

Colonel By Secondary School



A Message from the Principal...



30 June 2020

Hello Colonel By! Here we are at the end of a most memorable year. Way back in September, we were expecting to have ten months of academics, athletic pursuits, artistic achievements and a wide range of extra-curricular and community events to fill out the 2019-2020 school year. Despite COVID-19's impact on many of our planned events, we managed to pack a lot in before March 13th. These events, which I have highlighted in my newsletters throughout the year,

demonstrated the true Cougar Character for which Colonel By is known. Following the school closures in March, our Cougars remained engaged in learning, continued to give back to the community through service activities and volunteerism, and expressed their artistic and athletic talents in creative and innovative ways.

I'm so proud of the way everyone pulled together--students, parents, staff and community--to preserve our continuity of learning while protecting our health and well-being. It wasn't easy; there were many challenges along the way and I believe the pandemic, which forced us all to rethink and retool, enhanced our appreciation for face-to-face learning.

As this year comes to a close, I encourage you to take some time to reflect and acknowledge that you were a part of a global movement that saw communities come together in support of the most vulnerable people in our society. We celebrated the accomplishments of our first responders, our frontline workers, and our education providers. We created new ways of learning and sharing. Every day, the Colonel By family showed that it believes in and supports a culture of caring, a culture of innovation and a culture of social responsibility.

GREETINGS

Our Commencement ceremony normally takes place at the end of June and a number of special guests would help us to celebrate the Class of 2020. While our official ceremony has been postponed until the fall (date TBD), it's my pleasure to share some words from a few of CB's friends.

Trustee Sandra Schwartz - Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2020! What a strange school year 2019/2020 has been...Usually I would be up on stage with staff from Colonel By SS bringing you a message of congratulations on behalf of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board and maybe handing out an award or a few diplomas. Like you, graduation is an event I look forward to - especially at Colonel By since I'm also a former Cougar and I take great pride in my alma mater. I too am disappointed that we haven't been able to hold an event celebrating all of your amazing achievements, but I do look forward to the fall when we can all celebrate together again. But this year's graduates are even more special. To have achieved this incredible milestone under these uncertain times and in the changing learning conditions you have faced this year is no small accomplishment. You have made history - you will always be the graduating class of 2020, the year the world changed. But you have shown strength and resilience under pressure, calm in uncertain times, and overcome adversity. The author C.S. Lewis once said: "Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny". It is now time for all of you to go forth and awaken the greatness inside you and do some extraordinary things. From all of us at the OCDSB, congratulations to the graduates, your families and your friends - you did it!

Superintendent Mary Jane Farrish - Ms. Farrish has provided a wonderful video message for the CB community. To view it, click [here](#).

Constable Andrew Worth, School Resource Officer - Congratulations Class of 2020! You made it! I'd first like to thank you for allowing me to get to know many of you, and welcoming me into your school. You are about to embark on the real journey of your life. A great man, named Toby McGuire once stated, "With great power comes great responsibility." With that in that in mind, I pass along this to you:

Every morning you wake up is a blessing, the moment your feet touch the ground get ready to put foot to the gas. Challenge yourself, never settle.

Don't go quietly; swear, yell, scream, speak up about things that are wrong, you are no longer a passenger on the bus of life, you are the driver.

Make a small difference everyday, hold open a door, smile at someone, say hi to a homeless person; you have no idea how such a small thing can change someone's outlook.

Finally, and most importantly, speak up for those who can't speak for themselves. Be an ally for those who are suffering; doing nothing is no longer an option.

I wish the best for you all going forward, no matter where your path may lead you!

City Councillor Tim Tierney - Mr. Tierney has prepared a special video message for graduates of Colonel By SS, Gloucester HS and Lester B. Pearson SS. Check it out [here](#).

Saying Farewell - As a CB community, we offer thanks and congratulations to Ms. Angela Evans who will be retiring as of today! Ms. Evans has been an essential player in the English Department over the years. She has taught nearly every English course in the curriculum and has served as Department Head, club advisor and our lead organizer for the annual Stratford Trip. We wish Ms. Evans the very best as she moves on to her next adventure.

New Adventures - We are both happy and sad to be saying goodbye to Mr. Babak Ghiri, who will be leaving CB temporarily. Mr. Ghiri has been appointed to a three-year secondment with the OCDSB's Winning Attitudes Program where his caring attitude and innovative teaching will now serve students across our District. Good luck, Mr. Ghiri!

New Adventures - Recently, the OCDSB restructured its Information Technology Support Team. While we were fortunate to have Mr. Jason Ladouceur on the CB staff as our Information Systems Support Technician, he will now take on a central role where he will serve several schools in a new hub-style model. It has been so great having Mr. Ladouceur on the team!

Thank You! - Each year, CB is proud to welcome a range of Long-Term Occasional Teachers who cover for staff members who are on leave or secondments. We had some true stars on the team this year and we hope to see our LTOs again soon. Thank you to: Devon Armstrong, Kyle

O'Donnell, Andrew Parkes, Zach Paul, Brynn Rees and Krystle Talbot. Their contributions to student learning and extra-curricular activities was truly appreciated by everyone at CB!

Report Card Portal - Elementary report cards are now available via the Report Card Portal and secondary report cards will be available on July 3, 2020. We have had great success with the portal and elementary parents have appreciated that they now have access to both current and past report cards.

Unfortunately, you may experience some delays in accessing the portal due to the volume of parents who may be registering or signing in to view their child's report card. If you have any trouble accessing the portal, please try again later in the day. Report cards will be accessible to parents until August 14, 2020 on the portal's home page. After that, they will be stored in the portal's archived section along with your child's previous report cards.

For parents who haven't registered, you can still do so. Visit OCDSB's [Report Card Portal webpage](#) to know more. Should you have any questions or concerns on accessing your child's report card through the portal, please email reportcards@ocdsb.ca.

Year-End "Assembly" - Even a pandemic couldn't stop us from putting on our our famous Year-End Assembly. This year's show went completely digital but just like the live version, it shares reflections on the year that just ended. The show features performances by the C-Flats and CougarVision, includes cameos by Mayor Watson and Saul! You can view the whole show by clicking [here](#) or visiting the [CougarVision page on YouTube](#).

The Den - Great news! The Den is open again so you can once again pick up some school apparel. Check out our great selection of summer clothing, athletic wear and school spirit swag. [Click here](#).

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

Shepherds of Good Hope - Each year, the Shepherds of Good Hope (SGH) recognizes the school with the most contributions that demonstrated student engagement, initiative and encouragement during the year. This year, Colonel By Secondary School was recognized by SGH with its 2019-2020 Award of Achievement. We're proud to share this recognition with Forest Valley Elementary School. According to the SGH announcement, "It is amazing to see the amount of volunteer and in-kind work that your students give year after year. The importance of being an active volunteer at a young age and efforts to enhance community is an invaluable experience which has a lifelong impact. At SGH, we experience the needs of those who are most vulnerable in our community every day and we are very appreciative of your student's efforts to help us in creating Homes for all. Community for all. Hope for all."

As this year comes to a close, the CB Faculty has continued its tradition of preparing a musical tribute to the 2019-2020 students. Please enjoy the Million Dollar Band's virtual performance of [Don't Stop](#).

To our students in grades 9-11, I look forward to welcoming you back in September. To the Class of 2020, I wish you the best of success as you move on to new adventures. I can't wait to see you at our Commencement ceremony in the fall. Stay safe. Stay strong. Stay Cougars!

Sincerely,

Steve Spidell, Principal

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