Fielding Focus

THE MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE EMSB

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JFK IS BACK IN BUSINESS



The John F. Kennedy High School and Business Centre (JFKBC) facility in St. Michel reopened on May 15, almost one year after it was closed due to the discovery of asbestos. High school students had been housed at Rosemount High School while JFKBC operations shifted to the Rosemount Technology Centre Curtis George Campus in Montreal North and the Shadd Business Centre in N.D.G. While their registration office resumed operations in St. Michel. a return to classes for the adults at the facility is slated for August. More than \$2.8 million was spent on expenditures for the building. One year ago, traces of asbestos were found in two ventilation rooms in the facility. Following the EMSB's asbestos protocol, a firm which deals with the analysis and removal of this material was called in and it was removed. Air quality testing following a removal of asbestos is usual and was done and the entire facility was deemed safe following some initial tests that required some ducts to be cleaned again. While this entire process took much longer than expected, the EMSB took the most prudent approach possible. On May 29 the EMSB Council of Commissioners held their monthly meeting at the building as a sign of solidarity. Please see this uplifting video of the rally.

EMSB IN THE MEDIA

The EMSB would like to point readers to the media clippings section of our website where we provide links to newspaper articles about our Board or relevant to the local education system. You can click here to access all of the links.

EMSB TV AND RADIO GUIDE

The EMSB posts links to television and radio reports, as well as videos produced in-house on our website. We now enhanced our dedicated sections for EMSB TV, hosted by Vimeo. We now have sections for EMSB TV Coverage, EMSB Videos and NousSommesBilingues. In order to access EMSB Radio click here. Recently added are videos on EMSB Volunteer Appreciation Evening and the French for the Future Conference.

EMSB IMPACT NIGHT

The traditional EMSB Night at Saputo Stadium attracted more than 2,635 students, staff and their families for a May 1 game which saw the hometown Montreal Impact blank Toronto FC 6-0 on a warm and gorgeous



evening. In 2012, 1,540 tickets were sold. This was a semi-final match for the Canadian Amway Championship, which involves the four top professional clubs in Canada, in the race to qualify for the CONCACAF Champions League. That is an international competition between professional clubs from North America, Central America and the Caribbean. During half-time, the EMSB's presence was recognized and two students were presented with \$500 Tony Licursi Bursaries from Matt Jordan (left), Director of Soccer Operations and former all-star goalie for the Impact. He is also the parent of two EMSB students who attend Honoré Mercier Elementary School in St. Léonard. See our video of the event. The award recognizes excellence in school and sports, preferably soccer. This year's winners were Grade 6 student Helen Suzao from Westmount

Park Elementary School and Grade 11 student **Vittorio Dryden** from John F. Kennedy High School in St. Michel. <u>Please see the full press release.</u>

CHEERLEADING CHAMP

Lester B. Pearson High School in Montreal North is proud to announce that its cheerleading team competed in their first competition recently and came in first place. At the annual Cheer Up competition, the LBP

cheerleaders demonstrated exceptional school spirit and inspiring athleticism. The team's victory is the mark of hard work and dedication by the athletes, coaches and staff members, says teacher **Amanda Jarrell**.



LESTER B. PEARSON AT HOCKEY EVENT

Lester B. Pearson High School in Montreal North, the home of one of only two Sports-Études programs in the English public sector, entered a team in the second annual Street Hockey de Rue tournament outside the YM-YWHA Ben Weider JCC in the Snowdon area on long Victoria Day weekend. Funds raised from this event are directed towards the Y and the Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation (MCCF). While the team lost two of its three games, school officials say it was an excellent experience and they cannot wait to return next year.



CAR WASH A SUCCESS



Approximately 30 students from LBPHS' Student Council braved cold and rainy conditions in order to cap off this year's fundraising campaigns for two of our charities; The Montreal Children's Hospital and Free the Children. Despite less than favorable weather, we were able to raise approximately 600\$ at the Canadian Tire on Maurice Duplessis who were very generous in hosting us for the second time this year. Not only were we able to raise much need funds, we also raised awareness to our causes and had fun doing it.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

The Mental Health Resource Centre (MHRC) of the EMSB Student Services Department held a successful Mental Health Awareness Week from May 6 to 10. It began with a workshop presented by Dr. **Regalena Melrose**, a California based clinical and school psychologist and internationally known speaker who addressed staff from Leonardo Da Vinci Academy in RDP and Parkdale Elementary School in St. Laurent at the Costa del Mare Reception Hall in Montreal North. This was part of an ongoing series of presentations organized by the MHRC.

There were a number of events at the EMSB, which included the launch of the MHRC website and pamphlet. Bringing mental health to the forefront was the purpose of the one-day event held in the atrium of the administration building. Various in-house and community organizations were invited to set up booths to share information on different aspects of mental health. Mental health begins with physical health; therefore an EMSB dietician shared information with respect to healthy eating habits. A massotherapist and athletic therapist from Action Sport Physio gave relaxing massages for free and provided one-on-one information and tips on maintaining a strong, healthy body. Providing information on mental health services were representatives from the MHRC, AMI-Quebec, CSSS-Cavendish, and the Employee Assistance Program offered by Shepell-fgi. Mini anti-stress kits were distributed as well mental health quizzes and fact sheets on how to maintain one's mental health. The event came to a close with a drawing for seven prizes. Emails were sent out with mental health tips for youth to all of the EMSB schools. Relationships with community organizations were strengthened with the

event, but most importantly, people were speaking about mental health and brought mental health issues out in the open. Such initiatives help de-stigmatize mental health issues and break down barriers that keep people from seeking the support they need. In helping adults, especially parents, strengthen their mental health status, children will benefit from the "trickle-down effect," ultimately creating a mentally healthy community in general.

CORONATION VERNISSAGE

Coronation Elementary School in Côte-des-Neiges held a vernissage recently, showcasing the art masterpieces created by its students. The vernissage was held during a portfolio evening and was open to all parents, allowing them to admire both their child's work and that of the rest of the school. The art was hung in the school's gym and included works from all levels, Pre-K to Cycle 3. The turnout was amazing! All in all, the vernissage was a huge success and an event Coronation is thinking about doing on an annual basis.

STUDENTS VISIT APPLE STORE

On April 18, the Grade 5 class of Coronation Elementary School in Côte des Neiges visited the Apple Store at the Fairview Shopping Centre in Pointe Claire for a wonderful and memorable experience. The students learned how to make a short movie trailer using iMovie on an iPad. They were able to circulate through the store with the iPads, filming and editing their work. To top it all off,



each student received a t-shirt, USB key and a certificate! We are already looking forward to going back next year.

LAURENHILL AND BIALIK ON PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING

Students from LaurenHill Academy in St. Laurent and Bialik High School in Côte Saint-Luc have joined forces to



promote peace and understanding, and to create artwork that highlights their efforts. A group comprised of students from the private Jewish high school in Côte Saint-Luc and Muslim students from the highly-rated public high school in Saint-Laurent have been working together on a ground-breaking project to foster friendship and to better understand how much they have in common as Montreal teenagers. The Jewish Muslim Inter-Cultural Dialogue (JMID), is funded in part by The Avriel Butovsky Z''L Memorial Fund. As part of this initiative, the students have been working together on art projects that reflect the spirit of JMID: unity, understanding, breaking down stereotypes, and ultimately, friendship. JMID is student-driven, under the guidance of

Bialik Yiddish teacher **Samantha Druzin** and LaurenHill Academy (LHA) teacher **Stacey Kaufman**. A vernissage showcasing the group and their work was held on May 27 at Côte Saint-Luc City Hall. <u>Please see the full press release</u>.

LHA STUDENTS WIN LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AWARDS

Two LHA students were the recipients of the Lieutenant Governor's Youth Medal. **Eliz Tanir** and **Micah Watts** (pictured below) attended a ceremony at Laval Liberty High school, and were awarded the medals by The Honorable Pierre Duchesne, Lieutenant Governor of Quebec. The medal is given to those who maintain their

grades, serve their school community, and help out in projects outside of their school as well. Tanir has been involved with students' council since Grade 7, organizes school events, plays on many sports teams (football, indoor and outdoor soccer, badminto) and a part of the LHA-Bialik JMID project (Jewish-Muslim Intercultural Dialogue). Watts huge part in the birth of LHA Radio: The Voice, where he co-hosts a bilingual radio show (The Anglais-French with **Jonathan Garceau**). He plays on most sports teams, and participated in the HOPS program at the Jewish General Hospital.

RED CROSS BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAM

Working alongside the Canadian Red Cross, the EMSB has become the first school board in Quebec to fully implement Beyond the Hurt, a bullying prevention program. In total, six EMSB high schools: James Lyng



in Ville Emard; LaurenHill Academy in St. Laurent; Marymount Academy and Royal Vale High School in N.D.G., Vincent Massey Collegiate in Rosemount and Westmount High School are implementing the program. Training sessions were held in March. An awards ceremony was held at Royal Vale on May 29, with kids being treated to pizza generously donated by Dominos. The goal of Beyond the Hurt is to create a safe environment for youth by providing effective bullying prevention education and customized support through presentations and structured educational activities. The program is directly in line with Bill 56, Quebec's recently enacted legislation to prevent and stop bullying in schools, as it effectively provides a means of involving youth in bullying prevention. EMSB Violence Prevention Consultant Daphna Leibovici initiated contact with the Canadian Red Cross to explore the possibility of importing this program to Quebec after its successful implementation throughout Canada. To date, the

violence prevention wing of the Canadian Red Cross, RespectED, has educated more than five million Canadian children. Please see the full press release.

HECHT SCHOLARSHIPS

Four teachers, including two from the EMSB, one from the Lester B. Pearson School Board (LBPSB) and another from a French CEGEP in Trois-Rivieres, have formally been accepted to the *Riva* and *Thomas O. Hecht Scholarship*, Teaching of the Holocaust for Educators Program for a three week experience as part of the Yad Vashem International Seminar for Educators. **Vincent Gagnon** (pictured below with the Hechts, Vice-Principal



Lisa Ancona and students) from Vincent Massey Collegiate in Rosemount and **Georgia Gotsis**, from Merton Elementary School in Côte Saint-Luc (both EMSB) will be joined next summer at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Israel by **Laurence Assouline** from Beechwood Elementary School (Lester B. Pearson School Board) and **Gina Lavine**, from Collège Laflèche in Trois-Rivières.

Ms. Gotsis was recognized at the April 24 EMSB Council of Commissioners meeting while Mr. and Mrs. Hecht visited Vincent Massey on April 30 to congratulate Mr. Gagnon during one of his French classes. This turned out to be a true opportunity in authentic learning as Mr. Hecht left the Secondary I students virtually speechless as they listened to his extraordinary tale as a child Holocaust survivor who

escaped the Nazis when they invaded Czechoslovakia. Speaking in both French and English, Mr. Hecht was



encouraged to see how many students have seen the movie *Schindler's List* about a righteous gentile who saved thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. Mrs. Hecht commended **Julie Etheridge**, a 2012 scholarship recipient from the same school who like her colleague Mr. Gagnon teaches art at the school. She has integrated what she learned from her Israel experience into the curriculum. The teachers will take part in a professional development program under the direction of the Faculty of the Yad Vashem Seminars for Educators from Abroad, International School for Holocaust Studies. The goal of the program is to provide professional development activities to teachers for teaching about the Holocaust and anti-Semitism to students in the youth Sector. Each recipient will be asked to create at least one teaching unit or module developed within the context learned. This is the eighth year for the program, with 25 teachers having gone through it with full scholarships. Please see the full press release.

VMC WINS VIDEO CONTEST

Fueled by the knowledge she gained in Israel last summer, Ms. Etheridge encouraged her students to enter a video competition sponsored by the Israeli Consulate General of Quebec on why Raoul Wallenberg is relevant today. Wallenberg was a righteous gentile who saved thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. VMC students acted out a bullying scene – noting how Wallenberg was not a bystander during the war. The class presented a clever animated film about Wallenberg. They were chosen the winners, beating out a number of other schools, including those from the Jewish day school system. Ms. Etheridge and her students were invited to the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre (right) to accept their award. Here is the video.



THE SPIRIT OF BREAKING BREAD

Forty Secondary IV students from Vincent Massey Collegiate (VMC) group 404-04, along with their teachers,



Sabrina Gagliardi, Alexandra Salvoni, and Spiritual Community Animator Rocco Speranza, worked on a year long joint community outreach program with Ste. Anne's Hospital. Students from (VMC) visited the seniors in October 2012, and shared a thanksgiving meal. The students provided entertainment, speeches, desserts but, most importantly good company as they spent time sharing and reading to seniors during their three hour visit. The hospital provided the lunch, and youth brought dessert. After their visit students kept contact with the seniors via a letter writing campaign. Finally on May 9 2013, the students hosted the community lunch at St Pius x Culinary Institute, and were joined by 25 Canadian World War II and Korean Veterans (several of which they met in October) and seven Canadian Forces Veterans from the Afahanistan conflict, and Haiti humanitarian mission. The

lunch also marked the 68th anniversary of the end of World War II. Secondary V students **Christian Dentico** and **Nicola Polifroni** provided musical entertainment. Mr Speranza has been working as a team with staff at the hospital in order to organize memorable visits for close to eight years now. Thank-you to community sponsors for their support year after year -Second Chance Café, L'intermarche De Risi, and Les Delices_*Lafrenaie*

WALLENBERG ACADEMY INFORMATION MEETING

The EMSB held a public information meeting on May 8 for the proposed new high school in Côte Saint-Luc named Wallenberg Academy on May 8 at the Côte Saint-Luc Aquatic and Community Centre. There was a



standing room only crowd of more than 200 people. Wallenberg Academy is expected to begin operations for the 2014-2015 academic year, provided an optimum number of 60 students enrol next fall. The intent is to start with Secondary I students and Secondary II as well if the numbers merit. The curriculum will include specialty programs focusing on sports concentration, heritage languages and enriched science, English and music. The new school would cohabitate with John Grant High School, Marymount Adult Education Centre, the CARE Program and the EMSB Book Processing Centre. The first open house has been scheduled for Thursday, September 26,

information, call 514-483-7200 ext. www.wallenbergacademy.com

from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 5785 Parkhaven. Please see the press release recap of the meeting. For more Wallenberg@emsb.qc.ca 7429. email

JOHN CABOTO WEB CONTEST

John Caboto Academy in Ahuntsic recently held a writing contest asking students to describe what makes them proud to be at the school. The winner chosen from each grade had his/her write-up published in Montreal Families Magazine. All student entries are also posted on the JCA website. "The ad not only gives the six winners and the Kindergarten artists a special spotlight, it promotes our literacy program and school pride," said Principal Lucy Buscemi. "Given that the entries were written in both English and French, our bilingual program is also noted. This contest had so many positive elements to it. Students were excited at the idea that they might be published in the magazine, so the contest brought an interesting incentive to this writing exercise.

Along with promoting student pride, JCA promotes parent pride. Parents are invited to forward their English or French testimonials to describe why they are proud to be JCA parents. The writing contest ad invites readers to the school website, where they can not only read all of the writing entries describing student pride, they can also read the parent testimonials and explore the webpage.

JUNIOR ROBOTICS WINNERS

A record number of students attended and competed in the 11th edition of RoboJunior Junior Robotics Competition, organized by the Educational Alliance for Science & Technology (EAST), at Royal West Academy in Montreal West on April 26 and 27. A total of 350 students (Grade 3 to Secondary V) from 18 schools made up a total of 67 teams and competed for gold, silver and bronze medals. Prizes were Lego NXT kits, NXT intelligent Bricks and NXT expansion kits. The overall winning school was awarded the Quebec Junior Robotics Competition Cup. It was a sea of colorful t-shirts as students showed and shared their knowledge of science and technology with dance, search and rescue, soccer and Beatles challenge events. Please see the press release.



JAMES LYNG LOOKS AT NEW MISSION

James Lyng High School in St. Henri has embarked upon a journey of exploration into the possibility of becoming an Urban Arts School. A student advisory group met on May 17 with Tony Simmons, director of the Hip Hop High School for the Recording arts in St. Paul Minnesota. The school founded in 1996 is dedicated to promoting value around learning and has demonstrated a high degree of success in bringing youth the skills necessary to approach the job market of the future. Specific skill development in marketing, advertising, technology and social entrepreneurship complement the academic curriculum to create leaders for the

future. "Our students are excited about the prospects of improving their education experience and about the future of James Lyng," says **Allanna Murphy**, coordinator of the Community Learning Centre. "Everyone here is very excited about the prospect and we've been working with McGill Faculty of Education, as well as the artists. The plan for 2013-2014 is to offer an extended range of ECA's, as well as pilot some classroom modules in French and Math using arts to deliver curriculum. For 2014-2015, there would be a whole-school focus. It seems like a good fit for our particular students and for the southwest – it also seems like a niche which is not presently occupied in the Board."

AUTHOR OF NEW BOOK VISITS

In the brightly-lit library at James Lyng High School in St. Henri, amongst book-laden shelves and dioramas about Quebec colonization and the Iroquois nations, **Paul-André Linteau** (right), history professor and award-winning Quebec author spoke to **Doreen Rubin's** Secondary IV and V students about his new English-language book *The History of Montreal: The Story of a Great North American City*. Written by Professor Linteau and translated by Peter McCambridge, nearly 45 years have gone by since the last accessible short history of Montreal appeared in English, Montreal: A Brief History by Cooper in 1969. Students listened with rapt attention as



Professor Linteau recalled the evolution of early settlements like Hochelaga, Ville-Marie and surrounding villages to the world-class city we know today as Montreal. Professor Linteau spoke about how Montreal became a

place of refuge for many people that were persecuted in their own countries. Here is the full press release.



ROSEMOUNT HIGH ARTS

Rosemount High School presented an evening of masquerade, art and entertainment recently in their library, showcasing the rich cultural diversity of the Grade 11 Visual Arts classes and their interpretation of cultural identity. The student-led project, MultiFACEted, was created in response to the ArtsSmarts' 21st Century Youth Creativity Challenge. Guided by their Visual Arts Teacher Sabrina Bejba and guest artist Halah Abu-Hijleh, students created three dimensional masks that answer the

question "How does my community influence my identity?" Pictured (left) is Principal **Demetra Droutsas** and a student.

LEADERSHIP CAMP

Once again this year, students from across the EMSB secondary school network took part in a three-day leadership camp held in beautiful Waterville, Quebec at Camp Val d'Estrie. The EMSB Pedagogical Services Department has been sponsoring leadership camps for 15 years, notably at Camp Kinkora. Last year, the switch was made to Camp Val d'Estrie, or Camp Val as students call it. Every year, under the leadership and guidance of **C-J Turner**, a child care worker at Westmount High School and coordinator of the EMSB Student Leadership Program, students from Secondary Cycle 2 put their names forward to represent their schools and to become camp



animators. Together, on a weekly basis from January to April, students met to plan and organize the activities of the "Leadership Camp." The theme for 2013 was "Time Blast," a "clin d'oeil" to the last 15 years and how far

students have come together as young leaders. The keynote speaker was **Orlando Bowen**, who shared with the students and adults his moving story. A former Toronto Argonauts linebacker, Bowen was beaten by two Peel police officers in a Mississauga restaurant parking lot some eight years ago, which left him with a concussion, a nasty gash on his forehead and blackened eyes. The harrowing ordeal might have scarred Bowen, but it did not break his spirit or deter him from pursuing his passion of working with young people. Now the executive director of One Voice, One Team, he empowers young people to utilize their leadership gifts and talents through sport and fun activities. See what the students had to say in our press release.

PASTA NIGHT AT CARLYLE

Carlyle Elementary School in Town of Mount Royal celebrated its new International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB-PYP) status with a Pasta Night event at the school on May 9. Parents, staff and



Sandra Furfaro and Roma Medwid present an IB certificate to Principal Anna Maria Borsellino.

first IB-PYP Exhibition Project. The students showcased their research on five topics under the trans-disciplinary theme of "Who We Are." This exhibition marks a momentous learning event in the lives of all IB students and is a "rite of passage" from PYP to MYP. It involves students working individually and cooperatively through inquiry-based learning while exploring real world issues.

Meanwhile, Cycle 1 students created their very own puppets (right) at a workshop given by Anne Lalancette through Culture in the Schools. These puppets, which range from timid short-tailed mice to imposing fire-breathing dragons, will be used to enhance the students' learning as they explore their IB units of inquiry. The puppets of Carlyle will be exposed at the school's art

administration headed to the school aymnasium to celebrate Carlyle's achievement as the first IB-PYP school in the EMSB as the theme for its second annual Pasta Night. A special homemade Italianstyle pasta dinner was prepared by Carlyle's own Chef Melchiorri from Rome, Italy. Alona with the delicious meal, there entertainment and a raffle, with a variety of excellent prizes (hockey tickets, bicycles, spa gift certificates) is planned for the evening. Chairman **EMSB** Anaela Mancini congratulated Carlyle, saying "I applaud the team at Carlyle for all of the hard work they put in to achieve this status. At a time of declining enrolment, we need to think outside the box to attract new students. The

IB-PYP Programme indeed qualifies as a draw."

Carlyle's Grade 6 students just celebrated their



vernissage in June. Under the supervision of **Marcio Melo**, renowned artist and in-house creative therapist, **Emma Di Flumeri**, the Grade 4 students brightened the luncheon area with their creativity- a beautiful mural. This project was made possible with a grant received from Culture in the School. The theme was "Action," and the students were excited about the concept and their visions were enhanced with the help of the professionals. The children's teachers, CCW and even the principal, Ms. Anna-Maria Borsellino added more than a few brushstrokes to complete the whole event. What a boost of fresh air from a palette of paint!

WESTMOUNT PARK MINI-VERNISSAGE

Melanie Dignard's Grade 2 class from Westmount Park Elementary School held a mini-vernissage recently. The masterpieces were showcased for the entire school to enjoy. The children worked and learned for many weeks about Art History throughout the ages: Cave paintings, Mesopotamian Art, Ancient Egypt, Medieval Times, Renaissance Period, Black and White Photography and Pop Art. The children loved re-enacting the cave painting activity. They used natural pigments and had to draw their animals in the dark under their desks!

SACRED SCROLLS AT WESTMOUNT PARK

Here's what Angela, Kayanna, Kayla, Ryan, and Sabrina, grade six students at Westmount Park School, said about our Sacred Sites Series. "These trips were a great experience for me...it was cool and interesting...!

learned how people pray to God, and how they respect their God...the presenter showed us what they wear and the beautiful stories...they believe in peace, not bloodshed....my best friend has to fast and pray – I liked learning about my friends' religious culture."

These are a sampling of the students' responses of to a five part series that took place this spring. It involved four field trips and one in-school presentation featuring the following: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. The students wished they had time to visit more sites representing other religions as well. In some cases our site was nestled in our own neighborhood and for others it was a short bus ride.



Westmount Park School's Spiritual Community Animator, **Gladys Batten** (in consultation with the Ethics and Religious Culture teacher, **Jody Wilson**) arranged the events, and consulted closely with each of the presenters to insure that the experience was informative, age appropriate and enthusiastic, while containing absolutely no invitation to participate in any faith or practice. This series wonderfully fulfilled the mandate of Bill 118, to create a climate of respect and appreciation for our neighbors in the spirit of pluralism – or as one student summed it up: "It was important because when I have a friend with a different religion than mine, I can understand her more!"

CAREGIVER OF INSPIRATIONS

Inspirations Newspaper: a snapshot of our special needs community, honoured the 2013 Dynamic Funds Caregiver of Inspiration – **Patricia Sansone** - at an award ceremony at Giant Steps School in NDG. Sponsored by the EMSB, Inspirations provides uplifting success stories and timely advice in the area of special needs. The newspaper is produced in collaboration with other English public school boards, private schools, special needs associations, CEGEPs and universities across Montreal, Laval and the South Shore. The Dynamic Funds Caregiver of Inspiration award honours outstanding caregivers for their work with children with special needs. It presents an opportunity to share a fresh perspective with peers, professionals, parents of children with special needs and the public. Sansone worked as an Inclusion Coordinator at Giant Steps School for 11 years and is currently a



Special Education Consultant at the English Montreal School Board. She is a tremendous advocate for students with autism. While at Giant Steps, she fought diligently to have them included into mainstream schools.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S AWARD

Marymount Academy Secondary V student **Hannah Hayatoolla** was recently presented with a prestigious Lieutenant Governor's Award for 2013. Hanna has been the president of the *International Baccalaureate (IB)* Council for two years during which time she was responsible for a number of initiatives: The Marymount Reads Project, encouraging students to develop their literary skills; the introduction of ACF (Action Contre la Faim) to her fellow students, raising money for the cause and bringing members of the organization to Marymount for a workshop on world hunger; and inviting a sister school from Columbus, Ohio to come to Montreal and participate in the ACF workshop. Besides volunteering at the ACF headquarters for two months in her spare time. Hanna was also heavily involved in the Sun Youth Christmas Toy Drive, the Starlight Foundation, Free the Children Association, Montreal WE Day and Share the Warmth. Her boundless energy and willingness to work hard to promote her school knows no end. A willing and adventurous student, with a wonderful sense of humour, Hanna keeps busy by arranging social activities for Marymount students such as movie nights, fundraisers and class trips, the latest of which was to meet the High Commissioner of Ghana in Ottawa. Through all of this, Hannah has maintained an average of 85 percent and placed on the Honour Roll numerous times. Press Release

BLUE METROPOLIS HONOUR FOR MARYMOUNT

Students in the Secondary III International Baccalaureate class of **Lauriane Smolla** at Marymount Academy in N.D.G. won top honours recently at Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival. The project called Romeo and Juliet was made up of students paired with teams from Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf. Six groups of three to four students from Ms. Smolla's class "were formed and paired with the teams in one of the three classes at Brébeuf." The Marymount students were the youngest in the group. Blue Metropolis sent 14 topics that the students could choose from to write about. After a workshop with author Jonathan Harnois-Poirier, and



some back and forth writing with Brébeuf, the Marymount students ended up with six stories. After deciding on one story, they were put to work at creating a movie trailer called Journal de Jack, which Blue Met filmed at Marymount and starred student **William Houle** in the leading role.

The students chose the actors, the scenes to shoot and the props. They did not see the finished product until all the trailers were presented at the Festival. This is ensemble work at its best. Students working together to create, produce and enjoy the results of their hard work. Out of the six trailers

presented at the Festival, Marymount won two prizes. One, Best Story, was shared with Brebéuf. The top award, Best Movie Trailer, was won by Marymount alone. <u>Here is the link.</u> You can also see <u>the full press release here.</u>

ECO ACTION MARYMOUNT

The third annual Interfaith EcoAction Day took place on Monday, May 20 (Victoria Day) at Marymount Academy. This event was an opportunity for Montrealers of all faiths and cultural backgrounds to rise above their differences and come together in shared action, united around a belief that we are all entrusted with the care of the earth. Events organizers used the words of Ghandi to remind us "What is faith if it is not translated into action?" Participants met at Marymount and worked together to clean and beautify the school grounds and surrounding neighborhood. This event



was organized in collaboration with Marymount Academy, the Christian Jewish Dialogue of Montreal, Eco-Quartier NDG, the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism/EcoFaith, Teva Quebec, and others. Marymount students showcase Canada's multiculturalism through their rich ethnic and religious diversity. It became the first English school in the province of Quebec to receive the title of being a Brundtland Green Schools, in recognition of their commitment to environmental issues. More information can be found here.

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Although Canada has been lauded as a global model of acceptance, one of the most pluralistic and culturally diverse societies in the world, we still have an alarming number of taunting, teasing, emotional abuse and physical violence due to issues of diversity amongst our population. What's really disturbing is that young people are largely the culprits. The absence of respect for diversity and personal differences and the ensuing conflict and potential for violence, all points to one thing: an alarming lack of education on the subject. The Canadian Center for Diversity has developed an educational program that leverages the tremendous



power of peer influence and interaction. Its aim is to transform bystanders into allies in schools across Canada.

Marymount Academy was the first Quebec based school to participate in this creative program via the one day Peer Leadership Conference held recently in Toronto. Their participation was sponsored by the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada Fourteen students were selected by the school to attend, along with two teachers. The conference allowed the students to meet with students from nine other schools from Ontario,; hear and meet with speakers who represented four different diversity issues that they each

had to deal with and overcome and participate in a simulation exercise that forced them to deal with a cultural diversity issue. The conference stimulated considerable introspection by the Marymount students allowing them to identify several actions that they want to share with others in the school and stimulate school wide initiatives. The League for Human Rights sees this initiative as an excellent venue for helping to build a more tolerant and just society in Canada. Marymount and the EMSB wish to thank **Jerry Tarasofsky** and **Anna Ahronheim** of B'nai Brith Canada for their support.

CHORALE NEWS

The EMSB Chorale presented its annual Spring Gala Concert at Oscar Peterson Hall on Saturday, May 4, meanwhile, the Chorale hosted the Ottawa Catholic School Board Choir for a concert at Christ Church Cathedral.

BANCROFT'S MINI-PILGRIMMAGE

Grade 5 students at Bancroft Elementary School in the Plateau held a spiritual retreat at the Mount Royal Park recently where they undertook a child's mini-pilgrimage. One of the many purposes of this retreat was to foster an environment where the students could learn more about themselves, and to learn the importance of self-reflection, trust and self-worth. Spiritual Animator **Caroline Choy** led them to two different meditations: a walking meditation and a sound meditation with 3 singing bowls, followed by a sharing circle with a talking stick eliciting a unique bonding experience. The students stated that they were filled with feelings of peace from walking through the woods. During the sharing circle, they understood that the students they thought were very confident were no different than themselves and as a result, felt more comfortable with themselves and closer towards each other. What was evident in their eyes, is that not only the call for spirituality was enjoyable, it was

much needed. Without surprise, the great dependency being plugged into technology, the students strongly requested another similar retreat which confirms that they have every desire to plug into something more meaningful and with cause.

Meanwhile, Grade 6 students visited the Residences St. Dominique for seniors once again as a follow up v from last fall. They delivered a classy show of diverse talents from musicals to cooking and formal presentations of stories. The students also had an opportunity to display their own creations from art to poetry. They received so much applause that some acts were begged for 'encore'! After, the students joined the seniors for snacks in the cafeteria, which quickly turned the formal visit to a funny time with the seniors. Often the seniors' lunchroom is a quiet place, but for that visit, it became a place of much laughter – it just never occurred to the students that the seniors would be so hilarious. All in all, the students' great

time became the buzz of the crowd.

GENERAL VANIER ECO QUARTIER

General Vanier Elementary School in St. Léonard performed a cleanup in conjunction with their community's Eco Quartier on May 3. The entire school participated, led by Code Green Team and a Grade 6 student teacher. The area remains clean and all are very happy with the work done together.



SCHOOL DRESSES DOWN

Every month at General Vanier Elementary School in St. Leonard students have a dress -down to collect money for a charitable cause. The children are encouraged to bring in a loonie or toonie to donate to the charity chosen by the governing board at the beginning of the year. On May 2, many members of the General Vanier community dressed up in PINK for their dress-down day in support of Breast Cancer. Students, teachers, staff, and volunteer parents all came to support the cause and honour one of their teachers who is presently fighting breast cancer. A total of \$4,488.45 was raised.

EAST HILL FAMILY FAIR

On May 10, East Hill Elementary School in RDP held its second annual Family Event organized by the teachers and staff members. This year's event celebrated the 50's. The event was a big success, even if the weather was not perfect, over 1,000 students and family members participated and many were all dressed up to celebrate the 50's! The event was two-fold. There was an academic element where the students had prepared an exhibition of various projects inspired by the 50's music, ads, fashion and so much more. After the visit the families were invited to participate in the 50's fair. Where they had the opportunity to go to the drive-in, to ring the High Striker, to hit a baseball just like the Babe Ruth...and, who could forget the lemon twist and Slink. In addition families got to visit the lemonade stand or pick up some cotton candy and popsicles. Of course, we cannot forget



our wonderful Home & School for their support, with a most successful bake sale. A pie throwing event concluded proceedings. A few lucky students got to throw a pie to some of our more adventurous teachers.

JOHN GRANT'S MUSIC AND VISUAL PROJECTS

John Grant High School in Côte Saint- Luc is having an exciting spring, as both musical and visual projects are set to round out the school year. On display beyond the main entrance of the school is the students' multicultural project, which was envisioned and built by students and paid for, courtesy of a multicultural grant. Work began in February when students decided to construct their "ideal world." This was one of respect and where all cultures and diversity are understood and accepted. The project represented a collective desire for acceptance and equality. As a result of many class discussions, students demonstrated a greater understanding of racism and biased views in society. The special population of John Grant clearly understood diversity and the need to be recognized for strengths, not shortcomings. The school also had its annual Spring Concert on May 16. Please see the full press release here.

EDINBURGH EXPOSED TO ALZHEIMER AWARENESS

The Cycle 2 students (Grade 4) of Edinburgh Elementary School in Montreal West participated in a special

Alzheimer Awareness Program which spanned the course of several weeks. The students began the program by meeting with representatives from the Alzheimer Group, and then took part in four separate sessions where they were paired with groups of elderly attending the Alzheimer Group's day centre. The students were sensitized to the special needs and challenges of those suffering from Alzheimer disease, and had the opportunity to develop a connection with them, and together create wonderful works of both heart and art. The program was organized and implemented by Joseph Monachino, Spiritual and Community Animator, in conjunction with Edinburgh's Cycle 2 teachers (Geneviève Guay and Avra Wiesenthal). It was an empowering experience for all, with special thanks to all those at the Alzheimer Group Centre.



Alison Northcott, from CBC Radio recently visiting Edinburgh Elementary School to report on the cooking workshops organized by Cafeteria Services and Nutrition Education that the students participated in.

LMAC SOUNDSCAPE

This year Laurier Macdonald High School in St. Léonard opened its doors to an artist residency program *Libre Comme L'Art*. Teacher **Michael Penning**





and his Music Media students worked collaboratively with local artist **Etienne Grenier** to create a soundscape project called (GR)ONDES, in conjunction with Centre Turbine (which is an art creation center involved in training, research, and the dissemination of current practices in art and pedagogy). (GR)ONDES was financially supported by Conseil des arts du Canada and the programme *Libres comme l'art*, an initiative of the Conseil des arts de Montréal (CAM), the Conférence régionale des élus (CRÉ) de Montréal and the ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (Programme de soutien à l'école) and acuminated in art show at *l'Écomusée du fier monde* on May 2 where both student and artist soundscapes were exhibited. Details can be found below and at this link and

in this story <u>from Le Devoir</u>.

SHAVED HEADS

On Friday, May 10, Laurier Macdonald High School, in collaboration with the Canadian Cancer Society, shaved the heads of two Secondary V students, Marco Vescio and Anders D'Avirro, with the help of the hairdressing team at the Laurier Macdonald Career Centre/ Anders D'Avirro had been growing his hair for an entire year just for this event. His uncle lost a battle with stomach cancer and he will be honouring him with this symbolic gesture. The school also raffled off an autographed Carey Price jersey and dedicated a ceramic tiled wall in the Spiritual Community Centre for Christian Gavard, a former teacher at Laurier Macdonald who passed away from cancer in 2012. This much-anticipated community fundraiser was coordinated by Laurier Macdonald students, under the



supervision of Spiritual Community Animator **Vince Lacroce**. <u>Please see the full press release here.</u> We also have this video.

FREE COMICS DAY



On Friday, May 3, consultants and librarians from the EMSB's Pedagogical Services Department were promoting Free Comic Book Day at Sinclair Laird Elementary School in Park Extension. For each cycle, they presented a lively talk on the history and importance of comics and how to effectively read graphic texts. A local comics enthusiast, Tony Medeiros (pictured far right with Julian Taylor, Anne Beamish and Annettte MacIntyre) donated a large collection of comic anthologies by the artist John Stanley (published by Drawn & Quarterly). Mr. Medeiros is the publisher of the popular Sandboxworld.com website and vice-president of the Cantor's Bakery chain. EMSB English Language Arts Consultant Ann Beamish and Library Facilitators Julian Taylor

and Annette MacIntyre facilitated the sessions. <u>Please see the full press release here.</u> We also have <u>this</u> video.

B.A.S.E. DAYCARE WEEK

The EMSB Before and After School Enriched (B.A.S.E) Daycare Program celebrated Daycare Week from May 13 to 17, with the inauguration of the Atrium Beautification Project: Phase II and its fifth annual B.A.S.E Festival. Artist **Sylvia Garland** and B.A.S.E students from 14 schools collaborated on an eight-foot tall sculpture that simultaneously resembles a tree and a human



being. This sculpture represents all of the B.A.S.E educators. Meanwhile, the B.A.S.E Festival - called *EMSB B.A.S.E* Thanks You for Your Energy – was presented in the form of its fifth annual creative arts festival on May 15 at 6000 Fielding Avenue. Please see full press release here,

CITY FARM

The BASE Daycare Program announced a new partnership with Concordia University's City Farm School, which will see six Schoolyard Gardener interns working at Pierre de Coubertin, Edward Murphy and St. Monica Elementary Schools. Interns will be working in the school gardens from March until October, including garden maintenance during the summer months. The interns will provide engaging and educational workshops and activities for students while working outside to build upon each of the already existing school gardens. Workshops topics will teach students about soil composition, plant nutrition, organic fertilization and pest management, healthy eating, pollination, starting seedlings indoors, and much more. Please see the full press release here. You can also watch this video.

LONG SERVICE RECEPTION

Nearly 60 people attended the annual Long Service Reception, which took place on May 23 at Le Challenger reception hall in St. Laurent. The EMSB honoured 30 employees – ranging from teachers, administrators and support staff – for their 25 years of service with the Board, which began in 1988. EMSB Director General **Robert Stocker**, Chairman **Angela Mancini**, Deputy Directors General **Roma Medwid**, **Angelo Marino** and **Paola Miniaci**, along with several commissioners, school administrators and the directors from Adult Education and Vocational Services, the Administration Building, Cafeteria Services, Office of the Secretary General and



Information Technology Services, presented the honoured employees with special EMSB watches courtesy Promovoir as a token of appreciation. The honourees for this year were Elena Baise (Information Technology Services), Bart Barbato (Rosemount High School), Sylvie (Cafeteria Services), Mirielle Beaudry Bienvenu (Roslyn School), Chantal Clavel (General Vanier School), Crescenza Colasessano (Office of the Secretary General), Lina Corsilli (LaurenHill Academy), Bertrand Cyr (Merton School), Helene Dahan (Student Services), Jackie Dare (Parkdale School), Michel Deland (Information Technology Services), Harry Der (Information Technology Services), Sandra **Grief** (Adult Education Vocational Julie Services), Hervieux

(Nesbitt School), **Richard Higan** (St. Raphael School), **Carol Iannitelli** (East Hill School), **Lise Labelle** (Merton School), **Elizabeth Lagodich** (Royal Vale School), **Damien Martineau** (Our Lady of Pompei School), **Marilyn McDonald** (John Grant High School), **Anne Meilleur** (Willingdon School), **Maria Minardi** (St. Pius X Adult Education Centre), **Guylaine Paquette** (Gardenview School – pictured above with Chairman **Angela Mancini** and Commissioner **Bernard Praw**), **Robert Plunkett** (Nesbitt School), **Paul Robichaud** (John Grant High School), **Allan Short** (St. Laurent Adult Centre), **Catherine Thomasson** (Royal West Academy), **Serge Trepanier** (Michelangelo International School), **Christopher Turner** (Westmount High School), and **Annegret Zimmerman** (Marymount Adult Centre).

JACKIE ROBINSON LECTURE

A discussion about how Jackie Robinson broke the major league baseball colour barrier and how his achievements advanced tolerance and understanding took place at Côte Saint-Luc City Hall on May 10. EMSB students from Hampstead, Merton (pictured right), Elizabeth Ballantyne and Coronation Schools were among those in attendance. Guest speakers included former Montreal Expos star and head of the Montreal Baseball Project Warren Cromartie; Jack Jedwab, executive director of the Association of Canadian Studies; and Kermit Kitman, who was part of the Brooklyn Dodgers organization with Robinson 67 years ago and spent four weeks getting to know him during the 1946 spring training for the Montreal



Royals. <u>Here is a fabulous short video on the event done by The Gazette's John Kenney.</u> As well, the event was covered on Global TV.

PERSPECTIVES I WINS ENTREPRENEURIAL CONTEST

A group of Secondary III students at Perspectives I Alternative High School in St. Michel are the EMSB's top winners in the Quebec Entrepreneurial Project Contest this year!! They, along with their teacher, **Cari Friedman**, won for their project entitled "The Nighttime Bakery." For this project the students baked cookies, cakes and muffins to sell with coffee and juice to parents who attended Parent/Teacher interviews at the school. The students were responsible for the planning, organization, baking, pricing and actual selling of the items. The Perspectives I parents were thrilled! The prize consisted of a trophy, a certificate and \$300.



Options I Alternative High School in St. Michel launched their photo club's book titled, Monday Afternoons this month. The full-size hardbound book features photo

essays by six students exploring various aspects of Montreal and Montreal life. Each student has also written an artist statement to accompany their work. The project was led by Options I teacher and photographer



Michael Sweet. Michael met with Blurb.com Inc., a San Francisco book publisher, when they were in Montreal and secured a deal to have each student in the club receive two complimentary copies of their book. The generous sponsorship amounts to a gift of more than \$1,000 to Options I High School. Both Michael and his students extend a sincere thank you to Blurb.com for all of their support in making this exciting project happen. The entire book can be viewed online for free at www.blurb.com.

Meanwhile, award-winning Vermont Poet and educator **Sandra Erickson** (left in discussion) has been visiting EMSB schools and delivering poetry workshops for five years. Her visits have traditionally been part of Poetry Month and have been fully sponsored by Vallum Magazine in



Westmount. Again this year, but sadly for the last time, Sandra will visit both Options I High School and Elizabeth High to deliver a Haiku crafting workshop. Mr. Sweet, who has organized the annual visits, explains that Vallum will continue to sponsor workshops for the EMSB but that Sandra will retire from public school speaking this year. "I'll be actively looking for a replacement for Sandra for next year. I have every intention of keeping the workshops going," explained Sweet.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

The professional development theme at the EMSB this year was focused on the implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) as a school improvement initiative. A PLC is a proven research based strategy used to facilitate collaboration between teachers so as to ensure that all students learn at higher levels. PLC training targeted three groups simultaneously; pedagogical consultants, school administrators and teachers. The PLC initiative was launched at last summer's Administrators' Retreat via a keynote address by **Dr. Anthony Muhammad.** He spoke about becoming a Real PLC: "Getting everyone on the bus." Many workshops were given by pedagogical consultants on how student learning data can be used to inform teaching practices and used to improve student achievement. For more, see the new section on our website <u>called Background Pieces.</u>

LINKS INAUGURATION

The 2012-2013 academic year has marked a new beginning for Paul VI High School in Ahuntsic, as it is now officially known as LINKS High School. A formal inauguration took place on May 16. with words of welcome from the students, teachers and Governing Board. A new uniform and logo was unveiled served after the ceremony. and cake LINKS, which stands for Literacy, Interdependence, Networking, Knowledge and Success, was chosen due to the tremendous changes and improvements over the past two years at the school, which has led to a substantial increase in enrolment. Over the past two years, the school has adopted the WOTP (Work Oriented Training as well as food preparation, woodworking, photography and videography courses. LINKS is an alternative high school providing quality educational programs to



Roma Medwid, VP Derek Cauchie, Principal James Fequet and students.

students from ages 13 to 21 who have been diagnosed with learning difficulties. Since its founding in 1979, LINKS has offered a unique opportunity for special needs students develop their fundamental academic competencies while benefitting from a variety of work, skill and daily living skill classes. See the EMSB video.

MY MAGIC BOX

Twelve-year-old **Claudia Martino** has published book called *My Magic Box* - her story about battling a bully and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Her story is not about cancer but about wanting to be treated as normal. This is the first in a series of self-help books written 'by' children 'for' children at the Montreal Children's Hospital with a second one due out this summer in an effort to let the voice of children assist others in their own medical and emotional turbulence. This is the first of a kind globally and plans are to launch the program nationwide. The Kids Write Club (KWC) is a literacy program that was created by entrepreneur **Helen Georgaklis** to encourage children to find their voice through writing and its mission is to get as many children putting fingers to pen or keyboard at an early age. Successfully integrated into the curriculum at Gerald McShane Elementary School in

Montreal North an inner city school, it helped children deal with issues such as bullying. Helen wanted to help young patients help themselves and help others. "Sometimes kids can't say some things, but can write about them," says Georgaklis. "The KWC literacy program increases literacy rates, helps children identify conflicts and challenges, and find solutions. I wanted to introduce it to young patients in a hospital setting because it is also The Kids Write Club (KWC) literacy program, a subsidiary of the 99 Series, 99-Series.com was piloted at The Montreal Children's Hospital. Claudia has written a story of inspiration, courage and determination. The proceeds from the book will go to Claudia's tribute fund at the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation for the hematology/oncology department to help other young patients

GET UP AND MOVE AT McSHANE

Gerald McShane Elementary School in Montreal North participated in their first Get-Up and Move exercise vent. A total of 130 people took part, despite inclement weather. The school raised 1,500 energy cubes (every 15 minutes of exercise counted for an energy cube) for the "Defi Pierre Lavoie." Liberal Member of the National Assembly Rita DeSantis and Mayor Gilles Deguire joined the school's students, staff and parents, led by Principal Nancy Richer, at the event which had the aim of raising awareness of physical activity. There



was a nice story in the Montreal North weekly French newspaper.

WILLINGDON WINNERS

Every year, the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA) honours an individual or group, at the elementary school level, who has shown outstanding efforts toward a humanitarian cause.



Willingdon Elementary School Student Council (on behalf of the entire student body) is this vear's proud recipient, after the co-presidents of the Home and School Association nominated them for the many different humanitarian projects in which they are involved. The Willington Elementary School Student Council is composed of 40 students with an executive of 15 members. Three members of the executive were escorted by the teacher who leads the council, Isabelle Daniel, and two parents from the Home and School Association to the 69TH annual conference and awards banquet that took place at the Sheraton Airport Hotel. Amongst a room full of adults, students **Avery** Ben Jacob, Anna Chuprun and Owen Carson

were given the opportunity to shine for themselves and their peers and they grabbed it, capturing the hearts of all those who attended. Please see the full press release.

SCIENCE CHAMPS

At the 2013 Hydro Quebec Regional Science Fair for the elementary level, two projects from Honoré-Mercier Elementary School won gold medals: **Jordan lasenza** (The Green Issue is Blue) and **Sydney Jordan** (McDonald's: I am not lovin' it). Sydney is the daughter of former Montreal Impact goalie Matt Jordan, now the team's director of soccer operations. Here is the link to more details.

POETRY EXCELLENCE

Secondary V and III students **Alexandria Brault** and **Aisha Nafees** of Westmount High School were in Toronto recently and delivered exceptional poetry recitations to compete with students from across the country for a share of \$25,000 in cash and school stipends at the *Poetry In Voice/Les voix de la poésie* poetry recitation competition. Competing against hundreds of students from across the country, Brault finished among the top 18 students in Canada in the English stream; Nafees fared better, ultimately placing second in Canada in the Bilingual stream. Her prize was \$1,000 cash, plus \$500 for Westmount High's School library, \$250 of which will be spent on poetry. Though it may seem easy to do, delivering a successful poetry recital asks students to follow a poem's rhythm to its core and share with the audience what it has to say. Successful recitals move the audience emotionally, almost convincing the audience the student had written the poem themselves. See the press release.

ROYAL VALE BIKE CLUB

Royal Vale High School has initiated an extracurricular Bike Club that motivates students to get outside, exercise, and discover renowned Montreal landmarks. Bike club members learn safety tips, develop their biking skills, and have a great time socializing with peers. The club has purchased bicycles and helmets from Giant Canada so that even those without personal equipment can join in the fun! Thanks to teacher and parent volunteers, the students have already gone on very successful excursions to René-Lévesque Park and Atwater Market. They have received such positive response that more biking adventures are planned.



JUMP FOR HEART

Royal Vale School in NDG raised \$20,287.00 for its recent Heart and Stroke Foundation of Quebec. Well

done Royal Vale. This school has HEART!



LIBERAL MARC TANGUAY VISITS RDP SCHOOLS

Quebec Liberal Member of the National Assembly for Lafontaine, Marc Tanguay, recently visited the EMSB's three schools in RDP (East Hill, Michelangelo and Leonardo Da Vinci) for the first time since his election last year, Mr. Tanguay was accompanied by EMSB Commissioner Patricia Lattanzio. He expressed how impressed he was with the quality of French displayed by EMSB



students and staff. That is nice to hear from a man who serves as the party's language critic. <u>See our video on the visits.</u> He is pictured above with Michelangelo Principal **Anna Della Rocca**.

PIERRE DE COUBERTIN IN OTTAWA

Students from Pierre de Coubertin Elementary School in St. Léonard spent two exciting days in Ottawa for some excellent authentic learning. Our Daniel Smajovits accompanied them on the trip and prepared this excellent video with some fabulous sound bites from students.

FIELDING FOCUS BULLETIN BOARD

Editor's Note: The Communications and Marketing Division of the EMSB is contacted regularly by organizers of different conferences, facilitators of interesting workshops and developers of innovative fundraising opportunities. We screen these requests and make the information available to schools and centres. From this point on, we will group these in our Tip Corner and give in-school administrators, teachers, other staff, parent groups and even students of making contact directly.

FOR TEACHERS: A FREE NETWORKING SITE

Shareor, a free social networking platform for teachers is an initiative designed to simplify communications between teachers in Canada. As the first online social network designed exclusively for teachers, Shareor empowers educators to share, collaborate, and connect within the teacher community. Teachers use Shareor to plan their lessons, organize projects, collaborate with colleagues and promote student work online. Teachers can also browse lesson plans created by other teachers to discover new things as well as get inspired from other teachers' interests. Shareor is an initiative of a group of Canadian teachers and is made possible through the generosity private funders and community of To learn more about Shareor, please visit: http://www.shareor.com. More details are available by contacting Rosa Delia at rosad@shareor.com.



AEVS NEWS

TOP CHEF VISITS PIUS

As an ode to where his culinary career began, Top Chef Canada contestant **Danny Smiles** (far left) took a break from the competition to return to St. Pius X Culinary Institute recently to be the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony. Since leaving St. Pius X, Smiles worked his way up the culinary ladder from Sous Chef to Head Chef at Le Bremner, a restaurant owned

by celebrity chef **Chuck Hughes.** While working at one of the hottest restaurants in Montreal is a feat for any chef, Danny decided to take his career one step further and audition for Top Chef Canada. Through 10 episodes, he is still in the running to be Top Chef Canada. "I went to St. Pius X and studied under Chef Robert and Chef Otto," said Smiles. "When I went into cooking school, I was washing dishes at the time to make extra money. They really helped to guide me and that's when I knew that's what I wanted to do for the rest of my life." Please see the press release.

A TASTE OF THE CARRIBEAN

St. Pius X participated in the recent A Taste of the Carribean event at the Raymond Bourque Arena in St. Laurent recently for the fifth successive year. Event Vice-President **Judy Manoo** sent a letter to congratulate **Chef Maurizio Terrazzano** and his culinary students "for an outstanding job that they did," adding "No words can express our appreciation." She went on to state: "Chef Maurizio and his students took control of every situation that we were dealt with, especially with the food inspectors, but always holding their heads high and not losing control. I can attest to their hard work and as stated by Chef Maurizio 'Everyone involved, from visiting chefs, organizers, guests and volunteers were tremendously impressed by our students and grateful for their participation.' A Taste of the Caribbean is very proud to partner with Pius X Culinary Institute and hope

ADULT STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SESSION

This year, the EMSB was actively involved in the AQIFGA Conference held recently at the Sheraton Laval Hotel. Not only were members of the Adult Education Department presenting or attending workshops, three students involved in the St. Laurent Adult Education Centre iPad project and their teacher were invited to participate in a session entitled "A Conversation with Marc Prensky." The session modelled the classroom of the future. Teachers and students learned together! Pictured from left to right are: Daniel Afriyie (teacher) and students Magnolia Minevra Talino, Flory Junio, Marc Prensky and Sherif Abdelsamad.



PET THERAPY AT GALILEO

Walk into rooms 222-224 at the Galileo Adult Education Centre in Montreal North and something magical happens. You are suddenly surrounded by various animals and vegetation. This lively world is largely due to the creative talents of educator Alain Tourigny, a certified pet therapist with a green thumb. With the help of fellow educator Christine Tremblay and teacher Louise Panet-Raymond, he leads his special needs students through various activities using any or all of the four birds, two rabbits, one turtle, and the newest addition, a rescued toy Yorkie. This program is not only educational and artistic (internet research and art work projects are incorporated into the activity) but therapeutic as well. While some students love sitting quietly holding and petting one of the rabbits, others have been able to walk a dog for the first time in their lives. Some students simply enjoy observing the birds or playing with the turtle. The pet therapy sessions offer the opportunity to add a new dynamic to the lives of our special needs students.

BAKE SALE

May 14 was recognized as National Denim Day. In order to raise funds for this charity Galileo Adult Centre students decided to hold a bake sale and they successfully raised \$525 for this inspiring charity. A line of desserts about 15 student desks long were showcased and sold in the school lobby on that Tuesday morning. The combined efforts of students and staff brought together a plethora of baked goods, including but not limited to, chocolate chip cookies, oatmeal cookies, raspberry, chocolate, vanilla cupcakes, brownies, carrot cake, rice crispy treats, biscotti's, cupcake cones ("muffin cups"), beaver tails, and the classic pink ribbon topped



cupcakes.



CHAPEAU LES FILLES

One EMSB student from Rosemount Technology Centre was a winner in the recent Chapeau les filles regional competition, recognizing women who have excelled in non-traditional roles in vocational training programs. Joanna Lai (left with Robert Stocker, Agostino Porchetta and Mario Argiropoulos) won a \$500 cash prize and will advance to the provincial competition in Quebec City on June 10. Lai, 22, was born in Hong Kong. She moved to Ontario in 1998 and Montreal in 2008. At McGill University she studied Art History and Economics. "I was working as an exhibition technician for a number of Montreal art galleries and co-directing Galerie Coatcheck, which is an artist run space in Saint Henri," she

says. "I enrolled at RTC because my experiences in theory-based learning left me yearning for an educational program where I could obtain technical proficiency and a career that would be financially viable, and also allow me to see the fruits of my labour in a tangible way. Moreover, RTC and by association the EMSB are one of the sparse few institutions in Eastern Canada that continues to provide access to free public education in cabinetmaking and finishing, not to mention, its administrative staff are amongst the most accessible and supportive that I have encountered as a student.

CALENDAR

June 15, 2013

International Caretakers Day

June 19, 2013

EMSB Council of Commissioners meeting 7:30 p.m

June 21, 2013 Last day of classes

The next Focus will be published on June 20, 2013. Submissions should be made to Michael J. Cohen preferably by e-mail

(mcohen@emsb.qc.ca) by June 14.

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PLEINS FEUX SUR FIELDING

SOIRÉE CSEM À L'IMPACT

La soirée traditionnelle CSEM au Stade Saputo a attiré plus de 2 365 élèves, membres du personnel et leurs familles pour la partie du 1^{er} mai au cours de laquelle l'Impact de Montréal a remporté la victoire par une marque de 6-0 contre Toronto FC. En comparaison, 1 540 billets avaient été vendus en 2012. Cette rencontre est un match de demi-finale pour le Championnat Canadien Amway qui regroupe les quatre meilleurs clubs

professionnels du Canada qui tentent de se qualifier pour la Ligue des champions CONCACAF. Cette dernière est un concours international qui oppose des clubs professionnels d'Amérique du Nord, d'Amérique Centrale et des Caraïbes. À la mi-temps, la présence de la CSEM a été reconnue et deux élèves ont reçu chacun une bourse Tony Licursi de 500 \$ remise par Matt Jordan, directeur des opérations et ancien gardien de but, vedette de l'Impact qui est aussi le parent de deux élèves de la CSEM qui fréquentent l'école primaire Honoré Mercier de Saint-Léonard. Voir la vidéo de l'évènement. Le prix reconnaît l'excellence en classe et aux sports, de préférence le soccer. Les lauréats de cette année sont l'élève de 6° année, Helen Suzao de l'école primaire Westmount Park et Vittorio Dryden, élève de 11° année, de l'école secondaire John F. Kennedy de Saint-Michel.

SEMAINE DE SENSIBILISATION À LA SANTÉ MENTALE

Le Centre de ressources de santé mentale (CRSM) des Services aux élèves de la CSEM a tenu une semaine de sensibilisation à la santé mentale couronnée de succès du 6 au 10 mai. L'évènement a débuté par un atelier présenté par la **Dr Regalena Melrose**, psychologue de Californie et conférencière de renommée internationale qui s'est adressée au personnel de l'Académie Leonardo Da Vinci et de l'école primaire Parkdale à la salle de réception Costa del Mare de Montréal-Nord. Cet atelier a fait partie d'une série de présentations organisées par le CRSM.

Plusieurs évènements ont eu lieu à la CSEM, incluant le lancement du site Web et de la brochure CRSM. Porter la santé mentale au premier plan a été le but d'un évènement d'une journée tenue à l'atrium du centre administratif. Plusieurs organisations communautaires ont été invitées à monter des kiosques pour partager de l'information sur divers aspects de la santé mentale qui débute par la santé physique. Par conséquent, une diététiste de la CSEM a donné des informations au sujet de saines habitudes alimentaires. Un masseur et thérapeute athlétique d'Action Sport Physio a donné gratuitement des massages relaxants et offert des informations personnelles et des conseils pour maintenir un corps fort et sain. Des représentants du CRMS, AMI-Québec et du CSSS Cavendish et du programme d'aide aux employés, offert par Shepell-fgi ont donné des informations sur les services de santé mentale. Des mini-trousses antistress ainsi que des quiz ont été distribués ainsi que des fiches d'information sur la façon de maintenir la propre santé mentale. Des courriels ont été envoyés avec des conseils de santé mentale pour les jeunes à toutes les écoles de la CSEM. Les relations avec les organisations communautaires ont été renforcées par cet évènement mais le fait le plus important a été que les participants ont abordé le sujet de la santé mentale et l'ont porté en plein jour. De telles initiatives aident à désignatiser les questions de santé mentale et abattre les barrières qui empêchent les personnes à rechercher le soutien dont elles ont besoin. Aider les adultes, particulièrement les parents, renforce le statu de leur statut mental et les enfants bénéficieront de l'effet de retombée qui créera en général une communauté mentalement saine.

PROJET D'ART

Un merveilleux projet sonore d'art intitulé (GR) ONDES a été lancé à l'école secondaire Laurier Macdonald de Saint-Léonard. Ce projet a été financé par le Conseil des arts du Canada, le programme Libres comme l'art, une initiative du Conseil des arts de Montréal (CAM), la Conférence régionale des élus (CRÉ) de Montréal et le ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (Programme de soutien à l'école montréalaise).

PROGRAMME DE PRÉVENTION DE L'INTIMIDATION DE LA CROIX ROUGE

En collaboration avec la Croix Rouge Canadienne, la CSEM est devenue la première commission scolaire du Québec à mettre entièrement en œuvre le programme de prévention de l'intimidation « Au-delà de la souffrance ». Au total, six écoles secondaires : James Lyng, l'Académie LaurenHill, l'Académie Marymount, l'école secondaire Royal Vale, le Collège Vincent Massey et l'école secondaire Westmount mettent en œuvre le programme. Des sessions de formation ont eu lieu en mars et l'objectif de « Au-delà de la souffrance » est de créer un environnement sécuritaire pour les jeunes en offrant une formation à la prévention de l'intimidation et un appui personnalisé par le biais de présentations et d'activités éducatives structurées. Le programme est conforme à la Loi 56, loi du Québec récemment adoptée pour prévenir et stopper l'intimidation dans les

écoles et qui offre des moyens d'impliquer les jeunes à la prévention de l'intimidation. La conseillère en prévention de la violence de la CSEM, Daphna Leibovici est entrée en contact avec la Croix rouge Canadienne afin d'explorer la possibilité d'importer ce programme au Québec, après sa mise en œuvre couronnée de succès à travers le Canada. À ce jour, l'aide de la prévention de la violence de la Croix Rouge Canadienne, ÉduRespect, a éduqué plus de cinq millions d'enfants canadiens.

CAMP DE LEADERSHIP

À nouveau cette année, des élèves du réseau secondaire de la CSEM ont pris part à un camp de leadership de trois jours, tenu au Camp Val d'Estrie à Waterville, Québec. Les Services pédagogiques de la CSEM commanditent des camps de leadership depuis 15 ans, notamment au Camp Kinkora. L'an dernier, cette activité à été transférée au Camp Val d'Estrie. Chaque année, sous la direction et le leadership de C-J Turner, un éducateur à l'école secondaire Westmount et coordonnateur du programme de leadership étudiant de la CSEM, des élèves du secondaire, Cycle 2, se sont inscrits pour représenter leurs écoles et tenir le rôle d'animateurs de camp. Ces élèves se sont réunis hebdomadairement de janvier à avril pour planifier et organiser les activités du Camp de leadership. Le thème de 2013 a été « Time Blast » un « clin d'œil » sur les 15 dernières années et la façon dont les jeunes élèves se sont regroupés en tant que jeunes leaders. Le conférencier invité a été Orlando Bowen qui a partagé son histoire émouvante avec les élèves et les adultes. Un ancien secondeur des Argonauts de Toronto, Bowen a été battu par deux agents de police de Peel dans un stationnement de restaurant de Mississauga il y a de cela huit ans. Cet incident lui a valu une commotion cérébrale, une cicatrice au front et des yeux au beurre noir. Cette expérience horrifiante a peut être effrayé Bowen mais elle n'a pas brisé son courage ou l'a empêché de poursuivre sa passion d'œuvrer avec des jeunes. Actuellement, directeur exécutif de One Voice, One Team, il encourage les jeunes à utiliser leurs dons et talents de leadership par le biais du sport et d'activités ludiques.

DES ÉLÈVES PARTICIPENT À UN CONGRÈS NATIONAL

Bien que le Canada ait été loué en tant que modèle mondial d'acceptation et l'une des sociétés les plus pluralistes et diversifiées du monde, nous constatons toujours un nombre alarmant d'actes de railleries, taquineries, violences psychologiques et physiques dus à la diversité parmi notre population. Ce qui est vraiment alarmant est que les jeunes en sont en grande partie coupables. L'absence de respect de la diversité et des différences personnelles et les conflits et la violence potentielle qui en découlent soulignent tous un point important : un manque alarmant d'éducation à ce sujet. Le Centre canadien de la diversité a élaboré un programme éducatif qui porte sur l'immense pouvoir de l'influence des pairs et l'interaction. Il vise à transformer les spectateurs en alliés dans les écoles à travers le Canada.

L'Académie Marymount a été la première école québécoise à participer à ce programme par le biais du colloque d'un jour sur le leadership des pairs, tenu récemment à Toronto. Sa participation a été parrainée par la Ligue des droits de la personne de B'nai Brith Canada. Quatorze élèves ont été choisis par l'école pour y participer en compagnie de deux enseignants. Le colloque a permis aux élèves de rencontrer des condisciples de neuf autres écoles de l'Ontario; d'écouter et de rencontrer des conférenciers qui ont présenté quatre différents problèmes de diversité qu'ils ont dû affronter et surmonter, et participer à un exercice de simulation qui les a forcé à traiter un problème de diversité culturelle. Le congrès a stimulé une introspection considérable chez les élèves de Marymount en leur permettant d'identifier plusieurs actions qu'ils veulent partager avec d'autres personnes à l'école et de stimuler des initiatives à l'échelle de l'école. La Ligue des droits de la personne considère que cette initiative est un excellent moyen de créer une société plus tolérante et juste au Canada. Marymount et la CSEM désirent remercier Jerry Tarasofsky et Anna Ahronheim de B'nai Brith Canada pour leur appui.

NOUVELLES DE LA CHORALE

La Chorale de la CSEM a présenté son gala annuel du printemps à la Salle Oscar Peterson le samedi 4 mai. En outre, la Chorale a reçu la Chorale de la Commission scolaire catholique d'Ottawa pour un concert à la cathédrale Christ Church.

GÉNÉRAL VANIER ET ECO QUARTIER

L'école primaire Général Vanier de Saint-Léonard a entrepris une opération de nettoyage, le 3 mai, en collaboration avec l'Eco Quartier de sa communauté. Toute l'école a participé sous la direction de l'équipe Code vert et d'un stagiaire de 6° année. La zone demeure propre et tous les participants sont satisfaits du travail accompli. En outre, les élèves de Général Vanier ont organisé une marche pour La Fondation du Cancer du Sein du Québec en honneur et en appui à une de leur enseignante qui combat un cancer du sein. Les élèves, enseignants et parents ont marché avec fierté tout autour de l'école en portant des pancartes de messages d'espérance, d'amour, d'attention pour l'appuyer ainsi que toutes les femmes. Un montant de 4 460 \$ a été recueilli et remis à la Fondation.

NOUVELLES DE LA CHORALE

La Chorale de la CSEM présentera son concert-gala annuel du printemps à la salle Oscar Peterson le samedi 4 mai (19 h 30). Le coût des billets est de 10 \$ et ils sont maintenant en vente. Finalement, le 11 mai, la Chorale recevra la Chorale de la Commission catholique d'Ottawa à 16 h 30 pour un concert à la Cathédrale Christ Church (Sainte-Catherine et Université).

PROJETS MUSICAUX ET VISUELS DE JOHN GRANT

L'école secondaire John Grant de Côte Saint-Luc vit un printemps stimulant alors que des projets musicaux et visuels sont prêts à terminer l'année scolaire. Une exposition derrière l'entrée principale de l'école est un projet multiculturel des élèves qui a été conçu et construit par les élèves et payé grâce une subvention multiculturelle. Le travail a débuté en février lorsque les élèves ont décidé de construire leur monde idéal. Ce projet a représenté un désir collectif d'acceptation et de qualité. Suite à de nombreuses discussions de classe, les élèves ont démontré une plus grande compréhension du racisme et des préjugés de la société. L'effectif adapté de John Grant comprend clairement la diversité et le besoin d'être reconnu pour ses forces et non ses faiblesses. L'école a aussi tenu son concert musical annuel le 16 mai.

TÊTES RASÉES

Le vendredi 10 mai, l'école secondaire Laurier Macdonald, en collaboration avec la Société canadienne du Cancer, a rasé les têtes de deux élèves du secondaire V, Marco Vescio et Anders D'Aviro avec l'aide de l'équipe de coiffure du Centre de carrières Laurier Macdonald. Anders D'Aviro a laissé pousser ses cheveux pour toute une année en prévision de cet évènement. Son oncle a perdu son combat contre le cancer et Anders l'honorera par ce geste symbolique. L'école a aussi tiré au sort un chandail autographié de Carey Price et a dédié une murale en céramique au Centre spirituel communautaire en l'honneur de Christian Gavard, un ancien enseignant de Laurier Macdonald qui est décédé du cancer en 2012. La levée de fonds très attendue a été coordonnée par des élèves de Laurier Macdonald, sous la supervision de l'animateur de vie spirituelle Vince Lacroce.

PERSPECTIVES 1 REMPORTE LE CONCOURS D'ENTREPRENEURIAT

Un groupe d'élèves du secondaire III de l'école secondaire innovatrice Perspectives I de Saint-Michel a remporté, cette année, le Concours québécois d'entrepreneuriat! Ils ont, ainsi que leur enseignant **Carl Friedman**, remporté le concours pour leur projet intitulé *The Nightime Bakery*. Pour ce projet, les élèves ont cuit des biscuits, des gâteaux et des muffins pour les vendre avec café et jus aux parents qui ont assisté aux entrevues parent/enseignant à l'école. Les élèves ont assumé la responsabilité de la planification, de l'organisation, de la cuisson, de la structure des prix et de la vente des produits. Le prix consistait en un trophée, un certificat et 300 \$.

COMMUNAUTÉS PROFESSIONNELLES D'APPRENTISSAGE

Cette année, le thème de perfectionnement professionnel à la CSEM a été axé sur la mise en œuvre de Communautés professionnelles d'apprentissage (CPA) en tant qu'initiative d'amélioration de l'école. Une CPA est une stratégie prouvée de recherche utilisée pour faciliter la collaboration entre enseignants afin d'assurer que tous les élèves fassent leur apprentissage à des niveaux plus élevés. La formation CPA a visé trois groupes simultanément: les conseillers pédagogiques, les directions d'école et les enseignants. L'initiative CAP a été lancée lors de la retraite des administrateurs de l'été dernier par un discours du **Dr Anthony Muhamed.** Plusieurs ateliers ont été donnés par des conseillers pédagogiques sur la façon dont les données d'apprentissage de l'élève peuvent être utilisées pour les pratiques d'enseignement et l'amélioration du rendement de l'élève.

POÉSIE FRANÇAISE

L'école secondaire Westmount est fière d'annoncer que l'élève de 9° année, **Aisha Nafees**, a terminé au deuxième rang dans la catégorie bilingue du prestigieux Concours national de poésie Les voix de la poésie à Toronto. « Aisha a appris par cœur les deux poèmes en français et en anglais » déclare l'enseignante de français, **Layla Khanji**, qui a aussi reconnu l'enseignant d'anglais **Ryan Ruddick**. Aisha a gagné 1 000 \$ plus 500 \$ à utiliser pour l'achat de livres de poésie à la bibliothèque de son école.

SERVICES DE L'ÉDUCATION DES ADULTES ET DE LA FORMATION PROFESSIONNELLE

DES ÉLÈVES ADULTES PARTICIPENT À UN CONGRÈS

Cette année, la CSEM a été activement impliquée au Congrès de l'AQIFGA, tenu récemment à l'hôtel Sheraton Laval. Non seulement les membres des Services de l'éducation des adultes ont présenté ou assisté à des ateliers, trois élèves du projet IPad du Centre d'éducation des adultes de Saint-Laurent et leur enseignant ont été invités à participer à la session intitulée « Une conversation avec Marc Prensky ». Cette session a présenté un modèle de classe de l'avenir. Représentés ici, de gauche à droite : **Daniel Afriyie** (enseignant) et les élèves **Magnolia Minerva Talino, Flory Junio, Marc Prensky** et **Sherif Abdelsamad**.

CHAPEAU, LES FILLES!

Deux élèves du Centre de technologie de Rosemont de la Commission scolaire English-Montréal (CSEM) ont été finalistes au récent concours régional Chapeau, les Filles qui reconnaît les femmes qui ont excellé dans des rôles non traditionnels des programmes de formation professionnelle. **Joanna Lai** a remporté un prix de 500 \$ et avancera au concours provincial qui se tiendra à Québec le 10 juin tandis que **Jessica Klinger** a remporté un prix de 250 \$. Lai est inscrite au programme de finition de meubles tandis que Klinger est inscrite au cours de systèmes électromécaniques automatisés.

VENTE DE GÂTEAUX

Le 14 mai 2013 à été la Journée nationale du Denim et les élèves du Centre d'adultes Galileo ont décidé d'organiser une vente de gâteux pour lever des fonds pour cette organisation.

C'est avec grand plaisir que nous annonçons avoir recueilli 525 \$ pour cette cause inspirante. Une rangée de desserts de la longueur de 15 bureaux d'élèves a été exposée et vendue à l'entrée de l'école. Les efforts combinés des élèves et du personnel ont permis de produire une multitude de gâteaux y compris, mais non

limitée à, des biscuits aux pépites de chocolat, des biscuits à l'avoine, des petits gâteaux au chocolat, aux framboises, à la vanille, des gâteaux aux carottes, des biscottis, des queux de castor, etc.

Cette merveilleuse réalisation n'aurait pas été possible sans les efforts et le dévouement de nos élèves qui ont pris le temps de cuire et de préparer ces produits. Nous espérons que cette initiative ne sera qu'une parmi tant d'autres et qu'elle encouragera d'autres écoles à participer à plusieurs autres initiatives caritatives.

CALENDRIER

19 juin 2013

Réunion du conseil des commissaires de la CSEM 19 h 30



Former Montreal Expos star Warren Cromartie visited Westmount High School in May.