



## **The St. Clement's School Parents' Association President's Report 2017-2018**

October 24, 2018

On behalf of the St. Clement's Parents' Association (PA), I am delighted to be here to report on the progress of the Parents' Association over the 2017-2018 school year.

The role of the Parents' Association is to enhance the experience here at SCS through community building, fundraising, and volunteer support to the School. Our focus over the past year has been primarily on the parent engagement and community building aspect of our role, as we believed that by strengthening that aspect the other roles would have a solid platform on which to grow.

We continued to organize our usual events over the course of the year – including the pizza lunches, welcome barbeque, Snowflake Sale, bark making, Used Uniform Textbook Sale, Used Uniform Sale, Faculty Appreciation Lunch and others, all accomplished through a team of well over 200 volunteers who have committed their time, energy and talents to support the School throughout the year.

But we were determined to build from that. We began the year by asking ourselves what is it that unites us as parents of this School that we could look to for guidance in building our community. The common decision that of course we all share was to send our daughters to SCS. With that in mind, we approached Martha's team to discuss whether school representatives might play a greater role in our meetings to talk about what is happening within School walls. Heather Henricks developed a series of four topics that she would present with Ms Macintosh and each of the heads of school for discussion at PA meetings. These presentations were extremely well received by the parent community, and we saw the attendance at our meetings grow significantly as a result of them. I want to acknowledge and thank Martha and her team for working with us on this initiative, and we hope that the School has found this series to be beneficial to it as well in providing a forum to get its message out and to receive parent feedback.

Over the past year, we also introduced a PA newsletter in order to better communicate with our parent community. The newsletter helped to remind parents of our meetings and other activities, and to provide a broader sense of community to ensure that participation is open to all.

We also began working toward a bigger Christmas marketplace that will be introduced this year, with an evening cocktail reception and vendor participation that we believe will provide a memorable experience for our parents, with the opportunity to get together in a

fun and festive spirit. It is our hope that this will come to be a social highlight of the school year for our parent community, as similar events have become in many other schools. Coordinating an event like this takes a large team of volunteers who put in lengthy hours to ensure its success. The fact that we have been able to assemble such enthusiastic volunteers and that the School has been so supportive of our efforts are a terrific example of the dedication of the parents of this School, and of the School itself, to develop this sense of community.

One additional initiative that has been less visible, but we think important, is our work with Katherine Hicks in order to develop a new system for Junior School teacher gifts. With Katherine's encouragement and support, we are this year implementing a system where the collection for teacher and staff gifts is pooled among the Junior School in order that significant discrepancies between classes and teachers, which I have heard as a concern since I became a part of this community, can be avoided and a more equitable distribution achieved.

Not everything has been met with such a success – for example, some of our Parent Connections events were not particularly well attended - but these sorts of challenges help to inform us and to refine and direct our approach.

I want to acknowledge and give a special thanks to Lisa Watson and Jennifer Gray, our school reps, who have been so supportive of the work we do, with Lisa continuing to be such a tremendous resource and champion for us. And thank you so much to Martha Perry and Heather Henricks for their participation in our meetings and for working with us to provide school speakers.

Finally, I want to thank this Board for giving the PA an opportunity to work with it and have a voice through providing the President with a position on the Board. The Board, the School and the PA should all be working toward the same goal – the betterment of the School and its students – and providing this opportunity to the President is instrumental in ensuring the alignment of our goals and understanding of our challenges.

For my part, I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as President. I have gotten to know many parents and staff over the past year and I believe we have a really wonderful community here at SCS - I am proud to have been of service to it. On behalf of the Parents' Executive, I also extend a heartfelt thanks to all of our incredible parent volunteers.

Respectfully submitted

Meredith Roth  
Past President  
SCS PA 2018-2019