

Try our quiz and win prizes see page 4



EMSMB salutes its volunteers see page 5



Alouettes GM returns to LMAC see page 11



Commission scolaire English-Montréal

# express

Volume 28  
Number 1  
FALL 2024  
[www.emsb.qc.ca](http://www.emsb.qc.ca)

English Montreal School Board

## EMSMB continues to boast the highest success rate

The EMSB is pleased to announce its continued achievement of the highest graduation success rate in the province. According to the latest statistics from the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec, in 2022, the board's graduation rate stands at an impressive 92.7 percent, marking a slight increase from 91.6 percent in 2021. While the majority of students graduated within five years, it's noteworthy that the Ministry allows for a two-year extension to ensure students have ample opportunities to earn their diplomas or obtain their initial qualifications. Currently, the EMSB's six-year cohort boasts a remarkable success rate of 94.8 percent. The province-wide success rate, which includes both public and private school results, stands at 84.1 percent. Broken down further, the public system's average is 81.6 percent while for private sector the number is 94 percent.



Former astronaut and politician Marc Garneau visited Marymount Academy International in NDG., where the science program carries his name. Pictured left to right are: Principal James Fequet and students Dairen Dominguez Rivera, Treasure Ambe Nforlem and Ophélie Bernier with teacher Ayesha Khan.

**Get your tools ready**

Please see page 12 for the complete story.

**Rosemount Technology Centre**  
has introduced a new carpentry program housed at Lester B. Pearson High School in Montreal North.

**GET READY FOR THIS YEAR'S**

# OPEN HOUSES

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.

This year we have also created a blog to highlight our open houses at <https://emsbopenhouseblog.blogspot.com>

For a full list of all EMSB Open Houses, visit: [www.emsbopenhouses.com](http://www.emsbopenhouses.com).

## Global News Morning

Weekdays 6 - 9

with Laura Casella, Antony Robart, Ross Hull & Brayden Jagger Haines

[Globalnews.ca](http://Globalnews.ca)



## Chair's Message: **A mandate draws to a close**



Joe Ortona

Four years ago, literally only weeks before Quebec's nine English public school boards were about to be transformed into service centres, the Quebec Court of Appeal upheld a suspension of Bill 40, the CAQ government's education reform.

Bill 40, passed in February 2020, changed French school boards into service centres and did away with elections. Via the Quebec English School Boards Association, we challenged the constitutionality of the law, arguing it violated minority language educational rights.

The Quebec Court of Appeal stay gave very little time to organize elections. As a result, the post of chair and nine of 10 wards at the EMSB were captured by acclamation. We were nonetheless elated to see the democratic process remain intact at our level. One of the first actions we took was to authorize the purchase of

air purifiers for all EMSB buildings that did not have mechanical ventilation. This was during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and we responded to the pleas from concerned parents and staff. In contrast, the French service centres had their requests denied for they no longer had a Council of Commissioners to approach. Immediately it was crystal clear why Bill 40 was flawed.

In the summer of 2023, Quebec Superior Court Justice Sylvain Lussier upheld the QESBA's challenge of many sections of Bill 40, An act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance. The Quebec Superior Court heard the case on its merits in 2021. It subsequently delivered a sweeping judgment, concluding that many provisions of Bill 40 are unconstitutional because they breach Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The judgment takes into account decades of jurisprudence regarding minority language education rights in Québec and throughout Canada. Regrettably, the CAQ government challenged the ruling and we await another date before the Quebec Court of Appeal.

School board elections, meanwhile, will take place on Sunday, November 3. Now more than ever, it is vital for every

person on our electoral list to exercise their right and vote. The EMSB Council of Commissioners has proven over this past mandate that we are there to defend the rights of our constituents. We won our Quebec Superior Court challenge of Bill 21, the religious symbols ban, but were on the losing end of the Quebec Court of Appeal decision last winter. We have challenged that to the Supreme Court of Canada. While we await a Superior Court date to take on Quebec's language law, we did gain a partial stay of provisions of Bill 96 and the *Charter of the French Language*. This ruling also benefits other English-language boards and the Quebec English School Boards Association. The Superior Court stayed parts of the law that would require English

school boards to communicate exclusively in French when writing with key institutions of the English-speaking community, such as the Quebec English School Boards Association or the English Parents' Committee Association of Quebec. We had challenged the application of amendments to the *Charter of the French Language* adopted in 2002 that the government only brought into force in June 2023 without any consultation of the English-language community. This was a significant win, of which the EMSB should be proud. In June that stay was upheld by the Court of Appeal.

I want to make it clear that we offer rich programming in French in our schools and are committed to ensuring our students have

strong French-language capabilities so that they can live and work in Quebec. However, it is important to emphasize that we are an English-language school board and a key institution of the English-speaking community.

The Council of Commissioners works closely with our staff, parents and students. We are proud of our record these past four years, notably boasting the highest success rate of all public school boards in the province. Stakeholders in the English system know that if they have an issue of concern, they can approach the office of the chair or their commissioner. This is not something to take for granted. Please keep that in mind as the date for school board elections draws near.

## Message from the Director General: **Take advantage of open house**



Nick Katalifos

Another school year is upon us. On a personal note, this marks my 34<sup>th</sup> year working in the public education system. I began my journey as a teacher, became a vice-principal and principal before assuming this important role of Director General just over three years ago.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our Council of Commissioners, wonderful staff, parent volunteers, students and other stakeholders for continuing to make the EMSB a much appreciated institution of lifelong learning.

Open House season has already commenced and I strongly urge students and parents to please explore what our primary, secondary and adult levels have to

offer. The best way to get a feel for a school is to step inside and meet the people who make the engine run.

Open houses serve as an invaluable opportunity for both parents and students to explore, engage, and envision the educational journey ahead.

First and foremost, open houses offer a glimpse into the heart and soul of a school. They provide an insider's view into the culture, values, and ethos that define an educational institution. Parents and students get to witness firsthand the dedication of teachers, the vibrancy of student life, and the resources available for academic and extracurricular pursuits. It's a chance to see beyond brochures and websites, to truly understand what sets a school apart and whether it aligns with the aspirations and values of the family. Moreover, open houses foster a sense of community and belonging. They bring together prospective families, current students, teachers, and administrators in a shared celebration of learning. Parents can connect with each other, share experiences, and glean insights into the school community. For students, it's an opportunity to envision themselves

as part of that community, to see where they might fit in and thrive.

Furthermore, open houses empower parents and students to make informed decisions. Education is one of the most significant investments a family can make, both in terms of time and resources. Open houses arm parents and students with the information they need to make the right choices for their educational journey. From academic programs to extracurricular activities, from facilities to faculty, open houses provide a comprehensive overview of what a school has to offer.

Walking through the halls, seeing classrooms bustling with activity, hearing stories of achievement and success, open houses paint a picture of what could be. They instill confidence in the educational journey ahead and reaffirm the belief that with the right support and resources, anything is possible.

Please go to our website at [www.emsbopenhouses.com](http://www.emsbopenhouses.com) and see our new open houses blog at [www.emsbopenhouseblog.blogspot.com](http://www.emsbopenhouseblog.blogspot.com) to get the information you need on the schools you are interested in.

Here is to a terrific 2024-25 academic year.



Produced by the Marketing and Communications Department of the

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THE BEAT  
OF YOUR  
WORKDAY





MON-FRI  
**8:20**  
AM



# DateBook

## 2024

**September 8**  
International Literacy Day

**September 11**

National Grandparents' Day

**October 6 to 12**

Fire Prevention Week  
[www.afleq.ca](http://www.afleq.ca)

**October 14**

Thanksgiving

**October 17 and 18**

Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT) Convention

**October 23 and 24**

Education and Career Fair  
Hosted by EMSB Student Services Department and Adult Education and Vocational Services

**October 21 to 25**

National Media Literacy Week  
<https://mediasmarts.ca/media-literacy-week>

**November 11**  
Remembrance Day

**November 18 to 22**

Professionals in Education Week

**December 10**  
Human Rights Day

**December 23, 2024 to January 6, 2025**

Holiday Break

## 2025

**January 2025**  
EMSB Public School Education Month

**January 27**  
Family Literacy Day  
([www.fld-jaf.ca](http://www.fld-jaf.ca))

**February 3 to 7**

Kindergarten Registration Week

Staff Appreciation Week

**February 2025**  
Black History Month

**February 10 to 14**  
Hooked on School Days

**March 2025**  
EMSB Nutrition Month

**March 3 to 7**  
March Break

**April 12**  
Terry Fox Day

**April 27 to May 4**  
National Volunteers Week

**May 1**  
Principal's Day

**May 7**  
EMSB Teacher's Recognition Day

**May 12 to 16**  
EMSB Base Daycare Appreciation Week

## Next school general election coming in November

Election day is scheduled for Sunday, November 3, 2024 for the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) and the eight other English public boards in the province.

Those registered on the EMSB Electoral List can cast their ballots for a school commissioner and chair within one of 10 electoral divisions, determined by the voter's place of residence. Those who have a child attending an elementary or secondary school at the EMSB should already be registered on the anglophone electoral list, according to the School Elections Act.

To be registered on the anglophone electoral list, an elector needs to fill out a form called "Option or revocation of option regarding the exercise of voting rights," which is available on the School Boards Elections page of the EMSB website. To verify if you are already on the EMSB Electoral List, you must first call 1-888-ELECTION (1-888-353-2846) before submitting the form.

The completed form must be signed and returned in its original form to any EMSB school or deposited directly at the reception of the English Montreal School Board c/o Me Nathalie Lauzière,

Secretary General, at 6000 Fielding Ave., Montreal, Quebec H3X 1T4. Alternatively, the signed form can be emailed to [nlauziere@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:nlauziere@emsb.qc.ca).

The elections period begins on September 20, and the period for submitting declarations of candidacy is between September 24 and 29.

The advance poll takes place on one day only: Sunday, October 27, 2024 – one week before election day.

Refer to Élections Québec ([www.electionsquebec.qc.ca](http://www.electionsquebec.qc.ca)), select Current and Upcoming Elections, then "School" to stay up to date on the voting process.

## EMSB Electoral Wards

Voters within the territory of the English Montreal School Board will cast their ballots for the choice of chair and commissioner in one of 10 wards:

### Office of the Chair

- Ward 1 :** Ahuntsic-Cartierville-Montreal-North
- Ward 2 :** Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
- Ward 3 :** Côte-Saint-Luc-Montreal-West-Hampstead
- Ward 4 :** Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve-Rosemount-La Petite-Patrie-Plateau-Mont-Royal-Anjou-Montreal-East
- Ward 5 :** Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
- Ward 6 :** Rivière-des-Prairies-Pointe-aux-Trembles
- Ward 7 :** Saint-Laurent
- Ward 8 :** Saint-Léonard
- Ward 9 :** Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension-Mont-Royal-Outremont
- Ward 10 :** Westmount-Sud-Ouest-Ville-Marie

**You can see the geographical breakdown here:**

<https://bit.ly/3QyViJE>

**Date des élections:**  
3 novembre 2024 Elections Day

**Vote par anticipation:**  
27 octobre 2024 Advance Polls

Début de la période électorale le **20 septembre 2024** – Beginning of the elections period

Période de dépôt des déclarations de candidatures : **du 24 septembre au 29 septembre, 2024** -17 heures – Period for submitting déclarations of candidacy

### Council of Commissioners' Meetings

The EMSB Council of Commissioners meets 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](http://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 the remainder of this academic year are as follows:

- September 10, 2024**
- December 17, 2024**
- February 4, 2025**
- March 18, 2025**
- April 29, 2025**
- May 27, 2025**
- June 17, 2025**

All meetings can be viewed live at [www.emsb.qc.ca](http://www.emsb.qc.ca)

## 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 23 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

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](http://www.emsb.qc.ca)

SECTEUR DES JEUNES ~ YOUTH SECTOR

CALENDRIER SCOLAIRE 2024 ~ 2025 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 20, 2025 / Le 20 juin 2025

September 2024						
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					

October 2024						
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	31		

November 2024						
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 2024						
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	31				

January 2025						
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	31	

February 2025						
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	

March 2025						
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	31					

April 2025						
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			

May 2025						
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	31

June 2025						
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					

## ENTER THE EMSB EXPRESS QUIZ

A GIFT CARD FROM

Chapters

Indigo

COLES

OR

TICKETS TO THE

game vs. Winnipeg Blue Bombers on October 26, 2024

OR

### EMSB PROMOTIONAL MERCHANDISE

**“DELICIOUS” GIFT CERTIFICATES TO**

**Melrose Resto** on St. Laurent Blvd. in Little Italy. EMSB grads Jimmy Scalia, Steve D'Alete and chef Alessandro Gangi provide great food and live comedy. Log on to [www.melroserestaurant.ca](http://www.melroserestaurant.ca)

**Pizza Salvatoré**, more than 73 locations, including St. Léonard, Dollard des Ormeaux, Laval and Terrebonne. [www.salvatore.com](http://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](http://www.marathonsouvlaki.com)

### EMSB Express Quiz

- CLUE:** The answers to these questions can be easily found by reading this issue of the EMSB Express.
- 1 Which former astronaut visited Marymount Academy International?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 2 Who is the Director General of the EMSB?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 On what date are school board elections?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 In which month is Black History Month?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 5 In Joe Ortona's article what is the number of the bill that attempted to abolish English school boards?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 6 Three teachers were presented with special awards from which restaurant?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 7 Which elementary school did singer David Marino return to for a visit?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 8 Who was presented with the EMSB Lifetime Achievement Award at our Volunteer Appreciation event?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 9 When is March Break?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 10 Which EMSB high school building has become the home of a new carpentry program?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.  
You can also access the form at [www.emsb.qc.ca](http://www.emsb.qc.ca).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**The deadline is October 20, 2024.**



# EMSB recognizes Volunteers of Distinction and presents Lifetime Achievement Award

On the occasion of National Volunteer Week last spring, the English Montreal School Board held a special reception and ceremony to honour three Volunteers of Distinction, as well as to present the first Lifetime Achievement Award.

Held at the St. Pius X Career Centre in Ahuntsic, 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.

Aalia Adam, news anchor for Global Montreal, served as the emcee.

The Volunteers of Distinction were Samantha Patel from Merton Elementary School in Côte Saint-Luc and Vanessa Chimienti and Mariasabrina Mangione from John Caboto Academy in Ahuntsic. EMSB Chair Joe Ortona was delighted to present the first ever Lifetime Achievement Award to Bernard Praw. Said Mr. Ortona: "I had the pleasure to serve on the Council of Commissioners with Mr. Praw.

Mr. Praw volunteered as a parent of three EMSB students and then went on to serve as a commissioner for 29 years. During this time he helped establish the English Montreal Student Advisory Committee (EMSAC).

"Volunteers are the unsung heroes of our communities, embodying the spirit of selflessness and compassion," said Mr. Ortona. "Their dedication and commitment make a world of difference in the lives of those they serve. Their efforts ripple through society, touching hearts and inspiring others to join in creating positive change. They give their time, skills, and energy freely, asking for nothing in return except the satisfaction of knowing they've made a difference. Volunteers are the backbone of the EMSB, driving progress and fostering a sense of belonging and community."

Added EMSB Director General Nick Katalifos, himself a former principal and teacher: "I am continually inspired by the incredible commitment and passion each of our volunteers brings to our cause. Your selflessness and tireless efforts truly make a difference, not only in the lives of those we serve but in the very fabric of our community. On behalf of the entire team, I want to express our deepest gratitude for everything you do."

## Bernard Praw

Mr. Praw was a school teacher by profession. He started his career at Chambly County High School

in St. Lambert as a math and "moral and religious education" teacher and then became a guidance counsellor. At the same time, he was a vice-president of the local teachers union. He was the head of the math department for years until assuming the role of principal in 2000 and stayed in that position until his retirement in 2005. At the former Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal (PSBGM) and then the EMSB, Mr. Praw was on the governing boards of Gardenview Elementary and Sir Winston Churchill High (now LaurenHill). He chaired the Central Parents Committee and became a parent commissioner. In 1998 he was elected to the Council of Commissioners when the EMSB was established, representing St. Laurent. After stepping down in 2014, he ran in a by-election for Côte Saint-Luc-Hampstead a year later after the passing of Syd Wise.

Over the last few years Mr. Praw has continued to stay involved in education, doing consulting work for the Ministry of Education as well as working as a student teacher supervisor at McGill University. He and his wife of 56 years Annie, who spent more than three decades as a daycare worker at Gardenview, like to travel. They have visited 54 countries thus far. Their three sons, now married and parents, each went to Gardenview, Sir Winston Churchill and LaurenHill. Jason is head of Canadian research for Mintel; Mitchell is brand director for the Canadian Cancer Society; and Robbie is vice-president of stand-up comedy for Netflix. The Praws have seven grandchildren and one more on the way.

"When Joe Ortona called me and told me that I will be receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award, I was absolutely shocked," Mr. Praw says. I know that I had done some good work for the PSBGM/EMSB, but this award went beyond any expectations. I always believed in the public school system. We take care of every student's needs, from the highly gifted to every child that has special needs. I am very proud to have contributed to it."

## Samantha Patel

Ms. Patel's journey as a dedicated volunteer traces back to her upbringing in a foster home, where she found inspiration in her foster mom, who instilled in her the value of helping others. She firmly believes in the profound impact that one person can have on the world and derives immense joy from assisting every child who seeks help at the Home and School Association.

As a proud single mother of



**Marcie Richstone Photography** — "They're more than just photographs; they're windows into the hearts and souls of the people who make our school special. If you're looking for a photographer who can work magic with a camera, look no further than Marcie. She's simply the best!"

—ALICE SIDEROPOULOS, SAINT PIUS X CAREER CENTRE.

Call on Marcie for school/daycare photos, family photos in the comfort of your own home, business headshots and celebrations of all kinds! Making memories for 35 years... **Let's start the conversation!** (See Marcie's ad on the back cover.)

(1) Global Montreal Anchor Aalia Adam was the emcee. | (2) Bernard Praw, with wife Annie, is congratulated by Joe Ortona and Pela Nickoletopoulos. | (3) John Caboto Academy Principal Sonia Marotta talks about her two exceptional volunteers. | (4) Samantha Patel's four daughters are joined by some other volunteers at the event. | (5) Vanessa Chimienti and Mariasabrina Mangione. | (6) Georges Chahine (left) represented our event sponsor, Beneva. | (7) Lifetime Achievement Award winner Bernard Praw with Commissioner Julien Feldman (left).

four daughters, aged 10, 13, 16 and 22, Ms. Patel sets an example for all the students at Merton. Her volunteerism began at the young age of 14 in churches, camps and community initiatives.

She actively participated in youth classes, soup kitchens, and

community library activities, driven by a sense of giving back. Professionally, Ms. Patel gained valuable skills in event planning and program creation, working with various charities, corporations, educational institutions and in the U.S. and Canada.

Her journey as a volunteer began at Merton when her eldest daughter, Kevisha, enrolled in the school. During her maternity leave following the birth of her other

daughters, she intensified her volunteer efforts from attending meetings to participating and assisting in robotics competitions, classroom help, pizza lunches, end-of-year barbecues, gardening, landscaping and many more school events. If you asked for her help, she always said yes, no matter how big or small. By 2010, she assumed the role of Chair of Fundraising and swiftly ascended

continued on page 6

To view the EMSB Volunteer Night 2024 video: [https://youtu.be/u5I9\\_w33xlo](https://youtu.be/u5I9_w33xlo)  
You can watch the ceremony here: <https://bit.ly/3WxpVDk> It starts at the 5:05 mark.

to the executive of the Home and School Association. Since 2016, she has proudly served as its president, spearheading initiatives to enhance the school community.

In recent years, Ms. Patel has expanded her volunteerism beyond Merton, engaging in community outreach endeavors. She actively collaborates with various city programs to support lower- and middle-class families, while also serving as the Vice-President and Education Chair Member of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHS), demonstrating her unwavering commitment to community welfare.

“When she was Vice-President of Home and School, Samantha was responsible for programming after school and fundraising,” said Principal Rosana Caplan. “She literally controlled and ran all the fundraisers. Our after-school daycare enrichment programs were in deficit and she successfully worked to turn that around. As President now, she literally lives at Merton, where she personally oversees our very busy daycare



Students and staff from St. Pius X.

and after-school programs, and helps plan all our fundraising activities. That includes a very large comedy night event, book fairs, and various sales. Samantha goes above and beyond in every aspect of her work and we work together as two hands of the same body. She supports and organizes our open house, trains and organizes parents for pizza

lunches, calls and participates in all subcommittee meetings, and tirelessly continues to run successful fundraisers for the benefit of our students. Her leadership has enabled us, among other things, to renovate our science room, purchase whiteboards for every classroom, replace all the chairs we use in our gym for school events, buy software



Samantha Patel gets a hug from her Principal.

licences to support learning, and make many other invaluable improvements. Samantha knows everyone in our community by name and gives her all to ensure our teachers and families feel the support that Home and School can provide. The wonderful spirit events she spearheads are also precious contributions to our school's community: the school barbeque, Teacher Appreciation Week, and much more.”

### Vanessa Chimienti and Mariasabrina Mangione

Vanessa Chimienti and Mariasabrina Mangione have

volunteered at John Caboto Academy for 12 years. During this time they have been an integral part of the school community. Throughout the years they have selflessly organized fun day events, corn roasts, reading weeks, graduations, Teacher Appreciation Weeks, Terry Fox runs, science and community fairs, various fundraisers and much more.

Ms. Chimienti is the Chair of the Governing Board and Ms. Mangione chairs the Parent Participation Organization (PPO).

Their involvement goes beyond the activities organized in school. They have also been strong advocates for the special needs/closed classes and for donations to underprivileged families within the community. They seek grants from the local borough to help students in the ASD classes with extra services, sports equipment, classroom furniture and manipulatives.

Other examples of their dedication to the school is the continuous support they give to the teaching staff. Together they organize special lunches, snacks and special events to remind teachers that they are appreciated and valued.

“I am so honored to serve John Caboto Academy alongside Vanessa and Mariasabrina,” said Principal Sonia Marotta. “They are a great example of dedication and passion for their school and community.”

Ms. Chimienti's eldest child Samantha has graduated from the school while son Dylan is presently in Grade 3. She started to volunteer when her daughter was in kindergarten in 2014. “I helped out at many of the events

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## VOLUNTEERS WITH 25-PLUS YEARS OF SERVICE

Chinappi, Rita  
Clifton, Carol  
De Palma-Nitti, Mary  
Degano, Nives  
Di Re, Pina  
Leibov, Barbara  
Livingstone, Hazel

Marrazza, Mario  
Newsome, Joan  
Pace, Luisa  
Sharma, Mahesh  
Szytych, Natalie  
Ugolini, Alessandra  
Williams, Anne

## 15 TO 24 YEARS OF SERVICE

Bassett, Nancy  
Clark, Christine  
Colapelle, Paola  
Corlett, Glennis  
Daoust, Manon  
De Ciccio, Angela  
Downey, Christine  
Fox-Thomas, Debbie  
Greco, Maria  
Greco, Sandra  
Jardine, Debbi  
Lambert, Laurent

Lato, Carmela  
Liberopoulos-Stark, Pat  
Marra, Frank  
Marra Zuanigh, Laura  
McGregor, Catherine  
Mignacca, Anna  
Nolan (Barillaro), Patricia  
Patel, Sasmantha  
Roberts, Todd  
Roberts-Joseph, Avice  
Robertson, Ann  
Robitaille, Michelle

Skagkos, Betty  
Smyth, Patty  
Strban, Rosemarie  
Trineer, Leah  
Valente, Anabela  
Van den Hoogen, Connie  
Vasile, Mary  
Vitale, Connie  
Vlitas, Demetra  
Vlitas, Joanna  
Yambouranis, Ellen  
Yeurch, Susan

## 10 TO 14 YEARS OF SERVICE

Alexander, Rita  
Algieri, Giocchino  
Araujo, Amanda  
Argyriou, Maria  
Avanzato, Julia  
Beaumier, Stephanie  
Behar, Vlada  
Bouchard McNeil, Carolyn  
Bruna, Tina  
Brunner, Kelli  
Cacchiotti, Luigi  
Cacciatore, Jocelyne  
Cappellette, Serena  
Carter, Erin

Chimienti, Vanessa  
Civitillo, Antonietta  
Clarke, Jacquie  
Coletto, Anna  
Conforti, Tania  
Corso, Elvira  
D'Amico, Diana  
De Melo, Kathleen  
De Santis, Cynthia  
Di Iorio, Mary-Ann  
Di Pardo, Adrianna  
Domingos, Joe Faria  
Domingos, Tina Faria  
Donovan, Meghan

Dore, Caroline  
Fasulo, Melissa  
Federico, Rosemarie  
Finch, Susan  
Fischini, Debora  
Forgione, Marylou  
France, Lori-Ann  
Fuoco, James  
Gerrie, Tara  
Hill, Jayne  
Holowka, Arianna  
Juul, Anja  
Kelly, Nora  
Kemerer, Bruce

organized by the school and loved being involved,” she said, noting that her role model as a volunteer was her mom. “I knew that I would try to volunteer as much as possible as soon as my daughter started school. I also wanted to eventually be part of the Governing Board.”

Ms Chimienti and Ms. Mangione work closely together. Their biggest project was the school’s first holiday fair held in December 2023. “For over 14 years, even before the two of us had children at JCA, we held an annual event at the school in December called Community Day,” she said. “Mariasabrina and I felt that after so many years we needed to revamp our event. We came up with the idea of the holiday fair and had the overwhelming support of our principal as well as the support of our Governing Board.



The award recipients with commissioners, senior management and Aalia Adam.

We worked very hard over the course of three-plus months to organize the event. We ended up having over 20 vendors come into our gymnasium to sell their

products as well as a visit from Santa, dance classes for JCA students and a photo booth. It was an amazing event with a great turnout and, most importantly, we

raised money for PPO to plan activities for our students.”

Ms. Chimienti works part-time as an administrative assistant for a large Canadian maintenance company. “Working part-time allows me to be able to volunteer quite a bit at the school and I am grateful for that,” she said. “I love John Caboto Academy. We are a small school with lots of heart. The students are all welcoming and ready to help. The older students always look out for the younger ones.”

Ms. Mangione’s daughter was a student at the school and her son Gianmarco is presently in Grade 5. She first became involved at the school when her daughter Daniela

started in kindergarten. “I wanted to be an active participant in my child’s school,” she said. “When I attended John Caboto myself as a child, my mom actively volunteered and I was shown the importance of that.”

By day Ms. Mangione is a social worker at the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) Radiation Oncology Department.

What does she like best about John Caboto Academy? “It is the close-knit community between parents, staff and students,” she responded. “I enjoy organizing activities for the students and giving back to a school that gave me so much when I was a student.”

### Program Sponsor

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## 10 TO 14 YEARS OF SERVICE CONT'D

Khoury, Emmanuelle  
Kisilewski, Jadwiga  
Kontogiannou, Chrissa  
Lacroque, Annie  
Laurent, Christine  
Laviolette, Lorna  
Macdonald, Amanda  
Mandelos, Zoe  
Masone, Carmine  
Matsushnita, Tatsy  
McCaffrey, Charlotte  
Meaker-Wilson, Christina  
Merrett, Tim  
Michas, Georgia  
Michetti, Brenda

Mignacca, Anna  
Murphy, Marie  
Nico, Teresa  
Noya, Rose Marie  
Pelosi, Adriana  
Peters, Joanna  
Peters, Carmen  
Petrecca, Giovanni  
Piccirilli, Gianfranca  
Polonia, Marie-Anne  
Prince, Francois  
Racaniello, Stella  
Rea, Rosie  
Riddell-Tauber, Marie  
Ronzales, Jerlyne

Rossy, Sephanie  
Ruffalo, Patricia  
Santino, Maria  
Scharing, Barbara  
Selwood, Lesley  
Shea, Phil  
Shea, Sandy  
Shyavitz, Abby  
Sikender, Pat  
Stratford Kurus, Hannah  
Tartamella, Sandra  
Taylor, Cynthia  
Teoli, Laurie  
Tortorici, Nina  
Vaccaro, Rosie

## 5 TO 9 YEARS OF SERVICE CONT'D

Abbott, Nathaniel  
Abecassie, Tally  
Adler, Joanne  
Afillo, Jessica  
Andersen-Falvo, Maja  
Andianakos, Katerina  
Araujo, Sandra  
Arcuri, Anthony  
Atcovitch, Melanie  
Au-Pichette, Catherine  
Aziloglou, Thomas  
Azoulay, Laura  
Babkine, Siobhan  
Baccari, Mary  
Bailo, Linda  
Bakshani, Sanjay  
Banks, Jennifer  
Barasso, Antonella  
Battista, Rosella  
Benamrom, Sam  
Benitez, Boris  
Bergeron, Sharon  
Bergevin, Tanya  
Berry, Tara  
Besson (Legault), Jessica  
Bhagwandass, Janelle  
Blake, Caminee  
Blampin, Emilie  
Borrelli, Marisa  
Boucher, Chantal  
Boyce, Francine  
Brash, Lynne  
Calabretta, Theresa  
Camerlingo, Alice  
Cancilla, Luciana  
Cantini, Nancy  
Carbone, Clotilde  
Carciero, Marilena  
Carmody-Routhier, Felicia  
Carosello, Nadia  
Carrara, Costantino  
Carrier, Nathalie  
Casale, Pina  
Catalano, Meg  
Cerone, Rosa  
César, Michel  
Champagne, Karine  
Chinappi, Arlette  
Ciampaletti, Sabrina  
Ciampini, Talia  
Ciampini, Melanie

Ciarlelli, Margherita  
Cicarelli, Stephanie  
Cohen, Edite  
Connell, Brad  
Corbeil, Jesse  
Corsi, Maria  
Couture, Claudette  
Cracower, Lauren  
Crisci, Marysa  
Cuevas, Kristy  
Da Costa, Sandie  
Dalton, Rbyn  
D'Angelo, Antonella  
Daschille, Mariella  
Davies, Annick  
De Sousa, Ana Paula  
De Vletter, Martien  
Decobellis, Tania  
D'Elia, Franca  
Dell'Elce, Patricia  
Der, Karen  
DeRosa, Franca  
Desautels, Eric  
Desmettre, Debra  
Di Pasquale-Farina, Pino  
Di Rado, Mirella  
Di Stefano, Diego  
Di Tello, Marina  
Di Vincenzi, Sarah  
Douglas, Rebecca  
Dudok, Samantha  
Dudych, Olya  
Duquette-Nicks, Kathleen  
Dworkin-Rosen, Bonnie  
Dykes, Sabrina  
Eisman, Dawn  
Eklove, Elka  
Ellenbogen, Mark  
Engelberg, Cory  
Etrusco, Paula  
Falvo, Mark  
Farella (Vaccaro), Franca  
Farrella, Imma  
Fasulo, Giuseppina  
Fazzari, Nathalie  
Felsky, Melissa  
Ferreira, Alirio  
Fiori, Robert  
Fiorino, Alba  
Fixman, Wendy  
Forgione, Cassandra

Frishling, Daniel  
Gaetano, Dominic  
Galati, Paul  
Galati, Dora  
Galati, Gianni  
Gangai, Vanessa  
Garcia, Irene  
Garofalo, Verena  
Gelgoot, Lorrrie  
Gervasi, Emily  
Giguère, Annick  
Goitanda-Moore, Wendolyn  
Gonshor, Josh  
Goodings, Alana  
Governale, Alessandra  
Grullon, Maria  
Haim, Shainy  
Hall, Travis  
Hamilton, Laura  
Harris, Cynthia  
Hassib, Aiten  
Hasson, Dana  
Helfenbaum, Wendy  
Heppelle, Real  
Herman, Jackie  
Herscovici, Jesse  
Horak, Jana  
Hotchandani, Asha  
Howick, Julie  
Hua, Gigi  
Iarocci (Guarnieri), Melanie  
Ibelings, Hans  
Iida, Lisa  
Irrera, Angelo  
Johnstone, Chris  
Johnstone Kansou, Lydia  
Kalogerakos, Eleni  
Karabatsos, Maria  
Karamchandani, Karen Sarah  
Katsifolis, Nick  
Kiefer, Darcy  
Korakakis, Katherine  
Korb, Deborah  
Kounadis, Maria  
Koutroularas, Bia  
Krakow, Eve  
Krencisz, Melissa  
Krishnamoorthy, Preetha  
Kunizky, Lisa  
Lai, Beverly  
Lakis, Julie

Lancelotta, Giovanna  
Lawrence, Sabrina  
Legace, Elaine  
Lobianco, Tania  
Lombardi, Stephanie  
Lorefice, Annie  
Lucas, Ana Maria  
Macpherson, Cat  
Mangione, Maria Sabrina  
Manitt, Christopher  
Marci, Karina  
Marciante, Meryl  
Marcone, Virginia  
Mardini, Linda  
Martineau, Marie-Josée  
Masciotra, Mary  
Matticoli, Stephanie  
Mayal Costa, Jimmy  
Mazzariello, Tina  
Mc Grath Sakkas, Eva  
McNeil, Kristen  
Melchert, Layna  
Mendonca (Grossi), Tania  
Menillo, Melissa  
Miller, Johanna  
Milone, Sognia  
Moneta, Laura  
Mongelli, Nicky  
Monteleone, Connie  
Montesclaros, Aileen  
Moore, Annie  
Morris, Rebecca  
Muallem, Michal  
Muller, Ania  
Musacchio, Sabrina  
Nakamura, Miyuki  
Nicholls Wallace, Tia  
Normandeau, Louise  
Nurse, Atiya  
O'Reilly, Miranda  
Ortona, Diana  
Palmieri, Amanda  
Pardo, Ariella  
Passucci, Stephanie  
Patrizio, Franca  
Pavia, Sandra  
Pelatt-Caron, Karyn  
Peluso, Nadia  
Pensato, Maria  
Pereira, Elizabeth  
Perez, Alejandra

Peter, Rawski  
Petta, Claudia  
Petti, Esther  
Pietrangelo, Mario  
Pinsky, Scott  
Piro, Laura  
Pisto, Patrizia  
Pitruzzello, Francesca  
Placentino, Melissa  
Pollak, Oren  
Popwyc, Irene  
Porter, Roberta  
Primus, Marilyn  
Ramirez, Maria Carmen  
Ramundo, Merika  
Rende, Annelisa  
Renzi, Sandra  
Richer, Kayla  
Robillard, Marlene  
Rosenberg, Michael  
Rosenheck, Sarah  
Ross, Roberta  
Ross, Andrew  
Roussel, Julie  
Ruffiri, Elisa  
Ruggi, Terri  
Rustemi, Genta  
Ruvo, Mary  
Saleh Mohammed, Tasleem  
Salvo, Stefanie  
Samsonovitch, Kelly  
Santamaria, Marisa  
Santo-Hall, Anelise  
Santos, Tanya  
Santullo, Ivana  
Sardelli, Sonia  
Sarii, Alfredo  
Scalia, Antonella  
Scicchitano, Maria  
Selick, Jill  
Shaffer, Regine  
Shea, Sarah  
Shingler, Kate  
Sifakis, Janet  
Simard, Renee  
Sofer, Nathalie  
Speranza, Tony  
Spiegler, Thomas  
Stark, Peggy  
Stein, Jacqueline

list of volunteers continued on next page

## 5 TO 9 YEARS OF SERVICE CONT'D

Stern, Ronit  
Stewart, Margo  
Stirpe, Lina  
Stivaletta, Fernando  
Stock, Debbie  
Stoddart, Sharon  
Stolow, David  
Subissati, Lisa  
Sudds, Irene  
Swain, Ian  
Tandubuana, Alicia  
Tartamella, Silvia  
Tatone, Daniel  
Tavares, Melanie  
Tempestili, Sonia  
Terrigno, Linda  
Tobman, Jessica  
Trudeau, Jason  
Tuknat, Priya  
Tzagrakis, Athena  
Uniat, Jennifer  
Vacca, Rosanna  
Valiante, Theresa

Valkanas, Maronika  
Van Den Bosch, Paula  
Verducci, Lena  
Vetrano, Anna  
Vicario, Cinthia  
Vicino, Jennifer  
Villeneuve, Chantal  
Wagner, Rose  
Wang, Arthur  
Weclas-Khairy, Karolina  
Weinberger, Shoshana  
Welagedara, Anuradha  
Wen, Stella  
Wyse, Michelle  
Xenocostas, Spyridoula  
Yarrough, Yanci  
Yaworski, Anne-Marie  
Yiannatsoulis, Stravoula  
Young, Jennifer  
Zaruso, Antonio  
Zegarelli-Simonetti, Linda  
Zereik, Helene  
Zuneshine, Mindy



Bernard Praw with his wife Annie, son Mitchell, Chair Joe Ortona, ADGs Pela Nickoletopoulos and Jack Chadirdjian, DG Nick Katalifos and Commissioner Jamie Fabian.

## 1 TO 4 YEARS OF SERVICE

Amanda  
Armine  
Betsy  
Celine  
Ghazel  
JC  
Jessica  
Jim  
Karyn  
Leetal  
Matt  
Sabrina  
Stacey  
Abiad, Layla  
Abreu, Christina  
Adair, Sarah  
Agozzino, Jessica  
Aikhionbare, Kathleen  
Aleem, Sadaf  
Alexis, Melissa  
Ali, Saffran  
Ali, Alia  
Alsmadi, Zainab  
Alvaro, Anna  
Amato, Claudia  
Amer, Laura  
Amonte, Tamara  
Amoroso, Francesco  
Amram Benedik, Sharone  
Anestopoulos, Tasha  
Angelicola, Filomena  
Archibad, Andrea  
Arciero, Nadia  
Argento, Cristina  
Arnold, Dave  
Asencio, Monica  
Assi, Joe  
Attiana, Kimia  
Aylward, Alison  
Baker, Kristie  
Balta, Zoran  
Bandera, Danya  
Barberio, Nadia  
Barbieri, Jan  
Barca Duràn, Cristina  
Baruffa, Patrizia  
Basdos, Angelica  
Bassett-Saltarelli, Natasha  
Bastounis, Dina  
Batista, Sandra  
Battista, Christina  
Baynes, Elisa  
Beaulieu, Jean  
Beaulieu, Emmanuelle  
Bedkowska, Anna  
Behjoudi, Sally  
Beitel, Debbie  
Beitel Steven, Samuel  
Belo-Battista, Melinda  
Benjamin, Alisssa  
Benvenuto, Mario  
Berdugo, Sandrine  
Berghout, Choukri  
Berhanu-Mac Donald, Kassaye  
Bermack, Jordanna  
Bernstein, Ashly  
Berry, Natasha  
Betsalel, Kori  
Bianchet, Nancy  
Bibi, Josephine  
Biondi, Felicia  
Bitton, Sabrina  
Black, Jessica  
Blais, Debra  
Boghen, Jennifer  
Bongiorno, Josie  
Bora, Rakhi  
Bordeleau, Nadia  
Boriak, Oxana

Borst, Jeremy  
Bouayad Agha, Youcef  
Boucher, Stephanny  
Boudreau, Dominique  
Boulanger, Maggie  
Boulanger, Timothy  
Boyer-Levesque, Stephanie  
Brace-Lavoie, Holly  
Bradely, Kate  
Brancati, Pat  
Brendan, Jeremy Terrace  
Brisebois, Jennifer  
Brisson, Vanessa  
Brogan, Paul  
Brook, Katie  
Brook, Tara  
Brook, Shawna  
Brown, Amanda  
Brown, Emilie  
Brownrigg, Maimouna  
Brulé, Catherine  
Bucci, Katherine  
Burke, Pamela  
Buscio, Domenico  
Cabral, Vanessa  
Cabral, Nelson  
Cacciola, Stephanie  
Calabretta, Katherine  
Calaianni, Maria  
Calcara, Francesca  
Calvert, Anna  
Camalda, Lorena  
Camard, Sophie  
Camaro, Jeannine  
Campbell, Donald  
Campbell, Vanessa  
Campbell, Jean-Pierre  
Campeau, Sandrine  
Canillo, Bryan  
Capela, Cristina  
Capogreco, Rosemary  
Carchedi, Carmy  
Cardillo, Christina  
Carli, Franco  
Carpenter, Lorraine  
Carpenter, Krystyne  
Carreira, Melanie  
Carreiro, Ashlyn  
Cartillone, Melania  
Caruso, David  
Carvalho, Patricia  
Castello, Franca  
Castro, Beth  
Catalano, Sonya  
Cerrelli, Angelika  
Cerrelli, Nadia  
Cerrilli, Amanda  
Cesari, Alessandra  
Cessa Mancillas, Maria  
Chadhury, Prosanto  
Chaim, Jesse  
Chan, Jonathan  
Chen, Rosemary  
Cheong, Margaret  
Cherella, Daniella  
Chiarappa, Francesca  
Chimienti, Cindy  
Chin, Anne  
Chou, Rachida  
Choy, Bonny  
Ciabattoni, Giovanna  
Cianci, Ssamantha  
Cianciulli, John  
Ciccotelli, Nick  
Cinelli, Linda  
Civitarese, Marco  
Clayton, Denise  
Clinunak, Carmen  
Cohen, Esther

## 1 TO 4 YEARS OF SERVICE CONT'D

Colalillo, Gina  
Coleman, Kirk  
Colley, Angela  
Collins, Angelica  
Collins, Nadine  
Colmegna, Ines  
Condoroussis, Catherine  
Conforti, Dina  
Con-Poyegal, Jess  
Contarini, Fillippa  
Conte, Dona  
Conway, Matthew  
Corrado, Filomena  
Côté, Réjean  
Courcelles, Melanie  
Craig, Nadia  
Crecco, Alessandra  
Croll, Alistar  
Crosato, Milena  
Cruckshank, Hilarie



Assistant Director General  
Pela Nickoletopoulos

Crump, Alison  
Cruz, Melissa  
Cucuzzella, Linda  
Cunnana, Jenny  
Curie, Candace  
Curiel, Carolina  
Currie, Sophie  
Da Costa, Lory  
Da Fonseca, Sarah  
Da Ros, Scott  
Da Silva Costa, Nadia  
Daccache, Shadia  
Dagenais, Tammy  
Dagostino, Diana  
D'Alesio, Christina  
Dallaire, Jack  
D'Allessandro, Tania  
D'Aloia, Amanda  
Daniel, Kimani  
Daniel, Meghan  
Dantonio, Anita  
D'Costa, Joyce  
De Ciccio, Mariella  
De Fazio, Carla  
De Iacovo, Melissa  
de koos, Andras  
De Luca, Vanessa  
De Luca, Alex  
De Sanctis, Stephanie  
De Sanctis, Angie  
Deane, Olivia  
Deganutto, Isabel  
Del Corpo, Sabrina  
Dello Russo, Diana  
DeMichele, Anna

DeRubertis, Anna  
Dery, Nicole  
Desai, Ushma  
Desforges, Katherine  
DeWolfe, Stacey  
Dey, Michael  
Di Biasio, Tina  
Di Cesare, Kristina  
Di Corpo, Nadia  
Di Done, Alexandra  
Di Fruscia, Linda  
Di Fulvio, Maria  
Di Giacomo, Brigitte  
Di Giacomo, Domenico  
Di Iorio, Sabrina  
Di Labbio, Amanda  
Di Manno, Julia  
Di Manno, Marco  
Di Martino, Maria Lisa  
Di Nezza (Matteo), Sophia  
Di Nolfo, Natalie  
Di Paola, Nadia  
Di Sabato, Marco  
Di Salvo, Rosina  
Di Sei, Angela  
Di Stefano, Andrea  
Di Vicenzi, Sarah  
Di Zazzo, Vanessa  
Diaz, Maily  
Diaz-Almendariz, Jessica  
D'Iglio, Carme  
DiLillo, Josie  
Dintino, Melanie  
Discepola, Concetta  
Diuso, Amy  
Do, Thi Kim Hong  
Doctor, Heidi  
Dodaro, Sabrina  
Dolan, Andrea  
Domanko, Vinaya  
Dookhoo, Sara Anjanie  
Dorschel, Winona  
Doubt, Jessica  
Douglas, Jennifer  
Doyon, Shauna  
Dufour, Anique  
Dugas, Corine  
Dumais, Sandra  
Durant, Ahysa  
Duy, Joanna  
El Hajj, Rime  
El Hanafi, Brahim  
Elias, Caroline  
Ellison, Caitlin  
Engel, Jody  
Erlichman, Karen  
Ermes, Sarah  
Esposito, Vanessa  
Esquite Mejia, Ligia  
Evans, Barbara  
Fabrizi, Marc  
Fally, Marie Christine  
Falso, Dario  
Famulari, Antonella  
Fanzolato, Sheila  
Farella (Furfaro), Rachela  
Farina, Tonia  
Fazio, Diana  
Femia, Maria Teresa  
Ferguson, Tanya  
Ferland, Guillaume  
Ferrara, Vivian  
Ferreira, Karen  
Ficara, Giovanni  
Ficca, Sabrina  
Fietta, Daniela  
Filgarz, Renee

Fischer, Jordan  
Flanagan, Richard  
Fleet, Meghan  
Flowers, Melissa  
Floyd, Laura  
Foisy, Julie  
Folco, Julie  
Fong, Julie  
Forlini, Franco  
Forte, Amanada  
Frade, Rosemary  
French, Amanda  
Frepeau, Laura  
Fuoco, Sonia  
Gabriele, Sandra  
Gagliano, Laureato  
Gallos, Eleni  
Garcia, Cindy  
Gatien, Jennifer  
Gauris, Julie  
Gendron, Lyne  
Gervais, Daniel  
Gervasi, Priscilla  
Gesualdi, Maria  
Ghandi, Unmesh  
Ghanoudi, Nadia  
Ghayourmanesh, Shaheen  
Giancioppi, Vanessa  
Giannini, Adriana  
Gifford, Rebecca  
Giove, Carmela  
Girardello, Gennifer  
Glazer, Alyssa  
Godfrey, Erin  
Godson, Lindsay  
Golberg, Deborah  
Goldberg, Samantha  
Goncalves, Danny  
Gonzalez Reyes, Araceli  
Gorban, Yomna  
Gouin, Cassandra  
Gravel, Christine  
Greco, Aggie  
Gregoire, Jean  
Gregoire, Sherrill  
Grigat, Michelle  
Groenendaal, Corinna  
Grosko, Victoria  
Groves, Victoria  
Grunberg, Yosi  
Gruntovskaya, Veronika  
Guerrera, Tonia  
Guerreri, Lisa  
Gueye, Lyta  
Gurevitch, Kelly  
Hales, Lindsay  
Hall, Natasha  
Hamon, Viki  
Hankewicz, Stephanie  
Hannouche, Careen  
Harrar, Vanessa  
Harrington, Marilyn  
Harton, Patricia  
Hassan, Ahmad  
Hauser, Jill  
Hauser, Rachelle Lee  
Hausfather, Diego  
Havis, Tova  
Hebert, Nina  
Hebert, Melanie  
Heck, Maryanne  
Hernandes White, Maria  
Hershon, Paul  
Ho, Anna  
Ho, Judy  
Ho, Ai Thanh  
Holden, Lelia



Merton Elementary School Principal Rosana Caplan lauds her volunteers.



Commissioners Mario Bontrovato and Pietro Mercuri.



Commissioners Maria Corsi, Sophie De Vito, Jamie Fabian, Rosemarie Federico and Julien Feldman.

**1 TO 4 YEARS OF SERVICE CONT'D**

Hong, Krista  
 Horak, Jana  
 Houde-Wotiuk, Jessica  
 Huesca, Ana Dalia  
 Hussain, Ayesha  
 Iacampo, Claudia  
 Iadinaridi, Angie  
 Iafrancesco, Cristina  
 Iannetta, Kim  
 Iasenzanero, Sue  
 Iavenditti Ferante, Lina  
 Iovanna, Ida  
 Jackson, Brett  
 Jacobi, Lesley  
 Jacobs, Kim  
 Jehan Mian, Sadar  
 Jensen, Glen  
 Jirjis, Marie-Ann  
 Jutras, Catherine  
 Kaluza Levy, Lisa  
 Melanie  
 Kanavaros, Dimitra  
 Karawi, Tamara  
 Karman, Julie  
 Katwaroo, Johanne  
 Keith, Adam  
 Kendle, Nancy  
 Khatami, Ayda  
 Khazzam, Daniel  
 Kia Zong, Jasmine  
 Kim, Joohye  
 Kim, Eun Ju (Michelle)  
 Kingsley-Williams, Arianna  
 Kollias, Demetra  
 Koo, Louise  
 Korifidou, Elpida  
 Kowalchuk, Natalie  
 Kravitz, Kenton  
 Krzepicki, Kerri  
 Kyle, Jennifer  
 Kyres, Maria  
 La Selva, Nancy  
 Laframboise, Devon  
 Lagace, Tim  
 Lalic, Jelena  
 Lalli, James  
 Lallouz, Melanie  
 Lalonde, Dominique  
 Lamanna, Jessica  
 Lamoureux, Svetlana  
 Lancione, Stefania  
 Lapointe, Angela  
 Laricchiuta, Chiara  
 LaRocque, Neomie  
 Lattanzio, Melisa  
 Lazar, Suzie  
 Le Moyenne, Kristen  
 Leckner, Mitchell  
 Lecouffe, Olivia  
 Lee, Andy  
 Lee, Andy  
 Lee, Vivian  
 Leebosh-Mitchell, Vanessa  
 Lefebvre, Jasmine  
 Legatos, Jasmin  
 Leibovitch, Fallyn  
 Lemoine De Martigny, Michel  
 Lennox, Robert  
 Leoci, Johnny  
 Levi, Francine  
 Levinson, Julie  
 Li, Janet  
 Libling, Lindsay  
 Licursi, Nadia  
 Liste, Amanda  
 Liverman, Karolyn  
 Lo Dico, Jessie  
 LoCascio, Claudia  
 LoCascio, Josie  
 Logie, Stuart  
 Lord, Richard  
 Loria, Maria  
 Lortie, Alison  
 Lortie, Patrick  
 Love, Julie  
 Lowry, Andrea  
 Lucia, Amanda  
 Ly, Hung  
 Maclean, Melissa

MacLeod, Jon  
 Maddalena, Eric  
 Madhu Kumar, Meenu  
 Maiolo, Paola  
 Maislin, Daniel  
 Maizza, Franca  
 Mak, Andy  
 Mancini, Erica  
 Mancini, Victoria  
 Mancini, Romina  
 Mancini, Lysa  
 Mancuso, Vanessa  
 Manhaes, Flavia  
 Manhaes, Randala  
 Manna, Melanie  
 Moufflet, Adrien  
 Moukass, John  
 Marateo, Frank  
 Marchand, Eve-Lynn  
 Marchese, Raphaelle  
 Marchetta, Stefania  
 Marcovecchio, Patrick  
 Marino, Samantha  
 Marino, Daniela  
 Marks, Julie  
 Marloh, Ivo  
 Marovitch, Maureen  
 Marsan, Erika  
 Martin, Christina  
 Martin, Ryan  
 Martinez, Daniela  
 Martucci, Nadia



Director General Nick Katalifos addresses the crowd.

Martucci, Vanessa  
 Masciotra, Daniella  
 Mascola, Angelica  
 Masi, Lucy  
 Masi, Christina  
 Masrani, Hala  
 Mastrocola, Claudia  
 Mastroianni, Maria  
 Mastromonaco, Melissa  
 Matera, Vanessa  
 Materassi, Manuela  
 Mathews, Albert  
 Matlin, Julie  
 Matocia, Sergio  
 Matuszewski, Jacqueline  
 May, Victoria  
 Mazzone, Caterina  
 McEnroe, Nicola  
 McGoldrick, Julie  
 McGraw, Kristen  
 McKenna, Kerry  
 Menaged, David  
 Mendes Cunha, Fernanda  
 Mendoza, Alma  
 Jasmine  
 Menuet, Melissa  
 Mercandante, Daniela  
 Meyers, Meghan  
 Michael, Evangelia  
 Mihalik, Teresa  
 Mileto, Julia  
 Milioto, Vanessa  
 Miller, Josh  
 Milson, Christi  
 Mirbagheri, Hannah

Mitzas, Demetra  
 Molinaro, Nina  
 Molinaro, Sophie  
 Monaco, Silvana  
 Moneit, Toby  
 Monteleone, Laura  
 Montoya, Anna Maria  
 Moon, Harin  
 Morales, Amanda  
 Morales, Erica  
 Moschella, Claudia  
 Moshaver, Sanaz  
 Mouawad, Randala  
 Moufflet, Adrien  
 Moukas, Tanya  
 Mucciardi, Lisa  
 Munro, Gabriella  
 Muoio, Steven  
 Muri, Vanessa  
 Muro, Francesca  
 Murphy, Melanie  
 Murray, Melany  
 Musacchio, Olga  
 Musto, Claudia  
 Nairn, Geoffrey  
 Nantel, Anais  
 Narrea, Isabel  
 Nasehoglu, Tanya  
 Neal, Arron  
 Nguyen, Lyn  
 Nicoll, Sara  
 Niven, Louise  
 Notaraso, Maria  
 Nudelman, Nathalie  
 Nunes, Victoria  
 Nunez, Katia  
 Nunez, Miguel  
 Nunez, Silvia  
 Obadia, Judith  
 Ockedahl, Bianca  
 Oliver, Kristen  
 Orologio, Sabrina  
 Ortaaslan, Andy  
 Ortega, Jennifer  
 Ottaviani, Antonella  
 Pachis, Evi  
 Packard, Shari  
 Padvano, Gabriel  
 Palmitano, Tania  
 Panagiotopoulos, Penny  
 Pansera, Carmela  
 Papacostas, Paraskevi (Voula)  
 Papageorgiou, Erato  
 Paquette, Gilles  
 Paredes, Anrieth  
 Parry, Amanda  
 Pascual, Leanne  
 Janis  
 Passarelli, Sabrina  
 Patel, Chetna  
 Patel, Kamini  
 Patriquin, Martin  
 Paziienza, Giuseppe  
 Peccia, Stephanie  
 Pellerin, Geneviere  
 Pena, Silvia  
 Lorena  
 Penagos-Stewart, Fernanda  
 Pepe, Antonella  
 Perez, Lauren  
 Perez, Michael  
 Perronne, Valerie  
 Perry, Lily  
 Peruch, Carlo  
 Petosa, Antonio  
 Petrecca, Patrizia  
 Philip, Brenda  
 Phillips, Kim  
 Phouangphiclok, Phony  
 Piekny, Alisa  
 Pierce, Aimee  
 Pimentel, Roxanne  
 Pinto, Carolyn  
 Pisano, Stephan  
 Pizzanelli, Celia  
 Plummer-Potegal, Nadia  
 Poissant, Cynthia  
 Poljak, Sonia  
 Pomeroy, Michelle  
 Pompey, Earlene

**1 TO 4 YEARS OF SERVICE CONT'D**

Poole, Eric  
 Popa, Sara  
 Potter, Andrew  
 Potts, Sara  
 Pratt, Lana  
 Marie  
 Presta, Vittoria  
 Procino, Christina  
 Proietti, Melissa  
 Purokayestha, Bibhuti  
 Bhuson  
 Qasrawi, Deema  
 Quan, Julie  
 Quidoz, Chantal  
 Radford, Brent  
 Raimondo, Laura  
 Rainone, Joseph  
 Ranellucci, Sonia  
 Raposo, Lorraine  
 Raposo, Debbie  
 Ratic, Stephanie  
 Ravelson, Lalaine  
 Ravichandran, Divya  
 Raznovan, Elena  
 Reda, Barbara  
 Reda, David  
 Reid, Denburk  
 Reis, Veronica  
 Renda, Giovanna  
 Restieri, Laura  
 Ricchetti, Gabrielle  
 Riccio, Adrian  
 Riccio, Vanessa  
 Richardson, Florette  
 Riddell, Stefanie  
 Riopel, Yannick  
 Rittenhouse, Matheson  
 Rizzuto, Carmen  
 Robertson, Melissa  
 Rodier, Elysa  
 Rodrigue, Jonathan  
 Rokem, Mika  
 Romanelli, Giovanni  
 Romano, Christina  
 Romano, Livia  
 Romeo, Sellana  
 Romvary, Nadia  
 Ronn, Shira  
 Rosario, Jessica  
 Rosciano, Giuseppe  
 Roskies, Jaime  
 Rotherman, Andrew  
 Roukos, Lauritta  
 Rubin, Earl  
 Rubino, Tina  
 Ruvo, Nadia  
 Sadeh, Elana  
 Sakkas, Georgia  
 Saks, Samantha  
 Salinas, Yvette  
 Salvaggio, Vincenzo  
 Samson, Marika  
 Sanchez, Lourdes  
 Sansalone, Claudia  
 Sansone, Max  
 Santaguida, Veronica  
 Santone, Francesca  
 Santosa, Sylvia  
 Sardelli, Luigi  
 Sasso, Enza  
 Savard, Amanda  
 Savo, Amanda  
 Savoie, Amanda  
 Sayegh, Laura  
 Sayko, Kristine  
 Scalia, Sandra  
 Scarapicchia, Jordana  
 Scarpelli, Carole  
 Scatone, Marisa  
 Scavone, Morris  
 Schiralli, Domenica  
 Schueller, Tina  
 Sciortino, Nadia  
 Senda, Makiko

Serecchia, Miranda  
 Servello, Nicolina  
 Shah, Monica  
 Shaikh, Ashfag  
 Shapiro, Emmie  
 Sherlock, Kathy  
 Shey, Caitlin  
 Ship, Gillian  
 Shireff, Erin  
 Silletta, Amanda  
 Silva, Jennifer  
 Simbabwe, Josée  
 Simeon, Abiola  
 Simon, Katie  
 Simoniello, Daniele  
 Sitaras, Nicholas  
 Smith, Jessie  
 Smith, Valerie  
 Sollecito, Mimma  
 Soroka, Robert  
 Sousa, Joe  
 Spadafino, Terri  
 Spadafino, Felicia  
 Spensieri, Nadia  
 Spiridigliozzi, Tina  
 St. Louis, Jean-Philip  
 Stachura, Dorothy  
 Staffa, Graziella  
 Starna, Julia  
 Starnino, Claudia  
 Ste-Marie, Jennifer  
 Sternthal, Heidi  
 St-Pierre, Patricia  
 Strazzerio, Marie-Josée  
 Stroz-Breton, Olivia  
 Suriano, Patricia  
 Syer, Cassidy  
 Szabo, Steven  
 Tai, Hou  
 Tamakuwala, Patricia  
 Tamakuwala, Paras  
 Tanwani, Geeta  
 Tanwani, Poonam  
 Tarfa, Sara  
 Tat, Paula  
 Tavolaro, Claudia  
 Taylor, Kristin  
 Taza, Christine  
 Te, Bouny  
 Tedesco, Victoria  
 Teitelbaum, Pamela  
 Tenaglia, Gianna  
 Teroux, Valerie  
 Thakor, Shuduksha  
 Theophilopoulos, Diana  
 Theriault, Tara  
 Thomasino, Barbara  
 Tizzoni Vazquez, Angelina  
 Tondino, Dana  
 Tondino, Ron  
 Torossian, Natalie  
 Tran, Jenny  
 Triassi, Angela  
 Triassi, Marlyn

Troczynski, Adam  
 Tropeano, Felicia  
 Troude, Gaëlle  
 Tsang, Evelyn  
 Tsombanakis, Evangelia  
 Tubio, Eva  
 Tullio, Vanessa  
 Tureli, Ipek  
 Uchida, Megumi  
 Uchino, Kaori  
 Ulloa, Paola  
 Ursino, Silvio  
 Vaccarino, Lorenzo  
 Valentino, Terri  
 Vanga, Anusha  
 Varano, Teresa  
 Varricchio, Anna  
 Varrone, Sonia  
 Varvarikos, Catherine  
 Vasherman, Polina  
 Vasseur, Maggie  
 Ventura, Kim  
 Vigorito, Melina  
 Villar, Marisa  
 Vincelli, Lina  
 Vitulano, Lucy  
 Vongphakdy, Phetsamoone  
 Voza, Paula  
 Vracotas, Nadia  
 Wallace, Jacquie  
 Ward, Nikki  
 Warner, Nick  
 Wen, Stella  
 Wexler, Suzanne  
 Wiedow, Tia  
 Wilberg, Diana  
 Wilkinson, Poppy  
 Williams, Sheila  
 Wolfe, Alicia  
 Wolfson, Kasia  
 Wong, Jo Ann  
 Wong, Jui Ho  
 Wong, Darleen  
 Yang, Esther  
 Yao, Cynthia  
 Yee, Gina  
 Yoo, Mihin  
 Younes, Zeina  
 Youssef, Dima  
 Yu, Heeju  
 Yu, Joanne  
 Zacharakis, Georgia  
 Zaffino, Sabrina  
 Zappavigna, Teresa  
 Zappitelli, Sandra  
 Zarnegar, Pardis  
 Zeng, Yan  
 Zeng, Liming  
 Zeng, Min  
 Zivras, Natasha  
 Zito, Sabrina  
 Zong, Li Jie  
 Zorbas, Brandon

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

*Thank you to all.*

# À la CSEM, on cultive le français... jour après jour!



## La CSEM demande une autorisation d'appel à la Cour suprême du Canada concernant la loi 21

La Commission scolaire English-Montréal (CSEM) a l'intention de demander à la Cour suprême du Canada d'entendre l'appel du jugement concernant la loi 21, *Loi sur la laïcité de l'État*.

Le 10 avril, le conseil des commissaires s'est prononcé en faveur de donner mandat au cabinet d'avocats Power Law de déposer, en son nom, une demande d'autorisation d'appel à la Cour suprême du Canada et, si elle est accordée, un appel du jugement de la Cour d'appel du Québec du 29 février 2024 sur la loi 21.

La CSEM conteste certaines dispositions du projet de loi 21, invoquant la violation du droit à l'instruction dans la langue de la minorité en vertu de l'article 23 de la *Charte canadienne des droits et libertés* et la violation du droit à l'égalité entre les sexes garanti par l'article 28 de la Charte.

Rappelons que la CSEM avait déjà plaidé avec succès devant la Cour supérieure du Québec que la loi 21 violait le droit de gestion et de contrôle prévu à l'article 23, en empêchant les commissions scolaires anglophones d'embaucher du personnel enseignant portant des signes religieux. Cet argument a été rejeté par la Cour d'appel du Québec.

« Notre position initiale reste inchangée, à savoir que la loi 21 va à l'encontre de nos valeurs et de notre mission, et de celles de l'ensemble des Québécois et des Québécoises, exprimées dans la Charte québécoise des droits et libertés de la personne », a déclaré le président de la CSEM, Joe Ortona. « L'adoption de cette loi s'inscrivait en faux contre notre objectif sociétal, qui est de faire la promotion de la coexistence pacifique au sein d'un Québec pluraliste. »

Entrée en vigueur en 2019, la loi 21 interdit aux enseignants des écoles publiques, aux procureurs de la Couronne, aux juges et aux policiers de porter des signes religieux dans le cadre de leurs fonctions.

« Cette loi interdit à nos futurs enseignants et enseignantes du primaire et du secondaire, ainsi qu'aux directions d'école et aux directions adjointes, de porter des signes religieux dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions, tout en limitant les perspectives d'avancement professionnel de nos effectifs actuels », a souligné M. Ortona. « Elle empêche la CSEM de recruter des enseignants – y compris des enseignants et enseignantes francophones – dans le contexte de la pénurie d'enseignants. Plus important encore, la loi 21 envoie un message d'intolérance et d'exclusion à nos élèves et à leur famille. »

## John Caboto à l'Expo-sciences



Trois élèves ont récemment marqué l'histoire de l'Académie John Caboto.

Trois élèves ont récemment marqué l'histoire de l'Académie John Caboto en remportant les tout premiers prix de l'école à l'occasion de l'Expo-sciences Hydro-Québec, finale québécoise. Ces trois élèves ont remporté des prix Distinction pour deux projets de jeux vidéo : Programmation sur Python et Création de jeux vidéo sur Scratch. De plus, deux de leurs pairs se sont joints à eux lors de

l'Expo-sciences et ont également accédé à la compétition régionale. La directrice Sonia Marotta et l'enseignant de sciences Alex Rosauri, ainsi que l'ensemble de la communauté de l'Académie John Caboto, tiennent à féliciter les élèves pour leurs belles réalisations et pour avoir si fièrement représenté l'Académie John Caboto!

## Le taux de diplomation demeure le plus élevé de la province



À l'heure actuelle, la cohorte de six ans de la CSEM affiche un taux de réussite notable de 94,8 %.

La Commission scolaire English-Montréal (CSEM) est heureuse d'annoncer que son taux de diplomation demeure le plus élevé de la province. Selon les plus récentes statistiques du ministère de l'Éducation du Québec pour l'année scolaire 2022-2023, le taux de diplomation de la commission scolaire s'établit à un niveau remarquable de 95,9 %, ce qui

représente une hausse considérable par rapport au taux de 92,7 % en 2021-2022. Bien que la majorité des élèves aient obtenu leur diplôme au bout de cinq ans, il convient de noter que le Ministère autorise le suivi de chaque cohorte pendant deux années supplémentaires afin de s'assurer que les élèves ont toutes les chances d'obtenir un diplôme ou une première qualification. Le taux

de réussite à l'échelle de la province, qui tient compte à la fois des résultats des écoles publiques et privées, atteint 84,2 %, soit une moyenne de 81,7 % dans le réseau public et de 93,5 % au privé. « Ces résultats sont particulièrement encourageants si l'on considère que cette cohorte a été touchée par la pandémie », a déclaré le président Joe Ortona.

## Espoir et amour à l'Académie Leonardo da Vinci



Afin d'offrir une ambiance parfaite, le gymnase a été transformé pour accueillir une passerelle et quelque 30 écrans pour plus de 175 mannequins participants dont 120 élèves, 15 anciens et 40 membres du personnel.

Pour les personnes atteintes d'un cancer, l'espoir et l'amour sont les deux émotions fortes dont elles ont le plus besoin pour persévérer. Ce sont d'ailleurs ces mêmes émotions qui ont inspiré le thème du défilé de mode annuel de l'Académie Leonardo da Vinci au profit de l'Institut neurologique de Montréal, qui s'est déroulé le mois dernier. Pour la grande famille de l'Académie Leonardo da Vinci, le défilé de cette année se voulait une véritable célébration, car l'enseignant Daniel Gaudette, diagnostiqué avec une tumeur au

cerveau en 2021, est maintenant de retour à son poste à temps plein et est en pleine rémission. Afin d'offrir une ambiance parfaite, le gymnase a été transformé pour accueillir une passerelle et quelque 30 écrans pour plus de 175 mannequins participants dont 120 élèves, 15 anciens et 40 membres du personnel. Par ailleurs, plus de 60 commanditaires ainsi que le Centre de formation professionnelle Laurier Macdonald ont offert des dons en argent, en produits et en temps pour assurer la réussite de cet événement.

# EMSB presents Teacher Recognition Awards



The recipients are formally recognized by EMSB officials, sponsors and students.



Teacher Paul Karpontinis with students Liana Wallace and Liana Gioia.

On the occasion of English Montreal School Board Teacher Recognition Day last May 7, three teachers were presented with special awards at Lester B. Pearson High School in Montreal North.

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

There were many nominations from parents for the awards. Maria Frank from Bâton Rouge Grillhouse and Bar, known for its famous ribs and exceptional steaks at locations across the country, presented \$100 gift cards to Paul Karpontinis, a social studies teacher at Lester B. Pearson High School; Karine Gomes Silva, a

physical education teacher at Gerald McShane Elementary School in Montreal North; and Georgette Amar, a Common Core Basic Education (CCBE) teacher at Galileo Adult Education Centre in Montreal North. The winners also received gift packages from Michael Dean Rafferty of Kera Organics and were featured on CityNews Montreal.

Here is the link to the CityNews report:  
<https://vimeo.com/944079976?share=copy>  
 Here is the link to our video podcast:  
<https://youtu.be/zKnh00TROOA>

For a detailed story on each teacher please go to:  
<http://www.emsbpressreleases.com/2024/05/emsb-recognizes-exceptional-teachers.html>

# EMSB recognizes Maria Caldarella for National Principal's Day

On the occasion of National Principal's Day on May 1, 2024 the EMSB recognized Maria Caldarella from LINKS High School in Ahuntsic at a special assembly.

Ms. Caldarella was recently nominated for a Canadian Association of Principals (CAP) Award. Her leadership has earned her the admiration of staff, students and parents at LINKS, which caters to a special needs population. "Her approach, from the moment she stepped into our school, has been to explore the culture of the school and cultivate an atmosphere of cohesion, respect, kindness and support for one another," says teacher Gail Bernstein, who nominated her for the CAP Award.

Ms. Caldarella began her professional career as a registered nurse specializing in obstetrics at St. Mary's Hospital. She regularly shares her stories of bringing life into this world and caring for her patients with such emotion and pride, naturally imparting the value of commitment, teamwork, sense of belonging, patience and support for one another. From an RN, she moved on to become a healthcare teacher and vocational education consultant at the Lester B. Pearson School Board and later helped open the Health Programs at the

EMSB's Shadd Health and Business Centre

"Maria's approach is always one of outreach, networking and raising the bar," said Ms. Bernstein. "She has lifted LINKS to the forefront of everyone's minds in the education system and in the community. This has been done in her short

widely accepted notions of what neurodiverse students cannot do to what they can do."



**Her leadership has earned her the admiration of staff, students and parents at LINKS, which caters to a special needs population. 9**

four years at LINKS, expanding our student population from under 60 to over 130 students. Our school was once a place where parents sent their children as a last resort, to now one that they are registering their children years in advance and from outside our territory. Maria has turned



Maria Caldarella accepts her award.

Ms. Caldarella acknowledges that her journey to become a principal in a special needs school has definitely been unique in the sense that she has not followed the typical trajectory of education or work experience leading up to this role. Her staff strongly believes that this is what makes her stand out.

"Maria is a fighter and does not shy away from any challenge when it comes to her students and staff,"

says Guidance Counselor Shannen Ciricillo. "She is present and actively listening to all her partners from the point of student-intake conferences to after they graduate. A shining example of this is when, in an intake meeting, a potential student asked if we had a cheerleading squad. We did not, so Maria proposed this activity for the following year and now we have a full squad of gals and guys in uniform performing at many events in and out of school."

Roadblocks or barriers to learning or performing do not exist at LINKS because of Ms. Caldarella's strong commitment, notes Staff Assistant Julia Giannacopoulos. "We have yet to meet a principal who trains for months so she could run 20K from home to school to raise money on National Denim Day for Breast Cancer," she says. "The entire school was waiting in the school yard with posters and cheers as our dedicated principal jogged in. How inspirational is that for students and staff alike? Maria is a true pedagogue and as a lifelong learner continued her university education obtaining a Teaching Certification from McGill, a

Bachelor's in Vocational Education from the University of Sherbrooke and Certificates in Educational Leadership from McGill. She has also maintained her nursing license through professional development and by infusing her nursing skills into her role as principal. We all know she has our backs and, in turn, we are there for her in any way possible."

Staff share how Ms. Caldarella is always there with a hug, even if you don't realize you need one and checks up on all staff at any hour after any stressful events. "We all look forward to her daily check-in walks through the halls to say hello to staff and students and appreciate her open-door policy," says Student Life Coordinator Myriam Farley. "Imagine when more than one new staff member shows up on their first day and Maria realizes that she has delivered them as babies. This is a full-circle moment for Maria as she delights in these unexpected bonds. For Maria, LINKS is a family in every way. Her retirement eligibility has come and gone, but Maria will not leave because she iterates regularly, 'My job is not done. There is so much more to accomplish. I cannot leave my LINKSTERS just yet.' Maria believes our students do not belong in the background, but in the forefront standing tall."

## Holocaust Education Program



The EMSB coordinates a successful program whereby students and staff are sensitized to the history of the Holocaust and acts of antisemitism. In order to continue this program, the EMSB is seeking private donations. Tax receipts will be issued. If you wish to contribute, please contact [mcohen@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:mcohen@emsb.qc.ca) or call 514-483-7200 ext. 7243.

## ADULT EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL SERVICES

## Rosemount Technology Centre launches new carpentry program

By Terry Haig

The Rosemount Technology Centre (RTC), renowned for its comprehensive vocational studies programs, has an exciting new addition to its lineup: an intensive 705-hour carpentry course. This program, conducted at Lester B. Pearson High School in Montreal North, culminates in a Skills Training Certificate (STC), equipping students with the expertise needed for a successful career in carpentry.

With the demand for skilled carpenters in Quebec on the rise, this program has been launched at an opportune moment. Currently, 44 students are enrolled in the course, which began last February and will continue until October, with a scheduled break in July.

"This has been a long-standing goal for the EMSB," says RTC Vice-Principal Ruben Azevedo.



From left to right students James Martel, Islam Abdalla, Patrick Sanzari, Nicholas Di Giovanni and Emile Cumberbatch-Fortin.

"Under the leadership of Principal John Pevec, we now have the opportunity to offer this STC in carpentry. It's a significant milestone for us."

The program is led by seasoned instructors Martin Renshaw and Evan Giancaspro, whose extensive

knowledge and hands-on experience ensure that students receive top-tier training. Their expertise is pivotal in providing students with practical skills that are highly sought after in Quebec's construction industry.

Quebec's carpentry sector is experiencing robust growth with numerous opportunities for skilled professionals. The province is witnessing a surge in residential and commercial construction projects, creating a high demand for carpenters adept at working on various types of structures. The new RTC program is designed to meet this demand by producing well-trained graduates ready to enter the workforce.

The carpentry program at RTC not only prepares students for immediate employment, but also instills a sense of craftsmanship and pride in their work. With dedicated instructors and a comprehensive curriculum, gra-

duates will be well equipped to contribute meaningfully to Quebec's dynamic construction industry.

For those aspiring to embark on a rewarding career in carpentry, there has never been a better time to enroll in Rosemount Technology Centre's new program. Offering expert instruction, hands-on training, and a clear path to employment, this program is a valuable addition to Quebec's vocational education landscape.

To find out more about the Rosemount Technology Centre and its four campuses, please go to <https://www.rosemount-technology.qc.ca/>

## Service to Business Group

The EMSB Service to Business Group (SBG) provides customized training to businesses in creative, advanced, and modern training practices designed to build better performance and productivity within their corporate structures. These tailor-made instructional packages are customized to meet individual business training needs. Instruction can be done in person or online. Some of the most popular and successful training programs offered by SBG have revolved around the following themes: business/e-commerce courses; language courses; Français au Bureau; tools to make your workday more professional and less stressful; software training; computer graphics; secretarial and accounting; hotel reception; professional sales; healthcare training; beauty care; automotive training; client communications skills; and team-building activities for staff. SBG also offers the RAC (Recognition of Acquired Competencies) Program, which is a formal recognition of acquired competencies that leads to an official diploma of Vocational Studies for your staff. For further information, go to the SBG website at [www.sbg.emsb.qc.ca](http://www.sbg.emsb.qc.ca) or call 514-483-7200 ext. 7724.



## LMAC Open House

The Laurier Macdonald Career Centre in St. Leonard held its annual BBQ and Open House on May 22 at the des Grandes Prairies campus. It was a spectacular affair with live music, lots of food, vintage model cars and a showcase of the auto mechanics, aesthetics and hairdressing programs. Folks lined up for free haircuts. There were also kiosks from other EMSB AEVS centres. Keep your eye out for their next such event this coming fall via <https://lmaccareercentre.com/>



At LMAC Career Centre open houses, demonstrations like this one for hairdressing are very popular.

## Math at JFKAC

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you." That thought from B.B. King is printed on a wall poster at John F. Kennedy Adult Education Centre, which occupies a healthy section of a formidable concrete building that has long housed this popular institution of lifelong learning located in St. Michel. The intersection is Rue Villeray and boulevard St. Michel, part of a neighborhood long known as a place where newcomers to Canada can find the place they want to get to in the so-called "Canadian Mosaic." Education, of course, is a key part of that search for a better life. Especially the math part. Turns out math might be a terrific place to start the quest despite the heartache, frustration and panic trying to learn it can bring. Math, especially as it is taught today, is about way more than just the numbers—especially when those numbers are as near as that phone in your palm. As the last semester wound down, there were 120 or so students, ranging in age from 16 to 45, taking math as part of their studies toward a high school diploma. The students taking math are part of a



Students like this are thriving in mathematics at John F. Kennedy Adult Education

community that includes up to 600 students (both night and day) taking various levels of courses at the JFKAEC. Students shooting for a high school diploma are generally divided into three groups: immigrants, "non-traditional learners" and students who are "upskilling" (taking specific courses they need to get into a CEGEP). John F. Kennedy Adult Education Centre is located at 3030 Villeray. For more information, call 514-374-2888 or log on to <https://jfkac.ca>



## Adult Education and Vocational Services

Please see our new AEVS blog, which includes some feature stories about our centres at <https://emsb-aevs.blogspot.com/2024/04/students-at-john-f-kennedy-adult.html>

For more information about our AEVS Department and its program please go to

[www.emsb-aevs.com](http://www.emsb-aevs.com)



# SPORTS



## CF Montreal night



EMSB student Yadav Rudrash with parents Poonam and Mansingh,

More than 300 people purchased tickets for the CF Montreal soccer game against Forge FC from Hamilton on May 22, part of the Canadian Championship Series. The opposing team won the contest by a 2-1 margin.

## Gold medal winner



Lila Stewart

Lester B. Pearson High School Secondary IV Sport-études student Lila Stewart recently won two gold medals at the Youth International Diving Championships in Dresden, Germany. Lila won gold medals in the 1-meter springboard and 3-meter springboard categories. After Germany, Lila competed in the Canadian Olympic Trials in Windsor, Ontario and qualified top 8 with the best divers in Canada.

## Stars on ice



Emma Valente and Sophie Béliveau.

Secondary IV students from Vincent Massey Collegiate in Rosemount, **Emma Valente** and **Sophie Béliveau**, along with their team, Les Suprêmes Novice, brought home gold and are Canadian champions for the second year in a row. Meanwhile, two recent graduates, **Emilie Béliveau** and **Alexandra Bourdages** (Class of 2023), from VMC and LMAC respectively, are not only Canadian champions with les Suprêmes Junior, but also recently brought home the gold at the World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships in Neuchâtel, Switzerland. Both girls attend Vanier College and are part of the sport alliance program.



Jordan Harris gets a big welcome at the school, even by Bruins fans.

## Habs defenceman at Westmount Park

Canadiens defenceman Jordan Harris, 23, visited Westmount Park Elementary School last week. He responded to questions from students, played a game of floor hockey, signed many autographs and posed for photos. Mr. Harris just completed his second full season with the Habs. He graduated from Northeastern University in Boston with a degree in Business Administration and he shared with students the importance of completing one's education. Growing up in a biracial

Jewish family, Harris said this taught him to treat people decently. "It helped me a lot in terms of building relationships," he said. He also hopes his personal example can inspire other kids to see a future for themselves in professional hockey. Harris is a member of the NHL Player Inclusion Coalition, which works to make the sport more diverse.

A native of Haverhill, Massachusetts, a city on the border with New Hampshire, Mr. Harris didn't always know the

extent of his Jewish roots. His father Peter, himself a former hockey player who was drafted by the New York Islanders in 1986 but did not make it to the NHL, is Jewish and half Black. The younger Harris explained that his father was adopted from a Jewish orphanage. His mother, who is white, is not Jewish. Many students wore Canadiens jerseys. There was a long lineup for autographs, but Mr. Harris stayed until each one was signed.

## Alouettes GM Macioca returns to former highschool

Montreal Alouettes General Manager Danny Macioca returned to his former high school Laurier Macdonald in St. Léonard on April 3, 2024 with the Grey Cup. He was introduced by Principal Cristina Celzi and physical education teacher Andy D'Alessandro, an old friend of Macioca's. Montreal Gazette football reporter Herb Zurkowsky moderated the program, asking Macioca some questions and then opening the floor to students. Everyone who wanted to then got to pose with the Grey Cup. Macioca graduated from Laurier Macdonald in 1984. He speaks three languages fluently – English, French and Italian. His message was succinct and simple – chase your dreams and don't let anyone attempt to dissuade you. "Be where your feet are at," he said.



Danny Macioca showcases the Grey Cup with Regional Director Darlene Kehayan.

"Sometimes you have a tendency to look into the future, but get

lost with where you're at. Be committed and have some consistency to it because there's no start without commitment. And there's no end without consistency. You can't be consistent for a week or two. Don't chase money. If you're good at something, money will find you. Enjoy the journey we call life. We only have the opportunity to do it once. Enjoy these years because you don't have to be a grown-up now with responsibilities. You're only 15, 16 once in your life. Enjoy these great years." Stay tuned to our website for news on a special EMSB Day at McGill's Percival Molson Stadium on Monday, October 14 (1 p.m.) against Ottawa. Two students will be awarded the Michael Soles Scholarship – valued at \$500. Each of these winners will receive four VIP tickets for that game.

## Mike Matheson webinar on perseverance

A number of EMSB schools participated in a fabulous Champions for Life webinar featuring Montreal Canadiens defenceman Mike Matheson, which focused on the theme of perseverance. Keith McKoy, who was Matheson's teacher when he attended John Rennie High School in Pointe-Claire, moderated the session. Matheson said he is one of the lucky few, having lived a dream to play for his hometown Canadiens. He pursued his education first, getting his degree in psychology at Boston College while playing elite hockey there and getting drafted in the NHL. "I knew that ultimately, you know, I'd be lucky to play a few years in the NHL if that and I knew that it wouldn't necessarily last forever," he said. "And so I wanted to make sure that I had a great backup plan for when that ultimately came to an end. And so that's why it was important to continue working hard at my degree at Boston College, which I ended up finishing."

You can watch it all here: <https://youtu.be/WmKkN3sh140>



Mike Matheson



High School trips to the United States and Europe occur towards the end of each academic year. In this edition we are happy to share with readers information on some of those travels.

## Grecian Odyssey for LBPHS



Καλημερα!

By teachers Piera Triassi & Marisa Zegarra-Burrows

From the end of March to the beginning of April, a group of Lester B. Pearson High School Secondary V students, with a few others from Secondary III, had the privilege of attending a trip that is for the books, Greece! Throughout the week, we visited many beautiful places and we created memories we will cherish forever.

We started the trip off by visiting Athens. The few days that we were there, we visited the Acropolis, the Acropolis Museum, a national garden, and the changing of the guards. We shopped on the lively streets of Athens and learnt the story behind the evil eye. Our final night in Athens was a traditional Greek evening eating delicious food paired with amazing entertainment like dancing, singing and breaking plates.

While traveling to Tolo, we made a few stops such as Cape Sounion which is where the Temple of Poseidon is located and the Corinth Canal. Following this, we stopped in Nafplion, a coastal city in the Peloponnese. Some students walked 1,000 steps to the Fortress of Palamidi and others enjoyed the small streets of this breathtaking city. We ended the night in Tolo with a walk by the Aegean Sea.

The next morning, some students woke up early to enjoy the sunrise by the sea before heading to the Epidaurus Theater. This ancient outdoor theater was followed by the fascinating archaeological sites of Mycenae. We had the opportunity to try authentic Greek desserts like baklava in the village of Vytina.



Pearson staff and students in Greece.

We arrived in Olympia for the night.

We walked to the origin of the Olympic Games and learnt the different games and rituals the athletes performed. We saw the many well-preserved ruins and some students ran the track of the stadium. We then walked to the Olympic museum where we saw pieces that were not restored at the archeological site. The night ended in Delphi, where we tried homemade loukoumades.

In Delphi, we visited our last archaeological site, the Temple of Apollo. We saw the centre of the world marked with a stone called the Omphalos (navel) of Delphi. We learnt the captivating story of

the Oracle and the two eagles that Zeus released at opposite ends of the world only to meet in Delphi. We also visited the Delphi Archaeological Museum and took a quick stop in Arachova for a group photo and saw the beautiful sights before our drive back to Athens for the final night of our trip.

This trip was truly incredible. We were able to expand our knowledge and visit extraordinary sights thanks to our tour guide, Sofia. We will forever cherish the once in a lifetime experiences and the memories we created.

## LaurenHill takes a bite out of the Big Apple

From walking through Central Park to exploring Times Square, visiting Lady Liberty, touring the financial district, and enjoying panoramic views from One World Trade Center, Secondary IV students at LaurenHill Academy in St. Laurent enjoyed an unforgettable trip to New York City last spring.

LaurenHill students at Central Station in New York City.



LMAC students near the White House.

## Laurier Macdonald High School: Philadelphia, Washington and New York City

Secondary IV students from Laurier Macdonald High School in St. Léonard got the opportunity to visit two of America's oldest and historic cities last spring: Philadelphia and Washington D.C. Despite some heavy rain, their reward for being at the right place at the right time in Washington D.C. gave them the opportunity to actually see President Biden and his motorcade driving by. Even with the President not home, students still passed by the White House for a picture and then spent time visiting the incredible museums of the Smithsonian Institution as



LMAC students near the White House.

well as Arlington National Cemetery. In Philadelphia, students were able to visit Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, climb the famous Rocky steps at the Philadelphia Museum of Art as well as sink their teeth into some cheesesteaks from both Geno's and Pat's.

In the spring, some Secondary V Laurier Macdonald students had the opportunity to visit New York City and take in all the sights and sounds of the Big Apple! Students enjoyed all the incredible food, bright lights and attractions the city had to offer such as the Freedom Tower, Central Park, the Statue of Liberty and Empire State Building. When the sun set, the students found themselves immersed in the glow of Times Square and had the chance to take in a Broadway show. Needless to say, when they got home, they were spreading the news... they were a big part of it... New York, New York!



## Westmount High School discovers Boston



Students visit the Witch Dungeon Museum.

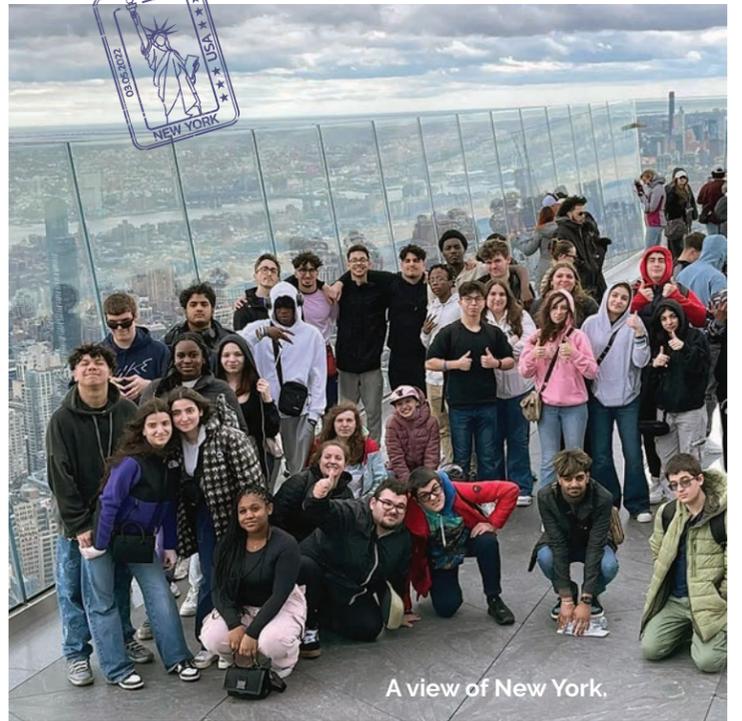
In April, Westmount High School Grade 10 students and teachers took a cultural enrichment trip to Boston, Massachusetts, where they learned about many of the historical events that contributed to the establishment of the United States of America, including the famous Boston Tea Party and, just out of town in Salem, the Salem witch trials. Students and teachers were treated to guided tours of the cities, visiting notable places of interest such as the storied baseball stadium of the Boston Red Sox, Fenway Park, the Boston Public Library, and Boston Common, North America's oldest public park.

Forty Secondary IV and V students from John F. Kennedy High School in St. Michel enjoyed a three-day trip to New York City in April. Despite dealing with rain on and off throughout the visit, everyone managed to have a great time. Students visited Central Park, had a narrated cruise around the Statue of Liberty and other nearby locations such as the Brooklyn Bridge, Ellis Island, and took the subway twice.

One of the new and interesting observatory decks they visited was The Edge located in Hudson Yards. This provided a different view and experience from the usual Top of The Rock and Empire State Building. Other notable activities were a visit to the American Museum of Natural History and group dinners at the Hard Rock and Applebees. But the best part of the trip, other than shopping, was attending a Broadway show:

MJ: The Musical. For most students it was their first Broadway show and they were singing MJ songs all the way back to the hotel. Lastly, what's a trip to New York City without lots of people-watching and shopping in Times Square, Canal Street and Chinatown? After all the walking, they had one last chance to shop at Woodbury Commons Outlets on the drive home.

## JFK High School students enjoyed three days in New York



A view of New York.



David Marino with his mom Angela and her kindergarten students.

## Crooner David Marino returns to LDVA

On Tuesday, May 21 singer David Marino, 25, returned to his former elementary school, Leonardo Da Vinci Academy in RDP to perform for and speak to the students. David, who continued on to study at Vincent Massey Collegiate in Rosemount, made his mark in 2017 as a contestant and finalist on the French-language reality show La Voix. A multi-lingual crooner, he began singing and performing at only six years

of age and was instantly inspired by legends such as Sammy Davis Jr., Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, and Charles Aznavour, among others. As an advocate for mental health causes, he has organized multiple big band concerts, raising over \$50,000 for mental health services at the Jewish General Hospital. He also studied acting professionally in New York City and is a proud graduate of The Neighborhood Playhouse



## Alumni

School of the Theatre. Last winter he performed in his own concert at Place des Arts and he is now crisscrossing North America. The team at LDVA will be proud to welcome him back. A year ago he was part of LDVA's Lite Up the Nite event and performed a few solo songs and with the school choir to help us raise over \$20,000 for The Neuro.



Edinburgh students are quickly becoming Jordyn Sugar fans.

## The Sugar Rush comes to the EMSB

The staff and students at Edinburgh Elementary School in Montreal West were thrilled to welcome back former student Jordyn Sugar for a visit. Now a rising pop star, she spoke about her career, performed two songs, signed an endless array of autographs, played the drums, helped with an Earth Day cleanup and even shot some hoops in the schoolyard. The students were overwhelmed with excitement, lining up for autographs and promising to follow her on social media – in fact some already were. It was a nice opportunity for the 20-year-old to reconnect with some of her former teachers. From there Jordyn launched an EMSB "Sugar Rush" tour and visited more than a half dozen other schools. Go to [www.jordynsugar.com](http://www.jordynsugar.com)



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