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Holocaust Education Project see page 11



Furniture finishing masterpieces at RTC see page 15



Commission scolaire English-Montréal

# express

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Number 2  
SPRING 2023  
www.emsb.qc.ca

English Montreal School Board

## EMSB campaign emphasizes how bilingualism is a passport to the world



Please see our special section /  
Veuillez consulter notre section spéciale :  
pages 5 - 10

Quebec's Minister of Finance Minister Responsible for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers Eric Girard (third from the left) spoke at Royal Vale School in NDG as part of Le Mois du français à la CSEM.

As part of the English Montreal School Board's Elementary School Registration campaign for the 2023-2024 academic year, the system celebrated bilingualism and the excellent quality of French instruction available at the elementary and secondary levels.

Le Mois du français à la CSEM took place during the month of January. A familiar EMSB slogan, "Être bilingue, c'est gagnant !" promoted the fact that being bilingual represents a winning formula.

"We are very proud of the quality of French instruction our students receive," said EMSB Chair Joe Ortona. "Bilingualism is a passport to the world. And if we want our kids to remain in the province of Quebec, we must provide them with the tools necessary to pursue careers here."

Mr. Ortona attended the EMSB's Nesbitt Elementary School and Vincent Massey Collegiate in Rosemount. As a practicing lawyer, he conducts his work mainly in French.

The month entailed a wide array of activities and action items:

- A media campaign, which included advertisements on French language radio;
- Highlights of French language programming in elementary school classrooms that occur year-round;
- A theme jingle for the campaign, written and performed by students at Willingdon Elementary School in NDG;
- The introduction of three new primary teachers at the EMSB who have arrived from France;
- Special guest speakers at schools, in-person and virtually, including federal, provincial and

municipal politicians, as well as other personalities;

- A dedicated web page, with detailed information on French instruction from Pre-K to Secondary V;
- A French podcast, hosted by Pedagogical consultants Marlène Boudreault and Nicolas Doyon;
- Profiles on EMSB graduates who now teach French in the system;
- Video testimonials from EMSB grads who presently use the French language on a daily basis in their careers;
- Scholarship presentations to EMSB high school students for excellence in French.

According to EMSB records, out of nearly 20,000 students in the youth sector, close to 1,600 of them have French as their mother tongue, showing the

continued on page 6

## ÊTRE BILINGUE, C'EST GAGNANT!

## Préparer les élèves aux études et au monde du travail en français : la CSEM pose les bases

En janvier, la Commission scolaire English-Montréal (CSEM) a célébré le Mois du français à la CSEM. Des événements spéciaux ont eu lieu dans tout le réseau pour mettre en valeur la qualité de ses programmes de français et pour donner un avant-goût de la manière dont la langue française s'intègre au quotidien tout au long de l'année dans les écoles de la CSEM.

Avec les exigences croissantes sur le plan des compétences en français au cégep dans les années à venir, les parents veulent s'assurer que leurs enfants seront bien préparés.

La CSEM offre trois modèles d'enseignement du français au niveau primaire, suivis d'un choix de trois programmes (en plus du programme des élèves internationaux) au niveau secondaire. « Quelle que soit l'école qu'ils choisissent, une fois diplômés, ils sont prêts à entreprendre des études postsecondaires et à poursuivre leur cheminement dans un domaine professionnel en tant qu'étudiants fonctionnellement bilingues », a déclaré Anna Sanalidro, directrice des Services éducatifs à la CSEM.

Les recherches montrent que les enfants ont une aptitude naturelle à apprendre des langues autres que leur langue maternelle. Plus on est jeune, plus il est facile d'apprendre une nouvelle langue et de maîtriser son accent. En contexte d'immersion, où les cours autres que le cours de français sont donnés en français, les élèves ont davantage l'occasion de s'exprimer dans la deuxième langue, selon un rapport sur l'enseignement en immersion commandé par la CSEM et rédigé par Susan Ballinger, du Département d'études intégrées en éducation de McGill. L'utilisation « pertinente et authentique d'une deuxième langue est systématiquement associée à des avantages sur le plan de l'apprentissage », écrit-elle.

Certaines écoles primaires de la CSEM ont des programmes à deux volets, comme l'école primaire Edward Murphy, dans Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, qui offre un programme français de base et un programme d'immersion française. D'autres écoles proposent des programmes particuliers, telle l'école primaire internationale Michelangelo, à Rivière-des-Prairies, une école bilingue qui offre également le programme de Baccalauréat international. L'école primaire Gerald McShane, à Montréal-Nord, offre le programme concentration sport en français, tandis que le cours de robotique est enseigné en français à l'école Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

## Global News Morning

Weekdays 6 - 9

with Laura Casella, Eramelinda Boquer, Antony Robart & Brayden Jagger Haines

Globalnews.ca





## Message du président : En route vers le bilinguisme dans les écoles primaires de la CSEM



Joe Ortona

En janvier, la Commission scolaire English-Montréal (CSEM) a célébré le *Mois du français à la CSEM*.

Les écoles primaires de la CSEM offrent un des trois modèles d'enseignement du français, et certaines écoles offrent un modèle à deux volets. Dans le programme français de base, 68 % de l'enseignement est dispensé en anglais et 32 % en français. Le modèle bilingue comporte une part égale d'enseignement en français et en anglais. Quant à elles, les écoles d'immersion française offrent 68 % de l'enseignement en français.

En plus des cours de français, d'autres matières peuvent être enseignées en français. À titre d'exemple, au 1<sup>er</sup> cycle dans les écoles d'immersion française, les enseignants de français enseignent également les mathématiques. Aux 2<sup>e</sup> et 3<sup>e</sup> cycles, outre le français,

d'autres matières sont souvent enseignées en français. Dans certaines écoles, on enseigne l'univers social, les arts, les sciences ou l'éthique en français, ou encore l'éducation physique et la musique.

Les enseignants de plusieurs écoles ont recours aux « centres » pour enseigner les compétences. Cette méthode permet aux enseignants d'apprendre à connaître leurs élèves et d'adapter leur enseignement à leurs besoins. À Roslyn, par exemple, les élèves d'une classe de 2<sup>e</sup> année aiment bien travailler en centres. Les élèves y travaillent de manière autonome sur de nombreuses activités stimulantes pendant que leur enseignant fait de la lecture guidée, de l'écriture ou des mathématiques avec de petits groupes d'élèves.

### Les conseillères en français jouent un rôle important auprès des enseignants

La CSEM compte trois conseillères en français à temps plein, qui offrent un soutien pédagogique aux enseignants de français dans ses 34 écoles primaires. Parallèlement à leur rôle principal visant à offrir de la formation, des ateliers de perfectionnement professionnel et des conseils pour

enseigner les compétences énoncées dans le Programme de formation de l'école québécoise, Marie-Claude Bergeron, Sonya Jean et Anik Malenfant créent également des projets novateurs tout au long de l'année et travaillent de près avec les enseignants nouvellement diplômés et ceux qui commencent à enseigner le français.

Un de leurs projets en cours consiste à ajouter constamment de nouvelles ressources à leur site Web, *Le français au primaire*. Enseignants et élèves y trouvent toute une variété de ressources et d'activités, ainsi que d'autres informations.

Biblius.ca est aussi offert en ligne par l'entremise de la Bibliothèque virtuelle de la CSEM. Ce site permet à la communauté de la CSEM d'accéder à quelque

400 titres du gouvernement du Québec et à plus de 1 000 titres de la Bibliothèque de la CSEM.

Le financement obtenu récemment grâce au Programme de subventions au perfectionnement et à l'innovation du *Committee for English Education in Quebec* a permis de mettre en œuvre un projet réunissant quatre enseignants des écoles Our Lady of Pompei, Gardenvue, Pierre de Coubertin et Willingdon, en collaboration avec un professeur adjoint de l'UQAM et de l'Université de Montréal, afin de créer des activités de grammaire à partir de livres pour enfants.

Pour la troisième année consécutive, une collaboration en matière de développement professionnel est prévue entre les enseignants de 1<sup>re</sup> et de 2<sup>e</sup> année de

East Hill, Honoré Mercier, Pierre de Coubertin, St. Monica et Roslyn pour la création de ressources *Littérature jeunesse* destinées à remplacer les cahiers d'exercices par des œuvres littéraires authentiques que les enseignants pourront utiliser dans leurs classes.

L'équipe accueille et soutient également les nouvelles enseignantes arrivées de France et affectées aux écoles primaires Merton, Willingdon et Edinburgh.

Le soutien offert aux enseignants leur a permis de constater comment les élèves peuvent s'épanouir dans l'apprentissage d'une seconde langue. « Nous encourageons les enfants à prendre des risques, à tenter de parler en français et à en être fiers, même s'ils font des erreurs au début », s'est exclamée M<sup>me</sup> Bergeron.

## Message from the Director General: Prioritizing the needs of all students



Nick Katalifos

I am very pleased to share the news that the English Montreal School Board now boasts the highest Success Rate in Graduation and Qualification among public school boards in the province of Quebec, based on a seven-year cohort at 91.6 percent. These figures were released by the Ministère de l'éducation.

While the majority of students graduated after five years, the Ministry allows each cohort to be followed for an additional two years, to ensure that students have every opportunity to graduate or obtain a first qualification.

The province-wide Success Rate, which includes both public and private school results, has also increased from 81.8 percent in 2020 to 82.1 percent in 2021.

Since the EMSB's six-year rate is already at 91 percent, the board is poised to surpass this year's rate, restoring its success to pre-pandemic results.

These results are particularly favorable considering that this cohort was affected by the pandemic. The province reinstated uniform exams in June 2022, signaling a return to regular evaluation. It is reassuring to note that student achievement has remained stable in the courses that are required for graduation. The board continues to prioritize meeting the needs of all students and closing gaps in learning where they exist.

Our Director of Education Services Anna Sanalidro said that it is comforting to know that they have continued to experience academic success as we emerge from these trying times.

EMSB Chair Joe Ortona applauded the work of educators who have never had to contend with the kind of challenges that the pandemic brought on. "Considering this," he commented, "our achievements this year are truly remarkable. Maintaining our academic standards, while coming together as a community, continues to be our focus moving forward."

It is worth noting that the EMSB is only 1.9 percent below the private schools rate. We are proud to say that we accept all students, and we are making strides through inclusion, and meeting students' needs individually. This is the kind of celebration public education has been waiting for.

### Taux de diplomation

*Les Services éducatifs de la Commission scolaire English-Montréal (CSEM) ont présenté officiellement les données du rapport annuel 2021-2022 lors d'une réunion du conseil des commissaires.*

*En date de juin 2022, le taux de diplomation et de qualification après sept ans pour la cohorte 2014 est de 91,6 %, soit une légère baisse d'environ deux pour cent par rapport à l'année précédente. Le taux de diplomation après six ans s'établit à 91 %, ce qui laisse présager que la CSEM surpassera ses résultats de 2022. La commission scolaire a atteint sa cible.*

*Il convient de noter que 2022 marque la dernière année du plan initial d'engagement vers la réussite. Dans la plupart des domaines scolaires, les résultats des élèves se situent dans la fourchette pour l'atteinte des cibles fixées pour 2022.*

Produced by the Marketing and Communications Department of the

**English Montreal School Board**

6000 Fielding Avenue, Montreal (Quebec) H3X 1T4

Phone: (514) 483-7200, ext. 7245  
 Fax: (514) 483-7213  
 E-mail: [express@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:express@emsb.qc.ca)  
 Web site: [www.emsb.qc.ca](http://www.emsb.qc.ca)

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Editor: Michael J. Cohen  
 Manager, Marketing and Communications

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Translation: Manon Bourassa

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**THE BEAT**  
5@7

MON-THU  
**5:00 PM**

# DateBook

## 2023

<p><b>March 26 to 28</b> Hydro-Québec Montreal Regional Science &amp; Technology Fair Laval Senior Academy (3200 boul. du Souvenir Ouest, Laval) www.sciencetech.ca</p> <p><b>April 7</b> World Health Day</p> <p><b>International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda</b></p> <p><b>April 12</b> Terry Fox Day</p> <p><b>April 16 to 22</b> National Volunteer Week</p> <p><b>April 18</b> Yom Hashoah Holocaust Remembrance Day</p> <p><b>April 22</b> Earth Day</p> <p><b>April 26</b> Administrative Professionals Day</p>	<p><b>May 1</b> Principal's Day</p> <p><b>May 2</b> EMSB Teacher Recognition Day</p> <p><b>May 8 to 12</b> BASE Daycare Employees Recognition Week</p> <p><b>May 29</b> EMSB Parent Conference Royal Vale Elementary School, 5851 Somerled Avenue – 9 am to noon</p> <p><b>May 29 to June 2</b> Quebec Week for the Handicapped</p> <p><b>May 31</b> World No-Tobacco Day</p> <p><b>June 21</b> National Indigenous Peoples Day</p> <p><b>June 22</b> Last day of classes</p>
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### 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](http://www.emsb.qc.ca)) to access Board meeting agendas and to be advised about special meetings. To register for question period please call 514-483-7200, ext. 7264. The meetings scheduled for the remainder of this academic year are as follows:

**March 28**  
**April 25**  
**May 23**  
**June 20**

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

## 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:áke, 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

<p><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</p>	<p><b>WARD 4</b> Hampstead, Côte Saint-Luc <b>JAMIE FABIAN</b> jfabian@emsb.qc.ca Member of Audit Committee</p>	<p><b>WARD 10</b> Rivière-des-Prairies, Pointe-aux-Trembles <b>PIETRO MERCURI</b> pmercuro@emsb.qc.ca Member of Executive Committee, Transportation &amp; Safety Advisory Committee and Advisory Committee on Special Education Services</p>
<p><b>WARD 6</b> St-Michel, Villieray, 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)</p>	<p><b>WARD 5</b> St-Laurent <b>JAMES KROMIDA</b> jkromida@emsb.qc.ca Member of Audit Committee (Chair) and Executive Committee</p>	<p><b>Parent Commissioner Elementary Schools</b> <b>MARIA CORSI</b> mcorsi2@emsb.qc.ca Member of Executive Committee</p>
<p><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 &amp; Ethics Committee</p>	<p><b>WARD 7</b> Ahuntsic, Cartierville, Montreal North <b>SOPHIE DE VITO</b> sdevito@emsb.qc.ca Member of Governance &amp; Ethics Committee and Human Resources Committee</p>	<p><b>Parent Commissioner Secondary Schools</b> <b>TONY SPERANZA</b> gsperanza@emsb.qc.ca Member of Audit Committee (Vice-Chair) and Transportation &amp; Safety Advisory Committee</p>
<p><b>WARD 2</b> Montreal West, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce <b>JOSEPH LALLA</b> jlalla@emsb.qc.ca Member Human Resources Committee</p>	<p><b>WARD 8</b> St-Léonard <b>MARIO PIETRANGELO</b> mpietrangelo2@emsb.qc.ca Member of Governance &amp; Ethics Committee (Vice-Chair) and Human Resources Committee (Vice-Chair)</p>	<p><b>Parent Commissioner ACES</b> (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services) <b>ROSEMARIE FEDERICO</b> rfederico@emsb.qc.ca</p>
<p><b>WARD 3</b> Westmount, Southwest, Ville-Marie West <b>JULIEN FELDMAN</b> jfeldman@emsb.qc.ca Member of Governance &amp; Ethics Committee (Chair) and member of Quebec English School Boards Association</p>	<p><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)</p>	<p><b>Parent Commissioner at Large</b> <b>DANIEL TATONE</b> dtatone@emsb.qc.ca Member of Governance &amp; Ethics Committee</p>



*Our teachers* deserve to be appreciated

Help them win a dinner at one of the five Petros Taverna restaurants in Montreal.

Please tell us why the person you are nominating is special.

As part of **EMSB Teacher Appreciation Day** on May 2, please nominate your child's favourite teacher (youth & adult sectors and Physical Education and Health) for a chance to win a \$100 gift card for a dinner at any of the five Petros Taverna restaurants in Montreal. Owner Ted Dranias is looking forward to meeting the great educators in your life.



**PETROS**  
**ΤΑΒΕΡΝΑ**  
Taverne grecque  
Greek Taverna

Email your choice to [mcohen@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:mcohen@emsb.qc.ca) by **April 17, 2023**.

## WIN! ENTER THE EMSB EXPRESS QUIZ

TICKETS TO A



basketball game and t-shirts

OR

A GIFT CARD FROM



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EMSB PROMOTIONAL MERCHANDISE

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[www.marathonsouvlaki.com](http://www.marathonsouvlaki.com)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**The deadline is May 2, 2023.**

## EMSB Express Quiz

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

- 1 Who is the EMSB Director General?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Which commissioner represents St. Leonard?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 What date is Earth Day?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 What month was *Le Mois du français à la CSEM*?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Which school sang the *Le Mois du français* jingle?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 From which country did the EMSB hire three new teachers?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7 How old is Westmount High School?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Which school inaugurated a new pool facility?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Who is the new chair of the EMSB Parents Committee?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Which EMSB Adult Education Centre did Pierre Poilievre visit?  
\_\_\_\_\_

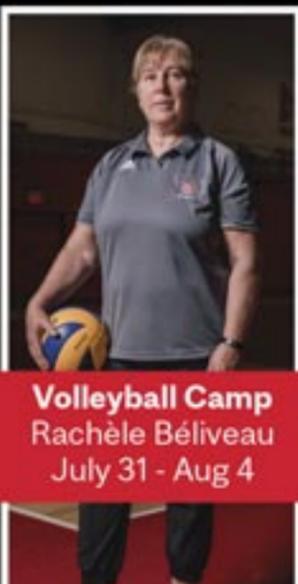
Please cut out this form and bring it to your school office and ask that it be sent to Room 109 of the EMSB Head Office at 6000 Fielding Ave. via the internal mail system.

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

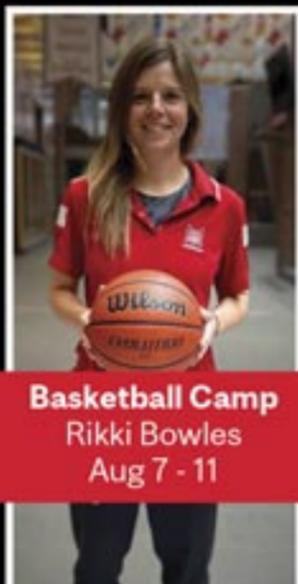
AGES 6 - 15 | July 3 - August 18

## McGill Summer Sports Camp

This multisport camp, led by university-level students and athletes, will offer campers tons of activities, such as soccer, track & field, ultimate frisbee and a daily free swim at Memorial Pool.



**Volleyball Camp**  
Rachèle Béliveau  
July 31 - Aug 4



**Basketball Camp**  
Rikki Bowles  
Aug 7 - 11

AGES 9 - 15

## The Martlets and Redbirds Academy of Sports

This summer, the Academy of Sports will give 9- to 15-year-olds the chance to sharpen their basketball and volleyball skills in an elite space with guidance from renowned McGill varsity coaches!

[recreation.mcgill.ca/camp](http://recreation.mcgill.ca/camp) | 514-398-7011



## Schools were busy with activities exclusively in French

Here is a look at some of the activities, presentations and workshops that took place exclusively in French during *Le Mois du français à la CSEM*.

- Chloé Varin, Quebec author and storyteller, gave a workshop on les bandes-déssinées for a cycle 2 and a cycle 3 class at Coronation Elementary School in Côte des Neiges on January 9.

- Students in Cycles 2 and 3 at Dunrae Gardens Elementary School in the Town of Mount Royal participated in a dance workshop from Just Aïssi's Just Gumboots company during the week of January 9. They learned about the South African percussion dance and got to try it out for themselves! Noémi Battista, who teaches Music in French, organized the special activity and helped facilitate the 16 workshops, which were done entirely in French. "Students were extremely enthusiastic and intrigued to learn about a new culture," she said.

- Québec Solidaire MNA for Rosemount Vincent Marissal was at Nesbitt Elementary School in Rosemount to speak to students.

- Students in Grade 5 and 6 at Coronation Elementary School in Côte des Neiges took part in a drama arts workshop with Tina Milivojevic, a performing arts and film artist listed in Québec's Répertoire culture-éducation. Students performed dramatic sequences using masks and role-playing, including a scene from *Boucle d'or et les trois ours* (*Goldilocks and the Three Bears*).

- Francis Choinière returned to FACE School downtown to talk to students about his career. He was only 18 when he co-founded l'Orchestre Philharmonique et choeur des mélomanes (OPCM) to help unify his two great passions, choral and symphonic music, after identifying an opportunity in the Montreal musical landscape for large-scale works with choir and orchestra to be presented more frequently by ensembles at the highest level. "I grew up in Montreal, having gone to FACE School for 11 years where I was regularly part of a choir and concert band," Mr. Choinière said. "From that early age I was singing, playing piano and trumpet and composing my own music."

- Former NDP leader, Quebec cabinet minister and present-day political commentator Tom Mulcair spoke to the students of Andrea Bove at Honoré Mercier Elementary School via Zoom.

- Liberal Member of Parliament for NDG-Westmount Marc Garneau spoke to Grade 5 and 6 students at Roslyn Elementary School in Westmount about the different paths his career took – from the sea to space to a seat in the Canadian legislature.



Filomena Rotiroti spoke at Dante Elementary School.



Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School.

- CAQ MNA Eric Girard, Quebec's Minister of Finance and Minister Responsible for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers, spoke to students at Royal Vale in NDG. EMSB Chair Joe Ortona moderated the session and happily noted how this marked the first time a CAQ minister has ever visited one of our schools.

- Liberal MNA of D'Arcy-McGee, Elisabeth Prass, visited Merton Elementary School on January 17. She spoke in French to the Grade 6 class about her experiences becoming and now working as an MNA and about the work of the National Assembly.

- Students in Grade 5 and 6 at Dante Elementary School in St.

Léonard had a special in-person visit from MNA for Jeanne-Mance-Viger, Filomena Rotiroti. Ms. Rotiroti is Chief Whip of the Official Opposition and Official Opposition Critic for Immigration, Francization and Integration.

- The Consul général de France à Québec, Frédéric Sanchez, paid a virtual visit to three EMSB classrooms. What was special about these classrooms? They belonged to compatriots of Mr. Sanchez – three teachers from France, who arrived in Canada to teach in French at EMSB this year.

- Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois of Québec Solidaire spoke to students at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School in Rosemount.

- Marc Tanguay, interim leader of the Quebec Liberal Party, spoke to students at East Hill Elementary School in RDP.

- Four- and five-year-old kindergarten children at John Caboto Academy in Ahuntsic had fun with puppets. Puppet theatre company Théâtre Tortue Berlué came to the school to present *Les savants flous*, a presentation and workshop in puppetry. The children were exposed to different aspects of theatre including how to manipulate puppets.

- A specialist on international and Québécois folk dance for children, France Bourque-Moreau lead a dynamic workshop with kindergarten children

at Michelangelo International Elementary School in Rivières des Prairies.

- Parti Québécois leader Paul St-Pierre Plamondon spoke to students at Edward Murphy Elementary School in Hochelaga Maisonneuve in the Camille Laurin riding he now serves as MNA.

- Nesbitt Elementary School in Rosemount hosted Martin Langlais in a cultural workshop called *Danses du monde* on January 19. Students in Grade 1 and 2 participated with their music teacher Caroline Derome.



continued from previous page



Marc Tanguay (third from the left) at East Hill.

• During the week of January 9 to 16, St. Monica Elementary School in NDG had several special activities that took place to mark *le Mois du français à la CSEM*. Among them was a visit that a K-4 class had from Grade

1 students, who sang “Au clair de la lune.” Pairs were created from the two groups, with the older students reading aloud to the younger ones in French.

• Grade 1 students at Willingdon Elementary School

in NDG received a special visitor on January 19. They were treated to an *atelier musical* with Louise Campbell, a Montreal-based composer, performer and improviser.

ÊTRE  
BILINGUE,  
C'EST GAGNANT!



Agostino Cannavino, Vincent Marissal and Sonya Jean at Nesbitt Elementary School.



Paul St-Pierre Plamondon (second from the right) at Edward Murphy.

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### EMSB CAMPAIGN – continued from page 1

desire parents have to provide a bilingual education for their children.

Children in Quebec can attend English school if they have a certificate of eligibility, which is granted under specific conditions.

There are thousands of students across the province who have at least one parent who had the majority of their education in English. That adds up to a lot of students who can choose a school within the English system. There are also parents raising their children in an English home who have chosen a French school because they believe their child will graduate speaking a superior French. However, research has shown a close association with achievement of children learning a second language when they and their parents are provided support in their first language. “By attending an EMSB French immersion program, your child will graduate bilingual,” says Mr. Ortona.

At the elementary level, the EMSB offers three models of French: Core, bilingual and immersion. After spending seven years, including kindergarten, in a school offering a core program, a student will have received 32 percent of instruction in French. According to the same calculations, students who attended schools with bilingual and immersion models will have received a total of 50 and 68 percent of instruction in French respectively.

Several French programs are available at the secondary level, in-

cluding the base program, enriched program and français, langue d’enseignement. Between 38 to 72 percent of instruction is given in French in Secondary I, II and III, with some schools offering early immersion at the secondary level.

“Although our secondary schools do not offer similar programs as the elementary schools, an extensive analysis of the different models of French instruction at the secondary level reveals that our schools provide increased time for French instruction, above the requirements of the ministry regulations,” said Mr. Ortona.

It is interesting to note that immersion students have been found to perform as well as francophone students on tests of reading and oral comprehension. Whether students are enrolled in this type of program or another one, their linguistic skills are generally not a serious obstacle to their effective use of French for academic or interpersonal purposes.

In Canada, French-English bilingualism carries a number of cognitive, cultural and socioeconomic benefits. Bilingual individuals have enhanced problem-solving skills because of their ability to attend to relevant information and disregard misleading information. French-English bilingualism enhances a person’s ability to participate fully in Canadian society. Canadians who speak both official languages also have, on average, better job opportunities.

# La richesse de l'apprentissage du français à la maternelle

Elle-même enseignante de longue date à la maternelle et maintenant conseillère en éducation préscolaire à la CSEM, Connie Cassetta affirme avoir été témoin d'une progression étonnante chez les enfants qui apprennent le français en immersion précoce. « Les enfants qui ne parlent pas français au début de l'année scolaire terminent toujours la maternelle en parlant fièrement la langue! », note-t-elle.

L'immersion française des enfants d'âge préscolaire se fait par les routines quotidiennes comme le chant, les histoires, la participation à des activités-théâtre et l'acquisition du vocabulaire de base en nommant les jours de la semaine, en apprenant les chiffres et les couleurs, et en parlant de la météo.

En tant que conseillère, M<sup>me</sup> Cassetta veille d'abord à apporter du soutien aux enseignants, à les guider dans la mise en œuvre du Programme-cycle de l'éducation préscolaire du Québec. Dans le but de favoriser la réussite scolaire, le programme d'éducation préscolaire a pour mandat de promouvoir le développement global de tous les enfants et d'agir de façon préventive afin de soutenir ce développement.

La conseillère explique que le jeu est le moyen idéal pour les enfants d'apprendre et de se développer au maximum de leurs capacités : « Même le langage s'apprend par le jeu. Le jeu permet aux enfants de développer leurs fonctions exécutives. Lorsqu'ils jouent de manière ciblée, les enfants exercent leur mémoire de travail, leurs capacités de planification et d'organisation, ainsi que leur aptitude à communiquer. Ils s'interrogent, imitent, observent et expérimentent la langue dans laquelle ils sont immergés. D'ailleurs, dans une classe d'immersion française, la capacité des enfants à s'exprimer en français fait partie de leur progression naturelle. »

Dans les écoles d'immersion française et les écoles bilingues de la CSEM, les mathématiques sont enseignées en français à la maternelle, en 1<sup>re</sup> et en 2<sup>e</sup> année, puis en anglais jusqu'à la fin du primaire.

L'apprentissage des mathématiques dans une deuxième langue peut être perçu comme un obstacle pour certains enfants, mais il s'agit en fait d'une opportunité pour l'enseignant et les enfants de sa classe d'être créatifs, explique Melika Lahrar, conseillère pédagogique pour les mathématiques du préscolaire et du 1<sup>er</sup> cycle à la CSEM. « Cela favorise l'enseignement et l'apprentissage de différentes manières. »



L'immersion française des enfants d'âge préscolaire se fait par les routines quotidiennes.

Les enfants sont parfois timides quand vient le temps de s'exprimer dans une autre langue, ce qui limite leur participation en classe. « Les enseignants doivent aller au-delà de la langue pour s'assurer que les enfants comprennent et qu'ils puissent exprimer leur pensée, précise M<sup>me</sup> Lahrar. Il n'est pas nécessaire de le faire verbalement. De nombreuses adaptations créatives sont utilisées pour enseigner les mathématiques dans

une deuxième langue afin d'encourager la participation. Les enfants doivent pouvoir exprimer leur pensée comme ils le peuvent. Cela peut se faire en faisant un dessin, en jouant à un jeu ou en utilisant des jouets ou du matériel de manipulation. »

Pour aider les enfants à acquérir du nouveau vocabulaire lié aux mathématiques, les enseignants utilisent souvent des supports visuels en classe, tels que le « mur

de maths » qui fournit un répertoire de mots auxquels les enfants peuvent se référer facilement.

Dans la journée type d'un enfant à la maternelle, il y a des mathématiques un peu partout. Si l'enfant est en maternelle en français, comme dans les écoles bilingues ou d'immersion française, il apprend des concepts mathématiques en français tout au long de sa routine quotidienne. Par exemple, dans le jeu auquel il

choisit de jouer, pendant la routine du matin en parlant de la date sur un calendrier, ou dans l'histoire que l'enseignant choisit de lire.

Les parents qui ne parlent pas le français à la maison peuvent choisir de communiquer avec les enseignants et la direction dans la langue avec laquelle ils sont le plus à l'aise, souvent l'anglais, ce qui crée un cadre propice pour répondre aux besoins de l'enfant et permet aux parents de se sentir partie prenante dans son cheminement scolaire.

Dans son rôle de conseillère, M<sup>me</sup> Lahrar s'appuie souvent sur son expérience d'enseignante de 1<sup>re</sup> année dans une école d'immersion. « On ne doit pas forcer un enfant à apprendre le français. Il faut que la motivation vienne de l'intérieur. Lorsqu'ils choisissent une école d'immersion, les parents

se disent qu'il est important d'apprendre le français et c'est possible dans le contexte de notre propre langue, affirme-t-elle. Même s'ils ne deviennent pas bilingues du jour au lendemain, les enfants puiseront dans cet enseignement, et tout se mettra en place lorsqu'ils auront une motivation. »

Évoquant ses années d'enseignement, elle rappelle que ses élèves aimaient tous le français. « Mais ce que nous souhaitons d'abord et avant tout pour nos enfants, c'est d'aimer l'école. Un programme d'immersion ou bilingue est un bon moyen de vivre une expérience positive en apprenant le français tout en se sentant à sa place », ajoute-t-elle.

Maintenant au sein d'une équipe de conseillers au préscolaire à la CSEM, elle souhaite que les parents dont les enfants sont sur le point d'entrer à l'école primaire sachent qu'à la CSEM il existe une équipe dédiée qui utilise ses compétences et ses connaissances pour soutenir l'apprentissage de la langue française et le développement global de tous les enfants d'âge préscolaire.

## L'apprentissage d'une deuxième langue par les arts

Nicolas Doyon, conseiller pédagogique, beaux-arts et culture, travaille dans les écoles avec les enseignants et les spécialistes en arts plastiques, en art dramatique, en danse et en musique afin de répondre aux exigences en matière de compétences en arts du Programme de formation de l'école québécoise. Il décrit son travail comme « un pont entre la salle de classe et les ressources culturelles existantes » auquel il ajoute, entre autres, des artistes, des écrivains

*suite à la page suivante*



Les taux de réussite de la CSEM en lien avec le programme du ministère de l'Éducation suggèrent que ses élèves sont bien préparés à suivre le programme Français.

et des organismes inscrits au *Répertoire du patrimoine culturel du Québec*. C'est une façon d'appliquer ce qui est enseigné à l'école avec l'expérience réelle d'artistes dans le domaine.

Dans les écoles offrant le programme d'immersion française, la plupart des cours d'arts sont donnés en français jusqu'en 6<sup>e</sup> année.

L'enseignement des arts aux jeunes élèves en particulier les aide à apprendre une deuxième langue. « Il est plus facile d'apprendre une autre langue par le jeu, indique M. Doyon. C'est plus authentique. Les arts offrent une façon ludique d'apprendre le français comme deuxième langue, car ils permettent d'expérimenter la langue sous différentes formes. En art dramatique, par exemple, les enfants peuvent s'amuser à expérimenter la prononciation des mots, la vitesse d'élocution, le rythme et les intonations. C'est une façon amusante d'apprendre une nouvelle langue sans inhibition. »

L'une des trois compétences à développer en arts est l'appréciation, qui amène l'élève à verbaliser ses sentiments et ses pensées par rapport à une œuvre d'art. Cela se fait surtout oralement et, pour les élèves du primaire qui ont des cours d'arts avec leur titulaire, il s'agit d'une autre occasion de s'exprimer en français tout en utilisant le vocabulaire propre au domaine des arts.

Les élèves de tous les niveaux sont exposés à des sorties et des

ateliers culturels en français, mais les élèves du primaire peuvent aussi bénéficier de *La Cabane à culture*, un nouveau programme conçu par le Centre de services scolaire de Montréal et offert cette année à tous les enseignants du primaire dans les écoles du Québec. Il s'agit de rendez-vous mensuels en ligne ou en personne où les élèves apprennent à connaître un artiste ou un écrivain québécois. Par exemple, en octobre, un atelier sur l'opéra a été donné par l'Opéra de Montréal à la Place des Arts.

« Au Québec, nous disposons d'un vaste répertoire culturel dans lequel nous pouvons puiser, ce qui procure aux éducateurs une foule d'occasions d'exposer les élèves aux arts », souligne M. Doyon.

Dans le cadre de *La culture à l'école*, de nombreux ateliers et spectacles sont prévus cette année dans les écoles de la commission scolaire, dont certains seront offerts en janvier à l'occasion du *Mois du français à la CSEM*.

Entre autres, une spécialiste des danses folkloriques canadiennes-françaises pour enfants, France Bourque-Moreau, viendra animer un atelier de danse folklorique québécoise et internationale pour les élèves de la maternelle à Michelangelo, et la compagnie de théâtre de marionnettes *Théâtre Tortue Berlue* présentera *Les savants flous* ainsi qu'un atelier pour les classes de la maternelle à John Caboto.

Les élèves de l'école primaire Coronation participeront à un atelier de théâtre avec Tina Milivojevic, puis avec Chloé Varin, auteure et narratrice québécoise, qui présentera un atelier d'histoires et de bandes dessinées.

*Just Gumboots*, danse percussive sud-africaine dirigée par Just Aïssi, sera présenté à Dunrae Gardens, tandis qu'à l'école primaire Nesbitt, Martin Langlais dirigera *Danses du monde*.

À l'école secondaire Laurier Macdonald, un événement spécial Slam en français avec MC June est prévu en février.

### Le cheminement se poursuit au secondaire

La CSEM propose trois programmes d'enseignement du français au niveau secondaire afin de favoriser une variété de compétences et d'intérêts. Il s'agit de programmes du ministère de l'Éducation qui mènent tous à la passation d'une épreuve ministérielle en vue de l'obtention du diplôme d'études secondaires.

Les élèves ayant suivi le programme Français de base à l'école primaire s'inscrivent souvent au secondaire en Français, programme de base. L'objectif est qu'à la fin du secondaire les élèves puissent être en mesure d'interagir en français, à l'oral et à l'écrit, avec leurs amis, leurs enseignants et, éventuellement, leurs employeurs et leurs collègues.

Depuis les écoles primaires bilingues ou d'immersion française,

où les élèves apprennent d'autres matières en français en plus de la langue elle-même, le parcours scolaire peut se poursuivre dans les écoles secondaires de la CSEM qui proposent Français, programme enrichi. Les élèves apprennent à comprendre et à produire une variété de textes en français, étudient des œuvres littéraires françaises de toute la francophonie et se familiarisent avec la culture québécoise. Ce programme enrichi prépare les élèves à poursuivre leurs études postsecondaires en français ou à exercer la profession de leur choix dans un environnement francophone.

Le troisième programme offert est Français, langue d'enseignement (FLE), basé sur le même enseignement que celui dispensé dans les écoles françaises et visant la maîtrise de la langue française. Il privilégie l'utilisation du français oral et écrit et approfondit l'étude d'œuvres littéraires de différentes époques, de genres et styles variés tout en faisant le lien entre les textes passés, présents, locaux et internationaux de la francophonie pour permettre aux élèves d'élargir leurs connaissances culturelles. Les élèves diplômés du programme FLE offrent dans une école secondaire de la CSEM peuvent facilement poursuivre leurs études en français à l'université et sont parfois exemptés de l'évaluation des compétences en français dans certains ordres professionnels au Québec.

Ces dernières années, la CSEM a développé son programme Français, international, destiné aux personnes nouvellement arrivées au Québec qui sont admissibles à étudier en anglais. Une clientèle

croissante est constituée d'élèves internationaux du secondaire qui apprennent le français pour la première fois. Ils apprennent les chiffres, l'alphabet, les sons, les directions, les termes relatifs aux articles ménagers en français – pour être en mesure d'utiliser la langue dans la vie de tous les jours.

### Nous préparons nos élèves à travailler ou à étudier en français

Les taux de réussite de la CSEM en lien avec le programme du ministère de l'Éducation suggèrent que ses élèves sont bien préparés à suivre le programme Français, langue seconde du ministère au cégep, selon Anna Villalta, directrice adjointe des Services éducatifs de la CSEM. « Beaucoup de nos enseignants vont au-delà du Programme de formation de l'école québécoise, dit-elle. Ils comprennent la nécessité de parler français et d'être à l'aise en français. Les attentes de nos enseignants à l'égard de nos élèves dépassent largement les exigences des programmes du ministère. »

Mais, ce qui est tout aussi important, explique M<sup>me</sup> Villalta, c'est que les élèves diplômés de la CSEM qui entament leurs études postsecondaires soient capables d'évoluer dans un environnement où le français est requis, que ce soit dans le cadre de leur premier emploi ou peut-être même d'un stage dans leur champ d'études.

Les études postsecondaires en français s'avèrent une option envisageable pour les élèves de la CSEM qui réussissent le programme Français, langue d'enseignement, le plus rigoureux des programmes de français du

## A record 16 EMSB students awarded prizes for Excellence in French

As part of Le Mois du français à la CSEM, which took place throughout January at the English Montreal School Board, a record of 16 students were presented with the Robert Alfred Peck Prize for Excellence in French at the monthly Council of Commissioners meeting.



Winners of the Robert Peck Awards for Excellence in French were recognized at an EMSB Council of Commissioners meeting in January.

Based on the 2021-22 academic year, four Secondary IV and 12 Secondary V students were recognized for attaining the mark of 100 percent. They each received certificates and cheques in the amount of \$100.

There were ten (10) students from Vincent Massey Collegiate in Rosemount, five (5) from Royal West Academy in Montreal West and one (1) from Lauren Hill Academy in St. Laurent.

**From Vincent Massey:** Emma Bastone, Emilie Béliveau, Daniel Bouchard, Thomas Bridgman, Zeya D'alto, Mia Del Pio Luogo, Alexandre Gartner, Çatalkaram Hatt Sustam, Marc Anthony Lettieri and Giuliano Rico.

**From Royal West:** Kelly Chow, Noémie English-Moreau,

Ella Etienne Labelle, Naomi Raimbert and Phoenix Trew.

**From Lauren Hill:** Barirah Rehman.

The late Mr. Peck began teaching in the 1930s and served as the superintendent of French for the Ministry of Education and held similar posts with the former

Westmount School Board and the former Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal. He was a department head for French at Lachine High School and vice-principal of Riverdale High School on the West Island, having completed his career as a teacher in Africa. Mr. Peck co-authored

*Le Français Pratique*, the textbook for the teaching of French as a second language with Elizabeth Buchanan. It was a mainstay in Quebec Protestant English schools for over 20 years. This prize was established by the Peck family and the EMSB in 2002.

### La richesse de l'apprentissage – suite de la page 7

secondaire. De plus, ce programme les prépare bien aux exigences en matière de langue française de certains ordres professionnels au Québec.

Des discussions sont en cours entre les commissions scolaires et les directions des cégeps afin d'étudier l'état de préparation des élèves aux exigences du français au niveau postsecondaire. Entre-temps, « nos élèves acquièrent une bonne maîtrise du français, tout en améliorant leurs connaissances en anglais, souligne M<sup>me</sup> Villalta. L'avantage de nos programmes d'immersion est que les élèves peuvent être totalement immergés dans la langue française au sein d'une communauté anglophone. Les valeurs de leur communauté continuent de s'épanouir alors qu'ils apprennent aux côtés de leurs pairs – tout en étant exposés à la langue française et en se préparant, ultimement, à intégrer le marché du travail ou à poursuivre leurs études au Québec. »



les élèves de 4<sup>e</sup>, 5<sup>e</sup> et 6<sup>e</sup> année participent à une séance d'art oratoire en français et à la narration d'histoires en anglais, menant à la nomination de deux lauréats par classe appelés à présenter leurs histoires au concours final de l'école. Le médaillé d'or représente ensuite l'école au festival du printemps organisé par la commission scolaire.

Au cours de l'automne, dans le cadre d'un concours organisé à l'échelle de la commission scolaire, les élèves du primaire et leurs enseignants de musique ont été mis au défi de composer et d'interpréter un thème musical pour célébrer le Mois du français à la CSEM.

Or, c'est vraiment chaque jour de classe et les initiatives en matière d'éducation des enseignants qui font la force de l'enseignement du français à la CSEM.

### La place du français est très importante

À l'école primaire Willingdon, à NDG, la place du français est très importante lors du festival *L'Art de conter*. Chaque année,

## Willingdon Elementary School came first in Theme Jingle for French Campaign



Willingdon Music Club Choir was thrilled to get mentoring from the SophistOccasion Showband.

As part of *Le Mois du français à la CSEM* in January at the EMSB, the Willingdon Elementary School choir, led by Music Specialist Nick Batzios, created a special jingle to serve as the campaign's theme song.

Students across the EMSB were challenged to put the theme of *Être bilingue, c'est gagnant* to music.

The winning students from Willingdon School also had the opportunity to perform their jingle with the help of SophistOccasion Showband at Studio Jam Avenue in St. Laurent, and they had a fantastic time.

Nick Batzios (middle) shown with Silvio Furino and Bruna Mucciardi of SophistOccasion.

You can see and hear their performance here: <https://tinyurl.com/87v9wz8s>

The jingle now serves as the EMSB on-hold telephone message.

Special thanks goes out to Nicolas Doyon, the EMSB pedagogical dance, drama, music and visual arts consultant, for his assistance.

# Many EMSB grads are now among our French teachers

By Jordan Stoopler

The EMSB is proud to count among many of our own graduates who went on to become French teachers in our system.

## Jessica Monti

Jessica Monti's career in education has seen her teach French (langue maternelle), history, geography and plastic arts at Rosemount High School and Vincent Massey Collegiate before ultimately serving in administrative roles at East Hill and Pierre de Coubertin Elementary schools. She is presently the vice-principal at the latter.

Once a student herself in Vincent Massey's specialized langue d'enseignement French program, Ms. Monti was exposed to the same French language curriculum as that of French schools. The program, designed for those with an already strong grasp of the French language, proved to be a perfect fit for Ms. Monti.

"I was in a program designed to provide me with the very best French knowledge," said Ms. Monti. "I spoke French at home, and I spent my summers at a French camp, where I made francophone friends. I had the chance to take what the EMSB was giving me and reinforce it with whatever opportunities I had outside of school. It gave me the base for what I was able to do afterwards."

## Bianca Silvina Coverini

Bianca Silvina Coverini grew up only speaking English at home. Nevertheless, she found herself pursuing a career in French education, thanks, in large part, to the French immersion programs she attended at both Willingdon



Bianca Silvina Coverini

Elementary in NDG and Westmount High School. "I would not be where I am today without the Immersion Program at the board," said Ms. Coverini, who now teaches Grade 2 French and Math at St. Monica Elementary in NDG. "It provided me with a solid understanding of the language, which helped me not only in my career, but in social settings as well. I have very fond memories of my French teachers, who were nothing but patient and supportive in learning a new language."

## Stephanie Mallozzi

Stephanie Mallozzi doesn't merely teach French to Grades 1 and 2 students at Dalkeith Elementary in Anjou; she encourages them to fall in love with the language in much the same way she did.



Stephanie Mallozzi

"I believe that I have the responsibility of instilling a love for learning and implementing a positive outlook of the French language for my students," said Ms. Mallozzi, who has been at Dalkeith for the past seven years and attended Michelangelo International Academy and Vincent Massey Collegiate. "We sing and we dance every day. I owe everything to the EMSB schools I attended and all the teachers that had a huge influence in my decision to become a French teacher."

## Veronica Bastone

Veronica Bastone attended East Hill Elementary School as a student, benefiting from the school's French immersion program. In 2018, Ms. Bastone returned to the school to teach French and give back to the place she credits with paving the way on her road to becoming a French teacher. "At East Hill, I was able to get a great foundation in the French language," said Ms. Bastone, who currently teaches Grade 6 French, science, social studies, art and ethics, all in French. "I, then, continued to pursue studies in English schools with high honors across all of my French classes."

## Samantha Meixian Fong

Samantha Meixian Fong teaches French as a Second Language (core and enriched) as well as Contemporary World to Secondary IV and V students within the EMSB's Alternative Outreach High School Network. She, herself, completed her elementary school studies in French immersion at Gardenview in St. Laurent. "I can say that be-



Samantha Meixian Fong

cause I did that, I was able to speak and had a solid foundation in French," she said. "My French teachers have always been wonderful and patient. Due to their patience and great teaching, I have learned to like the language and have always made an effort to speak French growing up."

## Laura Primiano

As Laura Primiano roams the hallways and classrooms at Roslyn Elementary School in Westmount,

where she currently teaches Kindergarten to Grade 5 students in French, she cannot help but reflect on her time at the school as a student herself within the school's French immersion program. "I have very fond memories of many French teachers I had in both schools over the years, and it is really thanks to them that I am able to teach in French today," said Ms. Primiano, who has taught at the school in French since 2007. She later attended Royal West Academy, taking advanced French class and graduating with honors."

## Bianca Jorin

As the French Resource Teacher at Roslyn Elementary School in Westmount, Bianca Jorin works with her fellow colleagues to find ways to help struggling students. She works hand-in-hand with psychologists, occupational therapists and speech and language pathologists along the way so that parents and students receive the help and support they need. Her position in French education was greatly inspired by her Secondary III to V French teacher at Vincent Massey Collegiate, Monsieur Larivière. "I was in the Français langue maternelle program, where I was pushed by Monsieur Larivière to learn beyond the curriculum," said Ms. Jorin. "He cared deeply for his students and pushed us, while offering his support to learn and succeed at the same time. He was a star. He really made every one of his students feel important."

## Sabrina Colatruglio

Sabrina Colatruglio's ties to French language instruction date back to 2008, when she was a part of the very first French immersion graduating class at Edward Murphy School in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve. Now a 5th-grade French teacher herself at Pierre de Coubertin School, where she teaches Français, langue seconde, Univers social, Science et technologie, and

Éthique et culture religieuse, Ms. Colatruglio remembers being in Mr. Champagne's first-grade class as if it was yesterday. "Although I was only six years old, the memories of him entering the classroom each morning, singing a song with a little guitar in his hands, still make me smile," she said. "Whenever I think about my early school years, I remember being happy and excited to go to school every morning."

Here is a snapshot of a few EMSB graduates who went on to attend French CEGEP.

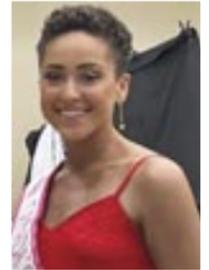
## Charlotte Cadieux

Growing up in a bilingual household, where both her parents spoke fluent English and French, Charlotte Cadieux recognizes her own bilingualism as integral to Quebec identity. This made her time at Westmount High School and its French Immersion program all the more memorable to her. "Some of my fondest memories of high school were the classes I had with my French teachers, like Mr. Desjardins," she said. "During his classes, we'd start the lesson by having political discussions about current events or the comings and goings of our day-to-day. Everyone had the chance to either give their opinions about the news or just open up. The class was always very engaging with Mr. Desjardins due to his enthusiasm for teaching."

## Clara Chemtov

After attending the EMSB's Willingdon Elementary School and Royal West Academy, Clara Chemtov headed to CEGEP Saint-Laurent to study dance. While her options were limited, with CEGEP Saint-Laurent being the only school offering her desired program, she, nevertheless, felt prepared for what lay ahead, thanks to her time spent at Royal

West and its Français langue d'enseignement program. "Going to Royal West Academy proved to be an asset for me," she said. "Much of the material I was learning in CEGEP I had already been accus-



Clara Chemtov

tomed to since Secondary III at Royal West. I also didn't have to take any additional exams or remedial activities to enter CEGEP Saint-Laurent because of my pre-existing French education."

## Francine Romano

Francine Romano never intended on attending a French CEGEP following her graduation from St. Leonard's Laurier Macdonald High School in 2008. She was enrolled at Dawson College before an unexpected operation led her to



Francine Romano

transfer to CEGEP Marie-Victorin. "Marie-Victorin was closer to home," said Ms. Romano, a freelance graphic designer, journalist, artist and director. "It was easier to pursue my education there. I am so happy that my journey led me unexpectedly to a French school. It shaped who I am today. My French language skills improved even more, and it has helped open doors for me. I can't rave about my experience enough."

## Pierre de Coubertin students engage in French exchange program



Pierre de Coubertin Elementary School in St. Leonard recently embarked upon a new project called *Connexion Quartier*, where younger Grade 1 students spend time with their older peers from the nearby French-language school, École Gabrielle-Roy.

# EMSB Holocaust Education Program: Students become ambassadors for tolerance and understanding

The EMSB received a Nova grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal for the 2022-23 academic year.

Since September 2022, the EMSB Holocaust Education Program has been sensitizing students and staff to the history of the Holocaust and acts of antisemitism via special guests, lectures and visits to the Montreal Holocaust Museum and different exhibits and programming in the community.

The EMSB has been working closely with The Montreal Holocaust Museum, the Azrieli Foundation's Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), the Foundation for Genocide Education and a team of teachers, and spiritual and community animators.

"We can see through programming done in the past the kind of impact something organized and with the proper funding can achieve," said EMSB Director General Nick Katalifos. "When our students move on to CEGEP and university and there is a campaign coordinated by the many antisemitic groups on campus, these students will be among our ambassadors for tolerance and understanding."

## Special Podcast

You can listen to editions of our special podcast for this program at <https://holocausteducationmtl.com/hep-podcast/>. It is co-hosted by noted Montreal broadcaster Mark Bergman, the grandson of Holocaust survivors, and by Secondary III Westmount High School student Eliane Goldstein (greatgranddaughter of Holocaust survivors, and a Grade 9 student at Westmount High School). Two years ago she started her own podcast called *The Effect On Us*, in which she interviews Holocaust survivors.

Among other things, the grant has provided funding (bus transportation, admission and lecturers) to more than two dozen schools to visit the Montreal Holocaust Museum. In addition, guests speakers with expertise on this



(Left): Muguette Szpajzer-Myers / (Top): Students from Gerald McShane Elementary School in Montreal North listen to a lecture at the Museum before their tour.



Muguette Szpajzer-Myers signs her book for students at Marymount Academy International.



(From left to right): podcast co-hosts Eliane Goldstein and Mark Bergman, and Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal President and CEO Kathy Assayag and students at the Museum.

subject, notably Holocaust survivors, visit schools in person or virtually. Politicians like Anthony Housefather and authors such as Monique Polak have also participated.

For the Museum visits, students were moved by the stories told by the tour guides as they reinforced the message that we must all take steps to move forward without forgetting the past.

Students at Marymount Academy International in NDG were moved by the personal visit of Holocaust survivor Muguette Szpajzer-Myers who shared her emotional story. The visit was organized by teacher Stacey Blumer, in cooperation with The Azrieli Foundation Memoirs Program. Ms. Blumer was a past recipient of a Riva and Thomas O. Hecht, Teaching of the Holocaust for Educators scholar-

ship. Teachers were awarded these bursaries to study the Holocaust in Jerusalem and then integrate that experience into their classroom curriculums.

## Expertise from CIJA

Cycle 3 students at Gardenview Elementary School in St. Laurent took part in a special program for Holocaust Education Month, with guest speaker Emmanuelle Amar from the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA). As the Director of Policy and Research (Quebec), Ms. Amar's role includes developing Quebec-specific policy positions to support outreach efforts, as well as monitoring and conducting research on antisemitism. At Gardenview, Ms. Amar made an excellent presentation about a new campaign called Unlearn

It (Unlearn antisemitism), which provides educators with short educational videos and discussion guides to teach about antisemitism and its impact. These tools can be used proactively as part of anti-racism programming or reactively when an incident occurs at school.

As part of Holocaust Education Month, Ms. Polak visited two elementary schools – Our Lady of Pompei in Ahuntsic and Westmount Park Elementary School to read from *The Brass Charm*. This is her first picture book for children. In it she tells the story of a gift from a perfect stranger that her mother (the late Celien Spier) received on her 14<sup>th</sup> birthday while a prisoner at the Nazi concentration camp in Czechoslovakia called Theresienstadt during the Holocaust. Over the next few

months Monique will be making other school visits. The story revolves around Tali, who is staying at her Oma's (grandmother) apartment after a storm demolishes their house. She is upset at losing everything. "People have survived worse," says her grandmother. Oma survived World War II, and never speaks of it. "But that night, Oma shares her story of Holocaust survival, the brass monkey charm that she was given in the camp, and a message of kindness and perseverance in the face of disaster."

## Royal West Grad

*The Covenant*, written by Alice Abracen, was performed at the Segal Centre last fall. Ms. Abracen is a graduate of Roslyn Elementary School in Westmount and Royal

West Academy in Montreal West. In fact, a number of Royal West classes attended shows, which included talk backs. Inspired by a true story, *The Covenant* is set in June, 1944 at Theresienstadt. Red Cross dignitaries are invited to marvel at this lively town which appears to be a haven for Jewish people in the heart of Czechoslovakia. Little do they know that this paradise is a ghetto and concentration camp,

elaborately staged in order to conceal Nazi crimes against humanity. Forced to participate in the terrible charade, the ambitious politician Peter and the dedicated doctor Hilde find their idealism, their faith, and their love put to a terrible test. Nine Secondary III English Language Arts classes from Royal West attended shows in November.

There was a talk broadcast live via YouTube to students at Westmount High School by Steven Rambam about the prosecution of Nazi war criminals.

On January 27 for International Holocaust Remembrance Day, a special webinar was streamed into classrooms marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Please go to [www. Holocaust EducationMtl.com](http://www.HolocaustEducationMtl.com).



## Holocaust Education Program



The EMSB Holocaust Education Program, made possible thanks to a Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal Nova Grants, sensitizes students and staff to the history of the Holocaust and acts of antisemitism.

Read about school visits to the Montreal Holocaust Museum, lectures, discussions and listen to our podcasts on our website.

[www.HolocaustEducationMtl.com](http://www.HolocaustEducationMtl.com)



# Accolades

## BLACK CHANGEMAKERS

Two EMSB staff members have been chosen as CBC Black Changemakers for 2023. Like many teachers, **Tina Oppong** puts 110 percent into her job. But hers is no regular classroom. Ms. Oppong only has a handful of students – all of different ages and in different grades, and most of them only with her for one academic year. Oppong is the head teacher of the day program at the Jewish General Hospital's Sir Mortimer B. Davis child psychiatry department. It is a program that is unique in Canada, where children with mental health or behavioral issues get intensive help, including their own lesson plan, created in conjunction with a team of experts. Her students have often struggled in a traditional school setting. Many have already been in and out of foster care and group homes. She said the job requires her to be nimble: part teacher, part social worker, ready to adapt to each student's needs. "It is absolutely soul-wrenching," said Ms. Oppong, "and you put in your sweat, blood and tears." But she says there's nowhere she'd rather be. You can read her entire inspiring story here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/tina-oppong-2023-black-changemaker-1.6728905>



Tina Oppong

Also being recognized this month as a Black Changemaker is **Kathy Roach**, a community worker at St. Raphael Elementary School for children with behavioral difficulties. Through her workshops, Ms. Roach has inspired hundreds of Montreal teens from all walks of life to believe in themselves and give back to their community.

## Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence



Gail Bernstein and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

**Gail Bernstein**, a teacher at L.I.N.K.S High School in Ahuntsic, is the only Quebecer among 10 winners chosen from across Canada to be recognized with the Prime Minister's National Award for Teaching Excellence. The award has recognized exceptional elementary and secondary school teachers in all disciplines since 1994, with over 1,700 teachers honoured to date. Teaching Excellence Awards recipients are honoured for their remarkable achievements in education and for their commitment to preparing their students for a digital and innovation-based economy. Ms. Bernstein was nominated by Principal Maria Caldarella for her work and success in integrating students with special needs in the learning process and the community. Ms. Bernstein's entire teaching career of 35 plus years has been in the field of special education. Ms. Bernstein was in Ottawa October 3 to 6 for a special program for all recipients. This included a reception with Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau**. Ms. Caldarella and Guidance Counsellor **Shannen Circillo** were also in the nation's capital for the awards dinner.

## WESTMOUNT HIGH TURNS 150

From its humble beginnings as a schoolhouse on the corner of Clarke and Cote St. Antoine in 1873, Westmount High School marked the beginning of its 150<sup>th</sup> year in education on the first day of classes for the 2022-23 academic year. The school kicked off its sesqui-centennial by welcoming back alumni, both students and staff, who officially cut the ribbon on what has become a year filled with special events and

celebrations. Meanwhile, the EMSB has completed a major renovation project at Westmount High School, which included a number of important enhancements to the front façade. Besides new steps, steel columns were reinforced, curtain wall windows replaced and new front entrance doors installed. New handrails were also added on the stairways. Total construction costs exceeded

\$800,000. "The timing for the completion of this work was excellent, given the fact Westmount High School is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary," said EMSB Director General Nick Katalifos, who thanked project manager Mariana Osorio and her team who were responsible for the project. Westmount High School is presently home to 810 students.



Students on the front steps of Westmount High School.

## THE WAY FORWARD



"The Way Forward" Indigenous Commemoration showcased the musical talents of Rosemount High School's Symphonic Winds and Nesbitt Elementary's choir.

There was an important step forward for the EMSB when Rosemount High School and Nesbitt Elementary welcomed **Grand Chief Kahsennenhawé Sky-Deer**, Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke and Chief **Jessica Lazare**, Lead Chief on the Heritage Portfolio, Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke. The commemoration was spearheaded by Spiritual Community Animator (SCA) **Vince Lacroce**. "The Way Forward" Indigenous Commemoration showcased the musical talents of Rosemount High School's Symphonic Winds and Nesbitt Elementary's choir along with the artistic talents of Rosemount High School students. This event would not have been possible without the tremendous support of the management team of the EMSB, Grand Chief Sky-Deer, Chief Herb Rice, Chief Lazare, and the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake, the Administration

teams of Rosemount High School, Nesbitt Elementary, and Perspectives High School, **Danika Swanson**, SCA Consultant, the music and art teachers, **Debbie Best**, **Anthony Cooperwood**, Eric Mailloux, and Georgiana Petruta. Thank you to music teacher Caroline Derome and her Nesbitt choir for their performance of "Strawberry Moon" (Ode'min Giizis), a performance that won first place in CBC's Indigenous Languages category. A special thank you to Les Delices Lafrenaie for their beautiful "Every Child Matters" cake for our invited honoured guests from the EMSNB and the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke.

Grand Chief Sky-Deer from the Wolf Clan is the elected Grand Chief of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke. She was first elected to Council in 2009 and is serving her community in her fifth straight three-year term of office. She was

elected as the first-ever female Grand Chief in July of 2021 making history for Kahnawà:ke. Grand Chief Sky-Deer's current areas of focus in her role as Grand Chief are: External government relations (Kahnawà:ke/Canada Relations), nation building, border crossing and Indigenous relations and governance. Grand Chief Sky-Deer graduated from Vanier College before moving to Florida to play women's professional football. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from the University of Central Florida in 2008. She returned to her community of Kahnawà:ke that same year and has been living and working in her community ever since. Grand Chief Sky-Deer is very passionate about issues pertaining to the protection of inherent rights, the revitalization of the Mohawk Language and the survival of the cultural identity of her people.

# Accolades

## WORLD SCHOLAR'S CUP

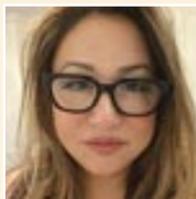
**Anya Figlarz-Grassino** a Secondary III student from the EMSB's Royal West Academy, has won first place at the World Scholar's Cup Tournament of Champions, which was held at Yale this past November. The World Scholar's Cup is an international academic competition that focuses on writing, debating, and knowledge-based trivia focused across six categories: Art & Music, Literature & Media, History, Science & Tech, Social Science and Special Area. There are three rounds, and 1,600 finalists from 45 different countries were competing across two age categories. Anya won first place at the Montreal regional round held in April, then went to Prague in August for a global round. There, she came in third place, earning her a spot in the final round at Yale where, she was the only junior scholar to earn a gold medal in all six challenge categories. She won the Jack Khor Award for first overall in the written challenges, and finished first as the individual scholar in the junior division.



Anya Figlarz-Grassino

## NEW PARENTS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Venture capitalist and start up enthusiast, mother and engaged parent governance volunteer, **Katherine Korakakis** wears many hats. She added yet another after being elected Chair of the EMSB Parents Committee (EMSBC) in November. Ms. Korakakis considers her many roles in parent governance over the years as passion projects, of which chair of the EMSBC will now be included. "I see myself as somebody who can bring the voice of parents to the forefront," she said. "It's such an important voice. I don't take that role lightly." Ms. Korakakis first got involved six years ago when the eldest of her two children enrolled in an EMSB school. Her son Nathan, 14, attends Westmount High School and her youngest, Bella, 11, is a student at Hampstead Elementary School.



K. Korakakis

## SPIRIT OF GIVING



Lauren Roberts Fernandez at Coronation.

The EMSB once again teamed up with CTV Montreal for their annual Spirit of Giving campaign, which raises critical funds for 10 local charities. More than 40 EMSB schools and centres took part in the campaign. Many of the participating EMSB schools organized a series of events set to encourage donations. Additionally, CTV Montreal's Lauren Roberts Fernandez visited four elementary schools – Gerald McShane in Montreal North, Leonardo Da Vinci Academy in RDP, Edinburgh in Montreal West and Coronation in Côte des Neiges- to highlight their unique holiday-themed activities. These reports aired on CTV Montreal the week of December 12. Funds raised from the Spirit of Giving campaign were split evenly amongst the following charities: Share the Warmth, Mile End Community Mission, La Mosaïque, Renaissance, The Dépot, Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, MultiCaf, West Island Assistance Fund and the Nazareth Community Centre.

## EDUCATION AND CAREER FAIR

More than 2,000 Secondary V students attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual EMSB Career Fair on October 19 and 20 at St. Pius X Career Centre in Ahuntsic. Jack Dym of Pipe and Piling Supplies Ltd was the event's title sponsor. Several on-air personalities from the media were on hand to talk to students about careers in this field and serve as guest emcees: Laurier Macdonald High School grad Pamela Pagano from CityNews Montreal; Vinny Barruco and Shannon King from Virgin Radio; Sean Henry and Sonali Karnick from CBC Radio; and Kim Sullivan from Global News Montreal. This marked the first in-person Education and Career Fair since 2019. The previous two editions were presented virtually. On the evening of October 19, the Education and Career Fair was open to the community-at-large. This was an excellent opportunity for parents to attend with their children as they look towards post-secondary



Vinny and Shannon from Virgin Radio get together with the team from Laurier Macdonald Career Centre.

education options in a one-stop shopping experience. More than 500 people showed up. **Mario Argiropoulos** from EMSB Adult Education and Vocational Services is the Education and Career Fair chair. The Student Services and AEVS Departments of the EMSB coordinate this program. The main objective was to provide students with an in-depth exposure to the

various post-secondary educational opportunities available to them. All students took part in a brief general information session in the St. Pius X auditorium. Students then had the chance to visit the various exhibition/information booths staffed by representatives from English vocational centres, CEGEPS, universities and some private business colleges.

## JAMES LYG VOLUNTEERS

What better way to start the month of December and embody the spirit of giving than by volunteering? On December 6, the Grade 11 students at James Lyng High School in St. Henri spent their morning volunteering at the Welcome Hall Mission, where they helped sort, count and pack food items for families in need. In a collaboration with their leadership teacher, **Samira Chawki**, they were able to include this volunteer outing as part of their leadership



James Lyng students volunteer.

coursework. Giving back to the community can be done in many ways, and our students gave their time and efforts by assembling 600 boxes that were distributed the following day. During the visit,

students exemplified important values such as generosity, teamwork and kindness. Lastly, the students wrote a personal reflection on the value and impact of volunteering in society.

## UNITED NATIONS HONOUR

Marymount Academy International in NDG and Laurier Macdonald High School in St. Leonard each had a representative joining a roundtable of panelists at a United Nations Forum, which took place in New York City on March 13. Laurier Mac's **Gianna Simancas** and Marymount's **Yasmeen Lrhazi**, both Secondary V students, presented their projects online on behalf of their teams at the NGO-UNCSW-67 Forum. The roundtable took place during the 67th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, attended by representatives of member states and NGOs from all over the world.



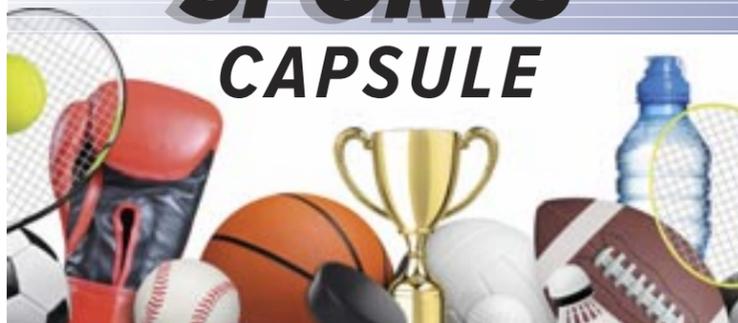
(Photo above) Left to right at LMAC: Gianna Simancas, Giovana Wendling, Hannah Tinkler and Andrea Vaccaro



Left to right at Marymount: Yasmeen Lrhazi, Shupeng Liu, Samantha Woo, Min Seo Kim and their teacher Richard Ouwendyk.



# SPORTS CAPSULE



## CEDARCREST HITS THE ICE



Cedarcrest student Zyana Callender gets her skates tied by former NHL player George Laraque.

Some 30 students at Cedarcrest Elementary School in Saint-Laurent – all of them girls – are getting the chance to learn and play hockey, free of charge, as part of a Canada-wide initiative to remove barriers to the sport. The 10-week program is run by Hockey 4 Youth, which is overseen by the National Hockey League’s inclusion coalition. According to its website, Hockey 4 Youth has organized programs for schools in Toronto, Hamilton and Ottawa and is launching one in Edmonton sometime this year. **Zyana Callender**, a 10-year-old who attends Cedarcrest, says the Hockey 4 Youth program makes her want to learn more about the game of hockey. She had no hockey experience heading into the program. Now, she’s eager to learn more even if she’s starting with the basics. Former NHLer **George Laraque** got a chance to teach a few tricks to the students taking part in the program. He took part in an on-ice session and says many immigrants are often unable to afford to enroll their children in hockey programs. Laraque is hoping that by learning how to skate and play the sport, the girls taking part in the program will spread the word. “Some of these girls will become teachers one day,” he said. *-with files from CBC*

## REPRESENTING CANADA



**Victoria Rawski**, a Grade 6 student at Honoré Mercier Elementary School in St. Leonard, was recently selected to represent Canada at the International Mundialito Tournament. It will take place under the auspices of FIFA in early April in Spain. This is an international event that brings together the world’s elite soccer players in age-based categories between eight and 13 years old. Victoria also plays for the St. Leonard Lions and practices two to three times a week. In 2021-2022, she collected soccer balls as part of a school project to give to Ukrainian immigrants who arrived in Montreal.

## POOL RELAUNCH

LaurenHill Academy formally inaugurated a newly renovated swimming pool, locker rooms and bathrooms at its Junior Campus on Decelles Avenue in St. Laurent on December 9 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The EMSB allocated \$1,932,260 for the combined projects, which saw a complete overhaul of each facility. Swimming pool renovations began in June 2020. Six months later, the pool was fitted with new concrete floors, ceramics, podiums and a state-of-the-art filtration system.

Renovations for the two gendered locker rooms began in June 2022. Upon completion in September 2022, they are now equipped with sparkling new red and grey-themed concrete floors, tiled walls, single-stall showers, blow dryers, storage lockers, sinks and single-stall toilets. Washroom facilities outside the pool area were given a facelift that complements the locker rooms. The highly anticipated renovations are welcomed by staff and students who use the pool for gym activities, lunch-hour free swim and weekly swim team practice. **Kiara Quiet**, a Sports-Études graduate from Lester B. Pearson High School in Montreal and now a member of the Canadian National Senior Artist Swim Team, was a special guest.



John F. Kennedy High School students meet the Stingers.

## MEETING THE STINGERS

Students from John F. Kennedy High School in St. Michel attended a game played by the Concordia Stingers women’s hockey team recently and got to meet the players after the match. “We skated with the team and got a tour of their athletic facilities,” said teacher **Joseph Lamantia**. “The Stingers were encouraging our students to continue to take part in sports at school and were explaining the physical and mental benefits of participating in sports as an extracurricular activity in school.”

## PAT HICKEY JOINS OUR SPORTS TEAM

Legendary sports journalist Pat Hickey, who recently retired from The Montreal Gazette Newspaper after 58 years in the business, is joining the English Montreal School Board as a sports reporter.

Throughout his career, Mr. Hickey has covered every facet of professional and amateur sports, from the Montreal Canadiens hockey beat to the Olympic Games. At the EMSB he will file stories for our website at [www.emsb.qc.ca/sportsnews](http://www.emsb.qc.ca/sportsnews) about activities going on at the school level. As well, he will tell the stories of sports personalities in this city who have a connection to the EMSB.

Mr. Hickey will contribute to EMSB publications and be available to visit schools and meet with students as part of ECA (Extra Curricular Activities). He is even open to becoming a substitute teacher.



Pat Hickey is welcomed to the EMSB by Assistant Director General Jack Chadirdjian (left) and Director General Nick Katalifos (right)

## UNIFORM DONATION

A number of EMSB inner-city schools will be among the beneficiaries of a generous donation of sports uniforms to the Generations Foundation. **Mike Quinn**, vice-president of sales for SP Apparel (pictured fifth to the left at the presentation), arranged for the shipment of 130 cases of uniforms for a variety of sports to the Generations Foundation headquarters in St. Henri. Distribution will begin in early 2023. Founded in 1998, SP Apparel is recognized as the most trusted name in custom sports apparel. Its uniforms are worn by thousands of professional and amateur teams of every size and sport across the globe, including all 32 NHL teams and the Olympic ice hockey squads of every nation.



Clients include some of the most important brands in the industry such as Nike, Adidas, CCM and Bauer amongst others. Based in Granby and St-Hyacinthe,

SP Apparel has a total annual production capacity of approximately one million units (jerseys, socks, shells, pants, bags).

# ADULT EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL SERVICES

## SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS



The EMSB has a new service that can certainly benefit employees of local businesses. Called the Service to Business Group (SBG), it provides customized training to businesses, aiming to provide creative, advanced and modern training practices

designed to assist companies build better performance and productivity within their corporate structure. These tailor-made instructional packages are specifically customized to meet each business' training needs. Instruction can be done in person or online. Some of the most popular and successful training programs have revolved around the following themes: business/e-commerce courses; language courses; Français au Bureau; tools to make your workday more professional and less stressful; software training; computer graphics; secretarial and accounting; hotel reception; professional sales; healthcare training; beauty care; automotive training; client communications skills; and teambuilding activities for staff. BG also offers the RAC Program (Recognition of Acquired Competencies), which leads to an official diploma of Vocational Studies for your staff. For further information go to the SBG website at [www.sbg.emsb.qc.ca](http://www.sbg.emsb.qc.ca) or call 514-483-7200 ext. 7724.

## CHEF CURZI'S BAGEL SHOP



Derek Curzi an St. Pius X Career Centre grad Linda Yee at Wellington Bagel Sandwicherie.

With Wellington Street in Verdun being named the coolest street in the entire world, according to the popular Time Out website, James Lyng High School grad **Jimmy Rennie** has opened Wellington Bagel Sandwicherie. Chef Derek Curzi, who teaches at St. Pius X Career Centre and his team, offer the best gourmet sandwiches on the block, such as mouthwatering porchetta, Montreal smoked meat, the famous Wellington beef, crispy chicken cutlet, tender juicy chicken parmigiana, their iconic Chicago all beef hot dog, freshly baked in-house pastries and always hot-out-of-the-oven bagels. **Linda Yee**, who is completing her culinary education at St. Pius X, is working in the kitchen. She is a grad of LaurenHill Academy in St. Laurent. The place also sells

homemade tomato and meat sauce, as well as tomato and meat lasagna, made by Chef Curzi, whose day is at the St. Pius X Career Centre and Culinary Institute in Ahuntsic. Rennie, well-known for his development of Ville Émard Bagels, will be taking this new location to an entire new level so stay tuned and check out 4400 Wellington.

## CABINETMAKING SUCCESS

At Rosemount Technology Centre, cabinetmaking students have completed some outstanding final projects. The students will now be advancing to the internship module. On the right, student Dominique Di Libero proudly displays her finished product.



## PIERRE POLIEVRE VISITS WAGAR



Pierre Poilievre meets with students at Wagar.

**Pierre Poilievre**, the leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, visited the Wagar Adult Education Centre of the English Montreal School Board on January 16 to talk to representatives, from leading organizations which serve students on the Autism Spectrum.

## LMAC CAREER CENTRE OPEN HOUSE

Laurier Macdonald Career Centre held an Open House and barbecue at their Des Grandes Prairies Campus last fall. Both old-fashioned and newer car models, offered by teachers, industry partners and local collectors, were on display around the school grounds. One of the cars opened up into a barbecue, offering guests sausage sandwiches and pizza free of charge. Prior to enjoying the cars, all visitors were invited inside to tour the spacious des Grand-Prairies campus, which is home to the vocational centre's Automobile Mechanics, Welding & Fitting, and Mechanics of Electric Vehicles programs. Representatives from the school's Aesthetics, Hair Removal and Hairdressing programs, offered out of the Centre's Jean Talon campus, were also on hand.



Visitors at the LMAC Career Centre auto shop.

"We pride ourselves as a leader in the Automotive, Welding and Beauty industry thanks, in large part, to our team of dedicated and experienced faculty of industry specialists," said Principal **Anna Maria Borsellino**. "All of our programs lead to a Diploma of Vocational Studies or Attestation of Vocational Specialization issued by the Quebec Ministry of Education. We are committed to providing relevant, cutting-edge courses and programs, and ensuring a hands-on, accessible and supporting environment for all of our students."

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