

## **Annual General Meeting Report, Wednesday, October 25, 2017**

It is my great pleasure to welcome our St. Clement's community to the Annual General Meeting this evening, and to present to you my report on the 2016-2017 school year. As always I am very proud to share with you the many successes our students and School have enjoyed over the year.

This past year saw the completion of our five-year 2012-2017 Strategic Plan which was focused on three goals: An Inspiring and Balanced Learning Experience, Strong Local and Global Connections and an Engaged and Supportive Community. We are proud of all that has been accomplished over the last five years and, in particular, the work over the past year put in place to launch us into our future. Some examples are:

- Continuing to ensure the best people, processes and resources to enhance our girls' learning experience. Restructuring our LINCWell approach to enhance our enrichment and support foci, adding additional learning strategist resource and a part time social worker.
- Prioritizing our focus on diversity to ensure that we begin to more purposefully create and engage a community that understands and embraces diversity. Over the last year, a Task Force comprised of staff and students worked with a facilitator to create a Diversity Strategy that is being rolled out this year.
- Developing deep and meaningful partnerships that engage our staff and girls in learning beyond our walls locally, nationally and globally. We were thrilled to work last year alongside alumna Zarin Machanda '97 to learn, visit and reflect upon a potential long-term partnership with the Kasisi Project in Uganda.
- Increasing philanthropic support of the School by almost all constituents last year, with the School securing its largest donation in its history in support of future capital projects.
- Increasing the number and depth of our Alumnae connections, particularly tied to supporting our current girls' experiences.

Academic excellence is the quality for which St. Clement's has been best known through history. Our 60 graduates of 2017 were accepted into their universities of choice in Canada, the United States, and abroad, and were awarded over \$1,650,000 in scholarships. Four of our 2017 graduates started their next stage of learning internationally – one at University of Cape Town, South Africa, two at University of St. Andrews, Scotland, and one at Nova Southeastern University in the USA. 56 are studying at Canadian universities of every size and in every region. The Class of 2017 is engaged across many fields of study, including integrated, life, and pure science; business, commerce, finance and management; engineering; biomedical engineering; mechanical engineering and computer technology; knowledge integration; media, information and technoculture; liberal arts and social science; animal biology; architecture; psychology; health

sciences and kinesiology; computer science; arts and science; concurrent education; business administration and computer science; and medicine, dental medicine, medical sciences and biomedical science.

Another notable achievement of our 2017 Grads and their parents is that they are the third graduation year in a row to endow a grad class scholarship fund for financial aid by raising \$38,070. 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 aid support enables the School to fulfil what has always been a priority-ensuring that mission-fit girls regardless of means are able to attend St. Clement's.

Advanced Placement (AP) results were very strong last year with St. Clement's producing an outstanding 34 AP Scholars; 14 AP Scholars with Honour; 14 AP Scholars with Distinction and 6 National AP Scholars. 1 student received her AP Capstone Diploma, and 1 student received her AP Seminar and Research Certificate. SCS students wrote 326 AP exams in 17 subject areas and our winners of the AP National Scholars Award yet again make SCS one of the top AP Girls School in Ontario.

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

St. Clement's students wrote many Math and Science contests this year and achieved high standards relative to their peers in other schools:

- 97, or 40% of our Grade 9 to 12 students prepared for and wrote optional Math contests last year, over half of those students wrote all three of the contests available to them
- In the Pascal Mathematics Contest, our top student was in the top 3% of all students who wrote the contest, and we had 13 SCS students who scored in the top 25% of all students writing the contest
- In the Cayley Mathematics Contest written by Grade 10 students, 11 Certificates of Distinction were earned for scores in the top 25% of all students writing the contest, and our top student was in the top 2% of all students who wrote the contest
- The Fermat Mathematics Contest, is written by Grade 11 students, and eight students placed in the top 25% receiving Certificates of Distinction
- The Fryer, Galois and Hypatia Math Contests saw five students finish in the top 25% in the Fryer Competition, two in the top 25% in the Galois Math Contest, and two in the top 25% in the Hypatia contest

- In the Canadian Intermediate Mathematics contest 11 students finished in the top 25% and four were in the top 25% in the Canadian Senior Mathematics Contest

In the Social Sciences, students were offered and took part in a variety of co-curriculars beyond the walls of SCS. These activities included the Southern Ontario Model United Nations (SOMA), as well as the Global Ideas Institute (GII) at the Munk School. In addition, students enrolled in Social Science courses participated in a variety of competitions, including the 2017 Canadian Geography Challenge and the National Economics Challenge. Of particular note, SCS students continued to experience considerable success in the International Stock Market Game hosted by the Securities Industry and Markets Association (SIFMA) foundation. One SCS team finished in the top quarter of the competition, which pitted SCS students against students from 600 schools representing 15 different countries. Finally, all Grade 9 students continue to participate in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). This year, the winning team collaborated to produce an outstanding presentation on behalf of PFLAG, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

Our Languages Department had many achievements last year:-

#### French

- Seven students in Grades 7 and 9 participated in the Concours D'art Oratoire, the French public speaking contest for Independent schools with the Senior Concours once again hosted by our School, all of our students came in either 2nd or 3rd place in their respective divisions.

#### Spanish

- Three students went to York University, Glendon Campus to participate in the Ontario Secondary Schools' Spanish Contest. They were among students from 26 schools competing in five different categories (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Spanish plus, and Native speakers), two of our students placed 2nd in their categories.

#### Classical Languages

- 37 Senior Latin students took part in the Classical Association of Canada High School Latin Ontario Student Classics Conference where the philosophical themes of 'know thyself' and 'nothing in excess' were highlighted.
- SCS brought home over 50 ribbons across the 70+ events, notable ribbon wins include:
  - 3rd in Junior Latin Comprehension & Grammar
  - 1st Mini-Marathon
  - 1st in Relay Race and Ultimate Frisbee
  - 2nd in Live Performance
  - 4th overall in field events
- Medusa Mythology Exam written in the spring saw one of our students win the *Corona Olivae* certificate for Superior Achievement

- National Latin Exam written in the spring saw three students achieve results *cum laude*, three achieved results *magna cum laude*, two were awarded silver, *maxima cum laude* for their achievements, and two were awarded gold, *summa cum laude* for their achievements
- National Classical Etymology Exam is optional where students examine English words derived from Latin and Greek roots, two students won Bronze in the Advanced category and three won Gold in the Intermediate category

Our students' literary talents continue to gain recognition. Papyrus, our annual SCS student art and literary magazine, once again received the Highest Award in the 2016 NCTE Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines. This achievement again ranks Papyrus 1st place among Canadian high schools. I am proud to report that SCS is one of just two Canadian schools to receive the Highest Award.

2016/17 was another busy year for our St. Clement's debating and public speaking team, as we continue to develop and enhance this program. Our girls competed in both Fulford League and OSDU-sponsored events, and at university tournaments, such as McGill. Our program strives to offer rich opportunities for novice and seasoned debaters and speakers alike, whether occasional or long-term. While our students took part in many local tournaments, they also travelled farther afield; two teams qualified for the senior debate finals in Ottawa and another skilled speaker made it to the Nationals in Winnipeg for the second year in a row. From impromptu debates at the Donahoe Cup in Halifax, to the International Independent School Public Speaking Competition in Vancouver, our girls consistently qualified for final rounds. Of special note, a Grade 11 student qualified at Nationals for the World Individual Independent Schools' Championships, held in Sydney, Australia. She competed in four speech categories against 110 competitors, and I am proud to report that she placed 2nd overall. While this report is about last year's accomplishments, I feel it important to announce that St. Clement's School is thrilled to be hosting the International Independent Schools' Debating and Public Speaking Competition next October. This will be a significant undertaking and highlights our School's commitment to these vital skills.

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

Last year we hosted our first Lego Robotics Tournament at SCS, we welcomed over 100 students from Grades 6 to 10 competing for a spot at the provincial championships. The tournament was very successful, with St. Clement's Grads refereeing and judging, and current students organizing volunteers and making sure the event ran smoothly. We entered one of our two teams in the St. Clement's tournament and they qualified for provincials. In order that to help volunteer at our

home tournament, our second team- the Senior Lego Robotics Team- went to a different qualifying tournament. At their qualifying tournament they took home the champions award and also qualified for provincials. At provincials our Senior Team won the judges award, but did not advance to nationals. However, their creative project did qualify them for the Ontario Innovation Celebration.

Last year, our Computer Science and Robotics students attained a number of very notable achievements:

On the robotics field, students from the Senior Robotics Team and Grade 11 and 12 Technology courses competed in two tournaments. At the Brampton VEX tournament, SCS placed 17th in a field of 46 teams. At the Central Toronto VEX Tournament, our girls placed 16th in a field of 52. These results are particularly notable, as both tournaments attract many of the best robotics team in the world. The Toronto/Mississauga area is recognized for having a very high number of elite-level teams in the area, and these two tournaments are considered some of the most competitive in the world.

On the University of Waterloo's Beaver Computing Challenge for students in Grades 7 to 10, two students were honour roll recipients, placing in the top 2% of all contestants, with one achieving a perfect score on the contest.

For the Canadian Computing Challenge, Waterloo's programming contest for students in Grades 11 and 12, one student also achieved honour roll status, placing in the top 2% of all contestants.

The Educational Computing Organization of Ontario (ECOO) holds a team-based programming competition, where teams of four programmers from schools throughout the province go head-to-head in a time-based competition. Teams earn points by creating computer programs to solve real-world problems as fast as possible. SCS fielded four teams at ECOO, and had a very strong showing, with our Number 3 team advancing to the provincial semi-finals round.

We had an exceptionally successful season athletically with many notable finishes in our 2016/17 athletics season:

- The Senior Soccer Team were the CISAA champions for the first time ever in SCS history
- The U13 Cross Country Team were CISAA champions
- Four members of our Junior Cross Country Team competed at the OFSAA championship meet
- The Level 2 Alpine Ski Team was CISAA Champions, and won 2nd and 3rd at OFSAA

- Our Senior Track and Field Team had a very successful season which culminated in the CISAA Championship meet where many of the girls finished in the Top 4 of their event, allowing them to move on to the Metro Championships, two girls went on to compete in high jump and pole vault at the OFSAA championships
- One student represented SCS and the CISAA at the OFSAA Tennis championship where she played mixed doubles (with the brother of two of our Clementines from St. Mike's) and they won OFSAA gold

The Duke of Edinburgh Award, an important component of our Experiential Education program, was highly prescribed and saw 6 gold, 11 silver and 21 bronze awards achieved by our girls.

Last year was another very successful one in the arts.

The Kiwanis Music Festival continued to bring success to St. Clement's. All 10 groups who participated were awarded a Gold standing. These groups included a Grade 7/8 Flute Octet, the Grade 6 Choir, Primary Choir, Junior Choir, the Grade 4/5 Choir, the Grades 1,2,3,4,5 Homeroom Choirs. The Grade 4/5 Choir received the John Govedas Memorial Scholarship for their outstanding performance at the 2017 Toronto Kiwanis Festival. We were especially honoured to receive this scholarship as John Govedas was the accompanist for the SCS Choirs many years ago.

At the Kiwanis Dance Competition, our Grades 4, 5, 6, and Grades 7 and 8 Dance Teams earned gold.

Dramatic productions at St. Clement's continue to flourish with Middle School producing *Charlotte's Web* and the Senior School producing *Cinderella* last year to enthusiastic and large audiences.

The Lumina Fashion and Design Show, in its tenth year, involved over 90 Upper School students, timing of the show saw it moved from the new year to the spring time. Proceeds from the auction of the clothes after the show and from sales of ticket, amounting to \$11,824.20 were donated to the Arts Access Fund.

Each year the Sears Drama Festival begins late in February in 24 different districts, showcasing 668 different entries and culminates in early April with a showcase of 12 outstanding productions from across the province. SCS was awarded an award of merit in ensemble performance for the Grade 11 Musical Theatre show. The SCS Grade 10 drama show also received an award of excellence for ensemble performance and an award for outstanding production, resulting in the opportunity to

perform at Hart House in early April. They also received an award of merit for ensemble and play creation at the Regionals.

Community engagement continues to be a significant part of the St. Clement's fabric. Throughout the year, students developed a deeper understanding and approach to community partnerships and building awareness about community connections, both near and far. We continued the connection with St. Clement's Church in support of the Brimo family from Syria, with outings and some weekly tutoring with a few students, as well as our Thanksgiving food drive. The Terry Fox Run was also a successful whole school event. While the Junior School continued to focus support on their child sponsors, the Upper School raised awareness and support for Sheena's Place, "inspiring hope, reducing stigma, raising awareness and offering meaningful help and information for those affected by eating disorders". Winter clothing and food drives supported the families of First Nations Public School.

Community Day was held in early December, and, once again, saw SCS students and staff visiting various community organizations and communities in the neighbourhood and city.

The breadth of lunchtime co-curricular activities provided opportunities for students to both explore their interest and for student leaders, in various grades, to strengthen their leadership skills. We look to our Leadership Framework to help facilitate that skill development through the support of staff / faculty advisors. Leadership retreats and workshops were held through the year for each grade to introduce and explore leadership concepts and aspects of the framework as they apply to the different learners.

Environmental issues continue to challenge and inspire various initiatives. Waste reduction, proper sorting of waste and energy conservation were important foci through the year. St. Clement's was awarded a Silver certificate from Eco Schools for the year.

Our membership in the international organization Round Square continues to be of great benefit to the School and our students as they explore the six principles of Round Square. 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 five students and two staff participated in the International Conference in Iceland and Germany in the fall, senior students went to Nepal on the RSIS projects in December 2015, and students and staff went to Zambia and Botswana with World Challenge Expeditions in March. Students and staff participated in a regional conferences in Buenos Aires with Belgrano Day School in the spring. Throughout the year, students went on exchange to Edinburgh, Scotland. The Round

Square senior student committee focused on creating new IDEALS boards incorporating the words from the student body to identify what each of the IDEALS means to them. The boards can be found on the third floor outside the Round Square office.

Our Young Round Square program (for Grades 7 to 9) saw students participate in two international opportunities. In March 2017 students from Grades 7 to 9 traveled to Peru to participate in service work and to learn about Peru's culture and history. In April, two Grade 7 students attended the annual Conference of the Americas, which took place in New York, New York.

We work hard at St. Clement's School to create an experience that prepares our girls and young women for the future, and it is so important to acknowledge the additional support that we are so fortunate to have. St. Clement's is not only blessed with a committed and hardworking staff but it is also through time, treasury, and talent from parents, grandparents, alumnae and friends, St. Clement's is able to maintain its place as one of the best girls' institutions in the country.

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 Emma Sanders Finlayson '99, and our Parents' Association, very ably led by Kimberly Kudney. These partnerships are paramount to both our community strength as well as to our sustainability as an institution. I want to take this opportunity to thank them both. Kimberly worked closely with the School to support our programmatic needs and to continue to enhance and clarify the role of the Parents' Association. For that we are very thankful. To Emma, we are very grateful for your leadership of our Alumnae Association Executive as we work hard to leverage relationships with past and current Clementines.

St. Clement's School is blessed, not only with a tremendous staff and Administrative Team but a strong and committed Board of Governors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Governors not only for their support of our work but for their strong strategic leadership and fiduciary sense. In addition, and in my mind, equally important, they bring thoughtful questions, an important critical eye and tremendous support of our leadership team and staff. This is something for which I am very grateful and sets St. Clement's up so well for the future.

This evening marks the departure of one of our Governors and I wish to thank her for all that they have provided to SCS and for me personally.

It is with great appreciation that I ask Melisa Arruda to please come up and receive a token of our appreciation.

Melissa has been a remarkable support and resource in her capacity as Board Member over the years. Not only has she brought the important Alumna lens to our work and discussions, she has provided her tremendous legal expertise to our Governance and Nominations procedures, policies and by-laws. I have thoroughly enjoyed and valued working with Melissa and know that we will miss her presence and voice around the table.

I wish also to thank Brian Denega who has just completed his first year as Chair. The relationship between Board Chair and Principal is fundamentally important and I have been, and continue to, feel blessed in working with wonderful Chairs over the years. I believe that I have a great partner as we work to prepare for the future. St. Clement's is at a very exciting stage, as we begin to enact our three-year Strategic Plan. I am excited, alongside Heather Henricks, our Vice Principal to share more following this AGM.

This concludes my Annual General Meeting report.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Perry '85  
Principal