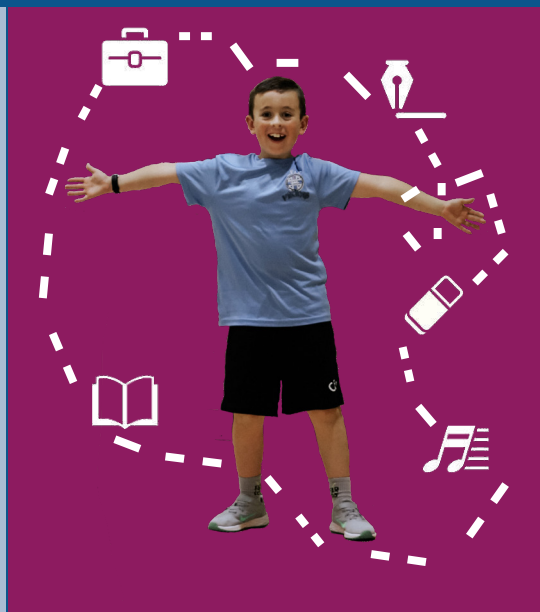




# Calgary French & International School

## REPORT TO COMMUNITY 2022-23



# A Message from our Head of School

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Dear CFIS Community,

As I mark the completion of my first year as Head of School at Calgary French & International School, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to our incredible students, staff, parents and CFIS Society Board. Your dedication and profound belief in who we are and what we do at CFIS continues to inspire me each and every day.

“ I AM FILLED WITH IMMENSE PRIDE FOR ALL THAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR. WE FOCUSED ON REBUILDING THE CFIS COMMUNITY, AND I BELIEVE WE ARE WELL ON OUR WAY TO ENSURING THAT “THE FEELING YOU GET WHEN YOU COME THROUGH THE DOORS” THAT CFIS HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN FOR, AGAIN PERMEATES THROUGH OUR BUILDING. ”

Through countless events, concerts, student-led initiatives and parent engagement sessions (including hosting events with the Honourable Michaëlle Jean) we made incredible strides in being that special place again.

Our dedicated faculty has continued to move CFIS forward on our International Baccalaureate journey, while also infusing ministerial changes, experiential learning and travel into their curriculum. It was a highlight for me to speak to our 2023 graduates at their graduation ceremony in June and see the fruition of their CFIS education first hand. This graduating class will continue their studies in a variety of fields, including Arts, Engineering, STEM, Business, Criminology, Finance, Law, Linguistics, Sciences, Politics and International Studies — across Canada, and all the way to Germany. As CFIS graduates, these 24 young adults have open doors to English, bilingual and Francophone post-secondary programs, both nationally and internationally.

In addition to an eventful year, we tackled the development of our next Strategic Plan that will continue to move CFIS forward in the years to come. Our 2023-2028 strategic priorities are:

1. Grow vibrant school divisions within a full French immersion and international context.
2. Engage our diverse community.
3. Value and celebrate our staff.
4. Strengthen our financial health.
5. Enhance and communicate our brand and value proposition.

With these priorities in mind, our transitional immersion program (Embark) for Grades 1 and 2, and our new Junior Preschool toddler program launched in September 2023!

As we look ahead, I am excited about the possibilities and opportunities that await us. With your continued support and active involvement, I have no doubt that we will reach new heights of excellence in education and continue to make a positive impact on the lives of our students and the broader community.

Thank you for being an integral part of our wonderful school community, and I am eagerly looking forward to the year ahead.



Nicola Abrioux-Camirand  
Head of School





# A Message from the CFIS Society Board

**D**ear CFIS Community,

As we look back on the 2022-23 school year, it is with great enthusiasm that the Board of Governors reflects on the remarkable journey we have undertaken and we look forward to the exciting path ahead.

The Board of Governors plays a vital role in shaping CFIS's future. We oversee the strategic plan, provide fiscal oversight, and guide governance policies. We are proud of our standing and ad hoc committees, each focused on specific aspects of our school's well-being. Together, we work to ensure that CFIS continues to excel in every aspect of its mission.



As we embrace the coming year, we want to acknowledge our teachers and staff, including our dedicated senior leadership team, led by our new Head of School, Mme Nicola Camirand. With Mme Camirand's continued leadership, we are confident in our ability to move into its next phase.

Our mission and vision are the guideposts that direct our path as we embark on our strategic priorities for the next five years, from 2023 to 2028. These are:

1. Grow vibrant school divisions within a full French immersion and international context: We are committed to nurturing a learning environment that fosters academic excellence and global citizenship. By providing a full French immersion learning environment enriched with an international perspective, we aim to equip our students with the skills and mindset necessary to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.
2. Engage our diverse community: Our community of students, staff and parents is the heart and soul of CFIS. We embrace our rich diversity in all its forms and seek to strengthen the bonds that unite us. Through inclusive and collaborative initiatives, we will continue to create a sense of belonging for all members of CFIS.



3. Value and celebrate our staff: The dedication and talent of our faculty and staff are at the core of our success. We recognize and celebrate their unwavering commitment to our students' growth and development. By investing in our staff's professional growth and well-being, we ensure that CFIS remains a hub of excellence in education.

4. Strengthen our financial health: Responsible financial stewardship is crucial to our long-term sustainability. We are dedicated to securing the necessary resources to support our mission and strategic objectives while maintaining fiscal stability. This will enable us to provide our students with the best possible educational experience.

5. Enhance and communicate our brand and value proposition: CFIS has earned its reputation as a vibrant and progressive school with an exceptional educational program and strong language offerings. We are committed to enhancing our visibility and ensuring our unique educational model is recognized to maintain and attract mission-aligned families and students.

CFIS holds a special place within the landscape of independent schools and we are known for our vibrant, caring and inclusive approach to educational excellence. We are dedicated to nurturing well-rounded, fluently multilingual young global citizens who appreciate the importance of cultural appreciation and understanding.

Thank you for being an integral part of our CFIS community. Together, we will continue to inspire excellence, embrace diversity, and shape the future leaders of tomorrow.

Sincerely,  
CFIS Society Board of Governors



# Our Community

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**T**he CFIS community propels us to continually elevate our education and school environment. We are bound together by shared values and a common purpose, forging strong connections as we collaboratively strive to offer our students an exceptional education, with a focus that extends beyond academic growth. We aim to nurture students' happiness and fulfillment, while instilling a strong sense of responsibility and active citizenship. Together, we empower our students to flourish as they prepare for a promising future.

**Agents of Change** | We delight in our students' remarkable journey as they embrace their passions, foster a lifelong love for learning, and evolve into responsible stewards of a dynamic world. Our students' dedication continually inspires us, and we are grateful for the meaningful contributions they make to our school, local and global communities.

**Parent Power** | Volunteering at CFIS fosters a powerful bond among parents, family members and other dedicated volunteers, all of whom play a vital role in enhancing the student experience. We extend heartfelt gratitude to everyone who generously contributed their time and talent during the 2022-23 school year. CFIS thrives and flourishes thanks to your invaluable contributions and would not be the same without you!

**Students First** | The collective effort and passion of our staff truly reflects their commitment to the well-being and success of our students. Secondary IB teachers meticulously planning a week of immersive STEAM activities, staff mentoring Grade 5 students for their PYP Exhibition, Board members actively engaging with the student-led Jörð environmental group, and our student well-being team creating a culture of kindness and care for all. We are proud to have such an outstanding team at CFIS shaping the future of our students.

**Together We Thrive** | Parents, extended family and caregivers are instrumental partners with CFIS staff, playing a crucial role in the education of our students. Their encouragement, guidance, and active participation in school activities create a nurturing atmosphere, whether involved as volunteers who foster the love of reading, or as champion ambassadors of our school, our families are aligned with our mission to encourage the ongoing pursuit of personal best.

**Our Legacy** | At CFIS, we celebrate our alumni as they chart their unique paths, forever remaining an integral part of our school's story — a tale of connection, growth, and lasting significance. Through coaching and officiating they share their expertise in sports and extracurricular activities, and they play a vital role across our Senior High. At information sessions and graduation, students and parents alike, learn of our alums post-graduation experiences that highlight university experiences and the invaluable lessons gained from their CFIS education.

**Our Path Ahead** | The CFIS Society Board plays an instrumental role in shaping our school's future and ensuring its continued success. The Board empowers our educators to thrive, our students to excel and our entire school ecosystem to flourish. Their visionary leadership and dedication fosters an environment of innovation and continuous improvement, driving us closer to our collective goals. We express our gratitude for the thoughtful direction they offer to the school.



# Student Leadership & Sustainability



As our younger students advance at CFIS, the Secondary student-led Jörð (pron: Yord) Environmental Group will play a vital role in involving them in impactful work across the school.

Jörð student advocates led various sustainability initiatives, driving positive change within our school community and beyond, including organizing two sustainable markets, revitalizing the school garden, engaging in beekeeping and planning other impactful projects throughout 2022-23.

Their commitment to sustainability reflected their passion, innovation and determination to create a lasting impact, making them true leaders in the realm of global citizenship.





# Global Citizenship & Experiential Learning

At CFIS, student travel and experiential opportunities go far beyond typical sightseeing. Our focus on educational travel and cross-cultural connections has a profound impact on the understanding that our students have on the world around them. It also allows them to develop resilience, flexibility, empathy and independence. Students, and their chaperones, dedicate time preparing and debriefing on their experiences in a way that allows for the important work of reflection and integration of learning to take place.

Our commitment to offering quality experiential programming that is engaging and impactful was demonstrated in 2022-23 through a number initiatives and projects, including:

- Customized risk-management and travel safety training for all overnight trip leaders from a leading organization in the field.
- Global education and safety training for all staff chaperones.
- Reexamination of programming and experiential options at all grade levels.
- Expanding on new experiential learning options, including group exchanges and smaller Round Square Conferences in the United Kingdom and Ottawa. In the 2022-23 school year, 27 students from grades 8-12 took part in a Round Square Conference.

## CFIS Travel Studies Destinations

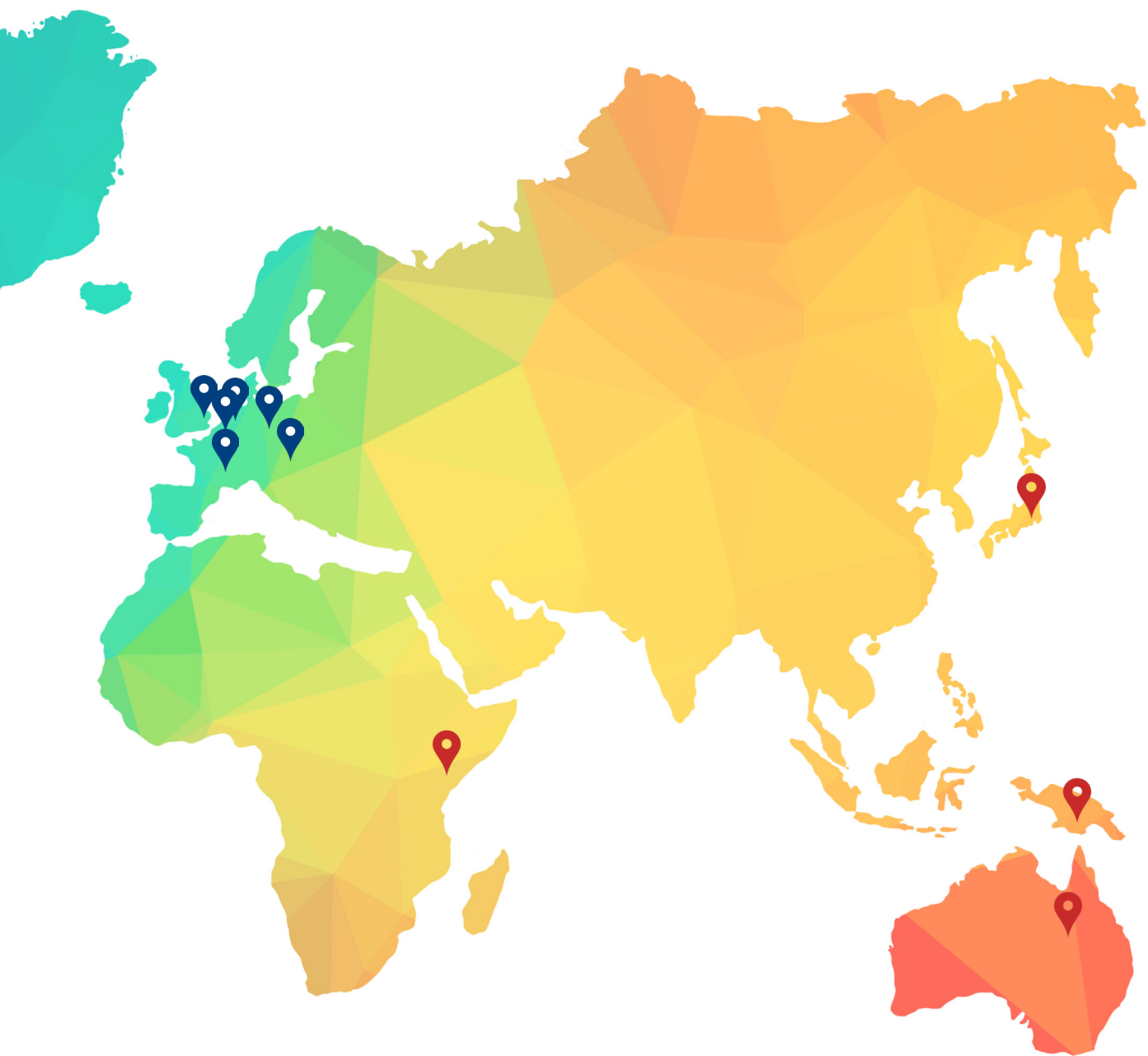
### 2022-23

Quebec  
Saskatchewan  
England  
Austria  
Germany  
France  
Netherlands  
Belgium  
Costa Rica  
Ottawa

### 2023-24

Kenya  
Kananaskis  
British Columbia  
Galapagos & Ecuador  
New York City  
Australia & New Zealand  
Japan  
Quebec  
Saskatchewan





# CFIS Vikings Spirit!

## A Message from Sr. Daniel Mondaca, Director of Athletics

Every year many athletes and coaches begin their sport seasons with one goal in mind, winning. A singular focus on winning, however, is the one thing that actually turns kids away from the sports they love. Society tells us to measure ourselves by our success, but I believe that the end result does not measure who we are.

I believe that what does measure our success, is what we put in and the process and journey we embark on. At the beginning of every year, I meet with our coaches and players to remind them of this idea, the philosophy that guides me, and what I want to instill in our athletics program.

Some ask, “..isn’t winning important and are you saying we shouldn’t value winning?” My response is always the same, “Don’t get me wrong, I like winning, but it’s not what drives me and it shouldn’t be what drives the athletes we coach.”

“ THE ULTIMATE IS NOT TO WIN, BUT TO REACH WITHIN THE DEPTHS OF YOUR CAPABILITIES AND TO COMPETE AGAINST YOURSELF. – BILLY MILLS ”

As a smaller school, CFIS normally plays in a division 2 league, but what happens when you focus more on what you put in rather than the end result? Our Grade 9 Girls Volleyball team was recently given this challenge. What if the focus is to improve and out work others, regardless of whether you win or not and what if you try this in the division 1 league?

Not only did the team win the league banner, but they went undefeated the entire season. If you ask these students what they remember the most, many will tell you about the process, about all players getting an opportunity to play even in the crucial points of the final game and the life lessons they learned through sport.

Hard work is not always rewarded, but you will want to do it again and again when you feel you succeeded with the effort you gave and what you put into the process.



Members of the 2022-23 CFIS Vikings Grade 9 Girls Volleyball team at their league-winning game!



# Facilities Update

One of the most important ways we support student success involves tailoring the school environment to optimize learning and development. When summer rolls around, the CFIS facilities team springs into action, turning our ambitious plans into reality through a series of enhancements to our school.

The hard work of our Facilities team is part of our standing commitment to upgrading, modernizing and improving the spaces our learners utilize. We hope you enjoy the improvements as much as we do!

In the 2022-23 school year we:

- Updated secondary gym floor, added more badminton courts, new volleyball nets and pads.
- Painted the walls on the main floor.
- Added new fencing in the ECE playground for the new Junior Preschool program.
- Added additional security cameras in more strategic locations around the building.
- Updated the venting in the CORE Cafeteria kitchen.
- Changed old lighting ballasts to new generation ballasts to increase energy efficiency.



# Primary Years Programme

## Grade 5 Exhibition

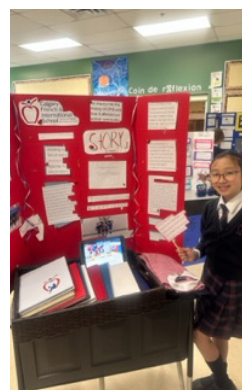
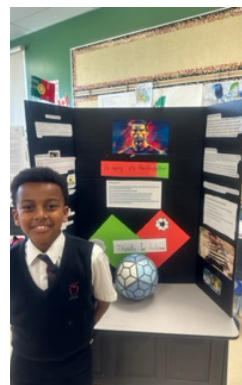


## Primary Years Programme

The commitment of CFIS teachers and staff members creates an exceptional learning environment, empowering students to explore and expand their understanding in numerous ways. Their dedication ensures that students have access to an educational experience that fosters a journey of profound learning and personal growth.

In the 2022-23 school year, CFIS students from preschool to grade 5 were immersed in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP). The culmination of this captivating world concluded with the Grade 5 PYP Exhibition, where our students shared their extraordinary projects and thinking. Fifth-grade students showcased their curiosity, creativity and exploration of society, real-world issues and concepts. Their dedication and hard work were evident as they tackled challenges, delved into meaningful research, and articulately communicated their discoveries. The exhibition was a true celebration of their growth as learners, thinkers and engaged global citizens. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments and the positive impact they made with their innovative inquiries. The Grade 5 Exhibition was a testament to the limitless potential of our students, leaving us all truly inspired.

Inquiry subjects included: the evolution of bread, the evolution of the Hermann tortoise, the history of CFIS, the evolution of the hockey stick and how we make decisions, among many, many more!



# Celebrating Excellence in CFIS Education

Sixteen years strong at CFIS in the 2022-23 school year, we proudly celebrated the impactful journey of Chantalle Bourque, an extraordinary educator whose influence extends far beyond the classroom. With a steadfast commitment to fostering global-mindedness, she ignites sparks of action within our students, empowering them to become compassionate and discerning global citizens. Chantalle's dedication to creating relevant learning experiences inspires a passion for knowledge and change — driving our students to embrace challenges and to take action. Chantalle epitomizes the essence of a world-class educator who is charting a path to build a better world for the next generation as our new Director of Global and Experiential Education, and recipient of the City of Calgary 2023 Community Achievement Award Recipient: Education.



“

I AM BEYOND THRILLED TO BE THE DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL EDUCATION AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AT CFIS. THE VALUES AND IDEALS THAT GUIDE GLOBAL EDUCATION HAVE LONG BEEN PART OF THE FABRIC OF OUR SCHOOL, AND WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE. OUR AFFILIATIONS WITH UNESCO, ROUND SQUARE AND IB ALL DEMONSTRATE OUR COMMITMENT TO PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR A WORLD THAT IS TRANSFORMING QUICKLY, EMPOWERING THEM TO BE LEADERS IN FACING COMPLEX CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES. THIS POSITION WILL ALLOW US TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE OUR CO-CURRICULAR, EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN A MYRIAD OF WAYS. DEVELOPING AND ENHANCING MEANINGFUL, ENGAGING AND AUTHENTIC LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR ALL STUDENTS AT CFIS IN ALIGNMENT WITH OUR STRATEGIC PLAN IS MY MAIN FOCUS.

I AM EXCITED TO SEE NEW PROGRAMMING, OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES FOR ALL OF OUR STUDENTS START TO TAKE SHAPE OVER THE COMING MONTHS AND YEARS, INCLUDING THE HOSTING OF OUR VERY FIRST ROUND SQUARE CONFERENCE, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS WHICH WILL BROADEN OUR STUDENTS' HORIZONS AND UNDERSTANDING OF OUR SHARED WORLD.

- MME CHANTALLE BOURQUE

”



## Class of 2023



**24**  
BILINGUAL  
DIPLOMAS  
AWARDED

**12**  
ACCEPTED INTO  
SCIENCE &  
ENGINEERING  
PROGRAMS



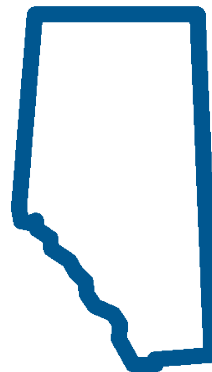
**12**  
ACCEPTED  
INTO FINE ARTS  
& COMMERCE  
PROGRAMS



**5**  
STUDENTS  
AWARDED  
IB BILINGUAL  
DIPLOMA



**100%**  
ACCEPTANCE TO  
POST SECONDARY  
INSTITUTIONS



**100%**  
STUDENTS ELIGIBLE  
FOR THE RUTHERFORD  
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

**C** FIS graduates are active global citizens with a foundation for life-long success, fluent in French, English and Spanish.

In addition to their Secondary School Diploma, CFIS awards our graduates an Bilingual Diploma. This diploma recognizes the completion of French Language Arts 30-1, English Language Arts 30-1, Spanish Language & Culture 30, as well as participation in the full French immersion learning environment at Calgary French & International School.

We are proud of our graduates' diverse areas of post-secondary study. The Class of 2023's chosen areas of study include:

Bachelor of Arts, Ballet, Biochemical Engineering, Biology, Business, Commerce, Criminology, Engineering, Finance, International Development & Globalization, Law & Society, Linguistics, Management & International Business, Neuroscience Political Science & Philosophy and Theatre Production

## **Class of 2023 post-secondary acceptance list:**

**Arizona State University**

**Carl Benz School of Engineering**

**Carleton University**

**Colgate University**

**Colorado State University**

**Concordia University**

**Dalhousie University**

**Hattori-Williams School of Ballet**

**McMaster University**

**Queen's University**

**Sorbonne (Université de Paris)**

**University of Alberta**

**University of British Columbia**

**University of Calgary**

**University of Guelph**

**University of Ottawa**

**University of Saskatchewan**

**University of Toronto**

**University of Victoria**

**University of Windsor**

**University of Waterloo**

**Wilfrid Laurier University**

**York University**



# Keeping Connected with Our Alumni

CFIS alumni remain a powerful source of inspiration for excellence in education and in life. We value the chance to stay connected to our former students, organizing events that unite our community and forge long-lasting bonds. With our Alumni-Secondary Pancake Breakfast resuming again in December 2022, we welcomed nearly 20 CFIS alumni for a morning of sharing food, university experiences and dance moves at the annual Airband competition!

As we continue to nurture our connections and celebrate the spirit of lifelong learning, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to our alumni guest speakers for helping to make the Class of 2023 graduation day an unforgettable and inspiring occasion. We are thankful for the time and effort our alumni guest speakers dedicated to sharing their experience and insights that demonstrated their commitment to the growth and success of our students.



Alumni in the classroom and on the dance floor (December 2022)





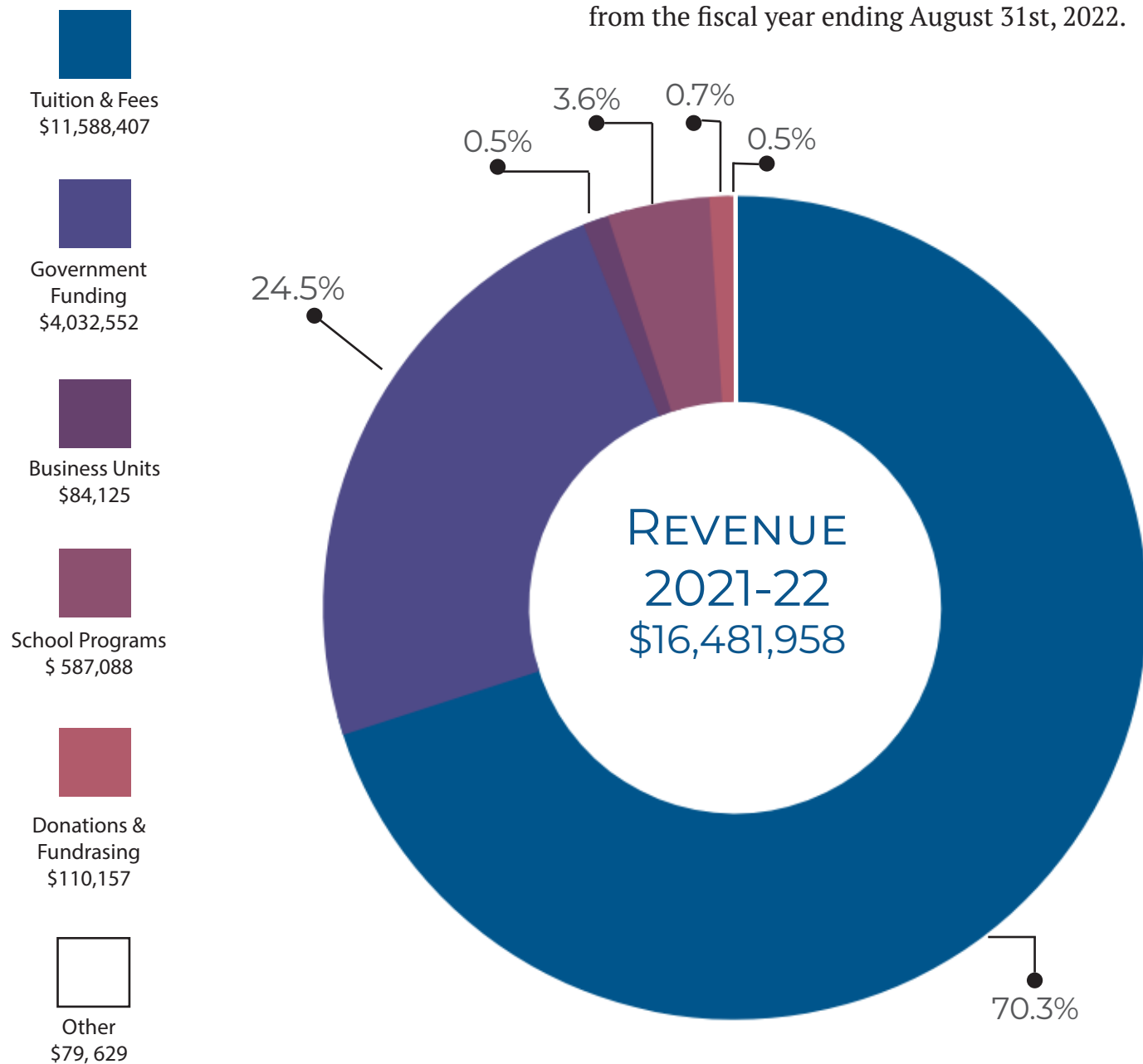
Class of 2020 visiting during the December 2022 pancake breakfast.



CFIS Alumna Louisa L. ('20) and former student Zane S., share heartfelt wishes during the Class of 2023 graduation celebrations.

# Summary of Financials

The figures below are based on audited financials from the fiscal year ending August 31st, 2022.



Salaries & Benefits  
\$12,299,692

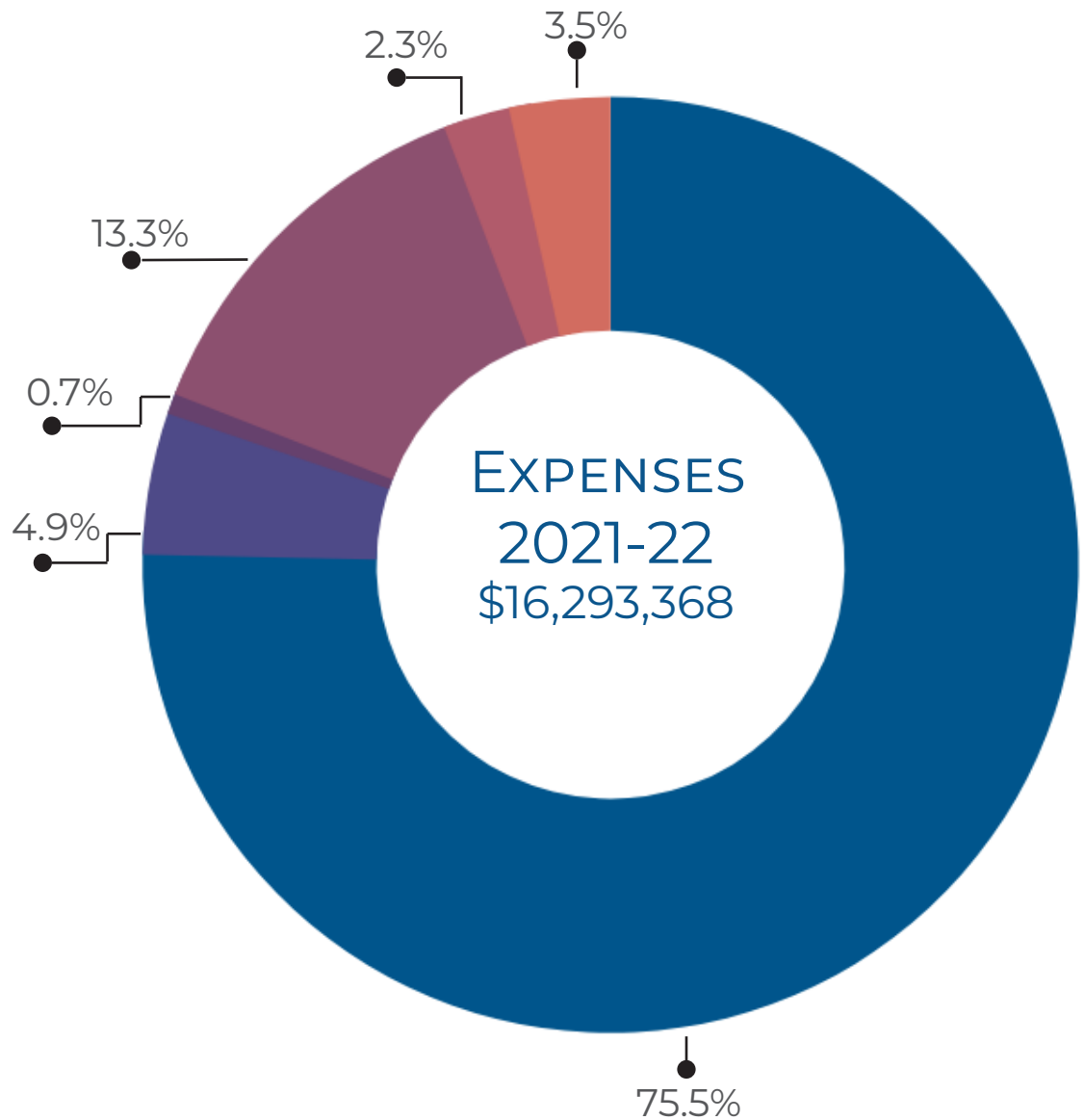
Administration,  
Marketing & IT  
\$792,783

Bursaries  
\$106,146

Facility Costs,  
Amortization of  
Capital Assets &  
Interest on Debt  
\$2,163,352

Business Units  
\$367,883

Teaching Supplies,  
Field Trips &  
Development  
\$563,512



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



# Donor Generosity

With immense gratitude, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the unwavering support of our devoted parents, dedicated staff, and cherished friends, whose commitment propels us forward in fulfilling our school's mission. At CFIS, we celebrate our donors, recognizing the invaluable impact of their generous contributions. Through our annual giving initiatives and special fundraising campaigns, we honor their instrumental role in nurturing the growth and prosperity of our school community.

## CFIS Spring Benefit Returns

It was heartwarming to witness parents, staff and friends come together in their commitment to providing the best for our students at the May 2023 Spring Benefit. The overwhelming generosity displayed throughout the night made it clear that we are united in our dedication to our school's growth and success. We are grateful to everyone who attended and contributed to making the Spring Benefit a triumph for our students and their future.

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we raised over \$59,000 in this year's Spring Benefit, including \$46,713 from the Silent Auction. These funds will go towards upgrading our playgrounds and purchasing a new school van, providing safe transportation for trips and improving the student experience. Our collective commitment to students' success drives us forward, and we look forward to keeping you updated on our progress together.







# Generosity at a Glance



TOTAL  
DONATED  
IN 2022-23

\$160,187

WORKPLACE  
GIVING

\$3,936



174  
GENEROUS GIFTS

\$430

AVERAGE DONATION

\$14,897  
RAISED FOR THE  
ENHANCEMENT FUND  
FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

\$16,525  
RAISED FOR THE  
EXPERIENCE FUND  
FOR STUDENT INITIATIVES

\$17,636  
RAISED FOR THE  
EMPOWERMENT FUND  
FOR STUDENT BURSARIES

\$8,900  
BUILDING FUND  
LOAN DONATIONS

10  
MONTHLY DONORS

\$10,128  
TOTAL OF MONTHLY GIFTS



\$10,128  
RAISED FOR THE JÖRD STUDENT GROUP  
ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES



\$59,077  
SPRING BENEFIT &  
SILENT AUCTION PROCEEDS





**T**he profound impact that generous contributions continue to make on the CFIS community has had a ripple effect of positive growth throughout the year. We are inspired by the incredible generosity and unwavering commitment shared with our students. The willingness to selflessly invest in the betterment of our community and share your unique skills and abilities with us is a testament to the strength of the CFIS community. We have felt the profound impact of your contributions this past year. Whether you've donated funds that enabled us to support critical initiatives, volunteered your time to make a difference in our students' school experience, or shared your talents and expertise to drive the mission forward, you've helped us build a brighter future for our students. Thank you for your continued support!

Continue to engage with us through the many opportunities to volunteer and contribute to our 2023-2024 initiatives.

**Visit our Volunteer and Giving pages on the My CFIS Parent Portal to learn more!**



# Calgary French & International School



CAIS

