

Try our  
quiz and  
win prizes  
see page 4



Focus on mental  
health and wellness  
see pages 5 to 8



EMSB salutes  
its volunteers  
see pages 9 to 12



Commission scolaire English-Montréal

# express

English Montreal School Board

Volume 26  
Number 1  
FALL 2022  
[www.emsb.qc.ca](http://www.emsb.qc.ca)

## Être bilingue, c'est gagnant! EMSB proud of its French education programs

The English Montreal School Board is proud of the quality of French offered at the primary and secondary levels.

"Having attended Nesbitt Elementary School and Vincent Massey Collegiate myself, I graduated fully bilingual and successfully pursued a career as a lawyer," said EMSB Chair Joe Ortona. "I owe this to the education I received here at our Board and so do many others."

The EMSB offers three models of French in elementary schools; Core, Bilingual and French Immersion. The Bilingual and Immersion models offer language learning through a variety of subjects other than language courses.

EMSB secondary schools offer several French programs that exceed the minimum requirements set by the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur. In Secondary Cycle 1, for example, there are French programs whose teaching time varies between 38 to 73 percent.

The objective of EMSB educational programming is to enable students to succeed in the most advanced ministerial program they can achieve, either, *Français, programme enrichi* or *Français, langue d'enseignement*. This level of achievement identifies students as bilingual.

Last year six students were presented with the Robert Alfred Peck Prizes for Excellence in French, based on the 2021-22 academic year. Attaining the mark of 100 percent last year were students Melina Aravantinos, Amélie Chambon and Helena Senécal, Royal West Academy; Sophie Paradis, Royal Vale; Rita Petrecca, Laurier Macdonald; and Stefania Teresa Zambardi, Vincent

Massey Collegiate. The EMSB has even launched its own French podcast, featuring fluently bilingual students.

"I am proud to have recorded a 100 percent note in French in my final year at Laurier Macdonald," Rita said on the EMSB French Podcast. "French is my third language, behind Italian and English. I had excellent French teachers who always assisted me. At Pierre de Coubertin Elementary School, for example, mathematics was in French until Grade 3. We also had Science, Geography and History classes in French. At high school this continued."

You can listen to it at <https://tinyurl.com/32u2b2m5>

Approximately 75 percent of EMSB students are in the immersion or bilingual streams at elementary and 41 percent at the secondary level. In terms of the percentage of teaching time allocated to French, they are as follows at elementary: 68 percent, immersion; 50 percent, bilingual and 32 percent English Core. At high school, percentages vary by school.

It is interesting to take a look at comparative success rates of French immersion vs. non-immersion students in elementary and high school math at the EMSB. The numbers are: 95.6 percent and 89.9 percent for Immersion and Non-Immersion Elementary; and 97 percent and 82 percent for Immersion and Non-Immersion High School. The EMSB's most recent overall Success Rate was 90.3 percent, the highest of any public school board on the island of Montreal.

For more information go to <http://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/about/school-board/french-programs>

## Best Screenplay in youth cinema competition



John F. Kennedy High School in St. Michel was awarded Best Screenplay from the Youth Fusion Cinema Competition for its film *Reflection*, along with nominations for Best Cinematography and Best Film. It finished in the top five among 19 high schools mainly across Quebec but also Ontario and New Brunswick. The film portrays Patricia, a star student praised by her teachers but also bullied by her peers. Eight students from grades 8, 10 and 11 and one teacher star in the almost four-minute-long film. They come from the film class led by, multimedia and drama teacher, Steve Muoio, who also runs the weekly after-school Film Club. Students also filled the roles of assistant director, script writers, camera operators, sound and lighting technicians, and editors. A Youth Fusions coordinator also worked with the production team.

## Découvrez si votre enfant peut fréquenter une école de la CSEM

Pour être admissibles à l'enseignement en anglais dans les écoles publiques du Québec, les élèves doivent satisfaire à certains critères d'admissibilité conformément à la Charte de la langue française adoptée par le gouvernement du Québec. Il est obligatoire de remplir un formulaire de demande de

recevoir l'enseignement en anglais avant d'inscrire son enfant à l'école.

Si vous avez déjà obtenu la déclaration d'admissibilité de votre enfant, consultez la section

Inscriptions (<http://www.emsb.qc.ca/csem/admissions/inscriptions>) pour connaître la marche à suivre afin de l'inscrire dans une école de la CSEM.

Québec



Global News Morning  
Weekdays - 6 to 9 a.m.

Global  
NEWS





## Chair's Message: Government continues to set up roadblocks for students in the English system



Joe Ortona

As we begin a new school year, it is time to once again recognize our teachers and staff for their flexibility and hard work over the past two and a half years. Throughout the pandemic they have kept their eye on the ball, single-mindedly focusing on student success.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for our political leaders, whose public policy agenda is not focused on what matters.

While school board leadership has been grappling with helping our students, faculty and parents adjust to the vagaries of the public health crisis with a particular focus on mental health and well-being, our political leaders have been setting up new and unnecessary roadblocks.

The most recent example is Bill 96, which was adopted in May.

At the English Montreal School Board (EMSB), we are not only committed to ensuring that our students have a working knowledge of French, we are also delivering. At the same time, we also know that one size does not fit all; not all students have the same aptitude for languages.

The spring amendment allowing CEGEP students to take three additional French courses, rather than three core curriculum courses in French, was a welcome improvement over the earlier plan. However, the policy is still problematic, especially for students who have trouble with languages or have recently arrived from another province. Including so many second-language courses in the CEGEP curriculum could mean their grades and thus career opportunities will suffer.

Bill 96 also will play a significant role in closing the tap on international talent coming to Quebec to work, due to the three-year non-renewable cap on the number of years children of foreign workers can attend school in English if the parents are here on a temporary basis. For months, the EMSB along with many others, has been calling for the government to maintain the status quo.

If the Bill 96 approach had been in place four decades ago, U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris would probably not have been a 1981 graduate of Westmount High School. Her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, a breast-cancer scientist originally from Chennai, India, brought Harris and her sister, Maya, to Montreal for several years when she took a job teaching at McGill University and doing research at the Jewish General Hospital. This talented academic might not have accepted this position if told her children could not benefit from a bilingual education in Quebec.

Bill 21 and Bill 40 are other examples of how the government is putting its political agenda ahead of student success.

Bill 21, which bans the wearing of religious symbols by our teachers, conflicts with our values and our mission and with those of all Quebecers as expressed in the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms. As the case of Fatemeh Anvari, the Chelsea

teacher who was moved to a non-classroom role for wearing a hijab, underscores how we have had to refuse promotions to some qualified candidates and employment for others. And of course, many talented young people have simply not applied or have left the province.

As for Bill 40, which calls for the replacement of democratically elected school boards with government-appointed service centre boards, we maintain that it violates our right as an official language minority community "to manage and control our school system." If Bill 40 is implemented – it is on hold pending a court ruling – it would transfer decision-making from community representatives to bureaucrats in Quebec City who are far away from the day-to-day realities of our students, parents and staff.

Despite recent challenges, the EMSB continues to enjoy the highest success rate on the island of Montreal

and battle for the top position in the province. We succeeded because we adapted and offered a variety of models of instruction during the pandemic and because we are 100 percent focused on our students. Unfortunately, our masters in Quebec City are not on the same wavelength.



## Message from the Director General: Focus on mental health



Nick Katalifos

Welcome to another edition of the EMSB Express.

We are pleased to publish the Express twice annually to promote the excellent work being done to support our schools and centres. Please share your copy with others so that they too can see what a dynamic board we have.

In this back-to-school edition, we have a special section on mental health and wellness. I wish to congratulate our Student

Services Department for the phenomenal work they are doing in this area. We also recognize the challenges faced by students, especially in light of the pandemic, so I think readers will find these articles very interesting.

As well, we salute our parent volunteers. Due to the pandemic we have not been able to gather personally these past few years for our annual event, but I think you will find our tribute in these pages and the virtual program viewed last spring by thousands of viewers a nice tribute.

I encourage you to view our website on a regular basis, read our press releases and blogs, listen to our podcasts and follow the monthly Focus newsletter. We try very hard to keep our stakeholders in the loop.



We are here for the kids.

I want to wish everyone an excellent 2022-23 academic year.

Produced by the Marketing and Communications Department of the

**English Montreal School Board**

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**THE BEAT**

**5@7**

MON-THU

**5:00 PM**

MTL'S PERFECT MIX

**the beat 92.5**

**COGECO MEDIA**



DateBook  
2022 ♦ 2023

<b>September 8</b> International Literacy Day	<b>January</b> EMSB Public School Education Month
<b>September 11</b> National Grandparents' Day	<b>January 27</b> Family Literacy Day (www.fld-jaf.ca)
<b>October 3 to 9</b> Fire Prevention Week www.afleq.ca	<b>January 30 to February 3</b> Kindergarten Registration Week
<b>October 5</b> World Teachers Day	<b>February</b> Black History Month
<b>October 10</b> World Mental Health Day	<b>February 6 to February 10</b> Teacher Appreciation Week (Quebec)
<b>October 10</b> Thanksgiving	<b>February 13 to 17</b> Teacher Appreciation Week (Canada)
<b>October 14</b> Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT) Convention	<b>February 13 to 17</b> Hooked on School Days
<b>October 19 and 20</b> Education and Career Fair Hosted by EMSB Student Services Department and Adult Education and Vocational Services	<b>March</b> EMSB Nutrition Month
<b>October 24 to 28</b> National Media Literacy Week www.medialiteracyweek.ca	<b>March 6 to March 10</b> March Break
<b>November 11</b> Remembrance Day	<b>April 12</b> Terry Fox Day
<b>November 21 to 25</b> Professionals in Education Week	<b>April 16 to 22</b> National Volunteer Week
<b>December 10</b> Human Rights Day	<b>May 1</b> Principal's Day
<b>December 26, 2022 to January 6, 2023</b> Holiday Break	<b>May 2</b> EMSB Teacher's Recognition Day
	<b>May 8 to 12</b> Daycare Appreciation Week

Council of Commissioners' Meetings

The EMSB council of commissioners meet in public once a month. They convene at 7 p.m. in the Laurence Patterson Conference Room of the administration building at 6000 Fielding Avenue. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please note that occasionally during the year special meetings are called. **Parents are urged to bookmark the EMSB website (www.emsb.qc.ca) to access Board meeting agendas and to be advised about special meetings.** To register for question period please call 483-7200, ext. 7264.

All meetings can be viewed live at [www.emsb.qc.ca](http://www.emsb.qc.ca)

The meetings scheduled for this academic year are as follows:	
<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
• September 6	• January 24
• October 4	• February 28
• November 8	• March 28
• December 13	• April 25
	• May 23
	• June 20

Territory of the Kanien'kehà:ka

At the start of each EMSB Council meeting, Chair Joe Ortona now reads this land acknowledgement statement.

Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that the English Montreal School Board is located on the traditional ancestral and unceded territory of the Kanien'kehà:ka

We are grateful to live, learn and work in Tiohti:àke, which has long been a site of meeting and exchange for many First Nations and is currently home to diverse groups of Indigenous and other peoples.

As a school board, it is important that we acknowledge the historic and ongoing role of educational institutions in perpetuating injustices against Indigenous communities.

We are committed to educating staff and students about the true history and current realities of the Indigenous peoples, of what we now call Canada; celebrating the cultures, contributions and knowledge of the many First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities; listening to and amplifying Indigenous voices, and partnering with local Indigenous community members.

We offer this acknowledgement as a first step and public commitment to our ongoing process towards reconciliation and justice for Indigenous peoples and communities.



Artwork by Christi Belcourt, "Resilience of the Flower Beadwork People," 1999.

PHOTO: JUSTIN WONNACOTT

EMSB Commissioners

<b>JOE ORTONA</b> Chair president-chair@emsb.qc.ca Member of Executive Committee (Chair), Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal and Quebec English School Boards Association	<b>WARD 4</b> Hampstead, Côte Saint-Luc <b>JAMIE FABIAN</b> jfabian@emsb.qc.ca Member of Quebec English School Boards Association and Audit Committee	<b>WARD 10</b> Rivière-des-Prairies, Pointe-aux-Trembles <b>PIETRO MERCURI</b> pmercuri@emsb.qc.ca Member of Executive Committee, Transportation & Safety Advisory Committee and Advisory Committee on Special Education Services
<b>WARD 6</b> St-Michel, Villeray, Plateau-Mont-Royal, Ville-Marie East <b>AGOSTINO CANNAVINO</b> Vice-Chair acannavino@emsb.qc.ca Member of Executive Committee and Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (Alternate)	<b>WARD 5</b> St-Laurent <b>JAMES KROMIDA</b> jkromida@emsb.qc.ca Member of Audit Committee (Chair) and Executive Committee	<b>Parent Commissioner Elementary Schools</b> <b>MARIA CORSI</b> mcorsi2@emsb.qc.ca Member of Executive Committee
<b>WARD 1</b> Côte-des-Neiges, Snowdon, Outremont, Town of Mont-Royal, Parc-Extension <b>ELLIE ISRAEL</b> ekirschenbaum-israel@emsb.qc.ca Member of Executive Committee and Governance & Ethics Committee	<b>WARD 7</b> Ahuntsic, Cartierville, Montreal North <b>SOPHIE DE VITO</b> sdevito@emsb.qc.ca Member of Governance & Ethics Committee and Human Resources Committee	<b>Parent Commissioner Secondary Schools</b> <b>TONY SPERANZA</b> gsperanza@emsb.qc.ca Member of Audit Committee (Vice-Chair) and Transportation & Safety Advisory Committee
<b>WARD 2</b> Montreal West, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce <b>JOSEPH LALLA</b> jlalla@emsb.qc.ca Member Human Resources Committee	<b>WARD 8</b> St-Léonard <b>MARIO PIETRANGELO</b> mpietrangelo2@emsb.qc.ca Member of Governance & Ethics Committee (Vice-Chair) and Human Resources Committee (Vice-Chair)	<b>Parent Commissioner ACES</b> (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services) <b>MUBEENAH MUGHAL</b> mmughal@emsb.qc.ca Quebec English School Boards Association
<b>WARD 3</b> Westmount, Southwest, Ville-Marie West <b>JULIEN FELDMAN</b> jfeldman@emsb.qc.ca Member of Governance & Ethics Committee (Chair) and Human Resources Committee (Vice-Chair)	<b>WARD 9</b> Anjou, Mercier, Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Rosemount-La Petite-Patrie <b>MARIO BENTROVATO</b> mbentrovato@emsb.qc.ca Member of Executive Committee (Vice-Chair) and Human Resources Committee (Chair)	<b>Parent Commissioner at Large</b> <b>DANIEL TATONE</b> dtatone@emsb.qc.ca Member of Governance & Ethics Committee

## EDUCATION & CAREER FAIR

The annual EMSB Education & Career Fair is planned for **October 19 and 20** this year, with an in-person format for students and a virtual option for parents.

Grade 11 students will be able to communicate directly with representatives from CEGEPs, vocational centres and other pedagogical options that can lead to a post-secondary career.

For more information please stay tuned to [www.emsb.qc.ca](http://www.emsb.qc.ca)



## SECTEUR DES JEUNES ~ YOUTH SECTOR

## CALENDRIER SCOLAIRE 2022 ~ 2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR



Commission scolaire English-Montréal  
English Montreal School Board

Holidays / Congé des fêtes  
 Fixed professional days  
Journées pédagogiques fixes

March Break  
Relâche scolaire  
 Last day of classes /  
Dernière journée de cours :  
June 23, 2022 / Le 23 juin 2022

November 2022						
D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2022						
D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2022						
D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2022						
D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

March 2023						
D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2023						
D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 2023						
D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2023						
D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



## ENTER THE EMSB EXPRESS QUIZ

A GIFT CARD FROM

Chapters Indigo COLES amazon

GLOBAL TV  
GIFT BAGSGlobal  
MONTREAL

"DELICIOUS" GIFT CERTIFICATES TO

Billy K's

Billy K's Burgers, now with  
locations in Vaudreuil and  
St. Leonard. Info:  
<https://www.billyks.com/>

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and teas, iced drinks and ice cream.  
Info: <https://mrpuffs.com>

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

You can also access the form  
at [www.emsb.qc.ca](http://www.emsb.qc.ca).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

The deadline is October 20, 2022.

## EMSB Express Quiz

CLUE:

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

- Who is the EMSB Director General?
- Which commissioner represents St. Laurent?
- When is National Media Literacy Week?
- Which school celebrated the opening of a \$6-million sports complex?
- Who was the 2022 EMSB Volunteer of Distinction?
- What is the name of the Lauren Hill Academy student who is advocating on behalf of mental health issues?
- Who are the hosts of the EMSB French podcast?
- Three teachers were presented with special awards from which restaurant franchising company?
- Which elementary school did Tarah Schwartz attend?
- Which elementary school celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary?





## Mental Health Resource Centre

*Working together to support the mental health needs of the EMSB community*

Articles by **Jordan Stoopler**

### Mental Health Resource Centre a valuable asset for EMSB students and staff

The EMSB's Mental Health Resource Centre (MHRC) is comprised of a wide range of multidisciplinary professionals from the Board's Student Services Department (SSD). The professionals that make up the MHRC offer their best practices, knowledge and expertise as it relates to mental health in the EMSB community.

Hospital's Hertz Family Practice Centre or Teenage Health Unit, with the goal of offering additional support to students.

On a day-to-day basis, the MHRC dissipates information regarding the mental health of students via the different members of the Student Services Department such as psychologists, guidance counsellors, social workers,

**‘ Dr. Despina Vassiliou noted an increase in the incidence of mental health challenges such as anxiety, stress, and other difficulties amongst students... ’**

The MHRC, first established in 2011, was created to offer school-based research and address a growing need within the Board. MHRC Coordinator and EMSB psychologist Dr. Despina Vassiliou noted an increase in the incidence of mental health challenges such as anxiety, stress and other difficulties amongst students and, in turn, a growing need to increase awareness and diminish the stigma surrounding mental health in young people.

The MHRC partners with a wide variety of mental health partners in the community, such as AMI-Quebec, Jewish General

spiritual and community animators, and others. Dr. Vassiliou credits the presence of these various professionals from SSD in each EMSB elementary and high school, assisting the MHRC achieve its mission. She says school support administration are invited to contact the MHRC should they be in need of further guidance, consultations or resources. Dr. Xue, a psychiatrist, provides supervision and consultation for SSD professionals as well as offering consultations to school teams regarding specific situations or topics.

The MHRC also plays a major role in delivery of services such as



The pandemic was a particularly difficult time for staff and students in regards to mental health.

through the EMSB Trauma Team, which is available to schools in the aftermath of stressful or traumatic events. A sub-committee of the MHRC has developed a suicide intervention protocol, which has been widely distributed in all EMSB schools in an effort to support school personnel when faced with such a challenging situation.

Over the course of over a decade in existence, the MHRC has held Mental Health Fairs as well as commemorated Canadian Mental Health Awareness Week each May, and Suicide Prevention Awareness week (end of January in Quebec) to generate attention at the board level. Workshops from various experts in the field are

made available to parents and staff as well throughout the year.

Dr. Vassiliou says the MHRC is slowly building up capacity in school staff and servicing schools over time. The MHRC has plans to create more and more toolkits for students, staff and parents, as well as take advantage of challenges to appeal to a younger demographic.

### EMSB's Virtual Library offers plethora of mental health-focused books

The EMSB's Virtual Library has proven to be a handy resource for students, teachers and parents alike.

The school board offers a slew of resources, from e-books and audiobooks to local/national online newspapers and encyclopedias, among many others.

In addition, there has been an increased focus on mental health, with dedicated mental health libraries established within each EMSB elementary and high school.

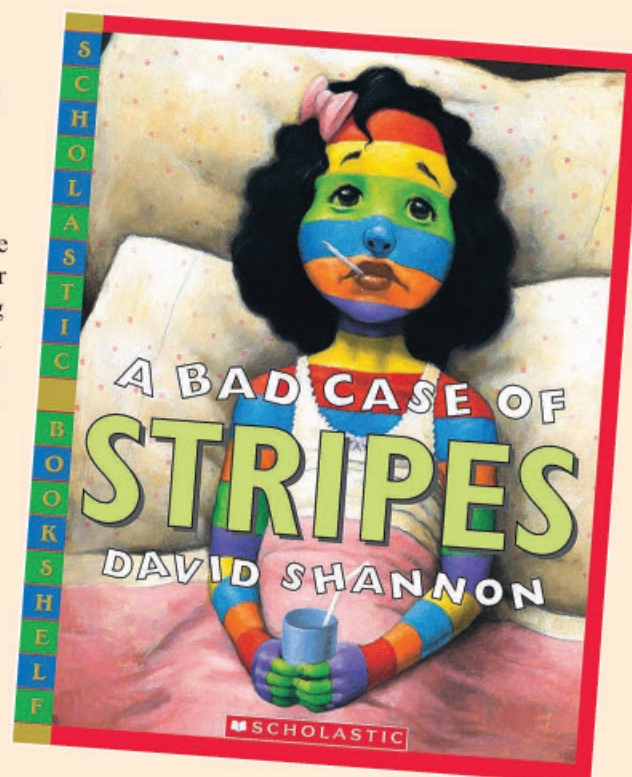
Elementary schools have acquired storybooks teaching valuable socio-emotional lessons. These books can be borrowed by teachers and school staff for use in their lessons, with links to lesson plans included in each book.

These books include David Shannon's *A Bad Case of the Stripes*, the story of an insecure girl named Camilla Cream, who is learning to be happy with her identity and rainbow stripes; Anna Llenas' *Color Monster*, the tale of an adorable monster learning how to sort through and define his emotions through colors; and Niels Van Hove's *My Strong Mind*, which follows a sporty and happy girl named Kate as she navigates challenging situations both at home and at school.

Guidance counselors at high schools also have a set of additional exercise books at their disposal designed to address the mental health needs of students.

The resources can be accessed at any time, whether at school or from home, using the EMSB ePortal login information. Once your EMSB email and password have been entered, you will be shown to the password sheet required to login to each resource.

To consult the entire book list of the Mental Health Library and its lesson plans, visit <https://english-montreal-school-board-stage.azurewebsites.net/mhrc/resources>. Should you have any questions, please email [virtuallibrary@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:virtuallibrary@emsb.qc.ca).



This book is one of many popular items in the MHRC Virtual Library.





## Mental Health Resource Centre

Working together to support the mental health needs of the EMSB community

# LaurenHill Academy student turning mental health struggles into positive change

By the age of eleven, Melodie Dagostino had experienced the loss of many members of her family dear to her. The LaurenHill Academy Secondary I student has seen her great-grandmothers, a great-grandfather, two grandfathers, and a grandmother pass away, not to mention countless pets.

The loss of Melodie's maternal grandmother in June 2017 to ovarian cancer after a quick illness, and that of her pet rat Squeaky hit hardest for Melodie.

"My mom was Melodie's second mom," said Melodie's mother Laura Doghramadjian.

"The fact that my mom was sick and Melodie couldn't be there was difficult on her. Squeaky was her heart rat. When he passed from cancer at two years old, it was really hard on her as well."

A mental health survivor herself, Laura quickly realized the semblance of grief present in Melodie were actually signs of depression.

"She was sad and losing interest in many things," said Laura. "She didn't want to be around people or friends. Noises were bothering her a lot more than usual and her concentration level was completely gone. I needed to get her the help she needed. I didn't want her to bottle it up and have it explode one day when you least expect it."

Melodie ultimately sought help in the fifth grade, with the encouragement of her mother. It has already had a beneficial effect on her.

"Therapy has helped me understand myself and my emotions a bit more," said Melodie. "I realize that I have less and less to say in my therapy sessions. I spend 30 minutes in it now instead of one hour."

Mother Laura's lifelong battle with borderline personality disorder and other mental health issues has also provided Melodie with someone to relate to and talk with.



Melodie Dagostino

"We feed off of each other's anxiety all the time," said Laura. "We are both learning how to deal with that together and to help each other grow. We have this open line of communication between us where if something is off, she can trust me and she knows I will not judge."

Melodie has not been shy to speak up about her struggles with



Melanie Dagostino was named Student of the Month last March. She is seen here congratulated by EMSB Chair Joe Ortona, Cedarcresc Principal Otis Delaney and Commissioner James Kromida and her parents.

mental health and was named the EMSB's Student of the Month last March while attending Cedarcresc Elementary in recognition of her advocacy of the cause. Other students have also opened up to Melodie about their own personal family struggles.

"She has this energy about her that people gravitate towards," said Laura. "People go up to her and open up about anything and everything."

Melodie has gone a step further, accepting donations towards mental health for the Montreal Children's Hospital in lieu of birthday presents. The initiative has been ongoing for five years, with Melodie having already raised well over \$5,000 towards the cause.

"I had seen this note that said Donations for your Birthday and I sent it to my mother," said Melodie. "I also had a friend who was really sad, who I felt bad for."

When I first started, I never would have thought I would be in this spot right now."

"She is the strongest person I have ever met," said Laura. "She may not realize it about herself, but she has the power to change the world and she has already started. It is something I am really proud of."

Donations can be made to Melodie's Quinquennial at: <https://tinyurl.com/25cr4x2z>

## EMSB holds fifth annual parent conference, with focus on mental health

Mental health amongst our youth was the topic of conversation on Sunday, May 29 during the keynote address of the EMSB's Virtual Parent Conference. The conference, in its fifth edition, was organized by the EMSB Parents Committee.

The program, entitled Youth Mental Health: Ongoing Pandemic Considerations, brought together Dr. Karl Looper, psychiatrist-in-chief at the Jewish General Hospital; Dr. Rachel Kronick, child and adolescent psychiatrist at the Jewish General Hospital; Dr. Despina Vassiliou, EMSB psychologist and coordinator of the Mental Health Resource Centre; as well as Lester B. Pearson High School student Bryana Cathedral-Sansalone. The forum was moderated by Virgin Radio afternoon show host and mental health advocate Lee Haberkorn.

Mr. Haberkorn began by sharing his own personal struggles with mental health, including a near suicide attempt, bouts of

depression and anxiety as well as addiction to drugs and alcohol. Although appearing happy to others on the outside, the former Elizabeth Ballantyne Elementary School student says, internally, it was an entirely different picture.

Looking back at the pandemic, Dr. Vassiliou says students had mixed reactions to online learning. Upon the return to classes, teachers and eventually students also experienced challenges of their own, as many had trouble managing their emotions and/or were dealing with anxiety and depression.

Dr. Vassiliou says the loss of sports and other activities, such as arts and music, has had an effect on youth. Above all else, she says the increased screen time of today's children, further exacerbated by the shift to online learning, has negatively impacted the overall mental health of students.

Dr. Kronick admits she and her colleagues are working through



**Mr. Haberkorn began by sharing his own personal struggles with mental health, including a near suicide attempt, bouts of depression and anxiety as well as addiction to drugs and alcohol.**

"very challenging times." She points to social movements, systemic racism and gun violence as additional stressors in addition to the pandemic.

While there has been a noted decrease in drug and cigarette use as well as in teen pregnancy rates,

Dr. Kronick says there is a rise in suicidal thoughts and behaviours "in quite a dramatic way," resulting in an increase of psychiatry visits to the ER.

Dr. Looper, too, has noted profound effects on mental health throughout the pandemic.

"Most people will rally whatever strength and resources to deal with a crisis," said Dr. Looper. "As time goes on and there is a persisting level of stress, we begin to see the mental health effects." Seventeen year old Bryana Cathedral-Sansalone says she has had her own fair share of sadness and hopelessness throughout the pandemic.

"We lost all social contact, connections and interactions that we hoped for," she said. "A big part of school are the extra-curricular activities because it helps us build relationships. It is an enjoyable thing to look forward to every day. The pandemic really took that away from us."

For a more detailed recap please go to <https://mhrc.emsb.qc.ca/mhrc>





## Mental Health Resource Centre

Working together to support the mental health needs of the EMSB community

# Vincent Massey Collegiate takes part in Just For Kids Foundation Voices 2022 fundraising concert

The Vincent Massey Collegiate (VMC) "Clef Notes" sang for a good cause last April. The singing group took part in the Just for Kids (JFK) Foundation Voices 2022 concert at John Rennie High School's Louise Chalmers Theatre. The annual singing and fundraising event raised mental health awareness and funds for the Montreal Children's Hospital.

This year, money raised was directed towards a handful of initiatives, including improving mental health resources at the Children's through the funding of a social worker specializing in mental health for the Emergency Department. Last year's virtual event raised over \$43,000 for the cause.

"It is one of my favorite things," said August Di Liello, a Secondary V student and Voices veteran. "It is so exciting. I love performing."

For fellow chorist Charlotte Renaud, the JFK Voices event this year marked her first time performing in front of a large audience.

"It was an experience for me," said Charlotte, a Secondary IV student. "I was very nervous. At first, I wasn't sure how I was going to perform. I was unsure of



Jessie Ghougassian, Amanda Da Silva, Maya Wagner-Vanamala and Yasmeen Miguel Page perform for VMC.

everything, but once I got on stage and started singing, I right away got so much more comfortable."

The competition, whose theme this year was "Songs of Hope," featured 48 students across seven Montreal-area schools competing for the title of best solo, duo and group performance. The student singers were judged by a renowned panel of music industry

professionals, including The Beat 92.5 FM's Mark Bergman and Catherine Verdon-Diamond, and Jason Rockman of CHOM 97.7 FM. Prizes were awarded to the musical winners as well as to the top fundraisers.

VMC's Clef Notes, the English Montreal School Board's (EMSB) lone representative at the event, rehearsed for their moment in the

spotlight for over two months, under the supervision of their teacher Alessandra Martoccia.

The team of eight students prepared three performances for the competition: duets by August and Charlotte and Anaïs Comte and Julianna Di Natale; as well as a quartet performance featuring Jessie Ghougassian, Amanda Da Silva, Maya Wagner-Vanamala and

Yasmeen Miguel Page. August and Charlotte's duet of Found/Tonight, was a mash-up from two Broadway musicals *Hamilton* and *Dear Evan Hansen*.

"The songs resonated with hope in many ways," said August. "One is about freedom and the other is about being found in dark times."

The Clef Notes raised over \$3,500 for the cause. Over their many years participating in the event, the school has raised over \$30,000 for the Just for Kids Foundation.

While VMC did not place in the competition this year, there was a bigger message to take away from the overall experience.

"We constantly emphasize to our students the importance of supporting charitable endeavors such as the Just for Kids Foundation Voices fundraising concert," said Ms. Martoccia. "Most of our students are fortunate not to ever require the services of the Montreal Children's Hospital. Nevertheless, it is critical to support those students that do."

Listen to our podcast: <https://tinyurl.com/2snkehky>

## Dr. Alissa Sklar tackles all things anxiety in presentation to St. Monica parents

Parents at St. Monica Elementary School in NDG were given the opportunity recently to listen to renowned researcher, professor and award-winning feature writer Dr. Alissa Sklar shared her presentation *Worried Sick: What Parents & Kids Need to Know about Anxiety*. The workshop was held in conjunction with Youth Mental Health Awareness Week.

Dr. Sklar, who also runs the Montreal consultancy project *Risk (within)Reason*, waded through various articles and studies denoting a "marked and concerning" rise in anxiety levels in children, so much so that it has been determined that anxiety is the leading mental health issue amongst children.

Dr. Sklar says there is a distinction to be made, however, between experiencing anxiety and having an anxiety disorder.

"Everyone feels anxiety of some kind," said Dr. Sklar. "It is a normal reaction to stress. An anxiety disorder is a condition diagnosed by a medical professional. We need to be careful not to mix them up."

She says the advent of COVID-19 has only intensified matters, with lockdowns, restrictions and online learning reducing opportunities for children to socialize



(Top) Parents from St. Monica Elementary School appreciated the lecture with (right) Dr. Alissa Sklar.

with others. The cancellation of major events or milestones and the lack of privacy at home also created tension. More and more children were depressed, unhappy or more concerned about their health, she says. Children have also grown more accustomed to worrying about their family, finances and their basic needs.

There are factors beyond the pandemic, however, that explain these feelings of anxiety. Dr. Sklar notes the cultural shift in parental styles and the increased dependence on technology from a

younger age as mitigating factors. Anxious parents also typically rub off their behaviors onto their children, according to Dr. Sklar.

"Kids are sponges," she said. "They are watching how their parents deal with fear or stress and they tend to mimic or internalize their parents' reactions. Parents with more anxious kids are also more likely to accommodate their kid's anxiety."

Instead, the emphasis ought to be on teaching kids how to cope with things when they go wrong, she says.

"Active coping is something that either helps us tackle the problem or deal with the cortisol stress chemical in our bodies," she says. "Active coping is writing in a journal or talking to your partner or a parent. It is shooting hoops or going for a run. There is a lot of research to show that explaining, showing, modeling and practicing active coping mechanisms helps

people deal with stresses and anxieties in a different way."

Seventy percent of mental health disorders materialize in childhood or adolescence, with one in five children suffering from a disorder severe enough to impact their daily lives, she said. This can manifest itself through the form of headaches, nausea, changes in sleep or appetite, trouble concentrating or focusing on schoolwork, among others.

Dr. Sklar says this highlights the urgency of intervening rapidly before it is too late.

"The biggest difference we can make in people's lives is to recognize and be aware of these things," she said. "It is very treatable if we recognize and give our kids the tools to manage it. If we don't treat, it can become a much bigger deal later on in their lives. If you believe someone is at risk of harming themselves or others, you must seek help and speak up."

Dr. Sklar advises parents speak to their child's doctor and/or their guidance counselor or teacher at school immediately if their anxiety appears to be "excessive."

Parents can find a link to Dr. Sklar's interactive digital resource at [www.risk-within-reason.com](http://www.risk-within-reason.com)





## Mental Health Resource Centre

Working together to support the mental health needs of the EMSB community

# Zen Zone providing students with tools to succeed

With a student body of over 1,000, Lester B. Pearson High School (Montreal North) hallways and cafeteria can be quite chaotic, especially during recess or lunch hour. It is during these periods that Secondary II student Liam escapes to a dedicated quiet area of the school, better known as the Zen Zone.

"It's a nice, quiet space," said Liam. "I am, typically, a very laid-back person, and I like to be comfortable. I can always find a place to chill and relax a little."

Liam's "go-to" spot is a couch located at the far end of the room, where he can oftentimes be seen lounging or taking a quick power nap during breaks from classes.

"It is safe space for students to let loose, yet do their work at the same time," said Imma Napoletano, a Special Education Technician, who has been at Lester B. Pearson for four years. "Sometimes, they just need a break and they come here for a few minutes before going back to class. We try to make them feel at home."

Students are encouraged to collect themselves, cry, talk or vent to Ms. Napoletano or fellow Special Ed Techs Cathy Rossi, Francesca D'Angelo and Sonia



(Top) Students appreciate this space; (right) Liam takes a break in the Zen Zone.

Zapitosky. Sometimes, students just come in for a friendly word or two.

"Students will come in and tell us about their day," said Ms. Rossi. "Just knowing they have people who care for them and are there for them, good or bad, makes all the difference."

While the space is primarily utilized for those students with behavioural or academic difficulties, in crisis or high anxiety, or

who are being followed by a childcare worker, other students can be referred to the Zen Zone by the school administration, guidance counselor, or behavior technician in the event of a family problem or exceptional circumstance at home or in school. The room is open from early morning (before classes begin) through until the end of the day.

"We work closely with the guidance counselors, social workers,

teachers, parents and the administration," said Ms. Napoletano. "It is a pretty big school so we need to communicate effectively in order to get things done and help the student. Everyone is in the loop."

The Zen Zone features flexible seating (bouncing balloon chairs, wobbly stools, couches, etc.) and

various tables of different shapes and sizes, offering students a space where they can freely move around. They can exert some energy while working thanks to a pair of elliptical machines. There is a kitchen in the back of the room where students can get something to eat. Board games, fidget spinners and arts and crafts supplies are also available throughout the space for students to utilize at their leisure.

For Secondary V student Leana, the Zen Zone is often used to complete assignments or tests. While her self-admitted shyness keeps her away from the spotlight in class, she says it is a whole different atmosphere in the Zen Zone.

"I feel I am heard and seen here, when usually in class, I am not," said Leana. Ms. Imma helps me feel safer. I can ask her questions."

"I have realized that I have people around me that I am able to talk to," said Liam. "I don't have to be alone all the time. It doesn't always have to be a serious discussion, but sometimes just a friendly conversation. There's a lot of compassion and love in this space. The people here really care for one another and treat each other with a lot of respect."

## Facility Service Dogs program paws-itively embraced by EMSB staff and students

Five year-old golden retriever Kira has become a veritable "celebrity" at Dalkeith Elementary School, with posters and artwork of the dog plastered throughout the Anjou building. Personalized videos featuring a dubbed Kira, have also been created for students celebrating important milestones, such as birthdays or graduations. She has even been included in lesson plans, with a Grade 6 math unit entirely dedicated to Kira the Service Dog.

Kira first arrived here in January of 2020, after undergoing over 3,000 hours of licensed training courtesy of the Asista Foundation. Students and staff have also undergone training since, on how best to approach a dog and how to ask permission to pet a dog.

Kira often accompanies childcare worker Anna Di Maulo on her daily check-ins with students. She aims to help students with their social interactions, reduce stress and anxiety in students, and helping the children in the recovery phase of a crisis. Some students choose Kira as a reward for good behavior and hard work in the classroom. Such students can spend 15 minutes with Kira or take her for a walk.

Kira is now passing on her sensitization training to the next generation of service dogs with



(left) Journey comforts students at St. Raphael.



(right) Dalkeith student Christopher enjoys some reading time with Kira.

Jessie, who first came to the school last May. "If it were up to me, every school would have a facility service dog," said Principal John. Wright. "They project a calm energy for the students and bring smiles to their faces. We want the students to feel safe and by seeing Kira safe in the hallway, I would hope they feel safe as well. If Kira is not worried, why should they feel worried?"

### Meanwhile, at St. Raphael...

St. Raphael School received their service dog, five year-old Journey, in February of 2020,

after a lengthy application and training process.

"Journey is a very sturdy dog, yet super calm," described Clementina Fraga, school secretary and Journey's sitter. "He doesn't get excited. The children love that because they get that connection and it makes them feel secure. Their eyes light up."

Teachers utilize Journey in the classroom, with students invited to read to Journey. It has proven to be of particular benefit to St. Raphael students. "Journey helps me with my work," said Alex, a Grade 5 student. "He helps me focus. I really love animals."

The school's speech language pathologist, Pamela Goldsmith, also has come to use Journey as a tool when doing assessments on children.

Journey's typical school day begins by greeting his handlers and students as they exit the school bus in the morning. He will often sit in the foyer with the children as they arrive, offering support to those in need.

"If he notices someone is in distress, I have seen him go sit next to that person," said Ms. Fraga. "He will just sit there calmly. There is something about him that even adults who are

afraid of dogs feel Zen and calm around him."

### Service dogs also being integrated into adult education

Rosemount Technology Centre (RTC) welcomed three year-old Bouvier Bernois, Gustave, full-time to its facility in March. Gustave came to the school fully trained, with staff also taking part in a six-week online training program, before Gustave was eventually integrated into the school with students.

RTC Principal John Pevec, who was involved with the arrival of both Kira and Journey to Dalkeith and St. Raphael, respectively, while interim regional director, says there has been an increased emphasis on mental health within the Adult Education & Vocational Services (AEVS). Psychologists and education counselors visit with students at the school once a week.

"We were finding, more and more with COVID, the counselors were bringing up cases of severe anxiety and depressions amongst our students," said Mr. Pevec. "We knew the personnel was scarce and hard to find. Gustave's arrival was really based on the needs of the students."

For a more detailed story please go to <https://mhrc.emsb.qc.ca/mhrc>.



# EMSB holds virtual Volunteer Appreciation event

The annual EMSB Parent Volunteer Appreciation Evening took place virtually on April 25, marking National Volunteer Week and under the theme of “United in Our Differences: Together We Have It All.”

This year’s virtual event included recognition of all volunteers, notably those with five years of service or more.

“Despite this pandemic, our schools and centres continue to thrive, and we are very grateful for the role parent volunteers continue to play in our schools every day,” said EMSB Director General Nick Katalifos. “Prior to assuming these duties just a year ago, I had served the EMSB as a teacher, consultant, vice-principal and principal, so I can tell you firsthand what an invaluable role parent volunteers play in the day-to-day proceedings of our schools. You are the lifeblood of our school board communities and for that, we are extremely grateful.”

EMSB chair Joe Ortona fondly remembers the parent volunteers who assisted on field trips and after-school activities during his days as a Nesbitt Elementary and Vincent Massey Collegiate student.

“We have a volunteer system that is truly second to none,” said Mr. Ortona. “We see that in our results and success rates. Parent volunteers play a major part in that. I am very proud to have been a product of the English public system at the EMSB. I want to thank the volunteers for everything they do and hopefully, they’ll inspire other people to volunteer as well.”

“It takes a village,” said the chair of the EMSB Parents Committee Caleigh Saucier. “We make the time because we understand it takes a community and all of our efforts together make a huge difference.”

## Volunteer of Distinction

The Volunteer of Distinction for this year was Mubeenah Mughal. Besides being a parent commissioner for the EMSB, she sits on the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (ACSES) and is integrally involved at the schools of her own children. Ms. Mughal was recently recognized as one of the CBC Quebec’s Black Changemakers. She has worked with organizations advocating for people including undocumented migrants, new parent, and the blind. However, her main identity is as a mother, she said – recognizing that some of the most important contributions to society do not come with a pay cheque. She helped launch the EMSB’s legal challenge to Bill 21, the controversial Quebec law that bars teachers and other people in positions of authority from wearing religious symbols. The board’s challenge is still before the Quebec Court of Appeal.



Volunteer of Distinction Mubeenah Mughal is congratulated by Director General Nick Katalifos, Commissioner Ellie Israel, Chair Joe Ortona and Mile End Childcare Worker Louis Kolovos, School Secretary Maria Piscopo, Teacher Steve Maxwell, Student Lexi Jones-Adams, Head Teacher Jessica Hand, Student Tamisha Davy and Principal Craig Olenik



Earl Rubin with his children Lexi, Aidan and Emma.

A presentation took place outside Program Mile End High School in Côte des Neiges, where one of her children was a student and she volunteered.

## Ambassador of the Year

Dr. Earl Rubin, the Division Director of Infectious Diseases at the Montreal Children’s Hospital of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), was this year’s Ambassador of the Year. Dr. Rubin is a widely recognized, highly valued and well-respected clinician and educator. Dr. Rubin’s three children attended EMSB schools. His eldest is still enrolled in Secondary IV at Royal West Academy. He is also a graduate of the former Wagar High School.

“I think it is incredibly important that our kids see that we are involved and that we care,” said Dr. Rubin. “It’s nice from my own

perspective to know what’s going on and potentially have some input. It works well all around, not only for us as volunteers, but for our kids to see that we step up and get involved.”

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the high-profile media commentator has been a source of information and advice for schools seeking his guidance. In addition, he has appeared on several EMSB educational webinars.

“It has been my pleasure,” said Dr. Rubin. “We are learning together.”

## Beneva

Beneva was the title sponsor for this event. Beneva offers a wide range of products and services that are designed to simplify financial choices for members working in the public and para-public sectors in over 900 public and para-public institutions across the province.

These services include: personal financial advice, savings, 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. La Capitale has merged with SSQ to become Beneva ([www.beneva.ca](http://www.beneva.ca)).

“We know hard hard it can be for volunteers,” said Mikael Abou Nader El Alam, a financial planner, security advisor and mutual funds representative for Beneva. “They can sometimes face difficult situations at work and yet, they still come through. On my behalf and on Beneva’s behalf, we want to say a big thank you. We are very proud of this ongoing partnership, which we hope will continue for many more years to come.”

In recognition of the EMSB and its volunteers, employees can take advantage of special rebates reflected directly on employees’ paystubs.

“Every public institution has a special offer from Beneva for their home and car insurance,” said Mikael Abou Nader El Alam, a financial planner, security advisor and mutual funds representative for Beneva. “We’re proud to be able to help all of the employees and volunteers of the EMSB.”

You can watch our Volunteer Appreciation Evening video here: <https://tinyurl.com/2vw5v3p8>

To all the volunteers who did not appear on the list by press time, we acknowledge your dedication and volunteerism.

Thank you to all.

## VOLUNTEERS WITH 25-PLUS YEARS OF SERVICE

- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Degano, Nives          | McMahon-Paolucci, Rose     |
| DeMichele, Dolores     | Newsome, Joan              |
| Falcone, Mary          | Pace, Luisa                |
| Federico, Bernadette   | Sharma, Mahesh             |
| Fenwick, Penny         | Spreckley Nakanacagi, Mary |
| Kircoff (Vaudry), Mona | Trocard, Thora             |
| Koehnlein, Christine   | Ugolini, Alessandra        |
| Leibov, Barbara        | Williams, Anne             |
| Livingstone, Hazel     | Wilson, Valerie            |
| Marrazza, Mario        |                            |

## 20 TO 24 YEARS OF SERVICE

- |                  |                         |                        |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Bassett, Nancy   | De Palma, Mary          | Santoro-Petti, Frances |
| Clifton, Carol   | Fox-Thomas, Debbie      | Skagkos, Betty         |
| Corlett, Glennis | Green, Bella            | Szyrch, Natalie        |
| Dahdah, Joanne   | Liberopoulos-Stark, Pat | Yaruch, Luba           |
| Dahdah, Nijad    | Loffredi, Angelo        |                        |

## 15 TO 19 YEARS OF SERVICE

- |                      |                      |                          |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Adler, Ellen         | Lage, Addie          | Radhakrishna, Tanya      |
| Berneti, Benny       | Lambert, Laurent     | Roberts, Todd            |
| Campese, Josie       | Lato, Carmela        | Roberts-Joseph, Avice    |
| Colapelle, Paola     | Lian, Jing           | Scopino (Petrone), Gemma |
| Daoust, Manon        | Lopez, Sue           | Skagkos, Betty           |
| Del Re, Maria        | Marcozzi, Lucia      | Smyth, Patty             |
| Deschamps, Renée     | Markopoulos, Fotini  | Strban, Rosemary         |
| Di Re-Frattasi, Pina | Marra, Frank         | Sweeney, Sharon          |
| Fedenko, Nick        | Marra, Laura         | Trineer, Leah            |
| Fiori-Iacampo, Anna  | Marra Zuanigh, Laura | Verrillo, Rosanna        |
| Gow, Ian             | Patriarca, Victor    | Vitale, Connie           |
| Greco, Sandra        | Piedimonte, Lisa     | Yeursh, Susan            |
| Greco, Maria         | Princz, Vicky        |                          |

list of volunteers continued on next page



## 10 TO 14 YEARS OF SERVICE

Adams, Jonathan  
Alexander, Rita  
Assaf, Steven  
Avanzato, Julia  
Backler, Mindy  
Barrafato, Rosanna  
Battista, Rosella  
Beaumier, Stephanie  
Behar, Vlada  
Binstock, Suzy  
Binstock, Susy  
Biunno, Joe  
Bordo, Heather  
Bruna, Tina  
Brunner, Kelli  
Bui, Tess  
Capplette, Serena  
Cardillo, Loredana  
Carpio-Mak, Luisa  
Chan, Susan  
Chan, Philip  
Chow, Suzie  
Ciancio, Nancy  
Clarke, Jacque  
Colantoni, Teresa  
Coletto, Anna  
D'Amico, Diana  
D'Amico, Diana  
De Andrade, Marta  
De Ciccio, Angela  
De Santis, Cynthia  
Di Iorio, Connie  
Dick, Caroline  
Donovan, Meghan  
Dore, Caroline

Downey, Christine  
Drozhzhin, Alexander  
Fancy, Farah  
Fanzolato, Sheila  
Fedele-Vasile, Mary  
Federico, Rosemarie  
Finch, Susan  
Fong, Lisa  
Fortugno, Francesco  
France, Lori-Ann  
Friedlansky, Debra  
Fuoco, James  
Gartner, Steve  
Gauthier, Annick  
Gentile, Lia  
Giatras, Elena  
Gilmour, Theresa  
Gould, Kevin  
Gravel (Switzman), Sissi  
Handal, Veronique  
Holder, Sandra  
Hussein, Alan  
Hynes, Debbie  
Iacono, Maria  
Jailos, Hannu  
Johannesson, Lynn  
Juul, Anja  
Keeren, Katheline  
Kemerer, Bruce  
King, Sharon  
Kirsch, Richard  
Kobak, Paula (Ania)  
Kokotsis, Georgia  
Kontogiannou, Chrissa  
Koutrias, Costa

Lacroque, Annie  
Landbo, Hanne  
Laviolette, Lorna  
Lavoie, Catherine  
Lobasso, Angela  
Macdonnell, Elizabeth  
Mandelos, Zoe  
Matsushnita, Tatsy  
Mazzariello, Franco  
Mazzoldi (Zaccaria), Josie  
McCaffrey, Charlotte  
Meissner, Tabatha  
Meldrum, Douglas  
Meldrum, Patty  
Menard, Elizabeth  
Merrett, Tim  
Michas, Georgia  
Michetti, Brenda  
Monereau, Anne  
Montanaro, Debbie  
Mucciarone, Maria  
Mula, Amy  
Nascimento, Isilda  
Noya, Rose Marie  
Papillo, Marisa  
Patel, Samantha  
Pelosi, Adriana  
Pesce, Josie  
Peters, Joanna  
Peters, Carmen  
Petrecca, Giovanni  
Piccirilli, Gianfranca  
Pinchuk, Ellen  
Primeau, Mario  
Rackover, Heidi



Volunteers from Leonardo Da Vinci Academy.

Ramos, Roberto  
Ratic, Sylvie  
Reda, Marisa  
Riviera, Patricia  
Robitaille, Michelle  
Roll-Kirsch, Caryn  
Ronzaes, Jerlyne  
Rowland, Alexandra  
Santini-Ferretti, Debbie  
Santino, Maria  
Scarano, Teresa  
Schafer, Cindy

Scharing, Barbara  
Schwartz, Aileen  
Sciascia, Christina  
Selwood, Lesley  
Shea, Sandy  
Soares, Cynthia Branco  
Strahl, Jen  
Tamburrino, Cathy  
Tarulli, Laura  
Teoli, Mary Gilda  
Tittler, Rebecca  
Tortoricci, Nina

Triassi, Josie  
Trigatti, Mina  
Uline, Paul  
Valente, Anabela  
Vasile, Mary  
Vella, Kathy  
Vogas, Linda  
Vogliini, Nadia  
Zanchetta, Nadia  
Zarate, Mary Beth  
Zorbas, Alex

## 5 TO 9 YEARS OF SERVICE

Abbateello, Laura  
Abbott, Glen  
Abecassie, Tally  
Abergel, Audrey  
Adamakakis, John  
Adams, John  
Adams Macdonald, Amanda  
Addona (Argento), Beatrice  
Adler, Joanne  
Aitchison, Jono  
Algieri, Jack  
Amendola, Carolina  
Amzallag, Audrey  
Anobile, Tina  
Antonicka, Hanna  
Araujo, Amanda  
Arcuri, Anthony  
Aroyan, Caroline  
Arui, Julia  
Arundi, Claudia  
Atcovitch, Melanie  
Auchinleck, Ian  
Auger, Jamie  
Aziloglou, Thomas  
Babkine, Siobhan  
Bagarollo, Andrea  
Bailey, Cindy  
Barberio, Sonia  
Bateman, Suzanne  
Battista, Rosella  
Beardley, Jennifer  
Beaulieu, MJ  
Beckett, Kira  
Bédard, Marie-Hélène  
Belanger, Tabatha  
Bella Tederici, Daniela  
Bellucci, Lucia  
Benamrom, Sam  
Benitez, Boris  
Benjamin, Peter  
Benoit, David  
Benoit (Fraser), Julie  
Benoudiz, Shirely  
Bentivegna, Rosalia  
Benzacar, Eric  
Beredetti, Andrea  
Bergevin, Tanya  
Berish, John  
Berman, Randi  
Birmingham, Stacey  
Berry, Tara  
Berson-Klen, Brandee  
Besson (Legault), Jessica  
Best, Debbie  
Bhagwandass, Janelle  
Biello, Anna  
Bissonnette, Julie  
Bizanis, Katherine  
Blampin, Emilie  
Blanchard, Genevieve  
Blanshay, Stephanie  
Boire, Catherine  
Bondi, Joseph  
Boswell, Kim  
Bouchard, Carolyn  
Boucher, Chantal

Boulanger, Tania  
Bowen, Jason  
Boyce, Francine  
Bozzo (Padula), Angela  
Bradshaw (Barclay), Jennifer  
Branco, Jennifer  
Brookman, Lorne  
Brotherwood, Pippa  
Brunetti, Assunta  
Bultz, Alissa  
Buono, Antonio  
Burke, Jessica  
Burnatowski, Rita  
Burnett, Sally  
Buttino, Josie  
Cabizzosu, Milena  
Cacchiotti, Luigi  
Cacciatore (Algieri), Jocelyne  
Caci, Lina  
Calce, Perry  
Calderone, Pina  
Cambone, Sandra  
Camelot, Garry  
Camerlingo, Alice  
Cammisano, Bonnie  
Campanile, Catherine  
Campione, Tony  
Canestrari, Catia  
Carrara, Costantino  
Carreiro, Debbie  
Carter, Erin  
Cartier (Teigrob), Marie-Hélène  
Caruso, Claudia  
Casale, Pina  
Castronovo, Maria  
Cecere, Tara  
Cerone, Rosa  
Cerone, Mena  
Cerqueira, Elisabete  
César, Michel  
Cheron, Nathalie  
Chiarella, Carla  
Chieco, Rita  
Chimienti, Vanessa  
Christensen, Lisa  
Christenson, Kristen  
Chronopoulos, Kathy  
Ciafro (Forlini), Patricia  
Ciampaletti, Sabrina  
Ciampini, Sandra  
Ciarlelli, Margherita  
Cicccone, Maria  
Clark (Desbiolles), Christine  
Cloutier, Julie  
Cloutier, John  
Coady, Michael  
Colabelli, Antonio  
Colalillo, Antoinietta  
Conforti, Tania  
Confronti, Cinsyra  
Corby, Carmela  
Corsi, Maria  
Corso, Elvira  
Couch, Anna  
Coughlin, Chris  
Coussa, Amy

Couture, Claudette  
Bowen, Jason  
Crist, Chieko  
Cristiano, Teresa  
Cunsolo, Torina  
Cyr-Almanza, Linda  
D'Angelo, Antonella  
David, Robert  
Dawson, Anthea  
De Ciccio, Veronica  
De Cristofaro (Zaffino), Anna  
De Melo, Kathleen  
De Paola, Giovanna  
De Rosa, Sandra  
De Vito, Sophie  
De Vletter, Martien  
D'Elia, Franca  
Dell'Elce, Patricia  
Demerson, Paula  
DeMichele, Anna  
Der, Karen  
DeRosa, Franca  
Desautels, Eric  
Desmettre, Debra  
Dewolf (Johansberg), Christine  
Di Blasio, Anna  
Di Camillo, Luigi  
Di Iorio, Mary-Ann  
Di Manno, Julia  
Di Paola, Nadia  
Di Pardo, Adrianna  
Di Pasquale, Connie  
Di Raddo, Mirella  
Di Stefano, Patrizia  
Di Tella, Frank  
Dias, Josie  
D'Iglio, Carmie  
Dinolfo, Franca  
Diodati, Antony  
Dion, Karine  
Dix-Holbrough, Elaine  
Djurovich, Mirko  
Domingos, Joe Faria  
Domingos, Tina Faria  
Douglas, Rebecca  
Dubuc, Sara  
Dudok, Samantha  
Dudych, Olya  
Duquette-Nicks, Kathleen  
D'Uva, Sara  
Duy, Joanne  
Dworkin-Rosen, Bonnie  
Edwards, Julia  
Eklove, Elka  
Elfassy, Judi  
Elkouby, Rica  
Ellenbogen, Mark  
Ellinger, Mark  
Enea, Antonina  
English, Maria  
Espitia-Silva, Monica  
Etrusco, Paula  
Fainsilber, Toby  
Falcio, Filomena  
Fanzolato, Ida  
Faraj, Nancy

Farmer, Wendy  
Fasulo, Giuseppina  
Fasulo, Melissa  
Fernet, Lys  
Ferreira, Alirio  
Fiore, Josie  
Fiorino, Alba  
Fischini, Debora  
Fletcher, Jennifer  
Foley, Rosalie  
Fortin, Lisa  
Fortin, Laura  
Fortin, Isabelle  
Fortoul, Cecile  
Fossey, Myrtil  
Foxford, Robert  
Francis, Clotilde  
Frattasio, Giulia  
Gaetano, Dominic  
Galasso, Celina  
Galati, Paul  
Galati, Dora  
Galati, Gianni  
Gallant, Brenda  
Galluccio, Tina  
Gandhi, Shalini  
Gangai, Vanessa  
Garcia, Irene  
Garofalo, Luigi  
Gasparini, Pietro  
Gattola, Amy  
Gaul, Isabelle  
Gelgoot, Lorrie  
Gentile (Milioto), Sonia  
Gharibian, Norm  
Giancarli Giambattista, Cinzia  
Giannini (Campisi), Debbie  
Giguère, Annick  
Girardi, Luisa  
Giroux, Isabelle  
Gouvernale, Alessandra  
Grandejean, Cristine  
Grant, Angela  
Greco, Agata  
Grey, Corin  
Griffin, Lorraine  
Griffin-Kelly, Amanda  
Gruenheld, Samantha  
Guosso, Assunta  
Guerra, Sandra  
Guimond, Carol  
Guttman, Hinda  
Hansen, Patricia  
Hardt, Chris  
Harris, Cynthia  
Hassib, Aiten  
Hasson, Dana  
Heffenbaum, Wendy  
Hernandez, Daly  
Hill, Jayne  
Hinds (Bucchan), Helena  
Hipfner, Dagmar  
Hoch Bowen, Miri  
Holland (Johnson), Danielle  
Holowka, Arianna  
Hoolahan, Julie

Hronjak, Nicki  
Hung, Julian  
Hunter, Andrea Leigh  
Iacullo (Pecora), Nicoletta  
Iasenzaniro, Assunta  
Ibelings, Hans  
Imperiale, Jenny  
Ishak, Nadine  
Iuliano, Ralph  
Jack, Tasha  
Jerome, Lori  
Joaquim, Maria-Louisa  
Johnstone, Chris  
Johnstone Kansou, Lydia  
Jones, Kathryn  
Judd, Lara  
Kabal, Angela  
Kalomiris, Koula  
Kandis, Roula  
Katsifolis, Nick  
Kaufman, Stacey  
Kelly, Nora  
Kenny, Mary Ellen  
Keshen, Mara  
Khalifa, Reisa  
Khoury (Bazinet), Emmanuelle  
Kilian, Paula  
King, Madeline  
Kisilewski, Jadwiga  
Klein, Thomas  
Knafo, Cindy  
Knafo, Florence  
Knecht, Karen  
Kolesnikow, Scott  
Kontolemos, Alexia  
Korb, Deborah  
Kounadis, Maria  
Koutroularas, Joan  
Krakow, Eve  
Kravitz, Wendy  
Krencisz, Melissa  
Kushmir, Julia  
La Rocca, Antonella  
Labelle, Colleen  
Lafond, Carole  
Laghi, Lisa  
Lambert, Alyssa  
Landreville, Loouise  
Langlois, Andre  
Lanni, Nadia  
Lapidus, Rona  
Lapinski, Danusia  
LaStarza, Lelia  
Lawless, Tracy  
Lawrence, Sabrina  
Le Gallie, Carina  
Lee, Andy  
Legace, Elaine  
Lemme, Michelina  
Lerede, Rosanna  
Lewarne, Andrea  
Lim, Debbie  
Little, Caroline  
Lo Bianco, Liviana  
Lobasso, Grazia  
Lobianco, Tania

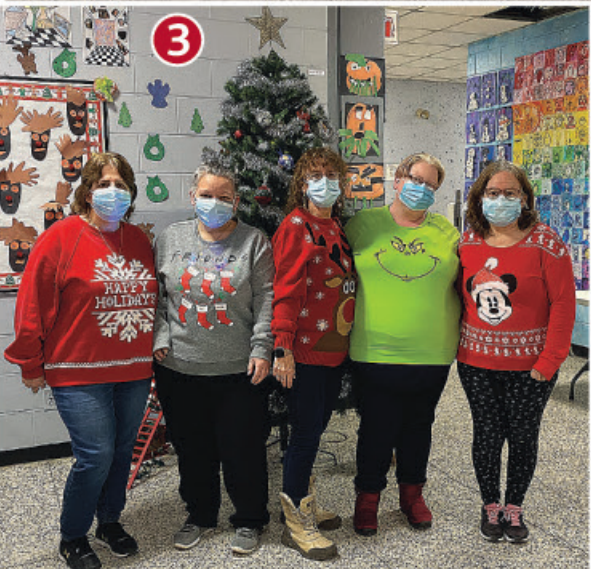
Lombardi, Ida  
Longo, Angela  
Lousky, David  
Macdonald, Patricia  
MacDonald (Casey), Tanya  
Macheras, Maria  
MacLaren, Eli  
Macleay, Tom  
MacRae, Jason  
Magri, Lisa  
Mahoney, Julie  
Maione, Melissa  
Malenfant, Lisa  
Mancini, Rino  
Mangione, Maria Sabrina  
Manitt, Christopher  
Mannello, Rita  
Manocchio, Melina  
Marccone, Virginia  
Mardini, Linda  
Marinis, Maria  
Martineau, Marie-Josée  
Masciotra, Mary  
Mason (MacLaren), Jody Lynn  
Masson, Catherine  
Massone, Carmine  
Matthews, Merrill  
Mayne, Julie  
Mazzariello, Tina  
McFadden Purum, Munjula  
McGregor, Catherine  
McKenzie, Jeffrey  
Knecht, Karen  
McLeod, Lindsay  
McLeod, David  
Medeiros, Veronica  
Mele, Sandra  
Melnik, Alezandra  
Mendelson, Michael  
Mendis, Sally  
Mercuri, Pietro  
Meredith, Danica  
Merritt, Cindy  
Messina-Ceferatti, Framary  
Miccoli, Caroline  
Miceli, Charlie  
Michetti, Pasqualina  
Mignacca, Anna  
Milone, Sognia  
Mincoff, Murray  
Minichiello, Virginia  
Minorgan, Tiffany  
Minuto, Damiano  
Mirarchi (La Fratta), Nadya  
Mohammed, Lisa  
Monachino, Kendra  
Monaghan, Maria  
Monniere, Rachel  
Montanaro-Dym, Maria  
Moodie, Erica  
Moore, Annie  
Morabito, Debbie  
Morello, Josee  
Morin, Louis-Philippe  
Morris, Rebecca  
Morrison, Andrea  
Muir, Michael

list of volunteers continued on next page



5 TO 9 YEARS OF SERVICE – CONT'D

Murphy, Marie	Prata, Pina	Scalia, Lilla
Mussnug, Lisa	Preto, Ana	Scalia, Josie
Nahorniak, Tamara	Primus, Marilyn	Scarola (Puma), Mimma
Nakamura, Miyuki	Proska-Boivin, Hilegard	Scarpato, Ernesto
Nardelli (Argento), Elisa	Rabbat, Nathalie	Schiano, Nancy
Nardi, Antoinetta	Rabiau, Marjorie	Schipano (Milevoy), Rita
Nedescu, Nicoleta	Racaniello, Lina	Schwartz, Corey
Neish, Joelle	Racaniello, Stella	Schwartz, Lauren
Nicholls Wallace, Tia	Racaniello, Brigida	Scicchitano, Maria
Nicolopoulos, Nancy	Racaniello, Mary	Sciortino, Josie
Nikolakakis (Vokas), Niki	Rainelli, Maria	Secko, David
Nishihata, Akiko	Raitano, Mary Jo	Segal, Susan
Noakes, Kristin	Ramirez, Maria Carmen	Sernuck, Eileen
Noble, Monique	Rapkowski, Darren	Sexton, Bruce
Oiknine, Sylvia	Ravenda, Veronica	Shanks, Joyce
Olektonovitch, Elena	Raykhlin, Lia	Shea, Sarah
Olivieri, Josie	Rea, Rosetta	Sheffren, Cassandra
O'Neil, Ryan	Reda, Bob	Shyavitz, Abby
Ortchanian, Annie	Reda, Sabrina	Sifakis, Janet
Ostroff, Steve	Renda, Rosanne	Simard, Renée
Quaknine, Myriam	Ribarova, Rossitza	Sirimarco, Francine
Paccione, Candida	Richer, Kayla	Smolarz, Claudio
Padulo, Maria	Riddell-Tauber, Marie	Sofer, Nathalie
Pagliuca, Tania	Ridolfi, Nadia	Soiferman, Ezra
Pallotta, Angela	Rinaldi, Lisa	Sommer, Anna
Pallotta, Loredana	Rinaldi, Nadia	Sousa, Sandra
Palotta, Maria	Rinaldi, Alex	Speranza, Tony
Panopolis, Aglaia	Rivard (Blondin), Christine	Spetsieris, Anna
Paparelli, Dina	Robertson, Ann	Staples, Sarah
Papastrait, Peter	Robichaud, Paul	Stark, Peggy
Paquette, Suzanne	Rodger, Michael	Staunton, Frances
Pardo, Ariella	Rodier, Cindy	Stein-Elman, Jacqueline
Pardo, Tayla	Ronzales, Jerlyne	Stern, Ronit
Parisien, Shanna	Ross, Roberta	Stern, Ally
Passucci, Stephanie	Ross, Chana	Stern, Alison
Patrizio, Franca	Ross, Andrew	Sticozzi, Grace
Pavia, Sandra	Rossi, Angela	Stirpe, Lina
Pecora, Sonia	Rossi, Josie	Stoddart, Sharon
Pelatt-Caron, Karyn	Rotstein, Shana	Strussione, Stefania
Peluso, Nadia	Ruffalo, Patricia	Sung Hee, Kim
Pennefather, Lauren	Ruffiri, Elisa	Symansky, Leslie
Penney, Janice	Russo (Alfonso), Maria	Szpopper, Marlene
Pepin, Paul	Rustemi, Genta	Tafuto (Baril), Anna
Perrozzi, Maria	Sadeh, Elana	Tagliamonti, Lori-Ann
Phaneuf, Caroline	Sakakibara, Sakaya	Tagney, Ruby
Piche, Genevieve	Saleh Mohammed, Tasleem	Tartamella, Silvia
Pierre, Cherylin	Salvo, Stefanie	Tartamella, Sandra
Pietrangelo, Mario	Santamaria, Marisa	Tavares, Anabel
Pisto, Patrizia	Santelli, Dino	Taylor, Cynthia
Pitt, Rebecca	Santori, Rebecca	Teoli, Laurie
Pizzini, Franca	Santullo, Ivana	Thiel, Stuart
Placentino, Melissa	Saracino, Mark	Thomas, Georgina
Plamondon, Chantale	Sardelli, Sonia	Thomas, Sabrina
Popwycz, Irene	Sarli, Alfredo	Thompson-Dudley, Margaret
Porter, Roberta	Sasso, Enza	Tortorici, Maria
Posteraro (Colaneri), Nadia	Saunders, Katie	Totaro, Rossana
Potvin, Annie	Scalia, Sandra	Tran, Jenny



Volunteers from (clockwise): (1) East Hill Elementary | (2) Merton Elementary | (3) St. Gabriel Elementary

Tremblay, Carolynne	Varga, Joseph	White, Tanya
Tremblay, Fidele	Vassilyeva, Natalia	White, Mitchell
Trudeau, Jason	Venturella, Lorie	Wilson, Lynn
Trudeau, Genevieve	Verducci, Lena	Wittman, Trinity
Trudel, Julie	Vibert, Tina	Wolch, Ilana
Tsoulhas, Anna	Vigderhaus, Lisa	Wolkoff, Anita
Tstoumas, Andreas	Villeneuve, Chantal	Wyse, Michelle
Tulloch, Kim	Vincent-Herscovici, Jesse	Wysinski, Ania
Turcot, Pierre	Viscosi, Maria	Xenocostas, Spyridoula
Tuzzolino, Analia	Vlitas Contomichalis, Demetra	Yanofsky, Alexandra
Tzagrakis, Athena	Wagner, Rose	Yarbrough, Yanci
Ubha, Kumar	Walker, David	Yasvinski, Donald
Vaccaro, Angela	Wallace, Siobhan	Yee, Carron-Ann
Vaccaro, Rosalia	Wang, Arthur	Yiannatsoulis, Stravoula
Valkanias, Maronika	Washington, Celenia	Zegarelli, Linda
Van Den Bosch, Paula	Wasson, Haidee	Zereik, Helene
Vardaro, Laura	Welagedara, Anuradha	
Varga, Edith	Wen, Stella	

VOLUNTEERS WITH 1 TO 4 YEARS OF SERVICE

Abelardo, Lysanne	Bellon, Liana	Cardillo, Franca	Costanzo, Gina	Di Fruscia, Linda	Epstein, Wendy
Accardi, Francesca	Belo, Melinda	Cardinale, Sonia	Côté, Réjean	Di Giacomo, Domenico	Ermes, Sarah
Alalouf, Carole	Benabou, Jessica	Carestia, Angelina	Courcelles, Melanie	Di Giacomo, Brigitte	Falcone, Marilena
Alessandrini, Marco	Benbaruk, Sabine	Carioti, Connie	Craig, Nadia	Di Giosia, Anna	Fanelli, Grace
Alexis, Melissa	Berghout, Choukri	Carosello, Nadia	Crecco, Alessandra	Di Lena, Sonia	Farace, Marge
Allooh, Waleed	Bermack, Jordanna	Carreiro, Jennipher	Cribari, Ivana	Di Manno, Marco	Farella (Furfaro), Rachela
Alogbo, Simone	Bernstein, Ashly	Cartier, Phillippe	Crisci, Marysa	Di Martino, Maria Lisa	Farella (Vaccaro), Franca
Alsmadi, Zainab	Bérubé, Tanya	Cartier, Candice	Cristiano, Rosie	Di Mauro, Lucia	Farrella, Imma
Amoroso, Francesco	Bibi, Josephine	Cartillone, Melania	Croll, Alistar	Di Michele, Mike	Fascia, Carolyn
Amoroso, Nadia	Bikas, Kyriaki	Caruso, David	Cruz, Kembly	Di Molfetta, Nadia	Fata, Brunella
Andersen, Brian Christopher	Biunno, Carmela	Catalano, Giovanna	Cucuzzella, Linda	Di Nezza (Matteo), Sophia	Fava, Nadine
Andersen, Maja Rovsing	Blaine, Patrick	Catalano, Meg	Cullen, Mieke	Di Nolfo, Anna	Ferguson, Tanya
Antenucci, Marisa	Blais, Debra	Caternicchia, Enza	Curie, Lisa	Di Nolfo, Natalie	Ferland, Guillaume
Antippa, Sophie	Blaise, Edwige	Ceccarelli, Antoinetta	Currie, Sophie	Di Pasquale-Farina, Pino	Ferraesi, Sabrina
Antonio, Silvie	Blake, Candace	Cercillo, Lissethy	Da Costa, Lory	Di Perna, Karen	Ferrara, Vivian
Araujo, Sandra	Blake, Caminee	Cerroni, Gianni	Da Costa, Sandie	Di Pietro, Lidia	Ferraro, Lori
Argyriou, Maria	Blanchette, Annie	Cestra, Jennifer	Da Costa, Shahida	Di Salvo, Ada	Fiaschetti, Richard
Asencio, Monica	Boghen, Jennifer	Chan, Stanley	Dachille, Mariella	Di Stefano, Diego	Fiengo, Sabrina
Attiana, Kimia	Bongiorno, Josie	Chan, Christopher	Dagostino, Diana	Di Tiello, Marina	Flocari, Lois
Augello, Charlotte	Boriak, Oxana	Charest, Isabelle	Dancause, Ann-Marie	Di Vaccaro, Alexandra	Fong, Julie
Au-Pichette, Catherine	Borrelli, Marisa	Cherella, Daniella	Daoud, Lama Wasim	Di Vicenzi, Sarah	Forget, Louise
Avino, Amanda	Bouayad Agha, Youcef	Chiarappa, Tania	D'Arienzo, Laura	Dias-Forget, Terry	Forgione, Cassandre
Aylward, Alison	Boudreau, Dominique	Chiazzese, Gianni	De Block, Helene	Diaz-Almendariz, Jessica	Frade, Rosemary
Baccari, Mary	Bourgeois, Myriam	Chiazzese, Angela	De Bortoli, Patrick	Dillon, Kieran	Fragapane, Mirella
Bachelier, Flore	Bozzo, Tania	Chinappi, Arlette	De Ciccio, Sabrina	Dionne-Boutin, Melissa Ann	Franco, Guiseppe
Bachmann, Rachel	Brook, Katie	Choy, Bonny	De Fazio, Carla	Disenza, Maria Teresa	Fratangelo, Melissa
Bailo, Linda	Brook, Tara	Christos, Rafaella	De Guzman, Sherlyn	Dizazzo, Lea	Fratino, Anna Daria
Baker, Kristie	Brook, Shawna	Ciabattoni, Giovanna	de koos, Andras	Doctor, Heidi	Fuoco, Sonia
Ballan, Alicia	Brownrigg, Maimouna	Ciampini, Melanie	De Luca, Vanessa	Doherty, Nancy	Furiani, Suzie
Banks, Jennifer	Bufo, Flora	Ciarlo, Johnny	De Luca, Alex	D'Onofrio, Cynthia	Furlong, Jennifer
Barasso, Antonella	Burke, Pamela	Ciccarelli, Stephanie	De Melo, Nancy	Dorfman, Allison	Gabbay, Vardit
Barberio, Nadia	Buscio, Domenico	Cilla, Barbara	De Palma, Nicola	Dorschel, Winona	Gabriele, Sandra
Barone, Valerie	Byer, Joy	Civitillo, Antonietta	De Sousa, Ana Paula	Dos Santos, Robert	Galerio, Miranda
Barter, Renee	Cabral, Nelson	Clarizio, Sabrina	De Stefano, Teresa	Doubt, Jessica	Gallo, Sabrina
Bastounis, Dina	Callender, Sharone	Clinunak, Carmen	De Stefano, Pina	Dres, Niki	Garcon, Celine
Batchoun, Melissa	Camard, Sophie	Coffey, Theresa	Debrecen, Jennifer	Drivakos, Maria	Garofalo, Verena
Batista, Sandra	Cambridge, Debbie	Colafabio, Sabrina	Decobellis, Tania	Dudley, Jo-Anne	Gatien, Jennifer
Batstone, Kelly	Campeau, Sandrine	Colalillo, Gina	Del Balso, Patrizia	Dufour, Anique	Gaudio, Nadia
Battista, Melinda	Cancilla, Luciana	Condo, Tania	D'Elia (Sheikh), Sophia	Dumais, Sandra	Gauris, Julie
Battista, Lina	Cannavino, Nadia	Condoroussis, Catherine	Denomme, Pascale	Dumont, Stephane	Gavita, Laura
Battista, Carmela	Cantini, Nancy	Contarini, Fillippa	Desai, Ushma	Dussault, Alain	Gendron, Lyne
Beaulieu, Mario	Canzano, Ellie	Corbeil, Jesse	Desbiens-Leighton, Alexandra	Dykes, Sabrina	Germile, Lisa
Bedkowska, Anna	Carbone, Clotilde	Corbi, Stefania	Desforges, Myriam	Elharrar, Vanessa	Gervasi, Emily
Bedkowska, Barbara	Carchedi, Carmy	Costa, Jimmy	Desforges, Katherine	Engel, Jody	Gesualdi, Maria



## VOLUNTEERS WITH 1 TO 4 YEARS OF SERVICE – CONT'D

Ghandi, Unmesh  
Ghayourmanesh, Shaheen  
Giambona, Maria Christina  
Glazer, Alyssa  
Gloria, Jacklyn  
Gnahore, Oliver  
Godfrey, Erin  
Golberg, Deborah  
Gomatos, Constantina  
Goodings, Alana  
Gove, Curt  
Grasso, Maria Teresa  
Greco, Sandra  
Grigat, Michelle  
Grunberg, Yosi  
Gueye, Lyta  
Guy, Marie Eve  
Halasz, Vanessa  
Hales, Lindsay  
Hamelin-Couture, Lea  
Harrar, Vanessa  
Hassan, Ahmad  
Hatt, Suzanne  
Havis, Tova  
Henriquez, Veronica  
Heppelle, Real  
Hernandes White, Maria  
Hernandez, Aurora  
Holgate, Emily  
Honiges, Lisa-Marie  
Horak, Jana  
Hussain, Ayesha  
Iacono, Giuseppina  
Iafrancesco, Cristina  
Iaizzo, Deanna  
Iannantuono, Nancy  
Ianniciello, Adelina  
Iavenditti, Lina  
Ierra, Angelo  
Infantino, Meri  
Ishmael, Jerry  
Iulianella (Ciabrone), Ivana  
Jean, Jamillah  
Jensen, Glen  
Jiwan, Zenith  
Jodoin, Annie  
Joo, Hannah  
Juhl, Hayley  
Kalogerakos, Eleni  
Kaluza Levy, Lisa Melanie  
Karabatsos, Maria  
Karam, Josee Lynn  
Karawi, Tamara  
Karbin, Ingrid  
Kasnakian, Paul  
Kastrounis, Kosta  
Kay, Esther  
Keating, Stephanie  
Kelly, Brian  
Kiefer, Darcy  
Kim, Eun Ju (Michelle)  
Korakakis, Katherine  
Korifidou, Elpida  
Korman, Shawna  
Kousaie, Shanna  
Kowalchuk, Natalie  
Kozah, Sandra  
Kravitz, Kenton  
Lacroce, Joanne  
Lagace Dawson, Anne  
Lai, Beverly  
Laliberte, Danielle  
Lallouz, Melanie  
Lancelotta, Giovanna  
Lane, Dawn  
Lapolla, Nadia  
Lariviere, Erin  
Larocci, Melanie  
LaRocque, N  mie  
Lauro, Lisa  
Lazar, Suzie  
Le Moyenne, Kristen  
Leckner, Mitchell  
Lee, Hyunyoung  
Lee, Vivian  
Lee, Suzanne  
Lefebvre, Jasmine  
Lemaire, G  raldine  
Lennox, Robert  
Lenteris, Ellie  
Leoci, Johnny  
Lepanto, Jenny  
Lesperance, Kathy  
Levy, Fred  
Libling, Lindsay  
Licata, Lynda  
Liguori, Marilena  
Lipardi, Caterina  
Liscio, Anita  
Liste, Amanda  
Litwack, Melani  
Lizza, Adriano  
Locopo, Laura  
Lomardo, Carmen  
Lombardi, Stephanie  
Lopes, Tina-Louise  
Lord, Richard

Luu, Tony  
Maalouf, Linda  
Machado, Nicholle  
MacLeod, Jon  
Macri, Natalie  
Magill, Steve  
Maizza, Franca  
Manstavich, John  
Marateo, Frank  
Marci, Karina  
Marciante, Meryl  
Marco, Debbie  
Marovitch, Maureen  
Martin, Christina  
Martinek, Lenka  
Martino, Josie  
Martins, Christina  
Mascola, Angelica  
Masrani, Hala  
Masse, Bianca  
Massimo, Sabrina  
Mastromateo, Enza  
Materassi, Manuela  
Matlin, Julie  
Matocia, Sergio  
Mattiace, Maria  
Matticoli, Stephanie  
Mazzafero, Isabella  
McEnroe, Nicola  
McGraw, Kristen  
McKay, Leslie  
McKenna, Kerry  
McLean, Emily  
McRae, Lindsay  
Melfi, Antonietta  
Mendonca (Grossi), Tania  
Mercaldi, Enza  
Michael, Evangelia  
Michaud, Alexandra  
Mihalik, Teresa  
Miller, Josh  
Mirarchi, Elsa  
Mire, Naeema  
Mirijello, Luisa  
Mollica, Marco  
Monaco, Pina  
Monaghan, Mark  
Mondor, Karine  
Moneit, Toby  
Mongelli, Nicky  
Montagna, Elissa  
Monteleone, Connie  
Montesclaros, Aileen  
Morales, Amanda  
Morfopos, Catherine  
Moshonas, Tasia  
Mouline, Mouna  
Muallem, Michal  
Mullen, Jenn  
Mungiovi, Linda  
Munizaga, Tanya  
Muio, Carla  
Murphy, Pamela  
Musgrave, Emily  
Narrea, Isabel  
Nelli, Micki  
Nemeroff, Alex  
Nevin, Louise  
Nguyen, Lyn  
Normandeau, Louise  
Notarmaso, Maria  
Noto, Lisa  
Nunes, Victoria  
Nuniez, Miguel  
Nuniez, Silvia  
O'Doherty, Richard  
Ohayon, Einav  
Onofre Pinnheiro, Bruno Antonio  
O'Reily, Miranda  
Ortaaslan, Andy  
Ortona, Diana  
Pachis, Evi  
Packard, Shari  
Padvano, Gabriel  
Pagano, Sabrina  
Pag  , Renee  
Paglia, Joseph  
Palermo, Rosanna  
Palleria, Angela  
Palmieri, Amanda  
Panetta, Robert  
Panetta, Sabrina  
Pantera, Carmela  
Paolella, Valerie  
Paone, Maria  
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Ventura, Kim  
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Vetrano, Anna  
Vicario, Cinthia  
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Vidakis, Irene  
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Woo, Stanely  
Ye, Hui  
Young, Jennifer  
Young Lee, Hyun  
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# BULLETIN

de la

## CSEM

### Projet trésors de famille à Royal Vale



Les élèves de 4<sup>e</sup> année de l'école Royal Vale sont partis à la découverte d'objets ayant été transmis de génération en génération.

À la suite de la visite de Marie-Claude Bergeron, conseillère pédagogique en français à la CSEM, les élèves de 4<sup>e</sup> année de l'école Royal Vale sont partis à la découverte d'objets ayant été transmis de génération en génération au sein de leur famille et qui ont pour eux une valeur sentimentale. L'enseignante Nathalie Malhamé

rapporte qu'après avoir effectué des recherches sur l'histoire de leur objet, les élèves l'ont présenté à leurs camarades de classe et ont ensuite rédigé un texte de quatre paragraphes à son sujet. Madame Bergeron a présenté un documentaire sur sa propre famille et a apporté divers petits trésors familiaux afin de les présenter aux élèves.

Dans le cadre de ce projet, les élèves écriront également une lettre à l'adulte qu'ils deviendront et créeront une boîte aux trésors pour y placer leurs précieux objets. Lors d'un atelier d'art en compagnie de M<sup>me</sup> Deirdre Potash, ils ont également créé un médaillon qui arbore un symbole représentatif de leur famille.

### EXPO 2022



Inspiré par l'Exposition universelle de 1967, ce projet consistait en la création de pavillons représentant différents pays choisis par les élèves dans le gymnase de l'école.

Passionnés par l'histoire et la géographie, les élèves de 6<sup>e</sup> année de l'école Merton et leur enseignante **Gabrielle Horrocks-Denis** ont organisé un événement intitulé « Expo 2022 : La foire des pays ». Inspiré par l'Exposition universelle de 1967, ce projet consistait en la création de pavillons représentant différents pays choisis par les élèves dans le gymnase de l'école. Pour ce faire, ils ont rigoureusement travaillé à la construction de maquettes de maisons traditionnelles et effectué une recherche sur divers aspects du pays tels que leurs salutations, leurs coutumes, la faune et la flore ainsi que les personnages historiques importants des pays étudiés. Les visiteurs de l'Expo 2022 avaient donc la chance de « voyager » d'un pays à l'autre en visitant les différents pavillons où les élèves 6<sup>e</sup> année les accueilleraient chaleureusement en leur adressant un Hallo, Hola, Aloha ou Shalom. Une merveilleuse façon de créer une ouverture sur le monde et d'incorporer le programme d'univers social, de français et d'arts plastiques au cœur d'un même projet. Bravo aux grands de Merton!

### Balado en français

La CSEM est très heureuse d'annoncer la création d'un balado en français, nouveau projet issu d'une collaboration entre son Service du marketing et des communications et les Services éducatifs. Ce balado est animé par les conseillers pédagogiques Nicolas Doyon et Marlène Boudreault. Comme le dit si bien le slogan de la CSEM, Être bilingue, c'est gagnant!



Nicolas Doyon et Marlène Boudreault

### Match amical de soccer



Le sport étant au cœur de l'école primaire Gerald McShane à Montréal-Nord, Alissa Minicucci,

élève de 6<sup>e</sup> année, a mobilisé ses camarades de classe pour que grâce au soccer ils puissent faire

leur part dans la lutte contre le cancer. Le 18 mai, Alissa et 25 de ses amis se sont élancés sur le

terrain afin de recueillir des fonds au profit de la Société canadienne du cancer. Bien que l'initiative ait été lancée par Alissa à la suite du décès récent de son cousin des suites de la maladie, la collecte de fonds était une façon, pour tous les élèves et le personnel, d'honorer des êtres chers ayant perdu leur combat au fil des ans. Le mois dernier, le père du directeur (David Lee) ainsi que celui de l'enseignante-ressource (Melissa Malourni) ont tous deux été emportés par un cancer. En outre, le souvenir d'Erika Cipolla, ancienne élève ayant succombé

à cette maladie alors qu'elle fréquentait l'école en 2008, restera à jamais gravé dans le cœur de tous les élèves de Gerald McShane. « Nous sommes si nombreux à avoir été touchés par cette maladie et nous tentons de nous mobiliser en tant que communauté pour faire une différence, aussi mince soit-elle », de dire Kathy Vella, agente de développement communautaire à l'école Gerald McShane. « Tant de personnes au sein de notre communauté ont côtoyé le cancer. Cet événement permettra de recueillir des fonds et, surtout, de sensibiliser nos élèves. »

ÊTRE BILINGUE, C'EST GAGNANT!

LE BALADO DE LA CSEM

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# Accolades

## ELIZABETH BALLANTYNE CENTENNIAL

Elizabeth Ballantyne Elementary School in Montreal West marked its centennial on June 2 by celebrating the past, all the while looking ahead to the future. Students, staff, dignitaries and other invited guests gathered outside the front entrance of the building in May 1997. It was initially buried in celebration of Elizabeth Ballantyne's then-75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in conjunction with the Town of Montreal West's centennial. A new time capsule was buried in its place to be opened in 25 years time. Students wrote letters about what they think Montreal and Elizabeth Ballantyne will look like in 2047 for inclusion in the time capsule. Masks, hand sanitizers and rapid tests were included as a nod to COVID-19, along with a newspaper, cap and staff photo, among other items. Following the ceremony, all guests were invited back into the school gymnasium for a trip down memory lane. Old photographs and photo albums were on display highlighting the school's rich history and alumni over the years. Each grade level was allocated a different decade of Elizabeth Ballantyne's existence to highlight within their classrooms. The doors of the classrooms were decorated with photos and memories of that specific decade, with students also invited to dress up according to their era. All students and staff received a purple T-shirt in recognition of the school's centenary. The centennial celebrations were organized and planned by Principal Christina Chilelli and her committee of teachers, school secretary and childcare workers.



Students and staff celebrate the school's centennial.

## "WRESTLING" WITH BULLYING

World-famous wrestler Jacques Rougeau brought his anti-bullying campaign to Rosemount High School last May with an interesting twist. Popular English and history teacher **Jessika Neri** went public with her alter-ego, female professional wrestler Jessika Black. Ms. Neri has always kept her wrestling career completely separate from her job as a teacher. However, taking a page from Rougeau she wishes to use her pastime as a vehicle to address bullying. "I have liked wrestling since I was a kid," Ms. Neri said. "Being a female wrestler, I didn't know it was something I could do. I only started at the age of 27, so it took time for me to have the courage to go try it out. It is just to show you can start something and follow your dreams at any age. I've had a blast since. As for being a teacher and a wrestler, they are both performances. In front of a class, in front of students you have to entertain and motivate them to want to learn the material just like in the ring you have to entertain the fans to either cheer or boo you."



(inset) Jessika Black (top L to R) Chair Joe Ortona, Jacques Rougeau, MNA Vincent Marisall and Jessika Neri with some students.

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR ALUMNI

### GRAD A DEFENDER OF THE CLIMATE

**Karahkwinetha Sage Goodleaf-Labelle** visited her alma mater Westmount High School (Class of 2016) on April 27 to discuss climate change through the perspective of an Indigenous person having attended the global climate negotiations in Scotland and her work with an organization called Climate False Solutions. Karahkwinetha Sage Goodleaf-Labelle is Bear Clan, Kanien'kehá:ka from Kahnawake. She is a dedicated land defender and advocate for the climate, as well as for the insights offered by traditional Kanien'kehá:ka ways of being and living in accord with the climate and all of Turtle Island. She is not only a student in McGill's Neuroscience and Psychology programs, but she is also a volunteer with Kahnawake Collective Impact that promotes youth engagement programming and works with John Abbott Indigenous students through Youth Fusion. Her work for social and environmental justice brought her, along with an Indigenous youth coalition, to the COP26 Glasgow Climate Pact talks, and her insights from this experience are as impactful as they are urgent. Sage asks students to take a look at Hoodwinked in the Hothouse, available in your language of choice: <https://climatefalsesolutions.org/>



Karahkwinetha Sage Goodleaf-Labelle

## SCHWARTZ RETURNS

Longtime broadcaster **Tarah Schwartz** returned to her former elementary school, Carlyle in TMR, to talk about her compelling new book *Can't Help Falling: A Long Road To Motherhood*. A former CTV News anchor and reporter, Tarah is currently the head of communications and marketing for the McGill University Health Centre. In the book Tarah shares the experience of having several miscarriages and in vitro fertilization treatments. She and her husband Enrico decided to adopt. But that was no easy process either. On the contrary. They did eventually adopt Sam, a beautiful child from South Korea. The pages in the book describing that experience belong in a Lifetime movie script. It all comes down to an incredibly strong marriage and a woman on a mission. Sam, 10, is a student at Bancroft Elementary School. Carlyle is selling the book as a fundraiser. It is also available at local bookstores and via Amazon. Students had so many interesting questions for Tarah.



Tarah Schwartz shares a slide of her son when he was a baby.



# Accolades

## DOLLS THAT LOOK LIKE US



A few years ago, **Anna Maria Civitella** (seen above), came to a realization: children with disabilities didn't often see themselves reflected in the toys they played with. No dolls with hearing aids, no teddy bears with feeding tubes, no action figures with leg braces. So, Ms. Civitella, an occupational therapist with the CIUSSS West Central Montreal at the Mackay Centre and Philip E. Layton Schools, decided to do something about it. In an initiative that consumed hours of her time and rallied support from several partners, her dream has become a reality. She's collected more than 90 toys, incorporating a range of disabilities, for the children at the NDG schools. The project is about more than playthings for the schoolchildren, who have motor, visual, hearing and language impairments. To Ms. Civitella, the toys send a powerful message about acceptance and inclusion.

## MENTORING IN ST. LEONARD



The leadership/mentoring program has been a big success.

An initiative by Commissioner Mario Pietrangelo is taking off. St. Leonard EMSB schools are participating in a leadership/mentoring program that Mr. Pietrangelo created. The program has students from Laurier Macdonald High School coaching elementary students from Honoré Mercier, Dante and Pierre de Coubertin in various sports. This program aims to build leadership skills and highlights community collaboration between primary and secondary students in St. Leonard. Once the program is complete and students acquire the skills needed to compete in the sport, they will participate in a friendly match.

## TECHNOLOGY FAIR AT POMPEI



One of the interesting displays at the fair.

Students at Our Lady of Pompei Elementary School in Ahuntsic were been hard at work last year, honing their technology skills, and their exploits were on full display at their first ever Tech Fair. During the day, classes visited the fair to see the one-of-a-kind science, robotics and multimedia projects. Additionally, at night, for the first time in two years, parents visited the fair to see what their children had accomplished.

## PROMOTING SPORTS CONCENTRATION

SPORTS



Canadian Olympic women's hockey gold medal winning goalie Kim St. Pierre drops the puck during a BOKS game of hockey scrimmage between Giordano Marateo and Giuliano Giglia at Gerald McShane last June.

Gerald McShane in Montreal North is the only elementary school in the EMSB with a sports concentration program. The student athletes train during school hours after completing their academics in the morning.

With an arena located steps away, soccer fields in the school yard and a large gymnasium, the students have everything they need to succeed in and out of the classroom. The program is open to Cycles 2 and 3

students. Many sports are available such as soccer, hockey, gymnastics, figure skating, dance and football. Call the school for more information at 514-321-1100.

## B.A.S.E. DAYCARES WIN PRIZES



Leonardo Da Vinci Academy students sprint towards their championship.

LDVA B.A.S.E. Daycare won a BOKS Prize Pack from Catsports, valued at \$400. All other six participating B.A.S.E. Daycares earned a BOKS Prize Pack of varying values donated by BOKS Canada. All top three performing B.A.S.E. Daycares (LDVA, Gerald McShane and Edinburgh) were paid a visit from **Kim St-Pierre**, a three-time Olympic gold medalist.

Kim was a member of Canada's National Women's Hockey Team as a goaltender from 1998 until 2011. She is currently the manager of business development for BOKS Canada and oversees all BOKS schools in Quebec. All three visits will take place the week of May 30. BOKS (Build Our Kids' Success) is a free program that aims to make physical activity

and play part of every child's day. The daycare educators used four different BOKS resources during the contest: Month 1: Recess Cards, Month 2: Are You Game? Booklet and Month 3: Break the Ice Booklet and BOKS Bursts. Daycare educators animated the games in three different settings: Schoolyard, classroom and gymnasium.

## WILLINGDON STUDENTS SING ANTHEM



Willingdon students perform the national anthem.

Willingdon Elementary School's music teacher Nick Batzios first dreamt about having his students sing the national anthem at a Montreal

Canadiens game nearly 10 years ago – and on April 5, his dream finally came true. Before the Canadiens hosted the Ottawa Senators, Mr. Batzios and the

Willingdon School Choir proudly stood up in their seats and sung "O Canada" in front of a sold-out crowd at the Bell Centre. "It was a big dream and it started about 10 years go. I tried, found out what I had to do and worked really hard," said Mr. Batzios. "It's a huge honour, and I am so grateful; we are really blessed." Mr. Batzios and his choir first auditioned six months ago and with the ongoing hope that they would be chosen, practiced weekly before their big performance in early April.



## ADULT EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL SERVICES

## LMAC Career Centre gearing up the next generation of EV technicians

By Nicole Proano

The future is top of mind at St. Leonard's Laurier Macdonald Career Centre of the EMSB. Not only are students prepped for a promising career in the various vocational programs offered, but the curriculum is also modernized to equip students with the professional skills they'll need in their evolving fields.

Laurier Macdonald has developed a reputation as a vocational centre for welding and fitting, hairdressing, aesthetics and hair removal, and automobile mechanics. Electric Vehicle (EV) Mechanics has recently become the school's latest offering, set to prepare the next generation of auto mechanics for a burgeoning industry.

EV Department Head Giovanni Pietracupa set out with a vision for the program years ago, after getting an electric vehicle of his own. With the help and expertise of teachers Nikolaos Marangos, Carlo Verardo, Francesco Di Tirro, Edward Mackay and Babak Hashemian, they built up the EV Mechanics program from scratch. Marangos and Verardo taught the first cohort in January 2021.

"Everybody rolled up their sleeves," Mr. Verardo said. "We gave it a shot and look – everything was painted, everyone chipped in putting the tools together, the lessons, the material."

Electric vehicles have been around for more than 100 years but have only recently been gaining popularity. The Quebec government's ban on gas-powered vehicles by 2035 is only going to further transform the automotive industry, including the professional skills needed to fix those vehicles.

Mr. Marangos says it's the government's communication on that policy that's driving electrification forward. "They have a 2035 target. It's very [close] to us, so everyone has to get trained."

Principal Anna Maria Borsellino wishes to extend a special thank you to the EMSB and the AEVS Department for their support in launching the new Electric Vehicle Mechanics program.

For more information about how to enroll, visit: <https://lmaccareercentre.com/>

You can read a more detailed story on LMAC Career Centre at <http://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/articles>.



A teacher works with a student on an electric vehicle.

## Career Fair in St. Laurent



PHOTO: NICOLE PROANO

The cafeteria at the St. Laurent Adult Education Centre (SLAEC) was abuzz last May 25 for their first in-person Career Fair since the start of the pandemic. Presenters from a variety of post-secondary institutions, Montreal employers, and local governments were

stationed at their booths, ready to take questions from curious students. The goal of the event was to empower students by giving them the tools to make informed decisions about their future career paths. Please see the EMSB website for a full story.

## St. Pius X Career Centre's help "feed" culinary and hotel industries

The glam and grandeur of the hotel industry and the finesse and flair of the culinary arts are not lost on St. Pius X Career Centre students. This English Montreal School Board vocational school in Ahuntsic is led by professionals with years of experience in their respective fields now looking to train the next generation of chefs, cooks and hoteliers.

For Gabriella Garofalo, a student in the Professional Cooking program, her teachers' knowledge is a major part of the school's appeal. "I look up to the teachers who tell you all about their experiences," the 21-year-old said. "I want to have the same experiences like travelling in Europe and cook too. I want to do that. It inspires you."

The St. Pius X Career Centre offers training for two vocational paths: Business and Professional Cooking. Hotel Reception is a Diploma of Vocational Studies (D.V.S.) program offered within the Business program. Upon completion of either D.V.S. stream, students will come out with professional experience of their own from their internship placements.

## Professional cooking

Garofalo says she has her eye on the upscale Beatrice restaurant for her internship or any well-known Italian spot. After completing all 98 credits, which takes 13 months of daytime classes and includes an internship, students are equipped to work in a variety of food industries from restaurants



Action in the kitchen at St. Pius X.

to banquet halls to cruise ships. The cooking program also offers a night class option, a route that takes about 16 months to complete.

Modules include breakfast, fish and meat, buffet and desserts. "My favourite has been dessert, I think," Garofalo says. "It's really detail oriented. I really like it so far!"

## Hotel reception

The seven-month Hotel Reception D.V.S. program at St. Pius X also offers a wide range of professional opportunities within the hotel industry and the peripheral airline and tourism industries. The program focuses on training students in all the competencies required to

handle reception desk operations, a hotel's main department.

Program modules focus on highly transferable skills like safety and security, basic accounting and professional relationships. The centre also has a simulation room with specialized hotel-management software so students can get hands-on training for a computerized hotel environment. By the time the month-long internship phase of the program rolls around students are taught all the hiring process basics.

For more information log on to <https://piuscentre.com>.

You can see a more detailed feature at [www.emsb.qc.ca/articles](http://www.emsb.qc.ca/articles) - Nicole Proano



Adult Education and Vocational Services

For more information about our vocational programs please log on to

<https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/schools/adult-vocational>



# Celebrating DIVERSITY and INCLUSIVITY



## Quebec Board of Black of Educators recognizes EMSB and its students

By Jordan Stoopler

The EMSB was well represented at the Quebec Board of Black Educators (QBBE) 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala last spring. The event was attended by members of the EMSB’s Council of Commissioners and senior management. Director General Nick Katalifos; Chair Joe Ortona; Assistant Director General, Administration, Jack H. Chadirdjian; Assistant Director General, Education, Pela Nickoletopoulos; Director of Human Resources Ann Watson; Assistant Human Resources Director, Support Staff Marilyn Ramlakhan; Commissioner Julien Feldman; Parent Commissioner Daniel Tatone and Parent Commissioner, ACSES, Mubeenah Mughal were all present. An EMSB kiosk was also set up outside the ballroom during the cocktail reception to promote



Ciara Huggins accepts her award.

the school board and to recruit new staff. One current and another former student from Marymount Academy International in NDG were awarded Curtis George Scholarships, in recognition of the awards’ namesake, a former EMSB educator and president of the QBBE from 1985 to 2005.

Grade 10 student Ciara Huggins was chosen because of her proven ability to persevere through the demands of high school education, as evidenced by the improvement in her grades. She received a prize of \$1,000 towards her post-secondary education tuition fees. Marymount graduate Keyshawn Johnson was selected because of his determination and commitment to achieving a higher education. His award was a pledge from the QBBE to pay for his first year of CEGEP and a stipend for his learning materials. The QBBE was first established on December 29, 1971 as a non-profit education and research institution dedicated to addressing educational disparity and providing academic support and opportunities to communities of colour. Over its 50 years of existence, the QBBE has supported more than 15,000 students

academically through its summer, after-school and recently-established online programs. The gala’s proceeds were directed towards the QBBE Learning Centre, which provides academic support and opportunities to communities of colour as well as the QBBE Family First, which aims to make positive connections between education and other aspects of the students’ lives. In addition, the organization is in the process of launching its Language Institute, in collaboration with the EMSB. The program will address the rising demand for French education from newly-arrived immigrants to Montreal, all in “an inclusive and nurturing environment.” The initiative is designed for both beginners and adults wanting to build up higher levels of proficiency in the French language.

## Partnership with the Azrieli Foundation

The Azrieli Foundation’s Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program has teamed up with the EMSB for its first board-wide partnership, and it has started bringing the topic of the Holocaust to classrooms across the city. The announcement of this novel partnership comes on the tails of principal and educator training sessions led by experts from the Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program’s Education Team. During these sessions, principals learned about the program’s resources and how educators can safely and successfully teach students about the Holocaust using the Memoirs Program’s resources. After Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day, April 27, 2022), principals began distributing teaching materials to their staff, who then started teaching their students about the Holocaust. As a component of the partnership, the Memoirs team will be available to provide guidance and assistance, ensuring educators are supported as they navigate this space.



A Holocaust exhibit at Westmount High School.



A drawing from one of the members of the Rainbow Club.

## Bancroft Elementary's Rainbow Club

Last year, Bancroft Elementary School teacher François Lukawecki started a “Rainbow Club” for students in Grades 4 to 6. “This club is open to everyone, and we discuss various topics such as self-esteem, important LGBTQ+ historical figures and their significance and, most importantly, how to deal with homophobia/transphobia and how to keep it out of our school,” said Mr. Lukawecki. Last May, students highlighted their achievements. In the morning, members of the Rainbow Club visited pre-school and Cycle 1 classes to read books about uniqueness of individuals and different types of families. Later, the Grades 3 to 6 students had a short assembly to talk about celebrating their differences, ways to be inclusive with everyone, and how to respond when we witness or suffer from an act of homophobia/transphobia. After this short assembly Cycles 1 and 2 classes went on a walk around the block with music, progress flag, and signs that declare how everyone is welcome at Bancroft.



# EMSB teachers recognized for excellence

On the occasion of EMSB Teacher Recognition Day last May, three teachers were presented with special awards from restaurant franchiser Foodtastic, as well as certificates. The winners were profiled on television by promotion co-sponsor CityNews Montreal and reporter Pamela Pagano.

You can view the report here: <https://vimeo.com/706959767>

The EMSB launched this ceremony eight years ago to coincide with National Teachers Day in the United States and recognize this profession towards the end of the academic year.

The EMSB received many nominations from parents for the awards, which fall into three categories. Foodtastic oversees such brands as Souvlaki Bar, La Belle & La Boeuf, Nickels, Monza, Bacaro, Tommy, Au Coq, Rotisserie Benny, Copper Branch and Second Cup.

Foodtastic presented \$100 gift cards to: Noemie Battista a music and Ethics and Religious Culture (ERC) teacher at Dunrae Gardens Elementary School in TMR; Andy D'Allessandro, physical education teacher at Laurier Macdonald High School in St. Leonard; and Dr. Nikolay Krilov, a teacher in the Electromechanics Program at Rosemount Technology Centre.

The formal presentation took place in the schoolyard at Dunrae Gardens Elementary School in Town of Mount Royal. On hand for the event was Lawrence Mammias, Chief Development Officer and co-owner with his brother Peter of Foodtastic. Both Lawrence and Peter attended Dunrae Gardens.

## Noemi Battista

Noemi Battista has been teaching for 10 years, the past five at Dunrae Gardens.

"In these challenging and uncertain times, we all try to manage the best we can," said Dunrae Gardens Governing Board Chair Anna Tsoulhas. "Some of us, on the other hand, are not only able to do so but also manage to help others do so in the process. Noemie is one such individual. She has been a constant force of optimism for Dunrae Gardens. As a teacher, she is always available and takes the time to discuss important issues with the students and to address their concerns."

Ms. Battista said that she always knew she wanted to be a teacher at the elementary level because she enjoys interacting with kids of that age group. "Being a music and an ERC specialist is wonderful," she says. "I adore building relationships with everyone in the school. Also, teaching my students to truly love and appreciate music is one of the reasons why I chose this profession."

"What I like most about my job is seeing my students experience the same passion and interest as me during a lesson. The practice



EMSB and school officials, Lawrence Mammias and students congratulate the winners.

of forgetting about academic obligations, as well as work-related responsibilities, isn't always easy for teachers, as well as students. When I observe an appreciation and an excitement for the material taught in class, it is the greatest gift of all."

## Andy D'Allessandro

Andy D'Allessandro has been a physical education and health teacher for 32 years. He began working at Laurier Macdonald High School in 1995.

"I chose this profession because once I completed high school, I started coaching track and field at John Paul I Junior High School and Laurier Macdonald," he said. "I also coached basketball at two other high schools while I was completing my studies in commerce at Vanier College. I decided to change my field of studies and go into education in university so that I could combine coaching and teaching young individuals. Becoming a physical education teacher gave me that opportunity."

Mr. D'Allessandro says that what he most enjoys about his job is seeing how rewarding it is when a student has improved in a skill or activity. "The confidence and skills learned in class can be applied outside the classroom," he says. "I hope to provide a role model for my students. The thing I'm proud of most is seeing how many of my former students have become physical education teachers."



Laurier Macdonald High School grad Pamela Pagano is now a reporter and video journalist for CityNews Montreal. She has covered many EMSB stories, including the Teacher Recognition Awards. She took the time to share a moment with Principal Cristina Celzi, her former physical education and health teacher Andy D'Allessandro and some students at the ceremony.

## Dr. Nikolay Krilov

Dr. Krilov was born and raised in Uzbekistan and he came to Canada in 1998. He has been teaching at RTC since 2003.

"I must share this honour with a big RTC team of administrators, teachers, and support staff, who in fact make my teaching so much more effective," he says.



Dunrae Gardens students perform a musical interlude.



A display of gifts presented to the winners and guests.

At RTC, Dr. Krilov teaches electrical and electronic courses in the Automation Systems Electromechanics program such as checking electrical circuits, industrial electronics circuits, analyzing logic circuits and maintaining motor circuits.

"All professions are important and necessary for society, but teaching can form the future of society in a friendlier, more efficient and prosperous way," he says. "By sharing knowledge and skills with students, teachers create a foundation for students' success in life."



# Royal Vale School's new \$6-million sports complex



By Kristin McNeill

Work has been completed on a brand new \$6-million sports centre at Royal Vale School in NDG, in a space that once housed a City of Montreal swimming pool. A special launch ceremony was held last May.

One would never know from the outside that such an ambitious renovation took place inside. No changes were made to the façade, except for the replacement of some windows and doors. But what changed inside was monumental.

The new gymnasium, Royal Vale's second such facility, is a regulation basketball court in an airy, bright space underground lit by large, above-ground windows, facing south. It is accessed down a flight of stairs, and on the same floor as the brand-new fitness room and dance studio (soon to be outfitted with a ballet barre) and changing rooms, complete with lockers, showers, sinks and toilets. Many of the features are run by touchless sensors, including the lights, faucets and dryers.

The fitness centre, staffed by a fitness instructor for early-



morning, lunch time and after-school training by Secondary III to V students, is equipped with new-generation multisystem equipment including weights, suspended strength-building, cardio and cross training apparatus. It complements the school's sports concentration program.

"This new gym gave us the space we needed – to give our students the proper space to fulfill their physical education requirements and interests," said Principal Mauro Zampini. "We had been trying to fit a square peg in a round hole in terms of gym time for our

growing student population. Now we can really meet their needs through these new spaces and our original gym." Mr. Zampini was instrumental to the completion of this project, which started a year before his arrival.

In fact, three Phys. Ed. classes can take place at the same time, explained Chris Lagakos, the school's former high school physical education teacher and current interim vice principal. He played a lead role on the project from the start alongside former principal Nathalie Lacroix-Maillette, who realized the need



(1) EMSB and school officials, guests and students celebrate the launch. | (2) EMSB mascot Bumble works out with some students. | (3) The fitness room | (4) The new gymnasium

for a new gymnasium at Royal Vale and became the driving force behind the project.

"The kids are proud of their new gym, and respect the space," Mr. Lagakos said. "They are really looking forward to hosting other schools for competitive sports when public health guidelines allow."

The building at 5851 Somerled was originally West Hill High

School, built in the early 1950s during a boom in construction of school buildings for the English Protestant community, according to *A Meeting of the People: School Boards and Protestant Communities in Quebec, 1801-1998*. West Hill closed in 1992.

The western end of the building had a swimming pool, considered at the time to be essential to the contribution of the students' physical health and well-being within the Protestant public education system. When Royal Vale opened its elementary school in that building in 1988 as part of the then Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal and later adding a high school, the pool was still there but was used solely by the municipality. In 1998, Royal Vale started using the pool within its Physical Education program.

The pool was closed in 2004 due to maintenance and repair issues. For years, it sat empty until June 2019 when demolition began to start its reincarnation into a multidisciplinary sports complex. The project began before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and despite working under public health restrictions due to the pandemic and during periods when school was in session, it was completed in July 2021 in time for the start of the new school year.

Funding assistance came from the Quebec government (\$2.5 million) and the federal government (\$500,000).

## Pierre Elliott Trudeau School More than \$2 million for student safety

To improve the overall student experience at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School in Rosemount, the EMSB allocated more than \$2 million to complete multiple projects.

Over the course of the past two years, several aspects and areas of the school were renovated and reconfigured, including: the schoolyard, bus drop-off area and staff parking lot. Inside the school, upgrades are being made to the electrical equipment, insulation, piping and ventilation.

"Our school yard is beautiful! Students have different areas to play games such soccer, champ ball, basketball, and checkers," said Principal Tanya Alvares. "There are different sections for kids to draw on black boards, to sit on the grass and hang out with friends, and benches to relax! There are even two areas where staff can take their groups out and do an outdoor lesson! We are looking forward for the trees to grow to provide a nice, shaded region too!"

Finally, the reconfigured bus-drop off area and parking lot has respectively increased student and staff safety as well as access to the school.



EMSB Vice Chair and Commissioner Agostino Cannavino, Principal Tanya Alvares and students showcase the school's renovated school yard.



# Online Safety Guidelines

## for Parents/Guardians

With the ever-changing landscape of social media, different events have come to light that have impacted our children and youth. To be preventative and proactive, the primary method to reach our children and youth is via modeling and having open discussions.

Our guide will help you lead discussions with your child and equip you with some well-known information that can help you as a parent/guardian.



To access the guide, please read the QR code with your smart phone or visit the Publications page in the Parents & Community section of the EMSB website.



Commission scolaire English-Montréal  
English Montreal School Board

[emsb.qc.ca](http://emsb.qc.ca) | 514-483-7200



# EMSB Open Houses



EMSB open houses at the primary and secondary levels will be held both in-person or virtually this year.



Go to [www.emsb.qc.ca/openhouses](http://www.emsb.qc.ca/openhouses) and click on the school you are interested in to find out more.

# It is time to choose a high school?

Our EMSB High School Guide ([emsb.qc.ca/highschoolguide](http://emsb.qc.ca/highschoolguide)) takes you through our secondary school network. You will discover what makes each school unique, and what each school offers as part of their focus programs and extra-curricular activities.

James Lyng High School  
John F. Kennedy High School  
John Grant High School  
FACE High School  
LaurenHill Academy  
Laurier Macdonald High School  
Lester B. Pearson High School  
L.I.N.K.S. High School

MIND High School  
Marymount Academy International  
Rosemount High School  
Royal Vale High School  
Royal West Academy  
Vincent Massey Collegiate  
Westmount High School



Explore what the EMSB has to offer in your area.



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