



THE VOICE OF
THE PARENT
IN EDUCATION

QFHSA NEWS

VOLUME 50 ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 2012

Welcome to
the 2012-2013
School Year!

QFHSA
wishes each of
our local
associations
much success!

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CURRENTLY AT A SCHOOL NEAR YOU! BILL 56: AN ACT TO PREVENT AND STOP BULLYING AND VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS

Schools and school boards all across Quebec are preparing their policies and procedures this new school year, updating them to reflect necessary changes that are part of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) Bill 56. The Bill was passed into law in June 2012 and aims to make everyone involved in education more accountable with regards to bullying and violence in Quebec schools.

Bill 56 is titled *"An Act to prevent and stop bullying and violence in schools"*. According to MELS, the Bill involves various amendments to the Education Act and to the Act Respecting Private Education. Bill 56 specifies the duties and responsibilities of the various "school stakeholders and their partners. It also stipulates that school boards must see to it that each of their schools provides a healthy and secure learning environment that allows every student to develop his or her full potential, free from any form of bullying or violence."¹

In short, the Bill defines what bullying and violence are comprised of in an educational setting. It also defines the responsibilities and duties of students, parents, school staff, principals, governing boards, school boards and school ombudsman vis-à-vis bullying and violence in schools. Each public and private educational institution must adopt and implement an anti-bullying and anti-violence plan. Each school principal must set up a team whose main function is to coordinate the program that it has in place and to ensure that incidents are reported and properly dealt with.

MELS is also leading a campaign to inform students, parents and educators of their rights and obligations in terms of bullying and violence in schools and society at large. The website, "[1 Right the Wrong](http://www.1rightthewrong.com)" is filled with examples of bullying and how it is

based on a behavior that is intentionally harmful. They also cover the topic of cyber-bullying since so much intimidation and harassment takes place on the internet and in social media sites. There are tip sheets for students, parents and educators alike. There are sources of help for students who are victims of violence or are being bullied. There are also links for parents and educators on what they can do to help out and be actively involved as part of the solution. Everyone should consult the site to update their knowledge of the many forms of bullying in this high-tech era and what the expectations are. Visitors to the website can even declare their support to right the wrongs of bullying, and enter a contest sponsored by MELS.

Many schools will be holding fall workshops and sessions on violence and bullying. The QFHSA will also feature anti-bullying as the main message of our upcoming Fall Conference (see details on page 4 in this NEWS). With an informed effort, we can reduce bullying and violence. Parents need to become involved in education now more than ever.

Lisa Fougère, QFHSA News Editor

¹Source MELS website <http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/violenceecole>



WE ARE COMMITTED TO TAKING ACTION:

- o by treating people with respect
- o by condemning bullying and acts of violence
- o by adhering to the core values of Québec society such as tolerance, openness to others and acceptance
- o by providing solutions to prevent bullying and violence

* Source 1rightthewrong.com



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

NEW SUCCESSES & CHALLENGES

I would like to welcome everyone to a fresh start for the 2012-13 school year. New opportunities and new habits are the promises of a new beginning.

It is an exciting time for the English speaking communities and the QFHSA is proud of its extensive range of Committees, Executive Workshops, Members' Workshops and general services that it offers to serve the Local Home and School Associations, which are comprised of some of the most richly diverse populations in the province.

September is the month when all QFHSA Committees explore and discuss the matters that will be studied during the year and, as always, we welcome new members. By participating in a Committee, you ensure a continuous consultation with your community and a chance to voice its concerns. For a list of all Committees available, please visit our website at www.qfhsa.org.

We encourage parents to become members of their Local Home and School Associations and be active within them. We also encourage them to continue to seek their voice through the representation of the QFHSA. We welcome your input and ideas and we encourage you to check our website regularly. Our website offers news updates of value for you and your community, as well as information on how you can participate in our Committees and Workshops.

You can also follow us on Facebook or Twitter for regular updates of concerns of the English speaking communities.

So here's to the new school year filled with successes, challenges, innovation and celebrations — and most of all, lots of learning!

Best wishes for a great school year,

Liette Chamberland

QFHSA President

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Our QFHSA NEWS Advertising Rate Kit is available for 2012-2013. Please send inquiries to news@qfhsa.org. The QFHSA NEWS is the best way to reach over 5000 Quebec families! Our next advertising deadline is Nov. 5, 2012 with the NEWS published mid-December.

Thank you to the
Department of Canadian
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Loisir et du Sport (MELS) for
their financial support in
helping us publish the
QFHSA NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

As the Quebec provincial election campaign progressed over the summer, we saw schools, school boards and education become hot topics. School Boards had been targets for attack and have experienced dramatic cuts to financing this past year. School Boards are under pressure to justify their existence, maintain current level of service while working with only half the financial resources. They are even being threatened with outright dissolution from some quarters despite our constitutional right to maintain control of our own education system.

Various political parties threw many ideas around such as:

- Extending the school day to 5:00 pm to 'address school drop out rates',
- Extending Bill 101 to restrict Francophones and immigrants from attending English CEGEPS ,
- eliminating the legitimate pathway through private school registration to receive English public education eligibility.

School administrations are going to be looking to Home and School parents more and more to help provide extra resources and activities to enhance the school experience of their students.

It is, once again, up to us, the parents.

The English speaking community has always valued education and has been willing to contribute the time, energy and money needed to achieve their goals. Witness the recent student boycott of classes this past summer and note the significance of the English CEGEPS and universities choosing not to participate. Witness the number of parents willing to enroll their children in private school, despite the often enormous financial burden, in order to secure an English education. We acknowledge that there is often a price to be paid for high quality education and we are willing to work harder to meet that price.

Nevertheless, only 15% of eligible voters in Quebec actually make the effort to cast their ballots in English school board elections.

The QFHSA has been making efforts to provide information regarding school board governance and school board electoral lists to their membership and the

English Community at large. One area of concern has been to advise our parents to verify on which school board electoral list they are registered and to verify by which school board their school taxes are being collected. (Links to the English school board websites leading to information on school taxation lists can be found on the QFHSA website.) Our Rights Committee and Education Committees' mandates are to study the various educational issues as they arise and to advise and inform our members.

We, as parents in the English school system, have a responsibility now, more than ever, to show solidarity with our English school boards and to support them. Make sure you are registered on an electoral list and, once a school board election has been called, take the time to familiarize yourself with the candidates (websites make that much easier today than in the past) and make the time to cast your vote. If you have high school students graduating and turning 18 years old in the near future, obtain the electoral list transfer form from your school board and make sure their name is registered. Rather than wandering the downtown city streets banging pots, they can be eligible to exercise their right to vote!

Sincerely,

Carol Meindl

QFHSA Executive Director



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QFHSA EXECUTIVE WORKSHOPS

YOUR KEY INGREDIENT FOR A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Each year we host workshops at our offices especially suited for Home & School Executives and Leadership positions. They are intended for current, past and potential Executive Home & School members.

This year our Executive Workshops were held on Friday, September 21, 2012 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the QFHSA Office.

We offered workshops for

PRESIDENTS (and VPs) - TREASURERS - MEMBERSHIP CHAIRS

Comprehensive information kits for each session were given out to those attending.

“What I found very helpful was learning more about the QFHSA, how it works and what a great resource it can be. It made me feel like I was not alone and that we always have somewhere to turn.”

Eveline Azran

Forest Hill Home and School President

Information was also available for:

NEWSLETTER / MEDIA and “BORN TO READ”

The Executive Workshops are a **FUN** way to learn all you need to know to run your Home & School with enthusiasm and **confidence**. A time to **share** your **successes & challenges** and **trade ideas** with others. These workshops are a fantastic opportunity to **network** and connect with other executive members. If you were unable to attend, your kits are in the mail. Any questions, please feel free to contact us. We are here for you.

QFHSA

Resources for Your

Home and School

A NEW PRESIDENT'S REVIEW OF THE QFHSA JUNE 2012 EXECUTIVE WORKSHOP

By Eveline Azran

President Forest Hill Home and School

I found the June workshop extremely informative, especially since I felt like I had absolutely no idea what I was doing. Even after a year as an executive on my Home & School, I was a little overwhelmed by the thought of becoming president. The workshop not only helped in defining things more clearly, it was a wonderful venue to exchange ideas with other Home and Schools. It was great to be able to talk about certain issues that we were having at our school, only to find out that many other schools have very similar problems.

What I also found very helpful was learning more about the QFHSA, how it works and what a great resource it can be. It made me feel like I was not alone and that we always have somewhere to turn.



I loved the fact that they combined the President, Membership and Treasurer position workshops together. I think this helped give everyone a little insight into the different positions and responsibilities. The only problem with that is it made it a little harder to cover a lot of material, since we only had so much time. I think the QFHSA should do 2 executive workshops per year. I like that they did one in the spring, with everyone in the same room, and one in the fall, where each group gets their own workshop topic-specific.

I would highly recommend these workshops to anyone currently on a Home and School or thinking about taking on a new challenge.

QFHSA ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 27, 2012

8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

HONORÉ MERCIER ELEMENTARY
8280 RUE NANTES, MONTREAL, QC, H1P 2J1

COST:

Early Bird Special
 \$25 for members;
 \$35 after Oct. 19;
 \$35 for non-members

Each year the QFHSA brings together Home & School members from across the province offering an opportunity to develop leadership skills and networking opportunities through regional council meetings, workshops and a unique Plenary Session.

October 27th Conference Schedule

8:00-8:30 am Registration/Display Visits (coffee available)

8:30-8:45 am President’s Welcome & Opening Remarks

8:45-10:15 am Guest Speakers & **KEYNOTE SPEAKER** — *Dr. Shaheen Shariff: Associate Professor, Department of Integrated Studies in Education, Faculty of Education, McGill University*

“Define the Line: clarifying the blurred lines between cyber-bullying and digital citizenship”

Our keynote speaker is an Associate Professor and international expert on socio-legal and policy issues with respect to online social communication focusing on cyber-bullying, privacy, defamation and criminal harassment. Her project, “Define the Line”, guides educators to engage young people, “digital natives”, to recognize the legal risks of whatever they post online and to teach them to develop codes of conduct to become better digital citizens. She will speak of the challenge of balancing free expression, equality, safety and privacy online without crossing the line into the world of cyber-bullying.

10:15-10:30 am Nutrition Break/ Display Visits

10:30-12:00 pm 1st Session workshops

12:00-1:00 pm Regional Councils—Don’t miss the opportunity to network and brainstorm with other representatives from Home & School Associations in your area. Share ideas, strategies, and innovative ideas. Find, and offer, solutions to issues. Learn how to work well with your principal and school staff.

1:00-2:00 pm Lunch/ Display Visits

2:00-3:30 pm 2nd Session Workshops

3:30-3:45 pm Evaluation Draws – A variety of prizes will be drawn!

Confirmed Workshop Details on the next page.



Focus on
Anti-Bullying



QFHSA ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2012

Workshop Details

The ABC's of School Fundraising

Facilitated by Betty Skagkos, VP at Gardenview Home & School and Fundraising Chair

An overview and evaluation of the different types of fundraising possibilities that exist and tools to help plan a successful fundraiser for your Home & School.

How to Motivate a Potato!

Facilitated by James Watts, co-founder and principal of Education Plus High School, governing board chair and parent of 2 teens

Our schools and classrooms are a mosaic of vibrant teenaged designs; a veritable spectrum of students with varying abilities and needs. As teachers, we are called upon to teach to the crowd and instruct the individual, simultaneously! We have grass-roots pressure to make our topics meaningful and top down pressure to cover curriculum. Ultimately our allegiance is to our students. But how do you motivate the disinterested teen without boring the high achieving student? For 18 years, James Watts has taught many high school subjects to some of the most marginalized students. He has discovered a variety of successful ways to motivate young people and to make them excited, once again, about learning. In this presentation, James will share some of his innovative techniques with you!

Implications for Parents about the New Anti-Bullying Law (Bill 56)

Facilitated by Deb Kellman & Mona Segal, DM Family & School Services

In June 2012, Bill 56 was passed to address all forms of violence, including bullying and cyber-bullying. This workshop will help parents understand the implications of this law, and how it can be used to keep our children safe. Whether your child is the target, the bully or the bystander, whether bullying is a concern in the classroom, on the playground, among friends or online, Bill 56 has implications for you! Come join us for this dynamic and interactive workshop!

Build Relationships to Prevent Bullying

Facilitated by Dynamix

Building relationships and creating a positive school climate is a great way to prevent or diminish bullying. Discover the value of

teamwork and relationship building and the impact it has on your students, faculty and school community. As in all Dynamix workshops, you can expect innovative activities and engaging discussions.

Constitution, Minutes and Finances

Facilitated by Liette Chamberland, QFHSA president, Carol Meindl, QFHSA Executive Director & Leah Trineer, QFHSA Finance Committee Chair

Do you have questions about constitutions and by-laws? Does your organization have one? How do you go about creating one? What about taking minutes at a meeting? How much information do you need to document? What does a treasurer need to know? Come to this workshop to get all the answers to these questions and more!

Technology in the Classroom; How schools have finally caught up with the home

Facilitated by M. Réal Heppelle (Grade 6 teacher at Honoré Mercier School) and Ms. Jody Wilson (Grade 6 teacher at Westmount Park School)

Interactive Smart Boards have completely changed the way teachers use technology in schools. Get a first-hand look at some of the newest hardware and software that is revolutionizing the lives of your children. Get in the student seat and discover a digital Proscope, Bluetooth devices, the Smart Response System, the Smart Slate, the Smart Camera, and of course, the infamous Smart Board. As scary as technology might seem, no one can deny its pedagogical uses. Join the revolution, be the change, and sign up!

Working with your Principal: Guidelines for Home and Schools

Facilitated by Maria De Wolfe, principal at Westpark Elementary School

The secret to a successful Home and School is open communication and respect with the school's administration, staff and Governing Board. Mrs. De Wolfe will present strategies and guidelines to foster a healthy relationship between Home and School executive members and administration with the students' best interests at heart.

Additional Workshop and content to be confirmed.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION TO BE SENT OUT SOON TO YOUR LOCAL HOME & SCHOOL.

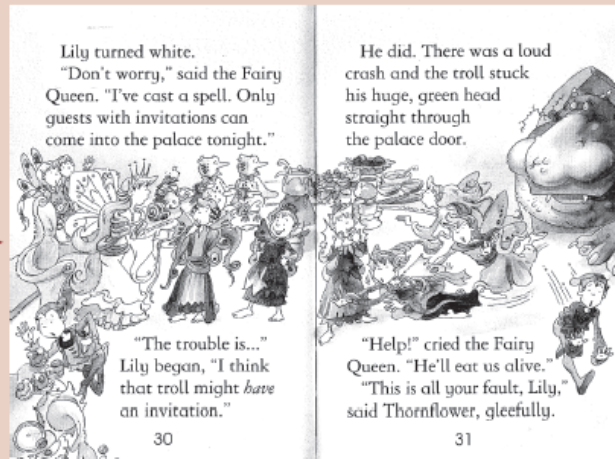


A neuroscientific reading program

DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S **READING** SKILLS THIS YEAR



"Just six weeks ago my daughter, who is nine, struggled to read this text."



"Last week, she was able to read this small chapter book"

Mrs. Grandsire, mother of 9 year old Cellfield student

What made the difference for this student? Cellfield: a revolutionary reading program that rewires the brain for accurate and fluent reading.

How is this done? Cellfield is based on the principles of brain plasticity: that is, the capacity of the brain to change when stimulated in the right way. These changes in the brain help students to develop more fluent reading skills. This improved fluency and accuracy leads to improved comprehension.

Who can benefit from Cellfield?

- students who are over 8 years of age
- have had a poor response to reading instruction
- remain weak readers or have poor comprehension, despite intervention
- have been diagnosed with dyslexia.
- read slowly or avoid reading whenever possible.

Why not kick-start the school year by upgrading your child's reading skills? Cellfield can help your child succeed this year with better reading skills and more confidence. And this translates into better marks and a more motivated student.



For more information on Cellfield, go to www.cellfield.com or www.cellfield.ca

Stepping Up Resource Centre
5555 Westminster Ave. Suite 207
Cote St. Luc • (438) 380-3635
info@steppingup.net

Strategic Learning Centre
280, av Dorval, Suite 206
Dorval • (514) 631-9745
karenfoley@strategiclearning.ca

SUPPORTIVE PARENTS A Teen's Perspective

*By Amanda Di Nitto
Gr. 11 student at Westwood Senior High School*

If someone were to look at my report card from last year or from any of my high school years, they would see an honors student and automatically assume that these marks came from hard work. They wouldn't be wrong but if I were to also say I am dyslexic, then suddenly I am put into a whole different category.

Throughout elementary school, I struggled to achieve even a passing grade. What I think made a huge difference for me, was the support I received from my parents as well as my teachers. I have known of quite a few kids that are still being labelled lazy or simply as troublemakers because they are not being recognized as having a learning disability. As Dyslexia can also occur with ADD or ADHD, it is difficult for these children to receive the help they need and deserve.

I find that dyslexics think differently than so called "normal" students. That is often what makes them such determined students. My parents always told me I was lucky to be dyslexic and I have learned to wear it as a badge of honor rather than something to overcome. Walt Disney and Albert Einstein were both dyslexic and look at what they accomplished!

Editor's Note: With parental support and help, students can achieve educational success. Students having trouble at school should discuss it with their parents, pediatrician and school counsellor. It often does take a village to raise a successful child! Kudos to all those parents like Amanda's who have supported their children and persevered to see them through to success.

REGIONAL COUNCILS WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST ONE?

Always HUGELY popular at our Fall Conference is the hour set aside for Regional Councils. The delegates from varied Home and Schools are invited to sessions grouped by region to discuss common concerns, share ideas and successes. It is a great exchange of everything that is Home and School! Every time the session ends, the attendees always complain that there was just not enough time!

With this in mind, and with your help, the QFHSA wants to have more Regional Councils throughout the year.

Off Island elementary schools held a Regional Council in February 2012 at Birchwood in St. Lazare, moderated by Marlyn Brownrigg of the QFHSA. Participants were thrilled with the exchange of information and bouncing ideas off each other. It was found that everyone basically held the same types of events, ran similar (if not the same) fundraising campaigns and encountered the same types of issues (such as dealing with school admin and staff, volunteer burnout, recruiting volunteers, membership retention and much more). Hold a Regional Council and find out what works, what to watch out for, what others have done, get advice and hear about the experiences of others. Contacts that are made will benefit your local Home and School and you can stay in touch to bounce ideas when you need help. Call the QFHSA office to find out more or see how your Home and School can host one. **It's easy— pick a date, get the QFHSA involved, invite other Home and Schools and attend!**

PLAN NOW FOR YOUR ENTRIES INTO THE



QFHSA ESSAY COMPETITIONS



The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations is launching two essay competitions in association with

Literacy Week in February of 2013.

Family Treasures will, once again, be asking students to consider an object in their home that is special to themselves and their family.

Famous Family Recipes will encourage students to share favorite recipes that have significance for their family, be it religious, traditional or just plain fun.

Information brochures have been sent to each school. Please look to the QFHSA website for more details on these essay projects and encourage your child to participate. There will be prizes!

DYNAMIX 3 SIMPLE RULES

Submitted By a Dynamix Facilitator

Whether parenting or working with a large group of students, it is important we look at our own behaviour and the impact it has on our children's actions. Although we may have the best of intentions, we inadvertently influence our children's poor behaviour or negative choices. When dealing with a child who is misbehaving, it is easy to blame their environment, parents, friends or even nature. But by doing so, we are relinquishing all responsibility thus disabling us from making a difference. By owning the behaviour we are looking in a mirror and asking "What can I do to change the behaviour?"

Let's look at 3 simple rules I like to remember when working with children. The first is "Set children up to succeed". Imagine asking a child not to jump while standing on a trampoline. Or sit a group of children at a table for long period of time and ask them not to talk. Although children do have to learn to follow rules and "respect their elders", they do have limits.

Evaluating the likelihood of success before acting will create a more positive environment and prevent negative behaviour. By helping children to succeed, they learn success is possible and experience the intrinsic benefits which will leave them wanting more.

The second rule is "Be positive". It may sound simple and perhaps obvious, but all too often we focus too much on negative behaviour rather than positive behaviour. Speaking negatively toward a child or labeling a child will encourage the behaviour. Similarly, focusing on positive behaviour will encourage the behaviour to continue.

The third and final rule is "Connect with the child". A relationship built on control will likely not give you the results you seek. Nobody likes to be forced to do something. Have you ever tried to strap a child into a car seat against their will?

Connect with a child, build trust and respect and they will be willing to learn.

By owning the behaviour we have the power to change the behaviour. Although it's not easy, it's amazing we what we are capable of. What are your rules?



Bullying Prevention Plan

Frightening Facts:

- In Canada, **bullying happens** to someone **every 7 minutes** on the playground.
- It is estimated that **160,000 children miss school everyday** due to the **fear of bullying** by other students.
- 64% of students consider bullying a normal part of school life.

What can we do about it? The best approach is not simply focusing on how to deal with a bully, but rather how to prevent bullying from happening in the first place by creating a school community built on **Respect, Cooperation & Team Spirit!**

Preventative Measure #1

Recess Success

Train student leaders to entertain other kids in the school yard.

With this training, everyone's a winner!

Preventative Measure #2

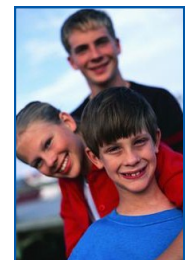
Full of Character

Using a unique and proven hands-on process, students will learn, and be proud of, the values that make them good moral beings.

Preventative Measure #3

Positive Path

Provide Lunch-time supervisors and Daycare Educators with the tools they need to help students realize their potential.



A great way to start off your year! Check our website for these and other great workshops.

(514) 333-TEAM (8326)
www.getdynamix.com



WHAT IN THE WORLD DO ALL THE QFHSA COMMITTEES DO?

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO RUN THE QFHSA?



QFHSA is run with the contributions of several committees. Currently, the committees and their chairpersons are:

- Annual General Meeting** - *Patricia Willis*
- Fall Conference** - *Vera Young*
- Communications** - *Mary Skagos*
- Editorial** - *Lisa Fougère*
- Constitution/By-Laws** - *Rickhey Margolese*
- Education** - *Lawrence DePoe*
- Finance** - *Leah Trineer*
- Literacy** - *Leah Trineer*
- Membership** - *Vera Young*
- Nominations** - *Rosalind Hoenig*
- Resolutions/Policy** - *Rickhey Margolese*
- Rights** - *Brian Rock*
- Administration** - *Patricia Willis*

Nominations Committee

Chairperson – Rosalind Hoenig, QFHSA Director

Our mandate is to receive nominations for, and to recruit qualified people to the Board of Directors.

Finance Committee

Chairperson – Leah Trineer, QFHSA Director

This committee prepares annual budgets, oversees QFHSA finances and prepares annual reports for the QFHSA and auditors.

If you are interested or know someone who would be interested in working on any of these committee from your community, please contact the QFHSA office at 514-481-5619. We look forward to working with you.

Communications Committee –

Chairperson Mary Skagos, QFHSA Administrative Assistant and member at Gardenview Elementary and Royal West Academy Home & School Associations

The **Communications Committee** oversees the content and creation of the QFHSA NEWS, our quarterly newsletter, the QFHSA website, our profile on social media sites and all other communications with our membership. The **Editorial Committee** is a sub-committee of the **Communications Committee** and is chaired by the QFHSA NEWS editor, Lisa Fougère. The editorial committee meets 4 times a year in order to prepare each issue. If you have worked on your local's newsletter and would like to take it to the next step or have ideas for our newsletter, we would love to have you join our committee (please feel free to contact us at news@qfhsa.org). The website is managed by Cathy McKeogh of Cathy's Web.

We invite all members to join us and offer comments on our Facebook site. We try to post interesting and timely posts and we encourage your feedback. This year we hope to continue to improve the website and to keep it as up-to-date as possible.

Rights Committee

Chairperson Brian Rock, QFHSA Director



Rights are not simply an abstraction. Rights define our obligations to our children. We, Home and School parents, have a long and proud history of pleading and defending the rights of children and their parents. Parents should have the choice of the Official Language used in the education of their children. The Rights Committee keeps abreast of developments in the political landscape of Quebec and consider how they might affect our community.

Education Committee

Chairperson Lawrence Depoe, QFHSA Vice President

The mandate of the Education Committee can be very broad: to follow everything that is going on in education. The committee, however, must choose priorities and follow up by reviewing articles in daily and weekly newspapers and various other media, by liaising with various education councils and, at times, by inviting guest speakers to give presentations on various topics in education.

It is a fact of life in Quebec, that Education and Rights concerns often go hand in hand.



Resolutions/Policy Committee

Chairperson – Rickhey Margolese, QFHSA Director

Throughout the year, QFHSA is made aware of many issues important to the well-being of our children (education, health, safety, etc...). Resolutions on these topics would allow us to approach various government departments, other organizations and like-minded groups to resolve these issues.

We need people to research resolution topics during the year (can be done from your home), write resolutions, look at resolutions that are received in January and help write the covering letters once the resolutions are passed in April. If you like to read and do investigative research, we are also looking to form a sub-committee to look at the QFHSA Statement of Policy. This is a document based on all the resolutions passed at AGMs. It was last updated in 2008. (The sub-committee will decide on when and how often to meet).

We would like to hold the first meeting of the **Resolution/Policy Committee** in the first 2 weeks of October 2012.

THERE ARE MANY QFHSA COMMITTEES, ALWAYS IN NEED OF MORE VOLUNTEERS AND IDEAS!

Constitution/By-Laws Committee

Chairperson – Rickhey Margolese, QFHSA Director

For the last 2 years, our committee of 2 has been looking at the QFHSA Constitution and By-Laws to see what needs to be changed, deleted or added. We have been working with our corporate lawyer Brian Sher. Once the above stage is completed, we will be looking for interested persons to create, with Liette and myself, templates for a Constitution and By-Laws, as well as guidelines for Standing Rules that we can give to the local associations for their use.

The committee will decide whether we want to have a series of marathon sessions or meet every month or two. At the present time, no meetings are scheduled.

Annual General Meeting Committee

Chairperson Patricia Willis, QFHSA Director and Membership, Co-Chair of Dunrae Gardens Home & School Association.

The AGM, Annual General Meeting, Committee is responsible for the planning and organization of our Annual General Business Meeting and Awards Dinner. The committee usually holds its first meeting in the fall preceding the AGM, which is held in the spring. The committee is responsible for planning all the details of the business meeting – choosing a theme, finding a venue, booking a keynote speaker, preparing resolutions, dealing with director and award nominations, etc... Last year's AGM was well attended, informative and a success. If you would like to help us plan next year's AGM, please feel free to send an email to the office at info@qfhsa.org and you will be contacted when the first meeting is scheduled.

Administrative/Office Services/ Personnel Committee

Chairperson— Patricia Willis, QFHSA Director and Membership, Co-Chair of Dunrae Gardens Home & School Association.

The Administrative/Office Services/ Personnel Committee is mandated to oversee office operations, human resources, and to present regular written reports on office activities to the Board of Directors. It is currently made up predominately of Directors but would like to encourage and would certainly welcome participation from the membership, utilizing the existing skills and leadership qualities of our local associations to ensure the continuance of the strength and value of the QFHSA. If you have HR experience and would be willing to share it with the QFHSA, please contact us.

Fall Conference Committee

Chairperson—Vera Young, QFHSA Director

The Fall Conference Committee is mandated to plan and oversee the program of the annual Fall Conference. This is one of the many occasions during the year when members of all Home and School Locals and our partner organizations can meet to discuss their successes and challenges. The program in 2012 will include workshops on “leadership” and others on “parenting” information. This year’s Fall Conference is at Honoré Mercier School on September 21. The plenary speaker is Dr. Shariff. The theme throughout the full-day event is “bullying” (in its many forms). Meetings are held in the evenings at the Home and School Office. Members of the Board and a volunteer parent from the host school are on the committee at this point. Other locals wishing to have input are welcome to join the committee or submit suggestions to us at any time.

Membership Committee

Chairperson - Vera Young, QFHSA Director

It is the objective of the Membership Committee to support local Home and School Associations with their membership activities. We will provide documentation and/or training to assist with membership drives and will visit, upon invitation, with locals or with groups of parents who wish to form a new Home and School association.

Our priority for the early part of the 2012-2013 mandate is to update our membership materials and make them available for locals in time for their annual membership drives. Our committee has not yet met, but will begin our schedule in September. We would welcome participation from any locals, especially (but certainly not exclusively) Membership Chairpersons.

Literacy Committee

Chairperson—Wanda Leah Trineer, QFHSA Director

Literacy Committee serves to promote awareness of the requirements for literacy in a knowledge-based society. We mobilize school and community volunteer resources to advocate and deliver literacy programs for prevention and remediation. We also have a Children’s Literacy Resource Guide (CLRG) available to help deliver programs.

We would love to have more volunteers. If you LOVE reading and hunting for bargains, have a serious LOVE of books, then we need help spreading the JOY of LITERACY! Gather a friend or 2 and help out with shopping for good quality childrens' books that we can send on to our Lower North Shore Literacy project. We are looking for anyone with a few spare hours, retirees, grandparents, aunts/uncles, and parents alike! We will meet soon! Send us an [email](#).



MEET EDDY INSPIRATION FROM AN UNLIKELY HERO

By Lisa Fougère
QFHSA News Editor

I had the privilege of speaking with Eddy Nolan, a lively, positive and caring man from Montreal who is a cancer survivor. Eddy credits Terry Fox as his mentor and inspiration for getting through his own cancer treatments.



Decades before Eddy was diagnosed, he followed Terry Fox on his original 1980 journey. "I put on my television and saw this story on the news about a young man my age running across Canada with one leg trying to raise money for Cancer Research. They said he was running the equivalent of a Marathon a day every day. I said to myself, this is impossible, but every day I followed his story with so much interest that I also decided to return to my (marathon) training and never looked back."¹

He credits Terry with bringing cancer research to the forefront in Canada and still, many years later, our schools are still honoring his journey by holding annual events to raise money. Eddy still cherishes his certificate he received from the day he met the Fox family many years ago.

"This young man who's name is Terry Fox has been the most inspirational person in my life. He had lost his leg

to cancer, but his motivation for his run was seeing children suffering in the cancer ward who had lost all hope. Terry Fox gave his life for the betterment of others and had made us so proud with his Marathon of Hope which continues today, 32 years later. What an impact he has had on this country and the rest of the world. I have personally taken part in every Terry Fox Run since 1981 and after my involvement for about 12 years, I had lost 2 sisters to cancer. To date I have also ran 54 full Marathons and have continued to be inspired by Terry Fox's attitude of never giving up. I feel such a sense of freedom when I run and all of life's absurdities seem to disappear when I am out on the road."²

A caretaker at Roslyn Elementary, Eddy often talks to the students about Terry Fox. He said that he draws strength from the children at school, talking with them, their encouragement and their drawings they give to him, Mr. Eddy. Above all, he would like kids to know the struggle that Terry had battling cancer and that many others have gone through and/or will go through this same battle. He would like to teach kids how to give back and help fight for cancer research. He said "You never know what you've got 'til it's gone."

Eddy has been highlighted in the Montreal news over the years as a Terry Fox supporter, running on April 12th carrying his foundation flag celebrating the original run called the Marathon of Hope. Eddy hopes more will join him on this run each year to spread this special tribute. He also gives talks to students at other schools about the great work of the Terry Fox Foundation.

As Eddy returns to work at Roslyn this fall, we wish him all the best. He is a very special man always giving back, fighting against cancer in many ways, and an inspiration to many.^{1,2} Source Eddy's blog marathonsoul.com/blog/marathonsouls-eddy-nolan

SUPPORTING THE TERRY FOX FOUNDATION AND ANNUAL RUN



Local Home and School volunteers have long helped out at their schools' Terry Fox Runs in late September each year. They have baked muffins, handed out juices or fruit, acted as crossing guards on street corners to watch over students for the event, and have been there to offer encouragement and cheers when needed most.

Cheers to all those who volunteer their time at these events!



DM FAMILY & SCHOOL SERVICES

**CHECK OUT
DM's
SAFE
SCHOOLS
PLAN
CONTACT DM
FOR MORE INFO**

ABOUT DM

DM Family & School Services work together with young people, their families, schools, & communities to build partnerships and find solutions. DM offers services in the following areas :

1. Therapy for individuals (adults, children, adolescents, play therapy for young children), couples, & families.
2. Parenting Groups in DM's offices
3. Community Groups for youth in DM's offices.
4. In School Parent Workshops.
5. Professional Development Workshops
6. In School Student Programs.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE !

Dear DM,

I'm blessed with 2 wonderful children, a boy and a girl. Going back to school is such an exciting time for them — and for me as a parent. But after the excitement of the new gear, new clothes, and new class wears off, how do I get them to stay excited ?
From: Wanting to Have a Great School Year

Dear **WANTING TO HAVE A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR,**

Going back to school is very exciting for many families – but the real thrill comes in watching our children flourish and have a great year. Like us, the beginning of something new - whether a new gym membership or walking the new dog - can be very motivating... but doing the daily grind needed for success can make us wary. The answers to your question lie in helping our children develop habits of excellence. These habits that will serve them well into adulthood, because well ingrained habits become part of their character.

Success begins with a well thought out plan that takes into consideration your child's age, health, abilities and needs, and what needs to get done. Our children often look to the adults in their lives for examples. Are we also working towards planning ahead, being organized and following through when we get tired? That being said, the greatest lesson we will teach is what we do when we fall off track from a habit we are developing. Do we give up—or do we pick ourselves up and get going again? Leading by example goes a long way to inspiring our children.

The first habit we would suggest for having a great school year is getting enough rest. Young people need more sleep that they think. Teachers in any school will tell you that Sleepy, Grumpy and Dopey don't feel good - and are not able to give their all in class. Parents already know how miserable mornings can be with a sleep deprived child. Children thrive on routines, so once we can establish and maintain a bed time our children fall asleep faster - and we may even get some treasured time with our partners! Schedules are created by starting with the end in mind (i.e. sweet sleeping faces). We then plan backwards for bath time,

dinner, study time, and of course some free time too! You should expect this will take at least 4 to 6 weeks depending on the age of your child. A chart can serve as a visual reminder - to help us stick to the routine and helping our children stay on track. Many a power struggle has been defused with a simple invitation to the child to "go look at the chart".

Teaching our children time management is a gift that keeps on giving. Once it is part of their repertoire, it will lead to reduced stress and tears (for example, from the discovery that the big assignment is due tomorrow). Most schools provide agendas equipped with planners. Helping children understand how to best use these tools, and forming the habit of using them every day will make their lives easier and less stressful. Whether you tend to be a very organized person or not, your best chance to help your children succeed is to have them see you using and benefiting from your use of a work agenda or family calendar.

When children get in the habit of being organized in their daily lives, it carries over into school. When a child has a pattern of putting away their papers into the right pochettes or binders, they are much more likely to stay organized. This is important at home too. Take a picture of their work area when it is well organized and post it on the wall. This will reduce arguments and give clear direction of what is expected of them when the job is done. Over time, these behaviours will develop into habits, and become part of who they are and what they do. This skill will be invaluable as they move towards adolescence and have increased demands placed on them.

Along their paths to habits of excellence, the road to success will not always be smooth. Our children will need to be prepared that bumps will happen — and be prepared to persist. Being able to rise to the challenge and accept disappointments without giving up on ourselves or our hopes will serve them well. Because when the going gets tough... the tough dig in, and stick with tried and true means to achieve success.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Successful School Year !



DM FAMILY & SCHOOL SERVICES
Confidential Services
Offices in Montreal & West Island
514.483.9339 www.dmfamilyschool.com

The Learning Partnership presents

THE ULTIMATE DREAM JOB CONTEST



Would your 9th grader write 25 words about their Ultimate Dream Job to win cool prizes?

On September 3, the Learning Partnership, in partnership with Scotiabank Bright Future™ is launching the fourth annual *Ultimate Dream Job Contest*. This national online photo contest runs for six weeks until October 15. It is open to students across Canada starting Grade 9/Senior I/ Secondary III in a publically funded school this fall. They simply submit photos representing their dream jobs, along with a 25-word explanation. Each week the 10 best photos will be displayed online for public voting. The top three win prizes and the first place photo is placed in the Finalists Gallery where, at the end of six weeks, the public will elect a winner. That grand prize winner will be announced on October 29, 2012.

The grand prize winner and a parent or guardian will receive a trip to Ottawa to meet the speaker of the House of Commons, the Honourable Andrew Scheer, on Take Our Kids to Work™ day (Wednesday, November 7). The prize package includes a two-night stay at the beautiful Lord Elgin Hotel as well as tours of national attractions and monuments such as Parliament Hill, The National Gallery of Canada, The Royal Canadian Mint or the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Visit www.dreamjobcontest.ca to sign up from **September 3 to October 15!**

WHEN PARENTS ASK “WHY SHOULD WE JOIN THE HOME AND SCHOOL? WHAT DOES IT GIVE US?”

Many Home and Schools have been around for decades, lending a hand with volunteer and event coordination in addition to monetary supplements for various items ranging from library books to leading edge technology items in today's classrooms. The QFHSA has led the local associations since the 1940's, championing the cause of education in Quebec.

These days, many parents have a difficult time fitting in the daily schedule of work, homework, and the evening supper/bath/bedtimes. Throw in some after school activities or lessons and one would be hard-pressed to find the time to volunteer at their child's school.

The local Home and School association usually brings together a dedicated, hard-working group of volunteers, able to rally more parents and educators to enhance children's educational experience in Quebec. Those same volunteers might run pizza days, craft fairs, annual BBQ's, bingo nights, give opening day tours and manage the funds raised through Home and School, often totaling in the thousands annually! This same core group pledges to ensure that the funds raised will be spent according to how the local membership feel that their children can best be served. They meet to discuss needs, motion to allot budgetary amounts and vote democratically.

Without these dedicated Home and School volunteers, parents would not be as present at schools. There would

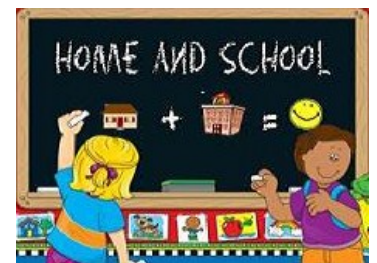
be no group dedicated to bridging the gap between the home and the school.

HOME AND SCHOOLS GIVE PARENTS AND EDUCATORS A VOICE IN EDUCATION.

Being a member of your Home and School association doesn't mean you must volunteer or attend meetings. Some members contribute the annual dues and help in that way. They are entitled to receive the QFHSA NEWS, at least quarterly, updating them on issues of importance on the provincial front as well as local association updates. Members also receive liability insurance coverage for Home and School-sponsored events. Other members jump right in and volunteer as often as they can, even if they work and yet others only help out with an event here and there.

All members are represented by the QFHSA on the provincial and national front (via CHSF Canadian Home and School Federation), ensuring educational concerns are discussed at all levels. The QFHSA has acted as a governmental and policy watchdog and voice over the years on several occasions, concerning school boards, English language rights, provincial education budgets, special needs students, health, immigration, literacy and so much more.

**BECOME A MEMBER TODAY TO
HELP YOUR CHILD AND SCHOOL COMMUNITY.**



CANADIAN HOME AND SCHOOL FEDERATION

MODERNIZING THE COPYRIGHT ACT AND MORE

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to QFHSA for inviting me to attend their AGM in the spring. Your meeting was insightful and thought-provoking. Kudos to the planning committee. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to meet your Members, Staff and Board. The Canadian Home and School Federation's (CHSF) Spring Board and Annual General Meetings were held in Charlottetown, PEI in June. CHSF's Executive is Janet Walsh, President; Deb Giesbrecht, 1st Vice President; Cynthia Richards, 2nd Vice President and Eva Cameron, Secretary/Treasurer.

Some of the highlights of those meetings include a visit from Life Member, Mr. Tom Wilkinson, discussing the highlights of CHSF in the 1990's; compiling CHSF's recent history; arranging a Strategic Planning Session; a focus on technology and the well-being of children; as well as joining with Concerned Children's Advertisers on their newest project. Additionally over the past two years CHSF has advocated to the Federal Government for a Minister of State for Children and Youth.

As many of you may know, CHSF has been concerned with the Copyright Modernization Act (Bill C-11). CHSF recognized the importance of copyright reform in the 1990's and since then has partnered with national education organizations (Education Coalition Copyright – ECC) who are concerned about the impact copyright will have on education policies and practices in Canada. The focus of these national organizations, which represent seven million Canadians, is to ensure the quality of education in Canada. The education sector respects copyright. CHSF submitted a brief regarding the Copyright Modernization Act (Bill C-11) to the Legislative Committee of the House of Commons in January 2011. Canada's copyright laws were last updated in 1997 when the Internet was still in its infancy and paper copying was the primary method of sharing information.

Educational institutions currently pay for content and for copying materials, and, for the education community, copyright reform is not about getting material for free. Currently the education sector pays its fair share.

Bill C-11 provides the legal framework necessary for students and teachers in elementary and secondary schools, colleges, and universities to use publicly available Internet materials in their educational pursuits. The ECC members believe the education amendment is

essential at a time when governments are simultaneously increasing levels of connectivity, promoting skills development and innovation, and supporting the use of the Internet in classrooms.

The Bill also includes education as an allowable purpose, under certain conditions, within the copyright fair dealing provision. With this provision, the federal government has established that fair dealing is available to students and teachers and that copyrighted materials can be used for educational purposes.

On June 29, 2012 the Copyright Modernization Act was passed by the Senate and was given Royal Assent by the Governor General. This new copyright law provides opportunities for learning and, for Canadian students to excel in the digital world, including exceptions permitting the educational use of Internet materials and the recording, and Internet transmission of lessons. These changes will facilitate online learning, including distance education. The Canadian education community has made some important gains with the new copyright legislation. The Government will announce a schedule of implementation to enact the Bill since there are sections that require the development of regulations. CHSF will keep their members posted as the implementation unfolds.

Some dates for you to keep in mind:

- **The CHSF Board of Directors will be holding their Midterm Meeting in Ottawa November 8 -10 inclusive. While in Ottawa CHSF will lay a wreath at the National War Memorial at the National Remembrance Day Ceremony.**
- **Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week will be celebrated Feb. 10 –16, 2013 and again, CHSF will be providing posters.**
- **CHSF AGM 2013 will be held in Newfoundland, May 30 – June 1.**

As you wind up for a new school year, provincially and locally, remember that it is all about the students. As parents, we need to be involved and be a parent-in-the-know. CHSF advocates for a strong public education and health system which nurtures the well-being of Canadian children and youth in their homes, schools, and communities. We know that parents do make a difference. Pat yourself on the back – you deserve it.

Janet Walsh, President CHSF

<http://www.canadianhomeandschool.com>

Become involved in your children's school or the school in your community.

WORKPLACE LITERACY AND ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Low literacy skills can threaten health and safety in the workplace. Investing in workplace literacy programs provides a way for employers to improve health and safety records while boosting productivity. "The 2012 Miner Report, Jobs of the Future: Options and Opportunities, predicts the next decade will see a 1.5 million shortfall in the number of workers able to fill available jobs (in Canada)", reports ABC Literacy. The Government of Canada has identified nine essential skills needed for the workplace. These skills are used in every job to varying degrees and at different levels of complexity. They provide the foundation for learning all other skills and enable people to evolve with their jobs and adapt to workplace change.

- The nine essential skills are:**
1. Reading
 2. Document Use
 3. Numeracy
 4. Writing
 5. Oral Communication
 6. Working With Others
 7. Thinking
 8. Computer Use
 9. Continuous Learning

1. Reading - The ability to understand reading materials in the form of sentences or paragraphs. We use this skill to scan for information, skim overall meaning, evaluate what we read and integrate information from multiple sources.

2. Document Use - The ability to perform tasks that involve a variety of information displays in which words, numbers, symbols and other visual characteristics are given meaning by their spatial relationship. We use this skill

LITERACY

when we read and interpret signs, labels, lists, graphs and charts.

3. Numeracy - The ability to use numbers and think in quantitative terms. We use this skill when doing numerical estimating, money math, scheduling or budgeting math and analyzing measurements or data.

4. Writing - The ability to write text and documents; it also includes non paper-based writing such as typing on a computer. We use this skill when we organize, record, document, provide information to persuade, request information from others and justify a request.



5. Oral communication - The ability to use speech to give and exchange thoughts and information. We use this skill to greet people, take messages, reassure, persuade, seek information and resolve conflicts.

6. Working with others - The ability to work with other workers to carry out tasks. We use this skill when we work as a member of a team or jointly with a partner, and when we engage in supervisory or leadership activities.

7. Thinking - The ability to engage in the process of evaluating ideas or information to reach a rational decision. We use this skill when we solve problems, make decisions, think critically and plan and organize job tasks.

8. Computer use - The ability to use different kinds of computer applications and other related technical tools. We use this skill when we operate cash registers, use word processing software, send emails and create and modify spreadsheets.

9. Continuous learning - The ability to participate in an ongoing process of acquiring skills and knowledge. We use this skill when we learn as part of regular work or from co-workers and when we access training in the workplace or off-site.

Visit the [Human Resources and Skills Development Canada website](http://www.humanresourcesandskillsdevelopment.ca) to find out how each of these skills are needed for various jobs.

Reprinted with permission from ABC Life Literacy Canada., <http://abclifeliteracy.ca/tools>



 **McGill**
FOIRE AUX LIVRES
BOOK FAIR

MARDI, MERCREDI ET JEUDI
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

October 23 octobre

13:00 - 21:00

October 24-25 octobre

9:00 - 21:00

Salle Redpath Hall

ENTRÉE GRATUITE / FREE ADMISSION

LIVRES D'OCCASION
- PAR MILLIERS -
THOUSANDS OF
- USED BOOKS -

LITERACY

CONTINUED...



TD Canadian

Children's Book Week

BOOK AN AUTHOR FOR YOUR SCHOOL TODAY!

The Canadian Children's Book Centre is excited to announce the authors, illustrators and storytellers who will be touring for **TD Canadian Children's Book Week 2013** from **May 4 – 11, 2013**.

TD Canadian Children's Book Week is a very important national event celebrating Canadian children's books and the importance of reading. Over 25,000 children, teens and adults participate in activities held in every province and territory across the country. Hundreds of schools, public libraries, bookstores and community centres host events as part of this major literary festival. There are bilingual and Francophone authors on the r o s t e r a s w e l l .

Visit the TD Book Week site www.bookweek.ca in September to find out what province/territory each of these creators will be touring and the types of readings and workshops they will be giving. Schools, libraries, bookstores and community centres interested in hosting a Book Week visitor can apply online starting mid-September.

BORN TO READ

Born to Read is a community-based program, first developed in 1990 through the Home and School Association in New Carlisle on the Gaspé Coast. Since then, many more communities have joined in, giving the gift of reading to newborns and toddlers alike.

QFHSA is involved in promoting the benefits of reading through the Born to Read program each year.



QFHSA contributes to literacy celebrations at different schools, organizations and community centres throughout Quebec with the help of sponsorship and grants from various sources. Through a local Home and School association, area parents of newborns and toddlers are invited to attend a literacy celebration and provided with a book bag containing several books appropriate for very young children. Often, these celebrations are held on or around January 27th, coinciding with ABC Canada's annual Literacy Day.

For more information on this program, please call our office or visit the Born to Read website at www.borntoread.net.

If you have attended a Born to Read celebration (or plan to attend in the future) and would like to comment on it, please send your email to news@qfhsa.org.

Help spread the JOY of READING!

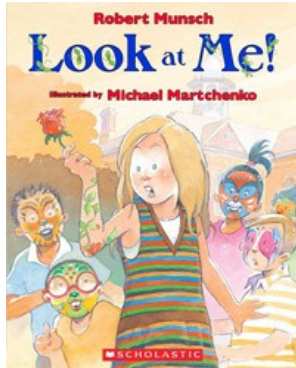


BOOK REVIEWS

Look at Me!

By Robert Munsch
Format: Paperback
Pages: 26
Publisher: Scholastic Press/New York

This is a story of a girl named Madison who went on a walk with her grandmother. She found a ticket for a free face paint at the park. So she went to the park and asked for a "Really Real" small perfect rose on her cheek. It was so perfect it started to grow, and grow and grow!



Will the roses stay on her forever or will she find a way out of her prickly situation? I would recommend this book for grade 1-3 because it's a "Really Real" fun read.

By Michelle Lee,
Grade 4, Forest Hill Elementary

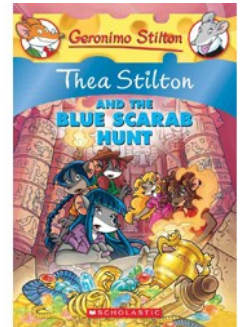
Thea Stilton and the Blue Scarab Hunt

By Thea Stilton
Pages: 157
Publisher: Scholastic Inc.

The book is about 5 girl mice that are friends, called the Thea Sisters, and their professor, Professor Marcus Mouserson. Their professor told them they were going to go to Egypt to find the "Treasure of the Sun". They had many adventures along the way. It was very hot while they were joining the archeological dig. They all got lost in a labyrinth, and had to face thieves and jackals. The best part of the book was all the non-stop adventures they had.

I would highly recommend the book and the Thea Stilton series to students in grades 1 through 4.

By Kate Szeibert,
Grade 4, Birchwood Elementary



The Hunger Games Trilogy

By Suzanne Collins, Format: Paperbacks, Pages: Book 1 = 374 pages, Book 2 = 391 pages, Book 3 = 390 pages
Publisher: Scholastic Inc.

In the first book, we get to know a girl named Katniss and she isn't as lucky because she lives in the poorest of twelve districts. She lives in districts twelve the mining district. There are 12 districts and the Capital. The Capital is in control of all the districts and forces everyone to work and give up their resources. To keep the districts in line, the Capital selects 2 children age 13-18 from each district every year to a fight to the death in an arena. They call this event "The Hunger Games"! The rest of the book is about how Katniss deals with the Hunger Games with a boy from her district called Peeta.

In the second book, we discover that the Capital was not happy that Katniss and Peeta survived the Hunger games together. They were asked to come back again for the second time for another hunger games. But this isn't a normal Hunger Games. It's the Quarter Quell, meaning every 25 years, instead of the annual Hunger Games, a Quarter Quell is held. For this, it means that instead of selecting 2 children per district, they select 4. But this year, President Snow from the Capital changed the rules and asked that all surviving victors from all the previous hunger games have to play again. This was his revenge on Katniss for forcing his hand in the last game to allow for 2 winners. The rest of the book is about how Katniss escaped the Hunger Games arena and was brought to district 13. It was thought to have been destroyed by the Capital. Peeta also gets captured by the Capital. What will happen next?

The final book is about how Katniss finds Peeta even though he had been brainwashed by the Capital and wants to kill Katniss. Katniss must make him remember and convince him to join forces with her to fight the Capital. The rest of the book is about how Katniss fights the Capital. What will she do when she finds out that the leader of district 13 wants her out of the way? Will she succeed and win over Peeta again?

I recommend this book for all students in grades 5 and above because it is an exciting and action packed series.

By Justin Lee, Grade 6, Forest Hill Elementary



FOCUS ON THE LOCALS

Get your school in the spotlight in the QFHSA NEWS! Send in your articles and pictures to news@qfhsa.org. We look forward to hearing what your local association has been up to, what you are planning and what concerns you might have that you would like to share with others.

SEND IN YOUR NEWS!!!

Upcoming NEWS DEADLINES
Dec. 2012 = submit by Nov. 5, 2012

For publication date on or about Dec. 12, 2012

JOHN RENNIE HIGH SCHOOL Pointe Claire

Throughout the year, our Home and School collaborated with our PPO for all of the fundraisers and held joint meetings all year. A few guest speakers and the administrators attended some of our meetings. More recently we held discussions concerning School Board Governance and how our school could raise awareness within our school community. An initial communication from the H&S and PPO was posted on our school website and we will be spending more energy on this very important issue again in the fall.

In September 2011, one of our executive members, Cheryl Boucher attended the executive training workshop and her feedback was very positive. She also attended the AGM in April. Afterwards she gave a very informative report to the members concerning the issue of School Board Governance. This was extremely useful in bringing heightened awareness of this important issue to our school and to all of the H&S as well as PPO members.

Our membership grew this year, we held bake sales, a used book sale, and put together Teacher Appreciation Week. To end the year, we presented awards to several students for their outstanding achievements. All of our fundraising efforts are intended to support these student awards and it was wonderful for us to be able to once again present students with a certificate and a gift certificate as recognition of their hard work. A special thanks to all of the members and the executive who contributed so much throughout the year.

By Donna Richardson-Surette, extracted from President's Year End Report, June 2012

DORSET ELEMENTARY Baie d'Urfé

Welcome Back to Dorset! We are all looking forward to another wonderful year of learning and growing. What a better way to get things started than our annual Welcome Back "Carnival" BBQ on Wednesday, September 19th at 5:30, with live disco music, great food, a book fair, games and a lot of fun for young and old alike. Thank you to all the families of Dorset who always work so hard to make every event at our school an outstanding success.

By Fani Nikopoulos and Monica Guillermo

ROSLYN ELEMENTARY Westmount



A full year ago, on the first day of school, new families (kindergarten families excluded since they had something else special for them), were greeted in the gym by a welcoming group of parents. Organized by Janet Danielson and Julie Frankel; coffee, greetings and support/advice were offered. It was a very nice way for the new families to spend their time while waiting for their children to be taken to their new classrooms.

On the second day of school, another welcoming committee gathered on the front lawn of the school eagerly awaiting the kindergarten parents. After leaving their kindergartners in the classrooms, and having only 2 hours of school the first day, the parents were invited to stay at the school and meet other Roslyn parents and fellow kindergarten families. Coffee, tea and snacks were enjoyed by all. Advice and support flowed as much as the coffee!

extracted from President's Year End Report, June 2012

An update from Julie Frankel: "We did the same thing this year (2012) to an even greater success. With a record number of new students on the first day of school, we have been told that the parent greeting and coffee set a wonderful tone to the day, often filled with anxiety. Not only does this help the school by answering questions that would be fielded by either the teachers or the office, but it gives new families an instant impression of our Home and School association. Many of these new families ask on the first day, how they are able to contribute to our association, how they can volunteer. "

MERTON ELEMENTARY Côte St. Luc

As usual, the Merton Home and School and their large group of volunteers were very busy throughout the school year. Some of the things we did were: prepare Friendship lists, organize the enrichment and hire educators to run the after school activities. We put together a haunted house for Halloween in the gym, held a successful bake sale, uniform sale, and the Merton Annual Picnic. More fun was had by the students at the winter dance show and finally in June, the Circus Show (which was put on by the students), both funded by Home and School.



Of course we organized Teacher Appreciation Week with special plans for all the staff. It was a good year and we are looking forward to changing things up a little for the upcoming school year with our new executives.



By Heidi Rackover,
extracted from President's Year End Report, June 2012, Circus Day Photos from Merton website photo gallery

DUNRAE GARDENS ELEMENTARY Montreal

Throughout the entire year, our dedicated team of baking volunteers provided baked goods for various school events. We sold Home and School calendars and participated in the school supplies pickup early in the year. Jumping into the year with many firsts, we held our first ever Fun Fair in September, then our first ever Halloween party for the students in October. We held a very successful used book sale in January, many other winter carnival and concert events, then ending it all with a super Olympic Day in June! We had a terrific year!

By Brenda Michetti & Amber Cornish
extracted from President's Year End Report, June 2012

EVERGREEN ELEMENTARY St. Lazare

Evergreen is pleased to welcome our new Principal Mrs. Kathleen O'Reilly. Mrs. O'Reilly comes to Evergreen with enthusiasm, passion, and dynamism. Home and School is looking forward to working with her to ensure the students and staff have a successful and enjoyable year.

After a gorgeous summer spent with our families, the Evergreen Home and School Association was ready to begin the new school year. Before the students even stepped into school, volunteers were on hand to assemble information packages for parents. The first day of school is not always easy for children, however, the volunteer run "kiss and drop" service made it a little easier for kids who needed some extra reassurance to begin their day! Thank you "kiss and drop" volunteers!

Plans are already underway for the Terry Fox Run which takes place on Thursday, September 20th in the afternoon. Students, staff, and parents will enjoy a scenic 2 km walk around the area. **Over the past 10 years, Evergreen has raised over \$ 145,000 for Cancer research. Way to go Evergreen!**

Home and School plans to make this year as great as ever, with many planned events and activities. Movie nights, special performances, book fairs, and workshops are all on the agenda. New this year, we will be hosting our first ever adults only Casino Night fundraiser! Stay tuned for more information about this exciting evening.

Have a wonderful school year, and remember to attend Home and School meetings each month so that you can be involved and stay informed!

By Karen Rassi & Sue Lamy

BAIE COMEAU HIGH SCHOOL Baie Comeau

Baie Comeau High School Home and School Association received a \$3000 grant from ACTION program of Alcoa Ltd. To receive this grant, we had to have a minimum of ten Alcoa Ltd. employees volunteer their time for a period of four hours or more on a specific project. Therefore, on a sunny but very windy, Sunday morning of June 3rd, 2012, BCHS Home and School members, Alcoa employees and their family donated their time, skills and energy in making the schoolyard more appealing.

Our goal was to improve and embellish the school ground while creating a safe, healthy and welcoming environment. We divided these tasks among the volunteers: putting up benches, installation of a basketball board and ring, hanging birdfeeders, planting a tree and flowers, staining picnic tables, raking the grass, cleaning the yard, cutting branches and putting up our town flag for the 75th Anniversary of Baie-Comeau.

There was plenty of food, beverages and smiles. We had such a great time, that it didn't feel like work! The kids all helped out too. They really liked staining the picnic tables and putting up birdfeeders! Some even discovered that they had a green thumb!

THANKS to all our volunteers and Alcoa Ltd!

By Isabelle Harvey



THORNDALE ELEMENTARY, Pierrefonds

After a long and busy (but ALWAYS FUN!) year of fundraising, organizing and helping around school, the Thorndale Home and School Association decided to throw yet another year-end BBQ. The school yard was filled with smiles and giggles, from children, parents and staff alike! A clown from the Montreal Shriners visited and made balloon animals for the children. We had a spray-tattoo artist on hand to create some great ink-art. We even had our very handy Resource teacher, Mme Sylvie volunteer to help children learn how to make friendship bracelets by hand. Our music specialist, Mme. Aline had the youngsters serenading us with a fun sing-a-long, and the Grad Committee sold popcorn and freezies. But really, who can have a BBQ without great food!? Our wonderful group of BBQ Grill Masters as well as their "sous-chefs" did an amazing job feeding everybody, all with great big huge smiles on their faces! What better way to end off yet another fantastic year than to spend an evening with our favorite families, friends, teachers and co-workers! Great BIG Thanks go out to all volunteers who helped make this past year memorable. Thorndale wouldn't be the same without our caring community. Another year done, but another one just as great on the horizon.... Thorndale is sure "Something to Roooooooooooar About! Thanks a bunch!

By Stephanie Hill



SOUTH HULL ELEMENTARY, South Hull

The big event this year was the design of a school logo (an Eagle), and the subsequent design of a South Hull t-shirt and a hooded sweatshirt, which raised approximately \$500 for the school. Some of the fundraising initiatives we undertook this year were : a Scholastic book fair, Subway lunch days, Bingo event, Autumnfest spaghetti dinner, Monsterball, toy sale, dance recital, movie nights and finishing off with a popular Summerfest! The funds raised by Home and School helped to buy books for the school Library. Approximately \$1,700 was raised for this initiative through a partnership with Scholastic.

Many thanks to the members and parents (and students) who volunteered their time and support this year. Without the hard work and dedication of the parent volunteers who organize and run the numerous events, we would not be able to give back to our school community. *extracted from President's Year End Report, June 2012*

ÉCOLE PRIMAIRE BEACONSFIELD, Beaconsfield

Our various fundraising initiatives earned our Home & School Association approximately \$30,000. Once again, our consistent fundraising efforts have allowed us to continue to support the library, computer lab, science program, athletic activities, music program (purchase of guitars), and extra-curricular math activities. Working closely with the school principal, in her first year, and the teachers, the Home & School also supported numerous teacher initiatives, and provided assistance for a multitude of activities throughout the year.

The culture of our Home & School Association strives to support only those fundraisers that provide a service to our families or aim to build community spirit! The strong spirit of the Home and School is felt throughout the school year by all. Many devoted and hard working parents – both full time parents and full time workers – give many hours of time and commitment. Their passion is the heart of our school community and it helps convey a positive and healthy environment. This year was the final one at EPB for several of our most dedicated volunteers and luckily, replacements have been found for most of the positions. We are very lucky to have such a wonderful community.

By Jill Savouré

extracted from President's Year End Report, June 2012

FOREST HILL ELEMENTARY St. Lazare

This was my first BBQ as a Home and School member, and by all accounts, it seemed to be a huge success. We were selling tickets right up until 15 minutes before the bouncy rides were going to be pulled down, and people were still buying tickets for food. It seemed every activity, from the ReptiZoo to the face-painting, had a line-up all night – they almost rivalled the line-up for cotton candy! Thanks to all our volunteers, sponsors and everyone who came out to end the year!

By Eveline Azran



**ELIZABETH BALLANTYNE
ELEMENTARY
Montreal West**

For the first time, Home and School offered hugely successful extra-curricular activities after school and at lunch time, in fall, winter and spring sessions. We raised many funds for Home and School and were proud to offer these activities to the students.

We ran 2 very successful fundraising campaigns of coupon books and chocolate bars. We played an important role in many school activities, including Terry Fox, Skate-a-thon, Teacher Appreciation week and Semaine du Francais.

Our Home and School sponsored enriched French, presenting a wonderful French week in February, where students prepared projects on “la francophonie” and participated in many Quebec cultural activities, celebrating the French language.

Our new Home and School sponsored Theatre Club met after school on Tuesdays. Though we had some difficulties with students remaining committed, those who did, had a wonderful time and enjoyed exploring drama.

We look forward to continued success and new ideas for this coming year!

By Ann Hynna

extracted from President’s Year End Report, June 2012

**SOUVENIR ELEMENTARY
Laval**

Thanks to our dedicated Home and School committee, and invaluable volunteers, we have had a very successful school year. We have been able to provide our students and staff with additional material and activities that would not have been possible without the generous support of our volunteers and Souvenir community. We have also made a difference by dedicating several of our dress-down days to collecting money for charities.

In June we held our Annual Family Fun Fest where children, parents and staff enjoyed many wonderful fun-filled activities.

extracted from President’s Year End Report, June 2012

**GRENVILLE ELEMENTARY
Grenville**

**Military Whist Tournament
Receives a Surprise \$1300 Bonus!**

Grenville Elementary is a school with one hallway, six classrooms and a student population of approximately 80. We are small but it is to our advantage. When you walk through the doors of our school, you feel more like you are walking into a home than an institution. Welcoming new community members in for special functions or fundraisers is one of the things we enjoy the most.



At this year’s Military Whist Tournament, a long time Home and School member, Kathy Ivall, met Paul-André Aubrey, a member of the Knights of Columbus in Grenville. They discussed the poor condition of our school tables and Mr. Aubry went to his committee and they granted us a \$1300 donation to purchase 13 tables with trolley, 2 park benches for our outdoor classroom, six soccer balls, a large deck box for outdoor storage, tennis balls, t-ball stand with bat and ball, foam play mats and sand box shovels! We feel blessed that Mr. Aubry took an active interest in our little school and we wish to thank him and his fellow members for their very generous donation and for showing us that wonderful things can happen when you reach out to your community!

By Tammy Hoare (on behalf of the Grenville Elementary School Association members)



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Upcoming QFHSA Events:

FALL CONFERENCE

October 27, 2012

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Honoré Mercier Elementary

8280 rue Nantes, Montreal, QC, H1P 2J1

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND AWARDS DINNER

Saturday, April 20, 2013

Location: to be confirmed

All Home and Schools will receive the details for these events as they become available. Please check with your local Home and School representative or contact our office (contact details are on page 2 of this newsletter).

SEPTEMBER 2012

QFHSA NEWS

QFHSA NEWS

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Mission Statement

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. is an independent, incorporated, not for profit volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing the education and general well being of children and youth.

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. promotes the involvement of parents, students, educators and the community at large in the advancement of learning and acts as a voice for parents.

