SCSPA

SCS PA President's Report for the 2025/2026 School Year

As PA President, my focus throughout the year was on the St. Clement's Parent Association's mission of building and strengthening community. I recognize that community can look different for everyone. For some, it might mean attending a PA meeting or volunteering at an event. For others, it might simply mean having the opportunity to meet another parent over coffee, reconnect with fellow SCS parents, or find a new way to become involved in their daughter's school. Ultimately, the PA's goal is to create opportunities for parents and guardians to connect with one another, strengthen the partnership between families and the school, share ideas, and feel a sense of belonging within the broader SCS community. With that mission in mind, it was a very busy and rewarding year.

We held seven PA meetings; two in person and five virtually. At our first in person meeting, we asked parents what topics they would find most helpful and relevant and then worked closely with the school to incorporate those ideas into future meetings. We were pleased to see increased attendance and engagement as a result. We were also fortunate to have members of the SCS Board join us for two meetings to update parents on the principal search that began in the spring. This was a welcome collaboration between the PA and the Board and another valuable way to strengthen communication and connection within our community.

At the start of the year we introduced a new Grade Parent handout, along with an in-person Grade Parent orientation hosted by our Volunteer Coordinators. This gave our Grade Parents a clearer understanding of their roles and responsibilities while also giving them an opportunity to meet one another, exchange ideas, and build their own networks at the beginning of the year.

Our events began, appropriately, on the very first day of school with our annual All Parents Coffee. More than 100 parents, guardians and faculty joined us in the West Foyer. It was a wonderful way to reconnect after the summer and begin building those community connections from day one.

Only a few days later came the Welcome Fair. Supported by three convenors, a terrific group of parent volunteers and even a few senior students, we welcomed families for an afternoon of activities, treats and fun. The PA Executive had a chance to pitch in at the different station and, importantly, help distribute plenty of ice cream and toppings!

October was an especially busy month.

We held our first fall All-Parents Coffee. Rather than hosting separate coffees by division, as we had the previous year, we brought everyone together. It provided another easy opportunity for parents to connect not only within their own grades, but across the school. And I'm happy to report that everyone embraced our "Bring Your Own Mug" approach, which has now become a fixture of our coffee mornings.

October also brought our Fall Used Uniform Sale. Our wonderful convenors refreshed the format by offering two shopping times, Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning. It was a great

success. The Used Uniform Sale is a particularly good example of an initiative that benefits our community in several ways. It provides families with access to good quality uniform pieces at a lower cost, gives clothing a second life rather than sending it to landfill, and raises funds that the PA can put directly back into community events and programs.

We also welcomed parents and guardians to our first in-person PA meeting of the year in the School library. And to finish October, a small but mighty group of parents gathered one evening to transform the front hall into a Halloween scene, surprising students and staff with a little extra Halloween spirit.

November brought two of our biggest events: the Jingle Mingle and the Holiday Treats Sale.

For the Jingle Mingle, we were able to reuse the beautiful lighting system purchased the previous year and continued to build our collection of seasonal décor that will serve the PA for years to come. We also lowered ticket prices to make the evening more accessible and encourage greater participation. The event was a tremendous success, thanks to the hard work of our convenors, volunteers and School staff. It remains one of the PA's largest social events and a wonderful opportunity for parents and guardians to simply enjoy being together.

The Holiday Treats Sale was another successful event and an important fundraiser that helps us continue to support PA programming throughout the year.

In December, the PA once again facilitated our Staff and Faculty Gift Program. This program relies entirely on the generosity of our families and is not a revenue-generating activity for the PA. We manage the collection and distribution of gifts twice a year, with every member of the faculty and staff receiving an equal amount. This year, we made an important change by moving to the Canadian based Everything Gift Card. The new system was extremely well received by faculty and staff. We also gave families the opportunity to include personal messages of gratitude with their contributions. Those messages were shared with faculty and staff and added a meaningful personal element to the program. We had an overwhelming level of participation from our families, and the updated program was a great success.

That spirit of gratitude continued with our Staff Appreciation Breakfast. Our convenors began planning well in advance and created a beautiful morning, complete with breakfast and floral arrangements. Students from across the grades contributed messages of thanks that were displayed throughout the School, with the Lower School Prefects helping bring that idea to life. One particularly meaningful moment was hearing from a Grade 12 parent whose family had been part of SCS through four daughters, with her youngest graduating that year. Her reflections were a wonderful reminder of the lasting impact this community can have on a family. For me, the breakfast was also a wonderful example of our community coming together to recognize the faculty and staff who make SCS such a special place for our girls.

Another highlight of the year was the PA sponsored visit from Dr. Greg Wells. His sessions gave students, faculty and parents an opportunity to think about the connections between sleep,

nutrition, movement, mindset and overall well-being. We were pleased to be able to bring programming to the school that could benefit the entire community.

In addition to PA run events, we were also pleased to support two parent groups with celebrations of Lunar New Year and Nowruz in the late winter and early spring. Through funding, promotion and help organizing volunteers, the PA was able to support both groups and help bring greater awareness to these important cultural celebrations within our community.

In April, we held our Spring Used Uniform Sale, continuing the successful two day evening and morning format introduced in the fall. One of the particularly nice aspects of the spring sale is that it welcomes some of the new families who will be joining SCS the following September. It gives us an opportunity to introduce them to the warmth and generosity of the SCS community before their daughters have even started school.

In May, we hosted our spring All Parents Coffee, providing one more opportunity for parents and guardians to connect before the end of the year.

And in June, we joined in the fun of the school's all-day House Extravaganza by hosting a pop-up ice cream event in the side yard, with parent volunteers helping to set up and distribute treats to the students.

Finally, I want to mention our Used Textbook Program. The new digital format was launched at the end of the previous school year and continued to be refined over the summer. It has developed into a fantastic resource, giving students and families an easy way to purchase used textbooks at a reduced price and conveniently pick them up at school. Like the Used Uniform Sale, it also provides an important source of fundraising for the PA, allowing us to reinvest those funds directly into our community.

When I look back on the year, what stands out to me is not simply the number of events we held. It is the number of people who made them possible None of these initiatives happens without our convenors, Grade Parents, volunteers, PA Executive, School staff and, of course, the parents and guardians who participate, contribute ideas and show up throughout the year.

I would like to extend a special thank you to my executive team: Edmund Leong, David Rosner, Gary Margolis, Yue Yu, Melissa Pugsley, Nadim "Deemsy" Abdo, and Julietta Lynch.

I would also like to thank Martha Perry for her ongoing support of the PA and of course, Kayla Raminez, who you would think main job is to work with PA but I know has a much longer list of responsibilities.

It has been a privilege to serve as the SCS PA President, and I look forward to many more years being part of the SCS community. Thank You.

Alissa Crean, President