

Time capsule

By Barbara Moller

The school community assembled in the gym on 23 May for ASL's 50th birthday party. The presentation of items to be placed in our time capsule became a highlight of the special gathering. The capsule was buried this summer and is expected to be uncovered when the School celebrates its 100th anniversary. Fellow ASL parent Annabel Moore and I coordinated this fun and interesting—if sometimes overwhelming—project.

Headed by parent Jane Deering, The Birthday Party Committee was charged with putting together a time capsule to document critical aspects of school life in 2001-02. The committee included members of the administration, faculty and parent community. Our enthusiasm was first tested as we read several scientific articles warning of the challenges of finding both an appropriate container and lasting, compelling contents. We debated the merits of several containers and finally chose a blue PVC tube manufactured by a plumbing and drainage supplier that has an interesting sideline business in time capsules.

We wanted the contents to capture the spirit of ASL during this academic year. The Committee went through many brainstorming sessions to come up with items that reflect the diversity of the ASL community, the depth and breadth of ASL's course offerings and the myriad activities in which students and families participate. We surveyed the students for input on their favorite books, music and movies that they would like in the time capsule.

We included a variety of printed material from the handbook to yearbooks, but perhaps what most illustrates life today may be the mobile phone, laptop computer, Jubilee DVD and the sports shorts that are the Booster Club's hottest selling item. Where will developments in technology and lifestyle take us over the next 50 years?

While the priority was to concentrate on school life, we thought any representation of the year was incomplete without reference to world events that affected ASL. We chose to include two photo supplements, one from 12 September 2001 and the other from the Queens Golden Jubilee celebration. We hope that the contents of the time capsule will provide a meaningful view of life at this moment in time.

Barbara Moller is the mother of two students at ASL.

