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ballet
star
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Royal West
places first
in robotics
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Montreal
East Rangers
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Commission scolaire English-Montréal

express

Volume 23
Number 2
SUMMER 2020
www.emsb.qc.ca

English Montreal School Board

LaurenHill Academy student steps up with special project for healthcare workers



Jonah Kontolemos showcases some of his ear savers.

While schools remained closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a Grade 11 student at LaurenHill Academy in St. Laurent found an innovative way to assist healthcare workers on the frontlines.

Jonah Kontolemos has been working independently at home using a 3D printer to make ear savers, which protect the ears of healthcare workers from the elastics of medical masks. He has taken the initiative and is donating them to hospitals in the Montreal area.

“Jonah’s work highlights the values we embrace at LaurenHill and the work of our students in helping out the community during the pandemic,” said Vice-Principal Mireille Tehbelian.

With his dad Jason contacting hospitals and mom Marie doing some of the deliveries, the newly

dubbed Canada Ear Savers has become a family affair by printing and donating ear savers for nurses and doctors. So far requests are being prepared or have gone out to the following six hospitals: Montreal Children’s, Jewish General, Santa Cabrini, Sacré Cœur, Lakeshore General, Ottawa and Jim Pattison Children’s in Saskatoon.

“I started the project around a week and a half ago when my dad brought the product to my attention when a family friend of ours expressed interest,” said Jonah. “Since I wanted to do whatever I could to help, I undertook the task with inspiration from Linus Tech Tips on YouTube, which is printing face shields.”

Jonah, 17, plans to attend Vanier College in St. Laurent next

year in Pure and Applied Sciences. “Beyond that I could see myself becoming an engineer or a designer,” he says.

Little did Jonah know when he got a 3D printer kit (Crealty Ender 3) for last Christmas how handy it would become during a pandemic nobody saw coming. “A large portion of the 3D printing community has shifted to making various objects that help hospital staff,” Jonah observes.

“Canada Ear Savers has produced over 1,000 ear savers so far and we get them to hospitals either by post or drop-off depending on how close they are,” Jonah explains, noting that he is staying safe at home and encouraging everyone who can to do the same.

Jonah wishes to express thanks to the LaurenHill Academy faculty,

A parent gives back



Franco Marateo, a parent of two students – Giordano (Grade 2) and Carrerra (Grade 5) – at Leonardo Da Vinci Academy in RDP, entered the real estate field with Royal LePage last January. Prior to that his family was in the auto parts business. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic he and some partners recently created an entity called Frontline to sell face shields, using the equipment from his former company. Before the product even went on the market he made donations to several EMSB East End schools. **For more information go to <http://www.ppe-frontline.com> or call 514-804-0707.**



During this COVID-19 pandemic, the EMSB’s webmaster and graphic arts technician Andrea Di Tomaso creatively adapted the EMSB logo to portray a message of hope and optimism. The notion of “everything will be all right” originated from Italy (“*Andrà tutto bene*”), one of the countries hit hardest by the coronavirus.

including teacher Sarah Ditchfield, for their encouragement.

A special Facebook page has been launched at <https://www.facebook.com/canadaearsavers>.

See Jonah on CityNews Montreal: <https://vimeo.com/>

415605227.

You can also listen to our podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/englishmtlpodcasts/emsb-podcast-during-covid-19-emsb-student-saving-one-pair-of-ears-at-a-time>.

**We are a
greater Montreal**

Global News at 5:30 & 6:30
Weeknights with Jamie Orchard

Global NEWS

Mandate of EMSB trustee Marlene Jennings renewed until November

The Quebec government has renewed the partial trusteeship of the English Montreal School Board and continued the mandate of trustee Marlene Jennings until November 6, 2020.

Since last November Ms. Jennings has fulfilled all the functions and assumed all of the powers of governance at the EMSB, except for the constitutional legal proceedings initiated by the Council of Commissioners.

"I am delighted to be continuing in this important role," said Ms. Jennings. "My mandate has been going very well, and I still have a lot of work to do. From the very moment I first set foot on the EMSB premises at 6000 Fielding Avenue in NDG, I have received such wonderful collaboration from senior management and all the way down the line. I have been made to feel that this is my place. Anything I have asked for has been provided without fail and as quickly as possible. In addition, I have to say that during this COVID-19 crisis our staff has risen to the challenge to continue to try and provide as many services as we can under these difficult circumstances."

Over the last six months Ms. Jennings worked with the Deloitte

firm and senior management to devise and implement an Action Plan to modernize the internal operations and processes of the board. "Marlene," as she likes to be called, has also played a very supportive and collaborative role of oversight, and with the Director General, has ensured that the day-to-day functioning of the board also runs smoothly.

A lawyer by profession, Ms. Jennings served as the Liberal Member of Parliament for the federal riding of Notre-Dame-de-Grace-Lachine in the House of Commons from 1997 to 2011. She became a member of the Privy Council in July 2004. She is also recognized within the anglophone community as a staunch defender of its school system.

Before embarking on her career in politics, Ms. Jennings, who is perfectly bilingual, held the position of Deputy Commissioner for Police Ethics for the Province of Quebec. She oversaw the application of the public complaints conciliation process with respect to police conduct throughout Quebec. On September 30, 2015 she was elected as vice-president of the board of directors of the Centre intégré universitaire de la santé et des services sociaux de



Marlene Jennings and EMSB Director General Ann Marie Matheson.

Centre-sud de l'Île de Montréal, known generally as the CIUSSS

Centre-Sud. She stepped down from that post last November, but

remains a member of its board of directors.

More pre-K classes to come

The EMSB will welcome 10 new Pre-Kindergarten classes funded by the Ministry of Education for the 2020-21 academic year. At present there are already 28 such classes at the board. Set to receive new Ministry funded full-day Pre-K classes are Carlyle (2), St. Monica (3), Pierre de Coubertin (1), Dunrae Gardens (1), Leonardo Da Vinci (2), Michelangelo (1), Honoré-Mercier (1) and East Hill (1). The conditions and criteria considered when making these selections were the poverty index, schools with existing half-day Pre-K's and available space.



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English Montreal School Board

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MORNINGS
WITH NIKKI, SAM & ANDY

5:30
MONDAY TO FRIDAY

COGECO MEDIA

EMSB's very own play an essential role during COVID-19: its daycare workers

by Kristin McNeill

Rainbows adorn the windows of Montreal homes and businesses, with the joint message of solidarity and giving thanks to people working on the frontlines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Healthcare workers, grocery store clerks and others tend to be top of mind, but there are others working in a crucial supporting role behind the scenes – a role that involves interacting in person with others during a time when most can stay at home in safe isolation. This includes many English Montreal School Board (EMSB) daycare educators who had to leave the comfort of their own homes – in some cases, even their own schools – to take care of elementary school-age children attending the emergency daycare centres that have opened for the parents working in essential services.

Normally a daycare educator based out of Leonardo da Vinci Elementary School in RDP, Ana Maria Di Gaetano is among those who were given shifts at one of the EMSB schools chosen by the provincial government to house the pop-up daycare centres. Principals from every EMSB elementary school were tasked with providing a team – comprising technicians, educators

and caretakers – to cover shifts at one of the four EMSB-hosted daycare centres: Westmount Park School South Campus (at the former St. John Bosco School in Ville Émard), St. Monica in NDG, Cedarcrest in St. Laurent and Dante in St. Leonard. (Montreal West's Elizabeth Ballantyne closed its centre due to low enrolment.) A shift was either 7 am to 12:30 pm or 12:30 pm to 6 p.m. and can be split into segments.

Two to three days a week, Ms. Di Gaetano worked at Dante Elementary School for a three-hour shift. Despite the anxiety many feel being around others in public because of the highly contagious nature of the virus, she and her colleagues put it aside to come up with a schedule of fun activities each day for the students. They design the activities to respect the physical distancing required between each child and educator, which is challenging with young children, she said. They have gym time, dancing to a video, colouring and other arts and crafts activities. Between each activity, Ms. Di Gaetano says toys are disinfected and children brought to the washroom to wash their hands.

For the full story, please see “EMSB News Headlines Archive” under “Parents & Community” on our website at www.emsb.qc.ca.



A daycare educator team works at the emergency daycare centre at Dante on March 24. From left, bottom row: Paola D'Amico, Gabriella DeChiara and Renata Nespeca; top row: Matilde Angelillo and Ana Maria Di Gaetano.

SECTEUR DES JEUNES ~ YOUTH SECTOR

CALENDRIER SCOLAIRE 2020 ~ 2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Holidays / Congé des fêtes

Fixed professional days
Journées pédagogiques fixes

March Break / Relâche scolaire

First Day of Classes /
Première journée de cours :
August 31, 2020 / Le 31 Août 2020

Last day of classes /
Dernière journée de cours :
June 23, 2021 / Le 23 juin 2021

August 2020

D/S	L/M	M/T	M/W	J/TH	V/F	S/S
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September 2020

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October 2020

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November 2020

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December 2020

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January 2021

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February 2021

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March 2021

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May 2021

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June 2021

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Galileo becomes the first adult education centre in Quebec to offer a multisensory room

by Wendy Singer

The Galileo Adult Education Centre in Montreal North recently revealed its new state-of-the-art multisensory room. After much hard work and dedication, Galileo Adult Education Centre's new multisensory room, sponsored by Vanessa Grimaldi, founder of No Better You Foundation and former special needs teacher at Galileo before she went on to international fame on the ABC reality show *The Bachelor*, *Italiani di Montreal e Amici*, and *Chez Ma Tante Restaurant*, was revealed. "I am proud to say that Galileo is the first adult centre within the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) to have a multisensory room," said Martina Schiavone, principal of Galileo, while addressing sponsors, EMSB administrators, special guests and the Galileo community.

A sensory room (technically called a Snoezelen room and

termed by Galileo as "the Snuggle Room") provides a multisensory environment that offers an array of interesting and controllable sensory experiences. While initially created for the school's 150 Social Integration Services (SIS) and Socio-vocational Integration Services (SVIS) students, some 100 academic and 400 common core basic education students will also benefit from the room. Situated in a large classroom on the school's second floor, it can accommodate six to eight adults at one time.

At the big reveal event, SIS students and teachers shared testimonials of their multisensory room experiences. Alexis Gerin-Lajoie has been a student at Galileo for three years and is overjoyed with the new room. "It is a place to help me relax and leave all my troubles behind. The room gives me my personal space where I can be alone with my thoughts. The sensory room means the world to



Vanessa Grimaldi

us. We thank you for your support," said Mr. Gerin-Lajoie.

After a ribbon-cutting ceremony, guests toured the calming room, learning how the equipment is used and seeing demonstrations of its effectiveness by Galileo students. The culinary class pre-



Vanessa Grimaldi and guests take part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

pared a delicious lunch which event attendees enjoyed afterwards. Ms. Grimaldi was touched and voiced how emotional this day was for her. Galileo is where her vision for the No Better You Foundation began. "It does not take going on

a TV show where they hand out roses to do good. It's smiling at your neighbour and hanging out with a student who may not have any other students to hang out with. So be kind to one another," she said.

Cirque du Soleil at JFK Adult Education Centre



by Mark Bergman

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Close to 200 students packed the auditorium on February 5 at the John F. Kennedy Adult Education Centre in St. Michel, as Cirque du Soleil's Head of Community Relations Anik Couture spoke to them about the incredible ups and downs of the company's 35-year history. The Cirque has come a long way from organizing a summer fair in Baie-Saint-Paul in 1979! While they've mainly had success stories, the road also consisted of trials and tribulations.

One of the main messages that Anik delivered to the students was to not be afraid to do

something different – just go for it! "Cirque du Soleil has always been able to rise above any obstacles that we've had. Not giving up, and going for the dream every single time has been our motto. Nothing is impossible!"

Cirque Du Soleil's headquarters are located in St. Michel, which is also home to the JFK Adult Education Centre. Anik is very proud of Cirque's *Arts Nomades* program that partners up with eight schools in the district (as well as Las Vegas). "We're bringing artists to the classrooms once a week, to bring an

Anik Couture meets with staff and students at JFK Adult Education Centre.

artistic spin into the academic curriculum and to give a super positive experience to the youth in the classroom," she explained.

The event was organized by Maya Volpato, the chair of the Governing Board, who echoed Anik's message. "My hope in today's presentation was that students could see that success is about falling, risking, failing, and getting back up!" she said. "That it's hard work and determination that's going to get you there."



Adult Education & Vocational Services



Options at the EMSB

Education is a life-long process. With this in mind, the EMSB offers a full range of academic and vocational programs. Whether students are looking to complete high school or find a new career in a vocational sector, the EMSB offers a wide array of options through its 10 centres. The vocational program could lead to such careers as secretarial studies, professional cooking and restaurant services, computer graphics, machining, electromechanics, printing, cabinetmaking, furniture finishing, auto mechanics, hairdressing, aesthetics, accounting, the travel industry and sales. Students must be 16 years of age or older and be legal residents of Quebec. The Ministry of Education offers financial assistance to full-time vocational education students who qualify. Our primary concern is to assist you in selecting a program which best suits your needs while taking into account employment possibilities. For information and referral service, please call (514) 488-INFO (4636) or log on to

<http://www.emsb-aevs.com/>

SLAC has talent

by Mark Bergman

At what they hope will become an annual event, the St. Laurent Adult Education Centre held an incredible talent show that united the school community and its many cultures. Two shows were held on February 3, featuring Common Core Basic Education (CCBE) and Social Integration Services (SIS) and academic students.

Emceed by Christian Puga Garcia, the shows featured dancers and singers, many of which displayed songs and dances from their native countries. Performances included a belly dancer from Libya, a group Armenian dance called *Ess Kisher*, a *Bandari* dance from Iran and a rapper from Syria who rapped about his experiences

growing up in the war-torn country. “I’m just so proud of them!” said a beaming Annette Lacroce, Counsellor in Re-education, who spearheaded the show, “They’ve come out of their shells, and they formed this amazing bond amongst each other and with us as well. It’s an opportunity that they may not have had anywhere else.”

Not only did the talent show bring together the CCBE, academic side and special needs group, it also brought together artists, dancers and musicians of the many cultures that make up the the fabric of the St. Laurent Adult Education Centre. Mission accomplished, said the school’s Acting Principal, Demetrios (Jimmy) Giannacopoulos. “It’s so important that we united the CCBE and our academic community,” he



The students at St. Laurent Adult Education Centre displayed lots of talent at their program.

commented. “It’s important because the cultural richness in our school is incredible. We want to accentuate the commonalities of all our students.”

Shadd students win bursaries

Shadd Health and Business Centre in NDG is proud to announce that the Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de l’Ouest-de-l’Île-de-Montréal and CIUSSS du Centre-Ouest-de-l’Île-de-Montréal interviewed their students during the months of December and January for a scholarship program. The Ministry is offering bursaries to Quebec students enrolled in the Health and Institutional Homecare Program as préposés aux bénéficiaires. Out of the 63 bursaries offered by the CIUSSS for all Dep (diploma), CEGEPs and universities, 54 were awarded to



Shadd Health students. Upon completion of the program and obtaining a Diploma at Shadd Health and Business Centre, the

students are guaranteed a position and agree to work for a two-year period at a Health Care Centre within these regions.



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Hairdressing olympics

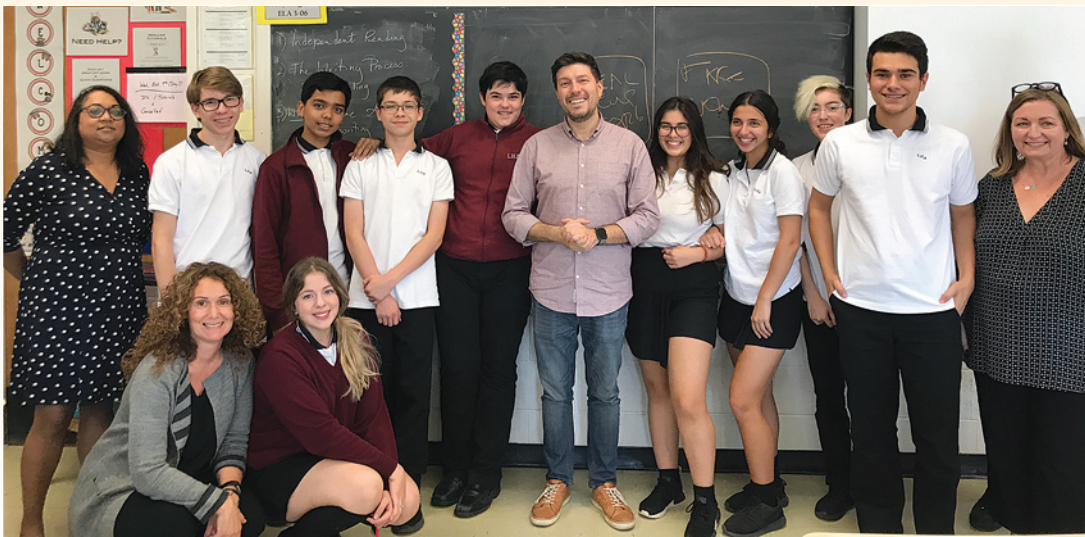


Hairdressing students were in a very competitive spirit.

As part of the Vocational Training Olympiad (<https://www.competencesquebec.com>), Laurier Macdonald Career Centre in St. Léonard hosted the regional competition for hairdressing. Students were judged on how to cut, style, colour and other techniques. See this report from Domenic Fazioli at <https://vimeo.com/389550711>.

Accolades

EMSB SUCCESS RATE



CJAD's Elias Makos visited his former school, Lauren Hill Academy in St. Laurent last fall during Media Literacy Week. The EMSB often invites prominent graduates back to their old schools, a popular program for a school board with such a high success rate.

At 92.4 percent, the EMSB has achieved the highest Success Rate among public school boards in the entire province of Quebec based on a seven year cohort – figures just published by the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES) show. We have surpassed our target goal in achieving this 92.4 percent – which is an increase by 1.4 percent over last year. Our goal is to ensure that all students achieve their full potential. From enrichment programs to remediation services, the EMSB has what the students need to achieve their full potential. This Success Rate is a testimony to how the EMSB, through a variety of pedagogical initiatives and student support strategies (outlined in our Commitment to Success Plan), is fulfilling its mission. No matter what else is going on, we never lose sight of our primary mission: student success! **Please listen to our podcast on this theme: <https://soundcloud.com/englishmtlpodcasts/commitment-to-success-podcast>**

SPIRIT OF GIVING

The EMSB held another successful Spirit of Giving campaign, collecting non-perishable goods, toiletries and toys to fill over 1,500 boxes, which have been donated to local charities. For more than a decade, the EMSB has partnered with CTV Montreal to coordinate this campaign. Annually, more than 40 schools and centres participate, and their hard work benefits the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, Sun Youth, La Mosaïque, Mile-End Community Mission, MultiCaf, the Nazereth Community House, The Depot Community Food Centre, Renaissance Montreal, Share the Warmth and the West Island Assistance Fund. As the month-long program drew to a close, CTV Montreal broadcasted live from six schools, highlighting the incredible and creative work of the students and staff to collect donations. This year, CTV Montreal visited: Dunrae Gardens Elementary School in T.M.R., Elizabeth Ballantyne School in Montreal West, Options and Elizabeth High Schools in Ville-Émard, Lester B. Pearson High School in Montreal North, Lauren Hill Junior Campus in St. Laurent and St. Dorothy Elementary School in St. Michel. **See this video: <https://vimeo.com/channels/spiritofgiving>**



The students at Options Alternative High School were part of the Spirit of Giving this year.



MERTON BALLET STAR

Gabrielle Reichson, in Grade 5 at Merton Elementary School in Côte Saint-Luc, danced for a second successive year with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens in the Nutcracker at Place des Arts. Last year she played the role of a mouse and this year is a child at the party. Gaby performed in all 18 shows in Montreal and did so as well from December 4 to 8 in Quebec City with Les Grands Ballets.

MACIOCIA PRIDE

Newly appointed Montreal Alouettes General Manager **Danny Maciocia** attended Dante Elementary School and Laurier Macdonald High School in St. Léonard. In an interview with TSN 690 Radio's Tony Marinaro, Maciocia went back in time and credited the Laurier Macdonald football program with giving him his true start in the sport.



Danny Maciocia is shown here at a visit a few years ago to his former elementary school, Dante.

GLEE SHOWDOWN



Vincent Massey Collegiate's Glee team.

The Clef Notes team from Vincent Massey Collegiate in Rosemount won the annual Just For Kids Foundation High School Glee Showdown recently. Over 450 guests were in attendance as nine high schools showcased their creative talent and charitable spirits. This was JFK Glee's 10th anniversary, and the energy in the theatre was truly palpable. This amazing event has raised over \$1.2 million over the past 10 years, and we are so grateful to all of our supporters. This year's fundraising efforts broke records! Vincent Massey came in second in terms of funds raised (\$14,373). All proceeds will help purchase high-priority medical equipment, and support initiatives that improve the quality of care for patients of the Montreal Children's Hospital. To-date, JFK has provided over \$11 million of equipment, touching almost every department at the hospital. That is more than 250,000 children treated and 1,500 healthcare professionals who are better equipped to care for their patients. Royal West Academy in Montreal West was also entered. VMC students **Vivian Naccarello** and **Stefania Zambardi** were second and third in terms of funds raised individually.

THE OUTREACH OBSERVER

Congratulations to the students and staff in the EMSB Alternative Outreach High School system for their wonderful new newspaper. Stories are written by students. You can read it at

<http://outreach.emsb.qc.ca/>



Accolades

THRIFT CLUB LAUNCHED

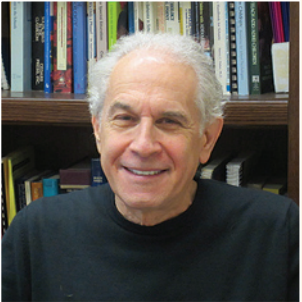
The Lester B. Pearson High School Thrift Club aims to promote the benefits of second-hand shopping. More and more young people are environmentally conscious. Combine this with a love for fashion, and you've got the Thrift Club! The world's landfills are overflowing with old clothes, and second-hand shopping allows us to help the planet in our own little way. Students have spent the last couple of months sifting through donations to last year's pop-up shop hosted by the school's GSA. The long term goal is to open a permanent thrift shop for students to regularly shop in, with proceeds going to local youth charities.



Lester B. Pearson High School students and their Thrift Club.

LEWIS AND FURFARO RETIRE

After a remarkable 53 year career in public education, including 47 years working out of 6000 Fielding Avenue for the EMSB and the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal, **Low Lewis** retired as Director of Student Services. A psychologist by profession, Mr. Lewis worked tirelessly in his role with Student Services, which promotes the continuous progress of students by helping them overcome the difficulties they meet, seeing to their psychological and physical well-being and developing their sense of responsibility, their autonomy, initiative and feeling of belonging to their school and community. Also retiring was **Sandra Furfaro**, who spent the past 18 years as Director of Educational Services. Prior to that she was a teacher, vice-principal, and assistant director of the department.



Rosemount High School Spiritual Community Animator Vince Lacroce and students present their cheque to Kids Help Phone.

Rosemount High School collected over \$1,300 for Bell Let's Talk Mental Health initiative. The money was raised from its Mental Health Coffee House "A Storied Mind" in late November. Bell Let's Talk Day was January 29 and students and staff presented a cheque to Kids Help Phone.

PUSH-UPS FOR ELLIE

On Friday February 14, the students and staff in the EMSB's Outreach Network united in the Options Alternative High School gymnasium to complete a two week-long initiative known as "Push-Up for Ellie." It was created to support seven year-old cancer fighter Ellie White and her family as they recover from a \$1,000,000 (US) experimental treatment received in Columbus, Ohio. Following the treatment, which ended in great success, the Outreach Network wanted to offer their support to Ellie and the White family as they continue to recuperate financially and emotionally. Initially, the Outreach Network pledged to complete 100,000 push-ups to show their support to the White family, and to promote the "Fight for Ellie" GoFundMe page via the social media hashtag "#pushupforellie." As the network gathered on Valentine's Day to complete the final push-ups together, the 10 alternative schools were pleasantly surprised to learn that they surpassed their goal of 100,000 push-ups, by 11,047. This left them with a grand total of 111,047 push-ups.

Their support through the form



of push-ups was symbolic to the idea that they wanted Ellie to feel empowered and uplifted following her cancer-fighting treatment. Furthermore, although the Outreach Network cannot take full credit for the donations made to Ellie's public GoFundMe page surrounding their initiative, the "Fight for Ellie" donation page saw an increase of around \$5,000, and the network's students and staff are honoured to be a part of such efforts. The Outreach Network hopes that the completion of the 111,047 push-ups was only the beginning of the Push-Up for Ellie movement, and that others in

the community will continue to show their support through the "#pushupforellie" hashtag. Other groups in the Montreal community, such as the staff and children of a local Montreal daycare partook in the push-up initiative and were able to raise \$700 dollars to be donated to the "Fight for Ellie" GoFundMe page. If you would like to join the movement or show your support to the White family, we welcome you to do so through the "#pushupforellie" hashtag on Instagram, or by visiting her GoFundMe page: <https://ca.go.fundme.com/f/fightforellie>.



Listen to the EMSB in-house radio show

with Suzanne Desautels
<https://soundcloud.com/englishmtlpodcasts>

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Accolades

PECK AWARDS

Five students from Royal West Academy in Montreal West and one from LaurenHill Academy in St. Laurent were recently presented with the 2019 Robert Alfred Peck Prizes for Excellence in French. Present day Grade 11 students **Roxana Barin**, **Allison Engo**, **Alessandro Ferraro**, **Ronit Bathsheba Gelbart** and **Jesse Sutherland** of Royal West and **Siena Blier** of LaurenHill each attained the mark of 100 percent. They received medals and cheques in the amount of \$150.



Bottom row: Siena Blier, Alessandro Ferraro and Jesse Sutherland. Top row Ann Marie Matheson, Allison Engo, Benoît Duhême, Roxana Barin, Ronit Bathsheba Gelbart and Evelyne Alfonsi.

DUNRAE TURNS 90



Grade 5 students Kalista Tsoukalas, Brianna Caruso, Annabella Lizza and Eloise Valente celebrate at the 90th anniversary party.

Dunrae Gardens Elementary School in TMR held a beautiful 90th anniversary evening on December 5, welcoming back students and staff from past years. Principal **Despina Michakis**, her predecessor **Elena Zervas**, Regional Director **Pela Nickolettopoulos**, TMR Mayor **Philippe Roy** and others addressed the gathering. The Dunrae Gardens Glee Club performed. **William Weaver**, a student at Carlyle Elementary School at the time, named the school through a contest where students and parents were asked to submit suggestions. He remembers receiving an expensive water colour set as a prize for his submission when the commissioners at the time selected the name “Dunrae Gardens.” Initially established as an English school, Dunrae Gardens expanded in 1951, and began providing a French immersion program in 1975. It gained popularity quickly, and students were transported by bus from TMR, Park Extension, the Plateau and Outremont. In 2006 a \$925,000 extension to the building was completed.

CARNIVAL OF MARVELS AND MONSTERS



On October 23, elementary school students from over 25 schools in the Montreal area were given the star treatment. Transported by limo to the Palace Reception Hall in Laval, these young performers entered the venue along a red carpet lined with their greatest fans; excited parents, teachers and school administrators. Smiling and waving as the local press and photographers' flashes lit up the lobby, this was their day to shine at a 2,000 seat by invitation only launch party. The Carnival of Marvels and Monsters is a massive international co-production of Chroma Musika (Montreal) and the renowned Quebec Publisher Planète Rebelle, written by **Mihalis Makropoulos**, illustrated by **Katerina Veroutsos** and set to music and lyrics written by **Giannis Georgantelis**. The EMSB was represented by nine elementary schools: Gardenview and Cedarcrest in St. Laurent, Pierre de Coubertin and Honoré Mercier in St. Léonard, Edinburgh in Montreal West, Roslyn in Westmount and Royal Vale, Willingdon and St. Monica in NDG. Schools will be selling copies of The Carnival of Marvels and Monsters with proceeds benefiting the schools themselves.

WILLINGDON SENIOR CAMPUS INAUGURATION



The Willingdon Choir performs at the ceremony.

The mood was festive October 2 when Willingdon senior students, administrators and teachers welcomed special guests and media to its Coronation and Somerled building to officially inaugurate the school's new senior campus in NDG. The 150 students, which make up Grades 5 and 6, were joined by EMSB officials, several politicians, representatives of the Willingdon's Home and School Association and its Governing Board, and parents. **Penny Fenwick**, a volunteer at the school for some 50 years, was also in attendance. Speeches of thanks, the story of how the campus came into being and student displays of poetry and music made up the morning of celebration. A special cake with the Willingdon logo, and cupcakes for the children, were also part of the fun. Vice Principal at the senior campus, **Maya Doughan**, acting as emcee hoped that the morning program would offer “a glimpse of the vision, hard work, dedication and love that went into making this beautiful addition to Willingdon Elementary School a reality.” Addressing those in attendance, Principal **Carmen Nicolas**, who called herself “one proud principal,” said it was “a humbling moment to stand in front of this crowd. As you can see and feel, this is an exciting time for Willingdon.” Recounting that the idea only started to take form in January the same year (2019), the process making the senior annex into reality was rigorous.



The official ribbon cutting.

NEWS
UPDATES

Hamster sitter

At Royal Vale School in NDG, when teacher Yasmine Joseph needed to find homes for some of her class pets, the family of Grade 3 student Gisele Park stepped forward in the case of Fidgy the Hamster. “Gisele is a big fan of all animals and frequently helps Mme. Jasmine with cleaning and caring for all the animals at Royal Vale,” said dad Craig. “When the school was closed and with not much time to spare, Mme. Jasmine reached out to Gisele to see if we could help out and look after Fidgy until school returned. Gisele was very excited to do so and since she always takes extra time to give affection and attention to any animal that she comes across, we knew that Fidgy would be well taken care of in our home, without the parents having to get involved! Craig was interviewed about the topic on CJAD: <https://soundcloud.com/englishmtl/royal-vale-parent-craig-park-on-cjad-taking-a-class-pet-home>.



Gisele Park and Fidgy.

Career Fair



Students ask police officers questions at the last career fair.

More than 2,000 Secondary V students attended the 19th annual EMSB Career Fair on October 16 and 17 at St. Pius X Career Centre in Ahuntsic. Jack Dym of Pipe and Piling Supplies Ltd. and RBC Royal Bank were the event’s title sponsors. Several on air personalities from the media were on hand to talk to students about careers in this field and serve as guest emcees. The 2020 edition will take place on October 7 and 8, with the always popular Open House on the Wednesday evening for the community-at-large. This is an excellent opportunity for parents to attend with their children (Grades 10 and 11) as they look towards post-secondary education options in a one-stop shopping experience. Hundreds of people packed the room, all very appreciative to make all of these contacts. The main objective of the Career Fair is to provide students with an in-depth exposure to the various educational opportunities available to them. All students take part in a brief general information session in the St. Pius X auditorium. Students will then have the chance to visit the

various exhibition/information booths staffed by representatives from English vocational centres, CEGEPS, universities and some private business colleges.

by Kristin McNeill

At the Flip 2020 Robotics Competition that took place in February, Royal West Academy in Montreal West showed some impressive results. Their finest one was a shining first place in programming in the high school division. In the same category, the team placed third overall. They ranked fifth overall in their division of all the different events, and 15th among all competitors. “This year’s competition went really well for us,” said Stephan Nemeth, computer science teacher at the school, who has brought a team to this competition for the past six years. “It was a great opportunity for our students to learn how to work under pressure and to improve their robotics, programming, video and website design skills. I’m extremely proud at what they accomplished. The students also created a gorgeous and imaginative transit-themed kiosk featuring a metro map of the school that showcased many of the great activities Royal West Academy has to offer.” There were 24 students from grades 9, 10 and 11 who formed the team.

Major school change
decisions enacted



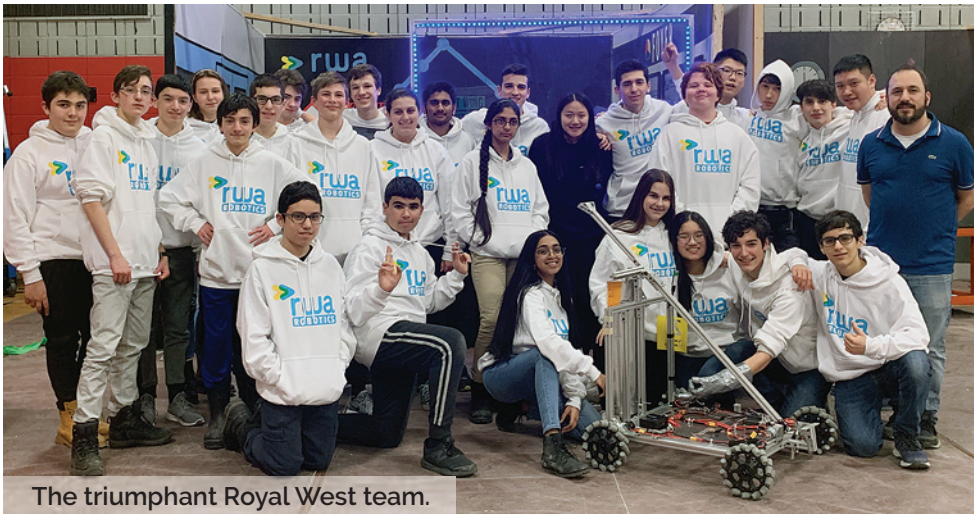
Principal Denise Maroun and some of her students at St. Dorothy Elementary School.

In January the EMSB announced that the deeds of establishment of three east-end schools will be revoked at the conclusion of the 2019-20 academic year. Trustee Marlene Jennings reviewed the recommendations of the Long Range Planning Committee, after having read the briefs and having heard the presentations by various groups at hearings. The decisions were made in accordance with the rationale and guiding principles set out at the beginning of the consultation process. General Vanier Elementary School in St. Léonard will have its deed of establishment revoked. The distinct and program boundaries of General Vanier will subsequently be shared between Pierre de Coubertin and Dante Elementary Schools starting next year. General Vanier students who, following this Major School Change process, find themselves living in the new Dante territory (according to newly established boundaries), will, for

compassionate reasons, be permitted to continue in their present building as Pierre de Coubertin students, and busing will be provided to them for a transition period of two academic years (2020-21 and 2021-22). General Vanier had its facility handed over to the Commission scolaire de la Pointe-de-l’Île (CSPI) last summer by the Ministry of Education. General Vanier is presently cohabiting with Pierre de Coubertin Elementary School. John Paul I Junior High School in St. Léonard will have its deed of establishment revoked. It will be merged with Laurier Macdonald High School to form one high school from Secondary I to V. The junior and senior schools are already partners in offering one IB program over the five years. It is being recommended that Laurier Macdonald give serious consideration to maintaining a distinct junior school model within the larger high school context in planning for next year. JPI also had

its facility handed over to the CSPI last summer and it has been cohabiting with Laurier Macdonald. St. Dorothy Elementary School in St. Michel and Our Lady of Pompei Elementary School in Ahuntsic will merge and occupy the Pompei facility on St-Michel Boulevard. That will result in the deed of establishment of St. Dorothy being revoked. St. Dorothy presently has 115 students while nearby (1.2 km in distance) Our Lady of Pompei has an enrolment of 167. Both schools have an extensive integrated technology program. It is being recommended that Our Lady of Pompei give serious consideration to starting a music program similar to the one presently at St. Dorothy. Both schools receive poverty monies to support their students. It is nonetheless being recommended that if poverty monies are diminished as a result of the merger, that the Board strive to provide the funds needed.

Royal West places first in robotics



The triumphant Royal West team.

Kiosk design: Third in their division, and 9th overall. (The kiosk was a 12-by-12-foot area designated for working on the robot.)
Sportsmanship: Third in their division, and 9th overall.
Some 600 students from 26 teams participated, among them 15 high schools, 10 CEGEPS and one adult education

centre, which was EMSB’s own Rosemount Technology Centre.
In best videos produced by Division 2 teams, Rosemount Technology Centre placed third. “I am very proud of our team for passing through adversity to fix the broken arm during the competition to make the quarter finals,” said teacher Joseph Rainone.

BULLETIN

de la CSEM

Salles de classe modulaires à Edinburgh



« Je suis très heureuse du résultat », a déclaré la directrice générale de la CSEM, Ann Marie Matheson, sur cette photo avec les élèves et le personnel.

Les toutes nouvelles salles de classe à l'école primaire Edinburgh de Montréal-Ouest ont ouvert leurs portes! L'annexe est à la disposition des élèves depuis le 22 octobre, soit moins de neuf mois à partir du moment où le projet de « classes modulaires » a commencé à prendre forme. Comme d'autres écoles primaires du secteur ouest, l'école d'immersion française Edinburgh située à Montréal-Ouest se devait de trouver des moyens pour faire face au problème de surinscription. Il y a trois ans, l'école – dont la capacité d'accueil est de 330 élèves – en comptait 409, ce qui a engendré un manque d'espace. L'école avait donc dû sacrifier des salles de classe, ses locaux de musique et des sciences ainsi que du temps de gymnase, si bien que certains groupes étaient contraints de faire leurs cours d'éducation physique dans leur propre classe les jours de pluie lorsqu'il n'était pas possible de sortir à l'extérieur. La bibliothèque avait elle aussi été convertie en salle de classe. Parmi les options que la CSEM avait proposées à l'automne 2018, l'école Edinburgh et son conseil d'établissement ont opté pour des installations modulaires ou mobiles, c'est-à-dire des unités préfabriquées sur roues. Les cours d'éducation physique se déroulent maintenant dans le gymnase ou la salle de conditionnement physique, les enseignants de musique et de sciences se sont réappropriés des salles de classe dédiées, sans compter que le centre de ressources est de nouveau disponible. L'objectif de la CSEM est de réduire le nombre d'unités mobiles à raison d'une par année, jusqu'à ce que l'effectif scolaire de l'école soit ramené dans les limites de sa capacité d'accueil pour ainsi occuper sans débordement son bâtiment scolaire habituel.

Comité de parents de la CSEM



Caroline Phaneuf

Le 17 octobre, les membres du comité de parents de la CSEM se sont réunis pour la première fois cette année afin d'élire leur exécutif ainsi que les observateurs aux divers comités de la Commission. Caroline Phaneuf de l'école Edinburgh assurera la présidence du CPCSEM pour l'année scolaire 2019-2020; Joseph Bondi de l'école Dunrae Gardens occupera le poste de vice-président et Johnny Leoci de l'école secondaire John F. Kennedy agira à titre de trésorier. Les commissaires-parents sont Pietro

Mercuri (écoles primaires), Norm Gharibian (écoles secondaires), Mubeenah Mughal (CCSAS) et Andrew Ross (aucune désignation). Les observateurs élus sont : Sophie Antippa (école Westmount Park) et Anne Monereau (Académie Royal West) au comité de l'éducation; Jason Trudeau (école Général Vanier) et Joseph Paglia (école East Hill) au comité financier; Sophie Antippa (école Westmount Park) et Katherine Korakakis (école Hampstead) au comité de l'EAFF; et Stephanie Passucci (école Michelangelo International) au comité de transport. Les représentants des parents auprès de l'Association des comités de parents anglophones (ACPA) sont Katherine Korakakis (école Hampstead) et Andrew Ross (Académie Marymount).



L'Académie John Caboto d'Ahuntsic a mis en place un programme de cyclisme pour les élèves ayant des besoins particuliers.

Classe de stimulation précoce

À l'Académie John Caboto d'Ahuntsic, Joseph Romano, spécialiste en éducation physique et Tina Filippone, technicienne en éducation spécialisée dans la classe de stimulation précoce, ont mis sur pied un programme de cyclisme pour les élèves ayant des besoins particuliers. Ils ont opté pour cette initiative parce qu'apprendre à faire du vélo constitue une étape physique et sociale importante que tout enfant se doit de maîtriser. La maîtrise du vélo à un âge précoce contribue non seulement à améliorer la santé physique, mais favorise également le développement de l'apprentissage, la santé mentale et, surtout, la créativité et la curiosité. Le projet vise à renforcer l'estime de soi et la confiance, ce qui permettra aux élèves de réussir dans d'autres sphères de la vie. L'Académie John Caboto tient à remercier le propriétaire du magasin Canadian Tire sur Crémazie Est, M. Mark Vandzura, qui a fait don de six vélos et casques tout neufs pour faire de ce projet une réalité! Sa grande générosité profitera à la communauté scolaire et fera en sorte d'appuyer les efforts déployés par l'école pour soutenir les élèves autistes et ceux ayant des besoins particuliers.

Gestion du deuil

Au cours du mois d'octobre, un questionnaire préparé par les élèves et portant sur le deuil, la perte d'un être cher et la vie porteuse de sens a été distribué aléatoirement à des classes de chaque niveau à l'Académie Royal West de Montréal-Ouest. Les réponses obtenues ont permis au personnel de dégager deux thèmes, soit : Qu'est-ce que le deuil et comment se manifeste-t-il? et Comment aider un ami/un membre de la famille qui traverse un deuil? Le vendredi 29 novembre à 9 h, Dawn Cruchet, experte en la matière, a rencontré un groupe d'élèves de l'Académie Royal West dans la bibliothèque de l'établissement afin d'aborder ces thèmes et de répondre aux questions. Des activités de suivi sont prévues pour permettre aux élèves de s'engager dans une réflexion en recourant à la poésie, l'écriture et les arts. Le comité de sensibilisation à la santé mentale de l'Académie Royal West, composé principalement d'élèves de 5^e secondaire, a été au cœur de ce projet qui figurait parmi plusieurs autres organisés dans le cadre de la Semaine Projection à Montréal et axés sur la vie, la mort et les enjeux de fin de vie. Il est à noter que l'Académie Royal West a été la seule école montréalaise à participer à cet événement.



Dawn Cruchet et l'élève Kiva Richer

« Notre planète change, pourquoi pas nous? »

Dans le cadre du programme primaire du Baccalauréat international (BI), les élèves de 6^e année de l'école primaire Carlyle de Ville Mont-Royal ont présenté leur exposition intitulée "Our Planet is Changing, Why Aren't We?" (Notre planète change, pourquoi pas nous?). L'activité a débuté par le visionnement d'une superbe vidéo montrant les changements climatiques à l'échelle de la planète et la contribution de l'école Carlyle. Les élèves ont été inspirés par la visite de **Greta Thunberg** à Montréal en septembre 2019. Avec l'aide de leur enseignante de musique, M^{me} Christine Rahal-Crawford, ils ont composé une chanson ayant pour thème les changements climatiques.





SPORTS CAPSULE



Montreal East Rangers partners



East Hill Vice Principal Jessica Monti and students Dario Pecora and Noah Lévesque take part in the opening faceoff with co-owner John Struthers.

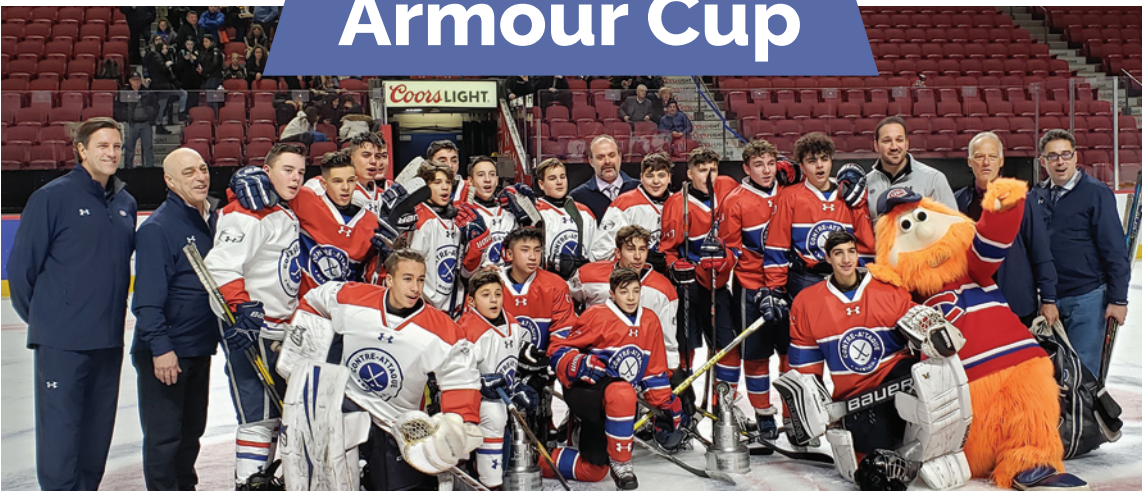
The EMSB launched a new partnership with the Junior AAA Montreal East Rangers this year. Players and coaches visited Leonardo Da Vinci Academy,

Michelangelo International Elementary School and East Hill Elementary School in RDP. Students received tickets to a Rangers game. On February 12 it

was EMSB Night at the Edouard-Rivet Recreation Centre. East Hill Vice Principal Jessica Monti sang the national anthem.

See this report from Domenic Fazioli from the East End Montreal Facebook page:
[https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQ8IKXCSLS0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQ8IKXCSLS0)

Armour Cup



It was all smiles for students on the Bell Centre ice.

Lester B. Pearson High School's Sport-études Bantam hockey team participated in the 2019 Armour Cup hosted by Under Armour and the Montreal Canadiens at the Bell Centre. During the all-day event

the players were able spend time with Carey Price and former players Patrice Brisebois, Mathieu Dandenault, Stéphane Richer, Stéphane Quintal and Gaston Gingras. Lester B. Pearson and

team coaches would like to thank these two organizations for the all-star treatment the student-athletes received.

Singing star

On February 2, Ariana Ianniciello a Secondary IV student at Lester B. Pearson High School in Montreal North and music phenom, was invited by the Montreal Canadiens to sing both the American and Canadian national anthems for an afternoon matchup versus the Columbus Blue Jacket. Ariana also celebrated her sweet sixteen that day. Ariana performs by the professional name Ari Skye. She has been busy having recently released some original studio-produced singles, acting as a youth ambassador for the Shriner's Hospital and singing the national anthem at Impact soccer home games. She reached the finals for Superfantastico when she was 12 years old! Listen to the podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/englishmtlpodcasts/ariana-ianniciellos-thrill-of-a-lifetime>



Ari Skye at the Bell Centre.



Ari Skye at an Impact soccer game.

EMSB student from Cambodia embraces hockey and experiences his first Habs game

by Ketya Savath



The John F. Kennedy High School delegation sits comfortably in their private box for the evening.

Hello. My name is Ketya. I was born and raised in Cambodia. I lived there all my life with my mom and dad and my brother and sister until early 2018 when I moved to Canada. My parents brought me here to help me have a better education and life. Even though we are a very close family, they could not stay here because they had to go back to Cambodia. I was very happy to come to Canada and even though I miss them a lot, I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to be here.

When I first arrived in Montreal I saw many things that I did not really know and I experienced many new and interesting parts of the culture here, like snow and maple syrup, poutine and of course hockey. When my teacher Mr. Joseph Lamantia spoke to me about joining John F. Kennedy High School's special hockey program, I asked: "What's hockey?" And we both laughed. Since joining the program I learned how to skate and hold a stick on the ice. The first time I put on my skates I felt very strange; it was not easy to walk on them and my feet hurt a lot. But then, I got on the ice and I realized how difficult it really is to skate. I tried to stand up straight, but I had a really hard time keeping my balance and I was all over the place. Still, I was very happy to be learning how to play hockey and after two weeks of working on my skills, my skating got a lot better and I was so proud of myself.

One day in December I was called down to the office by our principal Mr. Otis Delaney. There was an announcement on the intercom and it said I must report to the office immediately! I was sure that I was in trouble. I was scared, but all was okay. When I went into the Principal's office I saw my teacher Mr. Lamantia there and they told me together that I was not in trouble. They said that I was going to be invited to go watch the famous Montreal Canadiens hockey team play at the Bell Centre thanks to a generous donation of tickets by the company Paysafe, which provides simple and secure payment solutions to businesses of all sizes around the world. I was so excited and I felt very special for being chosen with the other three students from the hockey program.

On December 11, 2019, it was the day of the hockey game. With my schoolmates, Christopher Gerti, Leia Luck Vatcher, Zachary Johan and Mr. Lamantia and another teacher, Stefan Kazamias, we all took the metro downtown for the game. From the time we got there, it was like being in a dream. The people at the Bell Centre treated us like we were VIPs. There was a private entrance for us and an elevator that took us to a special floor. It was amazing! Paysafe not only hosted us, but they did so in their private "Loge." I even tried my very first smoked meat sandwich. One of the best moments of the night was hearing the Canadian national anthem for the first time. But the highlight was watching all the fans cheer for our city's team as they won in overtime!

I have to thank everyone who made it possible for me to have this experience and especially my teachers for helping me to write this. Although I needed a bit of help, I have learned so much about the culture and language here in Canada and I'm so proud and honoured that I have had the opportunity to learn and experience so much.

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