

Enrichment Program Report

Gardenview Elementary

2021- 2022

A specific aim of the Gifted and Exceptional Learners' mandate for the 2021-2022 academic year was Matching Instruction with Needs through design and implementation of School-wide Enrichment initiatives and Acceleration Strategies (i.e., compacting curriculum) for individual bright and talented students at EMSB schools.

At Gardenview Elementary School, we successfully designed and implemented one school-wide enrichment programs, namely-- Public Speaking and Debating Junior – Gardenview's achievements in this program will be discussed below along with the future enrichment plans for the upcoming school year of 2022-2023.

Junior School Enrichment Program: Debating and Public Speaking (1h/weekly April – June 2022)

This program offers participants an ideal preparation for the future high school debating clubs and helps readdress the dearth of competitive opportunities for young debaters and public speakers. Our rounds of speech events combine the emphasis on debate skills with persuasion and rhetoric.

18 students (G5-6) embarked in the Debating program's sessions, which occurred weekly for one period, and were coached by a mentor. Our program mainly focused on the development of the following skills: public speaking, researching for valid and reliable sources (e.g., library workshop), note taking, organizing information (e.g., designing concept maps), writing persuasive arguments to support the chosen stance, critical thinking (e.g., evaluating the sources read), listening, and team working. Near the end of the program, children were offered the opportunity to enact a real debate on a given topic using the Canadian Parliamentary structure as they competed in the semi-final and final debate against Dunrae Gardens Elementary School.

The formal title of our debate was: *"This house believes that school start times for pre-teens and teens (12 and up) should start later."*

The junior teams competing against each other were

Dunrae Gardens opposition – Ann Xia and Mèlie Tzanetakos

Vs.

Gardenview proposition – Annabella Popescu and Luna Melo

The senior teams competing against each other were:

Gardenview opposition: Eleni Giannoukakis and Olivia McFarlane

Vs.

Dunrae Gardens Proposition: Leyla Fernandez and Maria Roussis

Both Dunrae Garden and Gardenview's teams won the final debate at the junior level.

Each winner received an Indigo gift card of 30CAD value. In addition, all participants were awarded a 20CAD Indigo gift card covered by the Mesure 15027. The event was recorded and welcomed a more extensive audience, including families, school administration, school students and teachers, and a representative from the EMSB communication department. A newsletter about this event has been written and posted on the EMSB website by the Communication Department.

Recommendations for future debate programs.

- Extend the time slot from 1 hour to 1 hour and 15 mins
- Expand the schedule from 13 weeks to 15 weeks
- Ensure the debate class is taught in a quiet room equipped with a Smartboard with a working laptop and internet connection
- Ensure students nominated are strong readers, active participants in class discussions, and able and willing to commit to time and work expectations.
- In-person final debate completion
- Field trip to Ottawa to view a debate within the house of parliament

The following grade 4/5 students who participated in this program this year are recommended to continue with it next year (if their grades allow).

- Camilla Carriero
- Matthew Farag
- Alex Lonata
- Annabella Popescu
- Luna Melo
- Isabelle Peluso
- Bella Santos-Gregg

Report Completed, August 30, 2022

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