

Enrichment Program Report

Roslyn Elementary School
2023-2024

One specific aim of the Gifted and Exceptional Learners' mandate for the 2023-2024 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 Roslyn Elementary School, we successfully designed (or adopted) and implemented **six school-wide enrichment programs**, namely--Mathematics Caribou International, Public Speaking and Debating Junior, one competitive component of The Future Problem Solving International, specifically-the Global Issues Problem Solving, The Battle of the Books Jr, one component of Destination Imagination International program, namely--SkilFire, and finally The Let's Talk Science National Competition. Our programs involved a **total of 67** students (Grade 1-6). Roslyn's achievements in each program will be discussed below along with the future enrichment plans for the upcoming school year of 2024-2025.

Caribou Cup: Mathematics (Six contests: Oct 2023-May 2024)

Caribou Cup is an international online math contest, focused on complex problem solving and mathematically reasoning. It contains interactive questions and feature mathematical puzzles rather than strictly knowledge-based questions, it comes with results and statistics available on the evening after the contest, it provides 250 video solutions to selected questions and offers interactive practice access to contests from previous years and detailed written solutions. Its cost of 320.00 CAD--entailing of unlimited School wide access codes--was covered for all selected participants by the Ministry Mesure 15027 (Gifted and Exceptional Learners). It is normally held six times over the school year, typically over 2 days in October, November, January, February, April, and May.

A total of 35 mathematically talented students, grade 3-5 from Roslyn Elementary school joined this competition as of October 2023. Their achievements (rankings) are included in the table below. It is worth mentioning that some of our Roslyn students not only are doing very well, scoring in the top 2 to 5% at the national and international levels, but Noam Caron, scored Nr. #1 internationally (N = 9,059 participants) in the November Contest at the grades 3 & 4 level.



NAME	GRADE	RANKING (Top within the world)
Noam Caron	Grades 3 & 4 Total Participating Students: = 16,195	< 3%
Max Hauser		< 5%
Casey Lithwick		6%
Kaie Woodward		6%
Maximus Maxwell		10%
Brooke Betsalel		14%
Noah Boustani		18%
Emmanuel Nkembe-Otou		21%
Charles Davet		25%
Blair Li		26%
Matteo Waldron		40%
NAME	GRADE	RANKING (Top within the world)
Aiden Fernandes	Grade 5 & 6 Total Participating Students = 21,425	< 2%
Milton Lui		< 2%
Louie LeMaistre		< 2%
Olivia Fernandes		< 2%
Antoni Jecz		3%
Felix Potter		4%
Oliver Mansour		5%
Jade Ting Tourillon		5%
Kate Chaudhury		6%
Sezen Haggi Mani		11%
Aliah Hedge		14%
Mina Lee		14%
Auston Fraser		16%
Adelaide Bettez		17%
Luka Siveski		19%
Nathan Shaw		21%
Sean Karamchandani		22%
Theodore Finch		22%
Noah Lambert		23%
Shanti Hedge		30%
Pallak Pattnayak		53%
Henry Charby		54%
Eva Clark		60%

NOTE: Children selected to participate in Caribou Mathematics Competition must be highly independent learners with exceptional talent in mathematics (grades above 90%) and who are motivated to engage with more challenging material. These are students who consistently complete the regular class work with high quality and faster than their peers and seek further challenging work. It is also important to note that participants in Caribou Math are expected to practice for the competition on their own at home or occasionally at school, if the math teacher allows.

The Mesure budget for the Gifted and Exceptional Learners Dossier covers solely the school wide access pass purchased for the EMSB schools (320CAD/ School), which does not include unlimited practice tests for students. Parents are encouraged to purchase a package (9 CAD) for their child to enable unlimited access to practice tests and written solutions form past years. Children shall be encouraged to practice every day!

Finally, prior to committing to this competition, we encourage that selected children try a Caribou Contest, no account needed – the October contest is free to try by clicking the following hyperlink: [Take a Previous Test](#).

Junior School Enrichment Program: Debating and Public Speaking (1h/ weekly October 2023-May 2024)

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.

Seven Roslyn students (G4-6) embarked in the debating program's sessions, which occurred weekly for one period and were coached by a mentor. A complete list of nominated participants in this enrichment program is included on page 4 of this report.

Our program particularly 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. Such skills are not only important for school learning but also highly transferable to various other contexts in life. Near the end of this program, children were offered the opportunity to enact a real debate using the Canadian Parliamentary structure while actively competing against their peers debating-warriors through in-school rounds.

This year, five schools participated in the Debate and Public Speaking program. One team of two or three students, grades 4-6 from each participating school distinguished itself throughout the school tournaments as they represented their school in the Final **EMSB Inter-School Debating** competition hosted at Willingdon Elementary School, Sr. Campus on May 3, 2024. The champions of Roslyn Elementary School participating in the final **EMSB Inter-School Debating** competition were Antoni Jecz, Henry Charby, and Sezen Haggi.

The formal title of our debate was: *This house believes that governments should prioritize sustainable tourism development over maximizing tourist arrivals.*

Two rounds of debates and the grand finale made up the structure of our **EMSB Inter-School Debating** competition, in which the top scoring teams advanced to the next rounds up to the final. Roslyn champions competed against Grandview champions in the first round and did not advance to the second round.

The **top finalist** teams competing against each other were:

Dunrae Gardens (Opposition): Miriam Todd and Charlotte Cassis

vs.

Willingdon (Proposition): Isla Goodchild and Aoife Follett

Dunare Gardens' team won the final debate and were crowned champions of the **EMSB Inter-School Debating Competition**. The four finalists received a certificate of achievement and indigo gift card of 25CAD value covered by the Measure 15027.

The event welcomed a large audience including other debate competitors (including Roslyn), families, school administration, and students.

An article about this event was written by the EMSB Communication Department and has been published (see url below) and it will also be featured on the Gifted/ EMSB website.

<http://www.emsbpressreleases.com/2024/05/emsb-junior-debating-culminates-in.html>

Recommendations for 2023-2024

- Run program for full program length (minimum of 14 classes)
- Invite all school champions to in-person debate competition.
- Host final debate competition on a PED day to prevent students from missing class while also giving an opportunity for parents, teachers, and admin to participate.

Nominated Participants (N =7):

STUDENT NAME
Sezan Haggi-Mani
Aaliyah Samuels
Louie Le Maistre (withdrew in February)
Luka Siveski
Antoni Jecz
Addeena Chowdhury
Henry Charby

**Future Problem-Solving Program International (FPSPI) - Global Issues Problem Solving
(1.5 hour / weekly October 2023- May 2024)**

Costs for participating teams were fully covered by the Measure 15027

FPSPI is a dynamic international program involving thousands of students annually from around the world. Developed in 1974 by creativity pioneer Dr. E. Paul Torrance, Future Problem Solving (FPSI) provides competitive and non-competitive components for today's curriculum via a six-step model which teaches critical and creative thinking, problem solving, and decision making. Student work is submitted electronically, and evaluation and feedback are provided from trained evaluators from FPSPI. Qualified students earn invitations to participate in the annual International Conference (taking place in June 2024 at Indiana University of Indiana Bloomington).

Four thinking skills taught and modeled systematically to student participants engaged in the program are the corner stones of the Future Problem-Solving process.

- **Creativity** – Problem solving situations are set in the future to encourage inventive thinking. Students explore future possibility from the present.
- **Communication** – Clear and articulate communication is developed while working with a team and ideas are presented in written and verbal modes.
- **Critical Thinking** – Students use analysis to gain an understanding of global issues and to comprehend significant aspects of complex situations.
- **Collaboration** – Students work together while learning and applying problem solving skills. Teamwork is nurtured as students advance through challenging and exciting situations.

A total of four students from Roslyn Elementary (G5-6) embarked in one competitive component of FPSI, namely the Global Issues Problem Solving program, which occurred weekly for 1.5 hours and were coached by a mentor. A complete list of nominated participants in this enrichment program is included on pages 6-7 of the report.

GLOBAL ISSUES PROBLEM SOLVING (GIPS): employing the Six-Step Process to respond to a Future Scene--a hypothetical scenario set 20-30 years in the future--provided for each topic.

This program enables students to think creatively and explore collaboratively a selected inquiry topic from a diverse range of contemporary global topics culminating in a detailed Action Plan. Entries are authentically assessed and scored by trained evaluators. This program was entered as four teams of four students each.

The 2023- 24 topics were:

- Tourism - Practice Booklet Problem #1
- Urbanization - Practice Booklet Problem #2
- Antarctica - Competitive Booklet, Qualifying Problem (*2-hour timed competition*)
- Autonomous Transportation - Competitive Booklet, Affiliate Bowl Problem (*2-hour timed competition*)

- Air Quality--International Booklet, International Competition (*2-hour timed competition*)

Roslyn students participated in 4 GIPS events (2 practice booklets and 2 competitive booklets). Each competition lasted two hours and teams received detailed feedback and scoring for each booklet. Roslyn Elementary participated up until the Affiliate Bowl competition (Topic: Autonomous Transportation). Ten students from EMSB (the only Canadian Team) were invited to participate at the international competition (taking place in June 2024 at Indiana University of Bloomington). About 1300 student competitors representing 242 Schools and Groups from 12 countries and 29 states in the USA came together to Indiana University Bloomington to compete in various components of FPS by solving a problem placed 30 years into the future on the topic of Air Quality. EMSB join the international competition with three teams (a Junior division from Dunrae Gardens Elementary School, and a Middle and Senior division from Royal West Academy) competing in the Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS) component, which is made of two parts: (a) the writing of the action plan booklet and (b) the performance of the action plan.

Our Middle and Senior divisions scored in the **top 10 finalists on the performance of the action plan**, while the **Senior division placed 4th in the world on their written component of the action plan**.

Future Problem Solving (C) 2024 Global Issues - Individuals (Topic: Air Quality)

Seniors - Teams

	Senior Division Winners
1st Place	South Warren High School - Kentucky (Dorrell, Lila, Reyna, Rita (TS-318))
2nd Place	Johansen Central High School - Kentucky (Cole, Constance, Hannah, Dakota (TS-332))
3rd Place	Raffles Girls' School (Secondary) - Singapore (Elena Yin Feng, Nicole Kang, Kaitlyn Hui Sian, Chelsea Yeo (TS-335))
4th Place	Royal West Academy - Canada (Hanna, Isabelle, Tara, James (TS-317))
5th Place	Woodville High School, North Creek High School, Innovation Lab High School - Washington (Jiya, Kaitlyn, Allicia, Sydney (TS-338))
6th Place	Del Norte High School, Canyon Crest Academy, Pacific Trail Middle School - California (Aadhya, Bailey, Nolan, Peller (TS-304))
7th Place	Solon High School - Ohio (Frank, Nathan, Grant, Frederick (TS-339))
8th Place	Myers Park High School - North Carolina (Griffin, Darden, Caroline, Caroline (TS-343))
9th Place	Pleasant Valley High School - Iowa (Shelby, Madison, Kaitlin, Bennett (TS-333))
10th Place	Eastern Iowa Home Schoolers - Iowa (Peter, Jacob, Clara, Micah (TS-316))

Future Problem Solving (C) 2024 Global Issues - Teams (Topic: Air Quality)

An article about the Affiliate Bowl event (National Competition) hosted at LaurenHill Academy has been published in the EMSB Focus and EMSB press release in May 2024:

<http://www.emsbpressreleases.com/2024/04/emsb-gifted-students-shine-at-first.html>

The achievements of our Canadian delegation at the International Competition event will be released shortly by the EMSB Communication Department and will be published in the EMSB Express Newspaper and it will also be featured on the Gifted/ EMSB website (<https://www.emsb.qc.ca/gifted/>).

Recommendations for 2024-2025

- Start the program as soon as possible (early October) to give students the appropriate amount of time to understand the 6 problem-solving steps and adequately investigate the topics.
- Only nominate grade 5 and 6 students (more of the last) who are top achievers (across all subjects) and proactive readers as this program requires a large amount of effort and dedication. Another important criterion in the nomination process connects to student interest and motivation to learn about current events, to actively participate in discussion and debates on the topic, and to actively seek opportunities for sharing and disseminating their learning.

- Depending on topic, provide field trips to places of interest and continue to arrange sessions with expert panels of professionals. We have attended two expert panels on the topics of Antarctica and Autonomous Transportation.

Nominated Participants (N = 4):

STUDENT NAME	GRADE
Henry Charby	5
Simone Felker	5
Shanti Hedge	5
Katherine Chadhury	6

Battle of The Books Junior (BOTB)
(1hour / weekly November 2023 - May 2024)

Battle of the Books is a reading and trivia competition originally designed for senior school levels and modified and replicated at the junior levels. In this competition, highly motivated students who enjoy reading are offered the opportunity to read through a meticulously curated collection of 13 books ranging from fantasy fiction to historical fiction and engage in battles with students from other schools within the program about the content of the books. This program targeted enriching the academic knowledge and vocabulary of participating students while stirring their love for reading in a fun and engaging manner.

Five ferocious readers selected from grades 5-6 were nominated for this program at Roslyn (see complete list of nominees below). Two participants left the program within the first three months due to concerns balancing classroom workload and lack of interest. As all enrichment programs are based on student engagement and continued academic excellence, these students received permission to withdraw from the program. The weekly sessions were guided by a mentor. Collectively the participants covered all 13 books while engaging in various activities such as literature circle and brain synthesizer, amongst others, to make meaningful connections to the content. As the weeks rolled along, students were coached on creating trivia questions, which formed part of the larger pool of questions prepared for the competition along with those prepared by their enrichment coach.

Our team of three Roslyn students represented Roslyn Elementary at the final battle of the books. These students showed resilience, and determination in ensuring they could 'divide and conquer' strategically. The three competitor schools were Dunrae Gardens, Pierre de Coubertin, and Willingdon Elementary.

A Sincere Heartfelt Thank You to Ms. Joanna Genovezos, the Principal of Roslyn's Elementary School and Ms. Mireille Tehbelian, the Vice Principal of Roslyn's School for hosting the final Battle of the Books event! It was held live in the Gymnasium on May 17 and welcomed over 50 guests, including parents and students from the four schools.

Though Roslyn did not place 1st amongst the four schools, their hard work and endless weeks of practice did not go unrecognized. All participating students were awarded certificates of excellence that showcased their academic achievements.

Roslyn Champions include Alexis Jarvie (Spokesperson), Louie Le Maistre and Sezen Haggi-Mani.

Through engaging in the BOB enrichment program, students develop key skills, including:

- Contextual Understanding
- Communication
- Project Delegation
- Teamwork
- Presentation
- Memory techniques
- Critical Thinking

At the end of the program students completed an exit ticket answering the following reflective questions:

1. Did you like the selection of books that we read this year?
 - o Why or why not?
2. What were your top three favorite books from the list?
 - o Why?
3. What were your two least favorite books from the list?
 - o Why?
4. What genre of books do you like to read?
5. Did your taste in literature change as a result of engagement in this program? How exactly?
6. Are there any books you would recommend for next year's Battle of the Books list?
7. Pretend you were asked to teach the BOTB program next year, how would you teach the sessions?
 - o What would you do differently from what we did during our program (e.g., activities, format)?
 - o What would you keep consistent with what we did over the life of the program?
8. If given the opportunity to join this program again next year, will you consider joining it?

Nominated Participants in BOTB (N=5)

STUDENT NAME	Grade
Alexis Jarvie	6
Sezen Haggi-Mani	6
Louie Le Maistre	6
Adeena Chowdhury	5
Aaliyah Samuels	5

Recommendations for 2024-2025 based on team and student reflections.

- Increase student nomination and retention.

Let's Talk Science Competition (1.5h/ Weekly)
(Grade 6, February-June 2024)

Since 2005, Let's Talk Science Challenge offers to Canadian youth (Grades 6-8) with an interest in science the opportunity to engage in enrichment challenges related to technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Specific benefits associated with engagement in LTSC include:

- Provides an outlet for students who are not being challenged by the curriculum
- Inspires students to consider future education in STEM and potential STEM careers
- Enriches curriculum in eight subject areas: Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Environmental Sciences, Math, Physics and Space Sciences
- Emphasizes team collaboration, cooperative learning and problem-solving skills

Through engaging in STEM enrichment challenges, students develop key skills including:

- Creativity
- Critical analysis
- Teamwork
- Initiative
- Communication
- Problem solving
- Independent thinking

The Play and Learn Weekly activities were conducted under the guidance of an enrichment facilitator with the scope of helping students prepare for the final competition. The Let's Talk Science Challenge includes three components:

- The theory component with the weekly quizzes leading to the *Final Question and Answer Competition*
- The hands-on component with multiple *Design and Build Challenges* that help students prepare for the Final Engineering Challenge
- The team spirit component with the *Above and Beyond badges* and the *Lorna Collins Spirit Award*.

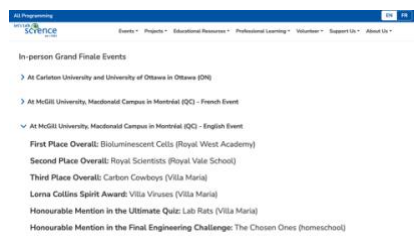
Eight grade 6 students with great interest in sciences formed the Roslyn School's delegation, while each student being assigned one chapter (based on expressed interest) to master prior to the final competition. The EMSB Team of science talents was also joined by RWA (two teams of four) and Dunrae Gardens Elementary School. This year's edition of the Let's Talk Science Challenge for the elementary school students (Grade 6) was virtual and was held on May 23 (12PM-2PM) while for the high school student participants (Grades 7&8) was held on May 1 in person at McGill's MacDonald's campus.

Nominated Participants in LTSC (N=8)

STUDENT NAME	Grade
Aiden Fernandes	6

Olivia Fernandes	6
Louie Le Maistre	6
Kate Chaudhury	6
Auston Fraser	6
Luca O'Brien	6
Cecilia Chadwick	6
Sophie Kato-Lopes	6

The complete details of the 2024 winners of the Let's Talk Science can be found at:
<https://letstalkscience.ca/news-media/announcing-2024-lets-talk-science-challenge-winners>



Destination Imagination - *SkillFire* Program (1h/ weekly October - June 2024)

This program allows younger talented students (K-3) to participate in our school wide enrichment while being formally taught the creative process. Through engagement in this program, students build creative problem-solving skills that are transferable across subjects and to real world situations.

The *SkillFire* program introduces students to certain skills, then enforces and builds on those skills in a meaningful way. Each session includes two activities: (1) Skill Starter: a shorter activity intended to introduce that session's content, and (2) Skill Builder: a longer exercise in which students can reinforce that session's skill. Activities reinforce learning and include team building, performance-based, task-based, and hybrid activities. This program has built in flexibility so that activities can be selected to complement the groups learning preferences and engagement.

Six Roslyn students participated in the DI *SkillFire* program, which occurred weekly for 1 hour and were coached by an enrichment facilitator. *SkillFire* programming focused on the development of the following skills: teamwork, brainstorming, communication, dramatic play, material properties, resource awareness, technical design, goal setting, improvisation and rapid ideation.

Parents were kept updated via weekly email about the learning developments of their children. Students will present their learning to their families during a "Bring your family to school" in early September 2024. To prepare for this celebratory event, students collectively brainstormed the skills they gained over the year, chose the top five skills, and created short activities based on each skill. During the family event students are expected to guide their parents through each activity and had a brief discussion.

Nominated Participants (N=8)	Grade
Nora Delisle	1
Nina Goldwater	3
Rigo Leger	1
Samantha Hauser	1
Malcolm Bryne	2
Max Rose	1
Arya Tenzin Shakpa	1
Charles Khazzam	2

Plans for 2024-2025

Addressing Student Individual Needs: Differentiation, Acceleration, and Enrichment

As part of our mandate for the Gifted and Exceptional Learners, we will continue to offer support bright and talented students at Roslyn who require additional cognitive stimulation to keep themselves learning and motivated.

When the need for differentiation within one classroom is identified (i.e., a single or a small group of students requiring enriched activities), Dr. Birlean can design/adapt and set up Learning Centers (in various subjects). Learning Centers are differentiation structures located in the classrooms and opened to high achieving students who consistently complete their work well and faster than their average peers. These centers will be monitored on a weekly basis by a member of the Gifted and Talented team.

At the request of school administration, Dr Birlean can also conduct strength assessments for talented or formally identified gifted students (especially those in the cycle 1 for whom school wide enrichment programs are not available). The strength assessment is based on three inventories created for gifted and talented learners by Dr. Renzulli at University of Connecticut and validated by over 30 years of authentic research evidence from schools across the world. This assessment aims to collect data about student interest, learning preferences, and student's preferred ways to demonstrate learning. Outcomes of this assessment inform ways to differentiate teaching, learning, and assessment, specifically by (a) aligning instructional strategies to identified learning preferences, (b) offering alternative assessment that match identified expression preferences, and when differentiation is not sufficient, (c) tailoring enrichment activities that center on learner's interest and learning preferences. When independent enrichment is needed, the student will benefit from a formal alternative

program, specifically, a weekly independent enrichment program tailored to student's needs and interest and monitored by a mentor. The process and outcomes of this work are disseminated at the formal Knowledge Fair organized near the end of the school year (usually in May).

Professional Development

Support can be equally offered to faculty at Roslyn. Dr. Birlean and her team also offers a series of workshops meant to raise awareness about the needs of gifted and talented students and to equip the faculty with effective tools and strategies for addressing the identified needs of gifted and talented students.

Report Completed

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