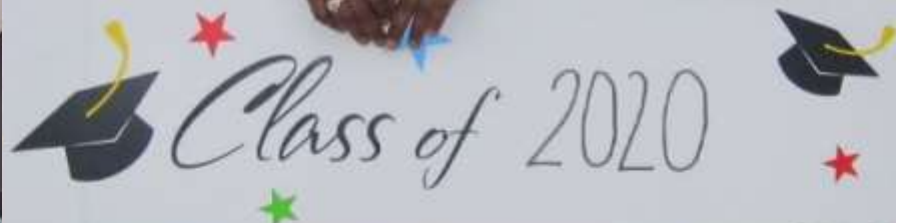


St. Alphonsus School News

Third Term - June 2020



From The Principal

Although it seems like a lifetime ago, a few short months ago, at the end of February, we started our Lenten journey. Before long fears of the looming pandemic were spreading and then, without real warning we were all cast into lockdown. Calendars were upended, schools were closed and in a very real way it felt like our lives were put on hold. If we think of Lent as a time of prayer and sacrifice, then this was a Lent without parallel. I am sure that like me, you were praying for an end to the situation, praying for the areas most impacted by this disease, praying for the physical and mental health of family and friends, and praying for the strength to move forward as the weeks turned into months. And sacrifice, so much sacrifice around the world this spring! We fasted from visiting family, hugging friends and playing together. None of us would have set these as our Lenten goals, because they are too difficult and too unfathomable in a normal year. Despite the calendar declaring that Easter was upon us, it seemed as though Lent continued as we stayed home and our community remained quiet. Then slowly, very slowly, we began to see changes. Businesses began to reopen, people began to return to work and finally we could open schools in a small but important first step. For me, that is when it felt like Easter, as if our resurrection was finally here.

This year our Lenten theme was “Build Each Other Up”, which we symbolized with Lego blocks. I had fully intended on using that theme for my reflection for the March newsletter, but it felt so hard, perhaps even trivial, to compile a newsletter in the throes of a pandemic. We had a Lego wall, which students could add to when they felt they had built someone up or had felt uplifted by the actions of another. At one point after the school shut, I had pulled the wall down. Its crumbling into pieces felt like an analogy to what was happening in the world, a sad day for certain. When the first students came back in June, they remarked on the missing Lego wall, remembering the fun they had, all the while reflecting on how we build community. These conversations reignited my desire to write about this theme, as we celebrate this belated Easter.

I have always been proud of how the members of our school community supported each other and the broader community, but never was this truer than through this spring. Staff members shared time, talents and resources to make remote learning a reality. Parents responded with support and thanks for our efforts. Students reached out to acknowledge gifts and express gratitude. Our community came together early in the pandemic to support Winnipeg Harvest and then a second time for Sagkeeng First Nation. Staff came out to sort and deliver our Glenlea Greenhouse plants. We thought of creative ways to honour and celebrate our farewells. Our PALs hosted a fun Ice Cream Drive Thru. Although none of the spring was as expected, in the end it was good, because we sought ways to build each other up and in doing so, built up our community.

We know that our challenges are not over yet; we still have work to do to keep ourselves and those around us safe. There is still uncertainty and the potential for things to crumble again. Still, I feel confident that we will be able to rebuild each time this happens. Just like a bin of Lego pieces, when we join together the possibilities are endless!

Peace,
Christine McInnis

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

-1 Thessalonians 5:11



St Alphonsus School

Annual Community Report 2019-2020

Each school in the province must provide an annual school report for the community. The purpose of the report is to share some school profile information, report on various steps taken to meet school improvement goals and to outline other action plans underway in the school. Please take some time to review this report. Should you have any questions or comments regarding any information therein, or if you would like to have input regarding plans for the coming year, please contact the principal or one of the School Board members. You are also welcome to share your ideas at the PALS meeting on Tuesday, September 10th or the School Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 11th. Your ideas are welcome and play an important role in shaping the school's direction and future.

School Profile

St. Alphonsus School is a K-8 Catholic School. This year, the student population was 229, and the staff consisted of fourteen certified teachers, seven educational assistants, an office manager, a financial administrator, a building manager and a custodian. Additionally, we have a nursery program providing academic and social learning to 35 preschool aged children. As well as providing the provincial core curriculum, the school offers religious instruction, basic French instruction (grade 1-8) and resource support.

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. After priorities were identified, strategies were developed in alignment with our goals. The plan was formalized and put into effect.

Goal 1- Technology

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

Technology has always been an important part of the education program at our school, but the COVID-19 crisis and the subsequent transition to online/remote learning highlighted its importance in new and challenging ways. In addition to acting swiftly and thoughtfully to the challenges of remote education we also managed to work on a number of our objectives.

We have conducted an assessment of our current levels of technology infrastructure, and determined what additional resources are needed. We anticipate making these purchases through the summer, so that things are ready to go come September. Over our time at school, teachers met regularly with our technology support person to discuss methods of integrating technology into different curricular areas. As well, staff took part in after school technology sessions, which covered a variety of topics including Office 365 and Smart/interactive technology. Some teachers had the opportunity to attend professional development in this area, although the spring conferences were cancelled.

Goal 2 -Indigenous Education

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

Annual Community Report cont'd

Teachers took 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. We received a Treaty Education Kit that offers programming across grade levels to help both staff and students understand the role that treaties have played in the shaping of Canada. The staff wrote a land acknowledgement that was introduced at a school assembly. We invited indigenous educator Renee McGurry to share some of her experiences and stories with us during I love to Read Month. Teachers were actively tracking how they integrated indigenous perspectives across different subject areas, but did not get a chance to present these achievements through the spring. Although we made a start in this area, we will continue to work towards this goal in the coming year.

Goal 3 – Enhanced Programming

Enhanced Programming Opportunities: Extracurricular activities that further student learning.

The staff explored enhanced programming opportunities for students at all grade levels. We were pleased to be able to offer Robotics, Mad Science, Code Cobras, and Craft Clubs this year. We hope to be able to continue, and perhaps expand, this programming in the coming year.

In Summary

This year did not proceed as anyone expected. That said, our staff worked hard in many areas, both before and during the pandemic. We will continue to look at our strategic plan in collaboration with the board in the coming school year and determine the best next steps for our school community.

Thank you to all members of the community—students, staff and parents—for your ongoing support of the school. Together we make St. Alphonsus School a great place to be.



Looking Back

As we didn't have a second term newsletter, We have to look way, way back...

December

Our Advent assemblies allowed us to spend some time in quiet reflection in all the hubbub of preparing for the concert and the great feast of Christmas.



We held our annual **Gift Wrap** on December 5th. This event has been a long-standing tradition at our school, with good reason: wrapping gifts for kids in need gives us a warm feeling in our hearts, while the hot chocolate provided by PALS has the same effect on our tummies. The gifts that were gathered for local missions were gratefully received.

Our **Christmas Concert** was a great success. The kindergarten students to grade six students performed in an original play written and directed by Mr. Cox. The play told the story of a court from the middle ages and their quest to understand more about Christmas.



January

Our annual **Open House** took place on Sunday, January 26th. It was well attended by prospective parents and students. Of course, the school looked great thanks to the efforts of our custodial staff, but the most attractive thing about our community is our people. Thank you to all the parents, students and staff who came out, answered questions and made the new people feel welcome. Your commitment speaks volumes to people looking for a school community.

February

February was **I Love to Read Month**. This year we entertained many guest readers including our perennial favourites Doug Speirs and Terri Apostle! **Thank you to Patti Resendes for contacting all the readers** and coordinating the visits.



Catholic Schools Week took place from February 9-14th. The week was full of fun activities including bowling, the Children's Museum and swimming, what a brilliant week!



We had our **Ash Wednesday** prayer service on the 26th. The students, staff and parents in attendance listened, prayed and sang together. Our grade eight friends acted as ash ministers and helped to maintain the spirit of reverence to mark the beginning of Lent.

March

Our grade seven and eight students went to Holiday Mountain for a **Ski Trip** on Friday, March 6th. It was a fabulous day, weather-wise, everyone from the novice skiers to the experienced boarders enjoyed the trip.



Festival du Voyageur Day was held on March 12th. We started off the day with a musical presenter from Folklorama, who entertained us with singing, playing and dancing. It was a great day, with fun activities and yummy hot chocolate and bannock for all. Many thanks to Madame Curwain for organizing!



On Friday, March 13 we got the news that schools across the province were suspending in-school classes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Seriously, Friday the 13th?!?...that can't be a coincidence!

April

In April our school community came together to support **Winnipeg Harvest** with a drive-thru food bank collection.



May

In May we had a virtual **Kindergarten Orientation** to welcome our new families into the school.

We had our first livestream **school mass** on May 28th. It was a strange new experience, but nice to gather as a faith community, even if it was in our individual homes.

June

June marked the beginning of the **limited reopening of schools**. We welcomed some students back into the school. It was quiet, but nice nonetheless!

On June 9th we had our **Zoom Nursery Orientation**. So cute to see our new little friends!

On Wednesday June 17th we had our **PALS Ice Cream Drive Thru**!. Everything started off well, and then the skies opened up! Still, what a fun night!

On June 19th we had our **Nursery Farewell**. Families came in by appointment and pick up their diplomas and had a photo op!



On Tuesday June 23rd we had our **Kindergarten Farewell Drive-thru**. It was so cute to see everyone and we even had a visit from a roaming tyrannosaurus!



On Thursday, June 25th we had our online **Grade 8 Farewell**. It looked very different this year, but it was a nice way to celebrate.



Our **final school mass** was on Friday, June 26th. Our grade eight friends had the opportunity to join us. Afterwards we followed up with a yummy lunch and mini-reception for the students. It was great to see everyone together one final time!



On Tuesday June 29th, we had our **Final Assembly** livestreamed. It was good to celebrate the achievements and contributions of the various members of our school community over this odd, COVID year!

Looking Forward

August

The school office reopens on Thursday, August 27th

September

Our **first day of school** for grade 1-8 students is Tuesday, September 8th. Kindergarten will have interviews September 8th-10th, half groups AM or PM on Friday, September 11th and their first full day on Monday, September 14th. Nursery classes will begin on Monday, September 14th (M-W-F) and Tuesday, September 15th (T-TH).



French

Un grand merci à tous les étudiants pour avoir fait le meilleur d'une situation différente. Je suis très fier de tout le monde et je vous souhaite à tous un été sûr et heureux! A big thank you to all students for making the best of a different situation. I am so very proud of everyone and I wish you all a safe and happy summer! Madame :)

Grades 1-3 Students were actively engaged through literacy- based videos, games, and read-a-louds posted to my blog. Thank you for all the wonderful videos sent in showcasing remote/ at home learning, they were greatly appreciated! Grade 4 The grade 4 class continued to make a good effort completing French assignments throughout this third term. They did an amazing job writing their own pizza recipes for our unit "La Pizza". As well, students worked exceptionally hard throughout our book study "Benjamin et la nuit". Bon effort! Grade 5 This term, the grade 5 class learned about different elements associated with comic strips and were able to demonstrate their understanding by creating their very own Bande dessinées. For our final unit, the class worked on various written comprehension and oral based activities related to our book study "Le Zloukch". Tremendous work! Grade 6 In French, the grade 6 class studied vocabulary associated with our unit l'amitié. Students worked at describing attributes, physical appearance, & characteristics of a friend. For their final project, the grade 6's demonstrated their knowledge of vocabulary and phrasing related to Ma Communauté through their own community posters. Thank you to those who handed in your posters. Super travail! Grade 7 This term in French, the grade 7 class continued to partake in written activities focused on grammatical concepts: Adjectif Possessifs and the conjugation of the irregular verbs Avoir & Être. These concepts are very difficult. I am very proud of all your efforts, bien fait! Grade 8 The grade 8 class continued to work on curricular outcomes while completing literacy based and written comprehension activities associated with our topics: Passé Composé, Verbes réflexives & Futur Proche. I very much enjoyed your Famous Photo Recreations. Fabuleux effort

Grade 8 Farewell Message

To all my lovely grade 8 grads, it has been a pleasure and privilege to be able to watch grow into the young adults you have become today. Be bold to have your own voice & brave enough to listen to your own heart. You will be missed always, à la prochaine!



Social Justice– Generation Now

Generation Now!, our school's social justice group was active through our school year learning about, and practising different ways to take care of our earth and one another.

We worked in two groups this year... The grade fives and sixes worked with Mrs. Pieczonka. Most recently, the students wrote an online action pledge. Students signed the pledge to be kind online and not to cyber bully. Considering how much online activity we've had in term three, timing of our pledge was perfect. Another activity, taken on by a few students in grade 5 on our social justice team was to run the compost program. Thank you for helping out friends!

The grade sevens and eights worked with this is not us this year. They were learning about the United Nations development goals. Some of our members even got to attend a conference on climate justice at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

Just before spring break, some students help Mrs. Pieczonka write an application for a grant from Take Pride Winnipeg. The application was for a pollinator garden. We are happy to announce that our application was excepted and we have been given a grant to create a pollinator garden! Thanks for your input students, great job!

Thank you, Generation Now!, for your involvement in making the world a more just and sustainable place. We look forward to working with you again through the year 2020/2021 school year.

Student Leadership

Thank you to all the students who participated in student leadership this year! Your hard work and help to plan and run activities for the students of the school is really appreciated! We had a lot of fun with the Thanksgiving door decorating contest, and the Halloween sock hop! There were also lots of students working behind the scenes helping count and roll money with Ms. Kim. Thanks for your dedication!

Although we have not yet determined which committees will be running next school year, if you are interested in helping out, pay attention to the announcements in September! We can always use hard working and creative students to be part of a committee!



Cooking Club

If you've been anything like my family and I during this quarantine period, you've been having fun in the kitchen! Cooking with my kids has been a highlight during this time at home. We jumped onto the sour-dough band wagon right away and have been hooked! We have experimented with new batters, spices and we have enjoyed some old favorites, the special recipes that take time to make.

Involving the kids in cooking and baking is educational too! Have your kiddos count out ingredients, read recipes, have them do the math for doubling or even halving a recipe. Write out the recipe onto a new recipe card. Be creative and use the opportunity to teach your kids in an authentic way!

Remember, kids don't need to make an entire recipe from start to finish. Have your child do a small job, grate the cheese, peel the carrot, dice the cucumber etc. The more they familiarize themselves in the kitchen the more comfortable they will feel. Wishing you all continued adventures in your kitchens....Have fun!

Here is a fun summer snack for your family to enjoy!

Everything tastes better on a skewer! Try making these easy cucumber-feta-watermelon bites.

For the balsamic glaze:

1 cup balsamic vinegar

2 tablespoons brown sugar

For the skewers:

16 watermelon balls or cubes (you will need a melon baller to make them into balls)

4 ounces block feta in brine, cut into squares, or bocconcini cheese balls

1-2 small seedless cucumbers, peeled and sliced

16 mint leaves or basil leaves

16 wooden skewers or toothpicks

Instructions:

For the balsamic glaze:

Combine vinegar and sugar in a small saucepan.

Bring to a boil and reduce to low and simmer until mixture has reduced and reached a syrupy consistency (about 15-20 minutes).

You can use store bought balsamic glaze *note, balsamic glaze is different from balsamic vinegar. It has a thick, syrup-like consistency.

For the skewers:

When ready to serve, thread everything onto the toothpicks, or skewers. Starting with the watermelon, then mint(basil), then feta(bocconcini) and cucumber. Drizzle with balsamic glaze. Enjoy the burst of flavours in your mouth! Sweet, salty and delicious all in the same bite!



Have a wonderful summer everyone, happy cooking!
Mrs. Whitney

From the School Board

Wow, what a school year! It is hard not to focus on the time when in class school was suspended and moved to remote learning but I will try. On behalf of the St. Alphonsus School Board I want to send out a big thank you to all school staff for their level of dedication throughout the entire 19/20 academic year. For all the experiences, understanding, responsiveness, care, faith and love displayed – Thank you.

This last term has been particularly challenging and this situation was new for all of us. We truly appreciate the efforts of all involved in keeping our children and families as safe and as engaged as possible. From parents to teachers to EA's and support staff it truly took a team effort to carry on through such a difficult time. To our fearless leader, Mrs. McInnis, you truly set the standard for how to show grace under pressure and how to do the best with what you are given, in a way that exemplifies our faith.

To parents, thank you for showing confidence in the school staff and the Board to navigate through the many decisions that were made as we tried to continue providing quality education and support for our students. The "drive-thru" events that were held like the ice cream night and Kindergarten grad that my family was proud to participate in show just how much spirit, fun, and resilience we have in our school family. It sounds like we will all be back in school together in the fall, following all the public health guidelines in place to allow that to happen, which is amazing news!

I wish everyone a safe and happy summer rediscovering fun things to do and places to go that are close to home and recharging our very depleted batteries. Our family is extremely blessed to be part of this community and I hope you feel the same. If anyone would like to participate on the school board, we start looking at this in the fall and elect new members at our AGM in November so please reach out to Mrs. McInnis or me if you are interested.

Sincerely,

Christina Love
Chairperson, St. Alphonsus School Board



Yearbook

The past few months have certainly been challenging for all of us. Many have had to miss out in spending time with our loved ones and doing activities with friends. Over this time, St. Alphonsus school has stopped in-person schooling and has switched to online education. Although online education has been a valid work-around, one aspect which is severely affected is the aspect of school community. Our yearbook has always strived off of our strong community, and as such we have faced numerous challenges. Irritatingly slow connections have slowed down our efforts in working on our platforms, while we have also struggled to find images which have shown our achievements through the school year. However, despite our challenges, I am happy to say that on behalf of the yearbook team, we are looking towards a positive outlook for completing this important project. All of us have been working hard to gather quotes, pictures, and anything else necessary for the book's completion. I hope that when the book is finally printed, it will be able to symbolize the year's challenges and the ways we have overcome them."

-Grade 8 yearbook member,
Nathan Poklar

Banner Thanks

Dear Families of St Alphonsus,

Thank you to all who contributed a photograph to the banners I made for the school and church. It was wonderful to receive all the smiling faces in my 'in-box' and those happy faces helped me in the creative process.

May your family have a restful and healthy summer.
I pray and hope that we can meet again soon.

Until then,
"hope, just hope, in the morning, in the evening, in the afternoon"

Maria Cox
St. Alphonsus Parish



PALS

Another school year has come to an end but it definitely has been a year like no other. A lot of our usual PALS year end events are not happening, which is sad, but we also have the opportunity to have new events, like our ice cream drive through. When God closes one door he opens another, right?

As per usual we here at PALS have many thank yous to send out to all the volunteers who make our events happen. Thank you to Mr. Cox for being our staff liaison, Mrs. Resendes for scheduling our events and sending out our minutes and event notices, Mrs. LeHeiget for dealing with our all money and for Mrs. McInnis for keeping us in line. :)

Thank you to Michelle Davison for spearheading the Glen Lea fundraiser and to the St Al's flower power crew who ensured everyone got what they ordered. Thank you to the Halloween Social committee, Hot Lunch committee and all the parents who help at the events. Thank you to Andria Gudmundson who is our Munch A Lunch Guru.

Thank you to our PALS members who are leaving us: Lisa Lachance, Nichola Mitchell, Jackie Mackling for their years of supporting PALS and to Ardele & George Karaganis who are still with the school but have hung up their Halloween Social Planning hats.

Lastly, a huge thank you to our teachers and staff who have continued to connect with and teach our children during this crazy time. We so appreciate all you do.

In the wake of the pandemic we have decided to cancel our wine tasting event usually scheduled for September. At this point in time it's just too hard to predict what will be happening in the fall. We are discussing a combined BBQ/Terry Fox/Meet the Teachers event but that too is still dependant on what we're allowed to do. Hopefully when we meet in August we'll have a clearer direction.

In the new school year we plan on using Munch A Lunch not only for hot lunches, but to help most school sign up activities like Cooking Club and the Halloween Social. Thanks again to Andria for taking this on.

As mentioned we will be having a zoom meeting in late August to discuss our September events. If you would like to join please contact me.

Wishing everyone a safe and fun summer break!

Cheers!

Lisa Rowbotham
Chair



Gala

What a very strange spring around the world. The cancellation of our Gala Dinner in May was heartbreaking for the committee but an obvious necessity in light of the global pandemic and provincial emergency orders.

We would like to say an extra special thanks to those sponsors who donated their sponsorships in spite of the fact that we had to cancel:

Parkway Nursing Management	\$5000
Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #23	\$900
Maples Chiropractic-Dr. Tracy Vieira	\$900
Archdiocese of St. Boniface	\$550
Mike Choiselat and Rosalinda Amato	\$550
St. Boniface Diocesan High School	\$550
Graphic Packaging	\$550

Our total donations from sponsors was \$9000!
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



We carried on with our \$1000 draw as sales were already underway. Congratulations to Christine Polet, our lucky winner! Thank you to all the families who supported the draw by selling or purchasing tickets.

Although we could not present the awards in person, we honoured two of our Gr. 8 students who were presented the Gala Award at their year end virtual farewell, which recognized their academic excellence along with their volunteerism. Congratulations to Nathan Poklar and Ariannah Sharma!

Thank you to all the families who donated items or money towards the class prizes for Gala! We are well ahead of the game for next year!

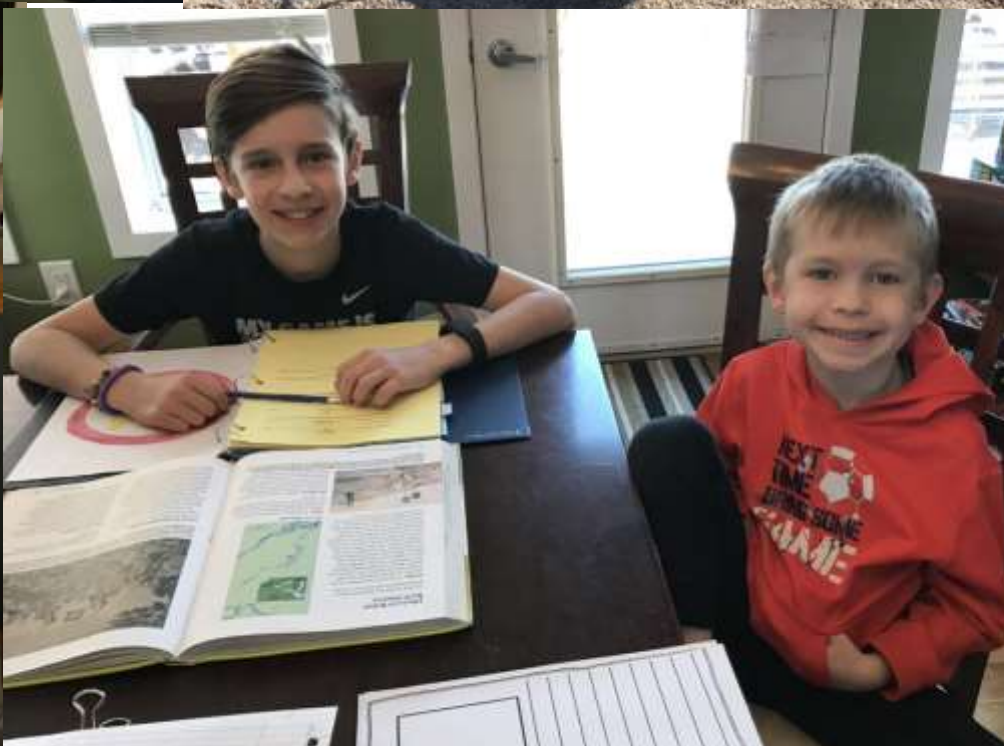
Thank you to our awesome committee who worked hard getting things started this year. We look forward to working with you next year!

Next year will be the school's 100th Anniversary! We are already thinking of the ways to celebrate this incredible milestone and we look forward to celebrating in person with this fantastic school community!

Have a great summer and we will be in touch in the fall with information on the 100th!

Melanie Bilenky and Melanie Norbury
Gala 31 Co-Chairs

Remote Learning





Staff Roster 2020-2021

Kindergarten

Grade 1

Grade 2

Grade 3

Grade 4

Grade 5

Grade 6

Grade 7

Grade 8

Elissa Mattis

Kelly Ireland

Lucia Whitney

Helen Dembicki

Taras Veryha

Jennifer Pieczonka

Marlene van der Zweep

Kendra Bommersbach

Bonnie Slobodian

French

Physical Education

Music

Kristen Curwain

Blake McInnis

John Cox

Resource

Educational Assistants

Michelle Laird

Cynthia Wandowich

Kerry Babiuk

Gail Bommersbach

Teresa Swingle

Danielle Patrick

Gyan de los Reyes

Sarah Yamog-Sison

Librarian

Kerry Babiuk

Nursery Teacher

Nursery Assistant

Dona Ludwick

Catherine Zechel

Technology Integration Support

Anthony Hart

Circle of Friends Program

Rose Sinclair

Gail Bommersbach

Danielle Patrick

Office Manager

Financial Administrator

Principal

Vice Principal

Patti Resendes

Kim Le Heiget

Christine McInnis

John Cox

Building Manager

Evening Custodian

Richard Lambert

Sergio Talaroc

Congratulations,

Farewell & Thank You

Congratulations to all of our students for working hard and successfully completing the school year! It was a difficult spring but you came through with shining colours!

Thank you to the staff for your dedicated service to the school community. You have worked hard over the past ten months to ensure that our students have had quality learning experiences, especially when we transitioned to remote learning.

Thank you to the School Board for your guidance and leadership over the course of the year.

Thank you to the PALS committee for your dedication to the students and the school. You have provided us with the materials we need and the great events that make us a stronger community.

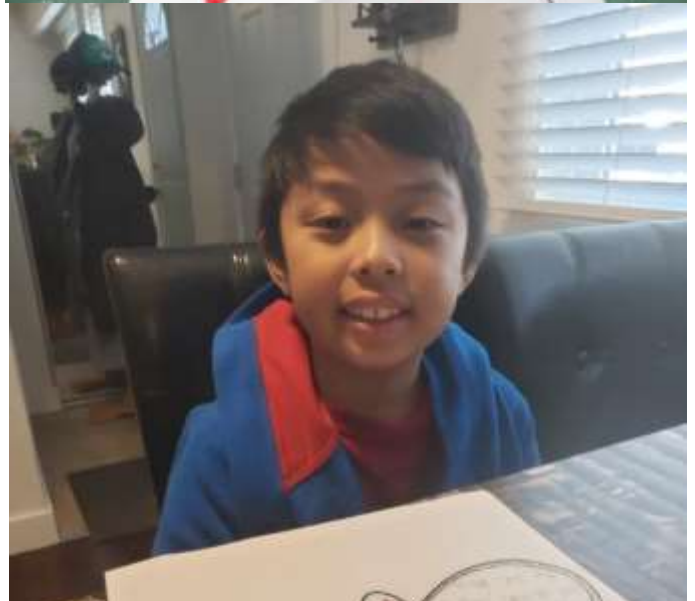
Thank you to the Gala committee. Although your efforts were cut short, I know we can look forward to an even bigger and better event next year!

Thank you to all the parent volunteers who have helped with special events, field trips and learning activities.

Thank you to the coaches for your leadership and helping students develop their athletic abilities and sportspersonship.

Congratulations to the Student Leadership committees for a successful year of leadership in sports, activities, contests and spirit building.

Farewell to the students who will be moving on to other schools. We wish you all the best. Work hard in your new schools!



The Graduating Class of 2020



Grade Eight Friends, you have been a real pleasure to work with over the years. I was saddened that your final term was so very different than you expected, but also proud of how resilient you were through it all! We wish you happiness, health and continued success as you venture out into the big wide world.

I pray that your love will overflow more and more and you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.

-Phillipians 1:9

Wrien Del Rosario

Nick Carlson

Francis Duenas

Nicholas Giasson

Mia Greentree

Jasmine Kampic

Jack Kisil

Paige Kuklica

Regan Lachance

Brendan Mackling

Alexander Mackling

Ryan Mitchell

Kiana Nemeth

Jaedyn Newton

Christopher Pereira

Jacob Philpot

Hunter Piche

Nathan Poklar

Gavin Schledewitz

Arianah Sharma

Maria Shillington

Ivory Solano