

St. Patrick's Catholic High School Student Trustee Report

September 2022 Edition

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PREFACE

On September 6th, the hallways of St. Patrick's High School were alive once again for the first day of the 2022-2023 school year. Students of all grades were excited for what will finally be a year of stability and normalcy without learning interruptions and having to go online. Students were free to roam the hallways; catch up with old friends, or even make new ones; and experience the joy and occasional frustration of lockers and their tricky combination locks. Staff members lined the hallways and filled their classrooms and learning spaces to greet students old and new for another wonderful year of learning.

Additionally, LINK Crew members, who consist of volunteer grade elven and twelve student leaders, were always within reach to help younger students find their classes or open their lockers. With the cafeteria now open and beautiful weather outside, students have the chance to socialize and relax during lunches. Of course, the return of extracurricular activities is always an exciting time for returning and first time members and teammates. The current school year has begun with a wonderful start and we cannot wait to see where this year takes us.

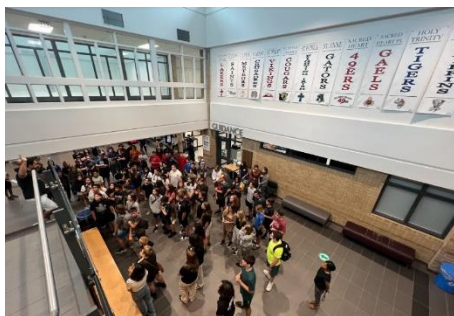




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HEAD START

On August 29th, 30th, and 31st, St. Patrick's hosted an early learning and high school integration program, known as Head Start, to grade nine students. According to Mr. Walicki, a past teacher at St. Patrick's who has now moved on to a position at the school board: "The classrooms and the hallways of UCC and St. Patrick's CHS resonated with the energetic sounds of incoming grade nines and the teaching staff providing the first secondary learning experience to over 240 students. Over forty staff members participated in this event, facilitating various school-based programming ranging from mathematics and sciences to different elective subject areas. These new students could partake in various workshops in the elective courses; art activities included painting, sculpture, music and drama. The aroma of freshly baked cookies was a testimony of the great fun in Food's Rooms at both schools. After the desk work, students had the opportunity to participate in several Physical Education games and activities to burn off some energy. The energy and the smiles were a clear indication of the success of this 3-Day Event. The general consensus among students is that Head Start will make their transition to secondary schools easier and less stressful. In addition, all participating staff was very impressed and excited by the incoming Class of 2026."



LINK CREW GRADE NINE ORIENTATION DAY

On September 1st, the St. Patrick's LINK Crew hosted its signature Orientation Day for incoming grade nine students. The incoming grade nines were able to participate in different welcoming activities designed strategically to help integrate them into high school life and to feel like welcomed members of the St. Patrick's community. The students were led





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by an excellent team of grade eleven and twelve student leaders who had undergone many training sessions to prepare for the day.

LINK CREW GRADE NINE WELCOMING 90s NEON DANCE

On Thursday, September 15th, the St. Patrick's LINK Crew hosted a 90s Neon Dance to welcome grade nines to the school and celebrate their first two weeks of classes. All students were encouraged to dress up to the theme of 90s neon in the school's cafeteria from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. The event was a success with over 200 hundred grade nine students attending and participating.



INDIGENOUS LEARNING COURSE

New at St. Patrick's this year is the mandatory English: Understanding Contemporary First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Voices course for grade eleven students. According to St. Patrick's English teacher Ms. Gouveia, "This September marks the start of the new 3U English course which is NBE 3U - a focus on Indigenous content and studies. To begin the course students are working on understanding stereotypes and altering perspectives, as well as research skills and academic report writing. Upcoming this month will be several visits from key community partners as well as a trip in early October to see a play performance. The course is being well received by the students and much learning and growing is taking place already."

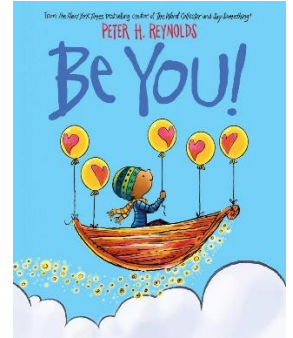




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RETURN TO IN-PERSON ASSEMBLIES AND SCHOOL MENTOR TEXT

During the first week of classes, after two long years, St. Patrick's finally hosted its first in-person assemblies in the school gym since the start of the pandemic. This was done by grade and period and provided a way for the school's administration to welcome students back for another year of learning, remind students of school rules and policies, and introduce students to our school's "Mentor Text" for the year, *Be You!*, by Peter H. Reynolds which is an inspirational children's book with many positive themes that our school will select and foster each month.



SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB INITIATIVES

On September 13th, 14th, and 15th, members of the St. Patrick's Social Justice Club visited grade nine classrooms and distributed reusable water bottles with our school's colours and logo to raise awareness of the issue of water privatization and plastic pollution and to inform the students of St. Patrick's disposable-bottled-water-free policy created from the club's successful petition last year. This also provided a great way for the club to recruit new members and for new students to get involved in their school and greater communities. Around 300 reusable water bottles were distributed.



EXTRACURRICULARS

Within St. Patrick's, the following extracurricular activities are starting this month:

- ❖ Tennis
- ❖ Golf
- ❖ Cross Country
- ❖ Football
- ❖ Volleyball
- ❖ Junior Soccer
- ❖ Concert Band
- ❖ Girl's Basketball
- ❖ The Social Justice Club
- ❖ Reach for the Top
- ❖ Baseball
- ❖ The Wellness Committee
- ❖ Art Club



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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