

# CLC Circuit

December 2021



**Commission scolaire English-Montréal**  
**English Montreal School Board**



## **Editors**

### **Athina Galanogeorgos**

Assistant Director, Educational Services Department

[agalanogeorgos@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:agalanogeorgos@emsb.qc.ca)

### **Elpi Argyrakopoulos**

Education Consultant, Educational Services Department

[eargyrakopoulos@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:eargyrakopoulos@emsb.qc.ca)

## **Layout Design**

### **Zulfiye Erdem**

Graphic Arts Technician, EMSB Marketing and Communications

[zerdem@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:zerdem@emsb.qc.ca)

## **Contributing Community Development Agents**

### **Sam Karimi-Harati**

James Lyng High School

[Skarimi-Harati@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:Skarimi-Harati@emsb.qc.ca)

### **Melyssa Taganyi**

Parkdale Elementary School

[MTaganyi@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:MTaganyi@emsb.qc.ca)

### **Charalambia Variantzas**

Laurier MacDonald High School

[cvariantzas@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:cvariantzas@emsb.qc.ca)

### **Cathy Vella**

Gerald McShane Elementary School

[cvella@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:cvella@emsb.qc.ca)

**Dear readers,**

As another extraordinary year draws to its end, we want to take the time to acknowledge the amazing work that took place in our CLCs and to share a glimpse of it with all of you.

This school year has also brought a change to the members comprising our CLC team. Every so often, the Provincial Resource Team (PRT) rotates its members so that all can, at one time or another, work with and support every school board team in the province.

We, therefore, want to take the opportunity to thank Emma Legault for all the years that she worked with us, for guiding us, advising us, thinking with us, supporting our endeavours, providing us with resources, and for always having a kind word of encouragement for all.

We also want to welcome Debbie Horrocks who has been our support since the beginning of this academic year. Debbie is not a stranger to our team having worked with us extensively in the past. Debbie is the Director of the PRT, she is extremely knowledgeable, and we know that we will continue to be very well-supported in all our projects, from idea to implementation.

Finally, we also want to express our best wishes to you, your school teams, and your families for a healthy and safe 2022.

**Athina & Elpi**



# PARKDALE SCHOOL

This year, we offered to our Grade 6 students a new after-school photography program realized in partnership with LOVE QUEBEC. This organization offers a media arts and leadership program, and their mission is to engage youth, build bridges, and help them realize their potential. The program was adapted to the specific needs of our Grade 6 students and 14 Grade 6 students have already begun working on this project alongside two animators. The project began in November and will end in February. Parkdale School received a grant from the RRM, which gave us the opportunity to purchase our own cameras, tripods, and memory cards. This grant will also finance the creation and printing of a booklet. The goal of this project is to enable Grade 6 students to develop important skills that are needed for a successful integration/transition to high school. These skills include emotional intelligence, critical thinking, communication, stress management, leadership, and more. The workshops will help participants acquire these essential skills through a Media art (photography) class based on producing personal images. Another goal that we set is to help our preschool students in their first transition to school via the creation of a school-welcoming booklet. Our Grade 6 students will be encouraged to take photos of different areas in the school that will be included in the booklet. The booklet will be offered to our preschool, ASD kindergarten, and Language Jr. students to help them become familiar with their new environment. We hope that it will help children's transition to elementary school by building their confidence and by shining



# JAMES LYNG HIGH SCHOOL

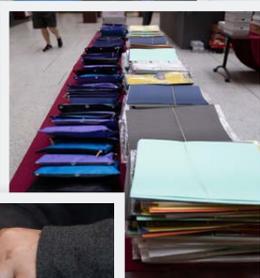
The school year started with many projects. One of those was the *Annual Sneaker Drive*.

In April 2021, Julian Grau-Brown, former intern at James Lyng, proposed an ambitious project. He wanted all our students to start the school year with a new pair of sneakers. As someone who probably owns a few more pairs of shoes than I should, I could see the potential impact of a simple yet valuable initiative. Students at James Lyng H.S. wear uniforms so, for many, their shoes are away to express themselves. Sadly, not all students can afford a new pair. Knowing how crucial self-esteem and confidence are for young persons, we could not pass up the chance to contribute to a project that would boost school morale, set a great tone to start the year, and relieve financial pressure for parents and guardians.

With the approval of our school's administration, the *1<sup>st</sup> Annual James Lyng Sneaker Drive* was born. Julian and I worked on the logistics of the project and ensured that we met our goal, which was to collect 150 pairs of sneakers for our students. Later that school year, when the administration and I started preparing for the 2021-22 school year, we saw an opportunity to merge this project to another that we had been working on –the distribution of school supplies to all students, made possible with a generous donation from Caisse Populaire Desjardins (Centre de Sud-Ouest). Thus, in September, we were able to provide our students both with a new set of school supplies and a new pair of shoes. Students' reactions were enthusiastic and their gratitude, priceless!

This project is the perfect example what the CLC is about: An idea that is brought forth by a member of our school family and which is then turned into reality with the support of the CLC and our partners.

This project set a new standard for years to come and, most importantly, created a positive impact on our community. Julian has since been approached by many brands, manufacturers, and schools to ask for his help in the facilitation of more sneaker drives, and we are certain that the impact of this initiative will continue to increase.



*Thank you, Julian!*



# LAURIER MACDONALD HIGH SCHOOL

## Photographing Confidence

Community partners are crucial. As the saying goes: “It takes a village to raise a child”. Just as a parent cannot fulfill all a child’s needs alone, neither can a school. We need the involvement and expertise of our community to help us enrich the lives of the students we educate and care for every day. Partners help us liven up class discussions, add an element of authenticity to the learning and give us access to (often) vastly untapped resources.

Through our links with *La Maison de Jeunes de Saint-Leonard* and our active partnership with *Pact de Rue*, Laurier Macdonald CLC hosted two days of Confidence and Self-Esteem Building workshops that culminated with professional photo shoots for the participants.

Self-confidence means trusting your own judgment and abilities. It is about valuing yourself and feeling worthy, regardless of any imperfections or what others may believe about you. Oftentimes this is difficult for students. So, through referrals made by teachers and school professionals, selected students were invited on a recent professional day to participate in confidence-building activities and group discussions. The morning was spent exploring how they feel about themselves, how the opinion of others affects them, and how they can work at putting themselves first in their own esteem. After lunch, students changed into clothes in which they felt amazing and had their photos taken by a professional photographer from the modeling industry. It was incredible to witness the transformation in their smiles and their body posture! Amid giggles and shy attempts at flamboyant modeling poses, the transformations were both subtle and so dramatic.

At the end of the day, the students were gifted their pictures. These will serve as a physical reminder how confident and powerful they felt while taking them. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to Myriam of *Pact de Rue* and Gabriella and Mohammed of *La Maison des Jeunes de Saint Leonard* for the empowering opportunity that they offered to our students.



*Pictures by Myriam Bellehumeur*



# GERALD McSHANE SCHOOL

Gerald McShane would like to highlight the Social Solar System workshop that took place earlier this year, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. every Tuesday, for a period of 10 weeks.

Erika Sweet, the facilitator working with Ometz is our partner for this transition program, which was offered to Preschool students to help them with entry to kindergarten. Various topics were covered and helped students ease into the next phase of their educational life.

We may not think that transition to kindergarten is a crucial step, but if we take the time to observe, we'll notice that there are students who suffer from fear and anxiety at the start of Kindergarten. At that stage, they are not toddlers anymore and several aspects of their everyday school life change. For example, bus schedules are different, and mealtimes take place with more independence. Similarly, more structured work is introduced, and students are responsible for personal objects.

The Social Solar System workshop showed our student show to work in teams; introduced them to the art of play, sharing, and following rules; and familiarized them with the section of the school where Kindergarten class is located.

The goal of this program was to lessen the anxiety by making students feel a sense of belonging and school community and we can already attest seeing enthusiasm in their eyes rather than fear.

We hope that with this program our students will have an easier time to become Kindergarten Students.



