

## BREBEUF COLLEGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - JULY 2021

### **PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTIONS**



Dear Brebeuf Community,

I've heard this over and over again - this year has been a year to remember. I certainly cannot agree more. Personally, starting in a new school, albeit the high school I graduated from, was an experience that I will cherish for a long time. The Brebeuf community welcomed me with open arms and the support I received was something I will be truly grateful for forever. There was no doubt that I was returning to the same community I left as a student, only with a much newer, less crammed building!

This year, like no other, has really taught us that anything is possible with faith, hope and love. When the year started there were many unknowns, and honestly, those continued for much of the year. However, what was very apparent was the dedication and commitment from students, staff, parents and alumni to make this year as smooth and successful as possible. Of course, there were bumps in the road which included a few lockdowns, alternating from in-person to virtual, St. Anne's for many Brebeuf students, hybrid learning, and the list can go on and on. With all that said, our community continued to strive forward and achieve many successes. Some of the successes included: a variety of extra-curricular virtual activities run by our dedicated staff, awards and top 5 finishes from our Robotics Team, amazing Student Council events which focused on building spirit during some challenging times, a robust all day ISP Programme that really served the needs of our most vulnerable students, the creation of a Vision/Mission House and Marketing Team that updated our pillars and has started the process of building an amazing House System, and getting our name into the wider community. These are just a few of the things that were accomplished, and for that I am so thankful for the amazing staff who made it all happen! A huge thanks to students as well who participated and showed so much grit and resiliency to make this year a success.

As we move into next year, we are going to focus on our revised pillars of FAITH, EXCELLENCE, TRADITION and FELLOWSHIP. Each of these pillars will be put into action by the entire Brebeuf community in a tangible way. Along with these, each student will be part of a House in which they will build fellowship with their Brebeuf Brothers and walk alongside each other as they continue to embody being 'Men for Others'. At Brebeuf, our focus has always been boys. We look forward to really focusing our energy on how boys learn best and this will be supported by our recent membership in the International Boys School Coalition. We look forward to what lies ahead and know that as a community we will work to continue making Brebeuf a place that serves and cares for the needs of our boys.

Lastly, and to begin these notes of thanks, we have to again acknowledge the amazing work of the Presentation Brothers who are leaving Brebeuf as the continue their mission in other parts of the world. Their impact and legacy will be lasting and they will be sorely missed. A special note of thanks has to be extended to Brother Spencer for his countless years of service to the Brebeuf Community. On a personal note, Brother Spencer is one of the reasons I went down this path of being a Catholic educator; Brother Spencer, on behalf of the Brebeuf community THANK YOU! Along with this, a special thanks to all the Staff who are leaving our community. Each of you played an integral role in making Brebeuf such an awesome school. Thank you for your dedication and support for our students. You will be missed, but know the next chapter in your career will be fruitful. Also, a special thanks to Ms. Christine Kim. Ms. Kim has been a Vice-Principal at Brebeuf College School and served this community for the past three years. We would like to thank Ms. Kim for her dedication, work ethic and commitment in making Brebeuf so wonderful. You will be missed, but we wish you many blessings in your new digs at Dante.

I would like to wish everyone in the Brebeuf community a blessed, safe and fun-filled summer. May it provide much time for family, friends, amazing weather and relaxation. Just know that the Holy Family will continue to guard, protect and guide our families in the months ahead.

Blessings,

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 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Its aim is to share much of our good news.

Michael Da Costa '92, Editor

### **DEPARTING STAFF**

Brebeuf would like to salute and thank the following staff who will be leaving us this year:

Alvin Ching Savina Cecatini Eric Guillemette Teresa Florio Christine Kim Giovanni Latino Sinead Maloney Iona Martin Robert Pagnanelli Jesus Panem Nada Sego Brother Henry Spencer, F.P.M. Felix Young

### **BROTHER MAHER FUND FOR AFRICA**



Brebeuf raised over \$22,000 this year for the Presentation Brothers' schools in Ghana and Nigeria. Part of the proceeds went to fund proper washroom facilities for students and staff at the Brothers' newest school in the northern part of Ghana (pictured above). Other ways our funds helped included buying books and supplies, uniforms, high school scholarships, and a lunchtime feeding programme. Thanks to all of our generous donors.

# **MEN FOR OTHERS**

### VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH

By Jacob Maillet '21



Have you ever thought about the word farewell? It seems to be an abbreviation for the words, "fare thee well" or "to be well". You are wishing someone well until you meet them again. So, in this short farewell from me to you, I somehow need to convey how thankful I am that it was each of you I spent my time with, while also thanking our teachers, administration, guidance, and other staff, for contributing so much of their time and effort every single day. I also need to reflect on both the ordinary and the extraordinary circumstances of our formation into truly Men for Others these past four years and try to share with you the most valuable lessons I have learned over our intensely pyjama-packed, masked, isolated, cabin fevercrazed time in the COVID-19 pandemic. Let it not be said that being forced to reflect on your life and priorities does not bring forth merit, but I digress. We are here not to speak of what we have struggled with, but what we have accomplished. I would like to take a moment to congratulate all of you graduates here with me today, oh wait. Gents, congratulations, for being the only graduating class in our school's history to have spent a year and a half studying from the inconvenience of our own homes. I hope the school's laptops served you well, or at least better than D2L did. I feel for those of you that chose an entirely online year. I never knew how great a classroom was for learning until I could not be in one.

Nonetheless, you are here, we're all here. We somehow managed to pull through and finish the race. I only wish I could say such to your faces today and be able to

watch you climb the steps to receive your diploma in front of your friends and your families. You deserve that much, but more importantly the parents that raised you up to the success you have achieved, deserve it.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to a whole host of people, both on behalf of the graduates and myself. Firstly, I want to thank each of you who voted to grant me the great honour of representing you as Valedictorian. It means a lot to me to speak before you today. I also want to recognize members of our Brebeuf community that make it so great: our parents and families, teachers, staff, whoever makes those cafeteria cookies, administration, and the alumni association.

Our Alumni Association has always surprised me. Firstly, how does a high school have a body of alumni that wants to be as connected and involved as ours? We have an active, helpful, and extremely generous Alumni Association. Any former members of the football team can appreciate the generosity of the alumni more than me. Football might not have returned at all if not for heavy sponsorship from, of course, our alumni.

Through my time attending Brebeuf, I know that the quality of the staff here is nothing short of spectacular. Nothing could have proven this better than online learning. These amazing men and women, who were already enjoying the pleasures of planning two hour long lessons each day, took late-night phone calls, emails, responded to problems we had with assigned work, and regularly had to operate with the jankiest provided equipment I have seen since those huge box monitors in elementary school. They go through a lot for us. These same men and women served as coaches, supervisors, librarians, and event organisers. Their dayto-day workload is nearly beyond my ability to fathom, they're so busy. Most importantly, they play a major part in what making Brebeuf what it is. To use this opportunity to offer my personal thanks, there are two teachers that I want to thank by name. I want to thank Mr. Ryan for seeing me through four years and all five courses of his math programme. You not only set me up with every advantage to succeed in university, but taught me about responsibility, commitment, perseverance, and gruff humour. Among all the teachers I have learned under, you've had one of the single greatest impacts on my life and my growth as a young man. The other, of course, is Mr. Da Costa. You were my gifted coordinator, chief of the newspaper,

man of Brebeuf, example of service, and a great friend to work with. The opportunities you gave me and the close counsel you kept have surely improved upon the young kid I was when I first got here.

Of course, I need to thank my family, who quite literally have been there for me from day one. My mom, who drove me to practices and games, cooked most of my meals, made sure I was doing my homework, and did all and more a loving mother will do, was a lifesaver. No one else would be willing to support me being on three hockey teams but my mom. My dad is the rock and role model of my family. He is the one who makes sure my skills and knowledge are polished, not just good. He wakes me up when I am late, puts food on the table, was my first coach, is head of my organisation of altar servers, and has taught me to be a man of God through his example. Yes, I also need to thank my brother for making sure my ego never got too big. Thanks, Albert.

Lastly, I need to thank you, my fellow graduates. I have never seen a finer group of young men than here at Brebeuf. All of you were great right from the start at the transition programme. It was you that made my time here enjoyable, filled with friends and conversation, and taught me not to judge someone based on an initial opinion. Every single day, I was surprised and impressed by your talent, drive, and humour. I'm glad it was you I got to go through high school with. Not surprisingly, it was rather easy to look back at what we have been able to do. Do you remember, little more than A YEAR AGO, when we were all excited about getting an extra week of March Break? It has been barely more than a year. Let us think back for a moment.

The highlight of Grade Nine for me was the basketball team. I remember something like one hundred Grade Nines showed up to the first tryout at 7:00 in the morning. Do you remember the hype from each home game? Being a Grade Nine was essentially sweet, all things considered. We knew that our marks would not endanger our post-secondary opportunities, so we simply enjoyed getting to know those around us and integrating into the new, massive, and impressive building. Did you enjoy Muskoka, where we would spend the day playing sports, doing activities, and using that massive sling, and at meals wholeheartedly applaud and cheer for Martin, while having no clue who Martin was?

I guess Grade Ten was about spending money on things, because we had an Ireland Trip and a Rome Pilgrimage, on top of restoring football to Brebeuf and having multiple hockey teams. I do not think anyone would argue that the money was not well spent, giving students a chance at an incredible life experience in Europe and laying the foundation for a championship football team the next year. The Alumni Association came in clutch with their fundraising and support in restoring and outfitting the football team, along with and especially Mr. Engel for being an excellent coach every single day. That team was abundantly prepared to achieve greatness. The Varsity Hockey team, however? That team barely happened, only being so thanks to the efforts of Deven Liscombe and coaches Mr. Chin You and Mr. Vittorio. That ragtag team won the division in a stellar, underdog, comeback performance like you would not believe. It felt like watching a cheesy sports movie, except I was part of the show.

We have been through a lot together: EQAO, OSSLT, masses, assemblies, events, classes, lessons that were way too long, tests that went on even longer than the classes, exams, Mr. Marinic's tests, which deserve their own mention for their wild combination of ample bonus marks and seemingly infinite questions, and having to change in the rather smelly and beaten up changerooms, among other things, both good and bad, that shall go unnamed. I am really going to miss Brebeuf. It was a good place to grow up, made so by a great class of students and a great team of teachers, who were on the ground with us the most, whether we wanted them to be or not. I hope and pray that you will all be well, I can't see any of you deserving anything less.

There is something that I want to convey to you, my fellow graduates. First, I must ask you a question: what kind of man will you become, and by what means will you get there? We have spent our days thus far as boys, but our time in adolescence has come to an end. How should we avoid becoming a sorry man-child? What separates man from boy? A child looks out for himself, cares about himself, and takes on no responsibility. A child needs to be taken care of. Authentic manhood, however, is that of self-sacrifice. Men will put others before themselves and will rise to meet their responsibilities. Do not be mistaken, adults need care, attention, and help too. Do not live in fear of your responsibilities, as is acceptable for boys. Even if what

you can manage is simply to clean your room, that will be a responsibility fulfilled. We have been taught and trained in being Men for Others, these past four years. What kind of man will you be? Will you truly be a Man for Others, who faces his responsibilities, and has the courage to care? If your goal is to be a successful career man, a good disciple of our Lord, a good father, or a lifelong learner, what inspires you to do so? We do not know when we will die, what finally did us in, or who will be with us in our final moments. Does it matter? If you lived your life each day in love of God and of neighbour, do the details matter? What matters is the goal. The goal is simple: get to heaven. While you are at it, try to get anyone who will listen there too. We need to hear, at the end of our days, these words from God, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your master." You were all designed for the greatness of heaven. What are the treasures of this world compared to the eternal splendour of God's Kingdom, and for what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? If you were made for heaven, who says then that you cannot achieve great things here as well? If you are uncertain, afraid of what lies before you, know this: God Himself does not call the ready, He makes ready the called. Do not doubt that you are called. Again, my congratulations on your well-deserved success. I pray God will bless us, through the powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother. Cheers to you, my fellow members of the graduating class of 2021.

### **CHAPLAINCY UPDATE**



Our Religion Department has welcomed the following Brebeuf Staff who did a wonderful job evangelizing and teaching our faith: Mirela Llupo, Connie Annetta, Justin Meharchand, Jason Rebello, Bryan Lamb & Felix Young.

Brebeuf is presently working with the Jesuits in order to re-establish an authentic and vibrant association.

Another major effort this year in our religion and chaplaincy department is the work on our school pastoral plan which will serve as our school blueprint and how we will animate/nurture our all-boys Catholic school.

Rob Gregoris put together virtual retreats for all grades within our religion department and the students and staff had the opportunity to grow deeper in relationship with Jesus. The virtual retreats provided a day for them to grow in their spirituality. Our virtual retreats were based on our school pillars – faith, fellowship, excellence, and tradition. As a school we also prayed daily together through our virtually opening exercises that were created weekly by the chaplaincy team. Our Virtual Rosary which was well attended and was available for all staff and students every Friday. We also have the Brebeuf Youth Ministry website and Instagram account available for Staff and students. There is a Chaplaincy Google Classroom available for Staff and Students to assist in their Spiritual growth.

A Virtual Kairos Retreat was held on Friday June 25th, 2021, which provided our students an opportunity to experience an Ignatian retreat. The following staff members assisted in making this retreat possible: Rob Gregoris, Jason Rebello and Eric Guy.

The new three-year board pastoral plan for the TCDSB is Walking with Christ; With Eyes of Faith and Hope; With Hearts of Kindness and Love; With Minds of Justice.

The Virtues of the Month were another way in which our students who best embraced our Faith were recognized. Thanks to Mirela LLupo who chaired this important initiative.

We were also fortunate to have Father John O'Brien, S.J. to provide whole school Masses and Virtual First Friday Masses and retreats for all our classes.

We wish the Presentation Brothers Brother Henry and Brother Francis a safe transition to their new home at The Presentation Manor in Toronto. Brother Dennis will be spending time with his family in Québec before continuing his Ministry on the island of St. Lucia. Wishing everyone a safe and relaxing summer.

#### Peace and Blessings!

John 14:27 - "Peace I leave you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

### INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION



As a small part of Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, Brebeuf will proudly display the Wendat flag in its front entrance. The Wendat, also known as the Hurons, were the Indigenous people with whom St. Jean de Brebeuf lived and worked in the 17<sup>th</sup> century near Midland, Ontario. The flag will become a teaching tool to learn more about the Wendat and methods of genuine Reconciliation.

### THE VIRTUES OF THE MONTH

### By Mirela Mahmutaj Llupo and Teresa Florio

The Brebeuf Virtues Team has continued its work this year, driven by Brebeuf's four pillars of FAITH, TRADITION, EXCELLENCE and FELLOWSHIP. As a way to deepen the connection between the Catholic virtues and our Brebeuf community, we initiated the Virtues Postcard Programme. Through this, individual students are recognized each month for demonstrating a Christlike attitude and an understanding of the gospel teachings through their observable behaviour.

### Virtue of the Month Goals

The aim is to motivate students to exhibit leadership skills that reflect the Catholic Graduate Expectations. Furthermore, a future goal of this project is to involve the parish by sharing the virtue recipients' names so that they may be published in the parish bulletins. In this way, students may become role-models for youth in the larger faith community.

This initiative was put forth as a result of the collaborative efforts of staff members across all departments. To make it more intentional, we wanted the postcard to represent the student voice. As such, the Brebeuf Arts Department played an important role, under the guidance of Visual Arts teacher, Ms Medeiros. Grade 12 students contributed their design ideas and from there, the design by graduating student, Darryl Llanes, was selected to be used on the front of the postcard.

By mailing the postcards home, the intention is to make parents/guardians aware of how their son is growing in the Catholic faith so that they may continue to amplify those faith-filled conversations at home.

### The Impact of Virtues of the Month

With this programme, teachers have actively recognized students for their positive attitude and behaviour, and this acknowledgment has had a positive impact on their learning as well as their social and emotional development.

Some examples of the impact include improved school attendance, increased school engagement and improved self-confidence. The positive feedback from these students who have, in the past, felt unseen, shows an enhanced sense of belonging, believing in their capabilities, and having the hope of becoming their true selves in the image of God.

It also boosts self-confidence in students who may not always be recognized for academic achievements. In this way, diverse students are included, emphasizing that everyone is a welcome and accepted member of the community.

This year has been particularly challenging and characterized by terrible losses in some students' lives. Being acknowledged for their commitment to success and receiving these postcards in the mail, with messages from teachers, brings light into their lives, representing the hope that God is with them.

Wishing a safe and happy summer to our students and families of Brebeuf!

#### February - Love

Al Rene Gomez Andre Karl Panganiban Anthony Pegorer Ashan Delacruz Ben Saleem **Brandon Draws** Brayden Laevillard **Brendan Wang Brent Mariano** Damon Eltanal **Daniel Domingo** Fiipe De Paula Gino Lucente Jacob Knock Jan Rabilas Jordan Carvalho **Keith Rosales** Nedel Ellacer **Owen Cacayurin** Patrick Costales Peter Youef **Renz Pagnas** Zachary Guegueire **Zhizheng Zhang Reigh Arcayos** Thomas Guy Harley Tejada **Charles Butista** Sam Arjomandi



James Moore Hyeongwoo Jeong Janoi McDonald Ryan Dimaculangan Johnanthan Herrera Ejiro Lwihiwhu Earl Plarisan Gianpaolo Capozzi Alex Francis Lawrence Zalevich Joshua Guillermo Jarnell Bermejo Juan Galindo

### April - Justice

James Moore Mark Garcia Adryan Manzano Nedel Ellacer Mark Arones



### May - Compassion

Jesse Barnabe Emmanuel Castro Bierre Maklouta Aljiah Lorino Gianpaolo Capozzi Thomas Guy Asafa Jones Aaron Porter Matthew Coletta Andre Martins Zhizheng Zhang Kelvin Macale Keith Rosales

### March - Forgiveness

Matthew Moolecherry Darryl Lanes Anthony Pegorer Sumeta Phila Alexander Brooks Joshua Leon Sajid Khan Nick Boyle Reichman DeMorgan Peter Paditto Jonathan Wallis Andrew Mesha Kurt Aluag Jayden Lopez Luke Fowler



### June - Faithfulness

Jayden Jeong Charles Ahrone Velado Joshua Ellorimo John Falsarella Lamb, Adryan Tamayo, Vince Mikhael Christien Acance Gregory Archer Jacob Maillet Arthur Llagas John Harvey Aquino Cyrill Arago Peter Terzis Jerus Phil Joseph De Vera Alejandro Socas Alayon



## **SCHOOL NEWS**

### **GRADUATION 2021**



The 225 men of the Brebeuf Class of 2021 were celebrated at a special Mass and the 55<sup>th</sup> Graduation Exercises held at Blessed Trinity Church on June 25, 2021. Due to covid restrictions, we could unfortunately not host a live event.

The proceedings opened with the Salutatorian, Jacob Knock, who was elected by his peers to welcome everyone to the ceremony.

The Mass was celebrated by Father Eric Rodrigues '95, who was also the homilist and Guest Speaker. Father spoke about the value of experiencing hardship in becoming better people more faithful to God.

Following Mass, our Principal gave his address to graduates and their families. Each student's name was read, including any distinctions such as the Honour Roll, Ontario Scholar, SHSM, or for being on the Honour Roll for all four years of high school – the Blessed Edmund Rice Society. Students with the highest marks in each subject were honoured.

Brebeuf's special Graduation Awards were then announced, with over 25 students being named.

Following the awards, Jacob Maillet, the Valedictorian, gave his address on behalf of his peers.

Special thanks to our donors and to Blessed Trinity for hosting us.

### **GRADUATION AWARDS**

The **Honour Roll** names students with an overall average of 80% or greater in Gr. 12 at Brebeuf. **Ontario Scholars** achieved 80% or greater in their top six Gr. 12 subjects, regardless of when & where they were taken.

The Blessed Edmund Rice Society inducts students who have been on the Honour Roll for all four years of high school.

**The Theatre Brebeuf Award** is presented to the graduating student who has greatly contributed to the theatre programme. – Frederick Cabrias

**The Jim Morris Journalism Award** is given to a graduating student who has shown excellence in journalism at Brebeuf. – Jacob Maillet & Paul Bangalan

**The Michael Tomaszek '82 Music Award** in sponsored by the Alumni Association and recognizes a graduating student who has contributed significantly to the music programme. -- Iverson Bumanglag

**The Visual Arts Award** is presented to a student who has dedicated his time and talents to many Brebeuf Community projects. This award is dedicated to the memory of Mark Agcaoili '92. – Darryl Llanes

**The Joseph Younder Award** is for a graduating student who has demonstrated excellence in debating. – Alexander Francis

**The Marcus McInerney Scholarship** is an award generously funded by Barry McInerney '81 & Rose McInerney in memory of their son and is presented to a deserving graduating student to assist with post-secondary education. – Michael Yip & Ray Rosqueta

**The Catholic Women's League Scholarship** is an award sponsored by the C.W.L. at Blessed Trinity Parish. It is for a graduating student who is entering an apprenticeship programme and celebrates determination and commitment to succeed while making a positive contribution to his high school community. – Tanner Chow & Luigino D'Angelo

**OYAP Award of Excellence** -- Tanner Chow & Luigino D'Angelo

The Raphael Kum Ming Loh '03 Award for Sports

**Leadership** is also an award to honour Raphael Loh and funded by the Loh family. It is for a graduating student who has shown tremendous leadership in athletics. – Matthew London

**The Raphael Kum Ming Loh '03 Award for Most Improvement** honours a former Brebeuf student and teacher. He was a true "Man for Others". This award, which is generously sponsored by the Loh family, is presented to the graduating student who has made the most academic improvement between Grades 9 & 12. -- Omari Henry & Marcus Bonilla & Nawres Alosachi

**The John Filion Community Involvement Award** – Gian Giron

The Michael Thompson '69 Award is named in honour of Michael Thompson, an Honour Student and Athlete of the Year. It is given to the graduating student who best combines academics, athletics, and good sportsmanship. This award is generously funded by the Thompson Family. -- Luka Stoikos

**The Gerry Tanner Award** is named for the mother of Brett Tanner '81. This award, which is funded by Brett, assists with university finances and recognizes a student who has contributed to school life at Brebeuf. -- Jacob Maillet & Philip Abdalla

The Martin Foy '82 Scholarship is awarded to a graduating student in the Specialist High Skills

Major Programme in Information and Communication Technology. Similar to Martin, the recipient has demonstrated outstanding effort, determination, perseverance, and integrity in completing the course expectations in the specialist programme and has been accepted to a post-secondary institute. This is generously funded by the Foy family and friends of Martin. – Daniil Velykyi

**The E.J. Barry Renaissance Award**, named for a former teacher and donated by the class of 1993, is presented to a graduating student who displays an interest and active participation in all aspects of student life: academics, sports, the arts, and social activities. This award is generously funded by George Macri '69. – Daniel Alberico

**The O'Neil P. Gazeley Scholarship** is awarded to a graduating student who has demonstrated a commitment to his peers and dedication to academic excellence. This award is in recognition of Mr. Neil Gazeley, who was Brebeuf's first Vice-Principal (1963-1991). This award is generously funded by George Macri '69. – Jesse Barnabe

**The Lou Puccini Scholarship**, named for a former math teacher, is given to the graduating student who has been diligent, persevered in his studies, and overcome various challenges. This award is generously funded by George Macri '69. – Mikhael Acance & Martin Datu & Ridge Quibuyen

**The Brebeuf Benefactors' Award** is presented to an individual who has contributed his talents to the betterment of Brebeuf. – James Saccutelli

**The Presentation Brothers' Award** is presented to a student who has demonstrated personal and academic growth and development. This award is generously funded by the Presentation Brothers. – Joey Li

**The Michael Brown Memorial Award** is dedicated to a former Brebeufian and is given to the graduating student who best exemplifies school loyalty and generous cooperation. – William Kischuk The Brother Lawrence Maher, F.P.M. Award, named after a former principal (1984-96), is presented to the student who has shown a commitment to spirituality within the school, has embraced many aspects of school life, has shown a willingness to help students, and who will pursue further education. This award is generously funded by the CSPC. -- Gregory Archer

The Joe Will Award is presented to a student who has made a significant contribution to the quality of school life and whose character and accomplishments exemplify the school's mission. – Luke Sinka & Matthew lannantuono

**The Peter Knopfel '81 Memorial Scholarship** is dedicated to the memory of Peter Knopfel '81. The Alumni Association and the Knopfel family award this scholarship to the graduate who has demonstrated academic and social achievement through his strong sense of commitment. -- Jacob Knock & Gregory Archer

The Father St. Clair Monaghan, S.J. Award is presented by the Alumni Association to a student who has demonstrated strong academic ability, has actively participated in a variety of extracurricular events, and has expressed a desire for involvement in alumni affairs. -- Seamus Lam

**The Lieutenant-Governor's Award** is presented to a graduating student for outstanding community service. – Andrew Kaseb

**The Michael Daoust '67 Mathematics Award** is given to a student for overall excellence in mathematics. It is named for Michael Daoust, an alumnus, former teacher and department head. – Deven Liscombe & Jacob Knock

**The Man for Others Award** is given to the graduating student who exemplifies the school's mission of forming "Men for Others". – Jacob Knock

**The Catholic Student Award** is awarded to the student who has shown outstanding commitment to the Catholic mission of Brebeuf. -- Jacob Maillet

**The Father J. Winston Rye S.J. Award**, named for a former Principal (1979-84), is presented to the graduating student with the highest academic average in his Grade 11 and 12 subjects at Brebeuf. – Jacob Knock

**The Governor-General's Medal** is presented to the graduating student with the highest academic standing in both Grade 11 and 12. – Jacob Knock



Jacob Knock '21, Salutatorian

### THEATRE BREBEUF PRODUCES ITS FIRST-EVER VIRTUAL COMEDY!

By Anna Maria Lo Bianco



On Thursday, May 20, 2021, Theatre Brebeuf debuted its first-ever virtual play: **10 Ways to Survive Life in a Quarantine** by Don Zolidis. The play is a light-hearted, satirical, comedy that pokes fun at the everyday realities of teenagers living through the pandemic. Theatre Brebeuf also hosted three Zoom matinee screenings for hundreds of intermediate students throughout the TCDSB. Some rave reviews include:

"That was fantastic! There were several laugh-outloud moments." - T. Berry, Community Member "I was particularly impressed with how confident the students appeared to be. They did not hold back or appear shy about appearing on camera." -J. Ryall, TCDSB Staff Arts

"My students thought the performance was a hoot and that it paralleled some of the ways of surviving our quarantine period." - Gr. 8 Teacher, St. Henry's

While I thought producing a theatrical show prepandemic was stressful, I was wrong. Producing a show that is remotely put together takes that stress to a whole new level. I am extremely grateful for both my fellow educators and students who poured so much time and energy into this show. In just over two months, we collaborated on a hilarious production that was written for the screen in order to find a cure for the very thing which we were all experiencing during the pandemic: isolation. The comedic characters brought to life so expertly by the talented cast all find a way to persevere in an otherwise confining time.

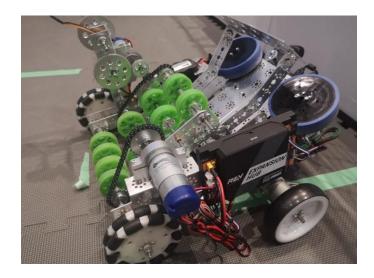
On behalf of the team of teacher-directors who worked on this production (Ms. Figliano, Mr. Found, and Ms. Medeiros) I would like to acknowledge the courage, dedication, and talent of the entire cast, who dared to make this production a reality by inviting us into their homes to maintain the longstanding tradition and excellence of Theatre Brebeuf.

Despite the changes to our lives over the past year, one thing remains true: the Arts, whether live or virtual, allow students to express themselves, have their unique voices be heard and, most importantly, have fun.

Stay tuned for details about Theatre Brebeuf's 2022 production!



### ROBOTICS ROOKIES TO ROCKSTARS – BREBOTICS 2021



If someone had said in September that a group of nine students, who were completely new to Robotics, would win nine awards in the FIRST FTC competitions, including three awards at Provincials and two awards at Canada Cup, no one would have believed them. But, it did happen! Our dedicated Brebotics Robotics team continued to impress judges throughout every event to win the following awards:

- Canada Cup Think Award 2nd Place Compass Award - 3rd Place
- Provincials Connect Award 1st place •
  Compass Award 2nd Place Dean's List Finalist
- Qualifier #2 REMOTE Connect Award 1st place
- Qualifier #1 REMOTE Motivate Award 1st place
- Scrimmage #3 REMOTE Motivate Award 2nd Place

- Scrimmage #2 REMOTE • Connect Award - 1st place

The team persevered through COVID virtual conditions to become the 4th overall ranked team at Provincials. They were also invited by FIRST to compete at the Canada Cup which included teams from the US, Romania, Germany, and Canada. This is quite an achievement for a brand-new robotics team with zero robotics experience. The team had a late start due to a lack of equipment. With some creative collaborative planning between Mr. Marozzo, the SHSM ICT lead at Brebeuf, Ms. Annetta, the coach, and FIRST Robotics, a plan was set out to not only launch a FIRST Robotics team but to also certify twenty-five students in FIRST programming and design. Equipment was then obtained and meet-ups began in October in the Atrium under social distancing rules. With further pandemic restrictions, all meetings were held online. Virtual competitions ran monthly from December to June through an extended schedule due to the pandemic. At every competition, the team formally presented the team's engineering process and design to a panel of FIRST judges. Brebotics detailed engineering and software goals and possible solutions to overcome challenges. At every one of these judging sessions, the judges always wanted clarification on how new the team was, even though the team's script mentioned they were rookies. Hearing the team, it was simply hard to believe how acquainted they were with key technical and software details and how well they were able to conquer technical issues throughout the year. The team also impressed on the field. Six runs were submitted at every event and the team climbed from the bottom to the top four by Provincials. It is important to note that the team's original goal was to perform only a limited set of FTC Ultimate Goal challenges. However, through amazing teamwork, research, hard work, and initiative, the students built and coded a robot that was able to attempt all the challenge tasks. Students also researched PID (Proportional Derivative Integral) solutions to stabilize the robot's path and maintain shooting power and accuracy despite unexpected events and varying voltage powers. PID is a very complex engineering software solution that even very senior experienced teams struggle to accomplish. Outreach was another huge accomplishment.

Within the school, Brebotic partnered with SHSM ICT students to create and present game designs to FTC Robotics, that could be used in future FTC game challenges. Team members also brought their knowledge and passion to over 550 elementary students at two STEAM Day events in late May. Team members led and judged an FTC Coding workshop and an FTC class challenge. FIRST officials were also in attendance and Sarah Sils, a FIRST Senior Mentor commented: "It was neat to see your older students supporting and leading the younger students. I was very impressed. It was neat to see them [elementary students] engaged in the variety of tasks presented, just like a FIRST robotics season!"

Robotics has been proven to promote student success by giving students hands-on experience and relevance to the school curriculum. Many FIRST alumni go onto Ivy league programmes and land jobs at NASA and other prestigious organizations. Our team members also had very notable individual successes throughout the year. These kids aced their courses and swept top awards at graduation. One team member also won the prestigious Dean's List award, which was given to only 2 students in Ontario. The grade 12 Brebotics students will be missed next year as they go off to Waterloo Computer Science, Queen's Engineering, Centennial's Artificial Intelligence program, and Waterloo's Math programmes. One thing that was learned this year is that there is no time to waste. Sessions will be held end of June and throughout the summer to ensure that all members, including new students, are on the same page and to get a jump start on next year's competition. Game on!

Team members: Daniil Velykyi - gr 12; Jacob Knock - gr 12; Daniel Alberico - gr 12; Sean Smolej - gr 11; Deven Liscombe - gr 12; Clayton Lobo - gr 11; Nayan Liscombe - gr 10; Alexandra Miller - from William Lyon Mackenzie HS; Radha Kotra - from William Lyon Mackenzie HS; Jacob Kuo - from William Lyon Mackenzie HS (Canada Cup Only); William Lingga - Mentor - 1st year UofT Engineering; Armaan Sengupta - Mentor -Chinguacousy Secondary School; Glenn Buckholtz – Mentor – Queen's University software developer; Ms. Connie Annetta, coach



### MATH UPDATE

### By Brad Ryan (Head of Math)



This year, 2020-2021 the AP Brebeuf Mathematics programme helped over one hundred boys excel at high level mathematics. In Quad#1 at the Grade 12 level, there was one Calculus and Vectors section, who have finished all work with vectors, have reviewed all first year University Calculus, have finished most of second

year University Calculus and have completed some work in Differential Equations. They had the option of writing the AP Calculus BC exam in June, 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 was 89% with two students, Jacob Knock and Deven Liscombe finishing with 100%.

At the Grade 11 level there was a class of twentyfive boys, who finished the Grade 11 course at the mid-term, and finished the Grade 12 Advanced Functions course while they were still in the Grade 11 course. That same class continued with me in Quad #3 in Advanced Functions and finished most of first year university Calculus with me. Many of these students had the opportunity to write the AP-AB Calculus exam on June 9 and I await the results of their efforts this Summer.

In Quad #2, a grade 10 class performed at a very high level preparing for the all-important Grade 11 year. The strength of the Brebeuf Mathematics program will be in the capable hands of two grade 9 classes from this year that dealt with difficult Covid restrictions in terms of trying to acclimate to enriched mathematics while video conferencing for 2 - 2.5 hours a day. I wish all these fine men a great Summer and look forward to working with many of them again in September, hopefully under less restrictive conditions.

### 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!

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

### SCIENCE CORNER

#### By Mirela Mahmutaj Llupo

The Science department faculty during this year have demonstrated commitment toward improving student achievement and wellbeing. Promoting a positive attitude toward learning and motivating students to stay focused and engaged, regardless of the challenges faced due to the pandemic, was the mantra for the Science department. The faculty worked collectively and diligently to provide students with a variety of assessments and opportunities to develop critical and analytical thinking as well as developing problemsolving skills.

#### **Collaboration with Pueblo Science**

Brebeuf Science students in Grades 9 -12 participated in two workshops with Pueblo Science, a non-profit organization that has a mission to reduce poverty by advancing science education and enabling innovation in low-resource communities. These workshops were organized by the Brebeuf Science club. The three researchers Dr. Salvador, Dr. Li, a Brebeuf alumnus, and Dr. Einstein were invited to speak and share their experiences as researchers and innovators in the fields of Science, Technology, and Engineering. During these workshops, students gained enriched learning experiences on the three types of scientific research approaches (Experimental, Study and Innovative), and examples for each approach. Students were provided with evidence about the impact of the researchers on improving the lives of communities locally and globally. Also, students had opportunities to ask questions about their topics of research interest and understand the difference between social and scientific methodologies.

## Experiential learning with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Grade 9 students participated in "Fish Management", a virtual experiential learning workshop organized in collaboration with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). In this workshop, students learned about the job of the environmentalist and the scientific method applied to determine the quality of aquatic ecosystems. Through a Zoom meeting, students observed, communicated, and were involved in a discussion with two experts of TRCA who demonstrated a step-by-step approach of identifying the quality of Lake of St. George. The method consisted of catching a variety of fishes, measuring their sizes and comparing with the standard sizes of the fish in a healthy lake. Also, the students learned about the power of knowledge gained from the classroom instruction with topics such as the anatomy of fishes, dichotomy, use of scale and mathematical measurement in real-life applications.

### Annual Waterloo Avogadro's Exams

A group of twelve students from Grade 11 and 12 participated in the Waterloo annual Avogadro exam. The student who outperformed in both grades was Nayan Liscombe. Nayan, who received a certificate of distinction, was placed within the 25th percentile in the World, out of 2974 participants and within the 10th percentile in Canada, out of 1586 participants.

### Equity, inclusivity and diversity in science classes

One of the initiatives of the Science department is to enhance the students' awareness of the applications of equity, inclusivity and inclusion. The Famous Cultural Scientist was assigned to the students as an enrichment project to allow students to connect, relate and be inspired by scientists of diverse ethnic backgrounds. This project provided students with the opportunity to research the contribution of scientists from their cultural background, and identify role models to follow in pursuing future careers in scientific fields. Also, grade 9 students participated in a virtual workshop with Dr. Leroy Little Bear, professor emeritus at the University of Lethbridge, Alberta. Dr. Little Bear shared with students his experience as an indigenous Blackfoot researcher and used examples to explain the similarities and differences between Indigenous knowledge vs. Western knowledge. Dr. Little Bear also shared his experience and contribution to the Buffalo Treaty, an agreement between First Nations in the United States and Canada, to protect and restore bison herds to the wild. Dr. Little Bear was instrumental in helping Parks Canada bring a herd of 16 bison to the Panther Valley area in Banff in 2017. Dr. Little Bear emphasized that the indigenous culture is closely tied in many ways to the relationship with buffalo. Furthermore, he explained the rationale of the importance of buffalo by stating that "Our youth do not see the buffalo on a daily basis and consequently make no connections, therefore the culture of the buffalo is not reinforced." He highlighted the importance of the bison in both the indigenous culture as well as the ecological aspects. Students learned and appreciated the invaluable impact of Indigenous culture in protecting and sustaining natural ecosystems.

#### **Toronto Science Fair 2021**

It is a tradition that Brebeuf students participate in the Toronto Science Fair. Students work approximately six months to prepare and present for the Toronto Science Fair. Students gain research skills through their science classes and by participating in the Science club. The goal of involving students in the science fair is to provide them with the opportunity to extend their learning beyond the curriculum expectations, to engage in inquiry-based learning experiences and make connections with real-life problem-solving applications. In the Toronto Science Fair 2021, Brebeuf students presented diverse topics in the areas of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Technology and either worked individually or in pairs. Through their projects, students demonstrated an understanding of scientific concepts, the designing and implementing experimental procedures, analyzing and discussing collected data and discussion and summarizing the conclusions. Brebeuf students, regardless of the special circumstances of this school year, worked enormously; the reward resulted in seven Bronze and seven Silver Medals winners at Toronto Science Fair for 2021. This accomplishment shows that once again that our Brebeuf students have the potential of becoming future researchers in the scientific fields to make a positive impact on our society.

Here is a list of students' names, their project topics and the links of their work as submitted at the Toronto Science Fair 2021.

#### **Bronze Medalist Winners**

Daniel Condarcuri (Grade 9) - Using Python to Analyze Literature <u>https://projectboard.world/ysc/project/using-python-</u> to-analyze-literature

Felipe DePaula (Grade 9) Peter Yousef (Grade 9) - Does Rest Matter? - the balance between physical and mental rest

https://projectboard.world/ysc/project/does-restmatter---the-balance-between-physicaland-mental-rest

Kyri Papadatos (Grade 9) - A Human Assistant (Robot Waiter) https://projectboard.world/ysc/project/a-human-assistant-robot-waiter

Luke Sinka (Grade 12) - Biocomputers https://projectboard.world/ysc/project/biocomputers

Junsu Cho (Grade 12) - The Chemical Commonalities of Delicious Foods https://projectboard.world/ysc/project/the-chemicalcommonalities-of-delicious-foodsvmoxj

Jonas Jugo (Grade 12) - Cockroaches: Radioactive Resistance and Their Benefits https://projectboard.world/ysc/project/cockroachesradioactive-resistance-andtheirbenefits?utm\_source=google\_share\_50237

Silver Medalist Winners

David Martins (Grade 9) - Which Grows Quicker - Soil grown plants or Hydroponic grown plants? https://projectboard.world/ysc/project/which-growsquicker---soil-grown-plants-orhydroponic-grown-plants

Brandon Tien Yu Lau (Grade 11) & Sean Smolej (Grade 11) - Wicked Water: The Science of Water Contaminants

https://projectboard.world/ysc/project/wicked-waterthe-science-of-watercontaminants

Jacob Knock & Jacob Maillet (Grade 12) - The Effects of a Pandemic of Isolation on One's Mental Wellness, Physical Health, and Productivity <u>https://projectboard.world/ysc/project/the-effects-of-</u> <u>a-pandemic-of-isolation-on-onesmental-wellness-</u> <u>physical-health-and-productivity</u>

Darryl Llanes (Grade 12) - The Effects of Playing an Instrument on the Brain and Memory <u>https://projectboard.world/ysc/project/the-effects-of-playing-an-instrument-onthe-brain-and-memory</u>

### Vince Sosa (Grade 12) - How Chemicals Kill COVID-19 https://projectboard.world/ysc/project/how-chemicalskill-covid-19

#### Parent acknowledgment and appreciation

This school year was challenging for students, teachers and families. Keeping students motivated, engaged and committed to their education required the contribution of all stakeholders. The students' high achievement in the science classes are a reflection of the persistent collaboration and involvement of parents as our closest partners in students' wellbeing and achievement. The Faculty of Science acknowledges and appreciates the support that the parents and families provided throughout the year in making student success possible as their children continuously engaged in the learning process .

### Future Department Goals For the school year 2021-2022

The faculty of the Science department will continue to provide students with the enriched learning experiences through the STEAM Programme, Advanced Placement Programme, collaborate with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), Pueblo Science, Toronto Science Fair and many other activities. Wishing all Brebeuf students and parents a safe and relaxing summer!

### 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. Students produced four issues.

https://sites.google.com/view/b-newspaper/home

## ALUMNI



**Dr. Kieran Moore**, Class of 1979, is the new Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario. Dr. Moore will help oversee Ontario's covid response. He has expressed an interest to return to the school to speak to our students and we hope that can happen soon!



Congratulations to **Rev. Andrew Taylor '11**, ordained to the priesthood this May by Cardinal Collins. Fr. Taylor will be stationed at St. Michael's Cathedral. We wish him God's grace in his new ministry.

The Alumni Association hosted a successful "Virtual Pub Night" on Zoom on June 5 with almost 150 Old Boys and former staff in attendance. It was a nice way for alumni to connect with their former classmates and teachers. It even allowed alumni from as far away as the UK, the USA, and Switzerland to attend. Once a Brebeufian, always a Brebeufian!



Our home from 1963-2002

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