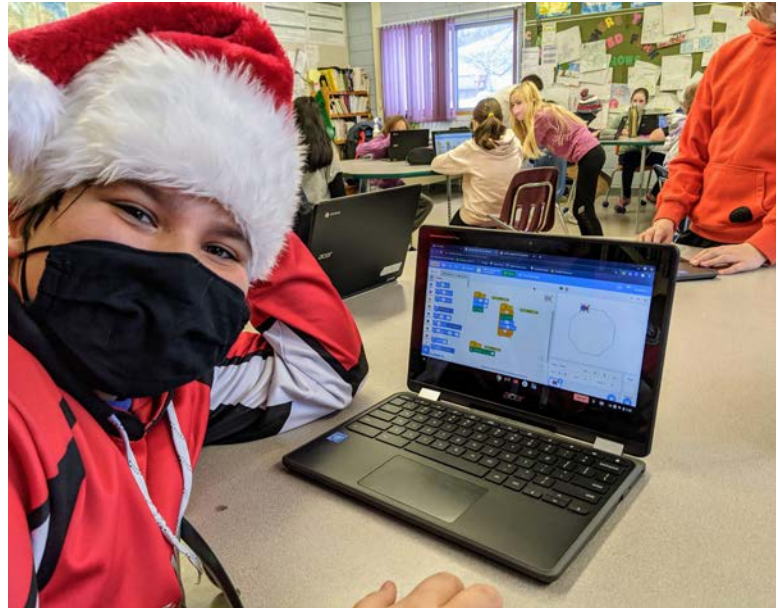


# DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021



# DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2021

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Following a school year faced with the challenges of COVID-19, it is such a blessing to share many bright highlights of the great things that continued to happen in Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic schools.

In 2020-2021, our students and staff once again inspired everyone with their adaptability, creative problem solving, and swift adjustment to the many changes that occurred throughout the year. They rose above the challenges of the pandemic and showed us all how to turn them into new opportunities to learn and grow.

At the centre of NPSC's success is the achievement of the Board's Ends and the leadership demonstrated by our students, encouraged, guided and supported by our exemplary staff. Our students were recognized for their leadership in environmental stewardship and the long-term sustainability of our earth through local and provincial partnerships. They advocated for their own needs and the needs of others by leading projects in support of mental health and well-being, diversity and inclusion, and social justice in response to the needs of their community.

Together with the exceptional team of NPSC educators and support staff, our students unwaveringly persevered in finding new and innovative ways to safely proceed with activities, artistic performances and community-building events that might not have been possible in the context of a pandemic. We are so proud of them and congratulate them all!

It has truly been a pleasure to share with you NPSC's many accomplishments over the years. I am honoured to have been given the privilege of serving in a Catholic school board that is rooted firmly in our faith and Catholic identity and remains unequivocally focused on learning excellence and innovation, in a warm, welcoming and nurturing learning environment. We invite you to experience NPSC's commitment to this focus, which is clearly visible in many ways throughout this report.



- Anna Marie Bitonti

## FROM THE CHAIR

I am delighted to take part in sharing the many highlights of the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board over the 2020-2021 school year. As the world continues to experience differing levels of uncertainty, it brings me great pleasure to reflect on the resilient, generous and innovative community that is NPSC!

Again this year, the Director's Report centers on our Ends statements, providing rich evidence of our commitment to student success through four strategic pillars. We are delighted to showcase the many ways our students are continuing to achieve success in each of these four categories, particularly during times of change and adaptation.

This report is of particular importance because it marks the last year that it will be signed by Anna Marie Bitonti, who has served the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board for over 33 years. In her role as Director, Anna Marie has gifted our board with tremendous leadership, warmth and dedication to Catholic Education. Please join me in extending my heartfelt gratitude to Anna Marie for her years of service to our students and our community and celebrating her on her next adventure.

I could not provide an introduction to this report without mentioning our dear friend and colleague, Linda Jamieson, who passed suddenly in October of 2021. Linda was a Trustee with our board for 17 years. Our Catholic community will greatly miss her quick wit, joyful spirit and dedication to Christ-centered education. As you look through the pages of this report we ask that you keep Linda and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Her spirit is alive in the faces and the stories of our students.





- Leo de Jourdan

# NPSC AT A GLANCE


**2,881**  
STUDENTS  
ENROLLED  
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2021



 **1,947**  
ELEMENTARY  
 **934**  
SECONDARY



**14%**  
INDIGENOUS  
STUDENTS  
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2021

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

  
**11**  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOLS

  
**1**  
SECONDARY  
SCHOOL



**358**  
STUDENTS  
CURRENTLY ENROLLED  
IN FULL-DAY  
EARLY LEARNING  
PROGRAM



**90.6%**  
OF PRIMARY  
CLASSES HAVE  
20 OR FEWER  
STUDENTS  
IN THE CURRENT YEAR  
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2021

**1** ADULT EDUCATION  
CAMPUS 

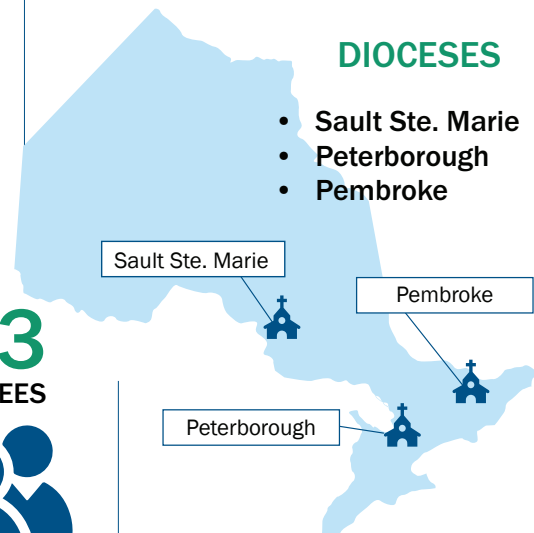


**90%**  
PRIMARY CLASS  
SIZE TARGET

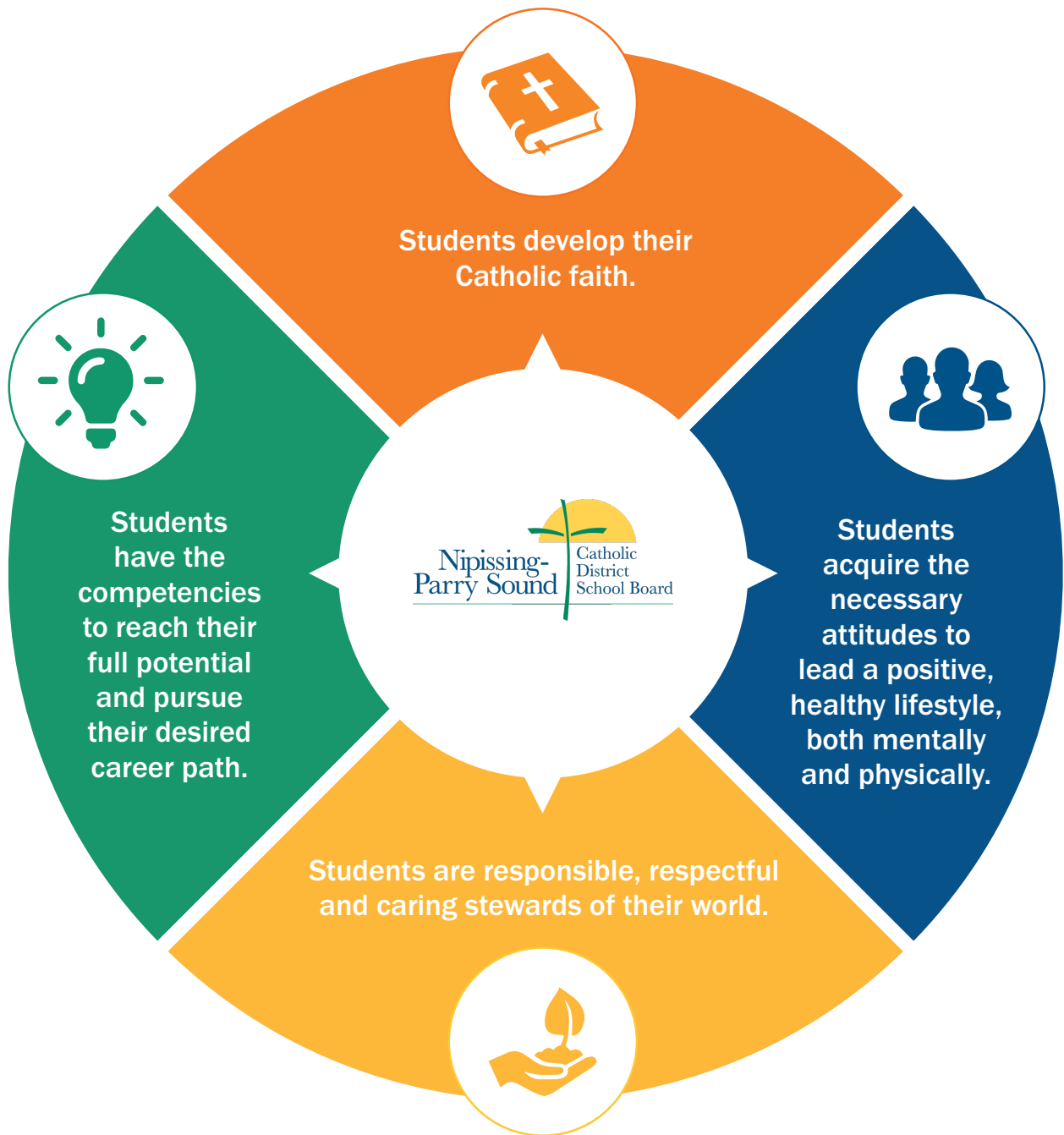


**71%**  
OF STUDENTS  
COMPLETED  
**16 CREDITS**  
AS OF JUNE 30, 2021  
OF THEIR SECOND YEAR  
OF SECONDARY SCHOOL

**403**  
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 well-being 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

## NPSC Stays Connected



Schools across NPSC have found new ways to engage in faith-based activities and masses, embracing new, virtual traditions.

St. Gregory stayed connected with Father Eric Mason through a series of weekly, class-based discussions, where Father Eric answered questions, shared parables and interactive reflections, and discussed important aspects of students' faith development.

Holy Cross School also worked with Father Francis Ezenezi to co-create masses throughout the school year, involving students in the readings and musical components of the mass.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our parish priests for their creative and important contributions to our school communities and the spiritual development of our students!



## SJSH Religion Class Shares Christmas Cheer

Students in the Grade 12 Religion course at SJSH helped to spread Christmas cheer by completing a variety of goodwill activities. The class 'adopted' two children through the Childrens' Aid Society Joy Project, which provided Christmas gifts for children and youth in the Nipissing and Parry Sound districts. Students used their own money to purchase the gifts, including a dollhouse, toys, pajamas and art supplies. Staff and students also worked together to handwrite 150 Christmas cards for nursing home patients, accompanied by beautiful artwork and Christmas paintings.

NPSC is humbled by the work of our students and staff, who continue to demonstrate compassion, generosity and benevolence during the Christmas season and throughout the year.



(L-R ) Al Orlando (Class of '65), Colin Vezina (Class of '52), Bob Lucenti ( Class of '61), Peter Gavan ( Class of '65), Derek Belanger (Principal)

## St. Joseph-Scollard Hall Grotto

SJSH was pleased to welcome a new but familiar structure to their courtyard, thanks to the hard work of some alumni and former staff members. The structure is a statue of Mary, which was initially installed at the school to honour the students of Scollard Hall who enlisted in the Second World War, but did not return home. A total of 352 students from Scollard Hall enlisted in WW2, 31 of whom perished. Father Charles Brunck, who was a teacher at the school, created a memorial for the soldiers by writing their names on a scroll, with black crosses beside those who had passed. The families of the 31 fallen soldiers also chose to honour their children with a statue of Mary, located beside the school. Over the years the statue was relocated and eventually went missing until a group of alumni and former staff came together to find a way to commemorate the soldiers in a visible and prominent way. A new statue and plaque were commissioned by the school in partnership with NPSC and with the dedicated involvement of these alumni. The students and staff are blessed to have this important piece of history preserved and displayed in their school.



## St. Gregory Captures the Spirit of Advent

St. Gregory School captured the spirit of Advent after organizing a successful food drive for the Powassan Food Bank. The school raised over 400 food items and 94 unopened toys for those in need. Congratulations to all of the students and staff for this beautiful example of generosity.

# STUDENTS ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY ATTITUDES TO LEAD A POSITIVE,



## NPSC Parent Involvement Committee Presents Dr. Wells

The NPSC Parent Involvement Committee was pleased to welcome scientist, physiologist and bestselling author Dr. Greg Wells for a free virtual information session entitled *Eat. Sleep. Move. Think: The Ripple Effect. Leverage sleep, food, movement and mindset to amplify resilience and your health.*

The presentation included an engaging discussion focusing on key strategies to help build habits and routines to optimize brain function, as well as physical and mental well-being.

During his virtual presentation, Wells delivered a keynote that was personable and engaging, translating complex science into actionable insights for parents and students.

We thank Dr. Wells for providing this meaningful experience to our school communities.

## 20th Annual SEAC Carousel Evening

NPSC's Special Education Advisory and Parent Involvement Committees were pleased to celebrate 20 years of hosting the annual Carousel event!

For the first time, the event was held virtually with public speaker, activist and author, Michael Jacques, sharing his insights on living with autism and an intellectual disability.

Michael's presentation helped audiences grow their understanding of acceptance and belonging. His story also highlighted the empowerment that comes from identifying personal strengths, valuing relationships, and community involvement.

NPSC was blessed to learn from Michael, who generously shared his time, wisdom and many talents.



# HEALTHY LIFESTYLE, BOTH MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY.



## North Bay Firefighters Share “No Dragons For Tea”

As part of Fire Safety Week, the North Bay Fire Department joined several NPSC classes to talk about fire safety and prevention, sharing the important story *No Dragons for Tea*. Students were invited to ask questions and engage the firefighters in meaningful discussion about their own concerns. A special thank you to the firefighters at Station 1 for taking the time to share with our students and answer their fire safety questions.

## SJSH Rise Committee Makes a Difference

The SJSH Rise Committee is a student-led group at SJSH that promotes well-being amongst the student body. With representation from every grade, students have undertaken a variety of activities to contribute to student well-being. Their Instagram account seeks to engage students, particularly during times of remote learning or self-isolation. Messages include general coping strategies, wellness initiatives and humorous posts focused on promoting good mental health and well-being.



The committee also continued their partnership with Canadian charity, Jack.org, and hosted a virtual Jack Talk during Mental Health Week. Jack Talks promote student voice, demonstrating how to safely talk about mental health and ways to offer and seek support. The Rise Committee attended a debrief with a Jack.org coordinator following the event, offering suggestions and feedback on ways to improve the presentation, which was extremely well received.

Finally, the Rise Committee launched a unique initiative on Edsby, the school's communication and learning platform. They created a forum, open to all students, called *Bear Hugs* (the school mascot is a bear). The goal of the forum was to find a way to help members of the school community focus on the positive things happening in their lives and to practice expressing gratitude. The page was well received by students and staff alike, with both groups sharing positive messages filled with appreciation.

# STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL

## Niigaan Gdizhaami Project



Our Lady of Sorrows School partnered with Nipissing First Nation (NFN) and submitted an application to the Niigaan Gdizhaami Project through the Anishinabek Education System.

The goal of the project is to acquire additional technology for the Native Second Language classroom and to create an outdoor learning space to enhance the cultural teachings that support student well-being and achievement.

With participation from the entire school community of students, staff, parents, and NFN community members and volunteers, the school worked together to build a medicine garden with pergola coverings for students and staff to use for years to come.

The garden is colour coded as a medicine wheel and includes benches facing each direction with a fireplace in the centre.

On the other side of the garden, located next to a beautiful tree, is an outdoor classroom that has already been enjoyed by teachers and students alike.

The project continues to focus on increasing knowledge and understanding of Anishinabek histories, cultures, perspectives, languages and contributions. Classroom learning is centered around Anishinaabe knowledge that is passed down from one generation to the next through ceremonial teachings. As such, the learning throughout the year is a collaborative effort of local language teachers, which includes community Elders, community partners and members of the educational community throughout the district.

To facilitate this learning and to provide students with visual and auditory support, the school used the Niigaan Gdizhaami Project funds to purchase laptops for the school. Moving forward, students have continued to learn in a hybrid model, with some attending school in-person and others learning at home. The purchase of the laptops has helped to foster connections between students and families and engage everyone in this important experiential learning.

In the near future, this partnership plans to expand this beautiful area by adding a teepee and a teaching lodge. The contributions provided by the elders, Dr. Joan McLeod, George Couchie, and Chief Scott McLeod, help make this learning genuine and connected to the community.

## SJSH Receives Platinum EcoSchools Recognition

NPSC was thrilled to learn that SJSH received special recognition from Ontario EcoSchools, by completing the requirements to become a Platinum EcoSchool, the highest accreditation. The application process and work involved in achieving this high distinction was extensive, with students leading numerous environmental awareness and education activities, including the addition of an 'Environmental Steward' to the school's Student Advisory Council. Special thank you to teacher Terry Dubroy for his efforts in leading this project with our students. NPSC is proud of the hard work and dedication of SJSH in continuing to demonstrate leadership and creativity in environmental conservation.

# AND CARING STEWARDS OF THEIR WORLD.



Idunnu Alabi  
Diversity Representative



Ron Smith

## SJSH Celebrates Black History Month

The Student Diversity Committee at SJSH celebrated Black History Month with a variety of activities, including the creation of an [informational video](#), shared with the student body. The video described the evolution and importance of Black History Month and highlighted important figures in black history.

The Committee also shared their personal reflections of what Black History Month means to them and recognized the successes of black people both past and present. Guest speaker, Ron Smith, also provided a brief synopsis of black slavery in North America, with a focus on the Canadian perspective. We are proud to showcase the important work of this student-led group, who continue to demonstrate leadership in their school community.

## Our Lady of Sorrows Celebrates Treaties Recognition Week with Dr. Joan McLeod



Our Lady of Sorrows School demonstrated their commitment to learning about treaties by welcoming Dr. Joan McLeod to speak to intermediate students during Treaties Recognition Week. A proud Nibisiing Nishnaabe kwe, Dr. McLeod held her position of Land Manager for Nipissing First Nation for 37 years. She was instrumental in the settlement of three land claims that not only increased Nipissing's land holdings, but also established lucrative settlement trusts.

We thank Dr. McLeod for sharing her knowledge with our students and continuing to strengthen the ties between students and community elders. As a conclusion to Treaties Recognition Week, all students reviewed the school's treaty promise and shared in a special celebration of community.

# STUDENTS HAVE THE COMPETENCIES TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND

## St. Alexander Asks the Expert



Students at St. Alexander School had the opportunity to bring their curriculum learning to life by connecting virtually with world-renowned experts. The Grade 6 class participated in several live broadcasts, orchestrated by Joe Grabowski of [Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants](#). During each broadcast, attendees had the opportunity to watch Grabowski interview guest speakers, and students had the opportunity to prepare questions.

Each speaker's presentation complemented classroom learning with examples that include Leela Gilday, a musician from the Northwest Territories, who presented and sang for the class, as part of their learning on [The Secret Path](#) by the Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund. NASA Astronaut Jessica Meir helped introduce the class to a unit on Space, having returned from the international space station only months prior to the class presentation. Similarly, Phillippe Cousteau and the crew of the Pelican enriched the learning in the biodiversity unit and prompted students to complete a presentation on ocean plastics.

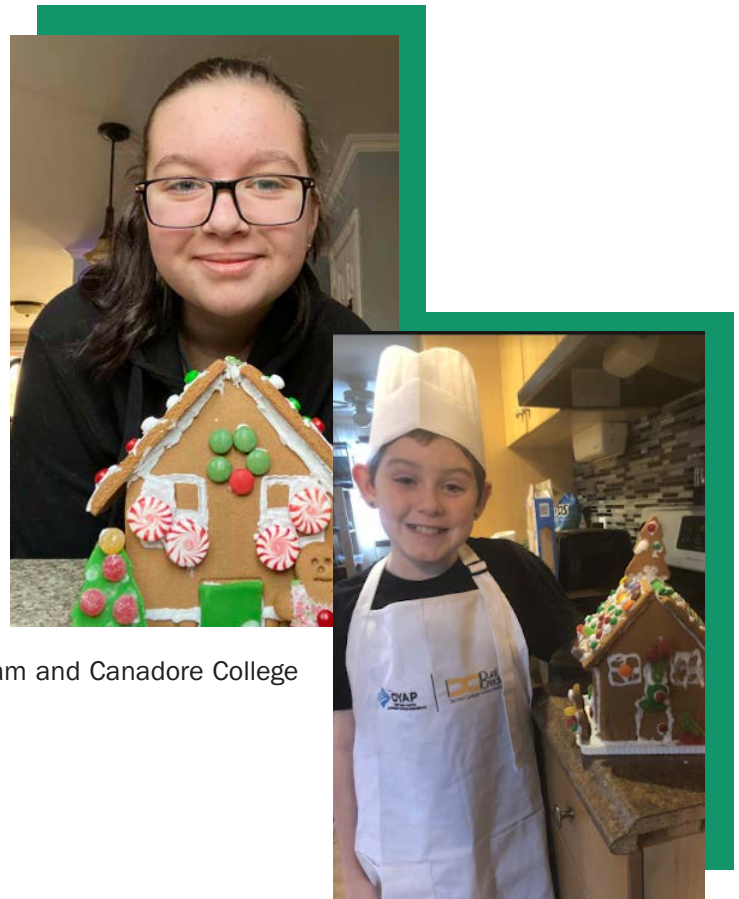
## Chef for a Day!

Intermediate students across NPSC had the opportunity to build their culinary knowledge and essential skills through a synchronous learning event, hosted virtually by the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program and Canadore College. Virtual learners, as well as students attending school in-person, received an activity-box with ingredients to make gingerbread houses and energy bites.

All participants were then invited to participate in a culinary lesson, receiving live, virtual instruction from a Canadore College Chef and having the opportunity to ask questions about their learning.

The hands-on activity provided students with an introductory experience into the skilled trades and college, as well as a discussion about healthy eating and nutrition.

Special thank you to the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program and Canadore College for providing this exceptional experience for our students!



# PURSUE THEIR DESIRED CAREER PATH.



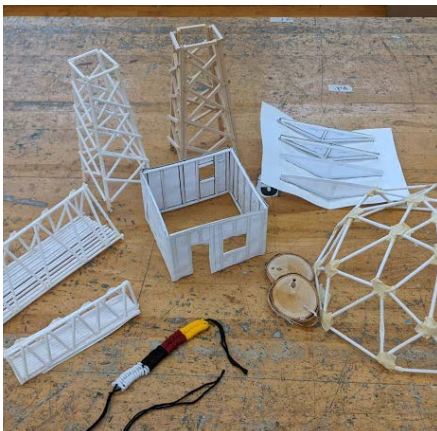
## NPSC Recognizes Computer Science Education Week

Once again, NPSC celebrated Computer Science Education Week, taking part in a variety of activities across the system. Students in Grades 4-8 participated in live-streaming events with Google Canada employees and a special Code Your COVID Hero activity. Students of all ages, from Kindergarten to Grade 12, took part in interactive coding lessons with [code.org](https://code.org). Each lesson connected coders with age-appropriate interactive lessons and other student coders across the globe.

## 12 Days of NPSC Coding

Students across NPSC participated in a unique program organized by our Technology Enabled Learning Facilitator, Peter Anello, called 12 Days of Coding. This activity challenged students every school day for 12 days, to solve a coding problem. Upon completion, each student was entered into a draw for a chance to win coding-related prizes. Over 250 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 participated in the daily challenges, coinciding with curriculum concepts. NPSC was pleased to distribute prizes such as STEAM building kits, Micro:bits, Lego sets and a marble run to participants.

## A Fresh Take on Form, Function and Forces in Design and Tech



Intermediate students enrolled in the Tech and Design program at NPSC engaged with the course curriculum using innovative learning approaches. While COVID prevented students from traveling to St. Hubert School to attend the traditional tech and design classroom in person, teacher Robert Pavone created several projects for students to work on over the semester from their classrooms in their home schools. Over 200 students enrolled in the program received a special package created by the Tech and Design teacher that included project materials, written instructions and access to videos, photos and a Google Slidedeck of instructions to complete the procedural learning assignments. Projects included constructing a geodesic dome, a truss bridge, a cell tower and the culminating project of creating floor plans for a virtual home.

We are proud of our students and grateful to staff for their time and dedication to this important learning!



## St. Joseph-Scollard Hall Bears Music Program Virtual Recording Project

Students enrolled in the Music Program at SJSH were proud to present a virtual rendition of Paul Simon’s “You Can Call Me Al”. The class spent two months working on the project, which was an exemplary demonstration of teamwork from both students and staff. The senior music class assisted in arranging the song for band performance, and each student was delivered a mobile recording kit for audio and video recording at home. When all recordings were submitted, teacher Andrew Dunn edited the video, while teacher Brian Overholt mixed the audio tracks. The video was a huge success and a meaningful culminating activity for the senior students.



## SJSH Musical Theatre Production “Something Rotten”

Approximately 60 students and staff in the Bears Musical Theatre program at SJSH worked diligently to prepare a special performance of Broadway’s smash hit: *Something Rotten!* The production serves as a shining example of how our students and staff persevered and exercised creative and innovative problem-solving skills and rose above the challenges of the pandemic to provide an outstanding virtual performance to our community. Set in 1595, *Something Rotten!* is the comedic story of Nick and Nigel Bottom, who struggle to find success in the theatrical world. Competing with the wildly famous plays of none other than William Shakespeare, the duo takes the advice of an unlikely source and decides to pursue the world of musicals, with a few hiccups along the way. The planning and facilitation of this musical theatre production included consultation with our local Public Health Unit and followed all enhanced health and safety protocols inclusive of daily self-screening, student cohorting and masking requirements.

## Intermediate Music Gets Collaborative

Intermediate students across NPSC engaged with the music curriculum in a new way, working virtually to learn music theory and compose their own music. Using Google Classroom, music teacher Allison Denomme, pictured left, created an assortment of activities and resources to introduce learners to the curriculum. Over 300 students across the district who were enrolled in the program signed up to use a digital service called *BandLab*, which allowed them to record, edit and mix their own music. Students had the opportunity to connect via Google Meet to share their music with their peers and teacher. In addition to completing the *BandLab* unit, students also learned to play the Ukulele through a series of virtual tutorials and activities.



# OUR TEAM



## 2021 - 2022 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).

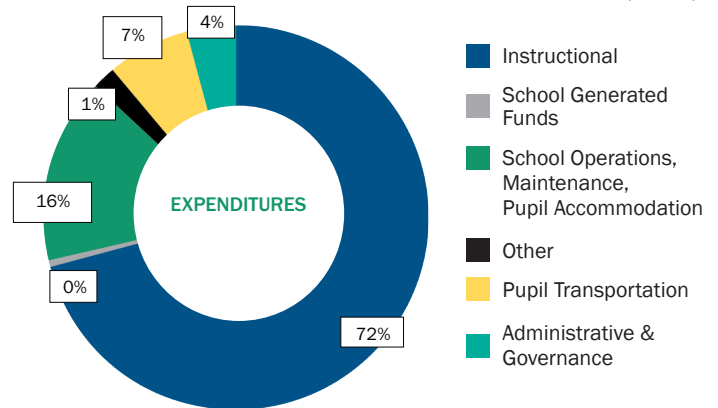


## 2021 - 2022 SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

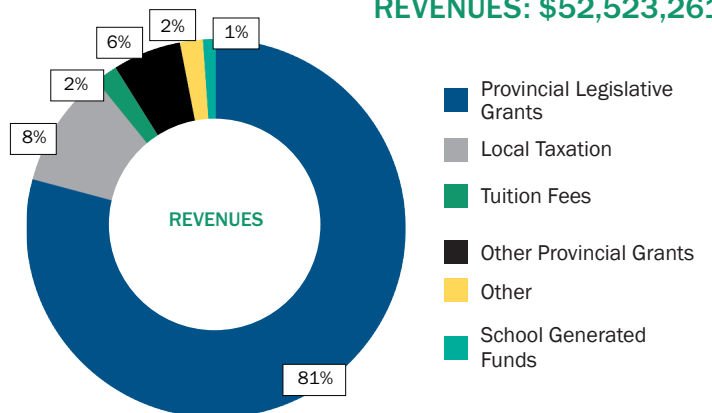
Jody Weller (Superintendent of Education), Grace Barnhardt (Superintendent of Business and Treasurer), Anna Marie Bitonti (Director of Education), Paula Mann (Superintendent of Education).

# BOARD OPERATIONS

**EXPENDITURES: \$50,999,941**



**REVENUES: \$52,523,261**



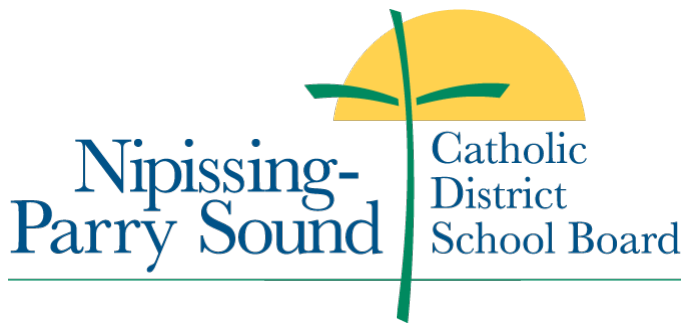
Student Trustee  
(2021-2023)  
Allison Patenaude



Indigenous Student Trustee  
(2020-2022)  
Grace Couchie



## ROOTED IN FAITH ALIVE IN SPIRIT



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