

The Pandemic Review

November 2020 - Mia Abate

Student life, both physical and virtual



Remember November

So much has been done this month, both in the physical and virtual schools! Remembrance Day, Louis Riel Day, an esports tournament, virtual “Take Our Kids to Work Day”, an art assignment, a virtual play, a new quadmester, kindness week and the opening of St. Pat’s limited run gradwear store. It’s so great to hear about all the wonderful things going on in our schools!

Terry Fox

This year St. Patrick’s activities for Terry Fox Day were held virtually this year. The school decided that in honour of Terry Fox, in addition to raising money they would also try to reach 7,000,000 steps on their daily walking breaks. The staff and students managed to not only make but surpass this goal! A tribute broadcast was held on the morning of November 3rd. Additionally, the school held a poster contest and students participated in a “River of Hope”, a collection of positive images,



quotes and art done in sidewalk chalk along the track. The poster shown above was submitted to the contest by a grade 11 student named Tyler Murphy.

Remembrance Day

The Covid-19 pandemic has not stopped St. Patrick’s from remembering and honouring the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives so that we may have our freedoms. Remembrance Day saw the return of the astonishing creativity of *The Room 135 Collective*:



Mr. Waliki's grade 11 comm tech class. With Covid-19 making the St. Patrick's tradition of having live guests come in to speak to the school impossible, *The Room 135 Collective* had to get creative. The students took footage of broadcasts from previous years and edited it together, creating a new broadcast for this year's students. Grade 11 student Marcus Bastien, played the national anthem on the guitar and read throughout the broadcast. In a normal year, Mr. Morrison would take his law classes to the cenotaph to lay a wreath. This year he was not able to bring his class but he went on his own, on behalf of St. Patrick's to lay the wreath.



Homecoming: Esports

St. Pat's held its first ever esports tournament in place of the annual homecoming football game. The tournament was held over the course of a few weeks and was held during lunch. The tournament was done remotely, but students could play with friends in another class (as long as they had the same lunch) as the event was held

virtually. The event had two grade 11 students: Adam Fojna and Ethan Hyde as commentators and the tech was spearheaded by Tiago Bonfincampos and Logan Lambert. All four of the winners happened to be grade 12 students with the gold medals being awarded to Zach Barber and Liam Kutz (shown above) and the two silver medals being awarded to Jacob Beaudoin and John Forestell. The prize trophy is now proudly displayed in the trophy case at St. Patrick's for all to see!

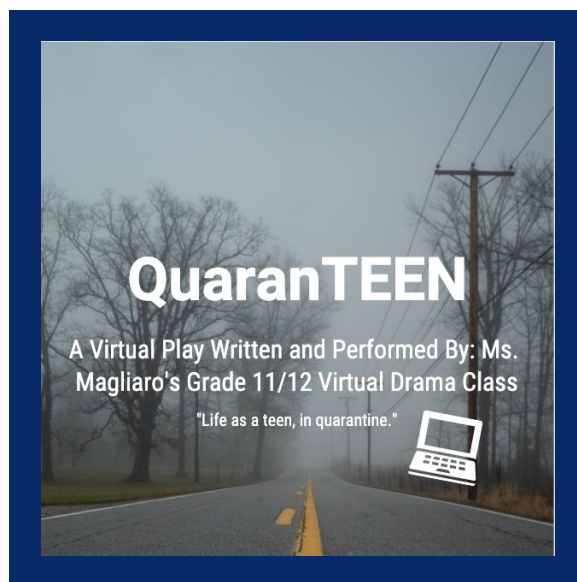


The Arts

The virtual school's students have been very busy this month and Ms. Magliaro's grade 11/12 drama and grade 12 visual art classes are no exception. Both classes decided that for their culminating project they would take on a

piece with the goal to inform others on their chosen topic. The virtual students decided to create a piece entitled “Mother Nature’s Nightmares”. An excerpt from their artist’s statement reads “There are many environmental issues we face in this world as a whole. This installation reflects these issues with different water bottles. Each water bottle that is hung on the tree with fishing wire is a representation of some of the situations we as a species are creating that are harming our planet.” The statement goes on to explain what the different colours signify, for example: the murky yellow water with gears is meant to signify the environmental effects of industrial pollution, the black water with seashells represents oil spills and the green water represents chemicals used in farming. Shown above (from left to right) are the four St. Patrick’s students in the course: Madison Lourenco, Kristen Douglas, Hannah Swetlishnoff and Leonardo Mallick.

The virtual drama class decided that for their culminating, they would write and perform a play. “QuaranTEEN” talks about life as a highschool student stuck in quarantine. The play contains many small scenes and monologues, covering a wide range of topics, some upbeat and funny such as “The Class That Goes Wrong” and “Mask Cabaret” and some more serious such as “Losing Loved Ones”, “Prom Night” and “The Class of 2020”. The play was written and recorded in the span of one week and was done entirely virtually. The video which saw St. Pat’s students: Elijah Grant, Matthew Pettit, Seth Bender, Aiden Vasey, Maddison Miller and Mia Abate playing themselves and a variety of other colourful characters, was shared with the administrative staff of the physical and virtual schools and met with great reviews.



What Else Is New?_t

So many new and exciting things have happened in the last month! On November 16th, St. Patrick’s celebrated Louis Riel Day by working with Métis author, Rebekah Wilson, to provide a virtual session on the Métis culture, history, and the importance of Louis Riel Day. Another exciting thing that happened this month was the release of gradwear for this year’s grade 12 students. Gradwear is being lead by grade 12 student, Sydney Vaillancourt and there is a temporary virtual gradwear store open online. To learn more you can visit the gradwear Instagram page

@st.pats_grads2021 or, go to the virtual store, [click here](#). This year grade 9 students took part in the first ever virtual “Take Our Kids To Work Day” on November 4th. Rather than accompanying a parent or guardian into their workplace, as would normally have been the case, students were given the opportunity to participate virtually from within their classroom. Students learned about entrepreneurship and explored careers within the skilled trades, healthcare, technology and finance. Additionally, this month saw an updated virtual library, with this month’s theme being remembrance. The library has links to games, poems, prayers and a virtual escape room among many other exciting activities. To visit the virtual library, [click here](#). Students began the second quadmester on November 17th and will receive their reports via Edsby on November 27th. In the virtual school, CYWs have begun meeting with classes, small groups and individuals to talk about mental health and introduce MindsUP activities. Monday the 16th marked the beginning of “kindness week” in the virtual school. The week will have a variety of activities centering around kindness for students to participate in.

Closing Thoughts

In the month of November we observe Remembrance day in which we remember and honour the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we may live in peace. John 15:13 says: “No greater love is there than this, than to lay down one’s life for a friend.” The men and women who served our country showed us an unbelievable act of love and it is important that

we thank them for all they’ve done for us and our country. We are very fortunate to live in a country as wonderful as Canada, a country where we are free to be ourselves, to act and speak freely. We must not forget, however, that not all people are as fortunate as we are. There are countries that are wracked with war, with poverty and with illness, countries who do not have the freedom that we have been afforded. We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ, helping those who are not able to help themselves, this is what the Canadian Armed Forces do everyday. So please, thank a veteran or someone who is serving currently and say a prayer from them and for all our brothers and sisters across the world that one day we may all live in peace, unity and freedom.

