

# St. Alphonsus School News

Third Term - June 2021



# From The Principal

## Teamwork

In a normal, non-COVID year, one of the most pleasant parts of April, May and June is watching children play their spring sports. The days get longer, homework winds down and the mosquitos haven't quite organized their attack yet. Spring over spring watching soccer, football lacrosse and baseball, you see the children develop so many different skills. They start out small, picking dandelions and spinning around goalposts. Slowly but surely, they start working together. Plays are made, runs and goals are scored...they understand the benefits of working as a team.

The absence of team sports for children has been one of the many challenges of the pandemic. It will be good to be back in the game, literally and figuratively, in the months to come. Still, learning to work as part of a team comes in many different forms. Children are very observant, they see evidence of teamwork in many areas: families work together to do chores,

students collaborate on projects, neighbours help each other with renovations, etc. As children watch, they begin to follow these examples and learn the skills of teamwork along the way.



*If you take out the team in teamwork, it's just work. Now who wants that?*  
Matthew Woodring Stover

One of the best models of teamwork can be found in the classrooms and hallways of our school. Our school staff has always been an amazing team, but never has this been more evident than over the last 16 months. Our staff is well balanced, including a number of seasoned players, with some young talent in the mix. We usually know the game plan and can execute it seamlessly. This year things were different, to say the least. Just when we thought we had an understanding of how to play the game, there were changes to the rules. Not once, not twice...you know what it has been like! Over and over again, staff members stepped up and stepped in wherever they were needed. Through all of the "pivoting" the staff kept their resolve, their sense of humour and their sense of direction.

Of course, the students are a huge part of the team. They faced many changes, challenges and disappointments this year with nary a complaint. Their smiling faces, even behind masks, made the days brighter. Joy and laughter were in the building. They showed everyone how to adapt, to persevere and even to flourish in strange new situations.

I can't underestimate the role that parents have played this year, either. You were our biggest cheerleaders, throwing your support behind us as we battled forward. Then, suddenly, you were called into the game yourselves, helping your children through a second spring of remote learning. Your flexibility and patience helped us immensely, allowing us to continue with our game plan.

Teams need to feel connected to a common purpose. After all is said and done, the goal this year was still the same: providing a safe, secure environment for our children to grow academically, emotionally and spiritually. As we head into a very well deserved off-season, our school team - staff, parents and students - should feel proud of all that has been accomplished this year. We have certainly left it all on the field!

Peace,  
Christine McInnis

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, but encouraging one another...*  
-Hebrews 10:24,.25

# **St Alphonsus School**

## **Annual Community Report 2020-2021**

*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 14th or the School Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 15th. 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 230 and the staff consisted of fourteen certified teachers, seven educational assistants, an office manager, a financial administrator, an IT Manager, 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 2020-21**

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. Of course, this year our main priority was the safe operation of the school during the pandemic.

### **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 pandemic 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.

As schools moved into the Orange Response level, we sought ways to allow streaming between the classrooms. This entailed a lot of troubleshooting, but in the end, we had a very good system. The school purchased additional devices so that from Grade 3-8 we are at a one-to-one ratio. For the younger students, we purchased additional devices as well and currently have a half class set for each group.

### **Goal 2 – Enhanced Programming**

Enhanced Programming Opportunities: Extracurricular activities that further student learning.

With pandemic restrictions in place over the year, we did not get the opportunity to provide enhanced programming for the students. We hope to be able to restart and perhaps expand, this programming in the coming year.



## **Goal 2 -Indigenous Education**

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

Over the course of the year, all school staff have been involved in coursework on Indigenous Education through the Four Seasons of Reconciliation Program. This program was developed by the Indigenous University of Canada in Regina and is currently in use in all Manitoba Catholic Schools.

This spring's tragic discovery of many unmarked graves in grounds adjacent to residential schools served to further everyone's resolve to find ways to promote Truth and Reconciliation in our school and in the broader community. I have been asked to serve on an Advisory Committee for Truth and Reconciliation, providing ideas and information to the Archbishops and the schools. The chair of this committee is Marion McKenzie, a former St. Alphonsus parent and board member. I look forward to working with Marion and the committee to continue this important work.

### **In Summary**

This year did not proceed as anyone expected. That said, our staff worked hard in many areas, both related to the pandemic and to our priorities. We will take a fresh 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.



# Alumni Return

It is always gratifying to see our alumni friends when they come back to visit. This year, we had a number of old friends return to where they met to do a photo op as they graduate from High School. Good luck as you enter into the even wider world, friends!

Top Right: Brian Nider, Mauro Azinha, Matthew Babiuk

Top left: Evan Johnston, Ryan Cherniak

Bottom Left: Tia Cummins, Jenna Semenko, Brynne Downey, Zenya Veryha

Bottom Right: Hayden Piche, Paul Houston, Ben Marana, Cameron Hibbert.





# Looking Back

## April

April was a quiet month around the school, just doing our usual classes and enjoying the start of the nice weather.

## May

On Mother's Day we got the news that schools would be moving into remote learning. Students, staff and families responded quickly to the news and got ready to make the best of the situation.



On May 11th we had a virtual **Kindergarten Orientation** to welcome our new families into the school. On May 18th we had our **Zoom Nursery Orientation**. So cute to see our new little friends!

## June

In the middle of June, we were allowed to welcome back Small Groups of students for in-person sessions. We welcomed some students back into the school. It was quiet, but nice nonetheless!

On June 11th we had our **Nursery Farewell**. Families came in by appointment and pick up their diplomas and had a photo op!



On Wednesday, June 23rd we had our **Kindergarten Farewell Drive-thru**. Families enjoyed some tunes while they waited to get their certificates and goodie bags, or should I say buckets?



Thursday, June 24th was our Ice-Cream Drive through 2.0. It was a beautiful evening, nice to see so many families out. Thank you to our PALS for organizing this event.



On Monday June 28th we had our online **Grade 8 Farewell. Through the day**, students and families picked up packages and had a photo op. It looked very different again this year, but it was a nice way to celebrate.



With the easing of restrictions, we welcomed our Grade Eight students back for a **Picnic Lunch** on Tuesday, June 29th. It was so good to see everyone and provide some closure for these friends.

Our **Final School Mass** was on Wednesday, June 30th, followed by our **Final Assembly**, both 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 30th

*September*

Our **first day of school** for grade 1-8 students is Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Kindergarten students will have interviews September 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>, half groups AM or PM on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> and their first full day on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Nursery classes will begin on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> (M-W-F) and Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> (T-TH).

## Welcome Mrs. Arkle!

We have hired a Music Teacher, Mary Arkle!

Mary has taught music from K-8 in the public school system for more than 10 years including Band, Orchestral Strings and Choral. She has a Bachelor of Music Arts from Western University in London, Ontario and received her Bachelor of Education from the University of Manitoba. She has experience with liturgy and liturgical music ministry. Mary is a former parent, her five children all attended St. Alphonsus School. Her youngest son, Blaise, finished Grade 8 in 2012. Please join us in welcoming Mary back to the school community in her new, exciting role





# From the Music Room

Greetings to the school community!

Well, the school year, with all its Covid craziness is over ... and I have come to the end of my teaching career. It's somewhat surreal, I must say, and although I'm looking forward to the change of pace that retirement affords, it is with mixed feelings that I say good-bye to the students, staff, and parents of this school community.

I've been involved in education for thirty-two years; twenty-one of those as an educator at St. Alphonsus School. It's rather ironic that I ended up being the principal and music teacher at *this* school ... or *any* school for that matter. I attended St. Alphonsus as a child, but was not exactly a model student: presenting, for the most part, as a rather unfocused and mischievous monkey, more interested in garnering laughs from his classmates than learning math, science, or pretty much anything else. Sitting in the principal's office one day, my cheeky classroom grin supplanted by a quivering bottom lip at the prospect of being strapped, the thought that one day I would be an educator at this very school would've seemed unfathomable to me ... and most certainly to the then principal, Sister St. Martin (a wise and compassionate lady who made a lasting impression on me ... not the least for having spared me the strap that day).

But life has a way of happening, and by and by, with the help and support of many good people, this directionless dreamer found his way into the noble profession of teaching. And the rest, as they say, is history.

It has been an amazing ride: an ongoing encounter with life's wonders and challenges on the highway of learning: so many years, so many miles, so many memories. I remember the long evenings of preparation and all those subsequent lessons: the good ones, the bad ones, and those precious ones that ignited the students' passion for learning and led me to a new a better understanding of my craft. I think back on all the personal encounters: those that brought hope, healing, and a renewed willingness to work together; and others that ended in conflict and the fracturing of relationships. There were moments of stomach-churning anxiety when I prayed for courage and guidance; moments of break through when the light of learning filled the room; moments of suffering when, in the face of another's pain, I could only sit in supportive vigil; and of course, those remarkable moments when in the midst of a lesson, a rehearsal or a performance, some comment or mishap caused an eruption of laughter, our eyes confirming the love we shared and the joy of being together and learning together.

As an educator, I have been blest with many life-giving encounters and successes; but inevitably, there were times of failure: times when I did not respond as I should have. To any student, colleague, or parent whom, through my shortsightedness and shortfalls, I impeded growth or was a stumbling block in your life, I extend my sincere and humble apologies. Please forgive me.

And so, with the memories of the past year and past years in my thoughts, I come to the crossroad and take a new direction. My time at St. Alphonsus School is over, but you will remain forever in my heart. Through your grace, I have been given the opportunity to learn and to grow as a teacher and as a person in ways that I never thought possible. I bow to you in deep gratitude. You have been a blessing for me; I pray that I have been a blessing for you as well.

Farewell my friends. I wish you all the best as you continue your life journeys.

Gratefully,  
John Cox



*A surprise met John on his last day of teaching,  
courtesy of his lovely wife, Maria!*



# **Third Term Music Program Comments**

In this newsletter, I would typically report on the learning outcomes of the final term. Unfortunately, there isn't much to report, seeing that the students had so few music classes due to the closure. So rather than comment on the term, I'll share a brief reflection how the limitations imposed by the pandemic (most notably, no singing) created some new learning possibilities across the grades; sort of a "focus on the positive" kind of thing.

## **Kindergarten**

In a typical kindergarten year, the musical foci would be on developing the singing voice and on exploring beat and rhythm through rhythmic movement, dance, and the use of unpitched percussion. In the void created by the restrictions on singing, the students delved more deeply onto rhythm. To the typical study of the quarter notes (ta), eighth notes (ti-ti's), and the quarter rest (*sh*) was added the study of the half note and the whole note. These rhythm symbols were walked, played on instruments, clapped using flash cards, and high-lighted in printed music. The exploration of printed music, not typically a part of my kindergarten program, resulted in some wonderful learning. I was amazed at the facility the students showed at recognizing the different notes in print. The students were also introduced to the xylophones, something I don't typically do till Grade One. Playing the instruments require a certain level of dexterity, but the students were able to use them to learn about pitch; and we *did* manage to make some music together... in a kindergarten sort of way (so cute). All in all, the classes were quite wonderful, and it seemed that we always managed to bring a smile to each other's faces. Bravo, K's! Thank you for the music!

## **Grades 1 & 2**

As with kindergarten, the absence of singing meant more time spent exploring written music, both in terms of rhythm (whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, etc.) and pitch/placement on the staff (C, D, E, etc.). In both grades, students demonstrated progress in reading written music (typically, not taught until Grade 3) and using this skill to decode and play simple melodies on the xylophones. The restrictions also afforded us time to learn some of the technical aspects of music notation such as stem direction of notes, and to explore ensemble playing with a variety of percussion instruments. It's always amazing to see how students adapt to new modalities of learning.

## **Grade 3 & 4**

The keyboard program for Grades 3 & 4 was the unexpected gift of this restricted year. Thanks to a supportive principal and board, I purchased the keyboards, and the students took to the new learning option with dedication and enthusiasm. I was amazed to see that within the year, students with no previous keyboard experience were able to read notation in both clefs (treble & bass) and play music that involved both hands. Truly inspiring (and heart-warming also) was the willingness of those with established piano skills to guide, support, and instruct those new to the piano. The spacious impromptu music room, aka the parish hall, facilitated this process. Even the ol' guitar strumming music teacher learned a thing or two about tinkling the ivories. Altogether, it was a win-win situation. Nice work grades 3 & 4.

## **Grades 5 & 6**

The ukulele and guitar programs were the least affected by the restrictions. The Grade 5 & 6 students progressed well, and we were able to cover all the key aspects of their respective programs. However, there was one shortfall. A typical spring-term feature of each program is to build a repertoire of sung tunes accompanied by the respective instruments as well as any other instruments the students can add

to the mix (piano, electric guitar, violin, drums, etc.). Each grade had a small window of time to explore this before the closure, but I so wish it could've lasted the full term. The students enjoyed it and it's an opportunity for them to step into the limelight and let their talents shine. We had some fun and some great moments while it lasted.

### **Grades 7 & 8**

Of all the grade-level music programs, the Grade 7 & 8 programs suffered the most under the restrictions. With singing off the menu for most of the year, we had to rely on instruments to carry the melody. This worked reasonably well, but overall, our ability to build a solid repertoire of tunes was seriously impeded. Still, learning happened, and we managed to make some ensemble-style music despite the challenges. Where there's a will, there's a way.

All in all, I was impressed with the students' tenacity and musical growth in each of the grades. It was not an easy year, but together we managed to persevere, enjoy some learning, and make some music. Good on you, students! Have a great summer!





# French News

- Grade 1- The grade 1 class is an enthusiastic group who enjoy participating in all French language-based activities such as, chants, poems, lotto, and dance counting to 20. The beginning of the third term, students began studying “La chenille qui fait des trous,” (The Hungry Caterpillar). Throughout the unit, the class studied vocabulary related to fruits, colours, days of the week, and numbers. Students were able to independently complete sequencing, sorting, and matching French activities related to our thematic unit. Great work everyone! Have a wonderful summer holiday!
- Grade 2- Granted my time with the grade 2 class this term was very limited, they continued to be a lively bunch who showed great interest in learning French. Students were able to complete their written calendar (days of the week, month of the year, and season), as well as, orally respond to the calendar questions with little prompting. The class really enjoyed taking part in our Farm animal unit. Students were able to demonstrate their knowledge by independently naming and identifying different types of animals in French. Fabulous job creating your “Qui suis-je?” Have fabulous summer and see you in the fall!
- Grade 3- The beginning of the third term, the grade 3 class continued to work on responding to questions orally and in written form relating to the classroom calendar: numbers, weather, seasons, months, and days of the week. This term, the class began their investigation of Feelings and Emotions. Following many class read-throughs of the book “les sentiments,” students were able to recognize and identify the meaning of; *fâche, triste, heureux, peur, désolé, and fatigue*. The class was able to demonstrate their knowledge of different types of emotions through their cell-phone art, matching images to the proper corresponding French phrases. I have missed being a part of such a lively group. Have a safe and happy summer!
- Grade 4- Despite all the challenges, the grade 4 class continued to be an eager group who actively participated in all French activities. This third term, students took part in a variety of language-based activities relating to our thematic unit “La Pizza.” These activities such as; bingo, class surveys, and puzzles, provided students an opportunity to work on proper pronunciation and phrasing when speaking French. The class was able to demonstrate their knowledge of various ingredients in French and steps required to make a pizza by independently creating their very own pizza recipe. Fabulous effort on your “Bizarre” pizza creations! Enjoy a safe and happy summer!
- Grade 5- This shortened term, the grade 5 class enjoyed beginning each French period with an oral game “J’ai..., Qui a...?” A language-based activity to help them recall numbers to 100, improve pronunciation, and gain self-confidence when speaking French. Students took an interest in our thematic unit “Les Super-héros.” The class was able to demonstrate their use of dictionary skills, as well as, their knowledge and understanding of select adjectives and verbs through their completion of their comic strips. Fabulous work! Can’t wait to see you back in the fall. Have a great summer break!

- Grade 6- Although our time together this term was considerably short, the grade 6 group continued to put forth their best efforts and showed a keen interest in all French activities. The class thoroughly enjoyed taking part in our Question & Answer period. This provided them opportunity to recognize commonly asked questions in French, practice responding to questions authentically, and use proper pronunciation. This activity lent itself well to the study of Avoir & Être, that students began to use in their written work "La chronologie de ma vie" and "Étoile de la semaine." Great work and I look forward to seeing you all in the fall!
- Grade 7- The grade 7 group began the third term reviewing the grammatical concepts associated with ER, RE, & IR verb conjugations through the implementation of their Gameboards. What a blast, it was so much fun! The remainder of our time together, the grade 7 group began our unit on French Possessive Adjectives. Students were able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding through the completion of their flipbooks, highlighting the differences between each adjective and when to properly use the masculine, feminine, or plural form. Lots of fantastic work, bien fait! Have a safe summer vacation!
- Grade 8- During our shortened third term, the grade eight students made a good effort applying themselves during French. The class worked at increasing in their ability to independently use high-frequency words in their written activities and response notebooks. During our unit "The year I was born", students utilized taught vocabulary and phrasing to research and write complete sentences correlating with the date of their birth. Great work on your Powerpoint presentations! The grade 8 class had also began focusing on the proper use and conjugation of French reflexive verbs. Fabulous work on your "Les Quotidiennes" clock assignment! I wish you all the best in grade nine. May you all enjoy a safe and relaxing summer!



#### Farewell Message to Grade 8's

Dear Grade Eight Students, wishing you all the best in your high school career. May you look back with a smile and look forward with courage. You will be missed! -Mme

*"With languages you are at home anywhere."*

*-Edward De Waal*



# SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS

## Have fun and learn French with Christophe this summer!

Through a variety of interactive and original activities, children embark on a journey through culture and French language!

The main objective is to develop confidence in oral and written French within an immersive and virtual environment with French language activities and a unique blend of fun.

Our camps are 100% online and all levels are accepted, from beginner to advanced. The children are divided into two groups 6-10 years old (10 AM-12 PM) and 11-14 years old (2 PM-4 PM).



Christophe, our instructor

### THEME 1: NATURE



Discover the fauna and flora of our planet in French! We will embark together on a journey to learn more about animals, their habits and their habitats.

[From July 5th to 9th](#)

[From August 3rd to 6th \(4 days\)](#)

Discover the visual arts: cinema, theatre, mime, circus in French! Together we will go backstage and learn about characters and techniques.

[From July 12th to 16th](#)

[From August 9th to 13th](#)

### THEME 2: VISUAL ARTS



### THEME 3: TIME TRAVELLERS



Come with us for a journey through time! We invite you to discover History from the Big Bang, dinosaurs, Middle Ages and more!

[From July 19th to 23rd](#)

[From August 16th to 20th](#)

Discover the universe of Francophone comics! Learn more about Tintin, the Smurfs, Lucky Luke and many more!

[From July 26th to 30th](#)

[From August 23rd to 27th](#)

### THEME 4: COMICS



Registration:

Online: [CLICK HERE](#)

Phone: 204-477-1515

Email: [info@afmanitoba.ca](mailto:info@afmanitoba.ca)



Alliance Française

Manitoba - Canada

Fee:

200\$/week

# Grade Eight Poetry—Every Child Matters

I'm a child  
I'm free  
I'm in the wild  
I'm not where I should be

Where is my bed  
Where are my loved ones  
Where are my clothes of thread  
Where is this feeling of dread

They took me  
They told me to forget  
They forced me to not be  
They teach me a new alphabet

Why am I sad  
Why can't I see my mom  
Why do they tell me I'm bad  
Why do I need to recite a psalm

I want to leave  
I want to run  
I want to grieve  
I just want to escape and have fun

Let me go home, please

***By Jonah Williams***

## **No Matter"**

Every Child Matters  
No matter what you look like you matter  
Does not matter what your interests are you matter  
It does not matter if you are a boy or a girl you matter  
Every child matters, remember that  
You matter-don't listen to what others think of you  
Be you, do you, you matter.  
Every Child Matters

***By Zach Dzendzara***

## **Every Child Matters**

Every child matters  
Every child has the right to be respected  
Every child has the right to be cared for  
Every child has the right to be loved  
Every child has the right to achieve God-given potential  
Every child matters  
They are believable, trust them  
They are kindhearted, join them  
They are childlike, let them  
They are precious, treasure them  
They are energetic, nourish them  
They are unique, support them  
They are here now, embrace them  
Every child matters  
Every child has gifts that should be recognized and valued  
Every child needs unconditional love  
Every child matters

***By Favour Adenika***

## **"A Tribute"**

All of those two hundred fifteen,  
Almost all of them were teens,  
They will not be forgotten,  
We should have intervened.  
These residential schools,  
Were all ever so cruel,  
Their motives were terrible  
The politicians were fools  
We are all equal,  
No matter the people,  
Race, culture, beliefs,  
Should not be considered evil.  
This world should be filled with love,  
And be peaceful like a dove,  
The spirits of these children,  
Will be forever above.

***By Matthew Karaganis***



### **Pain**

They said you have to  
They said to go  
Took your child from you  
So many traditions they won't know  
The conditions were harsh  
The food was meager  
The classes were long  
Not one student was eager  
Why did this happen?  
Why did it start?  
These schools were horror.  
Interests weren't at heart.  
Why do we learn English?  
How 'bout Anishinaabe or Cree?  
Why did they put this  
Down in history?  
If it weren't for these mistakes  
We wouldn't be mourning.  
The children would be laughing  
On this May 31 morning.  
If it weren't for this we wouldn't be sad  
For the little ones we lost  
Why do we have to live with  
This modern cultural Holocaust?

***By Katrina Giesbrecht***

### **"Remembering the 215"**

On the weekend in May in Kamloops BC  
What a horrific day this would be  
With question of an old residential school  
A mass grave unmarked sits under this school

With help from a radar team  
They wanted to figure out if it is what they seem  
A grave with bodies of children is what it may be  
These lifeless children as young as three  
215 is the number of the bodies  
215 is a number we will never forget  
In schools of the past where assault was accepted  
These nuns would beat them while being  
unaffected  
The mass grave was mainly a disease  
Tuberculosis caused them to de cease  
Still hidden underground  
And children were lied to all around  
"They escaped our grasp" is what they said  
When in reality they were dead  
Now lest not forget  
The number 215  
Resembling the dead

***By Landen Rosa***



I want to go home. They took me away from my family. Stripped me of my culture and told me not to speak my language but to learn and only speak English. They viciously chopped off my beautiful, long black hair. English was hard to learn. Kids would make fun of me when I stuttered and poorly. The cold, dark nights were I lie in a thin metal framed bed wishing I was at home in my warm bed under the protection of my parents. Sleepless nights were I cry myself to sleep.



# School Board

Well, that was another interesting year wasn't it?

On behalf of the St. Alphonsus School Board I want to acknowledge the incredible work done by all our school staff during the 2020/21 school year. Their commitment, positive attitude and willingness to pivot whenever necessary is what made our student and parent experience this year unforgettable.

While we all had to deal with the disappointments of school not looking exactly how we wanted it to, I feel everyone pitched in to make the best of things and provide a great and safe place for our children to be. From the virtual Christmas concert to drive thru celebrations, more increased outdoor fun like bonfires, and finding a safe way to celebrate our Grade 8 grads the St. Al's community pulled together! My favourite saying from our Principal Christine has been all the "COVID Silver Linings" that she and the staff found throughout the year where the new ways of doing things proved to be beneficial. Thank you Christine, staff, parents, PALS, Board members, and all of the students for the resilience you displayed this year.

I also want to say farewell to Mr. John Cox. John, your leadership and dedication to the school has left a lasting impression on us all and we thank you for all you've shared with us. Best of luck in your future - enjoy that well deserved retirement!

Looking ahead, I am happy and hopeful when I see the participation of a St. Alphonsus school alumni parent and our Principle in the Manitoba Catholic Schools Truth & Reconciliation Advisory Committee. May God lead us in finding a peaceful and healing way forward.

Once again, thank you to everyone for the trust and patience placed in the School Board and our school staff. If anyone is interested in participating on the board, please let Christine or myself know in the fall as elections are held at our AGM in November.

Here's to a restful summer and seeing everyone back in person in September!

Sincerely,  
Christina Love,  
Board Chairperson





# PALS

Another school year over and let's hope we can go back to "normal" in the fall!

This June we at PALS are saying farewell to our staff liaison, Mr. Cox, who has been with PALS for 21 years! Talk about dedication! Thank you so very much Mr. Cox for everything. We wish you all the best as you head into your next chapter. If you are bored the second Tuesday of every month you know where to find us.

Thank you to Michelle Davison for once again ensuring our yards look beautiful while we quarantine. If you have purchased flowers from Glenlea this year and want to show them off please send photos to Michelle so that she can share them with other parents who may not know what they are missing out on.

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.

Once again we are cancelling 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.

Our first meeting of the new school year will be September 14<sup>th</sup>, hopefully in person. We hope to see you there!

Wishing everyone a safe and fun summer break,

Lisa Rowbotham  
Chair

*Picture by  
Paulina Ewasko in  
Kindergarten...check  
out the detail on the  
desk shields!*



## **Staff Roster 2021-2022**

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 Toews

Bonnie Rayner

French

Physical Education

Music

Kristen Curwain

Blake McInnis

Mary Arkle

Resource

Educational Assistants

Michelle Laird

Kerry Babiuk

Gail Bommersbach

Danielle Patrick

Gyan Reyes

Teresa Swingle

Cynthia Wandowich

Sarah Yamog-Sison

Librarian

Kerry Babiuk

Nursery Teacher

Nursery Assistant

Dona Ludwick

Catherine Zechel

IT Manager

Anthony Hart

Circle of Friends Program

Rose Sinclair

Gail Bommersbach

Danielle Patrick

Office Manager

Financial Administrator

Principal

Patti Resendes

Kim Le Heiget

Christine McInnis

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 proved how resilient you are!

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, regardless of the response level we found ourselves in and especially when we transitioned to remote learning.

A special thank-you to Cynthia Wandowich who anchored the Office for us throughout this very challenging year! We appreciate everything you did to make the school run so smoothly.

Congratulations to the following students who received awards at our final assembly:

Isabela Faria—Payne Family Bursary  
Ciera Cabral-Royal Canadian Legion Award  
Tatum Penner—Christian Spirit

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. We look forward to getting back to our fun events in the fall!

Thank you to the Gala committee. Switching to a virtual format this year was no small feat, but you managed with grace and good humour and threw an amazing event for our school's 100th Anniversary!

Farewell and thanks to Mr. Michael, Resendes Miss Graca Resendes and Mrs. Lisa Lachance! We are grateful for the time and effort you invested in our school community and we wish you success in happiness in your future endeavours!

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

And finally, we wish a wonderful retirement to John Cox, our Vice-principal and music teacher extraordinaire! You have been an integral part of this school community for 20 years. Words can't express how much we value your contributions or how much we will miss you! Please be sure come and visit!





# The Graduating Class of 2021



Grade Eight Friends, you have been a real pleasure to work with over the years! This year has had its share of disappointments and missed events, but you soldiered on regardless of what came your way. You are amazing!! 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*

Favour Adenika  
Cyril Ajibi  
Kendall Bilenky  
Ashneet Brar  
Alexia Czezowski  
Hunter Davison  
Zachary Dzendzara  
Santi Galapon  
Katrina Giesbrecht  
Pavneet Gill  
Juliana Governo  
Matthew Karaganis

Zyra Manuel Kurdizel  
CJ Mina  
Alina Movchan  
Mia Norbury  
Matthew Pike  
Rhian Reyes  
Dylan Ridgway  
Landen Rosa  
Elisabeta Toc  
Jonah Williams  
Emilia Wozniak  
Marcus Zechel