

**Report of the President of the Parents' Association
Annual General Meeting
October 25, 2023**

As the President of the Parents' Association (PA) for the 2022/2023 year, it is my pleasure to report on the activities that took place over the course of the past year. It was a year where we transitioned back to holding a full complement of activities, after several years of altered or all together missed activities because of COVID.

Our inaugural event was a very successful Welcome Back Fair including food, carnival games, and a photo booth. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for our whole community to come together. We believe there were around 400 attendees that passed through. What a great start to the year!

Also in September, we ran our much anticipated one of three used uniform sales. The other two sales took place in April and June respectively. The sales not only provided families the opportunity to purchase discounted, gently worn uniform pieces and help support the School's sustainability initiative, they also enabled the PA to raise just under \$16,000.

We had a busy October which included our grade coffee mornings, one of two spirit wear campaigns, the holiday treat sale and our first of seven pizza lunches. We continued our relatively new tradition of holding coffee mornings for parents, where they were able to socialize and connect with other parents and staff members. The coffees socials were held on the newly renovated roof top, with many of us seeing the beautiful roof top area for the first time.

We also held our first of two spirit wear campaigns. The items offered were SCS logo-ed and much loved Lazypants, and the exciting new additions were toques, mitts and socks. Popular PJ bottoms were offered in our winter campaign. The spirit wear campaign netted us just over \$4,000.

We got an early start with pre-orders of Holiday Treats. Parents were able to pre-order Gingerbread Houses, as well as a selection of chocolate treats including peppermint bark, hot chocolate bombs and chocolate penguin shaped lollipops. The total raised from this popular fundraiser was just over \$6,000. Pizza lunches, beloved by parents and students alike, commenced in October. Seven pizza lunches were held in total throughout the school year and raised just over \$11,000.

To kick off the holiday season, the much-anticipated Jingle Mingle was held in late November. Over 130 tickets to the event were sold. There were vendors, including our own Penguin's Nest, a silent auction and of course delicious food and drink, including a sushi bar and a signature drink.

In December, we continued the full-school Teacher/Staff gift program and like previous years had high family participation. Under the program, all parents across the School are asked to voluntarily contribute \$100. Funds collected are equitably divided and distributed amongst all the teachers and staff. Half was distributed in December and the other half was distributed in June. We received numerous thank-you notes from teachers and staff.

In the second half of the school year, as mentioned, pizza lunch continued, another spirit wear campaign was launched, which included popular PJ bottoms, two more used uniform sales were held (April and June) and another round of coffee mornings were held in the spring. Additionally, we were able to hold a used textbook sale, where families were able to donate and/or consign no longer needed textbooks and purchase textbooks at very discounted rates. We had not held a used book sale in several years and it was a huge success. We were able to net just over \$7,000.

In addition to the fund-raising events, there was much work behind the scenes on the PA infrastructure. Under the leadership of Kurt MacWilliam, PA VP, we diligently worked on finalizing a PA Charter, which was passed this October at the PA Annual General Meeting. We also spent time streamlining and writing process documents, and organizing and populating our PA google drive, all to ensure continuity with our work and to assist the current and future PA executive team members and convenors.

I am also pleased to report that the PA continued with the tradition of supporting the purchase of the new student gifts and the purchase of the roses given to all the SCS Grads at the closing ceremony. As a result of our profitable events, the PA was also able to contribute \$14,000 to the School's wish list that helped benefit students across all grades. And finally, the PA was able to contribute \$50,000 to the Trailblazer capital campaign.

None of the PA's success would have been possible without the dedication of the PA executive team (Kurt MacWilliam, Kin Baker, Heather Felin and Cherie Tam), the convenors, the grade parents, numerous ad hoc volunteers and the staff at SCS. I would especially like to thank Kayla Ramirez for her guidance and assistance with all our initiatives, Martha Perry for her leadership and Nancy Hotson, our past president, who was always willing to help and provide guidance.

I am excited that Kurt MacWilliam, who was an excellent VP, is this year's PA President, and I welcome Julietta Lynch as VP and Andrea Jong as Treasurer. I'd also like to acknowledge the two executive members who will continue in their roles from last year: Cherie Tam, our volunteer coordinator and Heather Felin, our secretary. Both are outstanding PA executive members. Under the new PA leadership, I am certain this will be another fantastic year!

It was a pleasure presiding over the PA. I truly enjoyed working with all the volunteers and staff on supporting and strengthening our community engagement, at a School that means so much to all of us.

Thank you,
Betty Kneis