



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE

HOME OF THE KNIGHTS SINCE 1960

2018 - 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



A detailed black and white portrait of Saint Thomas More, showing him from the chest up. He is wearing a dark, heavy robe with a decorative, light-colored chain or collar. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the right.

Mission

St. Thomas More Collegiate, as a Catholic school with Saint Thomas More and Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice as our role models, endeavours to form a welcoming Christian community, recognizing and respecting the value of each individual, leading all to grow toward their full potential in their faith, knowledge and love.

A black and white photograph of three young women standing behind a long counter in what appears to be a school kitchen or cafeteria. They are smiling at the camera. In the background, other students and kitchen equipment are visible.

Vision

For every Knight to make a positive contribution to the Earth and its people

A black and white photograph of a male teacher leaning over a desk, smiling and looking at a laptop. Two female students are sitting at the desk, also looking at the laptop. The setting is a classroom or computer lab.

Core Values

Living Faith

Vibrant Liturgy and Religious Education
Gospel Values
Joyful, Loving Service

Excellence in All Endeavours

Challenging Oneself and Others
Readiness to Risk
Celebrating Success

Sense of Family and Community

Welcoming Feeling
Pride and Ownership
Sense of Belonging
Respect for Individual Dignity

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP



2018/19 has been another exciting and successful year at St. Thomas More Collegiate. On behalf of the Board, I want to express our gratitude to **all of you** who continue to make STMC such a special place. Our Resident Christian Brothers, **Brother Bassett** and **Brother Cassidy** serve as strong reminders of our commitment to a teaching and learning environment based on the tradition of a **Blessed Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education**.

Living **Faith, Excellence in all Endeavors**, and **Sense of Family and Community** are the core values which permeate throughout STMC. These values resonate with so many families as evidenced by the numbers of students who seek to register at STMC; and by the passion and energy that so many bring to both the teaching and the extracurricular activities that our students enjoy.

The Board, together with our staff, students, families, alumni, and donors continue to advance our strategic plan with its call to be **bold, daring and imaginative**. The many achievements of the past year have been accomplished through leadership, teamwork and change focused on enhancing the students' learnings and experiences.

The end of the school year marked a change in leadership with the resignation of **Mrs. Neysa Finnie** after four years as STMC's President. I want to thank Mrs. Finnie for the **significant contributions** she made during her time at STMC. She has left us well positioned with a visionary strategic plan, a vibrant culture and financial stability.

I also want to welcome **Ms. Dianne Doyle** as STMC's **new President** and invite all of you to join the Board in welcoming her to STMC.

Dan Eisner
STMC Board Chair

BOARD CHAIR



Our Annual Report gives the opportunity to **pause**, to **reflect** and to **assess** the results and the progress made by St. Thomas More Collegiate in 2018-2019.

2018-2019 marked the third year of STMC's **2016-2020 Strategic Plan**. Much progress was achieved on all strategic priorities – introduction of new **academic courses** and **extracurricular clubs and teams; improved communications** with STMC new website; development of the **Campus Master Plan**; and, recognition of a culture of philanthropy through the receipt of a generous **legacy gift** from Nancy Yeadon. In the final year of the plan, we continue to be **bold, daring and imaginative** as Blessed Edmund Rice calls us to be.

This past year we lost a valued member of our teaching staff, **Mrs. Fatemah Balouchi**. As a practicing Muslim, Mrs. Balouchi's presence as a committed and integrated member of STMC is a testament to the need for faith based institutions. Let us **not be afraid** to be an example within our increasingly secular society of creating places like STMC where **true dialogue and understanding** happens.

In closing, I extend a warm welcome to Ms. Dianne Doyle. Ms. Doyle's leadership, strategic vision, passion and compassion are the qualities that make her a true Knight. I would like to **thank** each of you for your part in the fabric that is STMC whatever your role - your commitment allows the magic of STMC to happen. Celebrating **STMC's 60th anniversary** in 2020, let us remember **generations past** who made STMC possible and **generations future** for whom we are creating a legacy.

Live, Jesus, in our hearts ... forever.

Neysa Finnie
STMC President 2015-2019

PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



A number of changes were implemented from a school operations perspective in the 2018-2019 school year. Some of the changes were minor—subtle nuances of previous processes or ideas. Many, however, were substantially more involved. These particular changes were intentionally designed to allow the school to take significant steps forward in meeting the goals laid out in our 2016-2020 Strategic Plan.

Technology infrastructure upgrades were pivotal in advancing the integration and use of educational technology in classrooms. These developments were only possible because the STMC Board made provisions for crucial hardware updates to the school's Wi-Fi and Server networks. Moreover, the Board's support in this area also enabled implementation of a 1:1 Chromebook initiative. As a Google Certified G-Suite School, all of our students now have access to a device on campus and at home allowing full use of Google Applications for Education and other research and learning tools available online through the school.

Provisioning a more robust technology infrastructure also provided us with the ability to make key educational changes. These changes have directly facilitated the implementation of innovative curricula, enabled our teaching staff to employ new instructional tactics, skills, and strategies, significantly improving the ways in which we are now able to assess student learning, both formative and summative.

Moving to a Day 1/Day 2 linear timetable, as well as our efforts to incorporate a number of the changes that are part of the New 2018 Grade 8-12 Curriculum, have also permitted us to make modifications to how we structure instructional time; notably for the inclusion of our Academic Assembly Block to facilitate our Career Education Program. Additionally, new and reformatted course offerings brought online in 2018-2019 allowed our students to begin to explore entirely different academic and co-educational opportunities that had previously not existed.

The 2019-2020 school year will see fewer 'structural' changes being made. The necessary heavy-lifting that we did last year however, has allowed us to build from a much stronger base. Moving forward, we are casting our eyes and putting our energies into creating an overarching culture of thinking and innovation across all domains of our school community.

In the spring of 2020 we will begin work on a new five-year Strategic Plan. Although we are pleased with the steps we have taken in relation to implementing what many leading independent and public schools are already doing, we know that a significant amount of work remains in order to take STMC from good to great. We look forward to the challenge of taking the school into its seventh decade as a Blessed Edmund Rice Christian Brother school.

Stephen Garland
STMC Principal

PRINCIPAL



2018-2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- As a Catholic school, St. Thomas Collegiate's staff, students, and current parents came together as a community throughout the year and participated in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with four alumni: Fr. Ducharme (95), Fr. Lovato (94), Fr. Miesl (99), and Fr. Franken (80)
- Our students volunteered locally and internationally with the Christian Brother Schools network through the Edmund Rice Beyond Borders. In addition to a student exchange with Vancouver College, students and a staff from Stella Maris, Uruguay joined our community
- Every week, our Knights volunteered in local meal and outreach programs on a weekly basis including Holy Trinity Cathedral, The Door is Open in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, and Good Shepherd Ministry walks. Our Knights also worked with Special Olympics BC to put on Special Sports Day
- Successful Service Immersion trip to Peru where students were involved in a variety of outreach programs including the building of homes, school visits and working alongside the Third World Eyecare Society (TWEC Canada).
- Our school-wide mission collections initiative contributed to Edmund Rice Christian Brother Schools in North and South America. In true Edmund Rice spirit, our students raised over \$13,000 to help those marginalized by poverty and injustice

From representing STMC as a group, to individual accolades, the Knights have had a very successful year.

In June, 5 students flew all the way to Bologna, Italy, to participate in the European Space Agency's international competition where student representatives from 20 countries competed against one another. This group from STMC was the first ever Canadian representatives for the competition.

To research tree-ring sequencing, 11 students travelled to Saskatoon to the Canadian Light Source synchrotron facility where they also took part in the Student on the Beamlines competition and won two parts of the poster competition.

During the Kwantlet Junior Physics & Engineering competition, STMC placed 3rd and at the EGBC Bridge Building Contest, the Knights were highly successful, achieving 1st, 2nd, and 4th place.

These are just a few events that STMC took part in. Every moment was a great learning opportunity!

STMC had a very successful year in sports. Across a multitude of different teams and clubs, our young Knights continue to excel in their field and the results truly show.

Highlights of the year in Athletics include:

- AA Girls Soccer Provincial Champions
- Junior Girls Track & Field Provincial Champions
- AA Girls Track and Field Provincial Champions
- AA Combined Boys & Girls Track and Field Provincial Champions
- 2 Gold Medalists @ BC Provincial Wrestling Championships
- Grade 8 Boys Football – Provincial Subway Bowl Finalists
- AA Girls Volleyball Provincial Bronze Medalists
- AA Ultimate (4th Place Finish @ Provincials)
- AA Girls Basketball (9th Place Finish @ Provincials)
- Girls Cross-Country Team Qualified for Provincial Championships

80% of our students attained honours (GPA of 80% and above) and 38% attained honours distinction (GPA of 90% and above)

STMC English 12 students achieved excellence in the provincial exams. The Ministry of Education reported that our students' average score was 71.73%, which is 8.34% higher than those from other BC independent-affiliate schools.

A total of 89 different courses were offered to students, 4 of which were new course offerings introduced last year including Architectural Design, Comparative Cultures/World Religions, Social Justice/Genocide Studies, and Robotics.

The Fraser Institute ranked STMC 18th out of 251 secondary schools in BC in 2018, with an average ranking of 17th in the previous 5 years.

Over 60% of the 2019 grads were offered post-secondary bursaries and scholarships with a combined total in excess of \$750,000

60% of our Knights were involved in the Fine Arts program through Music, Visual Arts and Drama. 45% of the school population was involved directly in the Music program alone.

The STMC Bands and Choirs continued to perform to an exceptionally high standard, earning numerous gold ratings and earning Musicfest Canada invitations for almost every single group. The Music program further cemented itself as one of the top music schools in the lower mainland.

The Senior Concert Band, Jazz Band A, and the Grade 9 concert band all achieved Gold rankings while the Chamber choir was ranked first in provincial championships and second in national competition. The Jazz Choir also was named best vocal jazz at the Surrey School's Jazz Festival.

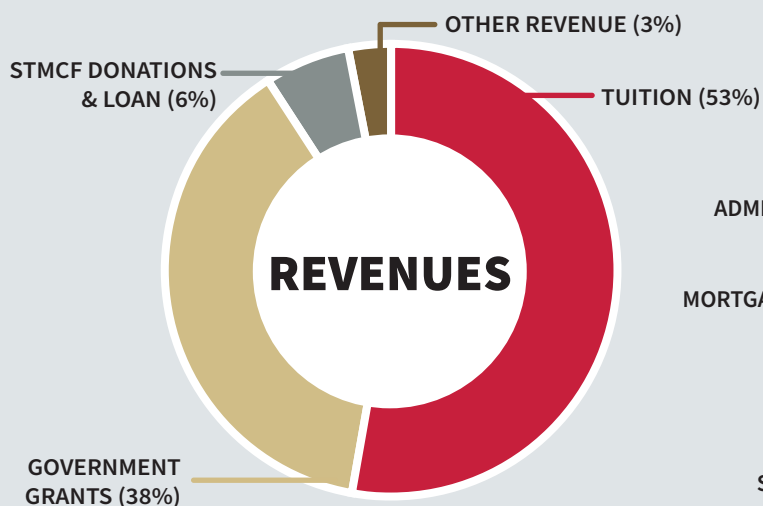
Drama department put on an innovative and intimate production of "Everyman" turning the STMC multipurpose room into a black box theatre for the first time in school history.



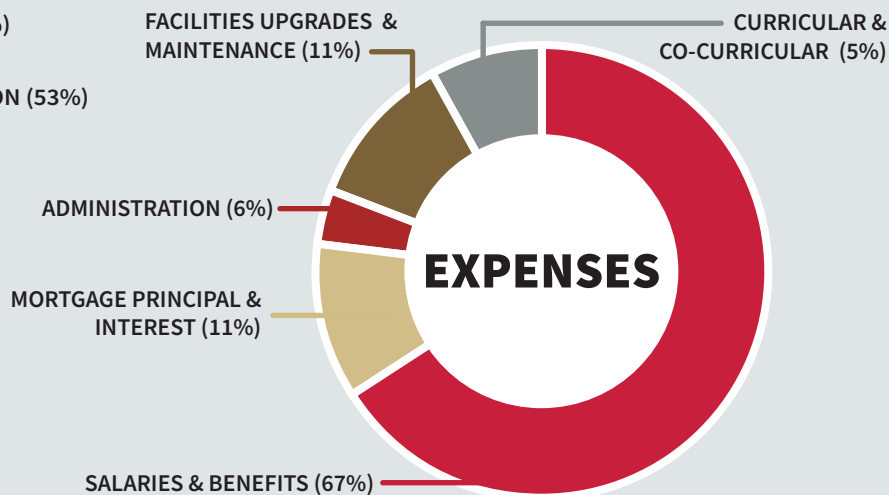
FINANCIALS

2018 - 2019 RESULTS

TOTAL REVENUE: \$8.7M

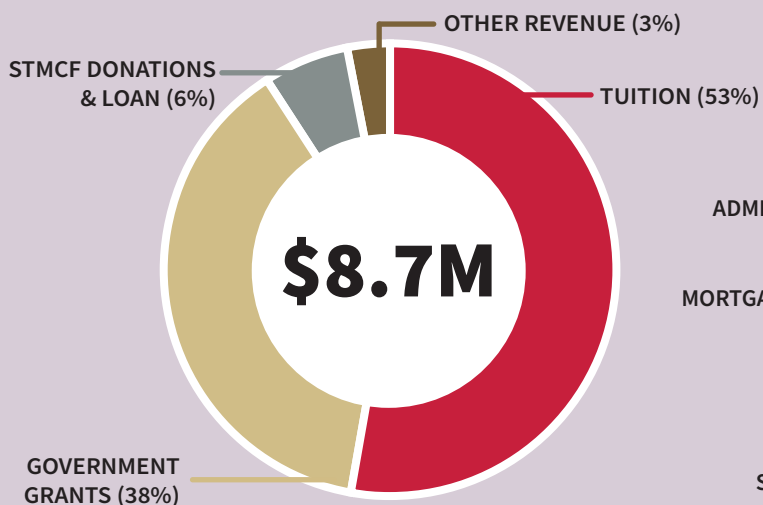


TOTAL EXPENSES: \$9.1M

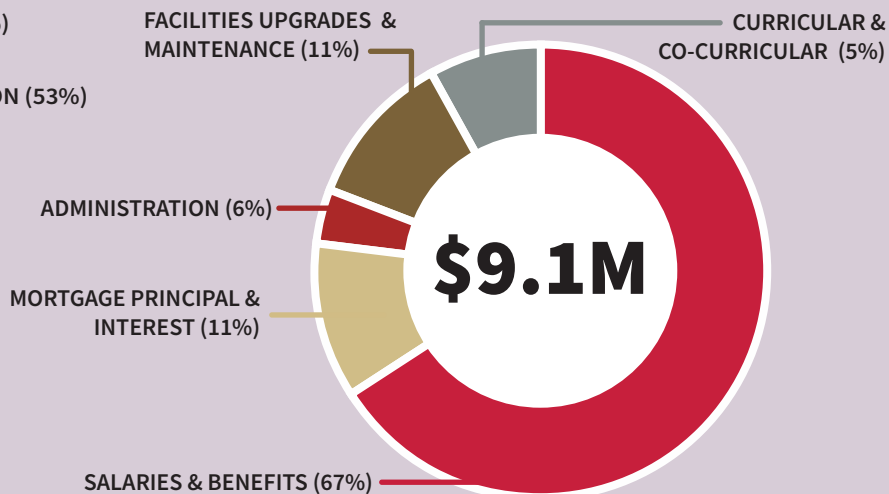


2019-2020 BUDGET

REVENUE



EXPENSES



ADVANCEMENT

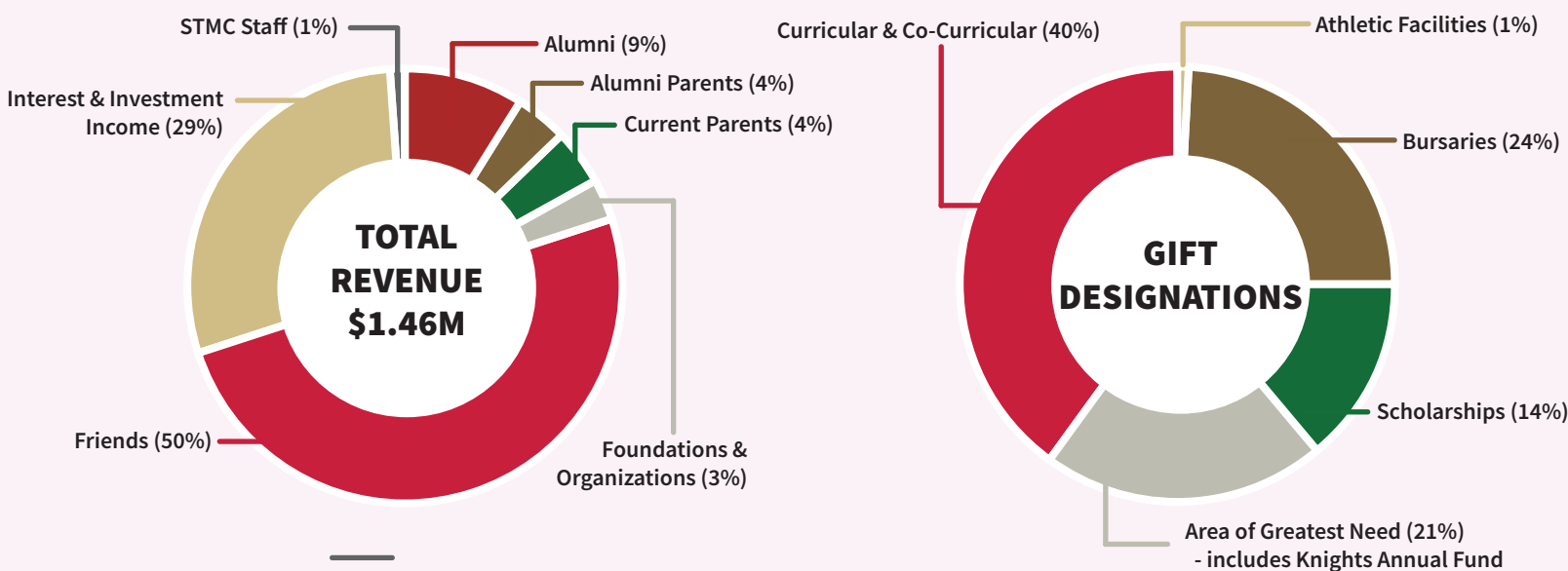
2018/2019 has been another busy, exciting, and successful year! We are so grateful to the many people who support STMC with gifts of time, talent and treasures. The culture of gratitude and philanthropy is evident.

The Advancement Office and Advancement Committee of the board focused their energy on continuing to build the Knights Annual Fund giving campaign which was launched in the fall of 2017. The success of the Robotics program, refurbishing of the library and creation of a commons learning space initiation of model classrooms, are all evidence that STMC is at the forefront of **bold, daring and imaginative** approaches to education.

The one-on-one welcome and introductory meetings by the President and Principal with new incoming parents have been a great way to begin the partnership and relationship that is so fundamental to our mutual success. Our students have benefited directly from an ever increasing number of bursaries, scholarships and awards.

Planning is underway to implement other aspects of our Advancement Plan and create synergy with the tremendous fundraising initiatives of our Parent Association and Alumni Association. In addition, we will be looking for ways to highlight past, present and future achievements as we approach the celebrations of STMC's 60th Anniversary in 2020.

STMC is a remarkable school and it is only through the commitment and generosity of our parents, alumni, faculty staff, students and friends that we are able to achieve excellence in our teaching and learning environment and advance our vision "for Every Knight to Make a Positive Contribution to the Earth and its People."



NANCY YEADON LEGACY GIFT



On February 17, 2019, STMC lost a long time supporter and friend of the school – Nancy Yeadon. Nancy became part of the STMC community through her relationship with alumni parents Mike and Chris Rickaby. Mike served on the Foundation Board and is now a member of the school's board. For many years, Chris served the STMC community in innumerable ways including as chair of the Parents Association.

Nancy's philanthropic gift to STMC is the largest legacy gift the school has received in its history. Her transformational gift has endowed scholarships and bursaries, facilitated the building of the new Learning Commons, provided funds for the Fine Arts program, and funds to be used for the greatest needs of the school. Nancy truly understood the charism of STMC and the importance of the work of the Christian Brothers worldwide. With great respect for Brother Bassett and Brother Cassidy, specific funds were left for them to allocate at their discretion to support mission work. This money was disbursed to support a grassroots mothers and children program in northern BC, the Brothers' work in Peru where our students and faculty have traveled many times, and for the recovery of the Christian Brothers' school in Dominica.

A nonagenarian and lifelong resident of New Westminster and Burnaby, Nancy graduated from the Duke of Connaught High School in New Westminster. She dedicated her life to public service retiring as the Deputy Register in Land Titles. As a patron of the arts and an enthusiastic guest at many STMC drama productions and Music Knights, Nancy held the school in very high regards.

Tiny in stature, Nancy's generous heart has left a large legacy across the world and for that we are **truly grateful**.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



The STMC Alumni Association's mission is to coordinate events, activities and initiatives to keep alumni and STMC connected; to foster and support communication between the STMC Alumni Association and the school; and to be proactive in providing support and guidance for the current students and the alumni.

In the 2018-2019 school year we hosted Homecoming and two Alumni Beer-Tasting Socials. Additionally, we held our 22nd Annual Alumni Basketball Tournament, 3rd Annual Alumni Volleyball Tournament and 20th Annual Greater Knight Open (GKO) Golf Tournament, which was able to gift over \$40,000 to our Bernie Kully Memorial Bursary Fund.

The charism of Edmund Rice is alive and well in our students, staff and alumni and we encourage you to celebrate with us as St Thomas More Collegiate continues to grow in Faith, Sciences, Academics, Fine Arts and Athletics. Our Alumni Association is very excited with 2020 being the 60th Anniversary of the opening of St. Thomas More Collegiate. We look forward to making this anniversary year a memorable one.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

We are blessed to have a community of wonderful parents who share their time, talents and treasures with the STMC Community. Our Parents Association (PA) is a diverse group of leaders, and all parents with students enrolled at the school are members of the STMC Parents Association. The PA reaches for the stars and strives to be a support system to the entire Community, including students, their families and the faculty. It is part of their mission to provide events that are informative, creative and which unites our community.

STMC is so grateful for the support that the PA and the value they provide to our School. They provide volunteers for the events and activities, including Dance Chaperones, the Remembrance Day Mass and Reception, Open House, Walkathon and the Parent Teacher Interview, just to name a few. The annual Knights Christmas Market, is the PA's largest fundraiser and sees around 3,000 visitors to STMC during the KCM weekend.

Through their efforts, the PA provides **over \$50,000** each year to STMC Ltd, to support and improve the educational experiences and learning environments of our students. What they do truly has an impact, allowing our facility to be the **best** that they can be.

If you haven't had a chance to reach out and get engaged with the Parents' Association yet, please do. It is wonderful to see what you can do for our students!



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



For the first time in school history we are pleased to announce that a Knight has won the highly prestigious Schulich Leadership Scholarship for a student pursuing a degree in a STEM related field (Science Technology, Engineering or Mathematics). Philip Stachura of the STMC 2019 grad class is the winner of this distinguished award of **\$100,000** and is currently studying Computer Engineering at SFU.

Launched in 2012, this \$100 million scholarship fund provides 50 undergraduate scholarships each year, across top Canadian universities. The most promising students can pursue their dreams and become the next global pioneers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

~ SchulichLeaders.com

THANK YOU

We gratefully acknowledge and sincerely thank the members of the STMC and the external communities for their financial support of St. Thomas More Collegiate, between January 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019, as follows:

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Shane and Caterina Kennedy
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The Kully Family
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Norm Wong ('00)
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