

# MCMMASTER

**M**cMaster Catholic School takes its name from the street on which it is located in the Alta Vista area.

The school opened in 1965 as a kindergarten to grade 8 school, complete with a home economics classroom. Now a junior kindergarten to grade 6 school, McMaster has, over the years, taken in students from other schools which have closed, such as Queen of the Angels, St. Leo, St. Mark and Immaculate Heart of Mary. Portable classrooms appeared on site in the early 1970s. They were eventually removed and a port-a-pak added to the school in 2000.

In the late 1990s, McMaster Catholic School received grants to make the schoolyard green and inviting. The school's concern for the environment was recognized when it became a Jade school in November 2005. This means that the school community had completed 250 environmentally-friendly activities. The schoolyard also benefited from the fundraising activities of the Parent Advisory Council at the school which provided the funding for the construction of a play structure. Also, a bus lane was built at the front of the school for the safety of the students.

McMaster Catholic School has received its share of publicity and acknowledgement over the years.

In the late 1970s, the school staged a spectacular performance of the musical *Annie*. The school choir has performed for former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker as well as at the school board office. The 1970s were also a time when the McMaster girls' gymnastics team won many honours. In 1978, the school participated in an artists-in-residence program in which the students created murals on the school walls, an accomplishment for which they were featured on CTV. In 1979, after seeing film

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL



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clips of the murals, Museum of Man officials contacted the school and the artists involved with the murals in order to arrange for the artists to paint the museum's Dinobus, used to transport people on field trips. In 2003, McMaster students participated in a video linkup with National Arts Centre Orchestra leader Pinchas Zuckerman and children in Mexico resulting in a strong relationship with the National Arts Centre Orchestra. From 2000 to 2005, junior students have been invited on stage to play their recorders with the National Arts Centre Orchestra

In January 2005, the McMaster School community raised over \$2,000 for

UNICEF in its relief efforts for the victims of the tsunami. Bilaal Rajan, an eight-year-old who has become a UNICEF spokesperson, visited the school to thank everyone for their efforts in this initiative. He delivered an inspirational speech about people being able to accomplish anything if they just try. The event was covered on the CTV news.

McMaster Catholic School was one of eight Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board schools, which, in the 2005-06 school year, raised approximately \$6,000 in total for the "OK Clean Water Project." This project (OK stands for Ottawa-Kumbo, a town in Cameroon in Africa) is an initiative of the Congregation of Notre Dame, an international religious community of Sisters and associates. The "OK Clean Water Project" supports the purchase of water pipes, which are laid from a clean water source into their communities by villagers in Cameroon.

### Present Principal

Margaret Skinner

### Past Principals

Desmond Lalonde  
Patricia Coady  
Clifford Foley  
Ernest Lefrançois  
Brian Brash  
Margie Gourcier  
Louise Roddy  
Mary-Ann Cowan

### First Teaching and Support Staff

Valerie Prest  
Rita LeGros  
Gary Mellor  
Mr. Turpin, Custodian

### Former Students

Lynn Nightingale, as a member of the Minto Skating Club, competed both nationally and internationally.

Fedor Andreev, a figure skater, has competed both nationally and internationally.

### Staff Accomplishments

Teachers Patricia Coady, Debbie Griffin and Theresa Jette co-authored books on children's liturgies for Novalis, the Catholic publishing house. These were approved by the Archdiocese and were recommended for purchase by school principals.

### School Colours

Teal, navy and white

### Mascot

The school has as its mascot a moose that the students have named "McMooster." Each class also has its own little mascot to cheer the students on and help them celebrate special events.

Classes each have a circle of friends for religion tables, and a special lantern to light the way.

