



## Collège Garden City Collegiate Report to the Community

### **Programs & Clubs**

At Garden City, the motto is "Participation and Excellence."

To promote this, the staff and students offer and participate in numerous activities. This highlights some of the activities and events offered at the school. The activities allow students to participate, to strive for excellence, to assume leadership and to have fun.

It is our hope that all students might find something of interest to them. It is our further hope that if students see activities or events which are not listed, they might take the initiative in organizing that activity.

*These programs are offered based on student interest/participation. Availability may change from year to year.*

### **Aboriginal/Indigenous Student Leadership**

Provides a meeting place for students that want to learn more about Aboriginal/Indigenous People and Ways of Being. Our leadership group is open to all students. We share, educate, and participate in activities that encourage our students to learn more about cultural perspectives, current events, traditional teachings and educational opportunities. We also have a post-secondary club once a month to support students in their transition to university life, including information on bursaries, scholarships, and campus services for Indigenous students. New to the group this year is a cultural credit component, where students attend cultural activities throughout the year.

### **Beyond Grade 12**

Any student in Grade 12 is able to take University of Winnipeg, University of Saint Boniface, Red River Community College courses during the school day. They are available to both English and French Immersion students. Courses that have been available include: Calculus, Sociology, Anthropology, Français, Psychology and English. These courses allow students to earn both high school and post-secondary credits at no charge.

### **Blood Donor Clinic**

For many years Seven Oaks has sponsored blood clinics during the school day. Anyone 17 or over may participate.

### **Chess Club**

A group of students enjoys meeting together to play chess and to compete in mini-tournaments as well as the Provincial High School Chess Tournament.

### **Christmas Cheer Board**

Each year, students and staff band together to make up several hampers through Advocacy groups.



## Collège Garden City Collegiate Report to the Community

### **Dragon Boat**

A great opportunity for students of all grade levels to join a team sport where no previous experience is necessary. Every spring students learn new skills and have tons of fun with great people.

### **Extracurricular Drama**

Every year GC offers a wide variety of opportunities for students to participate in extra curricular drama activities. We are re-known for our award-winning, cast-of-thousands, musical spectaculars such Pippin, Grease, Seussical, or Chicago.

We have an Improv team which meets twice weekly and performs in the Manitoba Improv Games. As well, each spring GC holds its own Fringe Festival where student-led production companies perform in one act plays. There is lots of theatre to see and do at GC.

### **Feminist Club**

The Garden City Feminist Club is a group of students who meet every Monday during the lunch hour to discuss a variety of different issues involving feminism occurring around the world and within the hallways. It is an open, non-judgmental group who welcome a variety of perspectives and opinions. The objective for the group is to educate, inform and help shed some light on the subject of feminism and why it's so important. One day we hope to help create a community that can see all genders as equal.

### **Fund Raising**

Many fundraising opportunities are available at school. Each student has an account toward which their fundraising money is credited. In turn they may use their fundraising money to pay for school events or activities.

### **Gopher Space – High Altitude Balloon Club**

Garden City students join the Global Space Balloon Challenge where over 300 teams from around the world design, build and launch packages of cameras, radio and science experiments into near space using a helium-filled weather balloons. These balloons reach 32000 m above the earth or 4 times higher than passenger jets! The club starts meeting in the fall and breaks into teams responsible for different aspects of the project: Flight, Payload, Photography, Radio, Science, Computers and Business/PR. Check out our website: <http://bit.ly/1EjvuVM>

### **Grad Committee**

Graduation is an important milestone. Students are involved in selecting grad clothing and in making important decisions about the Dinner and Dance. Students communicate through a Grad Representative in each Advocacy class.

### **Homework Club**

Assistance is available to all students for completing homework and for computer access, Tuesday and Thursdays 11:40 – 12:30 and Wednesdays 2:30 – 3:30 pm.



## Collège Garden City Collegiate Report to the Community

### **Intra-Murals**

There is an interesting and active intra mural program. No special skill is needed to be part of intramurals. All that is needed is enthusiasm. The program is run by the Phys. Ed leadership students all year during the lunch hour.

### **Karaoke**

Karaoke Club gives students a chance to sing their hearts out in front of a large and supportive crowd of their peers. New to Karaoke? Afraid how you'll do? No problem. Our encouraging group will clap and sing you through all the tough parts. Are you a singing star ready to take off? Your very first fan base awaits! And if you have what it takes, you have the opportunity to earn a recording slot in GC's Digital Recording Studio. Alternating Friday's @ lunch in the Library.

### **Koats for Kids**

In response to the needy people of Winnipeg, coats are gathered for the winter months.

### **LGBTQ**

The Gay-Straight Alliance is a safe space for LGBTTTQ and straight allied students to gather for fun, friendship and support. LGBTTTQ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirited and questioning. The GSA aimed to promote awareness of LGBTTTQ issues, challenge homophobia, and host Pride events. The GSA had a crafting session to make Pride bracelets, hosted guests from the Rainbow Resource Centre, planned an Anti-homophobic language poster campaign, participated in a city-wide GSA conference, had pizza parties and a mini film festival. All are welcome to attend weekly meetings.

### **Peer Tutoring**

Peer tutoring operates as drop-in centre. Students receive help with homework and studying for tests and exams. Tutors will receive volunteer hours.

### **Recycling Program**

Each year students become involved in recycling paper and cans.

### **Semaine Par Excellence**

Semaine Par Excellence is a one week experience where French Immersion students have the opportunity to take courses at Université de Saint-Boniface. These courses are taught by their professors. This not only provides them with an opportunity to practice their French but it also gives them a taste of what a week in the life of a USB student is like. La Semaine Par Excellence typically takes place at the end of April. Students can see any member of the French Immersion department for more information.



## Collège Garden City Collegiate Report to the Community

### **Songwriting and Digital Music Production Club**

Is a place where students can develop songs they are writing (lyrics and/or music), learn more about the song writing process, perfect their skills on their instrument or learn how to record and produce music using computer based software. The club offers free monthly recording sessions (with good attendance in all classes). Students also have the opportunity to play live at a number of events in and outside of the Garden City community. This club is affiliated with S.A.S.S. Canada (School Association of Student Songwriters) which is a nation wide initiative which supports creative expression through music and provides funding towards mentors from the industry to give talks to the students on song-writing and music production.

### **Student Council**

Student Council becomes involved in social and other issues around the school. Room reps and other interested students meet to discuss student issues.

### **Teams**

Collège Garden City Collegiate offers a full range of sports teams at the Gr. 9, Junior Varsity, and Varsity levels. These include: cross country, indoor track, outdoor track, soccer, field hockey, curling, volleyball, basketball, hockey, football, baseball, badminton, lacrosse, water polo and cheerleading. Whether a team operates every year depends on the availability of coaches and the commitment of students. There are regular league games, tournaments as well as playoffs, including provincials. Collège Garden City Collegiate has had much success in its athletic endeavours over the years.

### **Terry Fox Run**

Each September students get pledges to support the Terry Fox Foundation.

### **Volunteerism**

All students at Collège Garden City Collegiate are encouraged to do a minimum of 55 hours of volunteer work. Each 55 hours of volunteer work earns students ½ credit. They can earn up to 1 credit (110 hours) through volunteerism.

### **Y.A.M.I.S**

Youth Against Mental Illness is a student led group that aims to increase mental health awareness in our school and community. The group meets weekly, and is open to any and all students!

### **Weight Training**

There is a well-equipped weight room which is staffed by certified world class strength coaches. For a small fee, students can join the weight training club. Weight training is available as a full elective (Gr. 9, Gr 11/12) and is also introduced in the Physical Education Program.



## Collège Garden City Collegiate Report to the Community

### Debate - June 2020

This past year was an exciting year for debate, even if it was a short season!

In September, participating schools within the North End Schools Debate League (NESDL) met to host an 'introduction to debate' night at Maples Met School. Veteran GC debaters Arjay Certeza and Annelies Koch-Schulte modelled how to debate for newer recruits, arguing against the resolution: *This house believes that Canada should have a proportional representation electoral system.*

The following month, GC students Annelies Koch-Schulte and Lucas Sykes participated in a debate tournament at Sisler High School arguing for the same topic.

In November, NESDL collaborated up with the Manitoba Speech and Debate Association to host the second annual north-south student debate tournament at Collège Garden City Collegiate. The tournament featured students in grades 9-12 from across the city competing in parliamentary style debate. Our students Gracie Grift, Annelies Koch-Schulte, Arjay Certeza, Lucas Sykes, Aiden Chen and Alexis Sinclair were fierce competitors and did exceedingly well against the other teams.

The prepared debate had students argue for and against the following resolution: *This house would implement a national pharmacare program.*

Many GC parents, alumni and community members participated as judges and dozens of GC students acted as volunteer speakers/timers for this event. Special shout out to grade 12 student Clark Gonzales for all his hard work coordinating volunteers!

Then, in December, several of our students attended a debate workshop at the Aki Centre hosted by Mr. John Robinson, president of the Manitoba Speech and Debate Association. Students learned about the structure of a debate, methods of persuasion, and strategies to disarm opponents. It was a fun day filled with friendly debates and it gave our students a chance to connect with debaters from different schools.

Throughout the year, we had a wonderful time at our weekly practices discussing, exploring and analysing perspectives of challenging, complex, and at times controversial topics. Debate Club is a place for students to discover more about their own opinions, as well as to hear the viewpoints of their peers, and we look forward to starting up again in the fall!



## Collège Garden City Collegiate Report to the Community



Maples Met team (left) debating against GC students Annelies Koch-Schulte and Arjay Certeza (right).



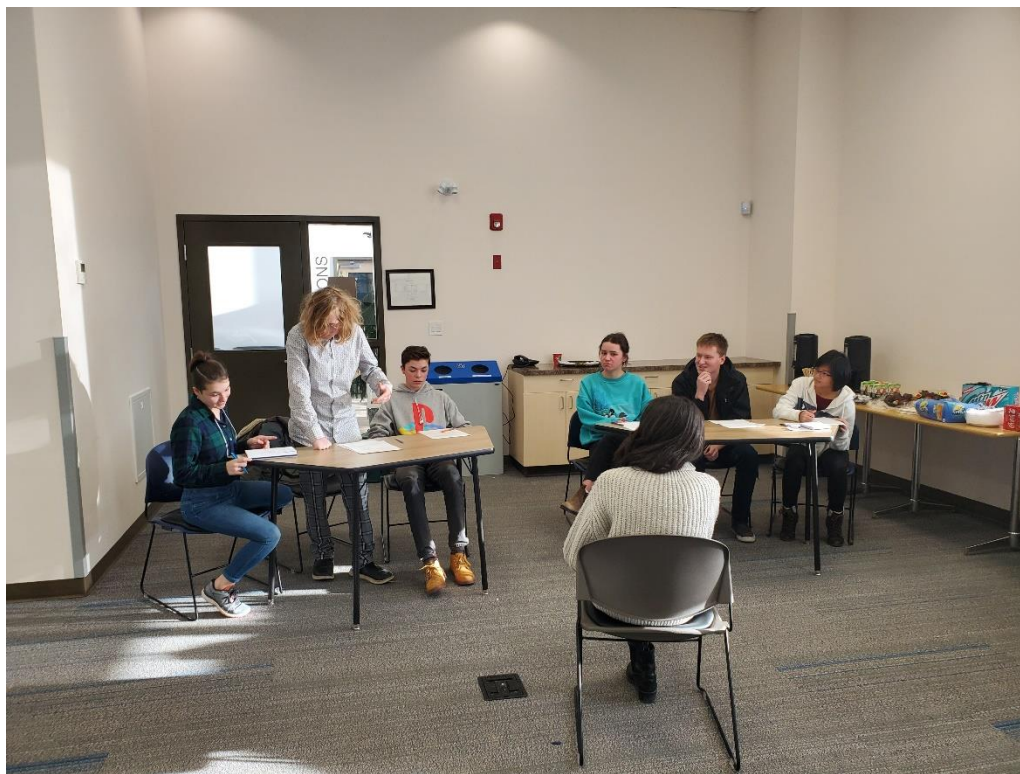
Annelies Koch-Schulte and Lucas Sykes competing in the October debate at Sisler High School.



## Collège Garden City Collegiate Report to the Community



Aiden Chen (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and Alexis Sinclair (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) at the Aki Centre for the Debate Workshop.



Lucas Sykes (3<sup>rd</sup> from the left) and Annelies Koch-Schulte (3<sup>rd</sup> from the right) at the Aki Centre for the Debate Workshop.



## Collège Garden City Collegiate Report to the Community



Seven Oaks debaters and coaches with Mr. Robinson and his students from St. John's Ravenscourt School participated in a Debate Workshop at the Aki Centre in December.





## Collège Garden City Collegiate Report to the Community

### Volunteering – June 2020

Submitted by Janet Schindell- Volunteer Coordinator

**I always like to start the report with a number tally.** -Over 25,000 volunteer hours, 100 + volunteer organizations, 240 volunteer credits, 9 students over 200 hours and 8 students with 200 + hours and one student with 900 hours-

Our year began even before the first school day, student groups such as Yamis and student council, band and choir groups, clubs and interest groups came in to prepare for the upcoming school year. The first official school wide volunteer event began with the annual Terry Fox Run. Our principal, Mr. Kreml agreed set up his office in the commons for a day if we reached our goal of \$1000.00. We have continued our bi-monthly volunteering at Winnipeg Harvest and Siloam Mission with an average of 15 students per visit totaling 264 volunteer hours and feeding approximately 2000 families. We also have partnered with Winnipeg Harvest with the Breakfast to Go program. Each week students of Garden City take 10-15 minutes out of their school day and write inspirational messages to children receiving this breakfast support. The children receiving these are so inspired and treasure the notes, some children pay them forward to others who they may need a boost (Picture below).

We held 4<sup>th</sup> annual volunteer fair- an event where volunteer organizations join us at the school to recruit student volunteers. We surpassed last years number of organizations participating and had 25 join us. They were able to connect to over 500 students- a great success as always and huge thanks to all that participated. Our holiday/winter season started early this year with Santa Parade- we had 15 fabulous students share the holiday cheer -the weather was amazing so the turn out was exceptional. The Snow Angel program was off to an early start due to the snow fall in October. We had 29 students shoveling snow for 13 senior households. In February we held our second annual Community Engagement Day. Each student in the school participated at one of 41 volunteering organizations or activities. The school was buzzing with excitement; witnessing students engaged in acts of kindness brought warmth and pride to our hearts.

The year came to abrupt end for our volunteers due to Covid 19. Many students were held in limbo as to what to do for the remainder of the school year with regards to volunteering. Some students took the initiative to sew masks and others helped with family. Volunteer Manitoba worked really hard to find opportunities for students. As June rolled around things started open. Summer camps have become available for students. I am thinking it will be a busy summer for our students.

I took this time to update the volunteer program. I have created google classrooms for each grade. This will be the method for all students to submit volunteer hours, completing evaluations, etc. Students will be able to see live access to how many hours they have; all this



## Collège Garden City Collegiate Report to the Community

will begin mid June of 2020. I also have updated the volunteer website as well as the method for students to register for in school volunteering events.

Several grade 12 students put in more hours than the 110 hours expectation. I would like to congratulate Margaret Watt who received the community services award. This award is given to a student who demonstrates leadership in and outside school.

Our student body has been very involved in creating an environment that prides itself on helping others and providing experiences that will be long lasting. These will be valuable memories you will hold onto for a lifetime

A warm thank-you goes out to the student volunteers. Keep on giving and wishing a safe and happy Summer!

Highlights pictures below



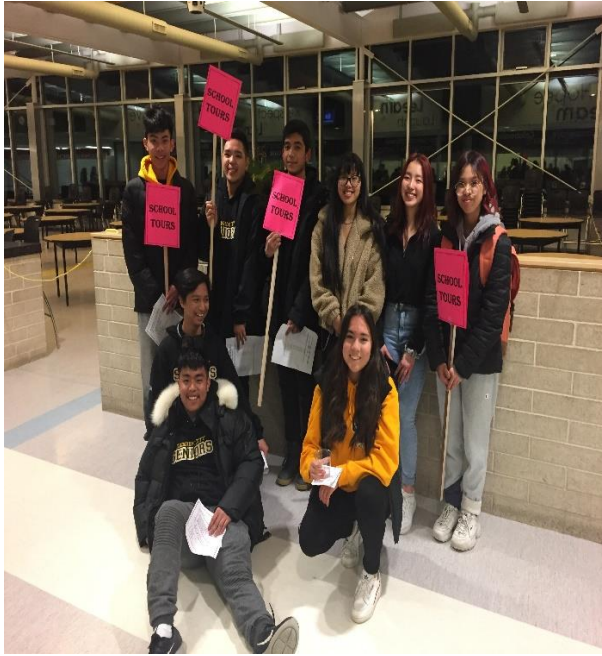


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*“Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else’s help.”* – **Heather French Henry**



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society action service  
business volunteerism honor change compassion youth group  
communities nonprofit vibrant senior love skills program  
**volunteers**  
build service connections volunteer  
hope diverse **Thank You**  
family thanks heart prosperous difference  
preparedness **community** retired  
mission corporate  
**celebrate**  
traditional emergency  
**HandsOn**  
friends  
actionaction



## Collège Garden City Collegiate Report to the Community

### Gender and Sexuality Alliance – June 2020



This year we participated in our annual 70 Oaks GSA Divisional Gathering where students networked, participated in workshops and had the opportunity to have conversations on how to be active allies and ways to affirm gender and sexually diverse folxs.



Although we were not able to participate in this year's PRIDE event due to COVID-19, GSA members were able to talk to the community at Garden City's Open House for our upcoming grade nine students.

Overall, Garden City's GSA team is looking forward in continuing to support each other and creating safer spaces for everyone to be able to learn and simply be themselves.



## Collège Garden City Collegiate Report to the Community

### **Sustainability and Human Rights Group**

This year the Sustainability Club students and advisors organized Garden City's participation in the International Student Strike for Climate Justice which took place at the Manitoba Legislature in September. Garden City took two busloads of students downtown and many other students participated on their own. Over 15,000 people were in attendance at this important event to bring awareness to the climate disaster. We also attended a student social justice conference at Sisler High School and organized a Christmas sale of reusable items to bring attention to the issue of single use plastics. Students made reusable beeswax wraps with the help of Ms. Warbanski (the Textile Arts teacher) and Ms. Flynn (the art teacher). Our students were also active on the divisional Climate Emergency group which is asking 7oaks School Division to declare a climate emergency, and they planned a prairie meadow project which was tragically cut short by the Pandemic this year. Finally, our group attended the Learning for Sustainable Future Climate Change seminar, where they learned more strategies to live sustainably and to educate others and received a \$200.00 grant to use towards a sustainability project of their choosing.



## **A Year in Review Student Council**

The end of the 2019-2020 school year marks another successful year for the GC Student Council. The year began with the election of Gracie Grift as President for her second term, accompanied by Vice Presidents Arjay Certeza and Rachel Launder. Although the year was cut short, the group was still able to be successful within the events they held. This year's group could be described as creative, driven, and fun. With some of the greatest participation numbers ever seen in the history of the council, it became clear it would be a great year together. The first event of the year was Halloween Wars, a prequel to Grade Wars. This day featured costume contests, bobbing for apples and other fun Halloween games. The participation amongst students and teachers was some of the best we have seen in many years. The next event was Festive week which celebrated the holiday season by featuring candy grams, a hot chocolate giveaway in the commons and our annual Winnipeg Harvest Student Council Food Drive. With the added twist of Grade Wars points for the grade that brought in the most food, the competitiveness amongst the student body soared. As a school more than 1000 food items were donated, and many families were fed throughout the winter holidays. As the news of COVID-19 arrived, the council continued to work online in hopes of a return to school for our main event of Grade Wars which is normally held the last week of April. We would like to extend our thanks to all members and staff involved in this year for their efforts. We would further like to extend the thanks to the students of Garden City and your enthusiasm for all we do. Thanks everyone!

*By Gracie Grift*