



Urban
ACADEMY

We Are UA LIONS



URBAN ACADEMY ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



Pameia

Sosena

Reading
Corner

UA

UA

UA

UA

Raven

Salmon

Bear

Wolf

HEAD OF SCHOOL'S REPORT



This past year has been an exciting one for Urban Academy and one that has seen a growing school take steps to greater maturity and sustainability and to set the stage for an exciting future. We welcomed a significant number of new families to our school as well as new staff and we were able to put programming in place for students which had not been possible in our previous two locations, Robson and Uptown. Our Fine Arts and Athletics programs took the next steps to performing and competing publicly and working with our sister ISABC schools. We settled in as a permanent part of the Sapperton neighbourhood, completing the first two phases of our new school construction and taking part in the Sapperton Residents' Association 'Trash Mob'.

It was also a year unlike any other with the advent of the global pandemic in the early spring, shutting down in-class instruction in BC schools. Our staff and students rose to the challenge, with a robust eLearning program in place right after Spring Break that continued for most of the third term. We welcomed students back to school for June and phrases like "social distancing" became part of our new everyday normal. The strategic design of our school certainly helped us ensure student and staff safety as we took direction from our Provincial Health Officer regarding maintaining a hygienic school and distanced space for all in the building. We were able to provide for our Essential Service Workers' families while we also kept the administrative functions of the school going during a critical time for every business in the province.

This year was also my last at Urban Academy as Head of School. I am proud of the work that all of us have

"This year was also my last at Urban Academy as Head of School"

accomplished together to build a sustainable school focused on the learning and development of our students. I want to thank our families for their support and encouragement, and our outstanding staff for their dedication to our students and our school. Thank you to our students, who are the whole reason for UA and our commitment to each other. I want to acknowledge the steadfast guidance of the Board of Directors, with whom I have had the privilege of such a remarkable professional relationship, always working together for the benefit of the school. In particular, I wish to thank the Chairs that I worked with. The role of Chair of the Board of Directors is a unique responsibility and Deborah McKenzie, Jennifer Thompson and Abi Shu have led with compassion, integrity and vision. Thank you to Urban Academy for the honour and privilege of serving as your Head of School.



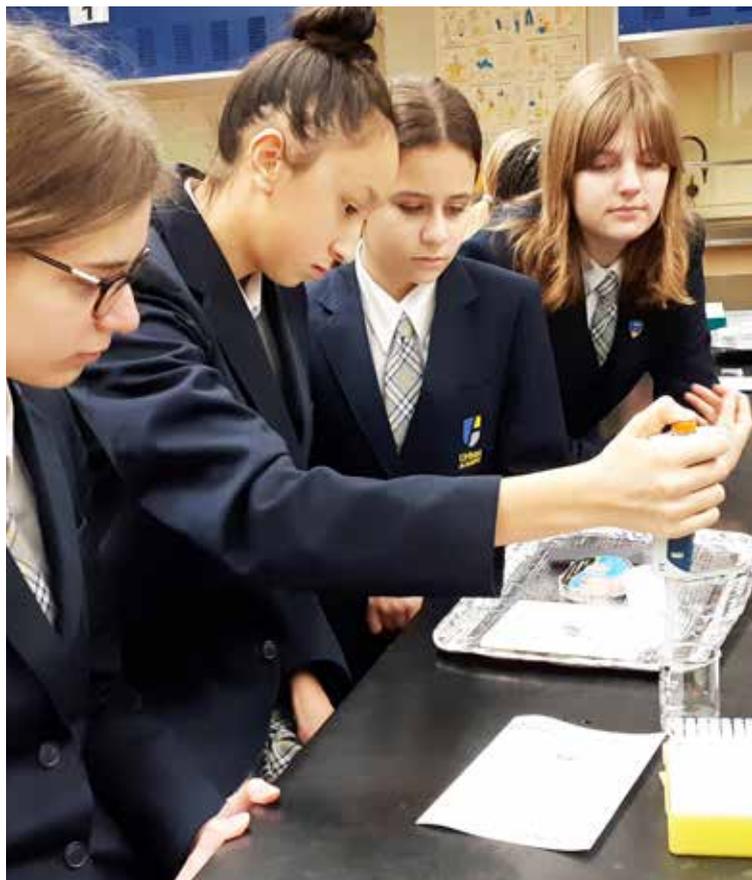
Mrs. Cheryl Beaumont
HEAD OF SCHOOL | 2019-2020



Chair's Report

The Board of Directors of Urban Academy is a dedicated and hard-working group of parents who are focused on the responsible stewardship of the school. The work of the Board is guided by the five-year Strategic Plan and the key activities outlined within. The 2019-2020 school year was a year of transition for the Board. The Board led the school community through a successful Head of School search. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board provided oversight as the school transitioned to eLearning in the spring and through re-entry, providing our student community with educational offerings at all grade levels.

This year we welcomed Bruno Jury to the Board to serve as a Member-at-Large. The Board is vigilant in the oversight of a strong succession plan for both Members-at-Large and Executive positions. We are continuously evaluating the Directors' knowledge, skills, abilities and diversity and seek to add new Directors depending on the needs of the school at the time.





The Board's Strategic Plan guided our work in concert with our 2019-2020 Head of School, Mrs. Cheryle Beaumont. Together, we worked through the priorities that have been set for the development of the school. This year, in addition to a Head of School search, we reviewed our Risk Management program with a particular focus on the risks presented by the pandemic, matured the policy review process and met our goals for enrollment and financial sustainability.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to acknowledge and thank the staff of Urban Academy. At the Board level, we are very fortunate to work with a group of highly skilled professionals who are building and teaching the engaging and innovative programming for our students. They are the foundation of our school community. Their energy and dedication to Urban Academy can not be appreciated enough.

The Board of Directors would also like to recognize the leadership of our 2019-2020 Head of School, Mrs. Cheryle Beaumont. For the past 7 years, she has been the driving force behind the thriving, modern school that Urban Academy has become. She has been an incredible leader in our community. Through her dedication, perseverance and commitment to the Urban Academy she has created a legacy for students to enjoy for years to come.

Dr. Abigail Shu
BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIR

Student Achievement Report

“Our Show Choir travelled to Disneyland to perform and learn with professional Disney performers”

Our students enjoyed a year of wonderful learning opportunities and challenges at every grade level. We introduced Model UN to our Senior School this year under the leadership of Mr. David Gow. Grade 9 and 10 students grappled with current ethical, international and political issues as they developed position papers, presented supporting and opposing arguments, and learned to work within a framework for effective debate. They attended two Model UN conferences, one in Whistler hosted by West Point Grey Academy and one in Vancouver, hosted by St. George’s School. Their confidence as critical thinkers in debate grew steadily with every new experience.

Our Grade 8 students had the chance to spend a year in the lab on STEM projects and challenges. This was a very popular course with our students and has led us to offer STEM opportunities in the upcoming school year for intermediate students as well.

Developing the use of technology in the classroom to support learning has been a focus for UA and we have made strides toward becoming a Google School in Grades 5-12. All of our students, JK-Grade 12, have had their technology skills tested this year and they learned a great deal, especially during the third term when in-class instruction was suspended and eLearning became our vehicle for instruction and schoolwork.

JK-Grade 4 used the Seesaw platform to follow the lessons posted by their teachers, and post their responses and assignments back for teachers to assess. Grade 5 and up used Google Classroom and Zoom for daily lessons, labs, discussions and presentations. While everyone missed the daily interaction that comes with in-class instruction, students, staff and parents were very adaptable and every course, including electives, was handled very well online. For many students PE became one of the favorites that had whole families doing the virtual exercise workouts while they remained safely at home.

Our Show Choir travelled to Disneyland to perform and learn with professional Disney performers. They did an amazing job and were able to bring their growing skill to several online performances as the year drew to a close. It was a whole school commitment with popular Bake Sale fundraisers and family support for early morning and weekend rehearsals that sent them off to the Magic Kingdom to perform.

We continued to hone our academic instruction for students, focusing on strong literacy and numeracy skills in primary as a solid foundation for later learning and extending the creative thinking and application in the later grades. Reading, writing and numeracy are regularly assessed at UA, in addition to classroom assessments on the curricular outcomes that teachers conduct as part of daily instruction. The school wide assessments help inform professional staff of how we can adjust our instruction. The assessment platform is aligned with the academic expectations for students who apply to UA, ensuring that we are providing a strong program and setting high expectations for both current and future students.

Mrs. Cheryl Beaumont
HEAD OF SCHOOL | 2019-2020

The 2019-2020 school year was one for the history books. We started in our new Rousseau Street campus with great excitement, only for us also to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring, and having to quickly adapt to a new way of learning, not just for the students but also for teachers, parents, and the Board. Regardless of what was thrown in front of us, we have managed very well due to exceptional leadership and a strong board.

The effects of COVID were also taken into consideration on the finance front. The primary driver of our finances is enrolment, as such, we paid very close attention to ensuring our community would be able to continue to send their children to Urban Academy through thoughtful and compassionate work with the families to make the tuition payments work – we were successful in this regard, and have seen no COVID related attrition to our student body or impact to our tuition revenue. However, OOSC did see a decrease in revenue due to the impacts of the pandemic.

The school completed the year with a surplus of nearly \$1.4M, a positive result in such a tumultuous year, when so many other schools are struggling. This is something we should be proud of, however not something we need to rest our laurels on, as our growth agenda must continue.

The Board continues to guide a maturing school while we maintain a conservative growth agenda in enrollment and careful management of our resources. Our Advancement Program is made up of the Annual Appeal, PAX fundraisers and our annual Gala event. The Annual Appeal continues to grow significantly due to a greater number of families

contributing, and contributing a greater amount than in years past. Schools receive financial input from three sources: tuition, government grants, and the generosity of our community families. Further details on the advancement initiatives of the school can be found in the Advancement Report within this publication.

As Treasurer, I would like to extend my thanks to the Finance Committee, which it is my pleasure to chair. The team reviews the financial statements, provides insightful guidance to the Board on the annual budget, fee schedules, and considers the financial inputs that govern school finance. My thanks also go to our now retired Head of School, Mrs. Cheryle Beaumont, and our Finance Manager, Mr. Peter Thrower, for their work with the Committee as well as myself. I look forward to working with our new Head of School, Mr. Mike Slinger.

Mr. Roderick (Rory) Langran
TREASURER & FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR





Facilities Report

The past year saw the completion of the first two phases of work on our new school. We were able to finish furnishing and fitting out classrooms, complete the off-site work with our Wesgroup partners on the school site, and tackle the landscaping that made our school feel more like home. The decks all have containers filled with healthy plants and trees, and the front of the school is a welcoming green space on Rousseau Street.

The first two and a half levels formed the first phase of the project and those were the classrooms we moved into in March of 2019. The Board was in a position financially, and with the construction team on site, to push forward and complete phase two. The Media Lab, senior classrooms on the third floor, the Makerspace and the 4th floor classrooms were all part of phase two. We achieved occupancy permitting of phase two of the project in August 2019 enabling us to use the space for the 2019-2020 school year. As with any new facility, there are many details that need attention and completion once the major construction is finished. This work has been the focus of time and resources this year to ensure that the building is completed well and that we have the service agreements in place to maintain a modern, technologically 'smart' school. We have attracted attention from several other schools, school districts and municipalities who are interested in the urban school design and partnership we created with our project.

This year the Board of Directors also undertook the initial stages of the final phase of the school, applying to the City of New Westminster for permitting to add a 5th floor to the school. This will be the final floor that can be added to the school and it will be constructed of steel, allowing for the completion of senior specialty teaching areas. We plan to add a senior Science 'Superlab', one more acoustically treated space and senior classrooms as well as a final top deck that can support environmental science study. The additional instructional space will provide for 550 students at full build out, a few years from now. The design and permitting work has been underway over the course of 2019-2020, with a plan to begin construction in early 2021.

Mrs. Cheryl Beaumont
HEAD OF SCHOOL | 2019-2020

Governance Committee Report

The role of the Governance Committee is to monitor the Board governance structures and practices including bylaws, policy, procedures and risk management. Along with annual review of the bylaws, policy and risk, the committee's activities are guided by the Governance Key Activities as outlined in the current Strategic Plan. This past year, the Governance Committee has focused on Risk Management as well as policies that support the school's transition to our new facility and the growth of the student body.

Dr. Abigail Shu
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Board Development Report

The Board Development Committee is responsible for actively identifying individuals within the Urban Academy community who both complement the needs and skills of our current Board, while supporting the strategic growth, vision and development of the school for years to come. Part of this process also requires constant reflection and review of policies and procedures to ensure they are current and in line with the needs and goals of the Board.

This past year, the Board Development Committee reviewed and edited all policies and documents used in the onboarding process of new Board Members. These resources are tools that will continue to be used to help navigate the important task of the Board's succession planning year over year.

Over the past year, the Board welcomed Bruno Jury as a new Member-at-Large to the Board of Directors and Society.

Mrs. Deborah McKenzie
BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR



Advancement Report

Like many other aspects of 2019-2020, it was an unusual year for Advancement in some respects, and a very UA year in others! As in previous years, our community gave generously to the Advancement Program in the school. We have traditionally held our Annual Appeal in the fall of the year and the yearly Gala in the spring. Both of these initiatives are major fundraising vehicles for our school. Our community contributed at every level of our giving program during the Annual Appeal last fall, culminating in a total of \$183,025 donated to support our students and fill our classrooms with learning opportunities! This included a very generous donation of \$50,000 to get our Makerspace started. The Donor Tree was launched this year and is a beautiful part of our school foyer. The tree is a symbolic reminder of the steady and healthy growth of the school. The leaves on the Donor Tree are steadily being filled with families' names who have given at the Community Innovator level or greater.

Our Gala experienced the unusual part of 2019-2020. The global pandemic that shut down schools, events and communities for many weeks spanned the spring term that Gala was slated for and our Gala Committee reluctantly had to cancel one of our favorite community events. The Gala Committee, led by able Chair Michel Watson, got very creative and hosted an online auction of student art in June, once school was back in session.

The UA Gala was an exceptional example of our community pulling together in a challenging time. Families were able to bid on the piece that their child's class had created. We enjoyed a socially distanced 'gallery walk' along the sidewalk in front of the school to view the students' work and bid on the pieces that caught the eye of members of our school community. Once the Gala sponsors and guests realized that we would not be able to celebrate our Gala in person, many of them generously donated their Gala ticket and sponsorships to the school, a very appreciated gesture during an unprecedented spring term. The event ended up raising over \$40,000 which purchased in-class STEM equipment for students of all ages.

The generosity of our community makes a significant difference to the learning opportunities in classrooms. Technology, sports equipment, Outdoor Education experiences, field study, plays and concerts, musical equipment and athletics competition as well as the finishing touches to our specialty areas in our new school are all supported by Advancement. The Board of Directors, the staff and the Head of School would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to our community for your support of our school and the learning of our students.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our staff and our students, thank you to our generous donors and to the leaders in our school community who plan the activities designed to advance Urban Academy.

Community Leaders	.....	\$10,000+
Community Innovators	.....	\$5,000-9,999
Community Builders	.....	\$2,000-4,999
Community Creators	.....	\$1,000-1,999
Community Stewards	.....	\$300-999
Community Supporters	.....	\$250

“The generosity of our community makes a significant difference to the learning opportunities in classrooms”

Community Leaders:

\$10,000 +

Thompson/Wipp Family
Xiao/Liang Family
Watson Family

Community Innovators:

\$5,000-\$9,999

Aitken/Hall Family
Carson Family
Fletcher Family
Hong/Marchand Family
McKenzie Family
Ngobi Family
Ward Family

Community Builders:

\$2,000-\$4,999

Beaumont Family
Rhattigan/Parr Family
Shu Family
Smith/Langran Family
Xu/Xie Family
Zhang/Liu Family
Zhu/Zhou Family

Community Creators:

\$1,000-\$1,999

Anginer/Panjer Family
Bains Family
Cao/Zhang Family
Chau/Wong Family
Danielson Family
Dhanji Family
Gaday Family
Grant/McCartney Family
Huang/Ma Family
Huang/Wu Family
Lehal/Mangat Family
Li/Bai Family
Li/Jaramillo Family

Community Creators

Continued:

Li/Zhang Family
Ly/Sit Family
Parmar Family
Patel Family
Purewal Family
Sun/Zhang Family
Vezmarovic Family
Yao/Zhang Family
Zawadiuk Family
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous

Community Stewards:

\$300-\$999

Athwal Family
Balakrishnan/Sekharan Family
Bao/Lu Family
Best Family
Bobeldijk Family
Breder/Poulin Family
Bryant Family
Datu Family
Emelyanov Family
Ghataurah Family
Gill/Gadey Family
Grant Family
Hayre Family
He Family
Jang/Huang Family
Janmohamed/Merali Family
Jhutee Family
Jury Family
Kang/Randhawa Family
Karamali/Muscatwalla Family
Kazakova Family
Kennedy Family
Kirk Family
Kolesniak Family
Kurucz Family

Community Stewards:

Continued:

Li/Xu Family
Mann Family
Marsolais Family
Merali Family
Naveed/Ghani Family
Nibber Family
Nijjar Family
Nomura Family
Rajan/Menon Family
Rithaler/Cepeliauskas Family
Row/Choi Family
Sara Family
Terepocki-Grant Family
Uppal/Hayre Family
Willems/Nutter Family
Wong/Bansal Family
Xia/Jia Family
Yan/Yi Family
Yin Family
Zhang Family
Zhang/Wu Family
Zhang/Zhao Family
Zhou/Feng Family
Anonymous
Anonymous

Community Supporters:

\$250

Brooke Family
Gryski Family
Haslett Family
Nava Mejia Family
Anonymous



Art Showcase Sponsor

Thank you to our 2020 Student Art Showcase Sponsor!



New Westminister BC | T. 604.524.2211 F. 604.524.2711

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