

bridge

THE MAGAZINE OF COLLINGWOOD SCHOOL



Student-athletes
show their true
colours

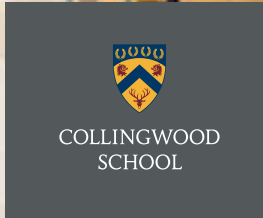


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COLLINGWOOD
SCHOOL

bridge
THE MAGAZINE OF COLLINGWOOD SCHOOL

EDITOR

Angela Nielsen

DIGITAL EDITOR

Sarah Thomas

DESIGN

Monica Martinez

PHOTOGRAPHY

Ryan Tobin

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Please address correspondence to:
Bridge Magazine
70 Morven Drive
West Vancouver, BC V7S 1B2
communications@collingwood.org

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DID YOU KNOW?

Collingwood School is the only Round Square school in Greater Vancouver.

LET'S CONNECT

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NEWS

First Day of Classes after Break, January 11
Re-enrolment, February 1-12
Pro-D Day, February 12
BC Family Day-School Closed, February 15
Last day of classes before Spring Break, March 12
First day of classes after Spring Break, March 29

For a full calendar of school events, please see our weekly News & Reminders or visit collingwood.org.

Dear Collingwood School,

I would like to thank you and your school for running such a beautiful "In My Backyard" program!

In such unprecedented times, it is so important to reach out to people in need throughout our community and you and your students have planned it perfectly!

Thank you to dear Logan for dropping the card and the chocolate by the door! We are fortunate enough to have our son to come and help us around the house but please send our gratitude to all the participants in this program and we wish all of you a merry and safe holidays!

Your Grateful Neighbour



I hope everyone had a relaxing, enjoyable and safe holiday break!

As we continue to navigate this most unusual of school years, I am so proud of the resilience shown by the entire Collingwood Community. From adjusting to new timetables to building outdoor classrooms to developing innovative experiential education programs, each day inspires greater confidence that we will indeed get through this together.

Our two school-wide goals of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Strategic Planning are well underway. The work that we began last year with our Cultural Change Consultants has evolved this year into broader work with EDI specialist Alden Habacon. Thank you to the many parents who joined Alden at our virtual Parent Conference in October. Throughout the fall, Alden has continued to work with our Board, Senior Leadership, Staff and Faculty across both campuses on topics like inclusive leadership, unconscious bias, active bystander training and intercultural training. The ultimate goal of this two-year project is the development of Collingwood's first Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Plan. In the new year, Alden will also be supporting our students as part of the training plans, and we will begin broad stakeholder consultation. There will be a variety of ways for people to contribute to the consultation. You may have already seen an email in December inviting you to participate in Small Group Meetings. These sessions will be facilitated by an independent consultant so participants - students, Alumni, parents, staff and faculty - can share their views and experiences in a safe and confidential setting. For further details about the online meetings, anonymous survey and written submissions, please visit our EDI webpage at collingwood.org

With our 5-year Strategic Plan, Vision 2020, coming to an end this year, we partnered with Shelly Berlin and Ashka Wirk of Berlineaton Management Consultants last year to undertake a new strategic planning process. We had planning sessions with the Board and Senior Leadership last winter and had just launched a survey to parents when we chose to pause our strategic planning due to COVID-19. We will now be re-engaging with our community in February with the goal of having the next Collingwood Strategic Plan ready to launch in September 2021.

Thank you, everyone, for your continued support and engagement in our School! As we head into this new year, I can't help but be hopeful at the promise of new beginnings—for our School, for our greater community and for the post-pandemic world. First up for Collingwood is welcoming our Deputy Head and Head of Morven, Mr. James Lee. Usually, we would roll out the Collingwood red carpet for meet and greet events. But, like everything else, we've had to reimagine how we'll introduce James to our community. I hope you'll find the Q & A with James on the following page a good start.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Lisa Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Lisa Evans,
Head of School

Getting to know James Lee, our new Deputy Head of Collingwood School and Head of Morven

Where did you grow up? Where did you go to school?

I was born in Seoul, South Korea and our family immigrated to Toronto in 1972. Most of my life has been spent in Toronto. I completed a Bachelor of Commerce degree at The Rotman School of Management then completed a Bachelor of Education at The University of Toronto, and later graduated with a Master of Education at Queens University.

What motivated you to want to become an educator?

It was actually my early passion for baseball that got me interested in education. The team environment, both as a player and coach, parallels many intrinsic elements of teaching and learning: engaging, guiding, leading and inspiring others based on your knowledge, experiences and social-emotional development.

Do you recall a transformational teacher you had as a student?

Adrian Della Mora was my high school economics teacher and someone who combined patience, connection and inspiration at the most optimal level. He was very innovative with his teaching practices and down to earth. He got the best out of me, and one of the reasons I decided to pursue a Bachelor of Commerce degree.

Where have you worked previously?

I spent the last nine years as Head of School at The Rosedale Day School in Toronto. Before that, I was the Vice Principal of Villanova College for four years. Before that I spent 11 years at Royal St. George's College. My first teaching job was at Phillip Pocock Catholic Secondary School in Mississauga.

What is it about Collingwood that inspired you to move your family across the country?

A strong and vibrant community that values both academic rigour and a balanced approach to education. I had an opportunity to visit the Morven campus last September and I can't leave out the great view of Grouse Mountain. A fresh alternative compared to large sky scrapers and buildings in downtown Toronto.

What are you excited about most in your new role?

I am looking forward to learning more about what makes Collingwood so special through the lens, perspectives and conversations with faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni and board members. I have seen a lot over 26 years in education,

both public and private, and it's important to listen first, build trust and then collectively see how we can advance our School forward together in a calm, purposeful and impactful manner.

If you had to pick, what would be your favourite of Collingwood's values?

At this point in time, my favourite value would be COURAGE. Students are very well connected today, and there is no doubt that the growing polarization of our world, the world that they are inheriting and the volume of disinformation that may shape the beliefs of others must be contended with a solid education and the COURAGE to lead a balanced, happy and purposeful life. I love the descriptor – "To be a pioneer and leader... Our graduates will use their courage as they rise to meet challenges throughout their lives and seek to make a better future for the world."

Describe one thing about yourself that would surprise people.


I don't eat seafood and therefore, sushi is not in my diet. The rest of my family loves sushi, which I understand is a staple of the west coast. It just doesn't sit right with me and my palate.

What is the thing you are most excited about doing once the pandemic is over?

Having a big BBQ in our backyard and inviting over family and friends. Just enjoying each other's company and having face-to-face conversations without wearing a mask.



#WENTWORTH

 collingwood school



189 likes

Students at both campuses have been creating holiday gifts in support of @northshorefamilyservices. Grade 2 created lovely gift card holders! #Wentworth

 Add a comment... 

 collingwood school



266 likes

Tucked under our Eagle Totem, Junior Kindergarten joins in circle time to learn and reflect about the importance and meaning of today. #OrangeShirtDay #WeSeeYou

 Add a comment... 


 collingwood school



162 likes

What exactly is a Rube Goldberg Machine? It's a machine intentionally designed to perform a simple task in an indirect and over-complicated fashion. #Designthinking #Wentworth

 Add a comment... 


 collingwood school



228 likes

Happy Halloween Collingworld! Stay safe this weekend. #Halloween2020 #Wentworth

 Add a comment... 


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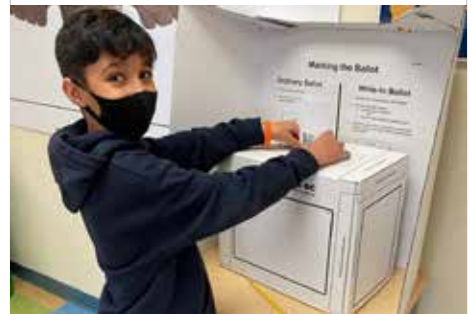


157 likes

This cross country season was different but students still enjoyed running outside and learning how to navigate trails. Thanks to all the coaches! #crosscountry #Wentworth

 Add a comment... 


 collingwood school




174 likes

Gr. 5 had a great first term! We learned about voting, made simple machines, created mask holders and did a ton of experiments. Can't wait for Term 2! #Grade5 #Wentworth

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430 likes

Welcome back! School may look a little different but we are thrilled to have students back on campus. Here's to another amazing school year. [#CollingwoodSchool](#) [#Morven](#)

 Add a comment... 

 collingwood school




225 likes

Last week's Gr. 9 Service EX-L learning group enjoyed a safe, socially distanced activity in partnership with [@vancouver_food_runners](#) and Atira Women's Resource Society [@freeofviolence](#). [#Morven](#) [#Service](#)


 Add a comment... 

 collingwood school



289 likes

Our Grads were extremely comfy for their pajama-friendly Spirit Day today! [#pjsallday](#) [#grad2021](#) [#CollingwoodSchool](#) [#Morven](#)

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 collingwood school




233 likes

Punching bags and other outdoor sports equipment has arrived. And so has the coach from [@griffinsboxing](#). Go Grade 10! [#CollingwoodSchool](#) [#Morven](#)



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 collingwood school




114 likes

On Monday, October 26th, Parent Conference 2020 features Diversity and Inclusion consultant, Alden E. Habacon. [#Morven](#) [#CollingwoodSchool](#)



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243 likes


Cleaning up our community this morning with the Grade 8 Ex-L service learning group. [#morven](#) [#service](#)


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Collingwood Student-Athletes Show Their True Colours

Making the most of student athletics during COVID-19






By David Speirs, Director of Athletics

WHEN SCHOOLS SHUT DOWN LAST SPRING, our Gr. 12 athletes were denied a chance to compete one last time in Collingwood colours. This was tough on our spring athletes, but particularly on the rugby, girls' soccer and tennis teams who all had a legitimate chance to bring home provincial gold.

Plenty of Gr. 11 athletes who would have played key roles last spring also felt the devastation of losing out on a season of sport. Those athletes are now in Gr. 12 and once again they are not getting to play the sports they love. This has been a frustrating double-whammy.

However, as always there are young men and women at Collingwood who rise up and show their true colours. Throughout the fall season and now this winter, many Gr. 12 athletes have refused to feel sorry for themselves and have come out ready to play.

Soccer, volleyball, cross-country and basketball coaches have all seen Gr. 12 athletes step to the fore and lead the way at practices. They have helped to set the tone with their younger teammates. The senior field hockey players became junior field hockey coaches and worked with many of our younger athletes on an individual basis.

This dedication and commitment has been inspirational to our coaches. You can't help but admire these student-athletes who have chosen to play and stay healthy. It's fantastic to see. 



Boys Soccer (left to right) Brodie Kristin, Simon Burns, Arthur Na (missing – Kolbi Winckler).

The senior soccer boys were looking forward to another great year in the very competitive North Shore league. The soccer season always kicks off with a trip to Vancouver Island, where time off the field is just as important as time on the pitch in establishing team unity and culture. Missing this trip was a huge disappointment.



Field Hockey (left to right) Jena Abdel-Barr, Liz Mathisen, Lyla Mollard, Jacqueline Webb, Olivia Huebner, Sophie Kennedy, Seli Edstrand

This special group of seven young women were instrumental in bringing home three straight BC AA championships. This year, the Gr. 12s voted to move up to AAA. It was going to be a tough year, but the team was excited about the prospect of challenging the best teams in the province. With all their Gr. 12 experience and leadership, the Cavs would have been tough to beat.



Girls Basketball (left to right) Rachael Chete, May Chen, Stella Guernsey, Sara Ndlovu-Fraser, Tiffany Wu

Last year, the Cavs earned a spot in the Vancouver Sea To Sky Zone Championships and battled hard before being eliminated. Rachael, Stella and Sara were all starters on that team. May and Tiffany were super-subbs. With all five of these players back and better than ever, Coach McLaughlin was looking forward to a fantastic year.



Boys Basketball (left to right) Arthur Na, Will Zhang, Barry Castelli, Simon Burns, Jack Spouge (Missing – James Borrill, Kai O’Krane)

The North Shore AA league always sends one or two true contenders to the BC AA Championships each year. This season was going to be no different and the Cavs were looking forward to some enormous league tilts against Mulgrave and St. Thomas Aquinas. Arthur, Will, Barry, Simon and Kai all logged major minutes last year and were looking forward to stepping into the spotlight even more this season. James and Jack were looking forward to their first season of senior ball.



Cross-Country (left to right) Chloe Mee, Isabel Drouin

Chloe is unique to all the Gr. 12 athletes in this article. She actually competed this fall. Chloe ran in the one high school race that was held this year on the North Shore. This event was run over three days with each school having a designated time to compete. Isabel missed the event, but hopes she will be competing this spring with the tennis team since Collingwood would be one of the favourites to bring home the BC championship.



Volleyball (left to right) Clare Reynolds, Sophia Garofalo, Justine Brongers

The volleyball team was given a chance to co-host the Vancouver Sea To Sky Zone Championships last year. This extended their season and gave the team a chance to play some of the best teams on the North Shore and in Vancouver. That experience had the coaching staff enormously excited about this season, especially as there was a great group of Gr. 12s to build the team around.





Anyone can do math!

Using new tools, strategies and approaches to teach and learn math at Wentworth

AS RHEANNE STEVENS, Director of Teaching & Learning at Wentworth, so eloquently put it, “The world doesn’t need more walking calculators. Our goal is to help students become resilient problem solvers.”

As we all know, math can be a struggle for some students. But what if math was a place where kids’ problem solving and deep thinking skills could come alive? What if math was a place where they grow in their confidence and adaptability?

Fundamentally, Collingwood believes that mathematics learning can be authentically engaging and is the perfect place for students to take on the much sought after growth mindset. Rather than focusing on getting the right answer, math class can be an incredible place to bring about flexible thinking skills.

So how can we, as educators, make this happen for every student? Wentworth math teachers participated in a professional development workshop with Carole Fullerton, a well-known consultant who works with teachers and parents in the area of numeracy. This session provided some inspiring takeaways:

- the more math you know, the easier it is to use open-ended questions, differentiate, and assess. Building Pedagogical Content Knowledge is an important place for teachers to continue to focus on the evolution of our math program.
- planning and teaching with multiple representations in mind (oral language, pictures, written symbols, manipulative models, real-world situations) is an excellent way to create effective lessons that focus on a deep understanding.
- flipping the teaching model, to begin with open exploration, moving to group discussion and analysis and then finishing with reflecting and connecting that includes the teachers highlighting the Enduring Math Idea will allow for engagement and ownership among the students.

Current research suggests that instead of focusing on “right” and “wrong,” we should give students the chance to engage in challenging and applications-based math material. Students concurrently learn math while readily showing what they don’t know and showing that they can improve and learn and grow. Students should become comfortable with the idea that there is always more than one way to solve every problem. A key part

of fluency is not just knowing a fact but also knowing how to think about solving a problem most efficiently and selecting the best strategy to get there. Research strongly suggests that students learn more authentically when they can see the relevance — when a problem matters for a real-world need or situation. Students also connect deeply to issues they care about. At Collingwood, we want math class and the application of mathematical concepts within any project or situation to be a time when kids explore different approaches to solving a problem, even if they aren't feeling confident. This courage should be supported, honoured and encouraged.

With these ideas in mind, this fall, all our Gr. 3-7 classes have two teachers for math class, and the School has invested in a significant math library of manipulatives. While it is still early in the evolution of mathematics education at Wentworth, the early feedback from our teachers is overwhelmingly positive. It's true. Anyone can do math! **b**



WHAT'S A MANIPULATIVE?

Research supports the use of manipulatives as tools that help students to think and reason in more meaningful ways. By giving students concrete ways to explore, manipulatives such as pattern blocks, tiles and cubes can contribute to the development of well-grounded, interconnected understandings of mathematical ideas. With long-term use of manipulatives in mathematics, educators have found that students make gains in the following areas:

- verbalizing mathematical thinking
- discussing mathematical ideas and concepts
- relating real-world situations to mathematical symbolism
- working collaboratively
- thinking divergently to find a variety of ways to solve problems
- expressing problems and solutions
- using a variety of mathematical symbols
- making presentations
- taking ownership of their learning experiences
- gaining confidence in their abilities to find solutions to mathematical problems
- using methods that they come up with themselves without relying on directions from the teacher

“One of the strengths of our math program this year is the variety found within each unit. This includes everything from games, to manipulatives, to guest speakers, to designing real world word problems, to traditional direct teaching of new concepts. This range of approaches helps to connect math with all types of learners.”

– Molly Young, Gr. 5 Teacher

“Having the opportunity to work with Carole Fullerton solidified my belief that math is accessible to all. It is our job as teachers to introduce the big mathematical ideas in a manner which allows the children to explore concepts at their own pace, and in their own way.”

– Keleigh MacKinnon, Gr. 4 Teacher

“On the best days, I find it inspiring and encouraging to see all my students being able to understand math concepts from different access points. It is exciting to see students normally challenged with mathematics to be quickly grasping concepts with visual tools or manipulatives, or to be noticing trends that go unseen by other students who have a more focused logical approach. I saw this most with the Cuisenaire Rods, with two students who often struggle with number sense noting the colour relations, and the sizing increments almost immediately.”

– Shannon England, Gr. 5 Teacher

TIME TO BE CREATIVE

THIS YEAR'S UNIQUE SCHEDULE AT MORVEN ALLOWS STUDENTS TO GO FURTHER WITH THEIR ARTISTIC EXPRESSION.

As part of Collingwood's plan for school during the pandemic, this fall, Morven students experienced an atypical schedule with fewer, longer classes each day. While this has taken some getting used to, there have been some unexpected benefits. "When you have art for 2 1/2 hours a day, it's pretty intense," said Jake Francis, Head of Visual Arts & Art Teacher at Morven. This extended time in class has allowed students to immerse themselves in their projects and commit to the deep thought and sustained focus needed to develop artistic skills and techniques. As a result, the quality of student projects this fall has been a pleasant surprise. These projects include some of the most advanced and sophisticated Jake has seen in his years at Collingwood. "It was just so great to see the kids back in the studio," said Jake, "and the quality of the work they've been doing has made this fall really special, despite all the challenges." 🗨️



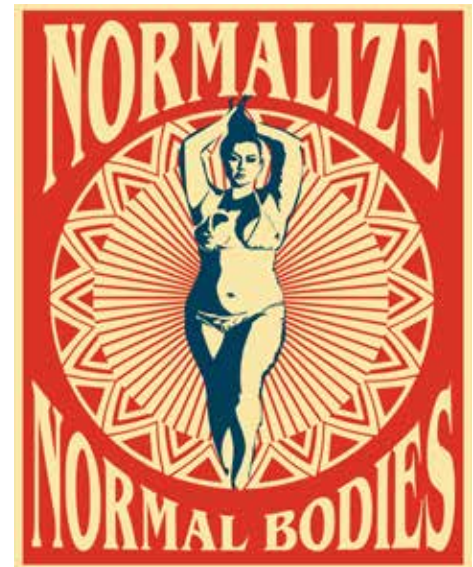
Izzy Hadad, Gr. 10



Rio Donovan, Gr. 11



Arthur Na, Gr. 12



Daisy Li, Gr. 10

Almost Maine on the Small Screen

Almost Maine was set to premier on the Morven Stage last year when the pandemic hit and performances were postponed. Directed by Michael Wener, 32 Collingwood students carried over their rehearsals into the new school year (several new students were cast due to graduation) and have been anxiously awaiting the chance to perform. Given we weren't able to gather in person for live performances, the actors were able to deliver a live performance to a handful of fellow students, faculty and staff. We recorded the performance so it's not too late to enjoy the show in the comfort of your own living rooms on the small screen. You will find the link on the Collingwood website.





Saylor Sprenger, Gr. 12



Lola Bosa, Gr. 12

“With the A/B module, I was able to commit far more time to my two courses than I would’ve been able to in a regular year. The extended classes allowed me to tinker with new tools that I wouldn’t have tried otherwise. My favourite piece was created as a result of working with new tools such as Procreate—highlighted by my sketch recreation of a photo. Overall, I was able to use this experiment to express and exhibit the work I wanted to complete in the course, thanks to the new module.”

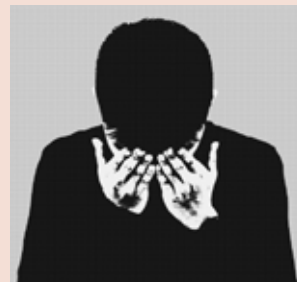
– Arthur Na, Gr. 12

“I loved having the two block schedule for art. Having the 2.5 hours allowed me to really explore and throw myself into the work without feeling rushed. Thanks to the great class environment and assignments, time flew by in class. Honestly, my experience was so positive that it inspired me to take AP studio art. Overall, if I could do it again I would, having two hours for art class was great and I wish we could have that same amount of time in my art class now. “

– Isabel Drouin, Gr. 12

“Students really enjoyed having the time to fully involve themselves in the creative process. Due to the time needed to set-up and clean-up in art, the longer classes allowed students the time to focus on their artwork for an extended period of time. It allowed students the time to explore and experiment with materials and processes before moving on to a sustained project. The students in Art 3 produced some amazing work and their growth in skill was evident. The final independent works the students produced were thoughtful and accomplished as students had the time to really think though, plan, and execute their ideas.”

– Laurie Geddes, AP Studio Art 12 teacher



Sam Fuller, Gr. 12



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Experiential learning in COVID-19-friendly outdoor classrooms


“WE’RE SITTING THERE, on the side of a mountain, surrounded by old, giant cedar trees.” says Jeff Stacey, “We’re literally surrounded by thousands of years of plant wisdom. Every time we go there it’s special. And it’s only 100 meters from the parking lot.”

Jeff is talking about an outdoor classroom in the Wentworth campus woods. While this area has been used for Unbounded Learning for the last several years, it was in the spring of 2019 when the trails were first cut and the locations for the classrooms were identified. Jeff started the process with a machete. Later, a staff service day was spent widening the trails. More work was planned for last spring, but unfortunately the pandemic put these plans on hold. In early September, however, our friends from Camp Summit outdoor school suggested

that some of their camp counsellors, idle due to COVID-19, could assist with the clearing. As a result, we now have three great classrooms, trails and a little bridge. Twenty Wentworth students also pitched in with a service day to build a bench.

Now almost all Wentworth students have the opportunity to enjoy outdoor classes in the woods. Younger students go for cedar walks, learning about flora and fauna. Some classes have story time in the woods. Gr. 5s go for walks to learn about edible and medicinal plants. Gr. 6s and 7s participate in experiential learning activities such as orienteering, where they explore aspects of successful teamwork.

For all ages, the outdoor classrooms seem to provide a magical place for authentic learning. Not surprisingly, a number of other schools in the lower mainland have heard about Wentworth's outdoor classroom and have asked to come for a tour.

"It's right there," says Mr. Stacey, "COVID-19 just kicked us in the pants to use it." 







For more pictures, see the Photo Gallery section of collingwood.org



Mask On/Mask Off

Teachers show the smiles hiding behind their masks

AS WE STARTED THE SCHOOL YEAR and trepidatiously approached teaching and working in person, it was so difficult to see how others were doing behind their masks. There were so many people in the building that had never met, and to not see a full face or expression made new relationships a little strange. Students couldn't see their teachers' smile! New students had never seen their teachers' entire faces! So I set out to show the other side of each of us and encourage everyone to remember the joy of a goofy grin. Or the fun of an impromptu laugh. And to remember that there's more to each of us behind the mask. Lots of smiling, lots of fun, lots of care.

- Cara Tench, Performing Arts Teacher





ADMISSIONS

Important Dates:

The annual Move Up To Morven event will be held on the evenings of February 1st and 2nd at the Morven Campus. This event is for current Wentworth Gr. 7 students and their parents. Look for further communications regarding this event shortly. RSVP is required.

Re-enrolment for the 2021-22 school year commences on Monday, February 1. The deadline for re-registration is Friday, February 12. If your child will not be returning to Collingwood next year, please contact the Admissions office.



UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE

**Did you know?**

This fall, our UG team invited over 15 schools to give virtual presentations to students, and participated in over 120 hours of college-related webinars!

As the new normal continues, we in the University Guidance department are finding students remain optimistic about the future of their education. Our new University Guidance team – Jennifer Adriaanse, Chris Payne, Rachel Pezim, and Rachel Davidson, assisted by Elia Lopez – has dealt with a record number of applications this year. As of December 2020, we have already processed over 1,100 applications to diverse schools and programs across the globe. We're delighted to report our Class of 2021 has received over 40 early acceptances to Canadian, American and international schools.

Moving forward, our commitment is to meet individually with every student in Gr. 8-12 at least once every year. In the fall we met with Gr. 11s and 12s and will work our way through the remaining grades by June. We also have a few exciting new initiatives in store. This term, we are hoping to arrange Gr. 12 outreach to Wentworth, so Gr. 7 students can learn about their upcoming progression through high school. In addition to our ongoing support for written application work, we will run writing clinics for the Gr. 11s to prepare for the various personal statements required during their fall application season.

We are optimistic about our students' futures and look forward to news of more acceptances throughout the spring!

ADVANCEMENT

Tartan Fund Update

Thank you to the entire Collingwood community for your support of the 2020-21 Tartan Fund. Our annual fundraising campaign, donations to the Tartan Fund help to provide supplemental funding for educational resources not covered by tuition and government grants. In these far from normal times, the Tartan Fund has been especially essential to support our new school life.

From thermal cameras to personal protective equipment and plexiglass. From in-classroom technology to virtual school tours. And from cohort lanyards to a large tent that's being used as an outdoor classroom. The Tartan Fund has made an incredible difference to the quality of Collingwood students' educational experience this fall.



That's why your support for the Tartan Fund is more important than ever and our goal is 100% participation from our community. It's not too late to give! You can make your gift by mail, at collingwood.org/tartan or by calling the Advancement department at 604-925-3331, extension 2041. Our students' aspirations are as ambitious as ever, and we want to do everything possible to help them be achieved.



This year we have seized as many opportunities as possible to have our students learning outside and spaced out. Thanks to the Tartan Fund, we were able to purchase a large tent that covers the Wentworth basketball court. It has already been used for music classes, PHE classes, academic classes, group activities, and, of course, morning and lunch recesses. Students and teachers alike are very excited about our new covered outdoor classroom.

- Marc Young, Head of Wentworth



New Advancement Team Members

Collingwood welcomes Annabelle Lin (left) as Advancement Alumni Coordinator and Nadia Afshar as Advancement Database Coordinator.



Parents' Council is so excited to have our children back at school! We know the teachers and leadership have put in tremendous time and effort – and we are so appreciative!

We kicked the year off with virtual welcome back coffee mornings, which allowed us to see each other without masks! With all the pandemic protocols in place, we realized we have our work cut out for us to create the same engagement and connection between CW families while still being safe!

Focussing on how we can maximize the outdoors during the fall, our hiking club and dog walking club jumped right into action with weekly meetings at different outdoor locations where we could meet new parents while doing some of our favourite activities. Unishop had great outdoor sales at both campuses.

Our connections extended to our Cultural Connection Clubs (Chinese, Persian, French and Korean) as well as seeing the start-up of grade-wide book/social clubs, baking/cooking club, wine club and more. During the fall, we had a wonderful virtual baking event that saw chef/parent Regina sharing her tips and tricks for perfect holiday baking. The French Connection Club, led by parent Melanie Pellegrino, entertained us online with some epic French trivia that had us scratching our heads but equally transporting us to France!

Our hot lunch volunteers eagerly jumped in to support the pandemic-friendly lunch program that rolled out in October. As always, class reps have been connecting our parents and supporting the School.

Festive Craft Day created fabulous festive cheer on December 12th, with K to Gr. 3 students making a gift for loved ones with the help of teachers. Our grads showcased our Collingwood spirit by decorating our Collingwood tree in the Dundarave Festival of Lights.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are so pleased with the continued engagement of all of our parents. Amid frequent changes to safety protocols from the Ministry, our parents remained kind and calm and fully supported our leadership team as they navigated the bumps of the pandemic. A small token of our parent appreciation to all faculty and staff in November was well-received, with a message of sincere thanks.

Thank you to parents for role-modelling your grit and determination for our children's continued education and for continuing to show up and lend a hand as volunteers where a need arose. We look forward to a fantastic winter term that will continue to see us holding virtual events that celebrate our rich and vibrant Collingwood parent community.

Take care,

Nemelia Winckler
Parents' Council Chair

**DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA
FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES
TO CONNECT?**

Email pcchair@mycw.org

Alumni Profile: Dr. Shahrzad Joharifard



Shahrzad Joharifard arrived at Collingwood in 1991 when her family immigrated to Canada from Iran. Her first teachers at Collingwood were Lore Acton and Julia Lyndon, who quickly made her feel comfortable in her new country and school. “I never really felt like I went through the transition of being an immigrant,” she says, “They were great in welcoming me to Canada.”

At Collingwood, Shahrzad excelled in all aspects of school life. She played on the field hockey team, held Student Exec positions and eventually served as Head Girl. After graduating from Collingwood in 2001, Shahrzad received degrees from Princeton, Duke and Harvard. Having studied Africa as an undergraduate, she fell in love with the African continent and later worked with a humanitarian NGO to develop a surgical program in Liberia.

Currently, Shahrzad is a pediatric surgeon at BC Children’s Hospital and recently accepted a position with Doctors Without Borders. During the interview process, she was asked what inspired her to apply. She recounted an experience attending a career fair at Collingwood when she was ten years old. “There was a table from Doctors Without Borders, and I picked up a pamphlet” she said, “I must have read that pamphlet 30 times and even had it by my bed. I got that idea into my head and decided to do it. Ms. Evans would be the first to tell you that I’m a very stubborn person.”

Shahrzad’s advice for current Collingwood students is simple, “Don’t turn down opportunities. When a door opens, run towards it and experience what’s on the other side.”

With sadness

On Friday, December 4, Collingwood lost one of its own—2019 Graduate Thomas Simon. More than 120 alumni, faculty, parents and students from across our community came together virtually on Monday, December 7 to honour Thomas, who was remembered for his passion for rugby, his commitment to his teammates (both on and off the field) and for his dedication to his family, including younger brother Jared (’23).



Thomas’s mother, Linda, and his dad, Brent, were also present on the call and we thank them for joining us. Our rugby coaches – Dave Speirs, Tom Larisch, Scott Rickard, Liam Murray and Evan Hall – shared favourite memories before we opened the floor to the Alumni, staff and faculty, and current students to share. We were incredibly grateful to have this time together and to hear so many wonderful stories and memories of Thomas and his time at Collingwood.


ALUMNI EVENTS: YOUR PRESENCE IN A VIRTUAL WORLD



This past November, Collingwood Alumni participated in a webinar led by communications experts from the Humphrey Group to discuss best practices for virtual communication during the era of Zoom calls. Alumni were joined by Lisa Evans, Head of School, in a very successful launch of our webinar series. Stay tuned for upcoming webinar events happening in early 2021. For more information please contact alumni@collingwood.org.

JOIN THE COLLINGWOOD ALUMNI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!

Do you want to get involved in the planning of alumni events and initiatives? Applications are now open for the Alumni Executive Committee. You can apply at collingwood.org/alumni/join-us

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Message from the Chair

This past year has undoubtedly tested all of us at Collingwood. Our routines have been severely disrupted in both our personal lives and at school. And while the adjustments have been difficult and the uncertainties have left many anxious, I believe our Collingwood values of Courage and Community have helped us navigate these challenges very well.

I want to express my sincere thanks to our Senior Leadership Team, Faculty and Staff, who have shown tremendous leadership through these times. There are numerous situations where our leaders have stepped up and delivered beyond expectations.

The passion and commitment of our School's leadership are commendable. I applaud them for their professionalism, creativity, drive and teamwork to make our children's learning environment safe, enriching and the best that it can be.

Throughout this challenging year, the Board has been extraordinarily active in providing guidance and support to our Leadership Team. I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their time, wisdom, support and commitment to Collingwood.

David Smith,
Board Chair

Message from the Treasurer

I am pleased to report the financial health of the Society remains strong.

Our enrolment remained at full capacity of 1250 students between the two campuses. We continue to receive more applications than we have available spots.

Our revenues were up almost 6% year over year, partially driven by our 4% tuition increase, which was similar to increases implemented by comparable schools.

Our operating expenses rose almost 4% year over year, which continues to reflect our strategic goal of attracting and retaining the best faculty. We also invested in a new Veracross Student Information System and incurred unplanned costs as a result of COVID-19. These cost increases were offset in part by cost reductions in other categories for the last three months of the year.

The result for the year was an operating surplus of \$2 million before fundraising and debt repayment. The additional surplus in 2020 was unanticipated and enables us to offset some of our unbudgeted additional costs in 2021 resulting from COVID-19, which are in excess of \$1 million.

Our Fundraising activities contributed \$1.3 million for the year and is comprised of donations to the Tartan Fund, major gifts for specific projects and disbursements from the Foundation toward Financial Aid.

Our balance sheet is strong. Our cash and short-term investments increased \$2.2 million to \$32.1 million, primarily driven by our operating surplus and fundraising. Please note that our strong cash balances each June 30th reflect advance tuitions received for the next school year.

We paid down \$1.5 million of bank debt related to the Morven build and total remaining long-term debt stands at \$10.3 million. Our credit facilities are in good standing and in compliance with all bank covenants.

Finally, as recommended by both CAIS and CRA, we have accumulated unrestricted net assets, or operating reserves, of \$3.1 million to support our risk management planning.

Our Society's annual financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2020 were audited by KPMG, an independent public accounting firm, with an unqualified opinion. To view the complete audited financial statements, please visit Collingwood.org/governance.

Patti Daum,
Treasurer

Thank you for your generosity in 2019-20

We recognize and acknowledge the generous gifts from the following families and friends of Collingwood during the fiscal year of **July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020**. These gifts provide a lasting legacy in support of preparing young people for meaningful lives.

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Gloria Piovesan

*Head of Library,
Morven Campus*

5 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT HER:

1. Parents immigrated from Italy and brought good food and good humour to the table every night.
2. Enjoys working out, baking, knitting and, yes, reading.
3. Is an unconscious punner.
4. In her youth was a competitive figure skater.
5. In 1998, co-authored the Oxford University Press teacher's guide for a Socials 11 textbook. So literally wrote the book on how to teach Socials 11.



GR. 7 students Adam Greyell and Nikolas Panagiotopoulos worked for two weeks over their lunch breaks to share an important message with 800 Rubik's Cubes!

That is amazing! Thank you so much for sharing and please let Adam and Nikolas know I think it's super cool! (And I can't imagine how they managed 800 Rubik's cubes!)

My best,
Bonnie

Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
BC Ministry of Health



WE'RE PROUD TO BE A SUPPORTIVE
MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY.



One of our School's core values is community. With this in mind, our Service Learning program instills a sense of awareness of social and environmental issues through opportunities to work with over 30 different non-profit organizations. That's why our goal is to help shape our students into local stewards, community partners and global citizens. This year, in response to the pandemic, our students will be available to help our neighbours on the North Shore with outdoor chores like yard work, recycling and dog walking. To inquire about student availability, please email service@collingwood.org.



COLLINGWOOD
SCHOOL

Return all undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

Collingwood School

70 Morven Dr, West Vancouver, BC V7S 1B2 Canada