



ST. CLEMENT'S
SCHOOL

Passion. Courage. Curiosity.

Principal's Report
Annual General Meeting
October 25, 2023

It is my pleasure to welcome our St. Clement's community to the Annual General Meeting this evening, and to present my report on the 2022-2023 school year.

Our 2022-2023 school year was one of transition. We experienced our first full year of in-person learning in three years, and the ability to be with one another and reconnect in person was wonderful. It also brought with it a time of adjustment for all constituents. For our students, reconnecting with friends in person and coming to school everyday was both a gift and an adjustment. For our staff, re-implementing a full slate of co-curricular opportunities was both exciting and a shift from two years with limited or no activities outside of instructional time. For our parents, seeing their children back to a more independent existence was both wonderful and sometimes challenging. All in all, with each step taken to distance ourselves from the pandemic, we worked hard to adjust, to hold fast to our values and mission, and finished the year well-prepared for this current year.

In particular, our Graduates of 2023 had much about which to be proud. Despite limitations on their high school experience over the years, the class were enthusiastic and very patient and flexible as we navigated their final year including our construction project that would not be accessible during their time as students. We cannot wait to welcome them back as alums to show them the space that they can always call home. Our in-person Closing Ceremonies once again at Massey Hall to wrap up our school year and bid farewell and best wishes to the Graduating Class was wonderful with our Grads deciding that caps and gowns were what they wished to graduate in. A new addition to our traditions.

Our 60 graduates last year were accepted into their universities of choice in a broad variety of fields of study, at schools of every size. 31 students are attending universities in Ontario, 15 elsewhere in Canada, 8 in the United States, 2 in the United Kingdom, and 3 internationally. One of our students was admitted to a university in the United Kingdom but ultimately chose to take a gap year.

Last year saw ongoing work to ensure we are achieving our goal of developing and equipping courageous and adaptable learners, empowering them to make impactful contributions in local, national and global communities. Work on our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion curriculum as well as that of our LINCWell approach were front of mind. In addition, committee work to ensure ongoing work on realizing robust staff development continued. As we consider the importance of valuing the process of learning in addition to simply the outcomes, work to reflect on the School's approach to recognition and awards has been important. All of the abovementioned work continues into the 2023-2024 school year with

finalizing and preparing implementation of curriculum, clarity around recognition and awards and next steps in staff development for June of 2024.

Our strategic work supports and enables the remarkable achievements of our students. Key for us is that our Clementines are learning how to learn, that they have the capacity to adapt and be flexible as they are faced with challenges and new information. We continue to provide opportunities for them to engage in areas of interest and to seek opportunities for enrichment.

With respect to enrichment, one such area is their involvement in academic contests and competitions over the school year, and they continue to achieve impressive results.

Math

In the Senior School, we once again offered 11 different contest opportunities. We had strong and enthusiastic participation from our students, and over 100 mathematics contests were written. We had excellent results, earning 36 certificates of distinction in grades 9-12.

A stand-out result: There were 557 schools across Canada who entered Waterloo's Hypatia contest (for grade 11 students). Our school ranked 33 out of 557 and they were the top all-girls school in the country! Not only that, but our school champion also earned a perfect score on the contest!

In the Middle School, we had full grade 7 and grade 8 participation in the Gauss contest.

Science

Chemistry teachers continued this year to offer co-curricular club dedicated to chemistry contest preparation for interested students.

Six grade 12 participants competed in the Chem 13 News Chemistry Contest and the results were impressive. One Grade 12 student placed in the 96th percentile in the world. Eight grade 11 students participated in the Avogadro's contest and three students placed in the 97th, 93rd and 88th percentiles respectively in Canada. One student successfully competed in the Canadian Chemistry and Biology Olympiads as well as the Canadian Chemistry Contest.

SCS STEM committee advertised and encouraged students to participate in the Toronto Youth STEM & Innovation Conference. This year the event was in person, and we had several students attend. As well, one SCS student is on the planning committee, as this event is organized by GTA high school students for high school students. The conference is an excellent opportunity for students with an interest in STEM to learn about careers in the field and speak with professionals.

SCS students initiated our first HOSA school chapter this year. HOSA is the largest health science student organization in North America. HOSA members who join the club or become part of the competitive team are provided with opportunities to learn about specific healthcare careers of interest and prepare and participate in unique competitive events. This year eight students went to the Spring Leadership Conference at the Enercare Centre where they attended workshops and seminars as well as participated in competitive events. Three students qualified for the second round of their events.

This past April, SCS had two participants in the Toronto Science Fair. These students both developed computer programs to help in diagnosing specific diseases and both won silver medals in their age categories.

Social Science

Students participated in a variety of co-curricular Social Science programs both within and beyond the walls of SCS.

Our entire Grade 9 class took part in the Canadian Geographic Challenge - a contest that included 2 million students across 500 schools nationwide.

Students in our Business Studies program competed in a six-week stock market simulation, building and modifying their portfolios to earn the biggest short-term return on their investments. 4 Clementines finished in the top 10% of all participants in Canada. Students also participated in a business simulation in which they experienced the challenges and rewards of managing a small-town café.

Some Grade 10 and 11 History students continued the School's ongoing volunteer work to transcribe primary source material for a national collection in order to increase accessibility of the material for historians and the public, particularly those with visual impairments.

Languages

Twenty-five Classics students travelled to Brock University for the annual Ontario Student Classics Conference. The students engaged in friendly creative, athletic, and academic competitions, lectures, and workshops related to the Classical world. In this, the first in-person OSCC since the pandemic, SCS served as a co-host of the event. Several students also took part in a number of challenging competitions outside their regular curriculum including the National Latin Exam, The National Classical Etymology Exam and the Medusa Mythology Exam.

In French, among the fifty students in grades 6 to 12 who are actively working towards their French Proficiency Diploma (DELF), fifteen put their candidacy forth to take the test that best suits their proficiency level. The students completed all parts of the test that includes listening and reading comprehension exercises as well as writing and oral components. They are now proud holders of diplomas ranging from A2 to C1 levels.

In the Junior & Middle Schools, The Languages Department teamed up with the Arts Department to welcome Mimi O'Bonsawin, a singer/songwriter with Franco-Canadian and Abenaki roots, to the School. Mimi ran a French song writing workshop with Grade 4 and Grade 8 French classes.

Junior School

Our Junior School is a vital time in our students' lives setting the groundwork for curious, compassionate and courageous learners.

Curious Kids, a cross-curricular inquiry program for Junior School students, continued. Students employed a problem-based learning approach to explore big ideas and concepts, allowing them to think critically about the world around them, leading to a 'So What' action element. The driving question for these projects was, "How might we inform the SCS

Community about the Global Goals?" Using the UN Sustainable Development Goals, students explored complex problems that they were connected to and creatively came up with solutions that would help alleviate the problem they identified.

In LINC, the Grade 3 class participated in an action research project that examined why students were not independently accessing taught mindfulness strategies when faced with challenges throughout their day. The results indicated that the students independently accessed this tool to support them through regular daily challenges. Facilitating young students to create mindful routines to develop self-regulation and resiliency skills, and recognizing their immediate positive impact will be key in the School's future planning of Social-Emotional learning. We are grateful to our LINCWell Junior School Learning Strategist, AnneMarie Zigrossi for her work and were thrilled to see her recognized as the Researcher of the Year by the International Coalition of Girls' Schools Global Action Research Collaborative.

Junior School students were immersed in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion learning through shared experiences in classes weekly and during Junior School Community Time Assemblies. The Junior School dedicated Tuesday Morning Meetings to thinking exercises and/or activities aligned with an EDI topic or a relevant day of celebration or commemoration. These activities extended beyond Morning Meetings, connecting to curriculum learning, community time, and assemblies.

Junior School students participated in a successful cross-grade drama experience culminating in a Winter Showcase. Students explored the elements of a live performance and after attending a live performance of "Snow White", made a choice for further exploration based on their area of interest, such as props or music. In mixed age groupings, Junior School students contributed to their area of interest, preparing and performing two very well-received shows for families.

Junior School students continued to have many opportunities for experiential learning and outdoor education. For example, during the spring term, the Grade 6 class participated in a weekly field study that integrated outdoor education and the biodiversity strand of the science curriculum. Over the six-week program, faculty noted that students developed a stronger sense of independence and a more resilient attitude through exposure to discomforts such as rain.

In the Spring, the Junior School Showcase of Learning was an exciting, hands-on, and fully interactive demonstration of the learning that happens every day at SCS. Students toured the School with their parents, highlighting the learning process in all subject areas.

Debate and Public Speaking

The 2022-23 season of debate and public speaking saw a welcome return to mostly in-person events for the first time since 2019. Attending these events with a new perspective allowed participants to appreciate more fully the tremendous value of spending in-person time with coaches and students from colleague schools both in Canada and internationally. Our first major event was the International Independent Schools Public Speaking Contest (IISPSC) in Massachusetts, the same event that St. Clement's hosted in 2018. We had excellent representation at that tournament, particularly in the after-dinner speaking category, and this set the tone for a very successful year in public speaking. Highlights included a regional

victory by our team at the annual Canada-wide Poetry in Voice competition, and great representation at the Sterling Hall Invitational and Norah McRae public speaking tournaments. At the latter, one of our students earned first place in two of the speaking categories and had a top-3 overall finish in the tournament.

On the debate side, we had Junior and Senior teams competing at all three of the Fulford League debate tournaments and had excellent individual results, including several top-ten finishes. We also continued to take part in both online and in-person Ontario Student Debating Union (OSDU)-sponsored events, and a few University-hosted tournaments.

Robotics and Computer Programming

It was a banner year for the Senior Robotics team at SCS. The program had record participation allowing us to enter eight separate robot teams, more than any other school in Ontario. After a series of competitive qualifying tournaments, four of the robots successfully qualified for the Provincial Championships. St. Clements finished the tournament as the highest ranked girls' team. The new Middle School VEX-IQ robotics club also continued to grow, qualifying three teams for Provincials and hosting our first ever VEX tournament.

Additionally, St. Clements entered a team into the prestigious Canadian RoboCup tournament. This is a global competition for fully autonomous robots, completing challenges such as playing soccer and escaping from a maze. It was a great success, with our team of Grade 10 students winning the tournament's Innovation Award for their original design.

The Programming Team met weekly to challenge each other by completing difficult university level coding problems. Unfortunately, their main end of season competition, the prestigious ECOO Programming Tournament was cancelled. However, the grade 9 and 10 students entered the University of Waterloo's Beaver Computing Challenge, achieving four perfect scores and 28 Certificates of Distinction, a school record.

Athletics

2022-2023 was a great year for the athletes at SCS.

In the fall, our Senior Cross-Country team had excellent results. Our top runners placed, 1st, 2nd and 3rd at the CISAA championships and all three of those runners went on to compete at the OFSAA championships. At CISAA our Junior Team (grade 10) finished in second place overall, behind first place by just one point! At OFSAA our top runner finished in 7th place.

Our Alpine Ski team expanded to include skiers in the U14 category and SCS pitched in to help with CISAA's OFSAA hosting duties.

Our Winter Swim team enjoyed great success in the pool and went on to compete at the OFSAA championships in Windsor. Our top swimmer came home with a silver medal! What a fantastic result!

In the spring we added a new team to our roster, Co-ed Ultimate Frisbee. SCS joined forces with UCC in this new venture and the athletes had a ball. Early morning training sessions at UCC and excitement for learning a new sport paid off as the U-Clem team lost in the CISAA championship game by one point! We are looking forward to continuing our partnership with UCC and to expanding to include ultimate for younger age groups this coming spring.

Our junior and senior track and field teams both had successful seasons. With many outstanding finishes at all levels, we had a great showing at CISAA and three of our senior athletes went on to compete at the OFSAA championships. Our top athlete finished the 2000m steeplechase, an open event, in 6th place!

Duke of Ed Awards

The Duke of Edinburgh International Award program continued to play an important role in students' experiential learning this past school year. Students participated in a variety of activities to fulfill the physical recreation, skills, community service, and adventurous journey components of the Award. Two groups of students from Grades 10 and 11 completed a Silver-level canoe trip in Algonquin Park in the fall. Students in Duke of Ed continue to push themselves out of their comfort zones to explore new skills and contribute to their communities.

Over the course of the school year, 14 students completed their Bronze award and 8 students completed their Silver award. Six students worked on their Gold award last year and are scheduled to complete their level in the coming months.

The Anchor Awards program aims to encourage students in the Middle School to engage in new skills, activities, and experiences within and beyond the SCS community. The program saw significant growth last year, with 29 students earning their Blue Anchor Award and 8 students earned their Red Anchor Award.

Arts

The Arts at St. Clement's flourished during the 2022-2023 school year, with a full return to activities, both in person and within the surrounding community.

The Arts Banquet kicked off the year with a celebration of all the arts which brought artists and students together in experiential workshops.

Dramatic Arts at SCS returned in full force with many options for our actors at every stage. The Middle School and Senior School performances returned to Powell Hall with live audiences. The Middle School production was an adaptation of The Emperor's New Clothes, while Senior School students took on the Bard by performing Twelfth Night. Both productions entertained their audiences with lively performances enhanced with sets and tech, which were created and run by students. Drama club ran for middle school and senior students during co-curricular time. The senior Director's Craft class traveled to Stratford ON to perform an original creation on the Studio Stage for the CISDF.

Musicians at St. Clement's also had many opportunities to perform this year. Through various assemblies, whole school events and showcase competitions throughout the province, our musicians demonstrated their talent and hard work to proudly represent St. Clement's. Students showcased their passion for music with performances at our Carol Service, and performances of the Junior School and Upper School Choirs, as well as the Jazz Band, at the Closing Ceremonies. The senior music class also performed a concert in the gym to a live audience of their peers. The Junior Choir and Concert Instrumentalists performed and participated in workshops within the Conference of Independent Schools Music Festival

CISMF), while the Chamber Choir performed in Niagara Falls for the Ontario Vocal Festival (OVF) and earned a place in Musicfest Ontario; a huge achievement for all involved.

SCS visual artists displayed their artwork throughout the School during the 2022-2023 school year, adding so much colour and beauty to our halls. Their artwork was also displayed in our two original Art and Literature publications: *Papyrus* (Grade 7-12) and *Petite Papyrus* (Grade 1-6) which were reintroduced this year. The Spring showcase, *Sights and Sounds of Spring*, was a live concert with performances, music compositions, and a multimedia visual arts showcase. This showcase included a virtual gallery of student work from Grades 7-12. Guest artists made a return to classes to lead workshops centered around their specific artistic foci. Student artists also created posters for School plays and events, as well as the winter card design and yearbook cover.

The Lumina Fashion and Design Show last year had a theme of “Rebelling Against the Ordinary”; more than 50 senior school designers created clothing that explored the innovative, unconventional, and revolutionary designs in the fashion industry with a focus on the importance of sustainability. The live show included 9 scenes, each with its own designer, design support team, and creative scene director. The scenes were all accompanied with a video detailing the process and inspiration for the designers. Many of the stunning designs were showcased through dance and dramatic performances. Money raised from the show was donated to The Kasiisi Project to help protect the planet for future generations.

Co-curriculars and community partnerships

Last year was an exciting one for our co-curricular programs. It was great to have everything back up and running. The co-curricular block continued to run in the Junior School allowing our youngest students to have opportunities in a wide variety of activities in 6 week blocks on Wednesday. The Upper School moved to co-curriculars at lunch organized by term, also allowing students to participate in a broad range of clubs, committees, and activities. We had many new programs including DECA, which was very well attended and successful as 57 students represented SCS in competitions.

We had numerous fundraisers and community outreach initiatives. Some examples include: the Thanksgiving Food Drive, Period Purse Collection, Holiday drive for Kâpapâmachakwêw School, the Breast cancer card-making initiative for Women’s College Hospital, along with many events for our community partner Friends of Ruby. The community committee, GSA, prefects, Junior School, and other groups all worked hard to raise and funds for this fantastic Toronto Based organization serving 2SLGBTQIA+ youth. Friends of Ruby staff made many appearances at SCS and the partnership was a big success.

Travel opportunities were plentiful last year. Full Grade trips included Grade 5 & 6 to Camp Kandalore in the spring, Grades 7 & 12 went to Camp Arowhon in September, Grade 8 to Pinecrest in January, and Grade 10 & 11 to St. Donat in February. SCS was well represented at the Round Square Conference in England and in Ottawa. We had 2 March Break trips to Iceland for Grade 10 - 12, and a trip to Costa Rica for Grade 7 - 9. There was a winter and summer Moose Factory trip along with a Duke of Ed canoe trip in the fall.

It was great to have all our House Days and spirit events shifted back to be fully in person along with an incredible Spirit Week. The full school participated in the Terry Fox Run and

some new community events such as a homeform scavenger hunt at the park. There was a Grade 1-8 playday in June, which was a big success. Overall, the enthusiasm and energy around all our full school events was amazing.

It is with great pride that I reflect on the 2022-2023 academic year. Despite a challenging time of transition from the pandemic and settling back into a fully in-person experience, we saw tremendous progress strategically and operationally. I believe this is as a result of a remarkably strong community. I witnessed a strength and support of others by so many. Our staff at St. Clement's are second to none- working hard to support our Clementines regardless of role. To our Administrative Team, thank you for your ongoing tireless work and for stepping in and up when things were less than straightforward.

I continue to be grateful for the incredible partnership that I have shared with Chair Karen McKay over the last several years. Karen has been steadfast in her support and critical questions and wonderings. I cannot thank our Past Chair Brian Denega enough. He has been with the Board over many years and mentored and guided me and many others along the way. Our Board of Governors not only continued to fulfill strong strategic and fiduciary responsibilities but also recognized and responded in support of unexpected challenges that arose as a result of the shift from pandemic life.

Thank you to our Parents' Association- all parents- who were and continue to support the School and our goals and mission and who have been instrumental in strengthening connections within the community. Betty, your time as President of the PA has been instrumental in setting the track for a strong and clear future for our parents and the School. I thank our Alums and Alum President Ali Azzopardi as well for their ongoing support of our current staff and Clementines.

St. Clement's School is comprised of outstanding people who understand the importance of not just a rigorous learning experience but of the power of a connected and committed community. For that I am very grateful.

This concludes my Annual General Meeting report.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Perry '85
Principal