

# The Sacred Heart School of Montreal Alumnae Association Newsletter



[www.sacredheart.qc.ca](http://www.sacredheart.qc.ca)

Winter 2021



## A Message from the Head of School

**Shawn O'Donnell**



Despite a whirlwind 2020, it's wonderful to truly appreciate the accomplishments of this past Fall. Upon our reopening in September, no one could have predicted what the school year would look like. And yet, our Sacred Heart family has once again come out stronger than ever!

Firstly, we're delighted that the Society of the Sacred Heart has revised our goals and criteria; we invite you to take a closer look on our website to learn more. Within the City House, our students continue to thrive academically and eagerly participate in many online extracurricular pursuits. We've committed ourselves

to giving back more than ever with countless new efforts and initiatives to help support local shelters. Finally, thanks to the adaptability of our faculty, staff and students, we have been able to continue celebrating important Sacred Heart traditions like Sports Day and Spirit Day, and put on a beautiful virtual concert and modified Christmas Wishes! And, on February 26, Staff Appreciation Week culminated with a thoroughly enjoyable virtual DASHABUSTADD.

Through it all, we have maintained the Sacred Heart educational experience, and alumnae support has played a key part. Whether through donations, connecting over social media, or joining us for online events like our Belly Laughs for Bursaries evening, I cannot thank you enough for staying connected. With your support and the incredible resilience of our students, faculty, and staff, I can say with certainty: **ça va bien aller!**

## A Message from the Alumnae Association President Tara Durley '85

What better person to turn to for inspiration during these unprecedented times, but our foundress St. Madeleine Sophie Barat. She lived through the French Revolution and spent many years confined in a Parisian safe-house focused on the small things such as sewing, learning languages and caring for others. It was only after this experience that she founded the Society of the Sacred Heart. And so turning to her for example, we as an Alumnae Board have focused on the small things in life. Whether it be meeting virtually once a month, connecting with alumnae, reaching out to former faculty, or organizing a virtual fundraiser, we are turning challenges into

opportunities and continue to keep our communications open with the Sacred Heart community.

Continued engagement of our Sacred Heart alumnae is so important during these challenging times. Through these small but inspiring things, we are reminded of the rooted strength of our Sacred Heart values and education. As Madeleine Sophie Barat said "Times change and we must change with them." Stay well.



# School News

This year marks the School's 160th year in existence; a unique year filled with many challenges as the world continues to navigate through a global pandemic. As with all facets of life, Sacred Heart is discovering new ways of moving forward: virtual events, learning remotely online coupled with in-person teaching to a reduced number of students, certain sports and new clubs are being offered and the School's traditions live on.

## Welcome Back in September!

Prefects warmly welcomed new and returning students with signs, cheering, and music at the Portry and the Penfield doors. To reduce interactions between grades, students have been asked to enter through different doors of the School.



**Anika Maloni '97**, Director of Academics and Assistant Head of School, showed incoming students how to use their locks for their new lockers.



## Virtual Open Houses & Virtual School Tours

Like all schools in Montreal, in-person tours and visits from prospective families were suspended in 2020. The School's Admissions team quickly pivoted and prepared, with the support of students, parents, faculty and staff, not one but three successful Virtual Open House events, including a virtual tour and an interactive map of the campus. The result: In fall 2021, we are expecting our largest Secondary I class in five years.

## After-school Clubs

An important part of student life during high school is the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities. This year the faculty and staff have created new clubs including Virtual Game Clubs, Virtual Knitting Club and a Cooking Club streamed live from each participant's home kitchen.



## Christmas Season

The month of December is a busy time at Sacred Heart with many school traditions celebrated by the entire community. This year was no different, although they did take on a slightly different twist. The Sacred Heart community tuned in from home on the last school day of December to celebrate the Zoom Christmas mass with our own Fr. Giordano and was followed by a virtual Christmas concert and Christmas Wishes video. The morning finished off with Christmas messages delivered by the President and Vice President of the Student Council and the Head of School.



As alumnae, we know that our School is part of a worldwide network that share common goals, mission, and values. Schools of the Sacred Heart commit themselves to educate to:

- a personal and active faith in God
- a deep respect for intellectual values
- a social awareness which impels to action
- the building of community as a Christian value
- personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom

Now more than ever, the School has turned to its goals during this unprecedented time. With COVID restrictions in place, the traditional opportunities for our students to fulfill their community service hours have been challenged, however new charities and acts of service within our School have been adopted this year.

## Holiday Greetings in 2020 and 2021!

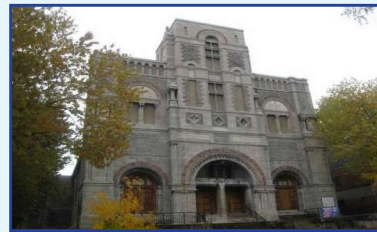


Students from all grades made hundreds of Christmas cards for residents at Manoir Westmount, Ste-Anne's Veterans Hospital, Catherine Booth Rehabilitation Centre and St. Gabriel's Parish



Over 600 Valentine's Day cards were made and delivered to people living at Maimonides, Le Waldorf, Julius Richardson Hospital, Manoir Westmount and B'Nai Brith House.

## Annual Christmas Baskets



Although **St. Gabriel's Parish** was unable to accept food items for their Christmas Baskets

due to COVID concerns, the Sacred Heart community collected monetary donations that were then used to purchase grocery store gift cards. The Parish was able to assist 365 families, seniors and individuals in need.



**Bread and Beyond** is a Montreal based community organization with a mission to provide a reliable supply of fresh, nutritious sandwiches to organizations serving clients in a homeless or vulnerable situation. For the month of February, the Sacred Heart community committed to making 400 sandwiches a week and home-made baked Valentine's Day treats.



In the spirit of the Sacred Heart tradition of commitment to service, student class reps coordinated a drive for goods to be donated to the local women's shelter Chez Doris. Students donated new toothbrushes, gently used winter boots and coats, puzzles, colouring pencils, band aids, hair elastics, and gently used leggings to the community at **Chez Doris**.

## Denim Day for Uganda



Free dress days are always popular with the students and are used to raise funds for many worthy causes. Each year, students, Faculty & Staff, the Parents' Guild and the Alumnae Association Board raise funds to sponsor the education of four Ugandan students enrolled in schools and missions run by the RSCJs in Uganda, more specifically, the Kalungu district near Masaka or in Kampala.

# Alumnae News



Congratulations to **Magda Kraszner '56** (Sault) and her husband Fred Jass on their 60th wedding anniversary. Their daughter **Sandra Jass '81** organized a zoom celebration from Bonnevaux, France at which there were

family and friends from Canada, USA, Jamaica, France, and Germany. Bonnevaux is the new home of the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) which was founded by John Main OSB and Laurence Freeman OSB who is the director of WCCM and presided over their zoom celebration. John Main's first series of teachings in Montreal was at the Sacred Heart School in December 1977.

**Line Veilleux '70 Ory** is a Puppy Raiser for Guiding Eyes for the Blind, as well as a Canine Good Citizen



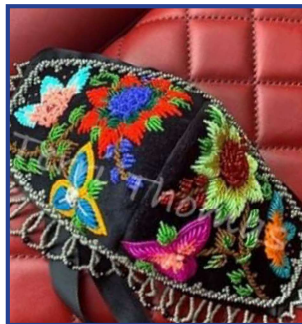
Evaluator for the American Kennel Club. Line is also a Senior Tax Analyst at H&R Block (40 years this year!!!). She is a retired Financial Administrator for Bryant Asset Protection, Inc., an Independent Insurance Agency in Slingerlands,

New York. Line shares that she is "Living the Life" in the Boulevard Tennis Community in Vero Beach, Florida. Her daughter Veronique Ory Sturiale, son-in-law Brandon Sturiale and Granddog, Bowery, also live in Vero Beach.

Congratulations to **Mary Jeanne Phelan '90**, McCarthy Tétrault Law Partner, on being recognized for her outstanding legal expertise and professional contributions to the field of commercial finance. Last September, Mary Jeanne was named a Fellow with the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers (ACCFL). This Fellowship recognizes her substantial and sustained contributions to the promotion of learning and scholarship in commercial finance law

Congratulations to **Valentina Corsetti '91**, Barrister and Solicitor at Schurman, Grenier, Strapatsas & Associates, who was recognized by her colleagues in the 15th Edition of The Best Lawyers in Canada listing published in August 2020. For the second time, Valentina was recognized in the Criminal Defense category.

**Terri Thomas '92**, an accomplished beadwork artist, has one of her art works on display as part of a



travelling exhibition entitled "Breathe: a collection of traditionally crafted masks demonstrating resiliency through the 21st century pandemic." The exhibit recently concluded at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies in Banff, Alberta and will be continuing at other

museums across Canada. Terri's piece featured in this exhibit is a decorative covid mask beaded in the traditional Iroquois (Mohawk) raised beadwork style, crafted from cotton velvet, Miyuki glass seed beads and satin ribbon, lined with cotton calico fabric.

Many of her other creations can be found on her Instagram page at [https://www.instagram.com/beadwork.by.terri\\_thomas/](https://www.instagram.com/beadwork.by.terri_thomas/)

Congratulations to **Maria Valente Fernandes '99** (Alumnae Board Member) and Sean Cullinan on the birth of

their second daughter Harper on March 27, 2020. Big sister Brooklyn (4 yrs) is thrilled to welcome this new addition to the family.



In August 2020, **Kathleen Brown-Vandecruys '11** completed her training at Depot in Regina, SK to become a Police Officer of the RCMP.

Having passed the training program, Constable Kathleen was posted to the West District of New Brunswick and currently lives in Fredericton. Proud mom, **Maureen Brown '80**, (Faculty/ Alumnae Coordinator) is thrilled she is relatively close to home and eagerly awaits the first chance to visit her in the Maritimes.





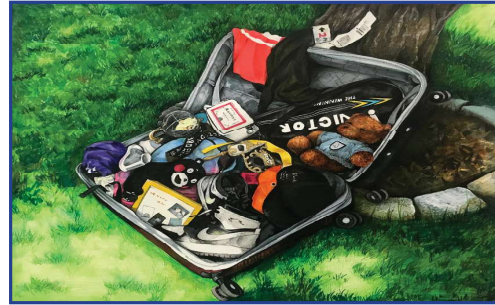
## Alumnae News



Congratulations to **Amanda Marino '13** who graduated last June from McGill University in Medicine. She started her residency in internal medicine with McGill University Health Center.

Congratulations to **Beatrice Mackie '16**. In November 2020, she was invited to speak at the Commission of Institutions at Quebec's National Assembly to give her opinion on the proposed Bill 75, which aims to promote access to justice in the province. This opportunity, afforded to Beatrice in her role as President of the McGill Law Students Association (LSA-AÉD), was both an honour and an opportunity to practically engage in the political process. She is appreciative of all the opportunities she has had in the past few years, thanks to McGill University – Faculty of Law.

Congratulations to **Katalina Toth '19** who has been accepted to Harvard University. Recently, Katalina contacted the School to share her good news and extended her thanks to the Faculty and Staff. She recounted that *"... much of my application centered on the opportunities afforded to me at Sacred Heart, from the Olympe de la Parole competition that allowed me to publish a paper, to Model UN with Ms. Cusma that gave me an interest in international relations and diplomacy, to the Faculty Scholars program with Mr. Judson that allowed me to do research to present at a professional level, to the LitMag with Ms. McIvor that I had so much fun designing, to the Arts Fest where I was given the chance to design and sew 27 dresses under the guidance of Mme. Gendron".* Katalina expressed her gratitude for all these opportunities that shaped the passions she hopes to explore further at Harvard in the fall. Thank you, and good luck, Katalina!



"Luggage" Coloured pencil on paper

In recognition of her hard work and creative promise, **Yimin (Nina) Wu '20** was accepted into the California College of the Arts (CCA) in

San Francisco beginning fall 2021. In addition, the College has merited Nina with a renewable scholarship called the Faculty Honors Award, issued at \$10,000 per year. Congratulations and good luck Nina!

## RSCJ News



Congratulations, Sr Wachter! On December 17, 2020, the Headmistress of the Sacred Heart School of Halifax, **Anne Wachter, RSCJ**, became a Canadian citizen. Born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, Sr. Wachter is an alumna of Duchesne Academy of the Sacred

Heart (Class of 1980). Before moving to Halifax in 2012 to become Headmistress, she spent 15 years at the Sacred Heart School in San Francisco and also served Sacred Heart schools in Nebraska, New York City, Illinois and Louisiana. Becoming a Canadian citizen was an emotional moment for Anne and one she's been dreaming of for years. The Sacred Heart communities in Canada are proud to call you one of our own.



Prefer to receive this newsletter by email? Have news to share?  
Please contact the Alumnae Office at 514-937-2845, ext. 108  
or email [alumnae@sacredheart.qc.ca](mailto:alumnae@sacredheart.qc.ca)

## Faculty News



Congratulations to **Ms. Jasmin Marchlewski** (Faculty) and Patrick Iannattone who were married on December 12, 2020. *"Despite a global pandemic, it was a Married Christmas! My husband and I are highschool sweethearts and have been together for close to 13 years."*



Congratulations to **Ms. Stephanie Coull '04** (former Faculty) and her husband Cathal Twaddle on the birth of their daughter Cora Kathleen on December 29, 2020. Stephanie, Cathal and Cora live in Dublin, Ireland.



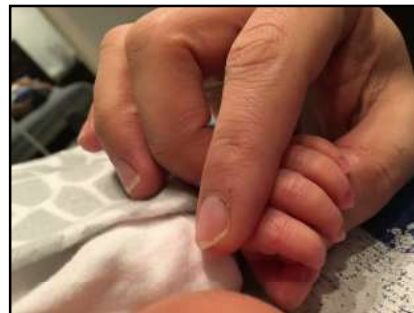
Congratulations to **Ms. Lauren Quintal** (Faculty) and Wishe Deom on their marriage on December 20, 2020. *"We were happy to end the year with an event that brought us so much joy. Although my husband and I were not able to celebrate the way we had planned, we were blessed to have an intimate ceremony that celebrated our love for each other."*



On December 3, 2020 at 4:04 pm at St. Mary's Hospital, proud parents **Ms. Moira Gorman-Fisk** (former Personal Counsellor) and Bryan Holt welcomed their baby Owen Gorman Holt. Congratulations, Moira, on the new addition to your family.



Congratulations to **Ms. Maria Cusma '06** (Faculty) and her husband, Justin Boudreau. Their *"little bundle of joy has arrived! Giordana Boudreau surprised us a month early on February 7th at 2:36 am (yes, Justin missed the Super Bowl...) weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces. Mama and baby are doing well...our hearts are full."*



On December 15th, 2020, **Mr. Julian Beauvais** (Faculty) and his family welcomed Victoria Eve to the fold! *"Little Vicky is doing well and 'living the life' - sleeping all day, eating every three hours, and practicing her vocals at night. Daddy, Mommy, and Big Sis are over the moon!"*



---

## Alumnae

## In Memory of...

**Winifred Whalen '42 Emmett**, sister of Joan Whalen '43 Bilodeau (predeceased)

**Sr. Anne Leonard '46**, (Sault) sister of **Agatha Leonard '46** Tawaststjerna and **Stephanie Leonard '53** Bonar

**Janet Mulvey '48**, (Sault)

**Paule Tourigny '57** (Sault)

**Chantal Raymond '62** (Sault) (2018),

**Marie-Anne Venselaar '63** (2019)

**Helen-Mary Brosseau '73 Coates** (2019)

## Family and Friends

**Mrs. Lilia del Campo**, mother of Lili '93 and Tricia '95

**Mrs Anne Badke**, mother of Catherine '80 and Lara '85

**Mr. George Bonar**, husband of Stephanie Leonard '53 and brother-in-law of Agatha Leonard '46 Tawaststjerna and Sr. Anne Leonard, RSCJ (predeceased)

**Mr. Ernesto Das Neves**, father of Dawn '84 and Tanya '86

**Mr. Robert (Bob) Dobie**, father of Monica '89

**Mr. Adolphe Macias**, father of Diane '88

**Mr. Richard McConomy**, husband of the Honourable Pierrette Sévigny '64 and father of Elisabeth '96. Rick was a valued member of the City House Foundation Board of Trustees.

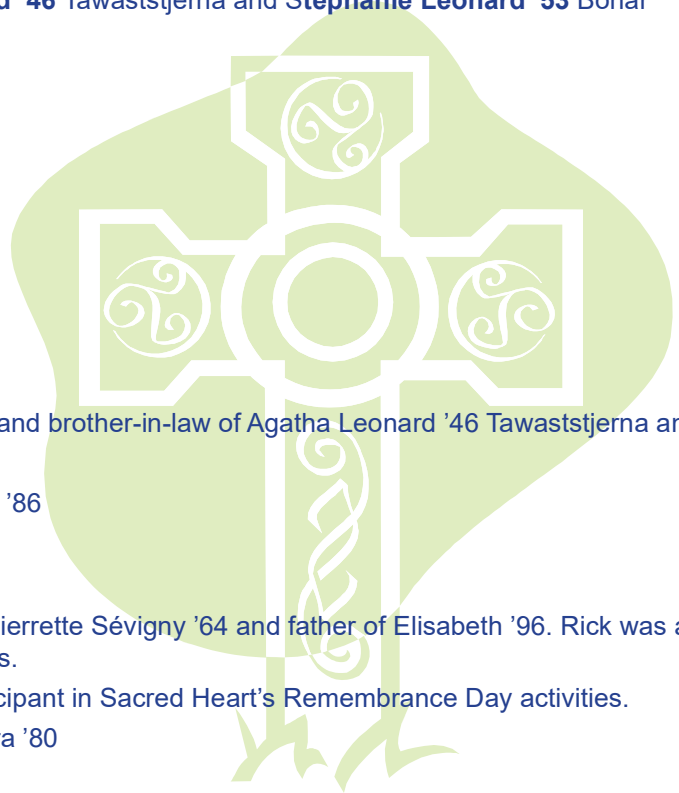
**Mr. Dave McCrindle**, WWII veteran and long-time participant in Sacred Heart's Remembrance Day activities.

**Mrs. Georgina Quaid**, mother of Maeve '71 and Sheefra '80

**Mrs. Judith Schurman**, mother of Miriam '97

**Mr. Stephen Silverthorne**, brother of Katie '93

**Dr. Agnes Szakonyi-Bokross '39**, mother of Polly Bokross Schofield '63. She was an alumna of Sophianum, Budapest.



---

## Sister Anne Leonard



**Anne Leonard, RSCJ  
(1930-2020)**

Sister Anne Leonard, RSCJ, was born in Toronto, Ontario, the third of five children. She began her education there but spent the last two years of high school at the Sault au Récollet in Montreal. She returned to Toronto to continue her post-secondary education at St. Michael's College.

In October 1952, Anne entered the Society of the Sacred Heart in Albany, New York, and made her first vows in 1955. She was sent to Montreal where she taught in the congregation's elementary school followed by two years in the Winnipeg school, prior

to final profession in Rome in 1962. Between 1962 and 1982, Anne taught in Sacred Heart convents in Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Halifax.

In 1982, Sister Leonard was named to the provincial council and in 1985 was named Provincial of the Canadian Province. During this time, Anne moved the provincial house from Montreal to Ottawa and opened a Canadian novitiate. In addition, she was an active member of the Canadian Religious Conference in Ontario where she served a term as president.

In 1991, Anne was called to Rome to be the general archivist of the Society of the Sacred Heart. She remained there for 11 years, during which she began to modernize the archives. She introduced a digital storage system and initiated gatherings of archivists of religious congregations in both English and French; these gatherings continue to this day.

Upon her return to Canada in 2003, Sister Leonard worked as archivist of the Canadian Province in Montreal until her move to Barat Residence in Halifax in 2010. In 2014, the Barat Community moved to Caritas Residence, where Anne died on September 1, 2020.

## Honouring our Teachers

Teacher Appreciation Week is celebrated across the country as it provides an opportunity to recognize the remarkable commitment of teachers. And, it's during challenging times that we truly recognize and appreciate how educators play a pivotal role in the lives of so many. Generations of Sacred Heart students have lived through life changing events while attending the City House and their educators were there to support them - inspiring a lifelong love of learning and discovery and making a difference in their well-being and long-term success.



**Centenary, 1961: Atwater Community and some visiting Superiors.**

Seated L to R :Sr. Margaret Power, Sr. Edith Palmer, Reverend Mother Lapierre, Reverend Mother Regan, Reverend Mother Whitehead, S. V. Sr. Labrecque, Reverend Mother Carter, Sr. Lanigan - **2nd Row:** Sr. Duchastel, Sr. Henrion, Sr. Lanctôt, Sr. Maureen Peckham, Sr. Cécile Morin, Sr. d'Inguibert, Sr. Archambault, Sr. Conaughton, Sr. Sophie Amyot, Sr. Dwyer, Sr. Filion, Sr. Spattz, Sr. Brisset, Sr. Dalglish, Sr. Wilkins, Sr. Desbarats, Sr. Madeleine Cable, Sr. Bathurst, Sr. Donahoe - **3rd Row:** Sr. Monica Story, Sr. Rose Alma Lanctôt, Sr. Brigitte Le Blanc, Sr. Roche, Sr. Rosa Sauvageau, Sr. Marie-Anne Bédard, Sr. Currie, Sr. Dupont, Sr. G. Murphy, (half hidden), Sr. Lesota, Sr. A. Bédard





## Advancement News

### Comedy Night: Belly Laughs for Bursaries



The Parents' Guild proudly presents

"Belly Laughs for Bursaries"

Friday, February 5 at 8 p.m.

Joe Cacchione

Frank Taddeo

Joey Elias

Great Raffle Prizes! Sponsorships available!

[Click here for TICKETS and more info](#)

Thank you to all the alumnae who joined current and new Sacred Heart families, as well as faculty and staff, at the virtual comedy night held Friday, February 5. Together, you raised over \$20,000 for the School's bursary fund!. The Sacred Heart School of Montreal believes strongly in encouraging the development of a diverse community. Enrolment is not limited to students whose families are able to afford the tuition and it is for this purpose that the Bursary Fund was established.

Belly Laughs for Bursaries was organized by the Parents' Guild, which is co-presided by Secondary II parent Andrea Carter and Secondary V parent Sherry Blondin. The event was MC'd by comedian Franco Taddeo, and featured Joe Cacchione as the opening act and renowned Montreal comedian Joey Elias as the headliner. Fana Sports, Presti Homes & Development, alumna Devo Ritter '98 and her husband Mark Schamel, the Molson Family, and ALRE Properties Inc. sponsored the event.

### Air Purifiers in Every Classroom



As of November 30, Sacred Heart faculty, staff and students started breathing a little easier as 35 air purifiers were installed in every classroom and common gathering spaces of the School. With the second wave of the virus hitting Montreal hard and the well-being and safety of the staff and students a priority, the School's Administration swiftly secured the air purifiers. This was an unforeseen expense for which the School had not budgeted. An appeal was made through our social media and weekly school newsletter to

current families. Many thanks to the generosity of current and past families. The school community is very grateful for the contributions to this major operational cost!



The Sacred Heart School of Montreal

20th Annual Sacred Heart

**Golf**

TOURNAMENT

Save the Date:  
**Monday, May 31st**

Golf Saint-Raphaël  
1111 Montée de l'Église  
Île Bizard, QC

# Advancement News

## Bursary Campaign

Last November, a letter from the Head of School was mailed to alumnae, with a request for donations to the Sacred Heart Bursary Fund. As Mr. O'Donnell recounted in the letter, "When we meet a caring, mission-appropriate family, who cannot afford our full fees, and our Bursary not only helps their daughter gain admission, but also enables her to blossom and reach her full potential, it is truly great to see! I have witnessed the majority of these girls develop a deep sense of gratitude and devotion to the school, because they know it was thanks to the generosity of people like you that they were privileged to receive this wonderful opportunity."

In response to this letter, over \$20,000 was raised for Bursaries! The annual campaign has a goal of \$400,000. The fund offers tuition assistance to 1 in every 5 families at our school, with the average bursary being \$7,750 this year. Demand has increased and fundraising opportunities have diminished due to the restrictions imposed by the

pandemic. Thankfully, our alumnae community, have understood this need and responded generously. We continue to fundraise for Bursaries because we believe a Sacred Heart Education should be shared with as many mission-appropriate families as possible. Even small gifts add up to make a difference in the lives of these students, as shared in these testimonials:

*Thanks to the generosity of donors, I was provided with a wonderful education. Today, I love being able to give back and share with other young women the values of Sacred Heart.*

- Julia Mayne '93

*I feel that it's a privilege to be able to support the school that shaped me and rooted me in a tradition of community, and care, and kindness. I can trace so much of who I have become to the lessons I learned over 35 years ago, from Mother Johnson and the incredible teachers and staff. Sacred Heart lives in me.*

- Tanya Das Neves, Class of '86

*"I wish that I could send my daughter to SHSM, but we don't live in Montreal. SHSM was a wonderful educational experience and helped me develop the skills for future schooling and work. I attended SHSM on scholarship and so the ability to be able to give back to the school so that girls growing up in financial situations like I did can attend is very important to me."*

- Devo Ritter, Class of '98



Students in the Parlour in 2019, celebrating the groundbreaking on the new auditorium

To donate:

Visit [www.sacredheart.qc.ca/gifts-donations](http://www.sacredheart.qc.ca/gifts-donations). Cheques made out to the City House Foundation may be mailed to 3635 Atwater ave., Montreal, QC H3H 1Y4. For assistance, please call Lili Le Fèvre, Director of Advancement & Communications at (514) 937-2845 ext 213.



# Advancement News

## Auditorium Seats

Construction of the new auditorium at Sacred Heart is completed! Only some finishing touches are left: sound, lighting, curtains, and landscaping around the building. The project is very close to being fully funded, thanks to the generosity of alumnae, current and past parents, current and former faculty and staff, foundations, suppliers and other dear friends of our school.

Over 100 seats have been sold, honouring current students, families, alumnae and entire classes!

### Completed Class Seats

City House Class of 1958  
Class of 1968  
Class of 1971  
Class of 1972  
Class of 1979  
Class of 1980  
Class of 1982  
Class of 1984  
Class of 1985, In memory of Carla-Anne Hall  
Class of 1986  
Class of 1987, In memory of Genny Marilley  
Class of 1989  
Class of 1991  
Class of 1997, In loving memory of Mélanie Meunier

### Partially completed seats

City House Class of 1978  
Class of 1969  
Class of 2013



## Has your Class purchased its seat yet?

Each seat costs \$1,000 and can be purchased individually, or as a group. All proceeds benefit the Capital Campaign, which is an investment in the legacy of the School - through the auditorium, the new wellness center, as well as other important renovations to the building.

Making a contribution to a group seat is easy to do through our fundraising Web page. On our Website, under the Giving menu, choose *This Seat Could be Yours!* to make a gift towards your class seat using a credit card. If you need assistance, class reps, the Alumnae Office or the Advancement Office can help.

For more info, speak to Lili Le Fèvre, Director of Advancement & Communications, about purchasing a seat by telephone 514-937-2845 ext. 213. Cheques should be made payable to **City House Foundation** and mailed to 3635 Atwater Avenue, Montreal, QC, H3H 1Y4.

# Coaster to Coaster Alumnae Get together 2021

West Coast



**Join us online:  
Wed. March 24  
at 5pm (PST)**

East Coast



**Join us online:  
Tues. March 30th  
at 5pm (EST)**

**Please RSVP to [alumnae@sacredheart.qc.ca](mailto:alumnae@sacredheart.qc.ca) or  
514-937-2845 ext. 108 to receive the zoom link details**