

Try our quiz and win a prize see page 4



JFK High grad becomes a Cardinal see page 8



Our Karate Kid see page 10



Commission scolaire English-Montréal

express

Volume 28
Number 2
SPRING 2025
www.emsb.qc.ca

English Montreal School Board

Chair's Message

We look forward to challenging Bill 21 before the Supreme Court of Canada.



Joe Ortona

In January, the Supreme Court of Canada announced that it will hear a challenge to Quebec's secularism law

On October 2019 we challenged Bill 21 in Quebec Superior Court. The legislation had come into force several months earlier, barring public-school teachers, government lawyers, judges and police officers from wearing religious symbols while at work. The Quebec Superior Court struck down key provisions of Bill 21 on April 20, 2021. However, the Quebec Court of Appeal did not uphold that decision on February 29, 2024, setting in motion the request by us, the National Council of Canadian Muslims and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association to seek leave to appeal that ruling at the Supreme Court.

Chair's Message – cont'd on page 2

EMSB embarks upon a Celebration of Music across the network



Students, staff and special guests were all smiles at the EMSB's Ode To Joy: Celebration of Music launch at Rosemount High School.

On the eve of Kindergarten Registration Week, the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) kicked off Ode to Joy – A Celebration of Music at Rosemount High School in January.

Students from the Rosemount High Arts-études program were joined by students from four primary schools – Nesbitt in Rosemount, Gerald McShane in Montreal North and Willingdon and St. Monica in NDG – to perform and share how the magic of song is built into the curriculum from Kindergarten and onwards. A number of professional musicians were also on hand.

Almost two centuries have passed and Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" remains a symbol of hope, peace and fellowship. It's a masterful musical celebration that makes everyone who listens to it feel almost instantly imbued with a torrent of positive emotions. This is also a song that

is familiar to most elementary and high school students at the EMSB, since they perform it with their music teachers.

An education that includes music encourages students to engage actively, develop their appreciation for the arts and benefit in so many positive ways while at school.

Music fundamental to school life

By celebrating music in education this January and beyond, the EMSB is showcasing talents and programs in its schools, and joining together for a beautiful month of music.

In line with the Québec Education Program, EMSB schools offer an arts education through programs in the visual arts, drama, dance or music. Many have a music specialist and dedicated music room. But even

schools without a music program incorporate music in the everyday curriculum by integrating it in other arts subjects.

'For the youngest learners, numbers and letters are often first taught through song.'

Nicolas Doyon, EMSB Arts education consultant and responsible for culture in school, believes there are many benefits to incorporating music in education. Not only does it stimulate the brain areas involved in reasoning and problem-solving, it also provides students an avenue

to express their emotions, learn different languages, explore other cultures and traditions, and nurture the creative mind.

For the youngest learners, numbers and letters are often first taught through song. In French immersion schools, music plays a pivotal role in teaching French as a second language.

Nesbitt Elementary School in Rosemount, St. Monica Elementary School in NDG and Gardenvue Elementary School in Saint-Laurent integrate components of the Orff music program into their teaching. This is an educational approach to music and movement developed by German composer Carl Orff in the 1920s, emphasizing active participation and encouraging children to explore music through playing instruments, singing, dancing and creating.

Celebration of Music – cont'd on page 4

Global News Morning

Weekdays 6 - 9

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

Globalnews.ca



Message from the Director General

Culture and Citizenship in Quebec



Nick Katalifos

The Ministère de l'Éducation has launched the Culture and Citizenship in Quebec (CCQ) program of study, which was introduced by some schools on an optional basis during the 2023-2024 academic year. It is now mandatory.

Learning about culture and citizenship in Quebec, students are evaluating sources, information and arguments, identifying the characteristics of culture and society in Quebec today, and observing the related social relations. Subjects such as culture and dialogue are first being addressed in elementary school. Studies will then continue at

the secondary level where ethics, citizenship and sociology will be addressed.

The objective of the CCQ program is not to provide specific answers to complex ethical questions, but rather to lead students to develop their critical thinking skills and ability to engage freely in empathetic dialogue. The program prioritizes an appreciation of democratic principles, a secular state governed by the rule of law, and the values of equality and respect for the dignity of human beings as provided for in the Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

At the end of their schooling, students will have a meaningful repertoire of knowledge on personal development, interpersonal relationships as well as on all the dimensions of culture and society in Quebec. Therefore, each child will have developed skills vital to their informed participation in exercising citizenship in Québec. The program will also lead students to aim for recognition of oneself and of others as well as for the common good. Anne-Marie De Silva is the EMSB consultant for this course, and I wish to thank her in particular for all her hard work on this dossier. ■



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The EMSB marked **Black History Month** with programming across the network, with a formal kickoff at Parkdale Elementary School in St. Laurent. On that day, the library was dedicated in the memory of the late Dr. Horace I. Goddard, a former school teacher, principal and head office administrator and a leader in the Black community. Friends, family, EMSB officials and leaders from the Black community were on hand at the event.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE – cont'd from page 1



Our challenge to Bill 21 was also based on gender discrimination, prohibited under section 28 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

We maintain our original position that Bill 21 conflicts with our values and our mission and with those of all Quebecers as expressed in the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms. Its very adoption was contrary to our societal goal of promoting our peaceful co-existence in a pluralistic Quebec.

This legislation prohibits our future primary and high school teachers, school principals and vice-principals from wearing religious symbols in the exercise of their functions, while limiting the career advancement of our current employees. Most importantly it sends a message of intolerance and exclusion to our students and their families. We are

pleased to go forward in front of the highest court in the country.

Our contention is based primarily on Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that guarantees minority language educational rights to English-speaking minorities in Quebec, including the exclusive right of management and control of school boards accorded to linguistic minority communities across Canada.

We value the diversity of our students and staff and respect their personal and religious rights which are guaranteed both by the Canadian and Quebec charters of rights. This legislation runs contrary to what we teach with regard to respect for individual

rights and religious freedoms.

Our challenge to Bill 21 was also based on gender discrimination, prohibited under section 28 of the Canadian charter. Rather than promoting gender equality, Bill 21 has the opposite effect. Due to the preponderance of women working in Quebec schools, the law has a disproportionate effect on them, particularly well-educated Muslim women with university teaching degrees whose role in public life is restricted. Bill 21 remains an attempt to solve a non-existent problem.

To see the Chair's Message issued after the November elections please go to: <https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/about/governance/chairman>. ■

Express

Produced by the Marketing and Communications Department of the

English Montreal School Board

6000 Fielding Avenue, Montreal (Quebec) H3X 1T4

Phone: (514) 483-7200, ext. 7245
Fax: (514) 483-7213
E-mail: express@emsb.qc.ca
Web site: www.emsb.qc.ca

Editor: Michael J. Cohen
Manager, Marketing and Communications

Translation: Manon Bourassa

Layout & design: Ponctuation Grafix Inc.
www.ponctuation.com

Legal Deposit: Bibliothèque Nationale du Québec
National Library of Canada
ISSN 1488-416X

THE BEAT OF YOUR WORKDAY



the beat 92.5

MON-FRI
8:20
AM

COGECO
MEDIA

DateBook

2025

March 23 to 25
Hydro-Québec Montreal Regional Science & Technology Fair
 Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School
 13800 Pierrefonds Blvd.
 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 Eddy Nolan

April 22
Earth Day

April 23
Administrative Assistants/ Secretary's Day

April 23/24
Yom Hashoah Holocaust Remembrance Day

April 24
Armenian Genocide Day

April 27 to May 3
National Volunteer Week

May 1
Principal's Day

May 7
EMS B Teacher Recognition Day

May 31
World No-Tobacco Day

June 20
Last Day of Classes

June 21
National Indigenous Peoples Day

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:

- April 29**
- May 27**
- June 17**

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

Territory of the Kanien'kehà:ka

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

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

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

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

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

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

EMS B Commissioners

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

WARD 1
 Ahuntsic-Cartierville, Montreal North
SUSAN PERERA
 sperera@emsb.qc.ca
 Transportation & Safety Advisory Committee

WARD 2
 Côte-des-Neiges, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
CHELSEA CRAIG
 ccraig@emsb.qc.ca
 Human Resources Committee
 Quebec English School Boards Association

WARD 3
 Côte-Saint-Luc, Montreal West, Hampstead
PAOLA SAMUEL
 psamuel@emsb.qc.ca
 Human Resources Committee (Vice-Chair)

WARD 4
 Mercier, Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Rosemont, La Petite-Patrie, Plateau-Mont-Royal, Anjou, Montreal-Est
MARIA CORSI
 Mcorsi2@emsb.qc.ca
 Executive Committee
 Human Resources Committee

WARD 5
 Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
SHARON NELSON
 snelson@emsb.qc.ca
 Executive Committee
 Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (Observer)
 Human Resources Committee

WARD 6
 Rivière-des-Prairies, Pointe-aux-Trembles
PIETRO MERCURI
 pmercuri@emsb.qc.ca
 Executive Committee (Vice-Chair);
 Transportation & Safety; Advisory Committee; Audit Committee (Vice-Chair)

WARD 7
 St-Laurent
JAMES KROMIDA
Vice-Chair
 jkromida@emsb.qc.ca

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

WARD 9
 Villeray, Saint-Michel, Parc-Extension, Mont-Royal, Outremont
PAULA KILIAN
 pkilian@emsb.qc.ca
 Executive Committee; Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal
 Audit Committee (Chair)

WARD 10
 Westmount, Sud-Ouest, Ville-Marie
JULIEN FELDMAN
 JFeldman@emsb.qc.ca
 Executive Committee
 Governance & Ethics Committee (Vice-Chair)
 Quebec English School Boards Association
 Audit Committee

Parent Commissioner Secondary Schools
JESSICA HOUE-WOYTIUK
 JHoude-Woytiuk@emsb.qc.ca
 Member of:
 EMSB Parents Committee
 Executive Committee
 Governance & Ethics Committee

Parent Commissioner Elementary Schools
MERIKA RAMUNDO
 mramundo@emsb.qc.ca
 Member of EMSB Parents Committee

Parent Commissioner ACSES
 (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)
JULIE KRISTOF
 jkristof@emsb.qc.ca
 Member of EMSB Parents Committee

Parent Commissioner
JENNIFER RUTT
 jrutt@emsb.qc.ca
 Member of
 EMSB Parents Committee
 Parent Commissioner

Our teachers deserve to be appreciated!



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

As part of **EMS B Teacher Appreciation Day** on May 7, 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.

Email your choice to mcohen@emsb.qc.ca by **April 15, 2025**.



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

CELEBRATION OF MUSIC – cont'd from page 1

By high school, many students are equipped with basic music skills and can move on to more complex aspects of study and practise. Many EMSB schools offer an opportunity to be in a musical ensemble, wind band or choir, which fosters teamwork and cooperation. Some provide instruction in playing instruments or developing vocal techniques.

‘Participating in music programs can create a sense of community and belonging, which is crucial for students’ mental health.’

These teach the value of practice, discipline and perseverance. Students can choose a high school that offers them a chance to join band or sing in a choir as a fun extra-curricular activity or chose a school specializing in music. All EMSB schools strive to expose learners to some form of music experience.

FACE (Fine Arts Core Education) School in downtown Montreal and Rosemount High School are EMSB schools that have a focus on music education. At FACE, music is one of the four arts studies. Here, students learn the musical foundations and get practical training on wind and string instruments and voice.

At Rosemount, while music instruction has long been a staple, since 2023 it has had the Arts-études program (music specialization), which allows for music to be incorporated throughout the school day as credit courses, as opposed to an after-school extra-curricular.

In other schools, music is offered in various ways. Marymount Academy International in NDG, for example, has a steel pan band. James Lyng High School, in St. Henri, has a music program that focuses on Hip Hop and rock music. St. Gabriel Elementary School in Pointe-St-Charles also has a classic rock band, where students learn to play guitar, bass, drums, keyboards and brass instruments. Schools including Willingdon Elementary School offer lunch-time music clubs on top of music class and have concerts during the year.

Music fosters non-verbal communication skills, helping students take risks, express themselves and understand others better. It is also proven to have therapeutic benefits, such as stress relief and emotional release.

Participating in music programs can create a sense of community and belonging, which is crucial for students’ mental health.

“When music is included in everyday education, we see both the educational and social and emotional developmental benefits for students of all ages,” Mr. Doyon said.



Rosemount High educational consultant for the Arts-études program Melina Catalano accepts a special alumni recognition certificate. Melina was a student at Honoré Mercier Elementary School in St. Leonard and Rosemount High.



Please see our series of stories and videos on this theme at www.emsb.qc.ca/odetojoy

- 🎵 **Once a student of music at RHS, Melina Catalano returns as teacher, pursuing love of music education**
- 🎵 **45 years of singing hearts out with the EMSB Chorale**
- 🎵 **Students share why music is important in their lives**
- 🎵 **The Ode to Joy connection**



ENTER THE EMSB EXPRESS QUIZ

A **GIFT CARD** FROM

Chapters

Indigo

COLES

OR

“DELICIOUS” GIFT CERTIFICATES TO



Le Fou Fou, the innovative European-style food hall is located on the second floor of the Royalmount retail complex with over 12 distinct culinary offerings, open seven days a week. This vibrant destination invites Montrealers to embark on a unique Epicurean journey. Whether you're drawn to the all-day café, or lively nighttime bars, Le Fou Fou promises an experience that sparks the imagination and delights the senses.
www.lefoufou.com



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



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

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 is the number of the Bill the EMSB is taking to the Supreme Court of Canada?
- 2 Which Beethoven song was the EMSB theme in January?
- 3 Who is the Vice Chair of the EMSB?
- 4 Which commissioner represents Notre-Dame-de-Grâce?
- 5 When is World No-Tobacco Day?
- 6 Which EMSB school did Quebec Minister of Finance Eric Girard visit?
- 7 Which Montreal organization provided the EMSB with funding to carry on its Holocaust Education program for schools?
- 8 What is the name of the John F. Kennedy High School graduate who was named a Cardinal by the Pope?
- 9 The Laurier Macdonald Vocational Training and Career Centre welcomed visitors earlier this year from which country?
- 10 Which school does the EMSB's Karate Kid attend?

The deadline is April 28, 2025.

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 _____



Serenading Minister Girard and MNA Setlakwe

Eric Girard, Quebec's Minister of Finance and Responsible for Anglophone Relations and Mount Royal-Outremont Liberal MNA Michelle Setlakwe, visited Carlyle Elementary School in TMR on January 17. Music teacher Christina Crawford's students performed a special concert as part of the EMSB's Ode to Joy: A Celebration of Music Month theme. Prior to this program, Mr. Girard and Ms. Setlakwe participated in an unprecedented press conference with the Carlyle Media Club.



Minister Eric Girard and MNA Michelle Setlakwe with students and staff at Carlyle.

Seasoned broadcaster Dan Laxer was engaged last year by Principal Dina Vourdousis to visit the school once a week. He assembled an enthusiastic group of Grades 5 and 6 students to learn about the media, help produce audio and video podcasts, blogs and cover events at their own school. They all worked hard with Mr. Laxer to come up with impressive questions for their special guests. Mr. Girard resides in TMR. Last year he visited Dunrae Gardens and in 2023 it was Royal Vale School.

Thank you TRANSCO



Gerald McShane students board their bus en route to the Ode to Joy: Celebration of Music launch. We extend our thanks to the team at Transco.

We'd like to thank the team from TRANSCO for transporting the students from Gerald McShane School to the Ode to Joy campaign launch at Rosemount High as well as Carlyle Elementary School students to the Royalmount Shopping Complex, where they performed a flash mob at Le Fou Fou Food Hall.



Second from the left Myla La Fratta and second from the right Kaylee Cardo.

Two EMSB students, **Myla La Fratta** (Lester B Pearson High School) and **Kaylee Cardo** (Laurier Macdonald High School) along with their team LIL AFRO KREW from L'Académie de danse de Montréal, went to the finals for the television show "Quel Talent" (Quebec's Got Talent) on Noovo.



PELO programs



Guests from the Consulate of Italy join EMSB and Dante representatives at a special presentation.

For a third year, the Italian government's Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale, with the support of the Consulate General of Italy in Montreal, has granted three English Montreal School Board elementary schools with \$17,030.25 in funding for their integrated Italian PELO (Programme d'enseignement des langues d'origine) programs. These grants were received from the Italian government through the

measure "contributi a valere sul capitolo 2619" for the creation and maintenance of Italian language courses at foreign educational institutions teaching Italian language and culture. They have been instrumental in supporting the integration of Italian language instruction at our integrated PELO schools, Provided through the Consulate General of Italy in Montreal, the grant monies awarded by Italian government have enabled the EMSB to expand

the reach and the impact of its Italian language programs, particularly at the Kindergarten level at Dante and Pierre de Coubertin in St. Leonard and East Hill in RDP. Officials from the Consulate, Deputy Counsel General Fortunato Mangiola and newly arrived School Director Luigi Speranza, visited Dante where they were treated to a musical performance in Italian. They also went into some classrooms and spoke to the staff.

Album launch

A total of 175 EMSB students were front and centre on Wednesday, October 30 at the official red carpet launch for the illustrated children's audio book and CD of *The Adventures of Eva The Louse* at the Palace Convention Centre in Laval. Greek- Canadian opera singer **Dimitris Ilias**, along with **Maria Diamantis** of Chroma Musika, have overseen this major project. For the past 25 years their work has promoted high quality music activities for Canadian children, their families, their local communities as well as the general public. Since its establishment in 1999 the company has produced a plethora of concerts, seminars and recordings ranging from ancient Greek music to contemporary Canadian and Hellenic composers and video game audio material. *The Adventures of Eva the Louse*



The EMSB Chorale performs at the album launch.

recounts the tale of a village of lice located on the head of a boy named Paul. At the launch the students performed with acclaimed composer **Giannis Georgantelis** and illustrator **Philippe Béha**. Students came from the following 16 EMSB schools: Willingdon, Royal Vale and St. Monica in NDG; Edinburgh, Elizabeth Ballantyne

and Royal West Academy in Montreal West; Roslyn in Westmount; Pierre de Coubertin and Honoré Mercier in St. Léonard; Gardenview, Cedarcrest and LaurenHill Academy in St. Laurent; Nesbitt in Rosemount; Rosemount High; Carlyle in TMR; and St. Gabriel in Pointe St. Charles. Royal Vale grad **Devon Packer** was the orchestra's pianist.

La musique au cœur de la vie scolaire

En célébrant l'éducation musicale en janvier et au-delà, la CSEM met en valeur le talent et les programmes offerts dans ses écoles. Les établissements de la CSEM proposent une formation artistique qui cadre avec le Programme de formation de l'école québécoise, par l'entremise de programmes d'arts plastiques, d'art dramatique, de danse ou de musique. Nombre de nos écoles peuvent compter sur un ou une spécialiste en musique et une salle dédiée à la musique. Même les écoles non dotées d'un programme musical réservent une place à la musique au sein

du curriculum quotidien en l'intégrant dans d'autres disciplines artistiques. Nicolas Doyon, conseiller pédagogique en arts à la CSEM et responsable de la culture à l'école, estime que l'intégration de la musique à l'enseignement comporte de nombreux avantages. En plus de stimuler les zones du cerveau qui contrôlent le raisonnement et la résolution de problèmes, elle permet également aux élèves d'exprimer leurs émotions, d'apprendre différentes langues, d'explorer d'autres cultures et traditions, et de nourrir leur esprit créatif.



Nicolas Doyon

Se souvenir du passé



L'initiative a réuni 16 écoles.

En reconnaissance de la vérité et de la réconciliation, les animateurs du développement personnel et de l'engagement communautaire Vince Lacroce, Mary Poullas, Veronica D'Agata, Ibrahim Abou Arab et le spécialiste des arts à l'école primaire Nesbitt, Matthew Balanca-Rodrigues, ont créé une belle initiative afin d'honorer l'héritage des enfants touchés par les pensionnats autochtones. L'initiative Commemorating the Past a réuni 16 écoles primaires de la Commission scolaire English-Montréal (les écoles primaires Carlyle, Cedarcrest, Dalkeith, Dante, Gerald McShane, John Caboto, Honoré Mercier, l'Académie Leonardo da Vinci, l'école secondaire L.I.N.K.S, l'Académie Marymount, l'école primaire Nesbitt, l'école primaire Parkdale, l'école secondaire Perspectives,

l'école primaire Pierre de Coubertin, le service de garde B.A.S.E. à Pierre de Coubertin et le Centre d'éducation des adultes Saint-Laurent). Ensemble, ils ont réalisé 6 000 « maillons en papier » de couleur orange et blanc pour souligner que les pensionnats font partie de notre histoire, pour reconnaître l'expérience de ceux et celles qui ont fréquenté les pensionnats autochtones, leur rendre hommage et témoigner d'un engagement collectif visant à rappeler que chaque enfant compte. Les maillons en papier réunis forment une chaîne d'espoir et d'unité qui illustre visuellement la nécessité de guérir, d'apprendre et de rêver à un avenir meilleur. Les organisateurs souhaitent remercier Wanda Mullins, concierge au centre administratif, pour son aide.

Lutte contre l'intimidation



Des élèves de la 1^{re} à la 6^e année de l'école primaire Our Lady of Pompei, à Ahuntsic, se sont joints à Amen Iseghohi pour une présentation inspirante sur la

confiance en soi, l'autodiscipline et la lutte contre l'intimidation. Ensemble, ils établissent les bases de la résilience, du respect et de la responsabilisation face à l'avenir.

Journée internationale de la non-violence

À l'occasion de la Journée internationale de la non-violence, les écoles primaires Nesbitt et Pierre de Coubertin ont créé une série d'ateliers visant à promouvoir la paix, la compréhension et la non-violence. Ces ateliers s'inscrivent dans le cadre de la célébration de cette importante journée par les Nations Unies. Mis sur pied par Vince Lacroce, animateur du développement personnel et de l'engagement communautaire, le programme encourage le sens des responsabilités et la citoyenneté active chez les élèves. Sous la supervision de M. Lacroce, les élèves ont participé à une série d'activités axées sur la résolution non violente des conflits, le développement de l'empathie et l'engagement communautaire. L'un des points forts de la journée fut la création de promesses de paix personnalisées. Les élèves ont réfléchi à l'importance de la non-violence dans leur quotidien et se sont engagés à poser des gestes pour promouvoir la



Les élèves ont réfléchi à l'importance de la non-violence dans leur quotidien et se sont engagés à poser des gestes pour promouvoir la paix à l'école et dans leur communauté.

paix à l'école et dans leur communauté. Ces promesses serviront de rappel tangible de

l'engagement de chaque élève à favoriser un environnement plus harmonieux et plus compréhensif. « Grâce à ces ateliers, nous souhaitons donner aux élèves les moyens de devenir des ambassadeurs de la paix au sein de leur communauté, explique M. Lacroce. Ce programme vise à outiller les élèves pour qu'ils puissent gérer les conflits de manière constructive et avec compassion, et pour bâtir un avenir ancré dans le respect et la non-violence. » La Journée internationale de la non-violence, instituée par les Nations Unies en l'honneur de l'anniversaire du Mahatma Gandhi, est un appel mondial à la non-violence et à la paix. L'école Nesbitt a baptisé son initiative Tickets to Peace!, dans le cadre de laquelle les élèves ont créé des étiquettes à bagage sur un fond de globe terrestre où ils y ont inscrit leurs promesses. Le volet artistique a été réalisé par Matthew Balanca-Rodrigues, spécialiste en arts.



À sa grande surprise, Roberte Louisma s'est vu remettre ce prix en présence de certains de ses élèves, de collègues et de représentants de la CSEM.

Prix d'excellence

Roberte Louisma de l'Académie Lauren Hill à Saint-Laurent s'est vu décerner le Prix de reconnaissance en enseignement du français langue seconde de l'Association québécoise pour l'enseignement du français langue seconde (AQEFLS) et Canadian Parents for French. Ce prix souligne l'excellence en enseignement du français langue seconde et récompense l'initiative et l'innovation des enseignants et enseignantes. Il rend hommage à ceux et celles qui motivent leurs élèves à développer tout leur potentiel et qui apportent une contribution importante à leur école et leur communauté. À sa grande surprise, M^{me} Louisma s'est vu remettre ce prix en présence de certains de ses élèves, de collègues et de représentants de la CSEM.

Holocaust education EMSB gets a boost from Federation CJA

The EMSB has been able to continue and enhance its **Holocaust Education Program** thanks to a generous contribution from Federation CJA.

In 2022-23, the EMSB introduced this program after receiving a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation (JCF) of Montreal. This enabled the EMSB to send many students to visit the Montreal Holocaust Museum, engage with survivors and have guest speakers come to their schools. Students have subsequently been sensitized to the true story of the Holocaust and the evils of antisemitism.

Last year the EMSB relied upon private donations to continue school visits, but most of this support was promised as one-time contributions only. The EMSB Council of Commissioners also adopted resolutions calling for Holocaust and genocide education to become mandatory. EMSB Chair Joe Ortona and members of the Council followed this up with a visit and tour of the Montreal Holocaust Museum.

“Given the climate of antisemitism in the world and Montreal at this time, we believe this an opportune moment to ensure that high school students in particular are properly educated about what happened in the Holocaust and the roots of antisemitism,” said Federation CJA President and CEO Yair Szlak.

Mr. Ortona said that the EMSB wishes to be proactive on this dossier. “While we certainly hope that Quebec will follow the lead of other provinces and make Holocaust education mandatory in our schools, we do not wish to wait,” he said. “The time for action is now. I have heard from many of the students and staff who have visited the Museum and spoken to survivors. Most of them are not Jewish and have not been exposed to this subject. It had a tremendous impact, and I know this will follow them after their high school days are behind them.”

“As Holocaust survivors age and pass away,” added EMSB Director General Nick Katalifos, “it is more important than ever that

the education system play an increasingly important role.”

The EMSB first received a small grant for Holocaust Education in 2004 from the JCF. Working with Personal Development and Community Involvement Service Animators, some programming was coordinated. In 2006, the EMSB engaged in a fundraising campaign to honour the memory of Giovanni Palatucci, an Italian policeman who was arrested and died in Dachau for his anti-Nazi activities. Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust Memorial, had named him a Righteous Among the Nations, for rescuing Jews. The EMSB placed a plaque at the Wagar Adult Education Centre, where a large-scale ceremony/lecture was held. There were also exchanges arranged between students at Bialik High School in Côte Saint-Luc and Laurier Macdonald High School in St. Leonard.

For several years the EMSB worked with the Riva and Thomas O. Hecht, Teaching of the Holocaust for Educators Programs,

during which time teachers were awarded scholarships to study the Holocaust in Jerusalem and Washington and then integrate that experience into their classroom curriculums.

The EMSB has declared May as Jewish Heritage Month and works directly with the Azrieli Foundation’s Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program to also bring the topic of the Holocaust to classrooms across the network.



Commissioner Maria Corsi and Chair Joe Ortona accompany students to the Montreal Holocaust Museum.



Students from Dunrae Gardens Elementary School at the museum.

Notes from some school activities

Here are some snapshots from school activities related to Holocaust education. As part of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Personal Development and Community Involvement Animator (PDCIA) Mary Poullas invited Barbara Cieply from the Foundation for Genocide Education to Rosemount High School. Ms. Cieply is the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, and she shared facts about the Holocaust including her mother’s story of how she escaped the death camps. Her message sensitized the students to the perils of antisemitism, racism and hatred. Grade 6 students at Dunrae Gardens Elementary School in TMR visited the Montreal Holocaust Museum after a month of learning about the Holocaust. The visit emphasized the values of compassion and empathy. Students at LINKS High School and Perspectives Alternative High School had an extraordinary opportunity to



Eva Kuper gets a hug from a student.

hear the firsthand testimony of Eva Kuper, a Holocaust survivor. The program, developed by (PDCIA) Vince

Lacroce, in coordination with the Montreal Holocaust Museum, has been an ongoing effort to educate young people about the Holocaust and its enduring lessons. Ms. Kuper’s remarkable story of survival offers a window into the atrocities of the Holocaust and the resilience of the human spirit... Alessandra Di Viccaro’s Secondary V Contemporary World class from Laurier Macdonald High School in St. Leonard visited the Holocaust Museum on January 9 accompanied by Childcare worker Franca Bertucci and PDCIA Joseph Monachino. The students were inspired by both a guided tour of the museum and a workshop on the Jewish Resistance movement during World War II. Please listen to the EMSB Holocaust Education podcast at <https://holocausteducationmtl.com/hep-podcast/>

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 or call 514-483-7200 ext. 7243.

Francis Cardinal Leo

Pope Francis recently named 21 new cardinals, significantly increasing the size of the College of Cardinals and further cementing his mark on the group of prelates who will one day elect his successor. The new cardinals got their red hats at a ceremony, known as a consistory, on Dec. 8, an important feast day on its own that officially kicked off the Christmas season in Rome. Among those named was John F. Kennedy High School graduate, Archbishop Francis Leo, who was named to lead Canada's largest diocese in Toronto in 2023 following the resignation of Cardinal Thomas Collins. Leo is considered among the pope's most significant legacy appointments in North America. He issued a statement saying he is humbled and honored to receive the appointment of cardinal and will continue in his primary role in Toronto. Born in Montreal in 1971



Cardinal Francis Leo

to Italian immigrant parents, Frank Leo entered the Grand Séminaire de Montréal in 1990 and was ordained a priest for service to the Archdiocese on December 14,

1996. In addition to his extensive graduate studies in Canon Law (Lateran University), Diplomacy and International Law, Cardinal Leo holds a Doctorate in Systematic Theology (University of Dayton/MRI) with a specialization in Mariology, a Licentiate in Philosophy (Lateran University), a Diploma in Classical Studies (Université de Montréal) and a Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction (Aquinas Institute of Theology). He has taught, among other places, in Montreal, Canberra (Australia), Dayton (USA) and Ottawa. He speaks English, French, Italian and Spanish. Cardinals serve as close advisors to the Holy Father and participate whenever there is a conclave, as voting members, to select the next Pope. It is hoped that he will one day come back to speak at JFK High School.

Bestselling author



Ian Halperin greets some staff and students.

Ian Halperin is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Bigot*; Roger Waters, Mel Gibson, Kanye West and *The New Anti-semitism*; *Unmasked: The Final Years of Michael Jackson*; *Brangelina: The Untold Story of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie*; *The Governator: From Muscle Beach to His Quest for the White House*, *the Improbable Rise of Arnold Schwarzenegger*; *Celine Dion: Behind the Fairytale*; *Love & Death: The Murder of Kurt Cobain*; and *Whitney & Bobbi Kristina*, among many other biographies. He is an internationally acclaimed, award-winning filmmaker, having directed and produced several films, including the documentaries *Gone Too Soon*, *Chasing Gaga*, and *The Cobain Case*. Halperin regularly appears on television and radio to share his perspective on celebrity culture. Specializing in undercover

investigations, he has appeared on hundreds of media outlets around the world, including the Today Show, Dateline, The Howard Stern Show, CNN, CBS's The Early Show, Entertainment Tonight, Inside Edition, The New Yorker, the New York Post, Billboard, the BBC, Paris Match, and the London Daily Mail. Halperin is a graduate of Gardenview Elementary and Sir Winston Churchill High (now Lauren Hill Academy). He was in town to speak at an event for the Jewish Public Library. That same morning he spoke to students at Lauren Hill and made a strong impression on students from five English classes who hung on every word. In fact it turned out that teacher Charmaine Amarasekera uses some of Halperin's material for a course section she teaches about Michael Jackson. He will join her class via Zoom at a future date.

Our offer puts you front and centre

We take care of you

- Get preferred rates on your home and car insurance as a partner group member.
- Protect your family's financial security thanks to our life, health and disability insurance.
- Free financial security webinars. Stay on top of your finances with our information sessions: beneva.ca/webinars

beneva.ca/emsb-en

Home, car and recreational vehicle insurance
1 855 441-6016

Life insurance and financial services
1 855 896-9495

beneva
People protecting people

Individual insurance of persons is underwritten by Beneva Inc. and distributed by Beneva Inc., financial services firm Financial Advisors and its authorized partners. Property and casualty insurance are underwritten by Beneva Insurance Company and distributed by Beneva Inc., damage insurance agency and its authorized partners. At all times, terms and conditions pertaining to coverage are governed solely by the insurance contract. Some conditions and exclusions apply. © Beneva Inc. 2024.™ Beneva name and logo are registered trademarks of Beneva Group Inc. used under licence.



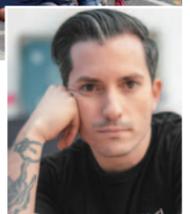
Adam Vieira is joined by an enthusiastic group in front of the

Mural unveiled

When students returned to Michelangelo International Elementary School in Rivière des Prairies after their summer vacation, they were stunned to see the façade of their school had been transformed. Over the course of the summer, renowned local artist Whatisadam (**Adam Vieira**) painted a multi-part mural that encompasses one entire side of the building, highlighting the spirit and values which makes Michelangelo

International Elementary School unique. He is also a graduate of Michelangelo and Vincent Massey Collegiate. With Vieira on hand, the mural was officially unveiled on Thursday, September 19. Joining him were students, who showcased the values and characteristics permanently portrayed on the side of their building.

You can see the mural at www.whatisadam.com



ADULT EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL SERVICES

MENTAL HEALTH

James Lyng Adult Education Centre in St. Henri held a Mental Health Awareness Day in the fall. Participating organizations and stations included: RECLAIM Literacy; Sandra's Shaitso Massage; Holly's Class (Social Media); Y-Minds (Group anxiety, coping mechanism); Chelsea's Yoga; La Maison Jean Lapointe (Alcohol, gambling, cyber bullying); CHABAD (addiction, mental health counselling); SPVM (Suicide prevention); Caring Paws (Dog Therapy); PIVOT; KAHOOT; and Passport. Students who participated in all 12 stations were entered into a draw for fantastic prizes.



A kiosk at the James Lyng Adult Education Centre Mental Health Awareness Day.



The Laurier Macdonald Vocational Training and Career Centre team welcome visitors from the Lycée professionnel Pierre Masson program based in Nantes, France.

HAIRDRESSING EXCHANGE

An ocean could not keep two premiere hairdressing programs apart last fall when students and staff from the Lycée professionnel Pierre Masson program based in Nantes, France, visited Laurier Macdonald Vocational Training and Career Centre in St. Léonard to kick off an international collaboration. The alliance was the idea of **Stéphane Scotto Di Cesare**, renowned avant-garde editorial hairstylist, hair designer, educator, wigmaker and headpiece creator. "Our goal is to bring

together 30 hairdressing students from France with 30 hairdressing students from Laurier Macdonald to work on combining their respective skills and competencies to create something incredibly unique," said **Anna-Maria Borsellino**, Principal of Laurier Macdonald Vocational Training and Career Centre. "This is truly a first, not only for our program, but for adult education in Montreal." In addition to the students collaborating on September 26, the team from Lycée professionnel

Pierre Masson also accompanied the hairdressing and aesthetic students from Laurier Macdonald as they provided hairdressing and makeup services for the Montreal edition of Toronto Kids Fashion Week on September 28. "Collaboration and partnerships are essential in education," said **Antonella Anania**, coordinator of Laurier Macdonald Career Centre's hairdressing program. "We're excited to see this partnership flourish, and we hope that this visit is the first of many to come."

SHADD'S DRAGON BOAT RACE



The Shadd team at the Dragon Boat race.

The 19th annual BDO Cedars CanSupport Dragon Boat Race took place on last September in Lachine. A total of 650 paddlers from all across Montreal and all walks of life, raced to raise money for Cedars CanSupport, an organization that provides free, bilingual support services to people who are undergoing cancer treatments at the MUHC, as well as to their family members. One of the teams was from the EMSB's Shadd Health and Business Centre in NDG. The SHADD/Baton Rouge Firebreathers raised close to \$15,000 in 2023. This year they decided to aim a little higher and brought in \$19,175. "The crew of Shadd students from the accounting and PAB programs were the driving engine of the boat," said teacher John Millar. "Although we finished last, the students realized that teamwork and supporting cancer patients was of real educational value. Thanks to a comedy show in early May by **Joe Cacchione** and the generous donation from Domenic Aversa and his Baton Rouge restaurants, we were able to surpass our goal."

John F. Kennedy Adult Education Centre (JFKAC) is launching an innovative program (Sequoia) designed to help young adults who struggled with math in high school. This new initiative specifically targets students who experienced math anxiety and trauma, which prevented them from graduating with their high school cohort. Many parents are facing the challenge of supporting their adult children who didn't complete high school due to math difficulties. "Our program offers a solution by creating a specialized cohort for students recommended by the high school guidance counselor," says Principal Elizabeth Lagodich.

MATH ANXIETY



A teacher assists a student in math.

"These students typically have math skills well below grade level because of their anxiety and negative experiences with math. This story will resonate with count-

less parents who are concerned about their children's future and are looking for ways to help them move forward in life. The program provides a second chance for these young adults to overcome their math challenges and achieve their educational goals. By addressing math anxiety and trauma head-on, we are offering hope to families and opening doors for students who may have thought their educational journey was over. This is a compelling narrative that showcases how adult education can transform lives and provide new opportunities for those who struggled in traditional high school settings."

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Cynthia Granitto, an alumna of the EMSB and seasoned financial advisor, recently visited Galileo Adult Education Centre to speak with the academic students about financial literacy. With her extensive experience in personal finance, she broke down complex topics into practical insights that resonated with her young audience. She also educated students on credit scores. Her practical examples helped students visualize the process of home ownership and the responsibilities tied to it. Finally, she wrapped up her talk with strategies for smart saving. After five years in retail banking at the Bank of Montreal she is now a mortgage specialist. She welcomes calls to discuss time-



Cynthia Granitto (in black) is thanked for her presentation.

sensitive and complex home financing needs, from pre-approvals, purchases, refinances,

and mortgage switch application. Info: cynthia.granitto@bmo.com

HOUSES

OPEN

Thursday, April 24

Galileo Adult Education Centre

10921 Gariépy, Montreal North
9 am to 8 pm

Wednesday, May 14

Laurier Macdonald Career Centre

6065 Boulevard des Grandes Prairies, St. Leonard
5 pm to 8 pm



SPORTS



EMSB's Karate Kid

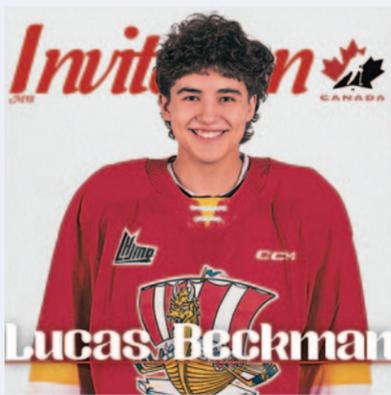


Majd Al-Ghabkari

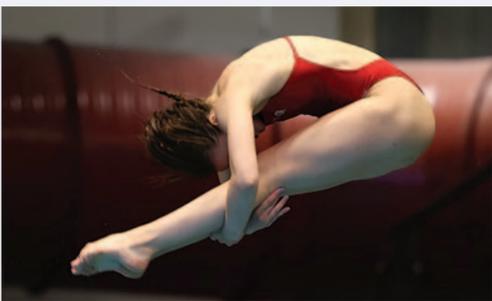
St. Monica Elementary School in NDG proudly celebrates the remarkable achievement of Majd Al-Ghabkari, a 10-year-old Grade 5 student, who recently participated in the prestigious World Karate Tournament in Kakasaki, Japan. This event, known for its high level of competition, brought together over 1,000 participants from various age groups around the globe. The tournament featured both Kumite (sparring) and Kata (forms) disciplines, showcasing the best of karate talent worldwide. Majd, a dedicated blue belt trainee at the Nun's Island JKA, showcased his exceptional skills and determination. To compete in the Funakoshi Gichin Cup last fall, Majd first had to qualify at his club, where he earned his medal.

Canada's National Team member

Former Lester B. Pearson High School Sport-études student and goalie **Lucas Beckman** played for the Canadian National Men's Summer Under-18 Team at the 2024 Hlinka Gretzky Cup in Edmonton, Alberta. This year he is playing with the Baie Comeau Drakkar in the Quebec Maritimes Junior Hockey League. It is expected that Beckman will be drafted into the NHL, joining another Pearson High grad **Anthony Duclair**, now of the New York Islanders.



Diving excellence



Lila Stewart in action.

Congratulations to Secondary V Sport-études student **Lila Stewart** from Lester B. Pearson High School in Montreal North. She competed at the Canadian Diving Trials in Gatineau (Oct. 4 to 6) and placed first in the one meter and three meter springboard events, qualifying herself for the Junior World Championships in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in November.

Matheson visits Westmount



Mike Matheson is welcomed to Westmount High School.

Montreal Canadiens defenceman and assistant captain **Michael Matheson** visited Westmount High School before the start of this NHL season to engage with students on the topic of leadership. Mr. Matheson, an ambassador of the Champions for Life Foundation, is committed to inspiring youth to build the skills, confidence,

and motivation to stay active throughout their lives. Born and raised in West Island Montreal, Mr. Matheson has become a key figure for the Canadiens, known for his leadership both on and off the ice. During his visit to Westmount High School, he spoke to students about leadership, shared his personal journey, and discussed

how teamwork and perseverance play a role in his success as a professional athlete. Principal **Luigi Santamaria**, Vice-Principal **Matthew Shapiro** and Physical Education and Health teacher **Jeff Kosow** coordinated the visit with **David Arsenault** and **Joanne Lawson** from the Champions for Life Foundation.

Alouettes experience

Prior to the Montreal Alouettes' Thanksgiving Day game on October 14, the team recognized two EMSB students for their commitment to academics, family and their school community: **Kelly Steczko** from Vezina Alternative High School in Pointe St. Charles and **Zackary Low Berth** from LaurenHill Academy in St. Laurent. Kelly, who is in Grade 9, has been a student at Vezina for two years where she has blossomed academically, personally and socially. Zackary, now in Grade 11, demonstrates an exceptional level of commitment and dedication, both in academics and extracurricular activities. Not only does he consistently contribute by setting up the gym for events, but he also takes on the responsibility of scorekeeping, showing his initiative and willingness to support his school community.



Kelly Steczko, Brian Weightman from the Alouettes, Zackary Low Berth and EMSB Chair Joe Ortona on the field.

Helping Starlight

John Caboto Academy in Ahuntsic will be raising funds for the Starlight Foundation with parent **Andrew Ellison**, who has been a professional wrestler for many years. This will be done via their dress down days. Mr. Ellison, 54, works with troubled youth by day. He has also decided to honour his legendary idol, the late Maurice "Mad Dog" Vachon. He is presenting Mad Dog Pro Wrestling, with galas at John Abbott College in Ste. Anne de Bellevue once a month. Proceeds are all going to the Starlight Foundation. Log on to maddogprowrestling.com to find out more.



Andrew Ellison showcases his championship belt.

Auschwitz

Not long ago. Not far away.

One of the most comprehensive exhibitions ever produced on the subject, featuring over 500 original objects, many never before seen in Canada.

On view through September 1, 2025



Groups of 20 or more save 20%.

SPACE IS LIMITED. BOOK YOUR GROUP VISIT TODAY.
rom.ca/groups 416 586 5617 groupsales@rom.on.ca

Image: Uniform worn at Auschwitz by Marian Kostuch, held as a Polish political prisoner. © Musealia.
ROM is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

PRESENTING SPONSORS



AN EXHIBITION BY



EXHIBITION PARTNER



Lafrenai
Est. 1979

WE ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR SCHOOL'S CATERING NEEDS

PLEASE CALL THE STORE NEAREST YOU,
VISIT LESDELICESLAFRENAIE.COM

A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE EMSB

EXCLUSIVE OFFER for ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD PARENTS

There with you then. Here with you now.

As a critical part of the community for over 245 years,
The Gazette continues to report the truth in changing times.

GET UNLIMITED DIGITAL
ACCESS FOR ONLY

~~\$140~~ **\$40** for one year

AND GET A **FREE 6 MONTH**
SUBSCRIPTION FOR A FRIEND



SUBSCRIBE TODAY
montrealgazette.com/emsb

The Gazette

McGILL SUMMER SPORTS CAMP

Weekly from June 30
to August 8 (Ages 6 to 15)



Led by a team of university-level students, this multi-sport camp aims to promote physical literacy and a healthy lifestyle in a fun and safe environment.

Indoor and outdoor activities include:

- Daily free swim
- Basketball
- Gagaball
- Soccer
- Track & field
- and MUCH more!**



Contact information
514-398-7011
info.athletics@mcgill.ca