St. Alphonsus School News Third Term - June 2023





From The Principal

I believe that people make their own luck by great preparation and good strategy.

-Jack Canfield

I come from a long line of board and card gamers. As children we spent pretty much every summer afternoon swimming and then playing Monopoly. We learned the ins and out of penny poker at a young age and it was a right of passage to play a solo game of cribbage with the family patriarch, Uncle Bob. We developed strategies for different games, adapting them as we grew more skilled with each passing summer.

Blake brought similar experiences to our family, so our children grew up immersed in games, too. We passed on our enjoyment of friendly competition and a few of our time-tested strategies. Over the years the games changed, though. We moved on the Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride and, most recently, Splendor. These games take strategizing to a whole new level, placing parent in the role of learner again. Thinking differently, creatively and strategically activates one's brain in new ways, often leading to those aha moments where you see things

from an entirely different perspective. Pardon the pun, but the process can be a game changer.

Over the course of the past year, our school board has been engaged in a strategic planning process. Information has been gathered from staff and alumni, parents and parishioners. We wanted to get a feel from our stakeholders on what our strengths and weaknesses are, and what opportunities are possible for our school community. After some initial work as a board, we engaged a facilitator with a wealth of experience in school planning to help us to look at the information we gathered with fresh eyes. The experience gave us an opportunity to reflect on what we have been doing and to consider new ideas that could shape the future of our school. Long term planning isn't a game, but the elements of thinking in new ways and considering other perspectives can be game changing in a figurative sense.

It may be that I have a warped sense of what's enjoyable, but it was a fun process. People have different opinions and reaching consensus is time consuming; still what I really enjoyed was the collective passion for the school community. Over and over, various stakeholders talked about their experiences and their vision for the future. The high level of engagement that came out of the work makes me proud of our school and full of faith for what will come next. Our community is invested in its future and together we will work to be the best possible environment for the children in our care.

Over the coming months, the Board will finish distilling down the information and identifying the next steps for our school. Once we have completed the last part of the process, we will provide the community with our strategic priorities for next year and the years beyond, a game plan, if you will.

Peace, Christine McInnis



St Alphonsus School Annual Community Report 2022-2023

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 12th or the School Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 13th. 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 232, 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 2021-22

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. Our staff has found that choosing one of the goals as our primary focus for each of the three years of the school plan allows us to move more deeply into the goal. This year our focus was the Student Mental Health.

Goal 1- Mental Health

Supporting Student Mental Health: Assessing current practices and developing a school wide plan for the delivery of mental health initiatives.

As we continue to move forward from pandemic restrictions, our school staff is working to address the lingering effects on students' mental health. We have continued to fine tune the mental health programming offered across the grades. Madame Laird, our Resource Teacher, implemented mindfulness programming across the grades, providing students with age-appropriate strategies to support mental wellness. As well, she hosted a parent evening to help families understand the supports available through the school and in the community. Staff attended in-services on mental health topics and our resource program worked in collaboration with our clinical team to provide supports for students and families.

Goal 2 -Numeracy Education

Numeracy Education: To deepen students understanding of numerical concepts.

Our second priority was Numeracy Education. We began our work on this priority by identifying areas of strength as well as challenges in our students understanding of math concepts at all grade levels. Teachers met in Grade band groups to disuccs strategies to address areas that needed strengthening. Although we made some progress in this priority area, we will refocus on Numeracy Education in the coming school year.

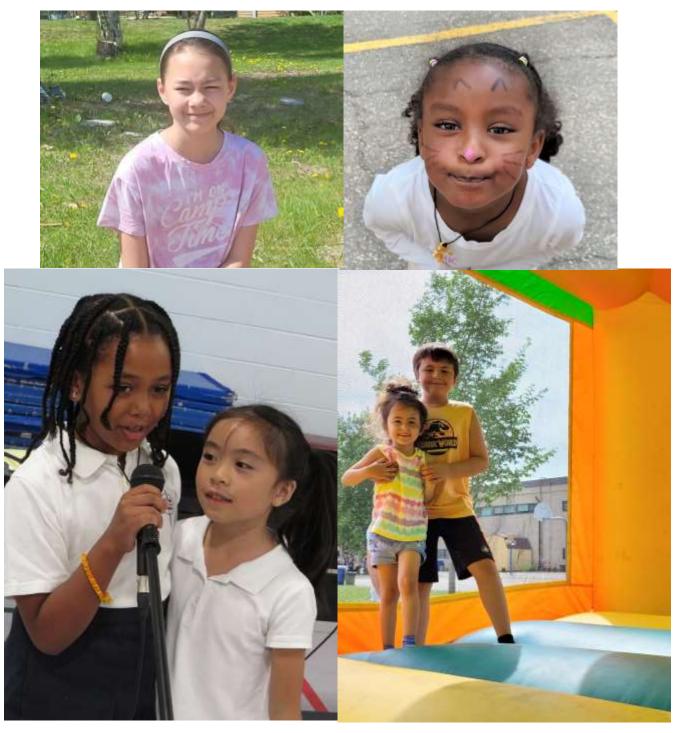
Annual Community Report cont'd

Ongoing Priorities

The Staff continued to work on our most recent priority areas including **Sustainability and Indigenous Education.** Although these were not officially on our plan, we wanted to capitalize on the gains made in these areas and use this momentum to continue work in these areas.

In Summary

This has been a busy, successful year at the school, with much growth and change. We are working towards our priorities while remaining responsive to the emerging needs of the students and the 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 is always the case, the spring term has sped by!

May

Our 33rd **Gala Dinner** took place on Saturday, May 6th. By all accounts, it was a fabulous evening and a tremendous success. The Gala committee has included a report, which can be found later in this newsletter.



On the 25th our junior high friends had their annual **Spring Theatre**. This year's musical, *Vampire School* was a great success. Thanks go to Mr. Cox for the loan of his play and to Mrs. Rayner, Mrs. Toews and Miss Brown for their fine work with the students.





Our grade seven and eight students, along with a hardy group of staff and parents, headed out to Camp Arnes at the end of May. The trip was wonderful and everyone had a fabulous time.

June

June has gone by in the blink of an eye. There are always a number of end of the year field trips and spontaneous activities that keep everyone's spirits high. The return of field trips was a great hit!

We held our MPI Bike Safety Rodeo

on June 13th for students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 Students heard about bike safety and then had the opportunity to practice their new skills on the course outside.



June cont'd

Our grade 4-8 friends had the opportunity to participate in the **Knights of Columbus Track Meet** held out at the University of Manitoba. The athletes had a great time and represented our school very well.





June 9th was our **Nursery Picnic.** It's always fun to celebrate these milestones. Thank you to Ms Laura and Ms Catherine for all your work in making this program a success!



The Family Barbeque was held on June 21st. It was a gorgeous day and it was a rocking event; so nice to gather as a community! As always the food was delicious, the candy scramble was a riot and the bouncers were super fun! Thank you to our PALS crew, especially to Jen Doer and Barb Bursey, for all your fine work in organizing this event. What a great way for the community to celebrate our year together!



June 22nd was our **Kildonan Park Fun Day.** Although the day started off with rain and chilly weather, our stoic students, staff and parents weathered the weather and enjoyed the day outside. So much fun!



We said farewell to our current grade eight crew on **June 26**th. After a formal photo, we celebrated with prayer, followed by an awards ceremony in the gym. We ended with a great reception for the students and their guests. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a special day.



June 28th was our **Kindergarten Farewell**. This event makes me feel wistful about the passage of time. It goes by very quickly, whether it is a year of kindergarten or thirteen years of school. The Farewell was very touching ; thank you to Mrs. Mattis and Miss Brown for your fine work with the students. Parents, don't blink; it will be Grade 8 Farewell for these tykes before we know it.



Looking Forward

August

The school office reopens on Monday, August 28th

September

Our **first day of school** for grade 1-8 students is Wednesday, September 6th. Our new kindergarten friends will receive information during the summer that will tell parents what their schedule will be.

On **Thursday, September 14th** we will bring back our annual combination **Meet the Teacher** evening and **Fami-Iy Terry Fox Walk**. The Meet the Teacher portion of the evening will run from 5:00– 6:00, followed by a pizza supper and finally a family walk through the community in support of the Terry Fox Foundation. More information about the evening, along with an order form for the aforementioned pizza, will come home at the beginning of the new school year. This will be a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher, reconnect with friends in the community and support a worthwhile cause.

The PALS Wine Tasting Fundraiser will be held on **Saturday, September 23rd** in St. Alphonsus Parish Hall.



From the Gym

It has been another fine year down in the gym. Through the course of the year, we have had a variety of programs both in the school and inter-school that have provided students with opportunities to be active and enjoy a healthy level of competition. Students have developed a strong sense of fair play and sportspersonship, while improving their fitness and skill levels.

Our inter-school sports program continues to thrive. In the fall, the gym was hopping with five volleyball teams on the go. After Christmas, basketball took over. Our teams dribbled, passed and shot their way through the season and had a lot of fun on the way. Badminton club was well attended and the students' skills improved greatly over the course of the season. A large number of students participated in the after school club. The top finishers had the opportunity to participate in the MCSAA tournament at the end of April. Students in grades 4-8 had the opportunity to participate in the Knights of Columbus Track and Field Meets held in June at the University of Manitoba. Our athletes represented our school well and many earned personal bests.

Our final sports club of the year was Running Club. More than 40 students registered and attended the club over the spring, every Tuesday and Thursday morning. Thank you to Mrs. Seaman, Mrs. Ireland and Mrs. McInnis who joined us in lacing up their running shoes.

It takes a team of dedicated staff and parents to provide these experiences for our children. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped out this year through coaching, supervising and supporting our students. Looking forward to the fall, we will be starting volleyball for the upper grades early in September. If you are interested in helping with our teams, if you have an idea for a great extracurricular club or if you have any questions about our programs, please do not hesitate to stop by the gym. I'd be happy to speak with you. Stay fit this summer!

Blake McInnis PE Teacher



Physical Education Comments-Third term 2022-23

Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2 and 3

In the third term, our younger students played a variety of low organized games that incorporated some of the fourteen basic movement skills. We continued to work on fair play. When given the opportunity, we went outside for phys. ed. classes where students were involved in a variety of structured and independent choice activities. The younger students enjoy playing chasing/fleeing games like ogre and amoeba. They enjoy cooperative activities, like parachute and various activity centers.

Grades 4 and 5

During the third term the grade four and five students have participated in a variety of different activities including: track and field, soccer, and assorted low organized games. The skills we have focused on developing this term include jumping skills used in field events and running both short and long distances. We have discussed how pace plays an integral role in longer runs.

Grades 6, 7 and 8

During the third term the grade six to eight students were involved in a variety of different activities to develop their skills including track and field events and assorted low organized games. We have focused on developing throwing skills, jumping skills and running both short and long distances. Remember to keep active through the summer



French

Un grand merci à tous les étudiants pour faire de cette année extrêmement agréable. Le cours de français ne serait certainement pas là même sans tous vos attitudes positives, désir d'apprendre et la soif de connaissances.

A big thank you to all students for making this year extremely enjoyable. French class would certainly not be the same without all your positive attitudes, eagerness to learn, and thirst for knowledge.

Madame Curwain

- Grade 1-The grade 1 class is an enthusiastic group who enjoy participating in all French languagebased 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-The grade 2 class continues to be an energized group who shows excitement and willingness to want to learn 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. The class especially enjoyed seeing some of the animals at the visiting Petting Farm. Fabulous job putting together your Farm Animal Books. Have fabulous summer and see you in the fall!
- Grade 3-The beginning of the third term, the grade 3 class continue to be active participants in all oral and written activities associated with the classroom calendar and our thematic units. This term, the class began investigating the various activities associated with Spring and Summer. Students worked at defining and identifying when to use the verbs; Aller, Jouer & Faire. The class was able to demonstrate their knowledge of the different verbs and vocabulary through the completion of their brochures, matching images to the proper corresponding French phrases. Have a safe and happy summer!
- Grade 4-The grade 4 class continues to be an eager group who actively participates 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 "Super" pizza creations! Enjoy a safe and happy summer!
- Grade 5- The grade 5 class enjoyed beginning each French period with an oral game "Taxi". 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-The grade 6 class is an attentive group who pays close attention to explanations and can use taught vocabulary and visual cues to help with comprehension. Students have shown great progress in their speaking abilities during our Question & Answer period. This oral activity has provided them opportunity to recognize commonly asked questions in French, practice responding to questions authentically, and use proper pronunciation. The oral practice lent itself well to the study of the irregular verbs Avoir & Être. Students were able to use identify the differences between both verbs, as well as use the proper conjugated forms in their written work "L'amitié" 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! During our unit on French Possessive Adjectives, students were able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding through the completion of their song lyrics highlighting the differences between each adjective, proper usage, and the rules associated with adjective use. Currently the class is exploring irregular verbs that will continue into grade 8. Lots of fantastic work, bien fait! Have a safe summer vacation!
- Grade 8- The grade eight students made a fabulous 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. The class has been busy learning the proper conjugated forms associated with Futur Simple & Reflexive Verbs. Students have shown a good understanding of the concepts, not only through their written work and assignments but through our "clock partner" discussions. Great work on your Prezi presentations showcasing your personalized Routine Quotidiennes! I wish you all the best in grade nine. May you all enjoy a safe and relaxing summer!



Generation Now

Generation Now! the dedicated students from grades 7 – 8 have been working on a number of activities through the spring. One of the tasks was to research a list local restaurants that students would like to see reduce their carbon footprint. They have come up with a list of suggestions such as composting food waste, reducing single-use plastics by using compostable take out cutlery and containers, using local ingredients to support the local farmers and reduce emissions. Although time has run out this school year to send letters to local restaurants, next year's group will follow up by sending the letters out. A group of grade 7 is prepared to remind students what is recyclable, compostable and garbage from their lunches once school starts in September by preparing a reminder poster. The group will also complete a "garbage audit" with each of the classes to see if they are placing their waste in the correct receptacles. A third group of students investigated different local stores and organizations that recycle various products. The students found various location in the city that recycle, repurpose or resell/donate the items brought in. Here is a sample of the locations and the items they recycle...

Winnipeg Recycling Guide:

Walmart – cosmetics container recycling (all brands)

H&M – textile recycling (worn/old clothing, holey socks, fabrics)

Centre Flavie-Laurent – household items, clothing, mattresses – donate/resell

St. Alphonsus School – batteries, markers - recycle

In the fall we will finish up the list and post it on the social justice blog for everyone to check out! Thank you for your hard work this spring social justice change makers!!

Yearbook Committee

The Yearbook is an awesome way to remember all the great times you had throughout the school year, with your friends and classmates. This year's yearbook theme, a Year to Remember, suits this year very well, since this year is the first 'normal' year since the start of the pandemic. The Yearbook Crew and I have spent time to put together a suitable collection of images to sum up the fun that has gone on for the past ten months. Every part of the creation of the yearbook is very fun to do, from taking the photos at gatherings, to formatting the pages, or sending of the book to print. When you first join the committee, you learn how to use a platform to help create a yearbook (this year it was Lifetouch). Each year you become more responsible for the yearbook, and learn how to use more of the tools on the app. I greatly enjoyed being part of the Yearbook Committee, and I hope that the next yearbook recruits will have as much fun being on yearbook as I did.

Naomi Rowbotham :) Yearbook Committee

<u>Treaties and Treaty Relationships—Developing</u> <u>Knowledge and Understanding at St. Alphonsus School</u>

We started the year by developing a staff team to plan out how we would work hard on building truth and reconciliation within our school community. From there we became devoted to fostering an awareness in our school community and in our own lives of important First Nations teachings. Students were involved in developing letters along the Munroe fence spelling out "We Are All Treaty People". In addition, students created bear representations to represent courage on the Roch Avenue fence.

In classes, teachers have been implementing units and lessons planned out and designed by the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba. A professional development day was hosted by our school that included other Catholic School staff. This was intended to broaden our knowledge on integral understandings to foster truth and reconciliation through developing important knowledge of First Nations people. We had foundation-building information on Treaties, their place in Manitoba history and the benefits of the Treaty relationship of all Canadians.



<u>PALS</u>

Is it the end of the school year already? This school year just flew by...Wow! I would like to thank all the parent volunteers and staff who have made our 2022-23 events run so smoothly. Without their support, PALS would not be able to run the events. Again, thanks to EVERYONE who have given time to volunteer at our events!!!

These are all the events that PALS does throughout the year (Sept to June)

Monthly Hot Lunches - which is now moving to a weekly occurrence

The Wine Tasting Event	(held in Sept)
The Halloween Social	(held in October)
Gift Wrap	(held in December)
Open Gym nights	(held in January)
School Open house	(held in January)
Movie Night	(held in February)
Year end School BBQ	(held in June)

That said, PALS needs YOUR support! Without volunteers, PALS would not be able to host the events. PALS needs volunteers! It is only 1 hour of your time every 2nd Tuesday of the month (except for July and August when we don't meet at all). All meetings are at the school. Please consider helping out, all the effort goes towards supporting the students. For more information please contact myself (Joseph DiMartino via text 204-229-0326) for more information. Or better yet, Our next meeting will be on September 12th in the staff room, please join us.

Our Wine Tasting Committee will be working over the summer to prepare for our first event of the 2023/24 school year. It is planned for Saturday September 23rd 7 PM at our very own Parish Hall. Mark the date on your calendar – it will be here before you know it.

I will finish the newsletter with a very special thanks to Lisa Rowbotham (past chair, past wine tasting member, past school BBQ...the list goes on). She put endless amounts of volunteering hours to the school that will be truly missed. I want to thank her for mentoring me as PALS chair for the last two years. Lisa you are simply the BEST!!

Ciao! Joseph DiMartino P.S. A very special BBQ thank you to Dmytro Knyrsha and George Wakefield Foods for the ice cream treats at the event! As well, we want to thank the Doer Family and Red Sun Smoke Shop and Gas Bar for sponsoring the candy scramble! Delicious Fun!





<u>Gala</u>

On behalf of the Gala Committee, we would like to thank everyone once again for the outstanding support that made this year's Gala such a memorable and successful night!! This year all in attendance were off to the races with a true Southern Kentucky Derby experience with mint Juleps flowing, exciting horse races, delicious food, and amazing prizes. Ladies in their beautiful fascinator hats and the men in their flashy suits helped bring the theme to life. It was an incredible evening we won't soon forget!!

This unforgettable evening would not have been possible without the support of our St. Alphonsus families, our very generous sponsors and silent auction donors. Thank you, thank you, thank you for the support this year and for all supporters over the last 33 years!!! The event would not have been so elegantly executed and fun filled without the countless hours and energy given by the Gala Planning Committee! This talented and creative team had been planning for seven months, ensuring that all the details were in place, to create a successful fundraising event for our school.

We accomplished so many things at this Gala; we brought together our St. Alphonsus families and created and celebrated a sense of community while making lasting memories. We also honored two of our Gr. 8 students who were presented the Gala Award, which recognized their academic excellence along with their volunteerism. Congratulations to Evey Burbank and Naomi Rowbotham! Finally, we are thrilled to announce that this year's Gala event raised just under **\$30,000** for our school!

In closing we are very thankful to have been a part of the Gala journey and look forward to planning Gala 34!!!

Have a wonderful summer,

Melanie Bilenky and Melanie Norbury Gala 33 Co-Chairs



Gala 33– Sponsors Thank

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Event Sponsor: Music/DJ Services Body Bounce Productions—Gord Corrigal



Staff Roster 2023-2024

Kindergarten Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3 Grade 4 Grade 5 Grade 5 Grade 6 Grade 7 Grade 8	Elissa Mattis Kelly Ireland Lucia Whitney Helen Dembicki Taras Veryha Jennifer Pieczonka Marlene Seaman Braden Klassen Bonnie Rayner Kristen Curwain
Physical Education	Blake McInnis
Music	Rheanne Millet
Resource Educational Assistants	Michelle Laird Cynthia Wandowich Kerry Babiuk Gail Bommersbach Teresa Swingle Danielle Patrick Jeonghee Jeong Sarah Yamog-Sison
Librarian	Kerry Babiuk
Nursery Teacher	Carrie Black
Nursery Assistant	Catherine Zechel
Circle of Friends Program	Rose Sinclair Gail Bommersbach Danielle Patrick
Office Manager Financial Administrator Principal	Patti Resendes Kim LeHeiget 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!

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.

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 who ran such a spectacular event. Your energy and drive are amazing and produce incredible results.

Thank you to the coaches for your leadership and helping students develop their athletic abilities and sportspersonship. It was so nice to have extracurricular sports back!

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

Goodbye to Ms. Laura who will be leaving our school community. We wish you success in your future endeavours.





Grade Eight Friends, you have been a real pleasure to work with over the years. 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

Kai Briones Evey Burbank Gabriel Cabral Isabela Cabral Dilinna Chukwujama Isabela Faria Martina Flores Ollie Galapon Lucas Galli Landon Giesbrecht Emma Grosshans Brooklyn Henderson Chloe Iezzi Naya Mota Katelyn Pereira Kennedy Piche Sebastian Pieczonka Matthew Poklar Cara Rannard Madilyn Ridgway Naomi Rowbotham Anoorpal Sandhu Gurkaran Sidhu Kiera Tugby