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quiz and
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Its Volunteers
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Recognizing
teachers
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Commission scolaire English-Montréal

express

English Montreal School Board

Volume 29
Number 1
FALL 2025
www.emsb.qc.ca

Marco Scandella Fitness Center unveiled at Royal Vale

Royal Vale School in NDG officially unveiled the Marco Scandella Fitness Centre on Friday, April 25.

Mr. Scandella, a Royal Vale graduate, recently announced his retirement after a 14-year career as a National Hockey League defenceman. He is making a generous donation of \$30,000, which will be used for scholarships and sports memorabilia to be displayed in the state-of-the-art fitness room.

Mr. Scandella addressed the student body, answered questions and unveiled the sign for the fitness center.

The six-foot-three, 212 pound Scandella played for the Minnesota Wild, Buffalo Sabres, Montreal Canadiens and St. Louis Blues.

Marco Scandella (fourth from the right, second row) at the unveiling of the Fitness Center now under his name.



EMSB outshines private sector with Quebec's highest graduation success rate

The English Montreal School Board proudly celebrates its continued dominance as Québec's leader in graduation success, surpassing both public and private sectors. According to the latest data from the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec, the EMSB achieved an impressive 93.2 percent graduation rate for the 2023–2024 academic year, solidifying its position as the top-performing school board in the province.

This remarkable achievement outpaces the provincial average of 82.4 percent, which includes public schools at 79.8 percent and private institutions at 92.5 percent. The EMSB's consistent ability to exceed the private sector's performance underscores the strength and quality of public education within its network. While the 2023–2024 rate reflects a minor adjustment from the previous year's 95.9 percent, the EMSB remains unmatched in delivering exceptional outcomes for its students.

"Our students have once again proven that public education can outperform even the most elite private institutions," said EMSB Chair Joe Ortona. "Despite financial challenges, our dedicated team of educators delivers unparalleled results. As open house season approaches, we invite parents to discover why an EMSB school is the best choice for their child's future. Our unwavering focus on student success sets us apart as Québec's gold standard in education."



Arts-études program students at Rosemount High School are seen here with Consultant Melina Catalano and teacher Anthony Cooperwood.

GET READY
FOR THIS YEAR'S

OPEN HOUSES

The English Montreal School Board is gearing up for open house season in its youth sector schools. Doors will be opened to welcome prospective students and their families to showcase all that the schools have to offer. It is a valuable opportunity to meet the administration, staff and students, explore the facilities and ask questions.

You can also check out our blog that highlights our open houses at <https://emsbopenhouseblog.blogspot.com>

For a full list of all EMSB Open Houses, visit:

www.emsbopenhouses.com

Global News Morning

Weekdays 6 - 9

with Laura Casella, Ross Hull
& Brayden Jagger Haines

Globalnews.ca

Global
NEWS



Government should reopen dialogue on the future FACE School

Chair's Message



Joe Ortona

Last spring, Quebecers learned that the cost of renovating the Gérard-D.-Lévesque building – home to the Finance Department in Quebec City – had ballooned from \$188 million to \$340 million. The project has been hit by delays and is now expected to be completed in April 2027, some 18 months later than the last revised target date.

Apparently, the Quebec government can find hundreds of millions of dollars to upgrade offices for bureaucrats, some on hybrid work schedules that don't require them to show up every day. But when it comes to investing in FACE, a unique school that unites English and French students under one roof in a first-rate arts-based program, suddenly, the money isn't there.

FACE is more than just a school. It's a rare and remarkable collaboration between the Centre de services scolaire de Montréal

(CSSDM) and the English Montreal School Board (EMSB), housed in a downtown Montreal building with deep historical and cultural roots. For nearly 50 years, it has offered bilingual, bicultural and coeducational learning in music, drama and the arts.

Without consultation and with little more than a Friday afternoon press release, Education Minister Bernard Drainville cancelled long-promised renovations to the FACE building, citing rising costs – from \$150 million to \$375 million. What began as a temporary relocation of elementary students to a building in Plateau-Mont-Royal in place now and high school students to the old Baron Byng/Sun Youth Organization facility (in a few years) has morphed into a permanent dismantling of the unified FACE model.

The decision was made unilaterally and the EMSB was informed just an hour before the public. It's safe to assume the CSSDM – created by the government to replace elected school boards in the French sector – was likewise sidelined. No consultation. No transparency. No respect for the communities affected.

This is not just a betrayal of the FACE community – it's a broader betrayal of Quebecers who value education, co-operation and the arts.

Drainville's lack of engagement in real dialogue reflects a troubling



FACE will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year. Parent Simon C. Vaillancourt took this wonderful photo of the students in June.

pattern of top-down governance and disregard for the rights of the English-speaking community. These rights – affirmed by the courts – include the ability to manage and control our schools. Yet here we are, learning of this

decree the same way the public did: through the media.

Had the minister bothered to consult, he would have heard what parents, educators and students know: FACE works. Its integrated approach builds bridges

between languages and cultures, between older and younger students, and between disciplines. Its graduates thrive – not only in the arts, but in medicine, science and beyond. FACE isn't just an academic success – it's a social and cultural one.

So what now?

We have been calling on the Quebec government to reverse course and reopen a dialogue. The CSSDM, EMSB and FACE parent communities must be part of the solution. Perhaps phased renovations can make the project more affordable. Perhaps a new site could house both programs under one roof. We have a piece of land on Cremazie available for just such a purpose. But the starting point must be this: the FACE model must be preserved.

In tough economic times, governments have to make choices. But investing in young people, in education and in a model that fosters unity and excellence, is not an expense – it's an investment in our collective future.

Instead of building lavish offices for bureaucrats, let's prioritize the future of our students. Let's keep FACE whole.

Message from the Director General: Our Education and Career Fair is a one-stop journey for parents and students season



Nick Katalifos

More than 2,000 Secondary V students will attend the 24th annual EMSB Career Fair on Wednesday, October 23 and Thursday, October 24 at St. Pius X Career Centre in Ahuntsic (9955 Papineau). We wish to thank Jack Dym of Pipe and

Piling Supplies Ltd for once again serving as the event's title sponsor.

From 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on October 23, the Education and Career Fair will be open to the community-at-large. This represents an excellent opportunity for parents to attend with their children (Grades 9, 10 and 11) as they look towards post-secondary education options in a one-stop shopping experience. There is no charge and free parking.

Several on air personalities from the media will be on hand during the academic visits to talk to students about careers in this field and serve as guest emcees. The Student Services and Adult Education and Vocational Services (AEVS) Departments of the EMSB coordinate this event. The

main objective is to provide students with an in-depth exposure to the various educational opportunities available to them. All students will take part in a brief general information session in the St. Pius X Career Centre auditorium. Students will then have the chance to visit the various exhibition/information booths staffed by representatives from English Vocational Training Centres, CEGEPS, Universities and some private business Colleges. Organizations like The Montreal Fire and Police Departments and the Canadian Coast Guard are expected to be represented.

We are very proud of this event and we look forward to seeing many of our stakeholders at the open house.

Produced by the Marketing and Communications Department of the

English Montreal School Board

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8:20 AM

THE BEAT OF YOUR WORKDAY

WITH DONNA SAKER

the beat 92.5

COGECO MEDIA

DateBook

2025	December 22, 2025 to January 5, 2026 Holiday Break
September 8 International Literacy Day	2026
September 11 National Grandparents' Day	January 2026 EMSB Public School Education Month
October 5 to 11 Fire Prevention Week www.afleq.ca	January 27 Family Literacy Day (www.fld-jaf.ca)
October 13 Thanksgiving	February 2 to 6 Kindergarten Registration Week Staff Appreciation Week
October 13 to 17 Week against bullying and violence at school (Quebec)	February 2026 Black History Month
October 22 and 23 Education and Career Fair Hosted by EMSB Student Services Department and Adult Education and Vocational Services	February 16 to 20 Hooked on School Days
November 6 and 7 Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT) Convention	March 2026 EMSB Nutrition Month
November 11 Remembrance Day	March 2 to 6 March Break
November 17 to 21 Professionals in Education Week	April 12 Terry Fox Day
December 10 Human Rights Day	April 19 to 25 National Volunteers Week
October 21 to 25 National Media Literacy Week https://mediasmarts.ca/media-literacy-week	May 1 Principal's Day
	May 5 EMSB Teacher's Recognition Day
	May 11 to 15 EMSB Base Daycare Appreciation Week

Council of Commissioners' Meetings

The EMSB Council of Commissioners meets in public once a month. They convene at 7 p.m. in the Laurence Patterson Conference Room of the administration building at 6000 Fielding Avenue. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please note that occasionally during the year special meetings are called. Parents are urged to bookmark the EMSB website (www.emsb.qc.ca) to access board meeting agendas and to be advised about special meetings. To register for question period please call 514-483-7200, ext. 7264.	The meetings scheduled for the remainder of this academic year are as follows:
	September 30, 2025
	October 22, 2025 at St. Pius X
	November 11, 2025
	December 9, 2025
	February 10, 2026
	March 10, 2026
	April 14, 2026 at St. Pius X
	May 12, 2026
	June 9, 2026

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:áke*, 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.

EMSB 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 5 Notre-Dame-de-Grâce SHARON NELSON snelson@emsb.qc.ca Executive Committee Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (Observer) Human Resources Committee	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
WARD 1 Ahuntsic-Cartierville, Montreal North SUSAN PERERA sperera@emsb.qc.ca Transportation & Safety Advisory 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)	Parent Commissioner Secondary Schools JESSICA HOUE-WOYTIUK JHoude-Woytiuk@emsb.qc.ca Member of: EMSB Parents Committee Executive Committee Governance & Ethics 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 7 St-Laurent JAMES KROMIDA Vice-Chair jkromida@emsb.qc.ca	Parent Commissioner Elementary Schools MERIKA RAMUNDO mramundo@emsb.qc.ca Member of EMSB Parents Committee
WARD 3 Côte-Saint-Luc, Montreal West, Hampstead PAOLA SAMUEL psamuel@emsb.qc.ca Human Resources Committee (Vice-Chair)	WARD 8 Saint-Léonard MARIO PIETRANGELO mpietrangelo2@emsb.qc.ca Governance & Ethics Committee (Chair) Human Resources Committee (Chair) Member of Executive Committee	Parent Commissioner ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services) JULIE KRISTOF jkristof@emsb.qc.ca Member of EMSB Parents Committee
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 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)	Parent Commissioner JENNIFER RUTT jrutt@emsb.qc.ca Member of EMSB Parents Committee Parent Commissioner




EDUCATION & CAREER FAIR

ATTENTION students in Grades 10/11 and parents

The annual English Montreal School Board Career Fair Open House will take place on Wednesday, October 22 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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

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



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

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

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



SECTEUR DES JEUNES ~ YOUTH SECTOR



CALENDRIER SCOLAIRE 2025 ~ 2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR



Commission scolaire English-Montréal

English Montreal School Board

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

-  **March Break**
Relâche scolaire
-  **Last day of classes /**
Dernière journée de cours :
June 23, 2026 / Le 23 juin 2026

September 2025

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

October 2025

D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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November 2025

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24	25	26	27	28	29

December 2025

D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30				

January 2026

D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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February 2026

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

March 2026

D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2026


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

May 2026

D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
					1	2
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30




June 2026

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



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Souvlaki Village Grec located at 654 Jean Talon West in Park Extension, has been a staple of authentic Greek food in Montreal for almost 50 years. Their traditional old fashioned gyros are second to none. <https://www.facebook.com/people/Souvlaki-Village-Grec>



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

EMSB Express Quiz

CLUE:

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

- Which school did former NHL defenceman Marco Scandella attend?
- Where in British Columbia is Tyson Philpot from?
- In Joe Ortona's article, which school did he write about?
- Which ward does Commissioner Sharon Nelson represent?
- Where will the 2025 EMSB Education and Career Fair be held?
- When is March Break in 2026?
- Who were two EMSB Volunteers of Distinction?
- At which school were three EMSB teachers honored?
- Which elementary school did the owner of Bernie Beigne attend?
- A Literacy Fair was held at which EMSB adult education centre?

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 October 20, 2025.

EMSB recognizes Volunteers of Distinction and presents Lifetime Achievement Award



On the occasion of National Volunteer Week, which was marked from April 27 to May 3, 2025 the English Montreal School Board held a special reception and ceremony to honour two Volunteers of Distinction, as well as the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award. A special Alumni Recognition Certificate was presented to Max Kalinowicz from Global Montreal.

The program took place at the St. Pius X Career Centre in Ahuntsic where the honourees, their families, EMSB commissioners, management, in-school administrators and Parents Committee executive members were treated to dinner catered by the culinary students. This was followed by an awards ceremony streamed live on the EMSB website.

The Volunteers of Distinction were Veronica Reis from Bancroft Elementary School in the Plateau and Avice Roberts-Joseph from St. Monica Elementary School in NDG. EMSB Chair Joe Ortona had previously introduced the Lifetime Achievement Award and used this occasion to highlight one person's significant contribution to the education system. For 2025, Lew Lewis' extraordinary 52 year career with students and staff was recognized.



(1) The award recipients are seen here with senior management and commissioners. | (2) Regional Directors Darlene Kehyayan and Jimmy Giannacopoulos. | (3) Max Kalinowicz smiles as his mother Natalie speaks. | (4) Veronica Reis with her family and Bancroft Principal Gaetano Sifoni. | (5) Event Coordinator Brigida Sellato.

Graduating Grade 6 students can always count on Veronica to organize a prom with all of the fixings.

Over the years Veronica has also headed multiple efforts to beautify the school by painting the school yard grounds for different games, installing colorful slats on the fences and removing graffiti. She has organized after school activities for the kids such as basketball, chess and dance. As if it wasn't enough, she decided to add a sewing class which she taught herself, bringing together eight sewing machines. Finally, when the secretary is not available guess who sits down at the desk? Yes, Veronica!

Veronica has three children, two of whom are still at Bancroft.

continued on page 6

Veronica Reis

For the previous three years, Veronica was a member of the Governing Board, as treasurer and the head of the Parent Participation Organization (PPO). She is also a parent volunteer at the school's Petit Café initiative, which supports parents new to Bancroft and/or Canada.

Veronica organized every single parent led event for the past few years and takes charge of Teacher Appreciation Week, providing thoughtful gifts every day for a week and a Friday lunch. She has also planned the school's

traditional Christmas breakfast for kids and staff alike, as well as creating and sowing the costumes for the multiple stage productions. When it comes to decorating the school for all major holidays (Halloween, Christmas, Lunar New Year) she is there. The same goes for spearheading multiple fundraisers, bake sales and Friday pizza. Other parts of her repertoire include sorbet Wednesdays, movie showings and school book fairs.

Not only does Veronica organize these activities; she executes every one of them as well, with blood, sweat and

tears while overseeing other parent volunteers. It is not unfamiliar to see her bring huge burners and pots to cook corn on the cob for the whole school, place trees trunks on her table and cut them into thin slices to create Christmas ornaments for the kids, bring BBQs to the school to cook over 500 hundred hot dogs, create games and activities herself for the Summer Carnival Week like an escape room, a spray/mist shower made of PVC pipes and other water games or scrubbing gym mats before and between movie showings.

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

—ALICE SIDEROPOULOS, SAINT PIUS X CAREER CENTRE.

For a complete list of our volunteers, please go to <https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/community/volunteers/appreciation/list-of-volunteers>

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



Lew Lewis is surrounded by some of his former staff members.

Avice Roberts-Joseph

Avice is a retired teacher and active volunteer. She has been involved with the St Monica Breakfast Program since it began in 2007. The goal was to make sure that students had a good start to the day. She cites the importance of a full breakfast or something to augment what they had eaten at home, as well as a chance to socialize with other students and relax before classes. Her dedication to student well-being and family support has always been present and part of her excellence for continued success. As coordinator of the Breakfast Program, not only are her exemplary organizational skills and team approach showcased each day by providing her team of volunteers with detailed plans to accommodate the student needs each morning, but also her ability to build strong relationships with community representatives so that donations and collaborations are maintained. She is an inspiration to the St Monica community and role model in ensuring that we pull together to provide nutritional starts to the student's day while always understanding that learning can only happen when their well-being is accounted for. Her collaboration with the Generations Foundation is also a strong one to ensure that no student is left behind daily but also during the holiday season with an engaging breakfast with Santa each December.

Avice was also involved in the initial homework program at St Monica, helping to coordinate volunteer sessions to help the students. She coordinated the assistance with high school students who would come after school to assist our St Monica students as needed. She is a believer that movement is key to a healthy life. Her coordination of



Avis Avice Roberts-Joseph is congratulated by Commissioner Sharon Nelson.

the St Monica Walk-A-Thon was another form of contribution to our community since it took place on an annual basis to raise funds for school needs.

For the Volunteers video: <https://vimeo.com/1080384404>

Lew Lewis

Lew Lewis retired as Director of Student Services in the fall of 2019 just months before the COVID-19 lockdown.

Mr. Ortona stated that on an evening where volunteerism is recognized, it is also an opportune time to raise a glass to individuals, like Mr. Lewis who have devoted their life to the public education system.

A psychologist by profession, Mr. Lewis worked tirelessly in his role with Student Services, which promotes the continuous progress of students by helping them overcome the difficulties they meet, seeing to their psychological, emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being and developing their sense of responsibility, their autonomy, initiative and feeling



Lew Lewis and his wife Beatrice.

of belonging to the school and community.

The department also coordinates the special education programs and contributes to the management of complementary services in Social Affairs, regular and outreach schools by providing the following services: psychological, health, social, guidance, drug education, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, spiritual community animation, childcare worker, oral interpreters, nurses, social workers, and behaviour management specialists.

Mr. Lewis worked as a psychological/ vocational counsellor between 1968 and 1972 after which he worked as a psychologist at the elementary level and serviced approximately 12 schools at that time. Subsequently, in 1982, Mr. Lewis became the Coordinator of Guidance Services, followed by the Assistant Director of Student Services in 1987 and finally Director of Student Services in 2001. In the 1970s, the PSBGM had six psychologists for 65,000 students whereas today the EMSB has 15 psychologists for almost 20,000 youth sector students. In fact, he started working at the Board when there was only one speech- language pathologist,

whereas today the EMSB has 20 such professionals.

As the number of students diagnosed with special needs, especially students with autism, increased exponentially, Mr. Lewis hired many more staff such as special education technicians and attendants and, as well, formed many partnerships with hospitals, universities, CLSC's, to address the needs of these students with various challenges. Mr. Lewis, in the hiring process, focused on important soft skills such as empathy, a strong work ethic, an ability to accept feedback, integrity, and a team work focus – elements that are very difficult to train people in.

Amongst Mr. Lewis's proudest achievements are the development of a mental health resource centre at the EMSB, the establishment of the first school board trauma team in Quebec in 1993, the hiring of a psychiatrist for consultation purposes for the board in 2017, the establishment of the Herzl Teenage Health Unit at the Jewish General Hospital in 1985 in collaboration with Dr. Michael Malus, the development and expansion of the Hospital Opportunity Program for Students (HOPS), the implementation of a summer language camp for those students

with various challenges in this area, and most importantly, the hiring of a wonderful group of talented, dedicated, supportive, skilled and caring professionals providing services to our school board community!!

After retiring from the Board in December 2019, beside continuing his ongoing and regular jogging and exercise Program, Mr. Lewis decided to unretire and currently works as a psychologist in private practice providing therapy to individuals with a wide range of challenges that they are currently experiencing in their life.

Happily married for 58 years, Mr. Lewis would tell you that his greatest achievement is his family – his two adult children and six grandchildren ranging in age from 14 to 21 years of age.

Watch Lew Lewis receive the Lifetime Achievement Award: <https://vimeo.com/1080384752>

Max Kalinowicz

Max Kalinowicz is a graduate of Royal Vale School in NDG, where his mom Natalie was a devoted volunteer. Max is the promotions producer at Global Montreal, a job which has saw him visit EMSB schools often with camera crews and reporters. He has always gone the extra mile for the EMSB, be it working on special projects with the Marketing and Communications Department or schools.

Working on photography and video since high school led Max to graduate from Concordia University with a BFA in Film Production. He spends a lot of his free time working on professional photography for a multitude of events and projects, that led him to an interest in journalism. In 2013, he started at Global Montreal as an intern cameraman/editor, and has worked there ever since. His stint as a video-

journalist came to an end in 2016 when he moved on to become the Associate Producer and then promotions.

When not at work, Max still enjoys photography and video, with a multitude of side projects. He is a huge music fan, having learned a few instruments starting as early as three years old. He enjoys cooking, video games and all things technology. He has a huge interest in space, biology and physics, hoping to one day take trip through the cosmos. While waiting for inter-planetary travel, Max intends to one day visit every continent and dreams of producing his own travel/food show. Exploring diverse cultures and landscapes is on the top of the list.

Watch Max receive his certificate: <https://vimeo.com/1080635786?share=copy#t=0>

Program Sponsor

Beneva (www.beneva.ca) continues to serve as the title sponsor for the EMSB’s recognition efforts for volunteers. The company offers a wide range of products and services that are designed to simplify financial choices for members working in the public and para-public sectors in over 900 public and para-public institutions across the province. These services include: personal financial advice, savings, invest-



A delicious buffet was prepared by the St. Pius X Career Centre culinary students

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George Shaheen from Beneva addresses the gathering.



Commissioner James Kromida, Lew Lewis and Director General Nick Katalifos.

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EMSB and Bâton Rouge Grillhouse and Bar honor three teachers



EMSB officials, special guests, honorees and the teacher award recipients.

On the occasion of English Montreal School Board Teacher Recognition Day, three teachers were presented with special awards at Merton Elementary School in Côte Saint-Luc.

The EMSB launched this ceremony more than a decade ago to

‘The EMSB launched this ceremony more than a decade ago to coincide with National Teachers Day in the United States.’

coincide with National Teachers Day in the United States and recognize this profession towards the end of the academic year. May 7 was the actual day of celebration.

There were many nominations from parents for the awards. Zoe Bennett from Bâton Rouge Grillhouse and Bar, known for its famous ribs and exceptional steaks at locations across the country,

presented \$100 gift cards to Pascale Lallouz, a Kindergarten teacher at Merton; Michael Dorais-Bunn, a physical education and health teacher at Marymount Academy International in NDG; and Elias Tanbe, a computer graphics teacher at Wagar Adult Education Centre in Côte Saint-Luc. The ceremony will be featured on CityNews Montreal, a partner for this endeavor since the very beginning.

Pascale Lallouz

For over three decades Pascale Nizri Lallouz has devoted herself to teaching, with the past 28 years shaping young minds in kindergarten at Merton Elementary School in Côte Saint-Luc. Remarkably, she still teaches in the same classroom, Room 3, a space has become a second home for her and a foundational stepping stone for hundreds of children beginning their educational journey. Born in Morocco and raised in Montreal, Ms. Lallouz is herself a product of the EMSB system, having attended Elizabeth Ballantyne Elementary and Wagar High School. Her personal story comes full circle: from being a shy kindergartner who didn't speak English to

becoming the type of loving, empathetic teacher who gives her own students that same sense of safety and joy she remembers so vividly. “Kindergarten is my happy place,” says Ms. Lallouz, reflecting on her love for teaching. “I especially love singing and dancing with my students, and watching them grow, learn, and shine.”

Michael Dorais-Bunn

Mr. Dorais-Bunn started teaching, unofficially, at the age of 18 for a company called Science Frontiers. They went to schools, daycares, and summer camps and ran science and nature classes with folks aged three to 99. He began working in education at the age of 27 when he ran the Joining Forces Project at the former Father MacDonald High School in St. Laurent, moving on to St. Pius X in Ahuntsic, John Grant High School in Côte Saint-Luc and then Marymount in 2003-2004.

Why did he become a teacher? “Honestly, I fell into it,” says Mr. Dorais-Bunn. “I intended to be a lawyer, and when that didn't work, I was a bit adrift. However, having worked in education with Science Frontiers for about seven years at that point, I felt I could bring a



From left to right: Pascale Nizri Lallouz, Michael Dorais-Bunn and Elias Tanbe, honoured at the EMSB Teacher Recognition Day ceremony at Merton Elementary School. (Photo: Adriana Gentile, CityNews)

disciplined and fun style to education that would allow for student growth and development. Thankfully, fate knew better about what my career should have been than I did.”

Elias Tanbe

Mr. Tanbe began teaching in 2013 while living in Algiers, focusing on Art Theory to first-year Fine Arts students at the university level and simultaneously at a private School of Art and Design. He launched his EMSB career at the EMSB in March 2017 as a computer graphics teacher at Rosemount Technology Centre and continued in the same role at the Shadd Health and Business Centre. For the past four years, he has been working full-time

as a Socio-vocational Integration teacher at Wagar Adult Education Centre.

Born in Lebanon, Mr. Tanbe studied at the American University there. “I’ve always had a passion for travel and discovery, which led me to live in North Africa and Europe before settling in Montreal eight years ago,” he says. “Nothing motivates me more than learning something new. Whether it’s theoretical or practical, simple, or complex, if it’s unfamiliar, I’m intrigued. I’ve always wanted to share that same passion with others, and I believe the classroom is the perfect space to do that.”

For a more detailed story, see the View All The Headlines section on our website.



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ALUMNI

Dr. Christopher Labos

Dr. Christopher Labos is a cardiologist with a degree in epidemiology. He spends most of his time doing things that he doesn't get paid for, like doing research, teaching, and podcasting. Occasionally, he finds time to practice as a cardiologist so he can pay his rent. He is a free-lance contributor for the Montreal Gazette, CJAD, and has also appeared on CBC Radio and CBC Television. A 1999 graduate of LaurenHill Academy, he returned to speak to students there last spring for his second time in as many years. Moderator Ken Connors is a radio personality who can still be heard on CJAD. Dr. Labos was a regular guest on his weekend program. Ken is a graduate of Father MacDonald High School, which merged with LaurenHill Academy in 2000 and became what is now known as the Junior Campus. So, we can count him as a LaurenHill grad as well. Last year Dr. Labos



Dr. Christopher Labos and Ken Connors are thanked by Commissioner and Vice-Chair James Kromida along with students and staff.

published a fascinating, refreshingly clarifying new book about food, food myths, and how sloppy science perpetuates misconceptions about food, Dr. Labos also integrates a love story into the mix.

The book is called Does Coffee Cause Cancer? And 8 More Myths about the Food We Eat. During the talk, Dr. Labos focused attention on the concerns about the spread of measles.

Dean Giannarkakis

As part of the Cycle III (Grades 5 and 6) Global Planning Grid, Dunrae Gardens Elementary School in TMR welcomed back graduate Dean Giannarkakis to talk to students about his success as an entrepreneur on March 31. His father and business partner John joined him.

Mr. Giannarakis is a proud EMSB graduate, having attended Dunrae Gardens, Royal West Academy in Montreal West and St. Pius X Career Centre. The latter served as a catalyst behind his love for cooking and the eventual debut in 2021 of Bernie Beigne. The donut shop was an instant success and in four years it continues to attract clients from all over the island. "Bernie" is an ode to its location at the corner of St. Bernard and Clark in the Mile End. The Global Planning Grid in the primary sector includes a section on the knowledge of the world of work.



Dean Giannarkakis told his impressive story and had donuts for everyone.

With that in mind Principal Despina Michaklis felt that having someone like Mr. Giannarakis share his road to starting a successful business as an excellent fit. Bernie Beigne is located at 23 Bernard St. Ouest (corner Clark) in the Mile End. The shop is opened Wednesdays to Sundays from 10 am- 6pm or until supplies

last. You can follow them on Instagram at @berniebeigne.

"A good donut is a feel-good food," says Mr. Giannarakis, the shop's head chef. "It's a guilty pleasure. You can be two years old or 82 years old, everyone leaves with a smile on their face."

While this may be Mr. Giannarakis' first foray into the

Adriana Gentile

Adriana Gentile is a reporter for CityNews Montreal. When she was assigned to cover the EMSB Teacher Recognition Awards, she was delighted to be reunited with Demetra Droutsas and James Fequet. They served as her principal and vice-principal respectively when she attended Rosemount High School. Adriana's co-worker is Pamela Pagano, a proud EMSB grad from Laurier Macdonald High School in St. Leonard.

Adriana attended the former St. Brendan's Elementary School and graduated from Rosemount High School in 2012. She subsequently studied at Vanier College and then Concordia University, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Journalism and a minor in Human Relations. Prior to starting at CityNews on April 16, 2024, she actually worked in the daycare sector, drawing on her DEC in Early Childhood Education (ECE). "While I valued that experience, my true passion has always been journalism, especially within the music world," she explained. "Even before my formal studies,



Adriana Gentile with Demetra Droutsas and James Fequet

I created my own platform called 'It Was Captured,' where I interviewed artists and shared their stories. This early experience fueled my desire to connect with people, uncover unique perspectives, and tell stories that inspire, inform, and resonate.

"What I love most about my job is the power of storytelling to bring people together and give voice to experiences that might otherwise go unheard. Journalism allows me to be constantly curious, to learn, and to shine a light on the creativity and passion of the artists and communities I cover. It's incredibly rewarding to share stories that entertain, educate, and sometimes even drive change. Every day, I get to meet new people, dive into their worlds, and help share their truth. For me, this is more than a career – it's a calling. I'm grateful to work at CityNews where I can combine my passion for storytelling with the dynamic energy of the music and media industry."

pastry world, he is no stranger to the culinary field. He has spent the better part of his life in restaurant kitchens owned and operated by his father, aunt and uncle, from whom he credits his "old-school work ethic."

As for St. Pius X Career Centre, Mr. Giannarakis said: "I honed my skills at Pius. It was very structured and professional. I learned all the techniques and the science behind cooking. It opened my eyes."



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Témoignage de reconnaissance au personnel pour son soutien à l'enseignant dans son rôle de réserviste canadien

Au nom de l'équipe du Programme d'appui des employeurs (PAE) du vice-chef d'état-major de la Défense des Forces armées canadiennes, le lieutenant-colonel Joe Nuñez, MMM, CD était de passage au Collège Vincent Massey (CVM) de Rosemont le 26 mai pour une présentation toute spéciale afin de témoigner de la reconnaissance aux membres du personnel qui ont soutenu l'enseignant Vincent Gagnon lors de son déploiement en Lettonie et dans d'autres affectations.

Le PAE offre un soutien aux réservistes lorsqu'ils demandent un congé pour une formation ou un déploiement. Il permet également à leur employeur de mieux comprendre la valeur des compétences et des expériences acquises par leurs employés lors des formations et des déploiements.

Trois membres du personnel de la CSEM ont été mis en nomination pour cette reconnaissance : la directrice du CVM, Franca Cristiano; la directrice des Ressources humaines, Ann Watson ainsi que la directrice adjointe des Ressources humaines, Angela Vaudry. La présentation s'est déroulée en présence des élèves de 1^{re} secondaire de M. Gagnon.

M. Gagnon est à l'emploi de la CSEM depuis 2004. Il enseigne actuellement l'histoire, la géo-



Trois membres du personnel de la CSEM ont été mis en nomination pour cette reconnaissance.

graphie et le français langue d'enseignement en 1^{re} secondaire.

En avril 2011, M. Gagnon s'est enrôlé dans les Gardes grenadiers canadiens (Canadian Grenadier Guards) basés à Montréal. Il a pris part à l'Opération REASSURANCE à titre d'officier de liaison en chef dans le cadre de la plus vaste mission internationale des Forces armées canadiennes ayant pour but de renforcer la stratégie de dissuasion et de défense de l'OTAN en Europe centrale et de l'Est. Dans le cadre de l'Opération

DISTINCTION, il a agi à titre d'officier responsable du cérémonial international lors de la commémoration du 75^e anniversaire du raid sur Dieppe en France. Cette initiative appuyait le Programme national de commémoration du gouvernement du Canada, en rendant hommage au service et au sacrifice des membres des Forces armées canadiennes et en mettant en valeur le patrimoine militaire du Canada.

M. Gagnon a passé six mois en Lettonie aux camps Adazi et Riga,



Vincent Gagnon

de juillet 2021 à janvier 2022, à titre d'officier de liaison en chef du groupe tactique de présence avancée renforcée. Il était chargé notamment de faciliter la communication entre les organisations militaires participantes et de tenir le commandant informé de l'évolution de la situation en temps réel. « J'ai travaillé en étroite

collaboration avec les partenaires de l'OTAN, notamment l'Albanie, l'Islande, l'Italie, le Monténégro, la Pologne, la République tchèque, la Slovaquie, la Slovénie et l'Espagne, ainsi qu'avec les forces terrestres nationales lettones et les groupes tactiques de présence avancée renforcée des trois États baltes et de la Pologne, afin d'améliorer l'interopérabilité et de consolider la coopération multinationale », a-t-il déclaré.

M. Gagnon a également participé à l'Opération DISTINCTION où il a été déployé en France, en août 2017, à titre d'officier responsable du cérémonial international.

« Cette reconnaissance ne me revient pas personnellement. Elle est plutôt destinée à trois personnes exceptionnelles qui ont appuyé mes engagements militaires tout au long de mon parcours au CVM et à la CSEM, de dire M. Gagnon. Les réservistes comme moi doivent pouvoir compter sur le soutien des individus et sur un employeur compréhensif pour parvenir à créer un équilibre entre les formations et les déploiements opérationnels. J'ai proposé la candidature de ces trois personnes en reconnaissance du rôle essentiel qu'elles ont joué pour me permettre de poursuivre mes activités militaires parallèlement à mon rôle d'enseignant. »

La campagne *Active Learning Classroom* de l'Académie Royal West porte ses fruits

Grâce à l'incroyable générosité des parents, des anciens élèves et des donateurs, la Fondation de l'Académie Royal West a fait des progrès remarquables dans le cadre de la campagne *Active Learning Classroom* visant à moderniser les salles de classe pour offrir des environnements d'apprentissage plus flexibles aux élèves et aux enseignants.

Ces améliorations ont profité à trois (3) salles de classe. La première a été aménagée grâce à un don conjoint de donateurs, de parents et d'anciens élèves. La deuxième a été financée par un donateur anonyme, tandis que la troisième a été rendue possible grâce à la générosité des parents Kelly Remail et son épouse Tatiana. Le don anonyme a permis le réaménagement complet du local 209, une salle de classe d'anglais et d'art dramatique dédiée à Doug Floen, enseignant retraité. Le donateur a souligné que son expérience dans les cours d'anglais et d'art dramatique de M. Floen a eu un impact profond sur sa vie. En guise de reconnaissance, cet ancien élève a offert une généreuse contribution pour financer entièrement la transformation de la salle de classe de Suzanne Amro (local 209) en un espace d'apprentissage moderne et inspirant pour les générations à venir.

Pour souligner ce généreux don, l'Académie Royal West (ARW)



Le donateur a souligné que son expérience dans les cours d'anglais et d'art dramatique de M. Floen a eu un impact profond sur sa vie.

a organisé une cérémonie de reconnaissance spéciale, réunissant la communauté scolaire pour inaugurer la salle de classe nouvellement réaménagée. Le point fort de la soirée fut sans contredit lorsque M. Floen a été invité à découvrir l'espace qui porte désormais son nom. Une plaque commémorative a été apposée à l'extérieur de la salle de classe, gage de ses nombreuses années de dévouement à l'enseignement et de l'empreinte durable qu'il a laissée sur ses élèves. L'atmosphère était empreinte de gratitude, tant pour les contributions de M. Floen que pour la générosité exceptionnelle de

l'ancien élève donateur qui a choisi de conserver l'anonymat. Ce fut un vibrant témoignage de l'impact transformateur de l'éducation et de l'influence profonde que les enseignants ont sur leurs élèves, bien au-delà de la fin des études.

Quant à Kelly Remail et sa famille, ils ont offert un don de 30 000 \$ en janvier dernier pour réaménager le local 313 en une salle de classe d'apprentissage actif (CAA). Ce local est actuellement utilisé par Jody-Amélie Cayer, enseignante d'anglais très appréciée de ses élèves, dont une douzaine choisissent de dîner avec elle en classe tous les jours. Le 15 septembre 2025, le local 313

sera officiellement inauguré sous le nom de « salle Remail ».

Depuis l'automne dernier, Melissa Remail fréquente l'Académie Royal West. « Nous habitons sur Le Plateau et, honnêtement, je ne voyais pas l'intérêt d'assister à la journée portes ouvertes de l'ARW à l'automne 2024 », a confié Kelly. « Je n'aurais jamais pensé que Melissa accepterait de faire un trajet de 45 à 50 minutes matin et soir pour aller et revenir de l'école. Cependant, ma femme, Tatiana, a insisté pour que nous y allions. Melissa a eu un coup de cœur pour l'école dès sa première interaction avec un élève, à l'entrée du

gymnase de l'ARW. À la fin de la soirée, elle m'a dit : « Papa, ils sont si intelligents, confiants et gentils. Tu crois que je pourrais devenir comme eux? » D'après ce que nous avons pu voir et sur la base des informations dont nous disposons à la Fondation de l'ARW, la transformation des salles de classe en espaces d'apprentissage actif change la donne. Les enfants qui utilisent les trois salles de classe modernisées disent qu'ils ressentent moins de fatigue physique, qu'ils parviennent à mieux retenir l'information et qu'ils obtiennent de meilleurs résultats avec moins d'effort. »

M. Kelly souligne que faire un don à une fondation scolaire comporte un avantage fiscal intéressant. En effet, chaque don de 100 \$ donne droit à un crédit d'impôt d'environ 54 \$, grâce aux programmes fédéraux et provinciaux, et ce, quel que soit le niveau de revenu. Ainsi, un don de 100 \$ revient en réalité à un coût net de 46 \$ pour la famille donatrice. Les avantages fiscaux font partie de la politique canadienne en matière d'impôt sur le revenu depuis deux générations, car on reconnaît le rôle crucial des organismes de bienfaisance dans l'amélioration de la qualité de vie des Canadiens, rôle que le gouvernement ne peut assumer à lui seul.

Race car star Tagliani visits LMAC

The Laurier Macdonald Career Centre welcomed Quebec racecar driver Alex Tagliani to their campus at 6065 Boulevard des Grand Prairies in St. Léonard. Tagliani is recognized for his impressive career in various racing categories, including IndyCar and NASCAR. He began his career in karting before making his auto racing debut in 1996 in the Formula Atlantic series. In 2000, he joined the Champ Car series where he quickly made a name for himself thanks to his exceptional performance and determination. He achieved several podium finishes and a memorable victory at the Road America race in 2004. In 2008, he made the transition to the IndyCar Series, competing in the famous Indianapolis 500 where he took the pole position in 2011, becoming the first Canadian to achieve this feat. In NASCAR, he is best known for his performances in the NASCAR Pinty's Series, the Canadian national NASCAR series. He also raced in the NASCAR Xfinity and NASCAR



Alex Tagliani's visit was a big motivator for the students.

Cup series, where he demonstrated his versatility and talent by adapting to different types of cars and tracks. In 2015, Tagliani was inducted into the Canadian Motorsports Hall

of Fame. In 2001, Tagliani opened the \$18 million TAG E-Karting and Amusement Center at Plaza St. Thérèse. He recently welcomed some of the auto-mechanics teachers for an exclusive behind

the scenes. For his visit he toured the state-of-the-art facility in St. Leonard, talked to students and answered their questions, observed them in their learning environment and met with administration. He

also issued a challenge to the students to apply for internships. A new collaboration has now been established between the two parties.

RTC and Galileo

The team at the Galileo Adult Education Centre in Montreal North would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Eliane Kinsley, a cabinetmaking instructor at Rosemount Technology Centre. She and her incredibly talented carpentry students completed some amazing work by building a beautiful book box for the students at Galileo. Her craftsmanship, dedication, and creativity truly shine through in this project. The book box is not only functional but also a wonderful symbol of community and collaboration. Her hard work has created a lasting impact – providing Galileo students with a special space to share and discover the joy of reading.



The final result from the talented carpentry students.

Skills Olympics

The Olympiades québécoises des métiers et des technologies otherwise known as the Quebec Skills Olympics, took place in Quebec City from May 7 to 10. This is the largest event dedicated to vocational and technical training in Quebec. Inspired by the Olympic Games, the Skills Olympics offers an exceptional showcase of skilled trades and tangible models of success. Hundreds of competitors from 93 vocational training centres and CEGEPs throughout the province participated in this competition. The EMSB is immensely proud of its competitors, a formidable team with nine students competing from nine vocational training programs: Welding and Fitting, Yulius Casas Castillo; Cabinetmaking, Samuele Joseph D'Ambra Violi; Aesthetics, Maria

El-Nezk; Machining Techniques, Lei Ge; Industrial Drafting, Lora Ghannoum; Machining CNC, Linus Glenn Heyes; Cooking, Elizabeth Linhares-Langevin; Automobile Mechanics, Innocenzo Rizzuto; and Computer Graphics, Iris Eva and Isabelle Zambetti. Three of the EMSB students received Medals of Excellence for their high standing in the competition: Rizzuto, Linhares-Langevin, and Casas Castillo. Heyes captured the silver medal in Machining CNC and El-Nezk won the Gold Medal in Aesthetics! The Skills Olympics showcase our programs, the dedication of our teachers and the incredible support of our in-school administrators who always have student success at the core of everything they do on a daily basis. Way to go, AEVS!!!!



EMSB welding students had a successful turn at the Skills Olympics.

LITERACY FAIR

The second annual Literacy Fair was held at James Lyng Adult Education Centre, in St. Henri, bringing students together for a fun day focused on the power of reading. The event kicked off in the auditorium with a captivating presentation by poet Greg Santos, setting the tone for a morning filled with discovery and learning. Students then embarked on a lively "treasure hunt" through a series of kiosks hosted by valued community partners, including Reclaim Literacy, Literacy Québec, Tyndale St. Georges, the YMCA Pivot Program, and the St. Henri Library. The fair featured interactive activities, student presentations, plenty of free books, exciting prizes – and, of course, pizza! "The real prize," said AEVS Pedagogical Consultant for AEVS Jorge Quiroga, "is the opportunity to connect with ideas, to grow as individuals, and to improve literacy skills. And the true treasure is learning to read."



There were lots of books to choose from at the Literacy Fair.



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— Alice Sideropoulos, Principal of St. Pius X Career Centre



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