



EXPRESS

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Social Media Marketing Power



These students from Lauren Hill Academy in St. Laurent are helping market their school via social media.

Please see our *Expressline* feature on PAGE 10 for more details.



See our **SPECIAL SECTION** on PAGES 6 TO 9.

EMS B's Balanced Literacy Initiative

EMS B Chairman Angela Mancini joins the wives of three Montreal Canadiens players, Larissa Gilbert (Tom Gilbert), Alyssa Flynn (Brian Flynn) and Angela Price (Carey Price) and some students from Dante Elementary School in St. Léonard at a press conference for the Board's highly successful Balanced Literacy Initiative.

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Global News at 5:30PM
Weeknights with Jamie Orchard

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

There is nothing good to say about the Quebec government's Bill 86



ANGELA MANCINI

“If it is not broke, why fix it?”

This the main question I had for the Quebec government. Their Draft Bill 86 intends to abolish elected school board commissioners as they presently exist. We have spoken out against this proposed legislation from day one, doing so in the media, in meetings with our stakeholders and via a brief we

prepared for Parliamentary hearings.

It is indeed an understatement for me to say how deeply disappointed I am with the proposal to manipulate the structure for democratically-elected school boards, though I am not surprised. The former Minister of Education, François Blais, categorically refused to meet with us and consult on the problems that he sought to address in our education system. His successor, Pierre Moreau, took over just as the hearings were about to begin and sadly fell ill. We wish him a speedy recovery. It is our hope that Sebastien Proulx, who now serves as Minister, will be listening to what school boards have to say.

Bill 86 will not achieve the government's objectives to improve the learning conditions and prospects for future generations of students in our province.

Community control over the governance of Quebec's school boards is already alive and well. The government's proposal to limit seats for elected commis-



An overflowing crowd of EMSB stakeholders attended a recent information about Bill 86. The Central Parents' Committee has adopted a resolution opposing the proposed legislation.

sioners on new school advisory councils denies the right of all citizens, both parents and non-parents alike, to voice their say in the structure and management of these pillars of the community. The English Montreal School Board appreciates the invaluable contribution of our parent commissioners. We are keen to see this cooperation continue within a structure that protects the rights of all citizens to become involved in the management of our schools.

Elected Commissioners are vested with the democratic legitimacy necessary to safeguard the

cultural and linguistic values and traditions of the communities they serve. This delegated responsibility empowers them to manage school board policies and programs that shape the parameters for continued student success. This control is of utmost importance for the Anglophone and Allophone minority language communities, and is guaranteed by their constitutional rights.

Our school board is ready to go as far as necessary to defend the rights of all community members to participate in the governance of our schools. The

government has unilaterally chosen a “solution” to a “problem” which frankly doesn't exist. The fact that a democratically-elected institution is attempting to severely restrict another is quite simply unacceptable. We have been meeting with Members of the National Assembly, asking them to work with us and our francophone partners to amend this draft legislation and focus all efforts on what really matters – how to improve the conditions of our school systems for our treasured youth. ■

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 Editors: **Stuart Nulman, Carole Gagnon**

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A tour of the neighbourhood

In a project that would make Mister Rogers proud, Grade 11 students at Laurier Macdonald High School in St. Léonard spent time in their neighbourhood recently, visiting local businesses and getting to know their owners and the staff. The initiative was spearheaded by the school's Community Learning Centre (CLC) along with George Kalliabetsos' Creative Writing class, with the goal of making connections with the individuals and businesses that the students and their families frequent on a daily basis. Groups of students visited St-Hubert Express, Boucherie Mimmo, Dépanneur 7 Jours, Thai Express, IGA, Tim Horton's and Pizzeria Orsini. Along with getting to know their neighbours, they also received some insight into what it takes to run a successful business. ■



DONNA **MARCOON 5** **TAYLOR SWIFT** **SAM SMITH** **CJ**

COGECO MEDIA

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the beat 92.5

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DATEBOOK

2016

March 13 to 15, 2016
Montreal Regional Science and Technology Fair
Concordia University

April 7, 2016
World Health Day

April 10 to 16, 2016
Volunteer Appreciation Week

April 12, 2016
Volunteer Appreciation Evening

April 20 to 23, 2016
Super Expo Provincial Science Fair
Montréal

April 29 and 30, 2016
Junior Robotics Competition
Vanier College

April 22, 2016
Earth Day and French for the Future Conference (High Schools)

April 27, 2016
Administrative Assistants/ Secretary's Day

May 5, 2016
Holocaust Remembrance Day

May 2 to 8, 2016
Mental Health Awareness Week

May 3, 2016
National Teacher's Day

May 10, 2016
National Denim Day

May 12-14, 2016
Association of Administrators of English Schools of Quebec and the Quebec English School Boards Association Conference
St. Sauveur

May 14 to 21, 2016
Canada Wide Science Fair
McGill University

May 15, 2015
International Day of Families

May 16 to 20, 2016
BASE Daycare Employees Recognition Week

May 31, 2016
World No-Tobacco Day

June 15, 2016
International Caretakers Day

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 dates of the remaining regular Board meetings for the 2015-16 session are as follows:

- March 23, 2016
- April 27, 2016
- May 25, 2016
- June 22, 2016

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
Co-chair, Transportation Advisory Committee / Co-président, Comité consultatif du transport

WARD 3

(Westmount/Sud Ouest):



JULIEN FELDMAN

WARD 4

(Côte Saint-Luc/Hampstead):



BERNARD PRAW

WARD 5

(St. Laurent):



JAMES KROMIDA
Chair, Executive Committee / Président, Comité exécutif

WARD 6

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



AGOSTINO CANNAVINO

WARD 8

(St. Léonard):



PATRICIA LATTANZIO
Co-chair, Transportation Advisory Committee / Co-présidente, comité consultatif du transport

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 / Président 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



MONTREAL

COMICCON

July 8 to 10, 2016 - Palais des congrès

July 8 to 10, 2016 ★ Palais des congrès



Morena Baccarin
(Deadpool, Homeland)

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE

Dedication of our employees indeed relates to our excellent success rate



ANN MARIE MATHESON

When I assumed the position of Director General of the EMSB last summer, we were about to head into an academic year of potential labour unrest. Unions were negotiating new contracts with the Quebec government and what followed over the first several months of class was a ban on

extra-curricular activities and four strike days.

In early January, agreements in principle were reached between the unions and the Quebec government. Immediately, the Montreal Teachers Association lifted its extra-curricular activity ban. Agreements were indeed signed and we returned to a sense of normalcy.

We certainly wish to commend all parties for coming together. As the parent of two children who have now completed their high school studies, I know what a hardship it was not to have those extra-curricular activities in place. We value the work done by all of our employees and know that all parties concerned were delighted we could get back our regular routines of athletic competitions, field trips, school plays and many other activities.

Our employees are a dedicated group of individuals, be it an in-school administrator, school secretary, caretaker, childcare

worker or guidance counsellor. Each and every person makes an invaluable contribution. On April 12 we will hold our annual evening to honour volunteers. Via governing boards, Parent Participation Organizations, Home and Schools and other entities their dedication is exemplary.

For the second year in a row, the EMSB recorded the highest success (graduation) rate in the entire province of Quebec among public school boards, figures released by The Ministry of Education, show.

The 87.9 percent mark is based on a seven year cohort, meaning it followed the progression of students from 2007 to their graduating year in 2014. It is in line with last year's total of 87.8 percent.

This is all the more impressive given the fact the province-wide graduation rate is 77.7 percent. The good news was made possible thanks to everyone associated with

the EMSB. I must make special note of our teachers and the tremendous team of pedagogical consultants based at our central head office.

As Chairman Angela Mancini emphasizes, "at the EMSB our goal is to ensure that all students achieve their full potential, and our diverse programs ensure enrichment for those who need it and remediation for others. The challenge of our pedagogues is to help each and every one of our students. An 87.9 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. Our phenomenal success rate is due to team work and perseverance. It is the strength of

our team that makes us a great board."

In our Partnership Agreement with the Ministry, we had a goal of 86 percent for the graduating class of 2014 and 88 percent for 2020. "We have surpassed that target and have almost reached our 2020 objective," our Director of Educational and Technology Services Sandra Furfaro says with pride.

To put the EMSB's present student success rates in full perspective, the average success rate among all Quebec schools (public and private) is 77.7 percent while it stands at 73.8 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.

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EMSB EXPRESS QUIZ

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EMSB Express Quiz

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

- 1 What is the number of the "Bill" the Quebec government wishes to adopt that would abolish school board elections?

- 2 What is the name of the wife of Montreal Canadiens goaltender Carey Price?

- 3 Which insurance company sponsors EMSB Volunteer Appreciation Evening?

- 4 What is the name of the junior hockey team in St. Léonard/Montreal North?

- 5 Which EMSB Principal was named one of Canada's best by the Learning Partnership?

- 6 When is Volunteer Appreciation Week?

- 7 What is the name of the company overseeing the EMSB energy savings project?

- 8 At which EMSB high school are students playing an active role on marketing initiatives via social media?

- 9 How much money has been dedicated to the EMSB balanced literacy initiative?

- 10 Who is the vice-chair of the EMSB Council of Commissioners?

NAME _____

SCHOOL _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

The deadline is April 18, 2016

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.

You can also access the form at www.emsb.qc.ca.



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International students and Habs



Monder Alzidani, Brian Wilde, Manqi Liang and Michael Bunn at the Bell Centre.

Two international students from the EMSB, one from China and the other from Libya, had the opportunity to see their first ever professional hockey game on January 6, when the Canadiens hosted the New Jersey Devils at the Bell Centre.

Manqi Liang and Monder Alzidani are enrolled in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program at Marymount Academy International in NDG in Grades 10

and 11 respectively. Both students admitted that they never followed hockey in their respective native countries because it was a sport that was never popular nor regularly played there. However, after they saw for the first time the fast-paced excitement that goes with an NHL hockey game, which the Canadiens won by a score of 2-1, they quickly became fans of the team, and would like to go to more Habs games at the

Bell Centre in the future. The two students attended the game with their teacher Michael Bunn courtesy of CTV Montreal, which provided the tickets in the Club Desjardins section. Before the game, Manqi, Monder and Mr. Bunn got the chance to personally meet CTV News sportscaster Brian Wilde, and watched him do one of his live pre-game reports for the supper hour newscast. ■

Partnership with the Arctic



Head coach Gianni Cantini and some of his players greet young fans at a visit to Gerald McShane Elementary School in Montreal North.

The St. Léonard/Montreal North Arctic of the AAA Quebec Junior Hockey League and the EMSB embarked upon an exciting partnership this year.

Head coach Gianni Cantini and his players visited many East End schools to take part in floor hockey scrimmages and to talk about the importance of getting a good

education. Students and staff were provided with tickets to games. School officials took part in ceremonial opening faceoffs and on a few occasions students got to sing the national anthem. The Arctic have a number of EMSB grads on their roster. Coach Cantini attended Honoré-Mercier Elementary School, John Paul I Junior High School and Laurier Macdonald High School in St. Léonard. Team owner Joe Perretta and his wife, vice-president Lina Di Giovanni are very pleased with how the partnership worked out. Ms. Di Giovanni was a long-time EMSB parent volunteer. This season the Arctic team uniforms included an EMSB logo on the shoulder. Their daughter Alexia, a former student at Dalkeith, John Paul I and Laurier Macdonald, handles the team's marketing duties. ■

Marco Scandella and Royal Vale

Marco Scandella, a 25 year old star defenceman for the Minnesota Wild, made a special visit to his former high school, Royal Vale in NDG, just prior to the start of the current NHL season when he was named an honorary ambassador of a new elite hockey program. Scandella, also attended the EMSB's Westmount High School for Secondary I and Willingdon Elementary in NDG. The hockey program at Royal Vale is for students at the elementary and secondary levels and coordinated by Greg Orsini



Marco Scandella is greeted by some Royal Vale students.

of Rapid Hockey Development. Initially it will be offered on and off-ice training before and after school, not conflicting with classes and utilizing the nearby Doug

Harvey Arena. Scandella's former physical education teacher, Chris Lagakos, is among those spearheading the program. ■

➔ See the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gOS7LRbKGo>



SPORTS CAPSULE

EMSB and the Impact

For the 11th 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 schools to remind young students of the importance of studying, persevering and building self-confidence in order to succeed. The traditional "EMSB Night" will take place on Wednesday evening, June 8 at Saputo Stadium as 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 \$13 each. Some of the proceeds from ticket sales 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 there is an option to purchase tickets safely and securely via credit card. To do so online, please visit www.emsb.qc.ca/impact. Two students will also win \$500 Tony Licursi Scholarships. ■

➔ See the video from last year's game: <https://vimeo.com/129138050>

Alouettes and BOKS



General Vanier Elementary School, Daycare technician Maria Iacono and Grade 1 student Nicholas Iacono with Kyries Hebert.

Montreal Alouettes' players Kyries Hebert and Nicolas Boulay were among the players to visit EMSB schools to help facilitate the BOKS Program with the lead trainers, who are B.A.S.E. Daycare educators. The B.A.S.E. (Before and After School Enriched) Daycare Program has placed a great emphasis on increasing the physical activity levels of its students this year with various programs and is extremely excited

to have formed a partnership with BOKS Canada. BOKS stands for Build Our Kids' Success. It is a free physical activity program designed for elementary school age children and intended to occur as early in the day as possible as numerous studies have shown that the effects of being physically active are most powerful when performed in the beginning of the day. The BOKS Program was launched at General Vanier B.A.S.E. Daycare on last fall. ■

EMSB diving champ

With 2016 being an Olympic year, Lester B. Pearson High

School Sport-Études student and championship diver Tereza

Vithoukias is as focused as ever. Tereza, an Honour Roll student, maintains an 86 percent overall average while competing at an elite level. Recently, Tereza

competed at the Senior National Diving Championships in Saskatoon and will soon travel to China for further training. While she may not be representing

Canada this summer, her fellow divers are undoubtedly saving a spot for her come the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, Japan. ■



Balanced Literacy Initiative

EMSB literacy rates continue to climb

The EMSB has formally launched a campaign highlighting its successful balanced literacy initiative.

In order to emphasize the importance of reading, the EMSB welcomed a number of well-known personalities to Dante Elementary School in St. Léonard to read to the Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Grade 1 students. They included the wives of three members of the Montreal Canadiens (Angela Price, Alyssa Flynn and Larissa Gilbert), St. Léonard Mayor Michel Bissonnette, Olympic snowboarder Caroline Calvé, Montreal Alouettes players Martin Bédard and Marc-Olivier Brouillette, two cheerleaders, Grey Cup Champion and current Université de Montreal Carabins Head Coach, as well as Dante graduate Danny Maciocia, Cameron Porter of the Montreal Impact, EMSB grad and La Voix finalist, Angelike Falbo and several media personalities. The latter group included Montreal Gazette editor Lucinda Chodan, Global TV Station Manager Karen Macdonald, CTV anchor Paul Karwatsky, Dante grad and Breakfast Television reporter Laura Casella and CJAD 800's Dave Kaufman.

EMSB Chairman Angela Mancini notes that literacy rates continue to climb six 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. Ms. Mancini announced that this program will now be expanded to certain high schools as a pilot project.

Close to \$2 million has been dedicated to the balanced literacy initiative in both English and French since 2009-2010. Results from standardized testing done last spring of the second cohort of students—those who were in Kindergarten when the balanced literacy plan was launched and who are now in Grade 6—showed a 19 percent increase in the number of students reading at level. The goal of 90 percent of the cohort (1,500 students) reading at or above level was attained by the end of Grade 5. To gain an appreciation of the strength of these results, it is important to note that the average percentage of students at level across the country at any given grade is approximately 78 percent.

For this campaign the EMSB has adopted the slogan proclaimed more than a century ago by Margaret Fuller, an American journalist and the first woman allowed use of the Harvard College Library: "Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." ■



Reaching out to parents

In an effort to build a healthy partnership between home and school, the EMSB continues to reach out to parents in order to communicate how important it is to read to children from a young age and to give them some of the tools to do so.

"In some cases children are spending more time with their smartphones or other electronic devices," said Ms. Mancini. "In homes with working parents, it is not always easy to read to your child every night."



1



2



3



4



1. Alyssa Flynn reads.
2. Angela Mancini, Ann Marie Matheson and Patricia Lattanzio at the press conference.
3. Martin Bédard reads.
4. EMSB Human Resources Director and press conference emcee Christine Denommée talks to pedagogical consultants Terry Saba, Paul Kettner, Marie-Claude Bergeron and Anik Malenfant.
5. Dante students sing about literacy.
6. Students let out some cheers.
7. A delegation from Honoré-Mercier Elementary School in St. Léonard attended the press conference.
8. CTV's Paul Karwatsky.

Reaching more students through balanced literacy

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. Paul Kettner, the EMSB's in-house literacy consultant explained the approach as follows: "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 ensuring that they received regular one-on-one instructional time and developed a greater level of independence."

Several specific actions were taken to support these goals. A critical element of the plan was the part-time release of one teacher in each of the EMSB elementary schools 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. Another aspect of the plan included developing a partnership with the Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance at Concordia University, which has conducted a survey of all involved teachers, administrators and consultants each year to monitor the process of implementation.

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 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 consultants from the school board became regular visitors and collaborators in schools where they were able to support teachers individually or as entire school teams.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Reaching more students through balanced literacy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Another vital element in the plan was the orchestration of inter-school visits in which classroom teachers and literacy facilitators visited classrooms in other schools on several occasions over a three-year period. According to Alessandra Furfaro, Director of Educational and Technology Services, “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.”

Buoyed by the 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 classrooms so that student learning continues to grow.

In 2014-15 the EMSB shifted the role of literacy facilitators to resource teachers, whose roles were redefined as resource-literacy teachers. This new blended responsibility involved the creation of two close partnerships: one between Education and Technology Services and Student Services, and another between resource literacy teachers and classroom teachers. Resource teachers have always specialized in working with students who have special needs, making them valuable, collaborative teaching partners who bring added expertise to classrooms with a diversity of learning needs. ■

- 9. Dante grad Laura Casella from City's Breakfast TV.
- 10. Montreal Gazette editor Lucinda Chodan.
- 11. Dante grad and Grey Cup winning football coach Danny Maciocia
- 12. Angela Mancini.



TV Coverage

Literacy Consultant Paul Kettner and French Consultant Anik Malenfant on Global TV's Focus Montreal

<https://vimeo.com/153774006>

Breakfast Television Literacy Interviews

<https://vimeo.com/153787027>

Press Conference Highlights

<https://vimeo.com/153409291>

Special Guests Read to Students

<https://vimeo.com/153280007>



13



14



15



16



17

Kindergarten's literacy rich environment

The EMSB is particularly proud of the way in which Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten teachers have been promoting early literacy and reading readiness within the context of a literacy-rich environment. The pre-school teachers attend to the learning competencies outlined in the Quebec curriculum through an approach that is largely play-based and non-academic, and which concentrates on social development.

Students at this level have frequent opportunities for engagement in conversation, in reading, and pretend writing in a non-threatening environment that fuels self-confidence and promotes the groundwork for future language development.

Nancy Omobono, a kindergarten teacher at Honoré-Mercier Elementary School in St. Léonard, says she begins exposing her students to different literacy-based activities as soon as they arrive in September, and by June, children begin to "crack the code," with some beginning to blend letter sounds or read short words while others read sentences.

‘Each child works at their own pace; our job is to expose them to the necessary tools and experiences so that they are ready for Grade 1’

“Each child works at their own pace; our job is to expose them to the necessary tools and experiences so that they are ready for Grade 1,” she says. “The most important thing for you to remember is that reading is much more than sounding out words. While it may seem obvious to adults, reading is the result of many small skills that build one upon the other.

Knowing what these emerging reading skills are and helping the students learn and practice these skills is part of our daily routine.” Creating a literacy environment means many things: it involves setting up a classroom in which students are exposed to interesting literacy experiences based on, authentic use of spoken and written language every day.

Within this context students explore a wide variety of interesting, purposeful activities that range from playing with letters and sounds or recognizing a few repeated words in a morning message, to participating in shared songs and stories.” ■

13. St. Léonard Borough Mayor Michel Bissonnette.

14. There was a strong media turnout at the press conference.

15. Cameron Porter of the Montreal Impact.

16. EMSB grad and singer Angelike Falbo.

17. Angela Price accepts a get well card from students for her husband Carey.

EXPRESSLINE

OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL



Marylene Perron, the principal of Parkdale Elementary School in St. Laurent, is the only Quebecer to have been selected as one of The Learning Partnership's Canada's Outstanding Principals™. 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. Ms. Perron received her award at the annual Outstanding Principals Gala at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto. The winners also benefit from an exclusive five-day

executive leadership training program at one of Canada's top business schools, the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management. The program will introduce them to leadership and management practices presented by business, government and education leaders as well as Rotman instructors. They also benefit from a "Changing World of Work" day where they learn about today's workforce from business leaders. ■

PROJET CONJOINT DES SECTEURS ALTERNATIF ET DES JEUNES

Sous la gouverne des Services aux élèves, la CSEM a lancé un projet pilote qui vise la participation conjointe des secteurs alternatif et des jeunes à la promotion de l'estime de soi, de l'empathie et de la croissance personnelle chez les élèves. L'initiative *Standing Tall: Walking Towards a Better Tomorrow* s'appuie sur l'entraide entre des élèves du système alternatif de la CSEM et des élèves, plus particulièrement ceux ayant des besoins particuliers, du secteur des jeunes. Dans le cadre du premier projet mis sur pied, Noah Davidson, un élève de 5^e secondaire de l'école Perspectives II à Saint-Michel, travaille avec des élèves des écoles primaires Dalkeith à Anjou et Nesbitt à Rosemont. Organisé par l'animateur de vie spirituelle et communautaire **Vince Lacroce** et la spécialiste des troubles du spectre autistique **Tania Piperni**, le projet permettra à **Noah Davidson** d'aider les techniciens du comportement et les éducateurs en service de garde à travailler avec les élèves à développer certaines compétences, dont le travail en équipe et la socialisation, ainsi que la médiation par les pairs. ■

MARKETING THEIR SCHOOL

LaurenHill Academy in St. Laurent has assembled a group of students who are interested in marketing their school through social media. A sub-committee of that group has branched off and has created LHA Now, a group dedicated to creating and posting videos on the school's YouTube channel. The topics of the videos span from coverage of school events, interviews with teachers, ECAs and more. The most recent release is about the myth of a secret pool at the Senior Campus. This student-led initiative is allowing them to take ownership and pride in their school as they are showcasing the students and staff in a funny, quirky and positive way. Log on to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfdIRYJQvI6QNO-N5dbX1kQ> and subscribe. ■

WESTMOUNT PHYS ED



Students work out in the weight room.

For those who enjoy seeing a vision in action, getting to know the Westmount High School Physical Education and Health (PEH) program will serve you well. The program, in fact, takes its missions directly from the pages of the Quebec Education Program's Introductory to the Secondary Cycle II Physical Education Program which states: "Therefore, upon completion of the program, students will have developed the tools they will need throughout their lives to feel well, to be physically and mentally healthy, to feel good about themselves and to live in harmony

with others." For more information, see the very detailed backgrounder press release drafted by EMSB Physical Education and Health Consultant Katherine Baker at http://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb_en/media_en/onepressrelease.asp?id=3767. ■

IN MEMORIAM: SYD WISE



Long-time EMSB Commissioner **Dr. Syd Wise** passed away last October. Dr. Wise served as a school commissioner for Côte Saint-Luc for 21 years. He was first elected in 1994. In the last election of November 2, 2014 his ward was expanded to include Hampstead. He began his teaching career in the 1960's with the former Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal. After having taught for seven years, he served as principal of Mount Royal, Malcolm Campbell, Outremont and Wagar High Schools. He also served as president of the Montreal Association of School Administrators (MASA). In addition, he held administrative posts in other educational institutions: Education Director of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, Principal of Yeshiva Godola Secular High School and as Director of a work program, for students of the Montreal Association for the Blind. For one term, prior to becoming a school commissioner, he served as councillor for the City of Montreal. He recently

returned to his first passion, teaching, as a lecturer at Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) and McGill University. His seat was filled in a by-election in December by **Bernard Praw**. ■

LACROCE AWARDED



Vince Lacroce receives his award from Richard Pound.

In recognition of his efforts connecting the Canadian Armed Forces to EMSB students, Spiritual and Community Animator **Vince Lacroce** was recently awarded the Honourary Colonel's Commendation and Coin. The Honourary Colonel's Commendation and Coin is one of the highest awards emanating from the Grenadier Guards and is rarely bestowed to a civilian. It was conferred to Lacroce by Richard W. Pound, Companion of the Order of Canada and current Chairman of the Olympic Broadcasting Services. Throughout his tenure at the EMSB, Lacroce has worked tirelessly to educate the youth on the meaning and importance of Remembrance Day. He has also spearheaded a number of initiatives connecting both Holocaust survivors and Canada's veterans with students. Furthermore, Lacroce continues to play an active role in the annual EMSB/CTV Spirit of Giving campaign. ■

SING MONTRÉAL CHANTE

Au terme de plusieurs mois d'efforts soutenus, 10 élèves de l'école primaire Saint-Gabriel à Pointe-Saint-Charles se sont joints à 150 élèves de huit autres écoles primaires de Montréal afin de se produire en concert dans le cadre du projet Sing Montréal Chante. Les jeunes choristes ont chanté en anglais, en français, en italien, en portugais, en japonais, en latin et en maori, accompagnés par un orchestre, pour le plus grand bonheur de leur public. www.singmontrealchante.com. ■

ARBRE DE JOIE

Les familles et le personnel de l'école primaire Pierre-de-Coubertin à Saint-Léonard ont acheté et emballé quelque 500 cadeaux destinés à des centaines d'élèves, dans le cadre du projet Arbre de Joie, qui tire son nom du titre d'un roman. Amorcé il y a deux ans par un groupe d'enseignants, le projet vise à offrir joie et bonheur à l'occasion de Noël à des enfants défavorisés. Afin de préserver l'anonymat des bénéficiaires du projet, les enfants qui souhaitent y participer reçoivent un simple accessoire qui porte un numéro d'identification, et leurs prénoms, âge et sexe. Les cadeaux sont apportés à l'école Pierre-de-Coubertin, où ils sont emballés et préparés pour livraison dans les écoles locales où chaque élève participant en reçoit au moins un. ■

SPIRIT OF GIVING



CTV's Lori Graham with students and staff from Dunrae Gardens Elementary School in Town of Mount Royal during Spirit of Giving activities.

In preparation for the holidays, the EMSB once again teamed up with the Canadian Armed Forces to support CTV Montreal's annual "Spirit of Giving" campaign, which brings much needed assistance to the less fortunate throughout Montreal. Non-perishable food, toys and miscellaneous items, such as soap and cleaning supplies, were collected, sorted and donated to Share the Warmth, West Island Assistance Fund, Renaissance Montreal, Multicaf, Parc Extension Share Store, Le Bon Dieu Dans La Rue, Batshaw Youth and Family Services, Mile End Mission, La Mosaïque and the N.D.G. Food Depot. In all, the combined efforts of the EMSB, its schools and facilities generated over 600 boxes of non-perishable food, and over 40,000 toys and miscellaneous items. Forty-four schools and centres took part in the campaign, as well as some community organizations. Rosemount High School served as the main hub for the collection. Principal **Marco Gagliardi** was thrilled to have his facility assume the role of the main hub for the very first time. ■

Work on energy saving project drawing to a close

The English Montreal School Board's second major initiative aimed at bolstering energy efficiency in school buildings continues to move along nicely. This is a \$24.6 million project with financial support of \$9.9 million from Hydro Québec, Gaz Métro, the Ministry of Education and the Bureau de l'efficacité et de l'innovation énergétiques du ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles. It has been focusing on 17 specific schools and centers and will conclude in May.

With work complete on the modernization of more than 20 boiler rooms, centralized control systems in every school and aerothermal energy and heat pump systems in nine buildings work is now proceeding on replacing 25,300 lights. All lighting fixtures are being converted from fluorescent to the latest in LED technology, which will save energy, last longer, and simplify maintenance while maintaining or enhancing lighting levels. This measure alone will account for \$9 million of the budget.

Besides projected savings of 40 to 60 percent in energy efficiency, the LED technology offers a better atmosphere. Because of their directional source, these lights produce an instant and maximum light, with grading options. In addition they are completely silent, which reduces noise disturbance caused by certain types of lighting. These advantages will allow students a better concentration, thus creating an environment conducive to learning. With its unrivalled life expectancy up until now, LED technology can function for up to 30 years in a school environment. This requires far less maintenance than any other technology. It is also important to note that this type of lighting doesn't contain mercury, unlike fluorescent tubes, nor does it produce any



Marymount Academy International lighting before (left) and after (right) the work undertaken by Énergère.

ultraviolet (UV) radiation. In high doses, the latter can be very harmful on human health.

The replacement of the lighting involves the following schools, with the number of lights in brackets: Rosemount High School (4,104) Pierre Elliot Trudeau Elementary School in Rosemount (596); Gerald McShane Elementary School in Montreal North (988); Dante Elementary School (591), John Paul I Junior High School (1,032) and Laurier Macdonald High School in St. Léonard (2,093); Royal West Academy in Montreal West (1,321); Leonardo Da Vinci Academy (788), Michelangelo International (810) and East Hill Elementary School (896) in RDP; St Gabriel Elementary School

in Pointe St. Charles (770); High School of Montreal Adult Education Centre in the Plateau (907); John F. Kennedy High School in St. Michel (3,632); Marymount Academy International (1,795) and Shadd Health and Business Centre in NDG (725); St Pius X Career Centre in Ahuntsic

technology that cut their energy bills by 47 percent. This amounted to an annual reduction of 2,480 tons of greenhouse gases and greatly reduced the EMSB's carbon footprint, equivalent to removing 765 cars from the road. The company optimized the heating network and ventilation, installed more efficient hot

Besides projected savings of 40 to 60 percent in energy efficiency, the LED technology offers a better atmosphere.

(725); and Roslyn Elementary School in Westmount (963).

Énergère's project follows up the first phase which occurred in 2009 when another company outfitted six schools with

water boilers, efficient lighting and heat recovery equipment which included geothermal heating and heat pump systems. This investment of \$8.4 million had an 11 year payback plan. ■

LE TEMPS DES FLEURS

A total of 320 Montreal elementary school choristers, a symphonic orchestra and renowned Quebec actor **Guy Nadon** have collaborated on a children's book/CD about the ancient Greek myth of Persephone and how the seasons came to be. *Le Temps des Fleurs, le Temps des Neiges* is a massive multi-disciplinary project culminating in the creation of a book/CD for children in French, which explores the ancient Greek myth of the Goddess Demeter, her daughter Persephone and the unbreakable bond that exists between a mother and her child. The EMSB is represented by six elementary schools: Gardenvue in St. Laurent, Pierre de Coubertin in St. Léonard, Edinburgh in Montreal West, Roslyn in Westmount, Royal Vale in NDG and Sinclair Laird in Park Extension. They are collaborating with École Socrates-Démosthène in Outremont. The project kicked off with a red carpet event in Laval. That was followed by a formal launch on November 11 at Victoria Hall in Westmount and a presentation at the Salon du Livre de Montréal at Place Bonaventure. Written by Canadian children's book author Glen Huser and adapted to French by **Jean Antonin Billard** and **Robert Paquin**, the book includes an operatic version of the story on CD, composed by Athens-based Giannis Georgantelis. Brilliantly illustrated by three time Governor General Award winning illustrator **Philippe Béha** and narrated by Nadon, *le Temps des Fleurs, le Temps des Neiges* is a collaboration of Panarmonia Atelier Musical with Quebec publishing house Planète Rebelle and Chroma Musika, in partnership with the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal and the Hellenic Congress of Quebec. ■

UNE SURFEUSE DES NEIGES LIVRE SON MESSAGE

L'école Perspectives I a récemment accueilli la championne olympique canadienne de surf des neiges Caroline Calvé, qui s'est adressée aux élèves et au personnel enseignant. Caroline est la première et la seule athlète canadienne de sexe féminin à avoir remporté la Coupe du monde en surf des neiges alpin. Elle était membre de l'équipe canadienne de surf des neiges aux Jeux olympiques de Vancouver en 2010 et de Sochi en 2014. S'adressant à un groupe d'élèves très attentifs, elle a expliqué sa stratégie, plutôt inhabituelle. Athlète dès son plus jeune âge, elle a fait du ski alpin jusqu'à l'âge de 22 ans, avant de découvrir sa véritable passion, le surf des neiges. « Avez-vous un rêve, une passion? », a-t-elle demandé aux élèves, ajoutant que quand on fait ce qu'on aime, on oublie tout le reste et plus rien ne nous dérange. ■

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HELP THEM WIN A DINNER AT LA CAGE - BRASSERIE SPORTIVE

On the occasion of National Teacher Appreciation Day 2016 (Tuesday, May 3), La Cage wants to celebrate the great physical education teachers in your life. Nominate your, or your kid's, favourite physical education teacher to win a \$100 gift card to a La Cage location.

Please tell us why the person you are nominating is special and why they deserve a night out at LA CAGE. Entries can be emailed to snulman@emsb.qc.ca by April 18, 2016.

THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT IN 17 OF THE EMBS BUILDINGS WILL BE COMPLETED IN MAY 2016!

53% 4070
OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION REDUCTION LESS TONES OF CO₂

WHAT A PROJECT!

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OF ENERGY SAVINGS OF NEW LED LIGHTS



Help your teacher dine at

On the occasion of National Teachers Day, which takes place on May 3, 2016, P.F. Chang's Canada is calling upon parents and students to nominate their teacher to win a \$100 gift card.

In one paragraph, please tell us why your teacher is special and why they deserve a night out for dinner at P.F. Chang's. Entries can be emailed to express@emsb.qc.ca by April 14, 2016.

P.F. Chang's, an international unique brand of stylish, Chinese-inspired cuisine and upscale casual dining restaurant chain, made its debut in Canada almost two years ago. There are two Montreal area locations: one at Decarie and Jean Talon at the former Blue Bonnets Raceway plaza and another at Carrefour Laval.



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