

St. Alphonsus School News

Fall Term 2021



From The Principal

Waiting

Does it seem to you that we spend a lot of time waiting? Waiting in line, waiting on the phone, waiting in traffic...the list goes on:

“Your call is important to us...” ...hmm, really?
Cattle gates at Costco!?!
The light is green!
Why are things taking so long?!?



Our culture is not one of patience for the most part, so all this waiting can spark irritation, frustration and even anger.

The pandemic seems to have heightened my awareness of waiting; over the last 21 months we have been stuck in a holding pattern. We wished for things to be safer, we waited for schools and businesses to reopen, we held our breaths until the first wave passed, we anxiously checked for test results when loved ones were sick, we looked forward to the development of a vaccine, we dreaded the coming of yet another wave, and still, we wait for things to get back to our “normal” existence. The waiting in this case certainly sparked frustration of its own, but also fear and anxiety,

Here we are then, in the season of waiting – Advent. The four weeks leading up to Christmas are generally a time of anticipation and excitement. These feelings are very much different from the waiting we have been doing over the past two years. We look forward to Christmas and spending time with family and friends. This is especially true this Advent, after the restrictions in place over last Christmas. Our faith tradition speaks to waiting for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas in hope, peace, joy and love; these are the themes of the four weeks. Of course, this waiting is symbolic; Jesus has already come, we know the rest of the story and we know God’s presence in our lives. Perhaps, we can use this knowledge to transform our experience of waiting in other areas of our lives. It is certainly worth a try.

As the weeks of Advent unfold, my wish is that you find hope, peace, joy and love in your preparations for Christmas. Remember that the One that we wait for is the One who is already here. Here to help us with the irritations, frustrations, fears and worries that are part of our waiting.

Peace,
Christine McInnis

Patience is not simply the ability to wait - it's how we behave while we're waiting.

-Joyce Meyer

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; these goals will continue forward into subsequent school years.

Goal 1- Mental Health

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

- We will evaluate current programming at different grade levels and determine a cohesive direction for mental health programs going forward.
- Teachers will meet regularly to discuss strategies to support all students' mental wellness.
- Our resource program will continue to explore options at the divisional and community levels for students with more profound mental health issues.
Staff will take part in in-service sessions related to mental health.

Goal 2 -Technology

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

We will continue to deepen our integration of technology at all grade levels.
Making the shift from consumers to producers.

Teachers will seek opportunities to share interesting ideas, both within our staff as well as with colleagues in other schools.

Our resource team will work in conjunction with our IT Manager to further our use of technology as an inclusion tool for students with exceptional learning needs.

Teachers will attend professional development in this area, both at MTS PD Day and during the year as opportunities arise.

Goal 3 -Indigenous Education

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

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

Ongoing Priorities

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

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



Looking Back

September

September started with a virtual **Meet the Teacher** event on the 16th. Families got a chance to talk to staff and learn about the program in their child's grade.

At our first school payer service on September 24th our grade four students received their **Bibles** as part of the liturgy. Congratulations, friends! I wish you well on your journey to learn more about our faith.



We held our annual **Terry Fox Walk/Run** on Friday, September 24th. Things were a little more normal this year, but we look forward to re-establishing our Family Walk next fall. We raised \$480 for cancer research.



Our school community participated in National Truth and Reconciliation Week from September 27th to October 1st. The purpose of this week is to educate all Canadians on our shared history of residential schools and the continued impact of this history today.

October

On October 1st our grade seven and eight classes held our annual **Junior High Retreat Day** at Birds Hill Park. Wow, an actual field trip! It was a perfect day for prayer, games and team-building.



Our **Student Led Conferences** took place on October 19th and 21st. We were online again this year. As always these conferences provided an opportunity to celebrate student learning and to set goals for the school year. Feedback from the students, parents and teachers was positive. We came out of the conferences feeling a sense of direction and purpose.

On October 23rd we held a **Hats for Hope** Fundraiser to raise funds for Brain Tumour Research. Everyone donned their toques and ballcaps to mark this day. The school community raised an amazing \$975 for this organization.



Our Parent Association and staff hosted a **Hallowee'en Drive Through** on Friday, October 29th. Families brought a non-perishable food bank item and received a treat from our crew. It was a lot of fun and it was great to see so much support for Winnipeg Harvest.



November

On Thursday, November 10th the students participated in an online **Remembrance Day Mass**. It was a great opportunity to remember the people who have sacrificed so that we might live in peace and freedom. It was a beautiful service with story, prayer, scripture and song.

Our school's **Annual General Meeting** took place on Wednesday, November 17th. It was an opportunity for the board and the administration to discuss our plans with the parent community. I have included the School Plan Summary and a Financial Report from the board in this newsletter for parents who were unable to attend the meeting.

On Friday, November 26th our **first term report cards** went home. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Looking Forward

December

Virtual Advent Assemblies will take place each Monday during Advent. Our first assembly was on November 29th at 8:45 AM (Yes I know, not technically December). Family members are always welcome to join us, please email the office to obtain the link. The first Monday was a purple colour day to mark the change in liturgical season.



We will be having our annual **Christmas Gift Drive** on Thursday, December 9th where we gather presents brought in by the students for local missions. An information letter with details about the project has been sent home with your child. The school will gratefully accept donations and forward them to the missions.



The **last day of school** before Christmas is on Wednesday, December 22nd. It will be a Red/Green colour day for students in anticipation of the big day. There is an 11:25 AM dismissal on this day.

Mrs. Arkle has been busy preparing for our **Virtual Christmas Concert**. Our plan is to host an online event on **Tuesday, December 21st at 7:00 PM**. We hope that all families can gather in their living room on that day across the city and enjoy the concert. More details will be coming home soon.

Open House

Please mark your calendars for our Virtual Open House on Sunday, January 30th. There will be presentations regarding the school and its programs, as well as an opportunity for prospective families to ask questions. If you have friends or family that are interested in seeing the school and perhaps having their children attend here, this is an excellent opportunity for them to check it out. Please direct them to the school website to register for this event or invite them to email openhouse@stals.ca



Yearbook

Since the beginning of Covid, times have been a bit dull and boring, so we thought of bringing some happiness into your lives. This year we have decided to dedicate an entire page to something brand new. **SILLY PICTURES** To help make the yearbook as memorial as possible. YOU can submit your photos at tveryha@stals.ca .

-Grade 8 Yearbook Crew



There are many great reasons to buy a yearbook! Having a yearbook is a great way to look back at time experienced at St. Alphonsus School. It takes you down memory lane and how you have grown through the years of attending school. The yearbook contains pictures of your classmates, your teachers, many activities, and you! When you leave the school; you will always have your yearbook with pictures of you or people you know. These are just some of the many reasons These can be special and very important to you. The yearbook has so many wonderful things to offer. There's no reason why you shouldn't buy it! Keep in tune with upcoming notices.

-Grade 7 Yearbook Crew

From the Music Room

Changes

Lilting strains of a certain harmonica line have occupied my mind lately. Bob Dylan's voice pipes in a chorus of, "The times, they are a-changing." The reason for this iconic song's place in my internal soundtrack is obvious; the first term of the 2021-22 school year has involved significant changes for the St. Alphonsus Community. As the new Music Specialist, I have inherited a flourishing program, which has been expertly (and lovingly) maintained. Students are, once again, making music together in the *actual* Music Room. Singing, prohibited last year due to Covid protocol, forms the core of musical skill-building and there is a greater appreciation of music's power to provide solace and delight during times of turmoil.

Getting (Re)Acquainted

This term, as we orient ourselves to a more regular music-making environment, I am becoming acquainted with each class as ensembles and individual learners. Students have generously shared their recollections and insights to help transition from recent disruptions and return to experiencing the benefits of making music together. I have been informed of vital traditions which *must* be continued ("Gummy Fridays" tops the list) as we discover ways to optimize learning in the music room. A primary task has been reviewing general musical concepts and determining current skill levels. All classes have focused on the role of music in Liturgy, since we are gradually returning to congregational singing during Mass. Reacquainting students with some favourite hymns and familiar Mass settings, is supporting a resurgence of confident participation.

The Four Essential Learning Areas in Music

The K-8 Manitoba Music Curriculum provides a framework to "support, nurture and inspire every learner as a music-maker". Musical Language and Performance, Creative Expression, Understanding Music in Context and Valuing Musical Experience, are the four areas identified to promote musically literate individuals. These essential learning areas in music are intended to work simultaneously, with classroom activities tailored to the unique circumstances of each learner and learning environment.

Kindergarten

Establishing a foundation for meaningful musical experiences is the goal of the Kindergarten program, as students are exposed to making music in a school setting. Through songs, stories and games, Kindergarten students are exploring basic concepts, such as high and low pitch, fast and slow tempo, and loud and soft dynamics. Students demonstrate their creative responses to music during movement activities and through visual art. Awareness of our singing voices, and becoming familiar with playing percussion instruments together, are areas of emphasis. Giggles, wiggles, interesting ideas and profound observations are abundant when this Kindergarten class is in session.

Grades 1-3

Folk songs form a focal point for students at this level to demonstrate musical skills and understanding. Fundamental ensemble skills, such as starting and stopping together, maintaining a steady pulse and following the conductor's cues, are emphasized. Using Orff instruments (a collection of xylophones, drums and other non-pitched percussion instruments), students explore elements of melody, harmony, rhythm and expression. Students are guided in purposeful listening for accurate intonation and awareness of patterns and structures in music. Specific terminology and systems of writing notation are introduced and practiced, to communicate musical ideas effectively. The students in Grades One, Two and Three have enthusiastically embraced every opportunity to apply their developing musical abilities, especially when singing favourite songs and playing preferred games.

Grades 4-6

At this level, students build on the concepts established in earlier years to create, perform and respond to music with greater complexity. Specific instrumental techniques are introduced and practiced. Independence and autonomy in performance and ensemble skills, are demonstrated when co-creating in small groups. Students are using standard notation and tablature when composing and interpreting music. Specific vocabulary is applied when analyzing songs and discussing musical topics. In addition to the Orff instruments studied in earlier grades, electric keyboards are introduced in Grade Four, ukuleles in Grade Five and guitars in Grade Six. The students in these grades are eager to continue applying their musical skills and knowledge to playing their instruments as individuals and ensembles. The Grade Six students will be providing leadership for the Christmas Concert, which we have begun to rehearse.

Grades Seven and Eight

The Junior High Arts program at St Alphonsus allows for in-depth learning in Music and Visual Art. Smaller class sizes and scheduled double periods of music promotes student-lead inquiry into a wide range of topics. Students use artistic decision-making and problem-solving when making music together, using a variety of available instruments. This impressive group of students demonstrates excellence in the four essential music learning areas. They show versatility and creativity when applying theory concepts. In the next term, there will be an emphasis on arranging and practicing selected songs to bring them to a performance level. The students in these classes will have the opportunity to support the efforts of our Kindergarten to Grade Six classes, when presenting the Christmas Concert.

Beautiful Days

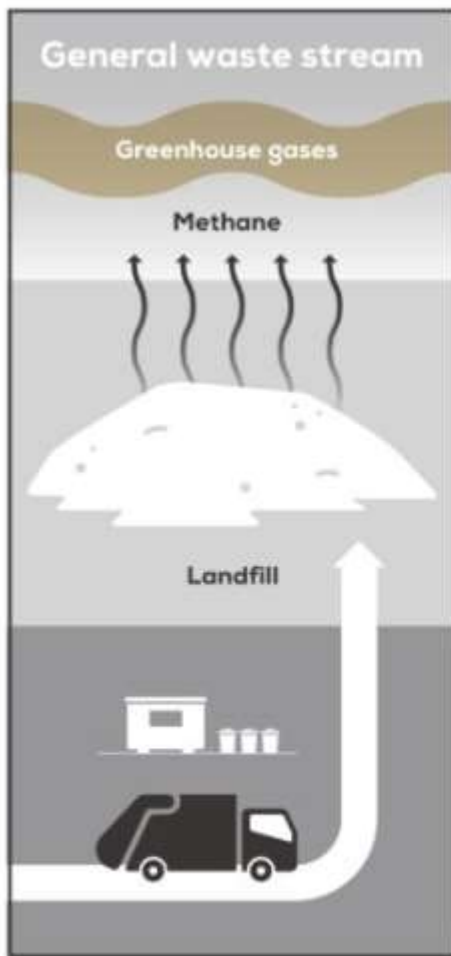
Throughout this term there has been another song occupying my inner soundtrack. The chorus of “When the Night Feels My Song” by Bedouin Soundclash, simply repeats, ‘Hey Beautiful Day’. Not only is this syncopated tune an excellent vehicle for practicing rhythm, melody and harmony (playing on the *off beats* has been a school-wide challenge for many years, I am told), I found it a fitting reaction to our spectacular Autumn weather this year. The song echoes my appreciation for the privilege of sharing beautiful days of making music with our students. I am grateful that my initial term as the Music Teacher has been filled with beautiful days of becoming re-acquainted with the unique and united St. Alphonsus School community.

Mary Arkle
Music Teacher



Sustainability—Composting Returns!

Welcome back to school-wide composting! The staff and students are so excited to have the compost program up and running again as of November. Each classroom, and a few other locations where staff enjoy their lunches, are once again equipped with compost bins that allow students and staff to sustainably dispose of their bread crust, apple cores, banana peels, chicken bones and other food waste. Our school's compost is picked up weekly by Compost Winnipeg, a social enterprise of the non-profit Green Action Centre. Compost Winnipeg focuses on keeping organic waste out of the landfill which helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Thank you to the St. Als Student Leadership group for covering the cost this school year. If you're interested in learning more about composting and how you can be more sustainable, check out greenactioncentre.ca



Physical Education Across the Grades

Kindergarten—Grade 2

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

Grades 3-5

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

Grade 6-8

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

From the Gym

The fall has been a very busy time in the gym, what a nice change from last year!. All the classes are settled into our routines and are enjoying being physically active.

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

Volleyball season is just finishing up. We had four teams on the go (two boys teams and two girls teams) with more than 50 student athletes involved. Through the season the players participated in a number of home and away games with COVID protocols in place to reduce the risk for student athletes. Our developmental teams concluded their season last week. Both teams had a remarkable season. We are in playoffs for our grade 7/8 teams this week. Thank you to everyone who came out to cheer our teams on. Thank you to Mrs. Toews, Mrs. McInnis, Mrs. Rayner, Madame Laird, Madame Curwain and Miss van der Zweep for all of the time dedicated to coaching the teams. As well, thanks to Mr. Beilman and Mr. Reyes who refereed through the season. I am sure the athletes appreciate it; I know I do!

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

Blake McInnis
Physical Education Teacher

French Update

Bienvenue à nouveau! What an incredible first term. It is an amazing feeling to be back in the classroom, exploring the French language amongst the grades. Here is what we have been up to:

Grade 1- The grade one class has shown a keen interest towards learning French. Students actively participate in all routine activities and songs related to: the days of the week, months of the year, colours and counting to 10. Their exposure to new themed vocabulary taught this term continues to grow. The class listens carefully to oral instruction while using visual cues to help them with comprehension. During our unit on "L'automne" students were successful at correctly naming and labelling Fall colours in French. Bravo!

Grade 2- In French, the grade two class is an attentive group who pays attention to explanations and uses visual cues to help with comprehension. During class students take part in a variety of songs, games, and language-based activities to help enrich their language development. The grade two class has shown great enthusiasm towards learning French, especially during our current unit "La Famille". Students are able to visually and orally name and identify family members in French, such as ma maman, mon papa, ma sœur, mon frère, mon bébé, ma grand-mère and mon grand-père. Their family portrait activity indicated good comprehension of basic vocabulary taught in class. Great job!

Grade 3- This first term, the grade three class has shown a keen interest in learning the French language. Students are increasing their ability to follow directions given in French and speak simple words and phrases during our calendar routine. During our unit on "Les Saisons," students were able to identify and label each season and match them accordingly to the corresponding weather in French. Currently, students have been taking part in a variety of language-based activities; les sondages, lotto, and memoire, all relating to our class story *Bonhomme du Neige*. Keep up the great work!

Grade 4- Throughout the first term, the grade four students have exhibited a genuine interest in French class. They are able to recognize and read simple words related to our classroom calendar while *Les mini-profs* direct the class through our calendar routine. During our unit "L' école", students were asked to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of newly taught vocabulary through their write-ups. The class was able to correctly identify and name different rooms within a school, as well as different objects found within those rooms. Super work!

Grade 5- The first term the grade 5 students continue to make steady progress during French class. They are able to recognize, read, and respond in written form to simple questions related to our classroom calendar.

In writing, students are increasing in their ability to revisit past texts to assist in further understanding present material. The class continues to work at properly using a French/English dictionary in search of French words and definitions, as well as deciphering appropriate gender before a word (le, la, les). Students are beginning to show a good understanding of the oral language and make a better effort to express themselves using simple vocabulary taught in class.

Grade 6- During the first term, the grade six class has made a good effort in applying themselves during class time. They continue to build a strong sight word vocabulary and develop good comprehension skills through our *Message du Jour* journal entries. Students are increasing in their ability to decipher text independently and accurately respond using proper spelling and sentence structure. The class was able to showcase their knowledge and ability to create proper sentence structures using the verbs "faire and jouer" through their detailed and well-organized Prezi presentations. Great work this term!

Grade 7- This term, the grade seven class focused on the introduction of regular "er" verbs and their proper conjugation forms. Students were asked to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of "er" conjugations through their Halloween Art activity. Presently, the class is beginning to work with the text "Habiller Dans le Noir". Students will be working at properly sequencing the story in French, filling in missing information, properly conjugating "er" verbs within the text, and creating their own silly version of the story utilizing proper vocabulary, spelling and sentence structures. Bon travail!

Grade 8— This term, the grade eight class has shown some progress in reading and writing taught vocabulary through their cahier entries. The beginning of term, students focused on a piece of text that they had read and re-read to help improve comprehension and fluency. Using the story, the class was able to fill in the blanks using proper vocabulary and "er" conjugated forms creating their own version of the "Frankenstein" story, corresponding to their pictures created using collage imagery. Presently, the grade 8 class is reviewing regular er, re, & ir French verbs. As well as, working at identifying and utilizing the conjugated forms of Avoir & Être verbs.

Vive le français 

School Board News

This past year our board focused on supporting our teachers, staff, and Christine to keep in-person learning as safe as possible for all students and families. We continued to increase our technology resources and to plan for repairs and maintenance with a focus on the upcoming roof replacement.

Thank you to our entire school community for everyone's patience and cooperation as this pandemic drags on. A special thank you to all school staff who have maintained an amazing learning environment among the limitations and constantly changing rules we have faced. Our board meets monthly and recently held our Annual General Meeting. This year, 2 board members finished their terms and we said farewell to Jonathan Schinkel and Kurt Walker, whose contributions were greatly appreciated. We also elected 3 new board members: Richard Avila, Francoise Cassidy, and Jean Dalman.

The board portfolios this year are as follows:

Christina Love - Chairperson
Dawn Gerbrandt - Vice Chair and Co-Public Relations
Craig Rowbotham - Secretary
Michelle Luedtke - Finance
Sam Pellettieri - MCSGS Representative
Paul Macdonald - Human Resources
Kelly Melchor - Open House Planning & member at large
Jean Dalman - Co-Public Relations
Richard Avila - member at large
Francoise Cassidy - member at large
Christine McInnis - Principal
Fr. Greg Mulligan - Pastor

On the following pages you will find profiles of each board member included for your information.

Sincerely,
Christina Love, CPA

Volunteer Incentive Refund and Plans Moving Forward

At our School Board Meeting last month we had a discussion about the Volunteer Incentive Program and the continuing impact that COVID has had on volunteer opportunities in our school community. The Board decided that once again the right course of action is to refund the Volunteer Incentive Fees to families for the 2021-22 school year. If you have paid tuition in full, the school will issue a cheque to your family. If you are on a payment plan, your payments will be reduced over the remaining months of the school year. Kim Le Heiget, our Finance Officer, will look after this process in the coming weeks; thank you for your patience in awaiting the refund or adjustment.

If you would prefer to leave the volunteer incentive fees with the school as a donation, the school will provide you with a donation receipt for the entire amount (\$300). In this case, please contact Kim to let her know your intention.

The Board has been reviewing the Volunteer Incentive Program over the past number of years. When the program was started, its intent was to encourage volunteerism in areas that either generated income or saved costs for the school. In the past, families could volunteer at the thrift shop, making perogies, working at Casino Bingos and working at the School Bingo. At one time, parents would have been called upon to paint the school or help with landscaping. Over time all these activities have ceased, leaving families with very few options for this type of volunteering for credit. As a result, and after forgoing the Volunteer Incentive Program for the last two years, the Board has decided to remove the program from the school fee structure.

Of course, the school will continue to encourage volunteering in the school, especially as the pandemic threat lessens; we are proud of how this community works together! We know we can count on parents to continue to engage in meaningful ways with the school for the betterment of our children's educational experience.

Board Bios

Kelly Melchor – Board Member

I am delighted to start a second term on the St. Alphonsus School Board, maintaining responsibility for the school's annual Open House. I have a strong background in the financial services sector, having worked in this industry for over twenty years. Along with my undergraduate degree in Finance and Marketing, I also hold a Master of Business Administration in the field of Innovation Leadership. Currently I am the Executive Director of Winnipeg Insurance Brokers Ltd, a fully-owned subsidiary company of Assiniboine Credit Union. My husband Luis is an Advanced Care Paramedic for the City of Winnipeg, and we have two beautiful children; Gabriella who is currently in grade 4 at St. Alphonsus, and Diego who is a St. Alphonsus alumnus, currently attending MBCI in grade 7. In our downtime we are busy and happy to bring our kids to their various activities throughout the week, and now that COVID is starting to normalize we are looking forward to attending local events (concerts, movies, live performance shows etc) or go on vacation – we love to travel! We are so happy with the decision we made to send our kids to St. Alphonsus School. I was baptized at St. Alphonsus Church and have been a member of the Church ever since, and we feel that the school community and teaching staff along with the wonderful relationships we have made with other families have truly enriched our lives.



Jean Dalman – Board Member

As a new member to the St. Alphonsus School board of directors, I look forward to bringing my background in corporate communications and public relations to the table. I have worked in various public and corporate roles over the last 20-years, including:

- Media relations for a non-profit organization and advertising agency
- PR and community education regarding road and traffic safety
- Corporate communications, focusing on internal communications and strategies related to the employee population at Manitoba Public Insurance

I have a Bachelor of Arts in History and Religion, and a Public Relations diploma from the University of Winnipeg.

When I'm not building relationships through public relations, you'll find me enjoying time outside, many getaways to Riding Mountain National Park or at the hockey rink. I am parent to Juliette in Grade 4, as well as a neighbor across the street from the school on Donald Avenue! I am a proud East Kildonan resident, and have grown up and lived in this area for my entire life. On weekends, you are likely to spot us with our two dogs in the school park.

I am thankful for our school community, and St. Alphonsus parish. My daughter and I are always thrilled to see Mr. and Mrs. McInnis biking to school from our front window, Father Greg on his neighbourhood walks or Ms. Sinclair's lights turning on for the early morning Circle of Friends program. We feel like St. Alphonsus is a part of our lives through and through and providing my communications skills and expertise feels like a natural step in the right direction!



Paul McDonald – Human Resources

I am a proud St. Alphonsus alumnus ('91) and lifelong East Kildonan resident. My wife Kristy and I have three children, including Alex in Grade 2 and Daniel in Kindergarten.

This is my third year on the Board. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Principal McInnis and my fellow Board members over that time. The Board experience has only entrenched my confidence in the School and its staff and volunteers.

Professionally, I have worked as a labour lawyer for the past 16 years.



Michelle Luedtke – Finance Portfolio

I am a CPA, CA with over 25 years' experience in a variety of different industries ranging from large manufacturing to smaller not-for-profit. I currently work at Parrish & Heimbecker, Ltd as a Senior Financial Analyst as well as running my own bookkeeping company called Beancounter Bookkeeping. My journey with St. Alphonsus began fifteen years ago when my oldest of 3 boys started kindergarten there. Now my youngest is in grade 8 and my family's time at St. Alphonsus is nearing an end. Looking back over the past fifteen years I can honestly say that it hasn't just been only my children that have gained knowledge from the school. As a Board Member I have had the opportunity to meet some amazing people and I have learned so much through the experience. I look forward to the opportunity to spend my last year at St. Alphonsus School as part of the Board.



Craig Rowbotham – Recording Secretary

Another year, another opportunity to continue in the Recording Secretary role. So far every term manages to be both fun and productive so I'm excited to what we can accomplish through 2021/2022. A little about me:

I'm currently the Assistant Department Head of Municipal / Transportation Services for KGS Group, a multi-disciplinary engineering firm based in Winnipeg. The work is challenging and certainly keeps me busy. www.ksgsgroup.com

My Wife, Lisa Rowbotham is an Interior Designer. She is a third-generation alumni of the school and remains active today as the outgoing Chair of PALS.

Our daughter Naomi (a fourth-generation student) really enjoys school and being a part of Mrs. Toews' Grade 7 class.

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



Favourite Movie: The latest James Bond (have not yet watched but it looks fantastic!)

Favourite Activities: Kiting and Hockey lately

Dream Travel Destination: These days I'm itching to try some kiting in Aruba

Francoise Cassidy – Public Relations Portfolio

I am excited to join the St. Alphonsus school board and become more actively involved in the larger school community. My background is in Human Resources and Finance. I work for The Wanawana Mutual Insurance Company in the role of Director, Payroll, Pensions and Benefits. I am a volunteer board member for the Manitoba Children's Museum for the past 5 years and sit on the national cabinet for JDRF's (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) annual Sun Life Ride to Defeat Diabetes to raise awareness and funds for Type 1 Diabetes. Our son, Keaton is in grade 3 and we're very happy we chose St. Al's for school it's a perfect match for him and he enjoys it very much. I was confirmed at St. Al's many moons ago. Our family loves cottaging in the summers on the shores of Lake Winnipeg and vacationing, when we're able to get back to it, in the winters.



Dawn Gerbrandt – Vice President & Public Relations Portfolios

I'm excited to start my third year serving on St. Alphonsus' school board. I have a daughter, Mila, in grade 4 this year. Since Nursery, Mila has had wonderful teachers and experiences in the school. We're happy to be part of the St. Alphonsus community.

I've worked with the Province of Manitoba for 20 years in various positions and departments. Currently, I work within the Department of Finance in a senior management position of Consumer Protection and Business Services Division.

Mila, my husband Jesse, our dog Mel and I live outside the city near Landmark. We enjoy Friday movie nights and outside activities. We look forward to this school year and continuing to contribute to the wonderful community at St. Alphonsus.



Christina Love – Chairperson

It is with much hope and excitement that I embark on my 5th year as Board Chairperson and 6th year as a Board member. I am a CPA, CA with experience in Human Resources and IT and currently work as the Director of Finance & Administration for the World Police & Fire Games 2023, a world class sporting event that will be coming to our city! I have also been a member of 2 daycare boards, serving as Chairperson for one of them. I am married to Darran Love who is also a CPA and volunteers his time on the Board of Suzuki Music Winnipeg. We have 2 amazing children who are both students at St. Al's; Isabella in Gr. 7 and Xavier in Gr. 2. As a family, we love swimming, skating, travelling and spending time at the cottage during the summer. It continues to be an honour to be part of the school community and to support the work of our teachers, principal and all support staff who have been especially wonderful throughout the uncertainties of this pandemic.

Favourite Movie: Love Actually

Favourite Activities: curling, baking, reading

Dream Travel Destination: Belize



Richard Avila – Board Member

My name is Richard Avila, and I am a father of two great kids. My son Nicholas is 5 and just started kindergarten at St Alphonsus this year. He has really enjoyed his time with Mrs. Mattis and his new kindergarten friends. My daughter Annabella is 3 and will join St Alphonsus in a couple years. Education is so very important to our family. We feel so blessed to have joined the St Alphonsus community. I am looking for a way to give back to our new community while becoming immersed in my children's education.

Professionally, I am a Chartered Professional Accountant and began my career at Ernst and Young (EY). At EY I worked in the assurance and tax groups for 3.5 years before moving into the transaction advisory group. In 2017, I became self employed as an operational and financial advisor to a number of small and medium size enterprises in Winnipeg. I continue this work today through my company, Avcor Financial Group. Over the last year, I have also started, ACV Sewer and Water Inc. with two partners. The company specializes in residential and commercial sewer and water line repair.

Favourite Movie: Star Wars original trilogy

Favourite Activities: Hockey, reading, and jogging

Dream Travel Destination: Disneyland with kids



Sam Pellettieri – Board Member – MCSGS Representative

Sam is the Founder, CEO and Chief Investment Officer of Altima Asset Management Inc., an emerging alternative asset manager.

He has been a senior executive at several mutual fund companies, an investment dealer where he led a new asset management company as an Executive Vice President & Chief Investment Officer, and of a boutique institutional investment manager where he was a founder.

Sam is actively involved in the community. He is on the Major Donor's Executive Cabinet for United Way, a board member of St. Alphonsus School and the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba. He was on the Board of Trustees for United Way Winnipeg and chaired United Way's Gen-Next initiative and on the Finance Committee of Holy Rosary Church of Winnipeg. He was also a fundraiser for the Assiniboine Park Conservancy Imagine a Place Special Gifts campaign. Sam is married to Caterina Pellettieri. They have two kids Luca, 9 who attends St. Als in Gr. 4, and Alessia, age 4. He is in his 2nd – 3 year term on the St. Alphonsus school board and has held the Finance, and Vice President portfolios during his time on the board. His current portfolio involves representing St. Alphonsus on the committee that is concerned with our staff's benefits and pensions.



School Board News Cont'd

Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2021

For 2020/2021 enrollment stayed stable from 2019/2020 levels.

Academic revenue increased due to inflationary increases in government grants and Safe Schools Funding provided for Covid expenses.

Other revenue decreased due continued closure of Bingo operations, refund of the Volunteer Incentive Fee and reduced Before and After usage.

Expenses decreased from prior year as a result Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) reducing salary costs, no bingo expenses incurred and the removal of the Volunteer Incentive. This was offset in part by increased staffing due to Covid, and Covid related spending on supplies & equipment.

In 2020/2021 \$86,400 was spent on capital purchases, specifically additional computer equipment and a new security system.

Summarized Financial Statements		
Balance Sheet	June 2021	June 2020
Current Assets	\$ 2,020,207	\$ 1,512,777
Capital Assets	672,441	705,783
Total Assets	\$ 2,692,648	\$ 2,218,560
Current Liabilities & Debt	\$ 464,713	\$ 435,967
Net Assets	2,227,935	1,782,593
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 2,692,648	\$ 2,218,560
Statement of Revenues & Expenditures		
Academic Revenue	\$ 2,039,905	\$ 1,853,147
Other Revenue	224,418	375,840
Expenses	(1,818,981)	(1,995,678)
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenses	\$ 445,342	\$ 233,309

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

As always, a huge thank you again to all the individuals and groups that contribute to the success of our School!

If you have any questions please forward them to the office.

Sincerely yours,

Kim Le Heiget, CPA, CA
Finance Officer

PALS

Hello, it is an honour to be writing my first open letter to everyone as PALS Chair, along with Diego Beltran (Co-Chair), Lindsay Ruffeski (Secretary), Betty Pagni-Kwiatkowski (Treasurer), and Nicole Henderson (Co-Treasurer).

Thank you to the fabulous Lisa Rowbotham for seeing us through the last 3 years as chair of PALS.

This fall we had to miss the Wine Tasting and Halloween Social but we continued the Glenlea poinsettias fundraiser and will continue or spring Glenlea plant sale. Thank you, Michelle Davison for making this happen! While we have not been able to do all the fundraising activities we are used to, PALS is in a solid financial position to meet 2021-22 year's school commitments.

Our first PALS Christmas Cheer Fundraiser is well underway, with the draw being held on December 17.

The Munch a Lunch program has started up again with Boston Pizza in November and kids will be enjoying Wendy's in December.

We are planning the end of year BBQ in June, providing health restrictions allow for this activity to take place. Stay tuned!

If you find yourself with a Tuesday evening off and feel like chatting with other parents from the school, come to a PALS meeting. Our meetings are in person, but if we have a larger crowd, the meeting may be moved to Zoom to comply with health restrictions. If you would like to join, please email the school and we will add your name to the list. Our next meetings are scheduled for: December 13, 2021, January 11, 2022, February 8, 2022, March 8, 2022, April 12, 2022, May 10, 2022 and June 7, 2022. Meetings start at 7 pm and generally run about an hour.

PALS would like to wish you and your family a very blessed, safe and merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year!

Ciao!

Joseph DiMartino
Chair

