



St Theresa of Lisieux CHS

# The Little Flower

SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023



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# Principal's Message



This academic school year was certainly a year where everyone heard our STL Lions Roar! My strong belief is that education should encompass the holistic development of the mind, body, and soul. Our school's rich extracurricular activities reflect this approach. STL has won 6 YRAA athletic titles and many students have qualified for world-level competitions in Robotics, DECA, Model UN, and Hosa. Additionally, the school has achieved high scores in EQAO Mathematics and OSSLT, demonstrating just some of the benefits of this holistic approach ... our STL Lion's Roar is certainly loud and fierce! Allowing students to perform ordinary tasks with extraordinary love is possible thanks to the unwavering commitment of our staff teaching faculty, non-teaching staff and our admin team, Ms. Akleh, Ms. Brockest, Mr. Jorge, and Mr. Marrin.

Over the past six years, I have been blessed to be part of a community that places the needs of our students at the forefront of all our endeavours. Together we ensure and provide a safe and caring learning environment for all that walk through the amazing halls of this school. Most importantly, we do so in a manner that exemplifies what our patroness St. Theresa of Lisieux taught us, "We do the ordinary with extraordinary Love".

I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished as a Catholic school community during my time here. We came together during tribulations and yet managed to still celebrate many accomplishments. I would like to thank the entire STL community for walking alongside me over the years and for always giving the best of yourselves to our school. Please know that St. Theresa of Lisieux will forever have a special place in my heart.



# STL Arts is Everywhere; Arts are All Around

Second semester has been NON-STOP fun and excitement for the STL Arts Department! Students have participated in invigorating life experiences, allowing them to have multiple opportunities in the Arts at their fingertips.

Ms. Caschera's Grade 9 Visual Arts class kicked off the new year creating a beautiful display of red and gold in the main foyer to celebrate the Lunar New Year. The display featured handcrafted lanterns hanging to symbolize fire, good fortune and joy.



As part of the Career Pathways day for Grade 10s, the Arts Department welcomed guest speaker Antonio Ienco, Co-Founder and Chair of the Vaughan International Film Festival, to speak to students about pathways in the film industry and how to get involved in film within their own region.

In February, STL's Instrumental Band attended the Ontario Band Association's Provincial Band Festival, having the opportunity to work with Adjudicator and Clinician, Sandi Chasson. Our students performed, received feedback and took part in listening to the various other musicians present at the festival. Our student musicians earned a SILVER PLUS overall for their strong musicality and concentration! Congratulations, STL Music Program!



To commemorate Good Friday, Ms. Caschera and Ms. Buffa's Grade 10 Drama classes, along with Mr. Meiorin, Ms. Frascini, Ms. Caschera and Ms. Buffa's Visual Arts classes, hosted the Stations of the Cross for our student body.



The performance took place in the style of theater-in-the-round - with the dramatic action taking place around the audience, while being simultaneously cast to the screens above. To mark each station, beautiful visuals of the Stations of the Cross were painted, creating Jesus' path around the cafeteria. Brianna, Mia and Yichen's musical accompaniment made an impact while allowing our population to reflect on the solemnity of Jesus' final journey. Thank you to all students involved for making this multidimensional presentation possible.



At the end of April, STL Arts embarked on their 10th Anniversary trip to New York City with forty-six Grade 11 and 12 Drama, Visual Arts and Technology students. Students were immersed in the city and all of its attractions, including Grand Central Station, 9/11 Memorial, Central Park, Times Square, SoHo, Rockefeller Centre and St. Patrick's Cathedral, to name a few. Students explored the Arts through visits to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Modern Museum of Art, took in Broadway shows, **Pictures from Home** and **Sweeney Todd**, as well as embarked on a graffiti walk to see various famous graffiti works around the city, including a Banksy piece. Students truly immersed themselves in the city and had an engaging experience surrounding the Arts.

STL's Music Program wowed audiences on May 4th with their "Swing Into Spring" concert, featuring our student musicians and vocalists. STL Music performed rousing renditions of classics like "A Child's Lullaby", music from **Chicago**, highlights from **The Greatest Showman**, as well as fan favourites like "Viva La Vida" and highlights from **Guardians of the Galaxy**. Our Grade 12s had a beautiful sendoff, reflecting on their special moments, friendships and musical experiences that made their times in the STL Music program extra special. Congratulations STL Music on an unforgettable evening!

Finally, STL's Grade 12 Drama Class hosted an evening of rip-roaring laughter with their performance of "Rogues' Gallery", a quirky play that focuses on the absurdity and commodification of art. The class took on extraordinary characters and extraordinary circumstances, centring around the admiration and destruction of art piece, "Cardboard Boxes" by art-world bad-boy, Godfrey Nameless. To achieve this, over 100 cardboard boxes were used, reused and abused in creating this memorable piece of theater. Congratulations to all of our student actors who went above and beyond making this performance so well received by the STL community!!! BRAVO!

We look forward to another successful and memorable year in Arts in the 2023/2024 school year!

Follow along on Instagram @STLArts!



# STL ATHLETICS



On June 8th, our Sr boys rugby team traveled to London, Ontario to represent the YRAA amongst the 16 best high school rugby teams in Ontario at OFSAA. After a thrilling season, the boys did not disappoint in their first match taking on the tournament host and former OFSAA winners who are perennial contenders from Medway High School. The Lions played in hostile conditions as the entire student population of 1600 we allowed out to watch the 12:30 pm kick off. Needless to say, the atmosphere was electric and our Lions were up to the challenge going after the Cowboys with a series of excellent phases, ultimately taking an 18 to 15 lead into the dying minutes of the game. Our defence was unmatched keeping the opponents neutralized and unable to strike back leaving the massive crowd silent and in shock.

With the first OFSAA win in school rugby history, the boys would head to the quarter final on day 2 to take on champions from the Guelph Region and number 2 seed the JF Ross Royals. Heavy underdogs once again, our Lions would need to be close to perfect to keep the dream season alive and wouldn't you know it, they were very well close to it. Trailing 5 to 0 for most of the contest, the boys played amazing and stuck to the game plan. Despite multiple opportunities to punch in a try from close range, the Lions could not equalize and would go on to drop the game 12-0, but managed to gain an incredible amount of respect from the opponents, media and onlookers.

We would like to congratulate the team on an unprecedented run and for bringing so much pride and excitement to our school over the past few weeks. We say goodbye to our grade 12s and thank them for all their leadership. We now look forward to running it back with almost 85 percent of our team returning next year. Let's go Lions!





# IN FIELD

St. Theresa of Lisieux's Athletic Banquet was another huge success this year with 415 athletes and coaches in attendance representing 32 teams! Our Mission Impossible theme with the slogan "Best in the Field" was very fitting since we achieved 6 YRAA championship banners and numerous podium finishes making our school a true leader in the YRAA. A sincere thank you to our coaches and administrative team who continue to support our athletic endeavours and to Athletic Council for creating and executing an exceptional night for everyone to enjoy. We would also like to thank our principal Ms. Elisabetta Mastromartino, who has been extremely supportive of STL athletics throughout her time here at STL, but who is sadly leaving us in June.

Special recognition goes out to our big award winners, Congratulations!







# ST. THERESA OF LISIEUX BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

The STL Business Department hosted another wonderful Market Fair event this Spring. 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 amazing. All the money that was raised went to Sick Kids' - Make a Wish Foundation. We are so proud of all the Grade 10 Business Students.



## *Business* LUNCHEON

The Business Luncheon was held on May 25th in support of Cystic Fibrosis Canada. Mr. Deocampo's Business Leadership students came together to organize a special and memorable event for charity. They transformed STL's gym into an event space; hosting a Luncheon that included information, conversation, entertainment and food that showcased STL's little ways in terms of hospitality and character. This was all done for the awareness and support of Cystic Fibrosis Canada.

All of the business teachers are so proud of all the hard work and dedication that the students showed throughout this process. We were amazed by such a wonderful afternoon. Congratulations to all!





The Business Department would like to congratulate all the students who participated in the University of Waterloo's Financial Literacy Competitions. Our school earned second place on the university's School Honour Roll, and in recognition we received a prize of \$500 to spend on classroom enhancements related to financial literacy.

A special shout out to the following students, who received an Honour Roll standing in their grade division and finished top 10:

- Sharon Basovich (3rd)
- Hong Yi Wang (8th)

Way to go STL!!!



# 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 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. This year, a group of students has won the provincial Young Authors Awards/Prix Jeunes Écrivains! Please help us in congratulating the following students:



**Melina Danesh**  
French Grades 9-10  
**Poem Category**



**Sophia Cheng**  
French Grades 9-10  
**Play Category**



**Farrah Ko**  
French Grades 9-10  
**Play Category**



**Veanna Khalessi Hosseini**  
French Grades 9-10  
**Nonfiction Category**



Winning students will receive commemorative plaques and their own personal copy of the Young Authors book. This is a great honour for the students and for your school.



# STL LIBRARY LLC

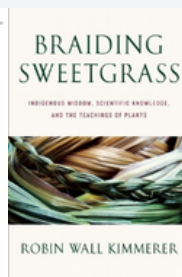
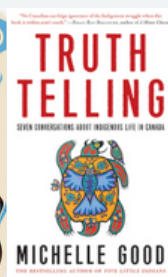
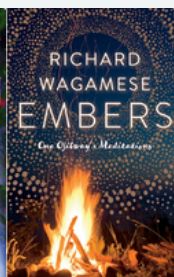


We are thrilled to announce that our STL Library Learning Commons is upgrading its educational resources with new virtual reality (VR) equipment! This new addition will enable our STL community to experience and interact with educational content in a whole new way. With VR, users can explore ancient civilizations, walk through the human body, hone their math skills and even visit outer space. This technology has the potential to revolutionize the way we learn and engage with information. We can't wait to see the impact it will have on our students and look forward to sharing this exciting opportunity with everyone. Stay tuned for more information on when the equipment will be available for use, and get ready to experience the power of VR for yourself at the STL library LLC.

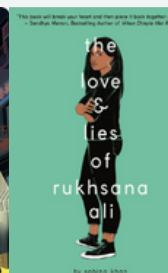
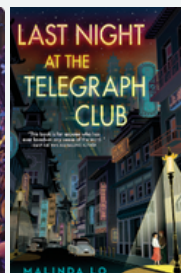
## TAKE THE Summer Reading Challenge

- READ a book about a place you'd love to explore
- READ a book from multiple Points of view
- READ a book by an author from a marginalized group
- READ a book recommended by a friend
- READ a book that speaks to your soul and renews your faith

*New*  
COLLECTION



In June we honoured Indigenous Heritage Month and Pride Month by adding to our ever expanding collection. Here are just some of the new titles now available.



# Student

# GOVERNMENT





## CHAPLAINCY COUNCIL

It's been an amazing year! For our many masses and liturgies, Chaplaincy Council would like to extend our thanks to all the student volunteers, the custodians, Father Peter Choi and Father Pawel Zboroski, and for the entire student body for their reverence during the services. We'd also like to extend our congratulations and gratitude to our graduating members, we wish you luck in all your future endeavors! It's been wonderful, from reading the morning and afternoon prayer to our annual Change for Jesus fundraiser. We look forward to next year with our returning and new members to continue exemplifying the spirit of St. Theresa's Little Way.

BY: Amilya Lee

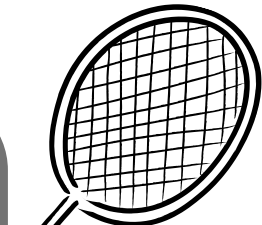


As another school year comes to an end, Intramural would like to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey that we've shared together. It's been a wonderful year full of sportsmanship, competitiveness, and countless memories that we'll carry with us all throughout and beyond our time at STL.

As part of our tradition, we kicked off the year by focusing on our newest members to STL and showing them what our school is all about with our junior dodgeball drop-in. We are also very proud of our first ever badminton drop-in. Both these events were a massive success. The Intramural council was pleased to see the gym full of enthusiastic and diverse players all year long at their drop-ins, where the students had the opportunity to come together after school and enjoy playing a sport that they and their friends are passionate about.

Moving on to spring season, our Lions had the chance to show off their touch and finesse at our soccer drop-in! This was our first drop-in event on the field since COVID times. Players were filled with spirit, but also good sportsmanship. Intramural would like to thank everyone who participated on an exciting and memorable year, and we look forward to the next year of Intramural events. For our grade 12 students who are graduating: thank you for your contributions to Intramural and good luck next year.

BY: Apollo Cezar and Elizabeth Ling







Use the gifts you have received and  
pass on the love that has been given to you.  
- St Theresa of Lisieux