



ST. LAWRENCE SCHOOL 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

St. Lawrence School
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Principal:	Valerie Bergeron / Jean Rene St-Cyr	Student Enrolment: 545
Vice-Principal:	Sandra Frechette	Total Staff: 83
Governing Board Chairperson:	Kevin Megin	Daycare Staff: 11
PPO Chairs	Amanda Boyle, Laura Chambers-Quinn	Daycare Enrolment: 183
Daycare Technician:	Lisa Quirino	
Parent Committee Rep:	Carrie-Ellen Ronning (Backup: Ashley Williamson)	
Last annual general assembly:	September 2022	

This report is meant to communicate some of the highlights of what was accomplished this year by the school administration, staff, CLC, PPO and Governing Board.

ST. LAWRENCE SCHOOL OVERVIEW

St. Lawrence School's mission is to provide and foster a lifetime love of learning in our children. By offering two academic programs (English and French Immersion) from Kindergarten for 4-year-olds to Grade 6, we promote a healthy, safe, caring and stimulating environment in both English and French languages. We are preparing our students to become part of a rapidly changing society by instilling critical thinking skills and the core values of respect, trustworthiness, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

St. Lawrence School serves the communities of Candiac, La Prairie, Sainte-Catherine, St-Mathieu, St-Philippe and areas of Saint-Constant and Delson. We have two buildings side by side: K4 (Kindergarten for 4-Year-Olds), Kindergarten and Cycle 1 (grades 1 & 2) in the St-Raymond pavilion, and Cycle 2 (grades 3 & 4) and Cycle 3 (grades 5 & 6) in the Champlain pavilion. The school is equipped with two gymnasiums, a library, portable computer labs and a music room to help stimulate learning. The school also has two Oasis rooms with one in each building. The Oasis rooms have been very successful in supporting students with special needs as well as students who need more support by providing a welcoming comforting environment during recess and lunchtime. At St. Lawrence, we strive to encourage, and stimulate the intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and physical development of our students to support and empower them to become well-rounded citizens.

St. Lawrence school staff is dedicated to working collaboratively with parents and members of the community to develop the academic, social and emotional growth of all our students by providing a rich French immersion program within a safe and caring bilingual school environment.

2022-23 GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

The 2022-23 Governing Board is composed of parents, teachers, support staff and a community representative:

<i>Voting Members:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Representatives: 8 Elisabeth Fink Louis Gervais David Mayrand Ashley Williamson* Carrie-Ellen Ronning Stephanie Rountree* Tanya Guida* Cassandra Morel* • Support Staff Representatives: 2 Irene Kussey Laura Dawn Murray 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher Representatives: 5 Mark Brosseau Anne-Marie Fortin Chelsea Lafortune Alexandra Rachubinski Pascal Rondeau • Daycare Representatives: 1 Lynn O'Connor
<i>Non-Voting Members:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration: 2 Valérie Bergeron / Jean-Rene St-Cyr Sandra Fréchette • Governing Board Chair: 1 Kevin Megin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Representative: 1 Brian Peddar • Parent Alternative: 2 Lynn Rizzuto* Stefanie Ventura*

This year the Governing Board held its nine (9) meetings from October 2022 through June 2023. This was our third year that we had parent alternative representatives actively involved in all Governing Board meetings. We wish to have them included in all agenda items, and resolutions. Should there be a departure from a voting member, they can replace any parent on the Governing Board that could no longer fulfill their duties.

As this was our first school year with no health measures in place, meetings were held in person for the first time since Spring 2020. As we had been used to having remote meetings, Governing Board members voted to hold the winter meetings (December, January and February) remotely. A hybrid approach to our meetings started in Spring, with the March, April, May and June sessions being held in person and on camera. New technology was purchased of a microphone and camera to allow the Governing Board and PPO meetings to meet the needs of properly offering remote sessions.

As Chair of the Governing Board, my mission is to have the community involved as much as possible with our proceedings. We continued to have all questions from the public submitted through a Microsoft Form, they were read during our meetings and responded to after by the Chair and Principal. Public were invited to our meeting in a virtual presence with our rules being sent to attendees beforehand.

At the end of this school year, we have four (4) parent representatives whose two-year terms are up for re-election. We also have our two parent alternative representatives whose one (1) year terms are up for renewal.

GOVERNING BOARD INITIATIVES & DECISIONS

We are reminded of the critical role played by the Governing Board in shaping the educational landscape of our school. Committed to excellence, innovation, and the holistic development of our students, this governing body has tirelessly worked to create an environment conducive to learning, growth, and success.

As means to give back to the students for their hard work and dedication to growth and success, the Governing Board decided to allocate its annual budget to bonify and create new academic awards for students.

Our commitment to assist on organizing large scale events through the Fundraising Committee continued this year. The subcommittee's purpose is to look at initiatives that the school can raise funds for miscellaneous school projects, including the backyard project. This year the committee was led by PPO and GB parents. Combined with these two school committees working together, ideas and suggestions were proposed, and the execution process later is made easier with both Governing Board & PPO committee members being aware.

Here are some of the resolutions that the Governing Board adopted this school year:

Super Recycleurs Fundraiser

We held two fundraising clothes drives with Super Recycleurs to help raise funds towards our backyard project. Using social media for the two events, word was spread throughout the community and, it raised just over \$750. This amount was significantly less than previous years. We also were made aware from Corne d'abondance de Candiac that when we hold our Spring clothing drive, there are less and less winter clothes that gets donated to their local bins. It's why for next year (2023-24) the Governing Board decided to hold one clothing drive after the Candiac Garage Sale weekend.



Bee Hive

Our roof top beehive program with Alvéole continued this year for the third year. In the fall students were able to learn about the process of harvesting honey. Throughout the year workshops for the students were held with our beekeeper. Students starting Grade 6 next year will be able to come up with an entrepreneur plan to resell our rooftop honey



Publication of Governing Board Minutes on RSB Site

In a goal to keep our school community aware of proceedings that occur with the Governing Board, a motion to publish our monthly minutes on Riverside School Boards website occurred in November. The resolution is one that this Chair is happy to see put in place as it has been something wished for the past four years.

Lions Clothing Fundraiser

Once again, we decided to have a Lions clothing fundraising initiative. This year our school decided to expand the options with not just hoodies, but also t-shirts and tuques. In keeping with the past years, we decided to continue with the same designs, but offer a new royal blue color option. It gave a chance to increase school spirit, while gathering some extra funds for the school.



Below is a list of all the resolutions that the Governing Board covered during our meetings this year:

- GB Internal Rules of Procedure 2022-2023
- Adoption of the Governing Board annual operation
- Creation of Finance Subcommittee
- Allocation of the 2022-23 Governing Board Budget towards end of year awards
- Payment of the School Yard Project
- Publication of Governing Board Minutes on RSB Site
- Revised Budget 2022-23
- 2021-2022 Educational Project Annual Report
- Approval of short walking trips during 2022-23 school year
- Sexuality Health Education Timeline
- St. Lawrence Hoodies & Tuques Sales
- FundScrip campaign 2022-23
- 2022 Holiday Concert
- Common Digital Communication Tool with Teachers
- Alvéole Urban Bee Keeping 3rd year renewal
- Subject Time Allocation 2023-2024
- Lockdown Practice
- Criteria for the Selection of a School Principal
- Enrollment 2022-2023
- Return of changing for Gym class
- Civility in the Workplace
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at St. Lawrence
- Urban Seedling School Fundraiser
- Pizza Lunch Fundraiser 2023-24
- 2023-24 Le Lunch Contract
- Anti-Bullying, Anti-Violence Plan
- Grade 6 Graduation Budget
- Enrollment 2023-2024
- Governing Board Composition Review
- Super-Recycleurs Collection planning 2023-2024
- Steps at increasing Inclusion and diversity at St. Lawrence
- School Talent Show
- Code of Conduct 2023-2024
- Reform of the Ethics and Religious Culture (ERC) program to Culture and Citizenship in Quebec (CCQ)
- Noon Hour Student Supervision Fees & Voluntary Contributions
- Implementation of racism awareness
- Usage of Champlain Pavilion by Scouts Canada (1st Candiac Group) 2023-2024
- Bursary from the Parent Committee
- School Supply Lists 2023-2024
- School Fees 2023-2024
- Daycare Fees 2023-2024
- 2023-2024 Pizza Lunch Fundraiser
- Zootherapy for 2023-2024
- Shoebox Project Campaign Autumn 2023
- PPO fundraising and activities to reflect the educational program of the school.

The minutes are transcribed by the Governing Board secretary Elisabeth Fink and forwarded via email to each member of the Governing Board and approved at the beginning of the next meeting with or without amendments. A hard copy of the minutes is kept in a binder in the front office of the Champlain pavilion and posted on Riverside School Board's website under our school's page.

GOVERNING BOARD CONSULTATION REVIEWS

- Youth Calendar
- Allocation of Resources & Deeds

PPO

St-Lawrence is fortunate to have a PPO whose goal is to complement school life. PPO members met once a month- from September 2022 to June 2023.

Subcommittees were created to help organize events, and meetings were held outside of the regularly scheduled PPO meetings. Many volunteers helped during the activities. Fundraising was achieved by asking for a voluntary contribution of \$30 per child on the school invoice to go towards the Special Destination Fund (SDF). In addition, our second large fundraising event: the Fun Run was a successful fundraiser where \$7,000 dollars were raised for the school backyard project and activities.

The following are PPO-sponsored activities that brought joy and happiness to the students and staff:

September	Welcome Back Hot-Dog Lunch
October	Halloween Pumpkin Decorating
December	Food and Toy Drive, Pancake Day
February	Staff Appreciation Week
March	Reading week and Book Fair
April	Earth Week Activities
May	Fun Run
June	Fun Day, Kindergarten Orientation

DAYCARE

Attendance at daycare was starting to return back to numbers prior to COVID. Daycare staff were able to plan many on-site activities for the children this year. The activities help foster the children's development and includes different physical activities (games & sports) as well as arts and crafts. Staff worked very hard to make the ped days special for the students with science activities, candy land, and more.

Daycare staff also continued to provide homework support and a healthy environment in which each child is monitored when at play or at work.

Afternoon pickups at Daycare continued with usage of the Kouloo mobile app. This tool is certainly appreciated by many parents and our children are usually ready on time at pickup.

TRIPS – EVENTS - ACTIVITIES

This year we started to see more outings occur – most notably towards the end of the school year. Approved outings this year were:

- Fort débrouillard (Grade 6)
- Dynamix (Cycle 1)
- Ninja Factory (Grade 6)
- SEPAQ Outing (Cycle 3)
- Animaux présentation (K4)
- Jeunesse Musical Workshops – All K4 & K5 Classes
- Artists Inspire (ELAN) Grant + Mural Work (CLC Funding)
- Sortie Montcalm (Cycle 3)
- Ranch Massawippi (Cycle 1)
- École de la vue (K4&K5)
- Présentation du Grand Chief Serge Otsi Simon (Grade 3)
- HRHS - Fine Arts Focus at Heritage (Grade 6)
- Outings to local parks by our classes

Other activities that occurred this year:

- Transition to High School Workshop
- Community Officer Presentation on Cyberbullying
- Guest speaker Fred Fox, to talk about the life of his brother Terry
- Zootherapy Session for our Grade 1

This year our Christmas concert was held again back in our gymnasium. It was nice to see all the hard work that Mr. Isaac and the music department did to get everything organized.

We equally held three shows of our end of year concert in our gymnasium this year as Mr. Isaac went the extra mile and organized a great shows for parents and allowing our students to be rock stars for a day. These concerts also help the music program by collecting donations from generous families and friends. Children were excited and busy learning new instruments this year. Thank you for the donations, they go a long way!

We are lucky at St. Lawrence to have the involvement of Brian Peddar as our school's project development officer for the Community Learning Center (CLC). This is a non-profit initiative put in place to increase community involvement with the school. Activities that happened at our school this year through the CLC were:

- Working with artist, Emily Read, to create an art mural that will inspire students, staff & parents for years to come



- Art of Stepping (dance-movement and black history) workshop
 - Over 100 students participated in two interactive, 1 hour Dance-Movement-History workshops animated by Mr. Kayin from Montreal Steppers. On Sept 29th, about 80 students live in gym with artist. Other sessions were done virtually.
- St. Lawrence CLC weekly lunch time code club
 - Weekly Code Club animated by CLC for grade 3-6 students every Thursday at lunch time. Participants learn to do beginner block programming using the Scratch Platform, HTML, Python etc.
- Bird feeders installed
 - St. Lawrence CLC ordered 4 feeders and feed using the RVCLC Bird Protection Quebec Grant that is open to Riverside Schools. The feeders were installed in the school's Peace Garden.
- Cyber Safety Virtual
 - Workshop3 classes (67 students) of French immersion students from cycle 2 and 3 participated in a digital safety workshop on March 13th. Students learned about the importance of being safe, responsible, caring and aware when using technology: gaming, texting, social media sites, sharing photos etc.
- Weekly beginner coding club
 - New Code Club. 16 students from grades 3-6 (waiting list) have opportunity to learn and participate in beginner coding (Scratch, Python, HTML etc.). 1 returning student is a Volunteer Assistant.
- Drug awareness workshops
 - 80 students in cycle 3 (mostly grade 6) participated in one of three workshops yesterday educating themselves about drugs (medication, alcohol, caffeine, cannabis etc) and how they can impact people. Many students participated in the discussions speaking, listening and learning about a variety of things: well-being, sports, healthy choices, peer pressure (positive and negative), reasons

- some people take drugs, what makes a good friend, role modelling, stress etc.

The CLC has used Facebook to help share the activities with the community.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - St. Lawrence Sustainability Committee

Our school is very lucky to have at its availability Chantal Forgues who is leading for a third year our Sustainability Committee. Comprised of teachers, staff, and parents.

➤ Student Environmental Club -Earth Saviours

Students from Grade 4 to 6 continued to participate in the environmental club with the support of teachers, Cindy Patriarca and Lisa Turcotte. Students clean up the backyard every week and have taken charge of waste disposal on Pizza Day. With over 75 pizza boxes every Wednesday for Pizza Lunch, the Earth Saviours sort the leftovers, paper plates and boxes (which they have fun crushing) into the compost bins and bring the bins to the street for city pickup. The team has it down to less than 15 minutes!



➤ Peace Garden

Our Peace Garden space expanded this year with 15 new garden boxes added for the teachers, students and daycare to plant and enjoy growing vegetables. This year we saw great teamwork by all the parents who donated their time and providing much needed equipment for the garden.



➤ Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant

The Peace Garden sub-committee of the Sustainability Committee was select for the 2022 Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant. The grant was for \$3,000 USD which enabled us to purchase soil, equipment, trainings and/or coordination fees.

SCHOOLYARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

During the Summer of 2002 work started on our schoolyard improvement plan. New ballon-poire stations, and exterior chalk board were installed for our students to enjoy. Additionally, new basketball nets were installed. In total the cost of this phase of the project was for \$135K. \$85K came from the Special Destination Fund, while the remaining \$48K came from gracious donations from the school community.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

In October of the school year, our fabulous principal Valérie Bergeron accepted a new role as Director of Complementary Services with Riverside School Board. The Governing Board would like to congratulate Mrs. Bergeron and wish her continued success. She was very kind with all our students, approachable by all her staff and parents. She will be missed.

We welcomed in November 2022 our new Principal; Jean-Rene St-Cyr who comes to us from Saint-Lambert International High School.

Also, thank you to Sandra Frechette, who for the 2023-2024 school year will become principal of Mountainview School. Mrs. Frechette was our vice-principal for four years and her enthusiasm and creative personality has made St-Lawrence a better school. Sandra's commitment to our school has been incredible. We also wish her all the best of luck in her new role. We are very sad to see her leave, but we feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work with an amazing person. Her replacement will be Elizabeth Ford who will be leaving her position at St. Jude's in Greenfield Park.

Finally, we also want to thank the well over a hundred parent volunteers who served on the Governing Board, the PPO, in the library and those who helped during class and school activities and outings. These volunteers are a key ingredient of our successes! Thank you to all our teachers and staff who are ever-present with smiles, enthusiasm, and fresh ideas as they work so hard to make this a school our children will benefit from throughout their lives.

GOVERNING BOARD CHAIR CLOSING REMARKS

St. Lawrence School is made up of an amazing team of dedicated people that includes the administration, teachers, staff, and parents. Hard work, dedication and enthusiasm has helped create an excellent learning environment and experience for all our children during the 2022-2023 academic year.

I'd like to highlight the extra efforts that many of the school's teachers and staff made during this year that may have gone unnoticed by some.

Thank-you to all. Congratulations to all our Grade 6 graduates and may you all have a safe summer vacation.



Kevin Megin
Governing Board Chairperson



Jean-Rene St-Cyr
Principal