

2018–2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To the Members | May 23, 2019



ST. BONAVENTURE'S
COLLEGE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AS A LONG time parent and community member of St. Bonaventure's College, I'm humbled to present to you the President's report for St. Bonaventure's College. The 2018-2019 school year continues to build on the success the school has been known for during its long and distinguished history. Academic, athletic, music and many extra-curricular achievements continue to define the experience for students. Credit for this success goes to the teachers, staff, parents, care-givers, volunteers, benefactors and in recent years to Mr. Tom McGrath and his leadership. We continue to miss his presence.

The work that has been undertaken, in the last year in particular, by the team in the President's office has enabled our school to, not only remain successful, but to grow and continuously improve. To achieve this during trying times is notable and I'd offer a special note of thanks to the staff, volunteers and supporters who have sustained this work. Our school will be even stronger because of your efforts.

It is a privilege for me to witness our students every day as they grow in their commitment to be men and women for and with others. Their leadership, grace and care for others is as inspirational in my current role, as it has been as a parent. It's wonderful to watch this unfold up close. We can all be very proud of this future generation of St. Bon's Alumni.

As we look to September and the beginning of our 20th year operating in our current form, the future looks bright for St. Bonaventure's College. A Catholic school in the Jesuit tradition, our school community can be proud of our history and excited about the future – one built on a strong historical foundation, as well as two decades of leadership and achievements. Most importantly in the last two decades St. Bonaventure's has been a place of caring, service to others, learning, justice and community. Thank you for being part of that legacy.

We continue to be grateful for the generous support of:

- The Board of Governors, Administration, Teachers and Staff of St. Bonaventure's College
- His Grace, Archbishop Peter Hundt, Priests and Staff of the Archdiocese
- Parents, Guardians, Alumni and Volunteers
- Very Rev. Erik Oland - Provincial, Jesuits of Canada
- Jesuit Fathers and Brothers of St. John's
- Sisters of Mercy, Presentation Sisters and the Christian Brothers, and
- All generous Benefactors.

With warm regards,

Cathy Bennett
Interim-President

I. CATHOLIC IDENTITY IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

The highlights of the Campus Ministry year are:

- A Pastoral Committee was established this year to oversee the school's liturgies, including the Martyrs' Mass, the Ash Wednesday Mass and services, the Mother's Day Mass, class masses, etc.
- Fr. Earl Smith, SJ completed teaching masses with our primary classes. This involved going through each part of the mass and explaining the importance to our students in an age appropriate way.
- The Social Justice committee organized its first ThinkFast with support from Development and Peace and the Centre for Ecology and Justice. 25 students engaged in activities that focused on discrimination, poverty and climate change. Students fasted from lunch until 8pm in the evening and joined together for a meal at the end. The First Light Friendship Centre was invited, and students were educated on rites, rituals, and struggles of our First Nations People.
- The Gathering Place saw students volunteering on Mondays and Wednesdays plus holidays. St. Bon's students have been overseeing the breakfast program on Mondays and Wednesdays exclusively.
- The Computers for Seniors program expanded this year and Grade 9 students have been invited to volunteer in the program as well.

II. ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

This year, we started with the theme of communications, engagement and assessment while continuing the work of Phase 1 of our curriculum review.

Our Professional Development days challenged staff to look at revamping their websites and having continuity among them so they are welcoming, engaging and clear with up to date data. Parents should feel they have a central portal in the teachers' websites. These sites should be accessible and have all the important information that a parent would need.

We also introduced Moodle as a central and key tool for staff communication, professional development and hopefully, differentiated teaching and learning.

Our first staff meeting focused on the music program in our school and the need for more curriculum-based themes in our Christmas concerts. The K-6 staff met with the music department to discuss the new goals for this year. The restructuring of music and French to ensure that essential learning outcomes are met for each level has been a priority.

Our first curriculum group had the whole staff receive PD on rubric creation as part of assessment and encouraging student engagement in the assessment process. Holistic and analytical rubrics were studied, and staff were asked to have a rubric created for our October staff meeting. Again, the theme of engagement, communication and assessment is stressed here.

Our second goal will be to establish Professional Learning Committees in Primary and Elementary during the common choir slot. The initial goal will be for the group to establish norms for the group and then proceed to establish goals for teaching and learning and to create common and similar assessments that are both summative and formative, that address the needs of all learners in our school. Those who achieve above the norms and those who are average or struggle. This PLC would help generate ideas to help enrich the curriculum of higher achieving students and ways to help and support the children who struggle in some areas.

Assessment Highlights

- In Grade 5 French, the students came up with 4 assessment options: a test, an oral interview, a project, or a presentation. Students were able to choose the assessment they felt was best for them.
- Grade 10 Language Arts will complete a class podcast project .
- The Grade 12s collaborated with Grade 4s on the writing process.
- An assessment framework has been developed to assist in identifying Speech Language concerns this year.
- Kindergarten introduced new programming for Math and Language Arts: Kindermath and Kinderphonics. These programs include particular pre assessments and post assessments to ensure students have learned and mastered each skill taught.

Engagement Highlights

- The Edge came in with the Grade 7 Math class to shoot baskets so the students could calculate field goal percentages, 3-point percentages, etc. during their unit involving percents, fractions and decimals.
- In Grade 5 students are using readers and writers workshop to learn about non fiction text features and to create our their magazines.
- Grade 11 and 12 English introduced updated texts to more recent literature including Educated (12) and Lullabies for Little Criminals (11).
- Grade 7 students have been exposed to workshops related to organizational skills, managing junior high relationships and online safety.
- K-6 Phys. Ed. introduced a gymnastics unit to their curriculum. We are the only school in the St. John's/Metro area to offer an opportunity like this.

Community and Engagement Highlights

- The Guidance Office presented a Holland Hall Parent Talk Series involving seven evening workshops focusing on social-emotional health and parenting issues.
- In Kindergarten a unit titled Community Helpers was introduced which has enabled students to interact and show appreciation for the members of their community.
- Grade 1 students completed a unit on Native Groups in Canada. The unit involved incorporating experiences learned at the Rooms and a classroom visit of a representative of the Native Friendship Centre.

Admissions Initiatives

- St. Bonaventure's College has developed relationships with more pre-schools in the St. John's area, giving presentations to their parents and providing additional materials to promote our school.
- St. Bonaventure's College is developing relationships with local groups to help raise awareness of our school.
- Development of an assessment package for Kinderstart in conjunction with the Assistant Principal of Academics and the Guidance Office.
 - The assessment package was developed to gauge our different learners and support and advise parents when and to set benchmarks for Kindergarten.
 - Parents received feedback after each session to assist with student formation in preparation for Kindergarten skill development.
- Our booth at the Kids Expo has been revamped to include more interactive activities such as children making cards to give to the Association for New Canadians.
- We are developing a new relationship with an additional International Student Recruitment Agency.





III. ADVANCEMENT, COMMUNICATIONS, & ALUMNI

Advancement

Highlights of the year in development include:

- The membership of the Ignatius Society (members pledge to donate \$5000 to the Bursary Program over 5 years) has increased from 46 members in 2017-18 to 51 members in 2018-2019.
- In January 2019 the Lt. Col. (Padre) Thomas Nangle, C.F. Memorial Bursary was established by Dr. Neil and Mrs. Mavourneen (Nangle) Galbraith, son-in-law and daughter of Thomas Nangle. This bursary, launched at a value of \$48,002.34, will be a living tribute to Thomas Nangle.
- In March 2019, the President Thomas F. McGrath Memorial Bursary was established by the school. Through in memoriam donations, it currently has a value of over \$26,000.
- This year we have seen an increase in our net revenue for fundraising over the last two years. There are still two months left in our fiscal year, so we are unable to report final numbers at this time, but we anticipate a 2% increase over 2017-2018 and a 14% increase over 2016-2017.

Communications

Highlights of the year in marketing and communications include:

Materials Produced

- 2017-2018 President's Report
- 2017-2018 Report of Appreciation
- 2018-19 Annual Giving Brochure
- A new school brochure
- 4th Edition of MAGIS (November 2018)
- 2 promotional billboard ads
- Legacy giving card
- New rowing, music, athletics and alumni logos
- 2019 Arrupe Lecture with Matt Maher poster

Video Production

- Completed: 2018 Fall Gala Sponsors Thank You video
- Completed: 2018 Annual Giving Thank You video
- Completed: 2019 Ignatian Spirit Award video

Alumni

The school continued to develop its Alumni relationship in the 2018-2019 school year. Some of these initiatives include:

- Alumni visiting the school to share their professional expertise with our high school students as they begin to explore their post-secondary options.
- The fifth and final “Fallen 51” Dinner was a sold-out success. Plans to develop this successful dinner into an event which honours all alumni lost to conflict have begun.
- Our Alumni Dinner and Awards saw another excellent turnout this year.
- For the second year in a row, our Alumni Christmas Social sponsored a charity. This year the money raised went to support the St. Bonaventure’s College Bursary Program. A \$500 donation was made to the Bursary Program on behalf of the Alumni.
- Alumni have been involved in some of our major events, such as our Remembrance Day Ceremony and volunteering at The Gathering Place during university breaks.
- Our Annual Alumni vs. Students Hockey Game saw our largest Alumni team yet.
- Efforts to get alumni involved in our Annual Sports Day have been put into place – alumni are invited to lead our students in their activities and our Alumni vs. Students Basketball Game has been moved to coincide with Sports Day.
- The Honourable Seamus O’Regan ‘85, Minister of Veterans Affairs, unveiled a plaque dedicated to Captain Robert Kent, M.C., an alumnus whose name was missing from our World War I plaque

Strategic Initiatives

In 2017 the position of Dean (Strategic Initiatives) was created as part of the leadership team at St. Bonaventure’s College. The Dean (Strategic Initiatives) is responsible to coordinate all aspects of strategic initiatives as determined by the President and/or the Principal. Below are some on the initiatives that were implemented as a result of their work:

- Development and implementation of after school program (SBC After 3)
- Completion of year 2 of Easter camp initiative (Easter Plus)
- Development of Summer camp initiative year 2 (to be completed June 2019) which has been expanded to include 4 additional weeks

IV. FINANCE, FACILITIES & HUMAN RESOURCES

Finance

There has been a lot of effort to reaffirm the excellence in financial management principals by the Board of Governors, administration, staff and external advisors. This includes the establishment of a Finance Committee.

Planning has begun to optimize school enrolment to establish long term financial security while providing access to and maintaining the quality and rigor of our academic programs.

Facilities

We continue to complete upgrades and improvements to the school and the campus. During the past year the following work was completed:

- Holland Hall – two new classrooms built

Human Resources

Through our membership in the Jesuit Schools Network, we continue to access world class professional development. We had representatives present at Jesuit Schools cohort meetings for:

- Seminars in Ignatian Leadership (Milwaukee and San Antonio)
- Education of Youth Meeting (Montreal)

At the local level, our staff has been able to access the following professional development opportunities:

- Professional Development of Staff with Dr. Gabrielle Young, MUN
- Professional Development Training with the NLESD in Math, Chemistry, Physics, Grades K, 1, 2
- Professional Development of staff in Moodle and Google Classroom
- Association of Fundraising Professionals Newfoundland and Labrador's 2019 Fundraising Day

Additional Student leadership training (teacher/parent accompanied) and travel has included:

- Ignatian Teach-In for Social Justice (Washington)
- Arrupe Leaders Summit (Maryland)
- Service-Learning Experience with McQuaid Jesuit High School in Rochester, New York
- Debating Nationals in Toronto
- Encounters with Canada
- Forum for Young Canadians
- Music Trip to Greece

V. GOVERNANCE

The Board of Governors primary responsibility is to hold the Jesuit and Catholic mission and identity of the school in trust for the Society of Jesus by setting direction, establishing policies, and ensuring programs build and manifest the school's Jesuit and Catholic mission and identity. The Board mandate includes:

- Striving to represent the diversity of the community,
- Selection of trustees is mission driven and their understanding of the mission is strengthened through ongoing formation in Jesuit education, Ignatian spirituality, and good governance practices,
- With the President, maintaining a vibrant relationship with the Archbishop of St. John's, the Jesuit Provincial and the Assistant for Pre-secondary and Secondary Education (PASE).
- Engaging in presidential succession planning, working closely with the Jesuit Provincial, knowing the President is mandated by the Provincial as the "Director of the Work,"
- Actively participating in the Jesuit Schools Network,
- Ensuring professional growth opportunities for school personnel through the Jesuit Schools Network,
- Engaging in self-evaluation

These are accomplished through:

- Board retreats, discernments and examens.
- Laser focus on mission.
- Board composition.
- Good governance practice.
- Quarterly Board meetings.
- Board Orientation sessions.
- Yearly meeting with the English Canada Provincial and Provincial's Assistant for Secondary and Pre-Secondary Education (PASE).
- Participation by the local Jesuit Superior in service on the Board.
- Participation in the bi-annual Board Chairs Conference with the Jesuit Schools Network (JSN).
- Annual participation by Staff in a myriad of JSN cohort gatherings.

With Thanks

The Board of Governors of St. Bonaventure's College wish to express sincere thanks to outgoing Governors who have provided outstanding leadership and service:

- Ms. Barbara Mason, Past Chair
- Mr. Andrew Smith, Vice-Chair

St. Bonaventure's College

2A Bonaventure Avenue, St. John's, NL CANADA A1C 6B3

T. 709 726 0024 F. 709 726 0148

E. presidentsoffice@stbons.ca

 @StBonaventures

Established in 1856.

www.stbons.ca



ST. BONAVENTURE'S
COLLEGE



JESUITS'
English Canada
Province