



ST. IGNATIUS SCHOOL

2020-2021

Annual Report



Inside the Issue

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Fr. Frank Obrigewitsch provides an overview of the challenges faced at our parish as well as the blessings our community can be grateful for.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In this article, the St. Ignatius School Board will provide an overview of our past five years, and a look at what is next.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Read about how our St. Ignatius School community came together during a pandemic to support each other and to thrive!

OUR MISSION

To provide quality spiritual and academic growth based on the principle that every child is created in the image of God.





PASTOR'S MESSAGE

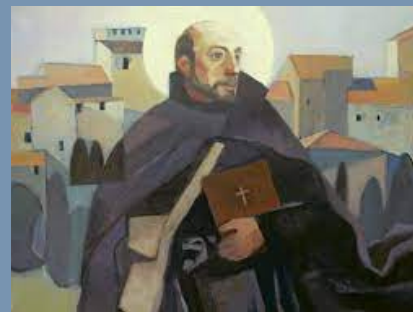
by Fr. Frank Obrigewitsch s.j.

St. Ignatius Parish AGM is on November 25th, 2021

This is a first for St Ignatius. I hope that some day soon we will all actually be able to meet in person and that we can do all the things we used to take for granted.

My important message today is simply to keep saying 'thank you'. I have tried to keep you abreast of everything that is happening at St Ignatius, especially during these COVID years via my "Reflections of the Pastor". November's edition was my 25th. But I am constantly edified at the generosity of so many here at St. Ignatius Parish, the office staff Indira, Jan, our wonderful maintenance crew under Chris Janes' capable leadership, our faithful lectors and communion ministers organized by Lee Mencik, music maestros Chas & Dale and their cantors, our genius tech man, David Androvic, and his hearty crew of Lorenzo, Joseph, and Aliana, and to so many more who keep our parish and worship happening! To say nothing of our Education Centre with its Spiritual Exercises and RCIA, and of our Sunday School, its Principal Lucy Vogrig and teachers, and our wonderful school lead so well by Principal Jeannine Pistakwa. I can never finish saying thank you to all of you. It is evident that this is certainly OUR parish evidenced by the multitude who continue to build our community of worship, service and joy.

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Pastor's Message continued...

by, Fr. Frank Obrigewitsch s.j.

Coping with COVID has been the focus of all of us in these past two years. It has been a bit of a roller coaster ride of hopes and disappointments. We've had to adapt, adapt, figure out how we will do this and that. I am grateful for the one steady centre during this time, our regular streamed 11 am Mass. Most everything else in our plans and hopes for the future has been put on hold. Our plans for an elevator are crushed momentarily. We find ourselves financially where we were seven years ago when I first came to St Ignatius. Currently we are facing transitions in our administration. Jan Hasiuk after serving us so well as controller, after 32 years, is planning to retire. We are so grateful that she is graciously staying on until new staff is trained. She has also taken up a portfolio of keeping the parish abreast of Truth and Reconciliation efforts.

Thanks to Carmine Militano and Dave LaLama we have some estimates of costing for any renovations we might plan for of the old rectory, but like most everything, we only can work now with possibilities. The only things we can be certain of now are change and adaptation. When we studied our parish in the last few years, we tried to envision where we as a parish would like to be in ten years having recognized that the demographic make up of our community has changed significantly, examining our entire plant, and projecting future costs. We hardly envisioned COVID in our future.

We don't know how we will come out of this peculiar time. We know the most important mission in our parish is to praise and worship our God and to spread the good news of God's love for us. Details of that mission were promulgated in the 42 statements of our own Diocesan Synod. We want to follow through on digesting and implementing them. But even that process has been delayed. The Society of Jesus also during this Covid time has been focusing on four Jesuit touchstones, its Universal Apostolic Preferences for all its missions: the Spiritual Exercises and discernment to discover God's will; to walk with the poor and disadvantaged; to help give the youth a hope filled future; to care for our common home, the earth. Good news is that Jesuit Father Provincial, Fr. Erik Oland, S.J., is actually making an in-

person visit to our Jesuit ministries in Winnipeg this year in the first week of December. He will preside at the 11 am Sunday Mass on December 4th.

But one basic challenge we look to as we go forward is how to be once again a parish that meets and talks with one another, prays together, and celebrates the joy of life together in person.

"We know the most important mission in our parish is to praise and worship our God and to spread the good news of God's love for us!"

Nevertheless despite the challenges we have faced and continue to address, this is an exciting time because in our present context we are called to be creative, like our God. We are called to celebrate God's presence and allow God to bring us and our community to life in a new way.





UPDATE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

BY LAURAL PORTH-JONES

Dear Parents and School Community,

Welcome to our inaugural St. Ignatius School Annual Report! My name is Laural Porth-Jones, and I am the St. Ignatius School Board Chair. I would like to recognize Shannon Schellenberg, Shane Bosch, Melanie Simes and Virginia Nagy as current school board members for their work and efforts on the school board, as well as Suchita Ghosh, school board member for the former school year. Many thanks as well to Father Frank Obrigewitsch for his excellent guidance and leadership.

To begin, over the course of the last two years, St. Ignatius School has weathered the COVID-19 pandemic through determination and resiliency, largely due to its school Principal, Jeannine Pistawaka as well as the school's capable staff. I wish to thank Ms. Pistawaka on behalf of the Board, the school community and myself for the work she and her team have done to support the school and the well-being of its students. St. Ignatius School has accomplished several significant accomplishments over the past five years, namely:

- Implementation of a tuition-based financial model, to direct towards financial independence
- New school branding, including a new logo

- Furtherance of the use of technology in the school and classroom, including the purchase of a mobile iPad lab, a mobile Chrome Book lab, the use of Microsoft Office365 and the implementation of MSTEams for collaborative work
- Numerous renovations and improvements such as a new music room, gymnasium upgrades, and new interior signage, and,
- COVID precautions such as desk dividers and sanitizer stations

The past year has not been without its challenges. As with many organizations, the school was over budget in the past year due to unexpected costs, and as such, the school board has begun a renewed strategic planning exercise that includes fundraising. I encourage you to review Shannon Schellenberg's financial update in this report to provide guidance on our current situation.

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**If you are interested
in making a
difference in your
St. Ignatius School
and community, we
are actively seeking
board and
committee
members**

St. Ignatius School Strategic Planning Framework

BY LAURAL PORTH-JONES

Call to Action

We would welcome you to the Board! If you are interested in making a difference in your St. Ignatius School and community, we are actively seeking board and committee members. Some areas of interest may include any of the items below in the new **Strategic Planning Framework**, including:

- Academic Excellence and extracurricular activities – pre-and-post COVID;

- Faith Formation and Community Involvement – increasing our connection with the Church and community;

- Financial and Strategic Stewardship – legal and financial expertise, thoughts on strategic planning and our goals, and of course, the “fun” in “fundraising”! We are exploring many fundraising and community options in the coming months including a parents’ dinner, golf tournament, and more.

Your interests and talents are most appreciated. If you would like to get involved, please contact me at:
lpj.stignatiusboard@gmail.com

I look forward to hearing from you!

Respectfully submitted,
Laural Porth-Jones

MISSION

To provide quality spiritual and academic growth based on the principle that every child is created in the image of God.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Academic Excellence
Faith Formation
Community
Diversity
Social Justice

STRATEGIC FOCUS

St. Ignatius School operates with the following three pillars of focus: Academic Excellence, Faith Formation and Community Involvement, and Financial and Strategic Stewardship.





INTO THE FUTURE

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
2022-2027



STRATEGIC FOCUS

St. Ignatius School operates with the following three pillars of focus:

- Academic Excellence;
- Faith Formation and Community Involvement;
- Financial and Strategic Stewardship.

PILLAR ONE: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

BY LAURAL PORTH-JONES, SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

While recognizing that a strong foundation in Literacy and Numeracy are integral to student academic success, St. Ignatius School will strive toward an interdisciplinary approach to learning that encompasses broader curricular domains.

- STEAM Principles
- 21st Century Skills
- Extracurricular opportunities
- Professional Development for staff
- Excellence in staffing and hiring





PILLARTWO FAITH FORMATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Character development
- Personal respect and wellness
- Growth mindset
- A member of a strong parish Community
- Youth ministry
- Bursary support

PILLARTHREE FINANCIAL AND STRATEGIC STEWARDSHIP

- Financial Stability and Stewardship
- Fundraising (which may include annual, legacy and/or capital funds, and bursary funds)
- Facility Improvement
- Continuous improvement of operations, facilities and lease management
- On-going marketing activities to attract and retain students

NEXT STEPS

In the coming months, the St. Ignatius School Board plans to:

1. Initiate a call to parents and community to additional school board members.
2. Create committees to lead each pillar and build out activities under the strategic planning framework, including new fundraising activities and establishing a capital campaign.



SCHOOL BOARD EXECUTIVE 2021/22
CHAIR: LAURAL PORTH-JONES
FINANCE: SHANNON SCHELLENBERG
MEMBER: MELANIE SIMES
MEMBER: SHANE BOSCH
MEMBER: VIRGINIA NAGY

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



"Teachers found innovative ways to keep their students motivated during these challenging times."

A Year to Remember

by Jeannine Pistawka

The 2020-2021 school year is one that we will never forget – no matter how hard we try!

In July, schools were asked to prepare for three possible scenarios for school re-opening and to develop plans for each of three levels of caution. A great deal of preparation was needed in August to ensure that there was a safe return to school. Classrooms were re-configured to allow for 1 meter or more distancing between each student. This meant no carpet time, and no play centers. Collaborative learning was suspended in order to limit students being in close contact or sharing learning supplies. Signs reminding us to wash our hands, use sanitizer, maintain social distance, wear masks and cough into our sleeves were on every wall, and arrows marking one-way traffic were on every floor. Our school library was re-purposed as an isolation space for students who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day and our technology lab was off limits because of sanitization limitations. The most prominent fixtures in the school were three-sided desk shields and hand sanitization stations at every entry and in every classroom. When we began the school year in Caution (Yellow) Level, specialists for music and French travelled to the homerooms in order to avoid shared spaces. In November, when we first moved to Restricted (Orange) Level, we had to achieve 2 meters of social distance. Parents were given the option to have students learn from home.

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Principal's Message continued...

Throughout the school year, we had approximately 45 students choose this option. For the students who remained at school several classes had to be divided in order to achieve the spacing. Two new cohorts were formed: a grade 3 & 4 split and a grade 5 & 6 split. Our specialists were reassigned to a cohort, teachers worked in teams to meet the needs of remote learners, and students no longer had French, Physed or music classes. Without those classes, teachers did not have prep time; instead their assigned "teammate" taught some of their classes and helped with the remote learners. The focus was on literacy and numeracy and maintaining steady growth for all of our students.

The students faced these challenges with remarkable resilience, as did the entire staff. At St. Ignatius School, we are very blessed to have such a strong team of educators who are willing to work together to make this new, short-term reality work. In late May, schools were moved to Critical (Red) Level. In many ways this was the hardest month of all! During the last weeks of school, only children of critical service workers were able to send their kids to school. Our in-school population dropped to approximately 15% of our regular numbers.



The majority of our students could only collaborate through virtual means. Each classroom teacher livestreamed most of the school day, work packages were picked up using a milk crate system in the front foyer for younger students and older students accessed their work on-line through Teams. Teachers found innovative ways to keep their students motivated in these unique circumstances. Beyond the challenges of the day-to-day management of the school, unfortunately, our school suffered a financial loss. In addition to the lost revenue, there were additional costs incurred by the school. Two additional Educational Assistants, additional cleaning and the need to purchase tables to accommodate social distancing, the cost of the desk shields, additional technology needs, all came with a cost. Fortunately, the Government of Manitoba did come through with additional funding for all COVID related expenses. Unfortunately, the Before and After School program was substantially smaller due to so many families working from home. This translated into a large financial loss for the school.

Despite the challenges of a pandemic year, St. Ignatius School also found many ways to celebrate. Disney stars came to our virtual Family Dance in October, our hamper campaign was incredibly successful in spite of the community not being able to spend an evening together organizing the hampers, our Remembrance Day was celebrated via a virtual assembly and even our Christmas Concert became a wonderful celebration video we can cherish for years to come. Although we missed out on many community activities and school extracurriculars, we still managed to find ways to come together and support each other. SISPAC and many individual families sent countless gifts to the staff to show their appreciation. Emails with encouraging messages were sent daily to teachers and administrators. As I reflect on this past school year, I am deeply grateful for all of the gifts the St. Ignatius School community has. In spite of the hindrances we faced, our community came together, protected each other by following the fundamentals, supported each other and remained steadfast in our faith and our commitment to one another. It is truly a privilege to work with and learn beside our gifted students, and an honour to serve this amazing parish community.



SISPAC MESSAGE

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

by Malcolm Bird, Chair Sept. 2017-June 2021



**"WE ARE TRULY
BLESSED WITH OUR
PRECIOUS SCHOOL.
THANKS BE TO GOD!"**

First and foremost, I would like to thank all the parent volunteers and St. Ignatius families, the executive and membership of SISPAC, all the staff, faculty, and administration at our school for their hard work, patience and understanding during this most challenging year. The COVID-19 pandemic has tested the mettle of many institutions, and St. Ignatius School, due largely to the hard work and dedication of its teachers and staff, has risen to the occasion and continues to provide a superb learning and developmental environment for our children.

We are truly blessed with our precious school. Thanks be to God!

The COVID-19 pandemic profoundly shaped the 2020-2021 school year. At SISPAC, we were unable to do many of our usual school and community-building activities and had to adapt to the circumstances. SISPAC persisted in its efforts and did as much as was possible within the limitations of public health orders. Over the course of the year we held our monthly meetings on Zoom and fulfilled our role as an informational conduit between families and the school's administration; we held several events including an outdoor morning coffee and tea event to welcome parents back at morning drop-off; an on-line Halloween show and dance party;

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SISPAC EXECUTIVE 2021/22

CHAIR: JENNA JONES
VICE CHAIR: MALCOLM BIRD
TREASURER: SHERI SUDFELD
SECRETARIES: JONATHAN SINCLAIR
& CARMELLA CASTELLANO-SINCLAIR

SISPAC MESSAGE

CONTINUED...

made and distributed several Christmas hampers for needy families. We also held both our annual plant sale and our winter wine raffle online. Unfortunately we were not able to host special lunches, hotdog days, bake sales or larger in-person community events such as BBQs and dances. We were also not able to host celebrations for sacramental events which was very disappointing. annual special project, \$400 for the purchase of books through the Scholastic Book Fair; gave out our annual SISPAC student award to a graduating student; provided graduation gifts to the grade eight students, as well as to provide gifts and good wishes to staff and teachers in recognition of their service to our school throughout the year. Overall SISPAC, was able to raise approximately \$6000 over the 2020/21 year (\$1,000 from the plant sale and over \$5,000 from the raffle), and we finished the year with over \$5,000 in our bank account, which is within the range required for SISPAC to have for its annual activities.

SISPAC has noted over the last few years a general level of community participation continues to decline, due

to a host of factors, and is actively considering new programs and opportunities to increase volunteer participation in our school.

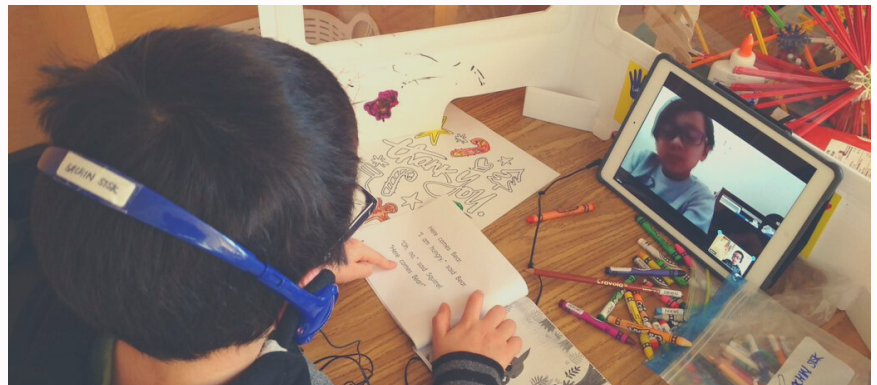
On a positive note, while disruptive, the pandemic forced SISPAC to pivot and adopt some new practices such as monthly Zoom meeting and an on-line raffle format, both of which will continue. Online meetings are much more convenient for parents and staff, allowing for more participation, and the on-line raffle platform reduces administrative efforts and costs. We also have a succession plan in place for the SISPAC executive as myself (Malcolm Bird) and Ms. Sheri Sudfeld, our treasurer, will be moving on next year. Our positions have been filled by Ms. Jenna Jones our current chair, and Ms. Andy Almeida who will start as treasurer in the fall of 2022. SISPAC also has several dedicated parents of younger children who are participating fully in its activities.

The circumstances of the 2020-2021 school year limited SISPAC's undertakings, but we continued in a "holding pattern" as we waited out the pandemic-imposed disruption. As we come through this experience, SISPAC looks forward to working with the school and families to continue with our communication and community-building mandates.

**"while disruptive,
the pandemic
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pivot and adopt
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2020-2021 FINANCIAL REVIEW

by, Shannon Schellenberg, School Board Finance Chair



Financial
Losses in
2020-2021

Revenue
Breakdown

COVID-19
Additional
Expenses

Bursary
Program

2020-2021 FINANCIAL REVIEW

By Shannon Schellenberg, School Board Finance

For our fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 we had an operating expense budget of \$2.2M and budgeted revenue of \$2.1M. Due to Covid, we planned a loss of \$130k because of the decrease in revenue expected in enrolment of the Before & After School and Nursery programs. The change in families work schedules (working from home) resulted in the need for these programs to decline.

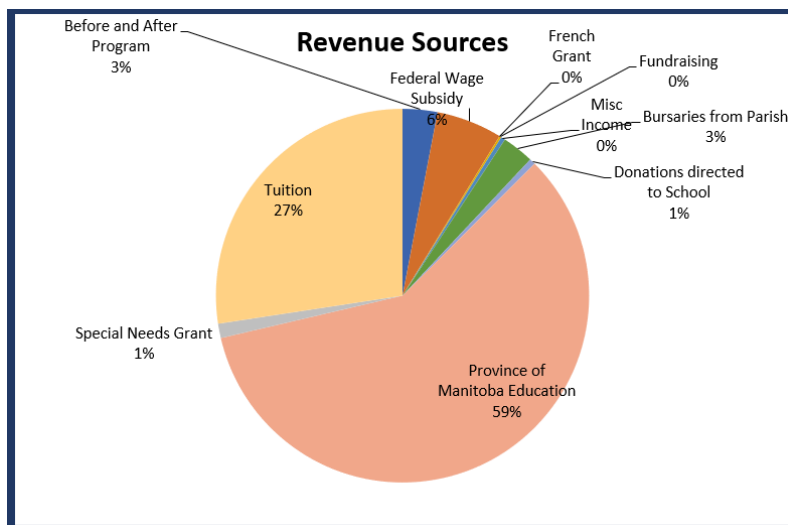
Our actual ending financial position for the 2020-21 school year was a deficit of \$137k. This was close to what had been budgeted. Our actual revenue was slightly over budget thanks to the Province of Manitoba Safe Start funding grant received to cover additional expenses related to Covid protocols.

The school's operating expenses were slightly over budget as a result of requiring additional staff to meet Covid and Public Health protocols in the classrooms. However, the deficit is largely due to the significant decrease in enrolment of the Before & After and Nursery School programs. We are thankful to the parish of St. Ignatius Church who provide bursaries for families at the school and also provided funds to cover our deficit which helped to balance our ending financial position.



BREAKDOWN OF FINANCIAL REVENUE

by Shannon Schellenberg



Province of Manitoba grants make up 59% of our revenue and Tuition another 27%. Both of these revenue streams essentially cover the school's operating expenses. The remaining 14% of revenue is from Federal Wage subsidy, special needs grant, parish bursaries, fundraising and donation revenues. Our revenue sources are vital in enabling St. Ignatius School to provide additional programs and build funds for future capital improvements.

LOOKING BACK

2015-2020 Strategic Plan Accomplished



Goal #1

Develop a comprehensive strategy to ensure the financial stability of the school.

Goal #2

Enhance value added programs and services offered to meet the evolving needs of students and families

Goal #3

collaboration with the Parish, capture the school and parish logo's sense and meaning through living and marketing it in all the communities we participate in city wide.

Goal #4

Enhance and action the opportunities to build and support a sense of community.



LOOKING BACK CONTINUED...

2015-2020 Strategic Plan Accomplished

FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

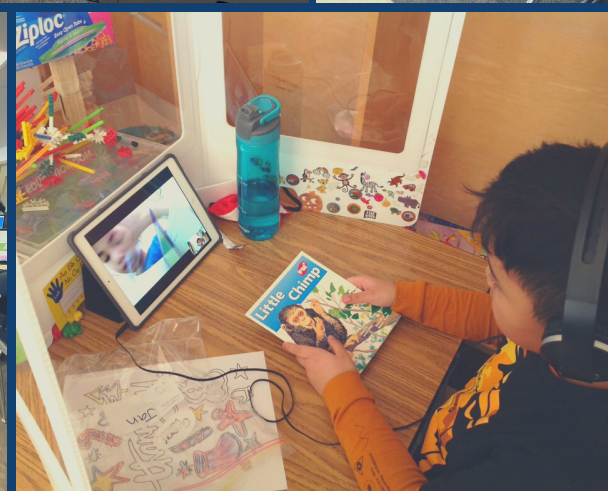
By Jeannine Pistawka

Among the achievements of the past five years:

- A tuition-based financial model was implemented in order to foster financial independence
- School re-branding including a new school logo, new website, launching of St. Ignatius School clothing line, renaming of The Lion's with the catchphrase "lion's lead the way"
- Established a formal music program for grades nursery to grade 6
- New classroom furniture in grade 7 & 8
- Installation of Wi-Fi throughout the school
- The purchase of a mobile iPad Lab
- The purchase of a mobile Chrome Book lab
- Moving the entire school network to Office 365

Renovations to the school building including:

- Music Room
- The Gymnasium
 - Paint, New scoreboard, New safety mats, signage reflecting our new branding
- Renovated Computer Lab
- Renovated grade 7 & 8 classrooms
- New flooring in the primary wing
- New carpets in most classrooms
- Front Foyer make-over



INTO THE FUTURE

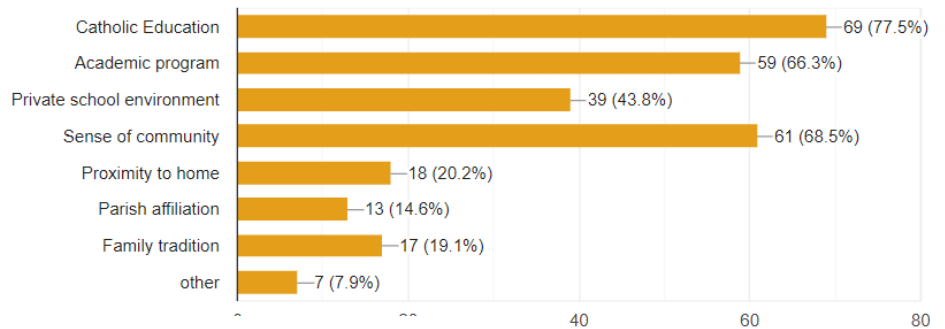
STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION 2022-2027

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SURVEY

In November, 2020, a survey was sent out to all of our St. Ignatius School Families. 89 Families responded. Their feedback will inform our planning as we develop our 2022-2027 Strategic Plan.

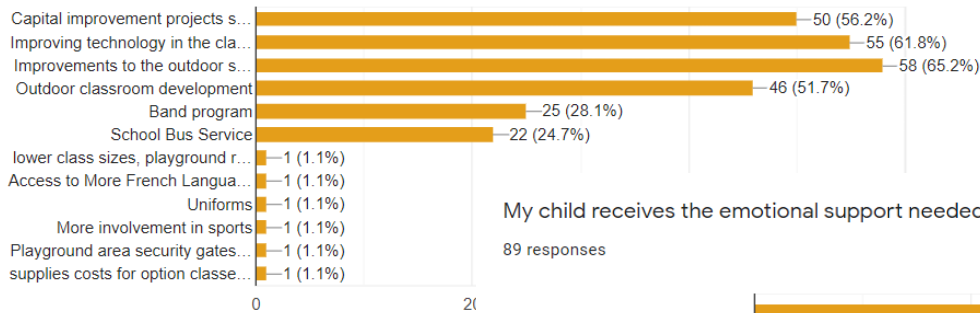
What are the three most important reasons that you have chosen St. Ignatius School for your child?

89 responses



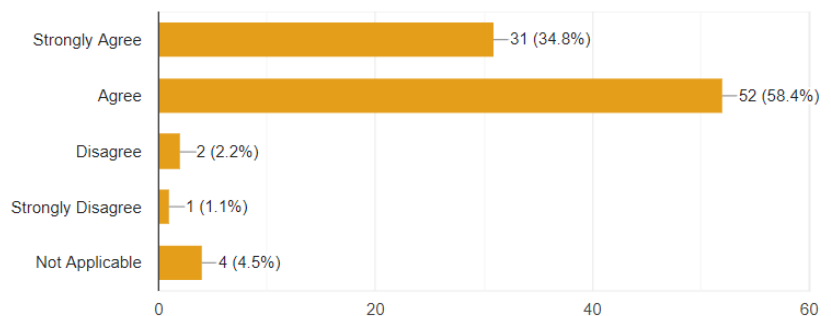
For what elements would you be willing to pay additional fees?

89 responses



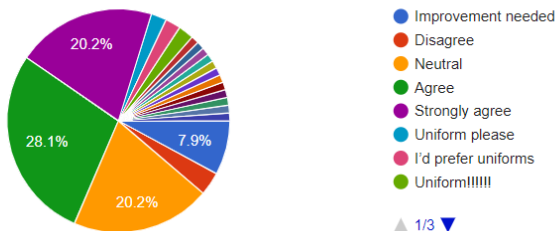
My child receives the emotional support needed to meet his/her needs.

89 responses



The dress code at St. Ignatius School is appropriate to our school identity.

89 responses



Do you feel the tuition at St. Ignatius is comparable to other similar independent schools? Do you feel you get value for the tuition you pay?

89 responses

