



DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2020

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we look back on the 2019-2020 school year, we see many examples of how the spirit of resilience, perseverance, and a strong sense of community at NPSC prevailed in a time when our world changed in an instant.

Last March, the COVID-19 pandemic quickly transformed learning and instruction, with our students learning from home as our principals, teachers and support staff continued to deliver the curriculum and support students and families, this time virtually. That we were able to pivot so quickly and continue to provide a high-quality Catholic education to our students is a testament to the professionalism of all our staff, no matter their role in our board.

Our annual report looks a bit different this year without provincial achievement results, due the cancellation of the EQAO assessments in 2019-2020. Nevertheless, we remained focused on our Board's Ends, guided by our mission and vision. The examples presented in this year's report celebrate the growth, achievement and well-being of our students, nurtured in a Christ-centred learning environment and supported in exciting and innovative ways.

I am truly humbled by the remarkable efforts of our entire NPSC community as we navigated uncharted waters together in 2019-2020, and prepared for the successful re-opening of school for September. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our parents and caregivers, our staff, our students, our Board of Trustees, and community partners. The success of our students is sustained by a solid foundation of faith and the strong sense of community that surrounds them.

I invite you to review our annual report for 2019-2020, and to join us in celebrating our achievements.



- Anna Marie Bitonti

FROM THE CHAIR

As I reflect on the 2019-2020 school year, I am humbled, proud and thankful for the leadership, optimism and resilience of our NPSC Community. This school year was unlike any other and we witnessed our community come together like never before. Our staff and students embraced the challenges presented by virtual learning and managed to build connections and our sense of community 'together, but apart.'

This year, the Director's Report once again centres on our Ends statements which provide rich evidence of our commitment to student success through four strategic pillars:

- i) students develop their Catholic faith
- ii) students acquire the necessary attitudes to lead a positive, healthy lifestyle, both mentally and physically
- iii) students are responsible, respectful and caring stewards of their world and
- iv) students have the competencies to reach their full potential and pursue their desired career path.

As you will read, our schools took part in many philanthropic and spiritual activities, experiential and outdoor learning activities and we continued to invest in opportunities that taught and encouraged innovation and creativity enhanced by technology. We are inspired by our staff and our students who continued to demonstrate learning in each of these categories both during the regular school year and through inventive and contemporary means as the school year came to a close.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to extend our heart-felt appreciation to our staff, volunteers and community partners who continue to demonstrate adaptability, resourcefulness and creativity in their roles. We thank our senior team for their exemplary leadership and guidance as we continue to navigate these incredible challenges together. More than ever, as Trustees we are blessed to answer the call to serve our students in the light of Christ.



- Leo de Jourdan

NPSC AT A GLANCE

2,808
STUDENTS
ENROLLED

AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2020



1,924
ELEMENTARY



884
SECONDARY



18%
INDIGENOUS
STUDENTS

AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2020



**7 TRUSTEES + 1 STUDENT TRUSTEE +
1 INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE**



11

ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS



1

SECONDARY
SCHOOL



356

STUDENTS
CURRENTLY ENROLLED
IN FULL-DAY
EARLY LEARNING
PROGRAM



93.1%

OF PRIMARY
CLASSES HAVE
20 OR FEWER
STUDENTS
IN THE CURRENT YEAR
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2020

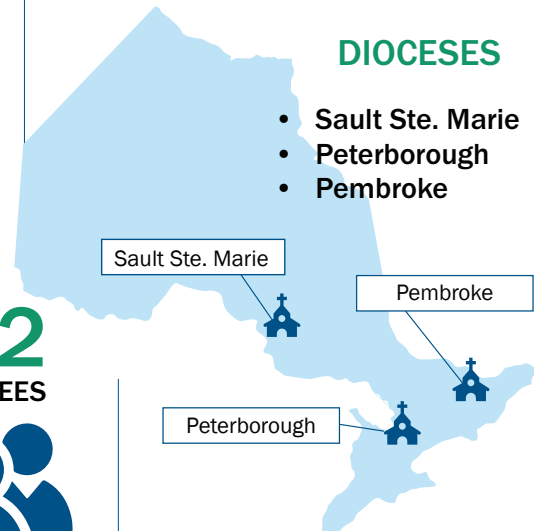


90%

PRIMARY CLASS
SIZE TARGET

DIOCESES

- Sault Ste. Marie
- Peterborough
- Pembroke



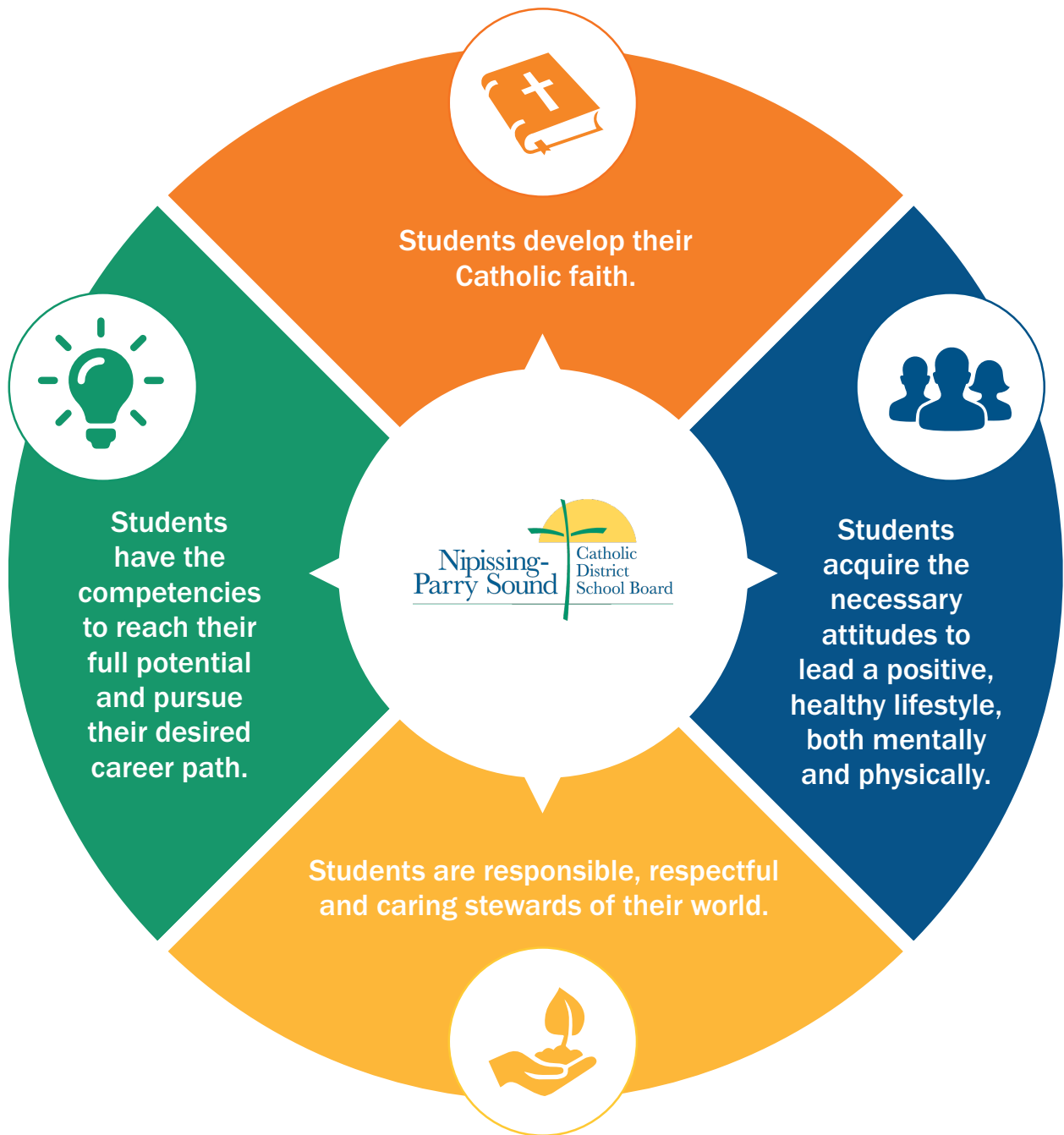
71%

OF STUDENTS
COMPLETED
16 CREDITS
AS OF JUNE 30, 2020
OF THEIR SECOND YEAR
OF SECONDARY SCHOOL

382
EMPLOYEES



NIPISSING-PARRY SOUND CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ENDS



The Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board exists so that students, enlightened by their Catholic faith, become contributing, fulfilled responsible citizens of a global society, at a justifiable use of resources.

Students develop their Catholic faith.



- Students have knowledge of the history, teachings, values and doctrines of the Catholic faith.
- Students demonstrate an appreciation for the liturgical life of the Church and other faith-based activities both within the school and the parish.
- Students develop a faith that forms an integral part of their character, moral development, and values.

Students acquire the necessary attitudes to lead a positive, healthy lifestyle, both mentally and physically.



- Students are self-aware, self-assured and able to advocate for their needs.
- Students are adaptive and resilient.
- Students demonstrate an appreciation of physical wellbeing and participate in healthy activities.

Students are responsible, respectful and caring stewards of their world.



- Students are socially, digitally, and environmentally responsible within a global perspective.
- Students demonstrate caring, through their actions, for the marginalized and most vulnerable members of their communities.
- Students have a knowledge and appreciation of contemporary and traditional First Nation, Inuit and Métis traditions, history, cultures and perspectives.
- Students demonstrate a respect for and acceptance of diversity.

Students have the competencies to reach their full potential and pursue their desired career path.



- Students have literacy and numeracy skills.
- Students who wish to pursue trades have the necessary technological skills.
- Students have independent learning skills.
- Students have communication skills.
- Students have skills in a second language.
- Students can work collaboratively.
- Students demonstrate critical thinking, creativity, and innovation.

STUDENTS DEVELOP THEIR CATHOLIC FAITH

Inspiring Hope Through Hearts

Family Studies Teacher, Andrea Curran, worked in collaboration with the North Bay Regional Health Centre to facilitate an initiative she created called *Inspiring Hope Through Hearts*.

The initiative invited students and staff across the board to sew fabric hearts to bring hope to families with loved ones in hospital during the pandemic.

Knowing that patients could not see family members during their stay in hospital, participants made two hearts: one heart for the patient and the other for the patients' family.

The hearts acted as a symbolic reminder that the two hearts will be reunited again in the future. Ms. Curran collected many hand-sewn heart pairings from schools across the district, demonstrating an overwhelming sense of community and compassion from our staff and students!





SJSH Stays Rooted in Faith and Alive In Spirit

Throughout the time of school closures, St. Joseph-Scollard Hall staff and students undertook a variety of faith activities helping the school community stay rooted in faith and alive in spirit.

SJSH Chaplaincy Lead, Cathy Verardi, worked with parish priest Father Daniele Muscolino and the NPSC Mental Health Team to coordinate weekly 'Chapel Check-ins' for students during school closures. The weekly meetings provided a space for students to log in remotely to connect with members of their school community, ask questions and discuss important aspects of faith development. Ms. Verardi also supported this faith development activity by sharing weekly prayers and reflections with the school community using the board communication and reporting platform, Edsby.

The staff at SJSH created a video to celebrate the theme of Catholic Education Week, "Igniting Hope", and to continue to foster a sense of connection and hope among the school community, despite being physically apart during the first few months of learning from home. The video is accompanied by a song, with vocals and all instrumentation by SJSH student, Jude Zappala. The video can be viewed in its entirety [here](#).

The Spirit of Christmas at SJSH

St. Joseph-Scollard Hall celebrated the Christmas season through a variety of faith-based activities and initiatives including hosting special school masses for students and staff, the annual school Advent mass with Bishop Marcel Damphousse and local priests, and involvement in numerous community initiatives. SJSH students and staff participated in a school-wide challenge to raise over \$3,000 for a local charity, the Santa Fund, which provides Christmas gifts to families across the district.

The school participated in a student dance performance and carol singing for residents at Cassellholme Nursing home. Students and staff also donated new and gently used winter coats to local Catholic Charities and members of the student population who were in need.

STUDENTS ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY ATTITUDES TO LEAD A POSITIVE,



RISE Committee Provides Important Support During Time of Remote Learning

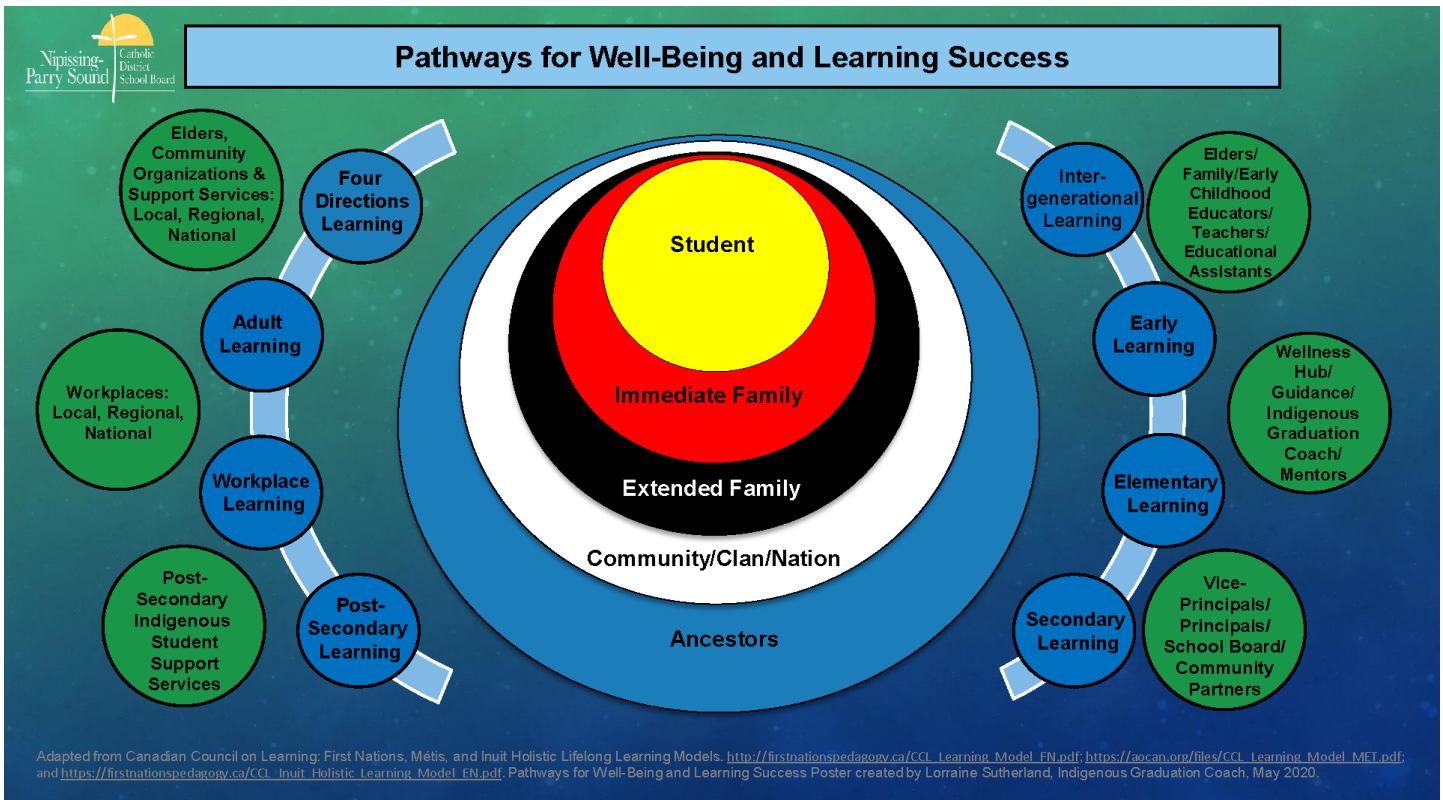
The RISE Committee at SJSH is a student advisory committee that organizes school-based events and activities that promote positive mental health and well-being. The committee developed a strategic plan for the next three years based on four pillars: Resources, Intervention, Safe Space and Education (RISE). The group consists of students from grade 9 to 12 as well as one grade eight representative. As information about the COVID-19 pandemic evolved, the group continued to share positive messages and resources about maintaining personal well-being. They met weekly with members of the NPSC Mental Health Team to develop strategies, campaigns, and contests for students to feel connected to their school community, while remaining physically apart.

Well-being Across Our System

During the time of remote learning, the NPSC Mental Health Team worked diligently to rapidly adapt services to meet the needs of students and families. Changes in services included offering appointments with social workers online or by phone, and working with staff to identify students who may have required additional assistance during this time. The team also began offering mental health check-ins via email for families seeking extra support and creating well-being groups on the board's learning and communication platform, Edsby.

Mental health professionals also began offering virtual weekly meetings for caregivers who were seeking a safe space to talk about their successes and struggles during the pandemic, and continued to regularly share resources on Edsby and social media to help promote positive mental health and well-being. NPSC's School Mental Health Lead also contributed to a series of professional development sessions for staff and the team continued to provide support to families over the summer months. They were active members of the school reopening planning committee, offering an important perspective focused on strategies to support students and families for a successful transition to the re-opening and return to school and in-person learning.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE, BOTH MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY.



Indigenous Learning Online: Nbwaachigedaa and IGC Wachiye Misiway

NPSC Native as a Second Language Teachers and the NPSC Indigenous Graduation Coach created two virtual classrooms, Nbwaachigedaa and IGC Wachiye Misiway, for NPSC students to continue their learning while studying at home. The classrooms included interactive links to videos, games, and literature. Some examples of the teachings included the Four Sacred Gifts from Gchi-zhemnidoo, the Cree Creation Story, Ojibwe language, Gindaaswinag, and pow wows. These classrooms granted students, their families, and staff the opportunity to learn more about the language, culture and history of the Indigenous People and encouraged them to explore those areas in more detail.



We're Better Together

St. Victor students created this ***impactful video*** celebrating the unique gifts each child brings to their school community. The video was created to celebrate differences and reaffirm that every student is valued, welcomed and loved. The concluding message states that inclusion is about recognizing that all students have something important to offer and as such, we are all better together. We commend St. Victor for their continued commitment to foster inclusive, respectful learning environments.

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL



Bears Who Care Celebrate Valentine's Day

SJSH student group, Bears Who Care, raised \$104 selling Valentine-o-grams for a local initiative called *Boots on the Ground*. *Boots on the Ground* is a not-for-profit organization that works to provide compassionate support to individuals struggling with mental health, addictions and housing issues. The students' donation helped to provide warm footwear and food to those in need during the winter months. Thank you to our Bears Who Care group for your generosity and support to our community!



Outdoor Education and Skills Camp

Students at St. Hubert, Holy Cross and St. Francis Elementary Schools had the opportunity to attend a three-day Outdoor Education and Leadership program at the Canadian Ecology Centre. Students engaged in learning about forest ecology, animal ecology, wilderness survival, astrology and nature photography, as well as being able to hike, snowshoe and take part in a variety of outdoor activities. Participants also completed each day by taking part in drumming activities and engaging in open dialogue at a campfire. This experiential learning opportunity combined outdoor education with important curriculum concepts and leadership skills.



SJSH Says 'Thank You'

SJSH students filmed and edited a beautiful [thank you message](#) to express their gratitude for frontline workers. Students worked collaboratively with staff to compile a video that captures the appreciation of the school community as a whole.

AND CARING STEWARDS OF THEIR WORLD.



NPSC Schools Attend International Plowing Match

Over 1000 NPSC students attended North America's largest outdoor agricultural expo, the 2019 *International Plowing Match & Rural Expo*. The SJSH Marching Band and the Our Lady of Sorrows School dancers and drummers performed in the opening ceremonies. The four days were filled with hands-on learning about the heritage and history of Ontario's agriculture. The organizers worked diligently to bring a number of educational opportunities to the event, including: pumpkin catapult challenge, Science North exhibits, live animals, scarecrow creations and so much more. A special thank you to Caisse Alliance and Hydro One who generously contributed towards student bus transportation to the festival!



STUDENTS HAVE THE COMPETENCIES TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND



NPSC Explores Careers in the Skilled Trades

The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) worked in partnership with school boards across the province to orchestrate wonderful learning opportunities for intermediate and high school students to explore different career opportunities in the skilled trades.

The **Young Women's Trades Day** is dedicated to showing our young female students that skilled trade and technology careers offer many great opportunities. Through a variety of interactive workshops, participating students explored various career options and developed their individual skills that are essential to a career in the skilled trades. In addition, the students had the opportunity to meet women who work in skilled trade and technology careers, who shared the rewards of their chosen career paths and provided advice, guidance and inspiration.

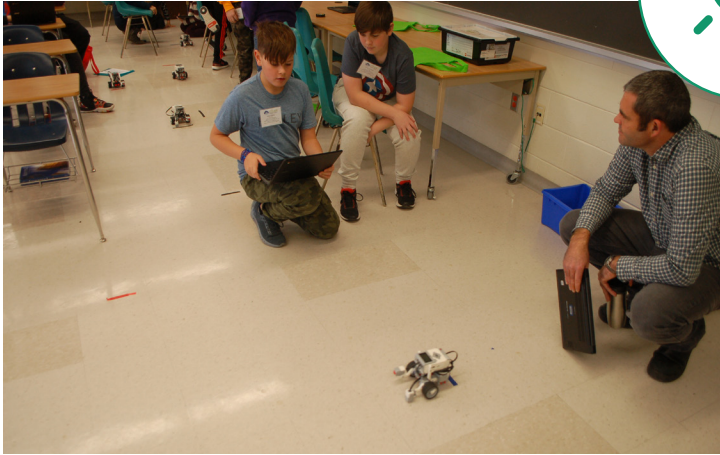
The **Iron Chef Events** provided participating students with the opportunity to showcase their culinary skills in a competitive forum against young cooks from other district school boards. Under the guidance and supervision of a Red Seal Chef, participants developed their repertoire of culinary knowledge and essential skills required for a career in the culinary world.

The **Drum Build Initiative** is designed to bring students together to share and celebrate the traditional experience of drum building under the guidance and support of representatives from the First Peoples Centre at Canadore College. During the workshop, participating students were provided an opportunity to build and expand many of the soft skills essential for a career in an ever-changing workforce i.e. communication, working with others, and planning & organizing.

A Career in the Skilled Trades Awaits You! was a virtual event hosted by Bryan Baeumler. Bryan has hosted several tv shows including House of Bryan, Bryan Inc, Disaster DIY, Leave it to Bryan and Island of Bryan. Special thank you to NPSC OYAP Coordinator Kevin Hotten for his role in helping NPSC students and educators access the presentation and engage with the topics covered.



PURSUE THEIR DESIRED CAREER PATH.



Innovation and Creativity Student Summit

Grade 5 and 6 students across NPSC were joined by 12 teacher leads for an engaging presentation by Dr. Robert Graham entitled “*How Do I Know What Drum to Hit Dr. G?: An Exploration of Creativity*”. The overall theme for the day focused on fostering innovation, creativity and collaboration. Students and teachers learned together through a variety of sessions and workshops, including:

- 💡 EV3 Lego Robot Coding
- 💡 Can Innovation Save the Environment?
- 💡 Programming with Scratch
- 💡 Spice Up Your Presentation Using Google Slides
- 💡 Jungle Temple Escape Room
- 💡 Tower of Power
- 💡 Did You Say Micro:bit? Let’s Code!
- 💡 Oh the Sites You Will See!

The day also featured a teacher session called “*An Investigation of ‘Techno-Resiliency’: How It Can Better Inform Technology Integration In Your Classroom*”, facilitated by Dr. Robert Graham. Exploration and innovation with new technology continues to be a focus for schools across NPSC.

Fostering engagement with new technology benefits students by enabling them to use new platforms for learning Math, Science, Technology, Literacy and Social Studies, as well as developing tangible skills necessary for a twenty-first century work environment.

SJSH Catholic Parent Council Hosts Career Fair

The SJSH Catholic Parent Council hosted a school-wide career fair at SJSH, supporting students in exploring the many pathways and careers available locally, provincially and nationally. A number of community partners from the business sector, government agencies, social services and Canadian Armed Forces were represented, each taking the time to speak directly with students and providing more information on the wide variety of options available after graduation. Students from Grades 9-12 had the opportunity to walk through the displays and seek out information that was of most interest to them.

Étienne Provides Special French Language Concert to NPSC

NPSC students, families and teachers were thrilled to attend a live, online performance from two-time Canadian Artist of the Year, “Étienne”. The event celebrated French culture and engaged students in listening, reading, writing and speaking in French before, during, and after the performance. Merci beaucoup to Étienne for sharing your talents with us in this fun and educational experience.

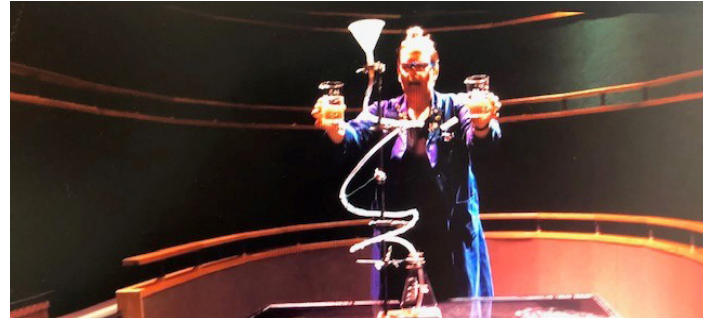
VIRTUAL SUMMER LEARNING 2020 AT NPSC



Special Education Summer Learning and Transition Program

NPSC was pleased to host a five-week virtual summer learning program for students with multiple exceptionalities. The program offered hands-on, synchronous learning activities using Google Meet. The program was facilitated by teachers, educational assistants, and community partners in order to provide students with multiple opportunities to continue to build upon the skills and talents that promote the continuity of success in their individual learning goals. Sessions included activities such as baking, dance, crafts, music, and physical activities, all of which emphasize participation, turn-taking and following directions.

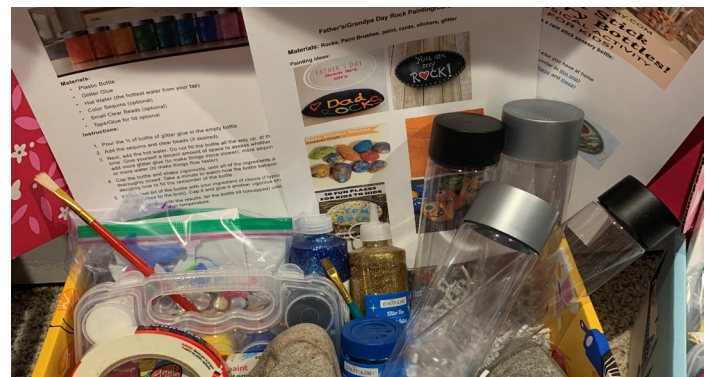
In addition to the virtual program, we were excited to host a two-week, in-person, transition to school program prior to the students' return to in-person learning in September. This transition program was designed based on the student participants and their individual needs to assist them in returning to the classroom environment in the most seamless way possible. Transition activities included scheduled visits to their classroom and school, providing visual schedules and picture books to assist in the preparation of students' re-entry, practicing physical distancing measures and proper hand-hygiene measures, and various literacy and numeracy activities.



Summer Learning Program

With the support of the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, NPSC continued to administer the Summer Learning Program by planning opportunities for students to minimize learning loss. Our Grade 1-6 Literacy and Numeracy program provided an amazing virtual learning experience for 44 elementary students enrolled in the program for four weeks in July 2020.

Teachers reported that 100% of students increased or maintained their current reading level and demonstrated growth in the overall expectations focused on in language and mathematics. Teachers provided synchronous learning instruction for 3-5 hours per day, inclusive of whole-group and individualized support using the Google Suite platform (Google Meet). An integral part of the program focused on integrating Indigenous perspectives and culturally responsive pedagogy and resources into instruction. A unique partnership was established with Science North, 'Together Apart', where students participated in chemistry shows, coding activities and had "Ask a Scientist" class time with the Bluecoats of Science North. Learning bags equipped with supplies and hands-on materials were also provided to students to support learning within the program.



OUR TEAM



2020 - 2021 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Left to right: Leo de Jourdan (Chair, City of North Bay), Jacques Bégin (East and South of the City of North Bay), Linda Jamieson (City of North Bay), Judy Manitowabi (Nipissing First Nation), Barbara McCool (Vice-Chair, City of North Bay), Shawn Fitzsimmons (City of North Bay), John Willemsen (West Nipissing).

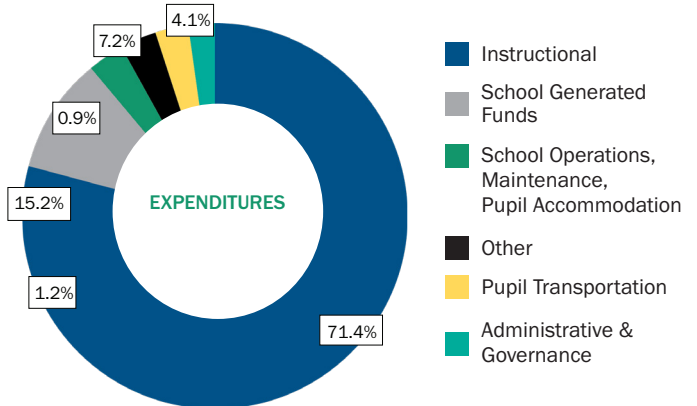


2020 - 2021 SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

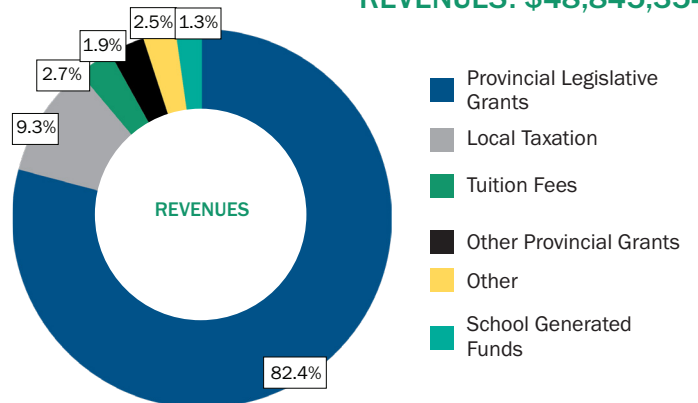
Jody Weller (Superintendent of Education), Grace Barnhardt (Superintendent of Business and Treasurer), Anna Marie Bitonti (Director of Education), Paula Mann (Superintendent of Education).

BOARD OPERATIONS

EXPENDITURES: \$48,313,621



REVENUES: \$48,845,354



Student Trustee
(2019-2021)
Maggie Saunders



Indigenous Student Trustee
(2020-2022)
Grace Couchie



**ROOTED IN FAITH
ALIVE IN SPIRIT**



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