

# Gazette

Wednesday  
January 31 2024



Issue #01

## Latest News and Updates

### A Message from George

As the Director General of the school board, I am excited to introduce the WQSB Gazette, a monthly newsletter that will include information about upcoming events, student achievements, initiatives, and important announcements from our schools and centres.

With so much happening in our board, this newsletter is a great way to stay up to date. We hope The Gazette will help to foster a sense of community within our centres and schools and keep staff informed about what's happening in the Western Québec School Board.

A special thanks to our Communications Team, Laura D'Alessandro, Claudia Loschmann, François Raymond, and Director Eldon Keon for publishing the newsletter.

Please join me in reading about and celebrating the efforts and accomplishments of those who make up the WQSB! g



Nature immersion-kindergarten program at PETES. Photo by, Laura D'Alessandro

Laura D'Alessandro

## Canadian Museum of Nature Inspiration Award

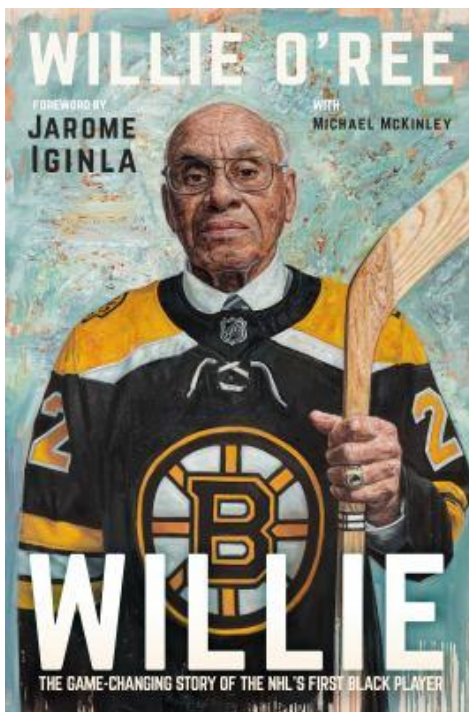
### Feature Article

The Western Québec School Board extends their congratulations to Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School (PETES) teachers Heather Riosa and Teah Sarrazin. Recently, they won the prestigious Canada-wide Canadian Museum of Nature Inspiration Award in the category of Large Not-for-profit Organizations!

The program was designed by Ms. Riosa and Madame Sarrazin not long before the pandemic hit. The many benefits of the outdoor immersion-kindergarten program became strikingly apparent between lockdowns. Physically, the students learn how to move in nature and how to use nature in play and learning. Furthermore, it teaches students to respect living things and their habitats.

Socially and emotionally, the program gives the students room to process their emotions and cultivate stronger attachments. Cognitively, they learn about cause and effect through experimentation, develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as learn and practice new vocabulary. Mathematics is also incorporated into their outdoor learning in creative and active ways that encourage student participation and increased focus.

Thank you to Principal David McFall, as well as to Heather Riosa and Teah Sarrazin for providing the information and some of the photos for this article.



Black History Month PG. 3.

## Spotlight

### Education

A New Approach to Learning

Amy Curry

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### Technology

Did you Know?

Stuart Gray and Lisa Diner

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### Human Resources

WQSB is hiring!

Jenny Svetec

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Amy Curry

Educational Spotlight

Professional Learning + Teacher Collaboration = Student Success

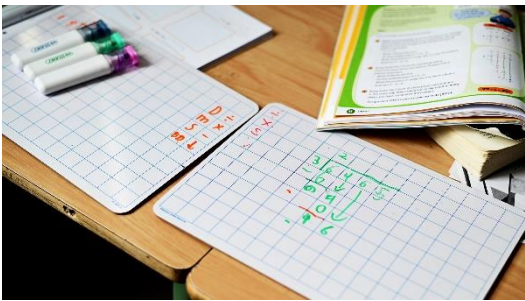
The Greater Gatineau (GG) Elementary School team is focused on supporting students' love of learning by increasing their instructional repertoire to incorporate more hands-on and rich task activities in mathematics to increase engagement, achievement, and confidence.

A team of GG teachers: Brad Everson, Kim Desbiens, Andrea Fama, Brennan McCambley, Sherida McKean and Courtney Roy, alongside WQSB Mathematics Consultant Jeff Harvey and GG Vice-Principal Graham Fleming attended two days of professional learning for all English School Boards in October 2023 offered by LCCEQ in Laval, Quebec.

These days provided time for teachers to experience a new approach to math instruction through hands-on activities, assessment tools and opportunities to network with colleagues.

The GG team returned to their classrooms inspired and motivated, putting new ideas into practice immediately. In January 2024, the teachers shared their learning with the entire teaching team at Greater Gatineau, leading meaningful and impactful professional learning for their colleagues. A wide variety of new tools and strategies are being used in classrooms and teachers continue to develop a deeper understanding of math pedagogy, with anticipation of improved math performance and enjoyment for students.

Bravo to the team at Greater Gatineau. Collaboration, professionalism, and a shared focus on student success is truly inspiring!



Task Name	Math skills developed	Predicted Engagement (Low - High)	Would it be used?
Frans War	- measurement - addition - probability	6/7	Yes! Very popular! Aww
Pickover Card Battle	- operating - number sense - mental math	7/7	Should be used for all students! It's a great way to practice math skills and it's fun!
The 4 Pillars of Escheria	- geometry - number sense	1/2	Should use as a group task! Great for all! Love to play!



The Hull Adult Education Centre Annual Freecycle event.

Michelle Robinson

Freecycle Event

Staff Post

The Hull Adult Education Centre has a history of staff sharing gently used items, including clothing, with our students. An annual event, we are proud to share that this year was the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Freecycle.

A month before the event teachers bring in donations. Staff organize the donated items by setting up a thrift store.

A veritable buzz was in the air as students eagerly waited for the Freecycle to open

its doors. The shop remains open all week for students to peruse and "shop".

Freecycle would not be possible without the helping hands and generosity of our dedicated staff members. This year donated items surpassed 1000!

All remaining donations were then delivered to the St. Vincent de Paul in Hull. <https://www.facebook.com/westernquebec/posts/887570986707589>

Stuart Gray and Lisa Diner

Did you know?  
Education Technology

Did you know that we have a website dedicated to all things "education technology"? You can find it at: [edtech.westernquebec.ca](http://edtech.westernquebec.ca)



On this site, you can find [interactive tutorials](#), [resources](#), and even [live calendar booking links](#) to connect with your Education Technology Consultants, Lisa Diner and Stuart Gray. If you forget the website address, you can also always get to the site from the "Quick Links" section of the WQSB homepage at [westernquebec.ca](http://westernquebec.ca)

Let's work together to increase the digital competence of all members of our WQSB community!



Jenny Svetec

HR Spotlight  
A Career Fair Near You!

The Western Québec School Board is hiring! Join our growing team, and work with staff who are dedicated to providing quality education.

Jenny Svetec, our Assistant Director of Human Resources will be setting up at job fairs across Eastern Canada as well as virtually over the course of the next month. Ms. Svetec will be sharing all the incredible job opportunities currently available at our schools and centres, as well as answering any of your questions.

For dates, times, and locations of the upcoming job fair, please visit:  
<https://westernquebec.ca/the-wqsb-is-coming-to-a-career-fair-near-you/>

We hope to see you there!

Claudia Loschmann

Bus Safety Campaign  
WQSB’s Commitment

Ensuring the safety of students during bus transportation is paramount for the Western Québec School Board (WQSB).

Led by dedicated staff members Amélie Gascon, Judy Cadieux-Fortin, and Lee-Ann Beaulé, the Bus Transportation Group meticulously plans routes for nearly 8,000 students across 355 buses, including minibuses, large buses, and taxis.

The 2023-2024 Bus Safety Campaign is centered on instilling crucial safety practices among students.

It underscores the privilege of busing and the collective responsibility to uphold a safe environment.



The Transportation Team with George Singfield, Director General and Pascal Proulx, Assistant Director General.

To bolster awareness, students are encouraged to engage with educational resources available through designated [links](#) and [videos](#), fostering a culture of proactive safety measures. Please see resources provided in this article.

Story can be found here:  
<https://westernquebec.ca/safeguarding-bus-transportation-wqsbs-commitment-to-bus-safety/>

George Singfield

Teacher Appreciation  
Week

Show your support!

Join Us in Celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week 2024!

It's time to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the remarkable educators who play a vital role in shaping the future of our children.

From February 5 to 11, 2024, let's come together to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, recognizing the unwavering dedication and commitment of all staff members across our communities. The theme this year is: Every day, we value and feel your impact on the community.

This week serves as a reminder of the profound impact teachers have on our lives. They inspire, challenge, and support our students every day, molding them into the leaders of tomorrow.

Take a moment during this week to express your sincere thanks and appreciation for the positive influence teachers have in our communities. Let's also pledge to continue supporting and valuing the dedication of our staff members throughout the year.

To all our teachers, we extend our deepest gratitude for your tireless commitment to education and the well-being of our students. Thank you for all that you do. **g**

Book List  
Your Library Team

Celebrate Black History Month with our curated collection of captivating books!

From powerful non-fiction narratives to immersive fiction, delve into the rich tapestry of Black stories spanning history and contemporary culture.

Whether you're seeking enlightening accounts of historical events or vibrant celebrations of Black heritage, the library team’s diverse selection offers something for every reader.



The Library Team’s Black History Month book resources

Explore and embrace the voices that have shaped and continue to shape our world.

Book resources can be found at:  
<https://westernquebec.ca/blackhistorymonth/>

Claudia Loschmann

Black History  
Month

Honour the legacy

As we eagerly anticipate the arrival of February, we’re also gearing up to commemorate Black History Month. It’s a time to honour the rich contributions, achievements, and legacy of Black individuals throughout history.

We’re thrilled to announce that we’ve collaborated closely with our WQSB Library Team and our dedicated school and centre staff to curate a special page on our website. This page serves as a hub of inspiration with resources designed to foster understanding and celebrate the profound impact of Black history.



We invite you to dive into the collection and discover stories, voices, and experiences that have shaped the world.

*A special thanks to all the members of our dedicated WQSB staff in schools, centres, and the board office who contributed by sharing resources and time creating and reviewing content.*

The webpage can be found at:  
<https://westernquebec.ca/blackhistorymonth/>





Filling a bird feeder made in woodworking with Alan Earwaker. Eardley Elementary School.

IN OUR SCHOOLS ARTICLES

- Safeguarding Bus Transportation: WQSB’s Commitment to Bus Safety <https://westernquebec.ca/safeguarding-bus-transportation-wqsbs-commitment-to-bus-safety/>
- Nature Immersion-Kindergarten Program Wins a Canadian Museum of Nature Inspiration Award <https://westernquebec.ca/nature-immersion-kindergarten-program-wins-a-canadian-museum-of-nature-inspiration-award/>
- The Spirit of Giving Across the WQSB <https://westernquebec.ca/the-spirit-of-giving-across-the-wqsb/>
- Orientation Day for Bishop’s University Student-Teachers <https://westernquebec.ca/orientation-day-for-bishops-university-student-teachers/>
- Destination Leadership <https://westernquebec.ca/destination-leadership/>
- The Jim Howard Memorial Football Tournament <https://westernquebec.ca/the-john-howard-memorial-tournament/>
- Dedicated Staff at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School Provide Accessible Halloween Evening for Students <https://westernquebec.ca/dedicated-staff-at-pierre-elliott-trudeau-elementary-school-provide-accessible-halloween-evening-for-students/>

NEW STAFF! ARTICLES

- Meet Stephanie Frigon, the New Principal at Golden Valley School! <https://westernquebec.ca/meet-stephanie-frigon-the-new-principal-at-golden-valley-school/>
- Meet Graham Fleming, the New Vice-principal at Greater Gatineau Elementary! <https://westernquebec.ca/meet-graham-fleming-the-new-vice-principal-at-greater-gatineau-elementary/>
- Meet Hannah Patrick, the new Vice-principal at Lord Aylmer Elementary! <https://westernquebec.ca/meet-hannah-patrick-the-new-vice-principal-at-lord-aylmer-elementary/>



Ice survival certification with Boreal River Rescue at St. Michael’s High School.

CAREERS

Link to Career page: <https://westernquebec.ca/resources/careers/>

GET IN TOUCH!

Newsletter ideas for staff: [clschmann@wqsb.qc.ca](mailto:clschmann@wqsb.qc.ca)

EMPLOYEE AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Employee and Family Assistance Program a collaboration with LifeWorks for employees, commissioners, and members of their immediate family. Call 1-877-257-5557 or visit <https://www.workhealthlife.com/>