

Via the Seine | Special Report

Our students are true heroes

A message from Superintendent Michael Borgfjord and Wendy Bloomfield, Chair, Board of Trustees

These last few months have been trying for all of us – parents, staff, and not least of all our students. But during this time, we’ve heard so many incredible stories of compassion, dedication, ingenuity and understanding. We hope you have enjoyed reading the stories we’ve been sharing with you over these last few weeks.

We’ve also been using these pages to honour our Grade 12 graduates, and we wrap up this tribute with a look at this year’s unique convocation ceremonies, a message

from the principals of our three high schools and a glimpse at what a handful of our grads have in store for the future.

We’re eternally grateful to you, the parents and guardians, for your commitment to helping your children adapt and continue learning from home. We also have so much gratitude towards all of our staff, for their roles in supporting our students’ learning and well-being during this time. As we continue to plan for what the new school year will look like, we sincerely thank you for your patience and understanding, and we wish you all a safe and restful summer. 🟡

Convocation, COVID-style

There was a little less pomp – but a lot of circumstance – as our Grade 12 students graduated this year.

The possibility of a grad ceremony was unknown earlier this spring, but with pandemic-related restrictions

loosened in Manitoba, staff at Ste. Anne Collegiate, Collège Lorette Collegiate and Collège St. Norbert Collegiate put their heads together and quickly came up with ways to make our grads feel special – including a one-of-a-kind convocation.

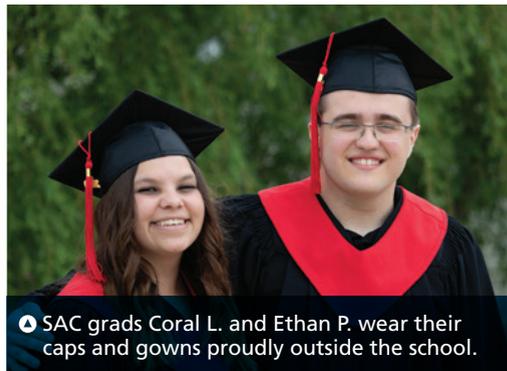
Each school staged physically distanced ceremonies, held over two or three days in mid-June to space out the number of students and their guests gathered at one time. Clad in their caps and gowns, students went up on stage individually to accept their diplomas and awards, congratulations from the school’s administration and staff, and a special Grad 2020 gift bag.

Each school also released video presentations for graduates last week, featuring photos from convocation ceremonies, pre-filmed Valedictorian speeches and other greetings, to help commemorate this unique Grad 2020.

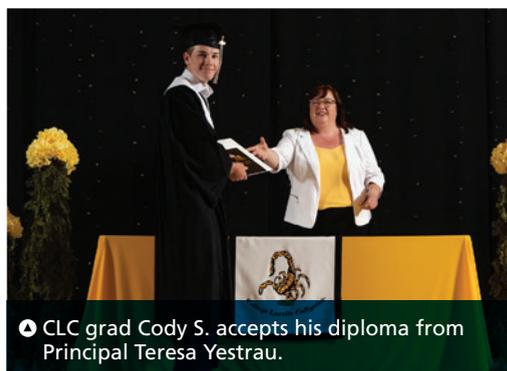
Congratulations graduates! 🟡



CSNC’s Governor General’s Academic Medal recipient Favour T. tosses his mortarboard into the air.



SAC grads Coral L. and Ethan P. wear their caps and gowns proudly outside the school.



CLC grad Cody S. accepts his diploma from Principal Teresa Yestrau.

Creating art at school and home



▲ Back at school with a small group of students in mid June, École Île-Des-Chênes School Grade 2 student Luan L. uses oil pastels for a horizon line art project.



▲ Koston L., Grade 4 at École St. Adolphe School, created a "watercolour" eagle using markers, as part of an Indigenous perspectives home art project.

Planting seeds of hope

Students in Nancy Estabrooks' Grade 3/4 class at Parc la Salle School were excited when schools welcomed back students in small groups – it meant they could plant the garden they had been planning this year.

After learning to grow plants from seeds at home as part of their study of plants and soils, students gathered in early June to plant more vegetable crops and colourful flowers in garden boxes in front of the school. 🍌



▲ Grade 3/4 students (from left) Victor A., Dania K. and Michelle O. plant seeds at school.

Make a mask, give a mask

A handful of Collège Lorette Collegiate staff and students are joined by a common thread that kept them busy during distance learning, while also helping the community.

The CLC Sew Team, an online club of students in Grades 9 to 12 plus a few staff, was created to put their sewing skills to use. The group made about 90 face masks and donated them to community members and the Taché Food Bank.

"The students explored the importance of product innovation and design concepts, while building a sense of awareness and their role in community ownership and involvement," explains Fashion Technology Teacher Claudine Charriere.

"Knowing I can fully engage in something I am very passionate about, and that someone who needs it is receiving something I made, makes me very happy," says Tori, a Grade 10 student. 🍌

Award-winning students

Our Board of Trustees has recognized the following students with these awards. 🍌

Creative Young Minds Awards

MIDDLE YEARS

Ward 1 Julia Miller - LSS

Ward 2 Sophia Reyes - EIDC

Ward 3 Emma Martens - ARB

HIGH SCHOOL

Ward 1 Sylvia Docker - CSNC

Ward 2 Duncan Storozuk - CLC

Ward 3 Katelyn Ross - SAC

Student Citizenship Awards

Early Years Arianna Walkoski - ESNI

Middle Years Adam Kleinsasser - RCH

Middle Years, Team Miya Taillier, Charli McKenzie and Kendra Hancock - ESAS

High School Carmen Trudeau - SAC

Nominees for Manitoba School Board Citizenship Awards

Individual Carmen Trudeau - SAC

Team Miya Taillier, Charli McKenzie and Kendra Hancock – ESAS

Grad 2020: The future looks bright!

Our 2020 Grade 12 graduates have endured a lot of change these last few months, and now it's time for them to move onto their next challenges and opportunities in life. Their plans are as individual as they are, and we're highlighting a few of them. We wish each and every SRSD grad all the best for a safe, happy and successful future.



Tryggvi Baker
Collège Lorette Collegiate

Dedication to his school and his community have paid off for Tryggvi, who will study Sciences at Université de Saint-Boniface this fall, with plans for a career in medicine. The CLC honours with distinction graduate enjoyed his time in the French Immersion program, while also playing multiple sports. He volunteered with a local children's hockey team and at Lorette Family Fun Days, plus participated in Winnipeg's MS Walk for over 10 years, helping earn him four scholarships: from the Seine River School Division, the Caisse Groupe Financier and two from the university.



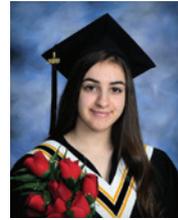
Tamara Sturch
Collège St. Norbert Collegiate

Tamara is well on her way to becoming a successful scientist. This spring, the CSNC graduate's biochemistry and conservation biology project – a scientific study of water quality in retention ponds around Manitoba – earned her a silver medal from the Manitoba School Science Symposium, and she also competed nationally. Tamara was involved with student-led mental health and leadership initiatives, and this fall she'll attend the University of Manitoba, studying Biological Sciences with the goal of becoming an ecologist or biologist.



Coleman Kolossa
Ste. Anne Collegiate

Coleman is building a bright future for himself. He's graduating from SAC's High School Apprenticeship Program with over 2,000 hours – more than twice the amount students usually accumulate – towards his Carpentry apprenticeship, and an SRSD Excellence in Apprenticeship award. Through his job as a carpenter with AYA Builders based at West Hawk Lake building cottages, boathouses and docks, and with his passion for the industry, Coleman will continue working towards his Red Seal certification.



Sara Petkau
Collège Lorette Collegiate

A drive to help as many people as possible, along with a love of science and the challenge of learning, has steered Sara towards her goal: a career in the medical field. The CLC honours with distinction graduate, who achieved the Honour Roll every year, will head to the University of Manitoba this fall to pursue a Science degree. Sara received both a U of M entrance scholarship and the École Île-Des-Chênes School Award, which is granted to a hard-working past student pursuing post-secondary education each year.



Brett Murphy
Collège St. Norbert Collegiate

Brett is off to university with a great head start – two scholarships from the Université de Saint-Boniface, where he'll study Education, and from his hockey team, the MMJHL Twins. He played multiple sports including football (helping CSNC take its first championship, and winning a provincial league award for sportsmanship and overall excellence), and participated in student leadership, peer support and mental health groups. His experience coaching young hockey goalies inspired him to become a teacher, and he's also interested in being a police officer like his grandfather. 🟡

Heartfelt congratulations for our grads

"Class of 2020 – you are a strong, resilient, amazing group of students. You have accomplished so much and I know you are ready to take on the future with perseverance and strength. We hope that your graduation was special and you are proud of your accomplishments."

– **Teresa Yestrau, Principal, Collège Lorette Collegiate**

"To our outstanding Class of 2020, I wish you all the best as you pursue your dreams and take on new challenges. The resilience you've shown, especially over the past several months, will serve you well as you move forward in life. The entire staff at CSNC will miss you very much!"

– **Chris Szun, Principal, Collège St. Norbert Collegiate**

"We are so proud of all our grads. You have responded to the challenges of the past few months like the great group we know you are. We wish you all the best and encourage you to visit the school anytime; you will always be welcomed back. We can't thank you enough for all the lessons you have taught us in your time at SAC!"

– **Yvan St. Vincent, Principal, Ste. Anne Collegiate**