to the Renaissance, to the British Empire, to America.

You can give this advantage at any age. Alfred the Great, the ninth-century king of England, who knew how crucial it was to learn Latin to become a civilized leader, took it up in his 30s. Here's hoping that a new generation of students - and presidents - will likewise recognize that "if Rome is the eternal city, Latin is the eternal language."

**Harry Mount is the author of "Carpe Diem: Put a Little Latin in Your Life"**

**Introductory comments by Nicola Kennedy**

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Please Pray With Us:

ALMIGHTY God,  
of whose only gift cometh  
wisdom and understanding:  
We beseech Thee with Thy  
gracious favour to behold St.  
Timothy's Classical Academy  
that knowledge may be  
increased among us, and all  
good learning flourish and  
abound. Bless all who teach  
and all who learn; and grant that  
in humility of heart we may ever  
look unto Thee, who art the  
fountain of all wisdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

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## **Farewell to our President**

**by D. Edmonds-Mutcher**

This spring marked the end of Tim Kennedy's time on the Board of St. Timothy's serving as president. While he will remain active in our school, it is appropriate now to look back on Tim's time on the board and say a special thank-you.

Tim has served on the board since the inception of the school. Think of what it means to start at point zero, and compare this to the present-day St. Timothy's. So much work has been done. Many people contributed to the building up of the school, but Tim's contributions have been huge.

In the early years the big challenge was to define framework and structure from which decisions could be made. Tim was the key mover in defining organizational roles for the board and staff. As a bona fide 'policy work' he urged us to take on the difficult work of developing policies that were needed. With a mind to the long-term Tim led the work on crafting a road map (the "business plan") for us. Lately, this same vision has led to the St. Timothy's Mission and Principles document that helps families understand who we are.

Tim has also devoted much energy to building connections for the school. He has invested in many breakfast and lunch meetings to share the vision of St. Timothy's with church leaders and encourage support for our work. He has successfully approached foundations to ask for their investment in Christian classical education.

At our board meetings Tim has always brought enthusiasm and constructive leadership, particularly in the midst of difficult issues and discussions. Even sleep deprivation does not dampen his efforts. His questions help focus our work, and he is appreciated for a willingness to explore ideas while listening to everyone.

Many people have enjoyed a phone call from Tim that begins with "How are things going?" Tim has been great at keeping personally connected, especially when we were working on big issues and feeling stressed.

For all these things, and many more besides, the St. Timothy's community says "Thank you Tim".

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## **A Brief Introduction to our New President**

**By Tim Kennedy**

Gerard Torenvliet is St. Timothy's new Chairman of the Board of Directors. Gerard and his wife Debbie have been involved in the school since close to its inception, and Gerard served as the school's first Treasurer. He brings exceptional gifts: a thorough thinker (a human factors engineer by training and profession); sagaciousness (please consult your classical dictionaries!); good Dutch practicality; and more than anything, a deep and solid centre that flows from a strong faith and prayer life. With this final and most important gift, the school is in very good hands as the Board prepares to advance the school into its next phase of development. May the LORD guide and protect Gerard as he leads the Board to follow His will for St. Timothy's.

## **A Few Excerpts from the teachers' weekly letters home:**

"One academic highlight this week was the Grade 3 response to some readings on the establishment of Jamestown in 1609. I asked the students to write some journal entries either from the perspective of Captain John Smith or from the perspective of Pocahontas. The students were highly amused by Liam's dramatic reading which brought alive Captain Smith and his hunger for the riches of the New World. After grumbling about the lack of clean water and good food on the voyage, Liam exclaimed with a smile, "I hate traveling, but I DO love money!" Then Ana took the part of Pocahontas and described the funny-looking white people of Jamestown with 'fuzzy hair stuck to their chins!'"

"Grade 3-4 News: We have been polishing some writing pieces, remembering the #1 Rule of Writing: Do not bore Mrs. Bloomquist! Grade 3 is just the right time to enjoy adding adjectives, adverbs, and similes for extra flair!"

"The 5-7 history class has got Caesar through his conquest of Gaul, and we began discussing Crassus' disastrous campaign in Parthia at the other end of the empire. Next up: the civil war between Caesar and Pompey."

"In History we spoke a little about the lives and work of the first two major Latin poets, Lucretius and Catullus. On Tuesday we will talk about the city of Rome and its pre-Augustine architecture."

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## The Reader's Nook

### Children's Books

#### Black Ships Before Troy By Rosemary Sutcliff

"Using the most up-to-date research on Troy and ancient Greece, master storyteller Rosemary Sutcliff brings Homer's epic poem The Iliad to life. Alan Lee's dramatic images recreate the age of heroes in this spellbinding introduction to the Greek classics."

#### In Search of a Homeland by Penelope Lively

"The Roman poet Virgil, inspired by the poetry of Homer, wrote his epic The Aeneid towards the end of his life. Over two thousand years later, Penelope Lively retells Aeneas' story with pace, poignancy and

drama, while Ian Andrew's illustrations bring the characters hauntingly to life."

#### Just in time for Advent...

#### God With Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Christmas (by Greg Pennoyer and Gregory Wolfe)

"...a companion for those who want to experience Christmas as the early Christians once did, set in the larger context of Advent and Epiphany. Through daily meditations, Scripture, prayer, illuminating history and fine art, we experience what saints have glimpsed through the ages - the wonder of God made flesh."

#### For the Surfer In You

<http://www.inrebus.com/>  
latinphrases  
Fun fireside learning.

<http://www.memoriapress.com/articles/08/iliad.html>

Cheryl Lowe is the founder of Memoria Press which is connected to the Highlands Latin School. This is a link to a short article she wrote about teaching ancient history to primary school students.

[www.cardus.ca](http://www.cardus.ca)

The Cardus was an ancient north-south road that connected the people of Roman cities to their major public spaces...We [at Cardus] believe that economic, social and religious patterns have a deep influence on each other, and that we ignore these to the peril of each...Cardus is a North American public policy think tank, equipping change agents with best theories and practices of public life to renew North American social architecture.

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## St. Timothy's Notice Board

There were sad farewells at the end of the school year back in June as Michelle McKernan's students departed for the summer. Michelle was with us for three years and did an excellent job teaching SK, Grade 1 and Grade 2. We will all miss her dearly especially her four little girls who were with her since kindergarten.

There are several new faces amongst our staff this year. We welcome Christine and Alison who are jointly teaching our kindergarten class, Naomi King who is teaching our grade 1&2 class, and Beatrice Partington who is teaching French to grades 1-7. We also welcome Flori onto our teaching staff for math and science at the grades 5-7 level.

St. Timothy's held its first Irish Ceili this Fall. We wiled away a rainy October afternoon with whirls and twirls as we attempted to keep up with the musicians and the caller! One and all enjoyed the frolic and there is already talk of next year's Ceili.

Most of our students have come to us by word of mouth and so we encourage all our supporters to please talk about St. Timothy's and share our website with others ([www.st-timothys.ca](http://www.st-timothys.ca)).

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## Please Pray for Our School

That the Lord Jesus Christ will always be the light for our school.

Thanksgiving for the excellent staff members that have joined us this year.

Please continue to pray for wisdom for the board as they consider finances, future plans, and vision for St. Timothy's.

For opportunities of outreach to those in need in the local community for our students.

Pray for the students that they may grow in their delight of knowing the mind and the heart of Christ and in caring for each other.

Thanksgiving for the new families that have joined our community.

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