

Open House

Thursday, October 5 - 8:30 - 10:00am and 4:30 - 7:00pm

Journée portes ouvertes

jeudi 5 octobre - 8 h 30 - 10 h et 16 h 30 - 19 h



The Study



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Founded in 1915, The Study is a private non-subsidized bilingual all-girls school leading to a Quebec (MEES) secondary school diploma. Certificate for English Instruction is not required (K-11).

Fondée en 1915 et reconnue comme étant l'une des meilleures écoles au Canada, The Study est une école de filles privée, non-subsventionnée, menant au diplôme d'études secondaires du Québec (MEES). Le certificat pour l'enseignement de l'anglais n'est pas requis (maternelle à secondaire V).



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Recent heat wave hits Westmount High hard

BY ALICE MYERS

“At the best of times, teaching is exhausting,” political and social sciences teacher Robert Green told the *Independent* over the phone on September 10, “but [the early September heat wave] was one of the most brutal weeks of teaching in my career.”

The Westmount High teacher, who has been working for 18 years, described his experience as “exhausting.” With classroom temperatures reaching around 40°C in unairconditioned schools such as Westmount High, Green says he was “standing in front of [his] class dripping in sweat,” teaching in “conditions that students cannot be learning in.”

Westmount High, one of 77 English Montreal School Board (EMSB) schools, was told by the school board to “drink lots of water” and “take it easy.” What he didn’t hear from the board, the minister of Education or even his union was that “what we experienced [during the heat wave] is part of a new normal...because of this climate emergency.”

EMSB marketing and communications manager Michael Cohen, with whom the *Independent* communicated by email on September 8, states, “We have had heat waves before. They are unpleasant, but we manage through them.”

The EMSB has certainly tried its best to manage. The CBC reports that in 2020, the school board spent \$1.75 million on air purifiers, expecting to be reimbursed by the provincial government. Cohen says

that the provincial government “[has] never given money for air conditioning...we did not even get money for [the] air purifiers.”

Green describes the situation as a “health issue” for students, with provincial representative Jennifer Maccarone agreeing with his statement, saying that “[air conditioning] is clearly not a priority for [the provincial government].”

During the heat wave, several schools in Gatineau were shut down due to extreme temperatures. When asked whether Westmount High should have done the same, Green says that “it’s not right to ask human beings to endure [those] types of conditions...students can’t learn; teachers can’t accomplish.” He sees it as an “equity issue,” with public school students taking qualifying tests in hot conditions and competing against private school kids taking those same tests in well-ventilated, air-conditioned environments to get into CEGEP.

Green says that “our government does not care enough to make [investments in improving school conditions],” and Maccarone agrees that the provincial government needs to “put its money where its mouth is.” She states that the government “is not prioritizing” these issues, and as a result, “[the schools] are only as good as the budget [they] receive.”

As a former Green Party candidate in the NDG-Westmount riding, Green has been aware of these issues for years, but his recent experience teaching in Westmount High makes him ask, “Is everyone asleep at the wheel here?”

August 30 lightning caused fire at Bellevue house

Miskiewicz-Liszkowski family thanks firefighters in person

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Krystyna Miskiewicz, her husband Mark Liszkowski and their children Damian, Mila and Lena, made a (semi) surprise visit to Fire Station 76 on Stanton St. September 22 to thank the firefighters who had attended a fire at their home.

Miskiewicz had a heads-up that the crew that had so quickly responded to the fire at their home on Bellevue August 30 (see September 5, p. 1) would be on duty that evening. Lightning struck their house, causing the fire.

The family came to show their gratitude and deep appreciation for the fast response

to a potentially catastrophic situation with a large basket of goodies (not shown), two framed canvases they’d created from photographs taken at the fire scene and a large thank-you card.

“I was so impressed by the speed at which they arrived, the methodical way they tackled the fire and how they gathered afterwards and de-briefed. I’m a doctor and I know the importance of a lessons-learned discussions” said Miskiewicz.

Capitaine Claude Romeo said fires caused by lightning strikes on houses are very rare.

See photo on p. 1.