

St. Clement's Parents' Association
President's Report to the Annual General Meeting
October 21, 2020

As the President of the Parents' Association (PA) for the 2019/2020 year, it is my pleasure to report on the PA activities that took place over the course of the year. I use the word year loosely as it was closer to 7 months and it was unlike any school year that we have experienced to date.

September brought with it our usual back to school events, including our Welcome Back Coffee and the Welcome Back Barbeque. The Welcome Back Barbeque was held inside for the first time in many years and despite not being able to have our usual inflatables, it was well-attended and much fun was had. During our post event debrief we identified some changes that we hope to implement moving forward, once it is possible to hold this event again safely. We will rebrand the Barbeque as a Fun Fair and it will begin immediately after school finishes as this is more streamlined for students in the Junior School and for those attending aftercare. We will also eliminate the barbeque component as it is costly and there is a lot of food waste. Instead, we will offer snacks and shift the focus to activities and prizes. In addition, the event will end slightly earlier so everyone can be home in time for dinner or attend any after-school activities.

In October, with the PA's continued support of the Speakers Series, St. Clement's hosted Lisa Damour to a packed audience. The PA supported the School's Open Houses by recruiting volunteers to help at these events. Nancy Hotson, the incoming President, and I were also there alongside SCS faculty to welcome prospective families.

As the PA President, I had the honour of attending the first ever Race, Privilege, and Community conference that St. Clement's hosted in November, the first of its kind for a CAIS school.

At the end of November, the PA launched a new fundraising initiative: SCS branded Lazypants that were offered to all students in Grades 1-12. We had 2 separate orders. The first order was structured as a "first come, first served" with guaranteed delivery in time for the holidays. We structured the sale this way because of limited stock, particularly in certain sizes. Our second order was launched once we knew that sizes had been replenished by our supplier. Our second delivery encountered delays due to COVID; however, the PA regrouped and arranged for contactless delivery and curbside pickup in the spring.

In December we held the annual Snowflake Sale and our second annual Jingle Mingle. During our post event debrief of the Jingle Mingle we identified key areas to change in the coming years. This included combining the Snowflake Sale and the Jingle Mingle and offering new vendors, babysitting, and more variability in what is sold. As a community engagement event it was well received.

Lastly, over the course of the Fall and Winter, the Parents' Association Constitution was updated. This was largely the work of Kayla Ramirez working with John Sayers, Past President.

With the School closure, the events that we typically hold in the spring and summer (like the Used Textbook and Uniform sales) had to be deferred/cancelled. Similarly, PA events like the Staff Appreciation lunch and the presentation of flowers to graduates did not happen. In lieu of the Staff Appreciation luncheon, the PA organized gift cards for SCS staff and faculty from Himalayan Java, or "Him Jav" as it is affectionately known. This was meant to serve as a small token of appreciation for the efforts of the School on behalf of all our daughters, particularly during such challenging times.

Although we held fewer events, we also had less expenditures, and any fundraising we did was successful. We made changes to our Pizza Lunch program that increased revenue. This included better tracking of orders, new pricing, and smaller slices to minimize food waste in the Junior School.

The PA allocated money to the School's Wish List based on what would provide the greatest benefit to the greatest number of students. To that end, we funded the Concussion Protocol plan for \$9,200, and contributed \$5,000 to the Speakers Series. We also planned to give \$2,500 to the Horizons March Break camp, but when this was cancelled post pandemic, the funds were returned to the PA.

For the 2020/21 year, and going forward, the reduced expenses combined with successful fundraising events mean that we are well positioned to support the School in their initiatives and future Wish List items. Our cash balance as of June 2020 is just under \$40, 000, up from \$21, 000 in the previous year.

This coming year will have its challenges, but we hope to partner with the School to increase community connection and parent engagement, develop new fundraising initiatives within the global pandemic constraints, and partner with the School in any capacity that we are needed.

As I conclude, I would like to thank the many people who made the last “year” as successful as it was. It begins with Kayla Ramirez, who was incredibly resourceful and supportive as I transitioned into my new position. The PA executives were an absolute dream team and were a pleasure to work with. I would like to acknowledge the grade parents, the event convenors and the staff at SCS for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Katherine Hicks, Heather Henricks and Martha Perry for greenlighting the Lazy Pants project. I know it was uncharted territory and the PA thanks them for their faith in us to deliver.

While I know that there are many unknowns still ahead, I believe that our strong partnership with the School, together with the PA’s ability to imagine new ideas and create opportunity, will set us apart and serve the students, staff, and families well. I am confident that under Nancy Hotson this new year will be even more successful.

It was a privilege to serve the SCS community and to head the PA last year.

Thank you,

Zeinab Layton