

bridge

THE MAGAZINE OF COLLINGWOOD SCHOOL



**Social
Impact Lab**
The evolution of
service learning
at Collingwood's
Senior School

COLLINGWOOD'S

Ruby Jubilee

PARENT PARTY

40TH

ANNIVERSARY

JOIN US FOR COCKTAILS
DINNER AND DANCING!

MARCH 8, 2025, 6:30PM - 12 MIDNIGHT

PARQ HOTEL

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Re-enrolment, February 3-9

Pro-D Day, February 14

BC Family Day – School Closed, February 17

Last day of classes before Spring Break, March 14

First day of classes after Spring Break, March 31

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

NEWS



Happy New Year, everyone!

As we continue to celebrate Collingwood's 40th year, I hope you have enjoyed reading the feature stories we publish each week in our News & Reminders and on our website. To date, the story with the most interest has been the one featuring our longest-serving faculty members – many of whom are celebrated on the inside back cover of this issue of Bridge.

Collingwood School has also been incredibly fortunate to be supported by many long-standing volunteers over the course of our history. I'm proud to pay special tribute to the outgoing Chair of the Collingwood School Foundation, John O'Neill, for his many years of dedication and service. As you'll read just opposite this page, John is stepping down after 17 years and after having worn many volunteer hats. Please join me in thanking John for his incredible efforts on behalf of our School and community.

In this issue, I am also excited to officially kick off the public launch of Collingwood's first-ever Sustainability Plan. As our planet continues to face unprecedented environmental challenges, we believe it is more important than ever that educational institutions take a proactive role in fostering a culture of sustainability. This new plan articulates our collective vision for a greener future at Collingwood and outlines the strategies and actions needed to integrate sustainability into every aspect of our School, from curriculum development to daily operations.

In addition to being an important pillar of our Strategic Plan, this initiative also aligns well with our School's vision of being a place where socially responsible students pursue their passions to help make this a better world. As a school, we are also dedicated to contributing positively to our local and global communities, environmental stewardship, and supporting the well-being and inclusion of all people.

Our Sustainability Plan is also grounded in our School's core values of Courage, Curiosity, and Community. By encouraging our students to be courageous in the face of environmental challenges, curious about the world's interconnectedness, and committed to building sustainable communities, we are equipping them with the tools they need to make a positive impact on our planet.

Each and every member of our school community has the opportunity to actively participate in this initiative. If we all do our part, we believe this initiative will have a meaningful impact. For example, if we successfully implement all the emissions reduction actions outlined in this plan, we will be able to reduce Collingwood's emissions by 50% by 2030. We will be tracking and measuring our progress for our community to ensure transparency and accountability.

Ultimately, we hope our shared commitment to sustainability will inspire us toward a future where our School excels academically and stands as a shining example of responsible and impactful global citizenship.

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

A Tribute to John O'Neill: A Legacy of Service

For 17 years, John O'Neill has selflessly volunteered his time and expertise to Collingwood School. His journey with Collingwood began in 1997 when his eldest child started Kindergarten, and by 2007, he was elected to the Collingwood Society Board. During his tenure, John held various leadership roles, including Vice Chair, Chair of the Campaign Executive Committee, and member of the HR Committee and Land Proceeds Task Force.

A pivotal moment in John's contribution to Collingwood was his role as Chair of the Campaign Executive Committee from 2011 to 2013. Under his guidance, the Morven Building Excellence fundraising campaign not only met its ambitious \$10 million goal but exceeded it. This accomplishment was instrumental in creating the current Morven Campus.

In 2013, John transitioned from the Society to the role of Chair of the Collingwood Foundation, where he continued to make a significant impact. Under his leadership, the Foundation has stewarded our Endowment Fund and helped establish a Financial Assistance Program. This program has provided crucial support to numerous students, including 31 last year, and has supported student scholarships and awards.

John's legacy extends beyond the work. His positive attitude, tireless work ethic, and commitment to excellence have inspired countless individuals. His dedication to ensuring the best possible learning experience for all students is evident in his serving well past the graduation of his youngest child in 2018.

As we honour John's remarkable contributions, we express our sincere gratitude for his generosity, leadership, and expertise. We are grateful for his stewardship of the School's Foundation, ensuring that Collingwood continues to flourish in the years to come!



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Full circle moment! Ms. Spence and Ms. MacDonald, brought in photos of when they were in Grade 1 at Collingwood School, with their teachers Ms. Thomas and Ms. Bombini.



Add a comment...



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Welcome Back BBQ was a marvellous success, especially with our never-ending summer weather!



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The entire Junior School gathered outside this morning for the annual Opening Ceremony.



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It was moving to see our whole school community stand in solidarity, clad in orange shirts, with those affected by residential schools. ❤️



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The Gr 6 Boys soccer team had a blast at the Grizzly Cup yesterday, and even scored their first win of the season! Way to go everyone!



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Two students in Grade 5, Elizabeth and Esther, organized a food drive for the Harvest Project, donating 35 boxes of food and toiletries. 💪 #CWSserviceLearning



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It was a beautiful first day of school yesterday! #CWStudentLife


 Add a comment... 

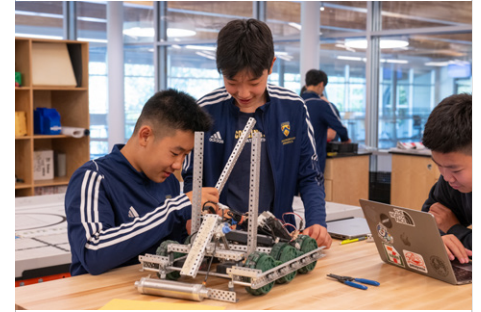
 collingwood school





Our Gr 8 ExL program kicks off the year with adventures like kayaking, fishing, volunteering, and other experiences. Absolutely zero fun was had!

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Students are already experiencing the benefits of the new STEEM Centre, including more dedicated storage and organization, table space, and square-footage.

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In Creative Writing 12, students are learning the art of the modern adaptation, kicking things off with a trip to see the Twelfth Night at Bard on the Beach.


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It's been a great start to the season for our Gr 8 Rugby team, with a trip to Shawnigan Lake last week for a win against their powerhouse team!

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We ❤️ our Kindie Buddies!!!!

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SOCIAL IMPACT LAB

A radically different approach
to service learning at Morven




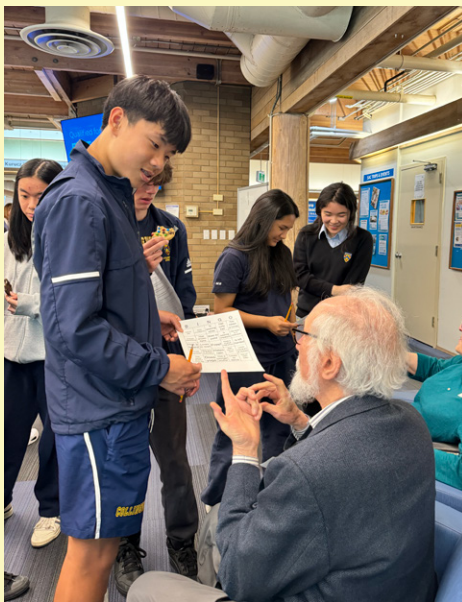
Historically, service learning at Collingwood's Senior School has been structured as a required number of hours each student must spend volunteering with a charity chosen from a list of opportunities that have been provided to them. The result of this approach is community service that might do something nice for someone in the community and make the student feel good about themselves—but is essentially orientated around the student.

As a demonstration of Collingwood's mission to inspire and support young people for meaningful lives and walk the walk of our values that include a commitment to community, the school's approach has evolved significantly with the introduction of Social Impact Lab. "We've shifted our philosophy toward service learning that focuses on community engagement," said Martin Jones, Collingwood's Senior School Principal, "Our approach to community engagement fosters a deep understanding of ethical and sustainable practices, empowering students to develop a strong sense of responsibility."

As with many areas of learning, innovative educators are also increasingly recognizing the value of student-led service initiatives. Inspired by community engagement models developed by organizations such as UBC, Collingwood's Social Impact Lab model combines learning about social issues with volunteerism, entrepreneurship, empathy, connection and innovation. Working in teams, students are provided with the opportunity to seek out potential partners and are given the

space and coaching to build the relationship, develop a better understanding of the issue area and mutually define where they can make a meaningful impact. The five grant areas students identified this year are: the North Shore Special Olympics, Seniors Assistance, Climate Action, Donation Drives and Reconciliation.

In recognizing the importance of this area of programming at Collingwood, there was a clear need to ensure that sufficient time is provided in the timetable and protected from competition with other student activities. At most schools, service learning is an after-school commitment that often competes with co-curriculars such as athletics or clubs. As a result, Collingwood created time in the schedule during the Community Block that is specifically dedicated to service learning. This means every student has the opportunity to participate and engage in a meaningful way. 



"What I witness through the equity and community-centred processes in each Social Impact Lab is a profound commitment to justice and equity. These students, fully immersed in understanding and addressing social issues, have become powerful agents of change," said Bradley Jolliffe, Assistant Director of Student Life at Morven. "They've shifted their focus from seeking external validation to internalizing their role as catalysts for positive change, no longer waiting to see examples of what could be from their peers or adults, but rather leading and joining movements themselves."

SOCIAL IMPACT LAB: NORTH SHORE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

This March, Collingwood School will be hosting the Special Olympics March Madness basketball tournament as an outcome of the work being done by the Social Impact Lab.

The lab's student leaders were asked to reflect on their in-progress service learning experience.

"The Special Olympics Lab brings value to both the North Shore Special Olympics charity and the Collingwood community. The Olympics provides athletes with intellectual disabilities a platform to showcase their athletic talents, feel celebrated, and connect with others in meaningful ways. Our initiatives include sponsoring track and field and supporting events like the March Madness tournament, which we will host March 8–9. These events create spaces where athletes and volunteers can build lasting relationships while also raising awareness about the importance of inclusion in sports. For the Collingwood community, the lab has fostered a culture of compassion and engagement. Involving students through organizing, volunteering, and coaching has shown them the power of service and leadership. These experiences teach empathy and emphasize the importance of breaking barriers between individuals with and without disabilities. It's been particularly impactful to see students gain a deeper understanding of inclusion through their participation and how these connections strengthen our school's sense of community. This lab has created a positive cycle of support and awareness, benefiting everyone involved."

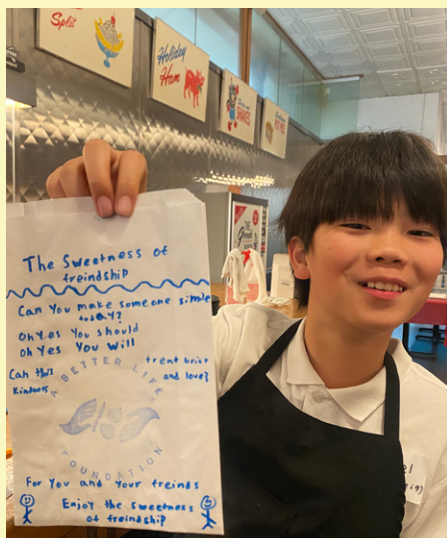
– Kiersa S, Gr. 12



"Through leading the Special Olympics lab, I have shifted my service learning style towards being more community-oriented. I have been lucky enough to have a chance to help put together a strong community of kids who are keen to learn about Special Olympics and how beneficial it is to our local communities as an

organization. Through my two years of leading this lab, I have not only been able to teach my peers about service learning and Special Olympics but also learn alongside them, and together, we have helped grow the service strand and strengthen the North Shore community through this partnership. Kiersa and I decided to choose Special Olympics as our lab because of our prior involvement, along with how we've seen it change lives and better our community. Being a volunteer with Special Olympics for three years, I have had the opportunity to coach three different sports: Track and Field, Floor Hockey, and Basketball. The Collingwood community experiences many benefits, but the main one from our lab would be how students are able to gauge a sense of inclusion and further strengthen their leadership skills. This partnership with Special Olympics is more than just working together; it is building meaningful relationships and reinforcing our School's values, furthering our standards for inclusion and participation in the service strand. Through this partnership, we are creating lasting change and inspiring our community to carry the values of respect and inclusion wherever they go in life."

– Lucas S, Gr. 12



Wentworth students volunteer at A Better Life Foundation

Beginning this past fall, Gr. 6 and 7 students at Wentworth have the opportunity each month to volunteer with A Better Life Foundation. This organization provides healthy meals to individuals and families in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. The program is about more than just food—it creates a welcoming space where people can come together, share a meal and support each other. It is a truly impactful initiative, and we are very excited to be part of it.

Through this service learning trip, we hope to help students broaden their understanding of community service. Student volunteers assist in preparing, cooking and serving meals to local youth. Under the guidance of a professional chef, students receive hands-on instruction in the kitchen to prepare lunch, which they then serve. As part of this experience, students are encouraged to engage with the clients they are serving to help build a sense of community.

"Today I learned that we shouldn't judge people based on their looks or their current situation."

– Wentworth Gr. 7 student



The biggest, coolest, most awesomest provocation ever!

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM'S VIEW OF THE NEW PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION



What exactly is a provocation?

A provocation is an open-ended activity or arrangement of materials that are designed to stimulate children's curiosity, imagination, and ideas. They can be used to introduce new ideas or concepts or to build on a child's interests. Provocations are typically open-ended and don't have a predetermined outcome. They encourage children to interpret and respond to the materials in their own way.



"I liked when they started to put the roof on because it keeps us good from the rain."

– Zane, K

Collingwood's approach to early childhood education is inspired by the Reggio Emilia Approach. This philosophy views the physical classroom environment as an integral part of the curriculum.

In full view of the classroom's window, the construction of the new playground presented itself as a giant provocation for learning. As the first truck arrived to start dismantling the old playground, the students had lots of questions about what it would look like, how it would be taken down, and what would be used to build the new playground. "I'm always looking for ways to introduce materials or create change in the environment that responds to the children's interests, questions and experiences in order to provide new opportunities for students to engage in their learning," said kindergarten teacher Julie Karpiuk, "This can be as simple as moving a piece of furniture. In the case of the playground, the first response was to move a couch near the window to create a viewing area. This provoked observation and conversations, which provided new questions and ideas." The observation area was stocked with paper and drawing materials to encourage students to



document their thoughts on what was happening outside our window. Students created drawings of what they imagined or wanted the playground to look like. The construction also led the students to share their knowledge of building, making connections to recent lessons about the forces of motion. Students also engaged in their own play structure design projects, thinking about the activities they enjoyed most.

The excitement over the new playground and the opportunity to watch it from start to finish provided a unique and meaningful way for the students to apply knowledge from recent lessons, explore the idea of documentation and find a playful way to introduce topics from within the curriculum. The great playground construction provocation of 2024 will be a tough one to beat. **B**



"I like the slide and the stairs because the stairs are a circle and the slide is really fast!"

– Charly, K

"I have some fun memories there."

– Nick, K, reflecting on the previous playground

Our students enjoy exploring the wonder of mixed media sculpture, transforming their ideas into tangible forms through hands-on creativity.



Combining both digital and analog processes to bring story, emotion and world-building together in Art Studio 11/12



A MUCH BIGGER CANVAS

As we all know, our lives in the connected era contain an ever-expanding density of visual media. Increasingly, it is important for young people to develop the tools needed to navigate this world — both as consumers of media and as creators of visual content.

With this in mind, the visual arts program at Collingwood's Senior School has evolved significantly over the last several years. Greater emphasis is now being placed on helping student artists learn how to make sense of the media they are presented with by developing the fluency to recognize, understand and evaluate their visual experiences. Young people also benefit greatly from the opportunity art provides to explore their own identities, concerns and beliefs. Visual art provides a space where students can ask these questions and express themselves through drawing (both analog and digital), photography, painting, video editing, sound design, sculpture, and VR experiences. "Our goal is to help students develop an understanding of how to take ideas and synthesize them into visual media to impact audiences or to question and seek understanding of human experiences," said Jake Francis, Head of Visual Arts at Morven, "these are the skills that artists explore."

TECHNOLOGY IS PROVIDING NEW AND EXCITING ENHANCEMENTS TO TRADITIONAL VISUAL ARTS LEARNING EXPERIENCES AT MORVEN



Immersed in VR, this student is drawing inspiration they will apply to their artistic explorations in a, new dynamic space. Coming to Studio 8/9 in September 2025.

Another big evolution in how the visual arts are being taught at Morven is the increasing integration of new tools and technologies. Art and visual media are rapidly changing both in the form that content takes and how it is being made. AI and machine-assisted image creation, for example, provide exciting new avenues for creation and challenge our current understanding of how art is made. Student artists are encouraged to be curious and experiment with all the tools now available. They are encouraged to be adaptive as artists and reconsider their assumptions about how old technology, materials and processes are used and how new and different technologies can be infused into the artist's studio.

While many serious art students intend to pursue an arts-focused educational path or career, visual arts courses at Morven are designed to be accessible to a wide variety of students regardless of their skill level, background or future goals. Many students discover the skills they gain in our classes benefit their academic pursuits across various fields. Many students also develop a passion for the arts and continue to deepen their practice with us each year. 🎨



In the big picture of student learning, visual arts allow students to develop important transfer skills. These are skills that students build in one academic area that later serve them across other disciplines. The visual arts provide an excellent opportunity for students to build their imagination, creativity and problem-solving abilities. They can then apply these skills to other academic areas such as entrepreneurship, mathematical thinking and reasoning, English classes and beyond.

– Jennifer Dousett, Director of Teaching, Learning and Innovation, Senior School

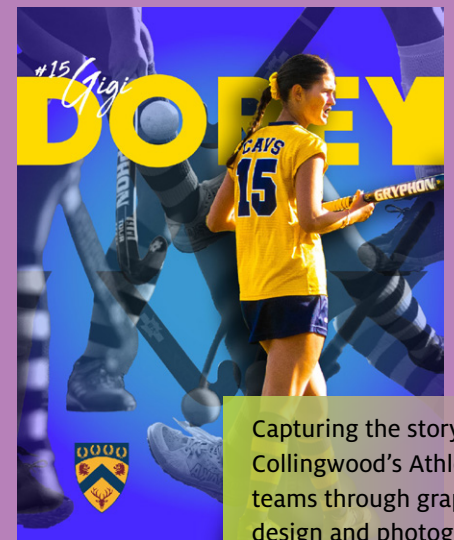
Visual Arts classes at Collingwood's Senior School. Please refer to the Academic Handbook in Vericross for the most current course descriptions.

Studio 8

This class explores traditional handmade art techniques like drawing, painting and sculpting to build foundational skills. Students connect these traditions to digital tools like Procreate on the iPad and emerging technologies like virtual reality, blending the past and future of art making. Artist-centred projects allow students to pursue ideas and interests they care about in their art.

Studio 9

Expanding on their artistic journey, students build on traditional techniques, creating physical artworks while integrating digital tools like Procreate and virtual reality. This hands-on studio course allows them a look into animation, sound design and videography while maintaining a focus on physical media. As they gain independence in their creative process, students discover how their art connects to a wider audience, blending tactile skills with modern tools to express their ideas in today's world.



Capturing the story of Collingwood's Athletics teams through graphic design and photography in Digital Studio 10/12

Digital Studio 10/11

An introduction to advanced digital art-making, including T-shirt design and screen printing, short film production with a Canon C200 industry-level camera, professional photography and lighting. Students will build their portfolios and graphic design skills with Adobe Express Animation with Procreate. Gr. 11 students take on leadership roles as creative directors on larger projects. Gr. 10 students focus on media experiences and skill-building.

Digital Studio 12

This class is designed as a Gr. 12-only course. Students work with Collingwood Alumni in creative industries to build project ideas. Projects include work in video, photo and graphics media kits for term 1 Morven Athletics. Independent inquiry projects focus on students' personal passions and interests, with the option to participate in the BC Zoomfest short film contest as a final project.

Art Studio 10-12

Coursework includes an increased focus on building skills in studio art approaches. Digital aspects are integrated to provide optimum art-making opportunities. Larger and more independent projects are the focus as students move through the years.

AP Studio Art 12

A rich and challenging experience for students to create a portfolio of their year's work for submission to the College Board.



The BC Gr. 3 curriculum outlines the big ideas, curricular competencies and content for learning across the different subjects. In science, for example, students must engage in explorations of our local ecosystems, habitats and food webs. In social studies, students must learn about traditional Coast Salish people's lives, homes, diets, tools and social structures.

Jennifer DeGeer, who previously taught Gr. 3 before returning from mat leave as an art specialist, had an idea. What if there was a way to create an innovative learning opportunity that brought together curricular topics in science and social studies into an engaging art project? Though art at this grade level is typically focused on fundamental skills, Ms. DeGeer put together an innovative interdisciplinary art project plan. Students were asked to choose a Coast Salish animal with which they felt a connection. Students then learned about the habitat of their special animal and explored the ecosystems and landscapes where the animals lived. Adding in a social studies component, students then learned about the life and Coast Salish artistic style of Indigenous artist Roy Hendry Vickers. Celebrating the artistic spirit of Roy Hendry Vickers, the project culminated with students creating their own watercolour-based landscapes. **b**

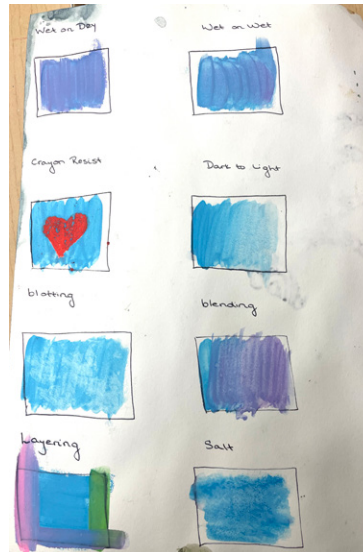
Watercolour Wonders

Fusing science and social studies to create an innovative Gr. 3 art project



Who is Roy Henry Vickers?

Roy Henry Vickers is a world-renowned Canadian First Nations artist who began his career as a printmaker. He rose to prominence when he built the Roy Henry Vickers Gallery in 1986 in Tofino, BC. People from all over the world travel to witness his creations, from the limited edition prints to his original paintings to the building he built himself with close friends and family.



"I like this art project because it connects to the Coast Salish people and also the animals who the Coast Salish live with. My favourite watercolour technique was using salt because when it dries, it is hard and very shiny looking on the art."

– Mia, Gr. 3

"I really like this art project because my favourite technique is blotting because the water and paint kind of dance through the paper. I also like this art project because I like to draw the background of forests, oceans and mountains."

– Mier, Gr. 3

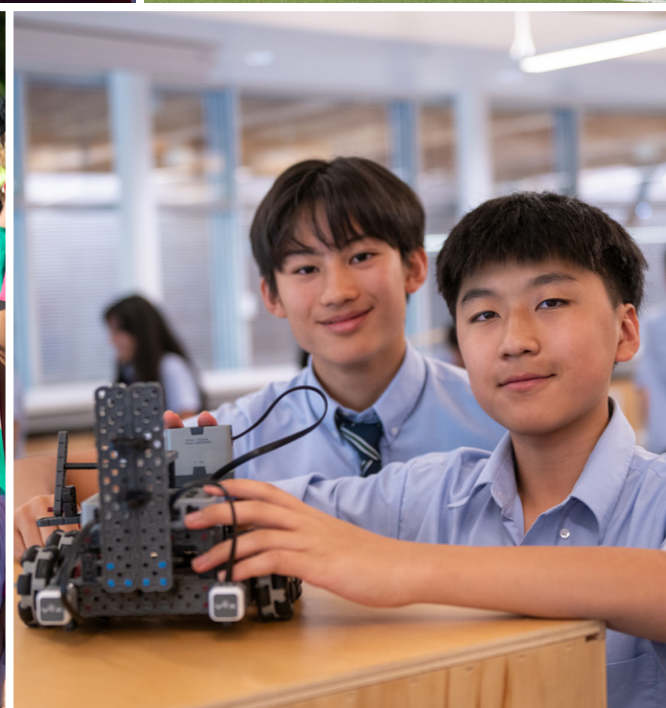
"I like this art project because I really like drawing and painting beautiful landscapes. I mostly draw them at home, but it was really cool to learn new techniques at school. My favourite one is blending because it is really good for sunsets and I liked seeing how the colours meet together. I liked learning about the Coast Salish animals because I really like salmon and I really like bears as well. I liked that I could do my favourite animals in this project."

– Ryan, Gr. 3

"As a teacher, seeing the student's excitement and enthusiasm for learning and applying new skills to their artwork is magical. Our aim is to inspire each student to creatively implement techniques, take artistic risks, and allow their artistic expression to reflect their personal style. I know it's a great art project when the students can stand back, look proudly at their completed piece and say, "Wow! I did that!"

– Jennifer DeGeer, Visual Arts Teacher, Wentworth





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



THE DYNAMIC DUO

By David Speirs, Athletic Director

Andy Wong and Teresa Ross are Collingwood's dynamic coaching duo. They are one of BC's most successful basketball coaching partnerships and equally revered on the high school tennis scene.

Andy is in his 12th year at Collingwood and already has seven provincial gold medals to his credit in basketball and tennis. When Andy joined Collingwood, the tennis Cavs were in the middle of an unprecedented run of six straight BC AA titles under the legendary Al Rose. Andy joined Al, and they won three championships together. Then, when Al retired, Andy won two more as the head coach.

Andy had almost instant success on the basketball front as well. He led the 2015-16 team to a BC AA Championship in his third year.



Before joining Collingwood, Teresa was building quite the resume for herself. With no one stepping up to coach basketball at Seycove Secondary, Teresa took it upon herself to coach her sons' teams. With Teresa leading the way, the Seahawks established themselves as a North Shore powerhouse and in 2018, they defeated Collingwood in the North Shore Final and finished 3rd at the BC AA Championships.

Thankfully, when Teresa's youngest son graduated, she still wanted to keep coaching. Andy sensed an opportunity, and with a little persuading, Teresa was soon teaching part-time at Collingwood and coaching basketball, tennis and volleyball.

Together, Andy and Teresa won the 2023-24 BC AA basketball championship, and our Cavs are currently ranked #1 in the province. In tennis, they have won two North Shore Championships, two Vancouver Sea-To-Sky Championships and a provincial silver medal in 2023 and bronze in 2024.

This is an amazing partnership where both coaches complement each other by understanding the other's strengths, which allows them to bring out the best in their athletes. And hopefully, this year, that will translate into another two provincial gold medals. **b**



UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE

Collingwood's US College Fair

This fall, we were thrilled to host the first-ever US College Fair on the North Shore. Open to all families in the area, this event attracted over 400 attendees. Given the success, Collingwood is planning to host this event annually.

Collingwood School also once again hosted the Art & Design Fair. This event provides the opportunity for students to share their portfolios with universities from all over the world. This was the 2nd year that Collingwood hosted this event on the North Shore.



ADMISSIONS



Student re-enrolment

Re-enrolment for the 2025–2026 school year commences on Monday, February 3. The deadline for re-registration is Sunday, 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

Project Excellence: a new era of inspired learning at our Morven Campus

We are proud to join the entire Collingwood School community in celebrating the completion of Project Excellence. This initiative is a key component of our commitment to reimagining our existing spaces to better reflect emerging teaching and learning practices. From the start of school in September, these two newly revitalized spaces have begun to provide new, exciting opportunities for student creativity, innovation, collaboration and transformative learning.

A New Centre for Excellence in STEEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Entrepreneurship, and Mathematics)

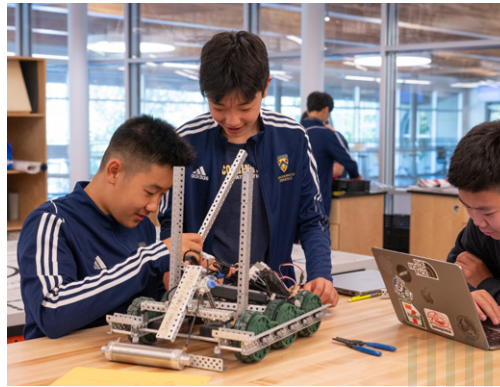
The new Centre for Excellence in STEEM integrates our Senior School STEM and entrepreneurship programs into flexible spaces for students and teachers to pursue inquiry, explore ideas, collaborate and build prototypes. In addition to supporting classes like Design and Technology, computer science and robotics, this space provides the opportunity to integrate entrepreneurship with the STEM curriculum. This approach encourages students to apply technical skills to real-world business challenges and help encourage creativity, innovation and a client-centred approach to problem-solving.

A New Learning Commons

Our new Learning Commons replaces Morven's traditional library with a modern space that prioritizes digital literacy. This innovative space provides areas for individual study, group work and class instruction. In addition to fostering a community of exploration and collaboration, the Learning Commons supports the development of digital literacy skills and serves as a hub for student research and learning. The reimagined Yasmine Karim Family Library, now housed within the Learning Commons, was moved from its original space to create a more integrated and accessible resource centre that brings learning to the heart of our Senior School Campus.

Collingwood School's journey to bring Project Excellence to life has been an inspiring demonstration of our community's shared vision and commitment.

We began our fundraising efforts in December 2023, and thanks to the support and generosity of our donors, we successfully reached our milestones in June 2024. This ambitious timetable allowed us to complete construction for the start of the 2024 school year. Since September, students and teachers have been utilizing these new spaces, experiencing firsthand the enhanced learning opportunities they provide. These new facilities will support our students in developing the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the future, making a significant impact on their educational journey at Collingwood School and beyond.



For more information on Project Excellence or the new spaces, please contact our Advancement department at advancement@collingwoodschool.org.

PARENTS' COUNCIL

Happy New Year!

We are thrilled to welcome everyone back to campus after what we hope was a fun and restful holiday break. We're excited to kick off another term with many opportunities to create meaningful and memorable connections while our children settle back into their school routines.

There's a lot to look forward to this year, starting with the upcoming Lunar New Year and Nowruz celebrations, followed quickly by our Parent Party! This year marks a special milestone — 40 years of inspiring and nurturing our children to grow into kind, confident and successful individuals. To celebrate this Ruby Jubilee, we'll be hosting a special event on March 8th at Parq Hotel, and we hope to see you there.

The Parents' Council is also excited to continue the beloved tradition of the Spring Fair. This annual event is always a favourite among parents and children alike, so be sure to mark your calendars for April 26th, 2025.

Our regular connection events and services have been a great success so far this year. After our meet-the-teacher evenings, we hosted social gatherings, giving families a chance to connect and build new friendships. It's always wonderful to see these relationships take root!

The Parents' Council coffee morning in September at the Morven campus was a great opportunity to meet our team, learn about our planned events and services and hear directly from our Senior Leadership Team. We've also encouraged grade-wide coffee mornings in both September and January, and our class and grade reps do an amazing job bringing everyone together.



Our connection team continues to offer a variety of engaging events, from dumpling making to wreath making, ensuring there's something for everyone. Our cultural groups have also flourished, sharing their traditions with the wider community through special events highlighting significant cultural celebrations. This year, we celebrated Diwali with a fashion show, yoga, henna tattoos, and a selection of delicious Indian snacks. We also enjoyed a lively Day of the Dead celebration hosted by our Latin Club, featuring traditional dress, decor, music and festive food.

Festive Craft Day is always a highlight for our primary school students, and it's equally special for the parents who volunteer their time to help. This year's theme, Holiday Woodlands, made for a truly magical day.



Our ever-popular Unishop continues offering gently used uniform items at significantly reduced prices while encouraging sustainability within our Collingwood community.

As we reflect on all that we've accomplished and what's yet to come, we are reminded that our school community thrives because of the contributions of our dedicated parents. None of these events would be possible without our incredible volunteers. THANK YOU!

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

Caroline Wong
Vice Chair, Parents' Council

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

Email pcchair@mycw.org

ALUMNOTES



Alumni Spotlight

Casey Thomas-Burns '17: "Trombonist, Vocalist and Bandleader"

Casey Thomas-Burns graduated from Collingwood in 2017. A talented trombonist, vocalist, and bandleader, Casey's vibrant career has been shaped by a passion for jazz. A Capilano University's Jazz Performance program graduate, she was the lead trombonist in the university's band. Casey regularly performs around Vancouver with her jazz ensembles, including the Casey Thomas-Burns Jazz Quartet and the Casey Thomas-Burns Swing Band.

Recent career highlights include performing at the 2024 Grey Cup Halftime Show with the Jonas Brothers and completing her Gals & Pals project, a concert featuring original music by female music artists reimagined for The Leading Ladies. To learn more about Casey's projects, visit caseythomasburns.ca.



Alumni Events: Out-of-town meetups!

We had a successful fall full of new and old connections at our Alumni Meetups in Los Angeles and New York City. We can't wait to create more moments for relationships among alumni. Keep your eye out for news about a meetup in your city.

Coming up...

Homecoming 2025

We are excited to welcome you all on May 2nd for our third annual Alumni Homecoming — enjoy a BBQ and a student-versus-alumni basketball game while reconnecting with friends!


Grads of 1995, 2005, & 2015


Get excited about your 30, 20, and 10 year reunions! Mark your calendars for May 3rd, at 6 pm, for a celebration with fellow alumni at Collingwood's Morven Campus.


Alumni Award Nominations

To recognize our community's incredible accomplishments and growth each year, we ask you to encourage fellow alumni to be recognized for their success, resilience and hard work. To nominate an individual and for more information, please visit collingwood.org/community/alumni/awards

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



5 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT...

Meaghan Harder

*Gr. 3 Homeroom Teacher,
Wentworth Campus*

Grew up in Pickering, ON
(same as Shawn Mendes).

Plays hockey.

Is “allergic” to onions.

Enjoys Hallmark Christmas movies.

Is a little obsessed with Bulk Barn.

40TH ANNIVERSARY FEATURE:

LONGEST SERVING FACULTY



Collingwood is delighted to have 43 current employees who have been with us for 20 years or more. Remarkably, we also have six current employees who have worked with us for 30 years or more! Who are these amazing individuals who have inspired literally thousands of Collingwood students to pursue their passions?



"Working here for 38 years, I have many fond memories, and new memories are made daily. I love helping my children learn, make meaningful connections and find their passions. Staying connected and watching former students thrive as they progress through life at school and beyond makes me feel very proud. I now have the honour and privilege of teaching children of my former students. It has been a wonderful journey!"

– Wendy Nielsen, Gr. 2 Teacher



"People keep asking me when I'm going to retire. What they don't realize is that I love working with my colleagues and still get an adrenaline high from coaching and cheering on our many teams. Until that stops, I'll keep teaching at Collingwood."

– David Speirs, Director of Athletics



"As I look back on my 31 years at Collingwood School, it is the relationships with students and colleagues that I remember the most. Whether I was teaching English or PE, coaching a sports team or supporting the Encounter Program, I valued the opportunity to get to know our students on a personal as well as academic level. As Head of School, I now see many of my students enrolling their children at Collingwood, and so it feels like a full-circle-of-life moment when three generations – grandparents, parents, and children – are gathered together in our gymnasium for a school event. I feel very blessed to have worked with such talented and dedicated colleagues and to have seen our School grow and evolve into the wonderful community that it is today!"

– Lisa Evans, Head of School



"My fondest memory of Collingwood is the incredible sense of community and the amazing people I've had the privilege of getting to know over the years".

– Kristin Neilsen, Inclusive Education Teacher



"During our last Meet the Teacher night, I saw two of my former students who were going to meet their kids' Gr. 9 and Gr. 11 teachers!"

– Walentyna Karcz, Senior School Economics and Geography Teacher

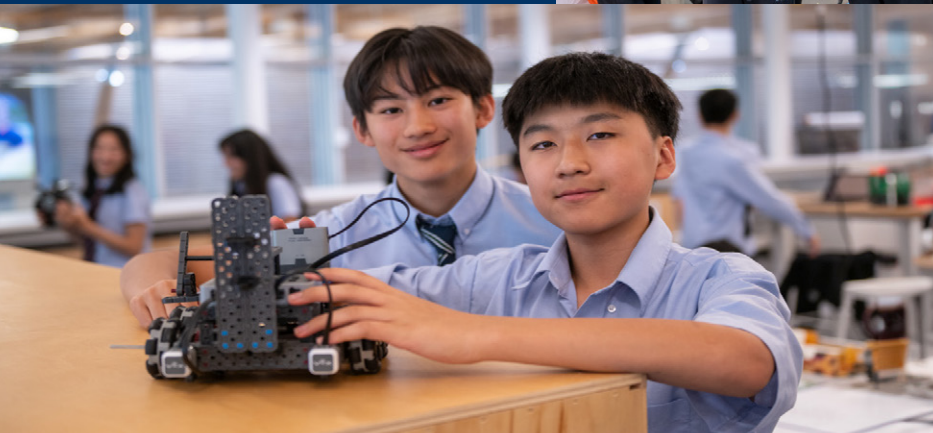


"I have thoroughly enjoyed working at Collingwood over the last 30 years. The school has provided me with a supportive environment to grow as a teacher and I have formed friendships with my colleagues that will last a lifetime."

– Kyran Kennedy, Junior School Inclusive Education Teacher



Help support our students as they pursue their passions.



The 2024-25 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