



Commission scolaire  
Lester-B.-Pearson

# PEARSON NEWS

## LESTER B. PEARSON SCHOOL BOARD

Volume XI, No 3

FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL & THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

October 27, 2008

### RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

#### Conférence de l'ERDI

Il m'a fait plaisir de participer à la conférence de l'*Education Resources Development Institute* et d'y prononcer une allocution. Il s'agit d'une rencontre de gestionnaires de districts scolaires de partout au Canada et des principaux fournisseurs de services auprès des établissements d'enseignement du Canada et des États-Unis.

L'un des volets principaux de cette conférence était une présentation par un certain nombre de directeurs généraux et de surintendants sur les problèmes que rencontre leur commission scolaire ou leur district respectif. Il est remarquable que dans un pays si vaste, il semble que nous luttons contre les mêmes problèmes: les restrictions budgétaires, une démographie fluctuante, un programme d'études toujours plus élaboré, la recherche de partenariats, la pénurie d'enseignants. Il est rassurant cependant de reconnaître que les efforts et les réalisations du secteur public au Québec sont à l'avant-garde et soulèvent l'intérêt de nos collègues des autres provinces.

#### Données d'effectif

Les prévisions d'effectif soumises par les directions d'école au début du printemps se sont confirmées et sont très proches des prévisions indiquées par notre logiciel de démographie. Nos écoles primaires accueillent 13 220 élèves et notre réseau secondaire reçoit 11 817 élèves.

#### National Student Leadership Conference

Encore cette année, des élèves de nos écoles secondaires ont pu assister à la conférence *National Student Leadership* tenue à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard.

### DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

#### ERDI Fall Conference

I was pleased to be a participant and a presenter at the Fall Conference of the Education Resources Development Institute, a gathering that brings together senior administrators from school districts across Canada and major suppliers of services to educational institutions in Canada and the United States.

One of the major components was a presentation by a number of Directors General or Superintendents on issues facing their respective boards/districts. It is quite remarkable that, across this vast country, we seem to wrestle with similar issues in education: budget restrictions; shifting enrollment patterns; an ever-expanding curriculum; community partnerships; teacher shortages. It remains reassuring, however, to recognize that our efforts and achievements in public education in Québec are often in the forefront and are of great interest to our colleagues in other provinces.

#### Enrollment Data

The enrolment projections made by principals in the early Spring of the school year have proven accurate and are very closely aligned to the enrollment projections shown by our demographic software. Our elementary schools are hosting 13,220 students and our secondary network is receiving 11,817 students.

#### National Student Leadership Conference

Once again this year, students from our high schools were able to attend the National Student Leadership Conference held in Prince Edward Island. This event brings together student leaders and Student Life Advisors from across the country, a gathering that

...FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Cet événement réunit des élèves leaders et des conseillers en vie scolaire de tout le pays, une rencontre bouillonnante de vie et d'énergie du début à la fin. La Commission scolaire Lester-B.-Pearson accueillera la Conférence de 2010 et ce sera la meilleure jusqu'ici !

### **Journées « portes ouvertes »**

Dans le cadre de nos démarches pour faire connaître l'excellence de l'enseignement public, nos écoles secondaires et nos centres d'éducation des adultes et de formation professionnelle ont entrepris une campagne de journées « portes ouvertes » durant le mois d'octobre, et jusqu'en novembre. La plupart ont donc eu lieu, et les expositions sur l'éducation et la campagne de publicité dans les journaux et à la radio ont réussi à attirer les parents et les élèves dans nos écoles lors de ces « portes ouvertes ». Les affiches sur les autobus et le concours qui s'y rapporte, une idée originale de notre agent de communications, Jim Hendry, accroissent grandement notre visibilité.

### **Projet conjoint avec le S.E.P.**

Le président, la haute direction et le Syndicat des enseignant(e)s de Pearson ont accepté de commanditer conjointement cinq enseignants du secondaire qui participeront à une conférence "Reaching AT+ Promise Students National Conference - Transformation in the Classroom" qui se tiendra à San Diego en février 2009. Il s'agit d'un projet véritablement collaboratif et nous espérons qu'il y aura d'autres initiatives de ce genre à l'avenir.

### **Partenariats communautaires**

Nous avons la chance de voir nos élèves et nos enseignants bénéficier de la générosité de nos partenaires dans la communauté pour se perfectionner. En plus des commandites pour plusieurs initiatives telle "À la découverte des étoiles" à laquelle plusieurs entreprises locales participent, des enseignants ont reçu des bourses de la Fondation Thomas et Riva Hecht leur permettant de participer à des études sur l'Holocauste en Israël cet été. Au Conseil ce soir, nous avons accueilli Mme Judith Springate qui a présenté un prix d'excellence à Lisa Brown, une finissante de Beaconsfield High School qui fréquente maintenant le Collège John-Abbott.

is literally seething with life and energy from start to finish. The Lester B. Pearson School Board will be hosting the 2010 Conference and it is our intent to make it the best ever.

### **Open Houses**

As part of our expanding efforts to communicate the excellence of public education, our high schools and Adult and Vocational Education Centres have undertaken a "blitz" of Open House events during October with some extending into November. Those that have taken place, in addition to the presentations at Education Fairs and the advertising campaign in newspapers and on the radio are succeeding in bringing parents and students into our schools on these Open House evenings. The bus posters and the accompanying contest, devised by our Communications Officer Jim Hendry, are elevating our profile immensely.

### **Joint Project with P.T.U.**

The Chairman, Senior administration and the Pearson Teacher's Union have agreed to jointly sponsor five secondary school teachers to attend the "Reaching AT+ Promise Students National Conference - Transformation in the Classroom" to be held in San Diego in February 2009. This is a truly collaborative venture and we are looking forward to other such initiatives in the future.

### **Community Partnerships**

We are very fortunate to have both students and teachers who benefit from the generosity of our community partners to further their studies. In addition to the sponsorships given to a variety of initiatives such as "Discover the Stars" in which many local companies participate, teachers have received bursaries from the Thomas and Riva Hecht Foundation that has enabled them to participate in Holocaust studies in Israel during the summer months. At Council this evening, we have received Dr. Judith Springate who presented an "Award of Excellence" Bursary to Lisa Brown, a Beaconsfield High School student now attending John Abbott College.



# INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE DAY

On Wednesday, September 24, students from Springdale Elementary participated in an Intercultural Exchange Day. Over 2000 students from schools in and around Montreal joined together to celebrate multiculturalism and ethnic diversity.

The goal for the day was to have students get involved in the sharing of cultural traditions, heritage and history by observing, actively participating, and presenting.

Students from Springdale had the honour of presenting some examples of cultural activities from our own community in the form of Indian dancing, and by playing a musical piece from Zimbabwe.

*Students from Springdale display their talents performing traditional Indian dancing.*



The Exchange Day, which was organized in cooperation with LEARN, (Leading English Education and Resource Network), was held on the grounds of Royal Vale School in NDG. Students and Staff from Westmount Park School acted as hosts for the event, showcasing their own cultural diversity with a number of presentations which included Steel Pan drumming and choral singing.

When they were not performing themselves, our students had a chance to visit a number of presentations put on by artists from a wide variety of cultures, backgrounds, and ethnicities. Dancers, musicians, and storytellers from the cultures from around the world performed for our students. West Indian drumming, Mohawk dancing, musicians from China, Spain, Kenya and many other countries from around the world were some of the presentations.

*Students from Springdale perform a Zimbabwean instrumental on their xylophones*



It was a fabulous, sunny day spent soaking in the wonders of Québec and Canada's diverse cultural heritage. Our students were pleased and proud to be able to contribute, and we thank our music teacher Jamison Odling, and our PELO teacher Ms. Neelam Kumar for helping our students practice and prepare their presentations.

*David Estok  
Principal*



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## A big "VANDANAM", to the students of

### Mount Pleasant Elementary

SOPAR and the people of the village Banjara Colony in Andhra Pradesh, India, say *Vandanam* (Thanks in Telugu, language spoken in Andhra Pradesh, India) for contributing to the construction of a drinking water well. More than 125 people now benefit from the well built with your support.



As you can see in the picture, the well is in operation. The name of your school is engraved on a nameplate at the base of the well as a sign of solidarity.

Every day many women and their children come to this well to get water. The children and their mothers no longer have to walk long distances to get water for their families. The mothers now have more time to take care of their children and the children have more time to concentrate on their studies. The families can also cultivate a small vegetable garden to have better food. They can also keep their houses and surroundings cleaner.

With clean water, the children of the village and their parents will now have better health, better hygiene and better life. This is a big change!

Through the "Children Changing the World" project, you have changed the lives of other people for better. You now understand that, by taking initiatives, particularly with others, you have the power to change their lives, even if they live far away. We also thank your teachers and parents who encouraged you in this project!

A big शुक्रिया - Thank you!

Alain J. Godbout  
Executive director, SOPAR



## St. John Fisher Junior & Senior Celebrate the Beginning of a New School Year

On September 16, a most beautiful sunny day, both campuses celebrated the beginning of the school year by having a welcome back fair. The fair was hosted by Dynamix. Thanks to our Home & School parent volunteers we had an amazing day. The parents animated the activities while the students collected points on cards for each activity.



**Lunch for 700!**

As part of our opening celebration, students and staff had a hot dog lunch on the front lawn of the Junior Campus. It was wonderful to see a sea of students and adults all eating lunch together. Once again, the organizational skills of the parents in charge were impressive to say the least. Over 700 people had lunch at the same time!



Steven Colpitts  
SJF Senior principal

Myriam Rabbat  
SJF Junior principal

## Bishop Whelan - Terry Fox Walk

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, our school went on a walk around Dorval. This was called the “Terry Fox Walk”. The Kindergarten students went on a walk for 15 minutes. Grades 1 to 6 walked for 45 minutes, it was fun to walk with our classmates. We passed through 2 parks and Ballantyne. We raised over \$1,000 for cancer research. Terry Fox was very athletic. He played basketball, baseball, soccer and track and field. Terry Fox ran from Prince Edward Island to Thunder Bay, Ontario. He ran 5374 Km or 3339 miles but unfortunately he died on June 28, 1981. Terry Fox was very courageous.

*Jennifer Sleimano & Chelsea McKeavney, Cycle 3*



Terry Fox ran half of Canada. He was 20 when

he started to run. He was 18 and playing basketball. He made a foundation for cancer. As a matter of fact Terry Fox had cancer himself; he had bone cancer in his leg. He risked a lot of pain. He stopped in Thunder Bay, he did not feel good. The Doctor said “I’m sorry Terry the cancer is in your lungs.” Terry’s Mom and Dad flew to Thunder Bay. Terry died at 23. Terry’s Foundation continues to this day.

*Mikhayla Reid, Grade 3*

# Bishop Whelan - Apple & Pumpkin Picking

On Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the whole school went on a field trip to Quinn's Farm in Ile Perrot. Everybody had a very good time apple picking and received a five pound bag of apples and a small orange or green pumpkin. We were there from 10:30 to 1:30 which is 3 hours. We were all very excited, happy and very polite to the people who were working at the farm. Quinn's Farm is very big and has lots of fruits and vegetables like apples, strawberries, blueberries, corn and pumpkins. There were a few volunteers like my Dad and some other parents too. I think that it went very well and I am very proud to represent Bishop Whelan.



*Chelsea McKeavney*

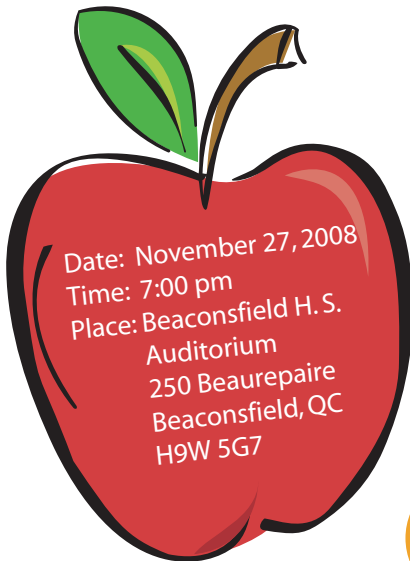




# Free Conference Leslie Beck Nutritionist November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7 PM

## Brought to you by

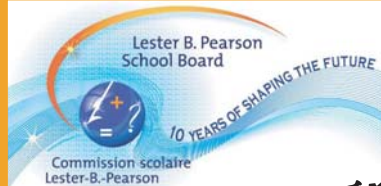
The Lester B. Pearson School Board  
Food Service and Nutrition Education  
Department sponsored by  
Chartwells School Dining Services.



Leslie Beck, a well-recognized spokesperson on nutrition and healthy eating, will present on the topic of healthy eating for families & nutrition guidelines customized to reflect LBPSB's Food & Nutrition Policy. She is recognized by Canadians as an authority on nutrition and food issues and is an experienced communicator in television, radio and print media. She writes a weekly column in *The Globe and Mail*, appears weekly on CTV as Canada AM's nutrition expert, and can also be heard on Montreal's CJAD Morning Radio.

For more details visit:  
[www.lbpsb.qc.ca](http://www.lbpsb.qc.ca) in November.





# Conférence gratuite

## Leslie Beck, nutritionniste

### Le 27 novembre 2008 à 19 heures

#### Offerte par

les Services alimentaires et  
éducation à la nutrition de la  
Commission scolaire Lester-B.-Pearson  
commandité par Chartwells.



Leslie Beck, porte-parole bien connue en matière de nutrition et de saines habitudes alimentaires, abordera les choix santé pour les familles et les directives nutritionnelles selon Politique alimentaire de la CSLBP. Elle est reconnue par les Canadiens comme autorité en matière de nutrition et d'alimentation; c'est aussi une communicatrice expérimentée à la télévision, à la radio et dans la presse écrite. Elle signe une chronique hebdomadaire dans le *Globe and Mail*, participe à l'émission *Canada AM* sur CTV à titre d'experte en nutrition, et à l'émission matinale de la station de radio CJAD.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, visitez :  
[www.lbpsb.qc.ca](http://www.lbpsb.qc.ca) en novembre.

# Environmental Heros at Saint Lawrence Academy Senior and Sherwood Forest School

**L**ester B. Pearson School Board's Saint Lawrence Academy Senior Campus and Sherwood Forest Elementary School honored for environmental efforts through partnership with the CBC, Foundation of Greater Montreal and the Alex and Ruth Dworkin Foundation.

On September 16, 2008, CBC hosted an awards event for those participating in the School Needs Youth in Philanthropy project. The project was a partnership between CBC, The Foundation of Greater Montreal, and the Alex and Ruth Dworkin Foundation, as well as four school boards, including Lester B. Pearson, English Montreal, Riverside and Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

The two elementary schools participating in the project from the Lester B. Pearson School are Saint Lawrence Academy Senior Campus and Sherwood Forest Elementary. Students from these schools presented their environmental project ideas to the CBC in June 2008. Their presentations then aired on the CBC News at Six, as well as CBC's afternoon show entitled Homerun. Project ideas were initiated by the students with the help of their teachers and administrators, and were required to follow an environmental theme. Projects from the four school boards were judged by secondary school students who were trained by the Foundation of Greater Montreal. The high school judge representing the Lester B. Pearson School Board was Liela Toure, a Secondary V student from Riverdale High School.

Saint Lawrence Academy Senior has an environmental club whose goal is to become a "Green School". The students are supported in this initiative by teachers Sonia Chablo and Charlene Kavanagh, and have many on-going initiatives to become more environmentally friendly, including a letter writing committee which has written to City Hall requesting recycling bins for their adjoining soccer field.

"It is wonderful to see the students taking initiative to sensitize the school community to ways in which we can all take better care of our most precious commodity—our earth!", said Jane Fullerton Kelly, Principal of Saint Lawrence Academy Senior Campus.



"I like being in the Environment Club because I feel we're helping with environmental issues to save the whole planet", said Alexandre Brisebois, a student at Saint Lawrence Senior.

(continued)

*Cycle 3 students from Sherwood Forest accompanied by Commissioner S. Day, Parent volunteer T. Nichol, Principal J. Fillatre, Teachers G. Lussier and P. Teasdale*

Sherwood Forest, whose environmental project is entitled “Reclaiming our Environment”, has been supported by teachers Genevieve Lussier and Patrick Teasdale who will oversee the building of two outdoor classrooms and a garden that will help to educate students about the environment.

Principal Jean Fillatre and staff are thrilled about the project and the prospect of having students learn in an outdoor classroom setting. The City of Beaconsfield will partner with the school to provide materials such as mulch, logs and tree stumps for the classroom.

“We are fortunate to have the support of our community in this endeavour to promote environmental awareness. Partnerships will help to sustain these student-driven initiatives”, said Jean Fillatre, Principal of Sherwood Forest elementary.

“I think it’s a great idea to learn about the plants and trees outside in our schoolyard”, said Sherwood Forest grade 5 student Melanie Alfonso.

Both Saint Lawrence Senior and Sherwood Forest received \$500.00 from the Foundations for the start-up of their projects. Saint Lawrence Senior was the recipient of an additional \$1,200.00 which was awarded at the gala on September 16, 2008.

*Nancy Battet  
Community and  
Partnership Liaison*



*St. Lawrence Sr.  
Environment Club  
students with teachers  
Sonia Chablo and  
Charlene Kavanagh*

# International Peace Day at St. John Fisher Jr.



Celebrating International Peace Day (September 21<sup>st</sup>) took on special meaning this year for the St. John Fisher Elementary Junior Campus! On the following Monday (September 22<sup>nd</sup>) the school community proudly raised their PSI (Peaceful Schools International) flag for the first time! Special guests from the Board included Ms. Judy Grant, Mr. Chuck Merilees and Ms. Carrie Gross. Mr. Colpitts, the individual responsible for initiating the Peace Process during his reign as principal of the Junior Campus, arrived with his grade three and four students from the Senior Campus. These students had played an important role in creating a climate of peace during their years at the Junior Campus! Peace Contracts were read by grade one and two students, reflections were shared by grade three and grade four “graduates”, a Peace Parade took place, a Peace song was sung ...and even the weather cooperated, a beautiful, sunny September day!



We want to thank another key person, Ms. Sue De Graff who also played an important role in the school's journey to becoming an accredited member of PSI.

*St. John Fisher Junior Campus Team*



# PSI Flag Commemoration

*“The union of hearts—the union of hands—And the flag of our Union forever.” - George Pope Morris*

September 23<sup>rd</sup> was the day that **Christmas Park Elementary** school re-raised its Peaceful Schools International’s Flag. With a new year upon us and a new roof above us, we felt the time was right to commemorate our PSI flag and remind ourselves why we flew it in the first place.

Knowing that we would raise our PSI flag to the winds that afternoon, we started our day by creating our own flags to be waved during the assembly. The students drew symbols and pictures and wrote words and phrases that expressed their understanding of peace. Much of the art was centered around nature, animals, and a greater community. It was that sense of the other that showed us that Christmas Park students understood that being a peaceful person means to also bring peace to the greater community – a community encompassing all living things.

We were also grateful for friends of old who joined us for the day. Mrs. Ruth Allardyce, the lady who led the wave of peace that swept the school, spoke of how we came to earn our PSI flag. Afterwards, Mrs. Judy Grant reminded us what being a Peaceful School was all about. They led us with words and also helped to lead us in singing ‘O Canada’, which opened our assembly. To close our time together we sang, ‘It’s a Small World’, as we re-raised our PSI flag and waved the ones we had made that day.

Our hope is that by having this re-dedication, that we ourselves would become newly dedicated to the joy of peace and that we would continue to grow and share that spirit with our world-wide community!



*Randal Howarth  
Spiritual Animator*



## Another LBPSB Olympic Connection



**C**ongratulations to St. Edmund teacher, Guylaine St-Georges, who proudly watched daughter, Emilie Fournel, as she represented Canada on the Women's Canoe/Kayak Team in Beijing, China. Emilie is pictured as the lead paddler in the photo.

## Saint Anthony Elementary School

**W**e hosted our first Mix 96 *Shave to Save* day. Two of our Grade 5 students, Paulo Riccardo and Ryan Myles volunteered (last May) to have their heads shaved and to donate their hair to “Locks of Love” an organization that will use their hair to make wigs for patients undergoing cancer treatment. Our students and community raised over \$4,600 as a



donation to the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation. Kristy Pealow (representative from the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundations) as well as Mix 96 DJ Nat Lauzon, Camille Mauger (Mix 96 Shave to Save Co-ordinator) and a Stylist from La Coupe were on hand to assist in the Shave to Save event.



Breast Cancer has touched so many of our families and friends, together we **will** make a difference.

*Antonietta Rampone  
Principal*

# KINDERGARTEN LAPTOP PROJECT AT SUNSHINE ACADEMY

The laptop project was implemented two weeks ago with the Kindergarten children. At first, it took time to not only sit and go over the rules of how to handle the computer, but to demonstrate the functions of the computer as well. Once we actually got started to use the computer program, the children were able to follow on without much help from my end.

As I began to show them the many elements of the computer and how to use certain functions, I observed that some of the students had immediately put up a visual wall in front of themselves. Many called out that they could not do it and needed help. I found that other students with prior knowledge of computers were able to help their classmates which enhanced the confidence level of all the students. The Québec Education Plan emphasizes cooperative learning and this was a way of implementing it. As we use the computers more often, the students will slowly begin to complete simple tasks such as moving the cursor to different icons and closing certain projects.



As the children were working on sequencing activities, I went around and asked a few what they thought about having their own computers in the classroom and this is how some responded: “This is fun. I feel like a big kid,” “Cool, I keep on getting it right!” was a statement made by Alyssia in response to completing each task in the sequencing activities.

One of the aspects that we find useful in these laptops is the fact that they are designed for children. The few times that I had brought the students to the computer lab, I noticed that the computers and the surrounding areas were too large for them. They could not reach the floor and they seemed to have difficulty

controlling the ‘large’ mouse designated to the computer. In the classroom, the children are able to have the computers at their seats, at their level and the mouse is designed to fit their hands.

As of right now, the children are at the point where they are still exploring key elements and icons on the computer. Overall, I feel that implementing technology for children at a young age is beneficial, as it will improve their knowledge of technology.



*Kevin Austin*  
*Kindergarten teacher*

## A NHL Legend Visits Westwood Senior

On September 30, 2008, Jacques Demers, former Coach of Montréal Canadiens visited Westwood Senior. “Coach Demers”, a Hudson resident, inspired students with his very dynamic presentation. Despite an impoverished childhood and an abusive father, Monsieur Demers went on to achieve NHL stardom, while hiding the fact that he did not read or write. Students learned that with hard work and determination, there is nothing to prevent them from achieving their goals.

Gwen Murray  
Librarian





# DISCOVER THE STARS

The Industry/School Program of  
The West Island of Montreal Chamber of Commerce  
in partnership with the business community and  
Marguerite-Bourgeoys and Lester-B.-Pearson School Boards



**Carlyn Anderson**  
*Beaconsfield  
High School*

The Gazette



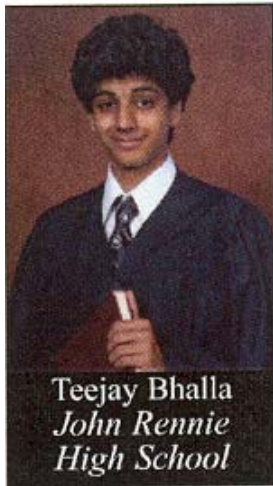
**Sanaa Iqbal**  
*Beaconsfield  
High School*

Abbott Limitée



**Laura McGrath**  
*Beaconsfield  
High School*

Groupe  
Santé Brunet



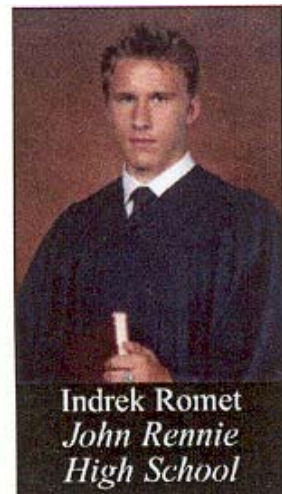
**Teejay Bhalla**  
*John Rennie  
High School*

Task Micro-  
Electronics Inc.



**Jyotirmoyi Chakraborty**  
*John Rennie  
High School*

Pfizer Canada Inc.



**Indrek Romet**  
*John Rennie  
High School*

MDA Space



Paul Montgomery  
*Lindsay Place  
High School*

Caisse populaire  
Dorval – Pointe-  
Claire



Scott Pemberton  
*Lindsay Place  
High School*

Pfizer Canada Inc.



Mélanie Plante  
*Lindsay Place  
High School*

Pfizer Canada Inc.



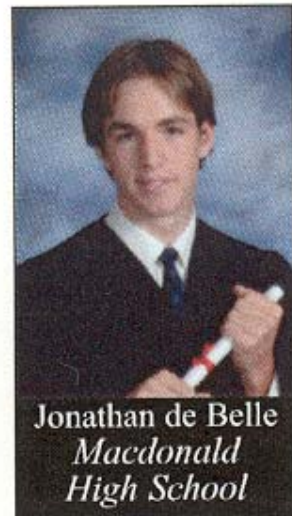
Timothy Prowse  
*Lindsay Place  
High School*

La Corporation  
Cadillac Fairview  
Ltée



Alanna Roszkowski  
*Lindsay Place  
High School*

Pfizer Canada Inc.



Jonathan de Belle  
*Macdonald  
High School*

Task Micro-  
Electronics Inc.



*Cynthia Rocha  
Macdonald  
High School*

Cégep John Abbott  
College



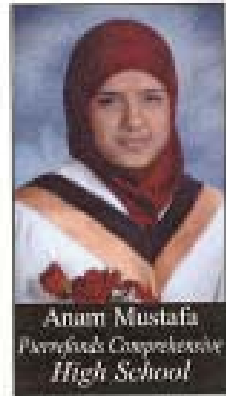
*Zarnab Durrani  
Pierrefonds Comprehensive  
High School*

Abbott Limitée



*Sarah Khan  
Pierrefonds Comprehensive  
High School*

Caisse populaire  
Desjardins Sainte-  
Geneviève de  
Pierrefonds



*Anam Mustafa  
Pierrefonds Comprehensive  
High School*

Caisse populaire  
Desjardins Sainte-  
Geneviève de  
Pierrefonds



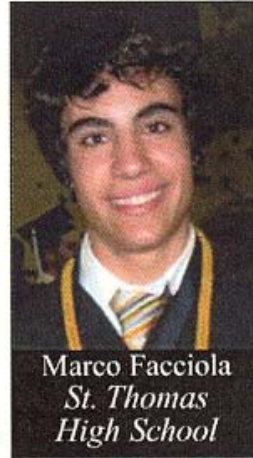
*Nabitha Kanagaratnam  
Riverdale  
High School*

Bell Canada



*Lisa Rosenberger  
Riverdale  
High School*

Caisse populaire  
Desjardins des  
Sources



*Marco Facciola  
St. Thomas  
High School*

Cégep John Abbott  
College

This scholarship program rewards commitment towards science and scientific technology, mainly from the Secondary V graduates of the Marguerite-Bourgeys and Lester B. Pearson School Boards. \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to the winners from public high schools of the West Island of Montreal Chamber of Commerce territory.

The winners are selected by a jury, comprised of a representative from the Education community, a representative from the Chamber of Commerce and a representative from a sponsoring company.

The criteria are the following: extra-curricular activities, including sports and associations; two reference letters from their school and associations; academic results; submission of an essay; interview with the jury.

We warmly congratulate all the LBPSB winners. They are to be commended for their achievements.

# REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

## PEARSON GOES “LIVE”

The September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Council of Commissioners public meeting was webcast as scheduled and the numbers were impressive. Over 420 people logged in to the webcast during the 2-1/2 hour meeting. In all, there were some 730 attempts to log-on but some technical difficulties kept some people from being able to join.

The equipment was very new to the Board, having been delivered only days before the initial webcast but under those circumstances the first meeting attempt was a great success. A huge thanks must go to Jim Hendry, Communications Manager; François Dupuis, Director of Information Services and his entire IS team for the job they did in getting this new technology up and running in such short order. There were some glitches, one of which led to the loss of the recording of about 2/3 of the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. We believe that the problem has been resolved and, hopefully, it won't happen again.

Our Council meetings usually attract some 6 – 10 public. The fact that we were able to reach 50+ times that audience is wonderful, amazing, and a little overwhelming – all at the same time. It is so important that our community has the opportunity to see their representatives at work, to hear and understand the issues that will help to shape the future of the Board, the services that we provide, and the policies that are being discussed.

Our Board has always had the most thorough and transparent consultation process. We have tried to be open and forthcoming about all our business. Unfortunately, that message has not always been received. That has pushed us to try to do even more. We hope that the number of webcast viewers will grow. We know that the number will certainly increase as we get to any future Major School Change consultations or any other Board-wide consultations. Future plans include the intention to webcast other Council/Community events and more details will be available in the coming months.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

We look forward to hearing from you. To that end we have set up a new email address if you have questions or comments about our Board, our meeting, or the webcasts, please contact us at: [webcast@lbpsb.qc.ca](mailto:webcast@lbpsb.qc.ca)

Let us know what you think. Time permitting, we will select some emails to respond to as part of the first public question period at each webcast meeting.

## BY- ELECTIONS OCTOBER 26, 2008

Two by-elections were held on October 26<sup>th</sup> to fill seats left vacant by the resignations of Ralph Tietjen in Beaconsfield Ward 15, and Sylvia Di Donato in Pierrefonds/Île-Bizard Ward 12.

The unofficial results (results are final and official on October 31, 2008) are:

### **Ward 12 Pierrefonds/Ile-Bizard**

PAVONE, Domenico Votes: 44

**WILLIAMS, Susan Votes: 176**

TOTAL VOTES: 220

### **Ward 15 Beaconsfield North**

**RAE, Don Votes: 204**

RAKOBOWCHUK, Peter Votes: 144

ROBERTS, Lana Votes: 40

TOTAL VOTES: 388

Election rules allow for a period of 5 days for contestation of the results and so the elections will become official and final on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. We look forward to welcoming our new Council members at the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **BUS BANNER CONTEST WINNERS**

In order to promote the Open Houses of the LBPSB High Schools, Adult Education Centers, and Vocational Education Centres, the Board embarked on a new advertising campaign making use of STM bus banner advertising.

As part of the School Board's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations we decided to combine this advertising effort with a "Spot the Bus Banner" contest. We asked people to note that place, date, and time they spotted the banners and then to register that via a special page on our website.

The response was exceptional. Over 2160 entries were registered. Ten winners were selected at random from all legitimate entries received during the webcast of the October 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The winners are:

Gregory Beliveau from Montreal  
Derek Burkinshaw from Montreal  
Jalen Charette-Wells from Pierrefonds  
Santino Ciarra from Dollard-des-Ormeaux  
Kimberley Davey from Pointe-Claire  
Darryl Johnstone from Dollard-des-Ormeaux  
Deborah Mahamode from Pierrefonds  
Alberto Martinez from Kirland  
Rima Nazi from Pierrefonds  
Sébastien Parks from Roxboro

Thanks to everyone for participating. Congratulations to the I-Pod winners.

The real winners, though, are all the students now registered at one of our schools or centres!

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 2007/2008**

The Council of Commissioners received the audited 2007/2008 financial statements at the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Board's auditors, Samson Bélair/Deloitte & Touche s.e.n.c.r.l., reported that after conducting their audit in accordance with the Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, that the "financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the school board as at June 30, 2008..."

The statement shows that, once again, the Board has a small operating surplus. Revenues totaled \$256,314,823 and Expenses were \$254,477,290 with an additional \$1,564,475 of expenses awaiting grants or long term funding. This results in a surplus of \$3,402,008 which, combined with the prior year surplus and changes to the opening balance, gives an amount of \$6,938,259 being returned to schools and centers leaving the board with a one year free surplus for 2007-2008 of \$104,238.

In all, \$115,546,974 was spent on Teaching services and \$45,633,192 on other educational support. This amounted to an overall increase of \$3,799,942 or 2.4 % compared to the 2006/2007 school year, in spite of a student enrollment decline of 635 or 2.4%.

As always, the Board's budgeting and financial control systems have ensured that the LBPSB does not finish the year with a deficit. However, new accounting rules being implemented for the current school year will inevitably lead all Schools Boards to record deficits in the coming years. The change with the greatest impact on the financial reporting for Boards will be the requirement to include the unused teacher sick days and unused vacation days as a liability for the school board instead of the current Ministry rules which requires a note in the financial statements. The accounting for amortization will be changed from the current rules to conform with Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. For the LBPSB this will amount to over \$8,000,000 of expense that in the past were not to be included (by MELS regulations) in the annual financial reports of school boards. We are still awaiting specific instructions from the Ministry as to how exactly we will have to account for these, but there is no doubt that the impact could be major.

The Council of Commissioners will be reviewing the current year's budget at the November 24<sup>th</sup> public meeting. It will be at that time that changes to the 2008/2009 expenditure plan may be made.

## **FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

We have mentioned for months that we have undertaken a study of three basic service delivery models that our Board provides. The philosophy for the delivery of services in Special Needs, French Immersion, and Magnet Programs/Magnet Schools was developed in conjunction with our community at the time of the transition and merger of school boards into the present linguistic set-up. Ten years later we believe that the time has come to review where we are and if the service delivery models are still appropriate for our students and teachers. The Council began this process in January 2008 and after over eight months of meetings and research we are ready to expand the study.

As reported last month, we held committee meetings with representatives of many of our stakeholder groups. Students, Parents, Unions and Associations participated in some lively discussion about the background and process that we have been following for most of 2008. It was also very clear that no decisions, suggestions, or recommendations have come forth from the committee work.

The committees are now going back to work and will have more detailed reports ready in time for the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council of Commissioners. It is hoped that at that time we will be ready to present a recommendation on how the Board will proceed. The possibilities are numerous. The three committees may become one, or there may be a series of recommendations, or there may be no recommendations, or, or, or... What we do know is that nothing will happen without the participation of our stakeholders. If there are suggestions for change we are committed to a process that involves input, discussion, and suggestions from our partners.

### **NEW CENTRAL PARENTS' COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE ELECTED**

The October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Central Parents' Committee (CPC) began with the committee saying goodbye and thank you to outgoing Chair Elisabeth Tosi. After 3 years at the helm of the CPC Elisabeth has had to make the decision that she devotes more time to her children and home. CPC, the parents, and the Board will miss Elisabeth's leadership, collaborative style, and dedication to the students and community of our Board.

The meeting then proceeded to elect a new Chair. We congratulate and welcome as CPC Chair **Eric Dunn**. We look forward to a busy year working together with Eric as the Board moves into a period of reflection on the services and programs being offered. There is no doubt that it will be a challenging year for the new Chair and we renew our ongoing offer to work closely with the Chair and the entire CPC. Also elected at the meeting were: Elisabeth Tosi as Vice-Chair and representative to the Adult & Vocational Committee as well as to the Education Committee; and Ken Johnston as Treasurer. The Board has always valued and appreciated the role that all parents play in our system and we fully understand how much stronger and how much better we are for that involvement.

### **PARENT COMMISSIONERS ELECTED**

Also at the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Central Parents' Committee (CPC) two Parent Commissioners were elected. We are pleased to welcome back **Conny Held** as Parent Commissioner Elementary Schools and new-to-Council **Craig Buchanan** as Parent Commissioner Secondary Schools to the Council of Commissioners.

Congratulations to both. We value our relationship with CPC and look forward to the input and collaboration of the Parent Commissioners.

### **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 !*

# Commissioners' Phone Numbers

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

Ward	Communities	Commissioner	Home	422-3000
			Phone #	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	VACANT		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	VACANT		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 – NOVEMBER 2008**

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

Central Parents' Committee	November 20, 2008	7:00 p.m.	Board Room
Executive Committee	November 17, 2008	7:30 p.m.	Board Room
Special Needs Advisory Committee	November 26, 2008	7:00 p.m.	Room 219/221
<b>Council of Commissioners</b>	<b>November 24, 2008</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Board Room</b>

**Marcus Tabachnick**

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**Fax: (514) 422-3016**

**Email: MTabachnick@lbpsb.qc.ca**