THE VOICE OF THE PARENT IN EDUCATION

QFHSA NEWS

VOLUME 50 ISSUE 3 JUNE 2012

Another successful Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2012

Full Coverage in this issue

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SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE PANEL - AGM 2012

School Board Governance Panel, AGM, April 21, 2012

This year at the QFHSA Annual General Meeting, a panel discussion was presented on the topic of School Board Governance. Key education leaders participated, offering their opinions on the topic and answering the many questions from the audience. The panelists were Robert Mills, Kate Le Maistre, Frank Verrillo and Mark Massarelli, with Theodora Stathopoulos sending in her contribution. Panelists gave their opinions on the ideas being proposed about school boards and their effectiveness, and the best ways to ensure guaranteed educational services for the French and English communities across Quebec.

Kate Le Maistre of ABEE was concerned that many regional schools are located too far away from their regional boards to receive proper services. She would like to ensure school boards facilitate equitable access and fair distribution of resources to local schools. She stressed that school boards should not simply rubber stamp government educational policies.

Frank Verrillo from QESBA upheld Quebec's English public school boards as an example of school success. The English system reports an 80% graduation rate as compared to the French system rate of approximately 70% (*MELS statistics 2008-2009).

Robert Mills (ADGESBQ) noted that other provinces in Canada have abolished school boards in the past and have since reinstated them. He stressed that school boards ensure equitable distribution of funds to all schools regardless of their tax base and resources. He suggested we should be looking at a better election system for school boards.

In her letter sent to the AGM, Theodora Stathopoulos supported the notion that "one size does not fit all and that there is an urgent need for flexibility in the educational system." She also pointed to the outstanding educational results achieved in Finland, a model for education reformers around the world. She added that, in Finland, the school is the main author of the curricula and the teacher is the sole authority monitoring the progress of students.

Mark Massarelli emphasized that the role of school boards and schools was to ensure that they educate, socialize and qualify students to be contributing and productive members of society.

There were many questions from the delegates, as well as suggestions. Most agreed that there is a huge need to inform the public on the role that school boards play and what would fall to the responsibilities of other government or municipal offices if they were abolished. One parent cautioned that people only react when things are taken away and events then take a turn for the very worst. She advised us to look to other successful education system models internationally before hasty decisions are made. Most of all, we each need to get involved because education does matter. Our future as a community depends on it.

Lisa Fougère, QFHSA News Editor

Participants in QFHSA AGM School Board Governance Panel Discussion

Kate Le Maistre
Chair of the Advisory Board on English Education (ABEE)

Frank Verrillo
Vice-President of the Quebec English School Board Association (QESBA)

Robert T. Mills
Vice-President of the Association of Directors General of the English School Boards of Quebec (ADGESBQ)

Theodora Stathopoulos
President of Canadian Music Educators' Association (CMEA)

Mark Massarelli
President of the Association of Administrators of English Schools of Quebec (AAESQ)

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Time to celebrate the New Year… well at the QFHSA, that is. The new year of 2012-2013 is underway.

The 2011-2012 year closed with our 68th Annual General Meeting and with the recognition of some very special people at our Awards Dinner. It is always a wonderful feeling to see so many people in one room, volunteering their time and acting on their belief that parental involvement in the education of their children is imperative to their success.

Thanks to everyone who participated. Your presence, views and opinions made the event a success.

In the coming months, the QFHSA will set the priorities for the coming school year. We will keep you posted through various emails, our facebook page and our website.

I would like to take a few lines to give special thanks to someone very deserving: Mary Skagos, our Administrative Assistant. Although Mary is working a full time job, she always finds the time to volunteer at the provincial level and at her children's schools. Mary always goes beyond the call of duty and even though she volunteers in the shadows, her many hours of volunteering haven't gone unnoticed. Thank you Mary!

Sincerely,

Liette Chamberland

QFHSA President

WE ATTENDED THE 68TH AGM

Schools Represented at AGM 2012 (** 'D' = Dinner)*

Beacon Hill Elementary (AGM & D)
Beaconsfield HS (AGM & D)
Beurling Academy (AGM)
Birchwood Elementary (AGM & D)
Dorset Elementary (Dinner)
Dorval Elementary (Dinner)
Dunrae Gardens Elementary (AGM & D)
Edinburgh Elementary (AGM)
Evergreen Elementary (AGM)
Gardenview Elementary (AGM & D)
Hillcrest Academy (AGM)
Honoré Mercier Elementary (AGM)
John Rennie High School (AGM)
Lindsay Place High School (AGM & D)
Macdonald High School (AGM & D)
New Richmond High School (AGM &D)
Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary (AGM & D)
Sherwood Forest Elementary (AGM & D)
Shigawake Port Daniel (AGM)
Souvenir Elementary (D)
St. Anthony Elementary (D)
St. Charles Elementary (AGM)
St. Edmund Elementary (AGM)
St. John Fisher Elementary (AGM)
St. Patrick Elementary (AGM)
Thorndale Elementary (AGM & D)
Westpark Elementary (AGM & D)
Westwood High School (AGM)
Wilder Penfield Elementary (AGM)
William Latter Elementary (AGM)
Willingdon Elementary (AGM)

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All submissions may be edited for length, clarity, accuracy, grammar, and spelling.

Thank you to the Department of Canadian Heritage (PCH) and the Ministère de L'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) for their financial support in helping us publish the QFHSA NEWS

It's All About
RESPONSIBILITY - ACCOUNTABILITY - CREDIBILITY

This June edition of the QFHSA NEWS should indicate to you that the end of the school year is just around the corner. Many of our local Home and School associations have held their Annual General Meetings and have chosen their new Executive Committees. The QFHSA has also held its AGM and chosen its Board of Directors. This information will be forwarded to the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) as required information, by law, to maintain our 'not-for-profit' status. In the same manner, we require from our local associations the list of their Executive Committee members and their complete contact information, as well as their membership fees to be sent to the QFHSA office as soon as it is available. Not only will this make it possible for us to send important documentation to the Presidents, Treasurers and Membership chairs in the fall, possibly making their work significantly easier, but it also fulfills our obligation to have this information on file. It is in the spirit of ***responsibility*** that this is done.

At the end of the school year, every Treasurer should prepare a final financial report and a proposed budget for their membership, outlining how much money has been earned, where it has been spent and where the executive recommends it be spent in the coming year. This should be made available to all paid members of the local association upon request. At the QFHSA AGM, a copy of the audited financial statement was made available for the membership's consideration and, once accepted, it is sent to Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). A copy of our financial statement is available to all paid members upon request. In the same manner, a copy of the financial statement of the local association should be sent to the QFHSA office for the school's file. It is in the spirit of ***accountability*** that this is done.

Often a President will do a summary of the past year of Home and School activities for their final newsletter to the parents before the summer season begins. It helps the parents know what has been accomplished. It may even spark the interests of non-member parents to get involved once they are aware of the "big picture". The QFHSA Book of Reports is also an end of year activity report that we send out to our local associations, as well as to the CRA and to our funding agencies every year to comply with the regulations of not-for-profit organizations. It is how we tell you what we have been doing. In the same manner, a copy of the final activity report of a local association should be sent to the QFHSA office, again, for the school's file. It is in the spirit of ***credibility*** that this is done.

We require these documents to fulfill our obligation as a not-for-profit organization with the CRA to provide documentation supporting our privilege to create and maintain local associations, as well as to carry out the mission of the QFHSA: to promote the involvement of parents in education. Without these documents, we have no proof that local associations are behaving as Home and Schools, a serious concern. Without our reports to the CRA and our funders, they would have no proof that we are acting as a charitable organization – a serious concern.

It is in the spirit of ***responsibility***, ***accountability*** and ***credibility*** that we require these documents to be submitted to the office as soon as they are available.

Sincerely,

Carol Meindl

QFHSA Executive Director

Advertising with QFHSA News

Our QFHSA Newsletter 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 August 13, 2012 with the News published mid-September.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT AGM 2012

The Rights and Education Committees of Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. have been discussing issues affecting education over the past year. The following resolutions were put forth, updated and approved by the QFHSA Board of Directors and passed by delegates at this year's AGM.

The QFHSA values and seeks input from its member associations in formulating these resolutions. If there is an educational issue that you feel is relevant to put forth at the provincial level, please contact our office and inquire as to how you can do so.

The full text of these resolutions can be found on our web site at www.qfhsa.org. or by email to info@qfhsa.org.

RESOLUTION 2012/1 RESPONSIBILITY FOR EDUCATION: SCHOOL BOARDS AND LOCAL AUTONOMY

2012-1

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. strongly urge the Government of Quebec to maintain the responsibility for governance of education with linguistic school boards whose commissioners are democratically elected and who are responsible solely for education.

RESOLUTION 2012/2 PERMANENT LINGUISTIC VOTERS LIST FOR SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

2012-2

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. urge the Minister of Education, Leisure and Sport to establish permanent linguistic voter lists;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such lists be based on the school board where dependent children attend or attended;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in cases where there are no dependent children in school: Eligible voters upon turning 18 years of age, who attended English schools, should be deemed to have chosen to be registered on the list of electors of an English language school board.

RESOLUTION 2012/3 WIDER ACCESS TO ENGLISH EDUCATION

2012-3

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. once again urge the Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women in conjunction with the Minister of Education, Leisure and Sport, to recommend to the Government of Quebec that access to education in English be widened;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. request the Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women and the Minister of Education, Leisure and Sport to permit any child who has begun his/her education in English to continue his/her education in English;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that s. 23 (1) (*a*) of the Constitution Act, 1982, which guarantees access to minority-language education on the basis of a citizen's mother tongue, be brought immediately into force in Quebec, by the exercise of the power conferred by section 59; that is to say, by a proclamation made by the Queen or the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada with the authorization of the National Assembly or Government of Quebec;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prime Minister of Canada and the premiers of the provinces encourage the bringing into force of s. 23 (1) (*a*) in Quebec, the only province where it does not apply;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. urge the Minister of Education, Leisure and Sport to direct all English School Boards to admit immediately eligible students to their schools, while awaiting an eligibility certificate;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. urge the Minister of Education, Leisure and Sport to recognize that neither the confirmation of a parent's Canadian citizenship, nor the confirmation of the school of attendance of a child in another province of Canada, is a legitimate reason for delaying the child's provisional entry into an English language school.

QFHSA APPRECIATION

It is always interesting to hear what parents new to the AGM experience think of the day and the QFHSA. In chatting with one parent this year, she expressed how surprised she was. She was astounded at the commitment and involvement of the members of the QFHSA Board of Directors at the provincial level on behalf of the local associations. She marvelled at how involved they all were and the number of meetings held on behalf of education matters over the course of a year. The reality is that much happens beyond the local schools that most people aren't aware of in their daily lives. The humble office, the dedicated volunteers and workers at the QFHSA have always had big implications for education issues in Quebec.

From all the parents at our associations, I would like to give a huge thank you to all the wonderful contributors at the QFHSA for going way above and beyond the scope of your mandates. You truly give of your lives for the great cause of our children's education. We are enormously grateful for your time and efforts. Thank you.

Lisa Fougère, Birchwood Home and School Co-President

Free 2012

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A note of thanks to the Entertainment Publishing Company for providing complimentary books for our AGM delegates & Executive Appreciation 2012.

QFHSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012-2013

The new QFHSA Board of Directors was sworn in at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 21, 2012.

Top row left to right: Lawrence DePoe (Vice President), Carol Meindl (Executive Director), Vera Young (Director), Richard Balfour (Director), Patricia Willis (Director), Brian Rock (Vice President).

Bottom row left to right: Rosalind Hoenig (Secretary), Liette Chamberland (President), Rickhey Margolese (Executive Vice-President).

Absent: Suanne Stein Day (Treasurer), Wanda Leah Trineer (Director)

SCHOOL TAXATION QUESTION

At the QFHSA AGM, the distribution of school taxes was questioned during the caucus session for Resolution 2012/2—Permanent Linguistic Voters List For School Board Elections. The QFHSA Rights Committee is undertaking a study and will be reporting on school taxation in the near future. In the meantime, when the school tax bills are received this summer, citizens should have a closer look at their tax bills to find out more about the school board that they are funding, and if this is the board they wish to fund with their tax dollars. With schools being as cash-strapped as they are these days, every dollar counts.

GOLDEN TORCH AWARDS 2012

Recognizes the volunteer achievements of Home & School members at the school level.

Arundel Elementary School	Beverley Race
Baie Comeau High School	Claude Beaulieu, Vanessa DiLalla, Carolle Downing, Isabelle Harvey, Mark Kerr
Beaconsfield High School	Joanie Beaubien Rossy
Birchwood Elementary School	Lisa Fougère, Angel Johnson, Andrea Juneau
Dorset Elementary School	Monica Guillermo, Sue Lamarre, Fani Nikopoulos
Dorval Elementary School	Kristin Brander, Fe Solomon, Marc Solomon
Dunrae Gardens Elementary School	Connie De Giorgio
Edgewater Elementary School	Kim Eccleston, Pavolina Owczar
Edinburgh Elementary School	Beatrice Genest, Heather Ogden
Evergreen Elementary School	Rachel Hitchen
Gardenview Elementary School	Connie Di Iorio, Betty Skagkos, Mary Skagos
LaurenHill Academy	Belal Antal, Debbie Devouge, Matina Lambropoulos, Tom Lambropoulos, Carmelina Zolla
Lindsay Place High School	Sharon Wilensky
Macdonald High School	Christine Clarke
Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary School	Angela Berryman
Sherwood Forest Elementary School	Leela D'Cruz, Regina Pereira
Souvenir Elementary School	Nellie Beddia, Anne Lebeau
St. Patrick Elementary School	Stephanie Femia
Thorndale Elementary School	Susan Brown, Stephanie Hill, Kim MacLaren
Wilder Penfield Elementary School	Stephanie Johnstone

NEWSLETTER AWARDS 2012

Elementary

The Edinburgh Express: *Edinburgh Elementary School,* Editor: Julia Moroney

Garden Views: *Gardenview Elementary School ,* Editor: Mary Skagos, Graphic Artist: Andre Knox

Secondary

The Herald: *Lindsay Place High School,* Co-Editors: Linda Roach and Laura Fabrizi-Taggart

The Beacon Editor: *Beaconsfield High School,* Editor: Lynn Caplan

2011-2012 MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

ON ISLAND SCHOOLS—(*Membership Chair*)

Beacon Hill (LBPSB) *Sarah Thomas*
Gardenview (EMSB) *Betty Skagkos and Nina Tzemopoulos*
Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary (LBPSB) *Elisabeth Bourque*
Roslyn (EMSB) *Mukund Rajamony*
St. Edmund (LBPSB) *Donna McLean and Tracey Del Vecchio*

OFF ISLAND SCHOOLS

Baie Comeau (ESSB) *Maxime Côté*

MOST IMPROVED MEMBERSHIP

Elementary

William Latter (RSB) *Cindy McCooeye*
Shigawake – Port Daniel (ESSB) *Heather MacWhirter*
Greendale (LBPSB) *Myret Smith*

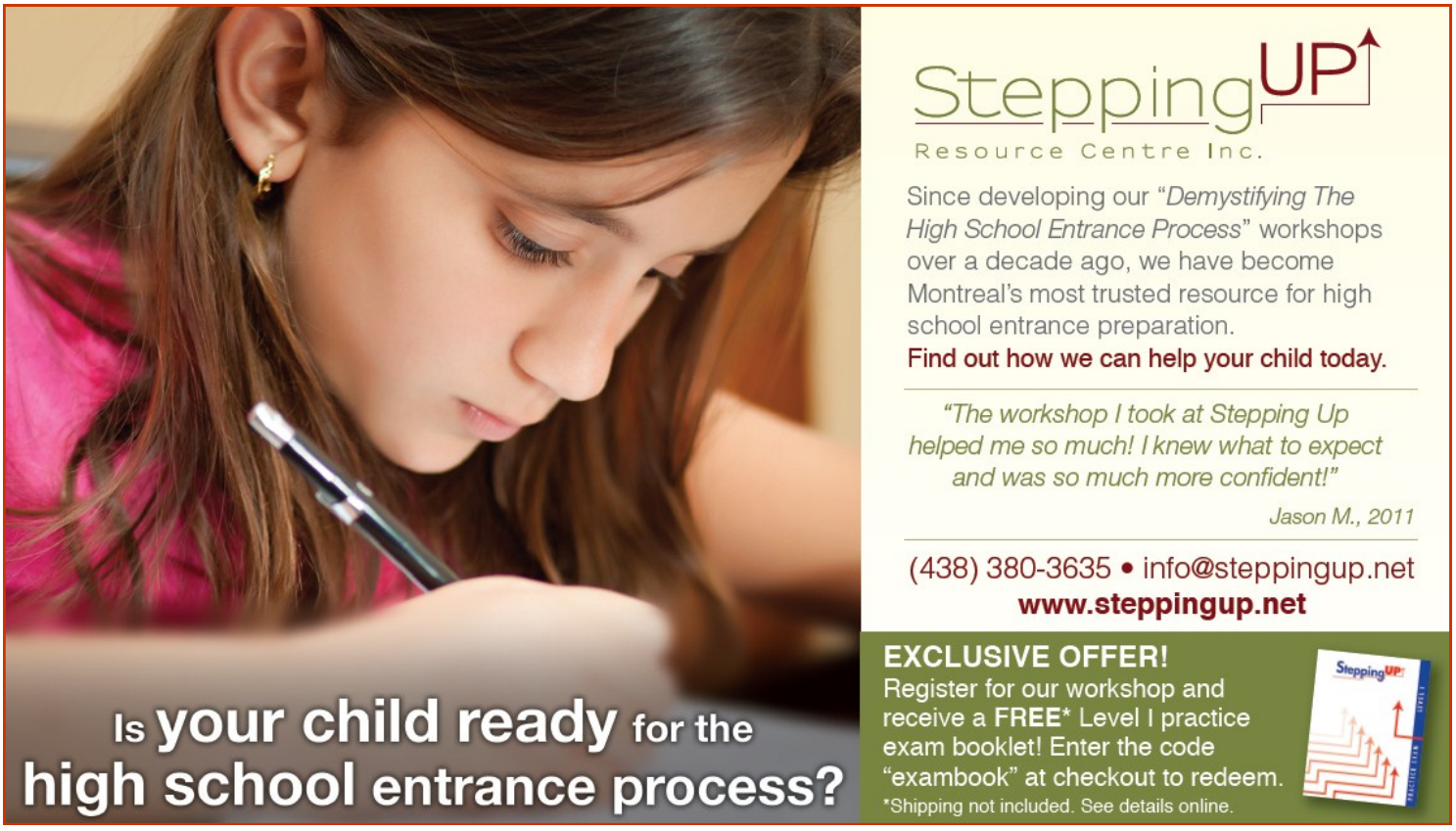
High School

John Rennie (LBPSB) *Kim Fraser*
Beurling Academy (LBPSB) *Brian Johnston*

WELCOME TO NEW HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

Birchwood (LPBSB) *Lisa Fougère and Crystal Ouellette, Co-chairs*

Leonardo da Vinci (EMSB) *Isabella Panetta, Chair*



UNSUNG HERO AWARDS 2012

Recognizes outstanding volunteers within a local school.

Baie Comeau High School	Diane Bélanger, Maxime Côté, Michelle Petit
Beacon Hill Elementary School	Rachel Boyle, Susan Fox
Beurling Academy	Rubeta Ralph
Birchwood Elementary School	Crystal Ouellette
Dorset Elementary School	Joan Patafie, Peter Tellier, Jennifer Tremblay
Dorval Elementary School	Pierre Brisbois, Rina Brisbois, Marie Josée Pauletto
Dunrae Gardens Elementary School	Arzine Abbas-Brochu, Debbie Baluch, Helen Davlouros, Marianne Rodrigues
Edgewater Elementary School	Sharon Louie, Christina Mehra
Edinburgh Elementary School	Nicole Barbeau, Robert Hopp, Kathleen Piggott
Evergreen Elementary School	Frank Clarke, Darrell Johnson, Tracey Clayton Roth
Gardenview Elementary School	Anna Commadari, Cristina Iacobacci, Trudy MacWhirter, Nina Tzemopoulos
LaurenHill Academy	Heather Dalgleish
Lindsay Place High School	Bryan Dubé, Laura Fabrizi-Taggart
Macdonald High School	Ellen Gauthier
Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary School	Shelley Hall, Lorina Walker
Roslyn Elementary School	Janet Danielson, Thomas Lapierre
	Cary Lawrence, Kathleen Roger, Jasmin Uhthoff
Royal West Academy	Cathy Dranias, Blanka Koll, Naomi Monk
Sherwood Forest Elementary School	Rachel Devins, Marjolein Klunne
Souvenir Elementary School	Popi Kasvis, Georgia Ladas
St. Patrick Elementary School	Shane Magas, Gabrielle McWilliams Tara Mark
Thorndale Elementary School	Csilla Nagy, Rose Wise
Wilder Penfield Elementary School	Nidhi Sharma

EXECUTIVE APPRECIATION EVENT

As a way of thanking dedicated volunteers from local Home and School associations, each year the QFHSA hosts an Executive Appreciation Event. This year, on March 16, 2012, the Board of Directors hosted local members at a wine and cheese event at LBPSB building in Dorval, with guest speaker, Guy Vauban, an Ethical Facilitator. Mr. Vauban guided guests through an Ethical Circle, a process of giving opportunities to consider ethical situations and what an appropriate policy for a Home and School might be to deal with them. The night was attended by over 20 association members in addition to the QFHSA Board of Directors and office staff. Everyone received gifts of appreciation. A cookbook was also given as a door prize to a member from Sherwood Forest Elementary. Thank you to all who attended.

LA VIDA QFHSA

Song Composed and Sung by Cheryl Smith, Spiritual Animator & Winner of the 2012 QFHSA Lewis Peace Prize

Sung to the tune of Livin' La Vida Loca by Ricky Martin

You're into education
Bake sales and raffles too
You believe in all our children
Helping us in what we do.

The complex lives of children
Put your programs to the test
You have the right resources
To help a school achieve their best.

You are always taking on new
Challenges and schemes
Your dedication helps our students
Realize their dreams
But you're not running out of steam.

Cuz… …

Quebec Home and School
You are the voice of parents
Schools are glad to have
Your wisdom and your talents.

Quebec Home and School
There is no refutation
Schools are glad that you're
Enhancing education (3X)

Your job is never over
Helping kids achieve in school
Promoting peace and culture
Adhering to the Golden Rule.

The programs that you offer
Help the students pass the grade
You cheer with all the parents
When you see the progress made.

And we hope this will never fade….Cuz'… …

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,

My son is being bullied. It started when some kids took his lunch, threw it on the floor and stepped on it. This went on all week - he came home starving every day. Recently a group of boys surrounded him and called him names. Things are getting really bad… he doesn't want to go to school anymore. *From: Frustrated About Bullying*

Dear ***FRUSTRATED ABOUT BULLYING***,

It's very sad to hear what's happening to your son - no one deserves to be treated like this. Some situations require determining if it's a conflict or bullying. In this case, given the repeated nature, negative intent and clear power imbalance - there is no doubt that bullying is occurring.

A first important step would be to look in his eyes and let him know how proud you are of him… coming forward takes courage. Of course by the time our children come to us they have tried all the strategies they know, and are fresh out of ideas. Your son needs time and space to tell his story without interruption, advice or blame. Let him know there is nothing he could have done to deserve being bullied, and that bullying is always wrong.

It's particularly difficult for many of our sons to express emotions and ask for help. You can share with him that in situations like these even adults need support. Let him know you will help him find a solution. Remind him of his strengths, and past experiences where he has solved other problems. Let him know that if it happens again it still won't be his fault - he just needs to let you know, together you will find a way to solve this problem too!

Your school administrator will be more successful getting to the bottom of this with as much information as possible. It's hard to focus on painful experiences, but it's important to document who was involved, what happened, where, and when, with as much detail as possible. It is also suggested to first meet the school administration without your son. It's normal for a parent to be upset when bullying happens - however, your son will not benefit from hearing your anger against the school. It will be difficult to have confidence in an administrator you just heard your parent very angry with, or even blaming. When parents can team up with schools to resolve bullying – that is when our children win.

The MELS (Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport) recently proposed a Bill for prevention and intervention strategies in Quebec schools. Information can be obtained at irightthewrong.com.

Helping our youth deal with bullying means keeping lines of communication open. Since you can't always be by his side, you can provide support by helping him develop a safety plan. Bullying always hurts - the memory of even one event can last a lifetime. Depending on the situation, your child may benefit from speaking to a professional. Having an opportunity to process experiences, as well as new ideas and different ways of responding, can bring back that feeling of confidence in your boy. And finally, he's lucky to have a parent who cares as much as you clearly do!

Working together, we can Put Bullying Out of Business and make schools safe to learn. DM offers confidential therapy services, and professional development workshops to all school personnel, parents, & students. Special Education Consultants provide specialized support for families and for schools working on Safe Schools Plans.

Together we can make a difference !

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

AGM AWARDS 2012

MARILYN CARROLL
Pat Lewis Humanitarian Award

For an individual or group, at the elementary school level, who has shown outstanding efforts toward a humanitarian cause.

Marilyn Carroll is a teacher, volunteer, and mentor to many at St. Anthony's Elementary School in Pierrefonds. Ms. Carroll's teaching career has spanned 36 years, as a classroom teacher and resource teacher, working closely with special needs students. She gives of her time volunteering in the community outside of school as well. Many new initiatives and programs have been started through her help. She will be missed very much once she retires from school this year.

LEO LAFRANCE
Gordon Paterson Award

For long service to the education of children and for the encouragement of the involvement of parents. Leo La France is an outstanding educator who has given a lifetime of service to Quebec education. His leadership has included a commitment to having a strong parental component. It is time to honour his achievement in inspiring and encouraging parental involvement in education. Team-building has been an integral part of Leo's philosophy as a teacher, principal, school board administrator and in his current position as Sous-ministre adjoint aux services à la communauté anglophone, aux affaires autochtones et au Plan Nord, Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS).

CHERYL SMITH
Lewis Peace Prize

For an individual or group making a significant contribution towards peace. Cheryl enjoys the ever-changing challenges that are part of her position - she is the spiritual animator for eleven elementary schools in the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB). In this role, she constantly strives

to find ways to help the students become more aware and develop moral character values through the school environment. One of her biggest challenges is how to animate for a seven year age range, from kindergarten to grade six. Cheryl rouses, stirs, and stimulates awareness that we can all be better people and can transform our communities.

CAROL MEINDL
Leslie N. Buzzell Award

For her unique, longstanding and meritorious service to the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations at the provincial level, we recognize Carol Meindl with the Leslie N. Buzzell Award. Her knowledge of Home and Schools at the local and provincial levels made her the ideal candidate in her current position of Executive Director. Despite all her commitments, Carol continues to go over and above the call of duty, volunteering many hours at the provincial level and representing the QFHSA at different organizations.

REDEFINING SUCCESS:
Wobbling Towards Excellence

By Corey Szwarcok, Dynamix Teambuilding Professional

Being a facilitator at Dynamix is a unique privilege. First of all, it's my job to play games all day. It's hard to beat that. But my favourite part of facilitating is the lessons that come out of the games. On the best days, the kids take home something new, and so do I. Let me share a story:

It's about a team of accomplished teenage leaders. They had cooperated solidly for the majority of our three-day retreat. Their challenge, with me, was to make the Oreo, a humungous tire attached to yellow ropes, walk forwards. They discovered a strategy in a matter of minutes. Most groups had needed several rounds of trial and error. I was extremely impressed.

Then, something happened. The students noticed the wobbling of the tire, how it wasn't moving in a straight line, how it tilted slightly. They began to nit-pick, to adjust small things, trying to move the tire *perfectly*. Within seconds, the team's cohesion dissolved. They criticized each other's methods, barked orders at one another. They even yelled at each other for not communicating properly. I stopped the group.

"Talk to me," I said calmly, "What's going on?"

They began to list their mistakes: Not enough listening. Not enough strategy. Not enough using our resources. Not enough.

And then, being experienced in the ways of leadership education, they pre-empted my next question: What do we do differently next time? There was no shortage of ideas for improvements.

The team was in consensus: The Oreo challenge had been a flop. But that's not how it looked to an outside observer, like me.

"What did we do well?" I asked them. No answers.

"How many of you think that we were successful today?" No hands.

"Does anyone remember what the goal of the challenge was?" Silence.

Then, one student answered: "To get the Oreo to move."

"Exactly," I said. "And was the Oreo moving?"

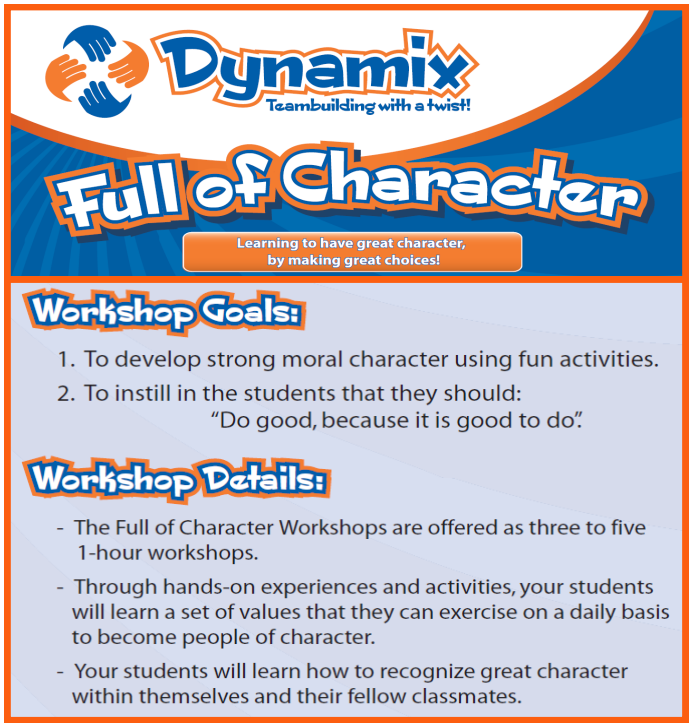
A chorus of yes's.

"Then were we successful?"

Some tentative nods.

"We did what we set out to do," I reminded them. "Can we take a moment to give ourselves a round of applause for that?"

The conversation that followed was about the importance of celebrating our successes, however small. It's important to work towards excellence, but that doesn't mean forgetting to acknowledge the fact that we've accomplished something. The road to an optimal solution can be fraught with struggle and setbacks – these are good things, they help us learn. But they can also be frustrating. That's why we have to stop to say, *Was the oreo moving?* To remind ourselves that, yes indeed, it was.



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GOODBYE FROM SERGE

It has been a privilege for me to work with the members of the QFHSA, whether it was as past president of the PTU or as president of the QPAT. I have a lot of respect for your association and hope that you will continue to be independent with regards to your political implication. It is important that your voice as representative of parents be heard but also that you continue to pursue your main role as one of information and training provider to parents. The large attendance of your Fall Conference and spring AGM show how much your members care for the quality of workshops and displays that you have been putting together to inform and get the parents involved. As for myself, after 38 years in education, I have decided to turn the page on a long and exciting career. I will keep great memories of the students that I had the pleasure to teach and of all the people and the various groups that I had the opportunity to work with. Collaboration between parents and teachers is the key to success for all children. Thank you for allowing me to share some of my experience with your group.

By Serge Laurendeau
President Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT)

AN EXTRAORDINARY PERSON

The QFHSA expresses their heartfelt gratitude to Serge Laurendeau of QPAT for all his support and contributions over the years. He makes believing in the pursuit of quality education and community collaboration easy and natural. We cannot thank him enough for all of his help and influences. We wish him good luck and hope he keeps in touch!

I TEACH, I PREPARE THE FUTURE

The Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT-APEQ) in collaboration with La Fédération des Syndicats de l'Enseigne-ment (FSE-CSQ) and its affiliated unions, are proud to run a campaign to enhance the value of the teaching profession:

I teach, I prepare the future.

This campaign promotes the passion, the competence and the dedication that teachers demonstrate on a daily basis in the achievement of their educational mission. Different promotional activities will be deployed during the next seven months on radio stations, television and on the web.

The radio campaign began April 30 and took place over a period of two weeks. Several testimonies of well-known personalities such as Jean-François Breau, Marie-Ève Janvier, JiCi Lauzon, Claude Legault, Penelope McQuade, Gordon McCall, Thomas Mulcair and many more to come, are available for viewing on the website. On the site, these contributors share their own school experiences.

It would be a wonderful way for everyone to pay tribute to the work of teachers in Quebec schools by visiting the web site and partaking in the activities available. Students, parents, teachers and the public are invited to share their positive events that happened in school which made a difference in their lives. These testimonies will be used to prepare the television message to be released in the fall of 2012 at the end of our campaign. Please contribute to and share in the pride of teaching.

Radio stations targeted:
Astral network (Rouge and NRJ): French Montréal, Québec, Gatineau, Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivières, Chicoutimi, Rimouski, Rouyn-Noranda, Val - d'Or New Carlisle/Gaspé (CHNC-FM), Sainte-Anne-des-Monts (CJMC-FM), Rivière-du-Loup (CIEL-FM), Matane (CHRM-FM), Sept-Îles/ Port-Cartier (CKCN-FM), Baie-Comeau/Forestville (ULCC-FM), Îles-de-la-Madeleine (CFIM-FM)

English-language network: Montreal (Virgin and CHOM), English Ottawa (CFRA and MAJIC)

On the Web:
www.myteachermypride.com
www.profmafierte.com

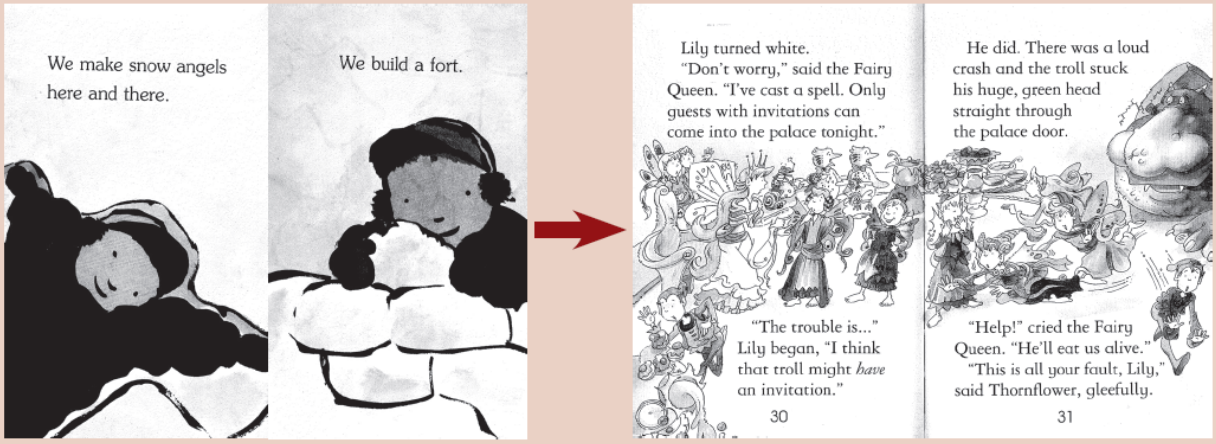
www.Facebook.com/QPATAPEQ
www.Facebook.com/FSECSQ

www.Twitter.com@QPATAPEQ
www.Twitter.com @FSECSQ

ADVERTISING FEATURE

cellfield
A neuroscientific reading program

DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S READING SKILLS THIS SUMMER



"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.

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- read slowly or avoid reading whenever possible.

Why not use the summer to upgrade your child's reading skills? Cellfield can help your child go into the new school 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.ca. New students are being accepted at **Strategic Learning Centre** (514-631-9745) and **Stepping Up Resource Centre** (438-380-3635).

FROM FARM TO FORK CONTEST

We invited youth to embark on a culinary quest of family traditions by choosing a favorite family recipe and research where the ingredients were from. The From Farm to Fork essay competition has concluded and we are proud to announce the winners.

1st Prize to: **Felicity Gallichon, $100.00 Chapters card and Canadian Farmer's Almanac**

2nd Prize to: **Madison Morency, $50.00 Chapters card and The World in your Lunchbox by Claire Eamer**

Honorable Mention to: **Brett Maroux, The World in your Lunchbox by Claire Eamer**

The QFHSA congratulates these students for putting in this extra effort during the last months of the school year. The students enjoyed learning about some family history and how some foods are processed. Congratulations, Mecatina Elementary! From Cycle 3 teacher, Tanya Poole, "This 'inquiry-based' approach, which engages both the students emotions and thinking, has such a positive impact on their learning. Many thanks to you (QFHSA) also for presenting us with this opportunity. We look forward to next year's project!".
Here are their submissions and recipes (they are also posted on our QFHSA website):

MOLASSES COOKIES

By Felicity Gallichon, Cycle 3

I will be talking about my favorite family recipe, molasses cookies. The topics I will be talking about are the history of molasses cookies, the process of making flour and the main uses for these cookies.

My great grandmother, Lilly Green, made these cookies. This recipe was not only used as a treat for my mom, but also a good source of energy when my grandfather Harold and my great grandfather Harold went hunting. Hunting could get pretty tiring, but these cookies made it worthwhile. The molasses cookies recipe is one of my personal favorites. I love the taste of these cookies. I also love that they are quite chewy too.

I have chosen the ingredient flour in my recipe to research. Flour is one of the most common ingredient in many recipes, yet not many people know how it is made. Flour is mainly made from wheat. The three main places in the world where wheat is grown are England, North America and North Africa. Flour is made from wheat, but not only wheat. Flour can also be made from barley, buckwheat, corn, lima beans, oats, peanuts, potatoes, soybeans, rice and rye (almost identical to wheat).

Grain goes through a long process to become flour. The wheat or other plant is received and inspected to take out any non-wheat materials. The wheat then goes through several cleaning processes. Rocks and sticks are removed by shifting. Rocks and sticks stay in the shifter, while grain goes through. Then it goes through a machine called an aspirator. This is used to vacuum up tiny particles that are lighter than wheat. Then magnets are used to pick up tiny pieces of metal inside the wheat. The cleaned wheat is then soaked in water from 1 to 3 days. After the soaking, chemicals are added to help grind the wheat. If there is any wheat not ground, the wheat goes through this whole process once again, to become flour.

I found learning about how flour was made and where it came from very interesting. Flour goes though many processing steps, many are cleaning steps. Next time you use flour, think about how clean it really is.

Molasses Cookies

***Mix together until smooth**
½ cup butter
1 egg
1 cup brown sugar
1 ½ cups molasses
Then add and mix ¾ cup warm water

***Mix in**
3 cups flour
¾ tsp baking soda

***Mix until smooth**
***Let stand for 30 minutes then mix again**
***Preheat oven to 365 degrees**
***Place tablespoon size cookies on cookie sheet. (Not too close as they will spread) cook about 10 min or until finger print stays in middle.**

ICE CREAM

By Madison Morency, Cycle 3

Have you ever wondered where the food you eat comes from? Well I certainly have. Before doing this project, I knew only that fruit grows in trees and on vines, and vegetables are grown mostly on and underground. Through the study of a favourite family recipe, I now know how homemade ice cream is made.

Originally made by my Great-Great Gramma Alice Mansbridge was first made in the mid 1800s' with her brothers and sisters in Harrington Harbour. When she had my Great Grandmother Ivy, she then taught her how to make it. In fact, this recipe has been passed down through five generations. The recipe was passed down from Alice, Ivy, Garry, and Gheila, to me. I love to make this recipe. It's fun, easy and absolutely DELICIOUS! Our recipe was made not only to bring the family together, but it was also made to cheer up one of the children when they were sad, or even just to have fun on a nice, warm winter day.

Salt is one of the most important and special ingredients needed in the process of making this recipe. Salt is important because it does NOT go IN the recipe. Salt is put into the snow to help freeze the ice cream mixture. Salt makes the mixture freeze quicker, and just makes the whole stirring process a lot easier.

Salt is a mineral, chemically known as "Sodium Chloride" which means: 40% sodium, and 60% chloride. Salt is mostly found underground in a rock/mineral state. But, salt can also be absorbed from some of the world's oceans and even some lakes. Salt is produced all over the world. Here are some examples of the places that it's produced: Canada, United States, China and Germany.

Salt is a substance that is fairly easy to produce. Salt production only takes a few hours to produce a few pounds of salt. Salt is: mined, crushed, refined and then packaged.

Through this whole experience, I learned how ice cream is made, and how essential it is to have salt on hand when making it. So, the next time you go to eat something, take some time to think about how this food is made, you might just want to learn more!

Great-Great Gramma Alice's Ice Cream

Ingredients:
- 2 Cans of Carnation milk
- 1 Can of water
- Vanilla flavoring
- 1 Cup of sugar

Materials:
- Beef bucket
- large plastic pan
- large metal spoon
- Snow & Salt mixture

* SALT AND SNOW MIXTURE: Mix salt and snow in the large pan and set aside in a pile of snow (snow bank)
* Mix the milk, water, vanilla and sugar in the beef bucket and set aside in a pile of snow (snow bank) for pre-freezing.
* After 10 minutes, mix salt and snow in the pan.
* After mixed, take the beef bucket out of the snow and place it into the salt and snow mixture.
* Once the bucket is in the salt and snow, take a hand to each side of the bucket rim and twist it in a "swish like" motion until there is a hole the size of the bucket in the snow.
* Keep mixing until hard and cold enough to your liking HINT: If your arms get tired of mixing, try stirring with your spoon for a while.
* After your mixture is hard enough to your liking, take the bucket, a few bowls, some spoons, family and or friends and you have ice cream. ENJOY!

FROM CANE TO CANDIES

By Brett Marcoux, Cycle 3

Do you sometimes wonder where your food comes from or how it gets to your table, because I do. Although I already know where some foods like chocolate come from, I would like to learn about other foods, such as sugar. I have a delicious recipe for icing sugar candies, which uses a lot of sugar!

My recipe is an old recipe that my great grandmother made a long time ago. Now my grandmothers, my mother, and my aunts make the icing sugar candies, and I am learning too. When my grandmother and great grandmother made them, they only used white vanilla flavoring. Now, we use all kinds of flavors and colors. My favorite color is yellow and my favorite flavor is coconut.

The icing sugar candies have been in our family for a long time. They are a special treat that we only eat on Easter and Christmas, that everyone loves and enjoys. Also, we have lots of fun making them and all the family can join in on the fun. Sometimes many are eaten while being prepared!

I chose to research sugar because I was not sure how it was made. Sugar comes from sugar canes that are found in warm places around the world like Brazil and India. In fact, Brazil happens to be the world's largest producing, and harvesting country of sugar. The sugar that comes directly from the sugar canes is not the sugar we eat or use in our cooking. Before we can eat the sugar, sweeteners and dyes are added so that it will be even sweeter and tastier. After, we can enjoy it in delicious treats like icing sugar candies.

Sugar is an ingredient that is used a lot in cooking and baking. It starts out as sugar canes which are then picked, processed, and packaged to be shipped around the world. Now I better understand how sugar gets from cane to candies!

Granny's Icing Sugar Candies

*3 lbs icing sugar
*1 can condensed milk
*½ lb butter
*2 tsp vanilla

Mix together & shape into balls.
Melt 2 packs of semi sweetened chocolate chips.
Add ¼ cup of wax (used in traditional recipe but not necessary)
Dip candies into chocolate. *Keeps best in freezer.*

TRIBUTE TO
MAYBELLE DURKIN

By Marion Daigle, QFHSA Past President

Maybelle Durkin was an extraordinary leader in the Home and School movement locally, provincially and nationally for over thirty years.

Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA) and the Canadian Home and School Federation (CHSF) were saddened to learn of her death on January 30, 2012 in her eighty-second year in Dundas, Ontario. Educated as a teacher at the University of Edinburgh, Maybelle developed a lifelong passion for education and community activism, especially where disadvantaged children were concerned.

The family moved to Canada in 1958. The following year she brought her remarkable organizational skills as a volunteer to the Home and School Executive Committees of Vivian Graham Elementary in Ile Perrot and the new Edgewater Elementary in Pincourt. At Macdonald Home and School Association in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, she was Corresponding Secretary, Program Chair and served as President from 1970-71.

In the late 1960s, Maybelle moved up to the QFHSA level, devoting countless hours on the Education Committee where she did extensive studies of Bill 27, Bill 62 and Bill 63 to educate parents on these complicated pieces of legislation. She also served as a Vice-President on the Board of Directors, acting as a program and workshop planner.

She continued on to study and report on the steady stream of legislation affecting the reorganization of educational structures and was deeply involved with the issue of the language of schooling, particularly Bill 22 and Bill 101. She was a founding member of the Bill 101 Action Committee leading to the creation of the Rights Committee. At the same time she was Program Chair for the 1976 AGM when, until recent years, AGMs were held over two and a half days!

Maybelle spent almost the next 20 years devoting her time to bringing literacy to the world of education. She joined the CHSF in the 1980's, where she pioneered the *Literacy in the Information Age* project in preparation for the International Year for Literacy (1990). Her vision was for CHSF to raise awareness about the broader definition of literacy related to new skills and attitudes needed to adjust to the more complex knowledge-based society. The project would be targeted to children and youth.

In 1995, Maybelle was honoured as a Life Member of CHSF in recognition of her tireless efforts to advance the work of the Home and School movement and for her passionate concern for the education and welfare of Canadian youth.

In 1997, she was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in the Canadian Education Association which recognizes the contribution one has made in a professional area which is of national importance to Education. This was a unique recognition rarely bestowed on a non-professional in the field of education. Maybelle took a well-deserved retirement in 1997.

Our sympathy goes out to Maybelle's children – Anne, Graeme and Alison. She was predeceased by her husband John and son, Colin. She will long be remembered for her wisdom, care and determination where the needs of children are concerned.

Thank you, Maybelle, for your lifetime of dedication and accomplishments.

HEALTH BITS
SUMMER SAFETY

By Joyce Shanks, Wilder Penfield Home and School, and CEO of eCause Canada Inc.

Here we are, summer at last. Once again you think about protecting you and your family from our glorious sun. Without a doubt, you insist on a few seasonal things; proper sunscreen coverage, proper hydration, a hat for your children's heads, and sunglasses to protect their eyes from harmful UV rays. There are many sunscreens available, generally the higher the UV rating the better. There are some eco-certified, biodegradable and eco-friendly sunscreens available on the market now that are worth checking out. It is still prudent to cover up as much as possible and stay out of the glaring sun between 10 and 2.

Proper hydration - this one is pretty much a no-brainer. We play, we sweat, we need to rehydrate. But HOW we rehydrate, for reasons of our well being, is just as important as actually rehydrating itself. For health reasons, as well as HUGE environmental reasons, try to invest in a quality reusable water bottle, preferably in an 18/8 stainless steel. It will cost in the neighborhood of $18 to $25 dollars but it should last you FOREVER. I have been using mine for 6 years! I have saved Thousands of dollars as a result, not to mention I personally have kept more than 12,000 plastic bottles out of landfills, (I used to go through about 6 bottles a day).

Protective eye wear that filters out Ultra Violet Rays, (including the more dangerous UVB rays) are essential. Even in overcast skies they can protect you and your kids from cataracts, as well as short-term eye damage including snow-blindness in the winter months.

Topping it off, a proper sunhat serves two major purposes; 1 – it is meant to shade you or prevent you from being in direct sunlight, and 2 – and this is actually even more important, it is meant to allow you to expel heat,. The traditional baseball cap is therefore not the best choice since it tends to hold the heat in, which can lead to overheating. A straw hat, while not the most fashionable choice, is really a better idea.

You love your kids and every year you tackle the same summer safety concerns. This year take a few extra minutes to look at the bigger and more long term picture. The small changes you make today to support the health of your kids and our planet may cost you a few dollars more initially but the payoff or ROI (return on investment) can be HUGE in peace of mind and a healthful future for your family.

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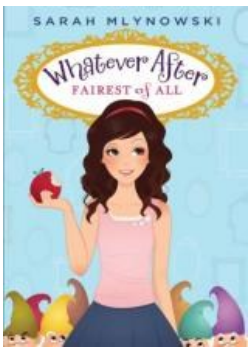
ZOE'S BOOK REVIEWS

Zoe Knox, Grade 6, Gardenview Elementary

Whatever After: Fairest of All



By Sarah Mlynowski
Format: Hardcover
Pages: 169
Publisher: Scholastic Press/New York

Once upon a time, Abby and her brother Jonah were normal kids until the mirror in their basement slurped them up and magically transported them inside Snow White's fairy tale.

When they successfully stop Snow White from eating the poisoned apple, they think they're heroes until they realize that their actions may have unexpected consequences. They realize that if Snow White doesn't get poisoned, she won't be found by Prince Charming, and she won't get her happy ending!

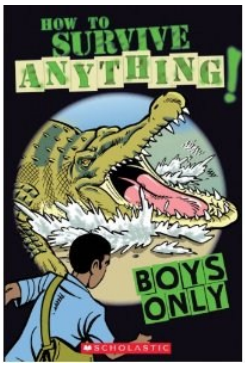
Now it's up to them to fix Snow's story and get things right without getting poisoned. And hopefully, they can also find their way home! I would recommend this book for kids grade 4-7. It is a great book for people who like fractured fairy tales or just plain fairy tales.

How to Survive ANYTHING!

Girls Only and **Boys Only**

By Lottie Stride and By Martin Oliver
Pages: 63 each
Publisher: Scholastic Inc.

These books are survival guides but in a funny kind of way. In these books, you will learn what to do in situations like handling sudden stardom, fighting crocodiles, etc. The strange thing is that, the skills they teach in the Girls' book are things that could actually happen, like learning how to ace tests, battle breakouts, keep secrets, etc., but the Boy's book has things like learning how to survive avalanches, avoid quick sand, outwit zombies, etc. I guess boys live more adventurous lives than us girls do (or they think they do). I would recommend this book for grades 6-8. They are funny and some of the tips are actually pretty useful.



Dear Dumb Diary, Year Two: The Super-Nice are Super-Annoying

By Jim Benton
Format: Paperback
Pages: 125
Publisher: Scholastic Inc.

Another diary, courtesy of Jamie Kelly. In this diary, she talks about a rare disease called Niceism Disease or Nicenicity, that her frenemy, Angeline, supposedly has. Throughout the book, Angeline is, as Jamie puts it, spewing niceness all over, though she starts acting strangely out of character at one point.

Jamie also accidentally injures their cafeteria monitor, Ms. Bruntford, and then falls in love with her replacement, a young man named Sebastian. She spends the whole book trying to prove to him that she is a delicate and well-mannered creature of grace, as she puts it.

I would recommend this to kids aged 10-15. It is really funny and well written .

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.

Upcoming NEWS DEADLINES
Sept. 2012 = submit by August 13, 2012

For publication date on or about Sept. 17, 2012

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY
St. Lazare

Our first year of existence has been very successful as a new Home and School in our new building. With our various fundraisers and events, we have managed to raise just over $12,000. Not too shabby for a community spread over 80 km! With part of the

funds, we contributed to an Art Mural painted on our corridor walls in the kindergarten wing of the school. Along with the help of our Art Specialist, Erin Wainwright, and artist, Marcio Melo, over 300 students, teachers, staff and parent volunteers contributed to the painting of the mural. Each painter was assigned a season and tile to paint on. The end result was a colorful mosaic of tiles painted on a landscape of nature, certainly brightening the school. We are all quite proud to be in our new school and making it our home. Enjoy the summer!

By Lisa Fougère

BEACON HILL ELEMENTARY
Beaconsfield

During the evening of April 19th, almost 600 people came to be amazed by the talented young artists from Beacon Hill Elementary school. Students recreated works by Van Gogh and Monet, were inspired by aboriginal art to make clay pots and masks, created "stained glass" tiles, molded sculpted heads and even produced tactile art that can be enjoyed by the blind. The teachers and staff also demonstrated their creativeness with each submitting a decorated picture frame which was won by raffle. To add to the special evening, the Lindsay Place High School string quartet provided music during the gala.

Our goal for this event was to demonstrate to each and every child that their creativity is valuable and that the collaborative effort of an elementary school community can bring about a positive change. Thanks to the hard work of our students, staff and volunteers, the 4th annual Beacon Hill Art Gala Fundraiser was a great success. We raised $5000 which will be used to expand our new robotics program.

This community event is one of our 4 major fundraisers which have replaced more traditional approaches such as chocolate bar sales or magazine drives. Instead of being asked to buy or sell several items during the school year, Beacon Hill parents are asked to make a donation of their choosing at the end of the evening. We were even able to provide tax receipts through the QFHSA for any donations over $25. This FUNdraiser provided a chance for our entire school community to gather together with 100% of the profits going directly back to the school.

By Bev Leith and Lisa Yee

DORSET ELEMENTARY
Baie d'Urfé

With bittersweet emotions, we realize that yet another school year has come to pass. Where has the time gone? Our children have learned and grown a little more. Our volunteers have given a lot and have pulled us through another fun and successful year. It started off with a fantastic Western Welcome Back BBQ in September 2011. The parents and students, both returning and new, enjoyed the hot weather, feasted on great food cooked by our teacher and parent volunteers, listened to incredible live music and danced the two-step with Sheriff Geller and his horse Dusty. It was our first "themed" BBQ and the turnout and fun were huge! Then in October, our Halloween Dance was something out of this world! The decorations, the costumes, the music were terrific. Our kids and parents outdo themselves every year!

Just before Christmas, we had the honour of being one of the few fund-raising groups chosen to have a shopping night at Dix Milles Villages, where we earned money for the third well we were able to build with Free the Children. We were so amazed again at the support and turnout of our staff and parents to shop that evening at this beautiful store and help so many worthy world causes. In preparation for the shopping evening at the Pointe Claire Village store, a group of Home & School parents learned about the products and programs of this Fair Trade organization and then presented the stories of some products to the children by grade level in the library to help them know a little about Fair Trade and what we could achieve together with the shopping evening and awareness of the world around us.

Our annual Christmas Fair/Bingo was our biggest fundraiser of the school year. There were many other activities and items funded by the Dorset Home & School Association this year, including TSAW & a Mexican Fiesta. Thank you to all our parents and children and staff who each year make us feel proud to be a part of the Dorset Community. We wish you all a safe and peaceful and happy summer before we see each other again in the fall for the fun to begin all over again!

Congratulations to our Grade 6 Graduating Class of 2012. We wish you the best of luck in your next adventure in High School. We will miss you at Dorset.

By Fani Nikopoulos & Tracey Burns Carson

HILLCREST ACADEMY
Laval

The 5th Annual Hillcrest Academy Comedy Night FUN-Raiser took place on Friday, February 17, 2012. The event was hosted by funny man Franco Taddeo, who once again, provided a very entertaining and successful event along with four guest comedians. With the audience constantly in stitches, a fun night was had by all.

Throughout the evening, there was terrific Italian food all donated by restaurant Mozza, amazing sausages from Fromager Saucissier Ste-Dorothée W.J.W, cold drinks, and a wonderful cheese, fruit and sweet table. During intermission, Franco hosted several auctions, and held raffle and door prize draws.

As a result of the success of this event, Hillcrest Academy Home and School Association has been able to play an active role in bringing a variety of enriching experiences to our school for our children such as an awesome winter fair, plays, music concerts as well as a year-end spring festival where the children get to say goodbye to the school year with a day of fun and excitement. Without our dedicated volunteers and all the generous donations, none of this could be possible!

By Nancy Carbone

ST CHARLES ELEMENTARY
Pierrefonds

Fundraising is a big part of our Home and School's mandate since all fundraising dollars are channelled back into our school and ultimately benefit our students. Our fundraising dollars are used for many events which are sponsored by Home & School such as Classroom Supplies, Breakfast with Santa, End of Year celebration-Footloose, Literacy, Graduation and more.

Over the years we have tried different fundraising initiatives and one of our most recent fundraiser was the "Big Bang" Fundraiser. As many schools are always looking for new fundraising ideas, we thought it would be a good idea to share this one. A parent was part of a similar fundraiser at their child's high school and thought "why not try it at her daughter's elementary school – St. Charles". What does it entail? You will need a group of volunteers who are willing to solicit merchants or members of your own community and obtain prizes with a value of at least $20. A number is then inserted into a balloon which corresponds to a number of the prize. For a $10 ticket, the purchaser chooses a balloon to pop (thus the name "Big Bang") and receives the prize corresponding to the number in the balloon. It is very exciting because you will receive a prize of at least double what you paid and you will be surprised when you find out what the actual gift is.

Our community (families and staff) really embraced this idea and 94 prizes were sold out in less than one hour!!! Our volunteers are busy soliciting prizes for next year and we wish them good luck. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all our volunteers who give so much of their time and energy to make our school the best that it can possibly be.

By Colomba Monteleone

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." - Elizabeth Andrew

EDINBURGH ELEMENTARY
Montreal

Of high schools and dragons, of gerbils and snowflakes.

Il était une fois... What goes next, Grade 5ers and Grade 6ers must have been thinking since September. Every year, Edinburgh participates in the EMSB storytelling contest. On March 20, teachers, school board members and the principal of Royal West Academy came to judge the school finals. Twenty students went on stage to tell their stories. The stories had been in the works for two months. The ideas varied from *Goldilocks and the Three Man-eating Gerbils* to *The Invention of the Violin by Leonardo da Vinci*. There was a mouse trying to destroy the world, a fox eating a tennis ball signed by a celebrity, a parrot catching burglars and cats going camping. Someone was getting lost in a gigantic mall, someone travelled to Madagascar in a suitcase, someone was taken away

by elves to slay a dragon. There were real-life stories and *contes québecois*. *My life as a Twin* and *My life as a Snowflake*.

A story about high school, called *The Tale of Geeks and the Modern Day Freaks* told by Grade 6ers Lauren Drummond and Katy Feldman won first place in English. Together with Madison McLauchlan (first prize in French) who delivered her story, *Claudine,* in a truly artistic manner, the girls went on to represent the school at the regional storytelling festival at Westmount Park Elementary.

Ms Cudzinowski, the Grade 5 English teacher who has been helping and supporting many young storytellers during her 19 years at Edinburgh states that "Storytelling is a great way for students to develop confidence, to stand up in front of an audience and speak with poise! At first, when the preparation starts, they are all petrified. Two months later, they come in front of the class – and all of a sudden – they've got the voice, the eye contact and gestures!"

The most important charity event held this spring was the food drive. The kids are quite involved in this annual outreach activity. Senior students go to each classroom to explain to the younger ones why we are collecting food, reinforcing the thought that in the Edinburgh community we care about and support our neighbours. All in all, this year we've collected 52 boxes of non-perishable food for the NDG Food Depot.

by Julia Ross

ST. ANTHONY ELEMENTARY, Pierrefonds

On May 26, we had our super fun filled, clutter busting, profit making day! We hoped for beautiful weather and it was! We sold tables to the profit of Home and School. We had a great turn out with people strolling around to shop, playing in the park, having some food and enjoying the carnival like atmosphere in the St. Anthony school yard. Our food concessions table profits all went to our school charity, Free the Children. Thank you everyone for your fantastic support.

By the time this newsletter is out, we will have had our Annual Family Picnic June 8th. This hugely popular event always draws in crowds! In prior years, we have served over 500 meals! It is a low key, really fun family time. We hope to send in some pictures of our event for the Sept. News. Have a great summer everyone!

By Lisa Filice & Natasha Rodrigue

EVERGREEN ELEMENTARY
St. Lazare

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone at Evergreen. It seems as though it was just a short time ago that the students were heading back to school! Home and School had a very successful, fun, and productive school year. Thanks to the continuous support of the Evergreen families, we were able to reach many of the goals that we had set at the beginning of the year. A huge thanks goes out to everyone that supported our fundraising endeavours throughout the year.

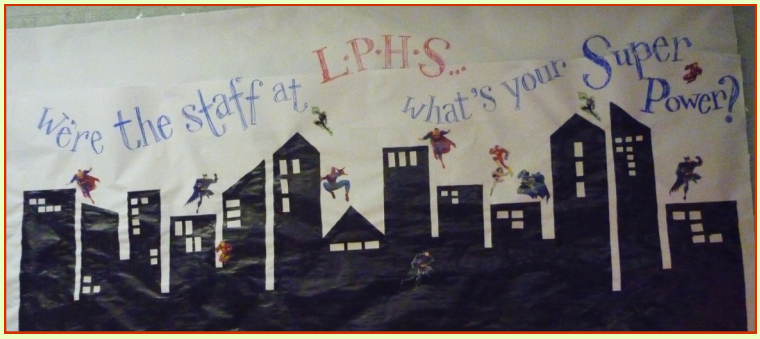
Home and School enjoyed planning and executing a few "firsts" this year. In March, we participated in the Hudson St. Patrick's Day parade for the very first time! With a beautifully decorated float, a few staff members, Ms. Osborne our principal, and some enthusiastic students aboard, the EverGREEN float was a big hit! In addition, a first for Home and School this year was Movie night. Equipped with a brand new HD Screen and projector purchased by Home and School, the gym was transformed into a surround sound theatre! A great time was had by all, especially our popcorn popping volunteer parents.

As the end of the year draws near, a few more activities are in the planning stages. Our daycare educators will be treated to an appreciation luncheon, the Family BBQ will be held on June 7th, and the Evergreen grad students will be holding a car wash to raise funds for their grad events. To wrap up the year, we will support the staff with their "Around the World" theme for a Grande finale at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, England.

The grade six graduation will be held on June 21st. In honour of a very special grade six student that passed away this year, all graduating students will be wearing red shoes to the ceremony in his memory. As well, as a way to pay tribute, Home and School will dedicate the Josh Oskrdal award to one grade six student. Evergreen has worked extremely hard this year to heal from its loss, and as we move forward, we will always remember Josh for his great big smile and even bigger heart.

By Karen Rassi & Sue Lamy

LINDSAY PLACE HIGH SCHOOL
Pointe Claire



During the week of Feb. 27- March 2nd, LPHS Home and School celebrated the tremendous dedication of the Lindsay Place Staff. The theme was " Superheroes ". Each day that week, the +/- 100 staff members received a little gift in their mailboxes including: "Kryptonite Tea", a Superhero quiz, a recipe book, masks, and *"Cup-A-Soup"*. Donations, and a dash of ingenuity, allowed Home and School to accomplish all this on a tiny budget.

Volunteers prepared a " Souper " lunch on the Thursday and donated prizes were awarded to the quiz and "Hero" contest winners. The lunch of soup and salad was perfect on that blustery and stormy day.

Word has it that staff members had a " Super " time and are looking forward to being spoiled again next year !

By Marlyn Brownrigg and Barbara Schnider

WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
St. Lazare

Westwood wraps up a great year

Westwood Home & School (WH&S) has been busy at both Junior and Senior campuses. We started our year with a bang by registering a record 101 Home & School members, 30 more than our average. We added new members to our committees and had lively meetings, enjoyed by all.

Westwood's magazine fundraiser was launched in September and subscriptions continue to earn money for Westwood year-round. The online ordering makes it easy to place or renew magazine subscriptions for anyone – simply visit www.qsp.ca, click on Shop Now under the Parents heading, and enter Westwood's code 30669.

Westwood's Craft Fair was also a big success as usual with a gym full of crafters, a cafeteria full of raffle prizes and custom sandwich boards made by Westwood students. Many crafters rebook on the spot and love the way Home & School spoils them.

Teacher Appreciation Week was a delight for both WH&S parents and teachers. There were delicacies every day and a delicious lunch feast, one at each school, where teachers all claim it is their favourite day of the year!

WH&S supported many other activities during the school year including treats for a star-gazing event at Junior, funding for author visits and Culture in the Schools at both campuses, Yearbook support, and a contribution towards a new 24-second clock at Senior.

WH&S year-end work is underway for Convocation and Graduation with financial contributions and volunteer activities.

WH&S' Annual General Meeting on May 24th turns thoughts to a new year and new members with plans to serve our 2 schools, Westwood Junior and Senior, even better!

The parent members of WH&S are eternally grateful to the people who faithfully attend our meetings and support us: Hans Bulow - Principal WWJR, Sheila Honeyborne - Principal WWSR, Dion Joseph - Vice-Principal WWSR, Jon D'Ambrosio - Teacher Rep WWSR, Carol James & Janice Ballard - Teacher Reps WWJR and Danny Olivenstein LBPSB Commissioner.

We're a great team together.

By Arlene Griffin

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Executive Workshop Evening (Early Session)

Thursday, June 14, 2012
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: QFHSA Office

Executive Workshop Evening (Sept. Session)

(*same as Early Session above – do not need to attend both)
September 21, 2012
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: QFHSA Office

Fall Conference

October 27, 2012
Time: (to be confirmed)
Location: Honoré Mercier Elementary
8280 rue Nantes, Montreal, QC, H1P 2J1

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

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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.