

# St. Vincent Elementary School

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## Annual Report

**Academic Year: 2024–25**

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## 1. Introduction

### Message from the Chair of the Governing Board:

The past year has been one of both challenges and opportunities, and through it all, our community has continued to demonstrate resilience, innovation, and commitment to excellence. Our focus has remained clear: to uphold the mission of our school, strengthen the trust placed in us, and ensure that we are positioned for long-term success. This year, we achieved significant milestones — from raising funds for additional air conditioning units, the addition of outdoor classrooms and outdoor play structures as well as many other amazing events and activities. We also worked on enhancing services, to building stronger partnerships that will serve us well into the future.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the dedication of our leadership team, staff, and volunteers, whose efforts inspire confidence and pride in the work we do. I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation to my fellow board members for their vision, guidance, and unwavering support. As we look ahead, we remain committed to responsible governance, transparency, and delivering meaningful value to all those we serve. Together, we will continue to build on our successes, embrace innovation, and meet the evolving needs of our community.

On behalf of the Governing Board, thank you for your continued trust and engagement.

Sincerely,  
Linda-Marie Ferlisi

### Message from the Principal:

This year at St. Vincent Elementary has been one of remarkable growth, community strength, and innovation in education. We celebrated a wide range of academic, cultural, and extracurricular milestones that truly highlight the resilience and creativity of our students and staff.

Among our most exciting initiatives was our work with **Artificial Intelligence**: an AI workshop for teachers focused on supporting diverse learning plans, adapting to learning disabilities, and understanding the do's and don'ts of AI in the classroom. Our Grade 6 students also participated in a special session designed to de-mystify AI, helping them understand how technology can be both a tool and a responsibility for their future.

We continued to prioritize student well-being with programs like **Mindful Movement**, expanded French resources, and a renewed focus on inclusivity through parent surveys and collaborative planning. **With the extraordinary support of HASA and our parent community, who raised \$23,549 this year**, we were able to enhance classrooms, enrich programs, and provide unforgettable experiences such as the Terry Fox Run, Fun Day, and our cultural celebrations.

I am deeply proud of our staff, students, and families. Together, we continue to build an

inclusive and forward-thinking learning environment that nurtures both academic excellence and the well-being of every child.

## 2. School Overview

### Vision and Mission Statement:

St. Vincent Elementary is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive learning environment where children are empowered to grow both academically and emotionally.

### Core Values:

**Respect, Responsibility, Safety,** and **Empathy** remain at the heart of our educational philosophy.

## 3. Key Highlights of the Year

### By the Numbers

- **\$23,549** raised by HASA to support air conditioning projects, classroom resources, and student activities.
- **\$4,500** raised during the Terry Fox Run for cancer research.
- **\$6,370** from the Welcome Back Party and **\$4,642** from the Holiday Market.
- **Over 20 cultural and educational outings** across all grade levels.

### Academic & Innovation

- **AI in Education:**
  - Teacher workshop on using AI to design learning plans, adapt to learning disabilities, and understand ethical use.
  - Grade 6 “De-Mystifying AI” session — building digital literacy and awareness.
- **Mindful Movement Program** launched, supporting student well-being and self-regulation.
- Expanded **French resources** for Cycles 2 & 3.

### Community & Culture

- Successful **Fun Day** with inflatables, foam party, and gelato truck.
- Rich cultural programming: Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Reading Week, Carnival Week, and heritage celebrations.
- **AGAPE Food Drive** and **Pink T-Shirt Day** reinforced our values of empathy, inclusion, and respect.

## ♥ Family & Volunteer Engagement

- Strong parent participation through HASA and Governing Board initiatives.
- Survey feedback guided extracurricular offerings, with families preferring lunch-time, low-cost activities.
- Parent volunteers supported field trips, markets, and school celebrations throughout the year.

## 4. September: School Opening & Early Initiatives

The school year began with energy and enthusiasm. The first week of school went smoothly, with students adjusting quickly. Curriculum Night at both campuses was well attended. The Terry Fox Run raised \$4,500, demonstrating our school's strong spirit of giving. HASA organized the Welcome Back Party, raising \$6,300 and building community connections. Healthy snack initiatives began, reinforcing our focus on student well-being.

## 5. October – December: Academic Progress and Events

October was highlighted by cultural and academic events including Truth and Reconciliation Day, Cosmodome workshops, and multiple field trips such as Grade 6 visiting Ottawa and Grade 4 to Pointe-à-Callière. The Halloween festivities, supported by HASA and volunteers, were a success. In November, report cards were distributed, Remembrance Day ceremonies were held, and the AGAPE Food Drive was launched. The Big Box fundraiser generated \$4,300, while the Holiday Market and poinsettia sales prepared the school for December festivities. Students enjoyed activities ranging from the Nutcracker Ballet to gingerbread workshops, all made possible through teacher dedication and HASA support.

## 6. January – March: Mid-Year Review and Growth

The new year brought continued growth and innovation. Educazoo visited both campuses in January. Carnival Week featured skating, tubing, curling, and snowshoeing, while the Mindful Movement program officially launched at both campuses. Teachers and Grade 6 students participated in AI workshops. **Pink T-Shirt Day** was celebrated to reinforce anti-bullying values. Reading Week, Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream,' and outdoor play workshops enriched student learning. Fundraising initiatives included successful raffles and bake sales organized by Grade 6.

## 7. April – June: End of Year Milestones

The spring months were filled with memorable experiences: **Earth Day** celebrations, the Halo Run at Mount Royal, and visits from Fred Fox and the Intermiel Bee Farm. Grade 5 traveled to Quebec City, Grade 6 presented their Wax Museum, and younger students enjoyed trips to AcroSport Barani, the Insectarium, and Biodome. The Grade 6 graduation was celebrated with a ceremony and trip to the Old Port. Fun Day on June 18th featured inflatables, a foam party, and a gelato truck, creating lasting memories for the whole school community.

## 8. Extracurricular Achievements

Extracurricular opportunities thrived this year. Students engaged in sports, chess tournaments, cultural clubs, and creative workshops. The Mindful Movement program became a cornerstone of student well-being. Parent surveys helped refine offerings, with families expressing preference for lunch-time, low-cost, and health/arts-based activities. This feedback will guide the future of our extracurricular programming.

## 9. Financial Overview

Through careful stewardship, SVES maintained balanced finances while reinvesting in student programs. The table below summarizes the major fundraising events and their contributions:

<b>Fundraising Event</b>	<b>Amount Raised (\$)</b>
Labels	\$ 223
Welcome Back Party	\$ 6,370
Holiday Market	\$ 4,642
Big Box Fundraiser	\$ 4,464
HASA (pizza, TCBY, etc.)	\$ 7,850
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 23,549</b>

Funds were allocated to air conditioning projects, French learning materials, technology upgrades, and classroom resources. Daycare operations ended with a small surplus, supporting continued program development.

## 10. Parent and Community Engagement

**Parent and community involvement remained a defining strength of SVES.** Our community thrived through robust parent involvement. HASA's events—Welcome Back Party, Holiday Market, Carnival Week, and Fun Day—drew strong volunteer support. A parent survey (79 responses) favored weekly lunchtime activities, guiding future programming. Parent-child events (e.g., fall baking, gingerbread workshops, Earth Day) and the AGAPE Food Drive strengthened bonds. The Parent Committee advocated for additional staff for our two campuses. AI workshops further engaged the community, showcasing SVES's forward-thinking approach and setting us apart.

## 11. Looking Forward: Plans for the Upcoming Year

For 2025–26, SVES will expand French instruction (100% in Pre-K, 50% in K–6) and extracurricular based on parent feedback, emphasizing health and creative arts. Outdoor structures installed in April–May 2025 and renovations planned for summer 2026 will enhance learning spaces. Cyber security and social media awareness will be prioritized, alongside Playground Leaders and Mindful Movement. Fundraisers like SVES apparel and Holiday Market will continue. With no split classes and updated fees, SVES will maintain its leadership in innovative education

## 12. Acknowledgements

The successes of 2024–25 would not have been possible without the dedication of our teachers, staff, parents, and volunteers. We extend our heartfelt thanks to:

- **The Home and School Association (HASA)**, whose tireless fundraising brought in \$23,549 to support programs, air conditioning projects, and student activities.
- **The Governing Board members**, for their leadership, strategic planning, and commitment to student success.
- **Our teachers and support staff**, for their creativity, resilience, and dedication to academic and emotional growth.
- **Parent volunteers**, who helped organize events, support field trips, and build community spirit.
- **Our students**, whose enthusiasm, kindness, and perseverance make our school a joyful place to learn.

Special gratitude goes to **Principal Jennifer Vaughan**, whose guidance and vision continue to inspire our community. Together, these contributions created a year of innovation, celebration, and lasting memories.