

Director General's Report to Council



by Michael Chechile



Elementary School Open Houses

February marks the start of our registration period for all children who are starting Kindergarten in the fall of 2016. Open houses were held over the last three weeks of January and the feedback has been positive and informative. A big thank you to all of our elementary schools; the work you put into your open houses was magnificent. Registration will take place at your local school, but if you have any questions regarding registration you can call our Admissions Team at 514-422-3000.

Annual Report

Tonight the council will consider adopting the Annual Report which includes the culmination of our 2010-2015 Strategic Plan. It reflects the considerable growth we have achieved over the lifetime of this plan. A great deal of planning has been put in place to guarantee success of every student. The results/initiatives are admirable. We owe our achievement and accomplishment of each student, to the parents, community, teachers, staff, administration, board office, council of commissioners, important partnerships and, of course, the students themselves.

This year's result of 87.3% exceeds our 2015 target of 85.5% and puts us well ahead of achieving the MESSR target.

Canada Carols

Just before the winter break, a number of our elementary schools participated in the Canada Carols challenge. The challenge, put forth by Montreal Canadiens P.K. Subban, was to get as many people, groups and organizations across Canada to film themselves singing popular holiday songs. Wilder Penfield, St. Anthony, St. Charles and Margaret Manson are a few who participated. All of their videos are up on our Twitter and Facebook pages.

School Visits

In December and January I had the pleasure once again of visiting our schools. At St. Paul Elementary, they proudly showed me around their outdoor learning classroom.

See CHECHILE page A2

LaSalle Community Comprehensive teams up with Youth Fusion and Ubisoft to create video game



Photo courtesy of LaSalle Community Comprehensive High School website - www.lcchs.lbpsb.qc.ca

by Christine Beaton

After years of being told to turn off their video games and go do their homework, a group of students in LaSalle recently found out that the two are one in the same.

LaSalle Community Comprehensive High School has recently teamed up with Youth Fusion and Ubisoft Montreal to create a mentorship program that teaches students how to make their own video game. There are five schools participating in the program in Quebec and, of them, LCCHS is the only Anglophone school.

"The Video Game Design Program was started by Youth Fusion. They are an organization that works to lower dropout rates and raise student perseverance by partnering with

universities and businesses to support schools with professional mentors and youth coordinators," said Matthew Albert, an Educational Consultant as Lester B. Pearson School Board. "[LCCHS was] selected to be a part of the program due to their needs and their willingness to incorporate the program into their Secondary 5 media class. The goal is to not be an after school program but to make learning relevant through working on projects with real world job experiences."

They are also incorporating a history component into the game production process. The theme of the game is 'New France'; students were given the task of researching the era and making that part of their finished product.

"The students are learning how much effort goes into the

video game design process from the initial concept all the way until completion. Students who used to question the decisions made by game designers in the past are now more sympathetic as they realize how much effort goes into planning and producing their game," said Albert. "The students have been working with a Youth Fusion Coordinator who is studying video game design in university. With the help of the coordinator, they have been learning how to build their games. A Ubisoft mentor will visit the school three times during the design period to help answer any questions and guide them in their development."

"Our ideas were really, they were really high so our standards are kind of, you know, downgraded a little bit," Jack Sklivas, a student from

LCCHS, told CTV earlier this month. "There's a lot of X and Y variables like what we learn in mathematics, and really it all comes together, it's all interconnected."

In April, the best game out of the eight produced in the class will be chosen to represent LCCHS in a competition with the other four schools participating. The games will be judged by Ubisoft employees on a range of categories.

"The goal is to continue the project in an earlier grade next year so that they have more time to build their skills and reach their potential throughout their high school experience," said Albert. "Hopefully the program encourages our students to pursue their passions and to continue their studies."

Pearson School of Culinary Arts one of the best in Canada

The Pearson School of Culinary Arts was recently listed in Maclean's Magazine as one of the best in the country by world-renowned chef Antonio Park of Park Restaurant. Park said he has hired many cooks who have graduated from the Pearson Adult and Career Centre culinary programs.

With programs ranging from bread making to restaurant management, the Pearson Adult and Career Centre is one of the best choices in Quebec when considering a career in the culinary arts.

PACC offers student-for-a-day programs to ensure that future students find the career path that best suits their needs. Also offered through Lester B. Pearson Continuing Education centres are personal, career and academic counselling. LBPCCE recognises that making the decision to go back to school can have a large impact on every aspect

of a student's life and aims to guide students through this big step. Financial aid is also available for students who are struggling to save the money necessary to go back to school.

The Lester B. Pearson Continuing Education website says that "the PACC community is 'boiling over' with pride at having been recognized as one of the

best cooking schools in Canada, one of the top two in Quebec. This is proof that tuition free public schools are a safe investment for your future." It goes on to say that, "passion and talent are key 'ingredients' for success in any vocational training program, but so too are perseverance, hard work and a professional attitude. These are

the competencies that PACC teachers and administration endeavour to foster in all our training programs. We know the importance of helping students develop these traits because industry places a high value on them when hiring our graduates."

Continuing Education doesn't only focus on mature



Photo courtesy of Lester B. Pearson Continuing Education website www.lbpcce.qc.ca

students; it also offers a transitions program for young adults aged 16 to 18 who are interested in a trade career. Their hope is to re-engage students who are at risk of dropping out of school by exposing them to the medley of options available that keep them in school, keep them learning and keep their interest piqued.

To see other programs that are offered, make an appointment with an advisor or apply to any Lester B. Pearson Continuing Education centre, visit www.lbpcce.qc.ca

Chairman's Report to Council



by Suanne Stein Day



Happy new year to all. I sincerely hope that 2016 is another year of increasing success for the students of Lester B. Pearson School Board.

The students, children and adults, are back in their classrooms and, though it feels like school just started, they are now focusing on the end game – on the goals and projects that need to be completed before the end of the school year. It's the beginning of the home stretch. I hope that they all feel engaged in their learning and have some fun along the way. It sure looks like that's happening! I'm seeing lots of interesting projects going on like the Investigation into Human Rights at Children's World, the Robotics Team at Mac High and the new Ubisoft project at LCCHS, where students will not only learn about game development, but also programming, teamwork, leadership and entrepreneurship!

While 2015 was a difficult year, with record budget cuts, labour negotiations and strike days, major school change and school board proposed legislations, it also showed us how our communities can band together with the best interest of the students in mind. Whether it was human chains around the schools or the banding together of the school communities through major school change, I have to say I'm pretty proud of the pride that everyone showed in their schools.

Tonight we will be presented with a number of resolutions representing some difficult decisions for Council. We have heard the voices of our community loud and clear, and also realize our responsibility of providing the highest quality education for ALL students under the restrictions of very tight budget rules. For instance, the board cannot choose to run a deficit budget without approval from the ministry. Our options are limited.

I only know one thing for sure – whatever happens, our teachers and staff are committed to looking out for the students under any and all circumstances.

We will be reaching out to our communities often in the next few months. Our Government is committed to reaching out to our communities often in the next few months. Our Government is committed to reaching out to our communities often in the next few months.



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>

Chechile,
from page A1

A few days later I read 'If You Give a Mouse an iPhone' to a group of students at St. Lawrence Academy Jr.

At Edgewater, the staff showcased the impressive art skills of their students; a peace-promoting mural, papier maché masks and a colourful 'buddy bench'.

I went back to my roots as a teacher when I was given the opportunity to teach part of a math class at St. Edmund Elementary; the students were fascinated by 'fraction bingo'.

To finish off December, I was invited to St. Patrick's for a turkey lunch served by amazing staff and volunteers, and attended a very special assembly at Wilder Penfield Elementary where they collected gifts and warm clothing for the students of St. Lawrence Jr. and Sr.

The generosity of the students did not stop there. They also raised \$2,100 to donate to the Korsos family, whose daughter, Sandrine, suffers from Spina Bifida and needed an adapted van. The spirit of giving is truly alive and well in our schools.

In January I visited Allion where I saw their Read and Ride initiative, participated in a Google hangout with Ms. Jennifer Grade 1 class at Clearpoint, and at MacDonald High School, I toured the school and saw many of the initiatives from robotics to the digital learning.

At St. Lawrence Sr, their passionate staff showed off their incredible diversity in the form of murals and artwork around the school.

Most recently I visited Children's World Academy, whose grade six classes put on their IB Exhibition on Human Rights. The presentations were very inspiring and reminded me that our future is in very good hands. I also want to congratulate the Pearson School of Culinary Arts at PACC for being named by MacLean's magazine as one of Canada's best cooking schools

Staff Appreciation

During the second week of February, we celebrate our wonderful staff for constantly providing the best education to the students across our board. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all that you do for each of our students. I am honoured to be part of a hard working, innovative, dedicated and always supportive team. Thank you.

Clearpoint Elementary IB PYP Summit: Where We Are in Place and Time



The first thing you notice about Clearpoint Elementary are the winding, colourful hallways, seemingly always bustling with students who are all calm, respectful and ready to learn.

"You'll notice that there is a green stripe painted on the walls," said Guy Walker, the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme coordinator at Clearpoint. "It represents the pathway to inquiry."

Clearpoint, a small elementary school on a quiet street in Pointe-Claire, is home to one of only two running IB Primary Years Programmes in the Lester B. Pearson School Board. The IB program is designed to teach students to be well-rounded in their education. Clearpoint's website has a breakdown of the 'learner's profile' that includes ten characteristics a student should strive for; they should be inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced and reflective.

"It's not only grade six," said Rachel Wilson, the school's friendly and welcoming principal. "The whole entire school from K to six is involved in the

program. It's really great."

As part of their IB project, the grade six students of Clearpoint hosted a summit with the theme 'Where We Are in Place and Time'. The summit aimed to explain how different parts of our world have changed over time using the learner's profile. Some of these included the environment, technology, health, agriculture, exercise and sports. The school paired up with the Pearson Partnership Program in order to find guest speakers to come make 20 to 30 minute presentations to the students.

"We brainstormed with the kids a couple of months ago and talked about what they wanted to learn about," said Nancy Battet, coordinator of the PPP, "then we reached out to our community partners to see if they were interested in coming to speak to the children [...] I find it very rewarding, everyone loves to help."

David Meloche, Director of Schools for Region 3, opened the summit with a short presentation and then sent the kids off to speak with presenters in groups of five to ten.

Larry Fagan and Claudiu Scotnotis, professors in John Abbott

College's Computer Science department, taught students about the advancement of computer software. Fagan asked students where they would go to get a book; while some answered, "a bookstore," one student told the presenters that his parents shopped for books online. Fagan explained that convenience and availability have a huge impact on the way that we shop in today's society, leading many people to forgo the day trip to the mall on Saturday and instead just order their purchases online.

Sarah Dixon and Scott Pemberton, who work for the Morgan Arboretum in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, were teaching their students about the changes in the environment over the past decade, century and millennium. The students were especially interested in the effects that greenhouse gases had on the planet and asked very probing questions about a theory one student called 'environmental debt'.

"We're using up more than we're making," he explained.

"That is absolutely true," said Dixon. "You're very smart!"

Kyle Petrunik, who was helping to explain the changes in aviation engineering to a group

of students as part of a group called Let's Talk Science, said he normally spoke to groups of adults but liked the change of audience.

"I'm having a great time. It's different doing [a presentation] for a young audience but it's much more fun, actually," he said. "The students are so interested and are coming up with amazing questions - questions adults couldn't even come up with."

The students were especially interested in what astronauts ate while they were in space. "Chips are probably not a good idea," explained Petrunik. "Too many crumbs."

After making trips to three different presentations, the students went back to the library where they were able to thank their presenters and make suggestions for the next summit. This summit was used to gather information that will be presented at a larger exhibition presented by students at the end of February.

All teachers and presenters were in agreement when the possibility of having longer presentations was brought up.

"That is definitely something we can do," said Wilson. "We have very bright children at Clearpoint."



Stein Day,
from page A1

erning Boards have been asked for input to our Administrative Staffing process, to let us know of their priorities for the Criteria of their Principal. The budget consultation will be launched tonight and we look forward to hearing your thoughts on where we should or should not focus our spending. Registration for Kindergarten and new students starts next week. Open houses for our elementary schools have started. Your input remains critical to these processes.



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Children's World Academy Human Rights IB PYP Exhibition a huge success

by Sonia Bouchard
IB PYP Coordinator
Children's World Academy

The Children's World Academy Grade 6 students' PYP exhibition about the Human Rights Declaration and its application on January 21, 2016 was a great success.

Students inquired about the Human Rights Declaration, the organizations with the mandate to protect the Human Rights, and the application of the Human Rights Declaration around the world.

Their presentations clearly demonstrated that they were

knowledgeable and great communicators.

Students were engaged in a collaborative process since the month of November. They were able to communicate effectively in English and French on their different topics.

A variety of topics were explored: the right of opinion, child justice, security in times of war and many more.

This exhibition had a positive impact on the students, the teachers and our CWA community.

This year we had the pleasure to have amongst our guests the General Director, Mr. M.

Chechile, the Chairperson, Mrs. S. Stein Day and Mr. T. Rhymes, Senior Director from the Lester B. Pearson School Board.

Everyone who attended gained information on diverse articles that are part of the Declaration of Human Rights, how sometimes they are violated and encourage everyone to take action and "Be the Change".

We hope students will take action and continue to inform their community.

Congratulations for a job well done Grade 6!



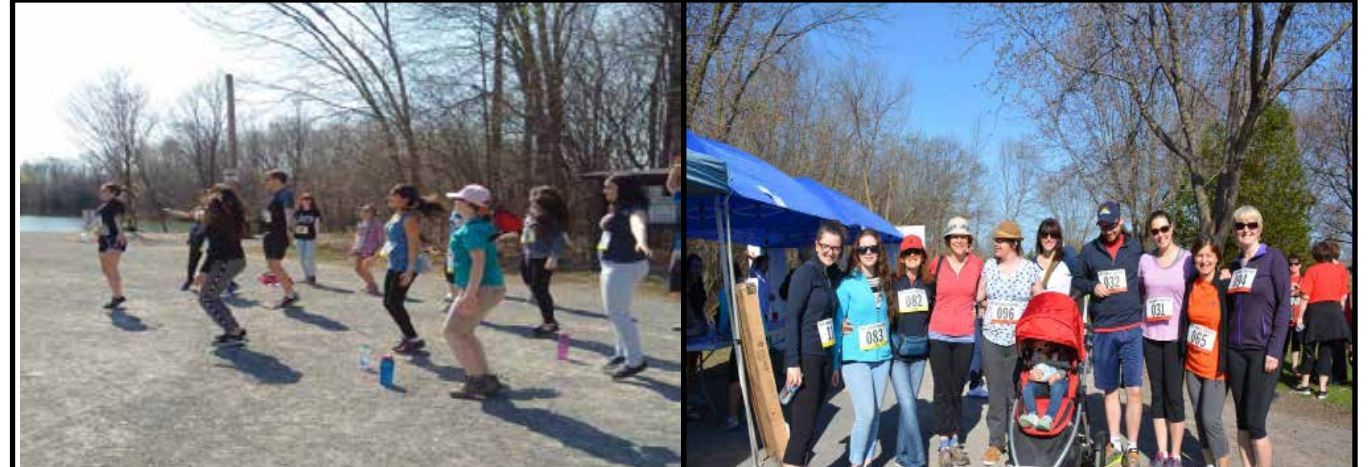
Save the Date: Pearson Educational Foundation Fun

This year's Fun Run - or walk - hosted by the Pearson Educational Foundation will take place on May 1, 2016.

Last year the foundation put on a 2km and 5km fun run and raised \$2,500. They made registration easier by introducing on-

line sign-up and were surprised to find out that almost 85% of their participants used the on-line registration method.

This year they hope to surpass last year's number of participants, which was a little over 300. Keep up-to-date on registration information at the PEF website or Fun Run Facebook page!



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TOPS 2016 #next!

Elizabeth Mugisha: TOPS performer, PACC student

"I didn't know that!" Elizabeth Mugisha laughs after a TOPS production assistant informs her that she is the only singer representing a Continuing Education school in the board-wide variety show this year. "That's pretty cool!"

Mugisha was born in Kigali, Rwanda and moved to Canada when she was 17 years old.

She started attending Pearson Adult Career Centre with the hopes of finishing her diploma and moving forward to college and university.

"I'm going to Dawson next year and after that, hopefully, medical school," she said. "I know it's going to be hard but I think I can do it."

She says her hopes of getting into medical school stem from

her mother, who developed asthma when Mugisha was very young.

"I had to take care of her and that inspired me to become a doctor. I've wanted to be a doctor since I was a little girl, that's all I've ever wanted to be."

As for her experiences with singing, it all started in Sunday School at the age of three.

"I'm used to singing gospel songs. I started singing at church when I was very young and I never stopped after that."

This is Mugisha's first year doing TOPS and said that auditioning was a split-second decision but she's glad she made the choice.

"So far TOPS has been really fun. I never learned how to read notes and we're doing that now

so I'm learning a lot and maybe that will help me progress with singing in the future."

The TOPS variety show will be held in the spring, meaning a lot more practices and a lot more learning for Mugisha and her fellow singers and dancers.

When asked what she was most surprised about when first moving to Canada, she gave a typically Canadian answer.

"I came here in January. There was snow everywhere! I had only ever seen it in movies, I was so excited to see it for real. I still like when it snows!"

Career Fair at Dorval Elementary

By Nancy Battet

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to glimpse into various professions?

What would an inside look teach you about yourself, and that line of work?

Well, the grade 5 and the grade six students at Dorval Elementary had that very opportunity.

On Friday, December 4th, the cycle 3 students participated in their very first Career Fair!

Seven community partners held 25 minute workshops in hopes to enlighten the students about possible career interests.

The workshops included Health and Medical Care, Science, Mechanics, Interior De-

sign, Law and Justice, Environmental and Wildlife, and Culinary/Pastry Chef.

The Fair was the cumulative activity to a Skills Workshop that the students have been a part of since early November led by Nancy Battet and Ashley Foot.

The workshop was extremely well received and incurred many discussions.

The cycle 3 teachers will continue this project throughout the school year by inviting individuals with a variety of careers.



Introducing your TOPS 2016 cast

ELISABETH MUGISHA

TOPS 2016
#next!

TOPSLive.org

PACC ADULT

Lindsay Place to hold STEAM² information session

by Christine Beaton

Lindsay Place High School started applying the STEAM approach to their curriculum at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year. The approach is simple: it applies science, technology, engineering, arts and math to everyday learning. One of the first high schools in the Lester B. Pearson School Board to have the STEAM program, Lindsay Place super-charged it and added a marketing component, making it STEAM².

The program is designed to give students a multi-faceted approach to learning by acknowledging that in the working world, students will be assigned projects that involve many components. The high school aims to make sure their students are more than prepared for the day these projects are presented to them.

"We need to engage our students," Lindsay Place principal Dona Bianchi told The Ga-

zette. "We're competing with a lot out there is the real world. The basics will always be important, but we have to explore beyond the traditional teaching methods. Technology is in the classroom more and more."

In order to give the community a chance to see what STEAM² is all about, Lindsay Place will be holding an information session the night of January 27. They offer a unique array of classes, including forensic science and marine biology. They also integrate technology into every facet of their teaching; from using Chromebooks in the classroom to creating their very own green screen so students can create visual backgrounds for their projects.

The school has invited four guest speakers to talk to the community about how STEAM² is applicable to real world professional situations. Brian Ewenson works for NASA and the

Canadian Space Agency and will speak to the group via Skype. Isabel Deslauriers will be present to talk about the Let's Talk Science program. Brandon Robinson works for Aquatico, a company that designs underwater cameras, and Scott Pemberton will be there to talk about his research at the Morgan Arboretum.

STEAM² isn't the only fun thing happening at Lindsay Place. The school has also partnered with Concordia University's John Molson School of Business and its RISE program, designed to raise interest in student entrepreneurship. This year, two Lindsay Place students won first place for a project on social media organized by the group.

To find out more information about the STEAM² program, visit the Lindsay Place High School website at lindsayplace.lbpsb.qc.ca

PEF Newsletter

by Barbara Freeston

Sometimes PEF gets lucky, and we do a whole lot of good without spending any of our money, just by being in the right place at the right time. This winter, we connected a few dots for an absolutely exciting project: a library for PACC (Pearson Adult and Career Centre, Adult Ed) in Lasalle.

Despite the fact that adult literacy and adults finishing high school are what adult education centres do, Quebec does not fund libraries for centres. PEF received a request from a group of teachers at PACC to help with setting up a lending library of literacy labs and easy-reader versions of the classics. The teachers will man the library on a volunteer basis.

PEF approached our partner organization, "Community Born To Read". These dedicated retired teachers and principals work tirelessly, engaging low-literacy mothers in reading with their tots. Enthusiastical-

ly, BTR embarked upon providing the easy-readers, plus an inventory of children's books for the library, book-bags for the new mothers and mothers-to-be enrolled at the school, and long-term maintenance for the books

Our operations manager, Sue Grand, suggested the teachers check out the spare LBP furniture housed at LCCHS: Presto! The library was furnished at no cost. Another supporter is the Interior Decorating and Visual Display class at SACC (Sources Adult and Career Centre); they are developing the layout for the furniture.

When time came to order the readers, the drop in the value of the Canadian dollar delivered an ugly punch. Once again, a phone call from Sue to Sophie Bourassa, pedagogical consultant at supplier PEARSON ERPI gained us another awesome supporter, and a rebate to last year's prices!!!

PEF continues to work

with Overture with the Arts. OWTA's dynamic Executive-Director Akilah Newton is a never-ending source of creative endeavours delivering workshops and classes in the performing arts to the students of the LBPSB, particularly in the Pierrefonds-Roxboro sector of our board.

Now she has forged a partnership with the WIMA (West Island Music Academy) to offer 2 scholarships, administered through PEF, to gifted music students who would not be able to afford private instrument lessons. We are looking for a whole lot of application essays!!

And finally, I cannot end this newsletter without extending the HUGEST THANK YOU EVER to our long-time generous donor: The Trottier Family Foundation. Once again this winter, we are able to grant a wealth of technology and robotics tools to many many schools thanks to the Trottier support.



The Special Needs Advisory Committee (SNAC) is pleased to present a Special Event for Parents:

Tuesday, February 2nd, 2016 at 7:00pm
LBPSB Head Office, 1925 Brookdale Avenue, Dorval

**An IEP Journey:
A Parent to Parent Perspective**

Individual Education Plans (IEPs) can be an essential tool to ensure the success of students with special needs.

Together we will share our experiences and explore how the IEP can be used most effectively and how we can best advocate for our children.

Please confirm your attendance by leaving your name and the name of your child's school via email to the Special Needs Advisory Committee at snac@lbpearson.ca

111 Broadview | Pointe Claire, H9R 3Z3 | (514) 694-2760
<http://lindsayplace.lbpsb.qc.ca/>

LINDSAY PLACE IS GEARING UP FOR...



FEATURING 4 Special Guest Speakers on STEAM²:

- CSA/NASA Aerospace Educator Brian Ewenson via Skype
- Let's Talk Science National Coordinator Isabel Deslauriers
- Aquatico Res & Development Head Brandon Robinson
- Morgan Arboretum Research & Forest Operations/Naturalist Scott Pemberton

And including ...

- Cutting-edge Google classroom demos
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- 21st Century Library: Green Room & Technology
- Quantum Enriched Program Q&A station
- Forensic Science & Marine Biology station
- Plus much more!

Enjoy homemade treats in our café & live music by student musicians! Take a fun sleigh ride!

We welcome back old friends and look forward to meeting new ones from all over!

Come discover what the **buzz** is all about!
Wednesday, Jan 27, 2016 6:00 - 8:30 PM



Below is a list of Commissioners along with their school board locals.

Ward	Communities	Commissioner	(514) 422-3000 Local
Chairman	All	Suanne Stein Day	30101
1	Lasalle/Verdun	Mary Ann Davis	30121
2	Lasalle/Lachine	Frank Di Bello	30122
3	Lachine/Dorval	Joshua Arless	30123
4	Pointe-Claire	Noel Burke	30102
5	Pierrefonds-Roxboro	Nan Beaton	30125
6	Dollard-des-Ormeaux	Craig Berger	30126
7	Kirkland/Dollard	Laura Derry	30127
8	Beaconsfield	Martin Sherman	30128
9	Pointe-Claire/Beaconsfield/Baie d'Urfé/Ste. Anne	Eric Bender	30129
10	Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue/Île-Perrot	Domenic Pavone	30130
11	Off-Island North	Daniel Olivenstein	30131
12	Off Island South	Wayne Clifford	30132
Parent		Sharad Bhargava	30164
Parent		Sandra Buckingham	30163
Parent		Frank Clarke	30161
Parent		Michael Nalecz	30162
Student		Cierra Leitman	
Student		Tyler Nacke	
Executive Committee	Monday, February 15	5:30 p.m.	Board Room
Council of Commissioners	Monday, February 22	7:30 p.m.	Board Room