

St. Clement's Parents Association
President's Report to the Annual General Meeting

October 16, 2019

As President of the SCS Parents' Association (PA) for the year 2018/2019, it is my pleasure to report on the activities of the PA for the past year. Last year was a very busy one for the PA and the parent community at SCS.

During the year, the PA hosted a number of familiar events – the Welcome Coffee and Welcome BBQ in September; the Snowflake Sale and Chocolate Bark making in November and December; the Staff Appreciation Lunch in March; the Used Textbook Sale in June; and both the Used Uniform Sale and Pizza Lunches at various dates throughout the year. In addition, the PA provided support to the School for the Open Houses in both fall and spring.

In addition to these usual events, the PA supported either new or expanded events last year. These included providing numerous judges, billet families and volunteers to help feed participants at the IISPC; doubling Chocolate Bark making to 1,100 bags; and starting a new event – the Jingle Mingle – a Christmas market for the older girls and parents that took place during the afternoon and evening. The evening market also featured a cocktail party with food, wine and carols by some of the SCS girls. The market included about 25 outside vendors and over 150 tickets were sold to the evening party! Finally, the PA was pleased to be able to help advertise and sell tickets for the SCS Gala which took place in April – the first Gala held by the School in over a decade.

During the year, the PA also increased its use of technology. Most PA volunteer opportunities used Sign-Up Genius; Survey Monkey was used more frequently; and most PA documents were put on the Edsby platform. The Edsby platform was also used to provide links to key sites. Last year also saw some changes to the PA meetings themselves - meeting dates were moved to a regular pattern to allow for easy planning; the meetings were moved from the library to Powell Hall to allow the entire parent community to be invited; and each meeting featured a “highlight” – a topic of interest about SCS for the parent community. At each meeting, SCS staff would make a presentation followed by a Q&A session. Finally, in conjunction with LINCWell, three seminars were held for parents in advance of the January, February and April meetings. Each seminar was on a topic of interest as determined by parents through an on-line poll. All these changes were done with an aim to better engage the parent community.

The PA was also able to provide financial support to SCS through fundraising. Gross revenue from fundraising was approximately \$43,000, down slightly from last year. Expenses totaled approximately \$16,000, 12% lower than last year. As in years past the PA continued to offer expense allowances for parent socials and coffees and utilization of these budgets was flat year to year.

Donations to the School, commonly known as the “wish list”, totaled approximately \$42,000. Our largest commitment was \$25,000 to the Speakers Series. Other significant wish list items included Community Service Day, Horizons March Break Camp, Vidigami (the photography platform for parents), LINCWell, and the Diversity Task Force, and we were pleased to donate \$5,000 towards the rooftop project. We work very closely with the School to ensure that our budgeted donations are in the appropriate areas and that they are utilized to the fullest extent possible.

We end the year with a cash balance of just over \$21,000, versus approximately \$36,000 at the end of last year. Our cash balance this year was lower than last year by design as we committed to reducing the surplus cash position to be in line with best practices for not-for-profit organizations.

Before I conclude my report, I would like to thank the many people who helped make last year a successful one - my fellow executive members; all of the convenors and Grade Parents; the parents who volunteered for each event; and the large number of School staff for all the support they provided throughout the year. The successes of last year are primarily due to these groups and I would like to recognize their hard work and dedication.

It was an honour and privilege to serve the SCS community and the PA last year. I am confident that this coming year will be even more successful.

Respectfully submitted

John Sayers