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Time to reflect

As we head into 2021, we have many things that we can reflect on for our new year. Many people made resolutions to enhance and develop themselves over 2021, while others have donated their time to charities to help the community.

In this issue we will try to share our experiences at Paris District HIgh School and focus on the movements we are making toward fulfilling our resolutions toward personal growth.

Community Spotlight: Help A Child Smile

By: Noelle Austin

Help A Child Smile (HACS) is a non-organization in our community that focuses on children with cancer at Mcmaster Children's Hospital, at Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation. They help by providing opportunities for the children, and their families affected with childhood chance by creating chances to create fun filled memories, that last a lifetime. I sat down with Joyce Hutson, HACS' Disney Trip Coordinator, to talk about what the organization means to her, and to give you an insight on this organization.

Q: What does HACS mean to you?

A: I was introduced to Help A Child Smile in 2008 through my granddaughter Caitlin's 13-month cancer journey. When Caitlin lost her battle at the age of 5 ½, I wanted to do something to honour her memory and give back to the organization that provided her with so many opportunities to get away from the daily struggle that is childhood cancer and just have fun. So I combined two things that she loved – playing golf and all things Disney. The Caitlin Classic Family Golf Tournament was really more of a day of family fun than it was golf. We encouraged families to come out – all ages, golfers or not. Scores didn't count - we drew score cards to determine winners. Every other hole featured costumed Disney characters, such as Alice In Wonderland and the Mad Hatter. Their table was over the hole, and they were having a tea party. So the players had to putt around their feet, and the table and chair legs! At another hole, Sleeping Beauty fought a losing battle to keep Grumpy from kicking the players' balls off the tee, upsetting their golf bags, dumping their balls and tees on the ground, etc.And so it went. The day was such a success that we raised enough money to pay for a cancer child and his family to go to Disney's Give Kids The World Village in Florida for a week – all expenses paid! It still warms my heart when I recall the look on his face and the hug that little man gave me when I told him that he was going to Disney. That first experience of bringing joy to this boy and his family inspired me to want to do whatever I could to bring smiles to the faces of other cancer kids and their families.

Q: Tell us your role in the organization.

A: My initial position was Volunteer Coordinator. I enjoyed the role and had no trouble recruiting people who had a passion to help these victims of childhood cancer. As I learned more about the organization I began to realize that I had skills that could be used to improve areas of the operations and help save money as well. My years in the computer support and business worlds also afforded me a host of contacts in the community whom I knew would be supportive if asked. So I took over website development, database management, graphic design, newsletter publication and much of the merchandise supply needs.As Help A Child Smile receives no government funding and has no corporate sponsors, being mindful of our spending is crucial to our fiscal survival. Being naturally curious and having a strong background in accounting, I began to look into other areas where we might be able to save money. I learned that we were not always getting the best prices on travel when arranging to send our families on their Florida Disney trip through a third-party agent. Reaching out to my business contacts once again, I was able to establish relationships with travel industry partners and take over the duties of Disney Trip Coordinator. That is my primary role today.Over time, some of my duties have been handed off to other Directors as they joined the Board, but I still handle the technical and graphic design issues along with making all of the Florida trip arrangements.

Q: **How has the organization impacted your life?**

A: What started out as a desire to remember Caitlin and say thank you to Help A Child Smile in a meaningful way has evolved into a passion for the organization and the families we serve. As Disney Trip Coordinator, I work with the families to make their experience as amazing as possible. I help them pick the date to travel, book their flights, arrange for their limo ride to and from the airport, and help them decide which theme parks they want free tickets to see! I make sure they know exactly what to expect when they arrive at Give Kids The World Village. If anyone in the family has dietary or special equipment needs I take care of that too. When everything is set, I hand-deliver their travel package which includes spending money and Help A Child Smile tee-shirts and hats for everyone. Being responsible for a family's trip is a great deal of work. I must focus on the smallest of details every step of the way. And while the family is in Florida I am on call 24/7 in case of any emergencies. For instance, one of our families was there when Hurricane Matthew hit the day before they were to leave. With the airports closed down and everyone having to shelter-in-place, changes to their travel arrangements needed to be made quickly.But along with that responsibility comes the immense joy of being a small part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience for them. Seeing the smiles on the faces of our families at our regular events such as Wonderland, Bingemans and Disney On Ice is heartwarming to say the least. But it doesn't compare to the sheer joy and sense of accomplishment when a family returns from the Village and can't wait to tell me all about their trip

Community Spotlight: Help A Child Smile

By: Noelle Austin

Q: What is your favourite HACS memory?

A: It seems to be such a minor thing, but to this mom, it was huge. I was to surprise her 5- year-old-daughter with her Disney trip at a fundraiser. It was going to be several months after that before they would actually leave. Mom was certain the girl would be asking constantly when they were going and be upset when told 'not yet'. So I arranged to have the little girl's favourite princess, Elsa, at the event. The two of them spent lots of time together before the big surprise. Then, instead of me doing the presentation, Elsa herself asked if the little girl would like to come visit her in her castle in Florida. Of course the child accepted excitedly. Then Elsa explained that she had some other places to go to visit other little girls so she would not be home for awhile. She said that when she got back to her castle, she would phone and let her know so she and her parents could get on an airplane the next day and come for a visit. The little girl was thrilled and agreed to wait for the phone call. And sure enough, 3 months later, Elsa called her one evening just before bed and the family was off to Florida the very next morning. Mom was so relieved and happy that it all worked out so wonderfully.

Q: How has covid-19 affected the organization?

A: Our goal is to provide opportunities for our families to gather outside of the hospital to socialize and have fun. Obviously, all of the annual events we typically host for our families had to be cancelled or severely limited. As the restrictions imposed by the pandemic remain in place, we are actively seeking new, safe, innovative ways to help our families have some fun together. We have found such adventures as online mystery sites, escape rooms and multi-player games. We have signed them up for online entertainment such as magic shows, storybook readings and character encounters. Last summer and fall we gave them tickets to drive-in movies, drive-thru experiences and outdoor activities like go-karts and mini-putt. Unfortunately, all of the Disney trips that were booked had to be postponed.From the fundraising perspective, we are finding things extremely tough. While our spending for family activities and Disney trips is down, our day-to-day expenses have not declined. In fact, 2020 saw 57 new families diagnosed - just 3 fewer than the number diagnosed in 2019. Factoring in price increases, our other programs and supports, such as paying for parking, did not let up at all. To put it in perspective, in 2019 our total revenue was nearly $214,000 while in 2020 that number dropped to less than $95,000. We have limited reserves, so finding new ways to fundraise is imperative to our survival past the next 12 months.

Q: Do you have any additional comments you would like to add?

A: When I first learned about Help A Child Smile, I was impressed with the fact that this long-running charity was managed by a volunteer board of directors. I was also moved by their mandate to include the entire family, not just the cancer child, in all of events they offered. Knowing that 93.7% of all money they receive is applied directly to the supports and programs for these families struggling through the childhood cancer journey confirms that working to help them accomplish their mission is just the right thing to do.

To learn more information about the organization and how you can support, check out their website at https://helpachildsmile.com/

Give Kids The World Village

Where Happiness Inspires Hope

Help A Child Smile

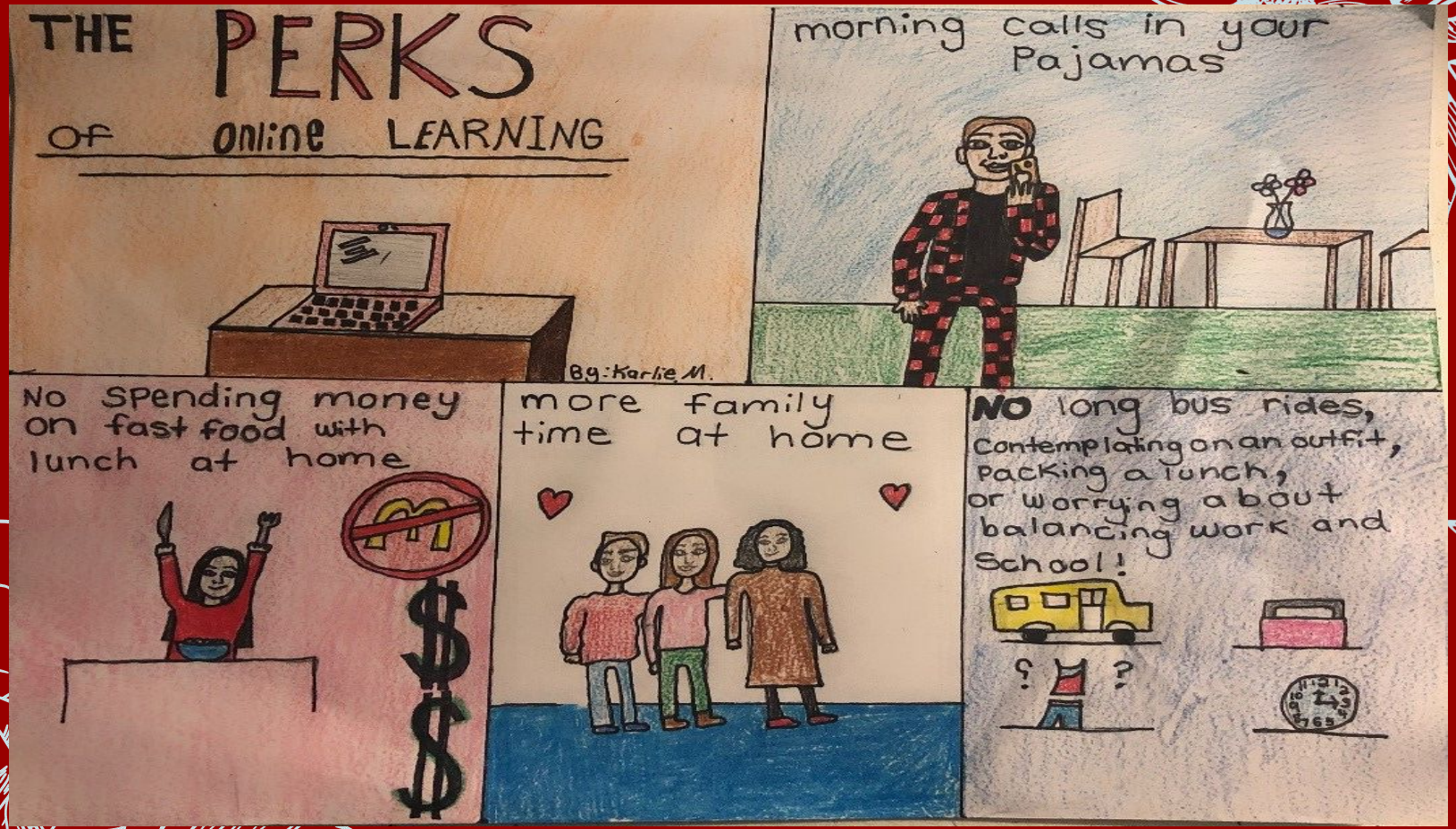
Teacher Spotlight

Ms. Bales is the Assistant Head of Humanities at PDHS and offers a dual credit program with local chefs within the Family Studies department. Her love of cooking came from her family who are new Canadians. While she is widely travelled and involved in many school activities, students may not know that English is not her first language.

As a child, while students around her were able to understand their teachers immediately, Ms. Bales had to learn quickly, balancing her Greek heritage and the Canadian culture that she was immersed in daily. She saw that not all children were treated equally and wanted to become a teacher to try and share that diversity brings strength to a community. As a result, when she became a teacher, she developed her training with a TESOL licence and an ESL specialization. In 2016, she traveled to China and lived there, teaching Chinese teachers how to deliver English lessons to their classes. She is also a volunteer with Immigration services because she speaks Greek, English and a little Spanish and can sometimes help people communicate with government agencies.

Ms. Bales' passions are cooking, travelling, family and hard to develop support networks for the people around her. Ms. Bales has been to every continent but still considers Greece to be one of her favourite places because it is like a second home to her. She loves to share delicacies she learned from her home and from her travels such as gumbo, curry and orange chicken. Sharing food is often a gateway for people to share their culture and experiences with each other, and she is excited to wake up every day and share her world with PDHS.

May all your wishes come true in the New Year!



"The PERKS of online LEARNING"
By: Karlie McCullough

HOW TO TALK TO RACIST FRIENDS & RELATIVES

By Nova Reid @novareidofficial bit.ly/racistrelatives

1 BE CURIOUS

Approach challenging ideas with curiosity; try to understand where they are coming from

2 CHALLENGE THE TRUTH

Respond to fear-driven retorts with fact-based evidence.

3 PRACTICE COMPASSION

Remember there was a time when you knew less than you do now and that you are not on the same part of the journey.

4 ASSESS RISK

Assess whether you currently have the capacity to engage in this discussion.

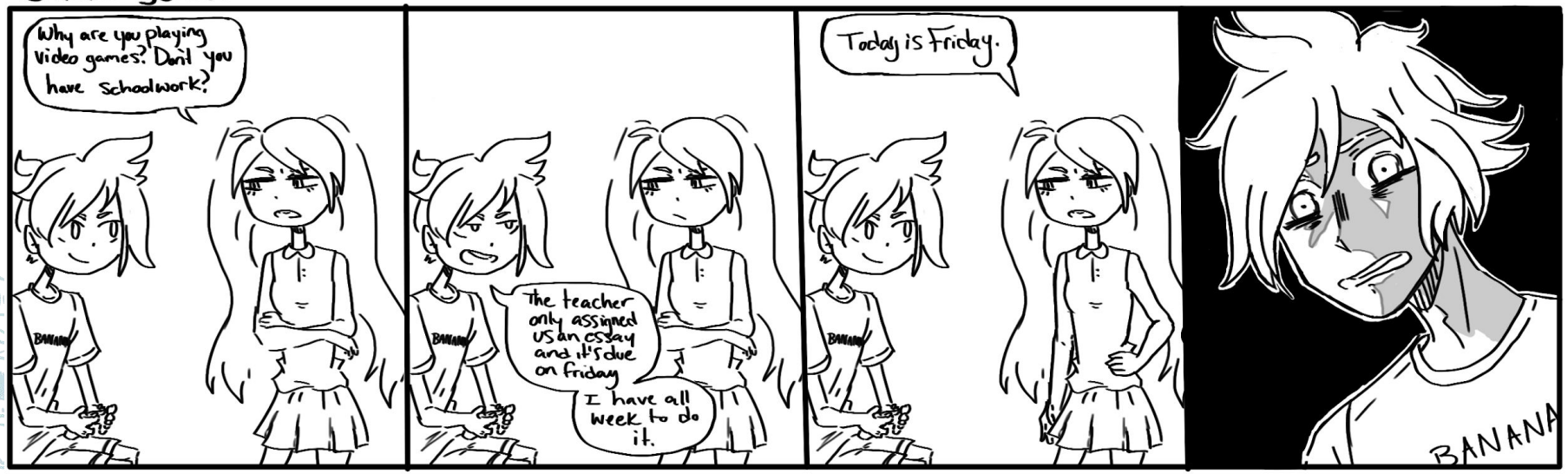
5 MAKE A DECISION

Decide whether this is a relationship that is serving you or whether you need to put up boundaries.

6 KEEP LEARNING

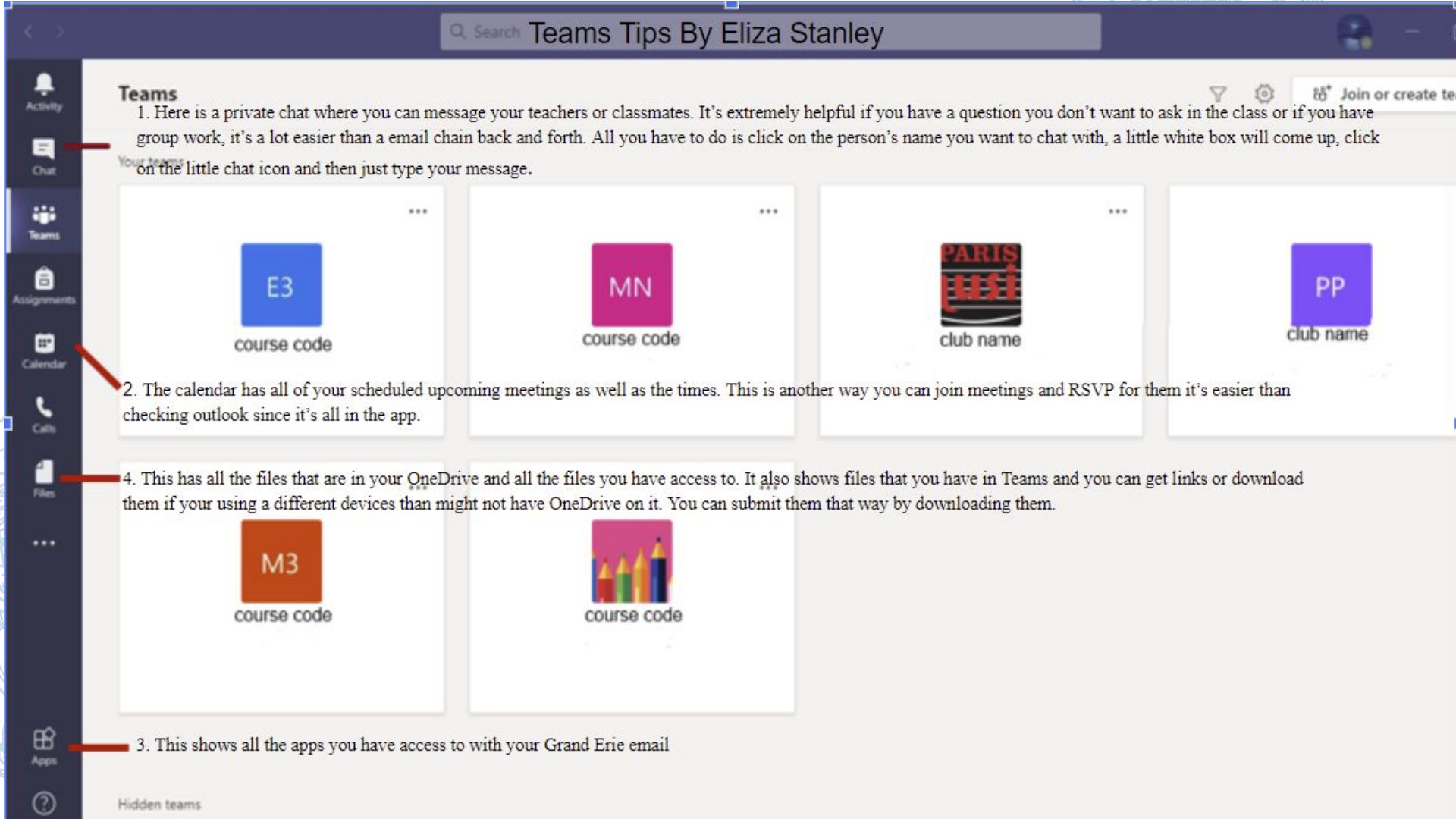
The more you know, the easier it becomes to effectively hold others accountable for their racism.

Online School



Maren Dow 2021

Teams Tips By Eliza Stanley



1. Here is a private chat where you can message your teachers or classmates. It's extremely helpful if you have a question you don't want to ask in the class or if you have group work, it's a lot easier than a email chain back and forth. All you have to do is click on the person's name you want to chat with, a little white box will come up, click on the little chat icon and then just type your message.

2. The calendar has all of your scheduled upcoming meetings as well as the times. This is another way you can join meetings and RSVP for them it's easier than checking outlook since it's all in the app.

4. This has all the files that are in your OneDrive and all the files you have access to. It also shows files that you have in Teams and you can get links or download them if your using a different devices than might not have OneDrive on it. You can submit them that way by downloading them.

3. This shows all the apps you have access to with your Grand Erie email

Team Tips in a meeting

Meeting in "General"

7. This little symbol is how you raise your hand on a computer. Once clicked a little yellow ring will appear around your picture with a little hand emoji. The hand on the top will also turn white once clicked. Click it again to turn off.

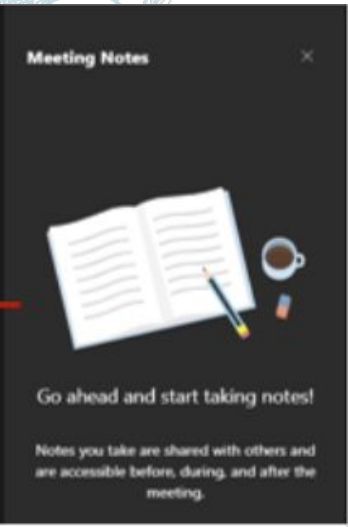
8. The three little dots, this opens many features, such as meeting notes, information about the meeting, ways to change the style of the screen, adjusting your sound, background effects can also be found here, live captions/close caption, recording the meeting so you can look back on it, and a dial pad.

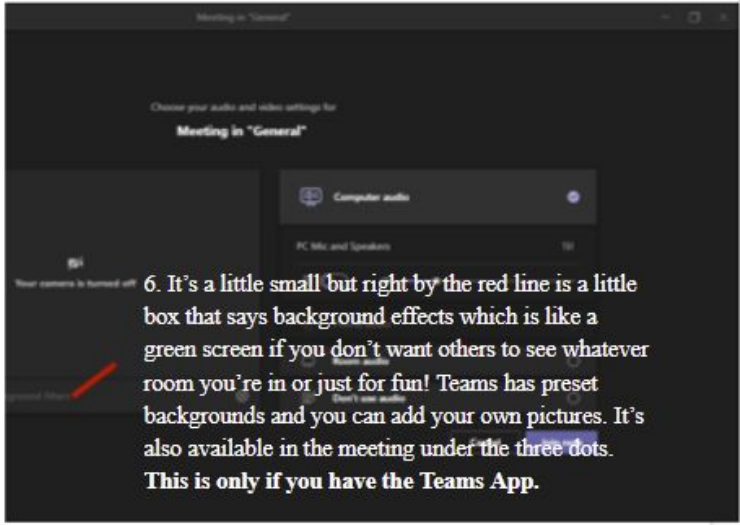
Device s
Meeting
Meeting
Meeting
Gallery
Large g
Togethe
Focus
Full scre
Apply b
Turn off
Start re
Dial pad
Turn off

Invite people to join you

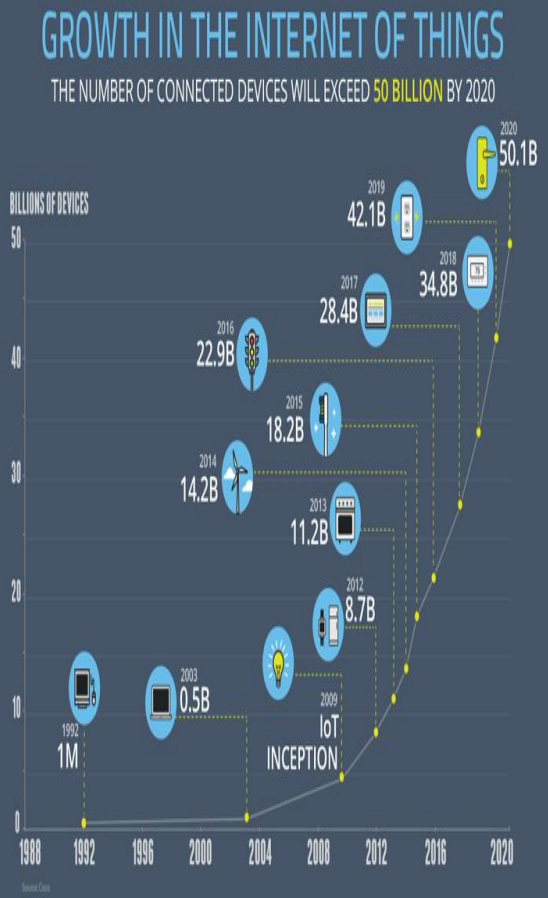
9. Live captions/close captioning can be found under the three little dots, it's helpful if you're experiencing audio problems so you know what's going on or if you're hard of hearing.

5. Meetings notes can be found under the three little dots on the top of your meeting screen if you are on the Teams app. Meetings notes are helpful if your in a prep meeting before a test and your teacher is talking about a test and you know that everyone needs to have this information but not everyone is there you can open meeting notes and start taking notes. These notes can be accessed during the meeting by other students and the teacher, after the meeting and before.





6. It's a little small but right by the red line is a little box that says background effects which is like a green screen if you don't want others to see whatever room you're in or just for fun! Teams has preset backgrounds and you can add your own pictures. It's also available in the meeting under the three dots. **This is only if you have the Teams App.**



Planning Ahead by Eliza Stanley

Mr Osborne has been a passionate Computer Science and Mathematics teacher at PDHS for 30 years. In Computer Science his favourite unit to teach is “arrays and filling because it opens the door to a vast number of problems that can be solved.” For Math, Mr. Osborne enjoys all units, but loves to teach math that can be applied to situations encountered outside of school. When asked about advice for students thinking about taking coding Mr. Osborne said, “I would encourage everyone to try coding as having some understanding of how software/apps are developed will be a benefit to any career. There are so many languages available now and they are not all text based so there is something out there for everyone.” He went to school at Northern Arizona University, University of Western Ontario, and Brock University.

Mr.Osborne and Mrs. Osborne met at PDHS when they both started in teaching 1991. Mr. Osborne is a sports fanatic. He enjoys playing and watching sports but mostly watching these days. He also spends a lot of time exploring software, programming coding languages and designing gadgets, he also enjoys doing different types of puzzles. Mr. Osborne has created many websites for his classes. He enjoys exploring different ways website can be made but has not created website outside of teaching purposes. In Computer Science they do explore the development of games, but Mr. Osborne has not created one for others to download. When asked about his opinion on cellphone use, Mr. Osborne stated, “I think cell phones are a great educational resource. There are so many apps and resources that can enhance the learning opportunities. However, at the same time, they can be an extreme detriment to learning as they can interfere with the consolidation of concepts. Often students get distracted with social media, games etc. and stray from the task they are working on resulting in work/tasks not being completed.”

COVID has affected all of us, especially the way we are learning and teaching, when Mr. Osborne was asked how it has affected his teaching- especially with the recent lockdown he said,“COVID has resulted in a great commitment of time to explore software and techniques that may make the online experience more reflective of the learning that would occur in a face-to-face classroom. I have also put all notes, assigned work and solutions in an electronic format for students to access. As a result, this has led to some very long days.” With COVID we all had to find ways to adapt some ways Mr. Osborne has adapted his classroom are he creates short video lesson so they students can re-watch the lesson as many times as needed along with notes and solutions. He also has a Microsoft Teams meeting all day for students to drop in and ask questions if needed where he can walk them through the process.

Senior Spotlight- Music in the Air - Kiley Fabian

By: Eliza Stanley

Kiley Fabian is a Grade 12 student who has been a member of the PDHS band for 4 years. She really enjoys music. She has played clarinet, bass clarinet and oboe for band but primarily plays just clarinet. The clarinet was Kiley's second choice; originally she wanted to play alto sax but too many people had already picked this instrument. So, Mrs. Kerr assigned her to the clarinet. She liked the clarinet more than the flutes and other high instruments as she found it a happy medium since clarinet doesn't go as high as flutes.

Kiley originally joined band because she always loved music, wanted to expand on her knowledge and she knew before entering high school that she wanted to go to university for music as well. Kiley did have a music background before high school, she played ukulele in elementary school which led to guitar and she also played some keyboard but she had yet learned how to read music. In total Kiley knows how to play six instruments.When asked about band during COVID; Kiley stated she thinks band is running well. There are normally three different kinds of band offered at PDHS, jazz band, intermediate/Junior band and Senior band.

Kiley has not yet composed but said she would do it if it was offered as a course in university. She has arranged pieces and is working on an arranging assignment right now for class. She really enjoys arranging and is glad she got the opportunity. Kiley's favourite piece of music to play was Windjammer, because it gave her the opportunity and motivation to learn the oboe and the experience of the piece. It sounded really good and the senior band was accepted into Nationals because of it.

COVID has affected all of us, when asked about how COVID has affected her applications to post secondary education and how it has affected her personally, Kiley stated, "It hasn't affected where (I will apply) but definitely how because for one of the schools, I know for sure the audition process is all recorded instead of going in and doing it in person. Which is definitely less nerve racking so I wouldn't consider it a bad thing. It definitely affected me I even consider taking a year off which is something I didn't originally plan on doing at all. So, I'm just going to see how it goes now but it's definitely changed my whole thought process and how I'm going to go about things."

Kiley is planning on majoring in clarinet at Mcmaster, Laurier or Western. Mcmaster is her top choice but Laurier is a close second.

Noted: A Paris Business in Motion

Meghan Green was inspired by North Ward teacher, Mme Fields' story about working in the north of Canada teaching children that didn't have the advantages that many of us have and wanted to do something about it. From her Market Street home, she came up with an idea during quarantine that she had the time to enact. Through a 1:1 business model, she would sell jewelry from her home and for each product bought, she would donate school supplies to Canadian children in need.

Originally, she was fascinated by the model of "Tom's Shoes", which donates a pair of shoes for each pair sold, but she is starting with her passion on a small scale. At this point, she is the sole investor and has managed to purchase materials and make sales although she is on a small scale for now.

The photography classes she took in high school taught her many aspects of digital design, which is evident from the website she developed through google sites. Starting from an idea, to getting her business licence, "Noted" is up an running in 6 short months. Some of the business paperwork took awhile to complete, but Meghan's mission is to give all children equal opportunity through the donation of school supplies to children in need on reservations throughout Canada. With every purchase, a student in need gets school supplies. See www.notedjewelry.ca to experience this emerging Paris business!

Kiwanis Music

Valentines Day brought a musical feature from Kiwanis to Paris and Brant County through Kiwanis. Members put on a Zoom concert, which was streamed live through other social media. This event raised a great amount of money for their numerous projects in the community. This spring, watch Kiwanis Paris-Brant's social media feed as they are very interested in putting on an event for the younger folks of our area. Follow Kiwanis Paris Brant on Facebook and Instagram if you are interested in sharing your talents!

Diversity in Stem Editorial

Many people don't think of trades as jobs that are warm or clean, but the truth is that there are many jobs in materials, quality assurance and upper management that are not at all what the public normally thinks of as trades. Even with that said, work in the trades is satisfying with great pay and benefits that can be enjoyed by all genders and people. With women in many different types of jobs, the trades are an area where many people don't realize the opportunities that are out there because it isn't always presented to them.

The importance of adding more women to STEM professions is inherent. For the first time, last year, women outpaced their male counterparts for admittance to both college and university in Ontario. Many lucrative fields are gate kept behind the degree or certificate that accompanies the raises in salary and prestige that surround the professions. The fields which need gender equity the most are predominantly in the field of STEM. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) For trades to have a flourishing growth of current knowledge, women have to be put into positions where they are comfortable on the job and knowledgeable about the many chances to grow within their fields.

More women are getting into construction and product management, but they are also moving into administrative roles in trades such as mining. Material analysis and quality control are emerging markets with many career opportunities. Many communities once had the idea that women were meant to be homemakers, which made it harder for women to enter the technological field, but over the last 20 years women overcame a lot of obstacles to get into emerging careers that would best suit them, rather than meet the society around them.

With higher requirements for technological proficiency, many women are well placed for entering the technological markets related to STEM. Future generations shouldn't question why a woman would want to get into a great career with a lot of opportunities to move upward. The changes that need to be made in the 21st century aren't just societal, they're systemic. We need people from all backgrounds and genders to consider entering trades so that there is more room for growth and productivity overall.

When someone claims that women should wear dresses and boys are taught that they're "tough" and certain jobs are "too rough for women", there is a dynamic question that lingers about why women aren't in trades. We need more diversity in many workplaces and more gender equality in great jobs so that the best people for the job are there in the hiring pools and not only the people who were already expected.

Source:

Women in Canada embrace higher education: Statcan - Macleans.ca

FORTY HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Please note the following changes this year:

- *Grade 12's who will graduate by the end of June or Summer School need only 20 hours to graduate*
- *All Students can use family chores since July (cut lawn, walk siblings to school, clean house, do dishes, pet care etc.)*
- *All students can use up to 10 hours of PAID EMPLOYMENT but MUST fill in A reflection sheet along with the community involvement sheet for these to count.*

Many of our students do not graduate on time because they are lacking in these hours.

Practice Test

In 2021, EQAO will be field testing an online Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). Students have the opportunity to become familiar with the online test and its platform through EQAO's online practice test. The online practice test comprises two sessions, which include content from previous tests. The practice test is equivalent to the two sessions students will be completing during the live test. In addition, the practice test includes an introductory session that allows students to become familiar with the new online platform's tools and functions.

Literacy Test 2021

In 2021, EQAO will be field testing a computer-based assessment that comprises two sessions (Session A and Session B) containing a total of 33 questions: 31 multiple-choice questions (including technologically enhanced multiple-select questions [e.g., drag and drop, drop-down menu, checklist]) and two constructed open-response questions.

EQAO has a Practice test available for students to see the new format which everyone should look at. Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test - EQAO

PDHS looks forward to our new students

Staff and students are reaching out to our incoming students to say hello with a virtual introduction to the campus and welcome any pictures from current students to showcase in our presentation.