



# Calgary French & International School

2021-22 Community Report



## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Mme Nicola Abrioux-Camirand

Interim Head of School

Dear CFIS community members,

As the Interim Head of School for the 2022-23 school year, and a member of this community since 2009, I am continually inspired by the dedication of our leadership, faculty and staff, and their unwavering commitment to our students, and our school.

In 2021-22, with the pandemic still in our peripheral, CFIS became a candidate school for another International Baccalaureate (IB) programme – the Primary Years Programme. PYP will enhance the education of our students in preschool through to Grade 5 in some very exciting ways. CFIS is already authorized to offer the IB's Bilingual Diploma Programme to our students in Grade 11 and 12, and it is our hope that we will soon be a candidate school for IB's Middle Years Programme (MYP), for students in Grade 6 to 10. CFIS's approach to IB is unique and is a medium for us to reinforce what we continue to value for our students at all ages:

- Creative, innovative and critical thinking.
- Development of the whole student by engagement in the arts, athletics and other co-curricular courses.
- Openness, inquisitiveness and understanding of our community, and the world beyond our experience.
- Leadership development and opportunities to lead, at every age.
- Global focus, cultural diversity and international perspectives.

The CFIS community is incredibly diverse, from the youngest students in Preschool and Junior Kindergarten up to our trilingual Grade 12 graduates. The 2021-22 school year will be remembered for the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, but also for how students, faculty, staff and parents alike stepped up to meet and overcome those challenges.

In today's world, with increasing interconnectedness defining our global society, CFIS provides a clear advantage to our students. Multilingualism opens doors to careers that have not yet been imagined, and research continues to illustrate the cognitive advantages that come with second language acquisition.

The 2021-22 school year's health restrictions limited our ability to have all parents together in the building. In my role as Interim Head of School in 2022-23, I am looking forward to opening the doors again, engaging with parents and celebrating our beautiful school together. The CFIS community is remarkable and it is what continues to draw new families in. Thank you for being a part of it!

Sincerely,  
Nicola Abrioux-Camirand  
Interim Head of School



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CFIS SOCIETY BOARD

Mme Kate Bilson

Board Chair, CFIS Society

From a governance perspective, the 2021-22 school year was a momentous time for CFIS. Since the early 2000s, when the site of the current CFIS campus was purchased and then built out, two separate boards of directors provided oversight for the school. The original CFIS Society's Board was primarily a governance body, responsible for policy development, overarching budget considerations, and the employment relationship with the Head of School. The Calgary International Language Foundation had the same membership as the CFIS Society — parents of students attending CFIS — and had its own mandates, of holding the school's mortgage and maintaining the building envelope and grounds. The Foundation leased the school to the Society.

Following a comprehensive governance review, which was led by representatives of each board through two different iterations of a Joint Board Transition Committee (JBTC), the decision was made to recommend that the two organizations be amalgamated into a single new entity — the CFIS Society.

Like the former iterations, this new entity still retains charitable status. This heavy focus was required to ensure that CFIS's governance approach aligns with expectations set by Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS), in preparation for our school's upcoming accreditation review in late 2024.

The JBTC work was originally started by Peter Forrester, Tommy Gelbman, Lyle Guard and Jim Zunti, who together built an important foundation for the work of the successor committee, composed of Vlad Grigore, Heather Treacy, Derek Wheatley and myself. We also received strong communications support from Marnie Rodgers throughout the roughly 20 months over which all this work occurred. On April 1, 2022, the two boards became one, bringing together a wealth of vast and varied experience and expertise to guide the future of CFIS. The new entity, known as the Calgary French & International School Society, spent the latter half of the 2021-22 school year recasting and restructuring its numerous committees, as well as adding two new committees (Strategic Financial Planning and Academic).

On behalf of the new CFIS Society Board, a heartfelt thank you to all CFIS parents for your ongoing support of this amazing school over the past 12 months. Thank you also to the faculty, staff and members of Administration, who kept CFIS going through the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic and continued to provide our students with a rich, globally focused and dynamic French immersion education.

Sincerely,  
Kate Bilson  
Board Chair, CFIS Society

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our staff and faculty are committed to respecting and learning from all cultures. Locally, we acknowledge the land that our students are educated on, and commit to meaningful actions that support reconciliation with Indigenous communities. The following territorial acknowledgment was created in collaboration with CFIS student Hana S. ('23) in June 2022.

We respectfully acknowledge that our school sits on Treaty 7 territory, and that the people of the Blackfoot Confederacy — including

the Siksiká, Piikáni, Káinai First Nations, the Tsuut'ina First Nation, Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3, and the Stoney Nakoda including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations

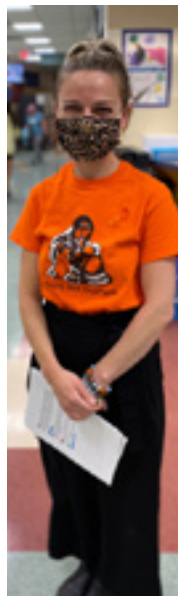
— were the caretakers of the land where we now learn and play.

Calgary French & International School is situated on Aiss ka pooma, a traditional Blackfoot name meaning Medicine Hill, and known today as Paskapoo Slopes. The buffalo that roamed this traditional hunting ground provided food, shelter and clothing to its inhabitants. This land continues to be a place where plants, animals, rocks, water, air and earth, people and all things tangible and intangible exist. At CFIS, in the heart of Aiss ka pooma, we have an ongoing responsibility to protect, learn about and honour the land.

We thank its traditional caretakers and knowledge keepers.

## FACULTY & STAFF APPRECIATION

Our teachers, faculty and staff members are the heart of our school. We would like to acknowledge the efforts of our dedicated and passionate faculty and staff for their exemplary commitment to education and our students' success throughout 2021-22.



## GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

The UNESCO values of acting and advocating for a better world, are synonymous with the values of CFIS. All students from preschool to grade 12 learn in an environment where the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals are directly, and indirectly, infused into their learning.

In 2022, the conflict in Ukraine was addressed in classroom discussions and remained top of mind for many of our students who wanted to do their part to support those suffering on the other side of the world. From a fundraising dance to food-inspired events, CFIS students found ways to respond to the humanitarian needs in Ukraine and surrounding countries by raising money for relief efforts. A total of \$4,439 was raised by CFIS students for Ukraine relief.



### GOODIES FOR GOOD

The concept was simple, each member of the Grade 4 classes would bake or bring tasty treats to sell for no more than \$2 each.

The Grade 4 bakesale in May 2022 brought out droves of students, teachers and staff to raise over \$2,500 for relief to Ukraine via the Red Cross.

### PASTA DRIVE

Grade 8 students (Alexander B., Kate B., Sky C., Marley D. and Charlotte G.) gathered their classmates to present information on Amigo Relief Missions, a humanitarian group that has been providing relief to Ukraine for years. They ended with a request to assist in Amigo Relief's efforts through donations of pasta. Their initiative collected pounds of pasta to be sent across the globe.



## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

### International Baccalaureate Programmes

Grade 11 and 12 students in the IB Diploma Programme (DP) experience the impact of our international education as they work towards graduation. Students in the CAS (Creativity, Action & Service) elective earn DP credits in many exciting and unique ways. The following were part of students' CAS portfolios during the 2021-22 school year.

- Being part of the cast, orchestra, or technical crew in the school musical, *Legally Blonde*.
- Organizing the 2021 House Olympics.
- Going to SHAD at the Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute in Toronto.
- Donating hair to make wigs for kids with cancer.
- Trying new sports like surfing, rock climbing and even working out in our school workout room.

In 2021-22, CFIS entered the candidacy phase to offer IB Primary Years Programme (PYP). Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, all CFIS students in Preschool to Grade 5 will be part of PYP — an exciting approach to student learning that encourages children to develop their critical thinking through inspired curiosity and wonder! We are also currently in the consideration phase for the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP), and within a few years expect to be a full IB Continuum school.

## 2021-2023 DP COHORT

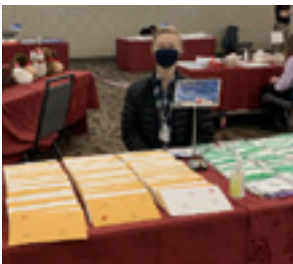
6 IB bilingual diploma candidates

88%  
of grade 11 students completed at least two IB subjects

100%  
of CFIS grade 11 students are enrolled to complete the French IB certificate

## CHARACTER EDUCATION

The Round Square approach is built around six core themes and 12 underpinning “discoveries” that together provide a framework to support schools in embedding character education within and beyond the curriculum. At CFIS, we celebrated a number of student initiatives in the Round Square International Change Leaders (ICL) Club this year.



Volunteering at the Calgary Cerebral Palsy Winter Carnival, and at their annual bike fitting program in April. (image of the child on the bike provided by CP Kids & Families)



Collecting donations in support of the Calgary Mustard Seed, and pasta that was shipped to Ukraine.

## INTERNATIONALISM

ICL (International Change Leaders) students facilitated global discussions with other Round Square schools on topics like sustainable tourism, culture, mental health and EDI. These same students were recognized by Round Square for their efforts and professionalism in leading an online French Language Lab. Two of our grade 11 students (Evan A. and Elliot S.) also took part in the online Round Square International Conference in September.

## TRAVEL STUDIES

To our students and staff's delight, 2022 brought with it the opportunity for our Travel Studies program to return. In addition to many of our Grade 7, 8 and 9 Vikings exploring French and Canadian culture in Quebec and Saskatchewan, three students (Grades 9 and 10) took part in exchanges to Peru and Argentina.

We were also thrilled to be part of an exchange with Le Salesien, a Round Square school in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Seven of our students spent a week at Le Salesien during their Global Education Experience in May, and 15 Le Salesien Grade 8 students attended CFIS. Thank you to all our CFIS families who hosted our guests!

## LEADERSHIP

Student leadership was alive in the 2021-22 school year! Environmental sustainability was Alexander B's ('26) focus for fundraising that went towards green initiatives, including the future installation of rain barrels and the maintenance of the school garden. For his visionary ideas and efforts, he was awarded the City of Calgary's Jack Leslie Youth Environmental Award.

Martine J. ('26) worked on an activity for International Women's Day, and several ICL students took on Black History Month initiatives.

Additionally, the ICL committee worked on welcoming guests for Diversity Days, and also had a role in reaching out to potential guest speakers.

## ANNUAL FUND & GIVING IMPACT

Each year, the CFIS community generously offers their time, talent and financial support to our school. Thank you to our incredible community of parents, alumni and friends who gave to CFIS during the 2021-22 school year.

With this generous support, we gratefully received over \$131,000 to help us advance our services, facilities and student learning experiences. In addition to over \$50,000 in general donations, \$81,116 was donated to Annual Fund initiatives in 2021-22.

Thank you to the CFIS Society Board for inspiring us with 100% participation during the CFIS Giving Day — and our entire community of donors for helping us make progress towards achieving our vision and enriching the learning environment for our students!



## GIVING HIGHLIGHTS

CFIS Grocery Card Program  
**\$350,000** in the last 15 years

Head's Initiative Fund  
**\$28,055**

Mission Impact Fund  
**\$24,411**

CFIS Giving Day  
**\$18,310**

Matching Gift Campaign  
**\$15,000**

Silent Auction  
**\$13,645**

Round Square Travel Studies Bursary  
**\$11,875**

Bridging Bursaries  
**\$5,375**



## DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

### MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone in the community that contributed a total of \$5,000 and helped us unlock \$10,000 from our matching donor!

### HEAD'S INITIATIVE FUND

The Head's Initiative Fund supports philanthropic contributions that advance our student's learning and well being, and faculty and staff professional growth and well being. In 2021-22, donations were directed to:

- The Core Cafeteria Enhancements
- Diversity Week Speakers
- ECE Learning Commons Tables & Chairs (sized for students Pre K-Grade 6)
- Elementary Division Whiteboard Tables
- STEM Week — Telus Spark & Zoo School Experiences
- Indoor Sensory Path
- Outdoor Sensory Path Stencil
- Music Instruments and Soundproofing Panels
- ECE Learning Strategist Resource Cart
- ECE Numeracy Project

### MISSION IMPACT FUND

\$24,411 was donated to fund leading-edge technology, equipment and spaces at the school.

### BRIDGING BURSARIES

\$5,375 was contributed to this fund that supports current, enrolled, CFIS families with students in K-12 that are facing temporary financial difficulties.

### ROUND SQUARE TRAVEL STUDIES BURSARY

In the 2021-22 school year, \$11,875 was donated to the new Round Square Travel Studies Bursary, and two bursaries were awarded for two CFIS students to attend the 53rd Round Square International Conference at Oxford University in September 2022. Each year five \$1,000 bursaries will be available for funding requests to support student travel and attendance at Round Square conferences.

*"In Round Square, I learned to appreciate the privilege that I have in having had so many opportunities academically and travel-wise. I met so many new people with experiences that differed from mine, who I still keep in touch with. The exchange and conference programs were the best things I decided to participate in during high school as they opened my eyes and my world to new perspectives."  
- Emma Simpson '21*

### CFIS GROCERY CARD PROGRAM

During the 15 years the Grocery Card Program ran at CFIS, over \$350,000 in donations were contributed to enrich student and faculty life.

Thank you to the dedicated parent volunteers of this program:  
Jackie Quick (Christensen)-Founder, Bonnie Stowkowy, Jennifer Fernyc,  
Isabelle Godin, Holly Crowe, Lisa Godin, Angela Jarvie

In 2021-22, the remaining Grocery Card Program funds were allocated to: Sports Field Equipment, Band Equipment, Garden Enhancements, and a Geochron World Clock. We would like to thank everyone involved in this program, and look forward to creating new parent-led volunteer initiatives in the future!

## GRADUATING GLOBAL CITIZENS

This school year, our community celebrated with pride as our Grade 12 graduates look forward to starting post-secondary studies at some of the top universities across Canada.

Universite de Moncton  
Queen's University  
*University of British Columbia*  
McMaster University  
University of Toronto  
University of Alberta  
University of Calgary  
*Mount Royal University*  
University of Ottawa  
University of Alberta (Campus Saint-Jean)  
Alberta University of the Arts  
Concordia University  
Carleton University

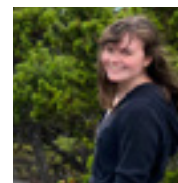
## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

We were thrilled to reconnect with a number of our alumni and see where they are today! Many of our graduates have gone on to study all over the world, and currently sit in exciting roles within their careers. From a Policy Analyst with Climate Change Canada, to Software Engineer with GM Canada, and even pursuing a Master's Degree in Musical Theatre in London, England, our CFIS graduates have found their passion!

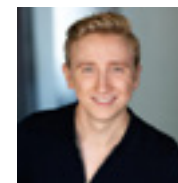
During 2021-22, we featured the following alumni in new 'alumni spotlights'.



Stephen Warnica  
(Class of 2012)



Alessandra Mackay  
(Class of 2016)



Robbie Hebert  
(Class of 2014)



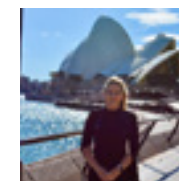
Leone Tory  
(Class of 2013)



Arran Sutherland  
(Class of 2017)



Lindsay Kuch (Class of 2016)



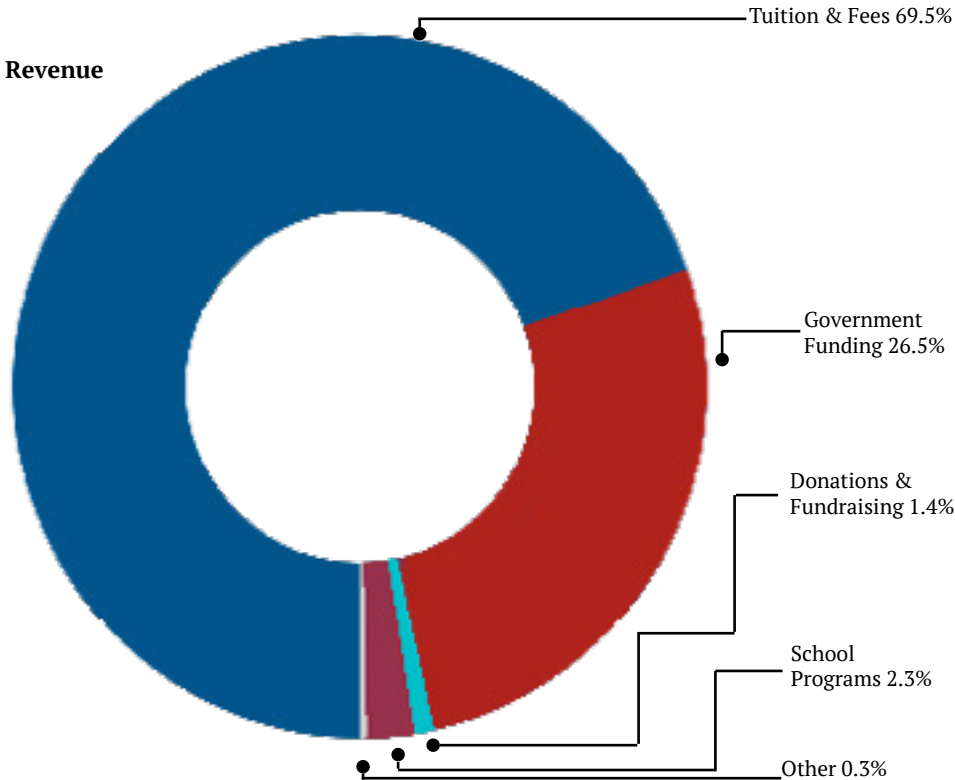
Emma McCourt  
(Class of 2018)

A special thanks as well to the CFIS Alumni who volunteered their time with sports teams, musical program, band program, and all initiatives at the school!

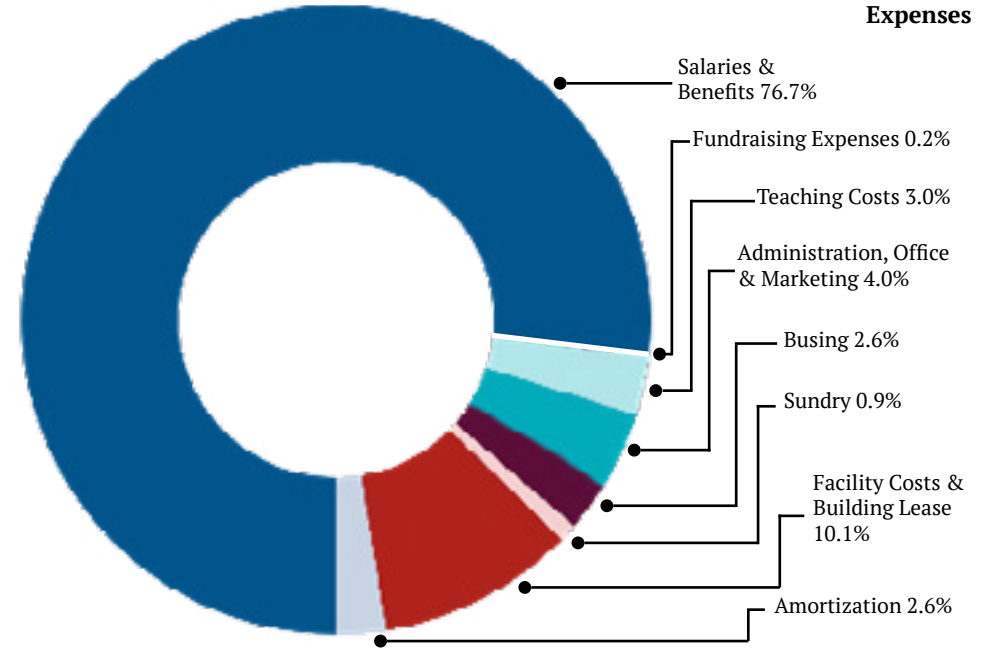
## FINANCIALS

The figures below are based on audited financials from the fiscal year ending August 30, 2021.

### Revenue



### Expenses



Financial Results were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic including: additional government funding and 6-month lease deferral. This was offset by the closure of cafeteria and no rental activities, increased bus costs, more bursaries awarded, additional technology costs to support remote operations, and increased staffing costs to support COVID-19 protocols. In addition, enrolment in the 2020-21 school year decreased by 25 students from the previous year.

Copies of CFIS audited financial statements are available by emailing Julie Thomson, Director of Finance at: [jthomson@cfis.com](mailto:jthomson@cfis.com)

CFIS is recognized among the best Elementary and Secondary education institutions in Canada as a Canadian Accredited Independent School (CAIS).

As multilingual learners in a UNESCO Associated School, CFIS students lead age-appropriate advocacy and humanitarian work related to their studies in their community and around the world through their participation in our travel studies program, Round Square, and through the globally-recognized International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme.

## CREDITS

Mme Nicola Abrioux-Camirand  
Interm Head of School

M. Ryan Caswell  
Conceptual Development, Contributing Writer,  
Contributing Editor

Mme Lana Van Damme  
Graphic Design, Contributing Writer, Production  
Support, Contributing Photographers

Mme Dana Silver  
Contributing Writer, Contributing Editor

Mme Gwen Nowosad  
Contributing Editor, Production Support

Contributing Photographers  
Mme Naileen Jessa  
Sr. Andres Barillas-Acosta  
CFIS Faculty

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CAIS



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Member of  
the Associated Schools  
Network



# Merci! Thank you! Gracias!

Calgary French & International School would like to thank the entire CFIS community for their continued support!  
We look forward to the 2022-23 school year and delivering an exceptional education focused on active leadership, global citizenship and academic excellence.