

# **St. Alphonsus School News**

## **Fall Term 2019**



**Fall Fun for  
Everyone!**

# From The Principal

## Lighting a Candle

*We are not here to curse the darkness, but to light the candle that can guide us through that darkness.*

*-John F. Kennedy*

Is it just me, or has this been an extraordinarily gloomy fall? It seems as though the sun has been very elusive over these months, so much so that a buzz will ripple around the playground when there is a blue sky sighting. Okay, so maybe I am exaggerating a little bit, but the other day in the office, everyone stopped and looked longingly out the window when Mrs. Resendes enthused, "The sun is out!"

Living in Winnipeg, we get kind of spoiled with sunshine. Over the last few summers we have seen nary a cloud in the sky. We certainly get our share of cold weather, but even on those brisk winter days, we usually get beautiful clear skies and sunlight reflecting on the inevitable snow. I think I tend to take the light for granted and then, in its absence, I realize how much I look forward to my time in the sun, so to speak.

Of course, December will only serve to exacerbate this problem. Even with a change in the cloud cover, our hours of daylight are in serious decline. By the time the winter solstice comes, our days will creep towards a total of eight hours, less than half of our peak in June. This lack of natural light can be very disconcerting. Even those of us who don't suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder can notice a shift in our moods as the daylight hours shrink away. Vitamin D, anyone?

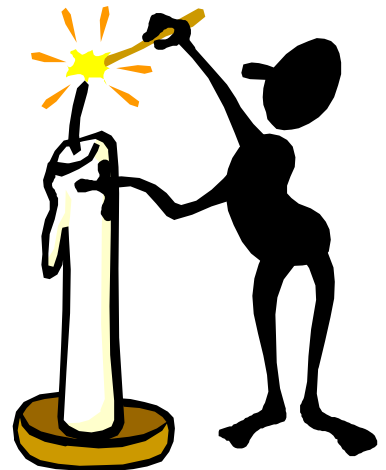
If you'll pardon the pun, there is a bright side to the growing dark. By no coincidence, our liturgical year aligns with nature's seasonal rhythms. The season of Advent is upon us, a time of preparing our homes and our hearts for Christmas and the arrival of Jesus, Son of God and the Light of the World. As the weeks leading up to December 25<sup>th</sup> get progressively darker, we yearn for the light, both literally and figuratively. The dramatic darkening outside is the perfect foil for our internal, spiritual journey.

Our Christian tradition of lighting the Advent wreath is a beautiful symbol of our faith. As the shadows deepen, we choose to light a candle, inviting more and more light into the world with each passing week. In the face of dark, we choose light; we can fill one hamper, comfort one friend, or wrap one gift for a child in need. Marking the season with acts of faith and charity is bound to bring the warm glow back into our dim, winter hearts.

The school community will gather for Advent assemblies each Tuesday morning in December. As well, our school mass takes place on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Please feel free to join us for these celebrations. There is nothing like a faith gathering with children to remind us of the light in a world that seems dark.

As for the other sun, keep the faith; we are nearing the tipping point! This year the winter solstice lands on the 21<sup>st</sup>, so we'll gradually creep out of the shadows as the New Year progresses. May the increasing light remind us all of God's gift to us at Christmas and throughout the year.

Peace,  
Christine McInnis



# School Plan 2019-20

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- Technology**

ICT Integration: To move further toward seamless use of technology in learning.

- We will assess current levels of technology infrastructure, determine if additional resources are needed and develop a timeline/plan for increased integration.
- Teachers will meet regularly with our technology support person to discuss methods of integrating technology into different curricular areas.
- Teachers will take part in after school technology sessions, which will cover a variety of topics including: Office 365, Smart/interactive technology, photo and video editing, etc.
- Teachers will attend professional development in this area, both at MTS PD Day and during the year as opportunities arise



## **Goal 2 -Indigenous Education**

Incorporating Indigenous Education: Developing our understanding of National and Provincial Indigenous Education initiatives.

- Teachers will take part in in-service opportunities related to Treaty Relations, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and incorporating indigenous perspectives in different curricular areas.



## **Goal 3 – Enhanced Programming**

Enhanced Programming Opportunities: Extracurricular activities that further student learning.

- The staff will explore enhanced programming opportunities for students at all grade levels, with a particular emphasis on arts and STEM programming.

## **Ongoing Priorities**

The Staff will continue to work on our most recent priority areas including **Sustainability, Inclusion, Assessment and Reporting** and the **ELA Curriculum**.

Although these are not officially on our plan, we want to capitalize on the gains made in these areas and use this momentum to continue work in these areas.

*Top: Students enjoying Code Cobra Club  
Bottom. Mrs. P and Mrs. M at Treaty Relations In-service*



# Looking Back

## September

September started with a fun **Meet the Teacher/Terry Fox Family Walk** event on the 12th. 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!



At our first school mass on September 20th 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.



On September 27th our grade seven and eight classes went to Birds Hill Park for our annual **Junior High Retreat Day**. The theme of the day was Giftedness. 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, "Arctic Adventure"; the art room was transformed with snowflakes, polar bears 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

On October 19th, 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 Led Conferences** took place on October 22nd and 24th. 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 26th was a ton of fun. Our committee has a report later in the newsletter.



Some of our grade five 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. This year the event was held at a different venue-The Burton Cummings Theatre. 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.

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 Thursday, 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 13th. 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 29th 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 3rd 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 3rd, as well, 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. 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 19th 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 20th. It will be a Red/Green colour day for students in anticipation of the big day. There is an 11:25 AM dismissal on this day.

## **Open House**

Please mark your calendars for our school Open House on Sunday, January 26th. 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**

During the month of September, students in grades 5-8 who were interested in participating in Student Leadership were invited to put their name forward to join a committee. With such a large number of students interested, it was easy to fill all 7 of our committees.

This term, the school spirit committee took on a Thanksgiving turkey door decorating activity and a Halloween candy guessing contest. The sock hop committee was in charge of organizing our Halloween sock hop and getting students to enjoy themselves with the help of the masks from the music room (thanks Mr. Cox). The canteen committee ran the canteen at the sock hop, as well as the boys school volleyball tournament, giving up their time one week-end! The finance committee has been busy organizing and counting the funds made by canteen. Intermural soccer is well underway, taking place in the gym during select lunch recesses with committee members organizing and refereeing the games.

Thank you to all student participants, as your enthusiasm and motivation has made our first term a great success. Fabulous work!



# 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 will soon be underway. Information regarding the concert will be sent home next week. I'm looking forward to working with the students. It's always exciting to see the show come together.

Below, I have outlined what each of the grades has been working on during the first term. If you have any questions 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 concepts of beat (the steady pulse you feel in music) and rhythm (the way the words go). The students have used body percussion and a variety of percussion instruments to feel/keep the beat and play the rhythm. 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 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 transpose simple songs to different keys. It is exciting to see them grasping and executing more complex musical 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 fingering technique for playing chords. They have learned nine chords to accompany sung melodies and melodies played on the recorder. They have also learned to play several melodies on the ukulele using a form of musical notation called tablature. The review and expansion of the students' standard notation reading skills continues with each new recorder melody. 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 three 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, ukulele, bass, piano and drums). 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 12th. 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 14th and 15th. Both teams had a remarkable season. We had playoffs for our grade 7/8 teams during the week of November 25th-30th. Thank you to everyone who came out to cheer our teams on. Thank you to Miss Bommersbach, 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, Ben McKenzie and Jonah Lorenzana who refereed through the season. 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**

Here we are at the end of a fabulous first term. Since September each grade has made great strides during French class. The students' eagerness to learn, participation during class time and efforts have definitely made this term a memorable one!

What we've been learning

## **Grades 1 & 2**

To begin each class, students actively take part in our "Bonjour" song and with assistance are able to independently ask their peers how they are feeling today, "Comment ça va?" We sing songs and play literacy games to help reinforce vocabulary related to our classroom calendar (days of the week, months of the year, and number recognition to 20). Both classes have done well learning French words and phrases connected to our classroom themes of colours, family, and winter clothing.

## **Grades 3 & 4**

The grade 3 and 4 students' begin each French class taking part in a variety of oral activities related to; day of the week, month of the year, patterning, identifying numbers from 1-30 in French. Students are working at being able to read and respond in written form to simple questions relating to our classroom calendar. The grade 3 class has worked exceptionally hard on their booklet "les couleurs du zoo," while the grade 4 class did an amazing job creating their own songs titled "Dans mon sac à dos."

- Email: [kristen.curwain@stalphonsusschool.ca](mailto:kristen.curwain@stalphonsusschool.ca)
- French classes are days 1, 3 & 5 of the school cycle
- Classroom blog: <http://madamecurwain.blogspot.com/>

## **Grades 5 & 6**

Students' have made a great effort applying themselves during class time. Both classes have been working at recognizing "les mots amis vs. les mots familiers ". The recognition of these common words and phrases have assisted students in their reading and writing of simple sentences related to our classroom themes (les prepositions, les sports and la maison).

## **Grades 7 & 8**

Each French class students' practice on improving their oral communication skills and pronunciation with their clock partners. They continue to build on their reading comprehension and written communication of regular French verbs while working in their cahiers at the beginning of each class. All students' are continuing to work at recognizing when and how to use the proper adjectives of French nouns (le, la, les).

*Je ne perds jamais.  
Soit je gagne,  
Soit j'apprends.*  
*Nelson Mandela*





# **Sustainability**

· **Composting** is well underway at the school. Each week since the spring, the school has had our compost commercially picked up. Originally we began with a much smaller bin, but the students and staff have really taken on the compost initiative, and we had to upsize the bin to accommodate all the school's compostable materials. We are also moving toward using compostable cups, plates and cutlery for school events with Mrs. McInnis' help.

Did you know: In addition to food scraps, paper towel and facial tissue is compostable?! Thank you to all the students who have helped collect have been composting! They're a great green team!

Vermicomposting is also continuing in many classrooms. Those are the red wriggler worms kept in containers indoors and are handily little friends to help learn about many curricular outcomes. If you're interested in learning about composting at home, contact Mrs. Pieczonka, she will be happy to point you in the right direction.

· **100% Recycling into the Recycling Box** continues to be another important sustainability goal. With ongoing reminders, we have seen an increase of recyclable items ending up in the blue bin! Great work students!

Did you know: inside the parking lot entrance we have a recycling centre? In addition to general recyclables produced in the school we collect batteries and markers to recycle. Feel free to drop yours off today.

Did you know: many items that are not recyclable in your home recycling can be dropped off elsewhere?

H&M accepts textiles for recycling. Bring your holy socks, worn out towels, impossible to removed stained uniform shirts or even old drapes for recycling!

Chapters accepts old gift cards for recycling. As long as the gift card contains a magnetic strip, they will accept any gift card for recycling!

IKEA accepts light bulbs for recycling. Make your next shopping/Swedish meatball trip and lightbulb recycling adventure too!

Finally, Staples accepts pens for recycling!

Did you know: whether at school, home, or elsewhere, the following are **not** recyclable:

Plastic cutlery, coffee cups, and used paper plates that have food residue on them.

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>

· **Wasteless/Bottles/Cutlery**

Did you know: Wednesdays are wasteless at St. Als? Although staff and students are encouraged to bring their lunches to school in reusable containers every day, Wednesdays are the day of the week that we hope to have the least amount of packaging in our lunches. Can you reduce your waste on Wednesdays? Are you up for the challenge? Another way to help keep your lunch wasteless is to bring reusable cutlery from home. Although classrooms have a limited supply of reusable cutlery, the school will no longer be providing disposable cutlery to students. So, when planning lunches, **please remember to send cutlery from home.**

# **Cooking Club**

Merry Christmas St. Alphonsus families!

I am so happy to share some fun, easy, kid friendly recipes for you and your families to try this Christmas. Christmas is a time to gather, visit, and make memories. There's no better way to get a tradition started than cooking with your children. Kids love to be in the kitchen! Allowing your little ones to chop, grate, peel and assemble is so rewarding for them. Here are some cute recipes for you to enjoy, and hopefully, can become Christmas traditions in your home too! Sending my best wishes, blessings and Merriest Christmas to you all.

Happy cooking!

Mrs. Whitney

## **Rudolph Sticks**

### **INGREDIENTS**

- 5 celery ribs, ends trimmed and cut in half
- peanut butter (or seed butter of choice)
- 20 pretzels, cut in half
- 20 chocolate chips or raisins
- 10 fresh raspberries

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- Slather the nut or seed butter into the celery ribs.
- Add the antlers, eyes, and nose for the full Rudolph face.



## **Mulled Apple Cider**

There are certain scents that remind us of Christmas. Mulled apple cider wafting through the house is one of them. The best part is, this recipe only takes about 5 minutes to put together and can be made in the slow cooker. There's nothing better than the fragrant aromatic spices filling our homes over the holidays!

- 8 cups apple juice
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 4 whole cinnamon sticks
- 1 tsp whole cloves
- 1 star anise (optional)
- 1 orange, sliced

Place everything into a slow cooker and cook on high for 1 ½ hours or low for 3 hours. Once ready to serve, remove spices and cooked fruit, and top with fresh sliced fruit such as green apples, red apples, freshly sliced lemon or oranges and cranberries. That's what I call Christmas in a cup!

## **Christmas Apple "Nachos"**

This remains one of my kids favorite Christmas appetizers. It is so versatile, you can basically customize it to your family's likings, or, if you're anything like me you can clean out all of the odds and ends from your pantry!

Granny smith apples sliced and tossed with lemon juice to prevent browning. Arrange onto a platter in the shape of a wreath. For the bow I use licorice laces.

- Toppings of your choice, here are some of our favorites:
- White chocolate chips
- Chocolate chips
- Crushed graham cookies (gingersnaps, oreos, anything really)
- Mini marshmallows
- Caramel sauce, drizzled all over
- Chocolate sauce drizzled all over
- Diced strawberries
- Sprinkles



# **Halloween Dress Up and Dance Event 2019**

Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> marked the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Halloween Dress Up and Dance Event at St. Alphonsus. It was a fantastic evening which saw so many families and St. Al's staff in costume! The Pumpkin Patch displayed a vast array of creatively carved pumpkins and Frankenstein even stopped by to say Hello and "bust a move"!

This event would not have been a success without the support of our families who attended and our many event volunteers that helped out during the evening. Special mention to Mr. & Mrs. McInnis, Mr. & Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Resendes and Mr. Lambert at St. Als who always support our committee to ensure the set up, clean up and logistics run smoothly!

Speaking of committees, we had a new crew this year that planned, coordinated and executed this wonderful event! Their hard work and dedication was clearly evident and hugely appreciated as we began the transition of the event planning to a new team. They were: Crystal & Dennis Campos, Christine Grosshans, Lyndsay Ruffeski, Jean Dalman and Dan Pagani.

Thank you again to everyone involved...it was frightfully fun!!

Ardele Karaganis





# PALS

Hello!

It's hard to believe it's time to write something for the December newsletter. I feel like since we started at this school each year has passed progressively quicker.

Thank you to our wonderful Wine Tasting Organizers for a fun, successful event. It was great to have it in our very own newly renovated hall. You will be able to hear how your contribution sounds at this year's Christmas Concert as the \$3,600 that was raised went towards PALS's contribution to the gym's new sound system. Next year Joe and Goretti Di Martino will be planning the event, we look forward to seeing what they have in store. If you'd like to help out or have ideas for this event, please give your name to Mrs Resendes or Mrs McInnis.

Thank you to our Halloween Social Committee for organizing our spooktacular Halloween social. A special thank you to Ardele and George Karaganis who, after running this event for many years, have passed the organizing responsibilities to Crystal and Dennis Campos. We so appreciate all your years of hard work making this such a great event for kids and parents.

The gift wrap will be coming up shortly and PALS is looking forward to serving your children hot chocolate and candy canes and then sending them home all sugared up. Just kidding. :)

If you find yourself with a Tuesday evening off and feel like chatting with other parents from the school, come to a PALS meeting. Our next meeting dates are January 14<sup>th</sup>, February 11<sup>th</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup> and June 11<sup>th</sup>. Meetings start at 7 pm in the school staff room and generally run about an hour. Put these dates in your phone, we'd love to see you there.

Wishing you and your family a very merry Christmas and all the best in the new year.

Cheers!

Lisa Rowbotham

Chair





Gala is on the Way!

A vibrant poster for the St. Alphonsus School Gala XXXI, themed 'Havana Nights'. The background is a deep blue night sky with a full moon, palm trees, and strings of warm white lights. A large, stylized pink and white 'Havana Nights' title is the central focus. Below it, the date 'SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2020' is written in bold yellow letters. The venue 'DELTA HOTEL • 350 ST. MARY AVE.' is listed in white. At the bottom, a classic red convertible car is shown with a woman in a pink dress and hat leaning out of the back. Social media handles for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter are in the bottom left corner. Faint circular emblems with 'CUBA' and 'REPÚBLICA DE CUBA' are visible in the background.

ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL GALA XXXI

# HAVANA *Nights*

*Passport to Paradise*  
**SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2020**

DELTA HOTEL • 350 ST. MARY AVE.

 @StAlphonsusGala  
 @StAlphonsusGala  
 @StAlphonsusGala



# School Board News

As a board we are thrilled to see such a great start to the 19/20 school year! This term we introduced enhanced programming initiatives, such as coding and robotics, launched to provide our students with new, fun challenges and it's great to see such a positive response to these. As a board, we continue to brainstorm about new ways to keep our school the vibrant place that we all enjoy. In the first term we have held 3 board meetings as well as our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on November 13<sup>th</sup>. At the AGM, the Members elected three new Board members. We wish to welcome Dawn Gerbrandt, Paul McDonald and Michelle Luedtke (returning) to the board. You will find more information about our new board members and most of our returning members in the biographies below.

We also want to thank our outgoing Director, John Czezowski for his years of service and contributions!

Portfolios for the 2019-20 school year are as follows:

*Chair/Human Resources: Christina Love*

*Vice Chair: Sam Pellettieri*

*Finance: Michelle Luedtke*

*Recording Secretary: Craig Rowbotham*

*IT/Bingo: Kurt Walker*

*Public Relations: Kelly Melchor*

*Members at Large: Jeff Arnel, Jonathan Schinkel, Dawn Gerbrandt, Paul McDonald*

*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, CPA, CA

Chair, St. Alphonsus School Board of Directors





# School Board News Cont'd

## **Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2019**

For 2018/2019 enrollment remained at the 2017/2018 level of 232 students.

Academic revenue increased due to an increase in tuition fees and inflationary increases in government grants.

Other revenue increased due to increased Alternate Kindergarten usage combined with increased Capital Charge fees and Volunteer Incentive fees.

Expenses increased year over year mainly primarily due to annual salary increases for staff and inflation combined with increased repairs and maintenance costs and increased bingo payouts.

The result for the year is a surplus of \$123,791 that was used to fund capital purchases.

<b>Summarized Financial Statements</b>		
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<b>June 2019</b>	<b>June 2018</b>
Current Assets	\$ 1,304,344	\$ 1,146,164
Capital Assets	728,826	770,959
Total Assets	\$ 2,033,170	\$ 1,917,123
Current Liabilities & Debt	\$ 483,886	\$ 491,630
Net Assets	1,549,284	1,425,493
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 2,033,170	\$ 1,917,123
<b>Statement of Revenues &amp; Expenditures</b>		
Academic Revenue	\$ 1,838,722	\$ 1,758,526
Other Revenue	414,152	384,240
Expenses	(2,108,083)	(2,019,299)
Excess Revenues over Expenses before other expens-	144,791	123,467
Write-off of net proposed expansion costs	(21,000)	(169,606)
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenses	\$ 123,791	\$ (46,139)

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  
Finance Officer

# **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 my third year in 2019/20. I am a CPA, CA with experience in Human Resources and IT and currently work as the Vice President of Finance for Magellan Luxury Hotels. My current role is part time and I'm enjoying the balance that allows me to take care of more "kid stuff" while still contributing to a growing company. I have also been a member of 2 daycare boards, serving as Chairperson for one of them. I am married to Darran Love who is also a CPA and volunteers his time on the Board of Suzuki Music Winnipeg. We have 2 awesome kids; Isabella in Gr. 5 and Xavier in Kindergarten! As a family, we love swimming, travelling and spending time at the cottage during the 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, productive adults.  
Favourite Movie: Rat Race ("You should have bought a squirrel!")  
Favourite Activities: curling, baking, reading  
Dream Travel Destination: Spain



## **Sam Pellettieri – Vice Chair**

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, 7 (who attends St. Als) and Alessia, 2.



## **Father Greg Mulligan—Pastor**

Born (1957) and raised in Hope B.C. along with 3 brothers. After graduating high school began apprenticeship in carpentry. Was in construction from 1976 until 1984 in Vancouver. Moved to University of Toronto (1984) to pursue academic education with priesthood in mind. Joined the Capuchin-Franciscans in 1987. For the next 12 years was in formation, studies, and for a 4 year period directed St. Francis Table (restaurant that serves the poor). Ordained to priesthood (1999) at St. Alphonsus Church. Ministered in parishes in Toronto, Blenheim, and Winnipeg for past 20 years. In particular, was pastor of St. Gerard's, Winnipeg for 7 years (2011-2018) prior to being assigned to St. Alphonsus August 2018.

I quite enjoy parish ministry because of the diversity of ministry. There can be a school Mass in the morning; and then visiting folks at the senior's home in the afternoon. Parishes are much like families so there's plenty of opportunity to love and be loved. Of course, I am biased toward St. Alphonsus because I was ordained here in 1999! And people are just as friendly now as they were 20 years ago.

### **Kelly Melchor – Public Relations**

I am thrilled to start my second year on 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 Executive Director 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 5 and Gabriella is in grade 2. 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– IT 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 mind-set.



### **Craig Rowbotham – Recording Secretary**

It's certainly my pleasure to continue in the Recording Secretary role. Last year was both fun and productive so I'm excited to what we can accomplish through 2019/2020. A little about me:

I'm currently the Assistant Department Head of Municipal / Transportation Services for KGS Group, a multi-disciplinary engineering firm based in Winnipeg. The work is challenging and certainly keeps me busy. [www.kgsgroup.com](http://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 is an active member of Mrs. Pieczonka's St. Al's Fantastic 5's.

As a family we love to play! Swimming, Skiing, Board Games, Cottaging and Vacations are all high up on our list

Favourite Movie: The Martian (It seems so real!)

Favourite Activities: Windsurfing, Kiting & Swimming

Dream Travel Destination: Venice and exploring the canals





### **Michelle Luedtke-Finance Portfolio**

I am pleased to be asked to return to the board of St. Alphonsus School. I am a CPA, CA with over 25 years' experience in a variety of different industries ranging from large manufacturing to smaller not-for-profit. I currently work at Parrish & Heimbecker, Ltd as a Senior Financial Analyst as well as running my own bookkeeping company called Beancounter Bookkeeping. My journey with St. Alphonsus began fifteen years ago when my oldest of 3 boys started kindergarten there. The Finance Chair at the time convinced me to join the Board. He assured me that the people involved would be wonderful to work with and that the time commitment wouldn't be excessive. Well he was correct on one of those items. Looking back over the past fifteen years I can honestly say the people have been wonderful and I have learned so much through the experience....the time commitment has at times been excessive... but I wouldn't change it for the world. I look forward to the opportunity to spending my last three years at St. Alphonsus School as part of the Board.

### **Paul McDonald– Member at Large**

Paul is a proud St. Alphonsus alumnus ('91) and lifelong East Kildonan resident. He and his wife Kristy have three children, the oldest of which started Kindergarten at St. Al's this past September.

Paul works as a lawyer at MLT Aikins LLP, Manitoba's largest law firm. He specializes in workplace issues and has extensive experience advising school divisions and school administrators on a wide variety of labour, human rights and privacy issues. In December 2019, Paul will be transitioning to an in-house counsel position at the Manitoba Government and General Employees Union.

Paul is grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Board and is looking forward to using his knowledge and experience to advance and protect the best interests of the St. Alphonsus School community.

### **Dawn Gerbrandt– Member at Large**

My name is Dawn Gerbrandt and we have a daughter, Mila, in grade 2. She's attended St. Alphonsus since nursery and loves the school, teachers and has made wonderful friends. This year she's in cooking club and having a blast! I am married to Jesse who loves outdoor sports and works as an auto technician. As a family we like to spend time with our dog Marshmallow (Mel), playing, baking and watching movies. I have been employed with the provincial government for 18 years. I have experience in management and human resources. In my current role as Acting Chief Operating Officer of Entrepreneurship Manitoba, my responsibilities also include financial oversight and strategic planning.

I look forward to an opportunity to serve on the board and contribute my time to the ongoing success of the school and future of its students.



# Advent and Christmas at St Alphonsus Parish

## **First Friday Eucharistic Adoration**

Join us on Friday, December 6th 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.

## **Opportunity for Confession**

For those looking to celebrate the ***Sacrament of Reconciliation*** this December, you are invited to the parish on Tuesday, December 17th beginning at 7 pm. Several priests will be available for confessions that evening.

## **Advent Retreat**

Fr. Greg will be directing a mini-retreat on Saturday, December 7 beginning at 10 am in the hall and concluding with a potluck lunch. The theme will be from Fr. Ron Rolheiser's DVD Living in the Image and Likeness of God. Please let Fr. Greg know if you are interested.

During the retreat we will

- take time for prayer
- watch the DVD, and
- have group discussion based on Fr. Ron's presentation.



**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](http://www.stalphonsuswinnipeg.ca)**

## Social Justice News

Generation Now, St. Alphonsus School's social justice team is up and running again! We are working in 2 teams this year. Although both groups are focusing on similar issues, having 2 groups allows students the opportunity to explore the issues in more depth.

The grade 5 and 6 students are sponges just sucking up social justice knowledge... and they are the driving force behind many ideas that are underway. They've helped chose some We campaigns to focus on this year. We have already collected nonperishable food donations through the We Scare Hunger campaign for Winnipeg Harvest, and as amour school tradition goes, we continue to collect nonperishable food items each time we celebrate mass as a school community. On November 20, National Child Day, students participated in We are Silent. Participating students were silent for all or part of the day to be in solidarity with those children around the world whose voices are not heard and whose rights are not upheld. Students collected pledges that will be used to help provide education to children who presently do not have access to schools. The team also hopes to explore other We social actions campaigns this year.

The grade 7 and 8 social justice leaders are taking on the task of educating the staff and students for the social justice campaigns. They spend time researching and preparing presentation for each class in the school, from Nursery to grade 8. So far they have share information with classes on World Food Day (Oct 16), as well as, We are Silent held on National Child Day (Nov 20). With a whole year of social action ahead of them, these students will be hard at work learning about issues and educating the rest of our school about how we can make positive change!



Thank you students of Generation Now, for all your hard work for in making our world a more just place!

## 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





## **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 , too. 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**

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 29th . We will be assembling in the gym on December 3rd 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.

<b>Volunteer Opportunity</b>	<b>Contact Persson</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Time frame</b>
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 & Melanie Norbury	204-801-4951 204-997-4443	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	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