



Commission scolaire
Lester-B. Pearson

PEARSON NEWS

LESTER B. PEARSON SCHOOL BOARD

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FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL & THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

March 30, 2009

RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

FÉLICITATIONS

À titre de directeur général, j'ai tous les jours l'occasion de saluer le travail des élèves et du personnel de notre commission scolaire. Je sais que des événements éducatifs vraiment remarquables ont lieu partout, souvent seulement marqués par la réponse enthousiaste d'un élève ou les remerciements sincères d'un parent. Un événement très spécial a eu lieu récemment et j'aimerais le souligner.

Le *Youth Humanitarian Summit* à l'école secondaire Saint Thomas a réuni quatre cents élèves anglophones et francophones de la région de Montréal, de l'Ouest du Québec et de Terre-Neuve pour se pencher sur les actions humanitaires pouvant être entreprises pour régler les questions sociales qui affligent notre monde. Cet événement a exigé des efforts gigantesques de la part du personnel qui l'a organisé; ils méritent toute notre admiration pour cette superbe réalisation.

Le spectacle de variétés **TOPS**, aura encore lieu à Lakeside Academy les 24 et 25 avril. Cet événement annuel organisé par le Comité central des élèves, met en vedette les talents artistiques exceptionnels d'élèves des quatre coins de la commission scolaire, et le spectacle a fait honneur aux élèves qui l'organisent. Je remercie à l'avance tous les enseignants et le personnel qui les soutiennent.

DOTATION EN PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATIF

Nous avons travaillé diligemment à ce processus ces dernières semaines et nous comptons présenter les changements proposés au Conseil à la séance du 27 avril prochain. Il s'agit d'un processus complexe grâce auquel nous tentons de faire correspondre les souhaits de la communauté tels que soumis par le conseil d'établissement avec les besoins de la commission scolaire.

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

CONGRATULATIONS

In my role as Director General, I have the daily opportunity to salute the efforts of students and staff of our school board. I know that truly remarkable learning events take place through the system, often being marked only by the enthusiastic response of a student or the sincere thanks from a parent. A very special event has taken place recently that I wish to highlight.

The *Youth Humanitarian Summit* at Saint Thomas High School brought together four hundred English and French secondary students from across the Montréal area as well as from western Québec and Newfoundland to focus on actions that could be taken to address the social and humanitarian issues that plague our world. This involved tremendous efforts on the part of staff organizers who deserve our most sincere admiration for a superb achievement.

The **TOPS Student Variety Show** will again take place at Lakeside Academy on April 24-25. This annual event organized by the Central Students' Committee, showcases the outstanding artistic talents of students from across the Board, a very real tribute to those students who are organizing this event and my thanks in advance to all teachers and staff that continue to lend their support.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFFING

We have been working diligently on this process for the past several weeks and anticipate presenting proposed changes to Council at the April 27, 2009 meeting. This is a complex process in which the expressed wishes of the school community submitted by the Governing Board and the overall needs of the system must be matched.

...FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

BUDGET 2009-2010

Nous avons reçu récemment les règles budgétaires préliminaires du MELS et nous les étudions avec attention afin d'élaborer le budget de la Commission scolaire pour l'année qui vient. Lorsqu'une analyse complète aura été effectuée et les règles définitives auront été émises, une proposition de budget sera soumise au Conseil.

CÉLÉBRATIONS DU 10^e ANNIVERSAIRE

Afin de souligner le dixième anniversaire de la Commission scolaire Lester-B.-Pearson, un certain nombre d'activités créatives ont été réalisées dans des écoles et plusieurs autres sont prévues pour le printemps. Si l'on considère la jeune histoire de notre commission scolaire, il est très remarquable que plusieurs organismes ayant des cultures très diversifiées aient pu fusionner avec un tel succès. Cette expérience tend à démontrer que, lorsque les besoins des jeunes sont la priorité, de grandes choses deviennent possibles.

LA BOURSE D'ÉTUDES RIVA ET THOMAS HECHT

Nous félicitons deux de nos enseignantes, Keren Cohen de l'école Thorndale et Kirsten Nielsen de l'école LaSalle Community Comprehensive High School, qui ont reçu des bourses pour participer au programme de perfectionnement pour enseignants Yad Vashem, des séminaires pour éducateurs étrangers, à l'École internationale pour l'étude de la Shoah en Israël. Ces bourses sont dues à la générosité de la *Thomas and Riva Hecht Foundation*.

10^e TOURNOI DE GOLF ANNUEL DE LA FONDATION PEARSON POUR L'ÉDUCATION

Ce merveilleux tournoi, la source la plus importante de fonds pour la Fondation, est prévu le jeudi 25 juin 2009 au Club de golf de Lachute. Chaque année, les fonds recueillis grâce à cet événement sont distribués aux écoles pour soutenir une grande variété de projets innovateurs. Nous vous invitons à visiter notre site Web pour plus de détails.



BUDGET 2009-2010

Preliminary Budget Rules have been received recently from MELS and are being studied intensively in order to develop the Board's budget for the coming year. Once a complete analysis has been carried out and the final rules issued, a budget proposal will be presented to Council.

10th YEAR CELEBRATIONS

In order to mark the tenth year of operation of the Lester B. Pearson School Board, a number of very creative activities have been carried out at individual schools and many more are planned for the Spring period. Looking back over the brief history of our Board, it is quite remarkable that school board organizations with very diverse organizational cultures could be brought together with such success. This experience would seem to point out that, when the needs of youth are the prime consideration, great achievements are possible.

THE RIVA & THOMAS HECHT SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations are extended to two of our teachers, Keren Cohen of Thorndale School, and Kirsten Nielsen of LaSalle Community Comprehensive High School, both of whom have been awarded bursaries to attend the Professional Development Program for Teachers, Yad Vashem, Seminars for Educators from Abroad, International School for Holocaust Studies in Israel. These bursaries are made available through the generosity of the Thomas and Riva Hecht Foundation.

10th ANNUAL PEARSON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

This wonderful tournament, the primary source of funds of the Foundation, is scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 2009, at the Lachute Golf & Country Club. Each year, funds raised by this event are distributed to schools to support a wide variety of innovative projects. Please visit the website for details.



Beurling Academy's

"Eat So They Can - The Global Dinner Party for a Cause Charity Event"

Chris Lefebvre, a student in Secondary 3 organized an event entitled, "Eat So They Can - The Global Dinner Party for a Cause." "Eat So They Can is an international fundraiser that invites citizens of the world to participate in what is collectively one huge dinner party, where something as simple as sharing a meal with friends can help stop child poverty. The event is co-initiative of the Global Volunteer Network (GVN) and the GVN Foundation."

The dinner party took place on the evening of Wednesday, February 25th, 2009 in Richie's Cafe at Beurling Academy. Staff, students and guests supported the event by shopping, cooking, preparing, cleaning, baking, attending, sponsoring students and promoting the event in their classes. A delicious meal was served and we all enjoyed a very pleasant evening together.

We met our goal and raised \$300.00 in one night for the African Children's Fund which will aid children in all the programs in Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and South Africa that GVN currently supports. In addition to the \$300.00, the Lefebvre family fundraised \$100.00. We recently mailed off a cheque for \$400.00 to the GVN Foundation!



WAY TO GO BEURLING ACADEMY!

Tamara Beach, Cycle 1 ERC Teacher



Picture above:

*A few of our Chefs for the evening!
From left to right: Mike Loiseau,
Jacob Weiss, Richie Klimas and
student, Michael Dube with the
very popular homemade Lasagna!*

Picture left:

*Back row: Chris Lefebvre (in
the white polo shirt) with his
family.*

*Front row: Some of our students
enjoying the homemade lasagna
with one of their teachers, Ms.
Reynard.*

GREENDALE CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Greendale students presented a Historic Journey in recognition of Black History month. Students from all grade levels worked with Sylvia Jones, one of our Daycare educators, during their recesses and lunches throughout the month of January to promote an appreciation and understanding of the length and strength of the journey over the years. They acted, sang, recited speeches, poetry and even danced throughout the afternoon. The journey took us from 1608 with Mathieu D'Acosta, the first Black man in Canada, to the ending of slavery in 1834 to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's famous speech ending with the inauguration of President Barack Obama.



Mr. Peter Martin, a representative from the United States Consulate, came to speak to the school about the new president and the friendly ties between Canada and the United States. He gave out pins, flags and a poster to students. The Consulate will be donating books about American history to Greendale.



Parents, Staff and other students were impressed with the music and speeches presented at the February 26th Assembly. The message was delivered most clearly by Emilie, a Grade 1 student:

"It doesn't matter if you are big or small or black or white. We are all the same! We are like a big family."

Joanne Perreault and Dona Bianchi



ALLION SCHOOL CELEBRATES ST. PATRICK'S DAY



This special event was hosted by our Grade 6 students, and among the invitees were the Blue Haven Cloggers, singers Christine and Lisa Forget, the grandparents of our grade 6 students as well as seniors from Windhaven Seniors Resident, HOPE Society, Meals on Wheels and the Royal Canadian Legion.

*Angela Santini
Administrative Assistant*



Clément Aplati: **CWA receives letters from around the world**

At Children's World Academy, before the March Break, the Grade 2 students embarked on the **Clément Aplati** project. As part of their unit of inquiry "*Les secrets de ma boîte à lettres*", the students and the teachers read a funny book called **Clément Aplati** by Jeff Brown.

It is about a young boy named Clément who, while he is asleep, accidentally gets squished when a bulletin board falls on him. He is completely flattened but otherwise fine. His family did not have enough money to send him on a train or plane to visit a friend in California, so they decided to fold Clément and place him in a large

envelope and mail him! Our classes decided that we would do the same with our **Clément Aplati**. Students and parents from CWA, mailed their **Clément Aplati** (each student had created one) from all around the world. We received Cléments from Spain, Singapore, Dominican Republic, Florida, Arizona, India, Jamaica, and they continue to come in ... We are very excited about this project that will continue until June.

Louise Roberge
2nd Grade Teacher

A l'école Children's World les élèves de 2^e année ont débuté un projet très excitant juste avant la semaine de relâche. Dans le cadre de notre module de recherche sur la poste (IB) nous avons lu aux élèves **Clément Aplati** de Jeff Brown.



C'est l'histoire d'un petit garçon qui est accidentellement frappé par un babillard durant son sommeil. Il devient alors très plat mais à part ça il est en pleine forme. Sa famille, n'ayant pas d'argent pour l'envoyer en visite chez un ami qui habite la Californie, décide de poster Clément dans une grande enveloppe. Nous avons donc décidé de créer notre

Clément Aplati et de le faire voyager avec l'aide de nos parents et amis. Nous avons déjà reçu des Cléments de l'Espagne, de Singapour, de la République Dominicaine, de la Floride, de l'Arizona, de l'Inde et la Jamaïque et ça continue... Ce projet est une réussite que nous voulions vous faire partager.

Louise Roberge
Enseignante de 2^e année

Montreal Alouettes at Sunshine Academy



On March 16th, the students and staff of Sunshine Academy were very excited to welcome six players from the Montreal Alouettes Football Team. Anwar Stewart, Jeff Perrett, Bryan Chiu, Scott Flory, John Bowman and Skip Seagraves talked to students about how hard work, determination, setting goals and making the right choices helped them to realize their dreams. The students then cheered as the staff and the players engaged in a friendly game of basketball. Everyone went home with autographed football cards and happy memories.

*Marie Wahba
Principal*



Our First "Arts" Show at Beurling Academy

Our Drama and Dance Departments held their first ever combined arts show just before the break, called an "Arts Bash" and we definitely think it was a "smash." A large crowd in our auditorium was on hand to see dance teacher Miss Jessica Mender's dance students entertain us with various dance numbers to the sounds of some funky hip-hop sounds.

Mr. James Colley's drama students gave us drama pieces that were intense and put the audience in a state of discomfort with timely themes, which is the way theatre is supposed to be.

The evening began, with masked students getting our attention in a darkened theatre, by walking up the aisles loudly asking the audience, "Why are you talking."

The finale saw all students on stage in an innocent plug for the upcoming school musical, "Fame", to be held in mid-May. We sure are looking forward for that one.

We would like to congratulate teachers Miss Jessica Mender and James Colley, and all those involved in putting this arts show together. It was a great evening of entertainment.

Bob Dubois



Pictured above are some of the dance numbers during the Arts show



Pictured above is the finale promoting the upcoming school drama, "Fame".



Seen above is a scene from one of the drama numbers

Storytelling at St. Edmund

Once upon a time in the land of St. Edmund School there were two enchanted fairies, Mme Crérar and Mrs. Jones. The enchanted fairies had three classes of Cycle Two elves who magically transformed into grand storytellers. Each elf in grade three and four prepared an English story for their classroom. After all the elves presented their stories, the elves took a vote. On Friday, February 13th the top three storytellers from each class participated in the finals of the very first Storytelling Festival.

The nine storytellers all gathered in the gym to share their stories in front of the entire school. Everyone was so excited. Our judges, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Carroll, Mrs. Cavaliere, Mrs. Lamorte and Mr. Garafalo listened attentively to the budding orators interpret their favourite published stories.



The top two storytellers will go on to compete in the grand finale in spring with other Lester B. Pearson schools. In the meantime all the Cycle Two elves are busy preparing more tales to be presented in French.

Congratulations go out to the nine English story teller finalists:

Jessica Benette, Liam Burchell Reyes, Juliana Classen, Sheldon Malboeuf, Madison Moore, Liam Pantis, Ryan Richardson, Lily Strickland and Ryley Tennant.

A big thank you to the judges and to the two fairies that initiated the wonderful Storytelling Festival.

And they all lived happily ever after in the land of St. Edmund School.

The End.

Bonne chance à tous.

Ella Peplowski



Westpark Students Make LOVE BRACELETS

This project is being done by the “Friendship Club”, a group of about twenty-five grade two, three and four students that meet once a week at lunch time to work on friendship skills, kindness and caring about others. The target group for the project is the “Free the Children” organization. A few representatives from “Free the Children” came to speak to the students about the plight of many children in other parts of the world. The Friendship Club students decided that they would like to donate some money to “Free the Children” to make it possible for poor children in other parts of the world to get a better chance in life. The money would go toward building a school and a well, so that people of the village could have clean, safe drinking water.



“We like doing this project because it is a lot of fun, it makes us feel good about doing it. When you help people, you feel good about it: you are being nice to people and they appreciate it. When you help people, it makes the world a better place. Also, when you help someone, you will always remember that you helped to make a better world.



We have fun making and selling stuff, like making our love bracelets. We learned that we can have fun making things with friends. Doing that makes us also appreciate more of what we have. It is fun to work as a team to do something good. Also, we feel proud and happy to be able to help other people. It is really wonderful to think about others, and not wanting more and more things for ourselves. We wish that we could do lots more stuff for our fundraiser. We can't because the grade six students are already doing some of the things that we thought that we could do.”
Friendship Club students

*Arsinoee Quamme
Spiritual Animator*



Cross-Country Ski Loppett



The Lester B Pearson School Board Elementary Loppett was held in Late February at Les Cèdres. There were over 250 participants from grades 4-6. The weather cooperated and the course was very fast. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped out on and off the course.

The Cross-Country Ski Loppett success is due to the efforts of everyone involved, volunteers, teacher, organizers and student participants. It was a great day!

*Scott G. Taylor
Pedagogical Consultant*



Westpark students use Stop-Motion Animation technique to promote ethical and moral issues

Through a generous grant by the Pearson Educational Foundation, Westpark students are working collaboratively in using the stop-motion animation technique to communicate ethical and moral issues. Sue Connery, Grade 5 and Media teacher, works with the teachers and students to produce the masterpieces. The students physically manipulate objects creating the illusion of movement. Some of the topics have been pollution, recycling, tolerance, respect and drinking abuse. The goal of the project is to educate and promote “respect and understanding.”

“Today, we advanced a lot in our video. In total we have 173 pictures of our 2 scenes. One hundred and seventy three photos may seem like a lot, but honestly it’s not. Our slogan; Reality Bites, it’s the pollution evolution, was copied by another group, so in the end we both had nearly the same slogan. This catchy slogan has not been added in the video yet, but by next class, it will. Hopefully we will finish with a fantastic stop-animation movie.” Jason F., Grade 6

*Michael Chechile
Principal*



THE SPIRIT OF CREATIVITY AT EVERGREEN!

Evergreen students had a special treat during the month of January. At the invitation of **Art Teacher Joanne Murdoch**, cartoon artist Michel Grant spent one week in the school instructing the children on the spirit and techniques of cartoon drawing. M. Grant's classes were really lively, funny and informative and students could hardly wait to apply what they had learned to their own drawings. Everyone was very excited with the results.

This great project was made possible by a substantial grant from the **Culture in the Schools** program, under Suzanne Nesbitt, Educational Consultant; it can provide up to 75% of the expenses for such undertakings. Both Joanne and Suzanne emphasized how easy the application process was.

On her school website, from the Art Room, Joanne had written a quote from the Getty Education Institute, *"The arts are invaluable to students' education because they play an important role in preparing students for work and life..."* She trusts that experiences such as these will prove the truth of these words by allowing her students to explore and express their artistic potential, while at the same time inspiring both their confidence and creativity.

*Linda Choinière
Spiritual Animator*



Joanne Murdoch and Suzanne Nesbitt

MUNSCH-A-LOT LITERACY BLITZ AT ST. CHARLES

Every year St. Charles holds a literacy blitz that aims to instill a love of reading in our students. St. Charles held its annual literacy blitz earlier this year and what a blitz it was! This year's theme was "Munsch-a-Lot" in honor of Robert Munsch. Robert Munsch is one of North America's best-selling children's authors whose books are staples of any child's library.



To start things off, K and cycles 1 & 2 visited the Robert Munsch exhibition at the McCord Museum. The blitz then intensified for a full week of special activities including:

- **Robert Munsch Book Poster** – Students created a poster featuring a picture of themselves with their favorite Robert Munsch book.
- **Reading Buddies** – Students from different grades got together to read.
- **Story Telling with Robert Munsch** – Using the internet, Robert Munsch read the students a story while the illustrations were displayed on our SmartBoard.
- **Daily Drop Everything and Read** – The entire school stopped for 15 minutes a day and read in silence.
- **Scholastics Book Fair** – Our school community strongly supported our Book Fair, resulting in \$1,600 in new books for our school.
- **Free Book Draw** – Each day of our blitz, students were chosen to receive a free book. Those lucky students found a notice in their lockers when they arrived in the morning. Thanks to the Learning Exchange for a family literacy grant, funded by the Merck Frosst Employee Charitable Fund, which helped fund this event.
- **Reading Competition** - As part of our goal to encourage our students at St. Charles to read, a "Reading Cookie Jar" Competition was held. The students filled out a "cookie" for each time they engaged in reading. The class in each cycle that read the most received a special treat of hot chocolate and cookies.



The most memorable activity during the blitz was the **Literacy Activity Day**. On this day the gym was transformed into an interactive learning centre filled with various stations all related to literacy and each class had the opportunity to visit. A team of grade 6 students was assigned to each station to help with the activity. They did an incredible job! Passports were handed out and each student received stickers as they completed the various stations which included: a word scavenger hunt, word guessing games, story boarding, word twister, book cover puzzles, book mark making, story tent and others. The students also made get well cards for Robert Munsch, which were sent to him. We received a lovely letter from Mr. Munsch thanking us. Included was an autographed book.

Special thanks to our tireless volunteers who helped make the Literacy Blitz a resounding success and to the staff for the support of this initiative!

Colomba Monteleone

A PLACE CARTIER ADULT CENTRE AND BEACONSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL EVENT

On Wednesday, March 25th, a Native studies project took place at Place Cartier Adult Centre in Beaconsfield. The two schools involved were Beaconsfield High School (*Linda Thomas: secondary 2 ethics class*) and Place Cartier Adult Centre (*Lise Demers: options course entitled “Canadians and their Stories”*), and they collaborated to make traditional Medicine Wheels. Both teachers had been involved in the teaching/learning of the Medicine Wheel in their respective schools and this unit culminated in a Medicine Wheel workshop.

In First Nations cultures, the Medicine Wheel or Sacred Hoop has evolved into a universal symbol of peaceful interaction among all living beings and nature. They provide a tangible mechanism upon which the healing of individuals, families, communities and nations can be focused. They create a holistic foundation for human behaviour and interaction; individual, community, nation and world. The Medicine Wheel teachings speak to us at every level of the human experience and promote emotional, spiritual, mental and physical balance. Three people from the aboriginal community came to present this workshop:

Kelly Running Wolf (*Mik'maq nation*) an elder who opened with a “gathering song” and drumming.
Nick Gianino (*Mik'maq nation*) a youth leader who explained the meaning of the Medicine Wheel and led the workshop.

Annie Hickey (*Inuk from Nunavik, Northern Québec*) a young mother who brought in her daughter's traditional Inuit clothing to show us and shared her Inuit culture.

Markusi Ningiurluut-Demers (*Inuk/Anishnabe*) a youth facilitator and athlete.

Guests included Nicole Le Bihan from Lester B. Pearson School Board, and Nancy Dubuc, a spiritual animator from BHS who was involved with this project from the beginning.

Véronique Marin, Centre Director, welcomed the students and teachers from BHS to Place Cartier, expressing how pleased she was to be collaborating with our neighbour school and to have people at the centre with a different world experience and adding value to learning for both schools.

This workshop was made possible with a grant from Culture Québec. The workshop ended with a pizza lunch, smiles, and photos. Lynda Thomas thanked Place Cartier for hosting her class and we all agreed that it was a very successful event and we are planning future collaborative projects.

*Lise Demers (Anishnabe nation) and
Place Cartier teacher
Denise Llewellyn, Education Consultant,
Place Cartier*



Winter Carnival at Sunshine Academy



Students and staff had a wonderful time frolicking outdoors during Sunshine Academy's annual Carnival Day on February 26th. Activities included snowshoeing, skating, soccer, tug of war, basketball and parachute. At recess, the grade six students defeated the staff in a rousing game of floor hockey. Thank you to the parent volunteers for helping with the activities and for the delicious hot chocolate.

*Marie Wahba
Principal*

FOUR ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARDS JOIN FORCES at the Montréal Job and Training Fair

In collaboration with the Riverside School Board, Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and the New Frontiers School Board, the Lester B. Pearson School Board showcased their vocational programs and services together for the first time at the Montréal Job and Training Fair held on March 17 and 18, 2009.



Job and Training fairs are now seen as the most effective way to find employment. Employers are becoming more creative and feel that new recruiting methods such as “speed interviewing” should be used to find the right candidate. Candidates who are dynamic and who have the required skills, tend to find great job opportunities at these venues. Universities, colleges, training institutes and various privately funded educational institutions are also present for those who are interested in upgrading their skills or changing their careers.

As a result of the global economic situation, the Québec employers are also downsizing and job opportunities are becoming scarce. However, by joining forces we can make a difference.



Shari Waldrich
Financial Aid
WAAVE/Adult and Vocational Education Department

A WORD FROM YOUR COMMISSIONERS UN MOT DE VOS COMMISSAIRES

ANGELA NOLET – Ward 20 Hudson-Vaudreuil-Dorion
Council Vice-Chair – Email: anolet@lbpsb.qc.ca



March, a month of inspiration

I have had the pleasure of participating in the “Forum Sur l’Implication Sociale” at Cap-Saint-Jacques, where students du Club Parlementaire from PETE’s enjoyed questioning Yvon Marcoux, MNA for Vaudreuil and Mielli Faille, Federal Representative of Vaudreuil-Soulanges, on issues of leadership, the environment, their role in Government, the benefit of volunteers to society, incentives encouraging the public to become volunteers in the future and how society can lead a meaningful and satisfying lifestyle which exudes pride and joy in a healthy and productive environment.

At the Secondary level, I was blown away by our students who so eloquently, and with astounding enthusiasm, approached issues during a Humanitarian Youth Symposium at St.Thomas High, organized by the our student leaders on how to make the world a better place to live and how each individual can contribute to lessen the horrific inequalities in different parts of the world.

Our schools are great places for students to not only excel academically but have also proven to help our students find their true potential as contributors to society. This leaves me with a positive outlook for the future and with a sense of overwhelming admiration for all those who work together to make our students’ educational experiences the best they can be. Now, if we could only teach the kids to pick up their clothes!

Angela Nolet

A WORD FROM YOUR COMMISSIONERS UN MOT DE VOS COMMISSAIRES

DOUGLAS FLOOK – Ward 1 Verdun
Email: dflook@lbpsb.qc.ca



Greetings from Verdun - the exotic Far East of the Board

Within the parent structure, I had not appreciated how much of a Commissioner’s decision-making involves choices, balancing, and trust.

Budget decisions are almost always a choice between doing THIS or THAT; or between system and classroom needs; others imply balancing what’s “good for the Board” vs. “good for my district”. As John Lennon said, “Lord, it ain’t easy.”

Though Verdun is in many ways a “distinct society” within the Board; our schools share the same needs (though often in greater amounts), and aspire to the same successes. I try to examine each item under 2 lenses – “Does it meet Verdun’s needs as is?” and “Is this good for all our communities?” Doing this effectively

involves trusting my colleagues’ knowledge of their area, and depending on their trust in return.

This is a role that locally-elected Commissioners best play, combining knowledge of Board-wide concerns with local insight.

I am grateful that the decisions reached over the Board’s 10 years have been the result of individuals struggling with these issues, rather than through following a party line.

This allows “What is best for our kids?” to be the predominant question.

Douglas Flook

ÉDUCALOI / CAREERS IN JUSTICE

Lester B. Pearson School Board's new partnership with Educaloi/Careers in Justice offers students the opportunity to have a glimpse into the many career opportunities in the field of Law and Justice

In partnership with the Lester B. Pearson School Board's Pearson Interactive Community Partnership Program, the Educaloi/ Careers in Justice program has offered their educational and career awareness program to students from three of our high school POP classes which include Beaconsfield High, Riverdale High and Beurling Academy. LBPSB is the first English school board in Québec to benefit from this program. They will also be working closely with the English Montréal School Board.



Educaloi/Careers in Justice is a non-profit organization whose mission is to inform Quebecers of their rights and obligations by providing quality legal information in everyday language. Their vision is to be known and recognized as a leader in the areas of access to justice and simplification of legal information. As well, their mandate is to participate in educational initiatives designed for youth to better understand all of the varied careers in the justice system.

In all three POP classes at the three high schools, students gained a wealth of knowledge about the judicial system in Québec, as well as having an opportunity to better understand the many

career opportunities in the field of Law and Justice. To better understand the role of each professional in the field, students heard presentations from Lawyers, Crown Prosecutors, Legal Assistant, Paralegal, Baliff, RCMP officer, Police officer, Notary and Court Stenographer.

*Nancy Battet
Community and Partnership Liaison*

You would like to submit an article for the *Pearson News*?

You are requested to send your articles and pictures to your Principal who will forward them to us. Digital pictures must be attached as **separate** jpg or bitmap files. Prints can be sent in to be scanned (c/o Michèle Morin, H.O.) and then returned to their owner.

Les articles en français sont toujours appréciés !

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

COMMISSIONERS IN PEARSON NEWS

Starting with this edition of the Pearson News, and in each future edition, 2 of the Commissioners will be featured with a column. Council Vice-Chair and Hudson/Vaudreuil-Dorion Commissioner Angela Nolet and Verdun Commissioner Doug Flook lead off. Each has a personal reflection about their community and about the LBPSB. This new feature is a great way to get to know your elected representatives.

The Commissioners are a group of community leaders who impact significantly on their own communities and on the Board-wide territory. The commitment is much more than one monthly Council of Commissioners meeting. Commissioners are responsible to oversee a budget of over \$250-million per year. Commissioners are responsible to oversee and develop policy for about 25,000 youth sector students and about 8,000 adult and vocational students. In addition there are over 4,000 employees at the LBPSB. 60 operating buildings and a number of other properties also fall under the oversight responsibility of the elected Commissioners. There are working committees, workshops, documents to study, reports to write, Governing Board and other local school-based meetings, community organization meetings, provincial-level meetings and committees, and more. It is a labour of love and dedication to public education and to local community.

Check out the new monthly Pearson News Commissioner's Page.

COMMISSIONERS' NEWSLETTERS

April also marks another addition in community communications from Commissioners. Each Commissioner will now have a monthly newsletter published on the Board's website.

A new hot link for COMMISSIONERS has been added to the "Main Links" section of the board's website landing page (*left hand side of the page*). A click on that link will get you to the Commissioner's page and a click on a Commissioner's photo will get you to their personal profile and monthly newsletter.

MAJOR SCHOOL CHANGE – ENHANCING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The March 30th meeting of the Council of Commissioners brought the launch of the consultation on Major School Change 2010-2011 (MSC). The adoption of the consultation document culminates 14 months of reflection by Commissioners and Senior Administration on the Future Directions of the LBPSB. Seven (7) Town Hall meetings were held to solicit opinions and input from a wide variety of stakeholders. A more than 120-page booklet has been created by the Community Services Department as the prime resource document. It contains the specific issues of this consultation, the background detail, statistics, charts, projections, and other useful information. We are aware that you may require additional information during this MSC process. We are prepared to support and respond to your requests. A dedicated website page has been created so that all documents and information are readily and easily available. A dedicated email address has been established so that all MSC-related inquiries can be responded to in an expedient manner.

There is a lot on the table in this round of discussions. We need our stakeholders to think boldly. We need our stakeholders to think in terms of programs, support, and facilities that will best serve the students of the LBPSB into the future.

The MSC process starts March 30th. There will be many meetings, local, group, and community, over the next 8 months. The first major meeting for Governing Board representatives and invited others will take place on Thursday, April 16, 2009 at Lakeside Academy. Written Briefs are due in to the Board by October 31, 2009. Public Hearings will be held during November (*list at end of this article*). Please note that the MSC Policy calls for decisions to be made no later than January 15th of the school year before the one in which the decisions will take effect. For now, the Council is scheduled to consider any MSC proposals at the regular meeting of the Commissioners on December 21, 2009. If any changes are adopted by the Council, they will take effect on July 1, 2010 for implementation in the 2010-2011 school year.

MAJOR SCHOOL CHANGE – PUBLIC HEARINGS

Note the following important dates for the major School Change Public Hearings:

November 17, 2009	LaSalle Comprehensive Community High School, LaSalle	7:00 p.m
November 18, 2009	Westwood High School Junior Campus, St-Lazare	7:00 p.m
November 19, 2009	John Rennie High School, Pointe-Claire	7:00 p.m

The Commissioners will read all the briefs submitted. It will not be necessary, and it is strongly suggested, that presenters not read their brief. Offer a summary and any detail not already included in the submission and then allow for the maximum of discussion with the Council members. The hearings are an opportunity to clarify your position and ensure that Commissioners have the chance to ask questions so that they better understand what is being presented. A period of approximately 20 minutes will be allotted for each group. We suggest that your opening presentation be kept to about 5-minutes. A period of about 15-minutes will follow for Commissioners to ask questions, make comments, and interact with the presenters.

It may not be possible to hear all groups or individuals requesting a time at the Public Hearings. We will do our best to accommodate all but preference will be given to school and community groups. All briefs will be posted on the Major School Change web page.

LBPSB AT MONTRÉAL IMPACT HOME GAME

Mark Saturday, May 9th on your calendar! The special Lester B. Pearson School Board Day at a Montréal Impact soccer team home game is on! As part of our new partnership in the **“All the Way with the Impact”** program, we have been invited to the Saputo Stadium for their season’s opener against the **Rochester Rhinos**: **Saturday May 9th, 2009 at 3:30 pm.**

The Montréal Impact team has reserved 3000 tickets for our Board. These tickets, at \$6.00 each, go on sale shortly through your local school. Reserve your tickets early as we expect to have more requests for tickets than we can fill. It will be a fun-filled day with our Board featured on the field before the start of the game and 2 of our students will be awarded special bursaries. All the details will be available in the coming days. Support your school! Support our students! Support our Board! Support the Impact! See you at the game!!!

MONTRÉAL IMPACT AT LBPSB SCHOOLS

We recently announced a new partnership with the **Montréal Impact**, Montreal’s professional soccer club. Through its stay-in-school program **“All the Way with the Impact”**, students of the **Lester B. Pearson School Board** will benefit from the experience of former Impact player and spokesperson **Lloyd Barker** and current player, **Adam Braz # 3**.

They will visit students to discuss the importance of perseverance, motivation and school. For the 2009 Season, Lloyd and Adam will visit:

Tuesday, April 7, 2009	St. Lawrence Academy Senior
Thursday, April 16, 2009	Greendale Elementary
Wednesday, April 22, 2009	Lakeside Academy High School

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM UPDATE

The International Studies Program is in the process of completing the negotiations for 2 major projects internationally.

The first is the opening of a LBPSB summer English school and student exchange in China. The Board is partnering with Tianma School and their local education authority to offer an LBPSB ESL program to students at their school in China. The LBPSB will provide 2 teachers and the pedagogy. The program will last 3 weeks and take place during the month of July. A second part of this agreement will see 20 – 40 students per year participate in the International Studies Full-Year Program in one of our high schools, here in Canada. Tianma is an important and progressive school in their region with more than 4500 students in K-12. The school's headmaster is considered a leader in Chinese youth sector pedagogy and school organization. This school already has similar exchange arrangements with school districts in other countries and so we are pleased and privileged to be the Canadian school board of choice for this school.

The second project is the opening of a LBPSB school in South Korea. The Korean partner has a school already operating in cooperation with a school board from British Columbia and we have been able to conclude an agreement as the Eastern Canada school board partner. This new school will open in the fall of 2009 for South Korean students to learn using the LBPSB pedagogy and supported by LBPSB teachers as part of the school's staff. The school will open with both Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes. Additional grade-levels will be phased in until the school is able to offer a full Pre-K to grade 12 program.

The International Studies Program will welcome some 550 students from more than 20 countries this year. These new contracts will provide a long-term base of revenue for our International Studies Program.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM – LBPSB TEACHERS SIGN ENTENTE

The March 30th Council meeting also saw the signing of the first International Studies Program Protocol for the participation of LBPSB teachers in international teaching opportunities. The result of discussions with the Pearson Teachers Union (PTU), our teachers will now have the chance to be a part of the two new schools that the Board is opening, one in China and the other in South Korea. The Protocol outlines the process by which teachers will be selected and the working conditions under which they will be subject.

The Board and the PTU agreed from the start that our teachers must be protected in their jobs and benefits. Teachers will apply through a position posting and a selection committee with specific selection criteria will make the choice(s). Each posting will be specific to the job and country. The length of overseas service will depend on the contract agreed to between the LBPSB and the overseas partner. Overall, this is a win-win situation for all concerned.

Special thanks go to PTU President John Donnelly and his executive for their work on completing this agreement, on behalf of their members, with the Board's Senior Administration.

Commissioners' Phone Numbers

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	514-637-5209	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	Allan Levine	514-683-6671	4009
10	Pointe-Claire West	John Killingbeck	514-695-3787	4010
11	Dollard-des-Ormeaux Center	Marcus Tabachnick	514-684-6429	2322
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	Suane Stein Day	514-630-9824	4016
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	2229
21	Hudson/St-Lazare	Daniel Olivenstein	450-458-1413	4021
CPC	Elementary Representative	Conny Held	514-909-6306	4026
CPC	Secondary Representative	Craig Buchanan	514-697-4057	4027

DATES TO NOTE

PUBLIC MEETINGS—APRIL 2009

The following meetings will take place at 1925 Brookdale, Dorval (**unless otherwise indicated**)

Central Parents' Committee	April 2, 2009	7:00 p.m.	Board Room
Major School Change Meeting for GBs	April 16, 2009	7:00 p.m.	Lakeside Academy
Executive Committee	April 20, 2009	7:30 p.m.	Board Room
Special Needs Advisory Committee	April 29, 2009	7:00 p.m.	Room 219/221
Council of Commissioners	April 27, 2009	7:30 p.m.	Board Room

Webcast begins at 7:30 p.m. on www.lbpsb.qc.ca

Check out your Commissioner's Monthly Newsletter

www.lbpsb.qc.ca

Click on link for **Commissioners** (left side of LBPSB web site landing page)
then click on the individual Commissioner's photo

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