



ONCE A
LION
ALWAYS A
LION



ST THERESA OF LISIEUX CHS

The Little Flower

FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2022-23



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



At St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS, there is a school spirit that continually shines bright. Together, we are a force that stays focused, positive, powerful, determined, and resilient - you can see it as a reflection on the last few months at STL. Bustling with spirited activity, we enjoyed a phenomenal first semester! As always, the passion and commitment of our STL students and staff are the greatest example of doing the ordinary with extraordinary love.

2023 kicked off with a true example of "The Little Way". Our entire school participated in our annual Terry Fox Walk and we absolutely crushed our goal, STL raised over \$21,000! The President's Council, and several other clubs and committees continue to thrive and exemplify STL School Spirit. We are truly blessed with a dedicated staff who works hard to ensure our students are strong leaders, powerful advocates, intelligent ambassadors, and collaborative team players in the multitude of clubs, councils, committees, and teams to which they belong. I don't even know where to begin with our athletics program. To date, we have won over 4 YRAA championships and we look forward to OFSAA and our spring season. We are also very proud of our very own Yilin Liao who won four race distances and came home with four golds and a silver in the speed skating Ontario winter games! Our social and academic clubs/committees also represented STL with great pride, in fact, our DECA chapter placed top 2 in their provincial standings. Oh yes, we have much to be proud of!



Throughout February, our Guidance Department is working diligently with the course selection process for our students, and have been assisting both in person and remotely to help with choosing courses that will inform our master schedule for the 2023-2024 school year. We kindly ask parents to review their child's course selection to ensure they are prepared for their academic success and wellbeing.

Our grade 12 students are now in the final stretch of their high school careers, and are weighing their post-secondary options. We are confident that whatever path they choose, they will be well equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities that post-secondary demands.

Our Catholic Faith continues to be the centre from where all things emanate. We are blessed to have the continued support of Father Peter Choi and Father Pawel Zborowski, celebrating masses, and offering spiritual guidance when needed. As we enter semester 2, we look forward to the exciting initiatives that STL students will engage in, including the 360 Kids Experience Fundraiser, our athletic program, student government events, and the preparation in recognizing the graduating Class of 2023. As much as we remember the past, we look ahead to the future with hope, and what better symbol of hope is there than living our life in the words that St. Theresa of Lisieux has taught us: "Nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love".

Ms. Elisa Mastromartino, Principal



ARTS ARE ALIVE AT STL

From learning new skills to sharing in new experiences with peers, and beyond, STL Arts has had a busy and successful first semester.



STL's Arts Drama and Music students had the opportunity to return to the theater this past fall, attending a matinee performance of Chicago in Stratford, Ontario. The students were treated to a five-star performance which included rousing renditions of classics like, "All that Jazz" and "Cell Block Tango". For many of our students, this was their first time seeing a live musical, which was a learning experience in itself. Students learned all about theater etiquette and the importance of appreciating live performance, which we know will prove to have been a formative experience for everyone.



Our **Grade 10 and 11 Drama Classes** practiced reflection and reverence in creating and performing for both National Truth and Reconciliation Day and Remembrance Day assemblies. Students used thoughtfulness, critical thinking and discourse, as well as research to inform their pieces which were both moving and educational. We are fortunate as a school community to be able to have the support of our administrators to make the time in our busy school days to commemorate these important dates in our Canadian history.



Our **Grade 11 Drama** students also had the opportunity to participate in a monologue workshop where they experienced rehearsal, performance and feedback in an audition format. This was incredibly eye opening and exciting for our drama students who have only become more proficient in their acting skills over the semester.



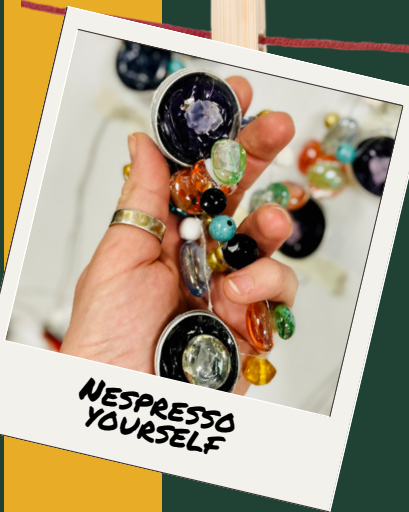
We are proud to announce that after a long break due to COVID, feeder school tours are BACK at STL!! This past December, 80 Grade 10-12 Band Students, as well as 30 Grade 9/10 Vocal Music students treated STL feeder elementary schools to rousing and engaging performances. With a catalog spanning the classics, to new hits, to Christmas favourites, our Music students entertained while experiencing the challenges and rewards of "gigging". We are so proud of our instrumental and vocal students, all of whom are exemplary stewards of our Music program here at STL.





HOLIDAY HARMONIES

Further entertaining our school community, STL Music hosted their “Holiday Harmonies” Christmas Concert on December 13th, right here at STL! Student musicians and vocalists were beaming with Christmas spirit and entertained a full house with their beautiful melodies. It was quite a busy end to the year for STL Music, however, it was also incredibly rewarding to witness our student’s musical development and love for their craft.



**NESPRESSO
YOURSELF**



THE SURREAL LIFE



ART CLUB



**FAIRYTALE
WATERFALL**

Our Visual Arts students have been busy at work, creating dynamic pieces of art while learning multiple new skills and techniques. Students have experimented with unexpected mediums such as Nespresso pods from which they created custom jewelry pieces, or TTC Subway maps as inspiration for painted works. In addition, our Art Club is continuing with their boisterous and engaging weekly meetings where there are no limits to the creativity they can explore.

The Saint Theresa of Lisieux Arts Department continues to encourage students to use their gifts and talents to create incredible art, in many forms. We are all extremely proud. Continue to learn, create and grow in the Arts with us here, at STL!

BUSINESS MARKET FAIR

After 3 long years of not having our Market Fair, the grade 10 business classes held an amazing 2 days of selling yummy and innovative foods. Ranging from snacks and desserts to meals and drinks the students were able to showcase their flair for business.

All the money raised went to:

- Unicef - Children of Afghanistan,
- Ryan's Well,
- Smiles of Innocence
- Feed Ontario

We are so proud of all the Grade 10 Business Students.



The Business Department would like to congratulate all DECA students on their amazing accomplishments and success at the Regional Competition held on November 19th. Our STL Chapter was committed and determined to compete in individual and team categories. Once again, STL students showed their spirit and drive to succeed.



Special Congratulations to the following award winners:

Individual:

NATALIE SIENKIEWICZ - Top 10 exam, top 10 roleplay, Top 10 overall (AAM)

CELIA BOUSTANY - Top 10 roleplay, Top 10 overall (AAM)

DAVID FUENTES - Top 10 exam, Top 10 overall (ACT)

ALESSANDRA DIGIOVANNI - Top 10 exam, Top 10 overall (BFS)

HANDE SORAN - Top 10 exam, Top 10 overall (ENT)

AVA SHARIFI - Top 10 exam (MCS)

SOREN NADJIMI - Top 10 exam, Top 10 roleplay, Top 10 overall (PFL)

RICHARD HAMAWI - Top 10 exam, Top 10 overall (PFL)



Principles:

SHARON BASOVICH - Top 10 exam, Top 10 overall (PBM)

STEVEN KIM - Top 10 exam, Top 10 roleplay, Top 10 overall, Overall 3rd place (PFN)

HONG YI (ERIC) WANG - Top 10 exam (PFN)

AHSAN SAJWANI - Top 10 roleplay (PFN)

DEV ACHRIA - Top 10 exam (PHT)

CHLOE KEU - Top 10 roleplay (PMK)



Teams:

FARRAH KO & VEANNA KHALESSI - Top 10 roleplay (BTDM)

JOSHUA KWON & SHREYAS SIVAKUMAR - Top 10 exam (Joshua), Top 10 overall (BTDM)

CHARLES ZHANG & ANGELA ZHOU - Top 10 exam (Angela) (ETDM)

EMMA XING & ADELINA ZHAO - Top 10 exam (Emma), Top 10 roleplay, Top 10 overall (ETDM)

ANDREA DIGIOVANNI & ADRIAN VASILIEV - Top 10 exams (both), Top 10 roleplay, Top 10 overall, Overall 2nd place (FTDM)

DEVIN CHAUHAN & CLAIRE KU - Top 10 roleplay, Top 10 overall (FTDM)

MARIA MEDNIKOV & MELINA DANESH - Top 10 exam (Melina), Top 10 roleplay, Top 10 overall (HTDM)

CLAIRE SEO & AIDAN QUIMPO - Top 10 roleplay, Top 10 overall (STDM)

JESSICA WANG & DONNA SANATKAR - Top 10 roleplay, Top 10 overall, Overall 3rd place (TTDM)

VICTOR BANICA & MARCUS CHUONG - Top 10 exams (Both), Top 10 roleplay, Top 10 overall, Overall 2nd place (TTDM)

RICHELLE ANTONYTHASAN & DEMI MIRON - Top 10 roleplay, Top 10 overall (BLTDM)

MAYA UMICEVIC & KYLIN LU - Top 10 roleplay, Top 10 overall (MTDM)

IAN KIM & BIANCA ZHANG - Top 10 overall (MTDM)

BUSINESS GALA

During the month of December 2022, Mr. Deocampo's Grade 12 Business Leadership class (BOH4M1) organized and hosted our school's first BUSINESS GALA since the pandemic. The date was originally set to Thursday December 15th, but due to inclement weather, it was pushed back to Tuesday December 20th. Despite this challenge the class of senior business students successfully transformed our school's cafeteria into an event space to host the gala; ultimately accomplishing their objective of raising awareness and funds for charity, and putting on a wonderful evening of food and entertainment for almost 300 guests. The Gatsby Jazz Gala, as it was called, raised \$5,178.75 for 360°kids whose aim is to address and combat youth homelessness in York Region.

Our school would like to thank Mr. Deocampo's class of 33 management students who were assigned to various committees, as well as all the attendees, their community sponsors and donors, and the custodial and tech department for making this charitable experience possible



DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES

The O.E.C.T.A. Prix jeunes écrivaines et écrivains is the French edition of the annual Young Authors Awards creative writing contest.

The Prix, which is open to Catholic elementary and secondary school students across Ontario, welcomes submissions in the following genres: poetry, short story, nonfiction, and play. Entries are judged at three levels of competition—School, Unit (Board), and Provincial—with the top entries in the School and Unit (Board) Levels advancing to the subsequent level.

The Department of Modern Languages would like to thank all participants for their interest, time, and efforts in placing an entry in the annual PJE contest.

After much deliberation...we would like to wish the following students best of luck as they move forward to the Unit (Board) level competition.

YOUNG AUTHORS AWARDS
PRIX JEUNES ÉCRIVAINS

ONTARIO ENGLISH
Catholic
Teachers
ASSOCIATION



CATEGORIES

Poetry:

JUNIOR

Melina Danesh

SENIOR

Richelle Antonythasan

Short Story:

Veanna Khalessi

Alyssa You Hosseini

Nonfiction:

Armita Bhatti



TOP 5

REASONS TO VISIT THE

STL LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS

05 THE SPACE



The STL Library is an adaptable learning environment fit for all. The space houses collaborative work tables, quiet study carrels and even cozy arm chairs.



THE STAFF

04

Feel a little overwhelmed by the space? Just ask for help. Ms. Melo, teacher librarian & Ms Cofini, library tech, are friendly, knowledgeable and always ready to support you.

03 TECH SUPPORT



Need to borrow a chromebook, print an assignment, login to your accounts, record a podcast? The library has got you covered. Just stop by the circulation desk.



RECHARGE

02

Not only can you recharge your devices at the library, but you can also recharge your spirit. Sit by the fireplace, chat with a friend and simply take a mental health break.

01 BOOKS, OF COURSE

Looking to do some research, meet an interesting character, discover a new world? Books are at the heart of the library. Our physical & digital collection is constantly growing. Visit the Library Learning Commons and check one out today.



Student

GOVERNMENT



Athletic Council's mission is to promote a healthy, active lifestyle while recognizing the accomplishments of our STL Lions.

In September, the Athletic Council helped to organize the Terry Fox walk. Students participated in a walk around the neighborhood and ended it off with a delicious BBQ lunch back at the school. Prior to the Christmas Break, AC's annual Basketball Buy-in took place. This event was an exciting game between some of our favorite teachers and our senior boys and girls basketball team.

Health Awareness Week will be taking place March 20-24. This week will include booster juice sales at lunch, important facts about health, and a food group scavenger hunt.

Our biggest event, the Athletic Banquet, will happen in June. This event will celebrate all our athletes have accomplished throughout the season and recognize STL's outstanding coaches for their time and dedication to their team.

A huge thank you to our STL Lions for their participation in our events so far and we look forward to your continued support!

BY: Kaitlyn Anderson & Amarachi Achioso.



Morning and Afternoon Announcements

From October 17th, 2022, the members of Chaplaincy Council have been responsible for working the morning and afternoon announcements. Following through with a weekly schedule, two people go to the office at the beginning and end of each school day to read the prayer and any needed announcements. Reading the prayer for everyone in STL has been and continues to be a great and meaningful experience for our members. Chaplaincy Council would also like to extend our thanks and appreciation for Mr. Sorrentino—who comes every morning to offer his support—and those in the front office who always greet us warmly. It's an amazing display of St. Theresa's Little Way and we will continue to do our best in initiating and wrapping-up the school day!

Grade 8 Parent Night

On the night of November 23rd, St. Theresa's student government was busy preparing for Grade 8 Parent Night, where the parents of prospective students came to scope out the school and its various programs.

Booths for the councils and clubs were set up in the main hall with displays that depicted what each one was all about! Chaplaincy Council members were also busy, helping with the setup in the gym as well as our very own booth and tri-fold board. Kudos to our members who manned the booth, assisted on school-wide tours, and the rest of the STL student government who made the night as enjoyable and successful as it was! We extend our prayers and well wishes not only to them, but to the future students who will join our beloved student body next year.



Advent Liturgy

On December 20th, Chaplaincy Council organized STL's Advent Liturgy. Along with a group of fellow students and school custodians, the members of Chaplaincy Council set out to transform the gym into a holy place. During the liturgy, we and the rest of the student body reflected on our time throughout 2022 and all the achievements and challenges that helped us grow and develop. Not only that, but we were also able to express our hopes and aspirations for the coming new year. Truly an amazing and meaningful moment. On behalf of Chaplaincy Council, we would like to thank Rev. Nicetus Tairo for celebrating the mass, Ms. Buffa and the choir for their gorgeous voices, the school board trustees for their endless support, the custodians and student volunteers for helping set up the gym, and the whole student body for their reverence and cooperation during the liturgy. We wish all of STL a wonderful school year!

BY: Amilya Lee & Serene Dydyna

In December, STL Lions and Cubs were given the chance to write and decorate Christmas cards through Cub Council's "Christmas Cards for Kids" event. The cards were sent to youth at 360 Kids, which is a provincial non-profit organization that helps children to overcome crises and provides housing. On December 13th and 14th, students used paper, stickers, markers, glue, and their creativity to make their cards in the library during all three lunches, receiving one volunteer hour per card. The event was a success resulting in Cub Council collecting over 200 Christmas cards and putting smiles on the faces of hundreds of kids. Thank you to everyone who made or brought in cards!



Entering the new year marks the beginning of exam season. For high school students fresh out of the pandemic, however, this can be especially alarming as the concept of writing an exam has not been a relevant topic for nearly three years. Cub Council, foreseeing the need to be prepared, diligently created study tips through Instagram posts and offered an in-person, interactive workshop for STL cubs.

On January 19th and 20th, members of Cub Council also visited the Grade 9 homeroom classes to share important information, reminders, and tips for students to know how to succeed prior to and during exam week. All subjects from math to French were covered with first-hand tips from experienced students and teachers. After this workshop, students felt less anxious and were better prepared to effectively study for the next week leading up to exams.

To celebrate our first set of exams in 3 years, Cub Council organized a new event: the "Hearts & Roses" Valentine's Day-themed dance for grade nines. The dance took place in the gym on Friday, February 10th, 2023 from 7pm to 11pm. Cost of admission was \$15. Students experienced a fun-filled evening of dancing with a live DJ and activities such as limbo and crafts. This was a great chance to reward oneself after exams and to have some fun with friends, new or old! Also, students got to take part in a free 10 question compatibility quiz to discover who at STL shares their interests. What an opportunity to make a new friend or two! Thank you to all who joined us on this romantic and thrilling occasion.

Follow Cub Council's Instagram @cubcouncil or check out our website at www.cubcouncil.org.

BY: Minna Choi, Evelyn Sar, and Claire Shin



The Diversity & Equity Council's (D&E) mission is "to heighten awareness and celebrate the richness of the diversity found within the school's Catholic learning community." We pride ourselves on always being there to welcome all students with open arms. It is this sentiment that has been and will continue to be exemplified by all the events we take on.

Earlier this year, D&E hosted 'Where You At?', which aimed to visually represent the cultural diversity present at STL. Through this event, D&E strived to celebrate the backgrounds of STL's students, educate them on the importance of one's culture, and explore the difference between culture and ethnicity, and how well students feel represented in the community. Through an interactive map, Post-it mind map, and ribbon activity, D&E offered students a variety of means to not only learn more about their own background, but also those of their peers, sparking invigorating conversations.

D&E also believes in the importance of shining a spotlight on issues that marginalized communities continue to have and face. We believe in the importance of spreading diversity and equity all year round. That is why our 'Cultural & Equity Calendar' came to be. Through this ongoing tool, D&E posts about cultural celebrations and days of recognition that are not always included in Canada's civic calendar. This event keeps our message going throughout the whole year, while promoting a safe space for those we celebrate.

In previous years, D&E has also hosted 'Women of the World', a week-long celebration of powerful and impactful women, and 'Where in the World', a month-long event which brought food, music, and games into the STL atmosphere, while also offering amazing prizes for those who participated. Additionally, D&E has never been afraid of a little work, as we also hosted another month-long event celebrating Black Heritage Month. This year, STL can look forward to guest speakers, interesting booths, informational videos, interactive in-class activities, and much more!

Even though half the year is over, D&E is going to put in double the effort. We understand that a dedicated and resilient team is vital for a successful council, and we strive to be that team as a part of the Diversity and Equity council. Our members are passionate and motivated to raise awareness and promote diversity and equity within our school community. With upcoming events and plans to enhance current initiatives, there's always something to look forward to as part of the Diversity and Equity council.

BY: Madison Nguyen & Thinon Suresh



Follow D&E on Instagram @stldiversityandequity & stay up to date on events and posts.

The Environmental Council is striving to make STL a more eco-friendly school! Our mission is "to promote environmental awareness, respect and appreciation for our planet while fulfilling God's duty of stewardship." We started off the year at Muskoka Woods, with a chance to bond, make new connections and cement our commitment to the environment.

Each year, the Enviro family conducts a variety of special events that touch the hearts and minds of each and every individual here at STL. So far, we have initiated weekly enviro tips on Mondays in the form of posting on STL's Instagram to offer environmental insights.

With an environmental lense, the enviro council collaborated with Spirit Council in running the Halloween costume contest and establishing an environmentally friendly category, honouring costumes composed of eco-friendly items. Students and teachers had a blast participating!

During the grade 8 orientation night, our enviro booth highlighted the importance of a council like ours.

In the upcoming semester, enviro council has much more to offer. During Valentine's Day we hosted an arts and crafts event offering up an opportunity for students to use their creativity. Using reusable material, student made different arts and crafts while showcasing the loving spirit that Valentine's Day brings.

Coming up, the Council will also be planning for Enviro Week, which will focus on promoting environmental awareness and stability through activities that will include games, discussions, and prizes.

The Enviro family is a group of hard-working and diligent students who all have the desire and creative mindsets to change the world for the better! If you have not done so already, make sure to follow us on Instagram: @enviro.stl.

BY: Alessandra Pergola & Githmi Illamperuma



Intramural Council aims to create an atmosphere that brings STL students together through inclusive and friendly competition! This year we've hosted a junior dodgeball drop-in, and after all of the positive feedback, a senior dodgeball drop-in. Packing the gym with 60+ students for some competitive, ball-throwing fun. Students were able to play with friends, meet new people, and compete in a sport they love.

What other plans do we have for this year? Drop-ins to come include: badminton, volleyball, basketball, and more! We also plan to host bonding events outside the school.

Our amazing group of students also plan online events like the "12 Days Of Intramural Christmas", where students answered polls and questions in order to win prizes and show off their knowledge of winter sports via Instagram.

As you can see, this year Intramural Council is working hard to ensure students have a fantastic year full of sports, excitement, and school spirit. Stay up-to-date, join & follow...

Google classroom code: 3lqoa5f

Instagram: @stl_intramural_council

BY: Summer Mehdi and Apollo Cezar



The Social Justice Council is passionate about raising awareness and getting involved with the social injustices occurring in the community and the world. Our council advocates for important causes and hopes to make a difference in the school community. In September, the council decorated the school for our Truth and Reconciliation Assembly, which introduced the YCDSB and STL Land Acknowledgement. Then, for our first official event, we brought awareness to the Mahsa Amini situation in Iran with support from additional students in our STL community. Collaboratively, Social Justice Council produced a broadcast which aired in every classroom, further shedding light on the injustices occurring in Iran. Overall, the event was a huge success—the pledge poster to stand with the women of Iran was saturated with signatures! We then turned our attention to Operation Saint Nick, focusing our efforts on assisting those struggling financially by providing generous donations. As a council, we are truly thankful for the contributions to OSN. This event would not be possible without STL student support.

Social Justice Council is further inspired and motivated to continue its efforts. Be prepared for upcoming events and initiatives that aim to engage the STL student body including future posts, potential broadcasts and physical awareness booths. For more information, follow Social Justice the Social Justice Instagram account: @stlsocialjustice!

BY: David Kwon, Chris Sarkissian, Bremmi Theepan & Connie Xie





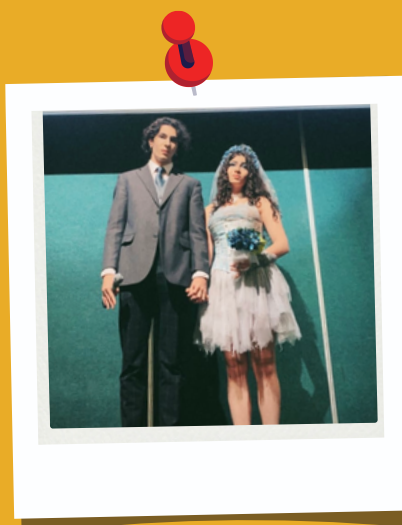
2022 was an eventful ride for Spirit Council! Full of holiday events, student government collaborations, new activities and more. Our council will continue devoting ourselves to making the STL community more fun and welcoming in 2023. This year, Spirit Council is excited to introduce more upcoming events, providing STL students with opportunities to make new memories at our school. From our Halloween costume contest, allowing students to strut down the runway in their best-curated costume, to our Christmas sing-along, showcasing our passionate and fearless singers, we are confident that the new year will be far from disappointing for STL.

January has passed us by and Spirit Council wants to reward students for conquering exams. On Valentine's Day, Spirit Council did just this by encouraging the spirit of love and giving to our school.

Spirit Council hopes to leave this year with a bang and host one of our most anticipated events, "Spirit Week!" During this theme driven week we will have the hallways filled with student spirit by fostering excitement and anticipation amidst all our students.

BY: Jaden Arnold

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Instagram: @stlspiritcouncil



STL's Student Council is a group of 16 hard-working members who collaborate to create events that enhance the high school experience! As a council, we value responsibility, equality, and inclusion; therefore, we make it our mission to be advocates for the student voice and create friendly environments for the whole student body.

Over the past few years, Student council has been responsible for hosting one of the largest and most memorable events of the year... semi-formal! Semi-formal is an exclusive opportunity that allows Grade 11 students to enjoy themselves through dinner and dance with friends as a way to take a break from academics. This year's semi-formal took place in February after after exams. Alongside semi-formal, Pancake Tuesday is another notable event that Student council has hosted in the past and hopes to bring back for the student body.

We would like to thank every student for their support and participation in all of our initiatives. There is still so much to come, and we are very excited to share what we have planned! Follow us on Instagram for updates @stlstudentcouncil.

BY: Emily Jing, Stephanie Lee, and Emma Shi

"Although being a member of Student Council came with a lot of responsibility, it was a golden opportunity to further my involvement within the school and passion for contributing to the student body. Before joining Student Council, I originally thought the council meetings and members would be really serious and stern. Later on, I learned that the reality of Student Council was the complete opposite from my initial impression. Everybody in the council was so welcoming and accepting, and it almost felt like it was a second home.

Working in an environment with such friendly and open-minded individuals within the council has been a great self growth and learning experience. However, most importantly, Student Council has helped me create some of my most memorable and long-lasting friendships that I hope to carry with me for the rest of my lifetime. Honestly, as a member of Student Council, I am so glad and honoured to be a part of such a wonderful team."

Emily Jing, member of Student Council (Gr. 10)





ATHLETIC PRIDE



2022 JR & SR YRAA CHAMPIONS



STL PREMIER

STL'S PAWD CAST



Welcome to 'Paw'dcast Club!

'Paw'dcast Club is a new initiative at STL that focuses on uniting the community. Through interviews on our Instagram page and monthly podcast releases, we aim towards building an inclusive atmosphere for staff and students at STL.

Be sure to **CHECK OUT** our debut podcast on Mental Health and Exam Preparation.

Want to be featured on our next podcast? Reach out to Mr Conte or our executive team.

@PAWDCASTCLUB



Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love.

- St Theresa of Lisieux