

REPORT TO COMMUNITY

■ 2023/24



Calgary French & International School



A Message from the HEAD OF SCHOOL & BOARD CHAIR

Dear CFIS Community,

As we reflect on the 2023-2024 school year, our hearts are filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible sense of community that has defined our journey over the past year. In a year marked by both accomplishments and loss, we have come together to support one another in ways that truly embody the spirit of CFIS. Your unwavering dedication and care have allowed us to reach some incredible milestones.

Sense of Community

This year has underscored the strength and resilience of our CFIS family. We have supported each other through difficult times, demonstrating empathy and compassion.

We also celebrate the members of our community who offer their time and talents to support our students in and out of the classroom. Together we build a sense of community that propels us forward.

Culture of Giving

Through the collective generosity of our community, we hit a major milestone this year with a record-breaking number of donations and sponsorships. We are thrilled to announce that we will purchase a new 24-seater bus with a portion of the funds raised! This bus will enhance our students' visibility in the larger community through service projects and athletics, and will provide all students with opportunities to take their learning beyond the classroom on a more regular basis.



On pages 22-23 you will find a detailed report on the total amount raised this year and how we deployed it to enrich the CFIS journey for every student.

Student Engagement

Our students have shown incredible engagement and leadership throughout the year. They have spearheaded student committees and initiatives that enrich the CFIS experience for everyone. We are now including student voices in administrative decisions and involving students on Board Steering committees. Our kids are truly making us proud and making us better!

Enrolment and Retention

We are delighted to share that not only did we experience significant enrollment growth with new families joining our community, but we also achieved the highest retention rate in our history. We now have wait lists at several grade levels. This accomplishment fills us with pride and is a testament to the trust and satisfaction of our families.

Academic Excellence and IB Continuum

Our commitment to academic excellence remains unwavering. We are well on our way to becoming the only bilingual World IB continuum school in Alberta. The International Baccalaureate (IB) program offers us a unique opportunity to further develop critical thinkers and global citizens, and it also allows our faculty and staff to benefit from robust professional development.

Strategic Planning

Prompted by the need to renew the strategic planning process, the Board, in collaboration with Administration, focused much of its energy over the 2023-24 school year on developing an enhanced strategic plan that will help steer the school forward, support various growth initiatives and opportunities, and steward our financial health. The Board is very pleased to be finding new ways to connect with staff and students directly as well.

As we look ahead to our 55th anniversary, we remain committed to fostering academic excellence, personal growth, and community engagement. We are excited to announce that the school musical this year will be “SpongeBob SquarePants,” and it will involve the entire student body. This will be one of the many opportunities for us to come together to celebrate our 55th year, with the theme “Celebrating 55 Years: Educating Multilingual Minds and Global Hearts”.

Warm regards,

Nikki Camirand

Head of School

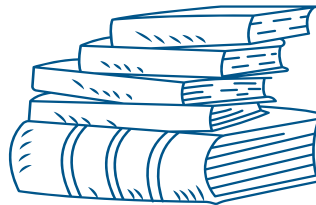
Kate Bilson

CFIS Society Board Chair

**Special thanks to all the
Governors and Board
Observers who volunteer
their time and expertise on
the Board – we are so lucky
to have you!**

*Thank you for being
an integral part of
our journey and
for your continued
support and
partnership.*

*Together, we
are shaping a
brighter future
for our students
and our school.*



UNLOCKING STUDENT POTENTIAL

The CFIS community has much to be grateful for, as the generosity and support from last year's donors have significantly impacted students' lives and their CFIS experience. Donations we receive through a variety of fundraising channels enable us to create enriched programming that provides a more vibrant, engaging learning environment for all CFIS students.

EMPOWERMENT

In 2023-2024, members of our community donated over \$35,000 towards our Bridging and Round Square Bursaries.



CFIS Student & Family Bursaries

Our **Bridging Bursary** provides crucial financial support to some CFIS students and their families. Through donations from the CFIS community, we were able to support existing families experiencing difficult financial situations, allowing them to continue with their CFIS education.

Our **Round Square Bursaries** have ensured that global education opportunities are more accessible to all secondary students. These bursaries have helped broaden students' horizons, deepened their understanding of global issues, and empowered them to become compassionate and informed global citizens. With the support of a generous matching donor, the school launched its first Giving Week in the Fall. Overwhelming support for the Travel Studies programs was truly inspiring, with contributions helping to raise over \$30,000!

Thank you to all of you who contributed to our bursary programs and a special thank you to our Senior Leadership Team where we are thrilled to have 100% participation!

ENHANCEMENT

Head's Initiative & Spring Benefit

Our Spring Benefit allowed us to prioritize the purchase of a new slide for our elementary playground. This new addition was installed in July, and was immediately enjoyed by our August daycampers.

After two years of focus, we are thrilled to announce that we are in the final phases of the logistics for our 24-seat bus! With our own bus, CFIS students will have a dedicated means of transportation to field trips, athletic events, service projects, university partnerships, as well as collaborative events with other schools. This shared travel experience will foster a stronger sense of community, encourage teamwork and ensure students have access to a broader range of enriching opportunities.

The purchase of the bus was made possible by all of you who contributed to the 2024 Spring benefit, the Head's initiative and those who donated your building fund loan back to the school. Together we raised over \$150,000.00!



New Slide



24-Seat Bus



\$5,000+
For Library & Student Led Initiatives

Mission Impact

Over \$5,000 was raised for our Library and Student Led Initiatives through direct donations.

The backing from our community has been instrumental in making these impactful programs and initiatives a reality.

Your support plays a crucial role in the growth and development of our students, highlighting our collective ability to effect change, one student at a time.

Together 
we raised
\$150,000+

A special thank you to our Jörd student sustainability committee and a generous matching donor for their support.

Merci! Gracias! Thank you!

Global Footprints: REFLECTIONS ON TRAVEL STUDIES

By Martine Joshi '26, Student Round Square Club Leader

Participating in travel studies has deepened my love for travel. I've learned so much about the world, who I am, and life lessons that will carry me forward. I've stepped out of my comfort zone, taken risks I never would have before, and made lifelong friends with people I'd never have met otherwise.

The travel studies program is something I look forward to every year—a chance to explore the world, try new things, and make unforgettable memories.

The experiences that have impacted me the most are the Round Square Conferences. In November 2023, I traveled to Australia and New Zealand for a blend of two experiences: a boarding school stay in Australia at Ballarat Grammar School and a conference in New Zealand at Whanganui Collegiate School.

In Ballarat, I attended classes, met new people, and experienced the tight-knit boarding school lifestyle. Living in a house full of girls felt like having sisters—a bond I'd never experienced before. The love and connection among the girls were remarkable. The moment I stepped into the house, I felt like part of a family. They cared for me as if I were one of their own. I built close bonds with several girls and still stay in touch with many of them.



New Zealand - A day spent at the Marae



Although I missed home, being welcomed into their routine made the experience special. People were curious about my home, culture, and even the way I spoke, adding a humorous touch to the experience. What made it memorable were the friendships and connections that felt uniquely special.

In New Zealand, I attended a Leadership and Service conference at Whanganui Collegiate School. We interacted with Māori people throughout the week, visited a local Marae, and learned about their connection to the land and community. Seeing how integrated the Māori people are with New Zealand's society was inspiring and gave me hope for Canada's future with our Indigenous peoples.

I've gained independence, adapted to different environments, and become more culturally aware—skills that will benefit my academic and professional career.

I also learned about finding your “why” as a leader and prioritizing community service—something I seriously considered when I returned to school. We capped off the week at an Outdoor Pursuit Center with team-building activities like rock climbing and orienteering. These experiences are invaluable.

Overall, these unique experiences help shape us into curious, aware, and intelligent individuals, supporting CFIS's mission to create global citizens, engaged learners, and active leaders.



New Zealand - A day spent at the Marae



A TREE-MENDOUS SUCCESS IN SUSTAINABILITY & LEARNING

By Alexander Bilson '26

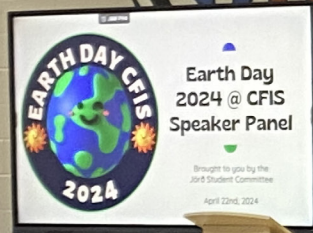
Student President of the Jörð Environmental Action Committee

This year's Earth Day offered an incredible learning experience for students in grades 6-12. The day kicked off with a lively panel discussion featuring experts from various fields who shared insights on urban planning, carbon capture, food resilience, environmental risk, and low-emissions commuting.



The discussion, followed by a Q&A session, was engaging and dynamic, with prepared audience questions sparking meaningful dialogue. Students explored complex topics such as the role of individual versus systemic changes in reducing carbon footprints, the impact of sustainable urban planning, and innovative ideas for reducing carbon emissions.

After the panel, students gathered in small groups for snacks and a debrief, discussing how they could apply the concepts learned to promote sustainability in their daily lives. They also had the opportunity to participate in Q&A sessions with the guest speakers, delving deeper into specific areas of interest.



The hands-on learning continued with a biking field trip to explore the hidden network of trails in southwest Calgary, a slam poetry competition, and a forest bathing session, also known as Shinrin Yoku, which provided a therapeutic connection with nature.

The event's success was evident, with 80% of secondary students reporting that they learned new and interesting things.

This high level of engagement and learning reflects the hard work and dedication of both students and mentors in organizing and executing the event.

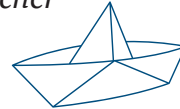
This year's Earth Day at CFIS was a blend of insightful discussions, interactive learning, and practical activities, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of sustainability and climate change.



CFIS's commitment to environmental education and sustainability was clearly demonstrated through this highly successful and impactful Earth Day event.

OUTDOOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

By Mme Christine Plamondon - Junior Kindergarten Teacher



In today's tech-driven world, where screens often dominate children's attention, playing outside is more important than ever.

Mme. Emily, Mme. Amy, and I decided to take our Junior Kindergarten class outdoors every Wednesday to explore Paskapoo Slopes. We'd have an early snack and leave the school until lunch for forest adventures, rain or shine.

We bring loose parts like shovels, spoons, containers, plates, tarps, magnifying glasses, and more to spark imagination and enrich play. The children have the freedom to explore the forest through the seasons, enhancing their play and understanding of nature while developing critical thinking skills.



We see children unwind, building independence and confidence as they explore, make decisions, and take supervised risks, fostering self-esteem and resilience.

They craft stories, build houses, plan villages, and create roads with branches, leaves, and rocks, engaging in social interactions that develop empathy and communication skills. These outdoor experiences have a lasting impact, deepening their understanding of the world.



As Vanessa, a parent, noted:

“Your efforts in integrating conservation and awareness into the curriculum have instilled a deep respect for the environment and the importance of both exploring and preserving it.”

Playing outdoors enriches children’s physical and social development, nurtures their connection with nature, and fosters a sense of environmental stewardship. We aim to cultivate a love for outdoor exploration that will benefit them throughout their lives.



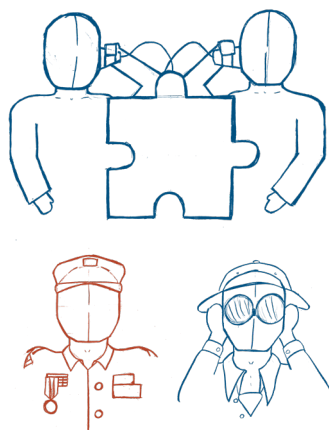
Promoting COMMUNITY THROUGH IB VALUES



We're also excited to announce that we have been approved as a candidate school for the Middle Years Programme (MYP)!

The International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes at CFIS emphasize and promote the importance of community spirit and globally aware citizens. This reflects the welcoming spaces where students of all ages support and learn from each other at CFIS.

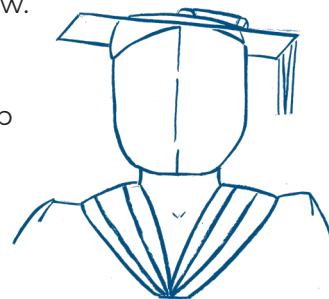
As Mme Amy Murray, Principal of Early Childhood Education observes;



“ The respect and care shown by older students when the toddlers walk through crowded hallways, the way they make room, remind each other to be gentle, and hold out their hands for high-fives, is a testament to the values instilled in our students. ”

These moments reflect the core values of CFIS, focusing on both academic excellence and the development of kind, responsible individuals — values that will continue to be promoted as our IB programmes grow.

The IB programmes are becoming an essential part of CFIS, helping to develop curious, knowledgeable, and caring young people. This year, all Grade 12 students graduated with one or more IB certificates as part of the Diploma Programme (DP) — 25% earned the full IB Diploma—and we achieved full authorization for the Primary Years Programme.



Highlights OF THE IB PROGRAMMES AT CFIS

Primary Years Programme (PYP):

The PYP encourages students to ask questions, think critically and creatively, and build a solid foundation of knowledge and skills.

Mme Bilodeau reflects on the impact of the PYP,

“ Throughout this year, the values and benefits of an education within the PYP framework have been clearly evident. The emphasis on encouraging students to ask questions, develop critical and creative thinking, and cultivate various attributes of the learner profile makes a real difference. ”

Diploma Programme (DP):

The DP offers our older students challenging and comprehensive courses that prepare them for university and beyond.

This programme emphasizes independent learning and a balanced education. It equips students with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in higher education and their future careers. Our DP students consistently demonstrate outstanding academic performance, and we are proud of their achievements as they graduate and embark on new journeys.

Middle Years Programme (MYP):

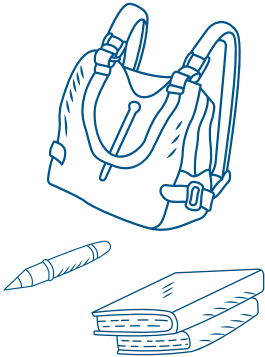
Becoming a candidate school for the MYP is an exciting step towards CFIS becoming an IB World School, offering IB programmes from the early years through high school. Some of our teachers have already been integrating IB into their units of study and all CFIS staff will be trained in August.

We will continue to develop and integrate this programme, which will build on the strong foundation established by the PYP and prepare our students for future academic challenges. The IB programmes are not courses; rather, they are a unified pedagogical approach to how teaching and learning happen. At CFIS, they are part of our mission to develop global citizens and compassionate, brilliant leaders.

Mme Bilodeau beautifully expresses our community's pride and accomplishment,

“ CFIS nurtures all the ingredients necessary to develop global citizens and sensitive, brilliant leaders. This fills the school community with immense pride and a sense of accomplishment. ”

We look forward to the continued growth and success of our students, supported by the enriching experiences provided by the IB programmes at CFIS.



Into The Wild:

A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY AT CFIS'S FIRST ROUND SQUARE CONFERENCE



In May 2024, CFIS buzzed with vibrant energy as we hosted the Round Square “Into the Wild” Conference. Students from diverse backgrounds gathered to explore themes of nature, leadership, and global community. We welcomed over 120 guests from New Zealand, Chile, Peru, Germany, Brazil, the USA, and Canada, all eager to reconnect with nature and each other.

The conference began with warm greetings as delegates arrived, exchanging excited chatter over breakfast. The morning continued with a serene forest bathing activity in the Paskapoo Slopes, where students immersed themselves in the sights and sounds of nature.

Throughout the week, CFIS and Tim Horton Children’s Ranch in Kananaskis became hubs of activity. Workshops buzzed with discussions on environmental stewardship led by the Groundswell Climate Collective and Y2Y. Delegates participated in archery, team challenges, artistic projects, and cultural exchanges, forming bonds through shared experiences.

Evenings brought campfires that brightened faces eager to share stories and cultural performances that showcased the diversity and unity of the delegates. Midweek excursions added another layer of exploration. At Lake Louise, students marveled at the turquoise waters and learned about local ecosystems and wildlife conservation, including bear safety. In Banff, they explored historic streets, blending Canadian culture with natural beauty. Some hiked to the top of Tunnel Mountain, while others explored the Bow River falls.

As the conference closed, there was a clear sense of reflection and gratitude among delegates. Guided walks offered moments of introspection, while closing ceremonies celebrated the bonds created and lessons learned. Delegates left CFIS with hearts full of newfound friendships and minds enriched by a deeper understanding of global issues and their role in creating positive change.



The Round Square “Into the Wild” Conference at CFIS was a transformative experience, igniting within students a spirit of leadership, environmental stewardship, and global citizenship.

BRIDGING GENERATIONS WITH GRANDFRIENDS

This spring, CFIS hosted its first-ever *Grandfriends Coffee with Leadership*, inviting grandparents and other special grand “friends” into our school community, providing a new way for them to connect with school leaders, ask questions, and gain a deeper understanding of our mission and values.

The day kicked off with our enthusiastic student ambassadors leading the grandfriends on a school tour. They got to see classrooms, greet teachers and students, and soak in the vibrant atmosphere of the school.

Joy and laughter filled the atmosphere as grandfriends connected, exchanged contact information, and chatted over coffee and treats. They were delighted to get a glimpse into their grandchildren’s school lives, while the students enjoyed showing off the school and sharing their experiences.



One grandfriend shared,

“ It was a wonderful opportunity to see where my granddaughter spends her days and to meet the people who are helping her grow and learn. I felt so welcomed and appreciated. ”

The success of the event was evident in the smiles and connections made throughout the day. With such a positive response, we’re excited to make Grandfriends Coffee an annual event!

VOLUNTEERS

Driving Positive Change in *Education*

By Mme Louise Douaire

As a grandparent volunteer at CFIS, I've had the privilege of sharing the magic of reading with children from Grade 1 through Grade 6, and it has been an incredibly rewarding experience.

Seeing the world through the children's eyes and sharing their joy when they read their first book is a pleasure beyond words. Listening to their thoughts about what they have read, hearing their research, and traveling through their imagination is incredibly fulfilling. Each year, I do a presentation for Grade 1 students, answering their questions about how life was different when I was their age.



Their curiosity always amazes me and brings laughter.



Last year, after sharing my age, two little boys looked at me with big eyes. One of them raised his hand and said, "Madame, you are from the past!"

Every morning, it is a delight to see their smiles and listen to their adventures. I am very grateful for the opportunity and look forward to starting my fourth year of volunteering. Sharing these moments is such a pleasure. Seeing the world through their eyes is magical. I am very fortunate to be part of the CFIS community and cherish every moment.



A Message from Keltie Bilkoski, CFIS Parent Volunteer

Starting My Volunteer Journey

In the fall of 2016, I began my volunteer journey with CFIS by joining the 2017 Spring Benefit Committee. I was warmly welcomed by veteran CFIS parents and quickly immersed myself in organizing the event. The experience was wonderful; I relished contributing to this important fundraiser and loved collaborating with other parents passionate about the school. The sense of accomplishment from supporting the school community left a lasting impression, fueling my ongoing commitment to community service at CFIS.

The Joy and Fun of Volunteering

My time spent volunteering is filled with lively lunches, coffee meetups, and high energy. I've answered countless calls, texts, and emails, coordinating details with determination and laughter.

“ Every volunteer experience at CFIS has been incredibly fun! ”

Working alongside engaged parents and passionate staff makes every moment enjoyable. These experiences strengthen my bond with other CFIS families and make the effort feel light-hearted and rewarding.

Support from CFIS Leadership

My volunteer efforts wouldn't be possible without the support and guidance from CFIS's senior leadership team. Mme Camirand, Mme Amy, Mme Bilodeau, Mme Brodeur, M. Gilbert, and many other CFIS staff provide clear direction and are always available for advice. Their genuine openness to feedback stands out; they listen to my suggestions and value my input. Volunteering at CFIS is truly a collaborative process and team effort. This approach not only enhances the effectiveness of our efforts but also makes us feel like integral contributors to both specific events and the broader CFIS community. The leadership team's commitment to collaboration and encouragement makes the experience inspiring and empowering.

Impact of Volunteer Efforts

The collective efforts of parent volunteers in organizing the Spring Benefit have had a significant impact, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for CFIS. These funds have greatly enhanced the student experience. For example, new slides purchased with funds from the 2023 Spring Benefit will be ready when students return in September 2024. I vividly recall the excitement in the room as we reached our fundraising goal at the 2023 event. It wasn't just about the money—it was about making a real difference for the students. Moments like these are why I keep coming back year after year.

Flexible Volunteer Commitments

Volunteer opportunities at CFIS are incredibly flexible and accommodate a wide range of time commitments to fit diverse schedules. Whether you're able to dedicate up to 40 hours a week to a major project or prefer something more manageable like joining a 30-minute monthly Zoom call, there's a place for you to contribute. Regardless of your availability, you can play a meaningful role in supporting the school and its events and initiatives.

Invitation to Join the Volunteer Community

I sincerely hope more families will join me in volunteering for the 2024/2025 school year. I encourage you to get involved and experience the rewards of volunteering at CFIS. If you're interested or want to learn more, please reach out. Together, we can continue making a meaningful difference in our school community.



**Your involvement,
whether big or small,
makes a significant
impact and enriches
the CFIS community.**



**CLASS OF
2024**
GRADUATES

100%

Awarded
Bilingual Diplomas

92%

Awarded
Multilingual
Diplomas

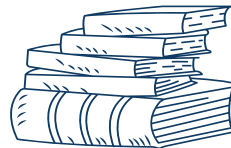


100%

Eligible for Rutherford
Scholarship Award

100%

Awarded individual
International Baccalaureate
Certificates and/or Diplomas



100%

*Acceptance to
Post Secondary
Institutions*

POST-SECONDARY *Acceptances*

CALIFORNIA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
MCMASTER UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

GENERAL *Programs* SELECTED:

BIOLOGY
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
COMMERCE
EDUCATION
ECONOMICS
ENGINEERING
EXERCISE SCIENCE
FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Félicitations!

Congratulations!

Felicitaciones!

From Mme Heine, Science & Biology IB Teacher

Each graduate leaves CFIS with a strong foundation and a lasting impact on our school community. Their achievements and contributions have set a clear example for future students, showing what can be accomplished through dedication and hard work.

Nationally-recognized debate and poetry skills, dedicated volunteerism, musical performances ranging from hilarious to deeply moving, and elite-level athleticism - this incomplete list is an attempt to describe how inspiring this group is for younger cohorts. The legacy of this inspiration will be difficult to capture on paper but will surely be felt in the years to come.

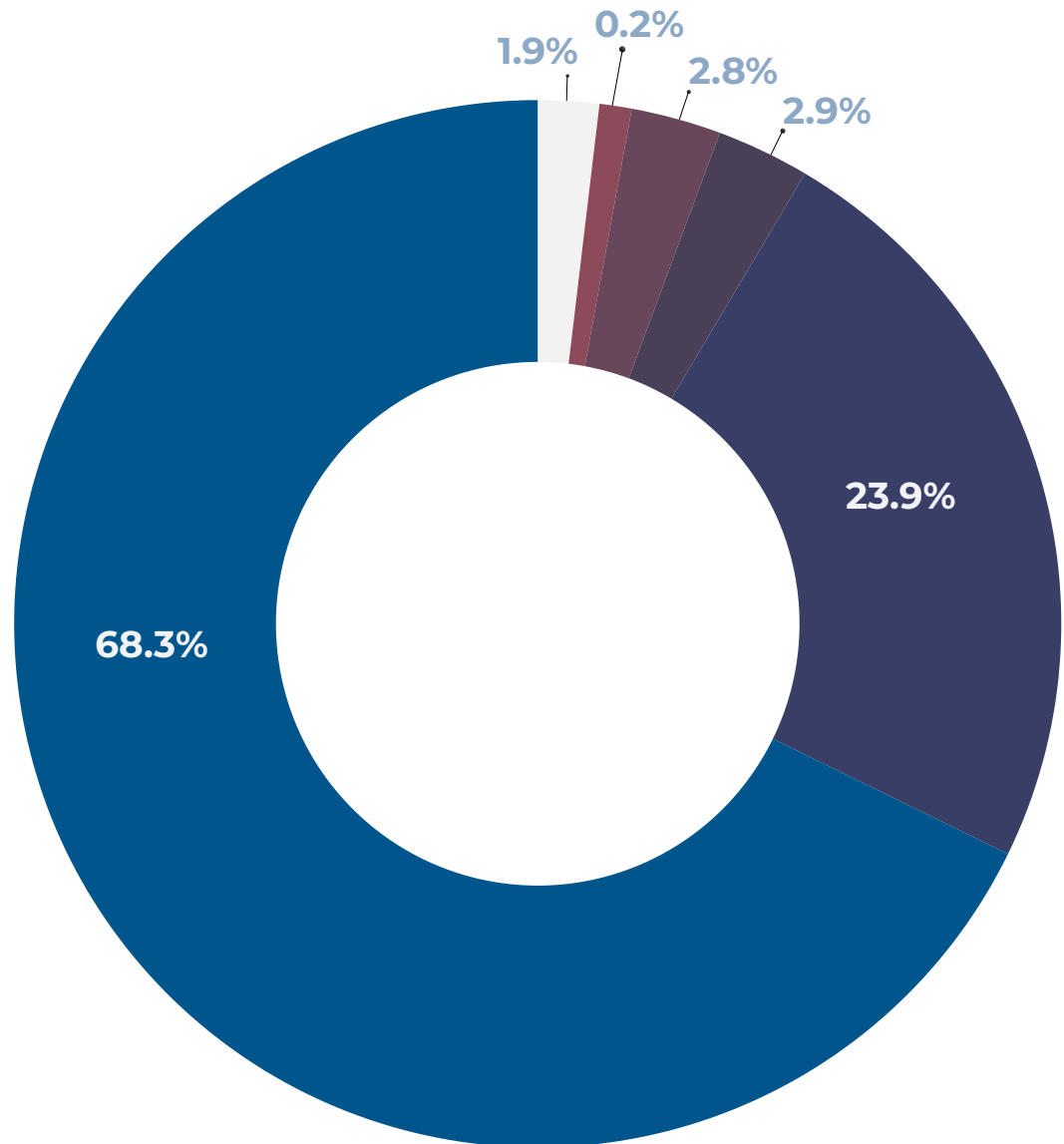
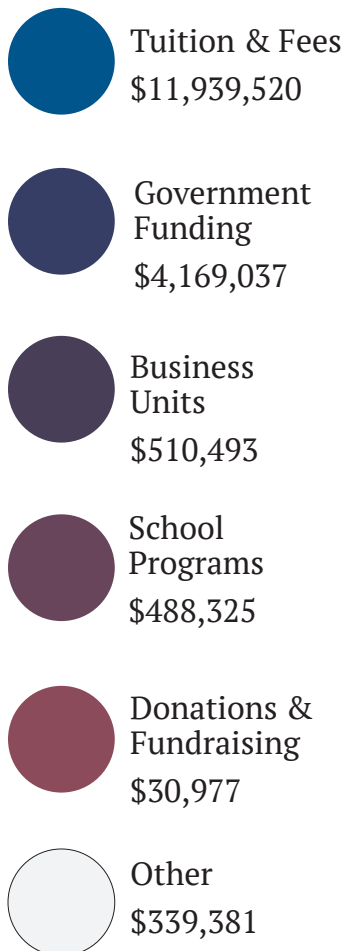
With fluency in French, English and Spanish, and a strong sense of their worth as individuals, these bright young people strike out to make their mark in the wider world. They are ready.








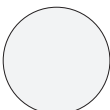
2023

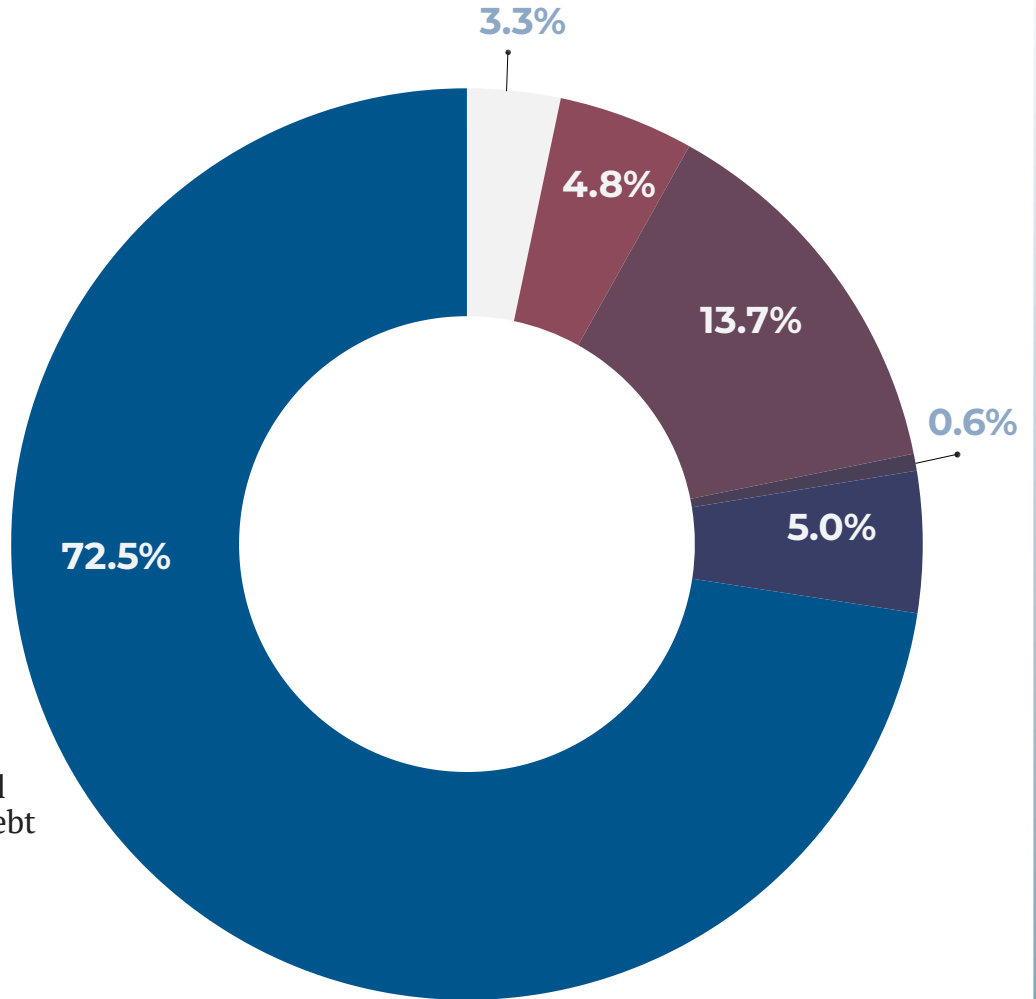
CFIS FINANCIAL REPORTING

REVENUE






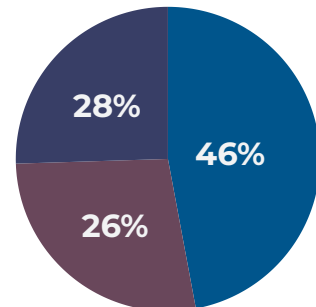
EXPENSES

- 
 Salaries & Benefits
 \$11,914,647
- 
 Administration, Marketing & IT
 \$817,476
- 
 Bursaries
 \$105,240
- 
 Facility Costs, Amortization of Capital Assets & Interest on Debt
 \$2,257,328
- 
 Business Units
 \$796,618
- 
 Teaching Supplies, Field Trips & Development
 \$536,267



CAPITAL PURCHASES

- 
 Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment
 \$163,527
- 
 Computer Equipment
 \$101,847
- 
 Building & Land Improvements
 \$92,162





CAIS