



THE VOICE OF
THE PARENT IN
EDUCATION

QFHSA NEWS

VOLUME 55 ISSUE 4

WINTER 2017

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Message from the President



The category of work allowed will be of a “cosmetic” nature such as painting. Projects involving electrical, plumbing, and/or carpentry work will require the hiring of qualified professionals.

QFHSA is studying the amendments recently announced and will be meeting with school board officials to agree on procedures to follow to allow volunteers to complete the authorized “cosmetic” work in schools. The procedures will certainly involve discussions with the School Principal and the Director of Buildings of the School Board before any work begins.

Remembering that labour costs consumed a very large portion of the costs of “cosmetic” work done on school buildings in the recent past, the materials used by the volunteers can now emanate from those savings in the budget.

Another consideration that will be part of the discussions will be the issue of civil liability for volunteers and coverage by **la Commission des normes, de l’équité, de la santé, et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST)**.

Many of our parents, grandparents, educators, and community volunteers enjoy the spirit of *camaraderie* developed during these “cosmetic corvées”, and are excellent opportunities for local home and school associations to reinforce the strength of their volunteer base.

Yours in education,
Brian Rock, President

REGULATION ON VOLUNTEER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN SCHOOLS AMENDED

Hot off the press!

On November 8, 2017, Dominique Vien, Member of the National Assembly for Bellechasse and Minister responsible for Labour, announced amendments to the Regulation on Volunteer Construction Work.

Under the amended Regulation, volunteer workers will still be allowed to work in the residential, institutional, and commercial sectors, but only in restricted areas.

Individuals willing to help their community by volunteering their skills will be able to do so in schools, daycare centres, hospitals, and not-for-profit organizations.



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Johnnie Cluff

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QFHSA NEWS.



Executive Director's Message



NEXThomeandschool

At this year's Fall Conference we heard some wonderful ideas from Michael Canuel and Noel Burke about NEXTschooL, regarding the future of high school education. How change will be not only voluntary but inevitable. The world is changing fast

around us and we need to run to keep up with it. We need to adapt to what the world will be calling for, 20 years from now, and not hold on, so dear and fast, to "the way things have always been done".

What struck me, while sitting in on the **Online Payments for Home and School Activities** workshop, amidst all the discussion of such things as *Weebly*, *Cognito*, *Square*, *Paypal*, *Sagato*, *email transfers*, etc is that we have already entered into an era of "NEXThomeandschool". Volunteers in Home and Schools are already thinking outside the box, beyond "the way things have always been done" to find the new and innovative (and efficient) ways to conduct their business.

These new, more efficient ways, help free up time from the often over-burdened and beleaguered volunteers, allowing for more payment options for parents and less hassle for the Treasurer; and all this without any "directives" from the provincial organization. This is a case of QFHSA running to keep up with its own member associations!

Home and School members have always been innovative in finding new ways of doing things with whatever resources they have on hand. The beauty and joy of a diverse membership is all the different skills and expertise they can bring to the table. Always welcome new ideas and give good ones a try. Even if they don't have the exact desired result, you can benefit from the failures and adapt. Maybe next time, things will work better.

I am sure all of our Home and School Associations will be able to look back on 2017 with pride at all they have been able to accomplish and will be reviewing their notes on how to deliver projects, programs and events even better in 2018.

Have a wonderful Christmas/ Hannukah/ Kwanza.

Carol Meindl, Executive Director



Membership services

Greetings from Membership Services

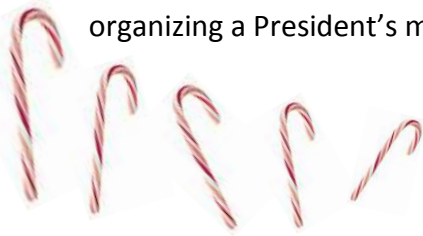
Documents: Please note that all documents including your first membership list and first batch of membership fees are **OVERDUE**. Please email the list in Excel format to Marlyn at marlynbrownrigg@qfhsa.org.

Would your Home and School like to host a Regional Council?



Regional councils are one of the most popular features of both the Fall Conference and the Annual General Meeting. If your Home and School would like to host a regional council please contact the QFHSA office.

At the Executive Training workshops in September, it became evident that new Home and School Presidents would appreciate meeting with more experienced Presidents. The QFHSA will look at organizing a President's meeting in the New Year at the QFHSA office.



Membership Fee Summary Form: Please include the membership fee summary form along with your membership payments. It is sometimes difficult to balance the cheque with the membership list or determine if fees for associate members were sent in error.

Privacy: Please ensure that email addresses and other membership information does not become public or is shared with other members of your Home and School. Always use *bcc* to send out emails.

Marlyn Brownrigg
QFHSA Membership Services Coordinator
marlynbrownrigg@qfhsa.org
514-481-5619

Upcoming

January 27th:
Family Literacy Day. Have your Home and School support a literacy activity at your school.

February 4-10th:
TSAW: Quebec Ministry of Education, Leisure and Sports (MELS).

February 11-17th:
TSAW: Canadian Home and School's Teacher/Staff Appreciation week.

Thought for the Day:

The sign of a successful Home and School is not the amount of money sitting in the bank account but rather the quality and variety of the activities brought to the school for all the students to enjoy.

Tribute to Pat Baker**By: Marion Daigle, Past President**

When it comes to inspiration and leadership there can be no better example than Pat Baker – loving husband, father, grandfather, exceptional teacher, principal, educator, mentor and leader. QFHSA was saddened to learn of his death at the age of 82 on July 17, 2017 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Pat Baker, born and raised in Montreal, attended Sir George Williams University. He earned his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Commerce degrees before continuing his studies at Macdonald College, resulting in a Teaching Diploma and, subsequently, a career in education. Over the years, his tireless effort in serving education was influenced by continuous professional development and academic achievement. His ongoing studies resulted in a Master of Arts in Education and a Diploma in Educational Administration.

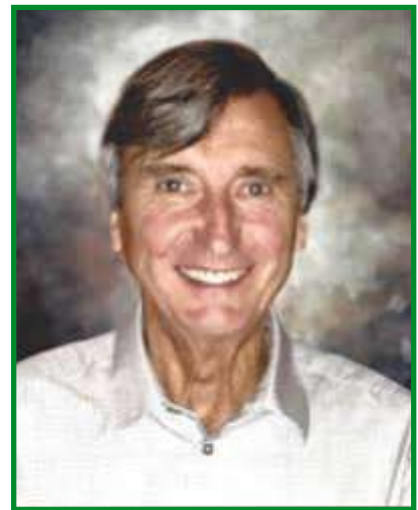
Pat joined the Lakeshore School Board (LSB) in 1960 and served in the capacities of teacher, department head and Vice-Principal of Beaconsfield High School and Principal of five elementary schools: Thorndale, Northview, Spring Garden, Greendale and Allancroft. Pat also served as Coordinator of Professional Development at the LSB and was an Instructor in the Graduate Leadership Program at the McGill Faculty of Education.

Pat was a coach and mentor through his love of sports, a team builder, a good listener and one who saw the best in everyone he met. His leadership qualities were strengthened by his religious faith. He was a loved and respected community leader at Beaconsfield United Church for many many years.

Pat had the unique ability to make parents feel part of a team; he believed that parent participation in the school lead to a more effective learning environment for all children and was always a strong and caring supporter of Home and School. During his years as principal, QFHSA members enjoyed and benefited from his excellent workshop presentations at our conferences.

In 1988 Pat Baker received the QFHSA Gordon Paterson Award to honour an outstanding educator who has encouraged parent participation in the education of children through parent involvement. Nominated by Greendale Elementary School's Home and School Association, they stated that Pat Baker's dedication to the students and parents brought the parents of Greendale 'back to school'.

Our sympathy goes out to Alma, his wife of 58 years, his children Laurie and Patrick and grandchildren, Jennifer, Patrick and Trevor. Thank you, Pat, for your outstanding service as a conscientious, creative and successful parent, teacher and community leader.

**QFHSA 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.

The Anatomy of a Bill

Law 62: How did this legislation evolve?

By: Brian Rock

Stéphanie Vallée, MNA for Gatineau and the Minister of Justice of Québec, originally introduced Bill no. 62: **An Act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality and, in particular, to provide a framework for religious accommodation requests in certain bodies during the 41st Legislature, 1st Session of the National Assembly of Québec on June 10, 2015.**

The National Assembly Committee on Institutions held special consultations and public hearings on Bill no. 62 on October 18, 25, 26, 27 and November 1, 2, 3, 8, 2016. The title of this bill was changed during the committee stage: **An Act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality and, in particular, to provide a framework for requests for accommodations on religious grounds in certain bodies** (modified title).

The Report from the Committee on Institutions regarding the Special Consultations on Bill no. 62 was tabled in the National Assembly on November 9, 2016. A debate on Bill no. 62 was held on November 10, 2016.

Bill no. 62 was adopted in principle by a vote of 83 to 16 with two abstentions on November 16, 2016.

The Committee on Institutions proceeded with a clause by clause consideration of Bill no. 62 on August 15, 24, 2017 and September 7, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 2017. During these eight days of consideration, many amendments were approved, rejected, withdrawn, or ruled non-receivable.

The Committee Report on Special Consultations was tabled on October 3, 2017 for detailed consideration.

The Committee Report was debated on October 4 and 5, 2017, and a vote was taken: 58 for, 46 against, with no abstentions.

Bill no. 62 was debated on October 17 and 18, 2017, and Bill no. 62 was passed by a vote of 66 for, 51 against, with no abstentions.

Law 62 received assent and came into force on October 18, 2017.

On Dec 2, a Superior Court Justice ruled the article will be stayed until the province establishes rules under which people can apply for a religious accommodation.

PLEASE NOTE: At the Annual General Meeting of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations on Saturday, April 25, 2015 in St. Laurent, members voted to adopt Resolution 2015 / 01: "Diversity and Inclusion" calling on the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations and its local associations to continue to support and promote a policy of diversity and inclusion in all of its activities at home, in the school, and in the wider community. This resolution was adopted unanimously.

Giving Tuesday

Home and Schools parents do such excellent work in their school communities-volunteering, fundraising and providing enriching experiences for students- from subsidizing buses for school trips to providing decorations for Hallowe'en haunted houses, from organizing extra-curricular activities to purchasing library books. Home and School parents perceive a need and endeavour to address it.

We wish to thank all those who made an extra special donation, on Giving Tuesday, November 28th, to their local Home and School Association, because you truly appreciate everything they do for your kids and your school.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rq4DNKIVdxw>

Reading Books in a Digital Age

3 Tips for Encouraging Children to Love Books in the Digital Age

J.L. Baumann

Plenty of things can get between a child and a good book – TV, video games and even kid-friendly cellphone apps. But despite all those potential distractions, there's still a place in every child's home for the printed word and such characters as Tom Sawyer, Winnie-the-Pooh and Curious George.

"Even in the digital age, the physical book is not outdated, and only the ones with shallow content will become so," says J.L. Baumann, author of *Mackenzie Goes Adventuring* (www.snookton.com), a picture book that stresses the importance of education.

"The more universal the book's message and the more philosophically stimulating the work is, the greater the piece will stand the test of time." Introducing books to children at even the youngest age pays off. Research that was presented at the 2017

Those who read for fun, one day or less each week, have an average of 65 books in their homes – still a lot, but not quite enough, according to the study. "It will cost about \$20 to take two children to lunch with you at McDonald's, a meal that will be forgotten in no time," Baumann says. "You could use that same money for a book that could become a cherished possession." And if money is an issue, a weekly visit to the library can help.

Let the child choose. Children are more likely to be enthusiastic about books if they get to choose what they read – even if an adult is unimpressed with the literary choice. "As they come to love reading, children will be more apt to choose books with more substance," Baumann says. "But the first step is just to get them excited."

Don't be dissuaded by complex illustrations.



Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting showed that reading books with a child beginning in early infancy can boost vocabulary and reading skills four years later, before the start of elementary school.

Baumann is a big proponent of reading aloud, adding a theatrical flair that brings his characters to life when he reads his own books to children. He has a few tips for getting children excited about reading:

Make plenty of books available. A lack of access to a large selection of books at home can make a difference in how much children read, according to the biannual "Kids and Family Reading" report that Scholastic released earlier this year. Children who are frequent readers, devouring books for fun, five to seven days a week, have on average a whopping 141 children's books in their homes.

Some adults seem to think it best that children's picture books have simple drawings that don't challenge the child, but Baumann thinks they are selling the children short. "Children will notice the smallest thing in detailed artwork," Baumann says. "Children can appreciate art that adults sometimes think is too sophisticated for them. If a book has intricate artwork with a lot going on, the children are likely to discover something new each time they return to the book."

"Reading helps children in so many ways," Baumann says. "It improves their vocabulary. It increases their knowledge. It prepares them for school and is a skill they need for every subject. But also, it's just plain fun and gives them the opportunity to stretch their imaginations and enjoy the adventures waiting for them between those two covers."

Occasionally, QFHSA has opportunities to receive books for review from various publishers. The reviews are conducted and submitted by students as well adult Home and School members. As a thank you to the students for giving their time and interest, we give them the book to keep for their own. This is part of our QFHSA literacy activity.

BOOK REVIEWS

Book Title: Sonya Sahni and the First Grade-
It's International Day!

Author: Soma Mandal

Illustrator: Tim Williams

Publisher: Mindstir Media LLC

Reviewed by: Jacqueline Barbieri and son (age 7)



My 7 year old son and I read this book together. It's a rhyming story about a Sonya Sahni, a little girl in the first grade who is a first generation American citizen. Her family is from India and wants her to pay tribute to her cultural heritage by eating traditional Indian food, dressing traditionally, etc. Sonya identifies with her American classmates and friends and just wants to be like them. Initially, she gets teased by her classmates because she is different and eventually because her lunch smells funny. She comes home quite upset and talks to her parents about what is happening to her. Her parents discuss the issue with the class teacher, Mrs. Abdul, who comes up with the idea of hosting an International day at school, where the children bring the flags, and food of the countries their parents are from, and wear the traditional garb of their cultures. The children like the idea and end up enjoying the celebration of each other's cultures.

This diffuses the tension in the school for a happy ending. My son enjoyed the book. It reminded him of his school which is also a melting pot of many cultures. He asked me questions about the food and flags of the different countries represented in the book. His school hosted an "International night" for the first time last year-it was put together by teachers and staff. He thought the idea of getting students involved was a good one. It is an age appropriate book.

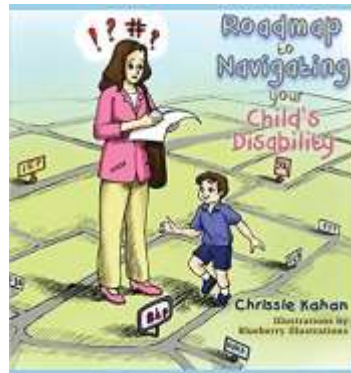
The illustrations are very nice and eye-catching with bright colors. He enjoyed looking through the pictures.

On the down side, the rhyming in the book is a little weak-sometimes the sentences do not rhyme and often the flow of sentences is off. I recommend this book for a school who had not yet thought of having an international day.

Book Title: Roadmap to Navigating your Child's Disability

Author: Chrissie Kahan
Reviewed by: Özlem Erten

This book is written for parents of children with disabilities. It aims to serve as a map that can lead the way in the challenging special needs education services. It has more of a State-focus and shares educational terms that may not be specific to us. I liked this book even though at times, I found the language of the book to be more casual and "text-like" than I expected. (ex. Pg11 "IEP,SST,504,ESL, SLD, wtf,101") It serves as an overall look at special education and I would recommend it to parents of children with special needs who live in the United States.



Book Title: Think About It!

Author: Susan Gardner and Amy Leask
Reviewed by: Özlem Erten



These books are written for youth with the goal of inviting them to think critically about topics such as metaphysics, epistemology, environmental philosophy, ethics, politics and aesthetics. I like this series of books as they promote critical thinking skills for youth. The characters are diverse and the illustrations display multicultural persons.

One of the most interesting things about these books is that they present creative ideas about introducing very abstract and difficult concepts to youth. They use analogies such as building, construction and scaffolding. I would recommend these books to teachers who can find some sections and ideas useful and practical to implement. They could be used in small group formats as part of an engaging lesson plan.

Book Title: Angry Ana

Author: Chrissie Kahan
Reviewed by: Emma Francescangeli (age 5)

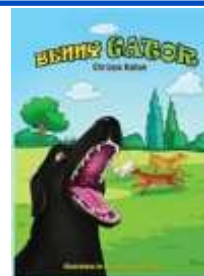
This book was about Ana, an angry little girl. I liked this book because it was about how to talk and learn to be calm. The most interesting thing I learned from this book was all the ways you can calm down. I would recommend this book to other readers.



Book Title: Benny Gator

Author: Chrissie Kahan
Reviewed by: Mateo Francescangeli (age 8)

This book was about Benny the dog and learning to not keep his mouth open. I liked this book because it was funny. There was nothing interesting that I learned from this book. I would not recommend it to others.



Book Reviews continued

Book Title: Think About it!

Author: Amy Leask

Reviewed by: Kate Zarbatany (10 yrs)

“Let the Thinking Begin!” is an introduction to Philosophy, there are also six other books with cool subjects to learn about: *Politics – Aesthetics – Metaphysics – Environmental Philosophy – Epistemology – Ethics.*

I am going to tell you about the first book, An Introduction to Philosophy. Philosophy is a way we can know more about the world around us and a way to find out the truth. How do we do that? It is actually easy, you just have to think and ask questions.

Questions like “What is real?” “Where did dinosaurs come from?” “Why is the sky blue?” How come we can survive longer without food, then without water?” “Does money make you happy?”

I always wonder - “How come sometimes it feels like time goes by so much faster when you are having fun?” Think about it.....

This book makes you think and ask questions. It also gives you some tips if you want to do philosophy, and journal questions and experiments you can try.

It is a lot of fun to ask your family some questions at dinner and see what they think! It also tells you about some famous philosophers (a philosopher is someone who has BIG questions and spends their life trying to answer them!)

I really like how this book is full of big ideas, but is made in a way that kids can understand.

I liked learning about Philosophy, and when you talk about ideas with other people, there are no right or wrong answers. It’s a cool way to talk about different things and find out people’s opinions.

I would recommend this book because it is a fun way to learn new things. I also think that it is something we could use in class and talk about some ideas as a group!

If you want to learn more you can go to www.KidsThinkAboutit.com. There are also some examples of kids having philosophy discussions on You-tube.



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Canada Revenue Agency

Results of Charitable Audit of Canada Revenue Agency

As a result of the Charitable Audit conducted by the Canadian Revenue Agency, from January- July 2017, QFHSA has signed a Compliance Agreement and has committed itself to altering some of its procedures as directed by CRA. Some of these changes in procedure will affect our member associations, so we are sharing with you those elements in this article.

***As stipulated in the 2017 CRA agreement:**

***Gifting to non-qualified donee/issuing receipt on behalf of other organizations**

A registered charity may only use its resources (funds, personnel and/or property) in two ways: for charitable activities undertaken by the charity itself under its continued supervision, direction and control, and /or for gifting to “qualified donees” as defined in the Charities Act.

CRA had determined that our local member associations were neither part of QFHSA’s own charitable activities nor were they considered qualified donees, as they lack their own charitable status. Therefore QFHSA can no longer accept donations on behalf of, nor forward money on to, our local associations. This service is not considered part of our own charitable activities.

Activities that would be considered part of QFHSA’s own charitable activities would be: donations supporting our Literacy projects (Born to Read, Reluctant Readers, or Youth Exploring Science) or donations supporting our Fall Conference and Annual Awards Banquet.

***Books and Records/ Resources devoted to political activity**

A registered Canadian Charity is accountable for the use of its resources for political activities. In this regard, the Income Tax Act requires a charity to keep books and records that show it continues to qualify for registration as a charity.

- **This means that a charity must keep books and records that demonstrate that any political activities it carries out comply with the Act**

- **A charity’s books and records can include, but are not limited to, invoices, ledgers, records of volunteer hours worked, contracts, and minutes of board meetings.**

QFHSA has kept invoices, ledgers, records of volunteer hours worked, contracts, and minutes of board meetings, but it did not keep accurate account of how much of its resources were allocated and used for its political activity. The reason being that we did not consider our activities- writing briefs, making presentations in the National Assembly, reporting and informing our membership on the ramifications of various pieces of legislation- as constituting political activity. The Act stipulates that even spending less than 10% of resources on political activity still requires those expenses to be tracked and reported on the T3010 Form. QFHSA has agreed to track those expenses and report on them in the Charitable Return, starting September 1, 2017.

We are permitted to inform our members regarding the ramifications of various legislation but we are not permitted to make any calls to action, such as promoting a petition nor issuing a call for members to contact their MNA/MPs. These are the stipulations guiding charities.

Continued on page 14.



QFHS Fall Conference



Left to right: Michael Canuel, David Birnbaum and Noel Burke

QFHS Fall Conference 2017 memories



Left to right: Carol Meindl, Michael Canuel, Noel Burke and Brian Rock



Cathrine Le Maistre: Chair, Advisory Board on English Education



Diamond Relations Workshop- Debi Brown and Rosemary Murphy



Online Payments Workshop- Tana Ghosh, Pam Gareau and Lisa Weinberger



Email Etiquette Workshop- Luigi Filippo

QFHSA Fall Conference

QFHSA Fall Conference 2017 memories



Full of Character Workshop- Corey Szwarcok



Teen Depression Workshop- Cher Bercovich



Regional Council



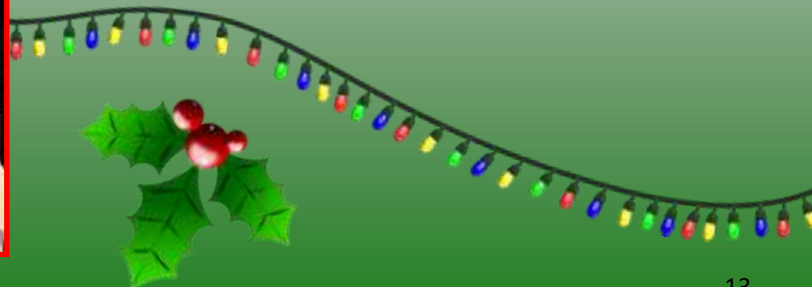
Art comes to School Workshop- Deirdre Potash



Regional Council



Information tables



Results continued...

Results of Charitable Audit of Canada Revenue Agency



Continued from page 11.

***Local Associations acting as intermediaries**

Where it is important for the Organization to carry out its programs through a local association, the Organization may need to consider the following options: In this case, the Organization (QFHSA) must be able to substantiate that it has actually arranged for the conduct of a specific activity on its behalf and has not simply made a transfer of funds to a non-registered charity. The Organization must be able to demonstrate that it maintains direction and control over, and is fully accountable for the use of resources provided to the intermediary, and provide the CRA access to its books and records upon request.

When carrying out activities through an intermediary, the following steps are strongly recommended:

- create a written agreement with the intermediary, and implement its terms
- communicate a clear, complete, and detailed description of the activity to the intermediary
- monitor and supervise the activity
- provide clear, complete, and detailed instructions to the intermediary on an ongoing basis
- arrange for the intermediary to keep the charity's funds separate from its own, and to keep separate books and records
- make periodic transfers of resources, based on demonstrated performance

A charity must maintain a record of steps taken to direct and control the use of its resources, as part of its books and records, to allow the CRA to verify that all of the charity's resources have been used for its own activities.

Although QFHSA had considered the acceptance of donations on the part of its member associations and the issuance of charitable receipts in the past as part of its mandate, to promote, and encourage, Home and School organization and activity in the schools throughout the Province of Quebec, CRA did not agree and now requires QFHSA to devote its resources solely to its own charitable activities.

However, QFHSA is permitted to form partnerships with Home and School member associations and education stakeholders to support specific Home and School Association projects and initiatives that benefit all the children in their elementary and secondary English language minority schools.

Following the procedure outlined above, QFHSA could enter into a partnership with a member association to collect donations toward such projects as playground equipment or school beautification.

Also, if members of our local associations wish to make donations to QFHSA Literacy activities, to support the purchase and shipment of English language books to small school and community libraries in regions where access to such material is challenging, they are encouraged to do so. Likewise, if they would like to help subsidize the Youth Exploring Science program, so that more students in the regions could participate and enjoy these hands on science activities, their support would also be very welcome. If donations wish to be made to support the Annual Awards Banquet that celebrates excellence in teaching and volunteering in the English school system of Quebec. Charitable receipts could be issued for all of these above mentioned activities as well.



QFHSA Out and About...

September 13, 2017

Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers, Kirkland.
President Sebastien Joly met with President Brian Rock and Executive Director Carol Meindl, to discuss History curriculum concerns.

October 21, 2017

Canadian Parents for French
“Reading to your Children” Parent Information Workshop at Beaconsfield High school.
Carol Meindl manned an information table on behalf of the QFHSA.

October 26, 2017

Victor and Sheila Goldbloom Awards, hosted by the Quebec Community Groups Network at St James Club, Montreal. Wanda Leah Trineer, Treasurer, attended on behalf of QFHSA.

November 2-3, 2017

Canadian Home and School Federation AGM and Fall Conference, Halifax, NS.
Rosemary Murphy, Vice President and Quebec Representative, attended on behalf of QFHSA.

November 21, 2017

“Meet the MNA’s” 5 a 7 in Quebec City.
The event was hosted by the Quebec Community Groups Network and attended by President Brian Rock, on behalf of QFHSA.

November 21, 2017

Advisory Board on English Education, Montreal.
Rosemary Murphy, Vice President and Executive Director, Carol Meindl, were invited to present the results of the online survey “Why have English Schools?”

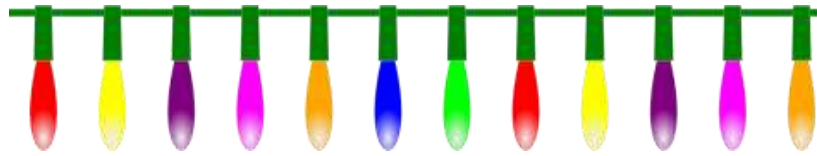
November 24, 2017

Ministry of Education, Montreal.
Representatives of the Committee on the Enhancement of the Curriculum of History (ComECH) were invited to share their concerns regarding the new History Curriculum. Attending on behalf of QFHSA was Linton Garner. Also attending: Robert Green, Chair; Dayo Odubayo, English Parents Committee Association (EPCA) and Simon Jacobs, Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network, (QAHN)

November 23-24, 2017

Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers Convention, Montreal.
Administrative Assistant Sheila Desormeaux, and Executive Director Carol Meindl manned an information table. President Brian Rock attended by invitation, on behalf of the QFHSA Board of Directors.

Workshop Reviews



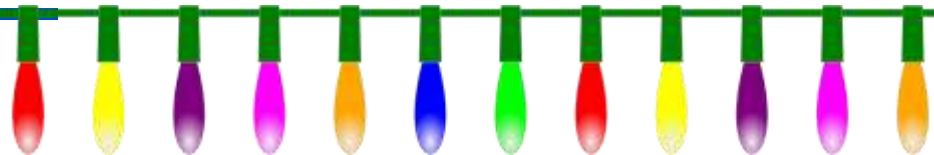
Workshop title: Full of Character
Presented by: Corey Szwarcok
Reviewed by: Mark Kerr, Baie Comeau High School

Mr. Szwarcok held a very relaxed and interesting workshop. We started off by introducing ourselves and naming one of our strengths. He asked us how our personal behavior affected our children and many of the participants were very forthcoming. A discussion of how competition can be used as a life lesson was quite interesting. He also told us to embrace the things we do well and work on our weaknesses. We participated in two team exercises. The first one was a rock, paper, scissors war. We had to play against a player and the participant who lost would have to root for the winner until there were only two left.

The second exercise was a memory skill event. We were divided in two groups. The groups were given ten flying discs that were numbered from 1 to 10. We had to pick them up in order and if you chose one that was incorrect you had to turn them all over and start again. The objective of the exercise was to find a way to work as a team. Our team won that one, <<Go team!>>.

The Fall Conference 2017 was my first and I would recommend it to everyone. It was very well organized and had great people at the helm.

Workshop title: E-mail Etiquette
Presented by: Luigi Di Filippo
Reviewed by: Joanna Duy, Edinburgh Home and School



This workshop was a useful overview of cyber security and best practices for email communications. Many of us may have heard this content before, but as our use of online communications continues to expand, it is helpful to revisit some basic advice.

The overall message for the cyber security section was that while systems can be hacked, users can also be hacked, thus we all have a role to play in keeping cyberspace secure. When you receive a suspicious email, don't follow links or open attachments. Use public wifi only if there is no other choice, and when prompted, never let the system remember your

password. A general guideline for passwords: like underwear, you should change them often and keep them private.



Do not use pet or family names for passwords or any other information about yourself that can be found online.

Key takeaways from the email communications section of the talk were to consider your communication method (don't forget the phone!) and keep emails as short as possible, especially as many users are reading emails on their phones. We all have a role to play in helping to reduce email overload. The subject line of the email should convey the content of the email. Anticipate questions that might arise when someone reads your message, and proactively (but briefly!) answer them in the email, thus preventing back and forth correspondence.



Workshop title: Online Payments
Facilitated by: Tanima Ghosh
Reviewed by: Heidi Ektvedt, Dorset Home and School
Presenters: Lisa Weinberger; Sagoto Solutions and Pam Gareau; Evergreen Elementary
Contribution by: Tricia Steeves; Chelsea Home and School

Lots of excitement and buzz on this ever popular discussion about making forms and payments for fundraisers easier to manage. This workshop left lots to ponder as Home and Schools work to streamline and reduce all the work that goes into distributing flyers, collecting payments, compiling and managing master lists.

Former Wilder Penfield H&S President Tanima Ghosh talked briefly about Cognito, an online form building platform and sites like WEEBLY to build websites.

Evergreen Elementary shared information on the launch of their website and online e-commerce/forms using the WIX platform. At Evergreen, the endeavour was led by a volunteer with experience in marketing. With no IT experience, she chose WIX for many reasons including its' very user friendly application. The project took approximately 6 months from start to finish and is in the early stages of being launched. WIX platform seems to be extremely user friendly and requires no IT experience.

There is a lot to consider and the work requires a dedicated person to take charge and lead the project but the benefits in the long run could be huge by simplifying processes, reducing paper flows and time that goes hand-in-hand with managing fundraisers.

At Evergreen they sold advertising to parents and local businesses on their website. Even without offsetting costs, a quick look at the paper & printing costs your H&S has in their budget could show that building a platform would replace these other budgeted expenses.



Do your research, as creating forms and maintaining these platforms can vary and is something to consider. Do the costs and efforts outweigh the benefits? Can your Home and School ensure that from year-to-year the transfer of managing a site can be maintained? Is there benefit to having a website where parents can feel connected to H&S in this digital age where communication is almost expected instantly?

Sagoto Solutions was another key presenter and has built their business on building forms and managing them for you. There are fees involved but from year-to-year, as volunteers come and go, Sagoto could be there to support you, offering full service with customized forms, security of payment, and direct deposits to your account.

Need more info?

Go to websitebuilderexpert.com to read up and see reviews on different platforms mentioned above.

Sagoto Solutions: www.sagoto.com
 or call 613.552.6669



Fall Conference 2017

Workshop Reviews continued

Workshop title: Teen Depression

Presented by: Cher Bercovitch

Reviewed by: Esther Kay, Gardenview Elementary School

On October 28, 2017 Cher Bercovitch from Perspective Communautaire en Sante Mentale (PCSM) gave an informative workshop on teen depression. The workshop focused on defining teen depression, the risk factors that contribute to its onset, how to identify it and finally what to do when you suspect your teen has it. Bercovitch brings with her 18 years of experience in the mental health sector and now offers individualized service plans, program design and animation of psychosocial groups. On a grass-roots level, she develops a relationship with affected person(s) and provides one-on-one support. Her professionalism and passion for her work in this field was obvious in the delivery of her workshop. She often ad-libbed her own experiences into the presentation of information, which made it more interesting.

Teen depression is becoming a widespread concern for many parents today. Some of the risk factors mentioned are issues with self-esteem, having been a victim of violence or abuse, having a learning disability or attention-deficit disorder/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and family history. Being able to recognize the signs and symptoms of depression is the first step in getting help for your teen. The most notable sign is a change in their previous behaviours and attitude.

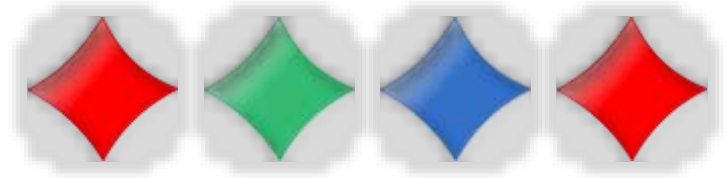
It may be followed by problems at school, running away, drug and alcohol abuse and low self-esteem. Other prominent behavioural changes may be smartphone addiction, reckless behaviour and violence.

Bercovitch noted that teens are to be taken seriously if they start joking about committing suicide, begin giving away possessions or seeking out weapons, pills or other methods to kill themselves. An interesting fact that was given is that females attempt suicide more often than their male counterparts, however males are more likely to succeed. Suicide attempts are highest during the middle adolescent ages of 15-17.

It is important to talk to your teen without judgment if you suspect depression. If you feel it is unmanageable for your teen, then a plan of action should be made. This should involve professional intervention whereby your teen will be treated. Dealing with a depressed teen affects everyone around them. Be sure to make them a priority and seek help from the resources around you such as from the school social worker or nurse, your child's doctor and the CLSC. If necessary, 911 or the hospital emergency is also an option.

This workshop was of particular interest to me as I've had first-hand experience in dealing with a depressed teen. Though I was not educated enough or able to help at the time, it has always been a topic that affected me deeply. As a parent myself, I believe depression to be a prevalent condition that many are silently afflicted with at varying points of one's life - myself inclusive. I have found that talk therapy has been a simple and powerful tool in dealing with depression. In closing, teen depression is a common disorder that can be dealt with. The more we learn and talk about it, the less taboo it is, and the more we can help our children in need.



Workshop title: Diamond Relations**Presented by: Rosemary Murphy and Debi Brown****Reviewed by: Shaun Callender, Merton Home and School**

It is for information like this that makes attendance paramount at these conferences.

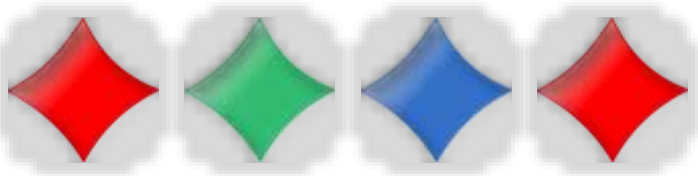
The diamond representation shows how the four points of management come together to form a cohesive group to make sure our voices are heard throughout the education system.

The points of School Board, Principal, Governing Board and Local Associations of the Home & School Federation unite to make it all happen for our children.

The workshop, led by Rosemary Murphy and Debi Brown, discussed these 4 levels.

The **School Board's** establishment and its purpose is to organize and implement the educational services provided by the government's guidelines, to develop policies by consulting with their represented community and reporting back to the government as to the needs of the community.

The **Principal** appointed by the School Board is the academic and administrative director of the school. They work with their staff to provide educational services by following the guidelines of the Ministry of Education and School Board policies. The Principal is the ambassador of the school and works to encourage the participation of staff and parents in fostering student success.



The **Governing Board** within the school is the decision making body represented by both parents and staff that assists in defining policy and operating procedures to meet the educational needs of all students. The board is responsible for managing how the local Home and School association uses the school premises (and occasionally, the school name) to provide services and funding to the student body.

The **Local Home and School Associations**, backed by the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA) provide support to the school and surrounding community by organizing activities and raising funds to make the entire school eco-system work for our children. The Associations are encouraged to have a Constitution, By-Laws and a volunteer code of conduct to help guide their activities. The local association is structured with at minimum an executive consisting of a President, Treasurer and a Secretary/ Membership Chairperson who, along with their full membership, become the backbone of the school in fostering a sense of community in which our children can learn.

The main take away from this workshop is the recognition that we must treat everyone with the respect they deserve, as we are all working together for the common goal of keeping the English school system alive in Quebec, and to make our voices heard at all levels of the administrative organization up to the Ministry of Education itself.

PARENT INFO SESSION IN YOUR COMMUNITY

As parents, would you like to know more about Supporting reading development in bilingual children or How to help your child if she or he struggle in French? Canadian Parents for French proposes information sessions which could be beneficial. The sessions are generally a 1 to 2 hour presentation with light refreshments held either in a local school or local library.

If you think you might be interested in attending a workshop on one of the subjects above, please contact your Home and School President.

Fall Conference

Keynote Review

Keynote title: NEXTSchool

Presented by: Michael Canuel and Noel Burke

Reviewed by: Phil Rich

Bringing about culture shifts is not easy. Overhauling a system requires innovation, engagement, and a high degree of risk. This is certainly the case in education, where it is easy to stick with the traditional system that has existed for decades. But Noel Burke and Michael Canuel think it is entirely possible.

The architects behind the NEXTSchool project, Burke and Canuel spoke at length of how the system must change should teachers, parents, and most importantly students, want to succeed in a rapidly changing society. Canuel, opened the address by discussing the challenges that children face in a globalized society.

He called for a need to cultivate 21st century skills due to the rapid changes in society that could potentially result in an employment crisis, with traditional jobs being eliminated due to the emergence of the information economy. Reading and writing are no longer enough. Students now need to be able to prove competency to gain a place in the workforce. "It's not whether we like it or don't like it," he says, "that's just the way it is."

Furthermore, Canuel warned that tinkering with curriculum is not enough to adapt to the needs of the information economy, instead arguing that change must be scalable and sustainable. He called for everyone to work together to accomplish these goals. It is here that the NEXTSchool framework thrives.

An innovative approach to learning, NEXTSchool is gaining momentum around the globe. It focuses on improving the high school learning experience through student-centered, project-based learning - mirroring the approach employed by many primary schools.

Burke echoed Canuel's calls for change in his portion of the presentation. "Rate of change in society, and globally, is significant. But the pace of change in high school is at a standstill," he pointed out. "In fact, it is going backwards."

He explained how the NEXTSchool project seeks a proactive approach to meeting the needs of students in the classroom. Its primary objective is the decompartmentalization of learning. Student expectations are the focus in this system, with the teacher acting as a navigator.

An emphasis is placed on collaboration, autonomy, relevant learning, and a sense of belonging, providing more opportunities for students and staff alike. Burke described it as giving the students and teachers a voice in what is taught. "It's like turning the whole thing upside down."

Burke and Canuel have spent over two years re-searching the benefits of a more holistic approach to learning. They visited schools both domestically and internationally to see how schools are using systems that favour student-centered learning, and the overwhelmingly positive results of this shift in approach.

Most importantly, implementing such a system requires a paradigm shift of significant proportions, what Burke and Canuel label a "big change." Eliminating course blocks, promoting project-based learning, and placing a focus on formative assessment, among others changes, is a big risk. But according to Burke and Canuel, it's an entirely realistic possibility. They suggest that Quebec's current education is set up well to accommodate these changes.

Much like the skill it emphasizes, adaptability is one of the NEXTSchool's greatest strengths. It is a system rather than a program, which allows it to be used in schools that already have a specialty program. For instance, it can be adapted in schools with an existing IB program, sport-études program, and a traditional class format, among others. It is a system that is unique to each individual secondary school.

As for a potential timeline, Burke and Canuel hope to begin pilot projects in September 2019. These projects will be preceded by a preparatory year next fall for high schools that are interested in adopting the NEXTSchool framework. Burke and Canuel wrapped up their presentation with a lively Q&A period. They encouraged those in attendance to provide their contact information should they be interested in participating in the design process.

Time will tell if these changes are enough to usher the Quebec education system into an era that requires much of students. It is a tall task, and will likely answer a fundamental question: are we, in fact, too late?



Focus on



The locals

Westwood

Westwood's 16th Annual Winter Wonderland Craft Fair a Success!

THANK YOU to everyone who came to the Westwood Craft Fair November 25th, and supported our schools: Westwood Junior and Westwood Senior! Thanks to our wonderful crafters and vendors who purchased tables in our gym - we hope you had a great day. All our table bookings were done through an online registration. Thanks to our generous sponsors for your gift donations, because of your big hearts we were able to raffle away baskets worth \$75 to \$100+. Food was served by vendors and our Home and School held a bake sale in the Café. We also helped the Library with a used book sale.

Thank you to all our eager student volunteers and all our parent volunteers who gave their time, baking, cooking or sourcing gifts.

We had such a terrific group of volunteer parents, new and returning doing all the planning and coordinating all the details, that it made everything so much more enjoyable.

Our high school Home and School makes our Westwood community richer in so many ways. Our high school parents are very involved, and always looking for ways to help the students and schools. Thank you! Mille fois merci! Visit us at www.supportwestwood.com to learn more or visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WWHShomeandschool/>!

See you all again next year.

Thanks
Lisa Fougere
Home and School President



St. Charles

TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE

St. Charles Home and School kicked off the beginning of another great school year by hosting the annual Welcome Back BBQ and Big Bang fundraising event, attended by over 600 people. It was a great opportunity for families to meet our new principal, Adrian Geller, and new teachers, as well as catch up with our veteran teaching staff. Everyone enjoyed a BBQ dinner, cotton candy and popcorn, music by The Beat 92.5, balloon sculpting, tattooing, face painting and the ever popular visit with the policeman. The Big Bang fundraiser was a huge success. Sponsor-donated gift certificates/bags or prizes were available for purchase. Exact prizes were only revealed once their chosen balloon (aka The Big Bang) was popped.

Thank you to all of our generous sponsors who made this fundraiser such a success.

October finished with the annual Grad class Halloween Party held on October 27th.

The gym was transformed into an eerie graveyard ballroom and kids were dressed for the occasion. It was a spooktacular fun time for all!!

These events (and all our other planned events) would not have been possible without our amazing H & S members and/or volunteers. A huge THANK YOU goes out to those who have organized these events.

We would like to encourage all parents to become H & S members and volunteer to enjoy all the benefits that this has to offer. What better way to stay involved in your child's school education!

Happy Holidays!!



Beacon Hill

Beacon Hill Home and School was happy to receive the visit of Graham Batty for an extraordinary assembly for Remembrance Day. Lead by a Grade 5 presentation, Mr. Batty shared the meaning and importance of Remembrance Day and answered students' questions. A great day to honour our veterans.



21st CENTURY LIBRARY

On November 1st, we celebrated our Grand Opening of our newly renovated library! This labour of love involved many hours and meetings that spanned over the course of the school year to properly plan for what we wanted to space to look like, feel like and be used for.

We struck up a planning committee that consisted of teachers, parents and librarians, then observed the children to determine how they would best use the space. In the end, the design remained true to a lending library with the advantage of the flexible learning space that can accommodate many learners every day, all the time.

This initiative would not have been possible without the work of our incredible Home and School Association. The members were relentless in supporting our needs and ran countless activities and fundraisers that enabled us to purchase all new shelving and built-ins as well as decorate the large wall space with custom designs showcasing multiculturalism and the IB Programme.

The members of Home and School with the support of the Clearpoint community raised the necessary funds during the year and has committed themselves to continuing to raise funds to support our library.

Henry Ford said it best when he quoted:

*Coming together is the beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together...is success.*

Thank you to all who contributed in some small way to make this little piece of heaven a reality for our Clearpoint students.

Rachel Wilson
Principal





WHERE IS MY SCHOOL?

Disappointed that your school is not in the Focus on the Locals section? Please talk to your Home and School members and submit the

wonderful things your association is doing to news@qfhsa.org for our next issue in March 2018.



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