



Lester B. Pearson  
School Board

Commission scolaire  
Lester-B.-Pearson

# PEARSON NEWS

## LESTER B. PEARSON SCHOOL BOARD

Volume XI, No 10

FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL & THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

May 25, 2009

### RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

#### Table ronde régionale sur la réussite scolaire

Cette rencontre de personnel des secteurs scolaire, communautaire, économique, politique, universitaire, et de la santé et des services sociaux, tenue au Rosemount High School de la Commission scolaire English-Montréal le 4 mai, s'est avérée une initiative stimulante pour résoudre le problème de la rétention des élèves. Les participants y ont échangé leurs points de vue et leurs pratiques dans le but d'améliorer leurs propres stratégies et de voir comment les autres abordent la question de la rétention des élèves. Il ne fait pas de doute que cette initiative mènera à une plus grande collaboration entre les différentes agences et les commissions scolaires francophones et anglophones de l'île de Montréal, et à une approche concertée à ces défis.

#### Célébrations de fin d'études

Comme la remise des diplômes approche, je tiens à féliciter tous ceux et celles qui ont réussi. Par la même occasion, je presse les finissants et leurs familles d'exercer beaucoup de prudence lors de ce qui devrait être une soirée heureuse. Célébrez votre réussite avec vos camarades de classe et vos amis, mais assurez-vous que votre fête de fin d'études restera un précieux souvenir pour les années à venir.

#### Préparation aux situations d'urgence

Bien que l'expérience de la grippe due au virus H1N1 ait été plutôt stressante pour tous, elle nous a montré que les efforts consacrés à la préparation aux situations d'urgence en valaient la peine. Nous avons reçu les renseignements des autorités sanitaires et du MELS en temps opportun et nous avons été capables de transmettre ces renseignements à notre communauté rapidement grâce à notre système de messagerie *ConnectEd* et au site Web de la commission scolaire.

### DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

#### Regional Roundtable on School Success

This meeting of personnel from the school, community, health and social services, economic, political, and academic sectors held at EMSB's Rosemount High School on May 4<sup>th</sup> proved to be an exciting initiative to address the issues of retaining students in school. The attendees shared their views and practices in an effort to improve their own strategies and find out how others cope with the issue of student retention. This will undoubtedly lead to further enhanced cooperation among the various agencies and French and English school boards on the island of Montréal and will bring a more concerted approach to the challenges we face.

#### Graduation Celebrations

As Graduation celebration time approaches, I wish to extend my congratulations to all who have succeeded. At the same time, I urge each and every graduate and family to exert care and caution on what should be a happy and healthy evening. Celebrate your success with your classmates and friends and do so with extreme care so that your Graduation evening will be a warm and precious memory for years to come.

#### Emergency Preparedness

Although the H1N1 Flu experience has been a somewhat stressful one for all, it has shown us that the efforts expended on Emergency Preparedness were well worth it. We received timely information from the Health officials and from the MELS and were able to relay this to our community quickly via the *ConnectEd* messaging system and the Board website.

...FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

### **Célébration de l'excellence**

En plus des activités qui ont cours quotidiennement dans nos écoles et nos centres pour célébrer les merveilleuses capacités de notre personnel et de nos élèves, ce dernier mois a eu lieu l'Exposition multiculturelle annuelle. Plus de mille élèves et employés se sont présentés pour voir et faire l'expérience de la riche variété de cultures que nous représentons. Les organisateurs et l'école-hôte, Riverdale High School, peuvent être très fiers de cet événement.

Pendant que la journée d'école se déroulait normalement à Riverdale, des activités supplémentaires avaient lieu dans le cadre du programme CFER, un programme exceptionnel de sensibilisation à l'environnement, de protection et de conservation. De plus, Riverdale loge le Centre d'apprentissage communautaire, une ruche d'activités qui relie étroitement l'école à sa communauté.

Le 14 mai, nous étions très fiers d'accueillir à notre commission scolaire Mme Hetty van Gorp, fondatrice de l'organisme Peaceful Schools International qui compte plus de 300 écoles engagées pour la paix. Lors d'une réception, Mme van Gorp a présenté à la Commission scolaire Lester-B.-Pearson le drapeau de Peaceful Schools International à titre de première commission scolaire dont tous les établissements ont mérité d'en être membres. Le lendemain avait lieu un symposium sur la paix à l'école Lakeside Academy lors duquel les élèves ont pu entendre l'allocution de Mme van Gorp et participer à plusieurs ateliers.



### **Celebrations of Excellence**

In addition to the events that take place on a daily basis in our schools and centres celebrating the wonderful capabilities of our staff and students, this past month witnessed the annual Multi-Cultural Exhibition. More than one thousand students and staff were present to view and experience the rich variety that we represent. The organizers and the host school, Riverdale High School, can be very proud of this event.

While the Riverdale High School continued its normal instructional day, additional activities were going on with the CFER program, an outstanding program of environmental awareness, protection and conservation. In addition, Riverdale hosts the Community Learning Centre, a hive of activity that ties the school very closely to its community.

On May 14, we were very proud to welcome to our school board Mrs. Hetty van Gorp, founder of Peaceful Schools International, an international organization comprising more than 300 schools that are committed to peace. At a reception, Mrs. van Gorp presented the Lester B. Pearson School Board with the Peaceful Schools International flag as the first school board in which all schools and centres have earned their membership. This was followed the next day by a Peace Symposium at Lakeside Academy at which students listened to Mrs. van Gorp and had the opportunity to participate actively in a number of workshops.



## Sector One Storytelling Festival

On April 27, 2009 four schools from Sector One came together at St. John Fisher Senior to have a Storytelling Festival. In all, 15 cycle two students participated. The students came from Children's World Academy, Bishop Whelan, St. Edmund and St. John Fisher Senior. All the storytellers were amazing! They truly captivated the audience. A huge thank you goes to all the teachers and parents for their hard work in preparing the students.



Congratulations to **Spencer Montgomery** and **Mackenzie Bell** from **St. John Fisher Senior** who have received an honorable mention from our judges. We are very proud of you!

*Steven Colpitts  
Principal*

## Daniela's Corner

**T**his past month has been action-packed and I'm still learning so many wonderful things about this school board. I've had the privilege of taking part in some great activities and events hosted by the school board and individual schools, a couple of which I'd like to highlight.

Last month, there wasn't enough space for me to write about the TOPS gala that I was fortunate to attend. The show was amazing and throughout it, I had to keep reminding myself that I was watching high school students. The talent at our board is incredible and I congratulate every single person who was a part of that fantastic production. You should all be proud of what you accomplished.

I also attended LBPSB's Day at the Impact where two students, Johnny Bucci from PCHS and Kathryn Babin from St. John Fisher were awarded the Tony Licursi Bursary before the start of the opening game. The turnout from our board was great and everyone had fun despite the weather and the Impact's 2-1 loss to the Rochester Rhinos.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, LBPSB was honoured as being the only peaceful school board in the world. In a very touching ceremony, which included beautiful songs sung by the Allion choir and LBPSB's adult choir, Marcus Tabachnick was presented with a certificate from the founder of Peaceful Schools International, Hetty van Gulp. Ms. van Gulp lost her eldest son in a bullying incident at school in 1991 and has dedicated herself to promoting the need to teach peace in schools. PSI's main goal is to create a global network of peaceful schools in a non-prescriptive way. I again was amazed at what this board accomplishes every day.



My next goal is to visit all of the Board's schools and centres so I can get to know the administrators who head them and see all the wonderful daily activities that happen in each place. I want to familiarize myself with the places I write about. I've also been noticing an increase in the volume of coverage the Board is getting in the media. As I've been saying since starting this new job, the more information I'm sent about what's going on here, the more coverage the Board and its schools and centres will get. So far, almost all of the articles and reports have been positive. To see what the media has been saying about LBPSB, you can visit the Press Room on the main website and click on the 'In the Media' section.

I will not be writing a piece for the next issue as I am away just as it will be published because I'm getting married! I want to wish every one a fun, happy and safe summer and I look forward to giving you my next update at the end of August. I will be in the office all summer and should you need anything, you know where to find me!

*Daniela Scoppa*

## GREENDALE VISITS THE STARS

On Tuesday, April 27th and Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, our school had the opportunity to visit a portable planetarium as part of our Earth week. In the planetarium, we learned many facts about stars and planets in space. It was interesting to see an outline of the animals that clusters of stars form. When we were in the portable planetarium, there were seats for us in which to lie back. There were machines that projected images of what space looked like all over the planetarium. It was a great experience for everyone at Greendale and we learned so much about Space!

*Paul Létourneau and Fahim Speede  
Greendale students*



## Westpark Students "Make a Difference"

Four Grade six girls from Madame Tremblay's class have organized a candy contest donation. We would like to share our experience with you.

It all started with Alexandra and Brianna who wanted to raise money for *Free the Children*. Then Suzanne and Avra decided to join. We got the idea of doing a jelly beans contest. The children in the school had to guess how many candies were in a jar. The three children who guessed the closest to the real amount of candies won. In order to participate, the children had to give \$1 or more. We had amazing prizes for the winners, such as a hockey jersey or a soccer ball.



Even though it was not always easy and it took a lot of our time, we were still able to make this a fun and easy game to play.

When we announced the winners on the intercom, we were so happy to see the children come down and receive their prizes. We felt like we had accomplished the biggest thing in the world not only because the kids were happy with their prizes, but also because we raised \$658.15 for *Free the Children*. We had helped kids in a poor country to have drinkable water and school supplies.

There are a few people to thank. First, a big thank you to Mme Tremblay for all her help! Thanks to the administration for encouraging and allowing us to do our project. Last but not least, we would like to thank all the participants for donating to *Free the Children*. Thank you everybody!

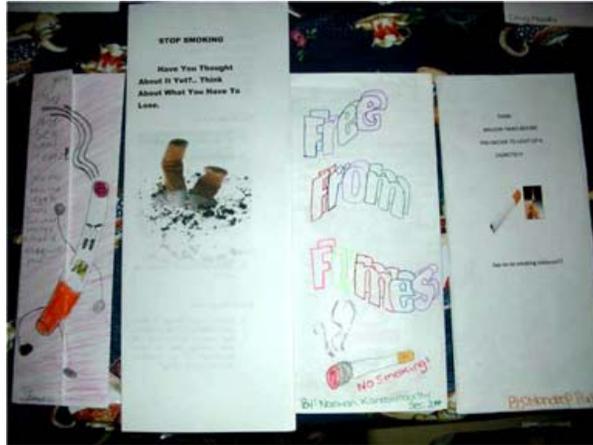
*Brianna F., Alexandra F., Avra S., Suzanne P.  
Westpark School*

## Beurling Academy's Anti-Tobacco Pamphlet Contest

A few months ago, a few members from Junior Student Council submitted a proposal for a contest/project to the Youth Coalition Against Smoking and for the third year in a row, we received a grant of \$250.00 from the Québec Council on Tobacco and Health in association with the Direction de la Santé Publique de Montréal-Centre.

Keeping in mind, "Kick Butts Day" on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the contest was designed to empower youth (*leaders and advocates*) to create an Anti-Tobacco Pamphlet expressing their thoughts about the following themes: Motivating youth to stay tobacco-free and empowering smokers to quit successfully.

Pamphlets were judged using the following criteria: creativity and originality, clarity of message(s)/themes and colourful pictures and/or graphics. A variety of pamphlets were recently submitted and ten students were awarded \$25.00 Gift Certificates for Future Shop.



*Tamara Beach  
Junior Student Council Advisor*



## Saint-Lawrence Academy Senior au Parlement écolier

Le vendredi 1<sup>er</sup> mai dernier, deux élèves de l'école Saint-Lawrence Academy Senior, **Emily Martins** et **Anthony Cheung**, ont représenté leur classe lors du Parlement écolier. Cette activité se tient chaque année et permet à des jeunes de sixième année de siéger, pendant une journée, à l'Assemblée nationale. Les élèves discutent de projets de loi en plus de siéger en commission parlementaire. Emily et Anthony, nous sommes très fiers de vous et de votre travail. Vous comprenez maintenant un peu mieux les rouages de la démocratie. Encore une fois, félicitations! Vous nous avez très bien représentés.

*Julie Rousselle, enseignante de 6<sup>e</sup> année*

*En compagnie de M. Yvon Vallières, président du Parlement écolier et président de l'Assemblée nationale*



*Anthony Cheung et Emily Martins devant la bannière du Parlement écolier*



*L'Assemblée nationale, à Québec*

## Beaconsfield Student City Council For a Day 2009

Seven students from four schools in the Beaconsfield area took part in an inaugural "Student City Council for a Day Meeting". There was a preparatory luncheon for the young councillors with the existing city district councillors and Mayor. Prior to the luncheon the young politicians demonstrated their interest in the political process by presenting a topic of concern for the betterment of their neighbourhood to their peers at school and then to the City Officials. This idea began last year when Beaconsfield City Council approached the principals of the local schools with the idea of introducing students to the procedures and protocol of city management.



The students presented and defended their resolutions to the public on Monday night, April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Beaconsfield City Hall. There was a lovely reception afterwards where Mayor Bob Benedetti presented each Student City Councilor with a framed photo plaque of their involvement. The following students named by district took part in this event.

Congratulations to them all and we look forward to having such fine representatives in the political forum in the near future.

District 1: Megan Rowe, St. Paul Elementary  
District 2: Liane Vonniessen, Christmas Park Elementary  
District 3: Quinn Barries-Watts, Beacon Hill Elementary  
District 4: Tess Armstrong, Christmas Park Elementary  
District 5: Mackenzie Murray, St. Paul Elementary  
District 6: Anthony Evans, Beacon Hill Elementary  
Mayor: Matthew Morgan, Sherwood



## Beurling Students Paired up with Holocaust Survivors

Forty-four IBO grade ten students from Beurling Academy had the unique privilege to visit the Cummings Jewish Centre for seniors which is a Drop-in Centre for Holocaust Survivors. It was an Intergenerational program where the students were paired up one on one or two to one with Holocaust survivors. The visit was part of the Tolerance theme which the students had been studying under the new Ethics and Religious Cultures Program. The students had the opportunity to interview their partners and hear personal stories of what was experienced during this horrific time in history. It was quite an emotional and moving time for the students as they heard these first hand accounts and how the survivors still managed to find strength, faith, hope and resiliency.



Two students, Christine Bustamante and Ahmed Yahya were invited back to the Centre on April 21<sup>st</sup> where they participated in Yom Hashoah – a special commemorative service where families, friends and workers of the centre gathered to remember the events of the Holocaust. During the service, Christine and Ahmed shared what it meant to them to be paired up with a survivor through the Intergenerational program and promised to continue to pass on their legacy with others. We are thankful to the members of the Cummings Centre for opening their hearts to share their stories in such a profound way with our students.



*Debi Dixon – Cycle 2 ERC Teacher*



*Christine Bustamante with a survivor during Yom Hashoah*



*Ahmed Yahya with a survivor during Yom Hashoah*

*Pictures above:  
Beurling Students interviewing Holocaust  
Survivors at Cummings Centre*

## Beurling Academy participates in a research project for Concordia University

Recently, one of my Secondary One and Secondary Two Ethics and Religious Culture classes, participated in a special study which was part of a research project sponsored by the Centre for the Arts in Human Development (CAHD) at Concordia University and funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The objective of the project was to assess the effectiveness of a short documentary of a musical theatre performance, “It’s a Wonderful World,” in sensitizing students to the lives of persons with disabilities. This was achieved through a process known as “ethnodrama,” which provides any given group of people with the opportunity to express how they experience life through dramatic performance.

The research study was conducted over two days. It involved having students fill out an anonymous questionnaire and then students viewed a 30 minute documentary. This was followed by students completing a second questionnaire and lastly the class ended with a discussion period. The students were very fortunate to have met two individuals with Special Needs, Puja Sharma and Matthew Brotherwood, who took part in the documentary. This was a very rewarding experience for everyone involved and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Concordia University for their interest in our school.

*Tamara Beach*



*Pictured are some of the students from the Secondary One ERC Class with Puja Sharma and Matthew Brotherwood.*

*Pictured are the students from the all Girls' Secondary Two ERC Class with Puja Sharma and Matthew Brotherwood.*



## Bishop Whelan celebrates our planet!

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the world celebrated Earth Day. During the month of April, Bishop Whelan marked this occasion with several projects.

Some Kindergarteners share their memories of the events:

- ☞ Alexander learned that Earth is the only planet with living things
- ☞ Faith learned that Earth has living things because there is water and oxygen
- ☞ Kasandra learned that things grow because the sun is not too far or too close from our planet
- ☞ Jonathan learned that Earth is a special place
- ☞ William enjoyed cleaning up the school yard
- ☞ Jahiem enjoyed learning the Boom-De-Ah-Dah song (Discovery Channel)
- ☞ Logan enjoyed making up our own Boom-De-Ah-Dah song
- ☞ Caileigh had the idea of making a class book of our song
- ☞ Jayme remembers going to see the movie Earth
- ☞ Jack remembers taking the school bus to Guzzo
- ☞ Vincent remembers the polar bears, elephants and whales in the movie
- ☞ Angelina remembers the whole school singing the Boom-De-Ah-Dah song in the Gym
- ☞ Brianna loved all the songs each class made up
- ☞ Paige loved the Earth Day t-shirts the whole school got



Each cycle participated in workshops with the Engineers without Borders Organization. The hands-on activities focused on water, food and energy. What great fun!

Bishop Whelan will continue their efforts in helping the Earth by recycling, reusing and reducing. We will also encourage students to think of their global footprint.

**GOGREEN!**

## One Goat, Two Goats... Three Schools

Each school evolves into a distinct community. There are social, economic and geographic factors which will distinguish a school community, but in addition, each school will move along a path of evolution that it traces with a wide variety of regulations, activities and events that mirror what the professionals, non-professionals, students and their families value.

When I arrived at Margaret Manson School at the tail-end of my teaching career, I wondered what I would contribute to a new school community – because each person, willfully or not leaves his/her mark. I had started holding Spring Garage Sales at St. Edmund School and each year a portion of the money raised went to *Free the Children*. I had heard of this worthy organization from a former student at Christmas Park School. Talk about the grapevine... I liked the *Free the Children* motto: *Children helping children through education*.

I couldn't pass up the excitement of holding a Garage Sale at the newly opened school and it was a great success. It was at about this time that I read that *Free the Children* would provide a goat for a needy family for each \$50 donated. I read how a goat could provide an additional income which would make it possible for a family to then send a child to school. The thought of goats making it possible for families to live a little better and provide the opportunity of an education for a child stuck with me. *Together with my Grade 3 students we would buy goats!* News got around that Ms. Lucy and Grade 3 students were buying goats, and people thought that it was kind of neat. Did you ever hear about how one thing can lead to another?

For three years we continued to hold the Spring Garage Sales; the Home & School Association got involved and started holding Comedy Nights; we went through five Entrepreneurial Projects which included Popcorn Sales, Cupcake Sales, Cookie Jar Mixes Sales and all kinds of raffles including Hockey Tickets Raffles. The students **loved** all the fund-raising events, especially the Spring Garage Sale. From 2005-2008 we expanded our vision from goats to schools, and raised over 30 thousand dollars, enough for three one-room schools in Kenya, desks and all classroom furnishings, books, a hot lunch for each student, gym equipment and a clean water system. This was known as the *Compassion in Action Project*. The schools in Kenya built through *Free the Children* with our funding are called *Enelerai, Olongerin and Pimbiniet Primary Schools*.

When Pimbiniet School was built and opened in January of 2009, the proposal put forth to the Governing Board in the Fall of 2005 to build three schools was complete. We did it! With half a year left in my teaching career, what should I do? I put together a last Raffle Event which included raffling off four sets of hockey tickets. This money would go towards clean water systems. Everyone should have access to clean water!

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Mélodie Bouchard, Québec Representative of *Free the Children* was invited to Margaret Manson School at an assembly to celebrate our *Compassion in Action Project*. The Assembly began with a group of proud and well-rehearsed Grade 3 students outlining the true story of, *From Goats to Schools*, accompanied by a few Grade 5 and 6 students, who talked about their efforts during the *Compassion in Action Project* when they were in Grade 3. Afterwards, we celebrated our success with an invited group of Montreal singers who sang beautifully in Swahili and performed an African dance. Our special event culminated with our students presenting Melodie with a donation of three thousand dollars to go towards clean water systems.

(continued)

Our guest from *Free the Children* explained and showed videos about how our students' efforts made an important difference in the lives of young children far away. The schools many children go to in rural areas of Kenya are deplorable – dark broken down shacks with a mud floor and students squeezed into an insufficient number of desks. Melodie had come to say, “Thank you,” on behalf of the children who now attend a clean, bright place of learning thanks to our project. We also saw the clean water systems which collect rain water flowing from the roofs and then purify it in a large metal vat.



*Picture by J. Mahoney of The Gazette*

We did it one step at a time. We did it with the enthusiasm, help and generosity of our whole school community and beyond. We did it to grow our compassion. We did it to grow our students' global awareness. We did it with the support of our principal and those people who give thanks each day for the abundance we have. We did it because we could. *Every school can do what we did.*

In one month my teaching career of 34 years will come to an end. I believe that each person is important and makes a difference each day. It was a big challenge to see how we, the students and community of Margaret Manson School, could make a real difference, a lasting difference for children an ocean and continent away.

What can one person do? What can one teacher do? What can one class do? What can one school do? You can start with one goat and soon... you'll be building a school or providing a clean-water system or a meal at school for poor kids. Or you'll do all those things.

Kids across an ocean and continent are waiting for you to move from compassion to action.

*Lucy Rinaldi  
Margaret Manson School*

If you are interested in inviting the Québec Representative of Free the Children to your school, you can contact her at [melodie@freethechildren.com](mailto:melodie@freethechildren.com) or/and you can contact me through the Pearson Portal.

THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK IN ALL YOUR ENDEAVORS!

## Presentations at the May Council Meeting

**A**gain this year, the Quebec Entrepreneurship Contest at Lester B. Pearson School Board was a tremendous success. The school board submitted 246 projects, 91 at the elementary level and 155 at the high school level.

Among all the participants, 19 were winners at LBPSB level. These projects were judged at the Regional levels and 7 projects were amongst the regional winners.

Commissioners, administrators and teachers were on hand to congratulate all the winners.

**David D'Arienzo**, a St. Thomas High School student, Canada Millennium Scholarship recipient and Chairperson of the Central Students' Committee was presented with a plaque in recognition of his commitment to the students of LBPSB by Vice-Chairperson Angela Nolet and Director General Robert Mills.



The Lester B. Pearson Adult Choir, lead by **John Leblanc**, performed for our listening pleasure during Council Meeting.

## L'ouverture sur le monde dès la maternelle à l'école St-Charles!

L'altruisme à 5 ans, est-ce possible? Bien sûr que oui! Les élèves de la maternelle de l'école St-Charles ont démontré par l'entremise d'un projet, leur générosité et leur ouverture d'esprit. Le tout a commencé par un matin gris de janvier, alors que quelques enfants voulurent créer des décorations pour notre classe. Après sondage auprès de leurs camarades, il fût décidé que des guirlandes de papier et des "papillons-coeurs" feraient l'affaire. Petit à petit, un projet est né! Tous les enfants décidèrent de participer au bricolage et d'offrir leurs créations aux enseignants des autres niveaux au prix de 0.15\$ chacune. Parents et amis ont pu en acheter aussi pour décorer leurs maisons et bureaux! Et l'argent recueilli? Nous avons pu faire un don de plus de 140\$ à "Oxfam-Québec" afin d'offrir des livres scolaires à des enfants au Niger!



De plus, dans le cadre du Jour de la Terre, et avec l'objectif de sensibiliser les enfants à la quantité de déchets produits par leurs collations au quotidien, des représentants de l'Éco-Quartier de Pierrefonds sont venus présenter un atelier de vermi-compostage aux élèves de maternelle. Fascinés par l'information présentée, et impressionnés par la manipulation de vrais vers et de compost, les maternelles ont maintenant comme mission d'informer

leurs proches et de les encourager à réduire leur production de déchets, autant à la maison qu'à l'école! Vive le recyclage, le compost et les matériaux réutilisables!



*Marie-Eve Lafortune  
Enseignante à la maternelle*

*Photo ci-contre : Alexandra Eric,  
Kyle Charette, Tyler Ali-Slawaska,  
Nikko De Bellis, Hailey Landry*

*Photo des papillons : Justin Gascon, Olivia  
Fiorino, Isabelle Germain, Ryan Bedernyak*

## GREENDALE DAYCARE PROMOTES PEACE THROUGH ART

Peace, Harmony, and Respect are the cornerstones of our Daycare Program throughout the year. As a result, our children and Educators reap the benefits of a pleasant and enriching environment in which to work, learn, and play.

In commemorating the many Facets of Peace, our groups worked together in creating a Banner Quilt representing the diversity of the children in our Schools and Daycares.

*Elaine Lobaton and  
Barbara Frost*



## Pennsylvania 2009: Civics and Civil Liberties

On April 22, 2009 a group of students from **Greendale Elementary School** packed their bags after months of study and embarked on a collective journey down south. The purpose of their travel would be to experience first hand the various locations studied throughout the year relating to a common theme of civics and civil liberties. For many, this experience would mark their first time leaving the country and their families behind. The trip began with a stay at the Iron Masters Mansion Hostel just outside of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Historically, the former mansion was used as one of many stopping points along the Underground Railway. After a private tour, our students were given the opportunity to squeeze down an underground passage, landing in a cold and dark cellar where runaway slaves once hid from their pursuers. The following day our group paid a visit to the Gettysburg National Park where they bore witness to historical battlefields, a multimedia presentation/museum and saw the largest oil painting in North America - Paul Dominique Philippoteaux' Cyclorama depicting "Pickett's Charge". The painting stands at 42 feet high and is 365 feet in circumference. After exploring the Cemetery Hill battlefield, we made our way to the town of Lititz for a brief tour of the countries oldest pretzel factory : The Julius Sturgis Pretzel Company.



Students were given the opportunity to roll their own pretzel and see the entire production process...eating a few along the way. From here we made our final push into Philadelphia where we would be staying for the remainder of the trip. Our students had the pleasure of staying at the Chamounix Mansion which is nestled in the Valley Forge Park system. From here we were able to visit Princeton University and its adjoining town which was in full summer bloom. Hot temperatures granted us the opportunity to stroll through the expansive

campus and get a taste of the Ivy League lifestyle. The final day of our trip led to the exploration of downtown Philadelphia. In the morning we partook in a tour of the Independence National Historic Park. Students got to see where the Declaration of Independence was signed and put in effect as well as the National Constitution building, the Liberty Bell and the original Supreme Courthouse. After a stroll through the Reading Terminal Market (*where students consumed the cities purportedly best cheese-steak sandwiches*) we made our way to the Franklin Institute of Science. Our group spent several hours learning about various aspects of science in a hands-on nature. Finally, we passed the steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum – made famous by Sylvester Stallone in the movie "Rocky". Although tired from a week packed with activities, the group remained engaged and eager to see what they had studied about throughout the year. All in all it was a total success.



*Adam Fabian  
Jason Cordery*

## Cross-Country Run

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 the LBPSB Kinderkids/Cycle 1 X-Country Run took place at Terra Cotta Park in Pointe-Claire.

Over 1500 students from 18 LBPSB elementary schools participated.

The elementary physical educators would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parent volunteers who help make LBPSB events such as this possible.

*Scott Taylor  
Pedagogical Consultant*



## A WORD FROM YOUR COMMISSIONERS UN MOT DE VOS COMMISSAIRES

SUSAN BARTLETT-LEWIS – Ward 19 Île Perrot  
Email: [sbartlett@lbpsb.qc.ca](mailto:sbartlett@lbpsb.qc.ca)



### Sue's News

I am now in my third term as a Commissioner and it has been a fascinating learning experience. There are many challenges in trying to meet the needs of all of the students. It is intriguing to watch the evolution in each community, as the schools student, parent, administrator, and teacher population changes. It is wonderful to get the small glimpses of the students growing and maturing through to graduation. The best part of being a Commissioner is watching the talents of the students unfold, be it in the class, on the stage, or at a competition. The recent Macdonald HS Dance Show was a prime example of the amazing abilities of our students.

We are well into spring and looking forward to the summer. Good luck to all who will be writing their exams in the next few weeks.

*Susan Brartlett-Lewis*

RUBEN FAZIO – Ward 3 LaSalle Northeast  
Email: [rfazio@lbpsb.qc.ca](mailto:rfazio@lbpsb.qc.ca)



Actively involved as a parent volunteer and as a Commissioner for the past seventeen years I have experienced radical changes such as the implementation of linguistic school boards and the beginning of the Lester B. Pearson School Board.

This year's Major School Change is slated to be one of the most challenging and important our board has undertaken. Parents and community members are being consulted and asked to develop scenarios which will rationalize and validate our neighbourhood schools.

The decisions based on your input will reshape our entire school board. I count on all parents and community members to offer their input. The time and energy that is being invested will result in quality education for all our children. Our students will be better equipped with the tools and education to continue with their post secondary education or receive the necessary training to be productive members of our society.

I wish all of you a happy and safe summer. I'm looking forward to returning in September ready to support your MSC presentation and bring your arguments forward to my colleagues.

*Ruben Fazio*

## Managing Difficult Situations



*Run, Sweep*  
—or—

# GROW

A one-day, interactive workshop offered by the  
**LESTER B. PEARSON SCHOOL BOARD**  
in partnership with  
**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED HUMAN SCIENCES,**  
Graduate Program in Human Systems Intervention,  
to be held at Concordia University, Loyola Campus  
on Saturday, October 17, 2009 — OR — Sunday, October 18, 2009  
from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*There is no cost for the workshop, however, we must charge participants \$15.00 to cover administrative expenses.  
Please make cheques payable to LBPSB.*



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please email us at [workshopinfo@lbsb.qc.ca](mailto:workshopinfo@lbsb.qc.ca),  
visit the Lester B. Pearson website at  
<http://www.lbsb.qc.ca> and follow the links,  
or call 514.422.3000 and ask for Workshop Info.



Department of Applied Human Sciences



Commission scolaire  
Lester-B.-Pearson

The partnership continues...

## REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

### BUDGET 2009/2010

The Quebec government has imposed dramatic accounting changes on all public institutions. This is in keeping with the new Generally Accepted Accounting Principals (GAAP) that has been adopted by federal and provincial/state governments internationally. Even though this change was expected for quite some time, the government has still not finalized all the rules governing the changes, the implementation and the reporting of the financial position of the school boards.

The finance department of every board in the province has had to undertake a full study of all of the assets of each board. The detailed study includes date of acquisition, changes or upgrades or renovations to those assets, evaluations at the time of acquisition, valuations of the changes, depreciation and amortization of these assets, and a whole series of additional and complex issues.

As an example; every building had to be traced back to when it was built or acquired; the cost of each had to be established and verified; every major renovation had to be tracked, costed, and assigned an amortization according to its professionally-accepted life expectancy, and so on. As well, for the first time a provision on the board's statement for the accumulated "bank of days" claimable upon retirement by each employee will have to be shown. The impact on the finance departments is enormous. One can only imagine the extent of the work that this change requires. While the Ministry is funding the hiring of one additional person, the cost of the research, documentation, and time is being borne by the school boards. The result of this change-over will be that **every** board in the province will show massive (*proportional to their size*) deficits. It is expected that the deficit for the Pearson Board will top \$70-million and could reach as high as \$100-million, as all the above-noted factors are included in the financial statements at one time. The government

### BUDGET 2009-2010

Le gouvernement du Québec a imposé des changements radicaux à la comptabilité de toutes les institutions publiques. Ces changements ont pour but de se conformer aux principes comptables généralement reconnus (PCGR) adoptés par les gouvernements fédéraux, provinciaux et nationaux dans le monde. Bien que ce changement soit prévu depuis quelques temps, le gouvernement n'a pas encore déterminé toutes les règles régissant les changements, l'implantation et la production de rapports sur la situation financière des commissions scolaires.

Les Services des ressources financières de toutes les commissions scolaires de la province ont dû entreprendre une étude complète de tous leurs actifs. L'étude détaillée inclut la date d'acquisition, les changements, améliorations et rénovations de ces actifs, l'évaluation au moment de l'acquisition, la dépréciation et l'amortissement de ces actifs, et toute une série d'autres questions complexes.

Par exemple, pour chaque édifice on a dû retracer l'année de sa construction ou de son acquisition; le coût de chacun a dû être établi et vérifié; chaque rénovation majeure a dû être retracée, on a dû calculer ces frais et déterminer leur amortissement selon la durée de vie anticipée selon les professionnels, etc. De plus, pour la première fois les états financiers de la commission scolaire devront déclarer les congés accumulés exigibles au départ à la retraite de chaque employé. L'impact sur le Service des ressources financières est immense. On peut seulement imaginer le travail que ce changement nécessite. Bien que le Ministère finance l'embauche d'une personne supplémentaire, le coût des recherches, de la documentation et du temps est assumé par les commissions scolaires. Le résultat de cette transition est que **chaque** commission scolaire de la province accusera un déficit énorme (en proportion avec sa taille). Nous anticipons que le déficit de la CSLBP sera

has demanded that every board adopt resolutions “requesting” permission to adopt deficit budgets. It will be interesting to see how the government handles this as the law specifically states that school boards are not allowed to be in a deficit position and should that come about, the board is required to develop and implement a recovery plan. Unless the government amends the law, or devises a manner to reduce the deficits of each board in some other creative way, future school board staffing and program financing could be in serious jeopardy.

The delays in receiving the full and complete information on this massive change and delays in receiving the final 2009/2010 budget parameters mean that the LBPSB will not be adopting its own operating budget until the June 29<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, at the earliest.

We will, however, be providing our communities with two financial statements so that everyone will be able to understand the real operational budget of the board. One will be the formal government version and the other will be one based strictly on current operational activities and will, hopefully, be fully and easily comparable to prior year financial statements.

#### **MAJOR SCHOOL CHANGE – SUBSCRIBE FOR UPDATE NOTIFICATIONS**

In response to a request from several groups and individuals the Board has added a subscription-based MSC notification service for MSC updates. You just have to enter and send your name and email address to the subscription service on the appropriate page of the MSC website. Upon receipt of your contact information, you will be added to our notification list. Then when changes are made, documents are added, or other information is posted to the MSC site you will receive a notification via your email. You may also unsubscribe at any time by simply clicking on the link provided in the notification message.

de plus de 70 millions de dollars et pourrait atteindre 100 millions parce que tous les facteurs ci-dessus sont inclus dans les états financiers du même coup. Le gouvernement a demandé que chaque commission scolaire adopte une résolution « demandant » la permission d’adopter un budget déficitaire. Il sera intéressant de voir comment le gouvernement traitera cette affaire car la loi énonce clairement que les commissions scolaires n’ont pas le droit d’être déficitaires et que si ça devait se produire, la commission doit élaborer et mettre en œuvre un plan de redressement. À moins que le gouvernement ne modifie la loi, ou trouve une manière « créative » de réduire le déficit de chaque commission scolaire, la dotation et le financement des programmes pourraient se trouver sérieusement compromis.

Le retard dans la réception d’une information complète sur ce changement majeur et le retard dans la réception des paramètres budgétaires définitifs pour 2009-2010 amèneront la CSLBP à adopter son budget de fonctionnement à l’assemblée du 29 juin au plus tôt.

Nous fournirons cependant à nos communautés deux états financiers pour que tout le monde puisse comprendre le budget de fonctionnement réel de la commission. L’un sera la version officielle pour le gouvernement et l’autre s’appuiera strictement sur les activités de fonctionnement actuelles et, nous l’espérons, sera comparable aux états financiers des années précédentes.

#### **REMANIEMENT MAJEUR DES ÉCOLES – ABONNEZ-VOUS AUX MISES À JOUR**

En réponse à la demande de plusieurs groupes et particuliers, la Commission a ajouté un service d’avis de mise à jour par abonnement. Vous n’avez qu’à entrer votre nom et votre courriel au service d’abonnement sur la page appropriée de la section “MSC” du site Web. Dès réception de vos coordonnées, vous serez ajouté à la liste d’envoi. Ensuite lorsque des changements seront apportés, des documents ajoutés, ou d’autres renseignements affichés sur le site MSC, vous recevrez un avis par courriel. Vous pouvez également vous désabonner en tout temps en cliquant sur le lien prévu à cet effet dans les messages d’avis.

### **COMMISSIONERS' MONTHLY MESSAGES (PEARSON NEWS & WEB SITE)**

This May edition of the Pearson News brings the first message from 2 more Commissioners (*Susan Bartlett-Lewis and Ruben Fazio*). These are personal observations of the local representatives and give you an opportunity to learn more about the people who have been elected to represent our community on the Council. In addition, all Commissioners are now posting monthly messages on the Board's web site. Check out your local Commissioner's page or check them all. Click on the hot-link to "Commissioners" on the left hand side of the Board's landing page ([www.lbpsb.qc.ca](http://www.lbpsb.qc.ca)) and then click on any of the photos to get to that Commissioner's personal page. Each Commissioner's page includes a backgrounder, a list of committees and affiliations each is involved with, contact information, and the new monthly message.

### **RENTAL RATES 2009/2010 – NO INCREASE**

The reality is that costs continue to rise in spite of the current economic situation. Maintenance, material and human costs have increased during the past year. As a responsible member of the approximately 40 communities we operate in and for, the Board Council and Administration have taken a long and hard look at what we can and should do in terms of helping our community organizations, many of whom are finding it very tough to operate at the level they want to in these difficult times. The Board has decided to freeze all Rental Rates for the 2009/2010 school year. Any and all organizations using LBPSB schools and properties will continue to be able to do so at the rates that have been in place for the current (2008/2009) school year.

Now that the rates are established, we encourage all groups wishing to renew their bookings or desiring a first-time booking for the use of LBPSB facilities to contact the rentals department as soon as possible to ensure you are able to secure your preferred time and location.

### **INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM UPDATE**

H1N1 influenza is certainly on the minds of our International Studies department. The department has been monitoring the situation very closely and some adjustments are being made to summer programming. One major change is the rebooking of our first group from Mexico. They were scheduled to arrive the first week of July but have been rescheduled for the early spring of 2010. Other bookings remain in place but will be reassessed as the times for arrival get nearer.

Confirmations for fall 2009 and onward into the 2009/2010 are the strongest yet and we expect (*barring any unforeseen events*) the biggest and most successful year ever in 2009/2010. Students from more than 20 countries will once again become part of the LBPSB for both short and long-term programs. Registration will surpass 550 students in the current year and we should have 600 students+ in the coming year.

2009/2010 will also see the inauguration of the two overseas programs. The summer school in China and the elementary school in South Korea are both experiencing enrollments exceeding early expectations. The final wording of the contracts for the operations of these two schools is to be finalized and signed in the coming days and both sides are anxious to receive the first cohorts of students. We will keep you advised of the progress of these two unique projects.

## 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	Suanne 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 – JUNE 2009

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

Central Parents' Committee	June 11, 2009	7:00 p.m.	Board Room
Executive Committee	June 22, 2009	7:30 p.m.	Board Room
<b>Council of Commissioners</b>	<b>June 29, 2009</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Board Room</b>

*Webcast begins at 7:30 p.m. on [www.lbpsb.qc.ca](http://www.lbpsb.qc.ca)*

Check out your Commissioner's Monthly Newsletter

[www.lbpsb.qc.ca](http://www.lbpsb.qc.ca)

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

**Marcus Tabachnick**

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...FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD