

2020-21

ANNUAL  
REPORT



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**Mother  
Teresa**



**Middle School**  
A Jesuit Academy

**Sâkihitok Mina Wîhcihitok**  
**'Love One Another and Help One Another'**  
- Elder Harry Francis





*Mother Teresa Middle School is proudly situated in Treaty 4 territory, the homeland of the Métis and the traditional territory of the Nêhiyawak / ᓂᕐᕈᕐᕐ / Cree, Nakawē / ᓂᓕᓂᓂ / Saulteaux, Nakota/Assiniboine, Lakota, Dakota and other Indigenous peoples.*



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# STATEMENT ON RECONCILIATION

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## **Mother Teresa Middle School – Statement on Reconciliation**

**Regina: February 17, 2016**

2015 marked a historic time in Canada with the publication of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada and the establishment of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Manitoba. The Mother Teresa Middle School Board as well as its staff and entire school community, profoundly respect the Commission's work and acknowledge the sorrowful legacy of residential schools with respect to Indigenous peoples, cultures, spiritualities and families.

The decisions, policies and actions which led to the legacy of residential schools must never be repeated in this country. The Commission calls institutions and Canadians from all walks of life to take actions that contribute, in a practical way, to reconciliation of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. Mother Teresa Middle School is committed to doing its part.

Mother Teresa Middle School (MTMS) is working hard to be sensitive to this historical context and to build trust with all communities with whom we will work. We are committed to participating in meaningful and lasting change and creating a peaceful and respectful relationship with parents, students, and communities while building a better Canada.

MTMS is a school for students from low income families who live predominantly in the North Central and Core areas of Regina. It accepts students of all faiths, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. This includes Indigenous, new-Canadian and other visible minorities. We recognize that the neighbourhoods we serve are home to organizations and community leaders whose work and contributions are incredible examples of resiliency and reconciliation that are strengthening our city for everyone. MTMS's model of additional supports, programming and long-term educational commitment reflects the longstanding values and traditions in these neighbourhoods.

Leaders from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities have graciously provided their advice and expertise upon start-up of the school and continue to do so today. They have reminded us of the TRC's findings with respect to the sorrowful legacy of residential schools and also of the important challenge it provides all Canadians: "to establish new relationships embedded in mutual recognition and respect that will forge a brighter future."

MTMS is inspired by Catholic and Jesuit values according to the "Nativity" school tradition and the spirit of reconciliation. It operates inclusively, being open to a variety of cultural traditions and expressions of spirituality including Christian and Indigenous traditions. MTMS does not proselytize, or aim to "convert" students of non-Catholic backgrounds. While students will be expected to participate in lessons, ceremonial activities and celebrations held throughout the school year, accommodation can and will be made for any student's additional spiritual needs in a way that is respectful of their own and other students' backgrounds. It is the hope of all involved in Mother Teresa Middle School that all students will be exposed to a breadth of spiritual traditions and practices from all walks of life.

# STATEMENT ON RECONCILIATION - CON'T

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The concern for a holistic education is seen as part of a Jesuit endorsed school's mission, "to develop men and women for others", where we will support our students of all cultural and faith backgrounds becoming hopeful, confident, morally responsible leaders for love and service of their families and communities. MTMS will strive to encourage our students to become people who are loving, intellectually competent, open to growth, spiritually alive and committed to doing justice. These five key aims are common to all Jesuit schools. MTMS will strive to create a school culture of individual care and concern for each student – where students feel they are known and cared for by their teachers, where they feel respected and where they learn to respect themselves and others and learn a sense of responsibility for serving their community.

Concern for the spiritual development of our students is seen as part of providing a holistic education which also attends to students' academic preparation, physical health and general wellness, and development of social skills. MTMS does not follow the traditional approach to teaching religion. Instead Catholic and Christian beliefs and spiritual practices will be infused into the overall curriculum and school practices. Teaching about and showing respect for other faiths, beliefs and traditions including Indigenous beliefs, and prayer practices are also included in curricula and the school day. In keeping with the mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation Report, MTMS teaches curriculum regarding the residential school legacy in Canada as well as the Catholic Church's role in its development and delivery.

MTMS's goal of encouraging students to be "spiritually alive" means to help them learn to respect their own faith and spiritual traditions, to understand where they come from and who they hope to become and to also learn to respect other faiths and traditions. We will encourage the understanding that we are all Treaty people and that we need to nurture a relationship of mutual care and support between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. As suggested in the TRC Report, Indigenous Studies will be part of the curriculum and we will continue to seek the support of Indigenous educators and consult Indigenous elders with respect to this curriculum and Indigenous spiritual teachings and practices.

Finally, we endorse and encourage the Calls to Action of the TRC Report with respect to education and also with respect to how we treat each other: that "reconciliation must become a way of life" and that it is "about respect – both self-respect for Aboriginal people and mutual respect among all Canadians." We understand that we will need to continue to learn from the community and our students as we embark together on our educational journey. The TRC Report concluded, "Establishing respectful relationships involves learning to be good neighbours. This means being respectful—listening to, and learning from, each other; building understanding; and taking concrete action to improve relationships." Our commitment at Mother Teresa Middle School is to put that conclusion into action. It is an incredible privilege and responsibility — and it is essential for our city, for our province and for future generations.

Curtis Kleisinger  
Executive Director  
Mother Teresa Middle School

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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Curtis Kleisinger  
Executive Director  
B.Ed., B.A., M.A.

In my Executive Director Report for the Mother Teresa Middle School (MTMS) 2019-20 Annual Report, I stated that "The 2019-2020 school year has been like no other I have experienced in my 25 years as an educator." Well, that being said, I can confidently say that the same applies for the 2020-21 school year.

After a busy and tense summer, we awaited direction from the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) and the Government of Saskatchewan as to what the parameters would be for a return to in person learning for the 2020-21 school year. MTMS was asked to prepare a back-to-school plan and submit it, for approval, to the Provincial Government. MTMS prepared a comprehensive plan engaging many stakeholders that focused on keeping the entire community safe. Our plan included such things as: staggered start and dismissal times for students, compacting the school day, cohorting of students according to grade, adjusting transportation practices, instituting daily pre-screening of staff and students, a mandatory mask policy, advanced cleaning/sanitization practices for the school, air purifiers and improved ventilation in classrooms, detailed signage in the school, social distancing/spacing of students, protective barriers placed on desks and workspaces, new lunch routines, adapted band classes and new routines and procedures around the isolation of sick students and staff within the building. MTMS also cancelled all after-school enrichment programming, intermural sports, summer programming as well as its annual *Sky's the Limit* fundraising event. The school delivered its Grade 8 Farewell virtually for the second year in a row as well as their student recruiting process.

MTMS started out the year healthy, and things progressed well until Christmas. It was decided by the provincial Government that students would move to online learning for an additional week prior to Christmas break as well as for an additional week after. This was to counteract any COVID-19 transmission that might occur within the households over the break. At Easter, the same process was undertaken however numbers continued to climb in the province and students continued with virtual learning for an additional two weeks. When the rest of the schools in the Regina Catholic School Division (RCSD) returned to in person learning, MTMS made the decision to keep student virtual for two additional weeks as a precaution. Our school leadership is very glad to have made that call. Over the school year, MTMS had two staff members test positive as well as two students but there were no cases traced to transmission within the school. Fortunately, due to the strict measures that MTMS had put in place, the SHA saw no reason to close the school due to COVID-19 during the year – something MTMS is very proud of. Although there was some disruption and students were online for a total of eight weeks, we believe and our data shows, that our middle school students still showed excellent growth. This is a testament to the love and commitment of our incredible teachers and support staff. Throughout the entire year, MTMS continued to partner with each of our families to provide the much needed care and supports.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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At the high school and post-secondary levels, there was also huge change. MTMS alumni in high school moved to a hybrid system where they were in person one day and online the next. Some moved to “quads” or “quints”, meaning that they had four or possibly five semesters per year with a course load of only two or three classes at one time. This cut down on the number of students they would come in contact with throughout the day but it made for long classes, a compacted curriculum and more intense learning. Our high school students struggled with the lack of contact time with teachers and with the absence of relationships which are so vital. Not having extracurricular activities limited their engagement and connection to their schools even more. Some grew frustrated and stopped attending. Others became transient and floated back and forth between Regina and their respective reserves. Some students disengaged with our Student Support Team entirely and we had a difficult time connecting with them. At the university level, some of our alumni struggled with the online learning format, some lost jobs and became reliant on Canada Emergency Response Benefit payments. Some students took a break from school or were so discouraged that they withdrew completely. The Graduate Support Team struggled to address the numerous mental health issues that were triggered by the ongoing Pandemic. Some of our graduate students grew discouraged, perhaps wandered a bit or lost hope and this unfortunately manifested itself in the fact that we recorded our lowest high school (on-time) graduation rate in our school's history. At Mother Teresa Middle School, we will always own the data and do not make excuses but having said that, to say that COVID-19 has not had an impact on our student's ability to find success would be misleading.

Financially speaking, the school faced numerous challenges as well. As we embarked on the new year, the economy had still not rebounded which meant that raising money for the school continued to be difficult. Corporations and businesses tightened the purse strings on their charitable mandate or changed their focus altogether. Unable to gather and have an in-person fundraising event for the second year in a row really challenged the school's ability to publicly celebrate its successes and expand its network of supporters. As such, MTMS placed a renewed focus on digital communications and increased its social media presence as a way to bring people into the school space. The school certainly had some increased costs around PPE and had some major challenges with its aging busses. We were also informed in March of 2020 that we may have to relocate the school in four years' time, as there are plans for a new joint-use school within the community that will include St. Michael Community School. Looking forward, this will present many challenges but also many opportunities. The 2020-21 school year saw us embark on the development of a new, five-year, strategic plan as well.

The 2020-21 school year was a long, exhausting one with many twists, turns and “pivots”. As educators, we were constantly on edge as to what might be around the corner and this takes its toll over a long period of time. The grade six and seven students at MTMS have never experienced the entire MTMS program in their time at the school. They have not engaged in the Summer Leadership Academy, our after-school enrichment programs or our extra-curricular field trips or activities. Over the past year, our high school students were not able to receive the support and guidance from our team - in the way we typically provide it. The ways we're able to gather together changed and, in many ways, the Global Pandemic challenged our ability to connect. The end of the school year brought with it a promise of a vaccine and perhaps a reduction in the overall COVID numbers. It was however, a long year and a half for our teachers, students, families and staff.

As I have stated many times in the past, I couldn't be prouder of the entire MTMS community and how everyone has responded during this time. Things have surely been challenging and difficult, but I believe that we can emerge stronger and better as a school and as a community. The pandemic has caused all of us to examine the way we teach, the way we serve our community, the way we communicate and interact with one another and why we are called to do the work we do. It also exposed how interconnected we all are and how much we rely on each other in this world. When we boil it right down, it's about loving one another and helping one another.

# PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

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Terri Cote  
Principal  
B.Ed. , M.Ed.

During the 2020-2021 school year Mother Teresa Middle School (MTMS) celebrated its 10th Anniversary, albeit riddled with the unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the discovery of the remains of 215 children found buried at a former B.C. residential school. In honor of the 10th Anniversary, Elder Wayne Goodwill, painted the MTMS story on a buffalo hide that was scraped by the entire MTMS Family. Goodwill is a knowledge keeper from the Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation in Saskatchewan and is one of the last known hide robe painters in the province. The images on the hide, first and foremost, reveal the Truth of Canada's residential school system and in the spirit of Reconciliation, the new narrative, that is being created in the space of MTMS.

During the pandemic we continued to honor the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and lean more intentionally into our culture that is deeply rooted in the Catholic Faith, Ignatian and Traditional Spirituality and the rich traditions of Jesuit Education. At the same time, the MTMS team led with heart and relentless love while navigating the move from in-person to remote learning. Pope Francis' quote, "From the great trials of humanity – among them this pandemic – one emerges better or worse. You don't emerge the same. I ask this of you: How do you want to come out of it? Better or worse?", was timely for the MTMS Family. Despite it all, collectively, we were determined to emerge better.

Imagine for a moment the desks that sat barren from March to June, now fitted with individual barriers and eagerly awaiting the arrival of students on the first day of school and classrooms each equipped with air purifiers, boxes of masks and hand sanitizing stations. The MTMS staff welcomed the opportunity for in-person learning and were ready to start the year with the "2020 – 2021 Return to School Plan" in hand. It was apparent that we would start the year under very challenging circumstances. Our number one priority was to keep the MTMS Family safe. Our Response to Intervention (RTI) approach provided opportunities for proactive, prevention-orientated ways of proceeding to address mental health and wellness, student engagement and academic excellence.

The MTMS Family started the school year, following COVID-19 protocols, by virtually engaging in traditional prayer, smudge, and dance. We continued to honor the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action through authentic engagement with an incredible network of individuals who are striving to reclaim, revive and enliven language and culture that was silenced through the Residential School experiences of many of our families and community members. Evan Whitestar, MTMS Indigenous Advocate/Oskâpêos and Lucas Whitestar, a MTMS grade 6 student, scraped a buffalo hide on behalf of the MTMS Family with Lorne Kequahtooway and Joely BigEagle Kequahtooway of the Buffalo People's Art Institute. Virtual beading sessions were held with Lorne and Joely throughout the year. All students created beaded poppies for Remembrance Day. Beaded moccasins were created by the 8th grade students and gifted to them at the Promotion Ceremony in June.



# PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

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At MTMS, we lived out the call to be *Men and Woman* for Others by leaning into the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs). The connection with the Jesuits of Canada and The Education of Youth Members remains strong. Throughout the pandemic, MTMS stayed connected, and continued learning about the UAPs by participating in communal discernment and spiritual conversations. The communal discernment provided the fruits, from which, action plans, to live out the UAPs, were crafted. Love letters were written to the nurses at the Regina General Hospital to honor their work as frontliners during the pandemic. The students painted posters and went on an “Orange Walk” to bring awareness to the 215 children’s unmarked graves found in Kamloops, B.C. They also initiated the “Canada Clean Up Crew” and inspired others to clean up litter in their neighborhood by creating a hashtag on social media to share their environmental challenge. Crafts were made and gifted to the Elders at Eden Care and funds were raised and donated to The Regina Food Bank through the sale of hand-crafted painted flowerpots that were adorned with summer-blooming flowers.

The Mother Teresa Middle School Family brought the year to a close in good ways. A grade 8 “Promotion Ceremony Video” and “Drive By” was well received by all. Each student and their family felt the love of the MTMS Team when they walked the ceremonial runway, received their gift bags, had photographs taken and were sent off to celebrate with a 4Seasons Party Pack Celebratory Family Dinner. Due to the global pandemic the Summer Leadership Retreat and Summer Leadership Academy were cancelled. However, the MTMS team exercised creativity and crafted summer drop-in programming for 2021 that ran for six weeks. The activities included culture and sport, swimming at local pools, golfing at Lakeview Par 3, canoeing at Wascana Park and jewelry making. Students could also participate in the “MTMS Phys. Ed Lending Equipment Program”, where they could borrow equipment for a week or two at a time. For our new grade 6 recruits, two half-day mini summer camp days were held in August. Students participated in a school scavenger hunt, were engaged in cultural activities, as well as outdoor adventures where team building was the goal.

Together, with the support of parents and guardians, the MTMS team intentionally, strategically, and seamlessly embed the COVID-19 protocols and procedures into everyday practices. At MTMS we embraced the spiritual vision of St. Ignatius of Loyola that was to help others and seek God in all things. To this end we have emerged better from this great trial of humanity – the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our story of togetherness evolved for the better. It is a story of the power of Mother Teresa Middle School’s “ways of proceeding” and how working together and engaging the community allowed the MTMS Team to connect strategically, care deeply and look forward with hope.

# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

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Paul Hill

Mother Teresa Middle School  
Board Chair

Chairman, President and CEO  
The Hill Companies

On behalf of the Mother Teresa Middle School (MTMS) Board of Directors, I would like to congratulate the entire MTMS community on a most excellent 2020-21 school year. In spite of the many challenges and difficulties that the COVID-19 pandemic presented, the Board is very proud of the work being done and we are excited by the growth our students are exhibiting. They are truly becoming, *Men and Women for Others*.

As a Board, our main mandate is to ensure that the mission is being fulfilled and that the school is sustainable for years to come. We have forged some incredible partnerships over the past ten years and these relationships are integral to the school's successes. We value the incredible association we share with the Regina Catholic School Division, the NativityMiguel Coalition of Schools, the Jesuits of English Canada, Campion College, Jesuits Schools Network and with the One Life Makes a Difference Foundation and we look forward to journeying forward, together.

We also know that the school would not be possible without the trust and commitment of our parents and guardians and the relentless passion and vision of our staff. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible donors, volunteers and mentors for all they give to MTMS.

The MTMS Board of Directors has a vision for the future. In November of 2021, we finalized a new, five-year, strategic plan that will lead the school into the 2026 school year. This plan will address areas like succession, financial stability and the possibility of relocating the school. As the number of students continues to increase, so will the level of support that MTMS provides to the middle school, high school and post-secondary students. We must continue to adapt to our ever-changing environment and plan for life in a post-Covid world. We must continue to seek out best data driven, researched based practices in education that will invariably improve the life chances of the students we serve. As a board, we will continue to meet the needs of all students and make all decisions in their best interest.

Sincerely,

Mr. Paul J. Hill

Mother Teresa Middle School – Board Chair

# MTMS AT A GLANCE



*Founded in*  
*2011*

## Mission

Mother Teresa Middle School (MTMS) aims to break the cycle of poverty among economically and socially disadvantaged youth through the application of its innovative education model.

## Core Values

Seek, learn, serve, excel, connect, persevere, love

## Philosophy

MTMS is built on the Jesuit ideal of '*cura personalis*', which means care for the whole person. This includes tending to students' intellectual, social, physical, spiritual and emotional needs.

## Partnership Rooted In Shared Values



JÉSUITES  
du Canada

JESUITS  
of Canada



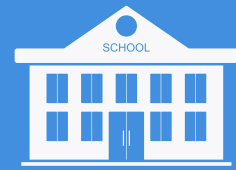
JESUIT SCHOOLS NETWORK



nativitymiguél  
coalition



**CAMPION COLLEGE**  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF REGINA



## Student Community

**56**

**Middle School  
Students**

**59**

**High School  
Students**

**28**

**Post Secondary  
Students**

**31**

**Students  
Employed Full or  
Part-Time**

## Five Strategic Pillars

Spiritual Identity

Academic Excellence

Development, Marketing and  
Communications

Finance, Facilities, Partnerships, HR  
& Governance

Graduate and Student Supports

## IMPACT OF PHILANTHROPY



**244**  
**Donations**



**131**  
**Donors**



**56%**  
**Donor Retention**



**102**  
**Food Hampers  
Delivered**



**190**  
**Students benefited  
from donor support**



**\$105,460**  
**In post-secondary  
bursary support**



# GRADE 6 CLASS



# GRADE 7 CLASS



"MTMS is a school that helps you to continue to work hard, set outstanding goals, to work hard for what you believe in . It's a school that will help you be a better you and an outstanding person in your community." - A.D.

"MTMS offers countless paths to success and because of it, I have learned the essential concepts to a successful future, and to have friends strive alongside with you is truly a privilege like no other." - L.J.R.

"MTMS is a really caring school that puts their students first. We follow the Jesuit Principals and pray the examen every morning." - Y.L.

"I would recommend MTMS because of the personal laptops, learning Cree, school challenges, amazing lunches and the connections I've made." - M.S.



# GRADE 8 CLASS



## Because of MTMS....

"I am reading at Grade level and I have a scholarship to attend Notre Dame along with lifelong friends."  
- E.D.

"I have been given cultural opportunities that I would never get in other schools, such as drumming, art work, sweats, and other first nation ceremonies." - J.S.

"I've learned how to be a better person, to help others that might need it." - M.H.

"I am able to read better than ever. Thanks to The teachers, volunteers and donors I am ready for highschool."  
- G. L.



# GRADE 8 CELEBRATION



# **AWARDS**

**MTMS presented the following Jesuit awards to five students:**

**LOVING— Jennifer Watama  
COMMITTED TO DOING JUSTICE — Andrew Lopez  
INTELLECTUALLY COMPETENT— Minahil Hashmi  
SPIRITUALLY ALIVE— Gabriel Lukovszki  
OPEN TO GROWTH— Alok Regmi**

**Students were selected as recipients of the following awards:**

**ANGELA OXMAN READING AWARD — Minahil Hashmi  
ASHRAE SCIENCE AWARD — Alok Regmi  
KEITH GRANDMOTHER SPIRIT AWARD — Jennifer Watam  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AWARD — Jennifer Watama/Minahil Hashmi  
ELLIOT MCGUIGAN ATHLECTIC AWARD — Gabriel Lukovszki**

**With online learning taking more commitment and intention, MTMS recognized those students who showed 'Magis' throughout the online learning time:**

## **MTMS MAGIS AWARD**

**Kaydance Cronan  
Eagle Dubois  
Alok Regmi  
Jennifer Watama  
Andrew Lopez**

# GRADUATE SUPPORT PROGRAM

## Graduate Support Director's Message



Ron Gonzales  
BPAS, B.Ed.

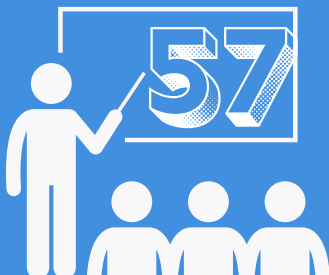
Director of Student  
Supports/Graduate  
Support

We have finished our 10th year at MTMS! Ten years is a great milestone for a school and this year would be considered one of the most challenging years so far with students, families, and staff at MTMS. This was a year with constant adjustments to routines with students, a hybrid model, online learning, limited physical communication and sudden changes with schools due to the pandemic. However, the year was still very fulfilling and rewarding when looking back on the wonderful accomplishments, sacrifices, hard work and a joint team effort achieved over the year. The Student Support Team (SST) team continued to adapt to the ever-changing situations throughout the year. One focus that had to remain strong with the students in high school and post-secondary is the relationships. This meant we had to be creative working around the pandemic with zoom meetings, meetings outside, home visits, scheduled visits within the schools, phone calls, texts, and FaceTime calls. I believe our creative thinking and working collaboratively together made this successful.

Our "Transitions Class" at MTMS continues to be offered weekly with our grade 8's, to prepare them for their first year in high school. Students coming from a school of 59 students and entering a building that can range up to 1000 students can bring on some fears and uncertainty. This year, the SST worked with 7 cohorts ranging from grade 9 to third year post-secondary students. It is hard to believe in the following year we will have students graduating from post-secondary and seeking employment.

I am grateful for the commitment and positive energy the SST team brings to the school daily. It consists of the Response to Intervention Facilitator, College Career Coach, School Outreach Support Work and Academic Support Advisor. This team works very hard and continues to make a difference helping students succeed in their educational journey. I am proud that this team looks at the "total care" of students to make them become more successful in reaching their full potential. As Mother Teresa said, "I can do things you cannot, you can do things you cannot; together we can do great things". We will continue to be optimistic and look forward to working with our students in the years to come.

## BY THE NUMBERS



MTMS Alumni in  
High School



Students  
accessed the MLT  
Aikins Bursary



Students received  
academic assistance  
from the graduate  
support team





## **Mother Teresa Middle School Alumna, Arrian Whitebear Soars to New Heights Through the Bold Eagle Program**

Arrian Whitebear has accomplished a lot since graduating from Mother Teresa Middle School (MTMS) in 2018, but nothing quite compares to the Bold Eagle program. "I like pushing myself forward, if I have the opportunity to better myself, I will take the opportunity to do it," said Whitebear, an MTMS alumna and current Grade 12 student at Luther College High School. Bold Eagle is a six-week summer training program that combines Indigenous culture and teachings with military training. During the training, each student is enrolled as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces. "An important lesson I took away from the training was teamwork. Growing up, I was very independent and when I was there, I always had to rely on someone," said Whitebear.

**"They want to include more Indigenous people into the military. I think it is really important to have this representation, as we can serve our country, it's our country to protect." - Arrian Whitebear**

The first week of the program includes a Culture Camp with a focus on traditional Indigenous values and teachings. "In previous years they didn't have this component, but they have seen greater success from the built-in one-week teachings. They want to include more Indigenous people in the military. I think it is really important to have this representation, as we can serve our country, it's our country to protect, she said. The Culture Camp also provided great development opportunities. "Learning about different professions that we can pursue, how to take care of ourselves, and learning about our own (Indigenous) people was a highlight," Whitebear said.

Her time at MTMS set a foundation for some of the skills taught through the program, such as perseverance. "I faced many challenges and had some difficult moments during my time at MTMS, and they (MTMS staff) helped me work through those tough times and then I was able to continue wanting to do better for myself," said Whitebear. Completing the Bold Eagle program takes tremendous dedication, discipline, and hard work; skills she was able to hone during the last seven years with the support of MTMS. She offered this advice to students who are just beginning their educational journeys with MTMS, "I know that we (my classmates and I) dealt with a lot of hard things and it's about trusting people. It is tough to get to know new people, especially after going through rough patches, it can be difficult to accept good things. I would encourage you to trust, even though it can be hard."

Whitebear has stayed enrolled with the Canadian Army Reserves on a part-time basis and intends to complete more military training this upcoming summer. Despite her busy schedule, she is also inspired to give back to MTMS through volunteering. "I would like to continue with volunteering (at MTMS) because one of my passions is traditional dancing, I really love that," she said, with a smile. Looking ahead, Whitebear is dedicated to achieving her educational and personal goals. "I want to progress in my education and be the best that I can be."

# POST-SECONDARY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Mother Teresa Middle School's educational model incorporates three individualized phases, each builds upon the former phase to break the cycle of poverty and increase student's chances for success. The third and final phase is known as the Post-Secondary Support Program (PSSP). Ongoing support is a critical component of MTMS's model, as such the PSSP aims to empower students to pursue their career goals following high-school graduation. Beginning in grades 11 and 12, the College and Careers Coach provides alumni with the tools and knowledge to explore, apply and matriculate to post-secondary education. Beyond advocating for the student in their journey, the PSSP provides MTMS alumni with counsel in college course selection, social-emotional transition support, coaching related to academic, social and financial concerns as well as support in employment searches and networking opportunities.

## BY THE NUMBERS

28

Students enrolled in post secondary at

9

different  
post-secondary  
institutions across  
Canada.

63%

Students enrolled in  
post-secondary are  
Indigenous.

## FROM POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

"The College and Careers Coach has helped me navigate various obstacles and plan for my future. I want to make a difference and help people in our community and I believe I can have this impact by becoming a police officer."

- Yetunde

"The support I get from both MTMS and donors is what helps me strive and do my best in all the things I do."

- Ashanta

"The support team were able to give me the tools I needed to work towards becoming the successful person I've dreamed of being and even helping shape what that looks like." - Malik



## WHERE THEY ARE NOW: KEY RESULTS AS OF AUGUST 2021

Every dollar invested in a student's success will generate remarkable social and economic return as MTMS alumni find their place in the economy. By motivating and equipping students who graduate high school, MTMS is giving students the opportunity to **break the cycle** and leave poverty behind.



## MTMS Operations

Curtis Kleisinger, Executive Director

Terri Cote, Principal

Mira Trebilcock, Director of Development

Greg Rieder, Grade 8 Teacher

Jayde McFee, Grade 7 Teacher (until January 2021)

Meegan Svedahl, Grade 7 Teacher (beginning January 2021)

Harmony McMillan, Grade 6 Teacher

David Nelson, IT – Grade 6,7,8 Prep Teacher

Ron Gonzales, Director of Student Supports/ Graduate Support Director

Courtney MacDougall, School Community Outreach Coordinator

Amber Bayda, Graduate Outreach Coordinator

Jane Brundige, Intervention Facilitator (until January 2021)

Jayde McFee, Intervention Facilitator (beginning January 2021)

Jordan Puscus, College and Careers Coach

Liz Fogarty, Graduate Support Assistant

Evan Whitestar, Student Support Assistant/Cultural Advisor

Laura Liebel, Executive Assistant

Nicole Rueve, Administrative Assistant

Imelda Nacional, Nutrition Worker

Stan Klisowsky, Bus Driver

Vlad Panio, Bus Driver



# HONORING THE CALLS TO ACTION







## 40 + Afterschool Enrichment Programs



## Summer Programming



## Athletics

Due to COVID-19 Afterschool Enrichment, Summer Programming, Mentorship and Interschool Athletics were put on pause for the majority of the school year.

# MEN AND WOMEN FOR OTHERS



Orange Walk



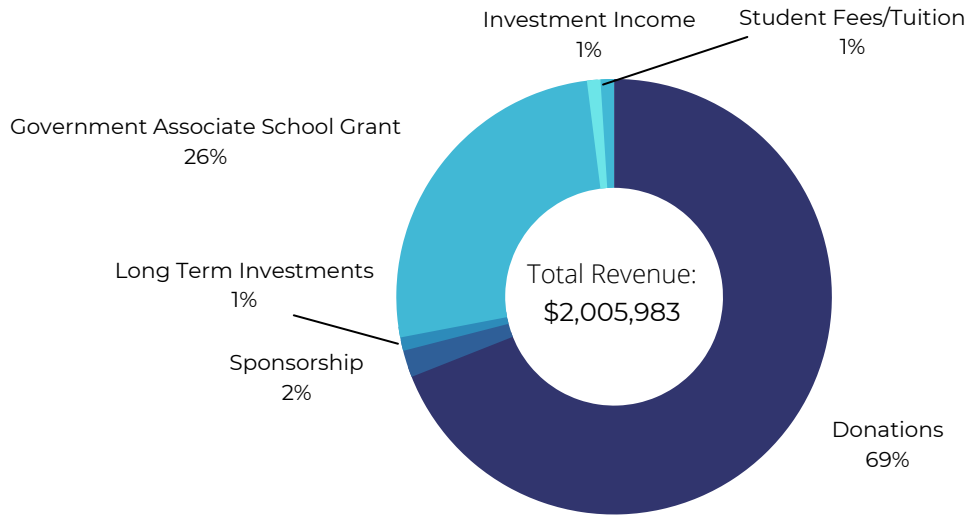
Hand-crafted flower pots for the Food Bank



Canada Clean Up Crew



# OVERALL GIVING



## Number of Students

Middle School Students - 56



High School Students - 57



Post-secondary Students - 28

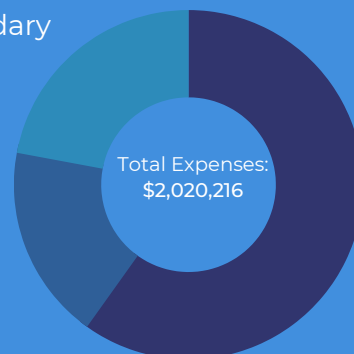


## Annual Cost Per Student

Post-secondary  
\$8,918

High School  
\$7,296

Middle School  
\$24,190



# CELEBRATING 10 YEARS



Mira Trebilcock  
B.A., M.Sc.

Director of  
Development

Mother Teresa Middle School (MTMS) is the culmination of several generations of revolutionary and innovative dreamers. Those who wanted to redefine, reimagine and reinvent education for youth in Regina. June 2021 marked an incredible milestone, as MTMS celebrated its first decade of operation! While we could not gather in person, the anniversary provided an appropriate occasion to reflect on the incredible community that has surrounded our students, since opening the school in 2011.

The unwavering belief and support from close to 30 individuals and corporations over the last decade – even throughout a global pandemic – has fostered hope and helped empower numerous compelling stories of success. Decade supporters were gifted with a beaded medallion of the MTMS crest, an original piece crafted by Buffalo People's Art Institute, to recognize their commitment and celebrate the impact they have made for over 170 MTMS students and alumni.

The generosity of the spirit flowing from our philanthropic support in this historic time has been inspiring and has set the stage for MTMS to emerge from this period of global adversity stronger than ever. Gratitude, inspiration and hope are the overarching sentiments felt as the school begins its second decade, a larger and more dynamic program that is helping to change the narrative for its' students, more noticeably building a stronger community.

# DONORS

## Founding Donors

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Mo Bundon & Michelle Carr  
One Life Makes a Difference Foundation

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Dr. Maureen Lefebvre  
The Regina Food Bank  
Harvard Developments  
Lisa Richardson



# ONÎKIHKOMÂWIN

- A Cree word meaning parenthood. The meaning of parents in Cree can be viewed as "those who provide a home". A home provides a safe place to learn and grow.



# WAHKÔTOWIN

- A Cree word meaning kinship or family





**HELP MTMS FOSTER HOPE.  
UNLOCK POTENTIAL.  
EMPOWER STUDENT SUCCESS.**

Mother Teresa Middle School

1975 2nd Avenue North | Regina, SK | S4R 0Y1 | [www.mtmschoolregina.com](http://www.mtmschoolregina.com) | 306-569-6867



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