



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE

HOME OF THE KNIGHTS SINCE 1960

2016 - 2017 ANNUAL REPORT





As we begin the new school year, we look back over the past school year and celebrate some of our successes. The Board is very happy with the progress the school has made over the past year, which has seen lots of change and numerous challenges. ***We made some bold moves and difficult decisions; we are confident that we are well prepared to face the future and continue to achieve the school's Mission and Vision.***

Last fall, the Board approved our new Strategic Plan which will guide the school until 2020. We are excited about the potential for STMC in the future. There is still much work to be done on the strategies identified in this plan. We are confident those goals will be achieved. ***Thank you to everyone who is taking the lead*** in further developing some of the goals in the plan.

In early 2017, we were fortunate to be joined by four new Directors - parents who are volunteering their time for the school at a Board level. They each bring great skills to the Board and have already proven to be valuable resources. STMC then ***began a search for a new Principal***. In the spring, after several months of hard work by the Selection Committee, we were fortunate enough to have Stephen Garland agree to join us as our new Principal starting in August 2017. ***We welcome him with open arms as he brings a new perspective and demonstrated tremendous energy to STMC.***

We are excited about looking forward. STMC is on a sound financial foundation; we continue to have strong student enrollment. ***We have the best faculty, staff and leadership to take us forward*** to execute upon a challenging Strategic Plan while we continue to deliver on the school's Mission, Vision and Values. ***We are truly confident that STMC's staff has all the skills, energy and passion to take us forward.***

Thank you to the entire STMC community and, in particular, to the Brothers and all of our dedicated faculty and staff, students, parents, donors and volunteers for all of their hard work and commitment over the past year. We look forward to your ongoing support during the coming year.

Dan Eisner
STMC Board Chair



As the path is made in the walking, it is important from time to time to take a moment to reflect; to remember from where we have come - with an eye to the future. 2016-2017 was a watershed moment in the life of St. Thomas More Collegiate. ***We were tested as a school community in many different ways.*** It was a time of change; a time of serious illness; a time of hope.

This time last year, after extensive STMC community consultation, the STMC Strategic Plan 2016-2020 was unveiled. The Plan challenges each of us to be like Blessed Edmund Rice - ***bold, daring and imaginative*** – in our 21st century context. Five teachers (including three who are also alumni) took the lead in exploring ***Strategic Plan Goal A – Strengthening STMC's curricular program*** and ***Strategic Goal B – Enhancing STMC's extracurricular program***. With the commitment of their colleagues, this team laid the groundwork for a teaching community enlivened to embrace the new BC Curriculum under the leadership of STMC's new principal, Steve Garland.

Substantial progress has also been made on ***Strategic Plan Goal C – Embracing and Engaging the Whole STMC Community*** through the development of a Communications Plan. Improving communications is a continuous commitment. This year you will see the rollout of more timely information and more effective use of social media platforms. The key focus for ***Strategic Plan Goal D – Creating a Vision for the Long-term Sustainability of STMC*** was the creation of a comprehensive Advancement Plan. “Our task of stewarding St. Thomas More Collegiate is not only managing the current school and collection of resources. We are also the sum of its history, of the generations that have had faith and confidence in its sustainability, and a view to the future, as we entrust generations to come with a viable and ever-vibrant STMC” (Strategic Plan 2016-2020)

All that has been achieved would not be possible without the dedicated commitment of our Christian Brothers, our staff, our students, our families, our donors, our alumni and our extended STMC family. Thank you for your faith, for your prayers, for your support. Let us now move ahead together with a shared vision of the possibilities of our beloved school. ***Live, Jesus, in our hearts ... forever.***

Neysa Finnie
STMC President



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE 2016 - 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Faith remains at the core of our mission as a Catholic independent school. St. Thomas More Collegiate continues to foster a strong faith life by offering a variety of opportunities for students and staff to experience God in their lives.

This commitment to faith permeates every aspect of STMC life, with **regular school Masses** conducted by our Chaplain Father Thomas Smith, **retreats offered for every grade level**, and numerous opportunities to engage in **reverence for life activities**.

The campus ministry also coordinates **junior and senior BERT (Blessed Edmund Rice Team)** and **Mary Rice clubs**, who put in hundreds of volunteer hours towards raising money for missions and evangelizing the STMC community.

Students conducted a research experiment in Saskatchewan where they created an experiment focused on wine production in the Okanagan, and **accessed equipment worth over \$300M!**

The science department has increased participation in **local and national science games and competitions**

A **new astronomy course** was introduced following the long-standing popularity of the astronomy club

STMC teams always exhibit the Essential Elements of a Blessed Edmund Rice Education both on and off the field, court, pitch, or rink. STMC sports teams actively organize and participate in **fundraisers for missions and local charities**

Over **100 students** participated in track and field winning **24 medals** at the provincial championships

STMC girls teams triumphed as **Provincial Champions in soccer and wrestling**, with girls and boys excelling at Nationals

Over 15 teams participated in provincial championships with teams ranging from football to curling

Over **60% of students** received Honour roll status (GPA of 80% and above)

183 students achieved Honours with distinction (GPA of 90% and above)

As the last remaining provincial exam, English 12 grades are a good measure against local and provincial benchmarks. STMC English 12 students consistently achieved excellence, with average marks **10% higher than the New Westminster & Burnaby average**, **19% higher than other independent schools**, and **12% higher than the rest of the province**

This is the **13th year in a row** that STMC has achieved such excellence on the provincial stage, and is testament to our robust academic program from grades 8 to 12

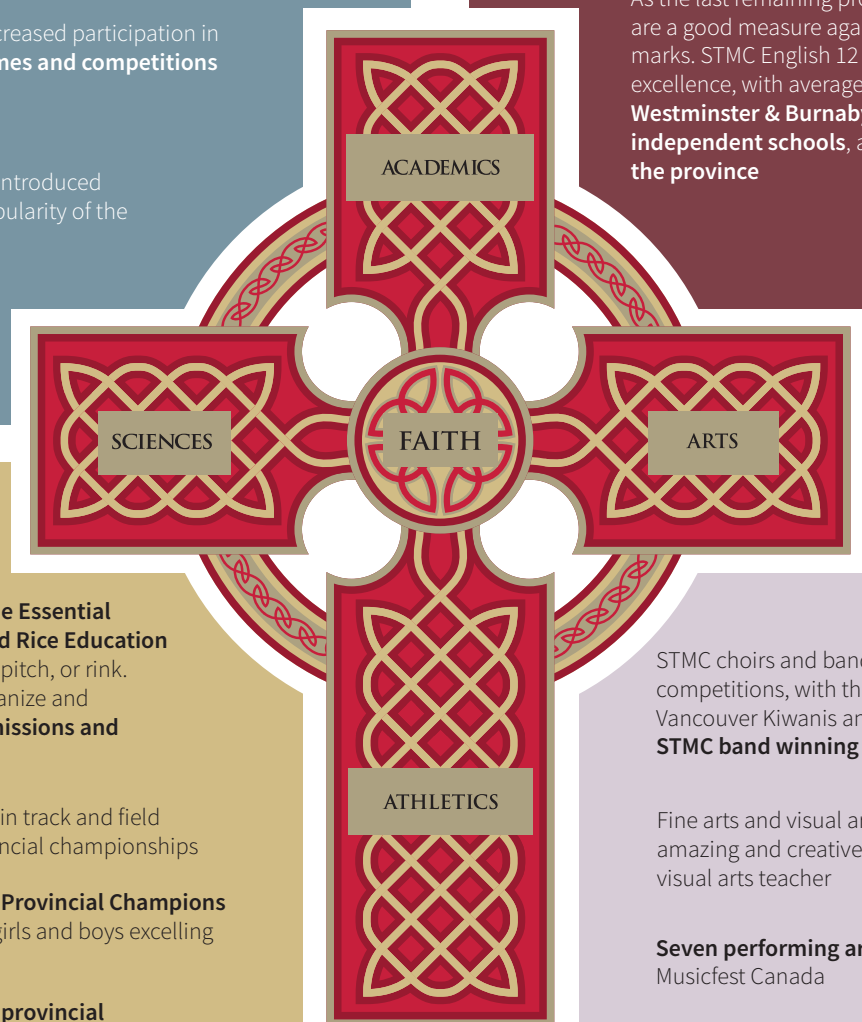
Over **35% of STMC students** directly involved in the Music Department

STMC choirs and bands participated in many regional competitions, with the **STMC choir winning gold** at the Vancouver Kiwanis and Whistler Con Brio Festivals, and **STMC band winning gold** at the Langley Kiwanis Festival

Fine arts and visual arts saw students complete some amazing and creative pieces with the help of our new visual arts teacher

Seven performing arts groups received invitations to Musicfest Canada

Hugely successful **"High School Musical"** production by over 60 students in front of sell out crowds

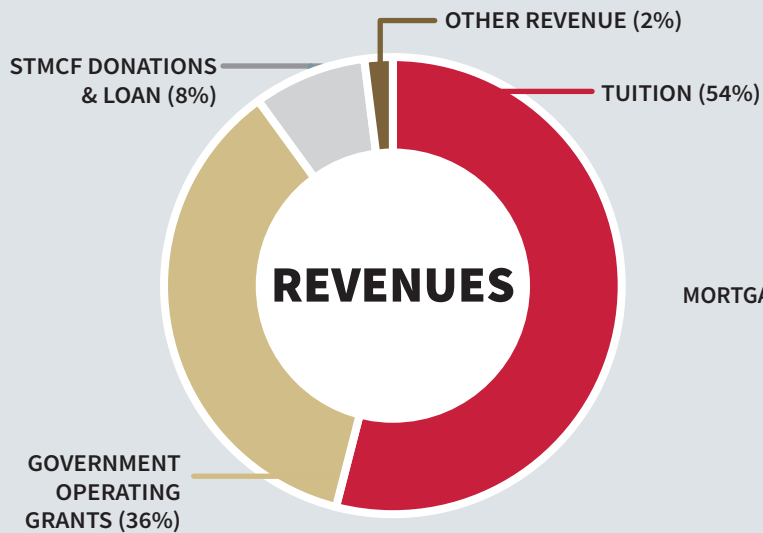




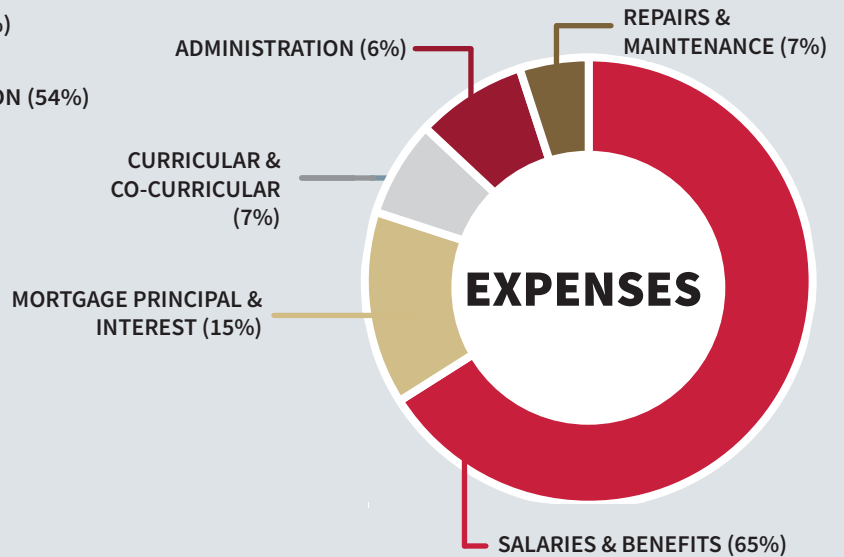
FINANCIALS

2016 - 2017 RESULTS

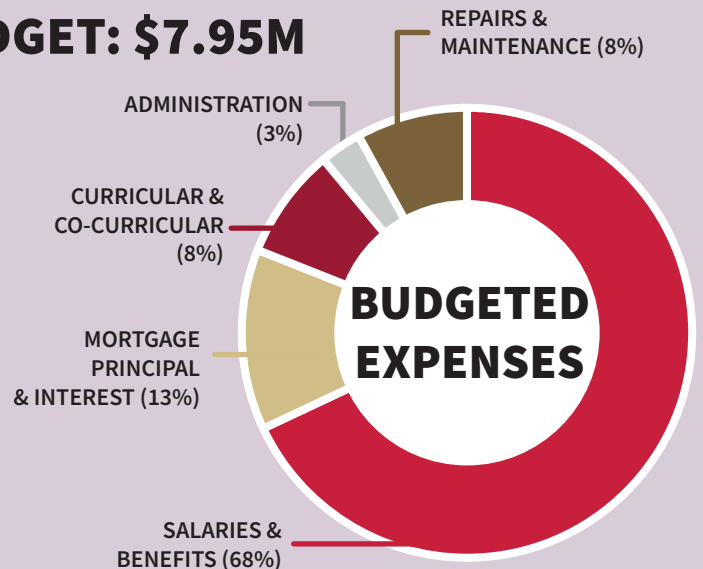
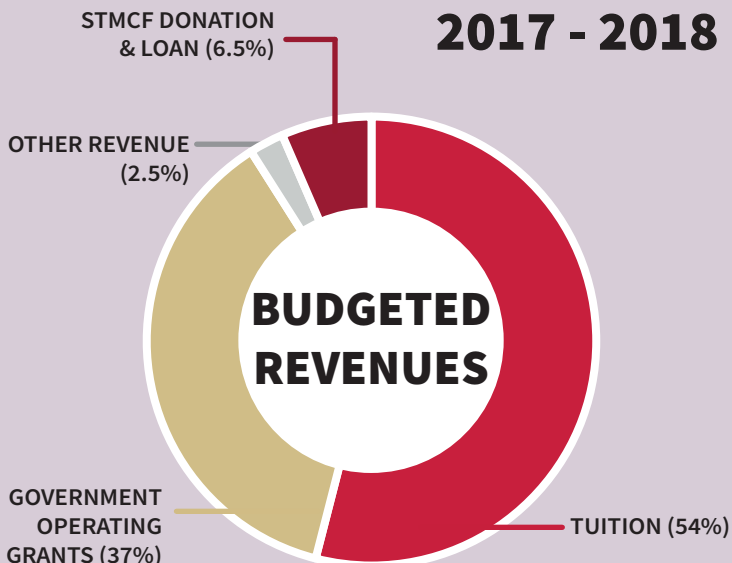
TOTAL REVENUE: \$7.9M



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$7.9M



2017 - 2018 BUDGET: \$7.95M



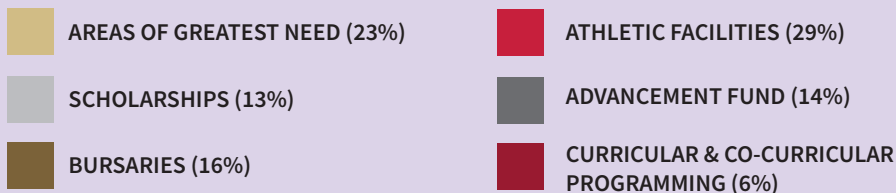
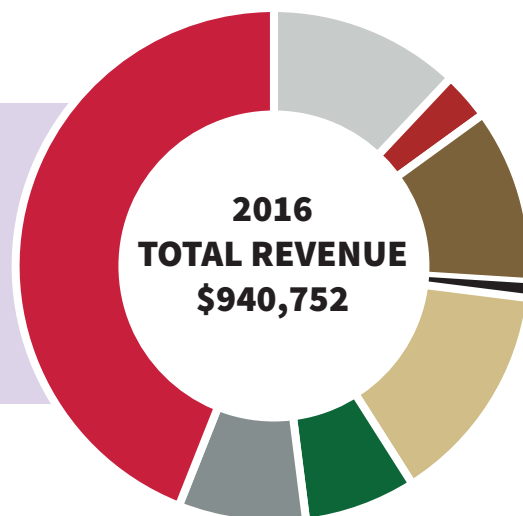
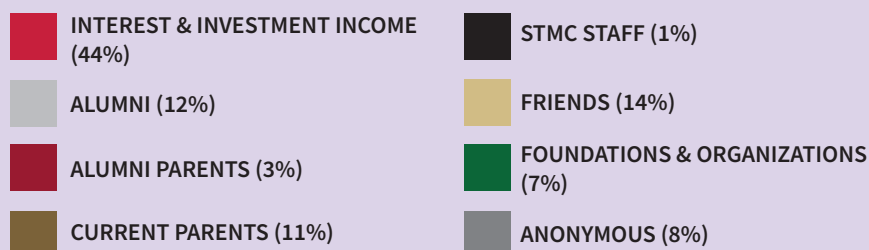


ADVANCEMENT

In the 2016 calendar year, the STMC Foundation reports an **increase in student support with new and additional gifts to bursaries, scholarships, and awards**. We are truly grateful to our donors who have chosen to make a difference in the lives of our students and their families by giving to this area of need.

Last year's student support highlights include a **new financial need-based bursary fund established in memory of Mr. William Smigel**, father of STMC alumni, Mark (1985) and Gregory (1987), and grandfather of Matthew (2016) and Rebecca (2017) Smigel. A major gift from an STMC alumnus provided a huge boost to building the **Fallen Knights Bursary Endowment Fund**, a fund established to honour the memory of our Knights who have passed away. **The goal for this endowment is to ensure that bursaries would be available to STMC students every year in perpetuity**. We also acknowledge additional major gifts to the StanJean Scholarships and the Mark Baldonero Memorial Scholarship, which will benefit many graduating students for years to come.

“ We are so thankful for the bursary. This has given our child the opportunity to be part of such a great school here at St Thomas More. Our family had encountered a very bad year. **Without the bursary, we would have had to pull out our two children from STMC. So thank you so much for your blessing.** ~ Bursary recipient ”



“ I am forever grateful and honoured for being chosen as an award recipient. This award has given me a boost into university and will act as a reminder in stressful times of what I can achieve. The money has been strictly used on educational expenses and **it has helped me immensely with my transition into university.** Thank you very much. ~Student award recipient ”



(Below Right) STMC Principal 1989-1997 and STMC Alumnus Brother Hugh O'Neill C.F.C. (current Christian Brothers leader worldwide)



(Left) STMC Principal 1997-2000 Brother Peter O'Loughlin C.F.C. (member of the North America Christian Brothers leadership)



STMC Principal 1978 - 1984 Brother Bill Carrothers C.F.C.

INTRODUCING STMC'S 12TH PRINCIPAL – MR. STEPHEN GARLAND

Since joining STMC as principal on August 1, 2017, Steve Garland has been a *man on a mission* – getting to know staff, students, parents, donors, alumni and friends of STMC, learning our history and traditions and *inspiring us all to believe in the prospect of a bright and limitless future*. As the first non-Christian Brother and non-homegrown leader, Steve brings a new and unique perspective to the school. While honing his craft for almost 30 years in the BC public and independent systems, *he has become a 21st century pedagogical and relational leader in his role as teacher, principal and coach*.

As a faith-filled Catholic, he is continuing the great work of so many before him who have been inspired by the example of Blessed Edmund Rice – including the five former STMC principals he has already had the pleasure of meeting. Working with St. Thomas More Collegiate's senior educational leadership team, *Steve is developing strategies and initiatives that are supportive of the school's Mission, Vision, and Values*.

For this man on a mission, it doesn't end there. We are learning his vision for STMC with *"Moonshot thinking"* - having the courage and the confidence to utilize the many gifts with which we have been blessed to challenge ourselves to shoot for the moon. It is belief and a way of thinking that can change the world.

We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with Mr. Garland and genuinely believe *the Moon is just the first stop*.

