

St. Alphonsus School News

Fall Term 2018



**Fall Fun for
Everyone!**

From The Principal

We are entering into the season of parcels, packages and presents with surprises and secrets inside. The anticipation will build over this Advent season until we arrive at Christmas morning. You may be a mall shopper, an Amazon warrior, or perhaps even a crafty Kris Kringle, but it is hard not to get caught up in this side of the Christmas season. Regardless of whether presents are under the Christmas tree or parcels are arriving on the front doorstep, there is excitement and speculation about what the boxes contain. Gift giving and receiving make us feel special, representing a tangible acknowledgement of the valuable gifts we are to each other.

Here are a few things I try to bear in mind as I give and receive, both literally and figuratively:

Handle your gifts with care.

As tempting as it is to shake a parcel to determine its contents, we all know that there are risks. You might be shaking pyjamas or it could be a delicate electronic device (bought on a final sale...) Just as wrapping paper and cardboard hide what is inside, we can unwittingly cause each other damage if we are not careful. Each of us has our fragile parts; it is best to give each gift (and person) the respect deserved and wait until it is ready to be opened.

Gifts must be freely given and graciously received.

However beautiful ribbons are, it is important that we give gifts with no strings attached. To be a true giver, you can't have any expectations of the person who receives the gift. They may be unwilling or unable to give you something back. At other times, you will receive a surprise gift and have nothing planned in return, and your only option is to simply respond with heartfelt thanks. The Spirit works in mysterious ways, even in those awkward exchanges. Each of us has times when we are called to give and when we need to receive.

Don't focus on the wrapping.

We have all heard the maxim don't judge a book by the cover and it is equally true that one shouldn't judge a present by its wrappings. The prettiest paper could contain that garish Christmas sweater, while the brown paper package could contain your heart's delight. Value, whatever the gift, is found deeper inside.

Some of the best gifts are those we didn't know we needed.

There may have been an occasion when you scratched your head over an odd gift that came your way, wondering what were they thinking, and responding with a befuddled, "Um,... thanks!." Later the same quirky present may become the one we most value. Time and further reflection can allow us the grace to find gifts in items and circumstances that seem out of place and or even difficult.

As you gather around the tree this season, I hope you consider the extraordinary gifts you have received, in all the wonderful and wacky packages in which they have arrived. Treat them with the care they deserve. Remember, too, that you are gift to others. Allow yourself, with all your own fragility, to be opened to others. It is kind of cliché, but let your presence be your presents. Finally, be thankful for the child in the manger, our greatest gift and guide. In these ways we can truly honour the spirit of gift giving this Christmas.

*Peace,
Christine McInnis*



School Plan 2018-2019

One of the tasks of the school administration is to develop a plan in consultation with the various members of the community, including staff, students and parents. Many of the initiatives pursued by schools require a long term approach for implementation. As a result, most school plans encompass more than one school year. This practice has been the case in our school; these goals will continue forward into subsequent school years.

Goal 1- English Language Arts

ELA Curriculum Implementation: To engage teachers and support staff in dialogue regarding the new provincial ELA curriculum.

- Staff will be involved in professional development across all grade levels.
- Priorities meetings throughout the year will focus on different aspects of the new curriculum.

Goal 2-Sustainability

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD): To assist students in becoming informed and responsible decision-makers, who actively contribute to the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of all people.

- Staff will use professional development time to continue the process of developing a school plan specific to education for sustainable development
- The ESD grant, secured over the 2017-18 school year, will be used to implement a new composting strategy.
- Teachers will share and discuss ESD activities that take place at their grade level.
- A student group for sustainable practice will be initiated.



Goal 3- Assessment and Reporting

Revision of School Report Cards, Authentic Assessment Practices: The teaching staff has reflected on our reporting process and determined that we wanted to revamp our school report card to better reflect our practice, as well as important trends in provincial education. A staff sub-committee developed a draft report, which was fine-tuned and then shared with parents. It will be implemented in the first reporting period. Any parent feedback on the document will be reviewed to ascertain if further adjustments need to be made.

The conversations around reporting practices in turn sparked discussion about assessment best practices. There was interest in pursuing this area further as part of our ongoing professional learning.

Goal 4- Inclusion

Inclusion of All Learners: To ensure that students of all ability levels have learning experiences that are engaging, providing appropriate challenge to each individual.

Over the last few years, professional development has focused on broadening the scope of lessons, allowing for greater differentiation across all subject areas.

The resource teacher continues to plan collaboratively with classroom teachers on a regular basis and will consult with teachers and resource staff to determine progress towards the goals that are set for individuals and groups.

As an offshoot of Goal 3 above, the staff will look at how the reporting process is applied for students with a student specific or individualized plan. If any changes to the process are needed, we will follow a similar process as for the main report cards and look to implement an improved report in the fall of 2019.



Looking Back

September

September started with a fun **Meet the Teacher/Terry Fox Family Walk** event on the 13th. Families got a chance to talk to staff and then joined in a walk through the community in honour of Terry Fox and the Marathon of Hope. As well, there was pizza and drinks aplenty!



On September 21st our grade seven and eight classes went to the Forks and St. Boniface Cathedral for our annual **Junior High Retreat Day**. The theme of the day was Beauty in our World. It was a perfect day for prayer, games and team-building.



September saw the completion of another successful **Book Fair**. Our stalwart crew of staff and parents always manage to make it a fun event. This year's theme was, "Enchanted Forest"; the art room was transformed with fairies, trees and assorted other whimsical fare! Our sales were close to \$5,000, which is a truly amazing number. Thanks to everyone for their hard work and support.

October

Our **Student Led Conferences** took place on October 16th and 18th. As always, these conferences provided an opportunity to celebrate student learning and to set goals for the school year. Feedback from the students, parents and teachers was positive. We came out of the conferences feeling a sense of direction and purpose.

The **Dress Up and Dance** on October 20th was a ton of fun. Our committee has a report later in the newsletter.

At our first school mass on September 22nd our grade four students received their **Bibles** as part of the liturgy. Congratulations, friends! I wish you well on your journey to learn more about our faith.



Our grade five-eight students took part in **WE Day** on October 30th. WE Day is a social justice youth rally that aims to inspire youth to get involved in local and global issues through volunteerism and fundraising. It was an amazing experience to be at the MTS center with 16,000 young people; the energy was palpable! Certainly the message of finding something you are passionate about and acting on it is a great one for all of us to take away from the day.



On October 27th, the school hosted a **Volleyball Tournament**. There were eight teams in competition, both boys and girls. The day went very well and all the athletes and coaches were thankful for the opportunity to enjoy some time on our courts.



Our student leadership teams hosted its first event on October 31st. The annual **Hallowe'en Sock Hop** gave everyone a chance to kick up their heels for the afternoon before heading home for an evening of tricks and treats.



November

On Friday, November 10th the students participated in a **Remembrance Day Prayer Service**. It was a great opportunity to remember the people who have sacrificed so that we might live in peace and freedom. It was a beautiful service with story, prayer, scripture and song. The students seemed to sense that it was a time of deep reverence and respect. Thank you to the parents who were able to join us .



Our school's **Annual General Meeting** took place on Wednesday, November 14th. It was an opportunity for the board and the administration to discuss our plans with the parent community. I have included the School Plan Summary and a Financial Report from the board in this newsletter for parents who were unable to attend the meeting.

On Friday, November 23rd our **first term report cards** went home. Parents, please take this opportunity to review them with their children. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Looking Forward

December

Advent assemblies will take place each Tuesday during Advent (changed from Mondays). Our first assembly will be on December 4th at 8:45 AM. Family members are always welcome to attend. This first Tuesday will be a purple colour day to mark the change in liturgical season.

We will be having our annual **Christmas Gift Drive** on Tuesday, December 5th, where we gather presents brought in by the students for local missions. An information letter with details about the project has been sent home with your child's report card. Parents are welcome to join us for the gift wrapping and to indulge in a little hot chocolate.

Our **Christmas Concert** will be on Thursday, December 20th at 7 PM. Please mark your calendars and join us for either the afternoon dress rehearsal (1 PM) or the evening performance. You won't be disappointed!

The **last day of school** before Christmas is on Friday, December 21st. It will be a Red/Green colour day for students in anticipation of the big day. There is an 11:30 dismissal on this day.

Open House

Please mark your calendars for our school Open House on Sunday, January 27th. If you have friends or family that are interested in seeing the school and perhaps having their children attend here, this is an excellent opportunity for them to check it out.



Student Leadership

The first term has been an adventure with the start of the new student leadership committees! In September, any students in grades 5-8 who were interested in participating were invited to put their name forward to join a leadership committee. The student leadership committees are replacing what was formally known as student government. Every year, there has been such tremendous interest in participating in student government, but only a limited number of students could participate. The introduction of the student leadership committees has allowed us to involve all the interested students.

There are 8 committees with over 65 student members! And they have been busy through the fall... The sock hop committee helped organize and decorate the Halloween sock up. The canteen committee ran the canteen at the sock hop, as well as at one of the school's volleyball tournaments. The finance committee has been busy organizing and counting the funds made by canteen and other initiatives. Intermural soccer is up and running, there was a Halloween door decorating activity and Halloween staff guessing contest, and the junior high dance committee is planning an evening dance for other Catholic school students on December 7th! Finally, the school spirit committee is thinking of ways to get the students involved in the Neon 90s Gala excitement! We can't wait to see what they come up with!

Thank you to all the student participants! Your energy, initiative and enthusiasm have made the first term a memorable one! Keep coming up with those great ideas!!



From the Music Room

Greeting to the school community! The first term of the school year is already over and practice for the Christmas concert is underway. Information regarding the concert will be sent home next week. I'm looking forward to working with the students. It's always a lot of fun to see them take on their roles and work together to put on a great show.

Below, I have outlined what each of the grades has been working on during the first term. If you have any question or concerns regarding this information or any aspect of the music program, please contact me at the school. I'd be happy to speak with you.

I wish you blessed Advent season and all the best in your preparations for Christmas. See you at the concert.

John Cox
Music Teacher

Kindergarten

The kindergarten students have had a great first term in music. They are an enthusiastic group that loves to sing, move, and engage in learning activities. The term began with songs of welcome as well as call-and-response songs (songs that require an echo response or a sung answer). These songs are introduced to cultivate a feeling of belonging and comfort in the music room and also to help students activate their singing voices. Songs that involve movement are added to further develop those initial elements while helping students to feel the beat in music and to develop a comfort level with controlled movement. Next I introduced a series of instructional songs. These simple songs will be used throughout the year and into grades one and two to teach a host of musical concepts from beat and rhythm to harmony and transposition. In the first term of kindergarten, these songs are used to introduce the concept of beat. The students have used body percussion and a variety of percussion instruments to feel and keep the beat. Finally, there's always time for fun songs and silly songs: songs that allow the students to have fun and ... well ... be silly. And that's a good thing! So the students are off to a great start. We're going to enjoy a wonderful year of music together

Grade 1

In the first term, the grade one students have continued with the study of beat and rhythm. They have learned the difference between beat (the steady pulse in the music) and rhythm (the way the words go) and how to keep the beat or play the rhythm using body percussion or percussion instruments. They are learning to chart the rhythm for simple songs and see the relationship between the rhythm and the beat. These concepts are the foundation for all subsequent musical literacy. An introduction to the xylophones began this term as well. The students are learning proper mallet technique and how to play a two-note chord, called a *bordun*, to accompany simple songs. The students enjoy singing and continue to develop their voices through the many songs we sing.

Grade 2

In the first term, the grade two students have reviewed rhythm and beat. They can read and chart the rhythms to simple songs and correct errors if rhythms are charted incorrectly. They have been introduced to the concepts of measure, bar line and time signature and they are beginning to understand the relationship between these terms and the concepts of beat and rhythm. The students have continued to explore music on the pitched percussion instruments (xylophones). They are learning to read and play three-note melodies and accompany these songs with a two-note chord called a *bordun*. The students are continuing to develop their singing voices, and their movement skills. They love to sing, and they participate enthusiastically in movement activities.

Grade 3

In the first term, the grade three students have been reviewing the concepts of beat, rhythm and melody and how to identify these concepts in music. They are building on the xylophone-playing skills they developed last year, and are advancing these skills through ongoing practice and more complex musical ideas. For instance, they have learned to accompany several songs with a major and a minor chord and have discussed the difference between the major and minor sound. They have also learned to transpose simple songs to different keys. These are sophisticated musical concepts for grade three students, and I am amazed at their capacity to understand and execute the ideas. They continue to enjoy singing, movement activities, and games. We have a lot of fun together.

Grade 4

In the first term, the students have begun to play the recorder. They learned the proper way to hold the instrument, note attack (tonguing), and embouchure (controlled air flow). The students have learned three notes (B, A, and G) and can play a number of BAG tunes. The students' musical knowledge/skill continues to be strengthened through the ongoing study/review of musical concepts (beat, rhythm, notation, etc), pitched and un-pitched instrument playing and singing. The students are enthusiastic about learning the recorder. They are going to make great strides over the year.

Grade 5

In music this term, the grade five students have begun to play the ukulele. They have explored tuning, strumming, and proper finger technique for playing chords. They have learned five chords to accompany sung melodies and melodies played on the recorder. In second term, more chords and strumming techniques will be introduced. As well the recorder will continue to be used as a melody instrument to insure that the students maintain their notation reading skills. Grade five is a very musical group.

Grade 6

In the first term, the students began playing the guitar. They are learning to read notation for the guitar and can now play melodies on the first two strings. The songs are played ensemble style with some students playing melody and others playing chords on the ukuleles. This helps the students maintain the ukulele-playing skills they acquired last year and prepares the way for chord study on the guitar which will be introduced in the second term. Through the guitar and ukulele studies, the students continue to review and strengthen their knowledge of beat, rhythm, melody, notation, and time signature. The students have a positive attitude toward to music.

Grade 7

In the grade seven music program, the students are creating a band. In the first term, the singers and musicians have worked together to learn several songs. Class time is spent learning the melody and accompaniment (guitar, bass, piano and drums), and determining whether the song is better suited to the girls voices or the boys voices (The girls and the boys are sharing the singing). The band is making progress and the students are growing in their skills and confidence.

Grade 8

In the grade eight music program, the students are continuing with the 'pop band' direction established last year. In the first term, the singers and musicians have worked together to select and rehearse a number of songs. Class time is spent learning the melody and accompaniment (guitar, bass, drums, piano, and percussion), determining an arrangement for each song, and selecting new material. The students are continuing to grow in knowledge, skill and confidence.

Physical Education Across the Grades

Kindergarten—Grade 2

This term the early years students were involved in activities to practice and develop some of the fourteen basic movement skills. In particular, we worked on galloping, running and skipping. As well, we learned to use different equipment and played a variety of cooperative and low organized games. We discussed and practiced the rules and routines we use to play safely and fairly in the gym.

Grades 3-5

During the first term the grade three to five students were involved in the following activities: various sport lead up games, fitness challenges and low organized games. The skills we have focused on developing this term include manipulation skills: passing throwing and catching. We have also worked on the movement skills of running and moving in the gym through our various games and activities. We have also worked on fair play concepts and what that looks like in the gym.

Grade 6-8

Students in grades six—eight were involved in the following activities: volleyball, fitness challenges and low organized games. We have focused on developing manipulation skills such as overhead and under-hand passing and serving. Our fitness challenges have helped the students to identify some goals to work on during the year to improve their overall fitness.



From the Gym

As usual, the fall has been a very busy time in the gym. All the classes are settled into our routines and are enjoying being physically active.

The primary classes have been working on moving safely in the gym. We have been playing cooperative games and are developing a sense of fair play. We are learning to use a variety of equipment and have been concentrating on throwing and catching activities. Our elementary friends have been playing volleyball lead-up games, participating in fitness challenges and enjoying a variety of low organized games. Our older students have been playing volleyball, working to assess and improve their fitness level and participating in different games and activities.

Our annual Terry Fox Family Walk was held on Thursday, September 13th. It was a great day and everyone enjoyed the pizza after the walk was finished. Thank you to everyone who participated and a special thanks to those who donated to this worthy cause.

Volleyball season is just finishing up. We had four teams on the go (two boys teams and two girls teams) with more than 50 student athletes involved. Through the season the players participated in a number of tournaments (including two hosted at our school) and over 40 league games. Our developmental teams concluded their season with tournaments for boys and girls on November 16th and 17th. Both teams had a remarkable season. We had playoffs for our grade 7/8 teams during the week of November 19th -23rd. Thank you to everyone who came out to cheer our teams on. Thank you to Mrs. McInnis, Mr. Reyes, Mrs. Rayner, Madame Laird, Madame Curwain and Miss van der Zweep for all of the time dedicated to coaching the teams. As well, thanks to Katie McKenzie and Jonah Lorenzana who refereed through the season, and to Cole Giasson, who agreed to do some training and become our newest ref. I am sure the athletes appreciate it; I know I do!

Our next inter-school sport is basketball. That's all for now. If you have any questions or concerns about the Physical Education program, please come by the gym or call me at the school. Take care and stay active!

Blake McInnis
Physical Education Teacher



French Update

What an exciting and fun-filled first term. All classes have been actively engaged in a wide variety of language-based games/ activities that assist students in learning new vocabulary related to our classroom themes.

Here is what the grades have been up-to:

Grades 1 & 2

Both groups are eager learners and active participants in all our routine songs and activities focusing on the days of the week, months of the year, and number exercises. Students exposure to new vocabulary taught this term continues to grow. Throughout each theme, students take part in a variety of literacy games and activities that help to promote and reinforce vocabulary and comprehension. The grade 1 class has enjoyed learning the colours in French, along with their corresponding signs. During our Family unit, the grade 2 students enjoyed introducing their family to the class, "Dans ma famille, il y a ____ personnes.". Great work this term!

Grades 3 & 4

The grades 3 & 4 class has shown great enthusiasm towards learning the French language. This term, students have begun each class with our calendar routine, identifying days of the week, months of the year and recording the temperature. In writing, students are beginning to recognize many common words when reading and answering questions related to our classroom calendar. The groups continue to make a consistent effort to speak French during our calendar question and answer period. Great job!



Grades 5 & 6

This term, the grades 5 & 6 class has shown steady progress in understanding and following basic French instructions. Students are continuing to work at reading and responding in written form to questions relating to our classroom calendar, as well as utilize their French English dictionaries on a more frequent basis. The grade 5 class did a fabulous job on their final project on la maison. Through their well organized prezi's, the grade 6 students showcased their knowledge of "faire" vs "jouer".

Grades 7 & 8

Both classes continue to work on curricular outcomes through a variety of routine literacy activities, such as entrance/ exit slips, as well as our question & answer period.

In writing, both classes were able to demonstrate their understanding of French negation through their "J'aime..." and "Je n'aime pas..." phrasing activity. The grades 7 & 8 students should be proud of their hard work conjugating the different forms of regular French verbs.

Reminders:

- Email: kristen.curwain@stalphonsusschool.ca
- French classes are days 2, 4 & 6 of the school cycle
- Classroom blog: <http://madamecurwain.blogspot.com/>

Developmental Boys Volleyball

Sadly, the volleyball season has come to an end. It is always amazing to watch how the boys grow and develop as the season unfolds; In particular, with their skills, their attitudes, and most of all the way they come together as a team. This was all really evident at the season ending tournament, which was a huge success and a lot of fun. We would like to thank all those parents who took the time to drive and pick up their children, and drive other team members as well. A special shout out to those who provided food for our supper break at the tournament and stayed to watch. Your support is greatly appreciated. It was truly our pleasure to coach the developmental boys this season. They were a great group!

Mrs. Rayner & Mme Laird



Sustainability

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) continues to be one of the school's ongoing priorities as outlined in our School Plan. We have a number of initiatives that are underway to reinforce our core message, "Enough for All, Forever!" Here's what's on the go:

- **Composting** In the spring, Mrs. Pieczonka received a grant from the Government of Manitoba to help start up a composting program at the school. We are working on two components to the composting program. The first part of the composting program is vermicompositing. Vermicompositing makes use of red wriggler worms. They are kept in containers inside and are fed small amounts of vegetation based compost like apple cores, banana peels and those mini carrots that fell on the floor at lunch, oops! This allows the students an opportunity to see composting in action! Vermicompositing will be happening in most of the classrooms. The second part of the composting program is compost pick up. Compost pick up will include any overflow that doesn't make it into the vermicompost, as well as other food scraps and the paper towels from the washrooms. By having our other compost picked up, we can help reduce the amount of waste enter our landfills and have a positive impact on our Earth. We are hoping to begin this program in the new year.
- **100% Recycling into the Recycling Box** Our primary goal is zero recycling in the garbage. Often people forget what can be recycled or simply put recyclable items in the nearest bin. Every couple of months, classes will receive a reminder about an item that should or should not be placed in the recycling with a handy little sign located near the recycling bin. If you'd like to refresh your own understanding and practice at home, you can find support on city's recycling page: <http://winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/recycle/cartcollection.stm#faq> and Simply Recycle: <http://simplyrecycle.ca/what-can-i-recycle/>.
- **Wasteless/Bottles/Cutlery** The school is continuing several practices initiated over the last two years. We encourage everyone to participate in Wastelss Wednesdays. The goal, each Wednesday, is to have no garbage or recycling! We are also continuing to stress the use of refillable water bottles, instead of single use disposable bottles. Finally, students in need of utensils at lunch are making use of their class' reusable cutlery rather than disposable cutlery. Each classroom teacher has a system in place to allow students to borrow and wash these items.

Cooking Club

The students and I have had a wonderful time in cooking club. Each month, we focus on cooking hands-on, healthy snacks and meals. There are just a few spots left in May and June if you would like to sign up! Visit <http://signup.com/go/PTtNnfx>

Christmas is the season of many wonderful things, exchanging Christmas gifts is one of the highlights of the holiday season, but what truly makes it the most wonderful time of year is gathering together and sharing family Christmas traditions. Taking a drive to see the Christmas lights, the St. Alphonsus Christmas concert, attending midnight Mass, feasting on a home-cooked meal and watching classic films like *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* are among some of my favorite traditions. Whatever your family's traditions are, somehow, when we gather with friends and family, we make the most wonderful memories. Here are some kid- friendly, no bake, fun appetizers that you can try at your next holiday gathering! Wishing you all a very blessed Christmas and may your hearts and homes be full of love and cheer.

Mrs. Whitney



CHEESE REINDEER APPETIZERS

Laughing cow cheese triangles

Peppercorns for eyes

sliced olives for the nose (diced red pepper works too)

twisted pretzels for ears

Have fun assembling your reindeer!



Debate

Debate Club meetings are held on day four of the school day cycle, and regardless of skill level or experience we deliberate/argue in a format to develop persuasive skills. Meetings typically consist of a short skills session, followed by one or two rounds of debate where people can implement what they have learned and practice their persuasive skills. We encourage people who are curious about debate to come to a meeting and watch us in action, ask questions, try out a debate, and see if it works for you.

At present we have an excellent number of students from the upper grades represented. We have varying topics to debate that are intriguing and maybe of interest to you.

Debate club teaches participants how to research, articulate arguments, and clarify ideas. It actively engaging for participants and most often participants are more prepared to speak clearly during open forum, demonstrates a skilled presence, and clearly explain ideas and abilities. Indeed, there are some reasons why debating is beneficial for participants.

Halloween Dress Up and Dance Event 2018

The 22nd annual Halloween Dress Up and Dance Social that took place on Saturday, October 20th was a fun filled event once again this year.

We are so grateful to our over 60 volunteers who gave of their time to make the event such a great evening for the St. Al's community. Additionally, we are thankful to all of those families who donated prizes to the children's raffle and to those families who participated in the St. Al's Pumpkin Patch!

A huge thank you goes out to Mr. Ridgeway for donating our DJ Services for the event and Perfect landscaping (The Wirth Family) for the generous donation of Jets tickets for our raffle.

Mrs. Resendes was also instrumental during the month of October as we worked through all of the preparations for the social. Her support and time was very much appreciated by the organizing committee.

The event raised just over \$2000 and all proceeds will be utilized by PALS to support various projects throughout the year.

Thank you again to everyone who supported this event – it was a spook-tacular evening for all!!

Ardele Karaganis
Halloween Social Committee



PALS

Hello! I have just started a two year term as PALS Chair, along with Nicole Henderson (Co-Chair), Barb Bursey (Secretary), Nancy Pereira (Treasurer), and Nichola Mitchell (Co-Treasurer). Our children are in grades 4, 5, & 7.

Thank you to Sherri Poklar, Jackie Mackling, Anita Auriti and Nancy Pereira for all your work and dedication these last couple years. We appreciate you all!

Thank you to the organizers, those who helped out and to all who attended our 4th Annual Wine Tasting! It was a wonderful evening of wine, food and friends. We raised \$3,450 to be used towards school projects. I call that a success!

Thank you to our Halloween Social Committee for once again organizing a great event. Ardele Karaganis, Christine Grosshans, Crystal Campos and myself made up the committee this year. If you are interested in helping throw a great party next year (while earning a spooktacular amount of volunteer hours) please tell Mrs. Resendes and she will pass your name along. We are always looking for new blood.....muh ha ha....

Ever wonder what the staff room looks like? I remember as a kid having to go to the staff room to get a teacher during lunch hour and being so interested in finding out what was behind that door. Back then the staff room was where the smaller part of the kindergarten classroom is now. True story! PALS meetings are held in the staff room at 7 pm one Tuesday each month. For the 2018/2019 year our meeting dates are December 6th, January 15th, March 12th, April 16th, May 14th and June 13th. December and June meetings are off site. Mark these dates in your calendar – we'd love to see you there!

We look forward to planning many enjoyable events for our school families.

Cheers!

Lisa Rowbotham

Chair



Gala is on the Way!



School Board News

Our AGM was held on November 14th. At the meeting, the Members elected three new Board members. We wish to welcome Kelly Melchor, Kurt Walker and Craig Rowbotham.

We also want to thank our outgoing Directors for their years of service. Thanks go to : Mike Choiselat, Michelle Luedtke, Marion McKenzie, Sandy Raposo-Lloyd, Kyla Kramps and Bob Davison.

Portfolios for the 2018-19 school year are as follows:

Chair/Human Resources: Christina Love

Vice Chair/Finance: Sam Pellettieri

Recording Secretary: Craig Rowbotham

Bingo: Kurt Walker

Public Relations: Kelly Melchor

Renovations Committee Chair: Jonathon Schinkel

Members at Large: John Czezowski, Jeff Arnel

Principal: Christine McInnis

Pastor: Father Greg Mulligan

Parents and parishioners are welcome to attend the open portion of Board meetings, which are held monthly. Check the calendar on the school website for further details.

Christina Love

Chair, St. Alphonsus School Board of Directors



Left: Indoor soccer has been fun; Right: Peak of the Market Camp Fundraiser

School Board News Cont'd

Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2018

Enrollment for the 2017/2018 school year was 232 students compared to the prior year of 230.

Academic revenue increased as a result of increased number of students as well as an increase in tuition and government grants.

Other revenue increased mainly due to an increase in fundraising revenue. The increase is due to an increase in bingo revenues as the hall was closed for several months in the prior year.

Expenses increased year over year mainly primarily due to annual salary increases for staff and inflation.

During the year the School Board made the decision to no longer proceed with proposed expansion plans. As a result it was necessary to write off previously capitalized costs incurred for the expansion and the related contributions received for a net write off of \$169,606.

The end result for the year is a surplus of \$123,467 from regular operations with a small deficiency of (\$46,139) after the write-off of the proposed expansion costs.

Summarized Financial Statements		
Balance Sheet	June 2018	June 2017
Current Assets	\$ 1,146,164	\$ 1,030,031
Capital Assets	770,959	1,030,410
Total Assets	\$ 1,917,123	\$ 2,060,441
Current Liabilities & Debt	\$ 491,630	\$ 588,809
Net Assets	1,425,493	1,471,632
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 1,917,123	\$ 2,060,441
Statement of Revenues & Expenditures		
Academic Revenue	\$ 1,758,526	\$ 1,677,762
Other Revenue	384,240	343,142
Expenses	(2,019,299)	(1,961,266)
Excess Revenues over Expenses before other expenses	123,467	59,638
Write-off of net proposed expansion costs	(169,606)	
(Deficiency) Excess of Revenues over Expenses	\$ (46,139)	\$ 59,638

If you would like to see the complete financial statements please make a request at the office.

As always, a huge thank you again to all the individuals and groups that contribute to the success of our School! If you have any questions please forward them to the office.

Sincerely yours,

Kim Le Heiget, CPA, CA

Get to Know Your Board

Our Board of Directors wanted to let you know a little more about who is serving your school community. This term we are featuring five of our board members, some new and some who have been on the board for a while. We look forward to sharing another set of bios next term.

Christina Love – Chairperson and Human Resources Portfolio

I am honoured to serve as Chairperson and to cover Human Resources for the second year in 2018/19. My background is in Accounting and Management as I am a CPA, CA and currently work as the Vice President of Finance for Magellan Luxury Hotels. I have also been a member of 2 daycare boards, serving as Chairperson for one of them. Darran Love is my husband and is also a CPA (yes it's really exciting having 2 accountants in our household...) and we have 2 children; Isabella in Gr. 4 and Xavier who will start Kindergarten next fall. As a family, we love swimming, fishing and spending time at the cottage all summer. I feel it is important to be actively involved at St. Alphonsus to support Christine, our teachers and support staff in growing our strong school spirit of community, academics, faith, curiosity and kindness. St. Alphonsus is the school community our family has chosen to help us raise caring, accomplished adults. Favourite Movie: Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves (even with Kevin Costner's bad British accent) Favourite Activities: curling, baking, reading Dream Travel Destination: Egypt



Sam Pellettieri – Vice Chair/ Finance Portfolio

Sam is the Founder, CEO and Chief Investment Officer of Altema Asset Management Inc., an emerging alternative asset manager. He has been a senior executive at several mutual fund companies, an investment dealer where he led a new asset management company as an Executive Vice President & Chief Investment Officer, and of a boutique institutional investment manager where he was a founder. Sam is actively involved in the community. He is on the Major Donor's Executive Cabinet for United Way, a board member of St. Alphonsus School and the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba. He was on the Board of Trustees for United Way Winnipeg and chaired United Way's GenNext initiative and on the Finance Committee of Holy Rosary Church of Winnipeg. He was also a fundraiser for the Assiniboine Park Conservancy Imagine a Place Special Gifts campaign. Sam is married to Caterina Pellettieri. They have two kids Luca, 6 (who attends St. Als) and Alessia, 1.



Kelly Melchor – Public Relations

I am thrilled to join the St. Alphonsus School Board and to represent the Public Relations interest for the school. I have a strong background in the financial services sector, having worked in this industry for nearly twenty years. Along with my undergraduate degree in Finance and Marketing, I also hold a Master of Business Administration in the field of Innovation Leadership. Currently I am the General Manager of Winnipeg Insurance Brokers Ltd, a fully-owned subsidiary company of Assiniboine Credit Union. My husband Luis is an Advanced Care Paramedic for the City of Winnipeg, and we have two beautiful children; Diego is currently in grade 4 and Gabriella is in grade 1. When



we aren't busy running the kids to and from their dance and music lessons, we can be found going to local events (concerts, movies, live performance shows etc) or on vacation (or planning for the next vacation!) – we love to travel! We are so happy with the decision we made to send our kids to St. Alphonsus School. I was baptized at St. Alphonsus Church and have been a member of the Church ever since, and we feel that the school community and teaching staff along with the wonderful relationships we have made with other families have truly enriched our lives.

Favourite Movie: The Greatest Showman (currently – I love all musical movies!)

Favourite Activities: traveling, baking, shopping

Dream Travel Destination: Bora Bora

Kurt Walker– Bingo Portfolio

Being a graduate of the Business Administration program at Red River College and taking University education in Commerce, I have over 20 years of Accounting and Finance experience. I've worked in various industries and companies including Air Canada (Finance), Investors Group (Accountant), Retail (GM & Controller) and Construction (Controller). I've worked in Senior Management as Controller at a multinational corporation where I managed large accounting and information system teams while being responsible for the financial reporting of its 3 companies in excess of \$200 million in revenues. I am currently working in Senior Management at Westwood Mechanical as the Controller and am the companies Alternate Security Officer (ACSO) under the federal governments Public Works & Government Services security screening with Reliability Clearance status. I am also a Commissioner of Oaths in the Province of Manitoba.



I have extensive experience working with non-profit organizations. Over the years I have served as Artistic Director for 4 Ukrainian dance companies over a 16 year period, leading and guiding the teams of instructors and Board of Directors. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family, going camping and travelling. My strengths are in analytics, strategy and possessing a creative mindset.

Craig Rowbotham – Recording Secretary

As a new member, I'm curious (and excited) to see what we can accomplish together as a board this upcoming year. I know I'm certainly looking forward to meeting each of you.

A little about me:

- My background is in Civil Engineering. I am a P.Eng. and currently work as an Assistant Department Head of Municipal / Transportation Services for KGS Group. The work is challenging and certainly keeps me busy. www.kgsgroup.com
- My Wife, Lisa Rowbotham is an Interior Designer. She is a third-generation alumni of the school and remains active today as the current Chair of PALS.
- Our daughter Naomi (a fourth-generation student) really enjoys school and currently attends Grade 4.
- As a family we love (in no particular order): swimming, skiing, board games, cottaging and vacationing.



Favourite Movie: Casino Royale (James Bond - The one with Daniel Craig, not David Niven)

Favourite Activities: Windsurfing, Swimming, Jogging

Dream Travel Destination: Provence in the summer

Advent and Christmas at St Alphonsus Parish

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration

Join us on Friday, December 7th for First Friday Eucharistic Adoration - a wonderful way to prepare your heart for Christmas. Come and spend a few moments in prayer with the Lord. Adoration will begin after the 8.30 am morning mass.

Illuminate

You are invited to join in a dynamic evening of adoration, praise & worship, reconciliation, and fellowship on Friday, December 14 here at St. Alphonsus. Come and worship Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament as part of a vibrant Catholic community. All are welcome! The evening starts at 7:30 pm. More information is available at www.illuminatemb.com or at facebook.com/illuminatemb. Representatives from Illuminate will be at each Mass on December 8th and 9th to share more about this event.

Opportunities for Confession

For those looking to celebrate the ***Sacrament of Reconciliation*** this December, you are invited to the parish on Tuesday, December 18th beginning at 7 pm. Several priests will be available for confessions that evening.



Come celebrate with us
St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church



Christmas Eve at 7:30 pm & 10 pm
Christmas Day 9 am & 11 am
December 31 at 5 pm
January 1 at 11 am

315 Munroe Avenue - Corner of Munroe & Brazier

www.stalphonsuswinnipeg.ca

Social Justice News

Hello St. Alphonsus School Community,

We have been hard at work, raising educational awareness about poverty and equality here at our school. Over the course of the fall, your generosity allowed us to send a large amount of dry goods to the Winnipeg Harvest for We Scare Hunger. In addition, with your abundance of donations of leftover Halloween candy, we prepared candy bags and sweet messages for the homeless. This was picked up by the organization GIFTS of GRACE and was taken to the Mainstreet Project. We were so proud to hear it brought about such smiles and happiness from the recipients.

The grades 5-8 students attended We Day at the Bell MTS Centre to celebrate youth volunteerism in Manitoba. It was a day filled with inspiring speeches and talented musicians.

In November, students had the opportunity to participate in WE ARE SILENT. This campaign brought about an understanding that there are children and people around the world who are forced to have "no voice" against injustice and hardship. Students who participated tried hard throughout the day not to talk to promote the idea that this is not fair treatment.

Generation Now participants meet every cycle to explore ways that we can make positive change locally, nationally and globally. It is never too late for students to enrol. If you are interested and are in grade 5 or higher, please see Mrs. Pieczonka, Mrs. Resendes or Mrs. Rayner.

All the best to our amazing community.



From the Yearbook Committee

We have a fantastic school year ahead of us. As we anticipate the memories, friendships and special times ahead, we are also looking forward to one of our favorite traditions—the yearbook!

Not every student is into sports or has a passion for music. That does not mean that they can't get involved with their school. Being part of the yearbook committee gets students involved on all levels – from mingling with students, to attending school events, and actively participating in something that benefits the entire school body. Students benefit from yearbooks just as much as the schools do in creating a positive school spirit. We look forward to compiling this year's yearbook for you.

We will be accepting orders online this year if it is more convenient. Please watch for the specific note that will be sent home on how it works. The price of the book will be twenty-one dollars this year. Don't miss out!

Yearbook Advisor
Mr. T. Veryha

Gifts for Missions

In your child's report envelope you will have received a copy of the letter for our annual gift drive. Over the past number of years, we have been collecting gifts for children in need. Many of those families and children have found their way to missions throughout the city.

Each child has been assigned a particular age group and gender to buy for. Participating in selecting and purchasing the gift will make the experience more meaningful for your child. Gifts should be non-violent in nature (no war toys/guns or action toys of a violent nature). Toys should not require batteries, as this is often a luxury that families will not be able to afford. Gifts should range between \$10.00 and \$15.00. In past years, some families have purchased gifts exceeding the maximum price limit. Since these gifts are distributed when the children are together, we would like to send gifts of equal value so that one gift does not appear better than another. Should you wish to contribute more generously, please feel free to buy additional gifts – bearing in mind the price range.

The missions are located in the Elmwood, North Main, and Point Douglas areas of Winnipeg. These missions have been in these areas for a number of years and are a necessity for addressing the needs of persons in the area.

We ask that families bring in the gift by November 30th. We will be assembling in the gym on December 5th to celebrate the gift of giving. Please join us if you can, it is a great way to kick off the Advent season.



Volunteer Opportunities

As the year progresses, some parents are wondering more about volunteer opportunities within the school. There are a number of different ways in which parents can fulfill their volunteer incentive hours while helping out at the school. Below is a list of some of the opportunities available, as well as contact information for the person in charge of the particular area. If you have any additional questions please don't hesitate to contact the volunteer coordinators or call the school office.

Volunteer Opportunity	Contact Persson	Phone Number	Time frame
School Bingo	Arlette Reyes and Prima Galapon	204-632-4111 204-669-1223	Thursday evenings, ongoing
Dress Up and Dance Hallowe'en Social	Ardele Karaganis	204-894-6374	September /October
Gala Dinner & Dance	Melanie Bilenky & Starlene Mosienko	204-801-4951 204-471-5840	Planning-year round Dinner-Spring
Family BBQ	Liz Azinha Nicole Henderson	204-997-8847 204-293-1563	Spring
School Board	Christina Love	204-667-6271	Year Round
Open House	Christine McInnis	204- 667-6271	January
Maintenance/Gardens	Richard Lambert	204-667-6271	Fall /Spring
PALS	Lisa Rowbotham	204-474-0126	Year Round
Coaching	Blake McInnis	204-667-6271	Volleyball Sept-Dec Basketball Jan– Mar.
Book Fair	Helen Dembicki	204-667-6271	October
Used Uniform Sales	Lisa Lachance Ruth Lorenzana	204-667-6271	Throughout the year
Vision/Hearing Screening	Michelle Laird	204-667-6271	Fall/January
Library	Kerry Babiuk	204-667-6271	Year Round
Special Events (Christmas Concert, Gift wrap, etc.)	Christine McInnis	204-667-6271	Year Round