

A Message of Gratitude from George



To all WQSB Staff,

As we close another school year, I want to take a moment —on behalf of the Senior Directors Team—to express our deepest gratitude to each one of you.

Across our schools and centres, from kindergarten to high school, adult education to vocational training, we’ve witnessed something truly powerful: the impact of your work. It’s not always visible in the moment. It’s not always recognized, but it is always there.

I have witnessed it firsthand in the pride on students’ faces at end-of-year celebrations. We see it in the joy and emotion of parents and families. These moments are not just ceremonies—they are reflections of your dedication, your belief in your students, and your refusal to give up on them.

Every extra hour spent, every word of encouragement, every quiet intervention has helped shape these successes. Whether you work in a classroom, an office, a library, a daycare, a cafeteria, or a schoolyard—you have made a difference, both as individuals and as a board staff.

Thank you for your commitment, your compassion, and your resilience. As the heart of the Western Quebec School Board, your impact will be felt for years to come.

Wishing you a safe, restful, and well-deserved summer.

With gratitude,



Amanda Mackechnie **K4/K5 Father’s Day Activity – Onslow Elementary School**

Onslow Elementary recently hosted a special Father’s Day Supper and activity for our K4 and K5 students and dads, organized by Amanda Mackechnie.

The event began with a delicious meal catered by Café 349, followed by a sweet treat of cookies for dessert.



After dinner, families enjoyed a hands-on activity —building and painting birdhouses together. It was a joy to see so many smiles, laughter, and meaningful moments shared between children and their dads.

A heartfelt thank you to all the families who joined us and made the evening so memorable. It was a beautiful way to end the year—celebrating connection, creativity, and the important people in our students’ lives.

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Dirgha Paré

Celebrating National Indigenous History Month Twin Flames Illuminate Greater Gatineau

In a heartfelt celebration of National Indigenous History Month, Greater Gatineau School hosted a captivating concert by the renowned Canadian folk music duo, Twin Flames.

This initiative, spearheaded by our Anti-Racism Committee, aimed to provide staff and students with an enriching educational experience that highlights the diverse cultures, traditions, and histories of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities.



The Anti-Racism Committee at Greater Gatineau is dedicated to creating opportunities for the school community to learn about the unique cultures, traditions, and journeys of Indigenous Peoples.

By bringing Twin Flames to our school, we sought to honour the stories, achievements, and enduring spirit of Indigenous communities.

This concert was a step towards fulfilling our commitment to promoting inclusivity and appreciation for cultural diversity. Twin Flames, composed of Jaaji and Chelsey June, captivated the audience with their seamless fusion of genres, languages, and instrumental skills.

The duo, celebrated for their unique blend of contemplative folk and vibrant rock 'n' roll, brought their performance to life with a mix of Indigenous and Western instruments.

Coming from distinct Indigenous backgrounds, Jaaji and Chelsey crafted a musical journey that seamlessly integrated storytelling with their cultural heritage.

Their beautiful stories and music offered a compelling reminder of the rich tapestry of Indigenous cultures and the importance of preserving and celebrating these traditions.

Their concert at Greater Gatineau was not just a musical event but also an educational experience, underscoring the



value of cultural diversity and the strength found in embracing our shared histories. As we continue to celebrate and learn about the achievements and resilience of Indigenous Peoples, we look forward to fostering a more inclusive and appreciative environment for all.

Let us continue to honor and respect the rich cultural heritage of Indigenous communities and ensure that every story and voice is heard and valued.

Laura D'Alessandro

The WQCC's Graduating Class of 2025



On the evening of Thursday June 12th, the Western Québec Career Centre hosted their graduation ceremony out on their lawn. The weather was perfect, and the atmosphere during the reception and ceremony was cheerful as proud friends and family came out to celebrate the graduating students.

Members from the board were also in attendance, including Director General George Singfield and the Director of Adult Education & Vocational Training Jennifer Dubeau, who both spoke during the ceremony.

The Citizenship Award and Director General's Award were given to a student from each program, and one WQSB Citizenship Award and WQSB Volunteer Award were also given to deserving graduates.

Director Damian Curley watched with pride as student from the accounting, automobile mechanics, health, assistance & nursing, secretarial studies and welding & assembly programs received their diplomas.



Congratulations to the WQCC's graduating class of 2025!

Laura D'Alessandro
Lab-École Gatineau Inaugurated at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School
by Minister of Education



A large gathering of dignitaries, parents, students and media gathered for a special event at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School on Monday, June 9th.

Inaugurated by the province’s minister of education, Bernard Drainville, the new addition, christened “the Lab-École Gatineau,” represents a novel way of envisioning schools with new spaces and approaches.

The project represents an investment of more than \$35 million by the ministère de l’Éducation. The latter, along with the WQSB and the Lab-École foundation have been working with the school on the addition for the past eight years.

[Click to read the full article on the WQSB website!](#)

James Price
Beyond the Classroom: A Season of Discovery at B.E.S.

Over the past few months, students from Buckingham Elementary School have taken part in a variety of enriching and unforgettable experiences that extended learning far beyond the classroom walls.

Cycle 2 students embarked on an exciting journey to the Cosmodome, where they explored the science of space travel and astronaut training. This marked a historic moment for the Bisons—it was the first time in over 25 years that a group of students participated in a school trip beyond the Ottawa-Outaouais region. It was a bold step that reflects our school’s growing commitment to providing students with diverse and meaningful opportunities.

Cycle 3 students also embraced experiential learning during visits to the Insectarium and the Biodome in Montreal. These trips allowed them to observe ecosystems in action, learn about biodiversity, and gain a hands-on understanding of environmental science—all in captivating, real-world settings.

In a moment that united both Cycle 2 and Cycle 3 students, B.E.S. cheered on the Ottawa Titans baseball team during a shared trip to the ballpark. It was a day filled with excitement, team spirit, and the joy of sport—providing a unique opportunity to connect as a school community while sparking inspiration among students who may one day pursue their own paths in athletics. For many, it was their first live sporting event—a powerful memory in the making.

At home, learning remained just as dynamic. B.E.S. welcomed the Ottawa River Keepers for inspiring sessions on environmental stewardship, empowering students to consider their role in protecting local waterways. The school also hosted a vibrant Science Fair, where curiosity and innovation were on full display, and a school-wide Mock Canadian Election that brought civics education to life—giving students a firsthand look at democratic participation.

Not to be left out, our youngest learners in Kindergarten and Cycle 1 enjoyed two very special outings. A visit to the Canadian Museum of History offered a rich, interactive experience exploring Canada’s cultural heritage. Meanwhile, a day at the Kenauk Institute—a wilderness research facility in Montebello, Quebec—immersed them in the great outdoors. There, students explored forest trails, discovered native species, and engaged in environmental education rooted in nature-based learning.



These experiences collectively represent our school’s unwavering focus on creating opportunities that are both educational and memorable. Whether exploring the stars, cheering on the Titans, or walking in the footsteps of Canada’s past, students at B.E.S. are thriving—supported by a dedicated staff and a vibrant community committed to strong relationships growing healthy minds to go beyond.

Amanda Drury

St. Mike’s Boys Flag Football Team Wins RSEQ Cadet Championship in Thrilling (and Chilly) Final



In a dramatic showdown at D’Arcy McGee Field on June 1st, 2025, the St. Michael’s High School Boys Flag Football Team clinched the RSEQ Cadet Championship title with a thrilling 38–20 victory over De La Cité. The win marks only the third RSEQ championship in the school’s history.

The game kicked off under freezing temperatures, but St. Mike’s came out strong with an early touchdown by Aiden. De La Cité quickly responded with an interception returned for a touchdown and a successful two-point conversion, setting the tone for a back-and-forth battle.

In the final minutes of the fourth quarter, with tensions high, quarterback Cole connected with wide receiver Cameon for a critical touchdown that gave the boys the edge and secured the win.

The team, who went undefeated in the regular season, was led by SMHS teacher-coaches Sean Spencer and Amanda Drury, with support from local volunteer offensive coach Bill Teed. Student athletes from grade 7 to 10 together created a both competitive and supportive energy.

“Our boys put their heart and souls into this team, many being newcomers to the sport,” said Coach Spencer. “We are incredibly proud of everyone, both on and off the field.” Student athletes from grade 7 to 10 came together to create a competitive and supportive energy. Redhawks on me. Redhawks on 3. 1.2.3. REDHAWKS!



Amanda MacKechnie

Onslow Home & School – Spring Fair Recap

This year, Onslow Home & School proudly brought back the beloved Spring Fair — and what a fantastic event it was! Families enjoyed a fun-filled evening with highlights including the Lions Club BBQ, a variety of games, a visit from the Pontiac Firefighters and their fire truck, and an engaging display of animals by the Shawville 4-H.



A special shout-out to our amazing principal, Mrs. Nugent, who was a great sport and took her turn in the dunk tank!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this day such a success. We’re already looking forward to next year!



Amy Barker

Jump Rope for Heart at Noranda School



The students had a great afternoon with Jump Rope for Heart. Giant thank you to senior student Marilou who helped Mr. Hamilton organize the event as part of her Phys Ed course. Thanks to the other high school volunteers who were essential to the success of the event: Emilie D, Brooke, Aaron N, Einjhelyn, Alexa, Francisca and Juliette.

Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation are still welcome. Thank you to [Neighbours Rouyn-Noranda](#) for helping out with their time as well as the very appreciated freezies!



Ryan Woodhouse

A Successful First Dance Performance at Maniwaki Woodland School

At our student of the month assembly our student-led dance team put on their first ever show and it was a huge success! Ava Walz and Lexi Laramée took the

lead in choreographing and teaching the routine to students from grades 3 to 6 during lunch hour. The dancers worked hard the weeks leading up to the show and it truly showed as they performed beautifully.

The entire school was impressed by their energy and dedication! A big thank you to Special Ed Tech Kelly Walz who helped coordinate the prac-

-tices and assisted with the show. Way to go Maniwaki Woodland School Dance Team!



Rick Patricio

PETES Citizenship Club Student Exchange to St. John's

The PETES Citizenship Club have experienced a whirlwind of activity this Spring! This is the third year in a row that PETES has both hosted a school from another city and then visited the school in their city. Two years ago, PETES did an exchange with Riverside School from Sydney in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Last year, PETES did an exchange with a WQSB school, G. Theberge in Temiskaming. This year the exchange was with Cowan Heights located in St. John's Newfoundland.

The PETES student were kept busy visiting Signal Hill, Cape Saint Mary's Bird Sanctuary, Cape Spear as well as riding on a fishing boat in Petty Harbour. In between they also did some shopping in downtown St. John's and visiting museums.

They returned from the exchange trip to St. John's NFLD just in time for Grade 6 exams to start and to officially welcome King Charles III and Queen Camilla to Canada at the airport. Shortly after, they also helped greet and usher guests during the inauguration of the new Lab-École expansion.



The PETES Citizenship Club is led by teachers Chelsea O'Brien, Rick Patricio and Stephen Ball, as well as VP Jo-Anne Georgeadis.

The Citizenship Club sets an example of the expectations of what it is to be a PETES student, and their responsibilities includes helping the school facilitate events both during and after school hours.



Teachers Chelsea O'Brien, Rick Patricio, Stephen Ball, as well as VP Jo-Anne Georgeadis in NFLD



Robyn Palaisy

SMHS First Annual Senior Science Fair: Innovation in Action!

Our Grade 10 and 11 students recently showcased their creativity and passion for STEAM at the very first Senior Science Fair — an exciting celebration of innovation and hands-on learning! From a potato and a plasma gun to a life-sized slingshot and a hydraulic system, the fair was bursting with remarkable experiments and demonstrations.

Students also explored fascinating concepts like flames you can hold, light rays, chemical reactions, and electromagnetic trains, bringing science to life in ways that captivated their audience, sparking curiosity in every corner of the room.

What made this event truly special was how our senior students took the lead in using their knowledge to teach and inspire younger students, sharing their discoveries, scientific process, and fueling curiosity across the school.



The energy, creativity, and teamwork on display proved just how powerful STEAM can be when combined with imagination and enthusiasm. Our first, second, and third place winners each received a gift card to Ma Boule in Wakefield as a prize for their outstanding work.



A huge thank you to the parents, our special guest judges, Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. McLaughlin, and to our two Grade 3 mini judges for joining us and participating in all the fun experiments.

We're so proud of all our students and can't wait to do this again next year!

Rachael Boersma

Celebrating Individuality at Greater Gatineau's Performing Arts Show

Greater Gatineau Elementary School was bursting with energy and excitement during this year's much anticipated Performing Arts Show! From powerful vocal performances and high energy dance routines to dazzling gymnastics and confident karate demonstrations, students proudly showcased a wide range of unique talents. The stage became a vibrant display of creativity, dedication, and courage, as each participant brought their own personality and flair to their performance.

The audience, filled with family members, classmates and staff, offered enthusiastic cheers and applause, celebrating every performer's moment in the spotlight. Events like the Performing Arts Show are a vital part of our school culture, helping students build self-esteem and pride in who they are.

By providing a platform where individual strengths are celebrated, we reinforce the importance of self-expression and personal growth.

Whether landing a backflip, mastering a comedy act, or belting out a ballad, every student who stepped onto the stage reminded us that confidence comes from embracing what makes us unique. We're proud of our young performers and grateful for a community that encourages students to shine in their own way.



Alanna McIntyre, TIP Mentor-Coach and Resource Teacher

A Community of Care, Support and Professional Growth at Lord Aylmer Elementary School

This year, Lord Aylmer had the pleasure of welcoming ten new teachers as members of the Teacher Induction Program (TIP).

For 9 of these fabulous humans, this was their first full year of teaching. Most were also recent graduates, sharing an alma mater and existing friendships. It was a true privilege to observe them share the highs and inevitable lows of their first year. They leaned on and supported each other.

They explored the balancing act of life and work, while cheering each other on every step of the way. It's the type of stuff that shapes our passion and commitment to the profession and builds spaces that impact student learning and belonging.

Our ‘Tipsters’ approached their goal setting with meaning in mind, and even more impressively, reflected on those goals with honesty and vulnerability. They took part in sessions with our incredible French, Math, and Literacy consultants (shout outs to Mireille Desjardins, Jeff Harvey, and Larissa Sansom!) and explored many of the valuable TIP PD offerings.

They also participated in after school ‘Lord Aylmer Power Hour Sessions’ — space designed for connection, sharing, and support.



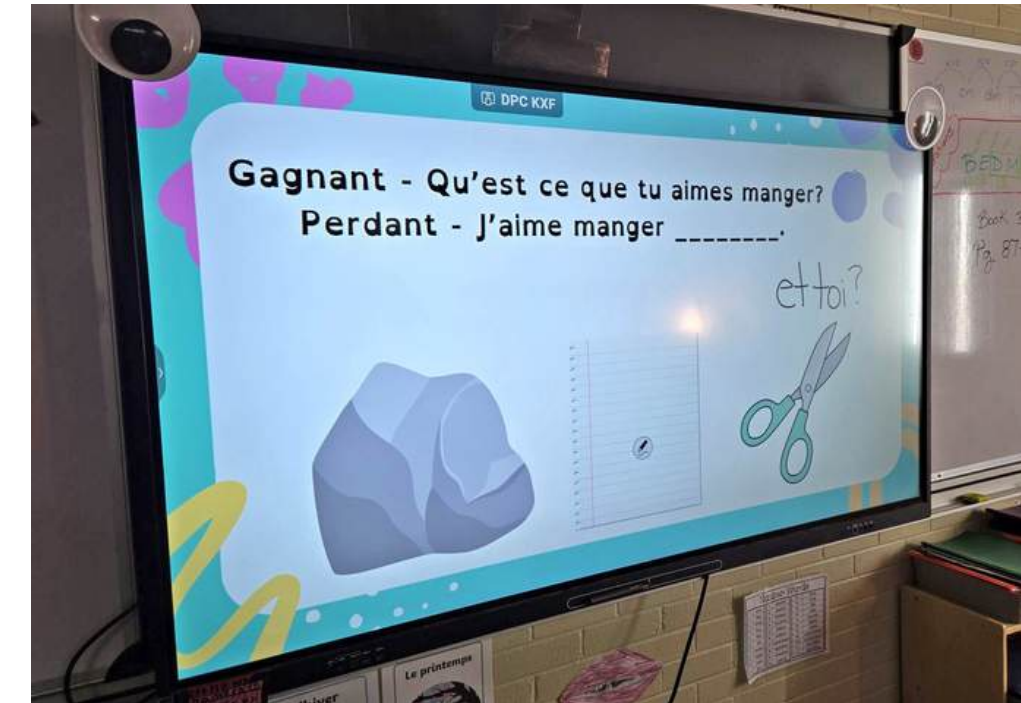
These sessions were more than just professional development; they were opportunities to build trust, community, and genuine relationships.

Each of the TIP teachers contributed to the fabric of Lord Aylmer, and we are thrilled that all members of the group are returning next year.

We’re so proud of all they’ve accomplished & we can’t wait to see what the future holds for them!

Mireille Desjardins

Oral communication in French as a second language



We’re all well aware that teaching a second language is not always easy. We need to believe in our students and, above all, exude confidence as teachers.

Learning French requires constant effort on the part of our students. In class, there must be many opportunities to practice speaking the language through fun activities and simple games that are part of a stable and predictable routine.

When the teacher acts as a role model and speaks French at all times, students will eventually follow suit. Little by little, they gain confidence and dare to speak French. It's magical!

In the classroom of Tina Hérard, an FSL teacher at G. Thérberge School, students follow a well-established language routine. Ms. Tina models short sentences in French and invites her students to practice through games such as “Rock, Paper, Scissors” and “I See.” Students have many opportunities to get up, move around, and, above all, practice speaking French.

Ms. Tina has succeeded in creating little moments every day where speaking is at the heart of her lessons. In her very English-speaking environment, it's inspiring to see her students participate and take risks in French. Bravo!



Complementary Services

Autism Appreciation & Advocacy Honoring Every Unique Voice

During the Month of April, Autism Month, we came together not just to raise awareness, but to celebrate the vibrant spectrum of neurodiversity. Autism is not something to be "fixed"—it's a way of experiencing the world that brings unique strengths, perspectives, and creativity.

Advocacy means listening to autistic voices, championing inclusion, and ensuring access to support, acceptance and opportunity. Appreciation means recognizing the value of every individual just as they are. This is not an attitude that should be limited to one month of the year, but a way of thinking and being every day!

In that spirit, we ended the month with our 4th Annual Walk for Autism, hosted in partnership with Trait d'Union Outaouais. With over 500 people in attendance, it was a powerful day of connection and community. This year's theme — "Diversity in all its forms, sparks our interest" — reminded us of the light and strength our collective differences bring.



Let's carry that energy forward — standing for understanding, respect, and a world where neurodiverse minds are not only accepted, but truly celebrated.



Stuart Gray and Lisa Diner

Did you know?

Education Technology

Did you know that there is a provincial guide for the usage of Artificial Intelligence in Education in Quebec?

The Ministry of Education has published “L’utilisation pédagogique, éthique et légale de l’intelligence artificielle generative: Guide Destiné Au Personnel Enseignant”.

The document can be summarized as a set of reflective questions to ask yourself before, during, and after using Artificial Intelligence. The questions fall under three categories:

MEQ GenAI Guide reflective criteria

PEDAGOGICAL
Criteria

Educational relevance
AI assistance in the assessment of learning

ETHICAL
Criteria

Digital sobriety
Quality
Equity and inclusion
Transparency and explainability
Agency

LEGAL
Criteria

Information security
Privacy
Copyright

Before → During → After

The list of reflective questions and the full guide can be found on the AI section of our EdTech site: edtech.westernquebec.ca/ai.

As always, please feel free to reach out to your EdTech Consultants, Lisa Diner and Stuart Gray, with any questions you have.

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Found in the WQSB Time Capsule...



This cute little button has been working for the Western Québec School Board for just over nine years. After graduating from Bishop’s University in 2016, she started her career with the WQSB as an Office Agent Class I. Later, she moved into the role of Administrative Technician and in 2019, she became the Coordinator of Human Resources.

She has a true passion for the Human Resources field and feels incredibly privileged to work in a role where she can support, uplift, and advocate for the people who make our schools such special places. Helping our staff feel seen, valued, and supported isn’t just part of the job—it’s something she cares deeply about every single day.

As a proud graduate of both Dr. S.E. McDowell and Pontiac High School, she is also a product of the WQSB system and feels a deep sense of pride in giving back to the community that has shaped her.

A Big Thank You from the Communications Team
This month contributors...

George Singfield, Alanna McIntyre, Amanda Drury, Amanda Mackechnie, Amy Barker, Andrea Gage, Courtney Roy, Dirgha Paré, Fatima Sow, James Price, Laura D'Alessandro, Lisa Diner, Mireille Desjardins, Nancy Peterson, Rachael Boersma, Rick Patricio, Robyn Palaisy, Ryan Woodhouse and Stuart Grey

We extend our deep gratitude to our contributors this month, as well as to everyone who has contributed to the Gazette since its conception. It has been an honour for us to showcase and celebrate so many incredible and inspiring initiatives and events happening across the board throughout the school year.

People truly do make Western Québec. We have had the pleasure of working with so many WQSB staff members who go above and beyond for their students and fellow colleagues in so many unique ways. There is a lot of heart and passion in every school and centre and an overall mission to create inclusive and accepting spaces and clubs so that every student and staff member feels welcomed and safe.

We wish you all a fun, lively and restful summer as well as great success in the 2025-2026 school year.



Gazette created by Fatima Sow & Laura D'Alessandro