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Commission scolaire English-Montréal

express

English Montreal School Board

Volume 27
Number 2
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www.emsb.qc.ca

Chair's Message

Embracing the French language



Joe Ortona

During the month of January, the English Montreal School Board celebrated how the French language is cultivated at our schools through the arts. At Dante Elementary School in St. Leonard, programming was unveiled at the Board's first-ever press conference held exclusively in French. EMSB Assistant Director General Jack Chadirdjian and EMSB Educational Consultant Sonya Jean were the emcees. One of the special guests was Stéphane Tétrault, a celebrated Canadian cellist who has made international headlines. He attended the EMSB's FACE and Royal Vale schools. When he was enrolled at FACE elementary school, he didn't speak English. By the time he graduated from Royal Vale High School, he was bilingual and went on to become a professional musician.

In January, artistic and cultural events were held at schools during the month, many as part of the Quebec government's La culture à l'école program. Our theme was *À la CSEM, on cultive le français ... jour après jour*.

Chair's Message continued on page 2

Arts-études comes to the EMSB



Rosemount High School has inaugurated its new Arts-études program, the first-of-its-kind amongst English high schools in Québec. A total of 165 students across all grade levels (Secondary I to V) are taking part in the five-year program this academic year, with music now playing an integral part of the students' daily class schedules. A special ribbon cutting and launch was held during Hooked on School Week in February. Please see our website for details.

Un record de 21 élèves de la CSEM lauréats du Prix d'excellence en français

Un nombre record de 21 élèves se sont vu décerner le Prix d'excellence en français Robert Alfred Peck lors de la réunion mensuelle du conseil des commissaires le 23 janvier.

Fondés sur les données de l'année scolaire 2022-2023, 15 élèves de 4^e secondaire et 6 élèves de 5^e secondaire ont été récompensés pour avoir obtenu la note de 100 %. Chaque lauréate et lauréat recevront un certificat et un chèque d'une valeur de 100 \$.

Au total, on compte 9 élèves de l'Académie Royal West à Montréal-Ouest, 6 du Collège Vincent Massey à Rosemont, 4 de l'école secondaire Westmount et 2 de l'école M.I.N.D. (Moving in New Directions) sur Le Plateau.

Académie Royal West

Hannah Anson, 4^e secondaire
Eve Bercuvitz, 4^e secondaire
Victoria Cormier, 4^e secondaire
Cassidy Engo, 4^e secondaire
Emily Kathleen Gardner,

4^e secondaire
David Hernandez, 4^e secondaire
Gaelle Le dantec, 4^e secondaire
Simon Maclaren, 4^e secondaire
Alessia Marquez Borelli, 4^e secondaire

Collège Vincent Massey

Audrey Toribio Barroso, 4^e secondaire
Édouard Chassé, 4^e secondaire
Adriana Di lalla, 4^e secondaire
Mateo Duque, 4^e secondaire
Anna Gartner, 4^e secondaire

Emma Gibeau, 4^e secondaire

École secondaire Westmount

Nicolas Chen, 5^e secondaire
Alec Murphy, 5^e secondaire
Alyna Nguyen, 5^e secondaire
Nina Rose Rebellati-Mitnick, 5^e secondaire

École M.I.N.D.

Ella Eichler, 5^e secondaire
Ivy Kelly-Smith, 5^e secondaire

Prix d'excellence – suite à la page 2

Global News Morning

Weekdays 6 - 9

with Laura Casella, Antony Robart,
Ross Hull & Brayden Jagger Haines

Globalnews.ca



PRIX D'EXCELLENCE – suite de la page 1

Le regretté M. Peck a amorcé sa carrière d'enseignant dans les années 1930. Il a été surintendant de français pour le ministère de l'Éducation et a également occupé des postes similaires au sein de l'ancienne Commission scolaire de Westmount et de l'ancienne Commission des écoles protestantes du Grand Montréal. Il a été responsable du département de français à l'école secondaire de Lachine et directeur adjoint à l'école secondaire Riverdale dans l'Ouest de l'île, après avoir enseigné en Afrique. Il est coauteur avec Elizabeth Buchanan du manuel d'enseignement du français, langue seconde, intitulé *Le français pratique*, qui fut une référence incontournable dans les écoles anglophones protestantes du Québec pendant plus de 20 ans. Ce prix a été institué en son honneur par la famille Peck et la CSEM en 2002.



Des lauréates et lauréats du Prix Robert Alfred Peck, en compagnie de membres du personnel scolaire, du président et du directeur général de la CSEM, ont été félicités lors d'une récente réunion du conseil des commissaires.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE – continued from page 1

I think it's important in this time especially to showcase that our schools teach a very high level of French. You get a quality education within our public system, and we're very proud of that. Our results show that. We also want to break this perception within francophone Quebec that the English community is unilingual or that the English community rejects French in any way. We don't. We're actually proud of the French that we teach. And parents demand it.

College students now need an eligibility certificate to be guaranteed one of the capped spots in English CEGEPs. But the government has been denying the documents to young adults who graduated high school in French, arguing they've forfeited their rights. In a way, that is good for us, because it boosts our enrolment. But it's sad that people feel they have to take these steps because their children's post-secondary studies could be in jeopardy. I've

actually heard of some parents who decided to transfer their kids out of the French system or out of private schools to make sure they get the English eligibility papers by transferring their kids to English schools.

The reasons to go to English schools include French programs, a bilingual education and the sense of a community. Our schools have the highest success rates and lower dropout rates. So we're

actually doing something right in education, and the government should be looking at that and trying to emulate those things and incorporating them into the French system instead of trying to overhaul the system and trying to impose that on us as well.

Yes, we have taken the Quebec government to court on Bills 21, 40 and 96. However, from a pedagogical point of view, we continually wish to make it clear

that we are far from a threat to the French language. On the contrary; we represent an asset. Just ask Minister of Finance Eric Girard, who is also responsible for relations with the anglophone community. For the second year in a row we had him as a guest at one of our schools. This year staff and students at Dunrae Gardens Elementary School in TMR communicated with him exclusively in French.

Message from the Director General: Proud of our pedagogical record



Nick Katalifos

At the English Montreal School Board, we remain exceedingly proud of the educational product we provide to our 35,000 students in the youth and adult sectors.

I urge readers to go to our website at www.emsb.qc.ca and view our recently published annual

report for 2022-2023. It showcases the EMSB's remarkable achievements in graduation and qualification success rates. The seven-year graduation rate for the 2015 cohort soared to an unprecedented 92.7 percent, marking a one-percent increase from the previous year and positioning the Board as the leader in the province's public sector.

With a six-year graduation rate at 91 percent, the Board has not only met but exceeded its target, setting a trajectory to maintain rates above 92 percent. While the gender-based success rate gap persisted at 3.6 percent, there was an increase in the seven-year graduation and qualification success rate for students with exceptional codes, rising from 74.3

percent to 75.1 percent in 2022. The EMSB remains vigilant in monitoring student performance across key courses essential for graduation, ensuring alignment with the recently approved Commitment to Success Plan, which encompasses academic goals, school climate monitoring and the integration of new secondary-level programs.

Furthermore, the report outlines objectives aimed at developing the preschool program and fostering digital competency among all stakeholders. These initiatives align with the EMSB's dedication to continuous improvement and inclusive education, driving forward its commitment to academic excellence and holistic development.



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English Montreal School Board

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DateBook

2024

<p>March 24 to 26 Hydro-Québec Montreal Regional Science & Technology Fair Laval Senior Academy (3200 boul. du Souvenir Ouest, Laval) www.sciencetech.ca</p> <p>April 7 World Health Day</p> <p>April 12 Terry Fox Day</p> <p>April 21 to 27 National Volunteer Week</p> <p>April 22 Earth Day</p>	<p>April 24 Administrative Assistants/Secretary's Day</p> <p>May 1 Principal's Day</p> <p>May 6 Yom Hashoah Holocaust Remembrance Day</p> <p>May 7 EMS Teacher Recognition Day</p> <p>May 31 World No-Tobacco Day</p> <p>June 31 National Indigenous Peoples Day</p> <p>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) 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 26
April 30
May 28
June 18

All meetings can be viewed live at 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:àke, 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.

EMS B Commissioners

<p>JOE ORTONA Chair president-chair@emsb.qc.ca Member of Executive Committee (Chair)</p>	<p>WARD 5 St-Laurent JAMES KROMIDA Vice-Chair jkromida@emsb.qc.ca Member of Executive Committee</p>	<p>WARD 10 Rivière-des-Prairies, Pointe-aux-Trembles PIETRO MERCURI pmercuri@emsb.qc.ca Member of Executive Committee and Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal and Advisory Committee on Transportation and Safety</p>
<p>WARD 1 Côte-des-Neiges, Snowdon, Outremont, Town of Mont-Royal, Parc-Extension ELLIE ISRAEL ekirschenbaum-israel@emsb.qc.ca Member of Executive Committee</p>	<p>WARD 6 St-Michel, Villeray, Plateau-Mont-Royal, Ville-Marie East AGOSTINO CANNAVINO acannavino@emsb.qc.ca Member of Executive Committee</p>	<p>Parent Commissioner Secondary Schools TONY SPERANZA gspanza@emsb.qc.ca Member of Audit Committee (Vice-Chair) and member of Governance & Ethics Committee</p>
<p>WARD 2 Montreal West, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce JOSEPH LALLA jlalla@emsb.qc.ca Member Human Resources Committee</p>	<p>WARD 7 Ahuntsic, Cartierville, Montreal North SOPHIE DE VITO sdevito@emsb.qc.ca Human Resources Committee and Advisory Committee on Transportation and Safety</p>	<p>Parent Commissioner Elementary Schools MARIA CORSI mcorsi2@emsb.qc.ca Member of Executive Committee</p>
<p>WARD 3 Westmount, Southwest, Ville-Marie West JULIEN FELDMAN jfeldman@emsb.qc.ca Member of Governance & Ethics Committee (Chair) and Human Resources Committee (Chair)</p>	<p>WARD 8 St-Léonard MARIO PIETRANGELO mpietrangelo2@emsb.qc.ca Member of Governance & Ethics Committee (Vice-Chair) and Human Resources Committee (Vice-Chair)</p>	<p>Parent Commissioner ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services) ROSEMARIE FEDERICO rfederico@emsb.qc.ca</p>
<p>WARD 4 Hampstead, Côte Saint-Luc JAMIE FABIAN jfabian@emsb.qc.ca Member of Governance & Ethics Committee and member of Audit Committee</p>	<p>WARD 9 Anjou, Mercier, Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Rosemount-La Petite-Patrie MARIO BENTROVATO mbentrovato@emsb.qc.ca Member of Executive Committee (Vice-Chair) and Human Resources Committee</p>	<p>Parent Commissioner at Large DANIEL TATONE dtatone@emsb.qc.ca Observer to the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services</p>

Our teachers deserve to be appreciated!



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

As part of **EMS B Teacher Appreciation Day** on May 2, please nominate your child's favourite teacher (youth & adult sectors and Physical Education and Health). The recipients will each receive a \$100 gift card, redeemable at any of the **Bâton Rouge Grillhouse & Bar** locations across Canada.

Email your choice to mcohen@emsb.qc.ca by **April 15, 2024**.



Visit <https://www.batonrouge.ca> for more details and discover why they serve the city's best ribs!

EMSB ALUMNI

Dr. Labos has fond memories of LaurenHill



Dr. Labos got a warm greeting at LaurenHill.

Dr. Christopher Labos is a noted cardiologist with a degree in epidemiology who graduated from LaurenHill Academy in its very first year with the EMSB 25 years ago. Over the last number of years he has become a frequent commentator on television, radio and in the print media locally and nationally. He spoke to a full

auditorium in a talk moderated by Dan Laxer. Topics included how LaurenHill and the HOPS (Hospital Opportunity Program) influenced his decision to become a doctor, his thoughts on COVID-19 and other illnesses and responses to questions from students. In addition he spoke about his new book *Does Coffee*

Cause Cancer?: And 8 More Myths about the Food We Eat. In this fascinating, refreshingly clarifying book about food, food myths, and how sloppy science perpetuates misconceptions about food, his character gets drawn into conversations that answer eight medical questions.

LDVA grad is magical



Raphael La Ferrara (in red) with students and staff.

It was a magical end to the beginning of the school year for students at Leonardo Da Vinci Academy in RDP as renowned magician and alumnus Raphael La Ferrara visited the school on December 19 for a morning of

surprises with the students. Mr. La Ferrara has developed a substantial following online with 2.7 million subscribers on YouTube and 1.6 million followers on TikTok – and he amazed and entertained the students at LDVA. Following his

performance, Mr. La Ferrara took the time to show students some of the tricks of the trade as well as answer questions. To view Mr. La Ferrara's YouTube channel, please follow this link: www.youtube.com/@raphie.


Gazette editor returns to St. Monica

Marilena "Lenie" Lucci is the newly appointed editor in chief of *The Gazette*. She attended St. Monica Elementary School and Royal West Academy. She is one of the youngest editors *The Gazette* has ever had. Ms. Lucci spoke about her love for journalism and how a teacher at St. Monica played an early role in her goal to become a writer. Students had a lot of questions and when her talk was over, a lot of hands went up when they were asked who would like to work for a newspaper one day. There is even talk about launching a *St. Monica Gazette*. Commissioner



Lenie Lucci received lots of questions from students.

Joseph Lalla and City Councillor Despina Sourias were on hand as special guests.



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Pizza Salvatoré, more than 73 locations, including St. Léonard, Dollard des Ormeaux, Laval and Terrebonne. www.salvatore.com



Marathon Souvlaki, an iconic institution with three dining room establishments and one Express counter located on Decarie, in Dollard des Ormeaux and Laval. www.marathonsouvlaki.com

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.

NAME _____
 SCHOOL _____
 E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

The deadline is April 26, 2024.

EMSB Express Quiz

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

- 1 How many winners were there for the Robert Alfred Peck Awards?

- 2 What was the theme for Quebec Francophone Culture Month at the EMSB?

- 3 Who is the Vice Chair of the EMSB?

- 4 Which commissioner represents Hampstead-Côte Saint-Luc?

- 5 When is National Volunteer Week?

- 6 How many teachers does the EMSB now have from France?

- 7 Which school did the Montreal Alouettes bring the Grey Cup to?

- 8 Which EMSB elementary school did Gazette newspaper editor Marilena Lucci attend?

- 9 Which organization has the EMSB Service to Business Group started a partnership with?

- 10 What anniversary is the The Orchestre Symphonique FACE celebrating this year?

À la CSEM, on cultive le français... jour après jour!



EMSB welcomes more teachers from France

The EMSB is pleased to have surpassed its expectations for the 2023-2024 academic year with the hiring of nine new teachers from France. This brings its contingent from France to a total of 12, who are teaching in nine elementary schools as generalists across all grades, and three in high schools who teach the French language as well as other courses taught in French. New among them, in elementary schools, are Grade 6 teachers Justine Biotteau at Bancroft and Flora Boisteau at Dunrae Gardens, Marianne Landru teaching in the Success for All program at Hampstead, Ymene Belazzoug teaching Grade 2 and 5 at Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Léa Sautière teaching Grade 3 at St. Monica and Léa Gasqueres



Teacher Marianne Landru and Principal Lucy Buscemi with students at Hampstead Elementary School.

teaching Kindergarten at Willingdon. At the high school level, Lea Garault is teaching French as a core program to Secondary II and III students at Marymount Academy International, Simon Mallier is teaching the French language and other courses in French at various levels at Royal Vale High School and Hugo Caloin is teaching courses in French at Westmount High School. They join three teachers, already in their second year with the EMSB: Grade 4 teachers Diane Leuillot at Edinburg and Julie Caplier at Roslyn, and Pre-K teacher teacher Adèle Guilloteau at Royal Vale Elementary.

CAQ Minister responsible for relations with anglophones visits the EMSB again

Eric Girard, Quebec Minister of Finance and Ministre responsable des Relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise, visited Dunrae Gardens Elementary School in TMR as a very special guest for a concert of French songs presented by the students of music teacher Noemi Batista. Mr. Girard, who resides in the Town of Mount Royal, was given a tour of the school by two students. Representing Mount Royal-Outremont MNA Michele Setlakwe was her attaché, Israa Labiod. This was an outstanding presentation, which included group performances and solos as follows: Grade 3-singing and playing "coton-ouaté" from Bleu Jeans Bleu; Kindergarten dancing with scarves to "la bastringue" from Édith Butler; Grade 2 singing to



Student Giulia Materassi presents a framed certificate to Minister Girard.

"J'entends frapper" from Michel Pagliaro; Cycle 3 students (Glee Club) singing "un medley québécois" ("Pour un instant" from Harmonium, "Dégénération" from Mes Aïeux and "C Okay" from Le groupe swing) and Giulia Materassi sing a solo of "Un air d'été" from Pierre Bertrand.



Les élèves découvrent le calendrier culturel de l'avent

Rédigé par Vincenzo Paoella
Photo de Matteo Harewood
Élèves de l'école secondaire
Laurier Macdonald

Le 9 janvier 2024, suite à la conférence de presse de la CSEM sur les inscriptions à la maternelle à l'école primaire Dante, des présentateurs ont fait la tournée des classes pour s'entretenir avec les élèves.

Ainsi, dans la classe de troisième année de Cinthia Vicario, les élèves ont eu droit à une présentation de Sonya Jean, conseillère pédagogique en français à la CSEM.

M^{me} Jean leur a montré le calendrier culturel conçu par les conseillères pédagogiques en français de la commission scolaire. Grâce à ce calendrier, les élèves pourront chaque jour se familiariser avec la culture québécoise en

découvrant des athlètes, artistes, auteurs, des équipes sportives, et bien plus encore!

Ce jour-là, les élèves ont découvert une autrice et illustratrice, réputée pour ses histoires sur la diversité et l'inclusion. Après le visionnement d'une brève vidéo, il a été demandé aux élèves si certains parmi eux voulaient devenir auteur ou autrice, et quels types de livres ils aimeraient écrire. Ensuite, deux activités leur ont été proposées : choisir l'un des livres pour en faire la lecture en groupe sur Biblius, une plateforme de livres numériques, ou composer et illustrer une histoire.

Le calendrier culturel renferme des activités pour tous durant le mois de janvier. Les liens pour accéder aux deux versions du calendrier (pour les plus jeunes ou les plus vieux) sont disponibles sur le site Web de la CSEM.



Vincenzo Paoella s'entretient avec le directeur général Nick Katalifos.



EMSBC Chair Joe Ortona speaks to students from Dante Elementary School in St. Leonard about the importance of learning French in school.



Marie-Claude Bergeron

Students learn about the advent cultural calendar

Article by Vincenzo Paoella
Photo by Matteo Harewood
Students at Laurier Macdonald High School

On January 9 2024, following the EMSB's press conference at Dante Elementary School announcing kindergarten registration, various speakers at the event visited classes to talk with students.

In Cinthia Vicario's 3rd grade class, students received a presentation by Sonya Jean, French Language consultant at the EMSB.

Ms. Jean showed students the cultural calendar, created by the Board's French language consultants. Through this calendar, students will learn about Quebec culture every day through artists, athletes, authors, sports teams and more!

On this day, students learned about an author and illustrator, well known for her stories focusing on diversity and inclusion. After watching a short video, the group was asked if any of them aspire to be like her and what kind of books they would make. They were then invited to pick one of her books to read as a group via Biblius, an online e-book platform. Another fun suggested activity was for students to write and draw a story in the author's style.

The calendar had activities for the entire month of January. Links to the two versions are available on the EMSB website.

Q & R ~ Q & R ~ Q & R ~ Q & R ~ Q & R ~

Nous avons demandé aux créatrices du calendrier, Marie-Claude Bergeron, Sonya Jean et Anik Malenfant, de nous en dire davantage sur cet outil.

Q. : Pourquoi votre équipe a-t-elle choisi de créer un calendrier culturel dans le cadre du Mois du français à la CSEM pour célébrer la thématique « À la CSEM, on cultive le français... jour après jour »?

R. : Être bilingue, c'est plus que parler et comprendre une langue. Être bilingue, c'est aussi avoir « la clé » pour accéder à la culture liée à cette langue! Quel privilège ont donc nos élèves de pouvoir accéder à une éducation en français et en anglais puisque cela leur donne aussi accès aux « précieux trésors » de nos deux langues! De plus, exposer les élèves aux « repères culturels » fait partie du programme de français, langue seconde et de celui des arts.

Q. : Pourquoi est-il important d'enseigner le français comme langue seconde à travers les arts (arts visuels, musique et théâtre)?

R. : Utiliser les arts pour enseigner le français permet de créer un lien « affectif » avec la langue. En jumelant les arts et le français, en plus de simplement enseigner la langue, on rend le français intéressant, stimulant et vivant. Il permet aussi d'enseigner le vocabulaire dans des contextes authentiques.

Q. : Comment espérez-vous que les élèves et leurs familles apprécieront le calendrier?

R. : Nous espérons que le calendrier piquera la curiosité de nos élèves et leur donnera envie de

continuer à explorer la culture québécoise francophone... jour après jour, et ce, tant à l'école qu'à la maison!!!



Calendrier culturel

pour les plus vieux :
<https://bit.ly/3sWoVfw>

pour les plus jeunes :
<https://bit.ly/3RIjsZ4>

~ Q & A ~ Q & A ~ Q & A ~

We asked the creators behind the calendar, Pedagogical Consultants Marie-Claude Bergeron, Sonya Jean and Anik Malenfant, to tell us more about it.

Q: Why did your team choose to create a cultural calendar to celebrate the month of *À la CSEM On cultive le français ... jour après jour* ?

A: Being bilingual is more than speaking and understanding a language. Being bilingual also means having "the key" to access the culture associated with that language! What a privilege it is for our students to have access to an education in both French and English, since it also gives them access to the "precious treasures" of our two languages! What's more, exposing students to "cultural landmarks" is part of both the French as a Second Language and Arts programs.

Q: Why is it important to teach French as a second language through the arts (visual arts, music and theater)?

A: Using the arts to teach French creates an "emotional" link with the language. Combining the arts and French not only teaches the language, it also makes French interesting, stimulating and alive. It also teaches vocabulary in authentic contexts.

Q: How do you hope students and their families will appreciate the calendar?

A: We hope the calendar will pique our students' curiosity and inspire them to continue exploring francophone Quebec culture...day after day, both at school and at home.

A hot bed of activity celebrating French Quebec culture

Although artistic and cultural activities take place in French all during the year across EMSB schools, several special events were planned for the month of January.

The new year started off with a diverse selection of artistic and cultural activities in French – from traditional Québécois jigs to puppetry to poetry. As part of the Quebec government’s *La culture à l’école* program, Quebec artists, writers and cultural organizations who are part of the *Répertoire culture-éducation*, are invited to visit schools and provide a live cultural or artistic experience based on their genre.

Nicolas Doyon, Arts Education Consultant and Culture in School Respondent at the EMSB, works with both the specialists who teach music, art or drama, and with classroom teachers throughout the year to bring interesting artistic experiences to students. He believes that there is great success teaching French via the arts.

“Integrating cultural and artistic activities enhances motivation and engagement among learners,” he said. “It can also make language-learning more meaningful and relatable, as students connect with the artistic and cultural context of that language.”

Several schools took part in the program this year, with many happening in January.

Here is a snapshot of some of them:

Five-year-old Kindergarten students at Pierre de Courbertin Elementary School in St. Leonard participated in a workshop called “Les Hurlus-Berlue,” led by Le Théâtre Tortue Berlue. Students created their puppets, first by giving them eyes, then adding a head, hair, a mouth... and then a voice! They learned how to teach their puppets to communicate and show different emotions, all the while having fun.

Teachers Maxime Mallette and Patrick Charland were channeling their inner Jack Black at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School



Electric Thunder and staff at Pierre Elliott Trudeau.



East Hill students at work on their project.



A French puppet show at Pierre de Courbertin.

when they established Electric Thunder, the school’s first rock band last year. According to Mallette and Charland, some

students have a passion for music but lack opportunities to perform. The project offers these students that chance, in addition to the

ability to record in a studio, participate in several concerts as well as having their faces featured on a poster. This year’s trio helped

us mark our celebration of French culture with a special three-song performance of Ensemble (Coeur de Pirate), L’amérique pleure (Les Cowboys Fringants). La vie chante (René Simard).

Grade 4 students at John Caboto Academy practiced mime during a theatre workshop with Tina Milo in early January. They learned how to use facial expressions and gestures to show spectators what emotions they were trying to portray.

Professional artist Amélie Bissonnette was at East Hill Elementary School to give Cycle 1 students a workshop on modeling techniques and making “strange creatures.” In preparation, students read books and watched video clips to study the distinctive characteristics of their favourite animals. First, students learned a modeling technique using polymer clay on an aluminum foil frame. Then, discovering different painting techniques, they gave life to their creatures. In the final lesson, they wrote short texts presenting them.

continued on page 8

À la CSEM, on cultive le français... jour après jour!



Cultiver le français, une approche gagnante



Je suis très fier de constater que la Commission scolaire English-Montréal (CSEM) donne l'exemple en intégrant à sa mission l'adaptation du parcours scolaire à la réalité francophone du Québec. Dans cette perspective, je ne peux que me réjouir de la tenue, à la CSEM, du mois de célébration de la culture québécoise et de la langue française.

La campagne de cette année, intitulée *À la CSEM, on cultive le français... jour après jour!*, constitue une initiative unique parmi les commissions scolaires anglophones, une expérience faisant de l'apprentissage et de la pérennité de la langue française un élément essentiel de réussite académique.

Je félicite la direction de la Commission scolaire, le personnel enseignant participant et les parents engagés dans la mise en œuvre de ce programme-événement qui se déroule entièrement en français.

Merci et bravo pour ces efforts consacrés à faire des élèves de futurs citoyens et citoyennes qui cultivent l'amour du français et la fierté d'appartenir à la société québécoise.

Mathieu Lacombe, ministre de la Culture et des Communications, ministre responsable de la Jeunesse et ministre responsable de la région de l'Outaouais



FRENCH QUEBEC CULTURE continued from page 7

Dunrae Gardens in TMR welcomed Daniel Prenoveau, an artist participating in Quebec's Culture à l'école program. He gave a workshop entitled Danse du monde in French to the students in all grade levels during the last week of January.

Martin Langlais, an artist specializing in traditional Quebec dance and jig, visited Nesbitt Elementary School in Rosemount

Kindergarten French immersion students at Coronation Elementary School in Côte des Neiges had a good time play-acting with Valentina Milivojevic (Tina Milo) in January. During the second workshop, students decorated their masks according to the fairytale character they chose.

Grade 3 students at Our Lady of Pompei Elementary School in Ahuntsic read aloud their poems to classmates during a poetry workshop, "Mon premier poème," animated by Véronique Bachand, as part of the Culture à l'école program.



Coronation students get into play acting.



Nesbitt students do a jig.

Established cellist Stéphane Tétreault credits the EMSB for his bilingualism

Stéphane Tétreault, professional cellist, made a special guest appearance at Dante Elementary School in St. Léonard on January 9. The Royal Vale School and FACE alum was chosen by the EMSB to be the ambassador for its campaign À la CSEM, on cultivate le français... jour après jour, which opened with a celebratory event at the school. Mr. Tétreault, now 30, is full swing in his career as a professional musician. He performs mainly in Quebec, but also throughout Canada, the United States and abroad. Being bilingual has been an asset, he says, because it has enabled him to pursue his career in Quebec and in Europe, where proficiency in both languages is an asset. Growing up, it was commonplace to switch in and out of English and French, he

recalls. Both his parents have a French Canadian heritage, though his mother did her schooling in English in several different provinces. When it was time to enrol the young Tétreault in school, his parents chose FACE Elementary School in downtown Montreal. At that time there was only room in the English section of the school. Although he had eligibility there was one small problem: he only spoke French. His mother taught him to speak English the summer leading into his Kindergarten year. He says he adapted quickly to an English setting at school. "At that age, we learn pretty fast!" he said. See our full profile on him at <https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/schools/initiatives/On-cultive-le-francais>.

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Stéphane Tétreault performs at Dante.

The EMSB is committed to Holocaust education

The English Montreal School Board is pleased to once again be facilitating a Holocaust Education Program. Activities focus on 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 programs.

Westmount High School Teacher Recognized

For her exceptional commitment to sharing Canadian history from a new perspective, Chantal Clabrough, a teacher at Westmount High School, has been named a laureate of the Governor General's History Awards for Excellence

national and international digital archives, the students created profiles of each former student who perished in combat. In so doing, they were able to tell the story of their youth, their hopes, and their lives during the war. The portraits were posted on Westmount High School's website, coinciding with the 150th anniversary of Quebec's oldest English-language public school. "The award honours our school's former students who served during the Second World War," explained Ms. Clabrough. "Today's students have become historians highlighting the contributions that students of the past – and that our school – have made to Quebec and Canadian society. I am proud to see that my students were able

The Weight of Freedom, have been made available for schools that watched the video discussion. In the book Mr. Leipziger tells his story as a thoughtful, shy eleven-year-old boy, plunged into an incomprehensible web of ghettos, concentration and death camps during the German occupation of Poland. Demonstrating incredible strength of character as he struggles to survive, he forges a new, unbreakable bond with his father and yearns for a free future. With memories that remain etched in tragedy and pain even as he looks optimistically to the future, Nate builds a new life in Canada. Introspective and raw, yet ever hopeful, *The Weight of Freedom* is Nate's vivid journey through a past that can never be left behind.



PHOTO: SGT ANIS ASSARI, RIDEAU HALL

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, right, Governor General of Canada, presented Canada's top history honours to outstanding Canadians during a ceremony at Rideau Hall on November 22, 2023. She is seen here making the presentation to Chantal Clabrough, left.



EMSB Commissioners Julien Feldman, Jamie Fabian, Director General Nick Katalifos, guide Marcia Shuster, Chair Joe Ortona and Commissioners Maria Corsi and Joseph Lalla at the museum.

in Teaching – the country's most prestigious history honour. Administered by Canada's History Society, this award recognizes and encourages teachers and schools to strive for excellence in the teaching of Canadian history. This year, five other teachers from across the country received their awards from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, at a ceremony in Ottawa. Ms. Clabrough designed Westmount High School's Memorial Project to get her 10th grade history students involved in the preservation of their school's history. From 2014 to 2022, students researched the lives of 141 former Westmount High students who died in service to Canada during the Second World War (1939-1945). After having studied sources from the school, the City of Westmount, and

to learn from the untold stories of Canadians who showed that, together, we can achieve extraordinary things." Each award is accompanied by a \$2,500 individual prize, as well as a \$1,000 prize for the teacher's school. To learn more about all of this year's award recipients, visit CanadasHistory.ca/GGHA2023. On December 18, Ms. Clabrough brought her Grade 11 contemporary world class to the Montreal Holocaust Museum.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

The EMSB marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day in late January with a webinar featuring **Nathan Leipziger**, a 95-year-old Holocaust survivor. Copies of his book, published by the Azrieli Foundation and entitled

Mr. Leipziger was interviewed by Samantha Smith, an EMSB spiritual community animator. Last summer she and St. Monica Elementary School in NDG teacher Sandra Banon received bursaries to go visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem. Ms. Banon provided a summary of the webinar in French. Danika Swanson, who coordinates the work of the animators, and EMSB Chair Joe Ortona delivered opening remarks. You can watch the webinar at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dzd1_fzaOA

Commissioners Visit the Museum

On Monday, November 13, some members of the EMSB Council of Commissioners made an unprecedented visit to the Montreal Holocaust Museum. The EMSB has placed a heavy

emphasis on students, notably those from non-Jewish areas, visiting the Museum and learning more about the Holocaust and the evils of antisemitism. Most recently, the Council of Commissioners adopted a resolution calling for Holocaust education to become mandatory in the curriculum. Prior to their visit to the Museum, EMSB Chair Joe Ortona and Director General Nick Katalifos

met with Federation CJA President and CEO Yair Szlak, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) Vice-President Eta Yudin and Montreal Holocaust Museum Executive Director Daniel Amar. In the fall, some members of council took part in a professional development session presented by educators from the Montreal Holocaust Museum.

Resolution for Compulsory Holocaust Education

In the wake of the province of Ontario introducing mandatory Holocaust learning for the first time in elementary schools this fall, the EMSB has adopted a resolution calling for the Quebec government to do the same.

The complete resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS the Holocaust marked the state-sponsored persecution and mass murder of millions of European Jews, Romani people, the intellectually disabled, political dissidents and homosexuals by the German Nazi regime between 1933 and 1945;

WHEREAS the province of Ontario has introduced mandatory Holocaust learning for the first time in elementary schools this fall;

WHEREAS studies show that when Holocaust education is provided, hate crimes and incidents against Jews decrease significantly;

WHEREAS B'nai Brith Canada states that making

Holocaust education mandatory reduces hate incidents targeting other racial and religious minorities;

WHEREAS in 2022, B'nai Brith Canada documented 722 antisemitic incidents in Quebec;

WHEREAS a 2020 survey by Echoes and Reflection, a prominent American program that equips educators for effective instruction of the Holocaust, found that those who received Holocaust education are more tolerant and more comfortable with people of a different race or sexual orientation than those who did not;

WHEREAS the EMSB has initiated its own Holocaust Education Program, including guest speakers and visits to the Montreal Holocaust Museum;

WHEREAS as Holocaust survivors age and pass away, it is more important than ever that the education system play an increasingly important role;

See "Compulsory" continued on page 10

Holocaust Education Program



The EMSB coordinates a successful program whereby students and staff are sensitized to the history of the Holocaust and acts of antisemitism. In order to continue this program, the EMSB is seeking private donations. Tax receipts will be issued. If you wish to contribute, please contact mcohen@emsb.qc.ca or call 514-483-7200 ext. 7243.

The Orchestre Symphonique FACE marks 25th years



Performers take a bow before a standing ovation at the Place des Arts.

The Orchestre Symphonique FACE (OSF) celebrated its 25th anniversary with a concert at the Maison Symphonique at Place des Arts on February 1. EMSB instrumental music teacher

Theodora Stathopoulos founded the OSF in 1998 – EMSB’s very first year! “The Orchestra’s first years saw the participation of just a handful of FACE students. However, within five years,

following the orchestra’s inception, everything changed as more and more FACE students became motivated to excel and join this ensemble” says Stathopoulos. Presently, the complete string

section (almost 70 violins, violas, cellos and basses) is entirely made up of FACE students, some as young as 10 years old. The wind section of the orchestra is also entirely made up of students from

FACE School’s wind department. These latter are members of the FACE’s wind ensemble Con Brio under the direction of another EMSB FACE instrumental music teacher, Marie-Ève Arseneau.

Dress for Success Montreal Partners with EMSB Service to Business Group

The EMSB Service to Business Group (SBG) has engaged in a new partnership with Dress for Success Montreal, which empowers women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and development tools, at no cost, in order to help women thrive in work and in life. SBG 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’s training needs. Instruction can be done in person or online. Last fall, clients of Dress for Success Montreal began participating in a series of five workshops at an



The EMSB’s Rick David, Nick Katalifos and Angela Spagnolo with team members from Dress for Success.

EMSB adult education centre on how to use Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Some of the most

popular and successful training programs offered by SBG 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 team-building activities for staff. SBG also offers the RAC Program (Recognition of Acquired Competencies), which is a formal recognition of acquired competencies that leads to an official diploma of Vocational Studies for your staff. “We feel very fortunate to have an opportunity like this provided to our clients from the EMSB,” said Dress for Success Montreal Executive Director Sophie Katz-Milo. For further information go to the SBG website at www.sbg.emsb.qc.ca or call 514-483-7200 ext. 7724.

RESOLUTION – cont’d from page 9

WHEREAS as the present-day History curriculum in public high schools allows for some opportunities to discuss the Holocaust;

WHEREAS The Foundation for Genocide Education has produced a pedagogical guide entitled “Teaching about Genocide,” allowing Quebec teachers to become the first in the country to have access to such an educational tool to support them in the sometimes difficult and

challenging task of studying genocides in the classroom.

IT WAS MOVED BY Joe Ortona, Jamie Fabian, Ellie Israel and Julien Feldman THAT the English Montreal School Board call upon Quebec’s Ministry of Education to make Holocaust education compulsory in elementary and high schools and that the Ministry consults the Ontario curriculum and mandate the Conseil Supérieur de l’Éducation and other stakeholders to determine how best to introduce this new

curriculum and ensure teacher training.

Genocide Education

The EMSB Council of Commissioners has adopted a resolution calling for the Quebec Ministry of Education to consider and implement the inclusion of genocide studies in the history courses offered at the elementary and secondary levels, For the EMSB, the inclusion of genocide studies should encompass a diverse range of case studies, including but not limited to the

Holocaust, the Rwandan Genocide, the Armenian Genocide, and others, to provide students with a well-rounded perspective on the global impact of these events. Resources, teaching materials, and professional development opportunities for educators should be made available to facilitate effective and sensitive delivery of genocide studies in the classroom. The Quebec Ministry of Education should collaborate with experts, educators, and community representatives to develop a curriculum that is

inclusive, culturally sensitive, and reflective of the diverse experiences of affected communities. Periodic reviews and updates to the curriculum should be conducted to ensure the relevance and accuracy of the content in line with ongoing research and developments in the field of genocide studies. Last October the EMSB Council adopted a resolution for Quebec to make Holocaust education compulsory in elementary and high schools.

The Grey Cup comes to Gardenview



Jamar McGloster #61 and William Stanback #31 with the Grey Cup at Gardenview.

By Pat Hickey

Students at Gardenview Elementary School in St. Laurent were treated to a visit from the Grey Cup, accompanied by two members of the victorious Montreal Alouettes: running back William Stanback, a Gardenview parent, and offensive lineman Jamar McGloster. The duo spent the better part of the morning as they addressed an assembly of

pupils and posed for selfies with teachers and staff members.

Stanback has since left the Alouettes.

With radio personality and actor Terry Haig directing traffic as the event's emcee, the pair fielded questions from the youngsters. The players, who are accustomed to being grilled by the media, were impressed by the thoughtful queries.

"Good questions," the players

said repeatedly as they discussed their football careers and the upset victories over Toronto and Winnipeg, which produced the Grey Cup title.

"We enjoyed being the underdogs, but we believed in ourselves," said Stanback.

Stanback noted that the players were nervous before the big games, but the nerves disappeared once the game started and play began.

Both players talked about the importance of perseverance. At various times, they have been cut by teams, but they moved on to the next challenge.

Stanback and McGloster had very different introductions to football. Stanback started playing when he was nine, but McGloster, who stands six-foot-seven, was 18 when he switched from basketball to football.

"My mother didn't want me to play football, but my father convinced her to let my play because I had all this energy," said Stanback.

McGloster played basketball at St. Anthony High School in Jersey City, a national powerhouse under legendary coach Bob Hurley. "I went to Syracuse University on a recruiting visit and they offered me a football scholarship," he said.

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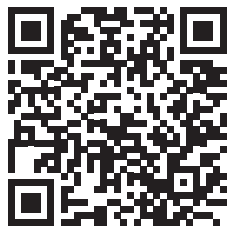
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