



*From the Office of the Head of School*

November 16, 2009

Dear Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the Financial Assistance programme at St. Michael's University School (SMUS).

SMUS is a member of Financial Aid for School Tuition (FAST), a programme used by many Canadian independent schools. Families interested in applying for financial assistance are to complete the on-line application once a year. FAST does an analysis of the information and provides a recommendation to the school. Based on this, the SMUS Financial Assistance Committee then decides on the level of financial assistance to be awarded to a particular student.

The link for the on-line FAST application is located on the school website; under the Admissions tab, please select the financial information heading. The link is provided below for your convenience:  
[http://www.smus.bc.ca/admissions/finance\\_aid.html](http://www.smus.bc.ca/admissions/finance_aid.html)

The deadline for financial assistance applications for returning families is **Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010**; for new families, the date is **Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010**. We recommend that you submit your application as soon as possible; applications received after the February 19<sup>th</sup> deadline are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis until all available funds have been allocated. Some funds are retained for students who are new to the school, i.e. students accepted after the financial assistance application deadline.

We would like to remind current recipients that financial assistance is not automatically renewed each year. As such, the Financial Assistance Committee asks that parents re-apply each year, since some families do experience a change in their financial situation.

Currently, our Financial Assistance programme funds are modest, offering support to approximately 18% of our students and our families. Increasing these funds is one of the school's strategic goals so that in the years to come, we are able to support more students who want to attend SMUS.

Yours sincerely,

Robert T. Snowden  
Head of School