

# Caremongering.

Re-imagining service to help those in our communities most effected by the pandemic's economic and social impacts.

**TO STATE THE OBVIOUS**, this past spring was an unusual one.

With the onset of the pandemic, our students were abruptly cut off from many of their activities, athletics, events, clubs and social events. In such a time, it would have been understandable to see families and students at Collingwood withdraw into their bubbles. Instead, our families, individual students and faculty members participated in the social movement that's been dubbed "caremongering." This movement is an effort to re-imagine the boundaries of civic and social service to those in our communities most effected by the pandemic's economic and social impacts.

One of Collingwood's Four Strands, Service is an important part of our School's culture. Through service learning, students develop civic mindedness, critical thinking and engagement with real-life issues in our society. Students often collaborate with people and organizations throughout their communities, rolling up their sleeves and becoming involved in meaningful ways. Students also engage in reflection with their peers, community groups and teachers that helps them develop an understanding of how a particular issue and solution is contributing to their learning road. Despite a springtime of Home Learning, inspirational service initiatives continued to flourish in all corners of Collingwood.



## Caregiving Cards

Caregiving Cards is a local organization, which has asked students to help make thank you cards for healthcare workers. At Wentworth, Ms. Degeer, Ms. Jones, Ms. Arthurs, Ms. Hart, Ms. Young, Ms. McAvinue, Ms. Middleton, and Ms. Forbes partnered with Lions Gate Hospital to thank workers for their tremendous efforts during the pandemic.



## Care packages for healthcare workers

Jonathan Yeung is in Gr. 4 and goes by the nickname Bear. One day he heard his dad speaking to a doctor friend in Washington State who described overwhelmed healthcare workers not having the chance to break for meals. Wanting to ensure our hospital workers had everything they needed to fight COVID-19, Bear decided to donate his savings and collected donations from friends and family to provide sustenance kits for doctors and nurses at Lions Gate Hospital. These kits included energy bars, sports drinks and coconut water. Bear's thoughtfulness was praised by many in our local community, and Dr. Sanjay Gupta from CNN interviewed him in a podcast titled "How to Help".

### 3D printing face shields for healthcare workers

Around the Wentworth and Morven campuses, you will often hear the mechanical whirring of 3D printers coming from the classrooms and spaces of our STEM teachers, Cory McLean and Paul Rogers. With a reported shortage of personal protective equipment this past March, Mr. McLean and Mr. Rogers partnered with a local 3D printing educational company to produce face shields and “ear-savers” that help prevent ear chafing from prolonged mask use. Several deliveries to healthcare facilities were made to help provide PPE to our healthcare workers.



### Sewing masks for healthcare workers

Gr. 10 student Devina Briggs is often found rehearsing for a school play or practicing her fluent French in Mme. Mofazali’s class. Devina also counts sewing among her many talents and quickly put this skill to use creating over 300 cloth masks from donated materials which have been sent to healthcare workers across Canada.



### Whole School Donation Drive

There has been a significant loss of donations to non-profit and charitable organizations that sustain and support

many vulnerable members in our society. Many of these organizations are close to Collingwood’s heart- United Way, Backpack Buddies, Harvest Project, the City of Vancouver and the Evelyn Saller Community Centre. As a small gesture of support, families came together to donate much-needed items to support the work of these community groups.



### ZacPacs for DTES homeless

Over the past year, Gr. 6 student Zachary Weinberg has been working to bring comfort and support to youth and adults who live on the street. The ZacPac project was launched in 2019, with the goal of providing 2200 homeless people with a 20L dry bag that contains a toque, gloves, thermal socks, rain poncho and other supplies to help a homeless person cope with Vancouver’s wet climate. Zac raised over \$135,000 of cash and donations and ZacPacs have been distributed throughout the community to those who need them.



### Front Porch Portraits

Photography students Bill Yao, Simon Guenther, Riley Tam and Tegan Cowan captured front porch family portraits in exchange for a donation to longstanding Collingwood community partner Backpack Buddies, who provide nutritious meals on weekends and holidays to children who suffer from food insecurity.