

# bridge

THE MAGAZINE OF COLLINGWOOD SCHOOL




**Sneakerheadz!**  
Gr. 6 students  
go deep into the  
fascinating world  
of shoe culture





 collingwoodschool ...








Gr. 1 students spent the week designing and prototyping useful inventions that can be made of recyclable materials! #forwardfocused

We believe the passions of our students will help build a better world. That's why Collingwood emphasizes authentic, real-world educational experiences and a personalized approach to learning for all students. We invite interested families to discover more ways that learning here is different. For more information about admissions and the financial assistance and scholarship opportunities available for qualified students and families in Gr. 6-12, visit [collingwood.org/admissions](http://collingwood.org/admissions).



COLLINGWOOD  
SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS CALENDAR:

-  OCT 15  
Gr 8-11 Open House
-  OCT 21  
JK-Gr 7 Open House
-  NOV 1  
Application Deadline
-  DEC 1  
Financial Assistance Deadline
-  For more information visit  
[collingwood.org/admissions](http://collingwood.org/admissions)



COLLINGWOOD  
SCHOOL

## bridge

THE MAGAZINE OF COLLINGWOOD SCHOOL

### EDITOR

Angela Nielsen

### DIGITAL EDITOR

Jill Slattery

### DESIGN

Leah Moy

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Ryan Tobin

Bridge magazine is published three times a year in print and digital formats. Opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the School.


Please address correspondence to:  
Bridge Magazine  
70 Morven Drive  
West Vancouver, BC V7S 1B2  
communications@collingwood.org


Fall 2025  
Printed in Canada

### Paper Certification

At Collingwood School, we are grateful to live, work and learn on the unceded traditional territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), and xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations. We are committed to acknowledging, respecting, and celebrating the land, people and spirit that spans our two campuses, as we aim to cultivate meaningful and long-lasting relationships with Indigenous communities.

### LET'S CONNECT

 @collingwoodschool

 @collingwoodschool

# CONTENTS

FALL 2025

## FEATURES

### 6 SNEAKERHEADZ!

Gr. 6 students go deep into shoe culture

### 10 THE GREAT WATER AUDIT

Morven math students investigate Senior School water usage

### 12 MAKE IT EXPO

Gr. 1 students create something useful out of recyclable materials

### 14 E-COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIAL DESIGN 12

Finding innovative solutions to real-world design challenges

### 18 2024/25 SENIOR SCHOOL ATHLETIC AWARDS

Congratulations to our major athletics awards winners

## IN EVERY ISSUE

### 21 DEPARTMENTS

### 22 PARENTS' COUNCIL

### 23 ALUMNOTES

### 24 SUNSHINE TEACHER

## NEWS

### KEY DATES:

School closed for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, September 30

School closed for Thanksgiving, October 13

School closed for Province Wide Pro D Day, October 24

School closed for Term Break, November 10

School closed for Remembrance Day, November 11

Last day of classes before Winter Break, December 18

First day of classes after Winter Break, January 12

For a full calendar of school events, please see our weekly e-news or visit [collingwood.org](http://collingwood.org).





## Welcome back to a new school year!

Welcome to the 2025–2026 School Year!

A few weeks ago, I shared the bittersweet news that I would be departing at the end of the 2025/2026 school year. After 31 incredible years, including eight as your Head of School, this feels like the right time for me and for Collingwood. The relationships I have built with students, families, faculty, staff, and alumni are a profound part of my own personal and professional journey, and this sense of community is what truly makes Collingwood special.

With this transition in mind, I want to formally welcome and introduce you to the new Chair of our Board of Governors, Nicolas Jimenez. Nicolas is a long-serving member of the Board, having joined in 2019, and brings with him a wealth of experience, including his current role as CEO of BC Ferries and his prior tenure as CEO of ICBC. Nicolas previously held the roles of Chair on both Collingwood's Governance and Finance committees. This deep understanding of our School coupled with his professional expertise, makes us incredibly fortunate to have him at the helm during this important time.

I know that change can sometimes feel unsettling, but I want to assure you that my final year will be one of close collaboration with school leaders, Nicolas and the Board. We will work together to ensure a smooth transition and to find the next Head of School who will continue to lead our community "with passion and purpose." We have a strong school leadership team in place, and I am confident they will continue to guide, mentor and inspire students and staff alike during the transition. This magazine issue itself is a testament to the fact that change is a constant force for growth. Within these pages, you will find examples of innovation and positive change across our academic programs in our feature articles. I hope you will also enjoy reviewing the incredible work our community partnered with us to achieve, including the success of last year's Project Excellence and a record-setting Tartan Fund campaign, both of which are detailed in the Donor Report.

These achievements are not just a reflection of our past– they are a springboard for our future. They show that our shared vision, our commitment to our students, and our willingness to embrace change can lead to extraordinary things. The future is bright, and I am excited to celebrate our journey and all that lies ahead with you in the coming year.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lisa Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Lisa Evans,  
Head of School



## Jim Burnett

We are deeply saddened to share that Jim Burnett — a much-loved and long-serving Collingwood teacher, Director of PE and Athletics, and former Headmaster — passed away on July 4th. Over the past year, Jim faced serious health challenges with great courage, supported every step of the way by his devoted family — his wife, Sabina, and sons, Kadin and Jaron — who were by his side when he passed.

Jim joined Collingwood in the late 1980s as the Director of Physical Education and basketball coach. As the School grew, so did Jim's role and impact. He coached a wide variety of sports — basketball and track & field among his favourites — and took on the additional role of Athletic Director, overseeing all teams from Gr. 3–12 until the Wentworth Campus opened in 1997. Under his leadership, Collingwood's athletics programs flourished. He guided the Senior Girls' Basketball Team to the Provincial Championships three years in a row in the mid-1990s and transformed the Track & Field team into a North Shore champion in 1993.

But Jim's legacy goes far beyond wins and trophies. He was a deeply thoughtful educator and mentor who cared profoundly about students and colleagues alike. Jim was an exceptional listener who asked meaningful questions, never settling for surface-level responses, but always encouraging reflection and personal growth. He supported those around him with honesty, empathy, and unwavering integrity. Many found in Jim a trusted mentor and sounding board, someone who always believed in their potential and pushed them to be their best selves.

When the School needed steady leadership, Jim stepped up as Acting Head of School and went on to become Collingwood's third Headmaster. He led with wisdom, kindness and an unshakeable focus on what was best for students. His gracious presence, thoughtful leadership and deep care for the Collingwood community helped shape the school we know today.

Jim Burnett was kindness and graciousness personified. His 15 years of dedicated service left a profound and lasting impact, and the many happy memories we hold of him will continue to live on in our hearts and minds for years to come.





collingwoodschool



We love a good talent show, and the Gr. 3-5s didn't disappoint! Kudos to all the kiddos who shared their special talents with our Wentworth campus.



Add a comment...



collingwoodschool



Gr. 4s each picked an icon who has brought positive change to the world and taught us all about them at the Changemakers expo.



Add a comment...



collingwoodschool



Gr. 12s hosted our Kindies at Morven for a fun Easter scavenger hunt around campus! 🐰



Add a comment...



collingwoodschool



Our Wentworth artists were at work last week on their miniature salmon sculptures, learning how to shape clay into objects with tiny details. #CWArts



Add a comment...



collingwoodschool



We had an incredible three days at Camp Summit with our Gr. 5s and the Gr. 10 Camp Counsellors. There were many core memories created!



Add a comment...



collingwoodschool



What a beautiful week to celebrate our planet! Big thanks to everyone who participated in our Earth Week events - keep up the great work! 💚



Add a comment...



collingwoodschool



The Gr. 6/7 Gold Girls Soccer team had an awesome game last week against Southridge. Go CAVS!



Add a comment...



collingwoodschool



Our Jr. School put on a fabulous production of Matilda Jr. this week. From the singing to dancing, costumes, and all those lines memorized... the entire cast and crew did a brilliant job.



Add a comment...



collingwoodschool



Our Grade 7s and their families had a special ceremony on Tuesday to mark the end of their Junior School journey. Grade 7s - you did it!



Add a comment...





 collingwoodschool



Bravo to the cast and crew of our Senior School spring play, 'Witness for the Prosecution'! 🏛️👏


 Add a comment... 


 collingwoodschool





From high ropes and archery to 9-Square and nature hikes, Grade 8s had an unforgettable time at Camp Summit.


 Add a comment... 


 collingwoodschool





14 students travelled to Orlando to compete on the DECA world stage, and two of our teams made it to the finals — placing them among the top “less than 1%” of competitors!


 Add a comment... 


 collingwoodschool





The halls were full of wagging tails, wet noses, and pup-arazzi-worthy moments today. The grads really gave us the ulti-mutt surprise!

 Add a comment... 

 collingwoodschool




The Senior Rugby Team defeated Robert Bateman 19-15 to win the BC AA Championship for the 3rd straight year. Look out AAAs!

 Add a comment... 

 collingwoodschool



Adventures in Film 11 took a group of passionate students to NYC to explore the media mecca and get unparalleled access to leading film and television resources. Very cool.


 Add a comment... 


 collingwoodschool





🏆 AA Boys Tennis Provincial Champions  
🏆 AA Girls Tennis 2nd in BC.  
#CWAthletics

 Add a comment... 

 collingwoodschool



The Class of 2025 ✨🎓

 Add a comment... 

 collingwoodschool



Our grads ditched the uniform for their fanciest duds to celebrate the beginning of a fabulous new chapter at the Grad Ball. #CWGrad2025

 Add a comment... 



# Sneakerheadz!

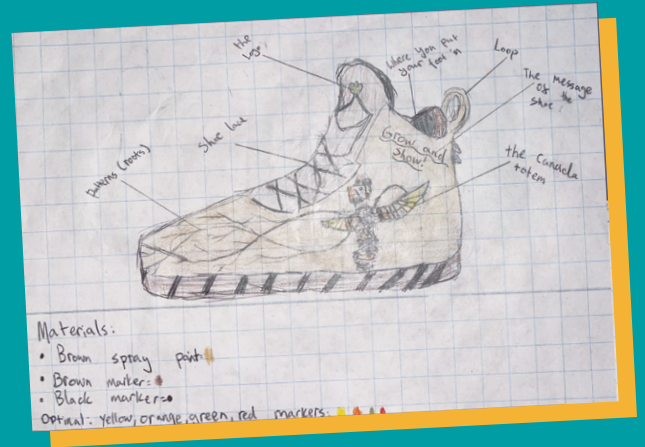
Unbounded Learning gives Gr. 6 students the opportunity to go deep into shoe culture





The 2015 documentary film “Sneakerheadz” provided us with a glimpse into the fascinating world of sneaker culture and the extremely passionate individuals who study, collect, trade and wear (or not!) these shoes as a hobby.

This documentary helped inspire an innovative and exciting Unbounded Learning opportunity for Gr. 6 students this past year. Created by teachers Roma Jagore Singh and Madeline Trimble, the Sneakerheadz project was designed to use shoe fashion as a platform for an open exploration that encouraged students to pursue their passions — and ultimately design their own sneaker. As with all Unbounded Learning modules, Sneakerheadz followed the design cycle. This process identifies four distinct phases of product development: identify and define the need, research and ideate solutions, create a prototype for evaluation and finally, test, evaluate and refine.





The project started with introducing students to the exciting world of footwear fashion and looked at several well-known historical examples, such as the circumstances that led to the creation of Air Jordans. Students then explored their relationships with shoes, personal fashion choices and identified and reflected on recent trends they had observed. Next, they learned about the different sources of inspiration that guide designers and engaged in the process of researching and considering where they might draw their own, personal inspiration. This process included a field trip to Park Royal to critically look at sneakers and other fashion items at several retailers, including SNEAKERBOX. Students then blueprinted out their design ideas, complete with detailed explanations of where they drew their inspiration and rationales for their various choices, along with a material list that would be required to produce a prototype. As students began to build out their prototypes, they documented the various steps and reflected on aspects they thought were working well, along with the different challenges they experienced. “Students were given shoes that actually fit them,” said teacher Madeline Trimble. “We were blown away by their ownership of the project and the care and attention to detail that went into the product.”

---

“This project is such a great example of how good things happen when you give students voice, choice and ownership about what they’re learning...”

---





The Sneakerheadz project culminated in a fashion show and presentation that allowed students to share their sneaker prototypes and articulate their inspiration and design ideas. “It was so amazing the light bulbs go off for these 11 and 12-year-old kids,” said teacher Roma Jagore Singh. “This project is such a great example of how good things happen when you give students voice, choice and ownership about what they’re learning — and how they share what they’ve learned.” **b**





# The Great Water Audit

Morven Gr.8 Math students investigate how much water is used at the Morven Campus



Based on the BC Curriculum, much of Mathematics 8 is spent learning about topics such as volume and surface area, central tendencies, averages and discrete linear relations.

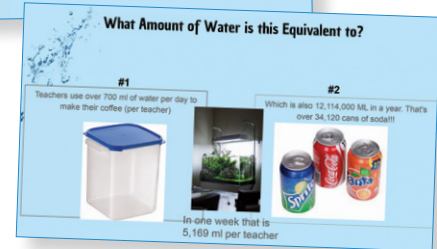
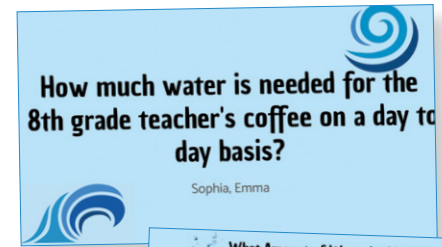
With this in mind, Morven science teacher and Sustainability Leader Katie Field approached Gr. 8 math teachers with an idea. What if they could create a cross-curricular project for Gr. 8 math students that investigated a sustainability topic for Earth Week? “We wanted to do something different than our usual in-class assignments. Specifically, we wanted it to relate to sustainability,” said Gr. 8 math teacher Naoise Gallagher. “Students were given the autonomy to select their group and the specific topic of investigation about the Senior School’s water usage.”

Throughout the two-week project that ran alongside their regular classes, students enthusiastically gathered data that measured water consumption related to hand-washing, water fountain usage and how many cups of coffee were consumed by teachers. One group of students calculated the amount of water used by toilets each day by spending their lunch breaks in the bathroom, logging flushes. Throughout the project, teachers provided support through discussion and guidance. Once the data was collected, students summarized their findings using curricular content, such as “means” when calculating the volume of water fountains or how much coffee was in each canteen.

There was a particular air of excitement when students learned that the top 12 presentations would be presented in student-led advisory to their peers, tied in with Earth Week activities. “It was incredibly rewarding for students to share their work in advisories,” said Naoise, “We worked with the sustainability council so senior students could introduce the presentations. It truly felt like a celebration of their learning.”

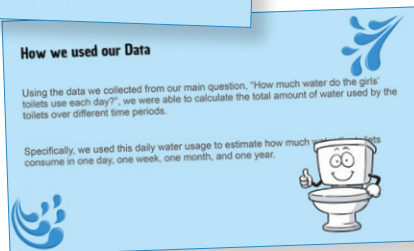
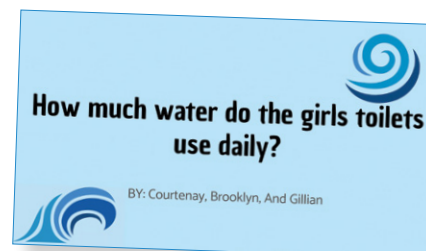
“I liked getting involved in data collecting and applying math in real-world situations. I learned how to estimate instead of calculating everything to make things more efficient.”

— Cindy, Gr. 8



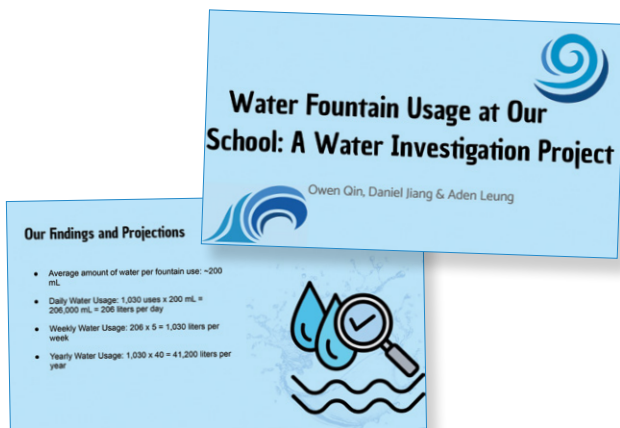
### Did you know?

The volume of coffee Morven teachers drink each year is roughly equivalent to a swimming pool.



“I enjoyed the teamwork and and was amazed at how much water we are wasting each day and how it adds up to be more the 200 bathtubs!”

— Owen, Gr. 8



“It was very interesting to research the amount of water that our School uses and how we can move forward in a statistical way to improve water conservation and sustainability at Collingwood.”

— Daniel, Gr. 8

# The Gr. 1 Make it Expo

Students develop their ideas about how to create something useful out of recyclable materials

During Earth Week this past spring, Gr. 1 students at Wentworth were presented with an exciting open-ended challenge: make something you think would be useful out of materials already on hand in the classroom.

Employing a maker-space model, this project was designed to be a student-led learning experience, with teachers providing support and guidance when needed. For many students, the shift from their usual structured environment was a bit daunting at first. There were lots of questions. What should I make? What materials should I use? How will I put it together? What if it doesn't work? "Students at this age need more time and space to create and explore and take risks," said Gr. 1 teacher Katherine Chin. "As educators, if we create the time and space to try new things, the skills they learn extend into other areas of their education and benefit them in so many ways."

Introducing foundational elements of the design cycle, students were encouraged to formulate a design plan, sketch out their ideas and brainstorm potential materials. Along the way, students were encouraged to help each other with troubleshooting or fine-tuning designs, planting the seeds of collaboration. While many students were initially afraid to fail, a big part of the project was learning that mistakes are an important part of how to move things forward. As students began to see their creations come to life throughout the design process, they started to feel more and more comfortable making choices. "The more opportunities we give students to feel uncomfortable," added Ms. Chin, "the better they learn how to cope with the unknown and the discomfort of uncertainty."

The Make it Expo concluded with an actual exposition that gave all three Gr. 1 classes the chance to enthusiastically share their projects with students from the other classes. One of the most interesting aspects of the Make it Expo was the diversity of projects students created—everything from a flying car to a stuffy house. ❷







### Roby Robot Design Reflection

It went well with putting on the tin foil, the buttons, and also my baby shoes. The masking tape for the arms, neck, head, and everything was tricky to put on. My favourite part was teaching him how to stand.  
-Artemis



### Crocodile Design Reflection

Painting went well because I painted it really fast, and it was easy. The eyes were pretty easy too, and they look really good. Putting the legs and mouth on was tricky because I had to tape almost everything! It took a really long time. My favourite part was putting the eyes on. -Leo



### Birdhouse Design Reflection

I made a birdhouse. My mum allowed me to use the hot glue gun myself! I made it all by myself. It was tricky to cut the cardboard. My favourite part was when I had to go out and fetch a stick so the bird could sit on the stick like a tree. -Liana



# E-Commerce and Industrial Design 12

Students develop innovative solutions to real-world design challenges

We have all had frustrating interactions with products whose design fails to deliver an elegant user experience. Perhaps it was a shampoo bottle that wouldn't stop falling over. Or maybe it was a door that looked like it was a pull but was actually a push.

From an entrepreneurial mindset, these sorts of real-world design flaws represent meaningful opportunities. E-Commerce and Industrial Design 12 is an exciting class that provides students with the opportunity to develop their critical analysis and problem-solving skills by addressing these design issues. Students select their challenge from a variety of scenarios, then spend the term working their way through the complete design process. For example, one scenario examined the design of traditional right-side-orientated lecture theatre desks from the perspective of left-handed individuals. Students were tasked with designing a solution that works equally well for both left and right-handed individuals. Following the design thinking process, students begin with market research to ensure a thorough understanding of the challenge users are experiencing. Next, they succinctly define their challenge and ideate different approaches to solve the problem. They then build prototypes to test the real-world application of their solution using tools such as 3D modelling, Procreate and AR/VR mockups. The project concludes with a proposal presentation, or "pitch deck," where students provide details of their analysis and rationale for their recommended solution.

One of the significant benefits of working in the new STEEM Centre and collaborative studio spaces is that students don't just learn about innovation — they experience it firsthand. They pitch ideas, collaborate across disciplines and build professional portfolios. By the end of the course, students walk away not only with real-world entrepreneurial skills but also with the confidence and insight to see themselves as creators, innovators and change-makers. **➊**

"This course gives students real, transferable skills that go far beyond the classroom. They learn how to identify problems, design thoughtful solutions and bring those ideas to life through product development, branding and digital business tools. But more importantly, students learn how to think like creators, not just consumers, with the confidence to lead, the tools to innovate and the mindset to adapt in a rapidly changing world."

— Sally Karimi, Morven Visual Arts Teacher





INCLUSIVE FOR ALL

LUNA JOURNAL, HANNAH, TARISSON

# WRITEALIGN



### IDEATE

**Connecting Fold Over Table**

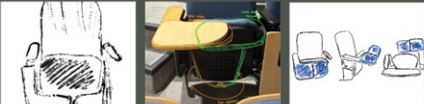
- There will have to be a crack/dent in the centre of the table
- Cost ineffective (We would have to invest in making a whole new chair)

**Swivel Table Top**

- We would need extra space for the table to move around (either in front or behind)
- Cost ineffective (too much resource)
- Not compact (can't fold into the chairs like how they are now)

**★ Compact table attachment**

- No extra/wasted material
- Compact and easy to carry
- Cost effective (we don't need to build whole table) just an attachment, that can be easily purchased online



Clip on table (not accurate in prototype)

Wooden Materials

Fold over attachment

Size: 23 x 9.5 x 1.5 in  
Folded: 11.5 x 9.5 x 1.5 in

### PROTOTYPE

Our prototype, WriteAlign, is an affordable table attachment that can be clipped onto desks designed to accommodate right-handed people. Lightweight and compact, WriteAlign can be carried around easily, making it accessible to use anywhere.









For more pictures, see the Photo Gallery  
section of [collingwood.org](http://collingwood.org)



# 2024/25 ATHLETIC AWARDS

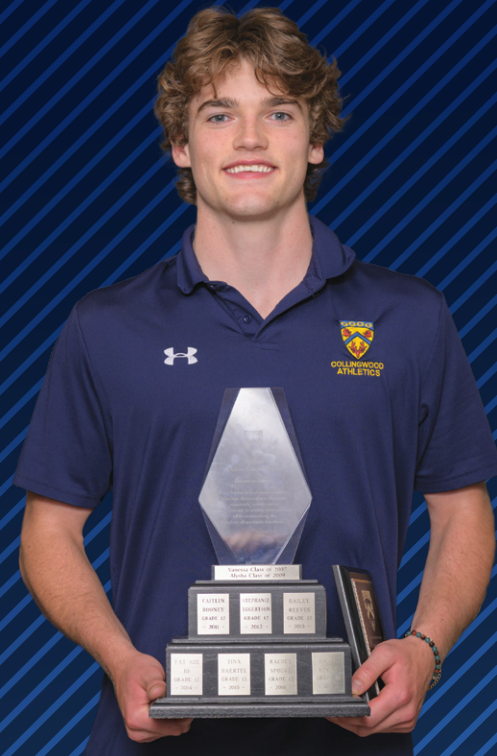
Congratulations to the many student-athletes who competed for Collingwood this past school year, including our major athletics awards winners.



## The Jim Burnett Award

Awarded to a multi-sport athlete who is an unsung hero, hard-working and team-focused.

Emilio M and Bobby N (Soccer, Wrestling, Rugby)



## The Sekhon Athlete-Scholar Award

For a Senior School student-athlete who best demonstrates character, teamwork, commitment and intensity in athletic performance while maintaining the highest of academic standards.

Finn M (Basketball, Rugby AND 97.5% Grade 12 average)



## The Pedca Spirit Award

The most outstanding male and female athlete of the year who have inspired others.

Brek B (Basketball and Rugby) and  
Gracie W (Volleyball and Basketball)



## The Dave Hughes Award

Awarded to a Gr. 12 student who works hard in their academic studies, is committed to school athletics, and is a well-rounded person in terms of their contributions to all four strands of school life. They appreciate what it is to be a Collingwood student, and they care deeply for the School and its community. More importantly, they are humble, positive, caring, never give up and are known for their strength of character.

Gabriela 'Gigi' D (Field Hockey, Drama,  
All-Around Amazing Person)



## Three-Star Athletes

These special hoodies are given to Gr. 12 athletes who participate in three sports during their Gr. 12 year.

L to R – Lukas S (Soccer, Wrestling, Rugby), Sutton V (Field Hockey, Basketball, Track), Patricio K (Soccer, Wrestling, Tennis, Rugby), Bobby N (Soccer, Wrestling, Rugby), Emilio M (Soccer, Wrestling, Rugby)



- ☒ ROBOTICS CLUB MENTORSHIP
- ☒ UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
- ☐ TECH ENTREPRENEUR

**Every student has a unique path.**

To read more about how and why Collingwood grads decided on their post-secondary destination, visit [collingwood.org/gradstories](http://collingwood.org/gradstories).



COLLINGWOOD  
SCHOOL





## ADMISSIONS

As we all know, our community is the best source of new student applications. If you know of any families who are interested in Collingwood School, we encourage you to let them know about our in-person Open House events and tours to learn more about our School, our admissions process for the 2025–26 school year and our financial assistance and scholarship program for Gr. 6–12 students. More information about these events is available [collingwood.org/admissions](https://collingwood.org/admissions).



Collingwood School's Financial Assistance Program provides financial support for qualified families of incoming or enrolled Gr. 6–12 students. For more information about our Financial Assistance Program and the application process, please contact [nita.pickering@collingwood.org](mailto:nita.pickering@collingwood.org)

## UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE

## Upcoming university visits in Vancouver

Here in Greater Vancouver, we are fortunate to have university representatives from all corners of the globe frequently visiting us. Many of them take the time to visit Collingwood and meet our motivated students. In fact, over 100 universities come to Morven each year. Each visitor sets up a table during the senior lunch hour, which enables valuable face-to-face conversations. Our University Guidance Department also arranges fairs where families can learn about dozens of schools at the same event, such as the well-attended North Shore US College Fair we introduced last October.

We encourage both students and families to take advantage of these opportunities to learn about programs, admissions, costs, and more details of university life, directly from the source.

This 2025–26 school year, look out for the following events:

- Canadian Universities Event (CUE), September 2025
- US College Fair at Collingwood, October 2025
- University of California event in Vancouver, October 2025
- Art & Design Fair in Vancouver, November 2025
- Vancouver International Universities Fair at Vancouver Convention Centre, spring 2026

For updates as these events draw closer, please follow our @collingwoodug Instagram account and keep an eye on the weekly Morven News & Reminders email.





## PARENTS' COUNCIL

On behalf of the Collingwood Parents' Council, I would like to wish you a very warm welcome to the 2025-26 school year!

We are a group of parent volunteers whose goal is to build and strengthen the community through events and other services throughout the school year. We couldn't do this without the countless parents who dedicate their time and energy, whether it's volunteering at one of our annual events, such as the Spring Fair, participating in our Hiking Club, or simply attending your grade's social gatherings. There are many opportunities for parents to connect!

Below, you will find some of our Parents' Council events and services for the upcoming school year. We look forward to seeing you at some of these gatherings and to a great year of community building together!



- Bingo. Our fun, annual Wentworth family Bingo night.
- Book clubs. A chance to connect with fellow parents over a good book or just a chat.
- Class & Grade Representatives. A group of volunteers per class and grade dedicated to information sharing and community building.
- Connection Events. Connect with parents through activities such as wreath-making or dumpling-making.
- Cultural Clubs. Celebrating cultural celebrations with the whole community.
- Festive Craft. An annual holiday tradition for Gr. JK-3.
- Hiking Club. A great way to explore the North Shore trails together.
- Parent Party. A fun night out for parents.
- Spring Fair. Our annual family event, beloved by parents and kids alike.
- Staff Appreciation Lunch. A chance for us to thank teachers and staff.
- Summer Buddy Family. Giving new families a Collingwood buddy family to connect with before the new school year.
- Unishop. A great opportunity to buy gently used uniforms at great prices

— Caroline Wong, Parents' Council Chair



## ALUMNOTES

## How alumni are helping shape the future of our students

At Collingwood, we are fortunate to have an alumni group that actively participates in the educational experiences of our current students.

One of the best examples of alumni enhancing the educational experience at our School is Collingwood U. First launched in 2021, Collingwood U gives Gr. 12 students the chance to use their final term to build a personalized schedule of workshops and experiences that explore topics relating to life after Collingwood. While the program is organized by faculty members, alumni play a vital role by leading sessions, mentoring students, and sharing insights into their life experiences after graduation. This past spring, students had the opportunity to connect and learn from alumni working in a



diverse array of industries, including marine biology, film and media, investment banking, journalism, medicine, and more. Some alumni have even offered job-shadowing opportunities. Among the many alumni voices students heard from this year, one that stood out was University of Toronto graduate and Private Wealth Investment Advisor Casra Mohammedrezai '20. Speaking to a full room of students, Casra was an engaging example of an alum who shows up authentically, sharing the many aspects of his life experience.

Networking events are another great way that alumni contribute to our student experience. One notable example of this occurred at a recent student-alumni mixer. At this event, then Gr. 12 student Ella van der Werff '24 was introduced to Sasha Faris '05. Drawn to Sasha's story, she reached out to him after starting at UBC. "In business school, there's a lot of emphasis on networking," said Ella. "Our Collingwood connection made it less intimidating than usual. We met every couple of months, and I eventually asked if his company had summer internship positions. It turns out they did!"

Collingwood alumni play a crucial role in helping students envision what's possible. If you're a Collingwood grad, we would love to help you reconnect with our school community. Whether you share your story, open a door or simply show up, your participation will make a lasting difference for our students.



### 2024/2025 Alumni Award Winners

#### Alumni Association Honours Award: Cyrus Navabi '07

Our Alumni Association Honours Award recognizes outstanding accomplishments as a result of business or professional achievements, or the display of courage in the face of adversity.



As President of Qualex-Landmark, Cyrus leads the development of sustainable, community-focused projects throughout the Lower Mainland. His work in real estate, philanthropy and civic engagement reflects a deep commitment to positively impacting the communities in which he is a member.

#### Alumni Association Volunteer Award: Susan Bilbey '92

Our Alumni Association Volunteer Award recognizes an alum for service to the Alumni Association and/or to Collingwood School.

Susan is being celebrated for her remarkable service and long-standing dedication to Collingwood School. As a Collingwood graduate, parent, and Parent Council Secretary, Susan has contributed a tremendous amount of time and energy in support of our students, families, and alumni.

*Do you know a Collingwood alum who inspires others through their leadership, service or impact? You can nominate them for the 2025/2026 Collingwood Alumni Awards at [collingwood.org/community/alumni/awards](https://collingwood.org/community/alumni/awards)*

#### Save the date for upcoming alumni events!

Alumni Winter Party, December 17, 2025

Class Reunions (1995, 2005, 2015), watch for details

Alumni Homecoming, watch for details

#### STAY CONNECTED

 [linkedin.com/groups/3706309/](https://linkedin.com/groups/3706309/)

 Collingwoodschool

 CollingwoodSchoolAlumni

Update your mailing address at [collingwood.org/alumni/update-your-address](https://collingwood.org/alumni/update-your-address)





## 5 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT...

### **Natalie Prichard**

*Wentworth Music & Band Teacher*

1. Grew up in Kamloops and White Rock.
2. Was a reasonably good figure skater. Wore the sparkly outfits.
3. Served for over 20 years with the Band of the 15th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.
4. Enjoys experimental cooking with her smoker.
5. Strongly dislikes peas and clowns.



# Thank you to two longstanding faculty members who retired this past spring

## CHRISTINE STUART

Christine has been a guiding light in Collingwood's early learning community since 2005. She began her time at Collingwood as a Kindergarten teacher, stepping in to fill a maternity leave role that quickly transitioned into a full-time role in the faculty. After eight years at Wentworth, she became the first Director of Primary Program. During her time at Wentworth, Christine helped shape and strengthen Collingwood's early years programming. She was instrumental in launching the Junior Kindergarten class, a goal she had long imagined and worked to bring to life. She also introduced new literacy programs that continue to benefit students today. Known for her calm presence and passion for our youngest learners, Christine loved working in an environment, "every moment of every day was different and often unpredictable." Christine is looking forward to a well-earned retirement that includes travel, long walks, gardening, and maybe even painting and poetry. Thank you, Christine, for 20 years of wonderful leadership!



## WALENTYNA KARCZ

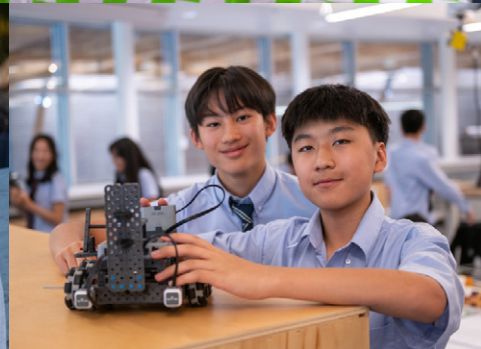
In 1994, Walentyna arrived in Canada from Europe as a young teacher looking for adventure. She found it at Collingwood. For the past 31 years, she has taught Economics and Physical Geography at our Senior School. Walentyna has been a beloved educator who has made a lasting impact on the hundreds of students she has taught over the years. Known for inspiring curiosity and having high expectations, Walentyna would often make the extra effort to help her students succeed. Not surprisingly, students and alumni often refer to her among their reasons for choosing to pursue studies in economics or geography. Walentyna intends to spend her retirement travelling (NOT in the summer!), learning to speak Italian and volunteering — when she isn't playing pickleball. Thank you, Walentyna, for an amazing 31 years!







Help support our  
students as they pursue  
their passions.



## The 2025-26 Tartan Fund is counting on you!

Thank you for your continued support of the Tartan Fund. Let's make this Giving Tuesday, December 2nd the biggest Tartan day ever. You can also make a donation any time at [collingwood.org/tartan](https://collingwood.org/tartan)



Return all undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

**Collingwood School**

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