

CLEARPOINT HANDS

Clearpoint Home & School Association's
Email Newsletter



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ANOTHER YEAR GONE BY...

What a strange year.

Actually, it wasn't a strange year at all, but simply a strange term. Roughly three months. Every day blending into the other, until we've almost forgotten about the way things were from August to March before our worlds were turned upside down. A time before terms like *social-distancing* became the norm and when we would automatically hug or kiss on both cheeks in a typically *Montréalais* way of greeting one another.

It was also a time when we would be running from one activity to another with barely enough time to time to spare unless we scheduled it in our calendars and phones.

As we move forward through our new norm and eventually push past to a more social and reconnected future, I hope we look back on this undoubtedly memorable time and give pause and thanks. Though this time has disrupted our lives, staggered some short term goals and physically disconnected us from many of our nearest and dearest, it has also blessed us with the time and opportunity to be kind and caring to our community at large, and perhaps most importantly, to be a more loving, sharing and communicative community within our own homes.

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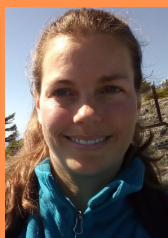
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FUN WITH GARDENING

by Sylvia Orthwein

After losing too many veggies from our garden to the local animals over the years—and inspired by our friends—this spring we decided to go all out and build an enclosed vegetable garden. We built the boxes high to make it easier on our backs. To save money on soil and to make it a fun experiment, we decided to try Hugelkultur in the raised beds. We layered the bottom of the beds with old tree stumps and branches from a tree we had cut down years ago and left lying around. The idea is that the old wood helps retain moisture and provides aeration and as it decomposes adds nutrients to the soil. Then we added the soil and compost and layered it with a thick layer of wood chip mulch from a tree stump and had been mulched next door. The mulch layer will keep the soil moist in the summer heat. Here is a great site with more information on Hugelkultur: <https://www.permaculture.co.uk/articles/many-benefits-hugelkultur>.



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This final issue of the 2019–2020 year is dedicated to our children, especially our graduates. They have showed us, reminded us and reflected the great resiliency, strength of character and outright joy that can be found in even unchartered and challenging times. We are very proud of you.

A happy summer to all! Play safe and stay safe!

Aalia Persaud

Editor

Clearpoint Hands E-News



A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Tayba Huot

This is not how I imagined my first year as Home & School President. I dreamt of Staff Appreciation week, Movie Nights, Lunchtime activities and year end BBQs. COVID-19 had another plan in store for all of us. Zoom meetings, email voting and distanced Executive meetings in my backyard all while working from home and trying to teach my children. Lemons were shipped by the load full and I've become pretty good at making lemonade.

We're dealing, days are long and some better than others but I'm very grateful we're healthy and happy in our little bubble. I'm also very thankful for our amazing staff and teachers who pulled through with lesson plans to keep my guys busy and entertained. I'm hopeful that the world will heal itself and we will go back to "normal" by the fall. Home & School members have been hard at work planning for an upcoming year of unknowns—potentially providing the extras to make the staff and student environment a happy and healthy one. Fundraising next year may or may not happen but we will do our very best to maintain that community feel at Clearpoint. This was and will remain our top priority. Please reach out to us at clearpointhomeandschool@gmail.com should you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Stay Healthy, Tayba

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

by David Estok



It goes without saying that our school year this year has been very unusual. It also goes without saying that the past three and half months have been very difficult. Since the school closed way back in March, life has presented our families with many challenges. There is no doubt that your children have missed being at school, missed being with their classmates and teachers, and have missed many of the fun events that the last part of the school year normally offers.

One of the things that I think is important to do is to say thank you to our parents. We thank you for your continued support of the school and our staff. We know that this year in particular has been hard on our parents. Although we know that you would all do whatever you felt was necessary to help your children, you have been asked to do a great deal these past few months and we thank you for that. We are truly appreciative of the collaboration that exists between the school and our families and acknowledge all the many contributions you have made to the life of Clearpoint. We could not offer the quality of program that we have in our school without the on-going support of our parents.

Due to COVID-19, the world has changed in ways that a few months ago we never could have imagined. As we all know, so many of these changes have been hard to adjust to and have had severe impacts. Students have been forced to stay home from school, some people have lost work or lost their jobs, and some families have even lost loved ones.

Yet, in the wake of disruption and tragedy that has swept the world, there also comes opportunity for growth, to learn, to imagine things differently and to make changes for the better.

Throughout the pandemic people have found ways to help and care for one another, to protect one another, to share time together as families that they may not have easily done in the past. As a greater number of people make working from home a more common practice, families will perhaps be able to spend more time together, even after the pandemic subsides. Less work-related travel and fewer cars on the road means cleaner air and less of a negative impact on the environment.

"Clearpoint Daycare is more than just a daycare... we are a family—a home away from home. Over the past three months, the ladies and myself truly miss being with the children; spending time making crafts, hearing stories they are so excited to tell us and mostly the hugs that we would get out of the blue!

Wishing you all a great summer and look forward to seeing you in September!"

— Miss Tassie



"What a way to end the year! This has most definitely been an unexpected journey for all of us, but I think that it is an experience that will make us stronger in the end. I can't help but think of all the I.B. attributes that we've had a chance to develop over the past several weeks...

- Being **Open-Minded** to a new way of life.
- Being **Communicators**. With social distancing measures, we sure had to find new ways to communicate!
- Being **Caring**. This has been a tough time for many, but many great actions have come from our students as a result.
- Being **Reflective**. I have certainly learned a lot about myself during this pandemic!

So, while this year may have not gone according to schedule, we have learned to adapt and face our challenges with our best foot forward!"

— Marianne Brownie
IB Coordinator

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The kids were fully involved in the garden building process. They helped build the frame, place the logs, put in the soil and spread out the wood chip mulch. They wrote out the names of the veggies on popsicle sticks and planted seeds and seedlings. To protect the veggies from the animals the raised beds are enclosed with chicken wire. Our resident groundhogs and bunnies will now have to go elsewhere for their dinner. Now it's time to wait and see how our vegetables will respond to their new garden and hopefully get some tasty treats to enjoy soon 😊.



Photo credit: Sylvia Orthwein



Photo credit: Sylvia Orthwein

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As our society looks for ways to correct inequalities and injustices exposed by the pandemic, there will be opportunities for creating better institutions, better social organizations and introducing a greater measure of fairness for all.

We are all familiar with the fundamental element of our guiding philosophy as an IB school: to encourage our students to take some sort of action to help make the world a better place. There is undoubtedly some solace in knowing that now, perhaps more than ever, there are abundant opportunities for our students to become leaders and to take actions that will make our world, our community and our school a better, more caring, more creative, more innovative and inspired place. With our shared guidance, I have no doubt that they will respond to that challenge—and that is something that we can all look forward to.

CLASS OF 2020 VALEDICTORIAN SPEECHES



Chloe Bercovitz

Good morning fellow Clearpoint graduates, teachers, Mr Estok and parents. I wish that I was looking into everyone's eyes right now. However, maybe some of you are sitting on your couch or even still in your bed while you watch this! First and foremost, I would like to thank our amazing Grade 6 teachers. They have taught us so much in our final year, regardless that our time together has been cut short. So, thank you from all of us—we couldn't possibly have asked for better! And, of course, from Mme. Suzanne in Kindergarten to Madame Suzanne in Grade 6, it has been you, our teachers, that have made our Clearpoint experience so very special.

J'espère que je parle pour tous les élèves quand je dis que je suis tellement reconnaissante que Clearpoint est une École Du Monde IB et que le programme IB était le noyau de notre introduction d'apprentissage. Toutes les leçons de vie que

nous avons apprises durant toutes nos années à Clearpoint étaient vraiment comment être altruistes, réfléchis, communicatifs, et équilibrés, juste pour nommer quelques attributs.

Now, this is preparing us both academically and as human beings. And even though they have never given me a math worksheet or a dictée, there are also my classmates—my friends that have taught me so many awesome life lessons. More than they will know, and I will never forget them. I hope that you are all proud of how far we have come. We, the Clearpoint Class of 2020, have been given this unique opportunity these last three months. Time to reflect on the endless tests we have studied for, all the friendships we have made, and finally, everything we have learned at this amazing school. For many of you guys, this has been seven years of your life! And although it may feel that this situation has disrupted the flow of our Grade 6 year, the Class of 2020 will forever go down in history! In its own weird way, this pandemic will bond us forever. In 20 years from now, we might be saying to each other: "Hey remember when we graduated elementary school, it was kind of like a McDonald's drive thru? Kinda odd, but so worth it in the end!"

Peut-être, certains d'entre vous vous inquiétez ou vous êtes nerveux pour le futur—comme moi. J'ai beaucoup de mémoires à Clearpoint, ça va être difficile d'abandonner et d'avoir un nouveau départ. Mais, j'ai réalisé qu'on n'a pas besoin d'abandonner nos passés. Nous pouvons reconnaître nos passés—rire un peu, sourire. Repenser à quand nous nous sommes écrasés pendant un exercice d'incendie ou peut-être les beaux moments pendant les sorties scolaires. Nous sommes très chanceux d'avoir de nombreux souvenirs qui sont tellement supers. Ils vont être avec nous pour toujours!

These last six years I would always get super excited for the first days of school—knowing I would see my friends, my teachers and returning to the classrooms that have taught me so much. I know deep down that this is because of the safe and cheerful learning environment that Clearpoint has given me. I wonder now what will I feel this fall? I won't have the joy of seeing my friends, my teachers and well everything in between! What I do know though, is that we are all fully prepared by what Clearpoint has given us. I am now excited for what the future holds and I hope you all are too! We are ready for a fresh start, a new chapter—Our new beginning.

"I would like to say that although the corona virus affected a lot of this year, I have still made so many good memories I will never forget."

— Sophie S.-B.
Clearpoint Grad 2020

Q & A

with Emma and Willow Tedford

Grade 3

Q: What event have you planned?

A: We are organizing a community food drive for the West Island Mission. The event will take place June 13th. It's a full day drop off your items event. Food will get delivered to the Mission a few day's after.

Q: What inspired you to do this?

A: Usually there are food drives organized by schools and since we are not in school there is a need to help organizations like the Mission collect food for families in our community. We wanted to do something for our community and help people during these difficult times.

Q: What have you learnt?

A: To make a poster for the event, ask for help from adults, make posters and ask the village of Pointe Claire stores to put up a sign.

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Kalysta Karpontinis

Welcome Clearpoint teachers and staff, graduates and families to the 2020 Grade 6 virtual graduation. Although the state of the world prevented us from having a traditional graduation nothing is going to get in our way celebrating the last seven years of hard work.

We are graduating in quarantine and making history!

Nous serons diplômés en quarantaine et nous écrivons une page d'histoire !

J'aimerais commencer par remercier mes professeurs qui m'ont toujours encouragé, les moniteurs de garderie et de de dîner et nos directeurs enthousiastes. Merci à tous mes amis que j'ai fait pendant cette période, qui m'ont aidés durant mes hauts et mes bas et qui m'ont aidés à créer des souvenirs inoubliables. Finalement, je veux aussi remercier ma famille, qui n'a jamais hésité pour m'aider. Vous avez tous contribué à me rendre la personne que je suis aujourd'hui. Je ne serais pas ici sans vous. Merci.

I would like start by thanking my encouraging teachers, the warm daycare and lunch time monitors and our enthusiastic principals. Thank you to the friends I have made along the way who have helped me through my ups and downs and created unforgettable memories. Finally, I would also like to thank my family who has never hesitated to help. You have all contributed to shaping me into the person I am today, I would not be here without you. Thank you.

I remember my first day at Clearpoint, the kindergarten teachers took my hand and brought me into the school, with a bright pink balloon dangling off my bag. I remember thinking, 'is this a dream?' I never would have thought Clearpoint would one day become a second home to me.

Clearpoint has shown me what it means to be a leader. It has taught me to stand up for what I believe in and that we can make change in our world. Between Math Club and Mr. Bill's lunch time sports, Clearpoint has given me many opportunities to try new things and discover my true passions.

Le futur nous attend. En septembre, nous allons tous aller au secondaire. Même si nous quittons Clearpoint, nous garderons tous les souvenirs et les leçons qu'on nous a enseignées, ainsi que les liens d'amitiés incroyables que nous avons construits. Je sais que je ne suis pas la seule personne qui va s'ennuyer de Clearpoint et de tous mes camarades de classe, mais je suis excitée de commencer un nouveau chapitre et des nouvelles aventures.

The future has so much waiting for us. In September we will all be going to high school. We will be leaving Clearpoint behind but keeping the memories and the lessons we have been taught, as well as the incredible friendships we have built. I know that I am not the only person who will miss Clearpoint and all my classmates, but I am also excited to start a new path, add new pages to the book and experience new adventures.

It is amazing how far we've come. From not knowing our left from right to being the role models of the school. High school is right around the corner and I've never felt more accomplished.

Congratulations to the Grade 6 classes of 2020. Here's to a day we will never forget. We did it! As our year is coming to an end, our journey is only just beginning.

Rafael-Xavier Ramdas



Friends, parents, families, Clearpoint teachers and staff:

In preparation of this speech, I struggled to come up with words to honour this memorable occasion. It is probably because I have been out of school for so long!

So, I will start by sharing some facts about Sir Isaac Newton that we can somewhat relate to. He is one of the world's greatest physicists, mathematicians and minds. Many of you know him for inventing the concept of gravity with an apple and a tree as co-stars.



Photo credit: Amanda Howard

"Last weekend, we decided to clean up all the garbage from a beach area at Pine Beach Park in Dorval. Emily had noticed there were all sorts of plastic wrappers, balloons and litter on the beach area. We biked over with our gloves and a garbage bag and went to work. We finished up the day with a picnic lunch :)

Emily R. was in Miss Kimberley's kindergarten class and Amy (her little sister) will be starting pre-K in the fall. They were both extremely proud of their work! Now everyone, and the wildlife, can have a cleaner space to enjoy."

— Amanda Howard

"My name is Paisley Huot and I am finishing up Grade 2. I was pretty happy when school ended but now I'm feeling sad. I miss my friends and teachers a lot. I really hope coronavirus ends soon. Since school ended, I have been going outside every day (well not on the rainy days) but most days I'm outside. There are bunnies in our backyard and one time I even got to touch one of them. On June 28th we are moving and I'm happy and sad about it. I'm sad because the new house isn't as close to Clearpoint and the bunnies don't live there. I'm happy because there are a lot of kids in the new neighborhood and we might get a hot tub. I am really looking forwards to going back to school in September and starting Grade 3 with my friends."

— Paisley Huot
Grade 2

“As we wrap up this year, I would like to thank all the parents who supported Home & School by ordering pizza lunch for their children throughout the school year! I would also like to thank all the volunteers who come out to help deliver the pizzas to the kids. I really appreciate all their help and couldn't do it without them. I would have loved to thank them personally and to say goodbye to those who are leaving Clearpoint. I hope everyone has a healthy and safe summer! Hope to see you all in September.”

— Lori Goldberg
Home & School Association
Member-at-Large



Photo credit: Frances La Porta

“Two students in Grade 3 decided to take action with a food drive. On Sunday, June 14, Willow and Emma Tedford helped organize a fundraiser for the West Island Mission. They collected non-perishable goods at the home in Pointe Claire and were even interviewed on CBC radio. We are so proud of them. Way to go girls. Thank you for your caring, kind hearts!”

— Mme Frances

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- Son père est décédé trois mois avant sa naissance et porte son nom. Sir Isaac Newton est né prématurément. Pesant seulement trois livres à la naissance, les médecins avaient estimé qu'il avait seulement quelques heures à vivre.

- Sa mère voulait qu'il soit agriculteur, mais il était mauvais et ses parents n'avaient pas le choix de l'envoyer à l'école, il a été expulsé, et il n'était pas connu pour ses bonnes notes, c'était ses activités parascolaires qui ont impressionnées ses professeurs.

- His dog apparently set his house on fire and burned 20 years' worth of research. For those whose dog is an arsonist or those who didn't complete your homework or assignments, please don't feel bad, you aren't the first and it doesn't mean you are doomed for failure. I am thankful I have cats.

- He was a doodler and doodled all over the walls of his home and drove his parents nuts. Instead of doodling on the walls I would chew up all the charging cables in the house, wondering what they tasted like.

- He once tried looking at the sun in a mirror and blinded himself for three days. We have all had those moments of curiosity. Like when I lost my sense of taste for a day because I realize battery acid doesn't taste very good.

- Il était député du parlement mais n'a jamais dit un mot tout le temps, sauf pour leur dire de fermer une fenêtre. Le message ici est que vous n'avez pas toujours besoin de parler pour qu'on se souvienne de vous ou pour laisser une impression.

- Certaines de ses plus grandes découvertes ont été réalisées lorsqu'il était en quarantaine à cause de la pandémie de la Peste noire à Londres en 1665. Ma plus grande découverte pendant la quarantaine était que je peux encore réussir à écrire une phrase !

- De plus, il a découvert la théorie de la lumière en observant un prisme qui décompose la lumière blanche en arc-en-ciel. L'arc-en-ciel est devenu le symbole d'espoir le plus utilisé aujourd'hui.

- He discovered the laws of motion on which mechanics are based on. The first law being “An object in motion wants to

stay in motion and an object at rest wants to stay at rest.” Replace the word “object” with Rafael. I would rather stay at rest.

All this to say, despite him having unique quirks as we all do, he achieved success against all odds. This is a message to all of my friends and classmates of encouragement, hope, strength and an attempt at humour during these very difficult times.

Whichever path you take, don't blind yourself for three days, don't eat batteries and remember the values we were taught at Clearpoint. Success not only means making a lot of money, it is being a decent human being. Be strong, take risks, keep growing, have integrity, show kindness and respect.

What inspired me to talk about Sir Isaac Newton of all people?

Recently, I heard a quote from him that I will always remember: “If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.”

It means that we can achieve all levels of success with the guidance and experience of those who care. This is a message of sincere gratitude for our parents, families, teachers and staff of our wonderful school.

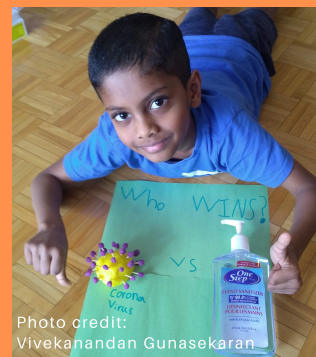
You are the Giants. We are on Your Shoulders.

Thank you.
Rafael

*Have a
great
summer!*

“I would love to send some positive vibes to all Clearpoint families! During these last few months I have been enjoying puzzles as they keep my mind at ease and spending time with my puppy, Snickers (he sure loves having me home). To keep my spirits high, I have been visiting loved ones at a distance and on video chats! Seeing their friendly faces and hearing their kind words reminds me that we are all here for one another. I hope this summer comes with great weather and I look forward to spending more time with friends and family. I hope you all have a wonderful summer and I hope to see you soon! :)”

— Sabrina Lazier
Teacher, Grade 4



“Thavan in Grade 2 modeled Corona Virus using his Play-Doh. He did for (it) his Health Challenge week three months ago.”

— Vivekanandan
Gunasekaran

“Hello Clearpoint families! I had a great time in my first year as Vice President of Home and School. Being involved with my daughter's school community and getting to know so many wonderful people was exactly what I wanted to accomplish this year. With the presence of COVID-19 this spring, I realized how much my kids missed and needed their peers and teachers. I always thought that I could provide what my kids needed and, well, I was wrong. It really takes a village to raise children. I think I took how blessed we are to be a part of such an amazing school community for granted. Now that we have had limited contact with teachers and friends, I am realizing how much Clearpoint means to us. We organized a Family Paint Night last week which went really well. It was rejuvenating to connect with school families. (even if it was through ZOOM) Community is what brings people together and we cannot wait to be back in the fall and have more events to bring families together. Have a great summer!!!”

— Angela Dandy
Home & School Association
Vice-President