



The RELATIONS



BREBEUF COLLEGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2021

PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTIONS



Dear Brebeuf Community,

Firstly, thank you for your continued partnership as we navigate the various challenges that this pandemic has thrown our way. Without your support, we would not be able to achieve what we have so far. A special thanks to our Brebeuf staff as well. Your commitment to student achievement and success, while constantly being flexible and caring, has been a true testament of Catholic Education.

Since our last newsletter, there has continued to be a great amount of work done by our staff to engage our students. I want to thank all our students and staff for actively participating in a variety of activities – many of which are highlighted in the newsletter. I encourage everyone who is reading this newsletter to share a copy with 2-3 other people you know. It's important that we celebrate and share the great achievements and work that is taking place in our school.

As a Brebeuf Staff Team, we are also excited about what lies ahead from our 'Brebeuf Together' initiative. In the next few weeks, all of our stakeholders will be receiving a survey asking for your insight and feedback on our Brebeuf Pillars. For those who may not be aware, Brebeuf has a very rich and detailed Mission Statement that was crafted in the 1990s and speaks to four Brebeuf Pillars. This year, as a staff, we have endeavoured to refocus and bring light to the rich tradition and history of Brebeuf College School. In turn, we want to revise and consider many amazing initiatives that will further cement in the community at large that Brebeuf College School is a remarkable Catholic All Boys School! We look forward to receiving your input and firmly believe that all our stakeholders hold the keys to the continued success of our amazing school built on the foundation of Jesuit and Presentation Brother spirituality.

Lastly, as we move into Quad 3 and 4, I ask that you continue to focus on the many blessings we find in our daily lives. Although they may not always be glaringly obvious, we are a people of hope by our baptismal call. During this Lenten season let us reflect on the mystery of the cross. Let us see the cross not as a symbol of death and suffering, but as a symbol of new life, a renewed hope that anything and everything is possible with Christ.

Sincerely,

Linton Soares '02



The Relations is the official newsletter of

BREBEUF COLLEGE SCHOOL

It is named for the letters that St. Jean de Brebeuf and his Jesuit colleagues sent home to France in the 17th Century. Its aim is to share much of the good news coming from the school.

Michael Da Costa '92 & Dan Marozzo,
Editors

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CALENDAR

Feb. 24	CSPC Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
March 5	Virtual First Friday Mass
April 1	Holy Thursday VICS Fastathon
April 2	Good Friday (no classes)
April 4	Easter Sunday
April 5	Easter Monday (no classes)

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES 2020-2021

Email the teacher to join.

- * Debating Society: Michael.dacosta@tcdsb.org
- * Echon Yearbook: martinm06@tcdsb.org
- * Robotics: annettc@tcdsb.org
- * Science Club: Mirella.llupo@tcdsb.org
- * SHSM Arts & Culture:
Annamaria.lobianco@tcdsb.org
- * SHSM Health & Wellness:
alex.sabatini@tcdsb.org &
Michael.aquino@tcdsb.org
- * SHSM ICT: danny.marozzo@tcdsb.org
- * Social Justice Club: Michael.dacosta@tcdsb.org
- * Student Council: mcternk@tcdsb.org
joaquia@tcdsb.org
- * *The B* Newspaper: Michael.dacosta@tcdsb.org
- * Theatre Brebeuf: Annamaria.lobianco@tcdsb.org
- * VICS Fast-a-thon: Michael.dacosta@tcdsb.org
- * Youth Ministry: Robert.gregoris@tcdsb.org

MEN FOR OTHERS

EDMUND RICE VOLUNTEER AWARDS



As part of our school's link to the Presentation Brothers, Brebeuf College offers the Blessed Edmund Rice Volunteer Awards. Named for the Founder of the Brothers, these go to students who complete 20 hours of

volunteer service beyond what is required for the Ontario diploma, and students will reflect on this service in light of their faith. Those interested can join google classroom: vdcpn14.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS



Students and staff from Brebeuf raised an astounding \$4771.25 for gift cards for seven families this Christmas. As Ms Chung, one of the staff organizers explains: "We want to help families within our school community enjoy Christmas like everyone else. We have to look after those who struggle. With the pandemic, we are lucky to have collected so much." This annual initiative is a concrete way of putting our "Men for Others" philosophy and Christian spirit into action.

Thanks to all students and staff who helped to organize:

Ms. Chung, Ms. Angelucci, Ms. Travelho-Cruz, Ms. Galloro, Ms. Zeppieri, Ms. Savelli, Mr. Chin You, D. Antwi, B. Antwi-Boaslako, S. Arjomandi, O. Boyle, M. Coletta, A. D'Souza-Heller, D. Domingo, J. Ferris, E. Germinal, J. Jonathan, W. Kischuk, B. Lopez, A. Martins, V. Maturano Toledo

PRESENTATION BROTHERS' SPIRIT AND LEGACY AT BREBEUF

By Michael Da Costa '92



We recently learned the sad news that the Presentation Brothers will be withdrawing from Brebeuf and Canada in the summer. This seems an opportune time to reflect on the tremendous influence the Brothers have had on our school. As an alumnus of Brebeuf under the Presentation Brothers, I feel a strong sense of pride to have been taught by and associated with these men of faith. While many Brothers have lived and worked at Brebeuf, the two that stand out most in their involvement are: Brother Lawrence Maher, who was principal from 1984 to 1996; and Brother Henry Spencer, who began teaching in 1984 and though retired by 1998, continued to volunteer daily until this past year. The Brothers are humble though and will not brag about their accomplishments or influence well. Like the Jesuits, they are one of the lungs whose influence has breathed the spirit of Christ into our school in a special way. We are lucky to be a part of this worldwide network of Presentation Schools in the Edmund Rice tradition. Here are some of my observations about their legacy at our school, which I hope will let some of you who are not as familiar with them learn about their importance to us.

Devotion to Mary, Our Lady of the Presentation



Every day, we pray to Mary, our Mother, under the title of Our Lady of the Presentation, from which the order derives its name. Mary plays a prominent role in the spirituality of the Brothers and their schools. The Angelus, recited daily, began under the Brothers, as did the Prayer to the Queen of Heaven every May. The promotion of the rosary is evident too.

Care for the Poor and Charity in the Spirit of Edmund Rice

The Brothers always seem to care for the poor and neglected in our midst. This stems from the work of Blessed Edmund Rice, their Founder, who started schools for poor boys in Ireland in the 19th century. When Brother Maher was principal, there was never a student without a uniform, or a student who missed out on trips because of a lack of ability to pay. A strong sense of commitment to the poor in our society and beyond also comes through in charities like Can-Aid and raising money for the missions in Africa, spearheaded by Brother Spencer.

Commitment to Academic Excellence

The Jesuits, our founding religious order, are rightly credited for starting the academic standards of the school to prepare students well for university and for life. The Presentation Brothers continued that tradition of excellence while offering programmes for students who might not be university-bound. All of God's children are welcome in their schools. Wherever they are found in the world, there is an academic prestige to the Presentation Brothers' institutions that rank among the best.

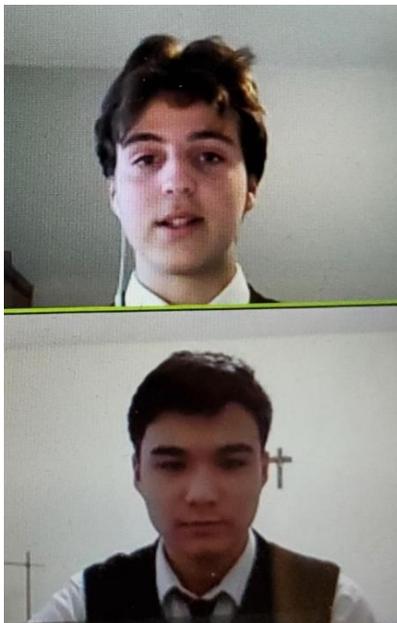
Development of the Mind, Body, Soul and Family

Brebeuf under the Presentation Brothers has never been just about the classroom. Sports and clubs

and activities that develop the mind, body, and spirit are integral parts of the Brebeuf experience. Brothers dedicated their whole lives to the mission of Brebeuf. They were often the first to arrive in the morning and the last to leave in the evening. Brother Maher created a wonderful sense of family in the staff and students through generosity, attention, and celebration. Brother Spencer makes everyone feel special, as if you are the most important person in the world to him when he is speaking to you. We have been blessed.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

Brebeuf hosted its seventeenth annual Social Justice Symposium on December 5. Normally it is held at the University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto, but this year it was virtual. Organized by the Social Justice Club and students in the Gifted programme, over 75 students and teachers from across the city gathered to learn more about the theme of Racism from Black and Indigenous perspectives. Fittingly, the day began with a Paraliturgy for Social Justice celebrated by Father John O'Brien, S.J. It was an excellent opportunity for students to learn more about social justice and ways to combat the scourge of racism.



William Kischuk & Jacob Knock, Masters of Ceremonies & Social Justice Executive

BROTHER MAHER FUND



Brebeuf College School is pleased to announce that over \$20,000 has been raised since September for the Presentation Brothers' schools in Ghana and Nigeria. This generous funding has come from two main sources: \$11,000 in donations from students, staff, former staff, alumni, parents, and friends of the Brothers; and from a \$9,000 grant from the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association.

The largest share of funds comes from a special "Christmas Catalogue" where donors can direct their financial gifts to specific areas of need in the schools: lunch programmes, uniforms, fees, books, supplies, and sports equipment. Two junior high school students will also be sponsored to attend secondary school.

The initiative to raise funds for these schools dates back to 2000 when Brother Henry Spencer and students and staff began collecting change for the Presentation Brothers' missions. Money is raised under the "Brother Lawrence Maher Fund for Africa", named for a former principal who helped to oversee the Brothers' expansion into Ghana. The endeavour is an important way that Brebeuf strives to keep the Presentation Brothers legacy and Blessed Edmund Rice charism alive.

It's never too late to give:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-presentation-brothers-of-ireland/>

CHRISTMAS CLOTHING DRIVE



Despite the pandemic, 1100 articles of clothing were donated by Brebeufians to the Good Shepherd Centre on Queen Street. These items will

help to keep those who need assistance warm this winter.

Donations included: 84 jackets, 204 pairs of pants, 163 sweaters, 405 shirts, and 244 miscellaneous!

Thanks to Mr. Debicki for organizing and to all staff who assisted with collection and sorting of clothing on their lunch periods.

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

In January, we, at Brebeuf and throughout the TCDSB, celebrated COURAGE as the Virtue of the Month. This also coincided with Mental Health Awareness Week.

Students who exemplify courageous behaviour are those who reach out for help to cope with mental health challenges; confront fear and pain; persevere despite difficulties; stand up against bullying and mistreatment of others; embark on new projects; are willing to try and learn new things; demonstrate a growth-mindset despite the internal struggle; and are willing to take risks to improve their academic performance.

In our Brebeuf community, students worked hard to keep a positive attitude in a time of a school shutdown. Our students persevered with their online classes despite challenges, such as caring for younger siblings and dealing with internet issues. They had the courage to reach out for help to cope

with anxiety to reach their full potential for success. For students who attended school in-person in January, they demonstrated courage to overcome their challenges to work in class and to interact with each other. On the virtual learning platform, students showed bravery, not only by speaking up and engaging in class, but by helping teachers to sustain the procedures that make online learning effective. The month of January was challenging for many with the switch to online learning. Despite these challenges, students and teachers worked together to nurture a Christ-centred community that ensured student well-being and high achievement. The following students have been nominated by their teachers for demonstrating courage in the face of a challenge:

Nathan McFadden; Yau Sheng Cheung;
Jacob Ryan; Ewan Wilson; Vince Sosa; John Espera;
Hrag Ayantabli; Ian Hyunjae Kim; Anthony Colannay;
James Arcilles; Dylan Carvalho; Eric Kim;
Matthew Iantuonno; Jorhel Bautista; James Walker;
Alireza Hakimfaalesfahani ; Reichman De Morgan;
Kelvin Macale; Wuffrey Pasia; Brayden Levillard; Kami Ansari; Miko Acance; Yuji Tacata; Nam Dang; Andre Karl Panganiban; Kyri Papadatos

VICS FAST-A-THON



Since 1989, Brebeufians have been fasting on Holy Thursday as part of the VICS fast-a-thon, which raises money for Volunteer International Service.

This organization sends volunteers to the Developing World to help the needy and to support them in becoming self-sufficient.

On April 1, students will fast (either at school or home, depending on their schedule) from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. At 3:30, we will gather on zoom to learn more about VICS and its impact. Students must raise a minimum of \$25 to participate. They will also earn five community service hours. Interested students should join google classroom for more information: tpsgrjc

SCHOOL NEWS

WWF- Canada Pollinator Garden

By Mr. D'Angelo

A LEGEND RETIRES!



Ms. Iona Martin, our teacher-librarian since 2005, retired in December after years of dedicated service to our students. Ms. Martin oversaw a complete renewal of the library collection dedicated to boys' literacy. In fact, in

her time here, Brebeuf's library circulated more books in a day than most TCDSB schools circulated in a month! Students packed the library before school and at lunchtime thanks to Ms. Martin's dedication. She will be missed!

SPECIAL AWARDS 2019-2020

Congratulations to these students who will receive special awards:

Father Robert Meagher Award for Highest Average in Grade 9

Carlo Di Loreto & Nayan Liscombe

Ned Harrington Award for Excellence in Grade 9

Ananth Satkunarajah & John Falsarella

Father Clement Crusoe, S.J. Award for Highest Average in Grade 10

Tien Yu Brandon Lau & Marino Marchesan

Father Kenneth Casey, S.J. Award for Highest Average in Grade 11

AshtianTristan Keith Dela Cruz & Jacob Knock



Our "School Grounds Greening Team" is proud to announce that we have been awarded a \$500 grant from World Wildlife Canada as part of our school's growing commitment to the environment and creating sustainable habitats!

Habitats around the world are under threat and are rapidly disappearing and the causes are all due to human activity and our overconsumption of natural resources. The time is now for humanity to adopt a new paradigm, one in which the planet's resources are not exploited for economic gain but protected for the health of our ecosystems and all living things.

This spring, we will be expanding the size of our current pollinator garden to include more native perennial plants. Mass plantings of purple coneflowers and milkweed will provide nectar and seeds for bees, birds, and butterflies. The garden is also an excellent place to learn about the life cycle of plants and how they provide habitat and food for native wildlife all year round.

We are very thankful for this opportunity provided by WWF Canada. We are also proud to be environmental stewards fighting for a planet in which all living things have access to healthy, productive habitats in which to live.

BREBOTICS

By Jacob Knock



After much preparation, Team Brebotics completed their six runs for the second First

Tech Challenge (FTC) Robotics scrimmage round on Thursday, January 21, a precursor event to the official qualifiers in spring. The recording of the runs was preceded by judging sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday, directed through Zoom, where the team had to present themselves and their robot to a panel of judges. Just hours before the Brebotics team recorded their runs, they were able to merge the different robot components that were created by separate members, a building practice that was the unfortunate result of COVID-19. However, thanks to members of the team working very late the night before, a successful run was recorded with quite a good score.

Team Brebotics won first place for the Connect Award, one of the eight available awards for Scrimmage #2! The criteria for the award were an Engineering Notebook and Journal which highlighted their experience with the design and engineering process, as well as additional connectivity to experts in the engineering/robotics field. The Engineering Book was an ongoing project with an admittedly slow start, but it was completed in the nick of time, and the positive reception of it and the team as a whole gives them the extra motivation they need for the upcoming events and really highlights the potential they have to take it all the way.

Team Members:

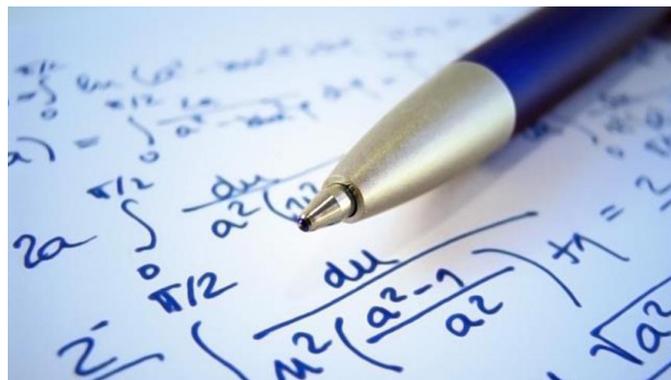
*Alexandra M.; Daniil V.; Jacob K.; Daniel A.;

*Radha K.; Sean S.; Devon L.; Nayan L.; Clayton L.

**Students from William Lyon Mackenzie High School*

MATH UPDATE

By Brad Ryan (Head of Math)



This year, 2020-2021 the Advanced Placement / Enriched Brebeuf Mathematics programme is well on track toward helping over ninety boys excel at high level mathematics. Due to complications arising from Covid protocols, this year has been divided up into Quad-Mesters and many students have opted for virtual learning, thus diminishing the overall number of students in regular Brebeuf College day school.

In Quad #1 a Grade 11 class easily finished the course at midterm and completed the Grade 12 Advanced Functions course by the end. This class will start up with me again in Quad #3 to do their AP Calculus work. The class will have the chance to write the AP-AB Calculus exam in May and therefore we will need to work very hard to prepare for it.

In Quad #2 the Grade 12 Enriched Calculus and Vectors class finished all work with vectors, have reviewed all first year University Calculus, and have finished most of second year University Calculus. They have the option of writing the AP-BC Calculus exam in May, and I would expect that most of them would be able to obtain near perfect on the exam if they choose to do so. The final class average in this class was 89% with two students, Jacob Knock and Deven Liscombe finishing with 100%. I am most proud of all these students and commend them for their hard work and effort toward achieving excellence in Mathematics.

DEBATING



No club better prepares students for professions such as law, teaching, business, and politics than debating. Plus, students learn to develop public speaking skills, logic,

confidence. This year, we have a combined club with students from Brebeuf and St. Joseph Morrow Park. Each week students assemble on zoom to discuss issues and practise debating on a variety of topics.

The team has participated in two virtual debates so far. The team of Alexander Francis and William Kischuk did well enough to qualify for the Ontario Provincial Championship Tournament at the end of February! Good luck lads!

New members are always welcome. Please join our google classroom: a5e3lex

SCIENCE CORNER



The Faculty of the Science Department at Brebeuf College, together with students, have demonstrated commitment to sustain the students' wellbeing and high achievements in all the science courses.

Regardless of the implementation of new ways of teaching and learning practices, students in science

classes have been provided with numerous enriched learning experiences that include hands-on activities, application of technology, and workshops with diverse scientific institutions. The purpose of providing students with a wide spectrum of experiences is to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills that are fundamental to understand, evaluate and integrate in coherent scientific research and developments.

The Science Department organized a series of workshops allowing students to engage with researchers in diverse scientific fields. The first workshops were with Pablo Science, a charitable organization working to advance science education in Canada and around the world. Another workshop that inspired students on many levels was with Michael Houghton, the co-recipient of the 2020 Nobel Prize for discovering Hepatitis C. Students also had the opportunity to collaborate with researchers at the Laboratory of Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto on the topic of elucidating the role of the Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Regulator (CFTR) protein in human lung development and Translational Research Program. During these workshops, students gained knowledge about research skills and, by engaging in discussions related to their areas of interest, were inspired by the possibility of a career in science.

The Science department is working collectively towards the goal of participating in a major science community event such as the Toronto Science Fair.

This is what **Felipe De Paula** had to say about his experiences in the science program.

“Being in the Grade 9 Advanced Placement Science course and participating in the workshops with Pueblo Science, Nobel Prize winner for 2020 Michael Houghton and Laboratory of Medicine and Pathobiology was an enlightening and extremely helpful experience. The learning experiences through hands-on activities and the use of technology in the science class has been extended by participation in presentations from

the researchers which has helped me shape the path I would take towards how to approach my science projects. This collaboration with the researchers helped me to have a deeper understanding of the instructions provided by my teacher during the class and Science Club discussions. The experiences from the Science Class through the variety of presentations has made me take more seriously my learning and the academic success in high-school compared to elementary. I noticed how what I do now affects my future and how much I have grown in my academic skills, matured and how much I still need to do. Through these events I learned that opportunities are priceless and I should experience them to the max, and take advantage over the fact that I have access to all of these experiences at such a young age. To be completely honest, the scientists sharing their experiences made me want to deepen my knowledge in the scientific field of medicine, because it is a way I could help people. The activities provided in the science classes made me realize the area I am interested to study for my future and that the opportunities are available to me if I reach out for it with help and support. I am grateful for classroom learning experiences and to the presenters in different workshops for helping me increase my thirst for knowledge”.



THE B NEWSPAPER

Founded in 1963, *The B* newspaper is our school’s own contribution to the world of high school journalism. Each week, ten students gather “virtually” to plan issues, edit articles, and share ideas. So far this year, the students have produced two issues. We are also working to get them available online.

ALUMNI



Derek Ishak '02 was appointed a judge to the Ontario Court of Justice in October. Derek was formerly an assistant Crown attorney. Most recently, he was a legal counsel to the Deputy Attorney General of Ontario. Derek has volunteered as a mentor for programmes including Connexions and the Mentoring for Career and Inclusion Programme.

OLD SCHOOL POSTERS



The Alumni Association commissioned a special print of our old building by artist Derrick Chow '00. They have been signed by some legendary former staff. We only have some of these special 11 x 17 prints left, so own a piece of

Brebeuf history and show your pride. We also have unsigned 8.5 x 11 prints. All proceeds to the school and the Jesuit Infirmary.

<https://www.gtigolf.com/brebeufbuildingprint/>

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2020 - 2021

Wards

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Joseph Martino, Chair | 416-512-3401 |
| 2. Markus de Domenico | 416-512-3402 |
| 3. Ida Li Preti | 416-512-3403 |
| 4. Teresa Lubinski | 416-512-3404 |
| 5. Maria Rizzo | 416-512-3405 |
| 6. Frank D'Amico | 416-512-3406 |
| 7. Michael Del Grande | 416-512-3407 |
| 8. Garry Tanuan | 416-512-3408 |
| 9. Norm Di Pasquale | 416-512-3409 |
| 10. Daniel Di Giorgio | 416-512-3410 |
| 11. Angela Kennedy | 416-512-3411 |
| 12. Nancy Crawford, Vice-Chair | 416-512-3412 |
| Keith Andre Baybayon, Student Trustee | 416-512-3413 |
| Kathy Nguyen, Student Trustee | 416-512-3417 |

QUAR-ANTINE'S DAY

By Jacob Knock



The Brebeuf and St. Joseph's Morrow Park student councils worked together to organize a virtual Valentine's Day event humorously called "Quar-antine's Day", which was open to both schools and took place at 6 pm on February 11. The event involved the screening of the movie "The Notebook", coupled with interspersed quiz games to maintain engagement. The event attracted around 40 participants, and was deemed to be a large success.

The three quiz games that were held that night were Family Feud led by St. Joe's, Jeopardy led by Brebeuf, and an ending Kahoot reviewing the contents of the movie. At the beginning of the night, participants were put into one Google Meet for introductions and to begin watching the movie. The meeting chat was monitored, but it was an energetic place which served as the primary communication tool for the group.

At the first 40 minute interval, half of the participants were split into one breakout room, and half into another. One group played Family Feud with the St. Joe's council, and the other played Jeopardy with Brebeuf's for approximately 20 minutes, before being sent back to watch the movie. This process was then repeated after the next 40 minute interval, except that time the groups were switched.

Alex Brooks, a member of Brebeuf's student council, says that "Quaran-tine's day was a great opportunity for students from Brebeuf and St. Joe's

to meet and further existing friendships virtually. The trivia games offered a great opportunity for friendly competition between the two schools."

After the movie finished, the night capped off with the Kahoot, which tested participant's knowledge of the movie they just watched. Amazingly, the winner of the Kahoot won by only three points, and everybody in the top three got perfect scores on the quiz. It was an exhilarating way to end the night.

"Quar-antine's day was a great event to come together as a brother and sister school" remarks the St. Joe's student council. "We got compliments from our girls regarding how much they enjoyed the competition with the boys. Also, the interaction students had with one another was definitely an experience, and as a council we hope it was fun."

The event was a fun way for students to engage with each other during a time of social isolation, and hopefully served to make this Valentine's Day a memorable one. It was seen as a great success by both councils, and Brebeuf's Nick Boyle hopes that it will lead the two to "set up another event like this in the future.

