

# CLC Circuit

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Commission scolaire English-Montréal  
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## Editors

### **Athina Galanogeorgos**

Assistant Director, Educational Services Department

[agalanogeorgos@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:agalanogeorgos@emsb.qc.ca)

### **Elpi Argyrakopoulos**

Education Consultant, Educational Services Department

[eargyrakopoulos@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:eargyrakopoulos@emsb.qc.ca)

## Layout Design

### **Zulfiye Erdem**

Graphic Arts Technician, EMSB Marketing and Communications

[zerdem@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:zerdem@emsb.qc.ca)

## Contributing Community Development Agents

### **Melyssa Taganyi**

Parkdale Elementary School

[MTaganyi@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:MTaganyi@emsb.qc.ca)

### **Cathy Vella**

Gerald McShane Elementary School

[cvella@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:cvella@emsb.qc.ca)

# HAPPY new year 2023

**Dear readers,**

As we welcome 2023, we want to extend our very best wishes for a healthy, safe, and very successful new year to all, and take the opportunity to share with you the latest installment of the CLC Circuit.

Despite the uncertain nature of the past few years, our CLCs continue to operate with the same dedication that has come to define them over the years, and with plenty of optimism and hope for what lies ahead.

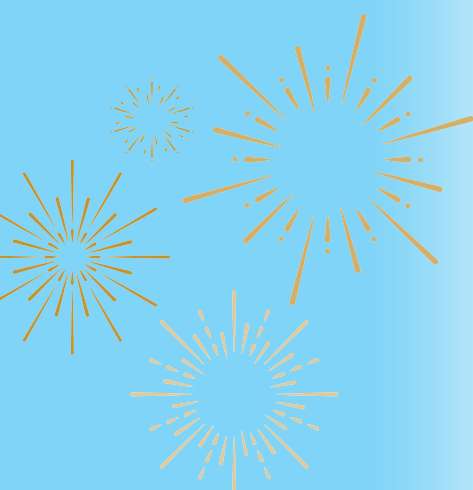
This edition of the CLC Circuit only showcases projects from Gerald McShane and Parkdale CLCs, while reporting from the James Lyng and Laurier Macdonald CLCs will resume in the next edition.

This is the perfect moment to thank the Community Development Agents at James Lyng H.S. (Sam Karimi-Harati) and Laurier Macdonald H.S. (Bobbie Variantzas) for the amazing work they accomplished in our CLCs over the past few years and to wish them every success in their new ventures. Bobbie will not be too far away, having accepted a position with the Provincial Resource Team (LEARN).

This note would not be complete without a word of appreciation to Debbie Horrocks, Director of PRT, for the work she did with our CLCs while serving as the EMSB's PRT representative in the 2021-2022 school year. Finally, we wish to welcome Ben Loomer, our new PRT representative. Ben is no stranger to the EMSB. He has worked with our team previously and has solid knowledge of our CLCs and our communities. We look forward to his expert counsel.

Best wishes,

**Athina & Elpi**





# PARKDALE SCHOOL

## Halloween Fun

This entry highlights the afterschool Halloween party that we recently organized for our students and their families. The event took place on Thursday, October 27 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in our school's gymnasium and was a joint collaboration between the CLC and the Parent Participation Organization. This special event was very much waited for, being the first open door community happening at Parkdale Elementary School since pandemic restrictions were first put in place. We are thrilled to report that an impressive number of families (around 300 guests) came to our party, while 25 volunteers took care of everything needed to make our party a memorable one.

In the days leading up to our Halloween party, our staff, with the help of some students, decorated the gymnasium with spooky Halloween ornaments, some of which had been created by the students themselves. In the main entertaining area, we set up several stations where student volunteers hosted Halloween-themed games. Searching for eyeballs and spiders from within a bowl full of spaghetti noodles and competing against other students to see who would throw the most spiders in the Halloween-decorated bins were two activities that proved to be very popular. The arts and crafts station, which was set up in a quiet area outside the gymnasium was also very-well received and brought about much fun.

Another aspect of the party that was very popular was that each time students participated in a game, they were awarded a prize in the form of treats.

A party would not be complete without a DJ and candy. Indeed, our DJ animated the event and spun Halloween and popular music, while candy was handed out through the evening. It was heartwarming to see everyone enjoying themselves dancing, talking to their friends, and playing games. In the meanwhile, another generous cause was being served as PPO sold food and beverages to raise money for school materials (iPads) and future events.

The highlight of the event came with the announcement of the three best costumes. Each of the three winners received an amazon gift card as the main prize.

The week following the party we were inundated with positive comments from students and teachers. Everyone commented on much fun they had at the party and how much they were looking forward to the next event!

*By Melyssa Taganyi – Community Development Agent, Parkdale CLC*





# GERALD McSHANE SCHOOL

## **Big Brother/Big Sister Project with Perspectives I and II High Schools**

At the beginning of the year, a suggestion was made that our school partner up with a high school and develop a big brother / big sister mentorship program for our students.

I was very interested in this project idea, and I set out on the mission to figure out how I could make this work. There were issues such as transport and attendance that needed to be discussed and, most important, we needed to ensure that we had the trust and commitment of all those taking part in this project.

Our prospective partners were going to be Perspectives I and II, two schools from the alternative network of our school board. I visited the schools and went to every class to explain the project and to circulate a sign-up sheet for those students who were interested. Two weeks later our project was ready to begin! And since then, every Friday, five high school students come to our school at 9:00 a.m. and are paired up with five of our own students. The intention is for the dyads to spend the day interacting while they both take part in a cooking workshop.

Students immediately bonded with their partner and now enjoy cooking together and talking about everything. They express themselves openly and share experiences and challenges they have faced as well as strategies they have used to resolve them. The high school students also give sound advice to the younger students. We often hear them telling our students to “stay in school” and to “listen to your teachers”.

The project has been running since mid-November and our students look forward to Fridays because they will work with their big brother/big sister. We also rotate students every Friday prompting some of them to express the wish to participate on a weekly basis. Indeed, we made one exception and the student meets with their mentor weekly. This has already had a very positive impact on the student’s behaviour as witnessed by the behaviour technician and others.

This project has great impact, and it is our intention to keep it going for as long as our students need it.

*By Kathy Vella - Community Development Agent, Gerald McShane CLC*





Elpi Argyrakopoulos, January 2023