

Try our quiz and win prizes see page 4



EMSBS salutes its volunteers see pages 5 to 9



Special Report on EMSB Program for the Gifted see pages 10 and 11



Commission scolaire English-Montréal

Express

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FALL 2023
www.emsb.qc.ca

English Montreal School Board

Get ready for this year's high school open houses

By Kristin McNeill

The English Montreal School Board is gearing up for open house season in its youth sector schools. Doors will be opened to welcome prospective students and their families to showcase all that the schools have to offer. It is a valuable opportunity to meet the administration, staff and students, explore the facilities and ask questions. In this edition of the *EMSBS Express*, we are providing a snapshot of our high schools. To learn more, please visit their websites listed here.

For a full list of all EMSB Open Houses, visit: www.emsbopenhouses.com.



Students from LaurenHill Academy in St. Laurent at their open house last year.

WESTERN REGION SCHOOLS

James Lyng High School

Located in the southwest St. Henri district, James Lyng is a school that prides itself on identifying the needs of its students and providing the support and resources they require to thrive at school. Students of all abilities are welcomed, with some requiring a more hands-on experience-based approach and others looking for the classic five-year academic program – and all those in between. Offering programs for transitioning into high school and into post-secondary life, James Lyng prepares students for CEGEP, vocational training or entrepreneurship.

Open House: Tours available by appointment. Please contact the school for more information. jameslyng.emsb.qc.ca

LaurenHill Academy

The only EMSB high school in St. Laurent, LaurenHill has a junior (Grades 7 and 8) and a senior

campus (Grades 9 to 11) in close proximity. Committed to providing an environment in which students are motivated to achieve academic excellence, the school offers an exceptional STEAM program and a fine arts core program. The French program includes Français, programme enrichi and Français, langue d'enseignement. Cycle One Allongé is also offered, as recommended by the elementary school, and students can choose from a wide array of extra-curricular activities.

Open House: Tuesday, September 26 from 6:45 pm to 8:45 pm.

2355 Decelles Avenue
laurenhill.emsb.qc.ca

Marymount Academy International

Home to a student population of many ethnicities, cultures and backgrounds, Marymount is reflective of the NDG/Côte des Neiges district where it is situated. It hosts the largest population of international and temporary stay students for all EMSB high schools and is a true example of inclusivity. The International Baccalaureate

Middle Years Program option challenges students to be critical thinkers, global citizens and lifelong learners. Students can use the STEP Resource Centre for structured help, an altered pace and occasional individual instruction. The French program includes Français, programme de base; Français, programme enrichi; and Français, international.

Open House: Tuesday, September 26 at 7 pm.
IB placement test: Saturday, September 30 at 10 am.

5100 Côte St. Luc Road
marymount.emsb.qc.ca

Royal Vale School

Royal Vale School, located in NDG, is a Kindergarten through Grade 11 school, with a math and science focus. Its high school admission is granted in Grade 7 by application and qualifying examination results. Royal Vale stands apart with a strong French program encompassing three levels, a dedicated math/science curriculum and the teaching of critical thinking skills, acceptance, leadership and democratic values. A wide variety of extra-curricular activities and courses that promote

leadership roles are available to students.

Application deadline: Tuesday, September 5

Open House: Thursday, September 7, from 6 pm to 9 pm

Entrance Exam: Saturday, September 9 at 9 am.

5851 Somerled Ave.
royalvale.emsb.qc.ca

Royal West Academy

Situated in Montreal West, Royal West is a high school for students committed to academic achievement. Enrolment is limited, with admissions granted in Grade 7 by application and qualifying examination results. Royal West fosters bilingualism, computer literacy, an appreciation of the arts, an understanding of social issues and a sense of community responsibilities. Students also benefit from a strong French program, which includes both the Français, programme enrichi and Français, langue d'enseignement. A mandatory extra-curricular activity program offers options in the arts, sports and leadership development.

Open House: Thursday, September 21 from 5 pm to 8 pm.

Continued on page 14 – See High School Open Houses

Looking back on 25 years of success

The 2023-24 academic year marks the 25th anniversary since the Quebec government recreated public school boards along linguistic, rather than religious, lines. The EMSB looks forward to celebrating this milestone with our stakeholders. Stay tuned to www.emsb.qc.ca in the months ahead. Please e-mail us your memories and photos to communications@emsb.qc.ca



The EMSB 25th anniversary logo, designed by **Emine Arslan Avci**.

Global News Morning

Weekdays 6 - 9

with Laura Casella, Eramelinda Boquer, Antony Robart & Brayden Jagger Haines

Globalnews.ca



Chair's Message: Looking back on 25 years of success



Joe Ortona

As we mark the 25th anniversary since the Quebec government recreated public school boards along linguistic, rather than religious, lines I believe everyone associated with the English Montreal School Board has much to be proud of.

On July 1, 1998 the English sectors of the former Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal, the Montreal Catholic School Commission, the Commission scolaire Jérôme-Le Royer and the Commission scolaire Sainte-Croix merged to form the EMSB. At the time, the newly-formed board had more than 25,000 students in the youth sector and 12,000 on the adult side. Two years later, enrolment at the primary and secondary levels rose past 27,000. Soon after, the Quebec government adopted legislation strengthening Bill 101. That development, along with demographics and a lower

birthrate led to a steady decline in our student population. Today, we still remain the largest public English school board in the province with about 20,000 students in the youth sector and 15,000 at the adult level.

The last five years have not been easy, from the election of a Coalition Avenir Québec that has forced us to take legal action against the draconian Bills 96 (language), 40 (abolition of school boards, which a Superior Court judge recently ruled most sections as unconstitutional) and 21 (secularism) to coping with a global pandemic. In 2020, a new Council of Commissioners was elected and since that time our public meetings have been conducted in a civil and professional manner.

We are hardly a threat to the French language in Quebec; on the contrary. No further proof is needed than our *Être bilingue, c'est gagnant!* campaign, aimed at reassuring parents their child's bilingualism is a top priority. "*Être bilingue, c'est gagnant*" translates to "Being bilingual is beneficial." That is certainly the message we delivered to political leaders from all parties, including the CAQ, Québec Solidaire, the Parti Québécois and the Liberals, who visited our schools. Our students communicated with them exclusively in French.

I am proud to have been a commissioner at the EMSB for the past decade and chair since 2020. It has been an honour to fulfil this role at the board which now encompasses my former elementary school (Nesbitt) and high school (Vincent Massey Collegiate). Professionally, I practice law and must speak French each day. I have my EMSB education to thank for that!

At 91.6 percent, the EMSB has the highest Success Rate in the entire province of Quebec among English public school boards based on a seven year cohort, figures released by the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES) show. This is all the more impressive given the fact



George Vathilakis was the first chair of the EMSB 25 years ago.

the province-wide success rate is 82.1 percent. This achievement was made possible thanks to everyone associated with the EMSB, our staff, parents, and volunteers and of course our students.

So pedagogically we are definitely doing our job well!

Our mandate is to educate the youth at the primary and secondary levels while serving as a centre of lifelong learning in the adult and vocational sectors. We are indeed fulfilling this role. Unquestionably the best part of our jobs is venturing into the schools and centres, be it for a Career or Robotics Fair, a storytelling competition or a graduation ceremony. To our commissioners, staff, students and parent volunteers, we wish to extend thanks for your commitment to the system.

I want to wish everyone a successful school year!

Message from the Director General: Rising to the occasion



Nick Katalifos

As we embark upon a celebration of 25 years as a public school board in Quebec, I am proud to say I have been part of the EMSB since day one.

I began my pedagogical career, in fact, over 30 years ago as a teacher and eventually worked on multicultural programming at the central head office, served as a vice-principal and principal and now Director General.

It has been my pleasure to work with a remarkable staff and a supportive Council of Commissioners.

A big thank you, first, to our administrators, teachers, professionals, support staff and parents. We make a superb team. One needs no further proof than how everyone stepped up during the COVID-19 pandemic. Besides pivoting to virtual learning immediately, when the govern-

ment announced that in-person classes would resume we rose to the occasion.

Operating a school board with over 35,000 students and 5,000 staff members is no easy task. However, I believe those who take part in our mission do so with the utmost passion and dedication.

One of our recent projects has been to bring alumni with notable

public education system helped shape his career. Prior to being appointed to the Senate, he occupied prominent roles in the banking system. We have followed this up with a wide array of other speakers, from author and journalist Julian Sher at Coronation Elementary School in Côte des Neiges to businessman Phil Santagata at Honoré Mercier



Julian Sher talks about his career to students at his former school, Coronation in Côte des Neiges.

professions to come back and speak at their former schools. We kicked things off last winter with Senator Tony Loffreda, who gave an inspiring talk to students at Laurier Macdonald High School in St. Leonard about how the

Elementary School in St. Leonard. We do intend to continue that program this year.

So please, join us during the 2023-24 academic year as we celebrate this very special 25th anniversary.



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English Montreal School Board

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THE BEAT
5@7

MON-THU
5:00 PM




DateBook

2023 2024

September 8 International Literacy Day	January EMSBS Public School Education Month
September 11 National Grandparents' Day	January 27 Family Literacy Day (www.fld-jaf.ca)
October 8 to 14 Fire Prevention Week www.afleq.ca	January 30 to February 3 Kindergarten Registration Week
October 5 World Teachers Day	February Black History Month
October 9 Thanksgiving	February 5 to 9 Teacher Appreciation Week (Quebec)
October 10 World Mental Health Day	February 12 to 16 Teacher Appreciation Week (Canada)
October 12 and 13 Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT) Convention	February 12 to 16 Hooked on School Days
October 23 to 27 National Media Literacy Week www.medialiteracyweek.ca	March EMSBS Nutrition Month
October 25 and 26 Education and Career Fair Hosted by EMSB Student Services Department and Adult Education and Vocational Services	March 4 to 8 March Break
November 11 Remembrance Day	April 12 Terry Fox Day
November 21 to 25 Professionals in Education Week	April 14 to 20 National Volunteer Week
December 10 Human Rights Day	May 1 Principals Day
December 25, 2023 to January 5, 2024 Holiday Break	May 2 EMSBS Teacher's Recognition Day
	May 13 to 17 Daycare Appreciation Week

Council of Commissioners' Meetings

The EMSB council of commissioners meet in public once a month. They convene at 7 p.m. in the Laurence Patterson Conference Room of the administration building at 6000 Fielding Avenue. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please note that occasionally during the year special meetings are called. **Parents are urged to bookmark the EMSB website (www.emsb.qc.ca) to access Board meeting agendas and to be advised about special meetings.** To register for question period please call 514-483-7200, ext. 7264.

The meetings scheduled for this academic year are as follows:

- September 5, 2023
- October 3, 2023
- November 7, 2023
- December 19, 2023
- January 23, 2024
- February 27, 2024
- March 26, 2024
- April 30, 2024
- May 28, 2024
- June 18, 2024

All meetings can be viewed live at www.emsb.qc.ca

Territory of the Kanien'kehà:ka

At the start of each EMSB Council meeting, Chair Joe Ortona now reads this land acknowledgement statement.

Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that the English Montreal School Board is located on the traditional ancestral and unceded territory of the Kanien'kehà:ka.

We are grateful to live, learn and work in Tiohti:àke, which has long been a site of meeting and exchange for many First Nations and is currently home to diverse groups of Indigenous and other peoples.

As a school board, it is important that we acknowledge the historic and ongoing role of educational institutions in perpetuating injustices against Indigenous communities.

We are committed to educating staff and students about the true history and current realities of the Indigenous peoples, of what we now call Canada; celebrating the cultures, contributions and knowledge of the many First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities; listening to and amplifying Indigenous voices, and partnering with local Indigenous community members.

We offer this acknowledgement as a first step and public commitment to our ongoing process towards reconciliation and justice for Indigenous peoples and communities.

EMSBS Commissioners

JOE ORTONA
Chair
president-chair@emsb.qc.ca
Member of Executive Committee (Chair), Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal and Quebec English School Boards Association

WARD 6
St-Michel, Villeray, Plateau-Mont-Royal, Ville-Marie East
AGOSTINO CANNAVINO
Vice-Chair
acannavino@emsb.qc.ca
Member of Executive Committee and Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (Alternate)

WARD 1
Côte-des-Neiges, Snowdon, Outremont, Town of Mont-Royal, Parc-Extension
ELLIE ISRAEL
ekirschenbaum-israel@emsb.qc.ca
Member of Executive Committee and Governance & Ethics Committee

WARD 2
Montreal West, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
JOSEPH LALLA
jlalla@emsb.qc.ca
Member Human Resources Committee

WARD 3
Westmount, Southwest, Ville-Marie West
JULIEN FELDMAN
jfeldman@emsb.qc.ca
Member of Governance & Ethics Committee (Chair) and member of Quebec English School Boards Association

WARD 4
Hampstead, Côte Saint-Luc
JAMIE FABIAN
jfabian@emsb.qc.ca
Member of Audit Committee

WARD 5
St-Laurent
JAMES KROMIDA
jkromida@emsb.qc.ca
Member of Audit Committee (Chair) and Executive Committee

WARD 7
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SOPHIE DE VITO
sdevito@emsb.qc.ca
Member of Governance & Ethics Committee and Human Resources Committee

WARD 8
St-Léonard
MARIO PIETRANGELO
mpietrangelo2@emsb.qc.ca
Member of Governance & Ethics Committee (Vice-Chair) and Human Resources Committee (Vice-Chair)

WARD 9
Anjou, Mercier, Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Rosemount-La Petite-Patrie
MARIO BENTROVATO
mbentrovato@emsb.qc.ca
Member of Executive Committee (Vice-Chair) and Human Resources Committee (Chair)

WARD 10
Rivière-des-Prairies, Pointe-aux-Trembles
PIETRO MERCURI
pmercuri@emsb.qc.ca
Member of Executive Committee, Transportation & Safety Advisory Committee and Advisory Committee on Special Education Services

Parent Commissioner Elementary Schools
MARIA CORSI
mcorsi2@emsb.qc.ca
Member of Executive Committee

Parent Commissioner Secondary Schools
TONY SPERANZA
gsperanza@emsb.qc.ca
Member of Audit Committee (Vice-Chair) and Transportation & Safety Advisory Committee

Parent Commissioner ACSES
(Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)

ROSEMARIE FEDERICO
federico@emsb.qc.ca

Parent Commissioner at Large
DANIEL TATONE
dtatone@emsb.qc.ca
Member of Governance & Ethics Committee

EDUCATION & CAREER FAIR

ATTENTION students in Grades 10/11 and parents

The annual English Montreal School Board Career Fair Open House will take place on Wednesday, October 25 from 6 pm to 8 pm.

We are strongly recommending that students presently in Grades 9, 10 and 11 take advantage of this opportunity with their parents for a one stop shopping experience regarding post-secondary education opportunities at CEGEPs, private business colleges and vocational centres. Universities will also be represented in the large kiosk area.

At previous events of this kind parents have really appreciated having all of these options under one roof. It really helped them better plan for the individual open houses.

At the **St. Pius X Career Centre** in Ahuntsic at 9955 Papineau Boulevard North

There is no admission charge and parking is free in the rear lot off Sauriol Avenue. The facility is centrally located to our entire population.

For more information please stay tuned to www.emsb.qc.ca

SECTEUR DES JEUNES ~ YOUTH SECTOR

CALENDRIER SCOLAIRE 2023 ~ 2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR



Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

- **Holidays / Congé des fêtes**
- Fixed professional days**
Journées pédagogiques fixes

- ◆ **March Break**
Relâche scolaire
- **Last day of classes /**
Dernière journée de cours :
June 21, 2024 / Le 21 juin 2024

November 2023

D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2023

D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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						30

September 2023

D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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October 2023

D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
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29	30	31				

March 2024

D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
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	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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April 2024

D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

January 2024

D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
						1
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2024

D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
					1	2
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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May 2024

D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2024

D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	30	24	25	26	27	28
						29

ENTER THE EMSB EXPRESS QUIZ

A GIFT CARD FROM

Chapters

Indigo

COLES

TAG E-Karting and Amusement Centre, located in Ste. Thérèse, features nine activities including a combination of multi-level layout of three electric karting tracks and a number of other extraordinary experiences. See their website for all the details: www.tagekarting.com

OR

"DELICIOUS" GIFT CERTIFICATES TO

Côte St Luc Bar-B-Q, Since 1953, Rotisserie Côte St-Luc BBQ has been charcoal-grilling chicken to perfection. The owners are both graduates of EMSB schools. cotestlucbbq.com

Pizza Salvatoré, more than 73 locations, including St. Léonard, Dollard des Ormeaux, Laval and Terrebonne. www.salvatore.com

Marathon Souvlaki, an iconic institution with three dining room establishments and one Express counter located on Decarie, in Dollard des Ormeaux and Laval. www.marathonsouvlaki.com

and other prizes...

EMSB Express Quiz

CLUE: The answers to these questions can be easily found by reading this issue of the EMSB Express.

- 1 How old is the EMSB turning?

- 2 When is the open house for Rosemount High School?

- 3 Who is the Chair of the EMSB?

- 4 Which commissioner represents St-Leonard?

- 5 When is Professionals in Education Week?

- 6 Three teachers were presented with special awards from which restaurant?

- 7 How much money was spent to renovate the James Lyng building?

- 8 Who was the 2023 EMSB Ambassador of the Year?

- 9 When is March Break?

- 10 Which Montreal Canadiens player visited St. Gabriel Elementary School?

Please cut out this form and bring it to your school office and ask that it be sent to Room 109 of the EMSB Head Office at 6000 Fielding Ave. via the internal mail system.

NAME _____

SCHOOL _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

You can also access the form at www.emsb.qc.ca.

The deadline is October 20, 2023.



EMSB recognizes Volunteers of Distinction and Ambassador of the Year

On the occasion of National Volunteer Week, which was marked April 16 to 23, 2023 at schools and centres, the English Montreal School Board held a special reception and ceremony to honour four Volunteers of Distinction and an Ambassador of the Year.

Held at the St. Pius X Career Centre in Ahuntsic on April 25, the honourees, their families, EMSB commissioners and management, and Parents Committee executive members were treated to a delicious buffet dinner catered by the culinary students followed by an awards ceremony, which was live streamed.

It can be seen at <https://www.emsb.qc.ca/en-ca/emsb/about/governance/webcast>.

Tim Sargeant from Global News served as the emcee.

The Volunteers of Distinction were Debbie Fox and Natalie Szytch from St. Gabriel Elementary School in Pointe St. Charles

lunch supervisor and does other volunteer work for the school, such as preparing hot lunches for the school, organizing outings and establishing a culture for special occasions like Easter, Christmas and graduation. Her skills as an artistic decorator have endowed St. Gabriel with amazing art during many special occasions.

Natalie also helps organize special events, working hand in hand with Debbie for the Home and School Association, on fundraisers throughout the year and remains on the Governing Board. Her association with the school now goes back 24 years.

“Volunteering at St. Gabriel School helped me stay active in my children’s day to day life,” says Debbie. “I enjoy working with children and I find it keeps me young at heart.”

Added Natalie: “Volunteering at St. Gabriel School gave me the opportunity to be there for my

Debbie was a big part of the committee that worked towards saving St. Gabriel from closure on two occasions.

and Laura and Frank Marra from Rosemount High School. The legendary Simon Chang was honoured as the Ambassador of the Year.

Debbie Fox and Natalie Szytch

Debbie and Natalie are both former St. Gabriel students.

Debbie is a mother of two girls. Her eldest daughter, Sabrina, began attending St. Gabriel in 1994. Her second, Shannon followed in 1998. Debbie began her volunteerism on school trips and with her daughters’ classes when needed. As time passed, she became part of the Parent Participation Organization (PPO), as well as Governing Board chairperson. She was a big part of the committee that worked towards saving St. Gabriel from closure on two occasions.

When her children left for high school, Debbie remained at St. Gabriel, continuing to help serve meals with the lunch program that has been offered at the school for over two decades. She is also very involved with the Home and School Association, having assisted with many fundraisers over the years to help raise money for various activities and needs of the school such as graduation, holiday goodies, trips and special occasions. She has been part of the St. Gabriel school community now for 23 years.

Natalie was born and raised in Pointe St. Charles. She was a student at St. Gabriel from 1975 to 1981. Soon after completing her high school studies, she returned in 1998 as a volunteer. She helped tutor students in French, English and math. She also works as a

nieces every day and at the same time help my family out as their parents had to work. I love working with the children of St. Gabriel as well and find it very rewarding, personally. You learn a lot when you are with children every day.”

Why do they stay? “After so many years you become invested in the school and the children, and those you work and volunteer with closely, become your family,” responds Natalie. “We enjoy being a part of the St. Gabriel family and are proud to call it our home away from home.”

The duo have been friends for over 20 years. “We met through our volunteerism at St. Gabriel and remain friends to this day, and we are happy to share this honour,” Natalie noted.

Laura and Frank Marra

Laura and Frank will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary in September. Three of their children have graduated from EMSB schools and one remains in the system. As a result they have been involved with a number of schools as volunteers for the past 21 years: the former General Vanier Elementary in St. Léonard, Vincent Massey Collegiate and Rosemount High School.

Youngest child Amanda recently obtained her Master’s Degree from Concordia University in drama therapy. Joseph is studying at McGill University in Math, and a minor in Physics. Eliana is enrolled in the paramedic program at John Abbott College. Eva is in Secondary III at Rosemount High School. Like her siblings, she has a love for music, which the school specializes in.



(1) Frank and Laura Marra, Emcee Tim Sargeant from Global News, Debbie Fox, Nick Katalifos, Natalie Szytch, Joe Ortona and Simon Chang. | (2) Director General Nick Katalifos addresses the audience. | (3) Laura and Frank Marra with their friend Gwendoline Butel and their four children. | (4) Faye Swift from the Simon Chang Foundation for Change, Mark Bergman and Wendy Singer from Inspirations, Commissioner Rosemarie Federico, Simon Chang, Joe Ortona and Nick Katalifos.

Besides serving and even chairing Governing Boards and PPOs, the Marras have been involved in every facet of volunteerism at the schools their children attended: musical concert committee, fundraisers, chaperones for field trips and special events, science and robotics fairs, community breakfasts and more. Presently, at Rosemount High, Laura chairs the Parents Music Committee and is a member of the Governing Board and an alterna-

tive delegate to the EMSB Parents Committee. Frank volunteers for the school Music Association’s planned events and accompanies students on field trips.

By day Frank works at Canadian National as a team leader in the Emergency Communication Center. Laura works as the accounting administrator at Astucemedia, which specializes in live broadcast graphics.

“The teachers and staff of the EMSB prepared our children to

succeed in both their academic and daily lives,” says Laura. “The EMSB provided them with interesting academic programs that included hands-on learning opportunities as well as educational, cultural and fun-filled field trips, which helped to broaden their horizons and develop important life skills. All this is thanks to the dedication of exceptional teachers. We find it truly rewarding and fulfilling to

continued on page 6

feel that we make a positive impact on the school life of the students. It is heart-warming to hear about the positive results of our participation in some of the decision-making. Simply said, we like to see smiles on kids faces. And we believe that happy students make better learners.”

Simon Chang

Known primarily as a Canadian fashion designer with national exposure, Simon Chang is also an innovative philanthropist who uses creativity and imagination to evoke positive change. In 2018, he founded The Simon Chang Foundation for Change, with his business consultant Faye Swift, and has since been making a unique impact on the lives of Montrealers.

The Simon Chang Foundation for Change focuses on their Arc of Life Program, which aims to better the lives of individuals and families at each stage of the lifespan. The first stage begins with their work at the Neonatal

Intensive Care Unit at the Sir Mortimer B. Davis Jewish General Hospital. The Moment in Time Program services the elderly and infirm at the Donald Berman Maimonides Geriatric Centre and the Donald Berman Jewish Eldercare Centre by granting wishes to residents at both locations.

Mr. Chang's work at *Inspirations* falls in the middle of this arc. He has been a title sponsor of *Inspirations* newspaper for the past three years and is playing a very active role in working with EMSB students who have special needs. Mr. Chang has met with students and teachers in Montreal-area schools, sharing donations of fabric and accessories, advising on projects and providing fascinating colour story and painting demonstrations.

Inspirations introduced the Simon Chang Difference Maker Award to encourage individuals who are making a difference in the special needs community, just as he is. Award recipients have included a team of puppet-making teachers at Galileo Adult

Education Centre and a teaching team from Parkdale Elementary School. Prizes have ranged from granting funds for supplies and projects to arranging, in collaboration with *Inspirations*, a speaking tour for Steven Atme, where he addressed teachers, staff and McGill education students about his school experiences growing up as an autistic child.

Last Spring, Mr. Chang merged fashion with philanthropy as guest fashion designer at the Mackay Centre School's Fun Fashion For All show. This EMSB school located in NDG services students aged four to 21 who are deaf, physically disabled and/or have a communication disorder.

Mr. Chang has been decorated with the Order of Canada and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award for his outstanding philanthropic efforts and social engagement. Proud of his accomplishments, his Foundation office, located on the 15th floor of 555 Chabanel, is filled with paraphernalia highlighting his philanthropic work.



Mary Nitti, the 2001 Volunteer of Distinction, with Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School Principal Tanya Alvares.

Recognizing Previous Recipients

Given the fact that the previous two events were held virtually, the 2021 and 2022 Volunteers of Distinction, Mary Nitti and Mubeenah Mughal, were also recognized at the ceremony.

Ms. Nitti has been volunteering at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School (PET) for 23 years and continues to volunteer her time, energy and creative talents to enhance the school. Ms. Nitti is a loyal, devoted and hard working woman. She is the heart of the school. Over the years, she has helped students, parents and staff members.

Besides being a parent commissioner for the EMSB, Ms. Mughal sat on the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (ACSES) and has been integrally involved at the schools of her own children. She helped launch the EMSB's legal challenge to Bill 21, the controversial Quebec law that bars teachers

and other people in positions of authority from wearing religious symbols. The board's challenge is still before the Quebec Court of Appeal.

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VOLUNTEERS WITH 20-PLUS YEARS OF SERVICE

Bassett, Nancy
Chinappi, Rita
Clifton, Carol
Corlett, Glennis
De Palma-Nitti, Mary
DeMichele, Dolores
Di Re, Pina
Fox-Thomas, Debbie

Leibov, Barbara
Liberopoulos-Stark, Pat
Livingstone, Hazel
Newsome, Joan
Nolan (Barillaro), Patricia
Pace, Luisa
Roberts-Joseph, Avice
Sharma, Mahesh

Spreckley Nakanacagi, Mary
Strban, Rosemary
Szych, Natalie
Trineer, Leah
Trocard, Thora
Ugolini, Alessandra
Williams, Anne
Wilson, Valerie

15 TO 19 YEARS OF SERVICE

Colapelle, Paola
Daoust, Manon
Del Re, Maria
Downey, Christine
Fedenko, Nick
Gow, Ian
Greco, Maria
Greco, Sandra
Jardine, Debbi

Lambert, Laurent
Lato, Carmela
Marra, Frank
Marra, Laura
Marra Zuanigh, Laura
Mazzariello, Franco
Papillo, Marisa
Patel, Sasmantha
Roberts, Todd

Scopino (Petroni), Gemma
Skagkos, Betty
Smyth, Patty
Sweeney, Sharon
Valente, Anabela
Vitale, Connie
Vlitas, Demetra
Yeursh, Susan

10 TO 14 YEARS OF SERVICE

Abbatello, Laura
Adamakakis, John
Adams, Jonathan
Adams Macdonald, Amanda
Alexander, Rita
Avanzato, Julia
Aversano, Tony
Beaumier, Stephanie
Behar, Vlada
Bionno, Joe
Bouchard, Carolyn
Bruna, Tina
Brunner, Kelli
Bui, Tess
Cacchiotti, Luigi
Cappellette, Serena

Carpio-Mak, Luisa
Chan, Susan
Clarke, Jacque
Coletto, Anna
D'Amico, Diana
De Ciccio, Angela
De Santis, Cynthia
Di Iorio, Mary-Ann
Donovan, Meghan
Dore, Caroline
Drozhzhin, Alexander
Enea, Antonina
Fancy, Farah
Fasulo, Melissa
Fedele-Vasile, Mary
Federico, Rosemarie

Finch, Susan
Fischini, Debora
Fortugno, Francesco
France, Lori-Ann
Fuoco, James
Gaul, Isabelle
Gauthier, Annick
Gerrie, Tara
Giatras, Elena
Gould, Kevin
Handal, Veronique
Hill, Jayne
Holder, Sandra
Hynes, Debbie
Juul, Anja
Keeren, Katheline



EMSB Parents Committee Chair Katherine Korakakis with St. Pius X Principal Alice Sideropoulos and Vice-Principals Antonella Russo and Antoinette Scrocca.



Principal Jim Daskalakis and his team from St. Gabriel School.



Assistant Director General Pela Nickoletopoulos, Regional Director Jimmy Giannacopoulos, Joe Ortona, Nick Katalifos and Regional Director Nathalie Lacroix.

10 TO 14 YEARS OF SERVICE CONT'D

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Kelly, Nora | Montanaro, Debbie | Shea, Phil |
| Kemerer, Bruce | Mula, Amy | Shea, Sandy |
| Khoury, Emmanuelle | Murphy, Marie | Shyavitz, Abby |
| King, Sharon | Noya, Rose Marie | Sikender, Pat |
| Kobak, Paula (Ania) | Pelosi, Adriana | Spetsieris, Anna |
| Kontogiannou, Chrissa | Peters, Joanna | Strahl, Jen |
| Lacroque, Annie | Peters, Carmen | Tartamella, Sandra |
| Landbo, Hanne | Petrecca, Giovanni | Thomas, Sabrina |
| Laviolette, Lorna | Piccirilli, Gianfranca | Tittler, Rebecca |
| Lavoie, Catherine | Rea, Rosie | Tortorici, Nina |
| Mandelos, Zoe | Robertson, Ann | Trudeau, Genevieve |
| Mason, Jody Lynn | Robitaille, Michelle | Uline, Paul |
| Matsushita, Tatsy | Rodger, Michael | Vaccaro, Rosie |
| McCaffrey, Charlotte | Ronzales, Jerlyne | Vella, Kathy |
| Meissner, Tabatha | Santino, Maria | Vogas, Linda |
| Merrett, Tim | Scarola (Puma), Mimma | Zarate, Mary Beth |
| Michas, Georgia | Scharing, Barbara | Zarlenga, Liliana |
| Michetti, Brenda | Sciascia, Christina | Zorbas, Alex |
| Mignacca, Anna | Selwood, Lesley | |

5 TO 9 YEARS OF SERVICE

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Abbateello, Laura | Bissonnette, Julie |
| Abbott, Glen | Bizanis, Katherine |
| Abecassie, Tally | Blampin, Emilie |
| Abergel, Audrey | Blanchard, Genevieve |
| Adamakakis, John | Blanshay, Stephanie |
| Adams, John | Boire, Catherine |
| Adams Macdonald, Amanda | Bondi, Joseph |
| Addona (Argento), Beatrice | Boswell, Kim |
| Adler, Joanne | Bouchard, Carolyn |
| Aitchison, Jono | Boucher, Chantal |
| Algieri, Jack | Boulanger, Tania |
| Amendola, Carolina | Bowen, Jason |
| Amzallag, Audrey | Boyce, Francine |
| Anobile, Tina | Bozzo (Padula), Angela |
| Antonicka, Hanna | Bradshaw (Barclay), Jennifer |
| Araujo, Amanda | Branco, Jennifer |
| Arcuri, Anthony | Brookman, Lorne |
| Aroyan, Caroline | Brotherwood, Pippa |
| Arui, Julia | Brunetti, Assunta |
| Arundi, Claudia | Bultz, Alissa |
| Atcovitch, Melanie | Buono, Antonio |
| Auchinleck, Ian | Burke, Jessica |
| Auger, Jamie | Burnatowski, Rita |
| Aziloglou, Thomas | Burnett, Sally |
| Babkine, Siobhan | Buttino, Josie |
| Bagarollo, Andrea | Cabizzosu, Milena |
| Bailey, Cindy | Cacchiotti, Luigi |
| Barberio, Sonia | Cacciatore (Algieri), Jocelyne |
| Bateman, Suzanne | Caci, Lina |
| Battista, Rosella | Calce, Perry |
| Beardley, Jennifer | Calderone, Pina |
| Beaulieu, MJ | Cambone, Sandra |
| Beckett, Kira | Camelot, Garry |
| Bédard, Marie-Hélène | Camerlingo, Alice |
| Belanger, Tabatha | Cammisano, Bonnie |
| Bella Federici, Daniela | Campanile, Catherine |
| Bellucci, Lucia | Campione, Tony |
| Benamrom, Sam | Canestrari, Catia |
| Benitez, Boris | Carrara, Costantino |
| Benjamin, Peter | Carreiro, Debbie |
| Benoit, David | Carter, Erin |
| Benoit (Fraser), Julie | Cartier (Teigrob), Marie-Hélène |
| Benoudiz, Shirely | Caruso, Claudia |
| Bentivegna, Rosalia | Casale, Pina |
| Benzacar, Eric | Castronovo, Maria |
| Beredetti, Andrea | Cecere, Tara |
| Bergevin, Tanya | Cerone, Rosa |
| Berish, John | Cerone, Mena |
| Berman, Randi | Cerqueira, Elisabete |
| Bermingham, Stacey | César, Michel |
| Berry, Tara | Cheron, Nathalie |
| Berson-Klen, Brandee | Chiarella, Carla |
| Besson (Legault), Jessica | Chieco, Rita |
| Best, Debbie | Chimienti, Vanessa |
| Bhagwandass, Janelle | Christensen, Lisa |
| Biello, Anna | Christenson, Kristen |

5 TO 9 YEARS OF SERVICE CONT'D

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chronopoulos, Kathy | Dix-Holbrough, Elaine | Gharibian, Norm |
| Ciafro (Forlini), Patricia | Djurovich, Mirko | Giancarli Giambattista, Cinzia |
| Ciampaletti, Sabrina | Domingos, Joe Faria | Giannini (Campisi), Debbie |
| Ciampini, Sandra | Domingos, Tina Faria | Giguère, Annick |
| Ciarrelli, Margherita | Douglas, Rebecka | Girardi, Luisa |
| Cicccone, Maria | Dubuc, Sara | Giroux, Isabelle |
| Clark (Desbiolles), Christine | Dudok, Samantha | Governale, Alessandra |
| Cloutier, Julie | Dudysh, Olya | Grandejean, Christine |
| Cloutier, John | Duquette-Nicks, Kathleen | Grant, Angela |
| Coady, Michael | D'Uva, Sara | Greco, Agata |
| Colabelli, Antonio | Duy, Joanne | Grey, Corin |
| Colalillo, Antoinietta | Dworkin-Rosen, Bonnie | Griffin, Lorraine |
| Conforti, Tania | Edwards, Julia | Griffin-Kelly, Amanda |
| Confronti, Cinsyra | Eklove, Elka | Gruenheld, Samantha |
| Corby, Carmela | Elfassy, Judi | Gruosso, Assunta |
| Corsi, Maria | Elkouby, Rica | Guerra, Sandra |
| Corso, Elvira | Ellenbogen, Mark | Guimond, Carol |
| Couch, Anna | Ellinger, Mark | Guttman, Hinda |
| Coughlin, Chris | Enea, Antonina | Hansen, Patricia |
| Coussa, Amy | English, Maria | Hardt, Chris |
| Couture, Claudette | Espitia-Silva, Monica | Harris, Cynthia |
| Cracower, Lauren | Etrusco, Paula | Hassib, Aïten |
| Brunetti, Assunta | Fainsilber, Toby | Hasson, Dana |
| Bultz, Alissa | Falocio, Filomena | Helfenbaum, Wendy |
| Buono, Antonio | Fanzolato, Ida | Hernandez, Daly |
| Burke, Jessica | Faraj, Nancy | Hill, Jayne |
| Burnatowski, Rita | Farmer, Wendy | Hinds (Bucchan), Helena |
| Burnett, Sally | Fasulo, Giuseppina | Hipfner, Dagmar |
| Buttino, Josie | Fasulo, Melissa | Hoch Bowen, Miri |
| Cabizzosu, Milena | Fernet, Lys | Holland (Johnson), Danielle |
| Cacchiotti, Luigi | Ferreira, Alirio | Holowka, Arianna |
| Cacciatore (Algieri), Jocelyne | Fiore, Josie | Hoolahan, Julie |
| Caci, Lina | Fiorino, Alba | Hronjak, Nicki |
| Calce, Perry | Fischini, Debora | Hung, Julian |
| Calderone, Pina | Fletcher, Jennifer | Hunter, Andrea Leigh |
| Cambone, Sandra | Foley, Rosalie | Iacullo (Pecora), Nicoletta |
| Camelot, Garry | Fortin, Lisa | lasenzano, Assunta |
| Camerlingo, Alice | Fortin, Laura | Ibelings, Hans |
| Cammisano, Bonnie | Fortin, Isabelle | Imperiale, Jenny |
| Campanile, Catherine | Fortoul, Cecile | Ishak, Nadine |
| Campione, Tony | Fossey, Myrtis | Iuliano, Ralph |
| Canestrari, Catia | Foxford, Robert | Jack, Tasha |
| Carrara, Costantino | Francis, Clotilde | Jerome, Lori |
| Carreiro, Debbie | Frattasio, Giulia | Joaquim, Maria-Louisa |
| Carter, Erin | Gaetano, Dominic | Johnstone, Chris |
| Cartier (Teigrob), Marie-Hélène | Galasso, Celina | Johnstone Kansou, Lydia |
| Caruso, Claudia | Galati, Paul | Jones, Kathryn |
| Casale, Pina | Galati, Dora | Judd, Lara |
| Castronovo, Maria | Galati, Gianni | Kabal, Angela |
| Cecere, Tara | Gallant, Brenda | Kalomiris, Koula |
| Cerone, Rosa | Galluccio, Tina | Kandis, Roula |
| Cerone, Mena | Gandhi, Shalini | Katsifolis, Nick |
| Cerqueira, Elisabete | Gangai, Vanessa | Kaufman, Stacey |
| César, Michel | Garcia, Irene | Kelly, Nora |
| Cheron, Nathalie | Garofalo, Luigi | Kenny, Mary Ellen |
| Chiarella, Carla | Gasparini, Pietro | Keshen, Mara |
| Chieco, Rita | Gattola, Amy | Khalifa, Reisa |
| Chimienti, Vanessa | Gaul, Isabelle | Khoury (Bazin), Emmanuelle |
| Christensen, Lisa | Gelgoot, Lorrie | Kilian, Paula |
| Christenson, Kristen | Gentile (Milioto), Sonia | |

list of volunteers continued on next page

5 TO 9 YEARS OF SERVICE CONT'D

King, Madeline
Kisilewski, Jadwiga
Klein, Thomas
Knafo, Cindy
Knafo, Florence
Knecht, Karen
Kolesnikow, Scott
Kontolemos, Alexia
Korb, Deborah
Kounadis, Maria
Koutroularas, Joan
Krakow, Eve
Kravitz, Wendy
Krencisz, Melissa
Kushmir, Julia
La Rocca, Antonella
Labelle, Colleen
Lafond, Carole
Laghi, Lisa
Lambert, Alyssa
Landreville, Louise
Langlois, Andre
Lanni, Nadia
Lapidus, Rona
Lapinski, Danusia
LaStarza, Lelia
Lawless, Tracy
Lawrence, Sabrina
Le Gallie, Carina
Lee, Andy
Legace, Elaine
Lemme, Michelina
Lerede, Rosanna
Lewarne, Andrea
Lim, Debbie
Little, Caroline
Lo Bianco, Liviana
Lobasso, Grazia
Lobianco, Tania
Lombardi, Ida
Longo, Angela
Lousky, David
Macdonald, Patricia
MacDonald (Casey), Tanya
Macheras, Maria
MacLaren, Eli
Macleay, Tom
MacRae, Jason
Magri, Lisa
Mahoney, Julie
Maione, Melissa
Malenfant, Lisa
Mancini, Rino
Mangione, Maria Sabrina
Manitt, Christopher
Mannello, Rita
Manocchio, Melina
Marcone, Virginia
Mardini, Linda
Marinis, Maria
Martineau, Marie-Josée
Masciotra, Mary
Mason (MacLaren), Jody Lynn
Masson, Catherine
Massone, Carmine
Matthews, Merrill
Mayne, Julie
Mazzariello, Tina
McFadden Purum, Munjula
McGregor, Catherine
Mckenzie, Jeffrey
McLeod, Lindsay
McLeod, David
Medeiros, Veronica
Mele, Sandra
Melnyk, Alezandra
Mendelson, Michael
Mendis, Sally
Mercuri, Pietro
Meredith, Danica
Merritt, Cindy
Messina-Ceferatti, Framary
Miccoli, Caroline
Miceli, Charlie
Michetti, Pasqualina
Mignacca, Anna
Milone, Sognia
Mincoff, Murray
Minichiello, Virginia
Minorgan, Tiffany
Minuto, Damiano
Mirarchi (La Fratta), Nadya
Mohammed, Lisa
Monachino, Kendra
Monaghan, Maria
Monniere, Rachel
Montanaro-Dym, Maria
Moodie, Erica
Moore, Annie
Morabito, Debbie
Morello, Josee
Morin, Louis-Philippe
Morris, Rebecca
Morrison, Andrea
Muir, Michael
Murphy, Marie
Mussgnug, Lisa
Nahorniak, Tamara
Nakamura, Miyuki
Nardelli (Argento), Elisa
Nardi, Antoinetta
Nedescu, Nicoleta
Neish, Joelle
Nicholls Wallace, Tia
Nicolopoulos, Nancy
Nikolakakis (Vokas), Niki
Nishihata, Akiko
Noakes, Kristin
Noble, Monique
Oiknine, Sylvia
Olektionovitch, Elena
Olivieri, Josie
O'Neil, Ryan
Ortchianian, Annie
Ostroff, Steve
Ouaknine, Myriam
Paccione, Candida
Padulo, Maria
Pagliuca, Tania
Pallotta, Angela
Pallotta, Loredana
Palotta, Maria
Panopolis, Aglaia
Paparelli, Dina
Papastrait, Peter
Paquette, Suzanne
Pardo, Ariella
Pardo, Tayla
Parisien, Shanna
Passucci, Stephanie
Patrizio, Franca
Pavia, Sandra
Pecora, Sonia
Pelatt-Caron, Karyn
Peluso, Nadia
Pennefather, Lauren
Penney, Janice
Pepin, Paul
Perrozi, Maria
Phaneuf, Caroline
Piche, Genevieve
Pierre, Cherylin
Pietrangelo, Mario
Pisto, Patrizia
Pitt, Rebecca
Pizzini, Franca
Placentino, Melissa
Plamondon, Chantale
Popwycz, Irene
Porter, Roberta
Posteraro (Colaneri), Nadia
Potvin, Annie
Prata, Pina
Preto, Ana
Primus, Marilyn
Proska-Boivin, Hilegard
Rabbat, Nathalie
Rabiau, Marjorie
Racaniello, Lina
Racaniello, Stella
Racaniello, Brigida
Racaniello, Mary
Rainelli, Maria
Raitano, Mary Jo
Ramirez, Maria Carmen
Rapkowski, Darren
Ravenda, Veronica
Raykhlin, Lia
Rea, Rosetta
Reda, Bob
Reda, Sabrina
Renda, Rosanne
Ribarova, Rossitza
Richer, Kayla
Riddell-Tauber, Marie
Ridolfi, Nadia
Rinaldi, Lisa
Rinaldi, Nadia
Rinaldi, Alex
Rivard (Blondin), Christine
Robertson, Ann
Robichaud, Paul
Rodger, Michael
Rodier, Cindy
Ronzales, Jerlyne
Ross, Roberta
Ross, Chana
Ross, Andrew
Rossi, Angela
Rossi, Josie
Rotstein, Shana
Ruffalo, Patricia
Ruffiri, Elisa
Russo (Alfonso), Maria
Rustemi, Genta
Sadeh, Elana
Sakakibara, Sakaya
Saleh Mohammed, Tasleem
Salvo, Stefanie
Santamaria, Marisa
Santelli, Dino
Santori, Rebecca
Santullo, Ivana
Saracino, Mark
Sardelli, Sonia
Sarli, Alfredo
Sasso, Enza
Saunders, Katie
Scalia, Sandra
Scalia, Lilla
Scalia, Josie
Scarola (Puma), Mimma
Scarpato, Ernesto
Schiano, Nancy
Schipano (Milevoy), Rita
Schwartz, Corey
Schwartz, Lauren
Scicchitano, Maria
Sciortino, Josie
Secko, David
Segal, Susan
Sernuck, Eileen
Sexton, Bruce
Shanks, Joyce
Shea, Sarah
Sheffren, Cassandra
Shyvitz, Abby
Sifakis, Janet
Simard, Renee
Sirimarco, Francine
Smolarz, Claudio
Sofer, Nathalie
Soiferman, Ezra
Sommer, Anna
Sousa, Sandra
Speranza, Tony
Spetsieris, Anna
Staples, Sarah
Stark, Peggy
Staunton, Frances
Stein-Elman, Jacqueline
Stern, Ronit
Stern, Ally
Stern, Alison
Sticozzi, Grace
Stirpe, Lina
Stoddart, Sharon
Strussione, Stefania
Sung Hee, Kim
Symansky, Leslie
Szpoper, Marlene
Tafuto (Baril), Anna
Tagliamonti, Lori-Ann
Taguey, Ruby
Tartamella, Silvia
Tartamella, Sandra
Tavares, Anabel
Taylor, Cynthia
Teoli, Laurie
Thiel, Stuart
Thomas, Georgina
Thomas, Sabrina
Thompson-Dudley, Margaret
Tortorici, Maria
Totaro, Rossana
Tran, Jenny
Tremblay, Carolynne
Tremblay, Fidele
Trudeau, Jason
Trudeau, Genevieve
Trudel, Julie
Tsoulhas, Anna
Tstoumas, Andreas
Tulloch, Kim
Turcot, Pierre
Tuzolino, Analia
Tzagrakis, Athena
Ubha, Kumar
Vaccaro, Angela
Vaccaro, Rosalia
Valkanas, Maronika
Van Den Bosch, Paula
Vardaro, Laura
Varga, Edith
Varga, Joseph
Vassilyeva, Natalia
Venturella, Lorie
Verducci, Lena
Vibert, Tina
Vigderhaus, Lisa
Villeneuve, Chantal
Vincent-Herscovici, Jesse
Viscosi, Maria
Vlitas Contomichalis, Demetra
Wagner, Rose
Walker, David
Wallace, Siobhan
Wang, Arthur
Washington, Celenia
Wasson, Haidee
Welagedara, Anuradha
Wen, Stella
White, Tanya
Russo (Alfonso), Maria
Wilson, Lynn
Wittman, Trinity
Wolch, Ilana
Wolkoff, Anita
Wyse, Michelle
Wysinski, Ania
Xenocostas, Spyridoula
Yanofsky, Alexandra
Yarbrough, Yanci
Yasvinski, Donald
Yee, Carron-Ann
Yiannatsoulios, Stravoula
Zegarelli, Linda
Zereik, Helene

1 TO 4 YEARS OF SERVICE

Abelardo, Lysanne
Abiad, Layla
Adair, Sarah
Alexis, Melissa
Ali, Alia
Alsmadi, Zainab
Amer, Laura
Amonte, Tamara
Amoroso, Francesco
Amram Benedik, Sharone
Anestopoulos, Tasha
Antippa, Sophie
Archibad, Andrea
Arciero, Nadia
Argento, Cristina
Argyriou, Maria
Arnold, Dave
Arsenault, Ray
Asencio, Monica
Assi, Joe
Astorino, Joe
Attiana, Kimia
Audi, Anna
Au-Pichette, Catherine
Avila Perez, Elizabeth
Camard, Sophie
Camaro, Jeannine
Campbell, Vanessa
Campbell, Vanessa
Campbell, Donald
Campbell, Jean-Pierre
Campeau, Sandrine
Cancilla, Luciana
Capela, Cristina
Carchedi, Carmy
Cardillo, Christina
Carestia, Angelina
Carli, Franco
Carosello, Nadia
Carpenter, Lorraine
Carpenter, Krystyne
Carreira, Melanie
Carreiro, Ashlyn
Cartier, Candice
Carvalho, Patricia
Cassoli, Anahi
Castello, Franca
Cercillo, Lisseth
Cerrilli, Amanda
Chadhury, Prasanto
Daniel, Kimani
Daniel, Meghan
De Ciccio, Mariella
De Fazio, Carla
De Iacovo, Melissa
de koos, Andras
De Luca, Alex
De Melo, Nancy
De Palma, Nicola
De Santis, Anthony
De Sousa, Ana Paula
De Sousa Oliveira, Marta
De Stefano, Teresa
De Stefano, Pina
Decobellis, Tania
Del Balso, Patrizia
D'Elia (Sheikh), Sophia
Dell'Aquila, Laura
DeMichele, Anna
DeRubertis, Anna
Desai, Ushma
Desbiens, Francois
Desforges, Katherine
Desrochers, Sylvie
Di Biasio, Tina



A beautiful dinner reception was catered by the students of the St. Pius X Career Centre before the ceremony.

Avino, Amanda
Aylward, Alison
Baccari, Mary
Bachelierie, Flore
Baker, Kristie
Balta, Zoran
Bandera, Danya
Barasso, Antonella
Barbadoro, Sandra
Barberio, Nadia
Barbieri, Jan
Bardill, Jessi
Baruffa, Patrizia
Basdos, Angelica
Bassett-Saltarelli, Natasha
Bastounis, Dina
Batchoun, Melissa
Batista, Sandra
Battista, Lina
Baynes, Elisa
Bedkowska, Anna
Behjoudi, Sally
Belo-Battista, Melinda
Berghout, Choukri
Bergout, Choukri
Varga, Joseph
Bermack, Jordanna
Bernstein, Ashly
Betsalel, Kori
Bianchet, Nancy
Bibi, Josephine
Biondi, Felicia
Bitton, Sabrina
Blais, Debra
Blake, Candace
Bongiorno, Josie
Boriak, Oxana
Borst, Jeremy
Bouayad Agha, Youcef
Bouchard, Amanda
Bouchard, Gabrielle
Boudreau, Dominique
Brander, Jenn
Brendan, Jeremy Terrace
Brisebois, Jennifer
Brisette, Curtis
Brisson, Vanessa
Brisson, Vanessa
Brook, Katie
Brook, Tara
Brook, Shawna
Brown, Niall
Brown, Emilie
Brownrigg, Maimouna
Brulé, Catherine
Burke, Pamela
Buscio, Domenico
Cabral, Vanessa
Cabral, Nelson
Calabretta, Katherine
Calaiani, Maria
Chaim, Jesse
Champagne, Melody
Chan, Jonathan
Chen, Rosemary
Cheong, Margaret
Cherella, Daniella
Chiarappa, Francesca
Chiazesse, Angela
Chimienti, Cindy
Chin, Anne
Choi, Cheolheon
Chou, Rachida
Ciabattoni, Giovanna
Cianci, Ssamantha
Ciardo, Johnny
Ciccarelli, Stephanie
Ciccotelli, Nick
Clayton, Denise
Clinunak, Carmen
Codipietro, Giovanna
Cohen, Esther
Colalillo, Gina
Coleman, Kirk
Collins, Nadine
Colmegna, Ines
Con-Poyegal, Jess
Conciatori, Alessandro
Condo, Tania
Condroussis, Catherine
Conforti, Dina
Contarini, Fillippa
Conte, Dona
Corbeil, Jesse
Corrado, Filomena
Corso, Elvira
Côté, Réjean
Courcelles, Melanie
Craig, Nadia
Crecco, Alessandra
Cribari, Ivana
Crisci, Marysa
Croll, Alistar
Crosato, Milena
Crump, Alison
Cruz, Kembly
Cucuzzella, Linda
Cullen, Mieke
Cunnana, Jenny
Curie, Candace
Currie, Sophie
Da Costa, Diana
Da Costa, Shahida
Da Ros, Scott
Da Silva Costa, Nadia
Daccache, Shadia
Dagenais, Tammy
Dagostino, Diana
D'Agostino, Sara
D'Allessandro, Tania
D'Aloia, Amanda
Di Cesare, Kristina
Di Corpo, Nadia
Di Done, Alexandra
Di Fruscia, Linda
Di Giacomo, Brigitte
Di Giacomo, Domenico
Di Manno, Julia
Di Manno, Marco
Di Martino, Maria Lisa
Di Molfetta, Nadia
Di Nezza (Matteo), Sophia
Di Nolfo, Natalie
Di Pietro, Lidia
Di Sabato, Marco
Di Sei, Angela
Di Stefano, Andrea
Di Stefano, Tania
Di Vaccaro, Alexandra
Di Vicenzi, Sarah
Di Vincenzi, Sarah
Dias-Forget, Terry
Diaz-Almendariz, Jessica
D'Iglio, Carme
DiLillo, Josie
Dintino, Melanie
Discepola, Concetta
Doctor, Heidi
Doherty, Nancy
Dolan, Andrea
Domanko, Vinaya
Dorschel, Winona
Doubt, Jessica
Dudley, Jo-Anne
Dufour, Anique
Dugas, Corine
Dumais, Sandra
Durant, Ahysha
Dussault, Alain
Duy, Joanna
Dykes, Sabrina
El Hajj, Rime
EL Hanafi, Brahim
Elias, Caroline
Engel, Jody
Epstein, Wendy
Erllichman, Karen
Ermes, Sarah
Esquite Mejia, Ligia
Evans, Barbara
Fabrizi, Marc
Farace, Marge
Farella (Furfaro), Rachel
Farella (Vaccaro), Franca
Farraj, Ben
Farrella, Imma
Farruggia, Christina
Fascia, Carolyn
Fata, Brunella
Fava, Nadine
Fazio, Diana



St. Pius X students prepare a buffet table.

1 TO 4 YEARS OF SERVICE CONT'D

Ferguson, Tanya
 Ferland, Guillaume
 Ficara, Giovanni
 Filgarz, Renee
 Fischer, Jordan
 Fleet, Meghan
 Floyd, Laura
 Folco, Julie
 Fong, Julie
 Frade, Rosemary
 Francois-Roland, Katia
 French, Amanda
 Furiani, Suzie
 Furlong, Jennifer
 Gabriele, Sandra
 Gagliano, Laureato
 Gallos, Eleni
 Garofalo, Verena
 Gatien, Jennifer
 Gauris, Julie
 Gendron, Lyne
 George, Heather
 Germile, Lisa
 Gervais, Daniel
 Gesualdi, Maria
 Ghandi, Unmesh
 Ghanoudi, Nadia
 Ghayourmanesh, Shaheen
 Giambona, Maria Christina
 Giancioppi, Vanessa
 Giannini, Adriana

Iacampo, Claudia
 lafrancesco, Cristina
 Iannelli, Amanda
 lasenzanero, Sue
 Ida, Lisa
 Infantino, Meri
 Iovanna, Ida
 Ishmael, Jerry
 Iulianella (Ciambrone), Ivana
 Jackson, Brett
 Jackson, Laurel
 Jacobi, Lesley
 Jehan Mian, Sadar
 Jensen, Glen
 Jirjis, Marie-Ann
 Jiwan, Zenith
 Kaluza Levy, Lisa Melanie
 Kanavaros, Dimitra
 Karman, Julie
 Katwaroo, Johanna
 Keating, Stephanie
 Khazzam, Daniel
 Kim, Eun Ju (Michelle)
 Kingsley-Williams, Arianna
 Kollias, Demetra
 Korakakis, Katherine
 Korifidou, Elpida
 Koutroularas, Bia
 Kowalchuk, Natalie
 Kravitz, Kenton
 Krzepicki, Kerri

MacDonald, Rebecca
 Machado, Nicholle
 MacLeod, Jon
 Magill, Steve
 Maiolo, Paola
 Maislin, Daniel
 Maizza, Franca
 Mak, Andy
 Mancini, Erica
 Mancini, Lysa
 Mancione, Giacomo
 Manstavich, John
 Marateo, Frank
 Marchand, Eve-Lynn
 Marchese, Raphaelle
 Marci, Karina
 Marciante, Meryl
 Marcovecchio, Patrick
 Marino, Samantha
 Marino, Daniela
 Marovitch, Maureen
 Martin, Ryan
 Martin, Christina
 Martinek, Lenka
 Martinez, Daniela
 Martino, Josie
 Martucci, Vanessa
 Masciotra, Daniella
 Mascola, Angelica
 Masi, Christina
 Masone, Carmine
 Masrani, Hala
 Materassi, Manuela
 Mathews, Albert
 Matlin, Julie
 Matocia, Sergio
 May, Vistoria
 McEnroe, Nicola
 McGraw, Kristen
 McKenna, Kerry
 McNeil, Kristen
 Melchert, Layna
 Menillo, Melissa
 Mercandante, Daniela
 Menuet, Melissa
 Meyers, Meghan
 Michael, Evangelia
 Mihalik, Teresa
 Miller, Josh
 Milson, Christi
 Mirbagheri, Hannah
 Mire, Naeema
 Mirijello, Luisa
 Mitzas, Demetra
 Monaco, Silvana
 Mone, Stefania
 Moneit, Toby
 Monteleone, Laura
 Monteleone, Connie
 Moon, Harin
 Morales, Amanda
 Moschella, Claudia
 Moshaver, Sanaz
 Moulina, Mouna
 Muallem, Michal
 Mudgett, Christopher
 Mullen, Jenn
 Muller, Ania
 Mungiovi, Linda
 Munro, Gabriella
 Muri, Vanessa
 Muro, Francesca
 Murphy, Melanie
 Murray, Melany
 Musacchio, Olga
 Musacchio, Sabrina
 Nantel, Anais
 Narrea, Isabel
 Nasehoglu, Tanya
 Neal, Arron
 Nelli, Micki
 Nguyen, Lyn
 Nico, Teresa
 Notarmaso, Maria
 Noto, Lisa
 Nudelman, Nathalie
 Nunes, Victoria
 Nunez, Katia

1 TO 4 YEARS OF SERVICE CONT'D

Nuniez, Miguel
 Nuniez, Silvia
 O'Reilly, Miranda
 Obadia, Judith
 Ockedahl, Bianca
 O'Doherty, Richard
 Ortaaslan, Andy
 Ortega, Jennifer
 Ottaviani, Antonella
 Packard, Shari
 Padvano, Gabriel
 Pagano, Sabrina
 Paglia, Joseph
 Palazzo, Eva
 Panagiotopoulos, Penny
 Panetta, Sabrina
 Panetta, Robert
 Pansera, Carmela
 Papacostas, Paraskevi (Voula)
 Pappgeorgiou, Erato
 Paquette, Gilles
 Paredes, Anrieth
 Passalacqua, Lisa
 Passarelli, Sabrina
 Patel, Chetna
 Patil, Kamini
 Patriquin, Martin
 Paz Bravo, Maria
 Peccia, Stephanie
 Pellerin, Geneviere
 Pepe, Antonella
 Perez, Alejandra
 Perronne, Valerie
 Perry, Lily
 Peruch, Carlo
 Petrecca, Patrizia

Rodier, Elysa
 Rodrigue, Jonathan
 Rokem, Mika
 Romanelli, Giovanni
 Romano, Livia
 Romano, Tania
 Romeo, Sellana
 Rosario, Jessica
 Roskies, Jaime
 Rotherman, Andrew
 Roy, Tanya
 Rubin, Earl
 Rubino, Tina
 Ruggi, Terri
 Ruvo, Nadia
 Sabonger, Alex
 Sakkas, Georgia
 Sakkas McGrath, Eva
 Salinas, Yvette
 Salvaggio, Vincenzo
 Sams, Kayla
 Samson, Marika
 Sansalone, Claudia
 Sansone, Max
 Santaguida, Veronica
 Santo, Anelise
 Santone, Francesca
 Santosa, Sylvia
 Sanzari (Benfaras), Elena
 Sasso, Enza
 Savard, Amanda
 Savo, Amanda
 Savoie, Amanda
 Sayko, Kristine
 Scarapicchia, Jordana
 Scarpelli, Carole

Tavolaro, Linda
 Taylor (Alphonso), Adrienne
 Taza, Christine
 Te, Bouny
 Tedesco, Victoria
 Teitelbaum, Pamela
 Tenaglia, Gianna
 Teroux, Valerie
 Thakor, Shuduksha
 Thanh Duyen, Le Thi
 Theophilopoulos, Diana
 Thomasino, Barbara
 Tizzoni Vazquez, Angelina
 Tondino, Dana
 Tondino, Ron
 Torchinsky, Daniel
 Torossian, Natalie
 Tran, Jenny
 Triassi, Angela
 Trocchia, Anna
 Troczynski, Adam
 Tropeano, Felicia
 Troude, Gaelle
 Tsang, Evelyn
 Tsofanakakis, Evangelia
 Tubio, Eva
 Tullio, Anita
 Tureli, Ipek
 Uchida, Megumi
 Ulloa, Paola
 Vacca, Rosanna
 Vaccarino, Lorenzo
 Vaccaro, Patrizia
 Valentino, Terri
 Varano, Teresa
 Varricchio, Anna

To all the volunteers who did not appear on the list by press time, we acknowledge your dedication and volunteerism.

Thank you to all.

Gismondi, Sandra
 Glazer, Alyssa
 Gloria, Jacklyn
 Godfrey, Erin
 Golberg, Deborah
 Gomez Zlatar, Patricia
 Gorban, Yomna
 Gove, Curt
 Gravel, Christine
 Greco, Aggie
 Grigat, Michelle
 Groenendaal, Corinna
 Grunberg, Yosi
 Guerrieri, Lisa
 Gueye, Lyta
 Gurevitch, Kelly
 Hales, Lindsay
 Hall, Travis
 Hankewicz, Stephanie
 Hannouche, Carreen
 Harrar, Vanessa
 Harrington, Marilyn
 Hartnett, Jackie
 Harton, Patricia
 Hassan, Ahmad
 Hauser, Jill
 Hauser, Rachelle Lee
 Havis, Tova
 Hebert, Nina
 Hebert, Melanie
 Hernandez White, Maria
 Hernandez Valenzuela, Noemi
 Hershon, Paul
 Ho, Anna
 Holgate, Emily
 Houde-Wotiuk, Jessica
 Howick, Julie
 Hussain, Ayesha

Kyres, Maria
 Lagace, Tim
 Lakis, Julie
 Lalli, James
 Lallouz, Melanie
 Lalonde, Dominique
 Lamoureux, Svetlana
 Lapointe, Angela
 Laricchiuta, Chiara
 LaRocque, Néomie
 Laurent, Christine
 Lazar, Suzie
 Le Moyenne, Kristen
 Leckner, Mitchell
 Lecoufle, Olivia
 Lee, Andy
 Lee, Vivian
 Lefebvre, Jasmine
 Legatos, Jasmin
 Lemoine De Martigny, Michel
 Lennox, Robert
 Leoci, Johnny
 Leschiutta, Vanessa
 Lesperance, Kathy
 Li, Janet
 Libling, Lindsay
 Liste, Amanda
 Liverman, Karolyn
 Locopo, Laura
 Logie, Stuart
 Lord, Richard
 Loria, Maria
 Lortie, Alison
 Lortie, Patrick
 Lowry, Andrea
 Lucas, Ana Maria
 Lucia, Valerie
 Lynes, Amanda



The staff and students at St. Pius X Career Centre served up a delicious meal.

Petta, Claudia
 Philip, Brenda
 Philips, Kim
 Phouangphiclok, Phony
 Pierce, Aimee
 Pimentel, Roxanne
 Pisano, Stephan
 Plummer-Potegal, Nadia
 Poljak, Sonia
 Pomeroy, Michelle
 Pompey, Earlene
 Ponari, Remo
 Poole, Eric
 Popa, Sara
 Potter, Andrew
 Pratt, Lana Marie
 Presta, Vittoria
 Prince, Francois
 Procino, Christina
 Proietti, Melissa
 Prosper, Richard
 Qasrawi, Deema
 Quidoz, Chantal
 Radford, Brent
 Rain, Leann
 Rajotte, Tami
 Randez, Isabelle
 Ranellucci, Sonia
 Raposo, Lorraine
 Raposo, Debbie
 Ravelson, Lalaine
 Razian, Ramzi
 Reda, Barbara
 Reid, Denburk
 Reis, Veronica
 Renda, Johanne
 Renzi, Sandra
 Rich, Stephanie
 Richardson, Florette
 Riddell, Stefanie
 Riopel, Yannick
 Rizzuto, Carmen
 Robertson, Melissa
 Rodi, Emily

Schiralli, Domenica
 Schueller, Tina
 Sciortino, Cristina
 Sciortino, Selina
 Serecchia, Miranda
 Shaikh, Ashfag
 Shapiro, Emmie
 Ship, Gillian
 Shireff, Erin
 Shpik, Oksana
 Siebos, Eleni
 Silletta, Amanda
 Silva, Jennifer
 Simbabwe, Joséé
 Simeon, Abiola
 Simon, Katie
 Simoniello, Daniele
 Sivapathan, Sharmila
 Smith, Jessie
 Smith, Valerie
 Sollecito, Mimma
 Sooyoun Cho, Stella
 Soroka, Robert
 Spadafino, Felicia
 Spiridigliozzi, Tina
 St. Louis, Jean-Philip
 Stachura, Dorothy
 Staffa, Graziella
 Starna, Julia
 Starnino, Claudia
 Ste-Marie, Jennifer
 Sternthal, Heidi
 Stratford Kurus, Hannah
 Strazzer, Marie-Josée
 Stroz-Breton, Jasmine
 Stroz-Breton, Olivia
 Suriano, Patricia
 Syer, Cassidy
 Szeles, Anna Maria
 Tai, Hou
 Tamakuwala, Patricia
 Tamakuwala, Paras
 Tarfa, Sara
 Tat, Paula

Varricchio, Antonio
 Varvarikos, Catherine
 Vasherman, Polina
 Vasseur, Maggie
 Ventura, Kim
 Verduzco, Omar
 Verone, Mirella
 Villar, Marisa
 Viselli, Linda
 Vitulano, Lucy
 Viltas, Joanna
 Voza, Paula
 Vracotas, Nadia
 Walliser, Rachel
 Ward, Nikki
 Warner, Nick
 Waterworth, Mark
 Wen, Stella
 Wexler, Suzanne
 Wiedow, Tia
 Wilkinson, Poppy
 Williams, Sheila
 Williams, Sarah
 Wolfson, Kasia
 Wong, Jo Ann
 Wong, Jui Ho
 Wong, Darleen
 Woo, Stanely
 Yambouranis, Ellen
 Yang, Esther
 Yee, Gina
 Younes, Zeina
 Zabbal, Viviane
 Zaccardo, Rita
 Zacharakis, Georgia
 Zarnegar, Pardis
 Zeng, Liming
 Zeng, Min
 Zivras, Natasha
 Zito, Sabrina
 Zoppi, Catia
 Zorbas, Brandon

EMSB takes pride in programming

By Kristin McNeill

The gifted and enhanced learning team, as part of the EMSB Student Services department, implemented a varied and inspiring enrichment program in the areas of math, science and English Language Arts during the 2022/2023 academic year. The EMSB stands alone within the Greater Montreal Area in terms of making enhanced learning opportunities available to high achieving and gifted students.

The service is headed by Dr. Camelia Birlean, who is passionate about gifted education and draws upon her own academic and personal experience in shaping a successful enhanced learning program for the youth sector at the board. With a doctorate in educational psychology, she is Consultant, Gifted and Exceptional Learners with the EMSB and a lecturer at McGill in the Faculty of Education, where her primary teaching responsibilities are within the field of special education, specifically in gifted education, and in differentiated assessment in inclusive education. She is also the parent of a highly gifted child.

Research in gifted education points to two important factors that contribute to how learners thrive: By allowing them to pursue their interests to increase motivation for learning; and by engaging them with content and learning situations that align with their learning preferences and readiness levels.

The strength of a successful enrichment program, Dr. Birlean explained, includes effective mentoring and coaching – with the right amount and appropriate scaffolding. “Scaffolding is essential to equipping students with life skills, such as discipline, perseverance, resilience and curiosity, which ultimately helps them become successful life-long, independent and passionate contributors to society,” she said.

Offering challenging tasks and stimulating learning opportunities isn’t enough. It’s the working directly with the students, in small groups or individually, that brings them to the next level.

Who are the gifted students?

These are the students considered to exceed traditional curriculum expectations, who consistently complete work well and accomplish tasks faster than their peers in the classroom. Dr. Birlean explained the process used at the EMSB to nominate exceptional learners often involves “triangulation of data” from several adults in the child’s educational circle: teachers, parents or guardians, school administrators or psychologists.

Once they are nominated for enriched services, she conducts a strengths assessment report, and a plan is made. Gifted students are provided a tailored program that



From left: Royal West Academy students Anya Figlarz-Grassino, Sophie Iny, Sumin Woo and Jake Gurevitch on June 8 at the opening ceremony of the Future Problem-Solving International invitational Conference in Massachusetts.



Pierre de Coubertin had two teams participating in the GIPS program, including, from left: Rocco Palmieri, Gianmassimo Antonio Pietrangelo, Eva Ciarlo, Michael Miele, Antoni Polverari, Adriano Giglia and Graziella Corsi-House. One team qualified for the final international competition, making them the only elementary school students to have reached that level in Canada.

addresses their interests and needs. They are invited to participate in a school-wide enrichment program or conduct independent work. They are students who can keep up with the regular class work since the enrichment studies take place during regular school hours.

How teachers can help them thrive

Among Dr. Birlean’s own students are teachers who are interested in learning about “differentiation,” an educational framework and philosophy for teaching that takes into account the different kind of learners in the classroom and the different ways of imparting information. She conducts professional development workshops and works one-on-one with teachers who want to learn about adapted teaching styles.

The program

The 2022/2023 menu of school-wide enrichment programs included Public Speaking and Debating, the Battle of the Books competition, two competitive components of the Future Problem Solving International – the Global Issues Problem Solving and Scenario Writing Problem Solving



Global Issues Problem Solving teams at Dunrae Gardens work on completing the Robotic Work Force competitive booklet. The teams had two hours to find 16 challenges, 16 solutions, rank 8 solutions and develop a fully imagined action plan!

– and the Caribou International Math Competition, along with independent enrichment and supporting teachers with classroom differentiation.

Sarah Lubbe and Pamela Anang are key team members of the enrichment team, who, in their formal role as Academic Success Tutors, help with the implementation of school-wide enrichment programs and mentoring of independent enrichment projects. As part of its larger mission, the team wants to raise awareness about the needs of gifted and

talented learners and help drive forward a government policy that provides more opportunities for gifted students province wide.

Here at the EMSB, Dr. Birlean and her colleagues are working to refine the definition for gifted learners at EMSB and to address the individual needs of bright children within schools across the network by implementing solid school-wide and independent enrichment programs.

“These kids are our future leaders of tomorrow,” said Dr. Birlean. “They are our creative

problem-solvers, and we owe it to them to provide exceptional opportunities so they can develop their talents. And shine!”

2022/2023 AWARDS

Debate and Public Speaking

This is a skills-based program designed by Dr. Birlean and former president of the McGill Debating Union Kiana Macary in 2018. During the 2022/2023 school year, five elementary schools participated: Roslyn, Gardenvue, Dunrae Gardens, Pierre de Coubertin and Willingdon. During the month of April, 69 student debaters participated in their in-school debate tournament arguing for or against the motion “This house believes that homework should be abolished.”

At the final inter-school debate tournament between Dunrae Gardens and Willingdon on April 26, it was the Willingdon debaters – Bella Flanz, Louise Sullivan and Violet Lamoureux – who were crowned champions.

Global Issue Problem Solving

The EMSB boasted the only Canadian team to reach the finals in the international Global Issues Public Speaking (GIPS) competition organized by Future Problem Solving International. Four students from Royal West Academy in Montreal West reached the finals. Grade 9 students Sumin Woo, Sophie Iny, Anya Figlarz-Grassino and Jake Gurevitch travelled to University Massachusetts Amherst in June to compete.

GIPS delves into global issues, real-life situations and the ability to creatively problem-solve. Four competitions take place throughout the year amongst primary and secondary students in 36 countries. Among the topics this year were: Digital Realities, Robotic Workforce and Throw Away Society. Student work is submitted electronically, while evaluation and feedback are provided by trained evaluators from the Future Problem organization. Qualified students earn invitations to participate in the annual International Conference.

Three EMSB elementary schools also put forward teams, including Roslyn in Westmount and Dunrae Gardens in the Town of Mount Royal, with Pierre de Coubertin Elementary School in St. Leonard putting out exceptional results. PdC’s Rocco Palmieri, Eva Ciarlo, Graziella Corsi-House, Gianmassimo Antonio Pietrangelo – all in Grade 6 – qualified for the final international competition in the team global issues problem-solving component, making them the only elementary school students to have reached that level in Canada.

for gifted and exceptional learners



Debate enrichment program participants at Pierre de Coubertin focused on developing skills in public speaking, critical thinking, researching for valid and reliable sources and writing persuasive arguments to support the chosen stance.



Roslyn Elementary School's Global Issues Problem Solving teams work hard at exploring global issues and real-life situations, while they creatively problem-solve.

Independent learning

Twenty-one students from five elementary schools took part in the Independent Enrichment Program. Participating schools were: Dunrae Gardens, Gardenview, Parkdale, St. Raphael and Willingdon. The projects included: Scenario Writing Future Problem Solving International (as part of Future Problem Solving International competition), the Lunar Rover Research Challenge, Scratch programming exploration and The Mystery of the Missing Tomb, a mystery-solving puzzle calling on research and creative-writing skills.

More to come!

More is being planned for the new school year, including introducing Destination Imagination tailored for elementary schools. The team is also working with French teachers to start a Battle of the Books-style competition in French.

Science and research

In the area of science, two Dunrae Gardens Kindergarten students and four Willingdon students in Grade 3 and 4 took part in the Lunar Rover Research Challenge developed by Let's Talk Science in collaboration with subject matter experts in the space and rover industries at Canadian Aerospace and Avalon Space.

The Willingdon students prepared for the competition through a weekly one-hour enrichment session. They also visited the Rio Tinto Planetarium and participated in a virtual discussion with Gary Matthews, a mechanical engineer who worked on the James Webb Telescope. Using a collaborative board game, the teams designed, analyzed, improved and submitted a plan to accomplish the mission objective.



Two students work with Scratch and learn how code follows instructions and is read from top to bottom, as part of their independent study project.



Two independent study students from Willingdon Elementary School, Sky Fraser and Kalista Ivy Burgos-Bougadis, met with the University of Toronto's trash team as part of a creative writing competition with Future Problem Solving International.

Scenario Writing Problem Solving

And, at Willingdon Elementary School in NDG, two Grade 4 students met with the University of Toronto's trash team as part of a creative writing competition with Future Problem Solving International. The task was to write a piece consisting of 1,500 words or less, set at least 20 years in the future about imagined but logical outcome of actions or events taking place in the world. Sky Fraser qualified in the finals for her individual written work. Bravo!

Math

The Caribou contest is an online worldwide math competition, which the EMSB has participated in for the past two years. In the 2022/2023 school year, just over 180 EMSB elementary students from five schools were nominated by their teachers to participate: Dunrae Gardens, Gardenview, Pierre de Coubertin, Roslyn and Willingdon.

Two students, Oliver Mansur (Grade 4, Roslyn) and Izaak Wolfson Trudeau (Kindergarten, Dunrae Gardens), scored number one worldwide in their categories in one of the six contests offered throughout the 2022/2023 school year. Amazing!

Literature

The first ever in-person junior Battle of the Books took place on May 19 at Roslyn. Four schools sent in their reigning teams to compete in the trivia-style contest. Teams were asked questions about 10 books they had read and discussed during the year. The host school's team welcomed teams from Dunrae Gardens, Gardenview and Pierre de Coubertin for the morning event. A total of 38 students participated in the program, with inner-school

competitions taking place earlier in the year.

Dunrae Gardens was the proud 2022/2023 champion! Team members included Marion Williams (captain and

spokesperson), Ann Xia, Sabina Marques, Maya Broccolini, Charlotte Cassis, Anastacia Ngo and back-up members Lily Assis, Christos Zaloni and Luca Bandera-Gorman.

Dunrae Gardens crowned champion at EMSB's first Junior Battle of the Books



From Dunrae Gardens: Marion Williams (captain and spokesperson), Ann Xia, Sabina Marques, Maya Broccolini, Charlotte Cassis and Anastacia Ngo.

Elementary school teams from Gardenview in St. Laurent, Pierre de Coubertin in St. Leonard, Dunrae Gardens in TMR and host Roslyn in Westmount competed at the Battle of Books (BOTB) Competition on May 19 – the first time the EMSB has held a Battle of the Books Junior Event.

Congratulations to Dunrae Gardens for achieving the top score!

Battle of the Books is a reading challenge and trivia competition for motivated students who are avid readers. During the 2022-2023 academic year, participants read and discussed 10 books carefully selected by a former member of EMSB's Gifted and Exceptional Learners team, Jenna Mlynaryk, now librarian at Westmount and Lester B. Pearson high schools.

The program ran from November and culminated in May in a two-hour trivia competition between the four top-scoring schools.

During the school year, participants met weekly for one hour under the guidance of Dr. Camelia Birlean, consultant, Gifted and Exceptional Learners at the EMSB, and Pamela Anang, a member of the enrichment team, to discuss the books through literature circles in which students explored and openly discussed the various elements of the books. Pre-competition activities took place, including an in-house tournament.

Students also worked collaboratively and independently to generate and refine trivia questions, which were then evaluated by the mentors. High-quality questions were chosen

along with those created by the mentors to form the pool of questions that were asked in the final competition.

Dr. Birlean explained the reason behind getting students to create the questions was to engage them meaningfully with the content of the books while shaping their inquisitive mind, "We don't want our students to be simply consumers of information, but creators of information," she said.

Training for the competition involves practicing the format and timing of the questioning.

Finals at Roslyn

During the competition at Roslyn, Ms. Anang asked the teams questions during two sessions of two rounds each. In Round One, competitors had two minutes to answer each of the four paragraph-based questions. In a fast-paced and exciting Round Two, called the lightning round, competitors needed to answer as many questions as they could within two minutes.

Accompanying Dr. Birlean at the judges' table were Dunrae Gardens Principal Despina Michakis and Roslyn Principal Joanna Genovezos and Vice Principal Mireille Tehbelian.

Most participants read more than half the books, which range from 100 to over 300 pages.

The event was well attended with a parent/guardian and student audience of about 50 people, who gathered in the Roslyn gymnasium festively decorated for the event.

Reporters en herbe

Tout récemment, nos élèves de 4^e année étaient invités à plonger dans le monde des arts. Pendant deux semaines, ils ont réalisé des activités d'interaction orale, de lecture et d'écriture qui leur ont permis de mettre en pratique leurs compétences en français tout en se familiarisant avec plusieurs domaines artistiques comme la danse, la littérature, le cirque et la musique.

Pour conclure cette série d'activités, ils étaient invités à se mettre dans la peau d'un reporter de l'infolette de la CSEM et d'écrire un article qui décrit la visite fictive ou réelle d'un artiste à leur école. C'est avec une grande fierté que nous vous présentons les textes d'élèves de la classe de Madame Mélanne Mathieu de l'école Dunrae Gardens.

Piko le clown

Je m'appelle Davide. J'ai 9 ans et je suis en quatrième année. L'artiste qui est venu à notre école s'appelle Piko et c'est un clown. Il a quarante-trois ans. Piko travaille au cirque et il fait rire beaucoup de personnes. Les élèves de l'école l'ont choisi, car il est drôle et il raconte des blagues.



Davide Cleinge,
4^e année, école
Dunrae Gardens

Piko nous a montré comment fabriquer des fleurs qui arrosent en plastique et en métal. Il y avait vingt élèves dans la classe de français. L'activité a duré trois heures pendant la journée.

J'ai appris à fabriquer des fleurs de clown qui arrosent. La partie que j'ai aimée le plus est quand on a pu essayer les fleurs qui arrosent dehors. J'ai moins aimé quand Piko m'a appelé pour essayer l'une des fleurs sur moi. Ça m'a un peu mouillé. L'activité aurait pu être améliorée si on s'était promené dans l'école avec nos fleurs qui arrosent et qu'on les avait montrées aux autres élèves.

Je recommande beaucoup cette activité. Une autre école devrait inviter Piko, car il est drôle et il fait rire les gens. Il est très créatif pour construire des objets.

Un atelier d'art dramatique avec Shanel



Noémie Donneger,
4^e année, école
Dunrae Gardens

Je m'appelle Noémie, j'ai dix ans et je suis en 4^e année. L'artiste qui est venue à mon école s'appelle Shanel. Elle fait de l'art dramatique et elle a 15 ans d'expérience. Les élèves de l'école ont choisi Shanel parce qu'elle a un très beau talent en art dramatique.

J'ai fait de l'art dramatique avec Shanel dans le gymnase. Je l'ai fait avec neuf autres élèves et l'activité a duré un mois. Nous avons des séances de deux heures à chaque fois qu'elle venait. On a utilisé un papier avec le scénario écrit dessus.

Après un mois d'art dramatique, j'ai appris qu'on a besoin d'émotions et de créativité dans le scénario. J'ai aimé le scénario ou l'action se déroulait dans l'espace, mais j'ai moins aimé quand je devais être une extraterrestre. Une de mes suggestions c'est de ne pas mettre des monstres dans la scène.

Je recommanderais cette activité pour qu'on ait plus d'art dramatique à l'école et aussi pour avoir une autre expérience merveilleuse avec Shanel.

Quelque 300 élèves de deux écoles primaires, soit Gerald McShane à Montréal-Nord et Royal Vale à NDG, ont assisté à une représentation de La Magie des impressionnistes (www.lastinimpressionnism3D.com) au complexe Studio-Cabaret / Espace St-Denis le 13 avril. Ils ont vécu une expérience extraordinaire projetée sur un énorme écran holographique 3D à DEL de 75 pieds où les spectateurs ont véritablement l'impression de prendre place avec les invités de Renoir dans *Le déjeuner des canotiers*, de tourbillonner avec les *Danseuses* de Degas, de flotter au-dessus des *Nymphéas* de Monet et de s'envoler dans *La nuit étoilée* de Van Gogh. Passez un dimanche dans le parc avec Georges Seurat et déambulez

parmi les célèbres personnages de son œuvre *Un dimanche après-midi à l'île de la Grande Jatte*. En plus d'en mettre plein les yeux, La Magie des impressionnistes est un réel enchantement pour les oreilles avec les chefs-d'œuvre de Debussy, Ravel et d'autres compositeurs, ainsi que les classiques français signés Piaf, Aznavour et Mouskouri, parfaitement synchronisés avec les œuvres d'art qui prennent vie. Les élèves présents aux deux représentations ont été émerveillés, applaudissant à plusieurs reprises et laissant échapper plusieurs « oohs » et « aahs » sur les effets spéciaux en 3D. Nicolas Doyon, conseiller en arts à la CSEM, qui a assisté à la première du programme, a coordonné ces visites l'hiver



Les élèves de deux écoles primaires, soit Gerald McShane et Royal Vale, ont assisté à une représentation de La Magie des impressionnistes.

dernier. En raison de l'accueil fort enthousiaste réservé à La Magie des impressionnistes, les promoteurs Paul Dupont Hébert et Rubin Fogel ont annoncé la prolongation de l'événement. Le public, qui a

répondu en grand nombre, pourra donc vivre l'expérience de cette production holographique en 3D unique en son genre jusqu'à la fin du mois de juin au nouveau Studio-Cabaret.

Diplômée de Royal West

Victoria Ianotti, diplômée de l'Académie Royal West à Montréal-Ouest, a fait l'objet d'un article paru dans *La Presse* <https://www.lapresse.ca/sports/2023-03-10/victoria-ianotti/mcgill-a-sa-propre-reine.php>. Elle est la vedette de l'équipe de volleyball de l'Université McGill. Bien qu'elle ait confié au journaliste avoir grandi dans un milieu anglophone, c'est avec fierté qu'elle a réalisé l'intégralité de l'entrevue en français... « Tout ce qui se passe dans le monde du volleyball ça se



Victoria Ianotti

« passe en français », dit-elle. « Quand j'ai commencé à jouer au volleyball civil,

c'était en français, donc il fallait que je m'exerce à mieux m'exprimer. Depuis

que je suis à McGill, je perds même un peu mon accent anglais... » L'an dernier, elle a été récipiendaire du prix Thérèse-Quigley décerné à l'étudiante-athlète universitaire canadienne s'étant le plus illustré pour son leadership et son engagement communautaire. Âgée de 23 ans, elle étudie en génie informatique. « Avant, je voulais aller plus en sciences de la santé. J'ai changé plusieurs fois. J'avais plein d'intérêts. » Elle a d'ailleurs fait un stage chez le géant Microsoft.

Un ingénieur de l'aérospatiale de passage à LMAC

Dans le cadre d'une initiative de la CSEM qui met en lumière d'anciennes et d'anciens élèves, l'école secondaire Laurier Macdonald de Saint-Léonard a accueilli l'ingénieur en aérospatiale et stratège Joseph Di Liello. Il s'est adressé à la classe de sciences de 4^e secondaire de Joanna Kim-Dussault, relatant son expérience à l'école et sa carrière de plus de 25 ans chez Pratt & Whitney Canada. M. Di Liello, diplômé de Laurier Macdonald en 1986 après avoir fréquenté l'école primaire Dante, a depuis gravi les échelons chez Pratt & Whitney Canada où il a débuté sa carrière comme ingénieur de fabrication au sein de l'entreprise en 1998. Il a notamment occupé les postes de gestionnaire de la chaîne



Joseph Di Liello s'adresse aux étudiants

d'approvisionnement, gestionnaire principal de l'approvisionnement stratégique et des projets techniques, directeur de la gestion de l'approvisionnement, avant d'être nommé directeur des stratégies d'amélioration continue en octobre 2018. Depuis qu'il est chez Pratt & Whitney, il a visité plus de 30 pays, dont la Pologne,

l'Inde, le Brésil et la France, pour n'en citer que quelques-uns. Natif de Saint-Léonard où il a grandi et vit toujours dans l'est de la ville, M. Di Liello admet qu'il n'excellait pas à l'école et n'avait aucune idée de ce qu'il voulait devenir lorsqu'il était élève à Laurier Macdonald. « Il n'y avait pas beaucoup de personnes modèles autour

de moi », a-t-il déclaré aux élèves. « Mes parents étaient des immigrants d'Italie et étaient très peu éduqués. J'aimais les sciences et j'étais passionné de mathématiques et de physique ». La visite a été coordonnée par le commissaire local de la CSEM, Mario Pietrangelo, et le directeur adjoint de l'école, Ivan Spilak.

EMSB teachers recognized for excellence

On the occasion of English Montreal School Board Teacher Recognition Day, four teachers were presented with special awards from the Petros Taverna restaurant group, as well as certificates last May at James Lyng High School in St. Henri.

The EMSB launched this ceremony a decade ago to coincide with National Teachers Day in the United States and recognize this profession towards the end of the academic year.

The EMSB received many nominations from parents for the awards. Petros Taverna, owned by Ted Dranias, has locations in Westmount, Griffintown, Little Italy, Mile End and Lachine, with a South Florida spot set to open next fall.

Petros Taverna presented \$100 gift cards to Klara Bourne, an English Language Arts teacher at James Lyng High School; Holly Commeford, a teacher at James Lyng Adult Education Centre; and Jon Stein and Lara Belinsky, physical and health education teachers at Willingdon Elementary School in NDG.

The formal presentation took place in the newly refurbished James Lyng Auditorium.



Teachers, staff, students and guests at the special ceremony.



James Lyng High School's band performs in the refurbished auditorium.

The winners were also profiled on television by promotion co-sponsor CityNews Montreal:
<https://vimeo.com/823326050?share=copy>

Watch our podcast with the winners:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXozfJcA7gM&t=29s>

Please see our complete story at:
<https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/articles/emsb-teachers-recognized-for-excellence>



ADULT EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL SERVICES

Yummy Doh Fundraiser

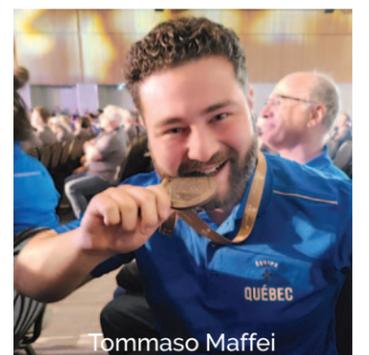
In Galileo's continued goal to raise money to renovate the second-floor kitchen, the school tapped into the cookie lover in all of us and teamed up with Yummy Doh to offer a delicious treat! The entire Galileo community banded together to sell Yummy Doh (cookie dough products that are dairy-free, vegan, have no preservatives or artificial colors, and can be enjoyed raw, baked, as a cake pop, in a parfait or with ice cream). Designated social integration students went class to class offering tasting samples. Students and staff placed their orders, and then when the Yummy Doh shipment was received, students separated, packaged and delivered the delicious cookie orders to their respective classmates. In the process, Galileo raised an extra \$1,800!



Cookie lovers at Galileo celebrate.

Cabinetmaking champ

Rosemount Technology Centre cabinet making student Tommaso Maffei captured third place in the national skills competition in Winnipeg last spring. The student was accompanied by his coach, Christopher Honce, academic advisor, Nadia Zuccaro and educational counsellor Miriam Furfaro.



Tommaso Maffei

Career Fair in St. Laurent



Participants explore career opportunities.

The St. Laurent Adult Education Centre (SLAEC) cafeteria was bustling on May 10 during its annual Career Fair. This annual event brought together more than 20 companies, vocational centres, educational institutions and other professionals looking to hire students or have them enroll in their programs. "We have a lot of students graduating this year who want to see what is out there and what they can achieve with a high school diploma," said Annette Lacroce, a counsellor in re-education at SLAEC. "Students still in school, can look to companies such as Bureau en Gros or Ardene that offer flexible hours and part-time work." Ms. Lacroce says events such as the Career Fair are incredibly valuable for the school, its students and the overall community.



Adult Education and Vocational Services

For more information about our vocational programs please log on to

<https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/schools/adult-vocational>

High School Open Houses – continued from page 1

Royal West Academy cont'd

Qualifying tests: Saturday, September 30 (last names starting A-L) and Sunday, October 1 (M-Z) between 8 am and 1 pm.

189 Easton Ave.
royalwestacademy.com

Westmount High School

Dedicated to promoting critical thinking through transformational learning experiences in a safe, meaningful and engaging environment, Westmount High School encourages its students to develop their qualities and capabilities to the best they can be. A varied selection of elective courses are offered, including philosophy, consumer science, woodworking and more. Students can also take enriched math, science and technology or thrive in the visual arts and multimedia program. The Westmount-based school also offers the College Board's Advanced Placement Program.

Open House: Tuesday, September 26 between 7 pm and 9 pm

4350 Ste. Catherine St. W.
westmount.emsb.qc.ca/whs

EASTERN REGION SCHOOLS

FACE

At its downtown location, École Fine Arts Core Education School (FACE) serves a diverse student body united by a common bond: the arts. Students from the EMSB and the Centre de services scolaire de Montréal (CSSDM) have common classes in vocal and instrumental music and often come together for extra-curricular activities. The fine arts program respects the Minister of Education requirements by developing the competencies of interpretation, creation and appreciation. Students excel by developing their artistic talents with the support of art specialist teachers, tutors and artists. Musical instruments are provided by the school.

Open House: Tuesday, October 3, time TBA.

3449 University St.
face.emsb.qc.ca/face

John F. Kennedy High School

Located in Villeray, JFKHS offers both a competitive and stimulating academic program and a tremendous resource program in a respectful, inclusive and nurturing environment. The building is outfitted with high-quality facilities to best equip students in their studies. A wide variety of extra-curricular activities offers students an opportunity to further their learning. Enrichment is provided in English, French, science and math. Students in all grades have the option of taking Media Arts



Students at Laurier Macdonald High School.

and Technology courses. The Aim High Program and the Work-Oriented Training Pathway program are offered.

Open House: Thursday, October 26 from 6 pm to 9 pm.

3030 Villeray St.
jfkhighschool.emsb.com

Laurier Macdonald High School

Based in St. Leonard, Laurier Macdonald offers the International Baccalaureate program and provides excellent support for students aiming to achieve high levels of academic success. With an emphasis on nurturing students to become contributing members of society, the school offers students the opportunity to explore multiple literacies and develop partnerships through the Community Learning Centre in the spirit of community service. The French program includes Français, programme de base and Français, programme enrichi. Students have the option of accelerated math offering calculus in Secondary 5.

Open House: Thursday, October 19 from 6 pm to 9 pm.

7355 Viau Blvd.
lauriermac.emsb.qc.ca/lmac

Lester B. Pearson High School

A true community school offering a variety of programs to meet the needs of the individual student, LBPHS emphasizes moral, intellectual, physical, emotional, social and cultural development. Through the English core program and enriched program, as well as Français, programme enrichi, the Resource Program and Sport-études, students are educated, socialized and qualified to continue their studies or enter the work force as bilingual, socially conscious graduates, who are aware of civic duties and responsibilities.

Open House: Thursday, October 12 from 6:30 pm to 9 pm

Placement Exam: Saturday, October 21 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

11575 P. M. Favier Ave.
lesterbpearson.emsb.qc.ca/lesterbpearson

Rosemount High School

Rosemount High School is located in Rosemont-La Petite Patrie. Its philosophy is that all students, regardless of differences,



Westmount High School students get set to invite guests to learn more about their programs last year.



The music program will be showcased at the Rosemount High School open house.

can achieve success, cultivate a growth mindset and develop their unique potential. RHS stands out for its junior school model and its Universal Design for Learning approach. With a strong Resource department, students with special needs have access to remedial support. In addition to its regular academic curriculum, RHS also offers specialized music and athletics programs, Français, programme enrichi and various STEAM activities.

Open House: Thursday, October 5 from 6 pm to 9 pm.

3737 Beaubien St. E.
rosemount.emsb.qc.ca

Vincent Massey Collegiate

Vincent Massey, located in Rosemount, has the primary mission of developing well-rounded students committed to academic achievement and a sense of community responsibility. An entrance examination is required for admission. It offers an enriched and structured CEGEP preparatory program designed to respond to the needs of the above-average student and further develop each student's capacity to achieve at the highest

level. Courses include enriched math, science and technology, and Français, langue d'enseignement.

Open House: Thursday, September 21 from 4 pm to 8:30 pm

Application period for Grade 6 students: June 1 to September 21, 2023

Application period for Grade 7 to 9 students: October 1, 2023 to January 12, 2024

Entrance Exam: Saturday, September 23 for Grade 6 students only, from 8:30 am to 12 pm

5925 27th Ave.
vmc.qc.ca

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

John Grant High School

An alternative high school located in Côte St-Luc, John Grant High follows a modified curriculum that reinforces functional academics, literacy and numeracy, and develops life and work skills through hands-on programming. Students can explore their talents

and interests in the provincial government program, Work-Oriented Training Pathway, or pursue a certificate in the EMSB's Challenges (DÉFIS) program. This opens up partnering possibilities with local organizations and businesses for meaningful activities and work placements. Students are referred to John Grant by the professionals at their current school.

Open House: TBA

5785 Parkhaven Ave.
johngrant.emsb.qc.ca

L.I.N.K.S. High School

Located in Ahuntsic, L.I.N.K.S. is an alternative high school for students who have special needs. Its mission is to ensure the growth and development of each student academically, morally, socially and culturally in order to achieve personal independence in society. Students can focus on functional academics, life skills and preparation for the job market in programs leading to certificates in DÉFIS and Work-Oriented Training Pathway. Students benefit from many support professionals including a guidance counsellor, occupational therapist, speech and language pathologist, assistive technology consultant, autism consultant, special education consultant and a TEVA consultant.

Open House: Thursday, February 22, 2024 from 6 pm to 8 pm.

9905 Papineau Ave. North
links.emsb.qc.ca/links

MIND High School

MIND, in the Mile End, offers a unique, avant-garde approach to teaching, with a small student-to-teacher ratio that fosters active, discussion-based learning, as well as critical thinking and analytical skills. Now a Secondary 1 through 5 high school, MIND follows the Quebec Educational Plan curriculum by creating opportunities for students to participate in cross-curricular and community-based projects. Its main objectives are to prepare students for post-secondary studies and to provide them with a respectful environment in which to do their best work. It is the ideal setting for the thoughtful, creative, diligent student.

Open House: Thursday, November 9, 2023 and Monday, January 22, 2024, from 6:30 pm to 8 pm

4563 St. Urbain St.
www.mindhighschool.com



SPORTS

WITH PAT HICKEY



Rosemount High grad coaches Bruins

Boston Bruins head coach Jim Montgomery says the public school system played a key role in his success later in life. “I think my education at Montrose Elementary and Rosemount High prepared me for success at the University of Maine,” Montgomery told the *Express*. “The teachers were dedicated and held you accountable. If you had a thirst for knowledge, you got it.”



Jim Montgomery 67 games as a rookie but was traded to the Canadiens for Guy Carbonneau the following summer. His tenure in Montreal was brief. He played only five games before he was traded to Philadelphia. He made later stops in San Jose and Dallas, but played most of his 12-year career in the minors. After his playing career ended, Montgomery turned to coaching at the university level and then the NHL.

Montgomery enjoyed success in the classroom and on the ice at Maine. While earning his degree, he was a scoring machine. He’s fourth on the all-time NCAA scoring list with 301 points. Montgomery signed with the St. Louis Blues as an undrafted free agent. He played

Habs defenceman visits St. Gabriel School



David Arsenault (left) joins Mike Matheson and the Champions for Life mascot with some students.

Montreal Canadiens defenceman Michael Matheson took a kindergarten class at St. Gabriel Elementary School in Pointe St. Charles on an interactive adventure last spring to help promote the Champions for Life Foundation, a non-profit which promotes the importance of an active lifestyle for youngsters aged four to eight.

Matheson, who was born and raised in Montreal and joined the Canadiens via a trade from Pittsburgh, took the youngsters on a fictional journey with Marco, a young

boy who has to walk on a floating log and jump from rock to rock to cross a river in search of a banana. When he finished reading the Little Champions interACTIVE story, he joined Champions for Life founder David Arsenault in helping the youngsters replicate the skills displayed in the story.

Later, Matheson and Arsenault spent time with students in Grades 1 through 6. After fielding questions from podcast host Tony Marinaro, the students had a chance to quiz Matheson about his hockey career.

SOCCER NIGHT



More than 1,300 members of the EMSB family came together on a beautiful Saturday night to watch CF Montreal beat Inter Miami FC 1-0 at the end of May. Before the game, two students,

Simona Ouzounis (Leonardo Da Vinci Academy, Grade 6) and Liam Daoust (LaurenHill Academy, Grade 11), accompanied by Chair Joe Ortona, were recognized by CF Montreal Team President

Gabriel Gervais on the field for their excellence in both academics and athletics. A portion of each ticket sold was donated to *Inspirations* newspaper.

Champions for Life ambassador event at LDVA



The 2015 World Games Karate Champion Alexandru Sorin visited Leonardo da Vinci Academy in RDP last May to talk to Grade 2 daycare students and Grades 3, 4 and 6 school students about perseverance and what it means to be a “Champion for Life.” He did so as an ambassador of the Champions for Life Foundation. Mr. Sorin’s inspiring and interactive speech was preceded by a 30-minute physical literacy session in the gymnasium, where students practiced galloping and side shuffling, dribbling with hands and dynamic balances. Kaizen, the Champions for Life mascot, also made an appearance! Champions for Life Founder, David Arsenault, read a Little Champions interACTIVE story to the daycare Pre-K to Grade 1 students in the main daycare room. The “Marco in the Jungle” interactive story aims at providing meaningful movement experiences so that children build their physical literacy through storytelling.

Alexandru Sorin signs autographs at LDVA

Suzuki lends an “Asista” to Dalkeith



Montreal Canadiens captain Nick Suzuki visited Dalkeith Elementary School in Anjou in his capacity as an ambassador for the Asista Foundation, which focuses on rescuing dogs from difficult situations and giving them a new lease on life by training them to be service animals. Dalkeith has two service dogs, Kira and Jessie, fostered by Principal John Wright. They help students with their social interactions, reduce stress and anxiety and assist the children in the recovery phase of a crisis. In addition, the dogs build students’ confidence in their reading out loud.

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