

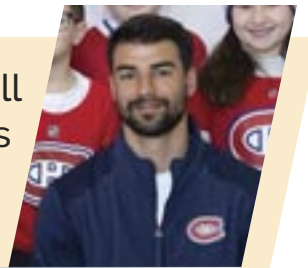
Try our quiz and win a prize see page 4



The Beat kick off K4/K5 registration see page 5



East Hill welcomes back Veleno see page 10



Commission scolaire English-Montréal

express

Volume 29
Number 2
SPRING 2026
www.emsb.qc.ca

English Montreal School Board

EMSB High School students tackle important issues in leadership group

The English Montreal Student Advisory Committee (EMSAC) brings student leaders together from every EMSB high school. They are joined monthly by school board administration, commissioners, school administrators and a teacher moderator helping to guide the conversation. Each meeting is hosted in a different school. Every meeting opens with a land acknowledgement and a short leadership activity that helps everyone connect and hone their skills. A student chair leads the agenda and a student secretary records the minutes. The EMSAC gives students a safe space to share ideas, compare experiences, and help shape solutions that benefit the larger school community. Members leave each meeting more informed and confident, ready to bring practical suggestions back to their schools.

This year's conversations have thus far touched on civic engagement (via municipal elections), including ways to build election awareness in schools. Students also explored secularism and inclusion, budget pressures and their impact on school life, and respect in our schools. Other topics have included enrolment trends and immigration, safety considerations for out of province school trips, and the role schools play in social justice and charitable campaigns. Students reflected on volunteering, rising food costs, and how these realities affect peers. The group also discussed having a code of ethics in education and local priorities such as whether high schools should be able to request crossing guards.



Shown here at a recent EMSAC meeting are:
Back Row: Luc Bisailon (Sec IV, Westmount High); Ezra Moss Menuck, Sec V, MIND; Bokyung Chung, Sec V, Marymount Academy International; Janelle Gesualdi, Sec IV, Lester B. Pearson High School; Julia Pomponi, Sec V, Lester B. Pearson; Arwym Angelica Azcona, Sec LaurenHill Academy; Madison Di Michele, Sec V, LaurenHill; Gianni Mazzariello, Sec V, Laurier Macdonald High School; Brooklyn Roussin, Sec V, Vincent Massey Collegiate; Amya Pagano Castle, Sec IV, Laurier Macdonald

Middle: Giulia Piccini, Sec IV, Royal Vale School; Lily Phaneuf, Sec V, Royal Vale; Brayden Gurevich, Sec IV, Royal West Academy; Daniella Alessi, Sec IV, Vincent Massey; Briyonna Lynch, Sec IV, James Lyng High School.

Front: Isla Mcdade, Sec IV, FACE School; Sienna Therrien Sternfeld, Sec V, FACE; Emma De Melo, Sec V, Westmount High School; Kiana Plummer-Potegal, Sec V, Rosemount High School; Karina Pereira, Sec IV, John F. Kennedy High School.

Chair's Message

Court action against the Quebec government has been unavoidable



Joe Ortona

With a provincial election scheduled for next October, the CAQ government continues to trample on the rights of anglophones, most specifically English language school boards.

François Legault will step down as Premier and leader of the CAQ when his successor is chosen in April. Sadly, his legacy will not be a positive one vis-à-vis his interaction with the English community.

Bill 94 replaced elected representatives of the EMSB and the Lester B. Pearson School Board to the Comité de Gestion scolaire with our Director Generals. We are now asking the Quebec Superior Court to reverse the changes and order the government to pay \$250,000 in damages. This move is a violation of the anglophone community's constitutionally guaranteed control of the English school system. Legault doesn't respect that the English-speaking community has elected representatives and those people are supposed to have a seat

Chair's Message – cont'd on page 2

Global News Morning

Weekdays 6 - 9

with Laura Casella, Ross Hull & Brayden Jagger Haines

Globalnews.ca



Message from the Director General

Inspirations remains the hub of special needs and mental health well-being news



Nick Katalifos

Seventeen years ago, Mike Cohen, our head of marketing and communications, called to ask me if I'd support an initiative of his: to launch a newspaper called Inspirations that would focus on good news stories related to special needs. I was a school principal at the time, but as the father of a son who is on the Autism Spectrum I jumped at the opportunity to lend a hand.

Inspirations started slowly. We had a 12-page launch edition, for which the costs were absorbed by advertising. Six months later, Wendy Singer

came aboard as managing editor and like a fine wine the publication has only climbed upwards since then.

The English Montreal School Board has been proud to support Inspirations since day one via administrative assistance. However, corporate sponsors and advertising continue to ensure that Inspirations finances its complete operation. Through bi-annual publications, community outreach, internship programs, and an extensive database of special needs and mental health resources, Inspirations connects parents, caregivers, teachers, professionals, students, and the public-at-large to the special needs community.

Inspirations now has a well-earned reputation as the hub of special needs news in the Greater Montreal area and beyond. As an expansion of its mandate, *Inspirations* also promotes positive mental health and well-being.

Find out more for yourself at www.inspirationsnews.com.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE – cont'd from page 1

at the table when it comes to decision-making.

Before the changes, I was the EMSB's representative on the committee, while Frank di Bello, a commissioner, represented the LBPSB. The government also replaced the parent or community representatives from the three French-language school service centres on the committee with government-appointed representatives. Two other members are Education Ministry employees.

Those changes mean that five of the committee's seven members are now appointed by the Quebec government, undermining the body's independence. We have invoked Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which guarantees minority-language education rights and underpins four other legal challenges the board has brought against Quebec in recent years.

I wish to emphasize how Section 23 "guarantees the minority language community a right to management and control ... including decisions regarding the expenditure of funds."

One of the first acts of the CAQ was to adopt Bill 40, abolishing school boards. They succeeded on the French side, but not on ours. The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) won a sweeping decision rendered by the Québec Court of Appeal on the government's appeal of *Bill 40*,

An Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance. QESBA, for whom I am president, originally challenged the legislation and was awarded a stay in 2020, which was confirmed by three judges of the Québec Court of Appeal later that year. The Quebec Superior Court heard the case on its merits in 2021 and 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*. This decision reinforced the English-speaking community's rights to manage and control our institutions. We were thrilled that our rights were recognized once again with this decision and we had hoped the CAQ would have decided not to take this crystal-clear decision of the Quebec Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa. Regrettably, they have asked for it to be heard.

We are now taking Bill 21, An Act Respecting the Laicity of the State, to the Supreme Court of Canada. Despite this court action the CAQ adopted additional legislation last fall extending the ban on religious symbols to everyone who interacts with students in schools. The law also prohibits students from wearing face coverings.

Regarding Bill 96, *An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec*, we have issued a court challenge notably on the basis that it violates the English-speaking community's right to management and control of our educational institutions under s. 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Finally, we expressed profound concern over the tabling of Bill 1, legislation that flagrantly threatens the rights of the English-speaking minority in Quebec, deepens societal instability and imposes a one-size-fits-all vision on a vibrant and diverse province, yet another stark example of this government ignoring the real challenges facing its citizens and communities across Quebec. The Bill seeks to override constitutional protections under Section 23, undermining the fundamental rights of Quebec's English-speaking community to access education in their language. We view this measure as a direct attack on minority-language education, a threat to diversity, and a step backward for social cohesion and mutual respect among Quebecers.

Once again, the government has chosen to disregard the constitutional rights of the English-speaking minority, pursuing policies that will deepen divisions within Quebec society.

There with
you then.
Here with
you now.



As a critical part of the community for over 245 years,
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The Gazette

DateBook

2026

March 29 to 31

**Hydro-Québec
Montreal Regional
Science &
Technology Fair**
Laval Senior Academy
3200 Bd du Souvenir
www.sciencetech.ca

April 7

World Health Day

**National Day of
Remembrance of
the Victims of the
Rwanda Genocide**

April 12

**Terry Fox Day in
Memory of EMSB
Caretaker Eddy Nolan**

April 13/14

**Yom Hashoah
Holocaust
Remembrance Day**

April 19 to 25

**National
Volunteer Week**

April 22

Earth Day

**Administrative
Assistants/
Secretary's Day**

April 24

**Armenian
Genocide Day**

May 1

Principal's Day

May 5

**EMSB Teacher
Recognition Day**

May 31

World No-Tobacco Day

June 21

**National Indigenous
Peoples Day**

June 23

Last Day of Classes

EMSB Commissioners

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Quebec English School Boards
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Audit Committee (Vice-Chair)
Governance & Ethics Committee

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WARD 10

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Express

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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 the remainder of this academic year are as follows:

**Tuesday, April 21
at St. Pius X**

Tuesday, May 12

Tuesday, June 9

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

Want to advertise with us?

The EMSB Express has a print run of 25,000. Copies are delivered to all students and staff, as well as to drop-off points across the city.

This is an excellent vehicle to promote your business or services.

Our next edition will be published next September. We do accept advertising, provided the content meets the standards of a public school board.

Express

Contact mcohen@emsb.qc.ca for inquiries.



EMSB Holocaust Education program continues

The EMSB has continued and enhanced its Holocaust Education Program thanks to the renewal of a special grant from Federation CJA.

More than 1,400 students and 120 staff from EMSB schools are expected to take part in meaningful, hands-on education and sensitization regarding the atrocities that occurred during the Holocaust and the enduring lessons it continues to impart. Students – from elementary, high school, and adult education centres primarily located in East End Montreal – are engaging in powerful learning experiences. The focus on the East End is providing the opportunity for students from predominantly non-Jewish areas and backgrounds to learn, break down misconceptions, and become sensitive about current world issues. This can only support peace and tolerance moving forward.

Most schools will visit the Montreal Holocaust Museum (MHM), touring the facility with a guide and participate in workshops. Others have the privilege of welcoming speakers from the MHM or presenters from the Foundation for Genocide Education and other organizations, who share personal testimonials and educational insights.

The EMSB Council of Commissioners have adopted resolutions calling for Holocaust and genocide education to be-



come mandatory. EMSB Chair Joe Ortona and members of the Council have also visited and toured the Montreal Holocaust Museum.

Students and staff from John F. Kennedy High School and guides at the Montreal Holocaust Museum.



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OR

EMSB PROMOTIONAL MERCHANDISE

EMSB Express Quiz

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

- 1** What does EMSAC stand for?

- 2** How much money is the EMSB asking Quebec Superior Court to have the Quebec government pay in damages for changes to the governance of the Comité des gestion scolaire?

- 3** What ward number does EMSB Commissioner Pietro Mercuri represent?

- 4** On what dates will National Volunteer Week take place?

- 5** How many students are expected to take part in the EMSB Holocaust Education Program?

- 6** Which Montreal radio station helped kick off EMSB K4 and K5 Registration?

- 7** Which EMSB teachers won Prime Minister's Awards?

- 8** What award did Caroline Derome, the music teacher at Nesbitt Elementary School in Rosemont, win?

- 9** What EMSB vocational school got a new kitchen?

- 10** What is the name of the Laurier Macdonald High School teacher who was honored recently?

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.

NAME _____

SCHOOL _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

The deadline is April 27, 2026.

The EMSB felt “The Beat” for K4 and K5 Registration launch

The EMSB officially launched its Kindergarten for Four- and Five-Year-Olds (K4 & K5) registration campaign on January 19 at Cedarcrest Elementary School in Saint-Laurent. The kickoff event featured special guests from The Beat 92.5 FM’s popular *Breakfast Club*: Lee Haberkorn, Claudia Marques, and Natasha Gargiulo.

The well-known radio personalities took part in a variety of activities with K4 and K5 students, including classroom visits and meet-and-greets. Highlights from the day were shown on The Beat



There were many student fans of The Beat 92.5 at the Cedarcrest launch. Back row is EMSB Director General Nick Katalifos, Lee Haberkorn, Principal Otis Delaney, Claudia Marques and Natasha Gargiulo.



EMSB mascot Bumble was on hand much to the delight of students.

and the EMSB’s social media platforms. The celebration began with a lively school assembly showcasing musical and dance performances by Cedarcrest students. Students and staff from nearby schools – Parkdale and Gardenvue in Saint-Laurent, as well as Carlyle School in Town of Mount Royal – were also in attendance.

The event featured additional excitement thanks to DJs from Koby Events (Koby Diamond) and Jackson Chorán, also known as *Mister Miles Official*. Koby Events



Natasha and Claudia talk to the kids.



Lee engages with K4 students.

(kobyevents.ca) is a leading Montreal-based event entertainment company with over a decade of experience. Founded in 2016, the company is particularly well known for Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and is a trusted partner for school and corporate events across the city. Their full-service offerings

include DJ services, professional MCs and dancers, photo booths, sound and lighting, arcade games, and more.

Mister Miles is a Montreal-based DJ known for delivering high-energy Tech House, Progressive House, and YEEDM (country + EDM) performances

across North America. He has appeared at major events such as Lasso Festival and Beachclub and has shared the stage with artists including VAVO, Flo Rida, and Walshy Fire of Major Lazer. He is quickly gaining recognition as one of Montreal’s most exciting emerging DJs.

As the Beat 92.5 FM personalities made their grand entrance into the gymnasium, the DJs energized the crowd by playing the hit song “Golden” from *K-Pop Demon Hunters*, prompting students and staff alike to jump to their feet and dance.

Our teachers deserve to be appreciated!

Please tell us why the person you are nominating is special.

As part of **EMSB Teacher Appreciation Day** on May 5, please nominate your child's favourite teacher (youth & adult sectors and Physical Education and Health). The recipients will each receive a **\$100 gift card**, redeemable at any of the **Bâton Rouge Grillhouse & Bar** locations across Canada.

Visit <https://www.batonrouge.ca> for more details and discover why they serve the city's best ribs!



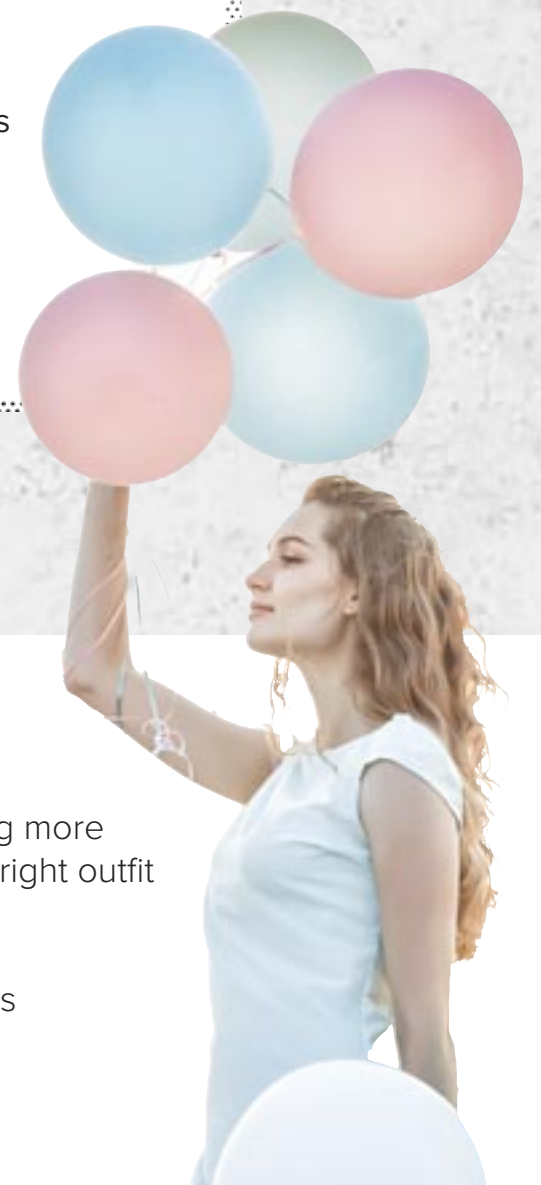
Prom season is around the corner!

Prom is a big moment, and looking sharp matters. At Romanelli Couture, we specialize in modern prom suits, dress shirts, and tailoring to help students feel confident on their big night.



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THIS PROM SEASON

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This promotion is strictly prom-related and student-focused.

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Visit us in store to explore options and get fitted in time for prom.

TEACHER OF DISTINCTION



Commissioner Maria Corsi and Caroline Derome.

Caroline Derome, the music teacher at Nesbitt Elementary School in Rosemont, has been named a 2025 Teacher of Distinction. She received her award from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto on November 16. RCM Teachers of Distinction are leaders in the field of music and arts education, recognized for their contributions of creativity, dedication, innovation, and passion. This award is given to teachers across North America who are recognized as leaders in the field of music and arts education. Through their years of teaching experience, they provide mentorship to other teachers and instill a lifelong love of music and the arts in their students. There are only seven recipients from Canada this year among 1,400 nominations. Ms. Derome is a dedicated musician and educator known for her artistry, versatility, and commitment to nurturing musical excellence.

CBC MUSIC CHALLENGE WINNER



Caroline Derome leads her music students.

The Music Club and Choir Students of Ms. Derome at Nesbitt recently participated in the CBC Music Class Challenge and achieved incredible results. The senior group, named Sound Fusion Ensemble, won first place in the Junior Vocal category (Grades 4 to 6) with their rendition of *Flowers Need Rain* by Preston Pablo, Banx & Ranx. The junior group, named Hearts in Harmony, won second place in the Elementary Performance Vocal or Instrumental category (Kindergarten to Grade 3) with their rendition of *Paper Heart* by Jeremy and Jazzy. Through this challenge, students showcased not only their impressive skills but also their love for music, demonstrating the results of their hard work and dedication. We are very proud of their performances and achievements!

CHAIN OF KINDNESS



Allison Lydynia

In the midst of all the bad news, we could use some positivity and this story delivers. An Elizbaeth Ballantyne School teacher and mother of two, Ali Lydynia, started a chain of kindness initiative to celebrate her milestone 40th birthday. She exceeded her goal of raising \$40,000 for Mada Community Services, Montreal's central address for fighting poverty in our community.

PRIME MINISTER AWARDS



Jennifer De Leeuw (fourth from the left) is congratulated.

Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School in Rosemount-Petite-Patrie music teacher Arianne Asly-Verdon and John Caboto Academy in Ahuntsic math, English, Citizenship, and Quebec Culture teacher Jennifer De Leeuw have been awarded with Regional Certificates of Achievement for the 2025 Prime Minister's Award (PMA) for Teaching Excellence. Ms. Asly-Verdon was formally presented with this honor on by NDP Member of Parliament for Rosemount-La Petite Patrie Alexandre Boulerice. Ms. De Leeuw received hers from Federal Minister of Industry and MP for Ahuntsic-Cartierville Melanie Joly.



Arianne Asly-Verdon

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ADULT EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL SERVICES

Golden Home Care and Shadd



Tara O'Donnell and Jackie Percs with Beatrice.

Golden Home Care provides personalized in-home support and personal care for seniors and families in and around Montreal and the West Island, whether at home, in assisted living residences, or in hospitals. Their person-centred approach is built on compassion, respect, and trust, working closely with families and our caregivers to support seniors and help keep them safe while providing peace of mind for their families. Many of the PABS who work for Golden Home Care are graduates of the EMSB's Shadd Health and Business Centre in NDG. Beatrice is a good example. She graduated from Shadd. "I am a compassionate and dedicated PAB and Licensed Practical Nurse with experience providing quality care to elderly individuals, including those living with Alzheimer's, dementia, and other age-related conditions," she says. "I am skilled in delivering safe, patient-centered care while supporting daily living activities and promoting comfort and dignity. Known for my professionalism, empathy, and strong teamwork, I am committed to improving the quality of life for every client I serve." For more details log on to www.goldenhomecare.ca

The Master Visits Hairdressing Students



Antoine Vadicchino provides tips to a student.

The evening hairdressing students at Laurier Macdonald Career Centre in St. Léonard enjoyed an inspiring updo workshop with master hairstylist educator Antoine Vadicchino, focusing on the art of chignon styling. Students practiced creating chignons, learning key techniques like proper sectioning, building volume, secure pin placement, and refined finishing for long-lasting, elegant styles. Please mark down Thursday, May 28 (5 pm to 8 pm) for the LMAC gigantic open house at 6065 Blvd des Grand Prairies.

Ivan's Story

The Student of the Month for October was Ivan Rivas-Santamaria from Galileo Adult Education Centre in Montreal North. He arrived in Montreal two years ago from Texas, having experienced homelessness and battled addiction. Ivan is an exemplary student whose perseverance and leadership truly embody the values of Galileo Adult Education Centre. Despite facing significant challenges in his youth, he has shown remarkable determination to build a brighter future for himself. A full-time student by day and a dedicated francization learner by night, Ivan demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to his learning journey. In the classroom, Ivan supports his classmates without hesitation, offers encouragement to peers, and openly shares his personal story to motivate others to stay on the right path. He



Ivan with his mother (left) Maria Rivas, Vice Principal Antoinette Scrocca and teachers Giovanna Vaccaro and Marilyn Damato.

approaches every challenge with a positive, solution-oriented mindset. Beyond the classroom, Ivan serves as a student representative on the Governing Board. Looking ahead, he is exploring studies in Social Counselling at Concordia

University with the goal of becoming a social worker and motivational speaker for youth. He thanked his mom Maria Rivas, the school administration and teachers Giovanna Vaccaro and Marilyn Damato.

New Kitchens at Pius



A look at one of the new kitchens.

After a full year of construction, St. Pius X Career Centre in Ahuntsic has turned the lights on in its brand-new, state-of-the-art teaching kitchen, a transformative project that marks a new era for culinary education in Montreal. In the company of EMSB Chair Joe Ortona, members of the Council of Commissioners, senior management and centre officials, the facilities were formally unveiled last fall. The new teaching kitchen was built to accommodate growing enrolment in the school's acclaimed Professional Cooking program, which prepares students for an array of jobs in the hospitality sector as professional chefs. The new kitchen can accommodate 25 students per class and is significantly larger than a

standard restaurant kitchen. The space and technology allows for hands-on learning in a real-world environment. This facility features an advanced multi-media system with ceiling-mounted cameras overlooking the demonstration area for the instructor and six high-definition televisions strategically placed throughout the kitchen for students. It allows every student to clearly see demonstrations from any station, enhancing the teaching experience. In addition, the kitchen is outfitted entirely with brand-new commercial-grade equipment from leading industry names like Vulcan, Hobart, Garland, and Rational. The project was designed in close collaboration with St. Pius X's team of instructor chefs, whose input shaped the layout to ensure

maximum efficiency and an optimal learning experience. In addition to serving as a premier teaching space, the new kitchen will power production for the new St. Pius X's store, set to open this fall. The store will offer the public a delicious selection of prepared foods made by students, including soups, stocks, and sauces, appetizers and ready-to-eat meals as well as desserts and cakes from the pastry program. All items will be competitively priced, offering an affordable alternative to grocery stores. The store will soon be open to the public on Thursdays and Fridays, with convenient parking and easy access on Sauvé, across from McDonald's.

La CSEM récompense 15 élèves pour l'excellence en français

Ce sont 15 élèves de la Commission scolaire English-Montréal (CSEM) qui se sont vu décerner le Prix d'excellence en français Robert Alfred Peck.

À la lumière des données de l'année scolaire 2024-2025, 13 élèves de 4^e secondaire et 2 élèves de 5^e secondaire ont été honorés pour avoir obtenu la note de 100 %. Chaque lauréate et lauréat a reçu un certificat ainsi qu'un chèque d'une valeur de 100 \$.

Au total, on compte 6 élèves du Collège Vincent Massey à Rosemont, 4 élèves de l'Académie Royal West à Montréal-Ouest, 3 élèves de l'école secondaire M.I.N.D. sur Le Plateau et 2 élèves de l'Académie internationale Marymount à NDG.

Académie Royal West

Actuellement en 5^e secondaire

Katherine Dixon
Alice Venart-Robitaille
Oliver Mackenzie
Jane Raimbert



À la lumière des données de l'année scolaire 2024-2025, 13 élèves de 4^e secondaire et 2 élèves de 5^e secondaire ont été honorés pour avoir obtenu la note de 100 %.

Collège Vincent Massey

Actuellement en 5^e secondaire

Giuseppe Di Sano
Adriano Hudon
Luca Joaquim-Gallo
Briana Kalba
Charlotte Perron
Florence Turme

École secondaire M.I.N.D.

Actuellement au cégep

Sevanne Adjemian
Orla Jeanes
Océane Usher

Académie internationale Marymount

Actuellement au cégep

Ivan Bondarenko
Caelan Glekas

Le regretté M. Peck a amorcé sa carrière d'enseignant dans les années 1930. Il a été surintendant de français pour le ministère de l'Éducation et a également occupé des postes similaires au sein de l'ancienne Commission scolaire de Westmount et de l'ancienne Commission des écoles protestantes du Grand Montréal. Il a été responsable du département de français à l'école secondaire de Lachine et directeur adjoint à l'école secondaire Riverdale dans l'Ouest de l'île, après avoir enseigné en Afrique. Il est coauteur avec Elizabeth Buchanan du manuel d'enseignement du français, langue seconde, intitulé *Le français pratique*, qui fut une référence incontournable dans les écoles anglophones protestantes du Québec pendant plus de 20 ans. Ce prix a été institué en son honneur par la famille Peck et la CSEM en 2002.

Harmonie d'honneur

L'école F.A.C.E. a accueilli l'Harmonie d'honneur de McGill. Cet événement a rassemblé, l'espace d'une journée, des élèves de 22 écoles secondaires! Les élèves ont eu le privilège d'être dirigés par D^{re} Danielle Gaudry et de travailler en sectionnelle avec plusieurs enseignants de l'Université McGill. La journée s'est conclue par un concert mettant en vedette l'Harmonie d'honneur ainsi que l'Orchestre à vent de l'Université McGill. À noter que deux anciens de F.A.C.E. étaient

parmi l'Orchestre à vent : Philibert Gasse et William Boberg! Les élèves ont eu le plaisir de clore le concert avec les musiciens de l'Orchestre! Bravo à Amélie Marandola, Chihiro Akamatsu Kawai, Elliott Paquin, Emeric Poiker, Zakary Favret et Eli Wesley-Lanctôt qui ont magnifiquement bien représenté notre école lors de cet événement! Un grand merci à D^{re} Gaudry ainsi qu'à toute son équipe pour la tenue de cet événement!



L'école F.A.C.E. a accueilli l'Harmonie d'honneur de McGill.

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La CSEM lance sa campagne d'inscription à la maternelle 4 ans et 5 ans

La CSEM a officiellement lancé sa campagne d'inscription à la maternelle 4 ans et 5 ans le 19 janvier, à l'école primaire Cedarcrest, à Saint-Laurent. L'événement de lancement a mis en vedette des invités spéciaux de l'émission matinale très populaire *Breakfast Club* de The Beat 92.5, notamment : Lee Haberkorn, Claudia Marques et Natasha Gargiulo. Ces personnalités de la radio ont participé à diverses activités avec les élèves de maternelle 4 ans et 5 ans, comme des visites en classe et des rencontres avec les enfants. Les moments forts de cette journée seront partagés sur les plateformes de médias sociaux de la radio The Beat 92.5. L'événement a débuté par une animation scolaire dynamique, avec des prestations musicales et des danses présentées par les élèves de Cedarcrest.



Claudia Marques

Plusieurs élèves et membres du personnel des écoles voisines, dont Parkdale et Gardenview à Saint-Laurent ainsi que Carlyle à Mont-Royal, étaient également de

la partie. L'événement a été animé par les DJ de *Koby Events*, ainsi que par Jackson Chorán, également connu sous le nom de Mister Miles Official.



SPORTS



Cougars honor Andy D'Alessandro



Andy D'Alessandro (third from the left) with Joe Ortona, Mario Pietrangelo, LMAC Vice Principal Jessica Monti and Principal Cristina Celzi.

The St. Leonard Cougars Football Organization and the Quebec Midget Football League (QMFL) have recognized one of their most respected and dedicated members – Coach Andy D'Alessandro. On October 11, he was inducted into the St. Leonard Cougars Hall of Fame, recognizing his 35 years of service and leadership within our organization and his tremendous impact on generations of youth across Montreal. Beyond football, Andy has been a longtime physical education and health teacher at Laurier Macdonald High School since the 1990s, where he has served as both an educator and mentor. His influence within the EMSB community has extended far beyond the classroom – instilling discipline, respect, and perseverance in countless students over the years.

An Alouettes Experience



Leale, Pugliese and the Del Pio Luigo's at the game.

Marcello Del Pio Luigo was the winner of the EMSB Express Newspaper contest for four tickets to the Montreal Alouettes – Ottawa Red Blacks game on October 13 at Molson Stadium. Marcello is Sports-Études student. This was his first time ever seeing the Als play, likewise for his dad Marco and friend Giuliano Pugliese from Rosemount Highschool. His buddy, from Pearson, Alessio Leale, had been to games before, but he never sat in such good seats.

Carrier visits Merton



Alex Carrier and his wife Dr. Alicia Lessard at Merton.

It is not every day that students get to meet a member of the Montreal Canadiens hockey team. But that is what Merton Elementary School students in Côte Saint-Luc got to experience on September 12. Defenceman Alex Carrier and his wife Dr. Alicia Lessard, the co-owner of the Step Medical Clinic for children in Côte Saint-Luc were

special guests. Students were able to dream about one day playing in the NHL or studying to become a doctor. Local media personalities Stu Cowan and Mark Lidbetter asked the couple some questions and so did students, 90 percent of whom were decked out with Habs jerseys. Carrier, who grew up in Montreal, was traded to the

Canadiens from the Nashville Predators in December 2024. Carrier and Dr. Lessard have been together for more than 10 years. Their long distance connection remained intact, despite the challenges of Alex spending several seasons in junior hockey and the minor leagues while Alicia worked through medical school and residency.

Habs' Veleno returns to his former school



Joe Veleno with the Grade 4 class of teacher Kristina Provost (far right, back row), who was his classmate at East Hill.

On the occasion of School Perseverance Week East Hill Elementary School in RDP welcomed back former student and a member of the Montreal Canadiens hockey team, Joe Veleno, on February 16. Veleno attended the school from Kindergarten to Grade 6, before his family moved to the West Island. He was greeted with loud cheers at a full school assembly and accepted the offer to become a special ambassador for EMSB Nutrition Month in March. During the East Hill visit Veleno recon-

nected with Kristina Provost, a classmate back in the day who is now a Grade 4 teacher there. In addition, many of his former teachers and daycare personnel still on staff were thrilled to greet him. After addressing the students, he visited the K 4 and K5 classes where he was showered with Montreal Canadiens drawings in crayon. Among those in attendance were 14 junior hockey players from the EMSB's Lester B. Pearson High School Sports-études program.



Watch our podcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVNjcYMr9ww>

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Photo above: (left to right): Rami Nassif, Pearl Assayag, Najib Haddad, Carl Dumont

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