

CRESTWORD

One Last Time

Our Senior Editors Meghan Kates and Sydney Swartz are moving on and moving up: in their final article for the *Crestword*, they reflect on their time at CPC and say a heartfelt “good-bye” to their readers.

Sydney Swartz, '16 and Meghan Kates, '16



Sometimes the hardest word to say is goodbye. Both of us have been part of the Crestwood community for so long (12 years for Sydney and 9 for Meghan) that it feels like we have been here for as long as we can

remember. We have laughed, cried, fallen, grown, succeeded and failed within the four walls of this building, and now that it is time for us to say our bittersweet goodbye, it is hard to come up with the words to express how much this school has shaped us into who we are today. So, in order to put off our goodbye for as long as possible, we would like to take the time to give some advice to those who will call the Crestwood community home for many more years to come. Here are some excerpts from “Sydney and Meghan’s Declassified Crestwood Survival Guide”:

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- 1) Our first tip is to quickly figure out which teachers will allow you to wear non-uniform sweatshirts in class when it is too cold to function.
- 2) Next, never chew gum in Mr. Podlovics’ class, or you will be faced with a detention and you will have lost your piece of gum, a valuable currency here at Crestwood.
- 3) In the upper years of math, always aim for a lollipop or a sticker on your tests.
- 4) Always remember that only healthy snacks are allowed in Mr. Jull’s class.
- 5) Finally, although we still have not quite figured this out (even though the school is one giant rectangle), plan out the quickest routes to get between all of your classes.

In all seriousness, Crestwood is a place where you have nearly infinite opportunities. Not only are the teachers always there for support and encouragement, but there are clubs and sports teams to suit all interests, so step outside of your comfort zone. For all you know, you may find something that you never believed you would love. For example, when Meghan essentially blackmailed Sydney into joining Reach for the Top, she believed that she would never enjoy it. However, it is now four years later, and our team has

just won the senior championship with Sydney as our top player. Year after year, Meghan has been tentative about re-joining the volleyball team. However, Sydney has always encouraged her to do what she enjoys. Needless to say, the advice has paid off. The years fly by faster than you could ever imagine, so make the most of it and never be afraid to get involved.



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Grandparents and Veterans Breakfast

On May 10th, 2016, Junior Editor Georgia Gardner sat down to have breakfast with her grandfather... in the Crestwood gymnasium!

Georgia Gardner, '19

On May 10th in the Crestwood Gym, history came to life. Crestwood grandparents gathered with their grandchildren to commemorate the Oral History Project, an initiative involving students interviewing and recording the stories of individuals who have been a part of Canadian history. The Senior Jazz Band provided a soundtrack to the ceremony as Crestwood grandparents were accompanied into the gym, which had been beautifully decorated with tables, flowers and a buffet. When my grandfather, Norm Gardner, arrived,

volunteer students escorted us to our table.

Mr. Masters opened the brunch with a speech: “My own grandparents’ stories motivated me to learn more about Canada, and it is Canada that in many ways is the common denominator here today.” After the beautiful rendition of “O Canada” sung by Shelley Hamilton, the cast of Buggy Malone entertained the crowd by performing two of their most popular numbers. Soon after, what everyone was looking forward to was finally served: the food.



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“Grandparents and Veterans Breakfast” continued from previous page.

After a delicious brunch of mouthwatering waffles, pancakes, croissants, scrambled eggs, yogurt, and muffins, Emily Eaves and Will Paisley went on to talk

about some of the Oral History Project highlights. This included interviews with Jim Fowler and Doug Smith, veterans who spoke about their post-war experience.



After that, Mr. Hawkins spoke a few meaningful words on behalf of the Oral History Project: “Every Crestwood student who interviews a family member has one thing in common- they all leave with a lasting record of their own family history. It’s not every school project that turns into a family heirloom.”

After hearing several compelling stories with the help of the morning’s MCs, Sabrina Wasserman and Viki Tao, it

was finally time for what I was most excited about: hearing my grandfather speak. My grandfather had been a Toronto City Councillor, and was at one time chair of the Toronto Police Services Board. He spoke about the importance of passing stories along within families, and how in order for us to be able to improve on the future, we must acknowledge and understand our past experiences.

From his speech, as well as through the Oral History Project Interview I conducted with him, I now have a deeper respect for the stories and knowledge that he passes onto me. Time and time again that morning, I heard grandparents talk about how amazing it is that Crestwood is a place that embraces history as a necessity in learning.



Youth Philanthropy Initiative

The Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) is an organization that gives grants to community-based social service charities each year, 100% chosen by high school students. This year’s Crestwood YPI winners recount what it was like to win the grant for their charity, The Stop Community Food Centre.

Spencer Arshinoff, '18, Joseph Eisentraut, '18, and Greg Papernick '18

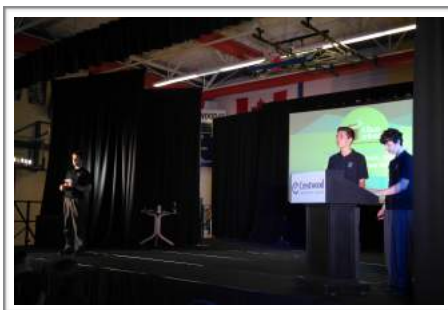
The experience of doing a project for the Youth Philanthropy Initiative, or YPI, was a very enlightening one for us as we learned a variety of new things that you can't learn in a classroom. When we visited The Stop Community Food Centre, a charity in Toronto providing the community with free, nutritious meals, we discovered what it can be like and look like to live in a low-income situation. As our very helpful guide and representative of the charity, Roz Heintzman, told us, “You can't put a face on poverty.” This was made very clear as we met the variety of people — men and women of different backgrounds, religions, and ages — who had to use the charity’s services just to get a meal. We also learned about the struggles one has to go through just to access healthy food. Millions of people in Canada either struggle to get enough food or are forced to eat low-quality meals at food banks. The Stop, which strives to offer healthy meals, is practically one-of-a-kind in this regard. We also

learned of the many ways that a person can make a difference in the city, even if it is something small.

When we visited the Stop, we felt a connection to the place. We understood how much the organization needed the YPI

grant money, as they are expecting a deficit this year. We knew that this would not be just another group project, and we put the necessary effort into it to have the

best possible presentation. This is not to say that we were at all expecting to win. Our competition was so strong that we were excited to even make it to the finals, let alone win. We cannot describe how happy we were to see the Stop’s name on that cheque for \$5,000. We are very satisfied with the experience and feel enlightened by it.



Crestwood Presents, *Bugsy Malone*

**Grade 7 student Rachel Savlov describes her experience starring as Blousey Brown in this year's production of *Bugsy Malone*.
Rachel Savlov, '21**

I love performing in plays. I want to be an actress when I grow up, so I have participated in many performances including school musicals, community theatre and singing competitions. When there is an opportunity to perform, I usually take it. When I heard the announcement about the Crestwood play and saw the signup sheet beside Ms. McCourt's room, I decided to sign up. I had not heard of *Bugsy Malone* at the time, but I searched it up and it sounded very interesting. When I read through the description of the musical, I already had my heart set on the character that I wanted to play. Her name is Blousey Brown. This character is very outside my comfort zone. In plays, I am usually the sassy or evil character, but Blousey is sweet and a bit timid. The audition day finally came and I went with my friends Niamh, Sam, and Sydney. When it was time for my audition, I sang my song, told a knock-knock joke, and did a cold read. A cold read is when you get a scene or piece of writing, usually from the play, and you have a few seconds to read it over before you perform it to whoever is auditioning you. I had done a few

cold reads in my lifetime, so this was not too difficult. Ms. McCourt gave me the part of Blousey to read, and I was glad that she did. A few days later, the cast list was posted. I was happy that we did not have to wait very long to hear what roles we had gotten! I was not very nervous because I knew that I was in the play, since everyone makes it in, but I wanted to know the role in which I had been cast. I found out that I had gotten the role of Blousey and was delighted! Rehearsals started, and were very fun.

They were not very stressful, but felt a bit professional at points too, which was a good thing. This play turned out to be a great experience in which I made many new friends and memories that will last a lifetime! I would like to thank Ms. McCourt and Mr. Priess, without whom this opportunity would have never happened! Also, thank you to the cast, who, even through mistakes and changes that happened in and before the show, managed to put on an amazing production!



More *Bugsy* pictures on the next page!



"This play turned out to be a great experience in which I made many new friends and memories that will last a lifetime."



Give a Penny, Take a Penny

Last month, Crestwood students participated in two very important fundraising initiatives.

Jahnai Brown, '18



The currency of the penny in Canada is no longer in circulation, as it cost more to produce than what it was worth. Still, to many, a small amount of change means a lot, and when collected in abundance, it can mean even more. Last month, the

Crestwood community fundraised for two amazing causes: We Create Change and Fort McMurray.

We Create Change is an initiative headed by the YAARD/Me To We organization. For the entire week, home room teachers collected any loose change brought in by students. For those who are fortunate, the change in our pockets can be heavy, cumbersome and annoying. However, to other less fortunate people in the world, that same change can mean a book to read, a brick that will build a classroom, or the next meal on someone's table. During March Break, 30 students travelled to Ecuador to help build a school. All the money collected from We Create Change will continue to help improve that school through our commitment to focus on the education pillar. We are so fortunate here at Crestwood to go to a school where we have no worries. However, many of the students in Ecuador do not have the same opportunities that we do. Not only do they have to worry about how to purchase their books or their school uniforms, but in April they also faced a devastating earthquake. Unfortunately, many of their schools and homes were lost. This year's We Create Change has become much more important than ever before. The money raised this year will not only

help the education pillar, but will also help the people of Ecuador to rebuild after the earthquake. All together, the Crestwood community raised almost almost \$900 in just one week simply from dropping our loose change into a piggy bank. What is so little to us will mean so much more to the children and people of Ecuador.

Our second initiative was to provide aid for the people of Fort McMurray. So much of this area has been completely wiped out by a wildfire, something beyond anyone's control. Residents have had to flee their homes and the memories they contain. Our national anthem tells us that we are "strong and free," but what we have seen happening in Canada to help the people of Fort McMurray has far surpassed the adjective "strong." We as a nation are caring, compassionate and will always help each other. "Give a penny; take a penny" used to be a common saying around Canada, something that you might hear if you were short a penny at a store. While we don't need any pennies to take, we have plenty of change to give. As a school, and as a country, we have given our money, our concern and our love to those victims of the Fort McMurray fire. Once again at Crestwood, we have come together to raise just under \$900 to help our neighbours to the west to rebuild and hopefully begin to make memories again.

Crestwood staff and students have gone above and beyond in this initiative. We have answered the call for help and have aided the people of Fort McMurray and the people of Ecuador. Way to go, Crestwood! We should all be proud to be a part of this great, caring community.



Thoughts on Graduation

Graduating student Victoria Xu says goodbye to the Crestwood community as she takes stock of the past few years.

Victoria Xu, '16

My time at Crestwood was unforgettable. I was really lucky to meet these good friends and teachers. Today, I am graduating alongside the "Class of 2016".

I came to Crestwood when I was in grade 10. It was my first year studying in Canada. I was so lost on my first day. I was unable to find my classrooms, and I did not know anybody in the school. But fortunately, my classmates were all friendly: they said hi to me, and I did not feel so alone.

The school system runs differently here than my school in China. Students have more freedom in Canada. The school work is not as heavy as my old school, giving more opportunities to improve myself in both athletic and non-athletic areas. The teachers here are so friendly. Because of their kind help, I became quickly accustomed to having classes taught in English. I was not good at English at the beginning, and sometimes I could not

understand what the teachers were saying. So, I decided to go to the homework club and see the teachers after school. All my teachers patiently explained the lessons again and again until I gained a better understanding of the concepts. Speaking English became easier and easier. Also, Crestwood taught me that my habits, hobbies, and my whole self are acceptable.

Moreover, Crestwood does a great job at including multi-cultural experiences: the Chinese New Year celebration, as well as Multi-Cultural Day, which brought many exotic foods to the gym; these events made me feel like I was home. I felt like my own culture was accepted in this country.

"Crestwood does a great job at including multi-cultural experiences...these events made me feel like I was home."

I really appreciate all the help I received from my friends and teachers. I will never forget my three years at Crestwood Preparatory College. I am proud to be able to call myself a Crestwood Graduate.

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Although it will be hard to leave all of this behind after so many years, we feel prepared to take on the challenges that next year may have to offer. The only thing which Crestwood has not prepared us for is the arduous challenge of selecting new outfits to wear everyday. Needless to say, unlike most, we will definitely miss the ease of wearing a uniform. Sydney, heading to Guelph for Biomedical Science, looks forward to pursuing her dream of veterinary school, aided by all of the skills and lessons that she has learned at Crestwood. Meghan, heading to McMaster to become a part of the Integrated Science community, will forever be grateful to all her science teachers who have instilled within her a curiosity and passion for the discipline of science.

So now, we come back full circle to that difficult word: goodbye. First, we must say goodbye to the *Crestword*, the paper which has become part of our legacy to the school over the past few years. It is with pride that we now pass the torch on to Georgia Gardiner, who will have the opportunity to help the *Crestword* grow and flourish for her next few years. Finally, we must say goodbye to the Crestwood community with a heartfelt thanks for all of these years that you have watched us grow into the young women we are today. Although our time at Crestwood has not always been easy, we would not have had it any other way.

A message from the Staff Editors-in-Chief: *We want to thank Sydney and Meghan for their tireless dedication to the Crestword: you are both fantastic writers and editors, and you will be missed! We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.*



Passing the Torch

Our editors, Meghan Kates and Sydney Swartz, are excited to announce that, as of September 2016, Georgia Gardner will be taking over as Senior Editor of the *Crestword*. Welcome, Georgia!

Georgia Gardiner has always been a large part of the Crestwood community, from assisting backstage at the play to participating in Reach For The Top. In addition, she has been a member of the *Crestword* team for the past two years. Georgia will be taking over the role of Senior Editor from graduating students Meghan Kates and Sydney Swartz. We look forward to seeing her ideas for the future!



The Crestword Team:

Ms. Klein and Ms. Young— Staff Editors-
in-Chief

Sydney Swartz and Meghan Kates—
Senior Editors

Georgia Gardner— Junior Editor

Ben Sharer— Photographer

Want to Write for the Crestword?!

**Please get in touch with Ms.
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