

Director General's Report to Council



by R. T. Mills



Thank You, Constantine Held

As you will read elsewhere in this issue, and in our Chairman's Report to Council, with the passing of Constantine "Conny" Held this month, the Lester B. Pearson School Board lost a strong supporter and long-time friend.

Mr. Held was very generous with his time, serving as a parent commissioner, and later as a commissioner for Ward 10.

On behalf of the administration of the Lester B. Pearson School Board, I would like to thank Conny for his hard work and dedication to the board, its community, and more generally, to public education.

We extend our deepest and most sincere condolences to his family.

Welcome Back

The beginning of a new school year is always a most exciting time for all staff members and, I dare to say, for all the young people who will once again be filling our schools and centers. I find it quite remarkable that, after so many years in this profession, the sense of adventure and the enthusiasm of the people who constitute our staff is still very apparent to me. I am intensely proud to be part of an organization that shows such a deep commitment to the community it serves.

I welcome all those who are returning to our schools and centers and those who are new to our system. For the latter group, I assure you that you are embarking upon an experience that will be rich and rewarding and I encourage you to become involved deeply in the education of your children and in the experience they will have with us.

Our Partnership

As we begin this new school year, I reflect on the strength of the Lester B. Pearson School Board, strength that comes largely from the strong bonds that are established between staff members who perform very different tasks, all in support of our learners, and of the ties with our community. In the words of Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much".

Provincial Election Day

I wish to remind everyone that our schools and centers will be closed to students on September 4, the day of our provincial election. Daycare operations will continue for the normal hours.

Staffing and Enrolment

As you are aware, staff allocations into our schools and centers are directly linked to the official enrolment statistics. These data are still being collected and verified, after which time consequent

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Students from Children's World Academy attend Epals' Week at Space Camp in Izmir, Turkey



by David Estok,
Principal, Children's World Academy

Over the summer, four students and two teachers from Children's World Academy spent 10 exciting days travelling to Izmir, Turkey to participate in a program entitled "Global Friendship Through Space Education". The students and teachers left Montreal on June 29th, 2012 to attend the summer session at Space Camp Turkey in Izmir. The objectives of this outstanding program are to promote students' interest in science and math, and more specifically the science of space exploration. In addition,

the program seeks to promote intercultural/international connections by creating and developing relationships between groups of students from schools around the world. During the school year, students who were members of CWA's "Space Club" were partnered with a school in Istanbul, Turkey. The students from both schools connected via videoconferences and emailed regularly to discuss space-related projects and share information about their daily lives. As a culmination of their year-long collaboration, Rose Marie Lecchino, Emily Pincin, Jeremy Laroche and Nicholas Côté had the opportunity, along with Mathieu Lavallée and Sonia Bouchard - the two teachers who ran the Space Club

- to meet their E-Pals at a special international summer session called E-Pal Week at Space Camp Turkey in Izmir. This week-long session combined learning, fun, and friendship. Students spent their time learning about and working with highly specialized technology (robots, sophisticated computers, hydroponics), as well as doing simulation exercises which are similar to those designed to train astronauts (space suits, flight simulators, zero gravity simulators). Perhaps what is most important about this project is that the students do all of this while getting to know other young people from different countries. The session that our kids attended included students from schools in the United States,

Greece, Latvia as well as Turkey. The end result is that they not only learned a great deal about science and space exploration, but they had an incredible opportunity to build relationships that extend across cultures and around the globe. During the visit, one of the students from Children's World, Nicholas Côté, was voted "Outstanding Camper" and received a special award medal from French astronaut, Jean-François Clervoy. Children's World Academy is the first and only Canadian school participating in this project. We congratulate the students and staff for their involvement in this very exciting project. If you would like more information about this project, please contact us here at Children's World: destok@lbpsb.qc.ca



Thoughts: Dedicated To Commissioner Conny Held, A Tireless Advocate For Students With Special Needs



by Judy Kelley
Commissioner, Ward 18

The Special Needs Policy revision committee, a sub-committee of the Education Committee, has been working for almost a year, researching, analysing documentation and composing a draft of a new policy for the Lester B. Pearson School Board. In doing this work we have dug into many files and documents, some being our archives of personal notes and reflections that stem from work we have done in the recent past, including that of a large working group's ideas that represent the observations of our extended community of parents, siblings, classmates, students, teachers, administrators and of many others who are passionate about this vital area of education. We have also compiled notes from the major school change town hall meetings, as well as a vast array of documentation from the MELS, the expertise of our professionals from Student Services, Human Resources, school administration, the Special Needs Advisory Committee (SNAC) and soon, of representatives from our support staff and teachers' unions. As a LBPSB commissioner, I feel privileged to work with such devoted and hard-working committee members. The reality is that our committee, fully

devoted to this project, is striving to produce a document that clearly encapsulates the LBPSB's common beliefs and philosophy, our best practices, our expertise and our outstanding support for students with special needs.

Although the entire Student Services team and the school staff are clearly integral and vital in ensuring individual student success, I have a special place in my heart reserved for my respect for the work done by the support teams in our schools - the integration aides and technicians, who are on the front lines, day-to-day, working with students with special needs and with their families and their teachers. What I have observed in these individuals is solid, relentless determination and perseverance and passion for the students they assist and serve. This respect was further affirmed to me during my summer break.

As a part of my summer reading and research for the Special Needs Policy Revision Committee, I immersed myself in some fascinating literature and film that truly resonated with me regarding the many struggles our children with special needs and their families face when they try to find a comfortable place in an inclusive society, or on a smaller scale, in the microcosm of what should always feel like a safe place, their schools. To share my informative and humbling reading experience, one the first books

I read this summer, *Bad Animals*, a father's accidental education in autism, by Joel Yanofsky, highlighted for me the joys and the ongoing pitfalls and frustrations of a Montreal family who want only the very best for their special son, Jonah. This first-hand account of Yanofsky's reflections poignantly illustrates the moment-to-moment measures a family, like the Yanofsky family, takes to ensure a fine balance for their son both at home and in the outside world. I was so impressed, as well, to read in his account about the importance of Jonah's therapists and aides play in his education and in his behaviour modification therapy. The respect of and dependence on Jonah's devoted aides show the critical role these individuals play in our schools and in the lives of children with special needs. As a complement, I read Mark Haddon's book, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. (Incidentally, Mark Haddon has personal experience working with autistic children.) I was so moved by this sweet story of an extremely interesting and loveable special child, Christopher, who exhibits such an intriguing thought process and sense of logic, but as well, such a powerful connection to his integration aide, Siobhan. When in doubt, Christopher always reviews the meaningful and practical lessons and advice from Siobhan which remain implanted in

his memory. I also soaked in Haddon's latest best-selling novel, *The Red House*, where one of the main characters, Benji, a young boy on the spectrum, informs the reader through his astute and precocious observations, about his unique, precise thinking about the details of his daily life and of the people in it. His perspective of the world further opened my eyes to the frustration and alienation so many children must feel when they do not quite fit the mainstream. Also revealing in the novel is the importance his family, his steady support, plays in accepting his differences. I also finally saw the intriguing film, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, the story of another special child, named Oskar, who is obsessed with unlocking a mystery connected to his best friend, his father, who tragically dies during the 9-11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre. I loved this character, this boy whose family give him the "space" to be who he needs to be. His relentless determination is exhausting for the viewer and reminded me, once again, of the incredible work our special needs aides and technicians accomplish with their students!

But, on another much more personal and real-life note, a friend from Vancouver visiting in June for the Grand Prix shared with me his moving and emotional narrative of the very recent autism/As-

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Chairman's Report to Council



by Suanne Stein Day



Conny Held, 1952 - 2012

Our return to council this year is clouded by the sudden loss of Commissioner Conny Held. Conny was an incredibly committed parent, Governing Board member, Parent Committee member, Regional and Central Parent representative and Parent Commissioner before putting himself forward as Commissioner for Ward 10. He had volunteered at so many school board events and was always happy attending events where our students were featured. He didn't miss a TOPS or Pearson Idol show and was often seen at community celebrations, graduation ceremonies and school fund raisers. He was an active member of the Pearson Educational Foundation Board of Directors.

He leaves to mourn his friend and soulmate Josiane Forget, his children Nikita and Franco, Josiane's children, his ex-wife Pina Mannarino and many friends and family.

Conny, you will be missed more than you can know. May you rest in peace.

Welcome Back

Our administrators and head office staff have been back at work for the past two weeks and last week our teachers and school staff returned to get everything ready to greet the students on Wednesday. These professionals, the commissioners around this table and the involved parents and volunteers in our schools have contributed to our enviable reputation as a public school board of exceptional standing in Quebec and in Canada.

On behalf of the Council of Commissioners, I wish everyone a successful and happy school year. We are looking forward to it.

Follow me on Twitter
@suannesteinday



CPIC:
Teacher PD
First Deadline for
2012-2013
Applications:
**September
10th
for the
meeting on
the 13th**
Events after October
11th may also be
applied for at a
subsequent meeting

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adjustments in staffing will be considered. We do anticipate at this early stage that our enrolment projections made during the spring of the last academic year have been quite accurate but certain anomalies are bound to arise, requiring attention as the enrolment numbers stabilize.

Words from a Veteran Teacher

I was pleased to read in this morning's *Montréal Gazette* an article written by one of our teachers, Anne Tellier, of Dorset Elementary School who represents the professionalism of our staff. She wrote most eloquently of the butterflies that signify the opening days of school, particularly for Kindergarten children and for their parents. It was fascinating to note that Anne mirrored the feelings that so many of us still have on the opening day after many, many years of experience. The thrill to which she referred is one that permeates so many of our staff members and characterizes their efforts to serve the children and families of our community.

From Riverdale High to the Outer Stratosphere

by Bob Dubois



In this age of manufactured stardom, the fact that Brittany Kwasnik writes her own songs – both lyrics and music – is striking, and she's been at it for several years.

Her songwriting prowess is far from typical among performing musicians, and all the more so for persons of her young age. She is determined to be faithful to her own inner calling, despite the hardships she faces, which are on her website for all to see.

She has already been featured on Canada AM, CBC's *The National*, *The A Channel* morning show in Ottawa, and has performed the national anthem for the prime minister. Many of you West Islanders are probably already somewhat familiar with her, but the rest of the world isn't – yet!

How this unassuming songwriter came to this point is an unusual tale. While Brittany was always drawn to music, the news from doctors that she had a vocal cord dysfunction and would never sing well was the impetus for her ut-

ter determination to prove them wrong. Her vocal chords were working backwards, but with therapy, she has learned to manage it.

While healing, she started secretly recording songs she'd written in her room. Eventually, friends discovered her hidden talent, and posted some songs on YouTube. It was after this that things really

started happening, after which she started posting some herself. "Breathe", from 2009, which was inspired by a traumatic experience, has already been viewed close to 140,000 times and downloaded over 300,000 times - an astonishing feat, considering that her debut album, "I Don't Know Me", still hadn't been released.

"Breathe", along with other

catchy songs, are evidence that Brittany has serious potential. Those of us in the know, and her growing legion of fans, clearly see that potential. This is the one of the most hauntingly beautiful songs I have ever heard. This is "Breathe"!!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-EoR4HscE>

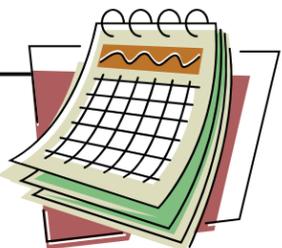
Brittany Kwasnik's second cd will be out in the fall.

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perger's diagnosis of his unusual, precious and extremely bright seven year old daughter, Brigitte. Sobbing, Doug guiltily confessed that he had dreams that one day Brigitte would go to Yale or Harvard and that she would have a "normal" life with a wide circle of friends and great happiness. Because he and his wife, Kristen, are older parents and Brigitte is an only child, he is now also wondering how she will cope in the future if anything should happen to them . . . We talked for a long time, and at the end of that intense discussion, Doug was no longer afraid. He realized that as a parent he is not alone, that his brilliant daughter, Brigitte, may very likely go on to be extremely successful in her academics and in her life, that the psychologists, occupational therapists, behavioural therapists, integration aides, teachers, and support of friends and family will all contribute to Brigitte's well-being and in helping her to achieve her potential. What will stay with me, for a very long time, is that after Doug described many of the challenges Brigitte is facing, and the quirky, curious behaviours she exhibits, as well as the struggles ahead for him and his wife, he spoke so movingly about what all of us would feel, I am sure - that he loves Brigitte so dearly and unconditionally, and that if he could, he would not change a single thing about his illuminating, challenging, sweet, curious, lovely, darling daughter.



Brittany Kwasnik



Mark the Date!

The Annual Gala Evening of the Pearson Educational Foundation will be held on the evening of Thursday, November 8, 2012, at the Montreal Sheraton Airport Hotel.



Do you have an article to submit for the **Pearson News?**

Please send your articles and pictures to your Principal who will forward them to us.

Questions or comments? Email Dan Mullins at dmullins@lbpsb.qc.ca

the MONTREAL JUBILATION GOSPEL CHOIR

at Lakeside Academy

OCTOBER 25 2012
7:30 p.m.

ALL PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT LAKESIDE ACADEMY'S MUSIC PROGRAM.

Louise Pelletier Auditorium
5050 Sherbrooke Lachine
H8T 1H8
(514) 637-2505

Tickets
Gold: \$100
(reception 6 pm & 9 pm meet/greet with choir)
Silver: \$30
Bronze: \$25

Ticket inquiry:
lakesideweb@lbpearson.qc.ca

PACC Home Care Assistance graduates receiving job offers!

by Madeleine Barrette, c.o.
PACC Voc Ed.

Every year, a group of students earn a Home Care Assistance diploma (DEP) at Pearson Adult and Career Centre. Upon completion of their studies, several graduates receive job offers from both the public and the private Health sectors.

This nine month program includes learning about client needs, physical illnesses and disabilities, patient comfort, activities of daily living, moving patients safely, and professional ethics. Students participate in three stages that enable them to develop trusting relationships with patients and participate in providing home care services. The program also covers a module that prepares students in assisting clients with medication. Also, a very strong PDSB component is taught by teachers who have an expertise in this field. As a result, graduates can seek employment at CLSC's or private agencies or open their own business.

By the end of the third stage, students are qualified to work with the elderly, the mentally and physically challenged, patients with a terminal illness or in some cases with parents of newborns. Numerous former PACC home care assistance graduates are presently working in CLSC's, many of whom have permanent positions. In CLSC's, home care assistants are part of a multidisciplinary team consisting of nurses, social workers, occupational therapists and physiotherapists.

With our increasingly aging population, many people depend on services from CLSC's or private agencies. Women often out-live husbands and are the main

care givers for their husbands' and parents. Eventually they can end up alone and they are the ones requiring our specialized services.

Mrs. Linda Small Norris, PACC Health teacher, is very proud of her group of students. The PACC Health team, Linda included, work closely with CLSC's and agencies to ensure that our Home care program provides students with the best possible training. As she visits students during stages and meets former home care graduates, Mrs. Small Norris encounters employees who express how satisfied they are as home care assistants.

"Home care assistants enjoy the autonomy, the variety of tasks and the level of responsibility that the job entails. Above all, they appreciate the fact that they develop meaningful relationships with clients and know that they really help in enhancing the quality of their lives." says Linda Small Norris.

The requirements needed in becoming a good home care assistant: one needs to be very positive and caring, independent, conscientious, have good observation skills and be organized. Candidates must also have strong verbal communication skills in both English and French, be well groomed and possess a car. Although salaries are higher in the public sector, many graduates are able to reach their goal after working in a CLSC for a period of about six months.

If you are interested in the Home Care program starting this FALL, please call the WAAVE Admissions Office at (514) 732-7766.



Please send your articles and pictures to your Principal who will forward them to us.

Questions or comments? Email Dan Mullins at dmullins@lbpsb.qc.ca

Below is a list of Commissioners along with their home telephone numbers and school board locals.

Ward	Communities	Commissioner	Home Phone #	422-3000 Local
1	Verdun/Nuns' Island	Douglas Flook	514-293-2417	4001
2	LaSalle South	Sergio Borja	514-368-1001	4002
3	LaSalle Northeast	Ruben Fazio	514-365-1638	4003
4	LaSalle West/Ville St-Pierre	Frank di Bello	514-951-5834	4004
5	Lachine	Patrick Whitham	514-800-9240	4005
6	Dorval	Barbara Freeston	514-636-9315	4006
7	Dollard-des-Ormeaux East	Rosemary Murphy	514-620-8012	4007
8	Roxboro/Pierrefonds East	Craig Berger	514-421-6570	4008
9	Pointe-Claire East	Linton Garner	514-696-7892	4009
10	Pointe-Claire West	Vacant		
11	Dollard-des-Ormeaux Center	Ruth Dangoor Gdalevitch	514-906-7320	4011
12	Pierrefonds/Île Bizard	Susan Williams	514-620-4745	4012
13	Dollard-des-Ormeaux Center/West	Martin Sherman	514-684-2742	4013
14	Dollard-des-Ormeaux W./Kirkland E.	Joe Zemanovich	514-624-2376	4014
15	Beaconsfield North	Don Rae	514-697-9878	4015
16	Kirkland West	Suanne Stein Day	514-798-8797	2322
17	Pierrefonds West	Luisa Bulgarelli-Vero	514-694-0475	4017
18	Ste-Anne/Baie d'Urfe/Beaconsfld S./Senneville	Judy Kelley	514-697-7619	4018
19	Île Perrot	Susan Bartlett-Lewis	514-453-6650	4019
20	Les Cèdres/Vaudreuil-Dorion	Angela Nolet	514-453-5462	2299
21	Hudson/St-Lazare	Daniel Olivenstein	450-458-1413	4021
CPC	Secondary Representative	Nan Beaton	514-713-3892	4026
CPC	Elementary Representative	Domenico Pavone	514-566-8869	4027
Executive Committee		September 18, 2012 5:30 p.m.	Board Room	
Council of Commissioners		September 24, 2012 7:30 p.m.	Board Room	



Join us on The Road to Resilience

A one-day interactive workshop



Resilience is not something we are born with, but a skill that can be learned. It helps us achieve balance and personal strength in all aspects of life.

This one-day interactive workshop is offered by the Lester B. Pearson School Board in partnership with Concordia University, Department of Applied Human Sciences, Graduate Program in Human Systems Intervention.

It is open to the entire LBPSB community.

Date: Saturday, October 20, 2012

Register online at www.lbpsb.qc.ca

OR

Sunday, October 21, 2012

For more information:

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Email: workshopinfo@lbpsb.qc.ca

Place: Pearson Electrotechnology Centre

Phone: 514-422-3000 (ask for Workshop Info)

5000 René Huguet, Lachine

H8T 1M7

Cost: \$25 (lunch included)



The Strategic Directions



Strategic Direction 1

Maximizing Student Success in a Culture for Learning

Strategic Direction 2

Fostering and Supporting a Commitment to Professional Growth for All

Strategic Direction 3

Enhancing School Collaboration and Community Partnerships

Strategic Direction 4

Promoting Wellness in a Safe and Caring Community