

2020/2021

The Mabin School Annual Report

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**IMAGINE WHAT YOU
CAN DO FROM HERE**

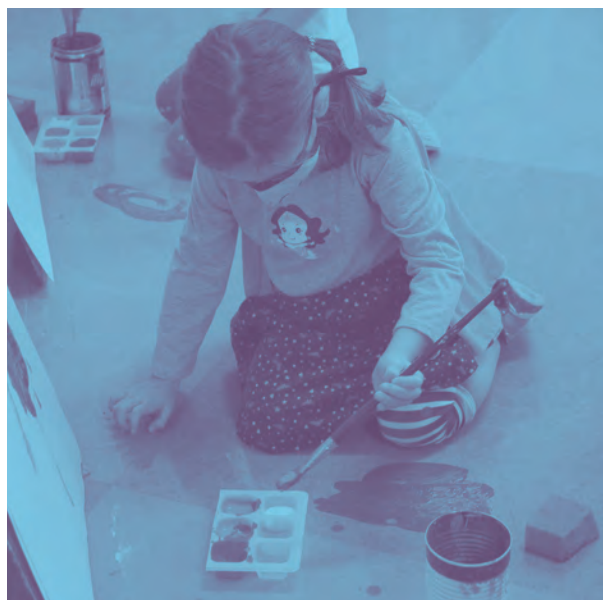


The Mabin School



I first stepped into The Mabin School as a Kindergarten student in 1980 and it's hard to believe that 41 years later I am finally stepping away. Serving The Mabin School as a Board member, and as Chair, has been an experience that will stay with me forever. I gained an incredible amount of knowledge about independent schools and good governance while also building some very strong relationships with the many other Board members who have committed their time and energy to The Mabin School over the years.

The 2020/2021 school year began, for the first time since 1984, somewhere other than 50 Poplar Plains Road. This was entirely due to our commitment to furthering The Mabin School's leadership in progressive education by building a new Community Learning Lab and renovating the "home" that has served so many of us, including my own children, for so long. I am grateful to all of the Directors who have served Mabin over the past decade and who have helped make this extraordinary project a reality. Future Mabinites will benefit greatly from the work we have done together.



I would like to give special thanks to Mabin's Principal, Nancy Steinhauer, for standing beside me, behind me and, sometimes in front of me, as we navigated the ins and outs of operating an independent elementary school together. Nancy is a passionate educator with excellent instincts and a high level of empathy that serves her and the Mabin community well. She has become a true friend and colleague and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from her, to work with her and to share experiences with her. I will greatly miss our time together.

The Mabin School will continue to grow and change and I have immense faith in its Board of Directors and the Principal to steward the school long into the future.

IMAGINE WHAT WE CAN DO FROM HERE!



Board of Directors 2020/2021

CHAIR

Jeremy Creed ('86)

VICE-CHAIR

Jennifer Elmaleh

TREASURER

Henry Perren ('91)

SECRETARY

Helen McLean

DIRECTORS

Jamie Campbell ('91)

Christine Egy-Rose

Rosemary Evans

Alan Gertner ('96)

Mark Jones

Emily McKernan

Michael Roland

Jason Sarracini

Will Scott

Johanna Shapira

Principal's Report: The Countdown Has Begun... Get Ready for Liftoff!

This past year has been a time of tremendous change and disruption throughout the world — and The Mabin School is no different! Some of the change has been planned, while some has been unanticipated; but in true Mabin style, we have adapted and persisted through challenge. Our students, staff, parents, and community members have demonstrated creativity, empathy, and excellent problem-solving skills as we have navigated our way through a global pandemic, the beginning of a long-awaited build, and all of the struggles that have accompanied those two realities.

As we neared the scheduled ground-breaking for our new addition, we were still on the lookout for a place to relocate during the build. As is so often the case at The Mabin School, it was a student who found the answer. In May, 2020, when we were all off-site participating in remote learning, one of our Grade 6 students found us a site for our move. During a virtual class meeting, he announced that his brother's school was going fully remote the following year, and the building would be available. Within minutes, the teacher had contacted me, and I had contacted our realtor, who connected us with the landlord and boom — by July 1, 2020, we had a second building. That was good timing, because in September, 2020, we needed to spread out if we were going to offer full day learning, every day, in-person for our students in JK-6 during COVID-19 and before a vaccine had been found.

We were determined to be in person as much as possible while still following the guidelines of Toronto Public Health and complying with Provincial mandates.





For the first two terms of 2020/2021, we were split between two buildings: 50 Poplar Plains Road (JK to Grade 3) and 35 Prince Arthur Avenue (Grades 4 through 6). As a result, we were able to give every grade its own floor, its own stairwell, its own bathroom, and even its own entrance. We hired extra teachers so that both students and staff could limit their interaction with other grades — staying in specific zones and cohorts. As a result of these stringent precautions, we were able to spend all of Term 1 and much of Term 2 at school, learning in person with very little incidence of COVID-19. Integration, Reading Buddies, and weekly assemblies continued to nurture a sense of community — but all of these full school activities were remote, and everyone had to learn how to use technology to facilitate relationships.

As the 2020/2021 school year continued without a vaccine available for

children, we realized that we were going to need more space during the year of our build. After exploring several different options, we approached Alliance Française — Toronto's premier French language school, only a few blocks away from 35 Prince Arthur — and established a partnership with them. For the 2021/2022 school year, our Grade 5 and 6 students are being housed on the third floor of Alliance Française's brand new addition — a sunny wing of classrooms with access to a French library, a theatre, and even an art gallery. JK through Grade 4 has taken over 35 Prince Arthur, with Junior and Senior Kindergarten on the ground floor, Grades 1 and 2 on the second, and Grades 3 and 4 on the third. Both locations are old houses that have been transformed into schools, and feel very much akin to The Mabin School we know. Having taught and learned without any building at all, having temporary



access to these two buildings feels like a dream come true.

In the meantime, the build has begun. All permits are in place, a building company has been hired, and demolition has been completed. This next year is all about change — positive change — as we add the long-awaited addition to our building. Our new Community Learning Lab will allow classes to work together more easily and more effectively, while our new Art Studio will enhance the art-making experience. Our specially designed early years centre will allow for an even more engaging Kindergarten experience, while we also share the Mabin magic with community members at our Saturday Morning Choosing Time Drop-In for children 0-5 and their parents and caregivers. The accessibility of our new space will mean more seniors will be able to participate in our mutually beneficial intergenerational programming, and more educators will be able to visit and learn from us and with us. The future at The Mabin School is bright.

We are so proud of what our students and their teachers were able to accomplish this past school year, and we know things will only get better from here. We are grateful, too, for the tremendous support that Mabin families provided to their children and to the school as we persisted through challenge. Change is difficult at the best of times. COVID has acted as a catalyst for our own change and progress as a centre of learning. By the end of the 2021/2022 school year, we plan to be back at 50 Poplar Plains Road, ready to launch The Mabin School into its next golden era. We hope to take the best lessons with us as we continue to model excellence in progressive education, adapting, leading, and turning empathy into action in the many years to come.



There's a New Sheriff in Town!

Jeremy Creed promised me when I first came to The Mabin School that he would not leave until the next right Chair of the Board was in place. That new Chair of the Board is another remarkable graduate of The Mabin School, Jamie Campbell ('91).

We are so excited to welcome Jamie into the role of Chair of the Board of Directors. As an alumnus and Mabin dad, Jamie brings a love and appreciation of The Mabin School that is unrivalled. Additionally, he brings a wealth of experience as a radio broadcaster, advertising executive, and an entrepreneur.

Founder of Two Short Stories, one of Toronto's new and best daycares, Jamie credits Mabin for teaching him that we should "build the world we want." Becoming a dad made him realize that he would find meaning in creating a place where parents could trust that their children would receive excellent care and the foundation for a positive experience in school and life. While pursuing his MBA, he reflected that his own life would have more meaning if he dreamed big, did not fear failure, and applied common sense and his good instincts to build something really worth building. In short, he took a responsible risk to make something that mattered.

Jamie has been so thrilled with the way The Mabin School has approached his own children's education. He could see that Mabin was able to do things that his local public school could not. For him it was a "no brainer": of course,



Jamie Campbell (far left) enjoying lunch with friends at The Mabin School.



he wanted to get involved and dedicate his time to supporting the school that was doing such a great job meeting his children's needs.

Jamie is excited at the direction of the Board of Directors. He sees new voices represented on the Board, advocating for the school. He is thrilled to be working with such a talented and bright group of like-minded individuals working together to move the school forward. He enjoys the opportunity to work with other champions of The Mabin School towards a shared vision. He is committed to take action for a school that has done so much for him and his family.

"At Mabin, students are taught that doing is what counts. Don't just wish things were different — be the difference maker and shape your world for the better!"

Thank you, Jamie, for leading our Board for the duration of our next Strategic Plan and for being a changemaker in our small but mighty community.



COVID-19 Advisory Committee Report

I don't think any of us could have imagined at the beginning of March, 2020 the incredible disruption to education in Ontario - and, of course, to society at large - that was about to unfold. To say that students, teachers and other staff, and school administrators faced an enormous and unexpected challenge to continue to learn, teach and thrive in this new world doesn't come close to capturing the reality of those days and the many months that followed.

If you must face a pandemic, then you will do well to have the philosophical roots of The Mabin School to support you. Empathy, persistence, adaptive learning, excellence in progressive education, emotional connection, collaboration, creating solutions and taking responsible risks. These principles, and the genuine way in which they are embodied by Mabin teachers and staff, helped to create a safe space (even when it was virtual) and a program that was still deeply "Mabin", which continued to support students' academic and emotional development. For this, I, as a parent of two children at Mabin, will always be incredibly thankful.

At the Board level, we wanted to ensure the school's administration was well-supported to make the difficult decisions that would protect our students, staff and wider community from COVID-19, while also safeguarding students' emotional well-being and academic development. A multidisciplinary COVID-19 Advisory Committee

was therefore formed with members who had expertise in medicine, education, childcare and law. We also ensured that the Committee benefited from a wide variety of voices from the different members of our community, including school administration, teachers, parents and Board members.

To a great extent, directives from government and public health have informed the operational requirements of independent schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the School has endeavored from day one to go above and beyond what is required by these directives to ensure that our community is well-protected from COVID-19 while also continuing to learn together in ways which are developmentally appropriate and which will best promote and protect the emotional well-being of our students. The COVID-19 Advisory Committee meets regularly and provides a resource to the school's administration to discuss and consider COVID-19 policies in place at Mabin. In an environment



that can be emotionally charged, and where there are ever shifting directives as well as sometimes conflicting information, the Advisory Committee plays an important role in helping to ensure that Mabin's policies meet a high standard for protecting our students and staff from COVID-19, but are also fair, reasonable and evidence-based.

Please join me in extending a heartfelt thank you to the members of the COVID-19 Advisory Committee, past and present:

- Bianca Auciello
- Dr. Lisa Brooks
- Jamie Campbell
- Jennifer Elmaleh
- Rosemary Evans
- Dr. Sloane Freeman
- Rachel Matthews
- Heather Pettigrew
- Chris Russell
- Nancy Steinhauer



Tribute to Jeremy Creed ('86)

We have been incredibly lucky to have Jeremy Creed in the role of Chair of the Board of Directors for the past 8 years. One of the original members of the first class at The Mabin School in 1980, Jeremy has demonstrated that he is the ultimate original thinker, adaptive leader, and caring citizen in his own career.

“THE LEADER’S PRIMARY CONTRIBUTION IS THE RECOGNITION OF GOOD IDEAS, THE SUPPORT OF THOSE IDEAS, AND THE WILLINGNESS TO CHALLENGE THE SYSTEM TO GET NEW PRODUCTS, PROCESSES, SERVICES, AND SYSTEMS ADOPTED. LEADERS ARE EARLY ADOPTERS OF INNOVATION.”

— Kouzes & Posner, 2002

Jeremy has always been an early adopter. In 1995 at the age of 18, he started his own IT/Tech company. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to found Wayspa in 2003 and later enter the real estate development industry. He is currently innovating in Meaford, where he is building the town’s first boutique hotel. He was the first alumnus to join the Board, back in the 90’s, and was the first alumnus to send his own children to The Mabin School. Why? “That’s where you send kids. That’s the place to go.” He knew that attending The Mabin School, his daughters would gain confidence, learn how to learn, and learn how to think in a supportive, caring environment.

As Mabin’s leader, Jeremy adapted his role as required. When required, he was very hands-on, but he was also happy to retreat and allow others to lead. He planned his succession beautifully, preparing the next Chair of the Board, Jamie Campbell ('91), for the role over the course of two years, and helping to set up a committee structure and strong governance so that he can disappear with his legacy firmly in place. While his

influence will be felt for generations, we can continue on without his direct involvement, and we are better than we were when he started.

Jeremy has a gift for identifying the essence of a problem, asking good, challenging questions, making connections to current research and practice, and, for me personally, encouraging responsible risks. He’s a natural teacher. In his own parenting, he sets up situations and conversations for his children so that they question their assumptions, learn from experience, and come to their own conclusions.





Jeremy has been the face of the organization in very challenging times, and has been steadfast in his support for the school. The most fulfilling part of his time as Chair has been the relationships he has gained. He says, “I learned a lot about how to be on a Board. It has been a valuable experience and I have a lot of gratitude. It has created the opportunity for amazing relationships with a great group of people. In the last few years, it has been gratifying how little people have needed to lean on me. I like problem-solving, and I was glad to be part of the solutions. We now have a highly functioning Board and Administrative Team.”

People look for, and admire, leaders who are honest, forward looking, competent, and inspiring. Jeremy is all of these things. More importantly, perhaps, he allows others to be the same. As far as I can tell, there is no ego — it’s all about getting the work done, and doing something worth doing. His commitment to The Mabin School shows that he has felt this to be a project worthy of his time and energy, and for that I know we are all extremely grateful.



To signify his time as Chair, The Mabin School provided Jeremy with three gifts:

- Because he is a visionary, we gifted him with binoculars. These will come in handy as he pursues a new passion for birding in and around Meaford, where he now lives.
- Because his family has strong roots in the Mabin community, we will be planting a tree: the Creed Family Tree. Jeremy and his parents have done much to create the conditions for growth at The Mabin School.
- And finally, Jeremy and his family will be given a brick to help line the path to The Mabin School once our build is complete. His family’s efforts have been foundational from the very beginning, and as we move into the next golden era, we do so thanks to his calm, steady leadership. Jeremy has been a brick of support throughout his time on the Board.



Jeremy will always be an important part of the Mabin community, and we hope he will remain involved — eventually as a grandparent, and even a great-grandparent. Please join me in thanking the man who has devoted countless hours and unlimited energy to The Mabin School.

THANK YOU, JEREMY CREED.

Our Strategic Plan
can also be viewed in
the Board section of our
website at mabin.com

**THE
MABIN
SCHOOL**

**STRATEGIC
PLAN**

2021-2024



Our commitment to
inquiry: the child is
instills agency, leader.
and problem solving

Our identity as a
relationship-based labor
where empathy is nurt

Our status as a char
provides a social ju
authentic opportunities
to engage in the world
personal and colle

Our unapologetic "sma
to create intimacy and

Our approach with fan
with parents in se
children's full d



ent to student-led
d is leading us which
adership, collaboration
lving at a young age.

as a play-based,
d laboratory of learning
nurtured and modelled.

changemaker school
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nities for our children
world with a sense of
collective power.

"smallness" enables us
and a sense of family.

families: to partner
n service of their
full development.

Our Mission

To create the next
generation of
original
thinkers,
adaptive
leaders and
caring citizens.



Our Vision



To model
excellence in
progressive
elementary
education.

Our Aspiration

Build the foundation that will
enable us to achieve the next level
as changemakers and influencers
in the field of education and
children's mental health.

To be in high-demand by a
greater diversity
of communities.

Successfully
complete the
building and move
back home.



Strategic Priority 1: Model excellence in progressive elementary education



Strategic Priority 2: Nurture healthy relationships



Promote
WELL-BEING &
MENTAL HEALTH of
children, staff
families by 😊
FOSTERING healthy
relationships.

Capture &
communicate
POSITIVE examples
of AUTHENTIC
relationship
building.

the diversity
VOICES in
our
communities.

Strategic Priority 3 : Amplify learning

complete the
new space,
designed to
ENHANCE our ability
to be ORIGINAL
thinkers,
ADAPTIVE leaders
& CARING 📖
🖋️ citizens.

Partner with
families to ensure
children feel STABLE,
SECURE & SAFE
🍏 regardless of
our location. ★

★ CONTINUE to
co-create "MABIN MAGIC"
through play, creativity &
connection wherever
WE are. 🗨️

Finance Committee Report

2020/2021 was certainly a year to remember! The Mabin School responded well to the many challenges presented by COVID-19 while continuing to prepare for a major construction project.

Mabin posted a deficiency of revenues over expenses of \$129,011 driven by one time costs associated with management's strong response to operating the School during the pandemic, as well as anticipated costs associated with the build. Strong enrollment and disciplined spending show the School to have an excess of revenue over expenses when expenses are normalized for these one time costs.

As we look forward to major capital expenditures in the coming years, and the uncertainty presented by COVID-19, maintaining a strong financial position continues to be a priority for the Board. This focus is reflected in the stability and strength of the School's Statement of Financial Position. An increase in Deferred Contributions represents unspent funds raised for capital projects as part of The World Needs More Mabin Capital Campaign. This amount has grown substantially year over year and is now greater than \$2.3M.

The Mabin School's auditors, Hogg, Shain and Sheck LLP, produced an unqualified opinion and commended management on the quality of their work and the efficiency of the Audit.

The Audited Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2021 were approved by the Board and presented at the Annual General Meeting in September, 2021.

Looking forward, the Finance Committee is excited to welcome Jamie Campbell ('91), Nii-Apa Lamptey ('91), Mike Reid and Steven Silverberg. Steven was appointed as the Treasurer of the School at the AGM in September. His qualification as a CPA, CA and his background in real estate make him an ideal choice as we look to construction over the next 18 months. With a great team in place, we look forward to a busy year working closely with management on adapting to COVID-19 and planning for the new building.

The Finance Committee believes the School is financially well-prepared to embark on major capital projects consistent with the execution of the School's Strategic Plan and to manage through the challenging operating environment due to COVID-19.

SUMMARY OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JUNE 30, 2021

JUNE 30, 2020

ASSETS

Cash and investments	\$8,198,042	\$8,399,819
Other	\$1,974,285	\$2,102,513
Capital assets, net	\$1,386,734	\$1,094,376
	<u>\$11,559,061</u>	<u>\$11,596,708</u>

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities		
Deferred contributions	\$2,386,793	\$2,028,810
Prepaid fees	\$3,818,320	\$3,890,201
Other liabilities	\$163,747	\$358,485
	<u>\$6,368,860</u>	<u>\$6,277,496</u>
Net assets	\$5,190,201	\$5,319,212
	<u>\$11,559,061</u>	<u>\$11,596,708</u>

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

REVENUE

Tuition	\$3,857,785	\$4,008,300
Other	\$62,223	\$255,781
Unrestricted donations	\$86,453	\$43,236
	<u>\$4,006,461</u>	<u>\$4,307,317</u>

EXPENSES

Staffing costs	\$3,058,817	\$3,218,812
Academic programming	\$231,419	\$301,912
Facilities	\$485,000	\$159,015
Administrative & general	\$230,426	\$88,727
Amortization of capital assets	\$129,810	\$104,198
	<u>\$4,135,472</u>	<u>\$3,872,664</u>

EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

- \$129,011	<u>\$434,653</u>
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Advancement Committee Report

Hey Mabin! 2020/2021 was another productive year for the Advancement Committee in spite of the difficulties of the pandemic. The focus of all Mabin teachers, staff and Board members has been, and continues to be, the health and safety of the children, while still providing an outstanding education.

With this focus in mind, we have been sensitive to the needs and priorities of Mabin families and have adjusted our requests as to when and how we ask for donations. With the generosity and commitment of all our donors, the Capital Campaign has continued to move forward raising a total of \$3,831,975 at the time of publication. With continued hard work and dedication, we know we can reach our goal of \$4 million. Additionally, parents generously contributed to the Annual Fund which helped us pay for expenses incurred as a result of COVID-19.



It is important to highlight our most supportive and generous supporters – our Mabin families. We would never have had the success we have experienced without you! Mabin families, past and present, truly understand the power of philanthropy.

In June 2021, we realized a long-standing dream and finally broke ground on the Community Learning Lab. The reality of this project is coming to life right in front of us. For the 2021/2022 academic year, all of our students have moved to two nearby alternative locations while the construction takes place. The students are able to experience the city in a whole new way by taking advantage of the amazing outdoor spaces in and around the Avenue Rd./Bloor St. area. By September 2022, we will be back at our 50 Poplar Plains “home” with the brand new building completed and ready to welcome all of our students back into what is sure to be an inspiring new space.



We continue all of our fundraising activities to reach our goal of \$4 million. If you have not yet made a contribution to our campaign, I ask that you please take the time to meet with our Campaign Director, David Prendergast, so that you can learn more about The World Needs More Mabin Capital Campaign and help us reach our goal. Every donation helps!

**WISHING YOU CONTINUED HEALTH
AND SUCCESS IN THE YEAR AHEAD.**



Development Committee Report

The Development Committee is pleased and excited to be sharing this message with all Mabin families and supporters, present and past. It has been a busy year filled with activity and progress. Things are exciting and very real now!

At the end of the 2020/2021 school year, as I am sure many of you are aware, Nancy Steinhauer and the Mabin team vacated our “home” at 50 Poplar Plains Road to enable construction of the new addition, our Community Learning Lab, to begin. Reaching this milestone is the result of close to 20 years of work by many members of the Mabin community.



Over the summer of 2021, the Committee secured the necessary approvals from the City of Toronto and working in conjunction with Ark Inc., our architect, completed the construction drawings for Phase 1 of the build. This included final designs of the Community Learning Lab above the gym, JK/SK classroom spaces as well as exterior landscaping.

The Committee prequalified contractors and after a thorough review process, shortlisted and selected Venture Construction Inc. as our Construction Manager. Venture Construction specializes in the independent school sector and has delivered projects of a similar scale and complexity to that of our project.

In June, 2021, Nancy Steinhauer, along with the Building and Advancement Committees, invited special guests including our local City Councillor, Josh Matlow, and past Mabin Board Chairs and members to our COVID-friendly groundbreaking event.

Venture commenced with demolition and site preparation over the summer months initially removing the buried pool that sat below the old basketball court. Take a moment and drive by the school and you will see the art room has been demolished, the gym roof has been removed and the work within the school has progressed to the point that the foundations for the new facility are ready to be built.



The entire team has worked hard to be respectful of our neighbors during this disruptive time, and we regularly meet with our Councillor's Office and our community members to provide updates and respond to any questions or comments as they arise.

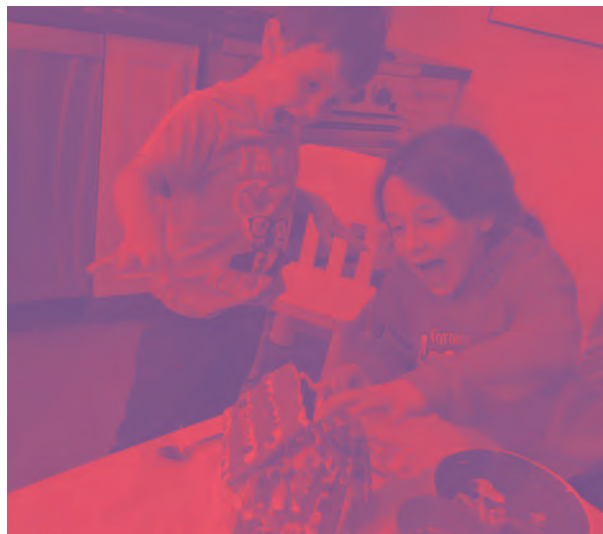
I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all members of our community for their time and contributions to The Mabin School over the years. We are looking forward to sharing this experience and the fantastic opportunities provided to our children, the Mabin community and beyond.



Mabin Parents' Association Report

The 2020/2021 school year was unlike any other, that's for sure! So many areas of our lives were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and Mabin Parents' Association (PA) events were no exception. The main goal of the PA is to build community among all stakeholders in the school which we have typically done by hosting events and supporting other school spirit related initiatives. We recognized some of the challenges that we would face during the 2020/2021 school year and decided to focus our efforts on the children, the teachers and the staff at The Mabin School.

Despite our unending optimism that we would be able to hold in-person events, we were unable to do so last year. However, we did manage to host some fun virtual events and even created new projects that were lots of fun! Here are some of the initiatives supported by the Mabin PA during the 2020/2021 school year:



BOOK RECORDING

During the first term, we recruited some volunteers to read and record chapters of "8 Class Pets + 1 Squirrel / 1 dog = Chaos", a children's book, by Vivian Vande Velde. The audio recordings were made available to teachers and students in their Google Classroom to listen to and enjoy!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY GINGERBREAD FUNDRAISER

Carolyn Cybulski, our Junior Kindergarten teacher, spearheaded the Gingerbread Fundraiser last year. Families were encouraged to take pictures of their creations and submit them or tag the school on social media. The PA supported this initiative by supplying candy for decorations.

PAINT NIGHT

January was our first virtual event hosted by Gina Brintnell, our Grade 4-6 art teacher last year. Gina led us in a night of responsible art risks. We painted, drew and critiqued! We had a great turnout of both parents and staff.

BOOKS, BANTER AND BEVERAGES

Hosted by Michelle Barchuk, Mabin's Director of Admissions and Communications, parents and staff spent an evening sharing book recommendations with each other. We discussed books for both adults and children. The list of recommendations was circulated after the evening and one participant based her reading for the summer months entirely on the list!

MABIN SPEAKER SERIES

The PA supported the school financially to bring Dr. Alex Russell to the wider Mabin community. His virtual talk, open to anyone, focused on supporting children's emotional growth and a recording of it is available on the Mabin website.

MABIN MERCH

Mabin SWAG returned! We had t-shirts and hoodies for sale in the spring. We even had the option to personalize the items. The closure of schools in April made distribution a bit more difficult, but through the dedication of a small team of drivers, everyone received their orders in time for Mabin Day!

IAN HAWKINS SPIRIT AWARD

This award, created by the Mabin Parents' Association, honours Ian Hawkins who was Mabin's music and French teacher for many years prior to his retirement in 2018. Each year, nominations are welcome from all members of the Mabin community and



a small committee is formed to review the nominations and decide on the winner. The 2020/2021 award was given to Chris Russell, Mabin's Vice Principal (and Grade 6 teacher for many years). Chris truly embodies the characteristics of kindness, supportiveness and community spirit. Congratulations to this worthy recipient!

MABIN DAY LOOT BAGS

Although we were unable to gather in person for Mabin Day this year, Lauren Saunders (our French and drama teacher) hosted an amazing Mabin Day Assembly online. The PA helped to make the day special by making loot bags for every student in the school. Each bag contained some sidewalk chalk, a frisbee, a Mabin bracelet, sticker and a set of coloured pencils along with a notepad. This initiative helped raise spirits as we headed into the homestretch of a challenging year.

BOOK DONATIONS

In conjunction with Mabin Day loot bag pick up and in the spirit of our annual Book Exchange (cancelled due to school closures), the Mabin community participated in a successful Book Drive. The PA collected gently used book donations for the Children's Book Bank in Toronto and delivered 12 full boxes of books at the end of the school year. We know that the books will be much appreciated and were thrilled to help this local organization.



CLASS PARTIES/YEARBOOKS

The class reps for each grade were tasked with the final initiative for the 2020/2021 year – they were given a budget to do something fun for the class. In past years, there would have been a class party, but this time it was completely up to them! Some classes produced yearbooks, others had virtual parties. No matter the idea, it was a great way to build community and round out the year.

STAFF APPRECIATION

It was a very challenging year for our teachers and staff and the PA wanted to honour them in ways that fell within the public health limitations placed on schools and the wider community. We started a monthly drop off of coffee and tea orders – personalized for every staff member at both sites – as a show of appreciation. While we were not able to host a staff appreciation luncheon as we would have liked, we hope to revive this tradition for the 2021/2022 year. Volunteer parent shoppers were recruited to purchase individualized gifts and gift cards for the teachers and staff that were distributed at the school in December and remotely in June. As the year progressed, we also set up a thank you note program whereby each teacher and staff received a thank you note (either in person or via email) weekly. Gratitude is a powerful motivator!

CONCLUSION

The Mabin Parents' Association could not function without the support of the staff at the school. We are so grateful for the support of everyone at Mabin and we especially need to thank Nancy S., Chris, Rachel, Michelle B., Graeme, Dayana, Aki, and Penpa. Our many, many questions about how we could interact with the school through the pandemic were always answered with such thoughtfulness and patience. Thank you!

We also wouldn't be here without you, the parents. Thank you for your continued support as we navigated the pandemic together. We are looking ahead with a renewed sense of optimism. While we know that some things will remain virtual, we also know that we will have a chance to be together again in person and can't wait for that time to come!

Board of Directors 2020/2021



JAMIE CAMPBELL ('91)
DIRECTOR



JEREMY CREED ('86)
CHAIR



CHRISTINE EGY-ROSE
DIRECTOR



JENNIFER ELMALEH
VICE-CHAIR



ROSEMARY EVANS
DIRECTOR



ALAN GERTNER ('96)
DIRECTOR



MARK JONES
DIRECTOR



EMILY MCKERNAN
DIRECTOR



HELEN MCLEAN
SECRETARY



HENRY PERREN ('91)
TREASURER



MICHAEL ROLAND
DIRECTOR



JASON SARRACINI
DIRECTOR



WILL SCOTT
DIRECTOR



JOHANNA SHAPIRA
DIRECTOR

