DE LA SALLE COLLEGE "OAKLANDS" PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

YEAR-END REPORT, 2021 - 2022

Executive Summary:

The De La Salle Parents' Association (PA) is pleased to present its Year End Report for 2021 – 2022. A volunteer organization which meets regularly to enrich the extra- and co-curricular student experience at Del, the PA promotes, inspires, and facilitates active and meaningful parental engagement, in a collaborative and collegial way, in the education of their children at De La Salle College "Oaklands." This is achieved through deepening the partnership of the parent community, the school administration, the Brothers of the Christian Schools and the De La Salle Board of Directors.

Despite the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the very gradual easing of health restrictions, the PA continues to work creatively and passionately to provide enrichment for Del students and families. With a pivot to increasing the use of technology, online PA (and committee meetings) have contributed to growth in attendance numbers – at times, more than 100 at PA meetings, and a greater participation in various committee meetings. Furthermore, volunteer recruitment has moved to an online platform, and QR codes have eliminated the use of paper for volunteer signup sheets at PA events. A limited number of small, in-person, social events has provided for extra funds for equipment, initiatives, and funding requests. The PA is pleased to announce it has purchased a bassoon for the band, numerous art supplies and two pottery wheels, plus a kiln to establish a new art studio, funded Science in School programs, a Google cardboard VR set, an online lab, a religious content subscription service, table tennis sets, theatre prop rentals, and much more. Donuts and hot chocolate were provided for the student band practice pre-Santa parade, stress kits were delivered during the exam period, Terry Fox Day returned to Del, as did grad events, and two in-person socials were held for new parents to Del, previously cancelled due to the pandemic, among other PA initiatives, as indicated later in this report.

As always, core Lasallian values serve as the guiding principles for the work of the PA, including respect for all persons, faith in the presence of God, quality education, concern for the poor and social justice, and an inclusive community. This report outlines the PA efforts to deepen engagement and contribute to student success in the Del community in

greater detail for the 2021 -2022 academic year, and we welcome your review and feedback.

Treasurer's Report: **PA Treasurer: Bruce Watson**

The 2021-2022 budget of the Parents Association included total revenue of $70,759, consisting of fees collected from parents at the beginning of the year of $54,270 and a carry-over from last year of $16,614, net of refunds of $125. A reserve of $5K in the PA bank account was expected to remain at Year End.

The initial plan approved by the PA was to spend $30,000 on "Variable Funds" requested by the school stakeholders to pay for expenses to: promote Lasallian values; further the curricular experience of the students; and benefit the wider school community. The balance of the budget plan was to fund several committees, social activities, school events and ancillary costs to operate the PA. Table 1 below outlines these initial plans.

Table 1: Initial PA Plan

Grade Socials	$	7,500
Junior School Event	$	2,000
Senior School Event	$	2,000
Ice Cream Truck	$	2,000
Other Socials	$	3,000
Appreciation and Recognition	$	3,000
Terry Fox Day	$	2,716
Grade 12 Scholarships (4 x $500)	$	4,000
Grade 12 grad	$	4,000
Grade 8 celebration	$	1,500
Interguild	$	500
Other Expenses (Banking and Accounting SW)	$	1,000
Wellness Committee	$	6,000
Contingency	$	1,668
Variable Budget Expenses	$	30,000

The PA events/social programs started the year slower than expected due to the absence of planned social events because of COVID-19 and health restrictions. Only $3.6K had been spent by November 30 and $11K by February 9. It became apparent that many planned social events would not take place and that there would be a large surplus if the PA did not pivot its spending plans to refocus on delivering more of its plan in ways that could be fulfilled despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The PA voted to shift surplus funds to the "Variable Budget" and to increase the amount allocated to events, such as the Grade 8 celebration. The PA put in place a plan to increase the "Variable Budget" as it became apparent that other budget amounts were not going to be needed, including using some of the $5K reserve, if necessary, so that there would not be a large surplus of unspent money at Year End. More detail and a complete list of projects included in the "Variable Budget" are described in the section on the Budget Committee, but it is worth mentioning here that given the unprecedented amount available to the Budget Committee, a few larger purchases that would not normally be able to be made were completed, including a new bassoon for the music department (this purchase was also supported by a bake sale and an individual parent donation), a new pottery kiln and 2 pottery wheels for a new art studio.

By Year End, approximately $30K was spent on various socials and events, and approximately $44K was spent on "Variable Expenses." It is anticipated that there will be a negligible surplus at Year End, June 30, and a small $2K-3K reserve will remain in the PA bank account.

PA Committee activities in 2021 - 2022

Budget Committee **Chair: Fati Gholami**

Committee Members: Lucianna Ciccocioppo, Rebecca Norwood, Irene Poles, Bruce Watson

Ideas for funding requests are welcomed from all members in the Del Community – teachers, administrators, staff, students, and parents. The PA was impressed by the depth and range of requests, spanning music, the arts, science, health & wellness and more. In the first round of funding requests, through the "Variable Budget" and upon

recommendation from the Budget Committee, the PA approved and funded an online interactive science lab, art supplies, the purchase of table tennis sets for the arena, a Formed.org subscription (Catholic faith on demand, i.e. movies, programs, audio and books), Google cardboard VR headsets (students can experience virtual reality in a simple, fun and affordable way), and Cadet pins for award recognitions. The PA also contributed to Theatre De La Salle for prop rentals, grade retreats, Remembrance Day event, and a much-awaited bassoon purchase for the band, the PA funded Scientist in school (Grade 5-8), assisted with the school-wide Step Challenge, class music concerts (Grades 5-12) featuring a Toronto Symphony Orchestra musician, as well as purchasing one kiln, 2 pottery wheels and supplies for visual art students. The PA Budget is designed to support initiatives for students in every grade (Grades 5-12) and across the key areas of athletics, academic enhancements, activities, clubs and health and wellness.

Projects funded by PA

Initial Projects - Phase I	
Pivot Interactives - Online Science Labs	$ 1,345
Art Supplies-Replenishing and Introducing	$ 1,635
Theatre De La Salle	$ 4,500
Table Tennis and Accessories	$ 2,500
Religion Department Subscription	$ 927
Grade Retreats	$ 4,000
Remembrance Day Initiative	$ 316
History and Law Google VR headsets	$ 455
Cadet Pins	$ 1,955
Bassoon	$ 6,200
	$ 23,833
Additional Projects - Phase II	
Scientist in school	$ 2,530
Step Challenge	$ 454
Classroom concerts	$ 1,400
Pottery Kiln	$ 5,490
Pottery Wheels	$ 6,410
Theatre De la salle	$ 2,500
Total Additional Projects	$ 18,785
Total Projects	$ 42,618

Multi-year or legacy items, represented approximately half of spending

Health & Wellness Committee **Co-Chairs: Laura Rocca, Liz Eustace**
Member: Thaissa Helena de Barros Araujo, Susan Poutanen

This is the seventh year that the Health & Wellness Committee has been an active PA committee. The mandate is to liaise with the De La Salle administration and Faculty to

support and promote health and wellness for the school community. At the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year there were several proposals that had been carried over from the previous year, due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions which had made them impossible to implement. In the previous school year, the committee had purchased items to be included in a self-care package to be assembled and distributed to all students. In November 2021, with the help of Health and Wellness parent volunteers, almost 700 self-care packages were distributed to students in their homerooms. During the previous year, we had also secured funding for an initiative to provide students with healthy snacks at exam time. The intention was to purchase and distribute them at the January 2021 exams. Since the return to school was remote and students only returned on campus for the actual exams, it was not possible to coordinate this on campus in a timely manner. Plans are in place to do so for the June exams.

The committee for a few years had wanted to support parents by sponsoring parent webinars. This year, the committee, in consultation with school administration, invited Toronto psychologist, Dr. Sandra Sagrati. She spoke to some 60 parents online one evening about Pivoting to Positive Self-Talk and its connection to the Virtues. She also spoke to the Junior and Senior students separately about positive self-talk, and stress management at school.

Finally, the committee had subsumed the Healthy Eating Proposal that was submitted by parent, Dr. Susan Poutanen. A meeting was held with Dr. Poutanen and the school administration to talk about how school and parents could consult and work together to maintain healthy eating habits and to look at ways to introduce the new Canadian food guide to the menu.

Communications Committee **Chair: Christine Piotrowski**
Member: Lucianna Ciccocioppo

The PA communications team worked with Del's Communication Officer, Will Baldwin, to update and maintain the parent portal section of the school website, gathered info and photographs as content to distribute bi-weekly e-newsletters to the school community, and by Grade Reps, and ensured Del newsletters were mobile-responsive and accessible.

In addition, communications assisted with feedback for the launch of the online volunteer platform, SignUpGenius, and launched the use of QR codes to assist with volunteer recruitment, thereby cutting down on printing paper, and using paper sign-up sheets. The Communications portfolio will continue to move forward in leveraging technology and online platforms to best communicate with Del parents and community.

NISPA Committee **Chair: Julianna Ogden**

(Network of Independent School Parents' Associations of Ontario, formerly Interguild)

Members: Louie Brugnano, Nathalie Waite

Another informative year comes to a close for the Network of Independent School Parents' Association of Ontario (NISPA). Our committee enjoyed the privilege of participating in numerous events through NISPA that covered a wide range of topics and connected us with the broader independent school community. All gatherings share the same aim: the professional development of independent school parent leaders, learning, sharing best practices, support, and networking. This year we focused on hot topics such as the digital transformation of education presented by Garth Nicols, the Vice-Principal of Strategic Innovation and Design at Havergal College. Sue Easton from Ridley College presented information about the school's use of positive psychology to support the well-being of the school community. We participated in numerous round tables to share parents' association best practices from De La Salle and also learn about and share information from other schools that we brought back to our Parents' Association. All notes from our NISPA activities can be accessed by contacting the NISPA Chair, or the PA President.

Volunteers Committee **Co-Chairs: Margaret Margossian, Christine Taschin**

This academic school year 2021/22 the Volunteer Committee was able to launch the SignUpGenius (SUG) system to the De La Salle Community. SUG is a digital online volunteer booking platform. SignUpGenius is an effective and efficient way for us to communicate with parents about events happening at De La Salle where we need parent volunteers to help make each event a success.

Parents can access event listings and sign up for time slots needed with just a click of a button. SignUpGenius helps volunteers plan and determine what days and times they can volunteer. The tool also allows for event reminders via email and text message.

We will continue to message SUG to the parent community to register to use the tool and, as more events in person are planned and occur in the coming year, we will utilize SUG as the method of parent sign up. Given health restrictions were still in place for most of the school this year, events were somewhat limited. However, we were pleased to support volunteer requests such as: when assembly of COVID-19 rapid test kits for students; stress kits assembly and bagging for Del students; gym uniform pickup; high school debate and science fair volunteer judges' recruitment, as well as a few others occurring in the last few months of the school year. We want to thank our parent volunteers for their ongoing support and tireless dedication. Your efforts truly enrich our children's education and contribute meaningfully to overall school spirit. With your support, our school events and endeavours will continue to be a huge success. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment to the De la Salle community.

Social Events Committee **Co-Chairs: Leela D'Cruz, Maria Kannu**

The Parents' Association is pleased to have worked closely with school administration to bring social events back to Del while following applicable public health guidelines. These events included the annual Christmas tradition of providing hot chocolate and donuts to the band members ahead of their filmed participation in the 2021 Toronto Santa Claus Parade. We also assisted with fueling up the Del Ski Team by providing drinks and snacks for their bus ride to a competition.

The parents stepped up wonderfully in support of a PA-hosted "Bake-for-a-Bassoon" sale of numerous sweet goods to raise funds to support the purchase of a bassoon for Del's music hall. In recognition of our new Del parents, the PA hosted a "Welcome to Del Mix & Mingle" for the parents and guardians whose children have joined Del during the two years of the pandemic. Held over two nights - Junior & Senior School - the Mix & Mingle is an opportunity to showcase our exceptional students and their accomplishments, the facilities that support Del's learning environment and to meet face to face with one another, PA members and grade reps, and school staff and administration.

In addition – and to round out our 2021/22 social events with more annual PA traditions – we supported ice cream trucks for all students on Founders Day, and for our outgoing Grade 12 students on their last day of class, plus breakfast goodies for the Grade 12 outdoor sleepover on the field (another beloved tradition). Thank you to the parent and student volunteers who helped the PA bring these events to fruition. We are excited to look ahead to the 2022/23 school year and to bringing back even more social events for our school community.

Terry Fox Day **Co-Chairs: Breda Loganadhan, Livia Silvestri**

Terry Fox Day was held on Thursday, September 30, 2021. To keep the students safe and within their cohorts, the junior school participated in a short walk which culminated on the upper field where they enjoyed a pizza lunch and snacks courtesy of the PA. The senior school students took part in various activities in class and then met on the lower field for the same lunch. Although neither students, teachers, nor volunteers were able to

experience the great energy and fulfillment that is felt when our school community can walk or run throughout the neighbourhood, our generous De La Salle family raised $13,140 which placed the school in 9th place for fundraising in Ontario. I would like to thank Breda Loganadhan for her steadfast leadership and support to this important cause over the last six years. Breda will be retiring from the co-chair position this year as her daughter graduates, and Margaret Margossian will replace her as co-chair with myself, Livia Silvestri.

Together, we are excited to host Terry Fox Day again this year and thank everyone for their support.

Constitution Committee **Chair: Michael Bailey**

The PA Constitution is a dynamic document that is reviewed from time to time to ensure alignment with current processes and policies of the school. The constitution committee's primary role is to amend the Constitution, of which there were no updates this year. The committee also provides the PA executive advice on Governance to ensure PA policies and procedures are followed.

Nominations Committee **Chair: Maricela Lozano**
Member: Lucianna Ciccocioppo

The Nominations Committee was responsible for promoting an open call for nominations and assembling the proposed slate of PA Executive volunteers for the 2022-2023 school year. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to create difficult times for all of us, however, the committee received strong volunteer interest from the parent community, enabling them to present a slate for 2022-2023 PA Executive for consideration at the Annual General Meeting on May 31. Thank you to all new parent volunteers who put their names forward, including those chairing/volunteering for a number of PA Committees, and those who are returning to volunteer once again. We couldn't be the PA without our volunteers!

Curriculum Committee **Chair: Natalie Waite**

Members: Lucy Amankwah, Anna Boyagoda, Louis Brugnano, Sara D'Angelo, Milena Forte, Rory Gleeson, John-Pierre Kamel, Pamela Ng, Julianna Ogden, Renata Roti, Katherine Rouleau, Melody Tan

The Curriculum Committee is an ad hoc committee and was recently made active since the curriculum transformation at Del. The mandate for this year was similar to last year: an interest to focus on the technical aspects of the timetable. The Curriculum Committee task was to get feedback on the Flex Mod schedule from parents/students. VP Mr. Voutsinos would directly solicit feedback from students in their homerooms and from teachers through department meetings. Informal canvassing for parent feedback was conducted by the curriculum committee members from November 4 -30.

On December 1, 2021, an online survey was sent to all parents with an ask for feedback of gifts, concerns and actionable insights concerning the delivering of the curriculum via the Flex Model. This completed exercise was to provide the administration with a parent perspective piece to input into their larger scope of knowledge for leadership. We received feedback from more than 40 participants.

On February 1, 2022, a meeting was called asking for boundaries to ensure this committee and administration were not existing between bridges. Boundaries would move everyone in closer together creating a positive synergy towards curriculum enrichment and youth leadership opportunities. This led to the task of providing Faculty with the bios of each Curriculum Committee members in search of gifts, talents, skills, knowledge, and available resources members would be willing to access for the betterment of Del. Parental expertise could be matched within specific departments, with teachers, to engage in open dialogue with respect to enriching curriculum programming. Bios were collected and submitted to the administration on March 31, 2022, for review and dispersed amongst requisite teachers in the month of April.

The Committee continued with an ongoing task of sourcing resources that might be of interest to the administration in efforts to uplift teachers and students. The enrichment bits being explored: The Kairos Blanket exercise https://www.kairosblanketexercise.org; The *Laudato Si* Action Platform https://laudatosiactionplatform.org

Grade Representatives:

Grade Representatives play an integral role and provide an important liaison between the school's administration and faculty, parents, students, and the PA Executive. Readership of PA information and response times improve significantly with email distribution by Grade Reps. In general, and with gratitude, here's a summary of what our Grade Representatives do:

- Distributed PA Welcome to Del email to parents.
- Collected and provided parents' names and e-mail information for parents to facilitate communication between families.
- Acted as a liaison for the parent community with the PA.
- Collected comments, concerns, notes of praise regarding the new delivery of the curriculum.
- Collected funds and delivered gifts and cards for teachers and administration for Christmas and end of school year.
- Reached out to families to gather ideas to facilitate and support programs at Del via the PA online funding request form.
- Notified and reminded parents of PA meetings, important dates, and information regarding the school.
- Sent the SignUpGenius link to families to encourage them to sign up for volunteer opportunities at the school.

The PA extends its heartfelt gratitude to all members of the Del Parents' Association, the executive, and volunteers and to the entire DEL community: administration, teaching and support staff, parents, students, and families for all your support again this year and during extended challenging times. We sincerely look forward to a new academic year filled with much hope, good health, and a variety of happy occasions to meet new families, re-connect with returning families, and most importantly, work collegially together to amplify the student experience for our children at Del.

De La Salle Parents' Association Executive, 2021 – 2022

Grade 5	**Margaret Margossian**
Grade 5	**Fatima Gerretsen**
Grade 6	**Melody Tan**
Grade 6	**Christine Piotrowski**
Grade 7	**Patricia Di Santo**
Grade 7	**Mary Sardellitti**
Grade 8	**Christine Maloney**
Grade 8	**Kathy Rispoli**
Grade 9	**Christine Taschin**
Grade 9	**Hiyam Jibry**
Grade 10	**Melita Zissopoulos**
Grade 10	**Dora Garcia-Strube**
Grade 11	**Maricela Lozano**
Grade 11	**Deborah Monteleone**
Grade 12	**Breda Loganadhan**
Grade 12	**Terra Attard**
President	**Lucianna Ciccocioppo**
Vice-President	**Mike Bailey**
Treasurer	**Bruce Watson**
Secretary	**John-Pierre Kamel**
Budget	**Fati Gholami**
Communications	**Christine Piotrowski**
CHAIRS:	
Constitution	**Mike Bailey**
Social Events	**Leela D'Cruz**
	Maria Kannu
NISPA	**Juliana Ogden**
Nominations	**Maricela Lozano**
Terry Fox	**Breda Loganadhan**
	Livia Silvestri
Volunteers	**Christine Taschin**

	Margaret Margossian
Health and Wellness	**Laura Rocca**
	Liz Eustace/half-year
Curriculum	**Nathalie Waite**