



Lester B. Pearson School Board Opens the World up to its Students through a new Partnership

Friday April 17, 2009

Dorval, Qc., April 17 – The Lester B. Pearson School Board is proud to announce they have selected Greendale Elementary and Riverdale High School to be partnered with Tianma School in Zhejiang, China. Students, teachers and administrators on both sides of the world will be able to communicate via emails and video conferencing starting in the 2009-2010 school year. The goal of this project is to create an understanding between cultures and to help students become more global minded.

Riverdale High School is a true international experience for students and the new school cooperation with China will only add to the overall multicultural environment offered by Riverdale. The theme the students from both Riverdale and Tianma will be focusing on is “Going Green.” In a world where helping the environment has become a major concern for many, students from both schools will be able to develop friendships and work together to bridge cultural gaps on this common theme. This will be done via e-mail, blogs and video conferencing among other means of communication.

Greendale Elementary will be doing similar exercises but their theme is Literacy – speaking, reading, writing and listening. Through pen pals, e-mails and video conferencing, the students will come together to discuss the ongoing issue of literacy through cross cultural exchanges. This partnership is part of the continued effort on the School Board’s part to broaden the students’ global views.

LBPSB is also proud to announce the opening of a summer school at Tianma School. Beginning in July, 2009 the Board will operate a summer school offering the English as a Second Language (ESL) program. This program will be established at Tianma School and both the primary and secondary level and will be known as Tianma/Lester B. Pearson School Board English Language Summer School.

Tianma School is situated in Zhuji City, Zhejiang Province, China. The province is known as one of the fastest growing regions in China. There are 4500 students studying and living at Tianma School. Since founded in 1996, the school has been trying to create unique characteristics in terms of courses offered, student activities and school management. The new partnership with LBPSB could potentially provide them with municipal, provincial and national recognition, placing them at the forefront of internationalism in Zhejiang Province.

For further information on the International Studies Program: Marcus Tabachnick, Chairman, LBPSB, 514-422-3000 ext. 2322, mtabachnick@lbsb.qc.ca or Carol Mastantuono, Assistant Director, LBPSB International Studies, 514-798-8787 or 514-422-3000 ext. 2398, cmastantuono@lbsb.qc.ca.