



Canada's only co-educational day and boarding school for students with a diagnosed learning difference.



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Since my arrival in August, I have witnessed strong community through the generosity of donors who are deeply committed to supporting the Student Bursary Program. I have seen an amazing group of educators dedicate their energy to making a difference – every single day – to every child. There is a strong sense of belonging created by staff working collaboratively with families towards a common purpose: namely, the growth and empowerment of children to unleash their true potential.

Landmark East is not a hard sell – it is a very compelling human story. It is a school that makes a significant difference in the lives of those that attend. And quite frankly, it makes a difference in the lives of all constituents who participate in one way or another in the school – including (and certainly not limited to) the volunteer board members.

Over the past five months Landmark East School has launched a new, fresh website design (www.landmarkeast.org) and two promotional videos. One video is a summary of the mission and purpose of the school, and the second, a series of student testimonials that exemplify the power of a Landmark East education (these videos can be seen on both the website and Facebook). I invite you to watch and share these videos! We have improved our social media presence through Linked In, Facebook and Instagram (be sure to follow us!). This year also saw a new Parent Association whose first event was an incredibly successful Christmas Craft Fair. We are also making renewed effort to reconnect with our alumni - catch up and continue building meaningful relationships.

I am delighted to be a part of this authentic, engaging human story. I am genuinely connected to the school's mission and committed to the ongoing effort to make a difference. There are many ways that we can contribute and make a difference, be it as a volunteer on the Board of Directors and/or Parent Association; or even a financial commitment to the Student Bursary Fund (which supported 23 families this year). Should you wish, donation methods are located at the end of the newsletter - every dollar makes a difference!

Wishing you a happy and safe holiday!

Karen Fougere
Head of School

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CELEBRATING SUCCESS - ALUMNI UPDATE - Thomas Paul

I was born in London, UK. My Dad is British and Mom is Canadian. We (parents and two brothers) have lived in Nova Scotia since 1998. I was diagnosed with a learning difference while living in England. My parents wanted to immigrate to Canada, and Landmark East School was a reason we looked at Wolfville. I had been in support classes in England that had little impact on me, other than isolation. I was taken out of the general classes a few times a week which kept me away from my classmates. We had also tried tutoring with little success. In 1998, at age 10, I had the reading level of a kindergartner. By the end of my first year at Landmark East School, I was back on par with my age.

Landmark East School teaches many things, but the most valuable is learning to learn. Landmark East School was able to decode my way of processing information. For years I had developed coping mechanisms to get by, but when I finally learned to learn, I could not get enough.

I became a sponge for information. The techniques and skills I learned at Landmark East School made post secondary easy, processing information and learning new things are no longer challenging.

I attended Landmark East School from 1998 to 2006 (grades 5-12). I graduated as Valedictorian and was awarded the Queen Elizabeth medal for excellence in education. In grade 11, I got my private pilot license from Moncton Flight College as part of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets. I returned to Moncton Flight College and graduated Valedictorian in 2006 with a Commercial Pilot Licence, Instructor Rating and Diploma in Aviation Technology. I instructed flight students until 2011 when I joined Provincial Airlines, then Porter, and currently I am a pilot with WestJet.

I continued to volunteer for Landmark East School after graduation. A few years ago I was asked to serve on the Landmark East Foundation. The Foundation's primary role is to administer the funds raised for student bursaries. We soundly manage the funds we have and fairly

disperse bursaries to students with financial needs. In addition to serving on the Foundation Board, I am a member of the Bursary Selection Committee. I continue to volunteer when I am able at the school during events.

No brochure, website or video will ever be able to explain how important Landmark East is for students with learning differences. The best way to understand it is to visit the school, meet the students and staff, see the class structures, student life, and the hands-on workshops. I highly recommend that you come see Landmark East School in action. Please like us on Facebook and visit our website at www.landmarkeast.org to learn more.

Sincerely,
Thomas Paul

“ At age 10 I had the reading level of a kindergartner. By the end of my first year at Landmark East School I was back on par with my age. Landmark East School teaches many things, but the most valuable is learning to learn.



CONGRATULATIONS 2019 GRADUATES



Back: Hunter Payzant (NS), Mathieu Ouellette (NS), Timo Mitsiopoulos (NS), Tyler Gallant (NL)
Front: Laura Birrell (NWT), Trinity Turmel (NS), Emilie Tabet (Dubai)

On June 21st, Landmark East School celebrated its 40th Anniversary. The graduation ceremony is a wonderful opportunity for our entire school community to celebrate the achievements and successes of our students. The Class of 2019 Graduates are both dynamic and diverse. Some of them have entered into post-secondary studies, others directly into the workforce. We wish each one of them all the best and look forward to hearing about their future endeavours.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On August 17-21st, ten Landmark East teachers participated in an intensive 5-day course learning the Orton-Gillingham program. The OG program approaches reading and writing in a logical, methodical way so struggling students have the tools to master the English language. This program was designed specifically for students with dyslexia and provides a multi-sensory approach to learning that will benefit all Landmark East students. This training gave teachers the strategies for applying the principles of the OG approach and qualification to modify programming explicit to literacy instruction. Students with dyslexia need more help than most people in sorting, recognizing, and organizing the raw materials of language for thinking and use. Language elements that non-dyslexic learners acquire easily must be taught directly and systematically.

<https://www.ortonacademy.org/>

At Landmark East School teachers strive to provide the best programming for each student which is accomplished by giving every student the opportunity to learn through individualized teaching, using innovative techniques. The teachers were very excited to have the opportunity to participate in this professional development experience. "As a team of educators, we are better able to support our students and work collaboratively to ensure the greatest success for our students." "It feels like we have reconnected with our purpose."

Landmark East School would like to extend an appreciative THANKS to the Rotary Club of New Minas Sunrise for their matching grant and making this opportunity possible.



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STAFF PROFILE - Shannon Callaghan



Shannon Callaghan was born in Etobicoke, Ontario and was always interested in the well being of people. As a young girl, her career choices included being a nurse, veterinarian, teacher, and truck driver. The one common constant throughout her childhood was being a teacher and no surprise - it is her calling.

Shannon notes several influential people in her life – her mom in particular. Her mom inspired her in many ways, including musically. Shannon smiles as she recalls the memory of coming home from school and singing ABBA and Queen facing the picture window in her living room imagining the neighbours as her audience. Currently, Shannon is working on Grade 5 RCM in saxophone, while composing and arranging musical pieces.

“ Landmark East School is a very supportive environment and feels like family.

In 1992 she found herself at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College where she received her B.Sc. in Animal Science. She completed her B.Ed. at Acadia University and has been teaching at Landmark East School since 2000. She enjoys the independent school system because the smaller class sizes allow her to reach every student and she is able to form collaborative relationships with the parents. "Landmark East School is a very supportive environment and feels like family."

Shannon is the type of person who enjoys the opportunity to give back. So it is not surprising that she is deeply involved in the school community. From being the Chair of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee, to coaching track and field, to organizing the grad activities, to being a Success Facilitator. And this is only the tip of the iceberg!

Shannon is able to see challenges as an opportunity for growth: good things come from bad things. She uses her experiences as learning springboards, drawing on them as she helps students negotiate their own challenges. Her mom and her Grade 3 teacher taught Shannon the importance of self-advocacy – and that not every child learns the same way.

Shannon appreciatively says that she would not be the teacher she is today if not for the mentorship she has had from her peers throughout the years. Full circle, she provides mentorship to the students at Landmark East School and, in some special way, each child becomes a success story.

STUDENT BURSARY FUNDRAISING UPDATE



Landmark East Foundation raises nearly \$300,000 a year for the Student Bursary Fund. This year alone, 23 student bursaries were awarded to families with financial need. The generosity of Landmark East donors contributes to the available funds, which in turn helps students with learning differences attend Landmark East School.

With a small student: teacher ratio, the cost of this exceptional education is not necessarily within the reach of all families whose child(ren) would benefit from the opportunity. The Student Bursary Fund provided through Landmark East Foundation – makes it possible. The Foundation organizes events throughout the year including, but not limited to, the Annual Walkathon, Golf Tournament, and Annual Appeal.

Raising \$300,000 dollars a year is no small feat and every dollar matters! If you would like to support our bursary program, the donation methods are located at the end of the newsletter.

TO DONATE, refer to the last page of this newsletter, where various methods for donations are located - every dollar makes a difference!

ANNUAL WALKATHON

A BIG THANKS to all supporters of our ANNUAL WALKATHON. IT WAS A VERY SUCCESSFUL EVENT!

The Landmark East Annual Walkathon brings everyone in the Landmark East community together to raise money for the Student Bursary Fund. Supporters walked the route through the town of Wolfville. This year's event featured a number of new games and activities that helped Landmark East Foundation reach its fundraising goal. The top 3 student canvassers were rewarded for their school spirit and dedication to their community.

Our fundraiser winners this year were Emma White, Bella Blondon, and Breanna Mailman; our top Board member Janet Savage, former Landmark East Association Chair, raised over \$5,000 toward this year's walkathon.



We would like to take this opportunity to THANK our sponsors: Sobeys, Staples, Giant Tiger, Agro-Pur and Pita Pit.



We would also like to thank the Scotiabank in New Minas, who donated \$3000 to the Student Bursary Fund.

Left to right: Kaylah Baker (student), Karen Fougere (Head of School), Colin Groves (Branch Manager), Melyssa Meisner (bank employee), Mandy Flynn (School Advancement Officer) and Hudson Hancock (student).



Congratulations to Axel Nafthal, Brenda Upton, Kody Blois and Greg Coldwell on winning this year's tournament.

Landmark East Foundation celebrated the 10th Annual Charity Golf Classic on June 18th at Avon Valley Golf and Country Club. Over 40 businesses, organizations and service clubs contributed to the tournament either as a sponsor or in-kind gifts including refreshments and prizes.

The event drew 90 players and raised \$30,000 for the Landmark East Student Bursary Fund. Thank you to the sponsors and participants that made this year's tournament a huge success. We look forward to seeing you again on June 5th 2020.

Special Bursary Donation - Persons with Disabilities Committee

In August, Mandy Flynn (Landmark East School's Advancement Officer) attended a meeting with the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Committee on behalf of two Landmark East families who required extra funds to be able to attend Landmark East.

Mandy was interviewed by the PWD panel and shared our success stories with them as evidence of the effectiveness of a Landmark East Education. Mandy was on cloud nine when the Committee Chair called to let her know that two funding grants had been approved.



Carl Kent (Chair PWD Committee), Jeff Kelly (PWD Committee), Ms. Pothier (Grade 2 Teacher) and Ms. Fougere (Head of School)

STUDENT LIFE - AFTER SCHOOL and BOARDING

After School Programs

Landmark East offers exceptional after-school and weekend programming. These experiences are designed to engage our students and provide the opportunity for them to make connections outside the classroom. As well, students develop skills in building social relationships, risk taking, resilience, sportsmanship, performance arts, music, communication, tolerance and other important life skills. All of the activities are led by staff and are scheduled at specific times each week. These include, but are not limited to, supervised weight training, cardio and recreational sport activities on the play pad. These programs are a wonderful learning opportunity and all students are encouraged to get involved!



Weekend Boarding Programs

At Landmark East School the emphasis on the weekend experience is both recreation and leisure. The Student Life Team creates innovative programming that engages students during their leisure time. Weekend activities allow students to stay active, connect with nature, use their imaginations, and be immersed in local culture while building life skills and learning outside a traditional setting. Every weekend, boarding students are given the opportunity to participate in various activities including but not limited to physical activity, arts, culture and outdoor recreation.

The inclusive and diverse activities provide opportunities for students to go outside their comfort zone and try new things while having fun. The activities are designed to provide students with the opportunity to create meaningful connections with their peers that fosters lifelong friendships and enhance personal growth and independence.



Thank you for supporting our school. Our students, faculty and staff are appreciative.

Here are a few quotes from our students proudly expressing how Landmark East School has transformed their lives - through small class sizes and individualized programming.

“ Landmark East School has helped me build my confidence in myself and my work.



“ I never really spoke much before coming to Landmark East School but now you can't stop me!

“ Landmark East School has taught me not to be ashamed of myself and has given me confidence.

“ I feel like I can read, write and do math better.

Your donation helps support our Student Bursary Fund

4 Easy Ways to Donate



Cheque payable and send to: Landmark East Foundation 708 Main Street Wolfville, NS, B4P 1G4



Email: donations@LandmarkEast.org



Call 902.542.2237 Ext 227 We would be pleased to take credit card information over the phone.



Go online to: www.canadahelps.org and donate to Landmark East Foundation.

Landmark East Foundation Charitable Registration Number: 81413 8475 RR0001

www.LandmarkEast.org

Landmark East School is an inspired day and boarding school that empowers students with learning differences to realize their full potential. Through innovation, engagement and compassion we achieve excellence.