



EXPRESS

www.emsb.qc.ca volume 17 | number 2 | Spring 2015

Find us on:



Saying 'NO' to bullying

On the eve of the annual Kindergarten Registration Week, the EMSB launched its new KINDERgarten campaign at Parkdale Elementary School in St. Laurent. Its aim is to promote the work done by Kindergarten teachers in developing social-emotional learning in the classroom in providing tools for the children to reduce bullying and acts of aggression and to foster compassion and acts of kindness.



Chairman Angela Mancini, Vincent Massey Collegiate students Andria Tomao and Zoe Heffring and Spiritual Community Animator Rocco Speranza promoted Pink Shirt Day, which took place in February.



PLEASE SEE OUR SPECIAL FOUR PAGE SECTION IN THIS EDITION • PAGES 6-9

INSIDE THIS EDITION



Chairman's Message.....	2
Montreal North Centennial.....	2
Commissioners.....	3
Quiz	4
DG's Message.....	4
Dansereau Honoured	5
EMSMB Impact Night.....	10
Vittorio Rossi Returns to School.....	11
Volunteer Appreciation Evening	12



PASSES TO SEE A MOVIE AT CINEPLEX

PASSES TO LARONDE



see page 4

MORNING NEWS / 6-9AM
with Richard, Camille and Jessica

EVENING NEWS / 6PM
with Jamie Orchard

NEWS FINAL / 11PM
with Elysia Bryan-Baynes



Global MONTREAL

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Highest success rate among public boards in Quebec makes us proud



ANGELA MANCINI

Let me begin my message in this edition of the EMSB Express to say how happy I am to be back in the office of the chair for another mandate. I previously served seven years in this post and according to what we are told, this will be a three-year term set to conclude in November 2017.

While the future of school boards continue to be openly questioned by our critics, I am pleased to report that we continue to fulfil the most important part of our reason for being here in the first place: graduating students.

The EMSB has recorded the highest success (graduation) rate in the entire province of Quebec among public school boards,

figures released by the Ministry of Education, Leisure and Sports (MELS) show. The 87.8 percent mark is based on a seven year cohort, meaning it followed the progression of students from 2006 to their graduating year in 2013. It is significantly higher than the 82.3 percent registered in 2013.

This new accomplishment is another confirmation of the excellence of the work that has been done by our phenomenal pedagogical team at the board and in the schools and centres. This success is possible thanks to everyone associated with the EMSB, from our staff, parents, volunteers and of course our students.

At the EMSB our goal is to work towards success for a variety of learners, including those who carry baggage making them less ready to learn. The challenge of our pedagogues is to help each and every one of these students, regardless of their situation. An 87.8 percent success rate is a testimony to how our board, through a variety of initiatives, is achieving this goal. It is the firm commitment to our strategic plan and partnership agreements that make this success possible. This type of achievement comes from team work and perseverance. Great organizations are built by

the people. It is the strength of our team that makes us a great board.

We must credit the schools and their contribution through meeting the goals in their Management and Educational Success Agreement.

In our Partnership Agreement with the MELS, the EMSB had a goal of 86 percent for graduating class of 2013 and 88 percent for 2020. We have surpassed that target and have almost reached our 2020 objective. I would like to thank our Pedagogical Services Department for accompanying our schools on a most successful journey. I also want to underline the part that our Student Services Department played in supporting all of our students, including those at risk and with special needs. This success rate is possible because we all worked to help those who were on the edge of success. Daycare Services, as well, made sure that the students were cared for and provided them with enriching learning situations after school to complement what the school offered during school hours.

Teachers and administrators have worked diligently to differentiate instruction to provide for rich learning experiences to

provide for the best opportunity for success. Parents, as collaborators, must also be mentioned as a key ingredient to the success of our children. All of our stakeholders have an impact on our student success.

To put our present numbers in better perspective, the average

success rate among all Quebec schools (public and private) is 75.8 percent while it stands at 71.9 percent for public schools only.

The complete listing of how each board in the province did can be viewed on the EMSB website at www.emsb.qc.ca. ■

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Article 220 of the Education Act requires each school board to report on its partnership agreement in the school board's Annual Report. The 2013-2014, MELS-EMSB Partnership Agreement Annual Report informs all of its stakeholders in its territory of the implementation of its strategic plan and the results obtained with regard to the goals and measurable objectives set out in the partnership agreement that was entered into with the Minister of Education on July 1, 2010. The annual report informs the reader of the board's objectives and targets set, the context as to why they were set, the results obtained, the board's interpretation of the results, and the adjustments or corrective strategies to be implemented as a consequence of the results. The report also analyzes the degree of success of the strategies employed and their contribution to the attainment of the objectives. This allows the Board to identify strategies that are less effective and need to be modified or discontinued. Where there is insufficient progress, the board re-examines once again its educational and organizational practices and determine what new strategies should be developed to increase student success. We invite all of our stakeholders to consult the Partnership Agreement Annual Report, located on the EMSB website.



Montreal North Centennial

As the borough of Montreal North celebrates its centennial throughout 2015, students from Gerald McShane and Our Lady of Pompei Elementary Schools and Lester B. Pearson High School jointly created a piece of artwork which was unveiled at the Montreal North Maison Culturelle. More than 750 students participated in the exhibit that highlights the diverse cultures that call Montreal North home. Students worked on the project along with Montreal North artists Sergio Guitierrez and Amarande Rivere. ■

EMSB EXPRESS

Produced by the Communications and Marketing Services Division 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
Communications & Marketing Specialist, EMSB

Copy Editor: Stuart Nulman

Translation: Aline Zerounian

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

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

MONTREAL'S PERFECT MIX

the beat 92.5

Katy Perry BRUNO MARS JLo

THEBEAT925.CA

A COGECO Diffusion station

DATEBOOK

2015

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 29 - 31, 2015
Montreal Regional
Science & Technology Fair
Concordia University

April 7, 2015
World Health Day

April 13 - 17, 2015
Volunteer Appreciation
Week

April 14, 2015
Volunteer Appreciation
Evening

April 15 - 19, 2015
Super Expo Science
(Provincial Science Fair)
Gatineau, Quebec

April 22, 2015
Earth Day and the
EMSB Amazing
"Spiritual" Race

April 24 2015
Administrative
Assistants/
Secretary's Day

April 24 & 25, 2015
RoboJunior Competition
John Rennie High
School, Pointe Claire

April 27, 2015
Holocaust
Remembrance Day

May 4 - 8, 2015
Mental Health
Awareness Week

May 7, 2015
National Teacher's Day

May 11 - 15, 2015
BASE Daycare
Employees
Recognition Week

May 12, 2015
National Denim Day

May 6, 2015
EMSB Impact Night

May 9 - 16, 2015
CanadaWide
S-Fair (CWSF)
Fredericton, NB

May 10 - 16, 2015
INTEL International
Science Fair
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

May 15, 2015
International Day
of Families

May 21 - 23, 2015
Association of
Administrators of
English Schools of
Quebec and the Quebec
English School Boards
Association Conference,
Quebec City

May 31, 2015
World No-Tobacco Day

June 15, 2015
International
Caretakers Day

June 23, 2015
Last Day of Classes

MEETINGS

The EMSB council of commissioners meet in public once a month. They convene at 4:30 p.m., only to adopt the agenda, and move in camera. Therefore the session for the public convenes at 7:30 p.m. and is held 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 483-7200, ext. 7264. The meetings scheduled for this academic year are as follows:

March 24, 2015

April 22, 2015

May 27, 2015

June 17, 2015

All meetings can be viewed live on the EMSB website.

EMSB COMMISSIONERS LES COMMISSAIRES DE LA CSEM



ANGELA MANCINI



Chair / Présidente

WARD 7

(Ahuntsic/Montreal North):



SYLVIA LO BIANCO
Vice-Chair / Vice-présidente
Chairman, Human Resources
Committee / Présidente, Comité des
ressources humaines

WARD 1

(Côte des Neiges/Snowdon/
Outremont /Town of Mount Royal/
Park Extension):



MORDECHAI ANTAL
Chairman, Education Committee /
Président, Comité des affaires
pédagogiques

WARD 2

(Montreal West / NDG):



JOSEPH LALLA

WARD 3

(Westmount/Sud Ouest):



JULIEN FELDMAN

WARD 4

(Côte Saint-Luc/Hampstead):



SYD WISE
Chair, Executive Committee /
Président, Comité exécutif

WARD 5

(St. Laurent):



JAMES KROMIDA
Chair, Audit and Finance Committee
Président, Comité de vérification et des
affaires financières

WARD 6

(St. Michel/Villeray/
part of Rosemont/Plateau Mont
Royal/Ville Marie East):



AGOSTINO CANNAVINO

WARD 8

(St. Léonard):



PATRICIA LATTANZIO
Chairman, Comité de gestion de la taxe
scolaire / Présidente, Comité de
gestion de la taxe scolaire de
l'île de Montréal

WARD 9

(Anjou/Mercier/
Hochelaga Maisonneuve/
part of Rosemont, Petite Patrie)



ROSARIO ORTONA
Chairman, Adult Education and
Vocational Services Advisory
Committee / Président, Comité
consultatif de L'éducation des adultes
et de la formation professionnelle

WARD 10

(Rivière des Prairies/
Pointe-aux-Trembles)



JOE ORTONA
Chair, Governance & Ethics
Committee / Présidente du comité
d'éthique et de déontologie

PARENT COMMISSIONERS



JASON TRUDEAU
Elementary Schools /
Ecoles Primaires



MARIO BENTROVATO
Secondary Schools /
Ecoles Secondaires



JOANNE CHARRON
ACSES / CCSAS



ANDREW ROSS
No Designation /
Aucune désignation

For a list of the specific committees commissioners sit on, please log on to www.emsb.qc.ca



Marymount welcomes author Pete Hautman

Marymount Academy International recently welcomed well known author Pete Hautman to their NDG facility. This was part of the Marymount Reads program, in which the students read a particular book over the summer and then get to meet and talk to the actual author. In this case the book in question was *Godless*, a 2004 National National Book Award winner for Young People's Literature. ■

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE

Balanced literacy program shows promising results



ROBERT STOCKER

Literacy rates continue to climb at the EMSB, five years after a considerable investment was made in an effort to ensure that 90 percent of students would be reading at level by the time they graduate from elementary school.

Results from standardized testing done last spring of the original cohort of students—those who were in Grade 1 when the

balanced literacy plan was launched in 2009-2010, and who are now in Grade 6 – showed more than a 20 percent increase in the number of students reading at level. By the end of Grade 5, fully 90 percent of the cohort of over 1,500 Grade 5 students were reading at or above grade level. To get an idea of how strong these results are, the average percentage of students at level across the country is approximately 78 percent.

In September 2009, the EMSB introduced a comprehensive plan to improve students' literacy levels at the elementary level. This significant special budget allocation was used to support a three-pronged strategy, which included fostering a balanced approach to literacy instruction, providing improved material resources to schools, and ensuring ongoing, sustainable professional development for teachers. Put simply, the intention of the plan was to create

environments in which students received the explicit instruction they needed, but were also provided with increased opportunities to practice their learning by reading, writing and conversing more – as well as

involved teachers, administrators and consultants each year to monitor the process of implementation. Another critical element of the plan was the part-time release of one teacher in each of the EMSB elementary schools

these into place, the balanced literacy plan involved a significant amount of professional development for facilitators over several years. It also meant the language and literacy constants from the school board became regular visitors and collaborators in schools where they were able to support teachers individually or present to entire school teams. Another vital element in the plan has been the orchestration of inter-school visits in which classroom teachers and literacy facilitators have been able to visit classrooms in other schools on several occasions over a three-year period. According to EMSB Literacy Consultant Paul Kettner, "this inter-school sharing has been a very positive addition to the professional development of teachers and the school change process at many of our schools."

Even with some strong indicators of improvement, literacy instructional practices and ongoing teacher learning remain a central focus at the EMSB. Work in schools, and sharing between schools, continues in an ongoing effort to bring pedagogical best-practices to schools so that student learning continues to grow. ■

'...the plan was to create environments in which students received the explicit instruction they needed, but were also provided with increased opportunities to practice their learning by reading, writing and conversing more...'

ensuring they received regular one-on-one instructional time and developed a greater level of independence.

Several specific actions were taken to support these goals. This included developing a partnership with Concordia University, which has conducted a survey of all

to work as a literacy facilitator. These individuals worked in collaboration with their colleagues in the process of implementing a balanced literacy approach to the teaching of reading and writing. Their work included everything from acting as in-house experts to becoming collaborative partners.

Schools also received a comprehensive set of books to support guided reading: focused, small-group instruction aimed at the individual needs of each student. To put practices such as

ENTER THE

EMSB EXPRESS QUIZ

PASSES TO SEE A MOVIE AT CINEPLEX THEATRES



Go to www.cineplex.com to find the location closest to your neighbourhood

PASSES TO LARONDE



Go to www.laronde.com to find out more about Quebec's largest amusement park.

OR

EMSB Express Quiz

- 1 Which radio personality shared her experience of being bullied with EMSB students?

- 2 What percentage is the EMSB success rate?

- 3 Who is the EMSB commissioner for Ward 10?

- 4 Which school is Claude Dansereau principal of?

- 5 Which school led the way for Pink Shirt Day?

- 6 When is International Caretakers Day?

- 7 What date is EMSB Impact Night?

- 8 Who is the 2015 EMSB Volunteer of Distinction?

- 9 Which former students visited James Lyng High School?

- 10 Which EMSB high school has a good chess program?

CLUE: The answers to these questions can be easily found by reading this issue.

NAME _____
SCHOOL _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Please cut out this form and bring it to the office of your school and ask that it be sent to Room 109 of the EMSB Head Office at 6000 Fielding via the internal mail system.

The deadline is April 17, 2015

THANK YOU!

for being there every day for our citizens

EXCLUSIVE PROMOTIONS AND BENEFITS FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES

Benefit from customized financial products and services

- Home, auto and leisure vehicle insurance
- Savings and Investments
- Life and health insurance
- High-interest savings accounts
- Mortgage Loans¹
- Free financial education seminars
- Personalized financial planning and strategy service

To take advantage of personalized service, contact us today!



Olivier Monmart
Personal-Lines Damage Insurance Agent²

514 798-6641
1 877 277-8232, poste 2304
olivier.monmart@lacapitale.com



Tony Azar, MBA
Independent Representative
Financial Security Advisor³

514 282-3275
Cell. : 514 569-4373
azar.tony.com



LaCapitale
Insurance and Financial Services

¹ Through a La Capitale mortgage financing advisor.
² La Capitale General Insurance Inc., Firm in Damage Insurance
³ Partner of La Capitale Financial Services Inc., financial services firm

EXPRESSLINE

DANSEREAU AN "OUTSTANDING" PRINCIPAL

Claude Dansereau, the principal of the EMSB's LaurenHill Academy in St. Laurent, was the only Quebecer to have been selected as one of The Learning Partnership's Canada's Outstanding Principals this year. The program recognizes the unique and vital contributions of principals in publicly funded schools. This year, 40 principals representing every province and territory were chosen by a national selection committee on the basis of their exceptional contributions to their respective schools and communities. Mr. Dansereau is the dynamic leader of 1,300 students and close to 130 staff members at the EMSB's largest high school, spread over two campuses. Under his leadership, LaurenHill has consistently been one of the top schools and graduates over 90 percent of its students each year. Mr. Dansereau is currently president of the Association of Montreal School Administrators



Claude Dansereau and retired teacher Gail Ewing, who nominated him.

representing over 100 administrators. Prior to his arrival at LaurenHill, he was credited for his work in completely turning around Westmount High School into a prominent and respected high school that responds to the needs of all its students and continues to do so today. Before, Mr. Dansereau assumed the role of principal of the Social Affairs Schools in Batshaw and in psychiatric wards and hospitals. He developed the Hillroy Fellowship Outreach School

Connections for at risk students. "Claude is a true pedagogical leader who engages his staff, students and parents in working towards their collective vision for their school," said EMSB Chairman Angela Mancini "He believes in building capacity and using evidence based strategies to produce sustainable changes in his school. He is always looking to meet the needs of his multi-ethnic community of students who have a wide range of intellectual abilities." ■

A MAN OF COURAGE ADDRESSES STUDENTS



Royal Vale Vice-Principal Christina Celzi and students thank guest speaker Bernard Gotlieb.

For many years **Bernard Gotlieb** has run games classes at Royal Vale Elementary School in NDG, Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School in Rosemount and St. Dorothy Elementary School in St. Michel. He also tutors students in math, French, English and Spanish at his home. On February 18 he spoke to high school students at Royal Vale about his book *Hey What Happened To You?* Bernard won his battle against leukemia, lost both of legs and suffered numerous other health problems. Today he drives an adapted vehicle, lives on his own and has a great attitude on life. The students were inspired by his presentation. If you're interested in purchasing a copy of Bernard Gotlieb's book, it is available at www.amazon.com, Bonder's Book Store (52 Westminster) in Montreal West or via the author at bgotlieb@gmail.com. ■

HIGH SCHOOL CHESS PLAYERS ASK 'ARE WE SMARTER THAN A 5TH GRADER?'



Lester B. Pearson High School and Michelangelo International students come together over a game of chess.

Last January the Lester B. Pearson High School Chess Club launched an initiative "Are We Smarter than a 5th Grader?" with the goal of heightening students' interest in the game of chess. The LBPHS chess players and organizers worked with Michelangelo

International Elementary School's Principal, **Anna Della Rocca**, and EMSB Spiritual Animator **Elizabeth Pellicone**, to make it a reality. The activity involved a morning comprised of a brief introduction to the game of chess and a two hour tournament between eight

fifth graders and eight LBPHS chess players. The warm welcome from the Michelangelo community and an invitation to assist them in developing a vibrant after-school chess club made the event an energizing experience for the LBPHS chess players! In keeping with the upbeat response from Michelangelo students and staff, the LBPHS chess club is gearing up to take the "Are We Smarter than a 5th Grader?" initiative to Elizabeth Ballantyne School in Montreal West in March. They are open to further opportunities to visit other schools, sharing their love for the game of chess and learning new strategies from advanced players. The LBPHS chess club moderator, **Liza Pe**, may be reached at 514-328-4442 or via email rpe@emsb.qc.ca for further information. ■

LIBRARY CONTEST WINNERS

Last November, a Grade 5 French class of the Pierre de Coubertin Elementary School in St. Léonard won a contest organized by the librarians of La Table de concertation régionale des bibliothécaires scolaires de Montréal. The contest was offered to all elementary schools in Quebec! We are very proud of this dynamic teacher, **Isabelle Hert** and her students.

DÉFI TERRY FOX



Cedarcrest avait fixé certains objectifs avant la campagne.

L'école primaire Cedarcrest de Saint-Laurent a recueilli 6 400 \$ pour la Fondation Terry Fox 2014. Trois membres du personnel ont rasé leurs cheveux pour la cause lors d'une assemblée qui s'est tenue en présence de Peter Sheremeta, directeur provincial pour le Québec de la Fondation Terry Fox. Cedarcrest avait fixé certains objectifs avant la campagne. Deux enseignantes ont revêtu des vêtements de clowns lorsque 3 000 \$ ont été recueillis. La directrice **Nadia Sammaro** et le personnel ont échangé leurs vêtements (femmes habillées en hommes et hommes habillés en femmes) lorsque la levée de fonds a dépassé 4 000 \$. Après avoir passé la limite de 5 000 \$, une enseignante a rasé une partie de ses cheveux tandis qu'une autre les a rasés complètement. L'enseignant de musique, Ian Hanchet a rasé sa barbe et pour chaque 1 000 dollars recueillis, il a coupé un pouce de ses cheveux. ■

ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE MASSACRE

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the École Polytechnique Massacre, Social Studies students at Royal West Academy in Montreal West heard from the police photographer who was among the first on the scene. **Harold Rosenberg** visited the school along with TV producer **Frank Opolko** who recently collaborated with him on a video about those events. For 45 minutes on Dec. 6, 1989, an enraged gunman roamed the corridors of Montreal's École Polytechnique and killed 14 women. Marc Lepine, 25, separated the men from the women and before opening fire on the classroom of female engineering students he screamed, "I hate feminists." Almost



Harold Rosenberg and Frank Opolko talk to social studies teacher Angelos Diacoumacos and students Isaac Harris and Kirsten Frantz.

immediately, the Montreal Massacre became a galvanizing moment in which mourning turned into outrage about all violence against women. Social Studies teacher **Angelos Diacoumacos**

notes that none of his students were even alive when this occurred, "but it is a sad part of Montreal history that they should know about." ■

ÉQUIPE DE DÉMINAGE

Dans le cadre du nouveau programme de robotique à l'école primaire Pierre Elliott Trudeau de Saint-Léonard, l'école a reçu récemment l'équipe de déminage de la Sureté du Québec et son robot de technologie de pointe. La visite a été organisée par l'enseignant de français, **Patrick Charland**. Les élèves ont accueilli l'agent **Mathieu Deguise** qui leur a expliqué ses fonctions au sein de l'équipe de déminage et qui a ensuite fait une démonstration du robot au gymnase. En sus de cette démonstration, les élèves ont pu s'approcher du robot et examiner toutes ses pièces mobiles. Le programme de robotique vient de commencer en 2014-2015 à l'école Pierre Elliot Trudeau. Patrick Charland a commencé à introduire les élèves aux robots en tant qu'élément de ses classes de français et a utilisé cette visite comme moyen de démonstration de l'utilisation des robots dans la vie de tous les jours. ■



EMSB launches KINDERgarten initiative to spread kindness.

On the eve of the annual Kindergarten Registration Week, the English Montreal School Board has launched its new KINDERgarten campaign during a press conference at Parkdale Elementary School in St. Laurent. EMSB Director of Human Resources Christine Denommée served as master of ceremonies.

KINDERgarten will promote the work done by Kindergarten teachers in developing social-emotional learning in the classroom in providing tools for the children to reduce bullying and acts of aggression and to foster compassion and acts of kindness.

Leading up to the first day of class for the next academic year on Monday, August 31, 2015, staff from the EMSB's Student Services and Pedagogical Services Departments will provide Kindergarten teachers with a menu of activities they can undertake.

In order to make the various players more accountable with respect to bullying and violence in schools, on June 12, 2012, the National Assembly passed Bill 56, *An Act to prevent and stop bullying and violence in schools*. It also stipulates that school boards must see to it that each of their schools provide a healthy and secure learning environment that



Left to right: Commissioner James Kromida, Chairman Angela Mancini, Vice-Chair Sylvia Lo Bianco, Parkdale Principal Marylene Perron, teacher Jackie Dare and students.

allows every student to develop his or her full potential, free from any form of bullying or violence.

Parkdale music teacher Susie Elmalotis and her students concluded proceedings with a very special song – *Peace on Earth* – which related quite beautifully to the theme of the day. ■

See our video of the press conference: <http://vimeo.com/117826817>

Vincent Massey takes the lead again for Pink Shirt Day

As the EMSB continues to work proactively to eliminate bullying, Vincent Massey Collegiate in Rosemount once again took the lead locally on Pink Shirt Day (www.pinkshirtday.ca) in February.

In 2007, two Nova Scotia students decided to take action after witnessing a younger student being bullied for wearing a pink shirt to school. The students bought 50 pink t-shirts and encouraged classmates to wear them and send a powerful message of solidarity to the bully. The next day at school, over 500 youth showed up wearing pink and the bully was not heard from again.

One of the many ways VMC promotes a healthy and welcoming school environment is to concretely involve students in a Pink Shirt Design contest. All submissions are carefully reviewed by T.H.E. R.A.M.S student leaders in collaboration with the Safe School Action Plan Committee teachers. Pink Shirt Day at VMC began three years ago and was initiated by dedicated teachers Vincent Gagnon, Cassandra Bauco, Andrée-Anne Cloutier, Lisa Ancona, Rachel Legg-Goldman, Jessica Rickhaus, Jaimie Dimopoulos, Emilia Quintana and Robert Pereira, along with Spiritual Community Animator Rocco Speranza and guidance counsellor Tina Stoupakis.

Students and staff alike proudly wear a pink t-shirt that symbolizes that we as a society and school community will not tolerate bullying. "As an organization that puts students at the center and we are always excited at the prospect of receiving their design proposals," says Mr. Gagnon, the chairman



Vincent Massey Collegiate students listen to Nicolas Nadeau from the Canadian Red Cross Beyond the Hurt Program during Pink Shirt Day.

of the school's Safe School Action Plan. "The success of this day is attributed to our students' engagement to this cause, so it makes sense to incorporate their

fresh vision into our ongoing work in a concrete way." "I look forward to our continued and genuine relationship for fair representation of our contribution benefiting the students, our school and last but not least the English-Montreal School Board.

At the EMSB press conference to launch the KINDERgarten initiative, Mr. Speranza encouraged other schools to get involved. "It was a way to get youth actively involved in raising awareness about the issue of bullying while encouraging positive life skills," he said. "Since it began, the program has had a positive impact on our students. I see much more group unity, an increased school spirit and a lot more involvement in programs of this nature."

This year's slogan was "Don't Stand-by! Stand up!/Ne ferme pas les yeux. Agir c'est mieux!" Students participated in a Pink Day t-shirt design contest, and several local celebrities did PSAs to promote the event. In December, the school held a special commemoration for the 25th anniversary of the École Polytechnique massacre. Also, as part of its rules of conduct regarding bullying, the school has "T.H.E. R.A.M.S" Pledge, in which students pledge to empower others by taking a stand against bullying and to promote inclusion, acceptance and respect for all. As well, there is a phrase in the pledge – "Tolerance helps everyone raising awareness makes sense" – in which the first letters of each word spell out "T.H.E. R.A.M.S.," which is the nickname of the school's sports team.

Reel Dilemma. Chasing cinematic success.
Two producers jockey for the film rights to a new play.

PRODUCTION PARTNERS

AON

KPMG

SCHOOL GROUPS
BOOK NOW
514.288.3161

THE ENVELOPE

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JAMES LYNG GRADUATE
VITTORIO ROSSI

CASTING: TONY CALABRETTA, SHAWN CAMPBELL, GUIDO COCOMELLO,
DAVID GOW, RON LEA, LENI PARKER, MELANIE SIROIS

LIGHTING DESIGN: LUC PRAIRIE SET & COSTUME DESIGN: EVITA KARASEK
STAGE MANAGER: LUCIANA BURCHER ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: MITCHELL COHEN APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER: DANIELLE SKENE

March 24 to April 19, 2015

CENTAUR THEATRE COM

453 St. François-Xavier, Vieux-Montréal Placo d'Armes box-office 514-288-3161

MONTREAL GAZETTE GIV Beal 20 Montrealele

MA Maternelle : réduire l'intimidation et les actes d'agression et à encourager la compassion et les actes de gentillesse.



À la veille de la semaine annuelle des inscriptions à la maternelle, la Commission scolaire English-Montréal a lancé une nouvelle campagne MA Maternelle lors d'une conférence de presse tenue à l'école primaire Parkdale de Saint-Laurent.

MA Maternelle fera la promotion du travail effectué par les enseignants de maternelle en développant l'apprentissage social-émotionnel en classe et en donnant aux enfants les outils nécessaires pour réduire l'intimidation et les actes d'agression et à encourager la compassion et les actes de gentillesse.

Pour la première journée de classe de la prochaine année scolaire, le lundi 31 août 2015, le personnel des Services aux élèves et des Services pédagogiques de la CSEM offriront aux enseignants de maternelle un répertoire d'activités à entreprendre.

Afin que les divers intervenants soient plus responsables en matière d'intimidation et de violence dans les écoles, le 12 juin 2012, l'Assemblée Nationale a adopté la Loi 56, *Une Loi visant à prévenir et à combattre l'intimidation et la violence dans les écoles*. Elle stipule aussi que les commissions scolaires doivent s'assurer que chacune de leurs écoles offre un environnement d'apprentissage sécuritaire et sain qui permet à chaque élève de développer son plein potentiel, sans aucune forme d'intimidation ou de violence.

« Je crois que nous avons répondu très efficacement à la Loi 56 » déclare la présidente de la CSEM Angela Mancini. « L'introduction de cette nouvelle campagne précise que nous devons commencer à sensibiliser nos élèves à cette question très importante dès leur



MA Maternelle fera la promotion du travail effectué par les enseignants de maternelle en développant l'apprentissage social-émotionnel en classe.

jeune âge. Bien que nous abordons les sujets de gentillesse et d'intimidation en classe à tous les niveaux, la mise en œuvre d'une formule qui exposera les élèves de la maternelle à ces sujets dès leurs premiers moments, donnera le ton, nous l'espérons, à la façon de traiter leurs camarades pour le reste de leurs journées d'école. »

Mme Mancini a félicité les enseignantes de maternelle telles que Jackie Dare de Parkdale qui se concentrent déjà régulièrement sur cet important sujet.

B.A.S.E. MET EN ŒUVRE « ON NE JOUE PAS AVEC LES DROITS ! »

B.A.S.E., le programme de Services de garde de la CSEM, a mis en œuvre *On ne joue pas avec les droits !* dans ses services de garderie afin d'éduquer les enfants sur leurs droits humains et valeurs. *On ne joue pas avec les droits !* est une trousse éducative conçue par Equitas — le Centre international d'éducation aux droits humains. Le programme qui a été conçu pour des enfants de 6 à 12 ans fait la promotion des droits humains, de la non discrimination et de la résolution pacifique de conflits par le biais d'un enseignement informel pour enfants. La trousse est une excellente ressource qui associe plus de 60 jeux à des questions de discussion qui encouragent des valeurs positives parmi les enfants, telles que le respect, l'équité, la collaboration, l'inclusion, la responsabilité, l'acceptation et le respect de la diversité.

UN ÉLÈVE AUTISTE PARTAGE SON EXPÉRIENCE

Steve Atme souhaite qu'il y ait eu une initiative telle que MA Maternelle lorsqu'il était plus jeune. Au lancement de MA Maternelle, Steve a partagé son expérience d'être autiste et victime d'intimidation et de la façon dont il a persévéré. Maintenant membre de *I Can Dream Theatre Group*, il a interprété la chanson *The Prayer* qui parle de trouver un endroit sécuritaire pour chaque enfant. Steven a fréquenté l'école primaire Parkdale de 1998 à 2001. Il déclare avoir été victime d'intimidation pour son manque d'habiletés sociales et pour des problèmes de comportement. « Des élèves m'ont jeté des pierres, m'ont égratigné et se sont moqués de moi. Je me suis senti comme un étranger à cause de mon autisme et de mes problèmes de comportement. »

Actuellement, dans sa quatrième année d'études au conservatoire de musique de McGill, Steven est pianiste, compositeur, enseignant de piano et conférencier. Son discours intitulé *Special People Have Dreams* relate sa vie d'autiste, les défis qu'il a dû relever et la façon dont il a réussi en favorisant ses talents et ses passions. Il donne des leçons privées de piano à l'école Summit à des personnes avec ou sans besoins particuliers. Il aide aussi les personnes qui ont des problèmes de comportement.

CLAUDIA MARQUES

Claudia Marques est une personnalité très populaire du poste de radio *The Beat 92,5 FM*, une personne connue pour être très simple et qui aime s'entourer de personnes. Issue d'un milieu multiculturel, cette belle jeune fille ne se prend pas très au sérieux parce que la vie est trop courte. « VIVRE, RIRE, AIMER, APPRENDRE » est le moto qu'elle essaye de vivre chaque jour. Avant de se joindre à *The Beat*, elle a travaillé activement dans le domaine de la télévision francophone de Montréal. En grandissant, elle a été constamment victime d'intimidation. Elle a partagé cette expérience avec les personnes présentes à la conférence de presse et la façon dont elle a surmonté cette épreuve et changé sa vie.

Voir : <http://vimeo.com/117203138>

RÉPERTOIRE D'ACTIVITÉS

La conseillère de prévention à la violence de la CSEM, Daphna Leibovici et la conseillère pédagogique Anne Marie De Silva ont développé un répertoire d'activités dans le cadre de l'initiative MA Maternelle.

« Ces activités peuvent être utilisées la première semaine d'école et renforcées tout au long de l'année scolaire pour enseigner des habiletés sociales positives, développer l'empathie et encourager la gentillesse » déclare Mme Leibovici.

Mme De Silva ajoute : « La recherche démontre que les élèves qui font leur apprentissage dans un environnement positif obtiennent des notes plus élevées, apprennent de nouvelles habiletés plus rapidement et sont généralement plus heureux à l'école. Pratiquer la gentillesse en classe peut profiter aux élèves, aux enseignants et à toute la communauté de l'école. »

JOURNÉE DE LA CHEMISE ROSE

Le Collège Vincent Massey de Rosemont a de nouveau pris les devants localement pour la Journée de la chemise rose (www.pinkshirtday.ca) le mercredi 13 février 2015 – deux semaines avant la journée nationale. En 2007, deux élèves de la Nouvelle Écosse ont décidé d'agir après avoir été témoins d'intimidation envers un élève plus jeune qui portait une chemise rose à l'école. Les élèves ont acheté 50 t-shirts roses et ont encouragé leurs camarades à les porter et à adresser un puissant message de solidarité à l'intimidateur. La journée suivante à l'école, plus de 500 jeunes se sont présentés à l'école endossant une chemise rose et l'on n'a plus entendu parler de l'intimidateur.

'Dare to Care'

Parkdale kindergarten teacher inspires new kindness initiative

By Stuart Nulman

The EMSB was inspired to introduce the new KINDERgarten initiative thanks to teachers like Jackie Dare of Parkdale Elementary School in St. Laurent, who continually promotes good citizenship among her students.

When it comes to teaching children about life lessons and values that they will take with them afterwards, it's always best to start at the beginning. Ms. Dare believes that teaching her students what social values and kindness are all about, and understanding what bullying is, so that it can be prevented. Because they are not aware of what the term "bullying" means at such a young age, they can focus more on treating their fellow students and other people with respect and kindness.

"It is not just one particular lesson or period of time, but it is more of an ongoing thing that we do throughout the year," said Ms. Dare, who has been a teacher for the past 26 years – 20 of them at Parkdale. "It starts from the first day of school when we discuss as a class what makes us happy and how do we make others around us happy."

"I feel that it is very important to instill goodness, kindness and being good citizens from a young age. As I tell my students every year that we are like a 'family' and we need to take care and be nice to each other," she added.

To promote this spirit of kindness, goodness and social responsibility amongst her kindergarten students, Ms. Dare conducts a series of activities on a daily basis. First, there is a unit called "I Am Special," in which the class is encouraged to highlight and celebrate as a group all the things that make them special, whether it be a certain talent or something that is unique about them. The class also brainstorms through a list of different acts of kindness and decides which one from the list they want to focus on throughout the week. Then there's the Threads of



Jackie Dare and her students are interviewed by CTV's Rob Lurie. Here is a link to that report: <http://vimeo.com/117216945>

Kindness, which begins every morning and the class reviews that afternoon or the following morning. A Random Act of Kindness Tree is located outside the classroom in the hallway, and when one is witnessed, the teacher will write out that specific act – along with the name of the child who performed it – on a paper leaf and placed on the tree for everyone to see. As a means of incentive for the students to perform as many acts of kindness as possible, Ms. Dare established a daily "Pocket Points" system, in which each act of kindness, or situations when the children work together as a team and are cooperative, are represented by a bingo chip and is placed in a jar. When the jar is filled with these chips, the class is rewarded with a treat or special activity that they get to choose themselves (which can range from going to the park, to seeing a movie, having extra play time, etc.).

One of Ms. Dare's goals is to establish a buddy up system, in which her students would be paired up with students from the school's Cycle 3 classes, and spend the day or a period where the older students help out or work with their younger counterparts. "It is great for both the little ones and the older children," she says. "It builds on

being a good role model for older children and also helps with their self-esteem."

Dynamix, an organization that conducts fun, hands-on activities to teach kids about teambuilding, character development, respect and cooperation, comes into the kindergarten classes at Parkdale for four sessions – as part of its Kinder Coop program – to work with the students on how they can build team spirit, good sportsmanship and cooperation skills. And whatever activities and lessons that are learned through the four Dynamix sessions are incorporated into the class curriculum.

Ms. Dare admits she is delighted with the tremendous impact her initiatives, which are going to serve as the basis for the EMSB's KINDERgarten program, are having with her kindergarten students at Parkdale. "I noticed that my students are beginning to make a conscious effort to help each other more, to share better, to be more cooperative in group activities," she said. "And no one is being left out during play time or group activities. They don't poke fun at each other, and they are using their words to tell their friends about how they feel when someone is making them feel bad."

B.A.S.E Daycare spearheads children's rights program

The EMSB Before and After School Enriched (B.A.S.E) Daycare Program has implemented *Play it Fair!* in its daycares in order to educate children about their human rights and values.

Play it Fair! is a human rights educational toolkit designed by the organization Equitas—the International Centre for Human Rights Education. The program, which was designed for six to 12 year-old children, promotes human rights, non-discrimination and peaceful conflict resolution throughout non-formal educational instruction for children. *Play it Fair!* is an excellent resource pairing more than 60 games with discussion questions that promote positive values among children, such as respect, fairness, co-operation, inclusion, responsibility, acceptance and respect for diversity.

The B.A.S.E. Program's goal in using the toolkit is to foster the development of an inclusive environment in all daycares through the positive value-instilling games as well as equip daycare staff with a variety of constructive responses to bullying conflicts they can use at any time. The B.A.S.E. Program first introduced the *Play it Fair!* toolkit to its daycares in November 2013 during its Annual Daycare Conference. A total of 28 daycare technicians attended a full-day *Play it Fair!* training where they learned about the program and how best to implement it into their daycares.

Last fall, B.A.S.E. Program head office staff offered an intensive *Play it Fair!* training to daycare educators and lunch supervisors in three daycares: Dante, Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Gerald McShane—with four more trainings planned in the New Year at Carlyle, Pierre de Coubertin, Our Lady



Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School students participated in a *Play it Fair!* Day on Thursday, November 20, 2014 in celebration of Universal Child's Day. The children participated in organized games and group discussions and ended the day dressed up as a hero.

of Pompei and Michelangelo. The B.A.S.E. Program's goal is to train all daycare staff in all 28 daycares by 2016.

The B.A.S.E. Program head office staff also assists daycare staff in facilitating *Play it Fair!* activities on pedagogical days. This school year, in celebration of National Child's Day, the B.A.S.E. Program team spearheaded three *Play it Fair!* pedagogical days at Westmount Park, Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Dante Daycares. The B.A.S.E. Program team also offers 10-week *Play it Fair!* programs after school.

To read more about the *Play it Fair!* program, find related articles published in the *Touching B.A.S.E.* newspapers in the press clippings section of the B.A.S.E. Daycare blog at www.daycarematters.com.

Radio personality Claudia Marques shares her story



Montreal radio personality Claudia Marques

Claudia Marques is a very popular radio personality from The Beat 92.5 FM, someone known to be down to earth who loves to be around people. From a multicultural background, this beautiful girl next door doesn't take herself very seriously because life is way too short to sweat the small stuff! "LIVE, LAUGH, LOVE, LEARN" is the motto she tries to live by every day.

Prior to joining The Beat, she worked actively in Montreal's French TV market. Growing up, though, she was the victim of constant bullying. She shared with those at the press conference how she overcame this and turned her life around.



See the video of Claudia's presentation: <http://vimeo.com/117203138>

BULLIED IN THE FACE OF AUTISM: Steve Atme's incredible story



Steve Atme chats with students at Edward Murphy Elementary School.

Steve Atme wishes there was an initiative like KINDERgarten when he was younger.

At the EMSB KINDERgarten launch, Steve shared the experience of what it was like for someone with Autism being bullied and how he persevered. Now a member of the I Can Dream Theatre Group, he performed the song *The Prayer*, which addresses finding a safe place for every child.

Steven attended Parkdale Elementary School from 1998 to 2001. He says he was bullied due to his lack of social skills and behavioural issues. "Students threw rocks at me, scratched me, made fun of me and called me names," he shared. "I felt like I didn't fit in because of my autism diagnosis and because of my behavioural issues."

Autism was not as well understood at that time. In fact, this was the early years of the EMSB before a team of specialists were hired to deal with the growing number of students on the Spectrum. These days other students are far more sensitized. "Parkdale in particular is doing an outstanding job with its ASD population and the KINDERgarten initiative will only serve to help," says Tania Piperni, the first ASD consultant hired by the EMSB in 2005.

Steven transferred to Summit School in 2001 where he thrived with therapy that helped him improve his social skills and form lasting friendships. He attended the Summit School satellite class at Westmount High School for two years. When he was bullied there the school put a stop to it.

'Students threw rocks at me,
scratched me, made fun of me
and called me names'

Now in his fourth year of studies at the McGill Conservatory of Music, Steven is a pianist, composer, piano teacher, and public speaker. His speech titled *Special People Have Dreams* recounts his life with Autism, the challenges he faced as a non-verbal child, and how he has succeeded in embracing his talents and passions. He teaches private piano lessons at Summit School to people with and without special needs, including the music teacher. He also helps people with behavioural issues.

An inspiration to all, Steven is an integral member of the I Can Dream Theatre Group which provides people with special needs the opportunity to perform. Steven delivered a touching monologue and brilliant performance of *The Prayer* in this year's show titled *Hannibal the musical*.

While Steven received an emotional standing ovation at the press conference, he has since become much in demand as a speaker. At Edward Murphy Elementary School in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Steven got rock star treatment. Students enrolled there who are on the Autism Spectrum gravitated towards him. There was also a long lineup for his autograph.

See the video of his entire presentation and song at the press conference: <http://vimeo.com/117199557>

Repertoire of KINDERgarten activities

The following is a repertoire of activities in keeping with the EMSB's KINDERgarten initiative. These activities can be used the first week of school and reinforced throughout the year to teach positive social skills, develop empathy and foster kindness. Research shows that students who learn in a positive environment enjoy higher test scores, learn new skills at a faster rate and are generally happier at school. Practicing kindness in the classroom may benefit students, teachers and the entire school community.

• RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Lesson plans to teach kindness in the classroom and help create positive learning environments for students. Kindergarten lessons include: Caring For Others, Creating a Kind Classroom, Feelings & Behaviour, and Following Rules. Focusing strategies, problem-solving strategies, kindness concept posters, introductory videos and educator's guide are all included. All of the materials are free of charge. <http://www.randomactsofkindness.org/lesson-plans-pilot-program>

• HOWARD B. WIGGLEBOTTOM

Free interactive books, lesson plans, songs, posters and activities around themes of listening, self-control, respecting others - perfect for Smartboards. Titles include: Howard B. Wigglebottom Learns to Listen, Learns We Can All Get Along, Learns About Courage, Learns Manners Matter. <http://wedolisten.org/media/>

• BRAINPOP JR.

Free interactive animated videos on safety, relationships, and bullying. Games, quizzes, activities and lesson ideas included. Ideal for Smartboards. <http://www.brainpopjr.com/health/relationships/bullying>

• GATEWAY

Getting Along Together Everyday - An activity-based, social skills program for Pre-K to Grade 2 students. This activity-based program, delivered by Bartimaeus Associates, addresses communication, anger management and encourages positive interactions between children. Eight lessons including: Making Friends, Conflict Resolution, Dealing with Anger, Cooperating with Others. <http://www.bartimaeus.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/BartimaeusGATEWAY.pdf>

• THE TOOLBOX PROJECT

Building Resilience, Self-Mastery, & Empathy for Others. The Toolbox Project gives children, teachers, parents, and schools a common language and the tools necessary to form a cohesive, collaborative, non-violent, and caring community. Children learn 12 simple yet powerful tools. With practice these tools become valuable personal skills: self-awareness, self-management and relationship skills; these in turn foster responsible decision-making. Because the techniques are simple and the language is shared, children adopt the tools and master them quickly. <http://dovetaillearning.org/>

• PROJECT HAPPINESS

The 9 lesson series teaches lifelong skills that influence happiness and develop social and emotional learning for elementary school-age children. Benefits include helping students focus and learn, manage emotions, reduce stress and increase empathy. Each module features one letter of the acronym HAPPINESS. Series includes supplementary workbook, multiple intelligence survey and thematic blogs. <http://projecthappiness.org/educational-resources/>

• PINTEREST

196 pins directing teachers to many boards with resources on kindness, compassion, empathy-building. A wealth of ideas. <http://www.pinterest.com/hascoorats/teaching-empathy/>

• LEARN

The LEARN website has a wealth of lesson plans (LES) under the Ethics & Religious Culture section dealing with themes such as respecting others, meeting needs, sharing, and empathy-building. Titles include: Welcoming A Unique Being, Rules & Values, Shared and Different Needs, Relationships in Families. (Password required). <http://www.learnquebec.ca>

• FURTHER READING

Articles, blogs, tips and suggestions for furthering positive social and emotional learning in students:

- <http://www.momentsaday.com/ten-plus-ways-to-use-emotion-cards-to-help-your-child-develop-empathy/>
- <http://www.kidsenabled.org/articles/family-issues/teaching-children-empathize>
- <http://www.thgraycenter.org>
- <http://social-stories.blogspot.com/2011/02/social-story-how-to-make-spaghetti.html>
- <http://ptan.seresc.net/blog/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/CreatingSocialStories.pdf>
- <http://www.5minutesforspecialneeds.com/1340/how-to-create-great-social-stories/>
- <http://www.socialthinking.com/books-products/social-emotional-learning>
- http://www.education.com/magazine/article/Kindness_Counts_Teaching_Empathy/
- <http://u.osu.edu/granello.1/files/2008/11/empathy-exercises-for-kids.pdf>
- <http://www.parentingscience.com/teaching-empathy-tips.html>
- <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/project-happiness-empathy-randy-taran>
- <http://www.seedsofempathy.org/what-we-do/program-elements>
- <http://www.livestrong.com/article/1001349-teach-children-perspective-others/>
- <http://www.unicef.org/cfs/>

SPORTS SCENE

EMSB Impact Night: Wed., May 6 at Saputo Stadium

For the 10th year in a row, the English Montreal School Board is pleased to announce the continuation of a partnership with the Montreal Impact soccer team through its "All the Way with the Impact" program.

Over the next few months, members of the Impact will be visiting elementary and high schools to remind young students of the importance of studying, persevering and building self-confidence in order to succeed.

It is now time for our traditional "EMSB Night," which will take place on Wednesday, May 6 (7:30 pm) at Saputo Stadium against the winner of a preliminary match between Ottawa and Edmonton. This is part of the Amway Canadian Championship, which involves the top five professional clubs in Canada, in the race to qualify for the CONCACAF Champions League. That is an international competition between professional clubs from North America, Central America and the Caribbean. Tickets, which are usually \$20 each, are priced for EMSB families at a discounted \$10 each.

One dollar from each ticket sold will go towards Inspirations, a publication dedicated to the special needs community. We will accept orders on a first-come, first-serve basis from the schools and we now have the option to purchase tickets safely and securely via credit card. To purchase online, please visit www.emsb.qc.ca/impact. Two students will win \$500 Tony Licursi Scholarships. ■

See the video from last year's game: <http://vimeo.com/97154073>.

St. Gabe's students enjoy an unforgettable experience at Habs game

Thanks to the generosity of the Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation, Principal Jim Daskalakis and a number of students from inner-city St. Gabriel Elementary School in Pointe St. Charles were given an opportunity to experience a Habs game against the Nashville Predators from a private box on January 20.

The students who attended were Claudia Wlasenko-Mayer, Keegan Adamczewski, Makaela Gervais, Brayden Roberts, Malachi Daniel Dow Malcolm Desrochers, Payton Baily, Kylie Nangreaves Brown and Rafsun Ahmed. They were accompanied by parent Sandra Gervais, Principal Jim Daskalakis and EMSB Communications and Marketing Specialist Michael Cohen. A big thanks to Sarah Sawyer, by day a digital marketing professional for the Metro grocery store head office. She volunteers for the Foundation and was there to ensure all of the kids had a good time. Habs mascot Youppi made a surprise guest appearance, posed for photos and signed autographs. Everyone was treated to a delicious pre-game meal and given special souvenir packages. The Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation Suite program hosts children in need at each Canadiens' home game at the Bell Centre. The Suite program makes it possible for up to 350 children from across the province to come and cheer on their favourite team each year. The Foundation was created in August 2000. Since that time it has donated close to \$17 million to 560 charitable endeavors throughout the province of Quebec working for the well-being of underprivileged children.

"This was an amazing night watching the Canadiens and using a lodge with all the amenities," said Mr. Daskalakis. "The children were excited being at the Bell Centre and watching their favourite team play. They watched, danced, cheered all night long." ■

<https://fondation.canadiens.com/en/>



Principal Jim Daskalakis, parent Sandra Gervais, Foundation volunteer Sarah Sawyer and the students in the private box.

Olympic stars at Edinburgh

One week before the Short Track ISU World Cup in Montreal, Olympic medalists Marc Gagnon, Mathieu Turcotte, François Hamelin and Robert Dubreuil took part in the launch of a children's book titled *Lucy tries Speed Skating*. It was held at Edinburgh Elementary School in Montreal West. Gagnon, Turcotte and 1992 Long Track Olympian and executive director of the Fédération de patinage de vitesse du Québec, Dubreuil, now all fathers, as well as Hamelin, read this bilingual book to students and this story, which promotes fair-play, participation and friendship through speed skating. Thanks to financial support from the Olympia Trust Company, more than 1,000 copies of this new book will be donated to a number of EMSB primary schools, including Edinburgh, to encourage youth literacy. *Lucy tries Speed Skating* is the second book in this collection from the author and CTV Calgary sports anchor Lisa Bowes. The first story, "Lisa tries Luge," was launched in 2013. ■

Here is our video: <http://vimeo.com/111877572>

Alternative Schools Basketball team video goes viral



The United Alternative Pit Bulls in their game mode.

When a few teachers formed a basketball team composed of students from different EMSB Alternative Outreach High Schools three years ago, they didn't know what to expect. After beginning their season with loss after loss, no one would have blamed the team if they gave up. Instead, they gave more, determined to defy the odds stacked against them and change the lives of the players.

This team was started by teachers John Devlin, Colin Throness and John Commins. Paul Berry, another member of the teaching staff, coaches as well. Initially it was just Perspectives II Alternative High School in St. Michel, then two years ago the others were integrated bringing forth the name the Alternative United Pit Bulls. They have now been featured in the Gatorade Win From Within video series, which features inspiring stories about athletes who overcome great adversity. In less than a week the video had more than one million views.

"We're very happy with the result and excited to see those views growing by the minute," says Throness. "If it's at all like the others in the series, it should soar to well over a million. Gatorade contacted us in September after reading the article I wrote in *The Gazette* last year. They shot the video in early October. As a thank you for doing it, they're also going to send the whole team to Toronto to see and possibly meet the Raptors on February 8. I also got in touch with a friend at CBC who tells me they'd like to do a story on the trip to Toronto. Exciting times!" ■

Here is a link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dbwJSyvs24#t=22>

Concordia Stingers Women's Hockey game a blast for EMSB students



Students enjoy themselves at the Concordia women's hockey game.

More than 800 students from the EMSB were in attendance for a special day-time regular season Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Women's Hockey game last November when the Concordia Stingers hosted the Carleton Ravens at the Ed Meagher Arena. Students from nine schools took part in this pedagogically themed field trip: Royal Vale, Willingdon and St. Monica in NDG; Elizabeth Ballantyne and Edinburgh in Montreal West; Coronation in Côte des Neiges; Gardenview and Cedarcrest in St. Laurent; and Perspectives I High School in St. Michel. Autobus Transco served as a sponsor of this event, which kicked off a new program aimed at creating a consistent link between the university athletes and local schools that extends beyond an annual hockey game. Student athletes from multiple Concordia teams will join EMSB students throughout the year at a variety of in-school and after-school activities and events. ■

Here is a fantastic CBC TV report by Ainslie McLellan. <http://vimeo.com/112346859>

Eleni's story: Laurier Macdonald student shares her battle with depression

The EMSB and its Mental Health Resource Centre participated in this year's Bell Let's Talk Day last January to create a dialogue about mental health. Laurier Macdonald High School in St. Léonard played a leading role when one of its students, Eleni Giannakas spoke for the first time publicly about her battle with depression.

Eleni is a 16-year-old Secondary V student who has been living with depression for a few years now. It finally became too much and she asked her mom for help. She had cut herself, was suffering with an eating disorder, anxiety and panic attacks and knew how she was going to end her life. Even with medication and therapy she ended up being hospitalized.

"Eleni was diagnosed with severe depression and anxiety," says her mom, Gail Blacker Giannakas, a former EMSB parent school commissioner. "She was in the hospital for over four months. She went back to school last September and re-admitted herself for a week in September and two weeks in December. She does so when she feels there is no other option but suicide. Somehow she has the courage to continue to take the hard way and fight."



Eleni Giannakis (second from the left), her mom Gail and close friends Erica Campanelli, Mark-Anthony Messina and Amanda Manzo.

With the support of her family, friends and classmates Eleni has decided to share her story to try and break the stigmatism associated with depression. She wants to reach out to people and show them there is hope. "I wish I had told my parents earlier," she said. "At the hospital I got the help I needed to learn new coping mechanisms. I know that I am not alone."



Despina Vassiliou, an EMSB psychologist and the coordinator of the Mental Health Resource Centre says, "most people with mental health issues do not seek out the support they need because they fear what others would say or think, and as a result they do not get the help and support usually until the situation worsens. The fact is that the earlier the intervention, the better the prognosis. It is important to engage and educate youth since 70 percent of adults who suffer from a mental illness report that their symptoms were present in childhood. By engaging our youth, we also encourage them to accept differences and provide a more supportive environment for all."

The EMSB will mark Mental Health Awareness Week May 4 to 8. ■

See this CTV Report of Eleni:
<http://vimeo.com/118178186A> and this video from EMSB TV:
<http://vimeo.com/118811418>

Listen to Eleni on CJAD's Barry Morgan show: http://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb_en/media_en/emsb-radio.asp



EMSB Alumni Showcase

James Lyng High School in St. Henri recently welcomed back two former students who have excelled in the arts, actor and playwright Vittorio Rossi and young actor Jaa Smith-Johnson.

On the eve of the premiere of his new play *The Envelope* at the Centaur Theatre, Mr. Rossi addressed students about his career and what got him started. Smith-Johnson recently received the Gloria-Mitchell Aleong Award for artistic achievement at the Black Theatre Workshop's 29th Vision Celebration Gala.

Vittorio Rossi

Rossi, whose parents came to Canada from Italy, has played numerous roles on stage and screen but remains best known for his role as detective Tom Celano in the television series *Omertà: La loi du silence*, which held the highest viewer ratings in Quebec from 1996 to 1998. As a playwright, he is widely considered to be the inaugural Italian-Canadian voice on the English-Canadian stage.

Mr. Rossi said his spark for acting actually occurred when he attended St. John Bosco Elementary School in Ville Émard and his teacher broke students up into small groups and asked them to develop their own plays. "We were responsible for the script, we built our own props, made our own costumes and I told my fellow students what to do," he explained. "I just felt alive. High school gave me some structure. At the time James Lyng did not specialize in the arts. In fact I took a course in electricity instead of drama."

The Envelope, Rossi's 10th play produced at the Centaur Theatre, is on stage until April 19. As the storyline goes, while excited actors gather in a local Italian restaurant, two producers jockey for the film rights to a new play premiering at an Old Montreal theatre. Torn between an indie L.A. filmmaker and a local producer who dangles a tempting multi-million dollar envelope from the Federal Film Fund, the playwright confronts ambition over loyalty and money over art. Made in Canada movie projects generate more red tape than red carpet winners in this satiric and engaging new play about the celluloid dream factory. It will be on stage until April 19. For more details log on to <http://www.centaurtheatre.com/theenvelope.php>. ■



Left to right: Principal Derrek Cauchi, Vittorio Rossi, parent-student Maria Di Stavolo, Shamara Bennett, Julia Sturino, Brandon Reaburn and Jaa Smith-Johnson.

Jaa Smith-Johnson



Jaa Smith-Johnson, 25, was born and raised in Little Burgundy. He graduated from James Lyng in 2006, where he says he fell into acting completely by accident. When producer/director Joshua Dorsey

and his assistant producer and former coordinator at LOVE (leave out violence) Alyssa Kuzmarov were looking to recruit local teens for a feature film called *The Point*, James Lyng was one of the perfect places to find what they were looking for. Jaa was chosen to be one of the main characters in the film and from that moment on his life was changed forever. After completion of the film he enrolled at Dawson College, where he pursued a higher education in acting. He was accepted into the Dawson Professional Theatre Program, which took three years to complete and he successfully graduated in 2009. Since then he has performed in a number of plays, TV shows and movies, including *19-2*, *X-MEN: Days of Future Past* and *Smurfs 2*. "Becoming part of that film took me away from bad influences," he said. "If it were not for that opportunity, I probably would have gone down a different path." ■

See this report on CBC TV:
<http://vimeo.com/118862017>



DEC IN SCIENCE FALL 2015

SPRINGBOARD PREREQUISITE PROGRAM ALSO AVAILABLE
 APPLY ONLINE AT WWW.TAV.CA

6333 Decarie Boulevard, Montreal Qc. H3W 3E1



514-731-2296



Piamondon



Honouring Our Volunteers

ON THE OCCASION OF

National Volunteer Week

April 12 to 18, 2015

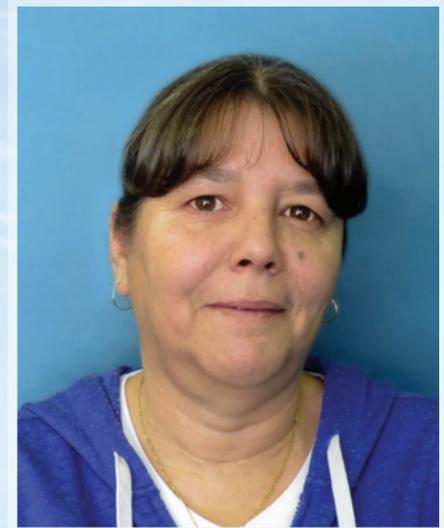
the English Montreal School Board wishes to salute our close to 2,000 volunteers.

This year's Volunteer Appreciation Evening will take place on Tuesday, April 14 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in St. Laurent under the theme of "Making a Difference."

Mona Vaudry, who has devoted an incredible 35 years of service at St. Gabriel Elementary School in Pointe St. Charles, is this year's Volunteer of Distinction.

For the seventh consecutive year, **La Capitale Financial Services** is the title sponsor for this event. La Capitale Financial Services (www.lacapitale.com) which is a member of La Capitale Financial Group, offers a wide range of products and services that are designed to simplify financial choices for members working in the public and parapublic sectors in over 900 public and parapublic institutions across the province. These services include: personal financial advice; savings, investments and funds; individual life and health insurance; mortgages and personal loans; insurance for automobiles, recreational vehicles, home, travel and legal access; commercial insurance; and group insurance.

Volunteer of Distinction:



Our 2015 Volunteer of Distinction is Mona Vaudry, with 35 years of service at St. Gabriel Elementary School in Pointe St. Charles.



Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

Our Sponsors Include:



La Capital Financial Services (www.lacapitale.com), offers a wide range of products and services – such as savings, investments and funds, individual life and health insurance, and group insurance – that are designed to simplify your financial choices.



Steve's Music Store (www.stevesmusic.com), is a major force in the Canadian music industry since 1965, which caters to all kinds of musical needs.



Loft Uniforms (www.loftuniforms.com), sells a large selection of school uniforms for public and private schools, at both elementary and secondary levels, across Quebec and Ontario.



Green Apple Studio (www.greenapplestudio.ca), is a photography studio that serves schools and daycare centres, and uses award-winning background replacement technology, which gives more flexibility and choices when it comes to student portrait photos. They are also the official photographer for Volunteer Appreciation Night.



Baratanga (www.baratanga.com) is a company engaged in the creation, production and presentation of percussion-based workshops and performances for schools, festivals and corporations.



Learning Associates of Montreal (www.learnmtl.org). Helping and empowering children with learning disabilities since 1970.



Funkins Inc. (www.funkins.ca) is a leading source and supplier of customized products for all occasions and companies, offering items for employee incentives, new product launches, charities and events, and corporate gifts.



Énergère (www.energere.com) is a leading Quebec-based energy service company that provides innovative solutions to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and reduce their operating and maintenance expenses. They have just commenced a program aimed at the bolstering of the energy efficiency in 17 EMSB schools and centres.



LaRonde (www.laronde.com), a Six Flags theme park, is Quebec's largest amusement park that attracts over 1.2 million visitors a year. It has 40 rides, including 10 roller coasters. It is also the site of the annual Loto Quebec international fireworks festival.



Locker Shelf Solutions (www.lockershelfsolutions.com), the ultimate locker organizer that offers three sizes of adjustable, easy to set up kits made of recycled plastic that helps make a school locker become better organized, and improves the chances of student success.



Batshaw Youth and Family Centres (www.batshaw.qc.ca) provides psychosocial, rehabilitation and social integration services, and ensures the provision of services related to child placement, adoption, adoption disclosure, reunification, expertise to the Superior Court and mediation.



The Big Blue Hug (www.thebigbluehug.com). Gorgeous recognition gifts and custom awards for your school.

Your teacher deserves to be appreciated!

HELP THEM WIN A DINNER AT P.F. CHANG'S

On the occasion of National Teacher Appreciation Day 2015 (Tuesday, May 5th) P.F. Chang's wants to celebrate the great educators in your life. **Nominate your, or your kid's, favourite teacher to win one of two \$100 Gift Cards***. (One Youth Sector winner & One Adult Education and Vocational Services Sector winner).



P.F. CHANG'S

In one paragraph, please tell us why the person you are nominating is special and why they deserve a night out at P.F. Chang's. Entries can be emailed to snulman@emsb.qc.ca by April 20th, 2015.



DINE-IN | TAKEOUT | MSG-FREE
GLUTEN-FREE & VEGETARIAN AVAILABLE

DÉCARIE (Jean-Talon)
5485 rue des Jockeys
514-731-2020

CARREFOUR LAVAL
3035 blvd Le Carrefour
450-687-8000

RESERVE ONLINE: PFCHANGS.CA/RESERVATIONS