



Principal's Annual General Meeting Report
October 21, 2020

It is a pleasure to welcome our St. Clement's community to the Annual General Meeting this evening, and to present my report on the 2019-2020 school year in which I share the many successes our students and School have enjoyed. It is important to acknowledge just how different it is to report to you virtually and to reflect on the past year in its entirety. It seems as if there were two last years: pre-COVID and post-COVID. Regardless, I am enormously proud of our School, staff and students and their accomplishments, regardless of the time periods. The past year - and I am sure the coming months - have taught us much about flexibility, patience, resilience and opportunity. As we continue to work with and on our Campus Master Plan (CMP), this time has cemented for us the knowledge that more space and leveraging technology for transformation as opposed to only continuity of service is key to our future.

I am pleased to report that this past year saw the completion of our 2017-2020 Strategic Plan, which was an extended focus on past priorities including Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Leveraging our Close-Knit Community, and Ensuring Future Sustainability. We are pleased with our accomplishments

Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Accomplishments:

- Embedding of inter-disciplinary courses from Junior to Senior School, with ongoing development to continue.
- Full shift to virtual learning and a hybrid approach which can and will inform future opportunities.
- Enhanced and increased internally facilitated Faculty professional development tied to strategic initiatives.
- Sustained and evolving work and community learning through School Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and Student Diversity Committee, renamed the Anti-Racism Committee.
- CMP launched with program-driven facilities finalized.
- School timetable overhaul complete in 2018 with new possibilities for the future as a result of pandemic response.

Leveraging our Close-Knit Community

Accomplishments:

- Establishment of online Alumnae community platform SCS Connects that now has ~700 users including a number of past staff members.
- 86% of alumnae users have indicated an interest and willingness to assist other alum and current students.
- Alumnae Executive have reviewed and revised their structure and are actively recruiting new members.
- Communications audit enacted in summer of 2020.
- Increased connections between Parents' Association (PA) and Academic Team to enhance clarity around programming.

Financial Sustainability

Accomplishments:

- Full Advancement staff in place and year upon year growth of fundraising dollars over the last five years.
- Clarity of approach to identifying needs for philanthropic support.
- Ongoing strategic financial decisions supporting both innovation and sustainability.

At our June Board of Governors meeting, we finalized the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Framework and will be launching it to our community shortly. It is a framework that centres the notion of learning itself and challenges students to equip themselves for a strong, resilient future. Specific tactics - with an eye to opportunities that have presented themselves as a result of the pandemic - will be rolled out over the coming months.

Last year was an important one for the School to both highlight and confirm our ongoing improvement. In January of 2020 we welcomed our Canadian Accredited Independent Schools visiting committee after a year of reflecting and reporting on the School's strength based on eleven standards of excellence in education. This accreditation process confirmed that our ongoing hard work is paying off. The team was very impressed with St. Clement's and we have received their report which grants us continued accreditation as well as offering recommendations for improvement. Our community will be provided with a high-level summary in our soon to be released Fall edition of the *Red Blazer*.

At the end of the year we bid farewell to the Graduates of 2020. While we have not yet held a formal graduation, they were celebrated by our community on June 18 with a special visit and words of advice from SCS Alumna Adrienne Arsenault, Class of 1986. Our 58 graduates of 2020 were accepted into their universities of choice in Canada, the United States, and abroad in a broad variety of fields of study; one of our 2020 graduates started her next stage of learning internationally at St. Andrews, eight are in the United States, and 49 are at Canadian universities of every size and in every region.

Our 2020 Grads and their parents are the sixth graduation year in a row to endow a Grad Class Scholarship Fund for financial assistance. This outstanding achievement leaves a legacy with which each girl can connect in the years ahead. It also reinforces an example for future graduating classes. The securing of endowments for financial assistance enables the School to fulfil what has always been a priority - ensuring that mission-fit students regardless of means are able to attend St. Clement's. The class of 2020 and their parents raised \$38,863, the most to date of any class - a remarkable and appreciated feat during such a unique time.

This past year our students continued with leading Advanced Placement achievements. Our students wrote a total of 272 AP exams and almost 80% of them achieved scores of 3 or more on their exams. It bears noting that the College Board was able to shift quickly and well in order that our students could continue with their AP courses and exams.

Our students are involved in many academic contests and competitions over the school year and continue to achieve impressive results.

St. Clement's students normally write many Math and Science contests, and despite many being cancelled, we continued to see great success as well as providing the students with an increased variety of opportunities to extend their learning:

Math

- We had outstanding results in the Math contests in 2019-2020 with a large number of Grade 9 to 12 students opting to write these optional contests;
- SCS participated in all the Waterloo competitions before March and had 36 certificates of distinction awarded to students in Grades 9 to 12 for being in the top 25% of all contest writers;
- Three students placed in the top 2% of all contest writers in the Waterloo competitions;
- In the AMC (American Mathematics Competition) three students went on to qualify for the AIME competition, this was a first for SCS in recent history;
- One of our Grade 11 students represented Canada at the Cyberspace Mathematical Competition. This co-ed competition allowed eight participants per country to compete, and an SCS student was selected to represent Canada on a team of six boys and two girls. The same student trained as an alternate for Girls Math Team Canada, and was selected as the second alternate to the team of six girls representing Canada at the European Girls Mathematics Olympiad which was held virtually in April (Team Canada won two medals at this competition).
- In the Junior School:
 - we were one of the first girls' schools to enter a new Waterloo Contest called *The Beaver Computing Challenge*, a computer science contest open to students in Grades 5 and 6 - five SCS students received an award of distinction scoring in the top 25%, and a Grade 5 student earned a perfect score;
 - in the international *Caribou Cup Contest*, a Math contest written by 10,712 Grade 4 students - 13 of our 22 Grade 4 students placed in the top 10% worldwide, three placed in the top 5%, three placed in the top 2%, and one in the top 1%.

Science

- There were no contests written last year as they normally occur in the late spring and were either cancelled or we did not participate because of the pandemic.
- We continue to use common "Flex-time" for work in design thinking and student-centred problem solving, for our innovative Grade 11 STEAM project. Our Grade 11s learned about the Design Thinking process and applied brainstorming and ideation strategies to develop a solution to a complex problem of their choice. The project culminated in the girls presenting their solutions in April remotely, using Google meet.

- The newly founded SCS STEM Committee had an exceptional inaugural year. The goals of the committee were: to unify the leaders and participants of the various STEM clubs across all grades, to promote and celebrate the achievements of the STEM clubs, to provide organizational support for the STEM clubs and teams and to provide SCS students with the opportunity to participate in STEM activities outside of SCS. Some of the highlights of the year were; leading the Assembly for International Day of Women and Girls in Science, attending the Regenerative Medicine Expo at the University of Toronto (U of T), ensuring ongoing communication with the school community of the results of STEM competitions and co-curricular STEM challenges that brought together students from the Junior, Middle and Senior School. A current Grade 12 student, the Committee founder and head, is looking forward to another year of working towards these shared goals.
- In October 2019, 10 students from SCS attended the Regenerative Medicine one-day workshop at U of T that brings together motivated students in Grades 10 to 12 from schools across the city to learn about regenerative medicine and explore the leading-edge research taking place in Toronto. The day includes a crash course in regenerative medicine offered by leading U of T scientists, engineers and doctors. Novel regenerative medicine discoveries are explored and how these discoveries become new treatments for a range of diseases is discussed, as is the importance of scientific literacy in a media-filled world.

In the Social Sciences, students participated in a variety of co-curricular programs and competitions beyond the walls of SCS. Over 100 students participated in the 2020 Canadian Geography Challenge with our school champion being a Grade 9 student. In association with the Munk School of Global Affairs at the U of T, a St. Clement's team participated in the Global Ideas Institute. Our team investigated strategies to eliminate barriers to mental health and well-being support for Canadian youth.

In the Junior School, during Flex-time, students completed their third successful year of Curious Kids, a Problem-Based Learning experience where students learn by activity engaging in real-world and personally meaningful projects. This year, the students developed Driving Questions based on the Science and Social Studies curriculum.

Our Languages Department had many achievements last year:

French

- 16 students in the Junior School had prepared to represent SCS at the Concours D'art Oratoire, the French public speaking contest for Independent schools. Unfortunately the event was cancelled due to COVID-19, but the students had worked hard and were ready with their respective French speeches.

Diplôme d'Etudes en Langue Française (DELF)

with the launch of DELF program at SCS, students are able to sit an exam and earn a certificate in French language proficiency (similar to the TOEFL for English)

- two students successfully completed their A1 certification;
- three students successfully completed their A2 certification;
- three students successfully completed their B1 certification.

Classical Languages

- Medusa Mythology Exam:
 - three of our students won the Corona Olivae certificate;
 - two of our students won the Corona Laurea certificate;
 - one student achieved a bronze Medal;
 - one student achieved a silver medal.
- National Latin Exam written in the spring:
 - six students achieved results cum laude;
 - three students achieved results magna cum laude;
 - two students were awarded silver, maxima cum laude for their achievements.
- National Classical Etymology Exam is optional where students examine English words derived from Latin and Greek roots:
 - four students won bronze medals;
 - four students won silver medals;
 - two students won gold medals.

2019/2020 saw three keen Grade 10 students take on leadership responsibilities for the Debate and Public Speaking Team with many experienced Graduates having left. Our Grade 10 students were the principal senior debaters for most of the events in which we participated.

The fall season went well, with SCS debaters competing in the Fall Fulford tournament and a pro-am debate at Upper Canada College. Our teams performed admirably in both tournaments and were ready for the annual Queen's University British Parliamentary debate tournament in January. We had some very good individual results at Queen's.

Our winter season continued with a Middle School tournament at Sterling Hall, where a number of our junior debaters gained valuable competition experience. The Winter Fulford tournament at De La Salle in February rounded out the winter season; again, we had some very strong individual results in various rounds. Little did we know that this tournament would also mark the end of the formal debate season. The Public Speaking and Debate Club was undeterred by the pandemic, however, and experimented with some friendly online debates with a few of our colleague schools.

Our Clementines have continued to excel in the area of Computer Science and Robotics. Our programs have grown and have inspired students over the past year.

Last year we had two Lego Robotics teams; with many older members “graduating” out of the program, it was most students’ first time competing. Our “senior” team consisting of Grade 6, 7 and 8 students qualified for provincials for their first time as a team - they demonstrated outstanding teamwork and perseverance, using their Christmas break to train together and had an excellent showing at the provincial championships.

The Senior VEX Robotics Team had a record 30 students participating, divided into six different teams. Even though the season was cut short, the girls did have the opportunity to compete in three tournaments before lockdown; these were at Appleby College, St. Catherine’s, and Newmarket. The teams experienced mixed success with some teams successfully qualifying for the final rounds.

The Programming Team also had their season cut short. However, they did complete the Canadian Computing Competition (CCC) in which three students received certificates of distinction for their performance in the national competition organized by the University of Waterloo.

We had a successful season athletically with notable finishes in our shortened 2019-2020 athletics season:

- Senior Cross-Country Team – Conference of Independent Schools Athletic Association (CISAA) champions and the team, along with one student (novice girls) competed at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations Championships, a second student (novice girls) also qualified but was unable to attend.
- U13 Cross-Country - two runners placed 1st and 2nd at the CISAA championship.
- U14 Volleyball Team - CISAA champions.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award, an important component of our Experiential Education program, was well-subscribed and saw two gold, two silver and 26 bronze awards achieved by our students. As well, nine students finished the requirement for the Blue Anchor Award (six in Grade 7 and three in Grade 8) and seven the Red Anchor Award, all in Grade 8.

Dramatic productions at St. Clement's continued to flourish with the Middle School producing *The Velveteen Rabbit* and Senior School producing *Willy Wonka* to enthusiastic and large audiences.

The Grade 12 Drama class participated in the National Theatre School Drama Festival and received two awards: An Award of Merit for two of our actresses in their lead roles, and An Award of Excellence for the writer.

While the Canadian Independent Schools (CIS) Ontario Music Festival was cancelled due to COVID-19, six SCS instrumentalists were selected as members of the Wind Ensemble and Strings Orchestra respectively with one Grade 9 student named concertmaster for the Strings Orchestra, leading the first violin section during rehearsals. SCS was also well represented with Grades 5 and 6 students rehearsing as a part of the Junior Choir.

The Lumina Fashion and Design Show, was in its 13th year, with a theme of “Beyond Borders: The Thread that Connects Us” in light of our partnership with The Kasiisi Project- supporting the conservation of Uganda’s Kibale National Park by supporting communities dedicated to protecting and stewarding lands, water and wildlife. All proceeds from the show were donated to that organisation. The show involved over 75 Upper School students, as well as students from Kasiisi Primary School, Uganda who drew designs and presented a short video of their work. “2020 Style”, the show ran virtually and was viewed on Zoom by our community. The virtual production showcased the designs beautifully.

As we continue to build understanding of and engagement in communities beyond our school walls, we seek to provide students and staff at St. Clement’s with the opportunity to learn about our community and different needs within it, to say thank you and further strengthen existing partnerships.

We continued our connection with St. Clement’s Church in various capacities, including it being the site of the Grade 10 leadership retreat, contributing to the Thanksgiving food drive and our volunteer program with Grade 8 students at the St. Clement’s Church weekly community drop-in lunch. The latter was subscribed to by many of the students more than once. Middle School card making and cookie baking for the Christmas season was much appreciated again this year. Some “tech talk” between some Grade 9s and seniors at the church was also a big hit as our students helped a group of seniors navigate the use of their cellphones and iPads!

School-wide community events and partnerships included a full-school Terry Fox Run at Eglinton Park, a year-long program of awareness and support for Hockey 4 Youth, which “facilitates social inclusion for newcomer and high-priority youth of all genders through free ice hockey and T.E.A.C.H. (tech and other) programs.” The fourth annual winter food drive supporting the families of the Wandering Spirit School (formerly First Nations School of Toronto), a long-term partner through our senior Indigenous Studies course, was once again, extremely successful, thanks to the generosity of the SCS community. The Junior School had their annual holiday visits to Briton House, Cedarhurst and Sunnybrook K-Wing. The Horizons peer-tutoring program with Stanley Public School continued on a weekly basis; unfortunately, we were not able to host the Stanley students for a March Break Camp week as we normally would.

Many of our Senior School students engaged in collecting and packaging hygiene products for “The Period Purse, Project”, a successful ongoing student-directed connection, through the year. In relation to this issue, working with our new partnership in Uganda, the Design Course made connections regarding menstrual pad designs in step with the Kasiisi Project’s directives. Preparation for first student visit to Kasiisi in March 2020 continued, but, of course, the excursion was abruptly halted due to COVID-19. However, as previously noted, the production of *The Lumina Fashion and Design Show* was carried out virtually in April-May and included raising awareness and support for the Kasiisi Project.

Leadership retreats and aspects of the framework as they apply to the different learners were held through the fall and winter. The Grade 11 overnight experience was held in February and helped pave the way for a smooth transition for the students through the election process and taking on the roles of senior leaders for this school year. Many Grade 12s completed the Leadership Certificate, which has them reflect on and express ways in which their commitment to their leadership development unfolds and consider their contribution to the community through completing a number of credit requirements.

Effective environmental practices continued to challenge and inspire various initiatives at SCS through the year. Through the Eco Team we participated in the launch of EcoSchool's pilot "Lighthouse" program. Also of note, one of our leaders connected with the CIS Ontario schools for her Capstone Research Project regarding the impact of EcoSchools programs on personal behaviour toward environmental issues.

As a member of the Round Square organization, St. Clement's School is afforded many opportunities for global connections and increased awareness of the importance of engaged citizenship locally, nationally and internationally. The Six Pillars, or IDEALS, alongside the new Discovery Framework are a focus in our actions and communication.

Each year, Upper School students from St. Clement's are invited to apply to contribute to service projects around the world, or to participate in international conferences in North America and abroad. Last year two senior students went to Borneo on the RSIS Big Build project in December 2019. The March break trip to The Kasiisi Project in Uganda was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Students and staff participated in the Round Square Regional Conference (RSRC), ages 15 to 17, in Marrakesh, Morocco. The RSRC to Santiago, Chile was cancelled due to political unrest in Santiago. Our Middle School Round Square program (for Grades 7 to 9) was to have been at Glenlyon-Norfolk School in Victoria, British Columbia but was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Throughout the year, students went on exchange to Melbourne, Australia, and Buenos Aires, Argentina. Sadly, the exchanges to Edinburgh, Scotland and Sherbrooke, Quebec were cancelled due to COVID-19.

The Round Square senior student committee focused on creating commitments for students to consider when they travel on trips, completing an eco-audit of the impact of flights and looking at possible solutions, successful fundraising at the Snowflake Sale and hosted on of the first Round Square Zoom Postcards from Around the Word, a virtual one-hour session, inviting all in the RS community to attend. Over 70 delegates attended from 15 schools and countries, the theme was "Acts of Kindness".

This year has been one like no other. While St. Clement's was prepared with our Pandemic Plan, the thinking and work of our outstanding Leadership Team and remarkable faculty and staff enabled the shift from in-person to virtual in a seamless manner. The support of our community was and is paramount. Most particularly I wish to thank all of those in our parent community who demonstrated support, patience, cheerleading and thoughtful and constructive feedback. Our success is as a result of a strong and committed community.

St. Clement's success would not be what it is without the support of both our St. Clement's Alumnae Association, led again this year by Sarah Campbell, and our Parents' Association, led with thanks to Zeinab Layton. These partnerships are paramount to both our community strength as well as to our sustainability as an institution.

Sarah, it has been a tremendous pleasure having you lead our Alumnae Executive and also to have your presence and insights at the Board table. I know that your presence will be continual as an SCS Alumnae but I want to thank you so much for your time and energy. We will present you with a token of thanks by courier over the coming days. We welcome Ali Azzopardi as our incoming President of the Alumnae Association.

I want to extend my thanks on behalf of the School and our community to Zeniab Layton, the 2019-2020 Parents' Association President. We are so thankful to you for your support, your creativity and the important ongoing work of the Association. We also have a token of our appreciation for you, Zeinab, that we will be sending along to you. We welcome Nancy Hotson as our incoming President of the Parents' Association.

While there still remains great uncertainty ahead with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am greatly optimistic about our School's future. Last year and, in particular, over the last eight months, our Board of Governors have been a tremendous support for which I will always be grateful. Their time, perspectives, encouragement and capacity to be a helpful sounding board was and is so important and so appreciated. These amazing people are volunteers who, I am sure, were and still are navigating their own personal and professional COVID adventures. On behalf of the School, its staff and students, I offer my thanks.

The partnership between the Principal and the Chair of the Board is one that must be strong. It must be one that affords openness, candor, confidentiality and the ability to provide honest and constructive feedback. I have been very blessed over my years as Principal to have that support and the past four years with Brian Denega as Chair have also been ones for which I am grateful. During this period, there have been many exciting and challenging events and issues and I have always felt that, along with our SCS Leadership Team, I could lead with comfort and confidence having sought Brian's sage advice and perspective. Brian has always challenged me to consider all sides of an issue, which is hugely important. While Brian will remain on the Board as Past Chair, he completes his term as Chair this evening, with Karen McKay coming in as our new Chair of the Board, and I want to express my deep gratitude for all of his time, treasury and talent. Brian, on behalf of the School we will be sending you a gift to thank you for your work.

This past year has taught us much about the strength of community, the resilience and commitment of our staff and students, and the imperative of a St. Clement's School education in these complex times. Thank you all for your ongoing support as we continue the journey.

This concludes my Annual General Meeting report.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Perry '85
Principal