

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

express as such, but should not be otherwise aggrandized.

ROBERT COWLING, PARKMAN PLACE
& PRESIDENT, WESTMOUNT
ASSOCIATION OF MOTORISTS FOR A
FAIR VOICE IN TRAFFIC REGULATION
(A NON-EXISTENT ORGANIZATION)

**Editor's reply:* A group's lack of formal incorporation does not mean, in my view, that it does not exist, in fact and in normal English usage. – DP.

KEEP 'WESTMOUNT HIGH'

Richard Orlando's suggestion to re-name Westmount High after US vice-president elect Kamala Harris (November 17, p. 16) is commendable but not something I would support. Graduates Leonard Cohen or former Westmount mayor Karin

Marks would be far more deserving of the honour although, to me, Westmount High is a perfectly good name!

VIRGINIA ELLIOTT, HILLSIDE AVE.

'KAMALA HIGH' OVER THE TOP

It's a bit over the top to re-name Westmount High the Kamala Harris High School. Name the labs or the gym or the playgrounds or even a neighbouring street after her. But Westmount High is Westmount High and should ever be so known.

TIM CARSLY, BARAT RD.

CAN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BE CONSIDERED A WINNER
OF US ELECTION?

It is notable that Kamala Harris attended and graduated from a Quebec pub-

lic school. Westmount High. Yet, it is Westmount High with its motto, *dux vitae ratio* or "reason is the guide of life," which is her *alma mater*, and proudly so.

This school stands out in several ways: its rich diversity; its inclusivity, its staff's dedication and a curriculum that highlights critical thinking. As Ms. Harris' prominence became known, the question was raised: How did this exceptional woman's experience at a high school in Canada, and in particular Quebec, influence her perspective – if at all?

According to a close friend of hers, their friendship informed the path she took as a public prosecutor in California.

Further, in her initial candidacy for president, her outspoken belief in the importance of the public school system irrefutably influenced the priorities of the president-elect, Joe Biden.

Canadian public schools are extraordinary places: welcoming regardless of class/caste, socio-economics or where new arrivals hail from. And, particularly notable in the Quebec English school sectors, they enjoy high graduation rates.

Ms. Harris' instinct to work hard and "do the right thing" ultimately led to a fulfilling life with significant success, revealing another central factor in education: it begins at home. Her mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris, was a force of character and her parental commitment stands out. Evident in her daughter's speeches, *this parent* – a single career mother (medical researcher at McGill University) – ensured her daughters would embody values, resilience and respect for themselves and others. Each time Ms. Harris speaks, she honours this parent, claiming she was the "greatest source of inspiration in my life" – a poignant tribute that touches us all.

Success is built on the strength of the foundation laid at home, regardless of personal and career paths, prevailing tribal divisions or economic reality.

Kamala Harris' mother's strength of character and guidance is a powerful reminder. She enrolled her daughters in a public school system she trusted – and both excelled!

We will wonder, of course, in what way the people she met, her peers, her teachers and the community she thrived in while here left their mark.

CAROLINE JONDAHL, ST. CATHERINE ST.

Classifieds in the *Independent*

Why list your goods (or services) on fly-by-night, who-knows-who-is-replying websites when you can list (and sell) locally?

Buy a classified in the **Westmount Independent** at:

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Buy locally to sell locally

Maccarone on
new TV series

Jennifer Maccarone, the provincial legislator for Westmount-Saint-Louis, will appear in the Télé-Québec television series *Nos élus* [Our Politicians] airing on Thursdays at 8 pm from November 19 until December 10.

"She shares some of her private life as an MNA and single mother of two autistic children. We discover her daily life: its challenges, its difficulties, but also the files and issues she is passionate about," said a press release from her office.

Vic village Metro
to re-open
Thursday

The Metro grocery store on Victoria Ave. was passing out flyers last week explaining it would be closed this week for a major effort on its renovation and expansion. It is set to re-open Thursday, November 26 at 8 am.



As of November 1st
we are proud to
announce that
Dr. Joanne C. Walford,
BSc, D.D.S.
has joined
our team at
RETTER
DENTAL
CARE



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Parking available – SNOWDON metro

The files of patients that have consulted
Dr. Joanne C. Walford, prior to November 1st, 2020,
are located at, 2045 Stanley St., Suite 1100,
Montreal QC. Tel.: 514 844-8061

Principal: 'Return [of students] ... may be delayed'

Westmount Park School reno affected
by pandemic, may not re-open in 2021

The English Montreal School Board (EMSB) provided an update on school renovations at Westmount Park School November 18, which answered some of *Independent's* questions dating back to August.

"While our goal remains to return to the building in time for the start of the 2021-2022 academic year, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused delays beyond our control to the original construction schedule," principal Marco Gagliardi said in a letter to parents and staff that was quoted in the press release.

"As it stands today, we cannot exclude a scenario where our return to the building may be delayed."

According to the release, the renovations include the roof, interior finishes, accessibility (elevator), mechanical (plumbing, CVAC, sprinklers), electrical and the exterior (additional accessibility ramp, pub-

lic utility works, drainage system and foundation waterproofing). Work began in the summer of 2019 and demolition was completed in February 2020.

It was originally forecast to cost \$12.5 million, which remains the budget, confirmed EMSB spokesman Michael Cohen the same day.

"In the event that a September re-opening is not possible, we are committed to provide sufficient notice to all stakeholders and share mitigation measures," Gagliardi is quoted as saying. "If necessary, the present arrangement of having our school populations housed at the Marymount Academy International [on Côte St. Luc Rd.] and [the former St. John Bosco site in] Ville Émard ... could be extended."

"The EMSB administration will be providing frequent updates on the situation," ended the release.

ATELIER LOU

BIJOUTERIE

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