

CLEARPOINT HANDS

Clearpoint Home & School Association's
Email Newsletter



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AND THAT'S A WRAP!

What a fantastic way to end the year!

Am I referring to the plethora of grad activities or year-end family celebration, you may ask? I am talking about ALL of it! I am talking about the feeling of normalcy that returned in spirit to many of the activities and events in our school community. Is COVID done? By no means, and neither does that mean we shouldn't continue with precautions. But no more was that oppressive, stressful feeling that has tried to strangle out much of the joy in our school community hanging over us. I sincerely hope that we will all start the 2022-23 school year with as much vigilance, yes, but also as much joy as we finished this school year. For families who were not part of the Clearpoint community prior to 2019, I wish you a renewed welcome and hope that you may finally see and feel what it is to be a part of the Clearpoint family. For the graduates leaving this year, you know that you and your families will always be a part of ours.

Aalia Persaud
Editor
Clearpoint Hands E-News



A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Tayba Huot

Hosting my final Home & School meeting June 14th was bittersweet. For me it's the culmination of seven active years as a Home & School member, five years on Governing Board and the past three years as Home & School President. The last couple of years were rough, but honestly, we have the very best team ever! Home & School volunteers never quit and because they think outside the box our fundraising and community events have never been better! The recognition we are receiving from other schools and the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA) is definitely something we should all be proud of. Clearpoint prides itself on community and our Home & School will stop at nothing to bring that to life. I am so proud of our volunteers. I am proud of our Home & School Association and, ultimately, to be a part of the Clearpoint family.

My eldest graduated this year therefore I have officially stepped down as President, but I promise Clearpoint will be in great hands. There is a newly appointed Home & School Executive for the 2022-2023 school year with Angela Dandy leading the way as President.

To close out my presidency, I was blessed to receive the QFHSA Volunteer of the Year Award for 2022. I am honoured and my heart is full. Wishing you all a happy, healthy and exciting summer and see you all in the fall!



IB CORNER

by Layla Barroca

Another year of IB inquiry is coming to a close and we couldn't be prouder of our students! Among all the other attributes, each one of our students has acted as inquirers and thinkers as they worked through their units of inquiry this year. They have asked questions and communicated their thoughts all while embodying an open-minded attitude.

If you want to support this inquiry and learning over the summer, and beyond, here are a few simple steps! (Source: Pedagogy for PYP Parents)

Take an inquiry stance — Meet a question with a question!

Often our first instinct when a child asks us a question is to provide an answer. But this approach can prevent a golden opportunity to have learners not only learn that thing, but also learn something about how to learn. So next time your child asks you a question ("How do you spell?" "How do you multiply fractions?" "What are the types of energy?"), no matter what the question is, instead of supplying the answer, try responding like this:

Great question!

How could you find that out?

What resource could you use to discover that?

How could you figure that out?

Be prepared to inquire together.

Sometimes, when you meet a question with a question, you get an "I don't know". That is an invitation to a great teachable moment! If your child doesn't know how to find out on their own or what resource to use, you can step in as their partner and respond like this:

Let's figure it out together!

Maybe we can try this...

Have you ever used this...?

Let's see if this resource has the answer...



This way you are still supporting them to figure out what they are trying to figure out, but along the way you've also helped

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

by David Estok



Another school year has finished and, as always, it is bittersweet. Everyone is looking forward to summer vacation, of course, but as we all said goodbye to our students with hugs and tears, we know we will miss them. They have been the focus of our energy, care and devotion for the past 10 months. We will look forward to seeing them return in the fall, anticipating how they have grown and changed both physically and as individuals – developing in so many ways.

One particular group stands out of course: our Grade 6 graduates, who are now moving on to a new chapter in their lives. Some will come back to visit Clearpoint from time to time, after they have started high school, but they will not be returning to our school this coming fall. This is a milestone to be proud of, but one that fills us with mixed emotions — jubilation over seeing them make it successfully to the end of their elementary journey all whilst pulling at our heartstrings to know that after we have spent seven years with most of them, they have gone on to bigger and better things.



Our graduation ceremony on June 22nd marked this moment with finesse, and was an incredible celebration for the parents, staff and, of course, our Grade 6 students. It was another example of how parents and staff collaborate for the benefit of our students. Our school gym, so beautifully decorated by the parents provided a stunning setting where we heard inspiring valedictory speeches from four of our students, and thanks to Aalia Persaud, editor of this newsletter, you can read their carefully crafted words here. After months of planning, fund-raising, and many meetings, all was in place to ensure that the Grade 6 graduation would be an evening for the ages. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents of our Grade 6 students who gave a great deal of time and energy to plan this event (and others, such as our Grade 6 pool party and a freezie day for all Clearpoint students). Our Grade 6 parents also gave our staff a very generous gift — a new coffee machine for the staff room — which with the generous support of the Home & School is finally being renovated. It was presented by the students

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develop their skill as an independent learner. So, instead of needing to ask you the next time, they might have some ways to figure it out on their own!

Value the process.

As often as possible, get your child thinking beyond what they did and what they learned, and more about how they learned. Some great questions include:

How did you do that?

Why did you do that?

What strategy did you use?

How did you learn that strategy?

What steps did you take?

Harness the power of the key concepts!

In the Primary Years Programme (PYP) we have seven key concepts that are secret ingredients to help learners think more deeply and understand ANYTHING. The beauty of these key concepts is they work for everything! You can apply these questions to any subject or area of learning. Whether your child is trying to learn about shapes, commas, a historic figure, a sports skill, sentence structure, an art technique, a water bottle, anything! Here are the key concept questions you can ask your child at any time about anything they are learning:

- **What is it like? (Form)**
- **How does it work? (Function)**
- **How is it connected to other things? (Connection)**
- **How does it change? (Change)**

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- **Why is it like that? Why is it the way it is? (Causation)**
- **What are the different points of view? (Perspective)**
- **What are our responsibilities? (Responsibility)**

I wish all our students at Clearpoint Elementary a happy, restful and inquisitive summer! And don't forget: If they are interested, they can participate in the *risk-takers* challenge mentioned in Mr. Estok's last newsletter!

The IB-PYP defines a risk-taker as a student who is willing to step outside their comfort zone and try something new in the hopes of gaining new knowledge or additional skills. They are comfortable being challenged and welcome opportunities to explore new ideas.

My challenge to them this summer is to be a risk-taker! If they push themselves out of their comfort zone by trying a new activity, making a new friend, learning a new skill, etc., the possibilities are endless! If they step-up as a risk-taker, I would love to hear about it! You can complete this form and either return it to me or their new teacher in the fall, or take a picture & email it to lbarroca@lbpearson.ca. Any student who completes the risk-taker form will receive a pride tag in the fall AND be entered in the draw to win a Back to School prize pack in September.

See you all in the fall!

accompanied by a touching poem. Everything came together perfectly on Wednesday, and again despite the emotions, the evening paid tribute to our students in proper manner. Best of all, the ceremony was live with parents and many staff members attending in person!

This year, as last year, we have all faced many challenges as a school community. Recent events like our Grade 6 grad, the Home & School end-of-year family celebration and GIMAC have given us a renewed sense of hopefulness that normalcy is being finally restored, and that prospects for next year are more positive than ever.

Clearpoint Elementary is an extraordinary school, sustained by an extraordinary community. On behalf of the entire staff of Clearpoint we say "Thank you!" to all of our families for your continued support, and wish you all the very best for the summer. We look forward to seeing you all again in the fall.



CLASS OF 2022 VALEDICTORIAN SPEECHES

Austin Lane



Good afternoon Classmates, Teachers, Parents, distinguished guests and the graduating class of 2022 who are present here tonight. Thank you for being there for all of us over the last 7 years throughout this wonderful journey. I still can't believe we are in our final days at this amazing school, a place that has been our home away from home for so long. I don't just want to thank the teachers and staff but I would like to say thank you to the amazing home and school program for all the exciting fundraisers and events that you have given us. Probably everyone thinks that this is the end of a 7 year long story, but I think of it as the end of one chapter and the beginning of another.

On our first day of school we were dropped into a whole new environment, everything was new to us! The school was a strange maze of rooms and corridors, the teachers were strangers and the other kids were not yet our friends! We worried if we would make any friends, if we would get lost or if our parents would remember to pick us up at the end of the day! Thankfully all of the teachers made us feel welcome and after the balloon parade we felt like we belonged.

De la maternelle à la sixième année, on a beaucoup de bons souvenirs. En maternelle, je me souviens que chaque personne avait mangé le Play-do, surtout le Play-do rose et que chaque personne avait adoré les arts, grâce à Mme Jennifer.

In grade 3 we were finally upstairs and it felt like we were on top of the world. I remember that if we were good for the day we would get a point for our team and the team with the most points at the end of the month would get an ice cream party.

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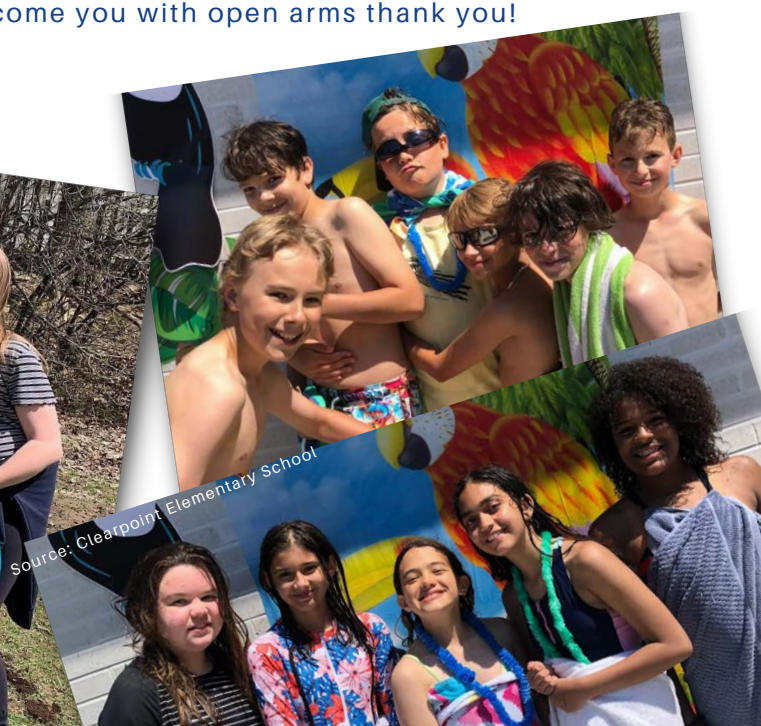
Source: Clearpoint Elementary School



We all worked so hard to get the prize each month which taught us to always try our hardest in life. Then the pandemic hit, preventing us from seeing all of our friends and forcing us to go on zoom, but that didn't stop us from learning. We had to learn all the new rules like social distancing and how to properly wear masks. The worst part of COVID was the separate zones in the school yard that stopped us from interacting with our friends in the other classes but it allowed us to make new friends and we are all closer because of the pandemic. Thank you to Mme Kelly for getting us through the pandemic.

This year I was more stressed than ever worrying about the exhibition essays and presenting in front of 100 people or more. We were all worried if we would get into the high school we wanted and would any of our friends be there as well. It was also a really fun year. We had a pool party, a food truck came to school, our grad trip to Ottawa and of course all the other activities that we did like the halo run and track and field. All thanks to probably the best gym teachers in the world, Ms Yates and Mr Bill. But we cannot forget everyone else that has helped us so much - Mr Dufresne, Mme Gabrielle, Ms Angela, Mme Hayes, Ms Catalina, Ms Audrey, Ms Tassie, Ms Angelika, Ms Reberio, Mme Lajoie, Ms Laura but most importantly our amazing principal Mr Estok and our wonderful IB coordinator Ms Barroca!

Like me, some of you might be nervous to go to high school but you don't have to be because just like Clearpoint your new school will welcome you with open arms thank you!



Source: Clearpoint Elementary School

Cooper McDonald



Good evening it is an honor to be the Grade 6 valedictorian... Man, we are getting old!

When I agreed to try out to be valedictorian I thought oh yeah I can do this, then I realized I had to actually write a speech. Our teachers never taught us how to write a graduation speech! So I had to ask a good friend of mine. Actually it's everybody's good friend. GOOGLE. Here goes nothing, I mean everything.

Welcome parents, teachers, staff, friends, mentors, guests, and most importantly the graduating class of 2022. Can you believe we're finally here?

We made it! We finished the exams, we pushed through exhibition and we've matured significantly since the day we started our journey at Clearpoint... Well some of us have.. **wink**. *Je veux remercier tous les prof et aides au cours des années, Mr Estok, Ms. Angelika et Ms. Tassie. Et les profs, Mr. Dufresne, Mme Gabrielle, Ms. Angela, Mme Hayes, Ms. Audrey et Ms. Catalina.* I want to give a really big thank you to Ms. Laura, Mme Lajoie, Ms. Ribeiro, Ms. Yates and Mr Bill. Vous avez aidé tous les étudiants à devenir les personnes que nous sommes aujourd'hui.

We know the class of 2022 has kept you on your toes, Clearpoint staff.

Sorry not sorry...

Because we've probably also given you the biggest laughs... Right? Mr D... why are you not laughing? It's your kind of joke!

On commence l'école secondaire l'année prochaine. Ça va être un défi pour nous tous. Il y a un peu de tristesse qu'on doit quitter l'école primaire. Mais je suis excité pour commencer l'école secondaire...et avoir plus d'indépendance.

As I was getting inspiration to write this speech I came across this video (thanks again google), it said. "The real world sucks. It doesn't get any better." Well that helped (said with sarcasm).

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Source: Stephen Wilson



Source: Stephen Wilson



Source: Stephen Wilson



Source: Stephen Wilson



Source: Stephen Wilson



Source: Stephen Wilson



Source: Stephen Wilson

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Maybe some things in the real world do suck, but as the famous Harry Potter author, J.K. Rowling wrote "We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: We have the power to imagine better".

At the start of my journey I didn't love school but I've realized that we've been so lucky to be taught by amazing teachers. Think about all the kids out there who don't know how to read or write. We just finished our ELA exam, reading and responding to a book, writing a story, and thinking of all of the discussions we've had. On top of that, we also know how to speak a second language. French. When I moved here from Scotland in grade 2, a teacher told me that French is complicated. He said two mean guys wanted to create the most complicated language possible. I mean add a tiny line above an A, and it has a totally different meaning. Jokes aside, Clearpoint has given us the chance to collect as many pride tags as we can... I mean...become the best person we can be. **wink**.

Je parle du futur et du passé, mais je dois aussi parler d'aujourd'hui, c'est notre jour! Ce jour n'aurait pas été possible sans le "grad committee". Merci à tous nos parents et professeurs qui ont travaillé si fort pour réaliser cette journée! You've made this year the best year possible for us. Thank you! Great job Class of 2022, I wish you all the best of luck in high school and remember...

When you get out into the real world and come across someone who doesn't believe in you (you know, one of those situations that sucks?), Eminem believes in you. In his words... I do it because I can, I can because I want to, I want to because you said I couldn't!

Class of 2022, let's be the change!



Source: Stephen Wilson

Emmory
Brule



&



Lisa
Vieten

Lisa: Welcome parents, teachers, staff, mentors, friends, distinguished guests and especially the graduating class of 2022! We made it, we're graduating and WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS MY FRIENDS!

Emmory: Hello my name is Emmory! I have been at Clearpoint since kindergarten!

Lisa: And I am Lisa! I came here just last year at the start of grade 6!

Emmory: We would like to give a big thank you to our principal Mr. Estok and to our teachers who have pushed us to be our best selves since the beginning. Not only have they taught us the curriculum but they helped to prepare us for what's to come. Today, a chapter of our lives is coming to a close, but before we move on we would like to reflect on our time here at Clearpoint.

Lisa: *Pour moi cette école est très spéciale parce qu'ici on a un programme bilingue Français et Anglais, ça m'aide beaucoup avec mes langues! J'ai appris beaucoup dans la classe de Français avec Mme. Gabrielle!* Mr. Dufresne was a fantastic teacher for Math and English! Today we will thank and honor all of the grade 6 teachers, Mme Gabrielle, Mr. Dufresne, Ms. Angela, Mrs. Audrey, Mme Hayes and Miss. Barroca. Nous avons tous eu des bons souvenirs et il y en a tellement à venir à la prochaine étape de notre vie.

Emmory: *Mon temps ici à Clearpoint, comme beaucoup de mes amis, a commencé avec le "balloon Parade". Je me souviens que j'étais nerveuse et excitée en me demandant à quoi ressemblerait l'école. Je me souviens aussi m'être sentie la bienvenue.* This is an exceptional group of students, we have had to say goodbye to some friends along the way but we have welcomed many new ones. As a group, we have faced a lot of challenges, from many changes in teachers during the years, to a pandemic. But with everything that has been thrown our way, we have persevered to become stronger than ever and we are ready to face whatever comes next!

Lisa: *Clearpoint m'a accueilli tout de suite! C'était une bonne décision de venir au Clearpoint avec tout ce qu'ils font pour que nous ayons un bon temps à l'école!* Our teachers have joined us in the fun times like when grade 6 had the Halo-run, where we had some top finishers in our class and they even made it to the news! the Track and Field event, the ski trip, the best grad trip to Ottawa, and more! I am sure that we all hope that the bus driver's ears have stopped ringing! Our teachers have always supported us! As you all know, one of the biggest challenges that 6 graders at Clearpoint faced was Exhibition. Our mentors and aides lead us all to success. Our teachers and especially Miss Barroca guided us all through what at times seemed impossible.

Emmory: Miss Barocca was a very important figure in this year's exhibition, not only was she a mentor for some but she gave all of us advice. As you know this year's exhibition was virtual but behind the camera was Miss Barocca, giving us all a thumbs up and encouraging us the whole way.



Source: Clearpoint Elementary School

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Lisa: We had to take some pretty big exams this year, and our teachers were always there to help us stay calm, focused and to remain balanced. But do you know what really stuck out to me as a new student here in Canada?... (pause)... the -30 temperature in winter and skating at the park during Phys Ed! Brrrrrr!

Emmory: Yes Lisa! But Mr. Bill and Miss. Yates have always made these temperatures VERY fun! *Nous avons joué dans la neige, glissé et mon activité préférée, le club de ski.* Now I know our group has not always been the easiest but our amazing Phys Ed teachers have always taken the time to make sure we are learning to love different activities.

Lisa: Whether you've been here since kindergarten or came just this year, we've had so many great memories. A great one from this year was flashing back to the 90's with Mme Lajoie and Ms Laura who dedicated so much time to us so we could put on a great final show. Ms. Ribiero has helped us improve our presentation skills, and speaking in front of people. She has also taught us to be open minded by exposing us to important world issues. Every single person that works in this school has helped to shape this graduating class to be stronger, more caring, and knowledgeable.

Emmory: *Nous voudrions dire encore un gros merci à tous les professeurs et aidés d'intégration.* We hope you know that you've positively impacted many students' lives and that we appreciate everything you've done for us! Standing up here and speaking in front of all of you is not something I would have ever thought of doing, but Clearpoint has taught me to be a Risk-taker and a Communicator. So, my fellow graduates, remember, when you are feeling nervous on those first days of high school, you have all the tools you need, you are courageous, you can take risks and you can be open minded to whatever comes your way! *Nous sommes tous très tristes de quitter Clearpoint, mais il est temps de passer à un autre chapitre dans notre histoire.* Before we go on though, let's slow down for just a bit as this will be the last time that we will be together before we need to create our own path. So let's reflect on and enjoy this special moment.

Lisa: We did it everyone! We are the graduating class of 2022! *Merci pour journey nous pour notre graduation!* We are GONNA ROCK HIGH SCHOOL!



SchoolStart is a fantastic Canadian supplier based in Alberta that allows parents to shop for what exactly what only what we need. When you shop for your kit, you can adjust the quantities of each item to suit your needs. Reusing all your duotangs this year? Reduce your purchase quantity to zero. Need some extra pencils and loose leaf for your child's high school sibling? Increase your quantities to suit your needs! Want to get a few extra supplies for yourself while you're at it? Add items à-la-carte — it's that easy!

Easy track shipping, straight to your door

When you place your order, your supplies are shipped out ASAP by Purolator. Wish you didn't have to waste any of your summer picking up supplies? Get them delivered straight to your door for a flat rate of \$7.50 for your entire family!

Order anytime, no late-fees

Not sure if you'll be away? Maybe you're planning to buy supplies on sale or bringing them home from the office? Or maybe you're ordering extra supplies for yourself or your other kids and swapping binders with a friend? No problem! Order your supplies early, late or just in the nick of time! There's never a wrong time to order or top up your supplies!

WHAT CAN YOU COUNT ON?

- High quality products. Most, if not all, are brands you will recognize and trust.
- Your kits will ship with a reusable bag.
- **This service is optional.** You are not obliged to use this service to purchase your school supplies.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

1. Have your school list handy. You can download it from <http://clearpoint.lbpsb.qc.ca/supplies.htm>
2. Go to <https://schoolstart.ca/school/4614>
3. Click the button "Click Here to Purchase Your School Kits"
4. Select your child's grade
5. Enter student's name and adjust the quantities of items as necessary
6. Click "Add To Cart"
7. Continue shopping or "Checkout"

Clearpoint lists are already posted and available for order!

For our fourth consecutive year, we would like to offer you the option to make your school supply shopping quick, easy and cost effective for the 2022-2023 school year by leaving it up to someone else! The Clearpoint Home and School Association has teamed up with School Start to provide this valuable service to our parents.

Giving back

By participating in this service, SchoolStart will contribute a portion of your purchase back into Clearpoint's Home & School programming, which in turn funds and supports the activities and equipment your children enjoy at Clearpoint.

Want to do more?

If you're saving a few bucks on supplies this year and want to pay it forward, SchoolStart is offering you the opportunity to **donate towards a kit** for one of our **families in need**. Simply select an amount if you'd like to donate and add it to your kit. Your generosity can give a Clearpoint child in need the joy of starting the year with **brand new, high quality supplies** just like the rest of their classmates.

Shipping to Quebec is 4-5 days

SchoolStart ships via Purolator from Alberta. If shipping to home is not a feasible option for you, but you would like to order your kits, please contact us at info@clearpointhands.ca with "School Kits" in the subject line and we'll see if we can help make alternate arrangements.