

bridge

THE MAGAZINE OF COLLINGWOOD SCHOOL

Collingwood establishes a
new Canadian Invitational
Volleyball Tournament for
U-13 Girls



SAVE THE DATE:
Spring Fair
Saturday, April 20th 2024



The Collingwood Parents' Council would like to thank
all the parents, students, and staff who volunteered
their time and energy towards the
2023 Collingwood Spring Fair.

Also, a special thank you to the following sponsors
whose support made the event such a huge success.

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The Wei Family and two other Generous Collingwood Families

Ryan '31 + Aiden '33



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The Murphy
Family



The Arnell
Family



See you at the Collingwood Spring Fair on
Saturday, April 20, 2024!
pcfair@mycw.org



COLLINGWOOD
SCHOOL

bridge
THE MAGAZINE OF COLLINGWOOD SCHOOL

EDITOR

Angela Nielsen

DIGITAL EDITOR

Sarah Thomas

DESIGN

Leah Moy

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?

Next year is Collingwood
School's 40th Anniversary.

LET'S CONNECT

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First Day of Classes after Break, January 15

Re-enrolment, February 5-9

Pro-D Day, February 16

BC Family Day-School Closed, February 19

Last day of classes before Spring Break, March 15

First day of classes after Spring Break, April 2

For a full calendar of school events, please see our weekly e-news or visit collingwood.org.

NEWS



Welcome back from winter break, everyone!

I am always excited to share Bridge Magazine with our community, and this issue is no exception. In addition to having some incredible stories to share about our students and the work they are doing across the Four Strands, this issue has a lot of people-focused stories.

For those of you who have not met our new Board Chair, you will find the Q&A with Debby Carreau just opposite this page. I also invite you to read the article about the Collingwood School Foundation on P.18. This story will help you understand how our Foundation differs from the Collingwood School Society. There is also a tribute to the three committed and longstanding Foundation board members passing the torch to new members. Finally, I could not be more pleased to share a story on P. 25 about one of our Gr. 5 teachers, Molly Young, who received the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in October.

At Collingwood, our students are fortunate to be supported by dedicated staff and faculty, generous parent volunteers and a committed group of Governors on our Board. Everyone has embraced this year's theme of Belonging as we endeavour to ensure all students feel welcomed, understood and valued.

Our effort to encourage connection and belonging includes providing a vibrant array of curricular and co-curricular opportunities for every student. We are constantly adding to our offerings. In this issue, you'll learn about a few of these newer initiatives, including the Wentworth Volleyball program and invitational tournament (P. 6), Design and Tech activities/entrepreneurial thinking for our Gr. 8-9's (P. 10) and a little bit about the band, choir and dance opportunities at our Senior School (P. 14).

As we look ahead to the New Year, please mark two important events on your calendar: our annual re-enrolment, which is scheduled for February 5-9 and our beloved Spring Fair on April 20, 2024.

We look forward to celebrating more student programs, achievements and successes in the coming issues of Bridge!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Lisa Evans'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lisa Evans,
Head of School

Getting to know Debby Carreau Chair, Board of Governors

Who are your children at Collingwood?

Jenna is currently in Gr. 11 and Joshua graduated in June 2022.

Where did you grow up or go to school?

I was born in Durban, South Africa, but graduated from Sentinel just down the street. Many of my former classmates now have their children at Collingwood.

What's your professional background and accomplishments?

In 2007, I founded a professional services firm, Inspired HR, focused on Recruitment, HR, payroll, and benefits. Today, we support almost 400,000 employees globally. As a believer in lifelong education, I hold an MBA and continue my post-graduate studies at Harvard Business School on campus each January to keep up in a world that is evolving quickly.

What motivated you to get involved in governance at Collingwood?

Collingwood has a rich history of delivering exemplary education across the Four Strands. As a parent and community member with extensive governance experience, I want to help steward the school. Having recently completed my term on both the Board of Governors for the University of Calgary and Canada's Development Bank, FinDev Canada, a Federal Crown Corporation, I now have time to dedicate to taking on the Board Chair role at Collingwood.

What excites you most about Collingwood's current direction?

We have incredible teachers and are attracting more and more, which is critical to our long-term success. I am thrilled about the new business studies and the School's focus on looking ahead to future curricular and learning space needs. At the Junior Campus, innovative and experiential learning spaces, such as the low ropes course and the outdoor education program, help students learn outside the classroom in fun and innovative ways.

Do you have any advice for community members who are considering getting involved at our School?

Collingwood has plenty of opportunities to get involved. In early spring, watch out for a call for interest to apply for our Board of Governors, Foundation Board and various Board committees. We also have an Industry Connections database where parents can register their professional expertise to lend support to faculty, and the Parents' Council is always looking for volunteers.





collingwood school



First days with friends, new and old.
#CWStudentLife



Add a comment...



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A kind cohort of Grade 4, 5, and 6 students visited the [@backpackbuddiesbc](#) warehouse to pack over 500 bags of food for children who may go hungry over the weekend. Thanks to these kiddos for volunteering their time.
#CWSERVICELEARNING



Add a comment...



collingwood school



The Wentworth Totem Ceremony brought our whole community together to celebrate belonging as we kicked off the new school year. #CWStudentLife



Add a comment...



collingwood school



Congratulations to our Gr. 3-7 Cross Country athletes for a stellar run at Jericho Beach! Sun and smiles all around.
#CWAthletics



Add a comment...



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Our Junior School students took a pause from classes to observe National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Throughout the week, all grade levels took part in a variety of activities such as forest learning, art reflections, stories, conversations, and reflective writing. #CWStudentLife



Add a comment...



collingwood school



Collingwood students honoured Terry Fox by running and fundraising for cancer research. Terry would be proud!
#CWStudentLife



Add a comment...



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 collingwood school



It was a happy morning at the Senior School as grads showed off their handmade signs to welcome the student body back to class. Happy 1st day, Morven! #CWGrad2024

 Add a comment... 

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Art students practiced their sculpting and hand-building skills with clay, creating functional table settings to honour past and present Indigenous leaders. So much creativity in those hands! #CWArts

 Add a comment... 

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Gr. 8s were hooked on fishing with Mr. Larisch during ExL. Chloe C. reeled in this beauty from the Squamish River during the impressive spawning season. #CatchOfTheDay

 Add a comment... 

 collingwood school



The Senior Girls Field Hockey team opened their regular season on Thursday against Sutherland. We have a strong roster of athletes this year – make sure you come watch them play! #CWAthletics

 Add a comment... 

 collingwood school



The 2023/2024 era of Kindie Buddies has begun! Our grads and kindies got to meet last week and their special bonds are already forming. ❤️ #CWStudentLife


 Add a comment... 


 collingwood school






Collingwood students have broken a record! Mr. Jolliffe, our Morven Assistant Director of Student Life, was so excited to report that our Grade 9 students who volunteered at @alovingspoonful broke a record for the most meals ever packed! Well done. #CWServiceLearning


 Add a comment... 



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 Add a comment... 

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 Add a comment... 

WENTWORTH VOLLEYBALL GOES NATIONAL

Establishing a national girls' volleyball tournament to help provide equity among programs

By Michael Payne, Director of Athletics, Wentworth



Upon my return to Wentworth in 2018 after a 15-year hiatus, what immediately struck me was the disparity in athletic opportunities between the girls' and boys' programs. While the boys' soccer and basketball teams regularly attended national tournaments across Canada, the girls' program lacked the opportunity for similar experiences. Tournaments are an amazing experience for our student-athletes that provides them with a unique opportunity to bond and grow as teams while competing for Collingwood School. Recognizing the challenges of initiating something entirely new, we set out with the objective of providing our girls' program with a comparable experience to the boys', even if it initially fell short of a national tournament.

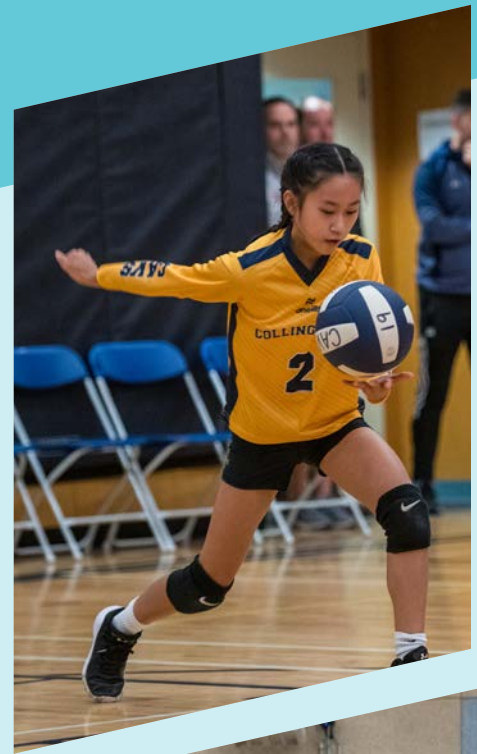
We started with a basketball trip to Whistler, which eventually led to a volleyball excursion to California. Then, just as we were gaining momentum, the onset of COVID-19 restrictions disrupted everything, including the boys' program. As we emerged from the pandemic, we prioritized reinstating these experiences, even though the boys' CAIS tournaments hadn't yet resumed. This presented an excellent opportunity to send both girls and boys on an athletic trip, emphasizing the importance of such experiences for our students, especially considering the missed opportunities during the pandemic. In 2022, Lower Canada College graciously offered to host us, organizing two mini-tournaments. The boys' soccer team and girls' volleyball team journeyed to Montreal, immersing themselves in the city's culture and soaking up the spirit of athletic competition.

With things moving in a positive direction and the impending resumption of CAIS tournaments, it was the right time to set a plan in motion that would establish a U-13 girls' tournament that rivals the boys' experience at CAIS tournaments. Identifying the right sport was challenging due to the misalignment of athletic seasons across provinces. Despite these challenges, we decided to create a volleyball tournament, starting modestly with hopes of gradual growth over time. Leveraging our network at other independent schools, we were able to secure participation from eight schools this year, with others expressing keen interest in future tournaments. Representing both British Columbia and Ontario, the participating schools were Collingwood School, Saint John's School, West Point Grey Academy, Meadowridge, York House School, Stratford Hall, Aberdeen Hall and Ashbury College.



As a bonus, Collingwood's Gr. 7 girls' volleyball team actually won the tournament. In front of a sold-out lower bowl of about 200 people, our student-athletes demonstrated their school pride and positive team culture in the finals with a hard-fought victory over West Point Grey Academy.

Our vision for this tournament is to expand its scope, potentially rotating to other schools across the country each year. We believe it will serve as a platform for schools to showcase themselves and will continue to provide our student-athletes with valuable experiences that are not otherwise possible at this level of competition. We look forward to hosting the U-13 Girls' Canadian Invitational Volleyball Tournament again next year, with the anticipation that another school will take the reins in the third year. **b**





“It was so special. The whole weekend. Just seeing the girls come together the way that they did and experience the kind of success that they had in that environment. It doesn’t happen very often at the Gr. 7 level. Everybody just felt so fulfilled. It was like a movie. They were crying. I was crying.”

— Samantha Tone, Wentworth PHE Teacher, Volleyball Coach

“Over the past few years, we have been very deliberate about developing the Wentworth volleyball program. We have been offering development camps in the spring and promoting club volleyball opportunities in the off-season. The new Canadian Invitational Volleyball Tournament is another opportunity to highlight girls’ volleyball at Wentworth and promote volleyball at our School. As a coach, it is wonderful to see the team cohesion and competitive spirit that arises from a tournament. It is also a powerful experience to play in front of the school community and let the athletes feel the support and energy of the crowd.”

— Lisa Humphries, Wentworth Inclusive Education Teacher, Volleyball Coach



“After years of behind-the-scenes efforts, we are incredibly excited that our dream of being the first Canadian independent school to build out high-level national athletics competitions and tours for our U13 girl’s teams has become a reality. The fact that our girls now have the same opportunity as the boys to compete against teams from across the country in a variety of sports, including girls’ volleyball and basketball, is a testament to the unique opportunities available to Collingwood students.”

— Marc Young, Junior School Principal

GR. 9 PROJECT WEEK

An innovative approach to teaching Applied Design, Skills and Technologies

It all started with a practical question: if not all Gr. 9 students can go on their Explore field trip at the same time, what do we do with the students whose turn it is to stay at school?

The innovative solution Collingwood devised was to create an immersive, intensive week of group project work — which ended up being a really big hit with students. Then, with the introduction of the new BC Curriculum in 2019, this unique program provided a tailor-made platform to address the requirements for Applied Design, Skills and Technologies learning, which requires students to develop competencies in such skills as ideating, prototyping, testing, making and sharing potential solutions to real-world problems. The program has continued to grow and evolve as student feedback led to the integration of entrepreneurship learning in 2019, and an additional Gr. 12 mentorship component was also added in 2021. Now in its sixth year of existence, Gr. 9 Project Week has become a much anticipated annual event at the end of the second trimester (i.e. the second week of May).

Created with the help of NuVu (see inset), Gr. 9 Project Week challenges students to address a complex real-world problem by designing an original solution. Choosing between solutions that utilize either technology or entrepreneurship, students work in collaborative teams of 3–5 individuals to research, analyze, invent, prototype and present their ideas. The project output is determined entirely by the team. It could be a piece of code. It could be a mock up of an iPhone app. It could be a mechanical prototype. It could be a functioning robot. The intention is to provide a firm goal with flexible means to achieve it. Gr. 9 Project Week culminates on Friday with the exhilarating opportunity for students to present their ideas and prototypes to a panel of real-life industry experts.

While the challenge question for this year's Gr. 9 Project Week is still being held tightly under wraps, we cannot wait to see our students' inspiring ideas, innovations and inventions. **B**

"My experience with NuVu has been eye-opening. By inspiring us to think outside of the box, we secured an indisputable will for innovation. By the end of the week, we were working on complex concepts like biomimicry. One of my favourite moments in the NuVu workshop was being able to incorporate sustainability in the STEM field, a unique idea that is very relevant."

— Rasta P.





2023 Gr. 9 Project Week Challenge: Deep Sea Bots

71% of the Earth's surface is covered in water. Our oceans are vastly unexplored. Increasingly, we need to engage with our oceans as a result of climate change, population growth, pollution, and other impacts of human influence. Oftentimes, explorers, scientists, ecologists, and rescuers find themselves in underwater situations where they don't have adequate tools to fulfill their mission. What if we had robots to aid us in our efforts underwater? What if these bots were inspired by the years of evolutionary adaptation the natural world has undergone at these dark depths? Enter the world of deep-sea robotics, where the underwater environment calls for a shift in the way robots are designed and deployed.

In this studio, students were tasked with developing robots that use the depth of the sea to their advantage as they maneuver through the sea floors, slither through the kelp forest, and collect rare specimens unscathed using biomimetic grippers. Students were encouraged to take inspiration from deep sea creatures and design devices and robots to carry out underwater missions to protect our oceans and cohabitate with diverse underwater ecosystems.

Project Week Schedule:

DAY 1:

- Introduction to NuVu, learning about the business model canvas, pitching products and solving problems
- Skills workshop
- Research and sketching

DAY 2:

- In-depth research
- Problem thesis storyboarding
- Group brainstorming
- Prototyping tutorial

DAY 3:

- Digital prototyping
- Thesis statement workshop, presentation prep
- Physical prototyping
- Gr. 12 mentorship and coaching, small group review and critique of prototypes/presentations

DAY 4:

- Robotics or Principle of Entrepreneurship workshop
- Synthesizing prototype feedback
- Open works session
- First draft of presentation

DAY 5:

- Final work session
- Presentation preparation
- Final presentation
- Student reflection survey

Who is NuVu?

Associated with MIT, NuVu is an innovative studio-based school in Cambridge, Massachusetts, that helps develop programs that inspire design, creativity and innovation within learners at schools and organizations around the world. Using NuVu's design studio pedagogy and process, students explore real-world topics in a hands-on studio environment, solving complex challenges using creativity, critical thinking and collaboration. Collingwood was the first school in Canada to partner with NuVu when we worked with them to architect our Gr. 9 Project Week. With professional development included in the initial program implementation, Collingwood faculty are now able to run the program independently, building on it each year.

MADE
POSSIBLE BY
THE TARTAN
FUND

"Gr. 9 Project Week provides an opportunity for students to draw from the content and skills they have learned across their other academic classes and apply them to a project that has a technology and entrepreneurship focus. Each year, we update and tweak the projects to provide greater rigour. The students continue to amaze us as they arrive better equipped to take on the challenges we provide."

— Jennifer Dousett, Director of Teaching, Learning & Innovation, Morven

Holiday Service-Learning Initiatives at Wentworth

A culture of philanthropy is flourishing at our Junior School

At Collingwood School, we are committed to contributing positively to our local communities. This commitment begins to take shape in the earliest grades at Wentworth through service learning initiatives that help our students begin to develop into community-minded, global citizens who strive to make the world a better place. While service learning occurs throughout the school year, the holidays are always a very special time for our students to get involved in the local community. This past December was an especially busy month for service-learning initiatives.



BC Children's Hospital Toy Drive

Junior Kindergarten, Kindergarten, Gr. 1 and Gr. 3 students worked to collect a specific list of items that are suitable for a children's hospital environment. Each student brought in one toy to donate to BCCH. These gifts are available year-round to sick children and their siblings for birthdays and other special moments. The toys were delivered to BCCH in December, with two students from each homeroom assisting with the delivery. Junior School Principal Young even volunteered to drive the bus!

Gr. 2 Friendship Boxes for Thunderbird Elementary School in East Vancouver

This project integrates well with ADST as students use the design cycle to create two sock puppets. One to take home and the other to put in their buddy's Friendship Box. Our Gr. 2 students wrote a story or comic and used the puppet characters they created to tell the story. Students filled and decorated a Friendship Box for their Thunderbird Elementary buddy. They met each other in mid-December when our Gr. 2 students travelled to East Vancouver for the delivery.





West Vancouver Fire Hall Tree Ornaments

In December, each of our Gr. 1 students created a holiday ornament for the tree at West Vancouver Fire Hall #1. As a very exciting part of this initiative, a West Vancouver Fire Department pump truck visited Wentworth to pick up the ornaments!



North Shore Family Services Holiday Hampers

This December, Gr. 4–7 students prepared holiday hampers for people in need on the North Shore. Each homeroom took on one or two sponsors and provided them with a hamper for the holiday season. Sponsors provided a wish list, and each homeroom class representative was in charge of the shopping. All items were brought to the Wentworth campus so that students could wrap and personalize the hampers before they were delivered to the Christmas Bureau at Capilano Mall.

Soap For Hope

This December, Wentworth ran a campus-wide Soap for Hope campaign. This initiative involves collecting large bottles of shampoo, conditioner, body wash, body lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other toiletry items. A group of students from Wentworth travelled to the Christmas Bureau to sort and pack small bags of these items, which supplemented the holiday hampers and will also help families year-round.



Wentworth Faculty Service

This December, Wentworth also ran a food drive for Maywood Community School in Burnaby in support of 60 families in need of culturally specific food items. 🍲

BAND, CHOIR AND DANCE AT MORVEN

A diverse range of opportunities means every student has the chance to experience performing arts during their senior school years

Morven Band

For his musical education, Mr. Hidalgo attended MacEwan University in Calgary, Capilano University and the University of British Columbia. Along the way, he taught privately, held many musical workshops, and, for a period of time, even owned his own music school. He began his formal teaching career at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Vancouver and joined Collingwood to lead our band program in 2022. Mr. Hidalgo believes that band is an important way to support the development of the school community and promote a sense of belonging for students. There are lots of ways for students to get involved in band at Collingwood. In addition to concert band, strings, junior band and string orchestra, there is also drumline and drum corp. Drumline is an especially great opportunity to get involved, as students can start at any time of the year, and all levels of skill and experience are welcome. There are actually a variety of different band roles where no musical experience is required. For example, Mr. Hidalgo hosts the Top 40 Pop Rock Groups every Wednesday and Friday morning. Entirely student-driven, these groups create their own groups and pick the music they are learning and rehearsing. One of the fun things about these groups is that many students use this as a way to learn a new or different instrument.



“Playing in musical ensembles with the students you go to school with is a wonderful opportunity you might never have the chance to do again. I encourage anyone who is interested in band to come have a chat with me to see what would be a good fit for you.”

— Mr. Hidalgo, Morven Band Director



Morven Choir

Our Morven Chorus Director, Ms. Weiss, grew up in Langley and attended fine arts school. She received a jazz music degree from Capilano University, an Education degree from UBC, and has been an internationally performing musician for the last 15 years. Before joining Collingwood, Ms. Weiss taught at West Van Secondary School. While the pandemic was hard on choirs everywhere, Ms. Weiss is rebuilding Collingwood's Senior School choir program with a positive energy and enthusiasm that is gaining momentum. Right now, we have both junior chamber and senior chamber choir ensembles, with the goal of building toward a concert choir, which typically consists of about 30 students. Current participants come from diverse musical backgrounds and enjoy a variety of genres. Ms. Weiss believes that music is a valuable way for students to expand their language skills, experience new cultural exposures and develop social-emotional learning through teamwork. Students don't need music reading experience, and the choirs are starting all new material in January. If students are interested in trying out choir, Ms. Weiss invites you to drop by the music room or send her an email. You can even come by and sit in on a choir practice to see what it's all about.

"Join the Collingwood choirs where every voice matters. Together, as a united group, we strive for musical excellence through play and create musical memories that last a lifetime. Come and be a vital part of the Collingwood community."

— Ms. Weiss, Morven Choir Director/TIC

Morven Dance

With an MFA, bachelor's degrees in industrial design and choreography and diplomas in dance and musical theatre, Ms. Desentis has been teaching all levels of dance since 2009. She has taught across various genres, including contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, musical theatre, and Latin dance forms. She has also directed interdisciplinary workshops emphasizing the integration of dance and design. She joined Collingwood School in 2022 and loves collaborating with students to create new works and witnessing each student's growth as they discover their artistic voice. Dance is offered at Collingwood as both an extracurricular and curricular class. Senior and Junior Dance Companies are conducted before school. Additionally, dance is offered as an elective in the regular class schedule. In these elective classes, students follow the BC curriculum, enabling them to investigate dance in depth. This curriculum also empowers students to critically explore and create, facilitating the discovery of their own artistic voice. Open to everyone, dance clubs also provide students with an opportunity to get involved. Typically, no prior experience is necessary, and students rehearse during lunchtime and after school. In the upcoming year, we will introduce more clubs, such as the Dance Creation Club, which will provide the opportunity to explore students' ideas for the upcoming Wonderland performance. It is open to those interested in participating in the March show. We also plan to introduce a Salsa club and a K-pop club, both of which will be open to everyone. **b**

"Ms. Desentis encourages young dancers to follow their passion, to keep exploring and learning, and to keep believing in themselves. The most important thing about dance is to be present in each moment, to fully commit, to be honest, and to be kind and listen to your body."

— Angela W, dance student







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

The Collingwood School Foundation

Continuing to work on fundraising activities to grow the endowment funds that support Collingwood's plans and initiatives

"As an independent school, Collingwood receives very little government funding and support. While annual operating expenses are funded by tuition, any and all capital requirements, future projects, scholarships and bursaries need to be funded by our community. Throughout our history, all major projects have been funded by parents like us. It is important to keep that going for now, and for the future."

— John O'Neill, Chair,
Collingwood School Foundation


DID YOU KNOW?

In 2018, the Collingwood School Society transferred \$10.6M to the Collingwood School Foundation to establish an endowment and launch our School's Financial Assistance program. The endowment now sits at over \$14M.

The Collingwood School Foundation's primary purposes are to lead the School's fundraising initiatives, fund the School's strategic plan, and create and build long-term endowments for a variety of endeavours such as financial aid for students and capital projects.

Our School relies on donations from our community to ensure small class sizes, fully-equipped athletic facilities, experiential learning, financial assistance and the many other resources needed to inspire and support young people for meaningful lives. Much of this fundraising work happens thanks to the Directors of the Collingwood School Foundation. The Foundation exists to ensure the long-term financial stability of our School by managing donations to the Tartan Fund, Major and Planned Gifts, Endowment Funds, and the Capital Fund. Whether it be new athletic vans, stage production

equipment, or financial assistance, the Foundation ensures we have the funds required to support the Four Pillars of our strategic plan: Forward Focused Learning, Building Community, Wellbeing and Sustainability.

The Foundation Board of Directors consists of John O'Neill (Chair), Ali Pirbhai (Vice Chair), Sabrina Liak (Treasurer), Jocelyn Johansson, Michael Yoshino, Debby Carreau (Ex-officio) (Chair, Society), Lydia Ventura Paterson (Ex-officio) (Chair, Finance Committee), Martin Weinberg (Society Appointee), Mohamed Mansour (Society Appointee), Lisa Evans, Head of School, Catherine Ruby, CFOO and Rebecca Kerbel, Executive Director of Advancement. We would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the exceptional contributions of outgoing Foundation Board Directors Darrel Ert, Pat Delesalle and John Montalbano. 

Thank you to our departing Foundation Board Directors!



Darrell Ert

Darrell has provided 24 years of outstanding service to Collingwood School. He was first elected to the Society Board of Governors in 1999 and then became the Chair of the Fundraising Committee, shifting over to the School's Foundation in 2004. During his time on the Foundation, Darrell played an instrumental role in a number of large fundraising efforts that resulted in the amazing Telfer Gr. 6/7 Wing and Katz/Telfer Gym at Wentworth, as well as the incredible new Senior School at the Morven Campus. Darrell was named Vice-Chair of the Foundation Board in 2013 and has remained steadfast in his work and support of the long-term vision of the School. Darrell is a person who values relationships and was often heard saying that all of this work "is for the kids!" The proud father of three Collingwood Alumni – Malcolm, Caitlin and Madeleine – Darrell's positive impact is as large as his heart! We are grateful for the many, many hours that Darrell has put in to help our students, staff, and school grow and get better. Thank you, Darrell, for sharing your passion for community and for helping to make Collingwood School what it is today.



Pat Delesalle

We would like to honour and recognize Pat for his ten years of excellent service to the Foundation Board and Collingwood School. Pat is all about the student experience and has been a strong supporter of kids and creating opportunities for them to pursue their passions and realize their dreams. Whether this success is through academics, athletics or leadership, Pat continually finds ways to support initiatives for young people that open doors for their future. We have valued Pat's thoughtful questions, wise insights and his commitment to a strong sense of community. Pat has led by example in creating lasting legacies for his beloved daughter, Murphy, and in partnering with Darrell Ert to honour long-serving teacher, David Hughes. We are excited to have Pat's kids, Cody and Katie, as members of our Collingwood Alumni. Pat has touched the hearts of many people during his years of volunteering for Collingwood, and we are forever grateful for the gifts of his time, care and passion for kids.



John Montalbano

John joined the Collingwood Foundation Board in November 2019 and was like jet fuel for our Investment Committee. His wisdom and expertise have helped to move our endowment fund work to the next level! With his calm and thoughtful approach to life's challenges – including COVID-19 and its huge impact on markets and investments – John has guided us to diversify our portfolio and managers to include Leith Wheeler, CC& L, and TCC. John continually asks probing questions, sets clear and high expectations for portfolio managers, and urges the Investment Committee to do its very best in support of our students and School. John has had a large and very positive impact on the work of the Collingwood Foundation, and we thank him for his four years of incredible service to Collingwood. We will miss John a lot, and keep in mind his offer to be a resource going forward. As John so kindly said, "I'm only a phone call away." We are grateful for John and Dana Montalbano's participation in our School and are proud that their sons Luke (Class of '23) and Marco (Class of '25) are our students.

UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE

Did you know? Fun facts from our recent university tours

In the world of University Guidance, it's crucial to not only keep current, but also expand our knowledge of post-secondary programs, requirements and unique campus features. This is why our UG team makes time for conferences and tours, during school breaks and in between supporting Morven students.

Inset are a few fun facts we gathered on recent tours. Want to learn more? Check out our @collingwoodug Instagram and our "Did you know?" weekly series that highlights lesser-known schools and programs.

We also encourage students and their families to visit campuses wherever possible. This fall, students returned with rave reviews.

"I visited UBC Vancouver. Although the tour was quick, I got to see a bird's-eye-view of both UBC campuses through a video and then explore on foot. This really helped me visualize the whole university. I also discovered an interesting business and computer science program and was able to ask questions about it while I was there."

— Amrit B

"I visited Wilfrid Laurier University and Waterloo, and my tours helped me feel the vibe of each school. Waterloo was really big, while Laurier felt cozier and community-centred."

— Allison H

"I went to Claremont Colleges in California and felt like it was really helpful to see the campus physically. The culture and atmosphere there was really inclusive and down-to-earth – plus, the weather was nice!"

— Jasmine H



Located in Antigonish, Nova Scotia St. Francis Xavier University is a large public research university with around 5,800 students. Known for its stunning campus, St. FX used the same architect for many buildings as Harvard University.

Located in Miami, Florida, Florida International University is a large public research university with around 55,000 students. The "Panther Book Pack" flat rate means that students never pay more than \$60 per course for their textbooks.



Located in Washington, D.C., Georgetown University is a private Jesuit research university with around 21,000 students. If you want to learn about the American government and international relations, Georgetown offers majors that range from American Studies, to Culture and Politics, to Political Economy, to Global Business.



Located in Dublin, Ireland, University College Dublin is a large public research university with around 38,000 students. About one third of the student population is international, with over 140 countries represented.



Located in Middlebury, Vermont, Middlebury College is a small liberal arts college with around 2,800 students. Love languages? You can study at one of Middlebury's 37 immersive schools abroad. Alternatively, you could spend a semester at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California, where you can even start your Master's degree during undergrad.



ADMISSIONS

Important Dates

Re-enrolment for the 2024–25 school year commences on Monday, February 5. The deadline for re-registration is Friday, February 9. If your child will not be returning to Collingwood next year, please let Mr. Lindsay Thierry, Director of Enrolment and Financial Assistance know as soon as possible at lindsay.thierry@collingwood.org



ADVANCEMENT

Tartan Fund Update

Collingwood wrapped up another successful Tartan Week in November, and our community raised an incredible \$920,000 toward our goal of \$1,000,000, with over 54% participation from Collingwood families. We are so grateful for your support! It's never too late to donate to the Tartan Fund to provide resources, learning tools, program enhancements and facility updates that help and inspire our students to pursue their passions.

Gifts to the Tartan Fund are directed to priority areas that have an immediate and lasting impact on students' learning and growth. This year, a few exciting projects have already been launched thanks to the generosity of our donors.



The Tartan Fund supports the development of student leadership at both campuses. Some examples include:

Wentworth

- Outdoor education experiences such as camps and on-campus programs
- Student-led initiatives in community and connections programs such as House Leaders Club, Student Ambassadors, EDI Ambassadors, Allies, Kindness Ninjas, Junior First Aid Volunteers, CAIS Leaders
- Service initiatives such as Harvest Project, Backpack Buddies, Senior Centre volunteering, hamper and toy drives, morning greeters and community projects like beach cleanups

Morven

- Service learning initiatives such as the Social Impact Lab program, where student leaders are coached to lead their own teams to discover, define, develop and deliver their initiatives while volunteering and partnering with non-profits and charities outside of Collingwood
- Each student executive member has a portfolio and a committee that they oversee. Open to all Gr. 10–12 students, committees support all areas of school life and advance and support Collingwood's goals and priorities
- Opportunities for student leaders to help them develop leadership that include workshops, conferences and leadership retreats

PARENTS' COUNCIL

Happy New Year!

We are delighted to welcome everyone back to campus after what we hope has been a fun and restful festive break. I am sure we are all ready for another term of making meaningful and memorable connections while our children are getting back into the swing of school life.

We have a lot to look forward to this season, with Lunar New Year and Nowruz celebrations at both campuses just around the corner, followed swiftly by the Chandeaur event hosted by our French Cultural Club later in February. Delicious crepes feature heavily at Chandeaur!

Now is also a great time to Save the Date for our biggest event of the year – Spring Fair, which takes place this year on Saturday, April 20th.

Our regular gatherings so far this year have been a big hit with parents.

We hosted informal social gatherings after our Meet the Teachers evenings, which gave people a chance to connect with other families in their child's class or grade, and it was so nice to see new friendships forming!

Gr. 12 parents (supported by PC) also hosted a hugely successful social event for all of Morven parents, which received rave reviews!



Parents' Council Coffee Mornings in September were held this year at our Morven campus and was a chance to find out more about what PC is and what we have to offer, as well as a chance to hear from our School Leadership Team.

We hosted a fun and informal party, "Giddy Up," in November. It was a huge success, with the event selling out in a week! Parents at Collingwood really know how to host a fantastic party, and everyone had a great night. Thank you to all those who had a boot-stomping night.

Grade-wide book clubs are currently running and are an excellent opportunity to meet other parents in your grade level in a casual and social setting. It is never too late to join! Just email bookclubs@mycw.org to find out more.

Our ever-popular Unishop continues to sell good quality, gently used uniform pieces to our Collingwood Families at significantly reduced prices – while encouraging us to be more sustainable.

Parents continue to enjoy our Hiking and Workout in the Woods groups, rain, shine and sometimes snow each week. These groups are a lovely way to connect with like-minded parents while getting active in the outdoors. Our Chinese Cultural Interest Group also hosted an extremely popular hike to celebrate the "Double Ninth" in October.

PC hosted more memorable events, such as the annual Festive Craft Day at the Wentworth Campus, Learning how to play Mah Jong, a Wreath Making workshop (just in time for the festive season), and we celebrated Diwali with yoga and dance and an array of amazing Indian snacks all led by our South Asian Cultural Group.



Thank you to all the parents for getting involved and supporting our various Parents' Council events. You truly add to the fun and stronger community we are building and experiencing together!

Be sure to check the Parents' Council page on the Veracross Parent Portal to learn more about what we do and to stay up to date on all our events.

Sincerely,

Pauline Anderson
Chair, Parents' Council

Athena Kondopulos
Vice Chair, Parents' Council

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

Email pcchair@mycw.org

ALUMNOTES

Collingwood U volunteers needed!


We are seeking volunteers who can share their expertise and experience in their respective fields, provide valuable advice on how to succeed in the professional world and guide students in mastering essential life skills such as repairs, cooking, networking and interviewing. From May 22 to June 12, 2024, we will be helping prepare the Gr. 12 students in their transition from Collingwood into their post-secondary education and adult lives.


We are looking for volunteers to host students for a one-day job shadowing experience at their workplace, especially in the fields of fin-tech, medicine, AI, law, marketing and real estate. We will also be holding career panels, which will feature multiple speakers from the same




field. It will be an excellent opportunity to showcase the unique aspects of each role and highlight the differences in comparison to others. We invite those who have colleagues and connections to come forward and present together. Please contact Morgan McLaughlin at morgan.mclaughlin@collingwood.org if you have questions or are interested in volunteering.

STAY CONNECTED

 Join the Collingwood Alumni Group on LinkedIn [collingwood/alumni-linked-in](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/collingwood-alumni-linked-in)
Add Collingwood in the education section on your LinkedIn profile.

 Connect with us on Facebook www.facebook.com/CollingwoodSchoolAlumni

 Connect with us on Instagram [@CollingwoodSchool](https://www.instagram.com/CollingwoodSchool)

Update your mailing address at collingwood.org/alumni/update-your-address



Alumni Events

In response to alumni feedback, we are working to coordinate more events to connect alumni outside of Vancouver. This past fall, we hosted an alumni event in San Francisco in October with Shaina Gleicher and Morgan McLaughlin and an event in Toronto with former Head of School Rodger Wright in November.



WEX Placements

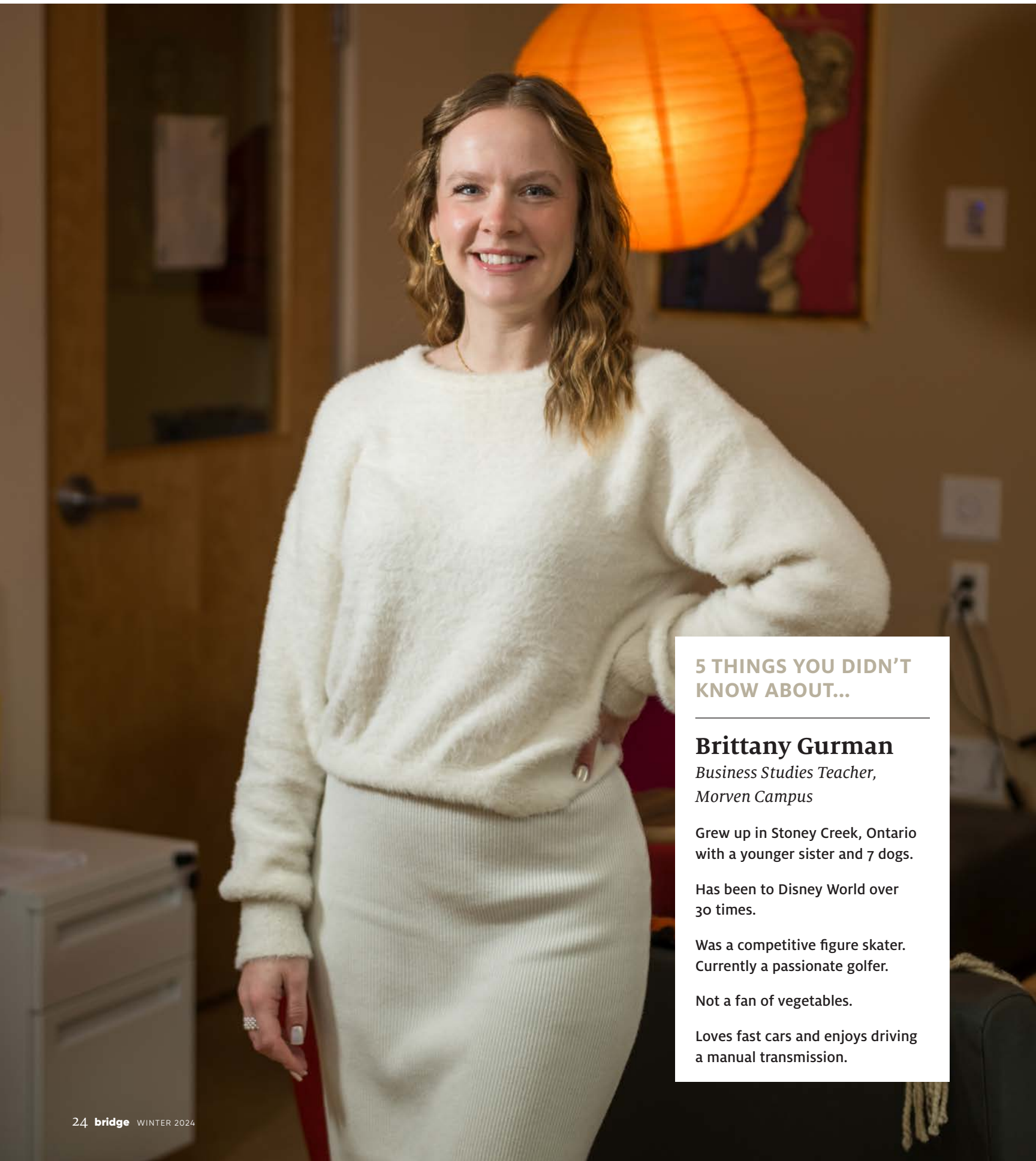
We are currently looking for employers wanting to bring students into their workplace to provide real-life work experience. Email alumni@collingwood.org if you're interested in providing students with this invaluable opportunity.

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

Alumni Award Nominations

To recognize the excellence and growth of members in the alumni community, each year, the Collingwood community has the opportunity to nominate alumni for three different awards. For more information and to nominate someone, please visit collingwood.org/community/alumni/awards



5 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT...

Brittany Gurman

*Business Studies Teacher,
Morven Campus*

Grew up in Stoney Creek, Ontario
with a younger sister and 7 dogs.

Has been to Disney World over
30 times.

Was a competitive figure skater.
Currently a passionate golfer.

Not a fan of vegetables.

Loves fast cars and enjoys driving
a manual transmission.

Congratulations to Molly Young for receiving the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence and Teaching Excellence in STEM



A Gr. 5 teacher at our Wentworth campus, Molly has inspired students and colleagues to engage in their local and global communities and to explore their natural environment, with the belief that being thoughtfully and compassionately involved with the world and the people around us is a key element in a meaningful education and life.

In class, Molly shares curiosity, warmth, kindness and genuine interest in the wellbeing and learning for all students. She inspires active, healthy living and learning, which is grounded in her deep knowledge and passion for education. Recognizing that each student is unique, Molly delivers programs designed to meet each child. This is based on her own childhood experiences of learning, where school was difficult. This was actually her motivation to become a teacher – helping to ensure that all students in her classroom feel valued, intelligent and supported as they travel through their own learning journey toward the ultimate goal of engaging as lifelong learners.

One of Molly's contributions to our School is her inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and ways of thinking into her curriculum. In 2020, she became the Social Studies Learning Leader at Wentworth. She identified an important goal around Indigenous learning – to bring students to understand that Indigenous knowledge and perspectives provide a rich outlook on how we view the world and to help teachers invest in authentically integrating First Peoples' ways of knowing into their curriculum.

"Molly was nominated by a Wentworth family for her incredible efforts to inspire her students inside and outside the classroom. Please join me in congratulating her on this wonderful achievement!"

— Lisa Evans, Head of School



"As an educator and research scientist of four decades, I have the highest respect for Molly's exceptional educational vision and innovative pedagogical approaches that inspire and nurture the growth and development of our future generations."

— Professor, University of British Columbia



Help support our students as they pursue their passions.



The 2023-24 Tartan Fund is counting on you!

Thank you for your continued support of the Tartan Fund. Our goal is 100% participation. You can make a donation any time at collingwood.org/tartan



Return all undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

Collingwood School

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