



# MARCH

# 2017



## KEEPING THE PARENTS OF LBPSB UP-TO-DATE AND INFORMED

### GREETINGS FROM THE LBPSB PC

We are proud to introduce the first 2016-2017 issue of "Parent to Parent", an e-newsletter by and for LBPSB parents. Our goal is to keep you informed of issues related to school governance, policies, public and/or board-wide consultations, as well as major decisions that can impact you and your family.

### WHO WE ARE

The Parents' Committee (PC) is composed of approximately 50 volunteer members:

- 1 Parent Representative from each school in the LBPSB, selected each year at their school's Annual General Assembly (AGA)
- 1 Parent Representative from the Special Needs Advisory Committee (SNAC), selected at the SNAC AGA and confirmed by the PC

Each of these Parent Representatives has an Alternative, also elected at their school (or committee, in the case of SNAC) AGA, who may vote in their absence.

The [Advisory Committee](#) oversees the Parents' Committee and is comprised of

the Chair, Vice-Chair, Communications Director, Treasurer, and Secretary, who are elected by the Parent Representatives at the PC Annual General Assembly. The role of the Advisory Committee is to discuss arising issues and make recommendations to the PC at large, and also to respond to any issues that require an immediate response.

Parent Representatives normally meet each month at PC meetings, and up to once a month in one of three standing subcommittee meetings (Elementary East, Elementary West, and High School). Parent Representatives may also take part in one or more ad hoc subcommittees, which are formed each year to address issues in specific areas. These committees may weigh in on board initiatives, procedures, and decisions, and the PC as a whole advises the board regarding parents' interests and concerns, and ultimately acts as an advocate between the two bodies.

The PC also elects four Parent Commissioners to represent the interests of parents on LBPSB's Council of Commissioners.

## IN THIS ISSUE

### MAJOR SCHOOL CHANGE: ONE YEAR LATER

After being slated to close last year both Riverview elementary and Lakeside Academy have successes to celebrate.

### SOFTWARE CODING

Some parents have been advocating to include software coding skills as a mandatory part of the curriculum at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels.

And much more...

Wondering who your LBPSB Parent Rep is? Find their name on the [Governing Board page of your school's website](#), or on the [Parents' Committee website](#) [here](#)

Want to keep up-to-date with the Parents' Committee of the Lester B. Pearson School Board?



Like us on  
**Facebook**

## Lester B. Pearson School Board Presentation to the Parent Committee

At the LBPSB PC meeting of February 2, 2017, LBPSB Director General, Michael Chechile, and Assistant Director Generals, Carol Heffernan and Steve Balleine gave a presentation of the Roles & Responsibilities of the LBPSB to the Parent Committee.

Download the presentation to find out:

- The role of the School Board in the Education Act
- Who are the Council of Commissioners?
- What are the various School Board committees?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of the Director General?



## Did you know...

that LBPSB has a Special Needs Advisory Committee?  
At LBPSB we call ourselves SNAC for short.

Do you know who is a part of the SNAC?

Do you know the role of SNAC?

Did you know that SNAC has a website?

Did you know that SNAC organizes guest speakers and workshops several times per year?

Did you know SNAC meetings are open to all LBPSB parents of students with special needs?

## GET ALL THE DETAILS!

Did you know you can email SNAC at anytime?



## Financial Literacy



# MONEY AND YOUTH

A GUIDE TO FINANCIAL LITERACY

The High School subcommittee met Thursday, January 19, 2017 and was joined by Elementary East to hear Brian Smith from the [Canadian Foundation for Economic Education](#) speak about teaching Financial Literacy to our kids. Brian currently collaborates with several of our schools, doing programs with kids at all levels. Each parent in attendance was given a hard copy of "Money and Youth," a comprehensive, reader-friendly guide. This and other resources are available on [the cfee.org website](#). Sign up as an **educator** to take advantage of full access to the information and lesson plans provided. Brian is available to come to your parent groups and present. If you're interested, you can contact him at: [bsmith@cfee.org](mailto:bsmith@cfee.org) or reach out to your [PC parent rep](#) for more information.

Also important to note, The High School subcommittee will be sending a letter to the Ministry of Education asking that Financial Literacy be incorporated in the curriculum earlier than Grade 11.

The 5th annual Jr. Leadership Day for Cycle 3 elementary school students took place on February 10th, 2017 at Westpark Elementary. Over 250 grades 5 & 6 students from 31 of our LBPSB elementary schools came together for a conference focusing on leadership skills. Once again, a highlight of the conference was the numerous groups of LBPSB high school student-presenters. They offered individual sessions touching on a wide variety of topics focusing on high school leadership activities and the opportunities available for our leaders of tomorrow.

[Read more about this year's leadership day and watch a video from the event.](#)

## What a difference a year can make!

— by [Patricia Mercier](#)  
Riverview Elementary Parent rep

Riverview Elementary has gone from tears to cheers. Upon learning our school was staying open many changes have come about. Adopting a S.T.E.A.M approach to education was just the start. Parents, staff, and community members have worked tirelessly to help transform our school and encourage its new direction into the future. The "Community Ties" group has been established with other area LBPSB schools and community centers. We've also recently received a grant from Lenovo & Softchoice for 20 iPad minis and 22 Chromebooks, as well as a \$1000 grant from WalMart to help with developing our makerspace. Full steam ahead for Riverview!



*"I cannot begin to express how proud I am of my community for all their hard work."*

>> [Read more from Commissioner Mary Ann Davis](#)

## The 2016-2017 school year has been one full of successes for Lakeside Academy —

submitted by [Natasha Drysdale](#) Lakeside Academy parent rep

Slated for closure last year, the school's staff and community rallied together to successfully save the school and keep it open indefinitely. The school is up in enrollment and has been incorporating new programs and initiatives at every grade level. Lego Robotics was introduced into the Grade 7 curriculum as was a basketball concentration. Our junior students in Robotics as well as our senior students on our Robotics team are preparing to compete in the Lego Robotics Competition and the First Robotics Competition.

Our sports teams continue to do well in competition as do our students enrolled in our arts programs – music, drama, and visual arts. Another new addition to our curriculum this year is a cross-curricular unit in Grade 7, allowing students to explore different First Nations culture, an implementation that will continue until all grade levels are included. In March 2016, Lakeside received the designation of being an official Community Learning Centre (CLC), a philosophy which will help enhance student success and preserve the vitality of the English community. Lakeside's CLC has been exploring a range of different partnerships and grants aimed at enhancing services for students and the school's surrounding communities. It is because of the constant dedication of Lakeside's community, parents, and staff that school continues to grow and thrive.

### *Taking Pride in Lakeside*

*"As the proud Commissioner for Dorval and Lachine (Ward 3), I have seen the many successes of Lakeside Academy, Maple Grove Elementary, Dorval Elementary, Pearson Elettrotechnology Center and all the other amazing Lester B. Pearson School Board's schools." >> [Read more from Commissioner Josh Arless](#)*



**Celebrating Aboriginal Culture**  
[Learn more about the Annual Aboriginal Day Celebration](#)

## Software Coding

Some parents have been advocating to include software coding skills as a mandatory part of the curriculum at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels.

Some of the reasons for doing so:

- Technology permeates our society, and though most students today learn how to use it, few students learn how it works
- Without understanding how software works, students will have a limited understanding of how the inter-connected world around them works
- Teaching students how to code will give them a skill for life
- There will be many jobs in the future that will require software coding skills

Several countries/provinces have already introduced software coding in their curriculum (England 2013, Nova Scotia 2015, British Columbia 2016)

St Thomas High School Home and School Association has submitted a resolution to the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. (QFHSA) to lobby the Quebec government to include software coding in the curriculum.

The Parents' Committee of The Lester B. Pearson School Board have identified several areas that they would like to address.

Subcommittees have been formed to examine these topics in more detail. [Learn more on the PC website](#)

## History Curriculum

LBPSB parents are active in the Committee for the Enhancement of the Curriculum of History in Quebec (ComECH-Quebec), an ad hoc committee created by the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA), Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) and the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA). Read more [here](#).



The next meeting of the LBPSB Parents Committee is on March 2, 2017 and if you're a parent of a child in a Lester B. Pearson School Board school, you're invited. There will be a presentation by Ms. Marie-Eve Claude, the LBPSB Assistant Director of Student Services on the Sexuality Education Program pilot project at the LBPSB. Get the details on our [website](#) or see the [Facebook event](#).



BILL 105  
AN ACT TO  
AMEND THE  
EDUCATION ACT  
INTRODUCED BY  
MR. SÉBASTIEN  
PROULX,  
MINISTER OF  
EDUCATION,  
RECREATION,  
AND SPORTS  
[read more](#)



Don't miss the next St Thomas High School Home and School Lecture Series:

**Pornography and Teens**  
Tuesday March 28th 2017

**Your Teen and the Digital World**  
Tuesday April 25th 2017

See the [Facebook note](#) for details

## CFER RIVERDALE OPEN HOUSE

March 23rd, 2017  
9:00AM - 3:00PM



### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Forklift Operation
- Weighing
- Sorting
- Bailer Operation
- Shipping
- Inventory
- Dismantling
- Tool Management



5060 Des Sources  
Pierrefonds, QC  
H8Y 3E4  
514-422-3000 ext. 21176  
<http://www.cferriverdale.org>



The Riverdale CFER program offers a complete work study program for students aged 15 years and up. The program is MELS accredited and affiliated with the Réseau des CFERS.

Join us on Thursday, March 23rd, as we open our doors to the public and the Lester B. Pearson community. Visit our site, meet our students, and learn the ins and outs of the CFER model.



Every year high school graduates do not attend their own prom. Not because they don't want to, but because they can't afford anything nice to wear. These students have worked hard to graduate and deserve to go to their proms.

*Let's help change that!*

If you are a family who can benefit from *A Promise for Prom* or have items to donate, please visit: *A Promise for Prom* on [Facebook](#) or on the [web](#)

Want to keep up to date with the Lester B Pearson School Board Parents' Committee? Read the ***Meeting Summary Reports*** on our website. These reports are also shared by the PC parent rep at your school's Governing Board meetings. Visit us online at [parents.lbpsb.qc.ca](http://parents.lbpsb.qc.ca)