

ANNUAL REPORT

ENDURING TRIUMPHS: A YEAR OF RESILIENCE AND FORTITUDE

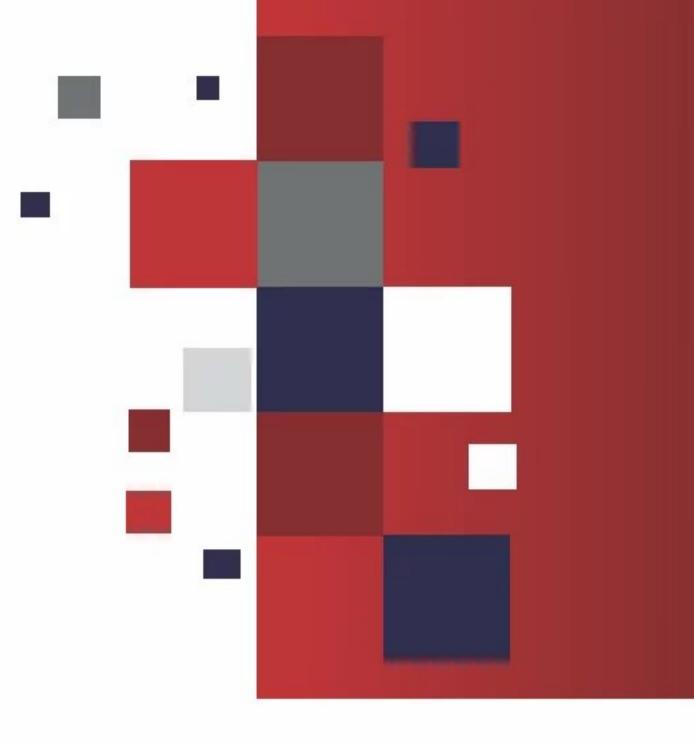
THE LEACOCK FOUNDATION

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SETTING THE STAGE

Who We Are



As we reflect on our achievements over the past year, it is important to revisit our vision and mission - the driving forces behind our continued success.

VISION

A world where all children and youth have an opportunity to reach for their full potential.

MISSION

Our mission is to confront inequity by empowering children and youth to develop the critical and creative thinking skills to be confident leaders now and in the future.

WHERE WE WORK

Toronto

In Toronto, signature literacy and leadership programs are offered in collaboration with partner schools in several historically marginalized and racialized communities, including Thorncliffe Park (NEW expansion as of March 2023), St. James Town, Humber River - Black Creek, and Scarborough. We have many mutually beneficial partnerships with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Future Design School, Indigo Love of Reading Foundation, ABC Life Literacy, Branksome Hall, and First Book Canada.

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 leadership sustainability, technology updates, teacher development, student support, and leadership programs.





Dear Leacock Community,

We wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible strength and resilience that the Leacock Foundation has witnessed in promoting literacy and leadership in our communities in Toronto and the Eastern Cape of South Africa.

In today's fast paced world, literacy remains an essential foundation for personal growth, professional success and societal progress. It opens doors to opportunities and fosters critical thinking and creativity. At the Leacock Foundation, we believe in the transformative power of literacy and its ability to uplift communities.

Over the years, we have witnessed remarkable stories of children and youth who, through their determination and the support of the Leacock Foundation community, have achieved remarkable feats. Our programs and initiatives are designed to address the diverse needs of our partner communities in Toronto and the Eastern Cape of South Africa, ensuring that children and youth have access to quality, meaningful education experiences.

The challenges the Leacock Foundation faces today are not without their hurdles, but we remain steadfast in our commitment to serving historically marginalized and racialized communities in Toronto and the Get Ahead Project school community. During Covid, we adapted our

programs to the digital landscape, ensuring that learners could continue their educational journeys from the safety of their homes. In 2022, we transitioned to in-person education and we are both stronger and bigger. The transition showcased the resilience of the Leacock Foundation community and the unwavering dedication of our supporters.

In the face of our visionary leader Peter Oliver's passing, we wish to assure you that our mission and commitment to our cause remains unwavering. Peter entrusted us with the responsibility of advancing the Leacock Foundation's vision - a world where all children and youth have an opportunity to reach for their full potential. Together, we will continue to build upon the foundation laid by our founder, ensuring that his vision and values permeate every aspect of our work. Peter's inspiration will continue to guide us as we navigate the path ahead, seeking new avenues to have a meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve.

South Africa, ensuring that children and youth have access to quality, meaningful education experiences.

The philanthropic community that Peter fostered remains at the heart of our organization. Your generous support has played a pivotal role in our accomplishments, and we are forever grateful for your belief in our mission. As we continue Peter's legacy, we invite you to stand with us.

We are immensely grateful and proud of our accomplishments. We would like to express our gratitude to our loyal supporters, volunteers,



families, and staff. Without your passion and commitment, none of our achievements would have been possible. Your unwavering support continues to inspire us as we strive to reach new heights in our mission to confront inequity by empowering children and youth to develop the critical and creative thinking skills to be confident leaders.

Together, let us continue to promote strength, resilience, literacy and leadership in our communities, empowering children and youth to unlock their potential.

Thank you for your continued support. We eagerly look forward to the possibilities that lie ahead.

Warmest regards,

Mark Damelin Board Chair



Jessica Murphy
Executive Director



PETER OLIVER

Honouring our Founder

During my time as the Executive Director of the Leacock Foundation, I would stop by Peter's office each day to say good morning and have a chat. If he was busy, it would be a quick hello and a big smile, but many mornings he would beckon me in and over coffee, we would sit and chat about all things – big and small. Sometimes, I would need advice on current projects or parenting, sometimes we would talk about the state of the world, but most times we would talk about the Leacock Foundation and what it ought to be and how we were going to get it there. Complacency was just never an option, and even when I would gently remind him that he had already done so much for so many, he would brush my clumsy compliments aside and say we still have work to do.

I don't know if people knew how much that passion for excellence cost Peter. He described it to me as a relentless gnawing of the gut and a fear that life's runway would end before he accomplished it all. At times, that urgency made it challenging to be on the ride with Peter; he would push us all past our comfort zones; but then, together we would experience the exhilaration of seeing the vision come to life and have the pure satisfaction of a job well done.

All of us who have been involved with the Leacock Foundation have felt Peter's passion, have been touched by it, have been moved to action through service or donations, and so we are all a part of its ongoing success story. Thousands of children's lives, locally and globally, have been enriched, doors have been opened, and possibilities have expanded, all because one man believed that every child, no matter their circumstances, has potential.

Life was cut far too short for Peter, and there is still much work to do.

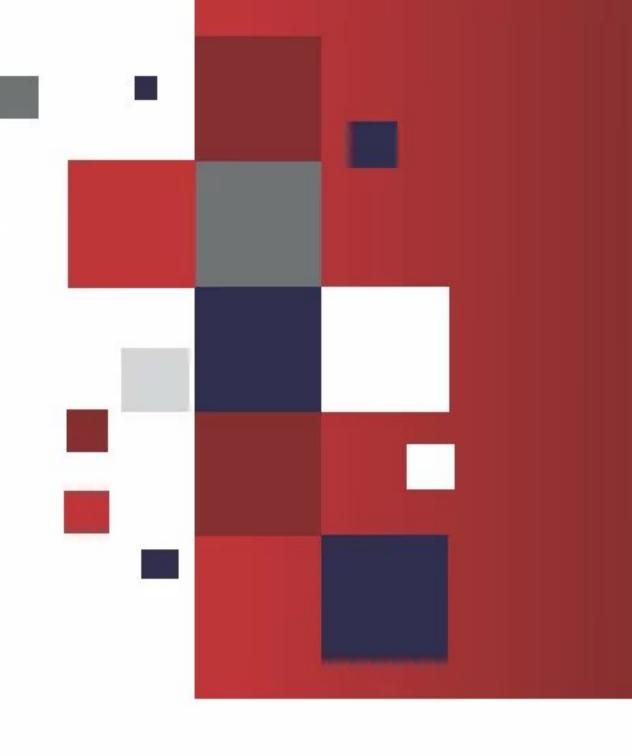
I challenge you to help the Leacock Foundation continue to make a difference in the lives of children who need our support and our investment in their futures. Complacency still isn't an option. The work is not finished. Together, we can ensure that his vision endures and our collective mission is realized.

- Kristine Gaston, Board Member



GET AHEAD SCHOOLS

Impact of the Vision for Excellence



The Vision for Excellence 2025, first implemented in 2021, has had a tremendous impact on the Get Ahead Schools in Queenstown and Whittlesea, Eastern Cape, leaving both students and educators excited about the future.

At the heart of the Get Ahead Schools' mission is the aim of making "every child feel worthy and validated." This mission is fully supported by the vision's innovation and sustainability objectives, which have brought about significant changes in the school community over the past two years.

The first two years of the vision's implementation focused on establishing a strong leadership team and improving brand consistency. The school's leadership team has worked hard to create a culture of trust, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that all staff, students, and stakeholders feel empowered and valued.

With these foundations in place, the school has now moved into the second level of the vision, focusing on developing a culture of learning that empowers students and educators with 21stcentury skills. The school has been working hard to provide students with access to the latest technology and innovation, ensuring that they receive the same exposure as their more affluent peers.

Thanks to the Vision for Excellence, the playing field has been leveled, and students can now benefit from outstanding opportunities, regardless of their background or social standing. The school has procured and implemented infrastructure and hardware to bring about lasting change in the school community, and this has had a positive impact on the schools' mission of preparing students for a rapidly changing world by creating an environment of innovative thinking, adaptability, creativity, and resilience.

The opportunities offered by the Vision, for entrepreneurship, exposure and participation, technology, and innovation, are bringing about lasting change in the community. The skills learned at school are transferable, easing students into the world of tertiary study and work.

The school is mindful of cultural nuances and ensures buy-in from parents and students to





realize the Vision for Excellence in its totality. Parents have expressed their gratitude and satisfaction with the changes, and they have seen in their children, excitement for the possibilities that lie ahead.

One of the most significant impacts of the Vision for Excellence has been on the high school students, who are starting to broaden their horizons with regard to subject and career choices. With access to the latest technology and innovative teaching methods, students are discovering new interests and talents, and many are now considering careers that they had never thought possible before.

The schools' objectives with the Vision for Excellence are still relevant two years down the line. Currently, Get Ahead Schools is in the process of collecting feedback to measure the vision's effectiveness. The Vision provides clarity and direction to the board, staff, and students, and there has been positive buy-in and support from stakeholders.

Funding plays a critical role in the successful implementation of any vision or strategic plan, including the Vision for Excellence. Thanks to funding received from the Leacock Foundation, the school has been able to allocate resources towards key initiatives, such as infrastructure development, research and development, staff training and development, and student support services. This ensures that the necessary resources are available to implement the vision

effectively.

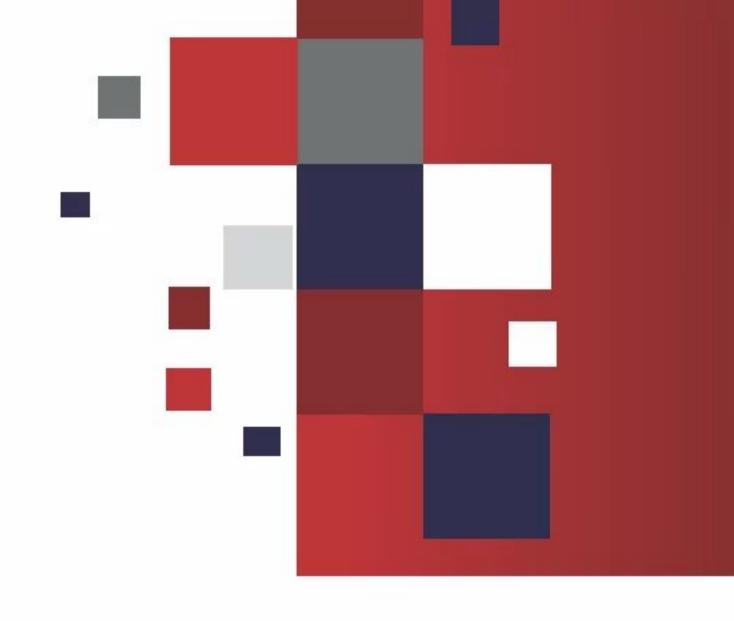
Leacock's partnership has also enabled the school to promote innovation, which is a critical component of achieving excellence. With access to the latest technology and equipment required to support high-quality teaching, learning, and research, the school is now able to offer its students a world-class education.

The program offerings at the Get Ahead Schools come at no additional cost to parents, and the school is transparent in its spending and reporting. While program and resource expenses are within budget, they are not always delivered on time due to factors beyond the schools' control, such as international war, Covid, and loadshedding. However, the school is creative and flexible with the solutions it applies, and it has been able to stretch funds received. The best example of this is the exterior painting of all three schools with the funds received to paint only the College.

In conclusion, the Vision for Excellence 2025 has made a tremendous impact on the Get Ahead Schools. The school has made significant strides towards its mission of making "every child feel worthy and validated" by implementing the Vision's innovation and sustainability objectives. With continued support from stakeholders, the Get Ahead Schools will undoubtedly continue to thrive, preparing students for a rapidly changing world and empowering them with the skills necessary for success.

SPOTLIGHT

Volunteering Builds Confidence





Dwij Joshi is a Grade 11 student at Woburn Collegiate Institute. Born in India, Dwij immigrated to Canada with his mother in the third grade.

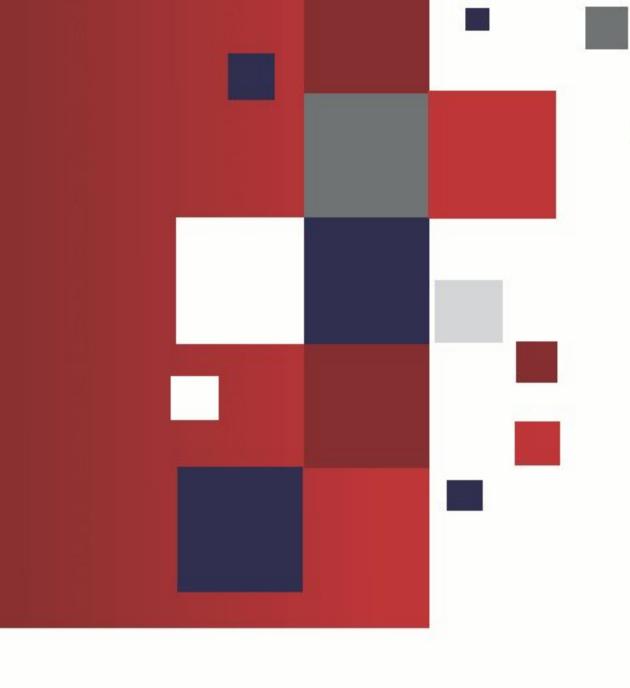
After receiving an email from his guidance counselor, Dwij decided to volunteer for LEAP into Literacy. Although he originally signed up for only the first two weeks of camp, he ended up having such a great time that he volunteered for the whole month. Dwij credits this as his first volunteer experience that has opened many doors since. After LEAP, Dwij went on to volunteer for Saturday Morning Literacy Club. He was looking to fulfill his

volunteer hours, however, after joining, he realized he was gaining much more than that. He credits the Leacock Foundation programs for

improving his communication skills, allowing him to take on a leadership role, and developing his self-confidence.

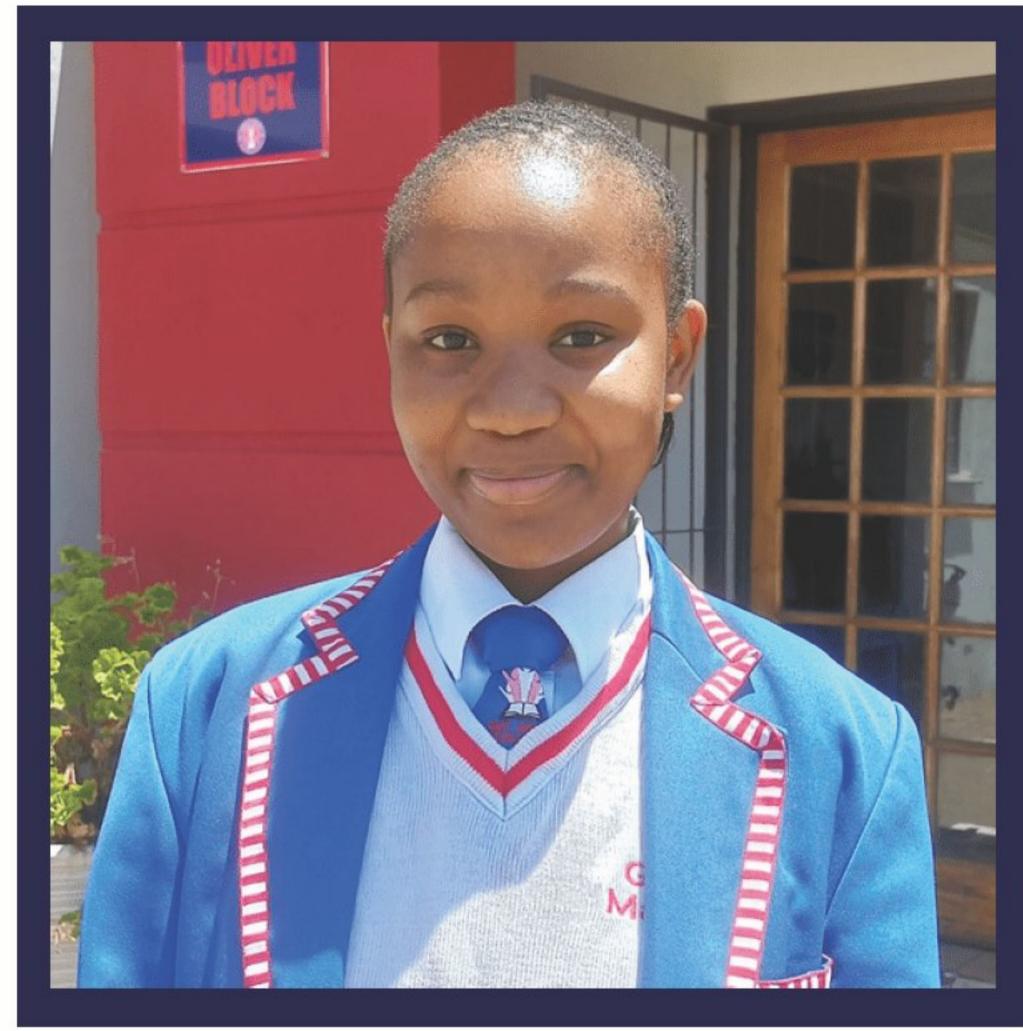
Being new to Canada, Dwij didn't have many opportunities available to him to network or get involved in his local community. Through volunteering with the Leacock Foundation, he had the opportunity to develop leadership and communication skills, especially as an ESL student. He now has the confidence to navigate a professional environment and tackle his school studies with resilience and confidence. The experience that volunteering gave him also assisted him in securing a League Ambassador position at Jam Sports Toronto, North America's largest sports league!

After his initial involvement with the Leacock Foundation, Dwij increased his involvement in his high school's extra curriculars. He is now a Social Media Coordinator, the Student Council Secretary and has applied to be part of the Woburn Athletic Association. Currently, Dwij plans on becoming a software engineer and hopes to attend the University of Toronto after graduation. He is spending his time participating in extra curricular activities and initiatives that will help him gain the experience needed to achieve these goals. Overall, Dwij loved his experience with the Leacock Foundation and credits his time in the summer camp as the beginning of his community involvement, his growth confidence and his personal development.



SPOTLIGHT

Transformative Power of Education



Azafunde Ndelu lives with her mother and brother in an RDP (Reconstruction and Development Program) house in Ezibeleni Township, Queenstown.

Azafunde is a vibrant, values-driven, dedicated student who does not veer from her beliefs and stands firm in her convictions and morals. Behind her outward confidence and accolades, is the story of a young lady who took the initiative and advocated for herself after losing her father and grandmother in a motor vehicle accident in 2018. Azafunde realized in 2019 that she would have to leave Get Ahead College (GAC) due to financial constraints after the passing of her father, the family's sole breadwinner. She took matters into her own hands by composing a heartfelt letter to the school for a scholarship, including supporting documents.

This letter was favourably received by the Leacock Foundation, and she was awarded a platinum (100%) scholarship.

Throughout her journey at GAC, she consistently stood out with her exceptional academic achievements. Azafunde's dedication to her studies and unwavering work ethic propelled her to consistently rank among the top ten students in her grade. Her passion for learning and commitment to excellence earned her well- deserved recognition at the Grade 12 end-of-year prize-giving ceremony, where she received accolades for Accounting, Life Orientation, and Physical Sciences.

She was honoured with the prestigious Positive Well-Being Award, which celebrated her positive attitude and overall sense of well-being. Azafunde advocated strongly for positive emotional well- being among her peers and was vocal in her support for inclusion and acceptance of each person.

Beyond her academic triumphs, Azafunde embraced the role of head prefect during her Grade 12 year in 2022, demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities that inspired her peers. Her respectful and exemplary behaviour garnered the admiration of both teachers and fellow students alike.

Azafunde's vibrant involvement in various extra curricular activities and clubs at GAC showcased her diverse talents and her ability to strike a balance between academics and outside pursuits. She made valuable contributions to the Entrepreneurship Club, Thetha Magazine Club, and the Student Christian Organization, truly engaging herself in these enriching experiences.

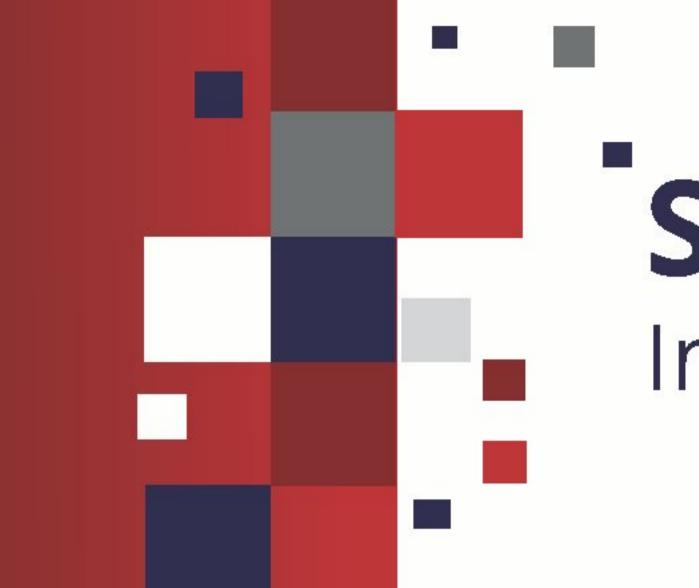
Public Speaking and Debating Clubs became platforms for Azafunde to demonstrate her communication skills and articulate her thoughts with clarity. Competing at a high level, she exuded confidence and persuasive speaking abilities. Her unwavering dedication to honing her oratory skills paid off as she achieved remarkable success in public speaking competitions and provincial debates.

Her ultimate dream is to become the CEO of a prominent company. Azafunde credits Get Ahead College for equipping her with the necessary skills and instilling in her the confidence to excel in public speaking, conduct interviews, conduct thorough research, and communicate effectively. Azafunde cherished the transformative impact of her school, referring to it as her second home.

She attributed her personal growth and the discovery of her talents and potential to the nurturing environment of GAC. Grateful for the unwavering support of her mentors, teachers, and peers, she acknowledged their guidance in overcoming challenges and their role in cultivating values of kindness, care, and Ubuntu ("I am because we are").

Azafunde's journey at Get Ahead College is a testament to the positive outcomes of the scholarship program. Had it not been for the scholarship, Azafunde would have been lost in the dysfunctional, no-fee public school system, forcing a continuation of the poverty cycle. Her remarkable achievements and ambitious aspirations serve as an inspiration to current and future scholarship recipients, illuminating the transformative power of education and support.





SPOTLIGHT

Instilling a Love for Literacy



Thanustalan Prabakaran is a 12-year-old, grade 6 student at Woburn Jr. P.S. Currently living in Scarborough, Thanustalan was born in Sri Lanka and immigrated to Canada with his parents at a young age.

His journey with the Leacock Foundation began when he was 6 years old and his parents registered him in the LEAP into Literacy Summer Camp. The fun and educational summer that Thanustalan enjoyed, encouraged him to maintain his involvement and participate in our Saturday Morning Literacy Club (SMLC) and March Break Math Literacy (MBML) programming the following year. He went on to participate in the online programming for SMLC and MBML during

the 2021-22 school year and came back to inperson learning for LEAP 2022. Thanustalan's favorite Leacock memories were the engaging activities teachers utilized to encourage learning, such as creating Lego people, science experiments, instrument and dance sessions. During online instruction, he enjoyed developing his financial literacy and math skills.

He credits his time at SMLC for assisting in his language and media literacy development. Thanustalan now loves reading and writing, furthered by him receiving multiple free books through SMLC and LEAP.

During the March Break programming, he enjoyed learning about money and sales tax to gain a better understanding of how the world runs. The group projects helped improve his literacy further and he felt completely supported by his teachers, volunteers, and fellow students. The impact the Leacock Foundation programs have had on Thanustalan's learning has led him to recommend the SMLC and MBML programs to his friends who feel they need support in language, reading, writing, and mathematics.

Thanustalan hopes to participate in the future to continue his involvement with the Leacock Foundation and develop his leadership skills. Later down the road, Thanustalan also hopes to become a Leacock volunteer and leader within his community. Thanustalan's growing interest in technology has inspired him to dream of a future as a software engineer.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT

Empowering Toronto's Youth





For the past two years, we had the honour to receive funding from Kiwanis Club of Toronto for Take the LEAD - A Community Action Club. In 2022, we were awarded the Community Impact Award.

Take the LEAD (TTL) is a leadership program for middle year students from four historically marginalized and racialized communities in Toronto (St. James Town, Jane-Driftwood, Scarborough, and Thorncliffe Park). TTL's mandate is to inspire youth to see community challenges as opportunities to make a difference. Our ultimate goal is for students to continue to develop their advocacy skills by building on program achievements and consequently making a lasting difference in their communities.

Ian Kerr, Kiwanis Club of Toronto Foundation Board of Directors, learnt about the Leacock Foundation's Take the LEAD program through his involvement with Kiwanis volunteer initiatives. Ian is a part of the Kiwanis Club of Toronto, and it is through his participation in volunteer initiatives with the club that he learnt about the Leacock Foundation's Take the LEAD program. Ian is also on Kiwanis' passionate about the international work Kiwanis does to improve the lives of youth around the world, not just financially but through boots on the ground. His involvement with the club began as a tribute to his mother. She inspired him to get involved and continue to give back to the community.

His motivation to join Take the LEAD came after he saw videos of the student participants in Ottawa. This demonstrated what he calls

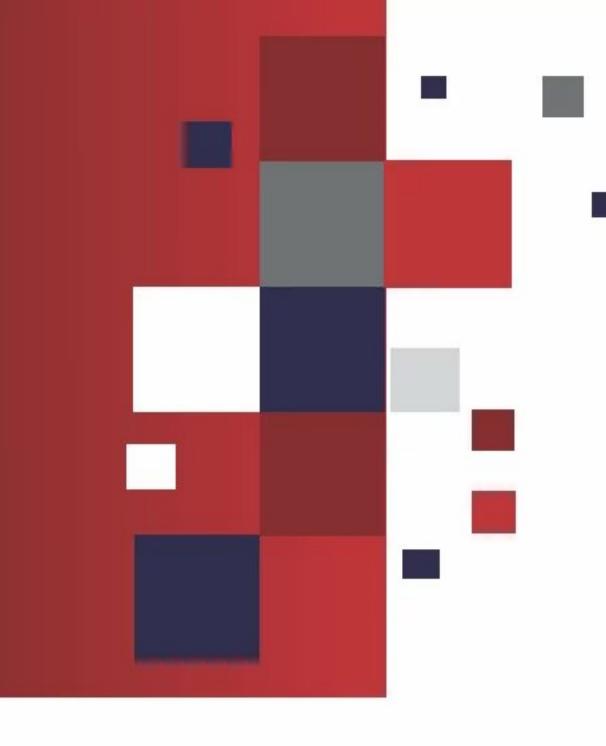
'volunteering in action', which he jumped at the chance to become involved in and mentor the student's further growth. Ian's history of growing up around our partnered schools created a personal connection to the community. He acknowledges the importance of volunteering in these communities as they include higher-risk youth and has a goal of creating a low risk environment for them. By becoming a Take the LEAD mentor, he was able to have an impact in the community which will provide dividends for many years to come. As lan stated, "a better educated youth is a better future for our community. Youth is our future."

Ian's biggest take-away from his involvement in the Take the LEAD program was his realization of the need to mentor our youth instead of taking an easy route. He saw how Take the LEAD makes a difference on a forward basis and encourages youth to be involved and leaders in their communities. He described the program as teaching "valuable skills such as public speaking, leadership and teamwork, that will benefit kids in their future."

The impact of his participation in the Leacock Foundation's program was

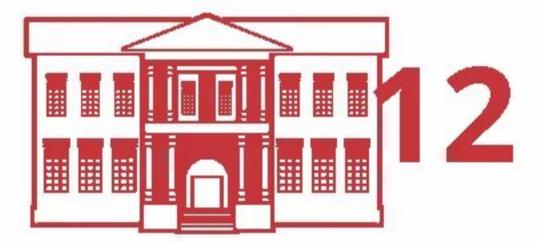
spiritual, in that he realized just how great the need is to volunteer in the most basic ways to improve the lives of our children.





IMPACT OF PROGRAMS

Toronto January to December 2022



local partner schools impacted



8 leadership programs offered



340
hours of learning across all programs



individual children participated across all programs



42/3
collective
volunteer hours
from local youth

82%

participant retention rate across all programs 85%

attendance rate across all programs 72%

of participants improved their self-esteem 78%

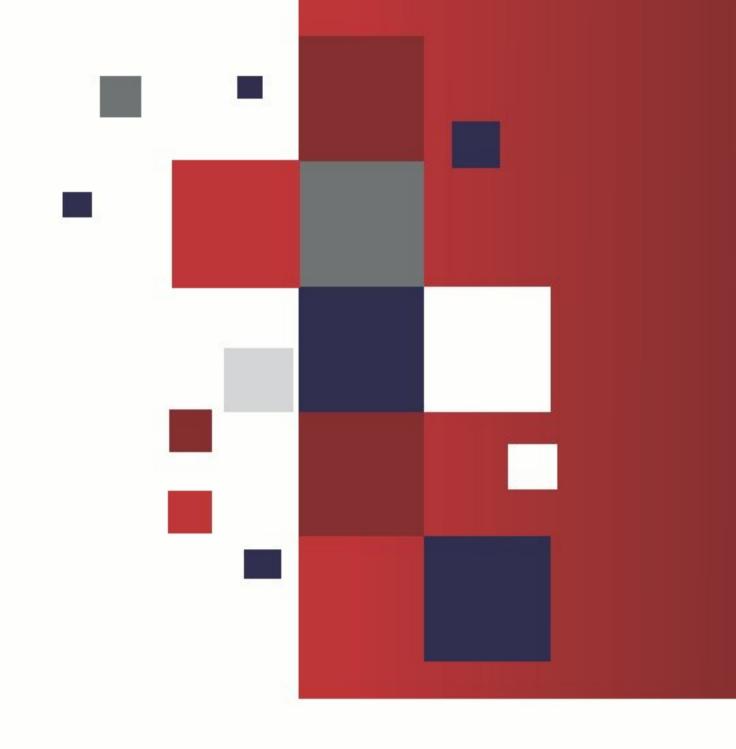
of participants improved in literacy and math literacy 78%

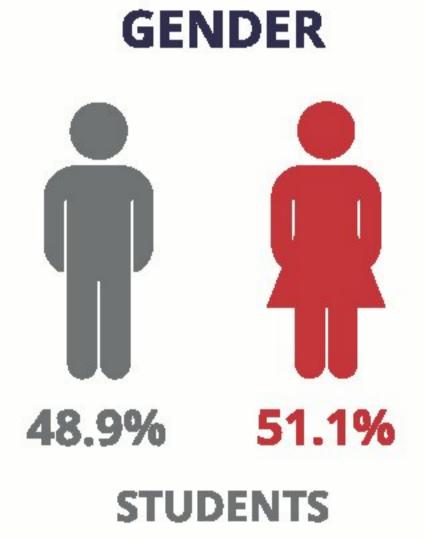
of participants increased their self-confidence

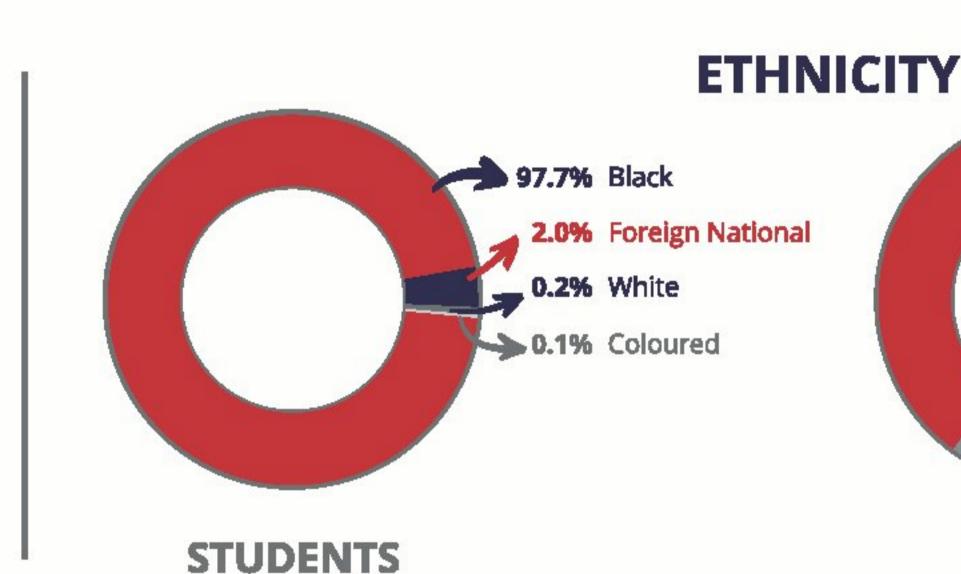


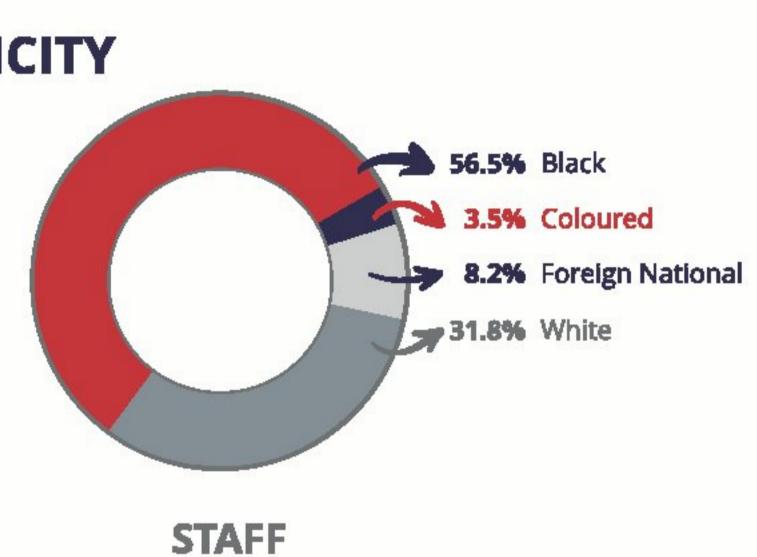
IMPACT OF FUNDING

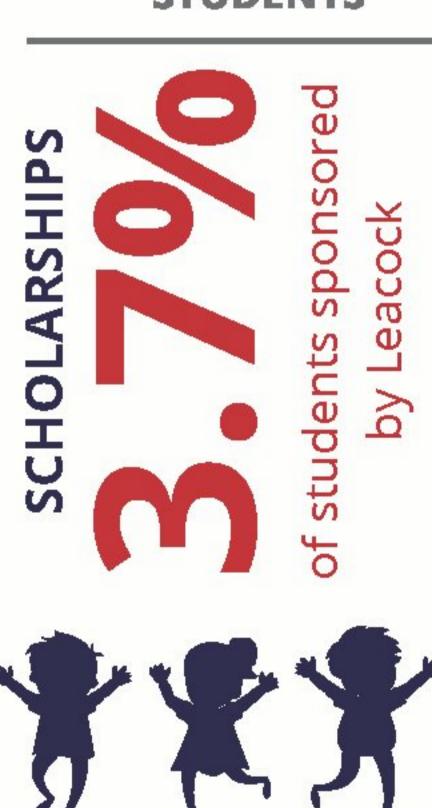
Get Ahead Schools January to December 2022













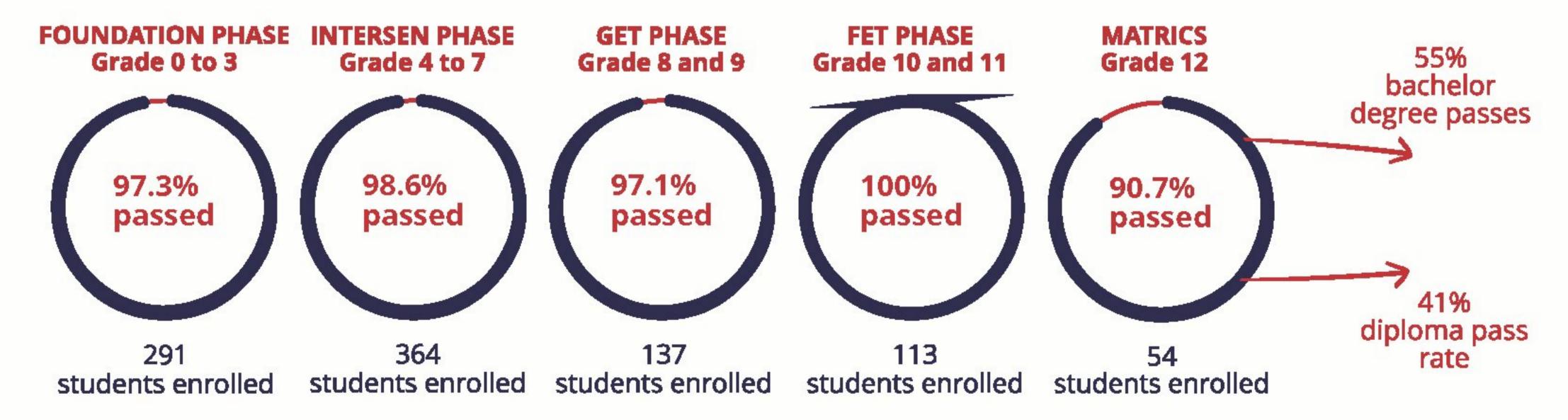
70 36 39
Chromebooks Computer Lab Staff laptops

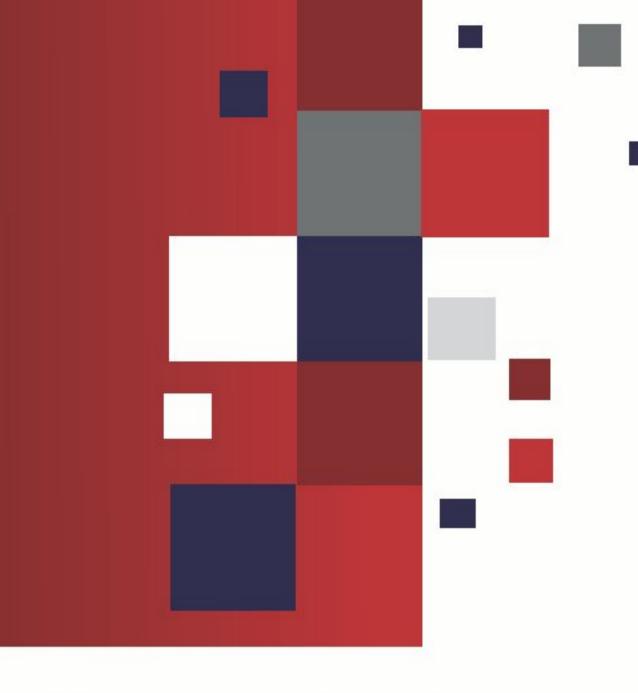
SOLAR POWER

national hours of loadshedding (rolling blackouts)

teaching time lost during loadshedding due to solar power system

PASS RATES





NEW TO THE BOARD

Kim Rainford and Patrick O'Driscoll

We welcomed two longtime supporters and friends of the Leacock Foundation to the Board of Directors.



Kim Rainford is a retired TDSB Elementary School Principal, currently employed occasionally with TDSB as "Principal Special Projects, Retired Elementary". She has a wealth of experience as an educator for 31 years,

which includes classroom teacher, Vice Principal and Principal in TDSB-Model Schools for Inner Cities (MSIC). She led Woburn Jr. P.S., one of our partner schools.

Kim is a long-time Scarborough resident and since the 1970's, educated and worked in Scarborough schools. She has degrees from York University and a Master of Education degree from OISE-University of Toronto, where she specialized in Cultural Studies and Critical Pedagogy. She is pleased to continue to support TDSB and the Leacock Foundation working with students and families in MSIC schools and communities.

"I am inspired to volunteer for the Leacock Foundation's Board of Directors as a means to contribute to the present circumstances and future aspirations of children and youth in Toronto and South Africa. Equity of access and opportunity are made available to all youth to fulfil and maximize their potential to change the trajectory of outcomes for individual children, their families and future generations! We support personal and social growth via educational and experiential programs, thanks to the Leacock Foundation donors and staff. I am grateful to have an opportunity to serve this exceptional initiative."

-Kim Rainford

Patrick O'Driscoll is the former President and CEO of Corby Spirit and Wine Ltd., a Canadian public company listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange. Patrick developed his early career in the fields of marketing and international brand development while the last fourteen years have been spent as a CEO. His experience spans a range of international markets, working directly in the UK, USA and Canada, building famous brands in Europe, Asia and Latin America. Most recently, as CEO of Corby, Patrick concurrently served as President of Hiram Walker and Sons Ltd. Patrick has led several successful M&A projects including the purchase of the Ungava Spirits Company and The Foreign Affair Winery as well as disposals of non-core assets. Patrick served as the Chair of Spirits Canada, the Canadian spirits trade association, for six years allowing him to be extremely well versed in trade and governmental issues pertaining to his industry. During Patrick's 11 year tenure with Corby, the company was a consistent and enthusiastic supporter of the Leacock Foundation. Currently, Patrick plays an instrumental role in the strategic direction of the Leacock Foundation.

"I have always been a firm believer that education lies at the heart of a functioning society. The important education programs that the Leacock

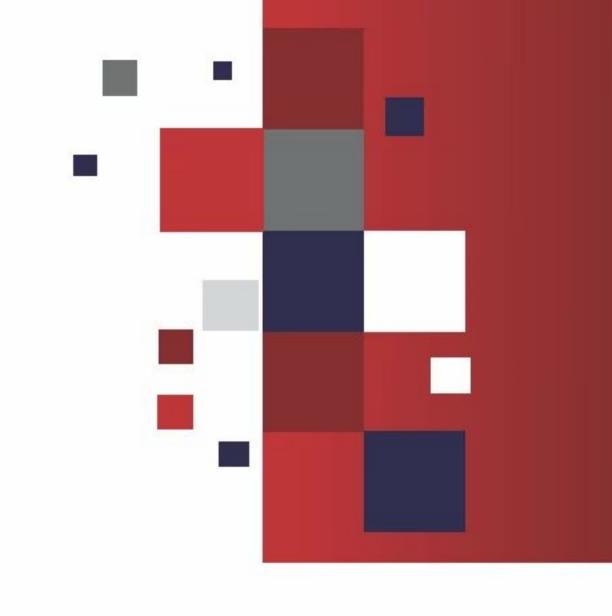
Foundation provides to under-served communities allows many children to reach a potential that might be out of reach without assistance. It is inspiring to see!"

- Patrick O'Driscoll



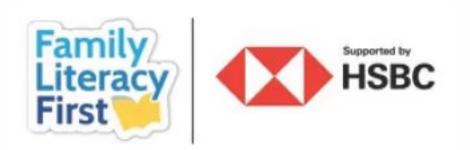
OUR THANKS

To Our Donors











Jackson Family Fund

(a fund held within the Oakville Community Foundation)









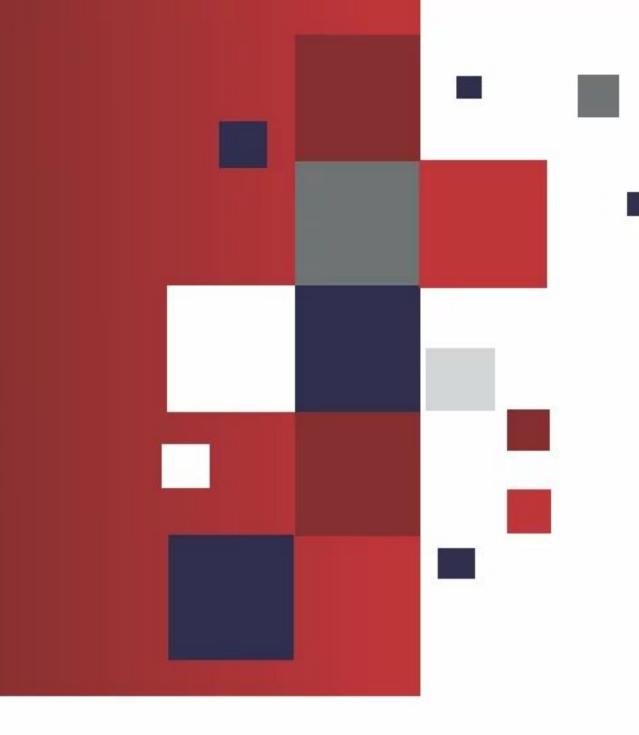












OUR THANKS

To Our Community of Supporters

















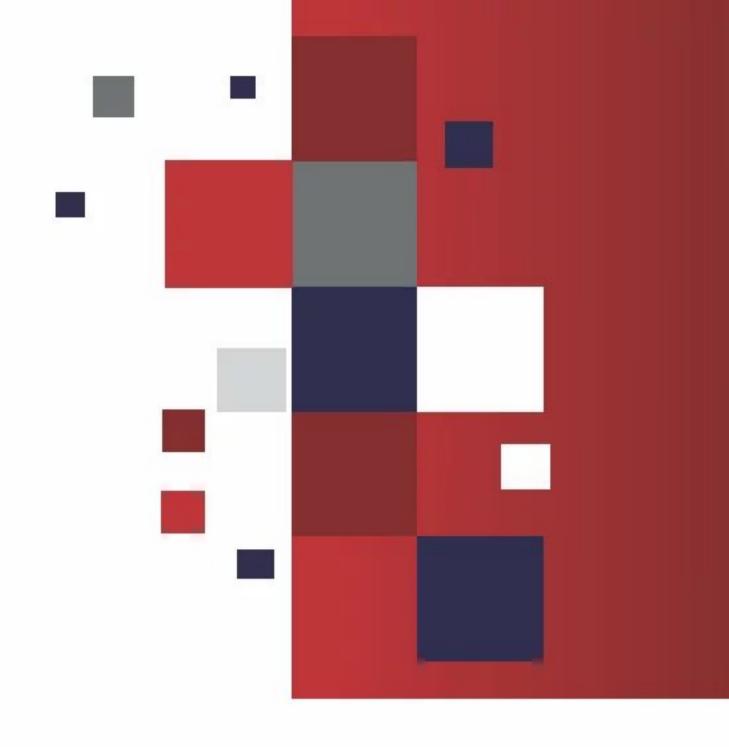








FINANCIAL REPORT



REVENUE:	
General Donations	\$183,477
Toronto Program Donations	\$387,014
Get Ahead Schools Donations	\$334,240
Fundraising Activities and Special Events	\$306,691
Total Revenue:	\$1,211,422
EXPENSES:	
Toronto Program Support	\$449,432
Get Ahead Schools Program Support	\$417,746
General Administration	\$177,171
Fundraising and Events	\$198,981
Total Expenses:	\$1,243,330





MAKE A GIFT

On average, it costs the Leacock Foundation \$358 to enroll each student in our Toronto programs. Some programs run weekly throughout the year, while others are offered for one week over a school holiday. In South Africa, an annual scholarship ranges from \$1,500-\$2,000 CAD per student. Donations of all sizes are welcomed and contribute to making the Leacock Foundation programs possible. Gifts over \$1,000 can be directed to a specific program or project in either Toronto or South Africa at your request.

The cost for Toronto based programs per child are as follows:











MAKE A MONTHLY OR MULTI-YEAR GIFT

Scheduled gifts help us support our programs year-round, plan for the future and allows for long-term sustainability for the Leacock Foundation. These gifts can be set up online through our website or through contacting our office. Donor recognition opportunities are available for scheduled donors.

MAKE A GIFT IN HONOUR/MEMORY

A gift to the Leacock Foundation is a meaningful way to acknowledge someone special. We can assist you in creating an online giving page to ask your community to give in honour of your special occasion. Tribute cards may be sent by mail or email at your request.

MAKE A LEGACY GIFT

Your commitment today can continue making an impact for generations to come. Through estate planning and a gift in your will, your donation can help us plan for the future. Contact our office for more information on leaving a gift bequest.

Your support will have a lasting impact on a child's future through an enriched literacy and leadership journey. We welcome the opportunity to assist you in finding the gift opportunity that best suits your wishes.

The cost for South African based scholarship program per child is as follows:



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mark Damelin
TREASURER:
Juanita Portela

DIRECTORS: Wendy Dobson Kristine Gaston Judy MacLellan Dan McAlister
Patrick O'Driscoll
Joanne Pickard
Timothy Price

Kim Rainford Chad Royer Joe Sheehan Karrie Weinstock

GET IN TOUCH

leacock fdn

f the Leacock Foundation

in the Leacock Foundation

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Charitable # 890004541RR0001