



COLLINGWOOD SCHOOL

ALUMNOTES

July 20, 2021



Hello Fellow Alumni,

A sincere thank you to everyone who supported our online initiatives in the 2020/2021 school year. We know everyone missed their respective reunions and seasonal get-togethers but the support of the various webinars that were hosted was sincerely appreciated. I would like to particularly recognize the fantastic alumni engagement we had for the schools EDI initiative and strategic review surveys. The alumni participation in the CollingwoodU initiative was a fantastic success and we are eager to build on the momentum in the coming school year. As we look to the upcoming year we are hopeful for a return to more of our traditional alumni engagements and we promise to keep providing new and exciting programs for our alumni world-wide.

As a final thought I wanted to convey that involvement of the alumni in the growth of the Collingwood student is an important theme we hope the community will continue to embrace. The senior school students reap immense benefits of our time, knowledge and experiences as they look out to their lives beyond Morven and into university and beyond. Thank you for all that you do to support that journey.

Best to you and your families,

Tim O'Neill '96
Chair, Alumni Executive Committee

Upcoming Alumni Events

Save the Date!

Focusing on the 90%

The Collingwood Alumni Association is proud to announce a webinar series with [Darci Lang](#), author and motivational speaker.

Please join us for this five part webinar series that will change how you view yourself and your connection with others.

The webinars will take place: **January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12 and May 10, 2022**

For more information, reach out to alumni@collingwood.org.



We look forward to hosting the following reunions in the coming year!

We would like to acknowledge that while our 10, 20 and 30 year reunions were unable to take place this past year, we look forward to celebrating with our alumni when in-person events are allowed to take place.

Departing Staff & Faculty Acknowledgements

Janis Clark



Janis has made many significant contributions as a teacher, Director, and member of the Senior Leadership Team during her 17-year career at Collingwood. Janis first joined as a Senior English Teacher in 1989, then taught at Wentworth in Grades 4 and 5 before moving into our Admissions Office where she became the Director of Admissions in 2011, and later our Director of Enrolment. Most recently, Janis has been our Director of Financial Aid, establishing our Financial Aid Program. Janis was the piano accompanist to choirs on both campuses, founded the Opera Club, coached Bantam Girls' volleyball, and organized and chaperoned student trips both locally and internationally. Janis is someone who prides herself on creating deep and meaningful relationships with all members of our School community, and she will be remembered as a valued colleague, friend, and positive and professional influence in our School. She was also a devoted Class Mom to her son Jack (Class of 2005). We thank Janis for her service to our School and wish her the very best!

Erin French

Erin joined Collingwood in September 2003, and is best known as a Middle School Key Teacher and Key Department Leader as well as co-coach of the Junior Field Hockey Team. Erin dedicated her career to encouraging students with diagnosed learning differences and takes great pride in the accomplishments her "kids" have achieved over the past 18 years. She has led her career by always asking "What's best for students?". Erin loved every student like they were her own; she celebrated their successes and saw them through some of the toughest times. Many parents appreciated the care and love that Erin showed to their children – she stayed connected with both students and families well beyond their transition to the Senior School and graduation. With her warm smile and self-deprecating humour, Erin often has us laughing at the funny moments of everyday life. We wish Erin the very best as she joins her new school in September.

Lise Middleton



A member of the Wentworth Faculty for the past 16 years, Lise is best known for being a cornerstone of the Grade 4 Team. Lise utilizes positivity and enthusiasm to empower each of her students, and the effect is life-changing. A consummate entrepreneur, Lise was equipping her students with financial literacy tools before this was a trend in schools! Her genuine interest and care for others always shines through. Whether she is working with students in small groups or one-on-one, or handling things behind the scenes in order to make the day/activity run smoothly, Lise is a true professional. She has always been an incredible advocate for what is best for her students. If there is an opportunity or need for students, Lise will make it happen - no obstacle is too big to overcome. She has left a lasting positive impression at our School, and we wish Lise well in her new exciting adventures during retirement.

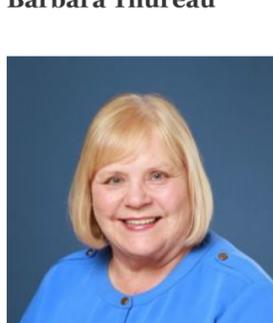
Kathryn Slemko



Kathryn has been a dedicated member of the Advancement Department at Collingwood since 2016. In her role as Director of Advancement she has been responsible for our very successful Tartan Fund annual campaigns, supported Parents' Council initiatives like the Fall Gala (October 2019) and virtual Spring Fair (April 2021), and has worked closely with the Alumni Executive on leading and hosting networking lunches, virtual events and other value-added initiatives. Kathryn, along with the Advancement team, has looked forward to celebrating our School community with the annual Thank You Video each spring. We will remember Kathryn for her warm smile, her friendly personality, and her many positive contributions to Collingwood.

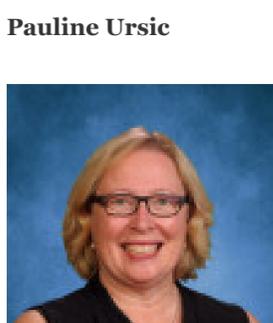
We wish her the very best on her exciting new leadership role as Executive Director of Development for the [Zajac Ranch for Children!](#)

Barbara Thureau



Barb spent 18 years in various roles working with students from Grades 6-12: as a member of the English Department, a Grade Counsellor, the International Exchange Coordinator and with the Model UN Program. She successfully re-envisioned Collingwood's Annual Public Speaking Day to create a broader range of speaking styles allowing for greater inclusion, and coached four students to the World Public Speaking Championships. Barb is proud of her own participation in the four strands while at Collingwood: singing in the choir, acting in a school play, coaching Grade 7 Girls basketball, coordinating worldwide student exchanges, and leading delegations to the Model UN competitions in New York. Despite her many accomplishments, Barb is most proud of her two children who are Collingwood graduates: Christopher (Class of '04) and Alexandra (Class of '06). We wish Barb the very best on her retirement and in the next exciting chapter of her life!

Pauline Ursic



Pauline joined Collingwood in September 2003 and made an immediate impact in our Kindergarten Program. Warm and kind Pauline created a wonderful environment for children to explore and grow. She encouraged everyone to "Be flexible!" at all times. Pauline has the best sense of humour and quickest wit. She could often be heard asking, "Are you being helpful or a handful?". Always determined to increase her students' independence, the Cardinal Rule of KU was continually: "Ask 3 before me." Uber-organized, she was always one step ahead, making sure that everything was planned and in place for the Kindergarten students. Pauline was a collaborative colleague, dear friend, and wise mentor. Most important to Pauline is family. She is very proud of Megan (Class of 2010) and Malcolm (Class of 2012) and their positive contributions to our world as Collingwood graduates. We wish Pauline the very best as she begins her next exciting chapter in life!

Join the Collingwood Alumni Executive Committee!

The Collingwood Alumni Executive Committee is extending an invite to current alumni to join our team! Do you want to make an impact on decisions around alumni events and initiatives?

[Apply here!](#)

