

THE LEACOCK FOUNDATION

2017 *Annual Report*



3000 REASONS

WHO WE ARE

Each day Leacock programs inspire youth, in Canada and South Africa, to overcome barriers, unlock their potential and contribute to their communities. We support children who are born into challenging economic circumstances by providing a fully-subsidized platform of literacy and leadership programs. These programs ignite, accelerate and provide a bridge to academic and personal success.

In Toronto our programs touch 1300 young people and in South Africa, through our partnership with the Get Ahead Project Schools, we reach 1400 students. Along with 300 volunteers who support our programs through peer mentorships, Leacock programs touch the lives of 3000 young people, creating opportunities for potential to develop and flourish.



WHERE WE WORK



Toronto

Locally in Toronto, programs are offered in collaboration with partner schools in several high-needs communities including St. James Town, Keele - Finch, Woburn, Scarborough and the First Nations School of Toronto.

We have mutually beneficial partnerships with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Future Design School, Rotman School of Management, OISE, Branksome Hall, and Greenwood College.

South Africa

In South Africa, we work with the Get Ahead Schools trio of low-fee independent schools in Queenstown — a rural community in the Eastern Cape near Nelson Mandela's birthplace. Our donors support these schools through infrastructure, technology updates, teacher development and student-leadership programs.



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A MESSAGE FROM PETER OLIVER

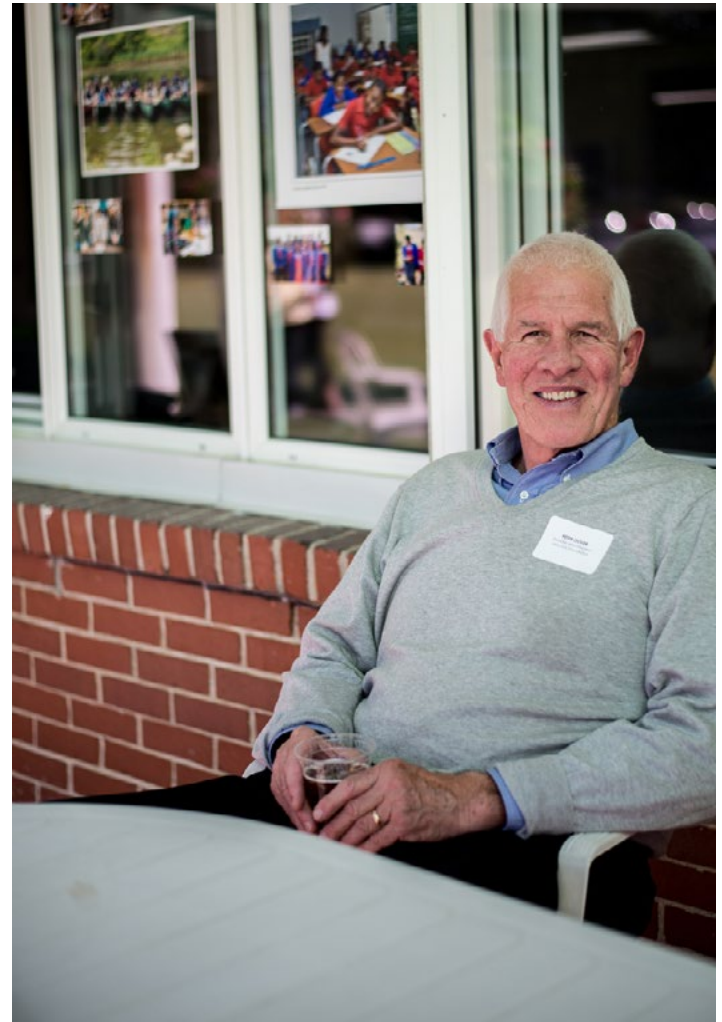
Founder & President

Dear friends,

Thank you once again for your steadfast support of our work. Now, more than ever it is critical that we provide young people living in disadvantaged communities with access to meaningful and enriching academic experiences, which are designed to accelerate their potential. For children born into tough circumstances the opportunity to learn, to experience broader horizons, and the chance to connect with a wider network can be transformative. As the world continues to change rapidly, children will need to be more resilient than ever.

Our programs encourage children to be creative, to be risk takers, to lead and to learn with enthusiasm. Our communities, cities and indeed our world, need leaders who are empathetic, who are problem solvers, and who will put in more than they take out. Each day in Toronto and South Africa the children you support are the living embodiment of that hope for the future. Thank you for making it possible.

Peter Oliver



& MARK DAMELIN

Chair of the Leacock Board of Directors



Dear Leacock Supporters,

It is my great honor and pleasure to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Leacock Foundation.

Like many of you, I became involved in the Leacock Foundation after hearing Peter Oliver speak about his unwavering desire to make a difference to the lives of children in need in South Africa and at home here in Toronto. His message of hope, and the direct and effective way funds are managed locally and globally, spoke to me on many levels. As a South African, it gave me an avenue to give back to my country knowing my donation would be handled with integrity, and as a Canadian citizen, to provide others with the opportunities that I was given as an immigrant to my adoptive country.

For those of you who have supported Leacock over the years, thank you for your trust and loyalty. We have come a long way, with many new and exciting initiatives on the horizon. For those of you who are new to the Leacock family — welcome. I hope that your involvement enriches your life as much as it has enriched mine.

Mark Damelin

A handwritten signature of Mark Damelin in black ink, written in a cursive style.

LEAP INTO LITERACY

Igniting the Spark

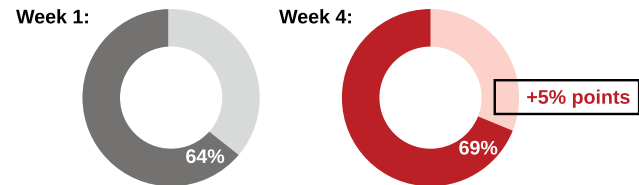
LEAP into Literacy Summer Day Camp is a full-day, fully-subsidized, four week program offered during the month of July in our three designated communities. Students who attend the camp have been recommended to the program by their classroom teacher and spend the day working on their reading, writing and communication skills while also enjoying experiential activities like art, yoga, sports, and various field trips.

In order to ensure that the program was fulfilling its core objectives, in the summer of 2017 the Leacock Foundation commissioned an independent and full program assessment.

Findings were gathered from a sample of 215 Grade 1-5 students through pre and post benchmark tests as well as pre- and post -attitude surveys. We are thrilled to share the results with you so that you can see how your donations are having an impact on this vulnerable population.



In less than one month, students showed a **5% point increase** in their reading skills



Furthermore, the average student went up 1 reading level

Students' average reading comprehension scores also increased, going from **66%** in week 1 to **70%** in week 4

62% of students could identify the vocabulary used in their stories in week 1
67% of students knew the vocabulary used in different stories in week 4

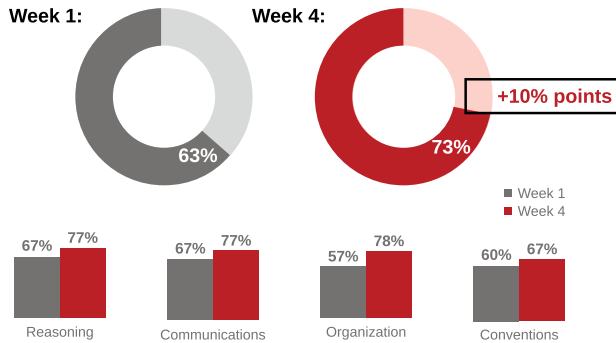
Students' attitudes towards reading **improved** along with their abilities



Significantly, students agreeing with the phrase "I am a good reader" went up by **11% points** in less than 1 month.



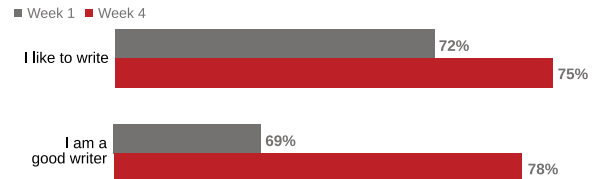
Over the course of camp, students demonstrated a **10 point increase** in their writing skills



The aspect of writing that students improved on the most was in how they **organized** their ideas.

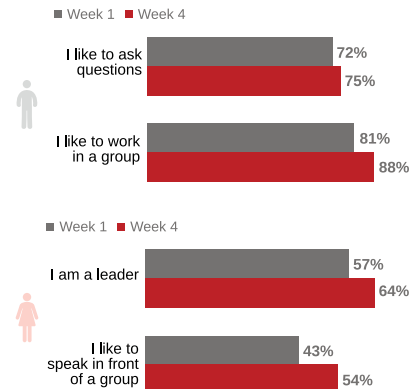


Students' positive attitudes towards writing also increased



Students agreeing with the phrase "I am a good writer" went up by **9 points** to 78%, or almost **4 in 5**.

On balance, girls showed gains in their leadership abilities, and boys increased their positivity toward group work



STEAMING AHEAD



STEAM education — an approach to learning shared by the global teaching community — is gaining popularity all over the world. In 2017, our funding to the Get Ahead School in South Africa was focused on enhancing the learning experience in the classroom for children through the integration of science, Technology, English/Engineering/Entrepreneurship, Arts and Math.

In the STEAM classroom, student lessons are dynamic, hands on, inquiry-based and designed to develop the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly-changing world. Both students and teachers at the Get Ahead School see the value of this world-class approach to learning as occupations in STE³AM-related careers are some

of the fastest growing and best paid of the 21st century, and they often have the greatest potential for job growth.

The teachers share:

“In each classroom there are so many different types of learners. With STE³AM, we’re reaching all the children.”

“The students’ self-discipline has improved. They challenge themselves more. Grades are markedly improving across the board.”



ACCELERATING STUDENT POTENTIAL

Meet Thando Hintsa

Donations to the Leacock Foundation support critical staff at the school such as Thandokazi Hintsa, the School Counsellor. Ms. Hintsa started in January 2017 and is a qualified Registered Counsellor and holds a BPsych degree. She is a member of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) and the Psychological Society of South Africa (PSYSSA).

At Get Ahead, she has been offering short term counselling services as the resident guidance counsellor, to learners across all three schools. Working on eliminating the stigma associated with counselling, she navigates this area with much sensitivity. Her approach centres on student advocacy and ensuring equitable access to instructional programs and activities.

Ms. Hintsa offers personal development workshops with the teachers once a month; collaborates with the school curriculum through Life Orientation, addresses challenges with the youth; works to increase parental involvement through term meetings with parents of sponsored students and targets Grade 9's and Grade 12's in career avenues, focusing on subject choices with the Grade 9's and study opportunities with the Grade 12's. She also maintains close links with professionals to assist learners with learning barriers.

Ms. Hintsa



UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

Locally & Globally



Meet Sanah

Grade 6 Student, Rose Avenue
Junior Public School

Sanah is an Afghani-Canadian 6th grade student at Rose Avenue Junior Public School. As a long-time Leacock learner, she has attended a number of Leacock

programs over the years including Saturday Morning Club, JUMP Math, and LEAP into Literacy Summer Day Camp. For Sanah, her Leacock experience has been a memorable one and only the beginning of her learning journey. Sanah was always a very shy student in her Rose Avenue classroom but Sanah's teachers saw her potential and encouraged her to enroll in LEAP into Literacy Summer Day Camp. She benefited from the literacy camp activities, which included a small group setting to reinforce reading, writing, and oral communication skills. The balance of both academic and experiential learning has helped Sanah return to her classroom with increased academic and social confidence.

"I enjoy the Leacock programs because the teachers make it fun. I like to make goals. The teacher always makes it fun, like if you read books you get ice cream. I'm getting better at my handwriting and math. Math club really helped, I enjoyed it. I usually have been so shy to ask questions and raise my hand up. I always keep it down and ask the person beside me. Now that I'm in LEAP they always encourage us and tell us to don't be shy."

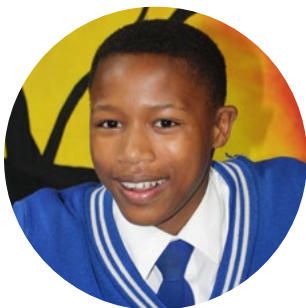


Meet Ian

Grade 6 Student, Saturday
Morning Club, Woburn

"My favourite thing about going to Saturday Morning Club is seeing my friends on the weekend. We all get together and enjoy a lot of fun activities."

Ian is in Grade 6 and regularly attends Saturday Morning Club at Woburn Junior Public School. He also participated in the overnight Leacock LEADership Camp in the summer of 2016. At the start of school in September, he was quiet and reserved. His teachers wanted him to be more vocal during class discussions, so group activities were encouraged in which he would show more of a leadership role. With gentle encouragement, Ian embraced the role of group leader by motivating his peers and leading by example to go above and beyond in the creation of their presentation. Ian was able to overcome his fear, and demonstrate his leadership capabilities in a safe, nurturing environment. Ian plans to attend LEADership Camp again this summer where he will continue to develop his leadership skills.



Meet Thando

Grade 7 Student, Queenstown
Get Ahead Project

Mrs Griffin's Class

Thando lives with his Granny, Gladys, after his Mom passed away three years ago. With little family support and struggling to

survive on his Granny's pension, Thando's education is paid for through the Leacock sponsorship program.

Margaret Whewall, a beloved member of the Leacock and Get Ahead family, has been Thando's sponsor since 2013.

She shares:

"Thando is a kind and caring boy who is full of personality. I am so proud of his hard work and perseverance with his studies at Q-GAP!"

Thando has grown into a confident young man and this year, he had the starring role in the school concert, INKUMBULU, Under the Get Ahead Skies where his charm and charisma stole the show!



Meet Nikita

Grade 6 Student, Queenstown
Get Ahead Project

Mrs van Deventer's Class

Nikita lives with her Dad, Mom, older sister and brother. In her own words, "We live happily!". Because of their limited means,

Nikita and her brother are supported through the Leacock sponsorship program which allows them access to a standard of education that they would otherwise not be able to afford. Nikita's academic progress is noteworthy! She is doing especially well in Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology and is thriving in the STEAM teaching approach. Her success at school is the result of her hardworking, determined nature and the opportunity provided to her through her sponsor and the Leacock Foundation.

Nikita's sponsor shares:

"Nikita's will be successful because she works hard, and is taking full advantage of her educational opportunities. I am glad I am able to make a difference in this bright young woman's life."

LEAD THROUGH TRAILS

Building Tomorrow's Leaders

LEAD Through Trails

Learn. Lead. Take Action! is the theme of this three-phase environmental-leaders-of-tomorrow program. In partnership with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) the Leacock Foundation provides an innovative learning experience for students in Grade 5 who attend First Nations School of Toronto and for students in Grades 5 and 6 who attend Woburn Junior Public School. Through in-class science-based programming, followed by outdoor recreation and team-building activities, students learn to make important connections with nature and develop the skills needed to lead and take action in their homes, schools and communities. By the program's completion, students have not only considered their own behaviours and the impacts of their choices, but have been inspired to take action by making a personal pledge to improve their habits, reduce their ecofootprint and help the environment.

During 2017, student participants decreased their ecological footprint by 19%. In addition 93% of teachers indicated that student awareness of environmental issues increased and 89% of teachers indicated that students' willingness to mentor others about environmental concerns increased.

The program is supported by six eager Grade 11 student volunteers from Greenwood College who raised their hands to mentor the Grade 5 students in this program. The students have travelled to each school to lead activities with the students prior to the outdoor

field trips to Kortright Field Centre and Tommy Thompson Park. They have also participated in the all-day outdoor field trips providing mentorship, leadership and oodles of enthusiasm and fun for the younger students.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

And Looking to the Future

The Get Ahead Concert

In celebration of 25 years of growth and development at GAP, students across all grade levels put on an amazing play detailing the life of a GAP student from preschool to Grade 12. This school-wide collaboration highlighted a student's journey through the years and included elements of STEAM — the “time machine” built by students as well as classroom scenes, which depicted science experiments. A common thread of song and dance ensured that the audience was well entertained. Besides the sold-out performances and community support, we are the most proud of the schools for their teamwork, dedication, and professionalism which came together to ensure a very successful performance. Students embodied the spirit of Get Ahead effortlessly and their performance will be remembered for many years to come.



CHANGE MAKERS

Volunteering to Make A Difference



Meet Chris Bocking

YPL Volunteer Chair

As a former teacher, I remain interested in how we educate youth today. I see education and how we develop our children as building blocks of society, so as a citizen I am “invested” in

education outcomes and how we prepare children for life.

I’m interested in how schools and charities such as Leacock are working towards better outcomes through education, and look to participate where I can.

I have found my experience with the YPL Board rewarding because it’s a group of like-minded individuals, voluntarily working towards a common goal. I know my support is making a difference because I volunteered last year at the Saturday Morning Literacy Club at Woburn, so I saw the benefits firsthand. I look forward to engaging more with the various ways Leacock helps children in Toronto and South Africa, and contributing wherever possible.





Meet Kate Rochon

Branksome Hall

Each year a group of high school students from Branksome Hall travel to South Africa to visit the Get Ahead School in South Africa as part of the “Triangle of Hope – Sister Circles Program.” During

the trip the students learn about South Africa and meet their GAP “Sister,” becoming global citizens along the way. For Kate Rochon, this trip would provide the motivation to make a difference in a

community far from home.

While in South Africa, Kate visited the Isibindi Safe Park — a park located in the Eastern Cape, which helps support families who have been affected by HIV/AIDS. Isibindi Safe Park works with the children who are most vulnerable and need the most care. While visiting the Safe Park, Kate became aware that the community does not have any access to clean water or sanitation services.



“With the drought in South Africa this project has never been more important. I have now made it my goal to bring clean water and sanitation services to Isibindi.”

Kate was inspired to make a difference, and when she returned home began to raise money and awareness of the project. To date she has raised over \$2,000 and construction at Isibindi will begin shortly.



HAVING FUN AND GIVING BACK

The Leacock Foundation was built on the premise that you can have a good time while doing good. Each year the Foundation hosts two signature fundraising events: the Leacock Debate and the YPL's Lawn Night.



2017 Leacock Lawn Night

In June 2017, the Young Professionals of Leacock (YPL) hosted 100 guests at the 3rd Annual Leacock Lawn Night. Bowlers faced off in a team-based lawn bowling tournament raising over \$10,000.00. We are grateful to the YPL Event Committee, enthusiastic participants and sponsors who made the event a success! Together, we were able to send over 40 students from the Keele/Finch community to Norval Outdoor Education Centre. The children enjoyed challenging themselves on the high ropes courses, which was a summer highlight for many of our campers! Funds raised also helped to sponsor the school fees of Robshack, Fikile, Owami and Bagcine for an entire year. Thanks to your generosity, these students attending the Get Ahead Schools in Queenstown, SA will continue to have access to a quality education.



2017 Leacock Debate

In April 2017, over 375 people attended the 18th Annual Leacock Debate raising \$200,000 in support of Leacock LEADership Summer Overnight Camp. LEADership Camp was launched in 2015 in partnership with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. This program has already reached over 360 youth from some of Toronto's most underserved communities. For children involved in Leacock programming, this week-long stay outside the city is a life-changing experience where they develop greater self-confidence and leadership skills. We sincerely thank our guests, sponsors, planning committee and debaters, for your commitment and support which allow us to continue this exciting opportunity for youth.

BECOME INVOLVED!

There are so many ways to give back and make a difference!

- Volunteer in our Saturday Morning Club program
- Sponsor a student's education at the Get Ahead Project
- Offer mentorship to students in our Toronto Leadership Programs or via Skype to South Africa
- Ask for donations in lieu of gifts at your next birthday or holiday party
- Lend your expertise on a volunteer committee
- Become a Leacock Member or YPL Member with an annual donation

If you would like to participate in our programs as a volunteer, simply call the Leacock Office or reach out to us via email:

Phone: 416-489-9309

Email: info@leacockfoundation.org



FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenue	\$
Memberships and donations	754,558
Fundraising activities, special events and other	333,681
Total revenue	1,088,239
Direct fund raising, special event and marketing expenses	-171,047
Net revenue	917,192

Expenses	\$
Program support funding: South Africa programs	428,757
Program support funding: Toronto programs	579,444
Marketing and indirect fundraising expenses	13,869
General administration	162,759
Total Expenses	1,184,829
Shortfall	-267,637
Fund balance at beginning of year	728,799
Fund balance at end of year	461,162

A LETTER FROM KRISTINE GASTON

Executive Director



On behalf of the entire Leacock team I would to thank each of you, our generous Leacock supporters, for your commitment to our work. Each and every donation plays a part in helping us deliver quality programs that are making a difference in the vulnerable communities we serve.

This year the Leacock Foundation was fortunate to receive financial support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, The JP Bickell Foundation, the George Lunan Foundation,

the Robert Kerr Foundation, the President's Choice Children's Charity, Kiwanis, and the Pottruff Family Foundation. We are also so grateful to our school partners Branksome Hall, Greenwood College and Kingsway College School. Our events would not be successful without the support of our committed sponsors including the Cadillac Fairview Corporation, Corby, B+H Architects, Georgian Capital, Nicola Wealth Management, Mill Street Breweries, Cidel, Cumberland Wealth and SS&C.

I would also like to acknowledge the talents of the teachers, program leaders and volunteers who are so dedicated to creating the best possible experiences for the children engaged in our programs. They play a critical role in our success as an organization.

"Continuous effort — not strength or intelligence — is the key to unlocking our potential." Heather, Patricia, Bidor and I thank you for the privilege of working each day to unlock the potential of 3,000 young lives, each destined to make our world a better place.

Kristine Gaston

A handwritten signature of Kristine Gaston in black ink, featuring a stylized 'K' and a long, flowing horizontal line.

THE LEACOCK FOUNDATION

Our Partners & Sponsors



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2323 Yonge St. Suite 301, Toronto, ON M4P 2C9

www.leacockfoundation.org | 416.489.9309 | info@leacockfoundation.org