

## Director General's Report to Council



by R. T. Mills



### The Connecticut Tragedy

In this joyous season, it is especially painful to begin my report with reference to the tragic circumstances in which the families of Newtown, Connecticut are involved. It is almost beyond comprehension that such iniquity could impact the lives of so many innocents. Our most sincere sympathies have been extended to the community and its school district.

Unfortunately, today's realities have made us all aware of the need for security measures in our homes, schools and communities. Although no system is foolproof, I assure you that security in our schools and centres is taken with utmost seriousness and that, as much as possible, controls are in place to limit and eliminate unauthorized access to our facilities. In addition, emergency drills are carried out on a regular basis as mandated by the Emergency Preparedness Policy.

### Student Commissioners

I am delighted that our Student Commissioners are now in place and am confident that they will provide an additional dimension to our discussions. Both are quite remarkable young people who have earned the respect of their peers and their teachers for their abilities. I wish them both well as they fill their new mandate.

### Celebration of Twenty-Five Year Employees

On November 28, our Human Resources Department organized the annual celebration of those employees who have devoted twenty-five years of service to our Board and to its founding school boards. What a wonderful experience it is to participate in the event with a group of people who, after twenty-five years, exhibit such energy and enthusiasm! There was astonishing pride in the room, delight that can be gained only from the gratification that comes from working in such a noble profession! Each and every one deserves deep thanks for all that has been accomplished.

### Holiday Wishes

Of course, I wish to extend to everyone who forms part of the Lester B. Pearson School Board community, the very best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a very happy and healthy New Year. Those wishes are extended to students, staff members, our community partners and to parents who have demonstrated their confidence and trust in us.

## PACC Voc. Student's Award Winning Chocolate Wonderland



Thushyanthini Thevarajah is busy these days taking care of her nine-month old son and 5-year-old twins – but it was only a short while ago that the Pearson School of Culinary Arts graduate placed first in a province-wide chocolate competition in which pastry students showed off their skills and creativity.

Thevarajah spent 300 hours meticulously hand-carving an intricate Alice in Wonderland chocolate sculpture which was submitted at the Compétitions Belcolade held at the Complexe Desjardins in Montreal.

With Alice as the main figure, Thevarajah's sculpture also includes the White Rabbit, Mad Hatter, Cheshire Cat and the Blue Caterpillar, all in chocolate and all in colourful detail.

And her work paid off – the top prize comes with a week-long, all-expenses paid internship at

the Belcolade Chocolates headquarters in Belgium.

"I don't know exactly when I will go," said Thevarajah. "But my family – my husband and my parents – were very supportive during the competition and I am sure they will continue to be."

Thevarajah, who worked as a pastry cook at the five-star Hotel

Le Crystal in Montreal until she took maternity leave, credited Vi Minh Tran, her former professor at the Pearson School of Culinary Arts, with being largely responsible for her ease at taking on such challenges as the province-wide competition at which eight schools – including the Institut d'hotellerie du Quebec and the

l'atelier d'apprentissage du Chocolat, a chocolatier school that specializes in Belgian chocolate – took part. Students and professionals who graduated within the past year are allowed to take part in the competition.

"My teacher was wonderful," she said adding that it took 20-kilograms of chocolate to create her colourful Alice sculpture.

"It was my first-ever sculpture and all hand-carved," she said adding that although she has never taken any formal art classes, she has always liked drawing. "And when I start something, I do it with all of my heart."

Thevarajah's chocolate creation can be viewed at Le Saucier, the gourmet-class dining room – part of the Pearson Adult and Career Centre's professional cooking, contemporary cuisine and restaurant services programs – which is open to the public.

Le Saucier is located at 8310 George St. in Ville LaSalle. 514-363-6213

<http://paccvoc.lbpsb.qc.ca>



Left to right: Vi Minh Tran, professor at the Pearson School of Culinary Arts and Thushyanthini Thevarajah with her winning chocolate sculpture.

## Literacy at Lakeside!



The "Get Caught Reading!" campaign at Lakeside Academy and "coming soon" to the LBPSB Head Office, is a wonderful way to promote the importance of taking the time to read. Lakeside is rediscovering the joys and relaxation associated with reading books!

This "novel" reading venture was initiated this past November by Lakeside Academy's librarian, Jennifer Woolley. Staff and students are "caught" on camera reading and enjoying their favourite books. The books chosen have one way or another, influenced the lives of our readers in some way.

This literacy activity has generated all kinds of discussions and interactions amongst students

and staff that would not otherwise have occurred. The trading of books has also become quite common.

The collection of photos gathered during the past month, will be a part of a large literacy display in the main lobby of the school in the New Year.

The sponsor of this campaign is The American Association of Publishers. When they heard about Lakeside Academy's involvement, they provided their support by sending free promotional materials to launch the program. They will be highlighting this school initiative in their industry newsletter in the New Year!

Lakeside encourages everyone this winter to seek out their favourite book, find a quiet corner and let your imaginations take hold.

Happy trails everyone!



Top: Lakeside students caught reading!  
Bottom: Lakeside staff caught, too!

## Vocational Education: A Platform for Second Chances



On 19th & 20th of November 2012, the Pearson Adult Vocational Centre hosted families and friends for its Celebration of Learning Ceremony. Students who successfully completed their Vocational training programs were cheered on as they received their diplomas, evidence of months of hard work coming to fruition. Both evenings saw a number of graduates proudly cross the stage to receive certificates of completion in the Health, Business Professions and the Culinary School Programs, encompassing programs such as Cooking, Pastry and Food & Beverage. Parents, siblings, significant others and children of the graduates were ecstatic to see the students take the step to further their education well after leaving secondary school. The graduating students, many of whom are parents themselves, equally shared in the elation as they demonstrated to their own children that it is never too late to pursue one's dream.

This was the case for our graduating PAB student Caitlin Wolfe, a former student of Lakeside Academy and a graduate of PACC Adult Education (both Lester B. Pearson schools), whose commitment and perseverance shone exquisitely as she was escorted across the stage by her three year old son.

The sheer number of graduates who walked off the stage and into new professional careers speaks volumes to the value of both Adult and Vocational Education as a viable path to a better career. The presence of our illustrious board members further validates the importance of such programs and speaks to the Board's enduring commitment to lifelong learning.

On hand to join in the celebration were the Chairman of the Board, Suanne Stein Day; Commissioner Barbara Freeston; Assistant Director General Steve Balleine; Director of Adult & Vocational Education, Gloria Keenan and Assistant Director of Adult & Vocational Education, Veronique Marin.



Caitlin Wolfe & Son

## Chairman's Report to Council



by Suanne Stein Day



In the aftermath of the horrible tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, and as the facts become known, I offer the sincere condolences and prayers of the Lester B. Pearson Community to all there who lost family, friends, teachers and administrators and most tragically, to those who lost children.

I can only imagine how our Principals, Teachers, Support Staff, Caretaking Staff and Professionals, are feeling reading the many stories about the staff and children. Six staff members lost their lives while putting themselves between the gunman and the children. They are all heroes, as are the many survivors who were able to get the students out of the line of fire. It is not surprising that they put the children first. Like all in the profession, they cared about the children like they would care for their own.

To our parents and community: Never miss an opportunity to hug your children. Even if it embarrasses them. Try and shield the little ones from the details of this tragedy – they need not grow up this fast. Rest assured that at this school board, the safety of all students is paramount. We will continue to do everything we can to protect your children. You may be faced with difficult questions from your children. The board has been preparing information and support for all our staff members. They are there to help get through this.

It's difficult trying to explain the inexplicable. The communities we have built will overcome this.

We remain confident that all our schools are secure and safe, and we hope you and your children all feel safe being there.

Tonight we welcome Daniel Gabrielli and Samantha Brady to the Council table. These are two outstanding students from Beaconsfield High School and Westwood Senior high school, respectively. In a few minutes, council will pass a resolution to add them to Council and they will then be sworn in by Mr. Mills. Daniel and Samantha, we are so pleased to have you with us. Please feel free to ask questions and let us know the students' point of view.

We'd like to offer congratulations to Marcus Tabachnick, the previous Chairman of this board on his honour of receiving the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. Marcus was nominated for

## Stein Day on Bill 14

by Alycia Ambroziak

The Quebec government should be celebrating English high school students' proficiency in French rather than instituting unnecessary language legislation, according to Suanne Stein Day, chairperson of the Lester B. Pearson School Board.

"Our students already must pass provincial French language exams in order to get their diplomas," Stein Day said in reference to an amendment to Bill 101 tabled Wednesday in the National Assembly that would require high school and Cegep students to demonstrate "very good fluency" in written and spoken French in order to graduate.

"That amendment is simply unnecessary," said Stein Day.

"Instead of legislating our students, why not celebrate them – they are doing well, graduating bilingually and working in both languages," she said, noting that the LBPSB's 82 per cent graduation rate is among the highest in the province and higher than provincial 2020 targets.

"Five years ago, we increased the amount of French in some immersion schools through our Français Plus program – and that program is growing in popularity.

"We increased the amount of French in our high schools, not because of legislation, but because our community requested it," she added. "Our community is proud of their children's abilities to speak French."

Stein Day reiterated an invitation to Quebec Premier Pauline Marois and Jean-François Lisée, Quebec's minister responsible for liaison with the anglophone community, or Language Minister Diane De Courcy to come to an LBPSB school and see just how accomplished students are in French.

Bill 14, which is designed to amend Bill 101, Quebec's language law, will undergo public

consultation and committee hearings before it is voted upon.

Stein Day said she does not expect the minority Parti Québécois government to drop the amendment requiring high school students to pass another language test in order to graduate.

"The only way it will be dropped is if the opposition votes against it," she said.

She added however that the LBPSB did welcome the government's decision to drop another proposal that would have restricted access to English adult education, vocational schools and Cegeps.

"We believe it's a good decision for all Quebecers, both Anglophone and Francophone," she said.

The proposed amendment would have extended Bill 101 regulations to restrict enrolments in adult education and vocational schools, as well as Cegeps, to only those Quebecers who have attended English elementary and high schools.

Although that amendment was dropped from Bill 14, Premier Marois said the government could change its position on the matter, depending on whether the enrolment of non-anglophones is viewed as a problem in three to five years.

Stein Day noted that the school board's adult and vocational programs are very popular to students from many linguistic backgrounds.

"Our adult and vocational programs fill up as soon as spaces are available," she said adding that students learn in both English and French. "Our students are already learning the language skills necessary to work in Quebec."

The LBPSB offers adult education courses as well training in such fields as automobile mechanics, culinary arts, residential and commercial drafting, electrotechnology, beauty care, computing support and interior decorating and display.

## Math Olympics Popular, Fun



The excitement was palpable as teams of Grade 6 students from 21 Lester B. Pearson Schools took part in the Math Olympics.

The event has become so popular that it took place on two dates, Dec. 6 and 13, in order to accommodate all the schools that wanted to take part.

On Dec. 6, teams of grade 6 students from 10 schools worked together to a variety of math challenges as a crowd of onlookers, mostly proud parents, urged them on.

Chantal Brunet, LBPSB elementary mathematics consultant, said parental support at the event was inspiring.

"You'll often see parents attend things like hockey tournaments

but here we have parents coming in for math tournaments," she said from the event held at Lakeside



**Sherwood Forest Principal Wusua Mitchell's young son likes his calculator.**

Academy. "That's very special."

The winning schools at the Dec. 6 event were:

Gold Medal: Clearpoint Elementary in Pointe Claire  
Silver Medal: St. Lawrence

Academy, Senior Campus in Ville LaSalle.

Bronze Medal: Children's World in Ville LaSalle.

The Math Olympics continued on Dec. 13 as teams of grade 6 students from 11 schools met at Riverdale High in Pierrefonds.

The winning schools at the Dec. 13 event were:

Gold Medal: Westpark in Dollard-des-Ormeaux

Silver Medal: Forest Hill St. in St-Lazare.

Bronze Medal: Margaret Manson in Kirkland and Wilder Penfield in Dollard-des-Ormeaux

Congratulations to Christmas Park and Dorset who won the Amazing i-Math mission which was a Mathematics scavenger hunt using a new platform of technology such as the ipad, ipod and laptop.



Stein Day, from page A1

his outstanding contributions to education at the local, provincial and national level.

This month we also honoured our employees that have 25 years of service with us. These dedicated individuals have given so much to our classrooms, whether they work in one daily or support those who do. I thank them not only for what they've given to our children, but also the examples they set for new staff coming in.

A big shout out to the Margaret Manson grade 6 class who have been skypeing with a little girl who has been too sick to come to class. A laptop has been set up on her desk so she can participate with her classmates as much as possible. At the request of her classmates, a field trip has been organized for the class to walk to her home and sing Christmas Carols for her. These children are so thoughtful – their request brought tears to the teacher and the mom.

Last week, I attended one of my favorite events of the year – the Math Olympics. Children from many of our elementary schools trained hard and performed amazingly. They had a blast – while learning MATH!

To everyone, I wish you a safe and happy holiday season, surrounded by love and laughter.

Follow me on Twitter @suannesteinday

## Saint Anthony Paints the Town

by Alycia Ambroziak



Students costumed as Snowflakes and Snirt – a combination of snow and dirt – were in abundance Wednesday, Dec. 12, as St. Anthony Elementary

school students from kindergarten to grade 6 held an Intercultural Celebration called Paint the Town. The auditorium at the Pierrefonds school was packed as students rocked the stage with celebrations from around the world. Award-winning soprano, Kerry-Anne Kutz - who has per-

formed with and for such celebrities as Gregory Charles, Céline Dion, the Royal Family and even the Montreal Canadiens - closed the concert as she and all the students of St. Anthony's sang Light the Candles All Around the World. The presentation, which was led by Music Direc-

tor Kathleen Walshe-Turcotte, Dance Coach Natasha Niunka and Drama and Stage Director Cheryl Gauthier, even had a saxophone-playing Santa join the fun - a performance which Principal Erik Olsthoorn coincidentally missed by just a minute or so.



## Creativity Thrives at Beacon Hill Daycare!

by Linda Choinière, CASCA (Community and Spiritual Care Animator)



Our Beacon Hill Daycare Educators contribute a lot to our school with their creative talents. Daycare Educator Linda Traviss and her grade 5 students, in response to a request from Dans la rue's Sue Medleg, got right to work making beautiful little Christmas tree centerpieces and snowflakes filled with caring good wishes for the street kids' Christmas dinner.

Educator Cathy Roberts and her grade 6 students made our Remembrance Day Ceremony all the more special with a wonderful banner that was front and center at our assembly. Daycare Coordinator Barb Adler, who has a background in graphic arts and technology, is in charge of putting together our stylish school Newsletter. She says she and her Educators "really welcome opportunities to work on projects that reinforce our school's activities and community work." And we welcome and appreciate the fact that they do!



12/11/2012



To learn more about the Lester B. Pearson School Board's Autism Spectrum Disorders Centre of Excellence, visit:

<http://www.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/asdn/index.asp>

# Pearson Education Foundation Grant 2011-12 Dorset School/Maxwell Residence Report & Reflections: iTuesdays at the Maxwell

by Ann Tellier



As a teacher participant in our inter-generational project, funded through the 2011-12 Pearson Education Foundation grant, I was able to witness some amazing little moments in time.

Thanks to some other former-teacher volunteers who helped me, we escorted a group of Kindergarteners and their grade 5 iTutors over to the neighboring senior's residence each week. We met with



our senior participants in their movie room. This is a comfortable quiet room with comfortable theatre seats. The students would meet up with their senior buddies there as well as in the foyer area. As the weeks progressed more seniors would join us, we got to know each other and to share personal stories.

At the end of each session we encouraged the participants to write down in a journal iPad App the names of the participants and what they done together that day. This was a means to keep a record of who and when, as well as to encourage collaboration between the students and adults. It was an opportunity for the adult senior citizens to mentor, to model language and writing to the students. It was a means to remember and collect these moments.

Some of the seniors, most definitely, had vision, hearing and fine motor issues. This meant that the students had to work on their own communication skills. They had to look at the senior, speak slowly and a bit louder upon occasion. They had to control their own impulsivity and really concentrate on breaking down the tasks of interacting with the devices.

It gave me the opportunity and some PD to see what training and discussion I needed to have had with the students before the experience began and as a follow-up to the weekly visits. Finding time and opportunity to do this was always an issue. We relied heavily on the intuitiveness of these students.

Many of the seniors had memory issues as well and this was a challenge for the students to understand and deal with. Most of the 10 year olds "got it" and dealt with it in their own way. They just acted like it was the first time every time. Kind of like Bill Murray in Groundhog Day. Some I knew had grandparents who have these memory issues and so they understood immediately what was going on. I believe too that the topic of dementia and Alzheimer's is definitely an issue that they may have heard of prior to this experience or they asked me and other adults about it.

There were some moments that stand out:

- L. (the senior) working with D. (gr.5) to find Belgium and the town he was born in on Google earth.

- A. (L.'s wife) asking P. to find a highway overpass in B.C. named after her son. I knew what that meant and P. did not. Her son was an RCMP officer killed on duty.

- Dr. H., a former child psychologist, who showed signs of memory loss was able to share with A. a Google Earth tour of his home in England. He explained as well to A.'s fascination that at the end of the war a German sub cruised into the town's harbour, popped the hatch and the crew surrendered to the townspeople. Sadly Dr. H. passed away this past summer and although this didn't happen during our experience there, it could have. That in itself would have been an interesting life lesson for students. Here was a man still contributing to the lives of children despite his age and challenges.

- One of our Kindergarten students was allergic to nuts, and at the end of each of our sessions G., a senior, was determined everyone would get a cookie. Our student was, of course, very cautious and I explained that he had allergies so would not be taking one. She did the rounds and asked all the kids if they wanted one. She came back over and over again to our little allergic guy. He was becoming visibly upset by this and didn't understand why she didn't "get it". I took him aside and explained that as some people get older their memory isn't always good and they may even forget what they just asked you. He is very mature and seemed to understand this and be comforted that now he knew what was happening. When she approached him

one more time as we were leaving he said, no thank you and then explained to the closest older student that sometimes people don't have good memories when they are older and keep asking you the same question. The older student almost keeled over and tried to shush him and explain he shouldn't be saying that especially in front of G. G. just smiled and winked and said, "Yes, sometimes we forget we asked." A moment of clarity we will remember.

- One of the participants, Mary, who became one of our biggest advocates and members, told me early in our visits that she would often look out on the green space adjacent to our school. She would watch our students as they snowshoed and cross-country skied and it 'made her day' because 'that's all she had to do'. She was 90 years old and as our Maxwell-Dorset relationship grew she and several of our other iPad gang came over to the school to watch the school play- Peter Pan. They loved it naturally! She and another resident who is 88 began to come over to us on Tuesday afternoons in late Spring. They would sit on some comfy chairs and the kids would work all around them, painting or cutting and gluing and showing off their



Miss May and her tiara

creations. Mary and Liz always left with something to hang on their doors. On one occasion when they came one of our little guys with no front teeth and a big smile ran to Mary, gave her a big hug and said "You came back again!"

That made her year!

- On our visits occasionally we would venture up to the second floor of the building where the residents are in assisted living because they need a higher level of care. These residents have reduced mobility so tend to stay on this floor all the time. We would bring drawings and the younger kids would skip into their rooms, sing a song or two, share a picture and brighten their days. On one occasion we ended up in the middle of a huge birthday party for one lady who was turning 99. She even has her own iPad.

# Beechwood Gets a Visit from the Riverdale Links Program

By Mme Charlotte Flood



Mme Charlotte's grade 2 class were thrilled to have Riverdale's Links program visit their class-

room on November 28th. This high school leadership program, directed by Mr. Michael Gabe, had four Riverdale students come to Beechwood Elementary to teach the students how to make slime. They came prepared with all the necessary materials, including a slide show presentation. And what an amazing Sci-

ence lesson the students enjoyed! After explaining to the children the different states of matter, they got to experiment with different materials in order to make 'slime'. The Riverdale students were great teachers and provided excellent instructions for the students. It was a great afternoon and fun was had by all!



# Toys for a Cause: A Beechwood Community Fundraiser



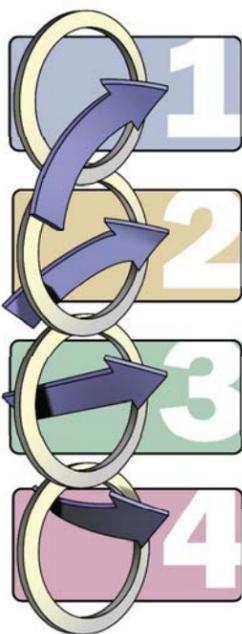
A huge "Thank you" goes out to our Beechwood daycare families. Through our community's generosity, we collected well over 300 new toys for the West Island

Assistance Fund with the hope of making the holiday season more magical for needy children. And we did! Our daycare students were asked to bring in a new toy to their holiday party - to be donated to a child in need within the West Island community. The stu-

dents were excited to be part of this endeavor. They learned that the spirit of giving can fulfill your own sense of caring. Once again, Beechwood families, thank you! You are sharing in such valuable lessons, all connected to our Values Program.



## 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

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	514-366-1611	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	Marc Lalonde	514-426-7124	4010
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	514-887-8876	2322
17	Pierrefonds West	Luisa Bulgarelli-Vero	514-694-0475	4017
18	Ste-Anne/Baie d'Urfé/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		January 21, 2013 5:30 p.m.	Board Room	
Council of Commissioners		January 28, 2013 7:30 p.m.	Board Room	



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](mailto:dmullins@lbpsb.qc.ca)

## Mending Broken Lines

by Suzanne Simatos



On November 14, 2012, all Lindsay Place High School (LPHS) students attended an assembly hosted by the LPHS Social Justice Team on First Nations People in Canada. The assembly was called "Mending Broken Lines". The goal was to create an awareness amongst our students about the impact residential schools had on first Nations People in Canada. Aboriginal children were removed from their families and sent away to schools for months and sometimes years. The people running these schools often abused the

children and some children even died. It was the hope that Aboriginal children would adopt Canadian ways. This was very destructive and consequently the Canadian Government has set up a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to look into the human rights violations that took place in Canadian Residential Schools.

The Buffalo Hat Singers performed songs and Norman Achneepinkum recounted his family's terrible experience attending residential schools and the long term negative impact it had on all of them.

For more information, please contact S. Simatos at: [ssimatos@lpsb.qc.ca](mailto:ssimatos@lpsb.qc.ca)

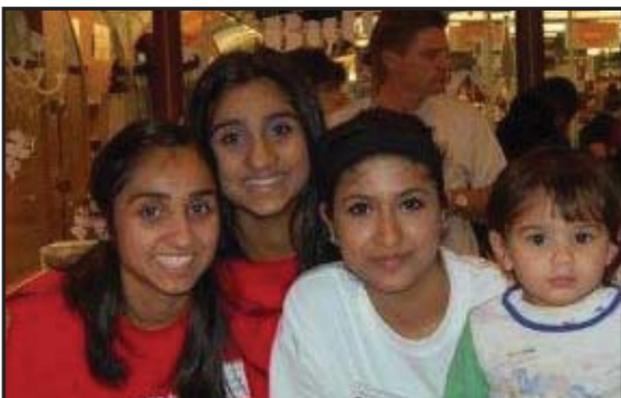


## Lindsay Place Wraps a Gift for the Lakeshore Hospital



Lindsay Place High School alumni, students and staff were thrilled to spend Saturday afternoon gift wrapping at Fairview

shopping center. Shoppers were happy to have their gifts wrapped for family and friends, and generously donated funds for the Lakeshore Hospital. They shared stories and shopping experiences while waiting.



## Visitors From China Include PEC on Their North American Tour

by Marie José Gélinas



On Wednesday, November 21st, a group of visitors from China enjoyed a guided tour of the Pearson Electro-Technology Center. Our guests were all employees of China Telecom, a firm responsible for providing telephony and internet services all over China. The visitors hailed from all different parts of the country and all worked in the area of customer service. Their travels took them to Washington, D.C., Toronto, and Montreal to visit various electro-technology schools and training centers. A Google search for a school in Montreal led them to discover PEC!

When the organizer of the tour initially contacted Mrs. Rousse, the secretary at PEC, to ask about visiting the center, he expressed

great interest in the Telecommunications Museum. The Museum was created in a classroom at PEC with equipment donated from NORTEL. During the past year, four volunteer retirees from NORTEL have invested countless hours installing equipment and displaying items that show the history of telephony from the late 19th century to date. The construction of the museum has been a successful collaboration between these devoted gentlemen, supported by PEC's telecommunications and electricity students and teachers. Our classes had a great opportunity for a real-life project as they installed the cables and conduits, completed wiring and set up the telecommunications network for the Museum.

As the Museum really is only one classroom, it became neces-

sary to divide the group of nineteen visitors accompanied by their interpreter. Half the group spent time with volunteer Mr. Ken Lyons, who introduced our guests to the evolution of telephone technology. From beautiful polished wood wall-mounted telephones (with a crank!) to the sturdy and reliable step-by-step system used in commercial environments until very recently, visitors could try out the equipment and get a good idea of how things worked, and how much they have evolved. Even though only a few of our guests understood English, Mr. Lyons' passion and enthusiasm for this project broke down all language barriers.

While some visitors toured the Museum, others were led on a guided tour of the Telecommunications and Computing Support areas of our center. RAC special-

ist Charbel Mourad, Pedagogical Consultant for the center Marie José Gélinas, telecommunications teacher Pierre Ostiguy as well as students Dominique Fortin and Gesklin Etienne introduced the visitors to the programs offered and the facilities in which our students learn. Dominique Fortin played the role of enthusiastic photographer. Our guests were very impressed with the facilities available for our students, and expressed the opinion that sixteen months was too short a period to be spending in such a rich environment. They were also surprised to hear that our programs are tuition free, and available to a wide diversity of learners of all ages.

At the end of the two and a half hour visit, our guests boarded the waiting bus with a friendly wave and a new perspective.



Mr. Ken Lyons with our visitors.



Mr. Lyons explaining the operator's role using early telephone technology.



With our guests from China Telecom in the Telecommunications Museum.



A trip down memory lane in the Telecommunications Museum.

## St. Anthony at We Day



On November 20th, thirteen selected students in grade 6 attend We Day with Mme. Hébert & Mme. St. Pierre. This yearly event hosted by Free the Children, was attended by students across Québec. This exciting day was both entertaining and inspiring. There were many motivational speakers from Roméo Dallaire, Sylvie Fréchette, Spencer West, Benoit Huit and many more. Many touching speeches were given and special guests from Kenya (Wilson and Jackson) were also on hand. There was also performances from Shawn Desman, Coeur de Pirate and Les Trois Accords. Not to mention Craig and Mark Kielburger! This special day was held to thank the students for all their hard work and dedication with Free the Children. This is a day we will not soon forget!



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<http://www.pearsonskills.com>

## Lindsay Place Students Perform at Lakeshore Hospital



The student performers are Brandan Cigana and Chelsea Jaramillo (both grade 10 etude students).