

# Monthly Newsletter :

## October, 2019



### ÉCOLE WILLINGDON SCHOOL

#### Cutting of the Ribbon Ceremony

Last week, we added a verse to the living story of the EMSB, the community of Notre-de-Dame-de-Grace and to English Public School Education in Quebec by officially inaugurating the Willingdon Senior Campus. There was a ceremony which was attended by cycle 3 students, the staff of the senior campus, administration, the EMSB directorate, several EMSB commissioners, former Willingdon administrators, local politicians and many parents.

Of the many highlights from the ceremony, there were some memorable quotes:

- Carmen: "It takes a village to raise a child, but I believe it takes a community to build a school."
- Kathleen: "(referring to the NDG community) we turned that challenge into an opportunity..."
- Lara: "We have always believed in you and given you the space that you need to come to school to enjoy being at school..."

This endeavour was and continues to be a labour of our community, and certainly of our staff. The school thrives in large part due to your efforts to make students' lives richer. We wanted to be able to share the momentous occasion with the entire Willingdon School staff. We hope that you also feel proud of our school and what has been accomplished since last January. Enjoy the videos below (filming credit to Gonzague Le Roux de Bretagne, esquire).

<https://youtu.be/981ncc49TbE>

<https://youtu.be/skOrpBNASp0>

<https://youtu.be/TxvjKMbdV4o>

<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/english-school-expands-in-ndg-1.4621597>



#### Upcoming Events

October 11

Progress Report Cards

October 14

Thanksgiving Holiday

October 17

Open House Event

October 21

PED DAY

October 22-23

Photo Day

October 24

Governing Board Meeting

October 25

Pizza Lunch

October 31

Halloween

## Green Committee and Mural

With two campuses this year we have a record number of members with 35 at senior and 40 at junior we have a veritable Green Wave at Willingdon! There is sure to be wonderful cross pollination between the two campuses as beautifully depicted by **Veronika Gruntovskaya** in the artwork she created at senior campus. Green Committee will continue to collect dried out coloured markers to turn into energy, we are currently looking for shoe-boxes to decorate as collection containers, please send them in with your child.



At the ribbon cutting ceremony, our Home & School Association was very proud to unveil the beautiful canvas commissioned and gifted to the Willingdon Senior Campus!

This piece was conceived to symbolize the connection between our two campuses and our ties to our beautiful neighbourhood. The painting proudly graces the front hallway of our new campus. Artfully conceived and painted by Veronika Gruntovskaya of The Fine Black Pen, a local NDG artist and Willingdon parent 🍯 Thank you Home and School!

## LOST AND FOUND

We kindly urge you to please tag all your children items so that we can return them to your child. The office monitor will be returning all tagged item to students during the day. All untagged items will be bagged on Fridays and stored in the basement until the interviews in November. The bags will then be given to charity. Thank you for your cooperation in that matter.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY OF OUR CHILDREN

We would like to remind you that parents are not permitted in the yard in the morning, recess or even lunch. All visitors must enter the building by the front door and need to check in at the office to identify themselves. Visitors and volunteers are required to wear a badge during their stay and return to the office upon their departure. We need to maintain protocol in order to assure safety for the children.

We would also like to remind you that the teachers begin their supervision in the school yard at **8:55 A.M.** and unless your child is supervised by you or another adult, **he/she must not arrive prior to 8:55 A.M. or remain in the school yard after 4:00 P.M.** The same hours apply for rainy days. No students should be in the building before 8:55 unless they are in EDP. Thank you for your cooperation.

## VOLUNTEER POLICE CHECK

As per EMSB policy all volunteers must fill out a Judicial Record form and return it to school accompanied by two ID documents that will be photocopied. Copies of the form can be found at the main office and the Home & School Office. Teachers will also have copies for parents volunteering in their classes. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. The safety and security of our children is our priority.



## PROGRESS REPORT CARD

The first communications will be distributed on **Friday, October 11th, 2019.**

## LEARN TUTORING

LEARN Tutoring, the online tutoring and homework help with qualified Quebec teachers, is back for the 2019-2020 school year! Our program provides online homework help and tutoring sessions, by appointment, and at no charge.

Parents or students can make a request for a tutoring appointment here: [learnquebec.ca/tutoring](http://learnquebec.ca/tutoring)

## GOVERING BOARD 2019-2020

At the General Assembly of parents which took place on September 12th, 2019, the following parents were elected to represent parents on our Governing board: Mark Ellenger, Lucas Reindler and Matt Follett. The parents serving their second year term are: Aurora Flewwelling-Skup, Cynthia Quarrie and Eric Lamoureux. Eric Lamoureux was elected as the chair of the Governing Board. Mark Ellenger was elected as the EMSB Parents' committee delegate and Lucas Reindler as the alternate delegate. Our first GB meeting was held on September 26th, 2019. Please note the dates of our meetings: **October 24 and November 28, 2019 and January 30, March 26, April 30 and May 28, 2020.** If you have any issues or questions that you wish to address with the Governing board please contact Eric Lamoureux at [willingdongb@gmail.com](mailto:willingdongb@gmail.com) or Carmen Nicolas at [cnicolas@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:cnicolas@emsb.qc.ca).

## The Carnival of Miracles and Monsters Book launch

The official Book Launch for the Carnival of Miracles and Monsters will be held on **October 23, 2019 at 7:00 PM** at the Palace in Laval. A rehearsal will be held on **October 15 from 4 to 5 PM** in room 26 (junior campus). Congratulations to all the Willingdon students who participated in the project.

## Lion King

This year, the after school music choir program lead by Dimitris Ilias and Maria Diamantis, will be putting together the musical Lion King. Please see letter attached for details. The first rehearsal will be held on Tuesday **October 29 from 4 to 5 in room 26 (junior campus).** All grade 3 to 6 students can participate.



## PICTURE DAYS

Our school photos will be taken on **Tuesday, October 22nd and Wednesday, October 23rd, 2019.** The photographer will take individual, siblings and class photos. The purchase of school pictures is optional.

Details to come.

## OPEN HOUSE

Willingdon Open House will be held on **October 17th, 2019 at both campuses** from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M. and from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Students and staff will showcase the many learning experiences and extra-curricular activities that Willingdon has to offer. Spread the word around so that people can visit our wonderful school.



VIRTUAL CAMPUS  
LEARN.  
ONLINE TUTORING WITH QUALIFIED TEACHERS AT NO CHARGE  
MATH, FRENCH, ENGLISH, SCIENCES, HISTORY AND MORE  
Help for elementary and secondary students with homework, study and review  
Easy to use  
One-on-one sessions online  
Feedback provided after each session  
learnquebec.ca/tutoring

## Movie Night

Once again, our Home and School outdid themselves with an incredible first fundraiser at the senior campus. Huge thanks to the Willingdon community for coming out en masse to warm up the new senior campus and to the Home and School Association for making it all happen. The gym was filled with good energy! We weren't expecting such a fantastic turn out!!! Simply a great night!!!



## HALLOWEEN HAUNTED HOUSE

On Thursday, **October 31st, 2019**, Home & School will be surprising the Willingdon students with their Annual Haunted House Event. Students will have the opportunity to visit this years haunted House with their class and make memories that will last forever. We are fortunate to have a Home & School Committee that is hands on and works diligently to make students experiences enriching and memorable.

## Call out for Applesauce packs to reuse as ice packs

Please send your children to school with "squeeze" applesauce packs. Please rinse them out first. At Willingdon, we reuse these as ice packs for the children. Please send them to the Physical Education Office in front of the gym.

## EMSB PARENT WORKSHOP

The EMSB in collaboration with the CIUSSS Centre-Ouest is excited to offer a free evening workshop for parents on the Transition to High School on Wednesday, October 16th.

The evening will highlight how we can work together to ensure that your teen feels supported in their new environment. We will talk about teenage development, what you need to know at each stage of the process, and provide tips and tricks to reduce stress around the start of high school.

Please click the link below for all the details.

<https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/articles/workshop-ensuring-a-smooth-transition-to-high-school>

## EMSB Parental Membership ACSES 2019-2020

The mandate of ACSES is as follows:

To advise the Board on :

- a) The policy for the organization of educational services to handicapped students and students with social maladjustment or learning disabilities;
- b) The allocation of financial resources to the services intended for those students.

The committee may also advise the Board on the implementation of an individualized education plan for a handicapped student or a student with social maladjustments or learning disabilities. There are generally five (5) meetings held during the course of each school year. Please complete the attached application form if you are interested in joining the school board committee. Deadline date –October 18, 2019.

### [Ms. Leckner's grade 4 math class](#)

In Ms. Leckner's grade 4 math class we love to incorporate math, movement, games and of course fun. In the month of September we had three rounds (each with five centres) of math centres. The first round was all about numbers and getting used to working as a group, independent from the teacher. The second round was practising decomposing numbers and the final round was all about place value (pictured). Examples of our place value centres are: Place Value Go Fish, Place Value Bingo, Place Value Yahtzee, Place Value Battleship (a favourite) and Place Value Memory Match. The students really look forward to math centres and the time in class seems to pass so quickly. Time flies when you're having fun!



## **SPECIALISTS' CORNER**

### [Thank You Outdoor Classroom Volunteers!](#)

A big thank you goes to Dr. Kat's outdoor classroom volunteers: Sally Burnett, Carolyn Bouchard MacNeil and Felice Yuen who have helped bring the learning to life as we collected invertebrates, made terrariums and enjoyed seed walks in the crisp fall weather. Using the outdoor classroom as a place-based lab for learning is central to Dr. Kat's science program at Willingdon but she can't do this without the dedicated support of her outdoor classroom volunteers: here's to learning with both hands and a lot of heart!



### [Entrepreneurship grants](#)

Dr. Kat is delighted to announce that Willingdon has once again been granted a large Quebec Entrepreneurial Grant for our sustainability projects. This funding helps support our honeybee initiatives at both campuses including the development of bee oasis gardens at both sites. This year two new projects were introduced: making beeswax food wraps to replace single use plastics and taking our marker recycling one step farther. These two smaller grants will help us further develop our sustainability project while also utilizing our wonderful new Maker Space at the Senior Campus and put the new 3D printer and digital vinyl-cutter to good use!

### [Leucan fundraiser](#)

Watch out for details about this important fundraiser. Leucan is a Quebec based organization that raises funds and awareness for childhood-disease research. Our Willingdon students can take their Leucan boxes trick-or-treating to raise money for this important cause.

**Tools and supplies for the Maker Space:** Dr. Kat is thrilled to have the beginnings of a Maker Space at Senior Campus but is asking for donations of tools and materials to help get this resource off the ground. If you have any hand tools (hammers, screwdrivers, pliers, saws, sandpaper, chisels, etc.) or power tools (drills, saws, sanders, etc.) that are not in use we would be thrilled to put them to good use! We are also looking for yarn, fabric, beads, wire, and any leftover pieces of pipe (plastic or metal), clean lumber, an iron and ironing board and foldable drying racks. Please have a look in your garage or basement, donations can be sent to either campus.

### **Zero-Waste Initiatives at Willingdon**

In Green Committee we are very aware of the fact that much of our recycling in Montreal is being stockpiled and so we strive to reduce the amount of packaging as much as possible through: reducing, refusing, reusing and only recycling as a final resort. Green Committee is proud to be involved in three initiatives to help us reduce our solid waste: **waste-free lunches, reusable water bottles** and a new ZERO-WASTE initiative with Home and School that has purchased a **Waste-Free Event Kit** first used at the Senior Campus Inauguration and that will be used at all school based social events. Green Committee members washed dishes with pride following the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony. Not only were all the dishes, mugs, glasses and cutlery waste-free, students and teachers baked 12 dozen cupcakes in the Senior Campus kitchens to celebrate the day, making this a truly sustainable event! Thank you Willingdon Home & School!

### **Senior Campus Garden event**

A big thank you to Sara Lomas, Willingdon parent and professional gardener, for coming to assess the senior campus garden with Dr. Kat. We look forward to getting our hands in the dirt with you on Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup> for a "Garden-Bee" organized by Home & School at the Senior Campus on Coronation and Somerled. H&S will be supplying nice hot apple cider and fresh local apples. Grab your gardening tools and if you have any bulbs or perennials to donate please bring them along too!



### **Cross Country**

On Thursday, October 10, 25 grade 4,5,6 students will participate in a challenging 2km run at Mont Royal. Students have been training since the beginning of the year and are ready and excited for the run. Students must meet Miss B at 8:15am at the JUNIOR Campus. Students will be back at their respective campuses for lunch.

## TERRY FOX-BIG SUCCESS

Friday, October 4 we had our annual Terry Fox Walk/Jog/Run. It was a beautiful day and Terry Fox would have been proud. **Up to date our online donations are at \$6000.** Some grade 5 and 6 students accepted the challenge to raise over 200\$ and wish to shave their heads for cancer awareness along with Mr. Gabriel. Stay tuned in the upcoming weeks for more information.



## Grade 4 Camp BET

On Friday, October 11 grade 4 students will be starting their Camp journey. Students will be participating in fun active outdoor activities all day. Students will be doing parcours in the forest, pulling bows and arrows and zip lining to name a few. Students must dress appropriately for the weather. They must also pack a lunch, ideally healthy and waste free. Grade 4s must meet **between 6:45-7:00am on Draper.** Our estimated time of arrival at school is anywhere **between 5:30-6:00pm.**

## Junior to Senior Tuesday Morning Walks

Grade 5 and 6 students are invited to join Miss B on Tuesday mornings to walk from Junior to Senior. Meet **between 8:25-8:30am** on the corner of Royal and Terrebonne. For more information please contact Miss B at [lbelinsky@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:lbelinsky@emsb.qc.ca)

## Music News!

We are having a fantastic start to our school year! The grade 6 Kids for Kids Choir (Music Club) performed at the cutting of the ribbon ceremony. After only three rehearsals, the choir performed with confidence and pride. Their performance inspired and impressed everyone in attendance.



The grade 4 and 5 choirs are very excited to be rehearsing uplifting songs for a performance that they will be performing in the near future. I organized a field trip for the Kids for Kids Choir that is very motivating and exciting. I will explain it to you in the November newsletter. The grade 5 and 6 bands are composing fun new songs and learning to play the guitar, bass, piano, and drums. Our students are dreaming big and will rise to their highest potential! They are smart, valuable, and positive thinkers. Our music adventure has started with enthusiasm and creativity. We are continuing our music motto: Create your own path and leave a trail for others to follow.