

bridge

THE MAGAZINE OF COLLINGWOOD SCHOOL

**Going
Further**
Collingwood's
New ExL Week
for Gr. 6-7



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THE MAGAZINE OF COLLINGWOOD SCHOOL

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DID YOU KNOW?

Next year is Collingwood
School's 40th Anniversary.

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KEY DATES:

First day of classes after Spring Break, April 2
Pro-D Day (no students in attendance), May 17
School closed for Victoria Day, May 20
Last day of classes for all students, June 14

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

NEWS



Welcome back to our final term of the 2023–2024 school year!

This time of year is always exciting as we wrap up efforts for this academic year, while planning for next year at the same time.

The primary pillar in our Strategic Plan recognizes our belief that authentic, personalized learning experiences through inspired spaces propel our students to pursue their passions. I'm thrilled to showcase some of this work in this issue of Bridge. We recognize that keeping our eye on Forward Focused Learning means that we will be able to continue to adapt as a school, building our students' skills and competencies in order for them to be successful now and in the future.

Innovative programs complemented with progressive teaching models prepare students for a variety of post-secondary pathways. This ethos permeates our classrooms and is clearly evident in the pilot of our Junior School's new ExL Program, which launched this past February and saw all of our Gr. 6–7 students immersed in experiential learning for an entire week (see p. 6). At our Senior School, our H Block programming does the same — it deepens and expands connections with local and global partners in an effort to generate authentic and practical experiences for our students.

We know that although we have incredible facilities for our students, we must continue to enhance our spaces and the technology required to inspire innovative, collaborative, and transformative learning. On page 19, you'll read about the evolution of learning and about two spaces at our Morven Campus, which will be repurposed — a Centre for Excellence in STEEM in the current Yasmine Karim Family Library and a brand new Learning Commons that will be located in the heart of our Senior School. I invite all families to join us at events on April 9, 11, and 18, 2024, in order to learn more about these exciting initiatives — see the next page for further information.

While this project spotlights changes to our Senior School campus, don't worry Wentworth parents. We know you are waiting to hear what will be new and next for our Junior School campus. As we continue to lean into our Forward Focused Learning pillar, investing in the infrastructure of JK–7 education is essential and a priority. This is a big project, and we will be sure to keep you updated on this work as we go forward.

Looking ahead to celebratory events, I hope to see many families at Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day (April 12), our beloved annual Spring Fair (April 20), and at our Gr. 7 graduation and Gr. 12 Commencement events in June!

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

Join us to learn more about Project Excellence

Robotics 101

This illuminating robotics session explores the challenges, achievements, toil, and (sometimes) heartache that our robotics team experiences each season. Learn how a dedicated STEEM space provides an enhanced opportunity for students to develop client-centred skills for problem-solving and critical thinking and understand how you can make a significant impact in an era of accelerating technological change. Join us for an unforgettable experience where creativity, teamwork and innovation are the requisites for success!

April 9, Morven Campus, Robotics Lab

Two times are offered: 3:30–4:30 pm or 5–6 pm

The Changing Nature of Libraries

In the ever-evolving landscape of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, the key to successful projects often lies in choosing the correct libraries and tools. One of the most intriguing and creative areas within this domain is generative AI. Explore the changing nature of libraries, the appropriate use of AI (from the College Board perspective) and how the new Learning Commons will help students bring their generative ideas to life.

April 11, Morven Campus, Yasmine Karim Family Library

9–10 am

Coffee Conversations with Sylvia Lau, Department Head, Entrepreneurship

Morven faculty, staff and leadership will be available to personally guide you through a series of presentation boards featuring detailed plans for the new Center of Excellence in STEEM and new Learning Commons. Sylvia Lau, Department Head, Entrepreneurship, will speak about our thriving entrepreneurship program, its interdisciplinary nature, and all the incredible achievements and challenges the program is facing in our current landscape. Coffee, tea, and refreshments will be provided.

April 18, Morven Campus, Commons

8–10 am

Please note that registration is required for all events.

To register please visit collingwood.org/project-excellence-rsvp.



collingwood school



Snow art? Snow problem! Grade 2N took inspiration from last week's snowfall to paint landscapes of what they love the most about snow. #CWArts



Add a comment...



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The only things required for fun on the playground during a Vancouver winter: Rubber boots, rain suit, and a puddle. #CWStudentLife



Add a comment...



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Exploring the fascinating world of robotics in our Grade 5 Design and Tech class! From dissecting owl pellets to learning about body systems in science, we're on a mission to integrate hands-on learning into every aspect of our curriculum. #CWAcademics



Add a comment...



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Let's hear it for the Grade 7 Girls Gold Basketball team, who travelled to Ottawa last weekend for the U-13 CAIS Invitational Tournament for the first time and walked away as Division 1 CHAMPIONS. #CWAthletics



Add a comment...



collingwood school



It's the Year of the Dragon, and to celebrate, Grade 3s crafted their own magical dragon eyes. Colour us impressed! #CWArts



Add a comment...



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We were privileged to experience traditional Lunar New Year festivities at both campuses this week, thanks to our PC's Chinese Cultural Interest Group. We hope every student was able to take something memorable away from this week's events. #CWStudentLife



Add a comment...



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 collingwood school



Big congrats to our Junior and Senior Wrestling team for dominating the North Shore Championships last week! They brought home the 3rd straight Juvenile Title while also bringing home the Senior banner and trophy for the first time in the school's history! #CWAthletics


 Add a comment... 


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Our Middle School students have been journeying up Cypress to go snowshoeing but the trails have looked more like June than January. Unfortunately, our winter adventures are on thin ice right now! #CWStudentLife

 Add a comment... 

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Our Senior Students sure cleaned up nicely for this year's Cav Prom at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel! We had a great time dining, dancing, and catching up with friends at this milestone event. #CWStudentLife

 Add a comment... 

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The Grade 9 Girls Basketball team is going to the North Shore Finals! The team beat Sentinel on Thursday 56-18, which also earned them a spot at the upcoming Provincials. #CWAthletics


 Add a comment... 


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Grade 12s and 11s were very lucky to have the chance to mingle with a group of Collingwood alumni last night at our 'speed-networking' event! Big thanks to our alumni for generously giving their time to our students.

 Add a comment... 

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750 bags packed by our Social Impact Lab group this morning at [@backpackbuddiesbc](#)! The non-profit sends around 6,000 bags out to children across the province every week. #CWSERVICE

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GOING FURTHER

ExL Week takes experiential learning to exciting new destinations for Gr. 6–7 students





ver the past several years, Collingwood School has been working hard to develop and expand Forward Focused Learning opportunities for our students at both campuses. We believe that participation in experiential learning provides a unique opportunity for students to extend their curricular and cultural learning beyond the classroom. In turn, this style of learning helps students develop independence and personal responsibility while growing both socially and emotionally. Wentworth was extremely excited to introduce a new Middle School ExL week this winter. A collapsed weeklong learning opportunity for Gr. 6–7's, this program allowed students to choose from eight innovative, immersive learning experiences.

We invite you to use the QR code to see more pictures and learn more about this year's Middle School ExL week.



Bon Voyage Québec City

Students travelled to Québec City to immerse themselves in Québécois culture and attend Canada's largest winter carnival. Their busy itinerary included a wealth of cultural experiences such as exploring the history and architecture of Old Québec, attending the Museum of the Plains of Abraham, visiting the Huron-Wendat site to learn about the First Nation of Québec and a trip to the Ice Hotel in the village of Valcartier. Their schedule also included a lot of fun activities such as sliding at the Dufferin Terrace. As a bonus, students even had the chance to take a photo with Bonhomme!



From Farm to Table

This culinary-based learning experience introduced students to local activities associated with cooking, foraging, restaurant design, science and math. Day trips included visits to the Little Kitchen Academy, where students learned how to make cabbage and mushroom dumplings, Jericho Beach, where students got to try seaweed and practice their crabbing skills, and a magical Foodie Tour at Granville Island. The week culminated with a trip to Superstore to source everything the students needed to prepare lunch for Wentworth staff, which was a huge hit!

Full STEAM Ahead

This fun and engaging week of experiential learning explored topics in STEAM, an educational approach that incorporates the arts into the more familiar STEM model, which includes science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Our STEAM projects included a variety of visual or performing arts such as dance, design, painting, photography and creative writing. Students had the opportunity to create a passion project using all the tools in our lab, along with building materials and art supplies acquired from offsite.

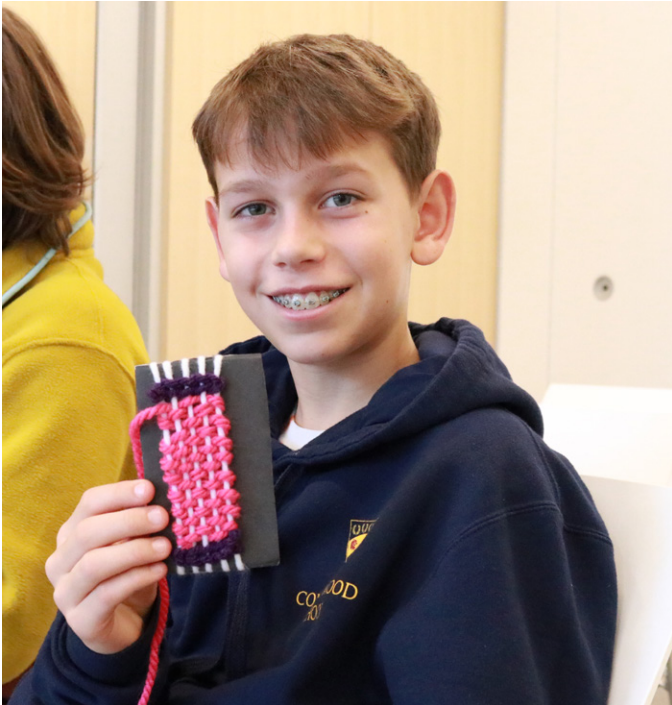


H-Art and Soul

This amazing week provided students with experiential learning opportunities to engage in visual arts, music, fitness and mindfulness. Students enjoyed hands-on activities such as pottery-making at Luminous Elephant, learned contemporary dance and hip-hop routines and explored the Tree Canopy Adventure at Grouse Mountain. Students also attended a disco spin class and even had the opportunity to participate in a Barre class, which is an exercise technique inspired by elements of ballet, yoga and Pilates.

Land is Leader

This immersive experience offered students a unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of Indigenous land-based learning and knowledge. Through a variety of engaging activities, students explored the rich cultural heritage of the Coast Salish Peoples. Students visited the Monova Museum in North Van, where they learned how to weave like the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations have been doing for centuries. They also visited Highwater Tackle to learn how to make fishing flies and tried their luck at fishing and crabbing. One of the biggest highlights of the week was the opportunity for students to meet and learn from the local Squamish elder, Bob Baker.



Snow Squad in the Sasquatch


This experiential learning opportunity provided students with the chance to stay in a winter chalet and participate in outdoor learning and downhill skiing or snowboarding. Despite the lack of snow and mountain closures, students were rewarded with a great adventure learning about their natural environment. Experiences included a 7.25 km educational hike with 305 m of elevation gain! Students stayed in shared accommodation, and each contributed to the cleaning and meals. One of the meal highlights was Taco Tuesday. For fun, students also participated in the Cabin Olympics, which included events such as air hockey, table tennis and, of course, luge.

Truly Canadian in the True North

This trip to the Yukon offered a unique and immersive learning experience for students to explore important topics such as climate change, the environment and Indigenous communities. The first thing students learned is that it is very COLD in the northern part of our country! Students had the opportunity to experience sustainable ice fishing, a dog sledding adventure around Lake Laberge and a visit to the Yukon Wildlife Preserve. Students also visited the Long Ago People's Place to learn about First Nations culture in the North and explored the McBride Museum learning about Yukon history and the Gold Rush.



Wonders of Washington

This trip to the US capital in Washington, D.C. provided a wealth of experiential learning opportunities. Students toured a variety of important sites, including the US Capitol Building, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Mall to view the Martin Luther King Jr., Lincoln and WW II memorials. Students also made a day trip to Mount Vernon for a guided tour of George Washington's estate and home and even had a chance to experience a musical theatre performance at the John F. Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts. 

THE MORVEN CHOIR

Once again, filling our halls with joyous singing

Four years ago, the prospect of joining a choir meant occupying a small square in a sterile Zoom room, free from infectious aerosol droplets and the smell of sanitizer. At a time when the health benefits of singing and community were most needed, choirs suffered particularly damaging effects. Like many schools, Collingwood's choir program was a robust part of the Senior School Arts curriculum. However, taking away the benefits of in-person instruction, community, and the elation one experiences when 25 students hit harmony, choir class loses some appeal.

Collingwood's choir pivoted time and time again to bring the best possible experience to students. Digital recordings, smaller ensembles, wearing masks, and even singing outdoors became the new normal. Despite all this, COVID wasn't going to leave





choirs without a few long-term side effects. A 2023 study on the experiences of Canadian choral musicians during the pandemic found concern over safety left participants feeling anxious, isolated, and disconnected, while the constant pivoting took time away from actual music-making.

The turn-around has only just begun. The 2022/2023 school year was the first year since COVID-19 began that masks were not required indoors. Students entering high school that year had only faint memories of choir performances from the 'before-times' and without exposure to the physical and mental benefits of ensemble singing. Where would the inspiration to join a choir come from? Thus, enrolment in these courses dipped, and the program pivoted once again.

This year, choir became a co-curricular option rather than a for-credit course with the hopes of making it more accessible to students who wanted to try it out. Removing the formal audition process also allowed students with no experience to build their skills and discover a new passion without the pressure of academic achievement. "Even if you aren't a singer but are curious, you are always welcome to give choir a try. Just bring enthusiasm and an open mind," says choir instructor, Ms. Weiss.

To the younger generation of students coming up from our Junior School, the choir can be a way to continue participating in concerts and performances, experiment with musical genres, and build connections with like-minded students. Ms. Weiss adds that students are more than welcome to bring their own ideas and music suggestions to the group.



"I've been a part of the choirs at Morven since Gr. 8, singing in the junior, intermediate and senior choirs. Supported by my teachers and past seniors, I was encouraged to take risks as a soloist. As a result, I became a more confident singer and speaker. Through choir, I've learned the power of using your voice as a tool, whether that be for self-expression, leadership or connecting with others."

— Nicole, Gr. 12

Participating in a program that is in its rebuilding stage comes with some appealing perks, like more opportunities to solo, better access to one-on-one support, and the freedom to try new things. But a choir being small doesn't negate how talented its musicians are. Ms. Weiss notes that this year, there are at least four students who have perfect pitch (the ability to identify or sing a note without any reference) – a very high number considering only about 0.1% of the population is believed to have this skill. "There are some very strong musicians who are inspiring to work with," Ms. Weiss says. She's excited to watch the choir grow and fill the halls with music this season. **B**



COLLINGWOOD THREE-PEATS

Our junior boys' basketball team makes history (yet again!)

When the junior boys' basketball team won the North Shore Championship this year, they became the first team in Collingwood history to win this title. 39 years of futility ended with the decisive win over Handsworth.

Of course, this group of boys is used to making history as they have won three North Shore Championships in a row. In 2022, they became the first Collingwood team in 21 years to win the North Shore Gr. 8 banner. They followed this up in 2023, by becoming the first Collingwood boys' team to ever win a Gr. 9 North Shore Championship.

Collingwood has had many great boys' basketball teams in the past, but it is incredibly difficult to win North Shore Championships in Gr. 8–10 since our teams are always competing against much bigger schools. Many of these schools are known for their basketball programs.


Obviously, this is a very talented group of boys. However, the thing that has made them truly special over their unprecedented three-year run has been the team-first approach. This is not a team where one or two boys dominate. Rather it is a team that plays its best when the ball is constantly moving until someone is open for a shot. This is literally the least selfish group of basketball players to ever come through Collingwood. And the results speak for themselves. 



Photo credit, Blair Shier

CEOLA WINS BC WRESTLING GOLD

Ceola K. became the first Collingwood wrestler since 2009 to win a BC championship. And she did it in absolutely spectacular fashion. Down 8-0 in the second and final round, she rallied to pin her opponent with mere seconds on the clock to win the gold medal. It was an incredible comeback victory. What makes this even more amazing is that Ceola is only in Gr. 8. Wrestling is an open sport so athletes from Gr. 8–12 compete against each other. It is very rare for a Gr. 8 athlete to win a BC title. Ceola's gold medal capped a fantastic year for the Collingwood wrestling program. Coach Larisch has high hopes of adding more medals to the squads' total next year as they push for a BC team championship.



Late breaking news... Collingwood's Senior Boys win the 2024 AA Provincial Championship!

For the first time in 8 years, the Cavaliers won the BC Boys AA Basketball title in March. There's no doubt the championship game against Brentwood College will be an event some of our Senior School students will remember for the rest of their lives. Cy B. had a 22-point game, and Finn M. wasn't far behind with 20 points. Logan A. was an expert in catching rebounds, and Avi B. intimidated Brentwood under the net. On defence, James H. shut down the opposition to keep Collingwood's lead intact — and earned himself the tournament MVP honour while doing so. A huge shout out to the many parents, alumni, faculty and staff who dedicated their Saturday to cheering on our Cavs to victory!





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

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Read all about expanded learning opportunities at Wentworth!

Co-Curriculars, Beyond the Bell and Collingwood Camps offer Wentworth students a range of fun learning opportunities.



Co-Curriculars

Wentworth's co-curricular activities provide meaningful and challenging learning experiences beyond the curriculum that spark curiosity and help students feel a sense of belonging at our School. While pursuing their passions and interests, students learn to communicate effectively with their peers, engage in meaningful service initiatives, enjoy new social experiences and expand their horizons. Co-curricular opportunities vary throughout the school year, with various athletics, intramurals and teacher-led clubs available each term. Term 3 offers a wealth of amazing opportunities that include STEM and Chess Clubs, Choir, Track + Field and the Green Team Club. A full catalogue of Wentworth co-curriculars can be found on the Wentworth page of the Veracross Parent Portal.



Beyond the Bell

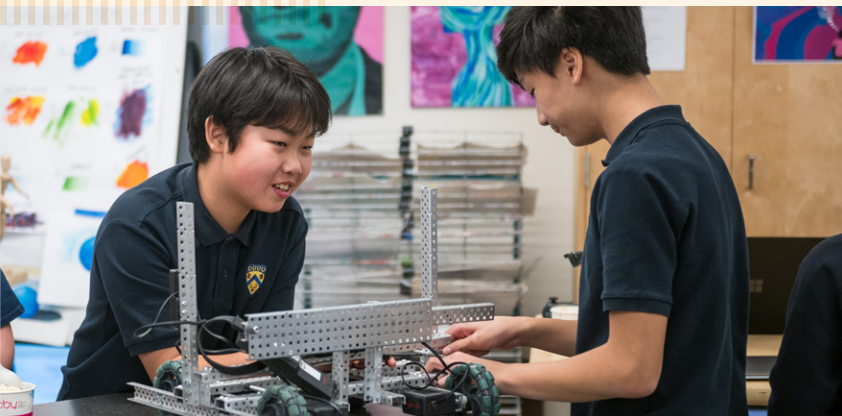
Beyond the Bell is the new name for Wentworth's collection of after-school programs. These extra-curricular learning opportunities provide students with the chance to further their development across Collingwood's Four Strands. Beyond the Bell programs are offered by trusted 3rd-party providers and vary by term and age group. With a diverse array of programs each term, there will be something of interest to just about every keen learner. Popular programs this past year included Musical Theatre, Nature Explorers, Yoga + Healthy Brain, Zen Maker Lab, Art of Drawing and Multi-Sports. Be on the lookout this spring for information about fall programs and registration. Please note that Beyond the Bell programs are not included with tuition and are subject to extra fees.

More information about Beyond the Bell can be found at collingwood.org/beyondthebell. Please direct any questions or waitlist requests to Lindsay McKnight at lindsay.mcknight@collingwood.org.

Camps

As you likely know, we are already well into registration for Collingwood's Summer 2024 camps, and many programs may already be filled. With more than 50 different programs spread out over 6 weeks this summer, Collingwood Camps offers small group sizes, excellent facilities and expert educators to ensure a dynamic and fun experience for every camper. Camps explore topics such as science and discovery, arts and media, sports and adventure and leadership. Most sessions run for half-days, with the option to sign up for two weekly programs (AM+PM) to make it a full day. There is also the option to sign up for a nutritious lunch program. All camps take place at Collingwood's Wentworth Campus. For more information and the complete Collingwood Camp Guide, visit collingwood.org/camps. If you have any questions, please contact us at camps@collingwood.org or 604.925.8375 ext. 2102.





Project Excellence

REIMAGINING LEARNING SPACES AT OUR SENIOR SCHOOL TO PROPEL STUDENTS AS THEY PURSUE THEIR PASSIONS

As a key component of Collingwood School's Strategic Plan, we are committed to reimagining our existing spaces to better reflect emerging teaching and learning practices. These revitalized spaces will provide new, exciting opportunities for student creativity, innovation, collaboration and transformative learning. Project Excellence is a critical initiative that provides the vision for integrating our Senior School STEM and entrepreneurship programs in a Centre for Excellence in STEEM (science, technology, engineering, entrepreneurship and math), while at the same time creating a new Learning Commons in the heart of the Morven campus. We believe the creation of these two new interdisciplinary learning spaces will ensure we can continue to provide forward focused, transformational learning opportunities for our students now and into the future.

Our goal is to raise 100% of the cost for this project through philanthropic contributions. In other words, we cannot do this without you.

HOW TO SUPPORT PROJECT EXCELLENCE

Help make Project Excellence a reality. Your generous contribution will create new transformational learning opportunities for students at Collingwood School.

Please consider speaking with your tax professional or financial advisor about how to maximize your tax savings while also maximizing your giving impact. Donations can be made by credit card and Alipay at collingwood.org/giving/project-excellence or by cheque made payable to Collingwood School Foundation. Donations can also be made by UnionPay in person at the school or by wire transfer.

For more information or assistance, please contact Rebecca Kerbel, Executive Director, Advancement, at Rebecca.Kerbel@collingwood.org, 604-925-3331 ext. 2293 or by mobile at 236-808-9021.



UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE

University Guidance works with students from Gr. 8 to 12... and beyond!

At Collingwood School, UG spends a lot of time working with the grad class each year. But did you know contact begins as early as Gr. 8? Our UG department talked to several students to gain their perspective on the support offered throughout their years at Morven.

Annual check-ins

Starting in Gr. 8, every Morven student has an individual appointment with their UG counsellor at least once per year. In Gr. 9, 10 and 11, students see their counsellor before they finalize course selections for the next academic year. UG also offers family information sessions over Google Meet to preview course selections and post-secondary options.

Accessibility

Current Gr. 10 student Ardavan says it's easy to make appointments and get clarity on topics such as course selections and post-secondary options. He says, "I don't leave the room being stuck on a question still. I leave with all my questions answered." Students are welcome to consult with not only the counsellor assigned by their House but also any available counsellor.

School visits

Over 100 university representatives visit Morven each year. While UG recommends students tour campuses wherever possible, Jaslynn in Gr. 12 says sessions hosted at UG were even more helpful because they were "directed to Collingwood students, in a small group." Jaslynn commented, "it was easier to ask questions and more personalized than a college fair or tour."

Resources

Students and families can browse our Instagram @collingwoodug. In addition to sharing good news about university acceptances, UG posts fun facts about diverse schools and programs. UG also uses the Instagram Linktree, First Five, and weekly email newsletter to advertise upcoming events and university visits.

Support in curating a school list

With all the information out there, how can students narrow their options? Rowan in Gr. 12 is thankful to UG for facilitating connections to fitting opportunities. With an interest in law, Rowan says, "UG helped to broaden my horizons and allowed me to expedite law school by sharing information about direct-entry programs in Ireland." Visiting and touring also helped him solidify his school list.

May, June and August sessions for incoming grads

The lead-up to Gr. 12 is crunch time for application preparations. In response, UG offers extra H Block resources for Gr.11 students. These resources include information sessions, meetings and writing workshops that extend through May, June and August. Jaslynn said she most appreciated the late August workshop, which covered supplementary essays for US applications without the burden of schoolwork being required at the same time. This allows grads to make concerted progress on applications ahead of a hectic fall.

September information for grads

Gr. 12 students are the first to meet with UG each September and receive important details about the application process. Jessica in Gr. 12 recalls appreciating UG's explanation of the differences between

universities, especially regarding expectations and timelines across Canada, the US, the University of California system and international schools. The Gr. 12 UG family presentation includes these points and an overview of what to expect throughout the year beyond initial applications to considerations such as scholarships and housing.

Checking in about deadlines

Sam in Gr. 12 observed that unfortunately, "university websites are not that good." Each institution's site is arranged differently, which often makes it difficult to find essential information. As a result, Sam was grateful for UG's Google Classroom, where we highlight due dates for popular programs with earlier deadlines, such as Rotman Commerce at the University of Toronto. UG also hosts fall workshops to help students navigate Canadian application websites, including BC, Ontario, McGill, and Dalhousie. Armed with ample information to plan for his Canada-focused business applications, Sam felt confident about knowing when everything was due, so he was able to submit his applications and even obtain some admissions decisions sooner than expected.

Next steps

Once university decisions are in, what's next? UG is happy to support each student in choosing among their offers, weighing housing, visa applications and other tasks in the process. During Collingwood U, UG delivers a mandatory session on easing the academic and social transition to university life.

The UG department gladly remains available for questions and check-ins from any parent or family, Wentworth or Morven alike!

ADMISSIONS

Meet your admissions team

Lindsay Thierry

Director of Enrolment, Scholarships & Financial Assistance

Raised in Ottawa, Ontario, Lindsay started his professional career in business but quickly transitioned into education. For more than 25 years, he has worked to leverage his experience in the classroom to develop academic and alternated revenue generation programs for independent schools. After working at Canadian schools such as St. Michaels University School, Athol Murray College of Notre Dame, St. Georges School and The Bishop Strachan School, Lindsay spent five years in China as Director of Institutional Advancement for the Shanghai American School. Lindsay and his family returned to Vancouver and has been at Collingwood School for the past five years. Lindsay has three children currently attending university and lives in North Vancouver with his wife Ginette and dog Kaiya.

Nita Pickering

Associate Director of Admissions

A longtime North Shore resident, mother of two and Collingwood parent, Nita joined the Admissions team in 2010. Prior to joining Collingwood, Nita served as Executive Assistant to the Head at Crofton House School. Throughout her 14-year career, Nita has loved meeting new families from all over the world, and having also experienced Collingwood from a parent's perspective, has been able to provide support to thousands of families through both admissions and their entire Collingwood School journey. In her spare time, Nita enjoys travelling with her family, listening to music and live theatre.

Maya McArthur

Associate Director of Admissions

Hailing from sunny Jamaica, Maya made the leap to Canada in 2016, settling her sights on the prairie charms of Saskatchewan. Maya is a proud alumni of the University of Saskatchewan, where she earned her Masters in Educational Psychology and Special Education. While the hunt for authentic Jamaican cuisine is a perpetual mission, Maya and her husband Tom are very much enjoying their life on the North Shore. Maya loves working in Admissions because it provides her with the opportunity to connect with all the incredible families who walk through the doors of Collingwood School.



Nita Pickering (back left), Lindsay Thierry (back right), Maya McArthur (front left), and Vania Moncada (front right)

Vania Moncada

Admissions Officer

Vania holds a Master's Degree in Marketing from Universidad Regiomontana and has recently completed a Diploma in Business Administration from the University of Victoria. She previously worked as an Admissions and Marketing Officer at Highlands International School in Mexico. This experience ignited her passion for education and inspired her to pursue a similar path in Canada. She finds it extremely rewarding to connect with prospective families and feel their genuine excitement about Collingwood School. Vania enjoys working with the Admissions team and being part of the process that introduces families to Collingwood School.

PARENTS' COUNCIL

2024 SPRING FAIR

We can't wait to welcome everyone to the 2024 Collingwood School Spring Fair! This is a much-loved Collingwood tradition that ensures fun for all ages. The fair features fun activities like bouncy castles, stuffy riders, pony rides, food trucks, the Watering Hole and the Grad Midway. This year, watch out for our new Reptile Room and so much more!

Thank you to all who have already committed to being involved as a volunteer or sponsor. We rely on your support to make this a successful event. For full details and to purchase tickets, please go to collingwood.org/springfair. Then, come on down to the Morven Ranch on April 20th from 11–3!

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Are you interested in joining the Parents' Council Team? If so, here is your chance! Parents' Council is composed of parent volunteers with a variety of backgrounds who coordinate community-building events such as Wentworth Bingo, Teacher Appreciation Lunches, Spring Fair, Parent Party, Book Clubs, Cultural Celebrations and more. With monthly meetings, the Parents' Council Team is a fantastic way to stay connected to other parents and help build a great parent community for our School. For more details or to add your name to our list of candidates for the 2024/2025 school year, please email Pauline at pcchair@mycw.org

**STAY ACTIVE AND KEEP FIT**

Our Hiking Group and Workout in the Woods Groups are each organized and led by our fabulous parent volunteers. With a weekly meeting time, these groups welcome all fitness levels and take advantage of the local outdoor beauty we are fortunate to have here on the North Shore. If you would like to join these free groups or to get more information, please email Sofia at cwconnection2@mycw.org

CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

The Collingwood community is lucky to have families with a wide range of cultural backgrounds, and the Parents' Council team loves to recognize and celebrate the many special occasions. We have learned about and celebrated with three of these in this last term alone. Thank you to the Latin Cultural Interest Group for sharing an amazing night of fiesta fun with our parents. Thank you also to our Chinese Cultural Interest Group, who shared Lunar New Year Celebrations across two days at both campuses with artists and performers. And to those celebrating Nowruz, we thank the Persian Cultural Interest Group for showing us the beautiful Sofreh spread across both campuses and also for sharing some amazing activities for our students. We sincerely appreciate all involved in presenting such wonderful displays and activities. Please email pcchair@mycw.org if you would like to suggest a cultural celebration to be included in the 2024/25 year.

**SUMMER FAMILY BUDDY VOLUNTEER**

Parents' Council organizes our Summer Buddy Family Connection program to welcome new parents and their children joining us for the new school year. How does this work? We are seeking volunteers within our community who would spare an hour or more to connect with our new families. Ideally, we would like to match student grade levels to help make a strong connection. However, this program is more about being a welcoming resource for the family to help answer any questions. This program is a lovely way for new families to meet other families (and we all know how hard it can get as our children get older and more independent!), so please consider yourself for this role, which is gaining more and more popularity as the years go on. To volunteer (or to ask further questions), please email newparentcoord@mycw.org.

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

Tina Beer Hamlin, '93

Tina Beer Hamlin is co-owner and senior appraiser at Coast Consignment, a family-owned business on the North Shore selling secondhand and antique furniture. Since her time at Collingwood, Tina has worked in property tax management and real estate before taking ownership of Coast Consignment with her mother, Angela.

Q. What is something you've found challenging working in the secondhand market?

A. One of the biggest challenges in the secondhand market is the stigma. Many people are afraid to purchase pre-loved goods, thinking they are not clean or that people will judge you for buying used ones. Our collections are hand-picked, curated, beautifully merchandised, inspected, researched and cleaned. Many of our clients have said that shopping at our showroom is like being in a gallery due to the way we merchandise our pieces as well as the sheer volume of goods we have for many different tastes and looks.

Q. What is something surprising you've experienced working in the industry?

A. The most surprising thing is that people are still willing to pay a high ticket price for secondhand items if they're a luxury brand. We are very lucky to deal with some of the finest estates in Metro Vancouver and Sea-to-Sky areas, and we find incredible brands from all across the globe. Folks often save 50–75% off the original retail price, so it's a wonderful way for people to achieve the high-end interior décor they want at a fraction of the price.



Q. How has the secondhand market evolved in the last five years?

A. The second-hand furniture market, for example, was valued at USD 12.7 billion in 2019 and is projected to reach USD 58.58 billion by 2030. eBay and Amazon have seen massive growth on their sites of secondhand goods, and other sites are coming online daily, selling curated collections of beautiful home décor, books, clothing, accessories and more. We will continue to see the market grow as consumers look to get great value for their dollar while shopping sustainably for the environment.

Q. Based on that growth, where do you think the secondhand market is heading?

A. It's only going up! With our aging population, we will continue to see large amounts of furniture, collectibles, clothes, tools, etc., flood the market as family members deal with estates and folks downsize their homes. Also, more people are recognizing the sustainability of the secondhand market and how it benefits them economically. Shopping for previously experienced goods is easier than ever with dozens of online marketplaces, including ours.

Call for Alumni Award Nominations!


We are currently taking nominations for our 2024 Alumni Awards. These awards recognize the excellence and achievements of Collingwood Alumni in one of three categories: the Mackenzie Awards, the Alumni Association Honours Award, and the Alumni Association Volunteer Award. For more information and to submit a nomination, please visit collingwood.org/community/alumni/awards.


Upcoming Events


- Class Reunions (1994, 2004, 2014)
Saturday, May 4th
- Alumni Homecoming
Sunday, May 5th
- Collingwood U
May 21st – June 2nd

Please email Morgan McLaughlin at morgan.mclaughlin@collingwood.org if you are a Collingwood alumni interested in volunteering for this amazing program.

STAY CONNECTED

 Join the Collingwood Alumni Group on LinkedIn collingwood/alumni-linkedln
Add Collingwood in the education section on your LinkedIn profile.

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

 Connect with us on Instagram @Collingwoodalumni

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



5 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT...

Graham Shaw

*Wentworth Gr. 6 Homeroom
Teacher*

1. Is from Ottawa.
2. Loves canoe camping.
3. Plays a variety of instruments.
4. Learned to ski when he was three years old.
5. Has a dog named Jax.

COMING SOON

COLLINGWOOD PERFORMING ARTS – COMING THIS SPRING!



BAND & CHOIR CONCERT

Tuesday April 23 7pm
West Vancouver United Church



WENTWORTH CONCERTS MAY 6, 7, 8 AND 23

Kindergarten concert May 6
Gr. 3 concerts May 6
Gr. 6/7 music concert May 7
Gr. 2 concert May 8
Gr. 4 concert May 8
Gr. 5 band concert May 23
Gr. 6/7 band concerts May 23

Stay tuned for more details and ticket information.

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

**APRIL 29 - MAY 3
7PM**

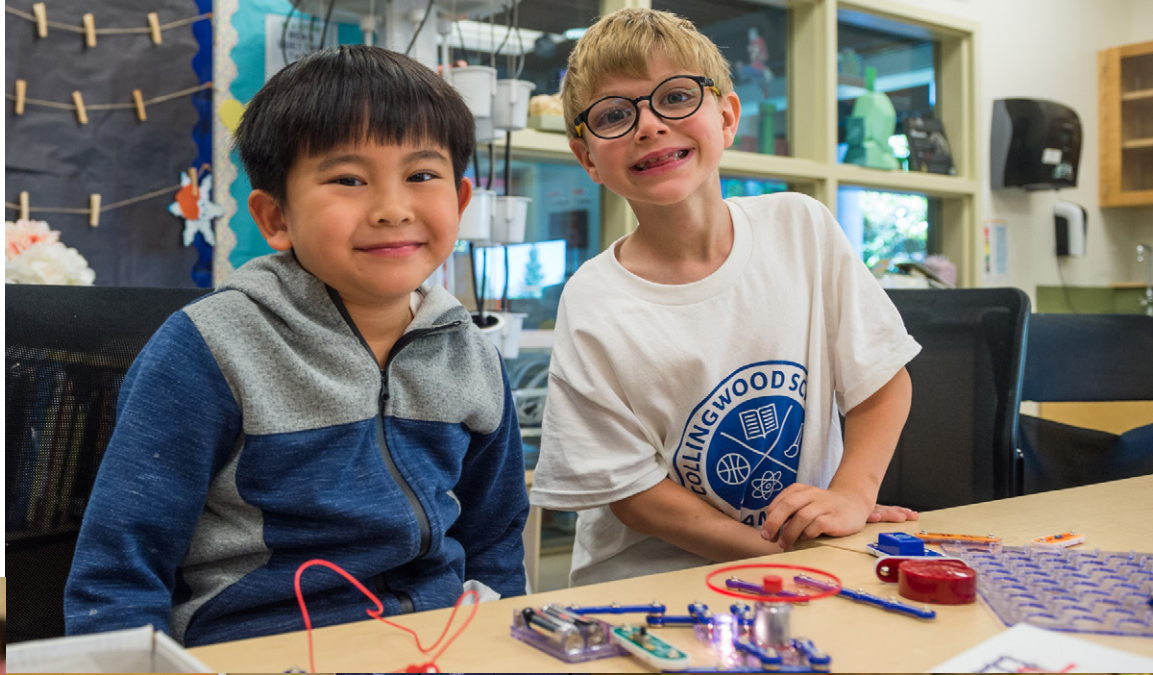


MORVEN ART SHOW

Look for dates and details in April.



July & August



Register Now

www.collingwood.org/camps

Return all undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

Collingwood School

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