



CLC 5th Anniversary Launch

by Debbie Horrocks

On November 10th, 2011 the Community Learning Center (CLC) initiative celebrated their 5th anniversary with the announcement of 14 new centers across the province. Mr. Graham Fraser, the Commissioner of Official Languages was the keynote speaker at the celebration and presented certificates to the new schools/centres. Funded by Canadian Heritage through MELS to promote linguistic duality and enhance the vitality of official minority language communities, CLCs exist in 37 schools and centres across the province. They are a collaboration of schools and communities working together to address local and provincial issues. CLCs are a diverse group of English schools, each with their own unique set of needs and challenges, their own particular community and student populations. New resources, services and programs are brought into the schools, and they are providing opportunities for inter-sectoral action and innovation. Riverside School Board currently operates three Community Learning Centres :

St-Lambert CLC has been operating since 2006, offering activities, programs and workshops to students, parents, families and members of the community ranging from the very young to the young at heart. Touching upon various areas such as physical health, the arts, culture, family support and lifelong learning, the Saint-Lambert CLC plays an integral role in encouraging student success, while promoting well being and community vitality. By looking at what the community wants and needs, the CLC can bring members together as a whole to foster positive experiences that will benefit them for years to come. **Contact:** *Natasha MacDonald* - nmacdonald2@rsb.qc.ca - 450-550-8002



*Natasha McDonald and
Cindy Elston*

Centennial Regional CLC is located in Greenfield Park and is the newest RSB CLC. In the near future, their plan is to offer a variety of workshops, events and activities including fitness, academic support, and cultural activities. Their main goal for the first 2 years is to bring parents and students into the school, thereby getting them more involved in the community and with each other. The CLC will be looking to enrich the young minds of its students as a mission to improve the community in the long run. Some of the first projects include: a fundraiser for Sick Children, Senior-Student interactions, and an Artworks festival. **Contact:** *Cindy*

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Mountainview CLC strives to promote lifelong learning, cultivate good citizenship values, foster student success, and enhance the being of members of the Beloeil, Mt St. Hilaire, Otterburn Park and McMasterville communities. The Partnership Table is facilitating development of a partnership network in the Richelieu Valley, ideally encompassing all schools in the area. It is hoped that this will to long-term increased capacity in the Anglophone community of the region. The CLC, operating since 2007, is acting as a catalyst dialogue amongst the various community organizations, increasing the distribution of information throughout the community, and proving access to programs and services in English. **Contact:** *Annie Mulholland* - amulholland@rsb.qc.ca - 450-550-2517



Annie Mulholland

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S. au S (Soutien Autism(e) Support)

by Audrey Burt

On November 18th, I visited St Lawrence and Harold Napper Schools and bestowed upon them the gift of an iPad, to be used by students afflicted with autism and their teachers. These gifts were made possible through the work of the non-profit organization **S. au S. – Soutien Autism(e) Support**, which I founded a little over 3 years ago. The organization's mission is threefold: 1. to raise Autism Awareness 2. to Create/Run Leisure Programs for children with Autism and 3. to help children with Autism become active members of society (hence the iPad donations).



*l to r.: Anna Sanalistro, Colleen
Lauzier, Audrey Burt*

My own 8-year old (non-verbal) son has autism and loves his iPad. We gave it to him last Christmas and it has changed our lives. He is now able to focus on something for longer than 20 minutes. It serves as an educational tool – using alphabetical apps, matching apps, recognition apps, etc. He uses it for entertainment by surfing YouTube for videos of the wiggles, elmo and annie broccoli. Eventually we will purchase an app to serve as a communicator – we are waiting for the French version which is set to be released in 2012. We see this tool as the wave of the future for children with Autism in the classroom – a teacher can use it as a educational tool or as a reward for a job well done.

Children with Autism love the predictability of the iPad whereas we humans are unpredictable using different facial expressions, tones and body language – the iPad always has the same delivery which is comforting. This year, S.Au.S. only had the money to buy 4 iPads (two went to French school and two to Riverside) this time around but are hoping the 2012 edition of the Autism Awareness Run/Walk will allow us to deliver more. We want to touch as many schools as possible and not limit them to one donation alone. For more information on S.au S., please visit www.s-au-s.org.



ARTWORK

by Nathalie Brault



Monk.E. at work

Sponsored by CEDEC, this first time ever Art Festival held on November 19th focussed on inspiring youth to consider careers in the arts. This was done via workshops moderated by professionals in the fields of music, writing and the visual arts. Artistic performances were held with the live painting by well known artist Monk.E. as well as by Centennial students being very popular. Though the organizers of ArtWork didn't know what to expect in terms of attendance, with the final tally at slightly over 100 people who passed through the doors of Centennial Regional High School where the event was held, organizers were very pleased. This Festival promises to come back again next year, bigger and better!



Centennial students painting

White Ribbon Ceremony at Chambly Academy

by Nathalie Brault



On December 6th, an assembly was held at Chambly Academy to commemorate the women killed at Polytechnique and Dawson. This 22nd annual ceremony was organized this year by secondary 5 student Leeza Mastrogiuseppe, as part of her personal IB project. It was a moving and thought provoking observance, especially as female students, each holding a lighted candle, read out the names of each of the victims. Mrs. Luisa DeSouza, the mother of gun victim Anastasia DeSouza, was once again in attendance, this her fourth year observing this anniversary and National Day Against Violence Towards Women, with Chambly Academy. The students were proud to present toys, food and products as well as a cheque for \$576 to Pavillon Marguerite de Champlain Women's Shelter in St. Hubert. Once again, Chambly Academy proved to be at the forefront of community action by heightening awareness against this important social cause. Thanks to teacher Richard Bunnett for his assistance in organizing the assembly, and congratulations to Leeza for a successful service. The event also received media coverage by CTV as well as The Gazette.

South Shore Black Community Association Supports Centennial's Fundraising

by Nathalie Brault

'Tis the Season! In the true spirit of giving, the South Shore Black Community Association recently collected money to support Centennial's Benefit Concert held November 18th. Mrs. Eileen Roberts of the SSBKA heard about the concert and decided to bring the idea of supporting the students to a recent meeting. The members obviously agreed, quickly raising \$60 without any specific fundraising activity. The money was given to the school's fundraising account in support of the Montreal Children's Hospital. Thank you to Mrs. Roberts and all the members of the South Shore Black Community Association!

Shopping Extravaganza for Harold Napper School

by Myra Kestler

Last Thursday, teachers, students and parents from Harold Napper School had a great time going shopping. Thanks to Indigo Book Store's: Adopt-A-School Program, along with David Durocher, the manager at dix30, and the very generous school community, the book shelves at the school will have a new look! The shelves will come to life with brand new books to capture the imagination and hearts of all the students in the school. Yes, our goal to put a book in each child's hand was met! The Riverside School Board personnel also joined in on the fun, to select some of the books which were on the school's wish list. The fun and excitement will continue when all the books arrive at Harold Napper School, and we all get a chance to enjoy them. We can hardly wait.



Riverside School Board 'Elves' Parade for a Good Cause

If you were you at the Santa Claus parade in Montreal recently you may have noticed these blue elves as they strolled along Ste. Catherine Street. They were none other than three RSB employees (who prefer to remain nameless!) who gave their time to lend some ambience and cheer to the festivities. They were part of the Girl Guides of Canada who participated in the annual parade in support of the Montreal Children's Hospital.





Heritage Hosts Leadership Camp by Shawnee Chartrand & Payal Grover

On November 23rd and 24th, Heritage Regional High School held its third annual Elementary Leadership Camp. Twenty one HRHS Leadership Students hosted a leadership camp for 85 elementary students. The elementary students who attended were grade five and six students from HRHS feeder schools. The HRHS students who hosted the camp prepared ice breakers and activities that encouraged the elementary students to step outside of their comfort zone and challenge themselves to improve their leadership skills. There were lots of laughs, brainstorming, sharing, compromising, discussing and coming together to be the "best" group during the camp. Points were awarded to the groups as they performed the challenges throughout the two days. In the end, the groups discovered that they were all winners just for participating during the two days. Of course our two day camp could not come to a close without our traditional Amazing Race! Eighty five students, working in six groups, raced through the school participating in different challenges to see which group could finish first. All in all it was a wonderful two days and the grade fives are already talking about next year!



The Last Month at CRHS by Kristen Marriott and Mario Giulione

Over the month of Movember (i.e. the month formerly known as November), the Centennial community came together to raise funds for prostate cancer research. While many students and staff grew moustaches to raise awareness for the cause, those unable to grow facial hair opted to purchase fake moustaches and sported them at our closing Movember party on Thursday, December 1st. In addition to sporting moustaches both real and fake, students sold moustache-shaped cookies and cakes to raise more funds for the cause. Students were also able to pose in a variety of costumes - along with different moustaches, of course - and get their pictures taken in our Movember photo booth. Staff and students voted for the "Man of Movember", the renowned title won by the individual with the best moustache. Our student winner was **Gabriel Larivée**, and **Mr. Hayward** and **Mr. Lavigne** (all seen at right) tied for the prestigious staff award. The day ended with all Movember participants saying goodbye to their moustaches and shaving their faces clean.



On December 6th, Centennial students and staff dressed up in their best vintage outfits for Retro Day. The purpose was to celebrate the "Flashback" theme for this year's Follies, our annual talent show. From 50's poodle skirts, 60's tie-dye, 70's disco, 80's neon colours to 90's grunge, it was a true blast from the past. At lunchtime over 50 students performed a surprise flash-mob to "Funkytown" for students while they waited in line for lunch. Students then turned back the clock as they played Dance Dance Revolution and competed in hula-hooping competitions. No matter what generation we were born in, we all had a great time! And speaking of a great time, this year's Follies show had over 80 of Centennial's most talented students hit the stage from Wednesday December 7th to Saturday December 10th. Parents, friends, and staff alike were enthralled, educated, and entertained by the wide variety of numbers that covered music's history from 1910 until today. Not only was the crowd able to watch Centennial's students act, dance, sing, rap, and play music, they were also reminded of where we have been both culturally and musically!

Making a Difference at Chambly Academy

At each and every occasion, Chambly Academy students have shown that they consider it important to make a difference in the world. Once again, the first half of the year has been very busy. CA participated in the Run for the Cure, the Terry Fox Run, Leaf Raking, a Concert benefitting the Montreal Children's Foundation and the Vow of Silence. We also participated the Wave to take a stand against bullying, and held assemblies to mark World AIDS Day, Remembrance Day and White Ribbon (read about it on page 1). Now during the Holidays, the students are raising funds with many activities aimed at benefitting the Christmas Basket Drive. Activities include candy cane-ograms, dawn to dusk badminton-a-thon, dress down day, photo with Santa and the annual students-against-teachers volleyball game.



Commissioner Profile: Lesley Llewelyn-Cuffling by Nathalie Brault



Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

I am married with two children who have attended Riverside Schools. I am a life-long St. Lambert resident. My grandfather came to St. Lambert from Wales. While on a train towards Montreal, he liked the look of St. Lambert, got off at the station, and never left!

Q: Commissioner Cuffling, prior to becoming Commissioner in 2003, you were actively involved in your children's schools, sitting and chairing on two Governing Boards. Now, as Commissioner, you are active in many committees, including the Executive, Finance and Audit Committee, Transportation, Education as well as Chairing the Governance and Ethics Committee. What drives you to be and remain so involved?

I grew up in a household where education was the number one priority. It was so important to both of my parents, and they provided great support to me throughout my own education. As a result, it has also become of utmost importance to me as well. I like to remain involved in what is happening so that we can provide the best education we can to all children.

Q: Do you volunteer in other organizations or community groups as well?

I am involved in community organizations: I volunteer at my church and I sit on the steering committee of the St. Lambert CLC.

Q: Do you think that school boards will be the same in 5 years?

No, unfortunately I don't. It is sad and very frustrating to see school boards become the political scapegoat of our current government. My wish is that we could be left to effectively manage and implement what we need to do, in order to take away obstacles so that teachers can best do their job. By providing good management, school boards should continue to handle the administrative aspect and be the central body. I don't think in-school administrators should be burdened with further administrative duties. Does a principal really want to handle bus routing for students, or call roofing companies when roofs need fixing? I don't think so, nor should that be part of their duties.

I do, however, think it is very important for school boards to continue to set goals and objectives; measure them and follow up on them. It keeps us all in line and provides clear guidelines. I use this formula in many of my volunteer activities as well.

Q: In your opinion, what are the burning issues of education today?

I think bullying is today's burning issue, and it is society's entire ailment. Everyone, meaning parents, kids, administrators and teachers, need to be on the same page when it comes to bullying. We need to clarify its definition. I am happy to say that at Riverside we take it very seriously, with an anti-bullying policy in the pipeline, and other events that bring awareness to the cause, such as The Wave (at St. Lambert Elementary).

Q: Do you think the issues high school students face are harder than when you went to high school, or even your kids, just a few short years ago?

Yes, I do believe that kids today face a tougher time than my generation. The kids today seem so focussed on being accepted by their peers. Society in general is different today than it was 25 years ago, technology is changing things so quickly.

Q: In your opinion, how can we increase graduation rates?

I think we need to pay more attention to how we teach boys, and to how learning is different between the two genders. Though overall we do very well at Riverside, boys are still lagging behind. Boys like to learn in a more interactive manner, and I think that traditional teaching methods are more conducive to girls. Having more male teachers could potentially have a positive impact on increasing the graduation rates in boys.

Q: Do you feel that parents are not involved enough in their children's school(s)?

In my experience, I see a very high level of parent involvement, which is great!

Q: Where did you go to school and did you have an inspiring teacher growing up?

I went to several elementary schools, and afterwards attended Chambly County High School. I then went to Marianapolis College and then McGill University. There are two inspiring teachers that come to mind right away: in elementary school, it was Mrs. Taylor. I remember her reading many books to the class, and teaching us our national anthem in French, which I still remember today! In high school, Mrs. Gould, a math teacher, was instrumental in further flourishing my love of mathematics. She made it all 'click' for me. I give her a little credit to my getting an Engineering degree!

Q: What are your hobbies?

A few years ago I took up curling and am a member at the St. Lambert Curling Club. It's a great activity and brings my husband and me together at the end of a busy week.

Q: What are you most proud of?

I'm proud of my 29 year marriage and of course my family. I'm proud of my schooling (editor's note: an Engineering degree as well as an MBA!), and certainly of the community work I do.

Q: What might someone be surprised to know or learn about you?

I have absolutely no talent in crafts or interior design whatsoever! Some people might perceive me as a serious person, and I am to a certain extent, but I also have a very whimsical side (said with a smile)!

