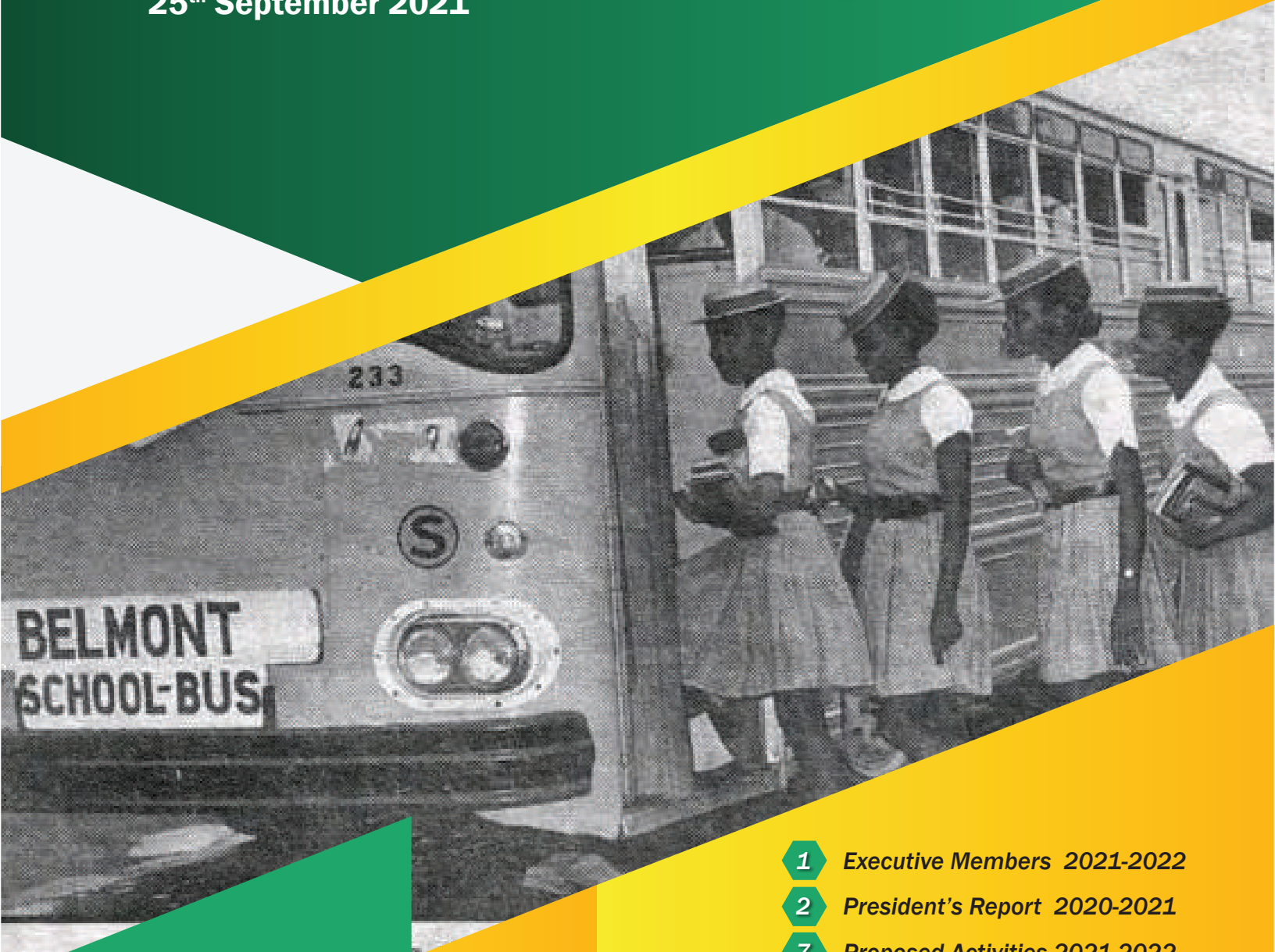




St. François Girls' College
Alumnae

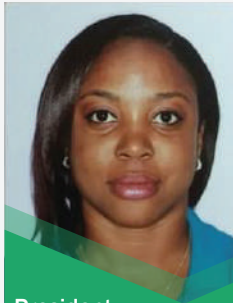
President's Report

Annual General Meeting
25th September 2021



- 1 Executive Members 2021-2022
- 2 President's Report 2020-2021
- 7 Proposed Activities 2021-2022
- 8 Suggestions to Increase Alumnae involvement

Executive Members 2021 – 2022



President
Valisha Sylvester



Vice President
Sonia-Ria Williams



Treasurer
Stacy Christopher



Secretary
Esther Callender-George



Public Relations Officer
Alana Sampson



Assistant Treasurer
Sherry Hazel-Loney



Assistant PRO
Asha Stewart



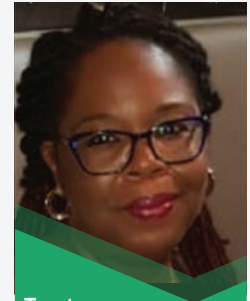
Assistant Secretary
Carlene Jeffers-Bilal



Trustee
Pamela Baptiste



Trustee
Patricia Hinds



Trustee
Nicole Noel

Feedback from AGM Attendees

**"Great Meeting. Kudos to the Executive.
Thanks for reminding me to tune in."**

"Joined the meeting a bit late. The parts I heard however were quite good. It seems as if you all had a successful AGM. I was asked if I was financial, so I will make the \$150.00 payment to Republic Bank. Do keep me informed on upcoming activities, especially the 60th Anniversary activities."

President's Report 2020-2021

Introduction

The executive of SFGCA has had a quiet yet productive year, despite the constraints placed on us by the continuation of global pandemic Covid-19. Following the October 2020 AGM and elections, the new executive positions included President - Valisha Sylvester, Vice President - Sonia-Ria Williams, Asst. Secretary - Carlene Jeffers-Bilal, Asst. Treasurer - Stacy Christopher and Asst. PRO - Asha Stewart. Despite my initial reluctance to assume the position of President, I accepted and began to formulate a plan to achieve a functional body, acknowledging at the onset my limitations due to my new life adjustments, demands and commitments.

I established committees/teams to execute the objectives of the Organisation, thus spreading the responsibilities throughout the entire executive.

The Committees formed are as follows:

- Policy, Planning and Implementation - President Valisha, Vice President Sonia-Ria, Trustees, Pamela and Patricia
- Finance/Fundraising - Treasurer Jacinta, Asst. Treasurer Stacy, Asst. Secretary Carlene
- Public Relations - PRO Alana, Asst. PRO Asha and Sec. Candice
- Membership - Vice President Sonia Ria, Trustee Nicole and Asst. PRO Asha

The teams agreed to ensure that our alumnae community is engaged and to conduct the affairs of our members effectively.

Feedback from AGM Attendees

"This was actually my very first AGM and I found that it was well organized and full of useful information. Congratulations to the Executive for all the work that was done even in this challenging covid period and to the NA Chapter that I did not even know existed. I will definitely become more involved."

Activities and Highlights

Activities were few during this year due to Covid-19 restrictions and the full effects of the new online environment. Please bear in mind that despite these challenges, we must continue to find ways to generate revenue other than membership fees, donations and the sale of memorabilia, to assist our little sisters.

Notwithstanding the limitations we faced, the following undertakings were a success:

Feedback from AGM Attendees

“Was heading back to Tobago so missed the AGM. Will however settle the membership fees and looking forward to updates.”

Finance and Fundraising – this committee planned and effectively executed “A Taste of Christmas”. This fundraiser was a pivoted version of the regular annual Pan, Parang and Pork. The “Curb-side pickup event format was a tremendous success.

The executive, as a result was able to contribute to the much-needed IT upgrade in the amount of \$20,000.00 following the fundraiser and a further contribution of \$25,832.20 in June of 2021. Two laptops secured from past students were also donated to two students in 6th form.

The finance team also secured the facility of Online Banking. This is now a frequent choice for business transactions of the Alumnae, inclusive of the payment of annual subscription fees.

Public Relations and Membership (merged) – members of these two committees worked assiduously together throughout the year to create interesting Social Media Blitz/content with the aim of engaging potential and current members. To date there are 667 subscribed alumni.

GGBW Past Students in the Spotlight - the Green, Gold, Black and White Check-In Series. This initiative was created with the aim of engaging members by highlighting the success of the Alumnae in various fields. It was viewed as an opportunity to foster greater pride among past and current sisters. Season 1, hosted by fellow alum Tyker Phillip comprised interviews held with Alumnae in the fields of art, fashion, life coaching, branding, health and wellness. There have been over 1000 views of the episodes to date.

The Secretariat – members undertook the task of ensuring the compilation of all documents, making them accessible to the necessary parties. This initiative readily allows for succession planning as relevant information is made available for future use. This project is approximately 85% complete. It included the uploading of all documents to Google Drive as well as the compilation of an inventory of all SFGCA memorabilia.

Policy Planning and Implementation – This Committee was established to enable us to begin the process of structuring the Organisation for sustainability. The focus therefore was on Institutional. Strengthening, Capacity Building, Policy Development, Documentation and Monitoring and Evaluation. Meetings with the Principal and maintaining communication with our stakeholders remain of importance to the executive. During this period, we have met with the Principal informally on a few occasions (pop-up visits by the President or the finance team) and formally via a meeting held on April 01st 2021. In attendance were Vice President, Sonia-Ria Williams and trustee Patricia Hinds.

Team Building - This exercise was held virtually on November 28th, 2020 and was graciously facilitated by Dr. Jennifer Holder-Dolly. The main goal was guiding the newly-formed executive to function as a productive, close-knit unit. The session enabled us to discover that we all want the same outcome even though we exude differing dominant tendencies. Under Dr. Dolly's direction, we learned how to better understand ourselves and each other and communicate with compassion, while always remaining faithful to our purpose.

Meeting with Past Presidents – A meeting was held with the past presidents of the SFGCA on July 31st 2021 to encourage collaboration and the sharing of experiences, lessons learnt and ideas on the way forward as an Alumnae. The recommendation of the formation of a “Past Presidents’ Club” was endorsed by the Past Presidents and we anticipate getting this initiative “up and running” in the new term.

Feedback from AGM Attendees

"Was not able to attend however heard that it was a very good AGM. I just did a bank transfer for my subscription fees. It should settle in the Alumnae's account on Monday. Please extend my regrets. I'd love to take part in any virtual events or fundraising. Keep me posted."

- Toronto,
Canada

"Excellent AGM. Congrats to the Executive."

The North American Chapter of the SFGCA

– the Committee reached out to Dr. Astril Webb of the NA Chapter and proposed a meeting. Unfortunately because of competing activities on our part, we were unable to convene the meeting with Dr. Webb and her team. Dr. Webb did however provide us with some comprehensive background information and has kindly consented to have her team and our team meet early in the new term of office. We look forward to a fruitful collaboration.

SFGC PTA – Correspondence from Mr Darren Ramirez - PTA President indicated their commitment to the Alumnae with regards to supporting and developing the students. They are currently in the process of affording us a space on the Konstella app, the school's main form of communication. This will allow us direct access to the school community to share our activities and serve as a constant reminder of our presence.

Other Alumnus – FOBA, QRCOBA, HNC, ST. Joseph Convent, Bishop Anstey High School Past Students' Associations.

This year there was a failed attempt at an online event. Covid-19 did not allow us this year to partner with our usual Past Students Associations on the various events. We however have recognised, over the years, that these partnership and alliances do help us to build camaraderie, learn from each other, share strategies, explore resources and enable us to understand how we can function more effectively as an Alumnae and be of benefit to our members and stakeholders. We look forward to initiating some activity in the new term.

Policies and Documentation

The following were crafted during the period. These documents are much needed in guiding the business of the Alumnae in a formal manner

- The Finance Policy
- Service Level Agreements
- Terms of Reference for the various positions and committees of the Alumnae (still in progress)

Year in Review – The Mid-Year Review was held virtually on July 10th 2021 and allowed for members of the Executive to assess the progress made thus far in implementing the planned projects and to determine the way forward, including priorities until the end of the term. We were able, in a relaxed setting to share information, perspectives, concerns, give and receive constructive feedback, examine our interpersonal communication and dynamics and evaluate our team performance. This activity which was conducted in July, was facilitated by Patricia Hinds (minus the snacks) with assistance from Sonia-Ria Williams. It revealed that most of the tasks that we had set for the year were indeed accomplished. We continue to learn and grow. Great job team!

Activities and Highlights

The NA Chapter has donated 28 refurbished laptops for distribution to the school. I kindly ask that anyone who can access and provide laptops; new, refurbished or gently used to please do so via the alumnae executive. Many of our little sisters are still without devices and these efforts will indeed fill a void.

The class of 1979, with assistance from other year groups, has continued to spearhead and implement the Character Development Programme (CDP).



Feedback from AGM Attendees

"Cinta, it was a good AGM. Thank you for your sterling six year tenure. Pat H, Gillian and Jenny HD thank you as well and all our 69ers who contribute so meaningfully to our Alumnae."

The class of 1974 (fondly known as the 69ers), we thank you for your consistent support over the years. Many of you have served on the Executive, on sub-committees, on the CDP and continue to assist the school whenever called upon. We remain very grateful and appreciative of all your efforts.

We therefore invite all of you, in your respective year groups, friendship groups to join with us to do more for our beloved school.

Upcoming Projects

60th Anniversary – Stacy Christopher, Project Lead
Welfare Program – Nicole Noel, Project Lead
Office Space – Valisha Sylvester, Project Lead

Closing & Acknowledgements

Permit me to say thank you to the members of the current executive for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. It was indeed a challenging year for us but we all rallied and for that I am extremely grateful. A special thank you to those who are demitting office at this time. You will be missed.

Treasurer – Our feisty treasurer (I must use Jacinta's Jamaican words) Jacinta Seemungal has served tirelessly in several capacities over 6 years, beginning in the post of Trustee. She served in that capacity from 2015-2018, followed by Asst. Treasurer for the 2018-2019 term and her current position as Treasurer 2019 - present.

Jacinta is the mother figure and nurturer of this committee. She has always kept us grounded and passionately reminds us that the students of SFGC must be our focus in all decisions made. Her contributions to the executive have been invaluable.

Secretary – Candice Marks is also a long serving member of the executive. Candice shared her talents with us from 2017 – 2020 in the capacity of Secretary. Her presence and involvement in every activity and event is second to none (Helpful, supportive, willing to go the extra mile). Your level of commitment is appreciated, and you too will be truly missed.

On this executive we try our "bestest" Jacinta's word again, to keep our sisters who demit office close to us. Jacinta and Candice, even though you will no longer be on the Executive we know that you both will still be very much involved on the Finance/Fundraising and PR/Membership Committees.

At this juncture, I ask those of you present today to consider being a part of the executive. It's a commitment of generally one meeting per month which really goes a long way to lending a hand to our Alumnae community.



To our sisters overseas, the NA Chapter I extend a sincere thank you for your unwavering support. Special mention must also be made of Dr. Astril Webb, Portia Golding as well as Joanne Phillips-Spencer. Your contributions to the school are thoughtful and pertinent and as stated before, we look forward to a deeper relationship in the future.

Our gratitude goes out to all the Past Presidents, Gillian Roach, Donna Romilly, Salisha Andrews and Tammy Cato who continue to give of their time, talents, ideas, skills and resources so selflessly to the SFGCA. The Executive continues to be richer from having your support. **Stronger Together** is the mantra.

No President's Report is complete without the mention of Ms. Forde whose energy, enthusiasm, positivity, prolific ideas and tangible support never go unnoticed or unappreciated. Vanessa thank you for always being there for us and for your unwavering commitment to St. Francois Girls' College and the Alumnae. From our heart to yours, we truly appreciate and love you.

To Mrs. Seecharan and the staff of the school, we see you, we feel your presence. Thank you for making the integration with the school easier than it was previously. At this point, I should also say a special thank you for inviting me to be part of the Form Is orientation programme this year. I thoroughly enjoyed the session with them. We therefore do look forward to becoming more involved and to developing an excellent and effective working relationship with you.

Thank you again to all alums who continue to support us in various ways.

May I in closing state that I truly appreciate being a part of a sisterhood of strong, vibrant, intelligent and talented women who share the common goal of assisting our Alma Mata and providing the enabling environment to encourage our little sisters to grow and realise their full potential.

Now more than ever, let us ensure that this powerful statement **"My St. Francois, Your St Francois, Our St. Francois"** resonates with all of us in a very special way and propels us to action.

I thank you.

Delivered by

.....
Valisha Sylvester
President

25.09.2021

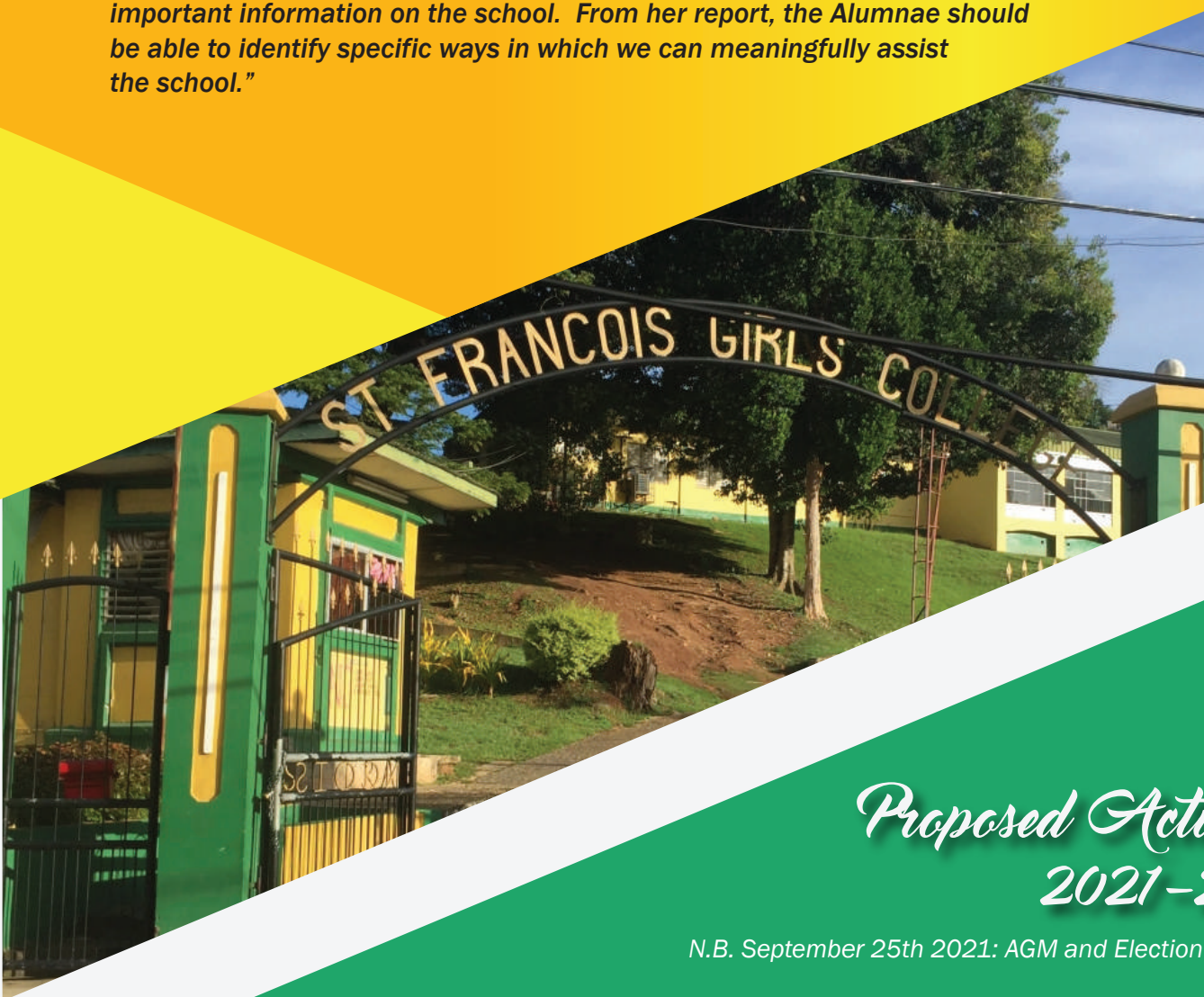
Feedback from AGM Attendees

**"Great meeting. I'll make a contribution of \$700.00TT. I'd also like to offer Teachers some Professional Development (PD) Training. I am now ready and able to give back to St. Francois again. Let's get it done, virtually of course."
- Saigon, Vietnam**

**"Could not attend the AGM on Saturday however found out from some persons in my year group that it went very well. Would you all be posting anything in terms of what was done, plans going forward, information on the new officers?
I would also like to contribute to the fees. Could you re-send me the account number please."**

Feedback from AGM Attendees

"It seemed to me to have been a well-run AGM. The Principal gave some very important information on the school. From her report, the Alumnae should be able to identify specific ways in which we can meaningfully assist the school."



Proposed Activities 2021-2022

N.B. September 25th 2021: AGM and Election of Officers

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Orientation Programme | October, 2021 |
| 2. Team Building Workshop | November 2021 |
| 3. Taste of Christmas 2 (TOC2) (Fundraiser) | December, 2021 |
| 4. SFGC 60th Anniversary Celebrations | February 2022 |
| 5. Mid-Year Review | March 2022 |
| 6. Ongoing Projects | October 2021 – August 2022 |
| (i) Improving Alumnae documentation | |
| (ii) Training and Development (T & D) | |
| (iii) Expansion of roles and Reformation of sub-committees | |
| (iv) Increasing Membership (Membership Drive) | |
| (v) Alumnae PR and Publicity Campaign (Rebranding) | |
| (vi) Establishing the Welfare Committee | |
| (vii) Mothers' Day Brunch (Fundraiser) | |
| (viii) Establishing and outfitting the alumnae office | |
| (ix) Stakeholder Engagement (School, Board, PTA and NA Chapter) | |
| (x) Actioning the SFGCA Past Presidents' Club | |
| (xi) Implementing a Special Event with the Students of SFGC | |
| (xii) Year in Review and preparation of relevant reports for the 2022 AGM | |

Suggestions to Increase Alumnae Involvement



Publicize

- Advertise an event. Even if you cannot attend, encourage others to attend.
- Buy memorabilia
- Get our SFGC brand out there and let people know about this great school, its accomplishments and that our students and graduates are hard-working and dedicated young women.
- Wear our St. Francois jersey and school ring with pride.
- Be part of the movement that is charged with the responsibility to restore and build back the St. Francois “Pride” and “Brand” “My St. Francois, Your St. Francois, Our St. Francois.”



Volunteer

- Assist wherever you can
- Attend a meeting or an event.
- Support the School.
- Be part of the village that is bringing up/raising these girls.
- Become active stakeholders. Come and find out how you can get involved.
- Become more involved in the “World of Work”, “Career Day” and “Character Development” Programmes.
- Give a donation
- Donate your time on Career Day
- Offer your services (at a reduced cost) for: printing flyers or tickets, offer your services for writing proposals, for funding.
- Put us in touch with your networks



Network

- Encourage your SFGC friendship, class and year groups to attend the Alumnae’s meetings or events.
- Contact the alumnae for membership forms
- Establish strategic partnerships, alliances and relationships with individuals, organizations and companies that can help and support the school.
- Invite the Alumnae to address the different class or year group reunions. Include jerseys and SFGCA memorabilia in the reunion goodie bags.
- Tell us about your service, your business and what you can do to support the school.



Boost

- Support the school administration to maintain a high standard and to produce scholarship winners.
- Assist the administration where there are short-falls in finances, expertise and skills

Feedback from AGM Attendees

"My usual pet peeve, despite thousands of past students we only had about sixty (60) persons on the Zoom. I thought, that with the zoom medium we would have had at least two hundred (200) persons. Something clearly needs to be done about getting the membership up. Mass marketing. I don't know. I did like how the AGM was conducted this year, especially with the greetings from the NA Chapter and the address by Mrs. Seecharan, the Principal. I really liked how that new Principal is sounding even though I have not personally met her. She provided a comprehensive report on the school. Well done Executive Team."

Get in Touch



Email:

stfrancoisalumnae@gmail.com



Facebook:

St Francois Girls College Alumnae
@ sfgcalumnae



Instagram:

@sfgcalumnaett

**Stronger
Together**

**My St. Francois,
Your St Francois,
Our St. Francois**