



Montcrest



Better Together
Montcrest School
Annual Report
2019/20



**Thank you for the
positive contribution
you have made to
Montcrest...**



Montcrest

Montcrest is a co-educational community, small enough to honour the individual and big enough to provide an exceptional academic experience with balanced opportunities in leadership, the arts, and athletics. Our school challenges children to discover and acknowledge their own voices, so they can understand and make meaningful connections with the world.



CHAIR'S NOTE

On behalf of the Board of Governors, thank you all for your contributions to Montcrest.

The Board's role is one of vision, guidance and accountability. We are fortunate to work with Erin Corbett, who's dynamic leadership was pivotal to Montcrest's success in such an unprecedented year. With the support of each faculty and staff member, Montcrest continued to fulfill its mission.

The year began with promise and excitement, as the culmination of the Building Together campaign provided a lasting legacy for Montcrest - Thomson House. On the first day of school, each student entered our revitalized campus, thrilled about the new possibilities Montcrest could provide. The larger workspaces enhanced our specialty programs, giving students the opportunity to learn in their best way. As we began to fully see the impacts of our new campus, we were struck with a school closure in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This radical shift in March 2020 pushed us to integrate new ways of providing a Montcrest experience. The connection between teachers and parents grew in our new online environment, Montcrest Goes Mobile (MGM). The partnership between school and home became

increasingly vital as we worked to support students' learning and social and emotional well-being. Each faculty member put in volumes of effort in order to continue to deliver a Montcrest education, and we cannot thank them enough.

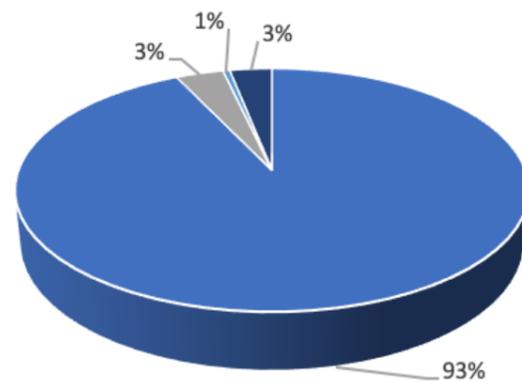
The world benefits from Montcrest's mission and work. We are grateful to be a school where students can become who they're meant to be through academic exploration, social well-being and character development.

After reflecting upon my time at Montcrest as Chair, I have no doubt that our community will continue to devote time and energy to a place that gives so much. Thank you for the privilege of being Chair of the Board. I look forward to seeing how Montcrest continues to grow and thrive.

Don Durno
Chair, Board of Governors

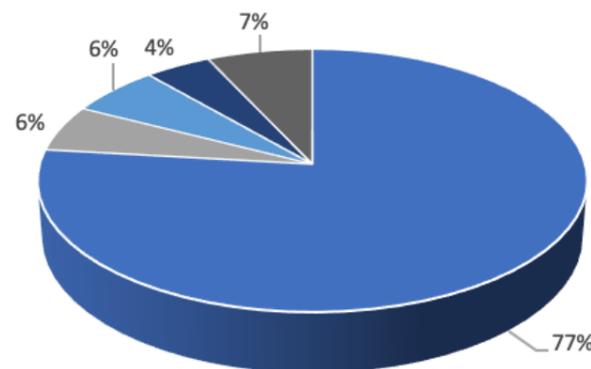
BY THE NUMBERS

REVENUE \$11,446,000



- Tuition and special fees
- Donations and fundraising
- Interest
- Other

EXPENSES \$10,447,000



- Salaries and benefits
- Administrative
- Premises
- Academic supplies and equipment
- Amortization



Photo of the 2019-2020 Board

Back Row: Kevin Kimsa, Don Durno (Chair), Alison Holt, Rod Davidge, Brenda Christen, Paul de la Roche

Front Row: Molly Pocklington, Kathryn Finn, Don Kawasoe, Brad McLellan, Cynthia Eldridge, Tom Heintzman

Through strong enrolment, thoughtful and practical stewardship of financial resources, Montcrest School had another successful financial year with an operating surplus of \$999,000. This operating surplus was reinvested in various campus improvements, including the implementation of COVID-19 safety measures and online learning resources.

This attentive financial management has allowed Montcrest to make pertinent decisions that support the work of the school in providing each child with the ideal support and programs for them to become who they're meant to be.

LETTER FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

At Montcrest, we ensure our students have voice and choice. Throughout the year, our students contributed in meaningful ways to the fabric of our school's day-to-day functions and legacy. Our students led daily announcements, weekly assemblies, outreach activities and countless aspects of school life. Their feedback and ideology informed the decisions we made in our school uniforms, colours and brand identity.

The new brand and logo reflect the true essence of Montcrest School. The Kite has been a cherished school symbol for decades and the flight of a kite is a powerful metaphor for our student experience. Our uniform was completely overhauled to respond to our students feedback and their desire to be comfortable and unified. Both changes reflect Montcrest's focus on our history and our future and have been celebrated by our student body.

Right as we unveiled our new colours, the world changed as the COVID-19 pandemic made its mark, having us move to an online platform for learning and teaching. Within a day, we launched Montcrest Goes Mobile 1.0 (MGM), an interactive learning environment focusing on the relationships between teachers, classmates, students and their individual needs for learning online. Through three iterations, MGM 3.0 emphasizes connection and follows the mission of providing a Montcrest education.

As we look back on the year, there is much to reflect upon. While there were obstacles to overcome, great things resulted from meaningful collaboration, problem solving and a 'you've got this' attitude. The commitment of



each individual at Montcrest and the resilience of each student was instrumental in providing the right environment for students to continue to develop. We established new innovative ways to learn, and throughout all of this, I can't tell you how much admiration I have for each member of our community. It is inspiring and humbling, and it is clear that we are all part of something bigger.

While we don't know what the future will bring, we know that our Montcrest community will persevere knowing brighter days are ahead.

Erin Corbett,
Head of School

FALL FAIR

Thanks to the support and efforts of the MPA and many parent volunteers, the Fall Fair was a memorable event filled with family fun, great food and connection. We especially appreciate the hard work and leadership of our Fall Fair Co-Chairs, Tiffany Knight and Candra Reynolds. The Fall Fair is an excellent example of the MPA's mission to actively support the spirit of Montcrest and build community.



MPA MESSAGE

Each year, there is much to reflect upon and be thankful for in our Montcrest community. While the latter part of the 2019-20 school year presented many obstacles and was completed remotely, our community of students, parents and staff demonstrated strength and character.

I believe I can speak for every Montcrest parent in sharing a very BIG heartfelt thank-you to the school. To Erin, the school's leadership team, the faculty and all the administrative and facility staff, you continued to provide the exceptional education that we as parents, and our children, have come to expect from Montcrest. We didn't miss a step last year. And for that we are grateful.

I also want to recognize and thank the 119 parent volunteers who helped to make 2019-20 a memorable school year. With you, our events were a success, from the Fall Fair to our wonderful Skate Night. We also benefited from the ongoing commitment of our MPA executive & officials, class parents, weekly pizza lunch and tuck shop volunteers. THANK YOU! Your participation and dedication is what continues to enrich the Montcrest community and experience.

The MPA continues to provide financial support for the school's key initiatives. The MPA pledged another \$250,000 of support for the Building Together project to be given over a two to three year period. Together with our past support of \$500,000, the MPA sponsored the Thompson Pass and the MPA Garden. We have been able to provide this generous support from the accumulated revenue from our parent fundraising events and pizza lunches.

In framing the start of the school year, I spoke about a quote that our family lives by - 'don't cheat the world of what you have to offer' - hoping to inspire all parents to share what they have to offer to the MPA. I couldn't be more impressed by your continued commitment to Montcrest and the MPA. I encourage everyone to get involved in the school because I believe the more you engage with the school community, the more rewarding the experience will be.

Kelly Shortt
MPA Chair



MONTCREST GOES MOBILE (MGM)



When schools were closed in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Montcrest introduced Montcrest Goes Mobile (MGM). MGM 1.0 focused on building relationships while working within an online environment. Teachers continued to deliver a robust curriculum, varying in content and volume, depending upon the age and stage of their students. The strategy to roll out the program in versions 2.0 and 3.0 was thoughtful in its approach as it engaged students and brought them along gradually in order to promote longer term success and to assist teachers preparing lessons in a new modality.

Over time, the MGM learning environment became more dynamic as cocurriculars, house challenges and community building events enriched the school experience for students. MGM was successful because of the importance placed on connecting beyond the classroom. The various synchronous and asynchronous activities kept community engagement high. From physical education to fine arts to the maker space and leadership, the students had opportunities to craft their journey and continue their growth.



SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Thomson House has allowed for significant opportunities that otherwise would not have been possible; an appropriately designed space for the unique needs of a middle school student, designated science, art and music learning spaces, a revitalized field and enhanced outdoor education programs. It is the new focal point to our school.

"I cannot underestimate the impact that our new Thomson House has had on me and our community. We finally have facilities that match the quality of our instrumental music, science, and visual art programs. We have classroom spaces that are large enough for our Middle School students, as well as the beautiful Thompson Pass in which to gather and greet." - Lisa Swarbrick, Director of Performing Arts & Cocurriculars

"The new spaces at Thomson House have had a significant impact on the teaching and learning experience from our Science teachers' perspective. We appreciate the open stairwell and the open area that offer great spaces for students to test everything from paper airplanes to Non-Newtonian Fluids." - Dan Bailey & Yvonne Boyd, Science Teachers

"Apart from being one of the most beautiful educational art studios I have had the pleasure to work in, the new Jackman Art Studio provides something far greater than delightful architecture; it provides a light-filled and thoughtfully designed space that allows Montcrest to foster and grow a strong sense of creative community." - Dara Gellman, Art Teacher



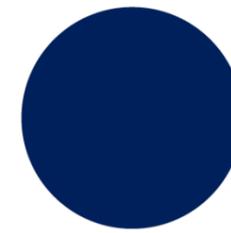
FLYING NEW COLOURS

Meet the new Moncrest look and experience! With the completion of the Building Together project, with Erin Corbett leading the school and with the COVID-19 pandemic altering our day-to-day, there was no better time for Montcrest to unveil its new brand identity.

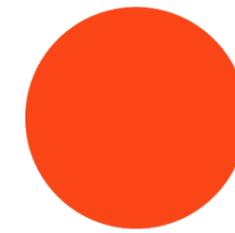
With the help of Key Gordon, a creative agency, we were proud to share our positioning statement, capturing the heart of the Montcrest experience;

Montcrest School is a welcoming community that specializes in cultivating incredible young people. We believe in small class sizes and unparalleled student-teacher relationships. We believe individuality is something to protect, not suppress. And we believe in meeting our students with the ideal supports—and perfect challenges—for each age and stage, so they emerge as secure, self-directed young people who excel in academics and in life. Simply put, Montcrest helps children become who they're meant to be.

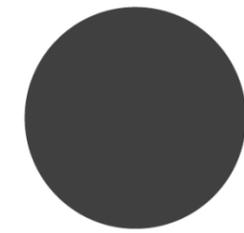
Guided by this positioning statement, we collaborated with Key Gordon to develop a new visual identity. This new look perfectly depicts who we are: approachable, progressive and unique. You will recognize our new icon as one of Montcrest's beloved symbols—the kite.



Navy Blue



Riverdale Brick Red



Slate Grey



DONORS

We thank all community members who have supported Montcrest School over the years, and acknowledge those who have made contributions between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 in this report.

Donors who have supported Montcrest School for five or more consecutive years are marked with an **M**, ten or more consecutive years with an **M**, and twenty or more consecutive years with a **M**

1961 CIRCLE

The 1961 Circle honours Montcrest School's founding year and recognizes donors who have made gifts of \$1,961 or more to Annual Giving. Each year Montcrest's 1961 Circle members are invited to a special donor recognition event to thank them for their leadership giving.

| | | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|----------|---|----------|--|
| | 1961 Circle | M | The Mariano Elia Foundation (Paul Elia & Rebecca Barrett) | M | Posehn Family |
| | Angelakos Family | | | | Rob Prichard & Ann Wilson |
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| | Christine Berg & Steven Nederveen | | Adam & Laurie Felesky | | The Gerald Schwartz & Heather Reisman Foundation |
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| | Rolf Henning Boer & Francesca Guolo | | Gabe Gonda & Victoria Webster | M | Philip & Maria Smith |
| M | Ariana & Tim Botha | M | Shayne & Mikael Hansson | M | Kent Sobey & Meghan MacGregor |
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Alumni Families Continued

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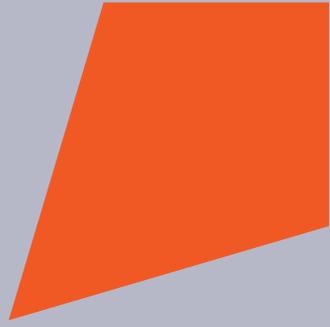
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Thank you

... you've made all
the difference.

