

# ETSB schools uniting to sing songs of change

Sherbrooke Record · 10 Apr 2018 · 1 · By Matthew McCully

Eastern Townships School Board teachers and students are tuning their instruments and warming up their voices for the eighth annual ETSB United in Music festival, which will take place this coming Monday, April 16 at Massey-vanier High School at noon.



This year's theme is 'Songs of Change,' and will feature close to 400 students from 13 ETSB schools.

"It's about getting music out there and having fun," said Sherbrooke Elementary School Music Specialist Tracey Rivette, founder and member of the festival's organizing committee.

"It's not a competition," she added, explaining that the festival is about bringing students and schools together to share a passion for music.

This year's concert will feature songs that have had a positive impact in the world. According to Rivette, the theme was inspired by the Musécole fundraising concert 'Why we Sing', held last fall at Centennial Theatre, which Rivette participated in with a choir of SES students.

Interestingly, the Musécole show was inspired by last year's ETSB United in Music show where Massey-vanier student Ember Gendreau sang a powerful rendition of Sam Cooke's Change is Gonna Come.

Gendreau accepted Musécole's invitation and performed that same song at the fall Why we Sing concert, which raised \$1,800 to purchase instruments for ETSB schools.

# A heavy day at Massey-vanier

## Full hearts and a lesson in perseverance

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For the Massey-vanier High School community, the grief was very near.

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To show their support for their friend and former principal and the rest of the Humboldt community, and in memory of the many lives lost, staff and students participated in a 'Broncos Jersey Day' at school yesterday.

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While MVHS Principal Julie Edwards pointed out that April 12 had been named a 'National Jersey Day' in solidarity and support for Humboldt, she felt it was important to do a little something more, given the personal connection.

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The assembly was followed, fittingly, by a visit from the brother of Terry Fox, Fred Fox, who shared a message of perseverance.

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Terry's original goal was to raise \$24 million, one dollar for every Canadian (population at the time) to fight cancer. Today, the foundation in his name has raised over \$750 million, and 34 countries around the world, inspired by his strength and determination, host Terry Fox runs annually.

While Humbolt and much of the rest of the country is currently paralyzed in grief, there is no better person to look to than the quintessential example of pushing on in the face of adversity.

# Galt drama takes on a tale as old as time

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“It is 70 minutes long, and the number of lighting and sound cues is the same as for a three hour show,” said Adriana Lyons, the teacher who is serving as production manager for the performance, explaining that the larger scale performance was picked on order to show off a broad range of talents and possibilities for the students. “It’s quite the beast of a performance,” she added with a smile.

The telling of the classic fairy tale taken on by the Galt students will be familiar to fans of the 1991 Disney adaptation of the story, as the script is drawn from that root rather than from the Broadway musical.

According to Lyons, students auditioned for the spring production in September, with separate auditions taking place for acting and dance roles. Singing practices began before the winter holidays during lunch hours and afterschool practices began in earnest in January, with different groups dividing up into spaces across the school to help cover the various aspects of each scene that need to be perfected.

“The music and the costumes and the acting, they are each a show’s worth of work in themselves,” she said, explaining that she took on the role of “production manager” because there were too many tasks for one person to do on their own.

In that vein, this performance of Beauty and the Beast is significant in that it marks the first time that Lyons has brought on a student director.

“With the Performing Arts Concentration coming into the mix, we wanted to be able to have the students take on more of an active role in the creation,” the teacher said, adding that the decision has been positive and eye-opening both for herself and the student, Kevin Parnell.

“It's been an amazing experience; being able to work with such a talented group of actors, singers and dancers,” Parnell said. “I wasn't planning on even participating in Beauty and the Beast, but Ms. Lyons gave me the opportunity to be the student director and I couldn't turn it down.”

The young director, who has spent a significant amount of time on stage in past Galt productions, said that he has learned a lot more about theatre and acting during this new experience.

“I have a new found appreciation for all of the directors that have had to work with me,” he said. “It's definitely a lot of work.”

The play will run through six performances in total, two sold-out student matinees that will be attended by more than 1200 local children, three regular evening performances from Thursday to Saturday night, and a special Saturday morning matinee where the audience is being invited to dress up in their favourite princess costume.

Tickets for all of the performances are being sold out of the school's main office, and although there are still seats available, Lyons said that the play has already sold more tickets than were reserved in advance for the show last year.

“It is a show that is well known,” she said. “Get your tickets early.”

More information about the show and tickets is available by calling 819563-0770, extension 22056.

# Western SunnyCircus on Thursday

*Journal April 11, 2018*



Sunnyside student running on barrels at last year's circus show.



photos courtesy Sunnyside Elementary School

## Victoria Vanier instead

The students of Sunnyside Elementary will be performing their fifth annual SunnyCircus show on Thursday, April 12th, in the school's gymnasium. The students from pre-k to grade six have been practicing gymnastics, juggling, unicycle, diabolo, devil sticks, slack line, clown acts, dancing and more throughout the school year to put together this year's Western-themed show. Physical Education teacher

The SunnyCircus stage decorations always add to the show.

Chantale Menard has, once again, received extra help to teach the children circus skills from circus artist Marc Lafreniere. The doors will open at 6:00 pm and the circus show will begin at 6:30. Admission is \$5 with all money going towards the purchase of material for the students.

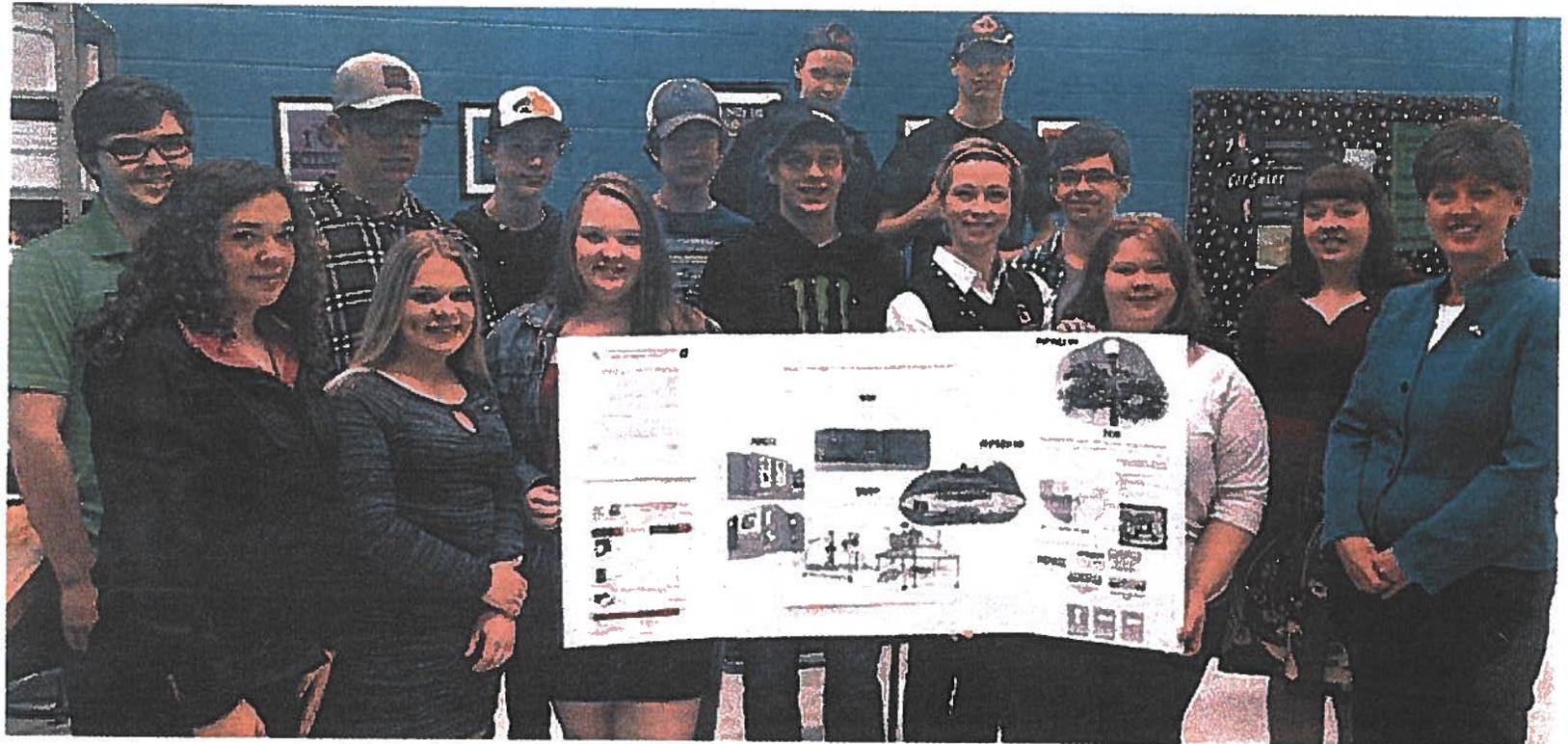


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# Gazebo built this summer

Last year, a huge, well-lit sign was installed on the school's front façade, complete with the Piper logo. Phase II of the project includes the building of a huge gazebo, the installation of attractive lamp-posts and the creation of a small sitting park near the school's entrance.

French teacher **Catherine Nadon** (behind the sign in the Galt shirt) and some of the students working on the Beautification Project are seen here receiving a visit from Compton-Stanstead MP and the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, **Marie-Claude Bibeau**.



"Two years ago my level 2 French class needed a project and I wanted to teach them French with a 'purpose'," explained the teacher in charge of the beautification project, Catherine Nadon. After coming across a website about school improvement projects, the idea to

improve the appearance of their own school was hatched.

"I went with the students all around the school to see what was ugly and what needed improvement. They ended up choosing the student entrance at the front of the school as the area that needed to be

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fixed up the most. They said that Galt looked like a prison from the front," said Ms. Nadon who has been teaching at the school almost fifteen years. The students also felt that the school should identify itself better with a big sign at the front entrance, an idea that evolved into Phase I of the \$86,000 project.

"It has been a real learning experience for the students. We had to contact the school's Governing Board for approval, we had to have the project approved by an engineer, we had to talk with the City of Sherbrooke. They learnt that there were a lot of laws that had to be respected, like the kind of lighting we need to use because we are in the Dark Sky Reserve of Mont Mégantic. They were like 'Holy Guacomole'! It ended up taking us about one and a half years to have the plans approved by everyone," explained the teacher.

"They had to learn how to calculate the area, how to draw up plans. They had to make telephone calls and emails related to the project. Now they understand the step-by-step process it can take to get something done, and how to get a 'yes' for something important."

Through the ambitious project, the young students have also had to learn a lot about fundraising and applying for grants. "With our first two Caffucino Coffee fundraisers we were able to raise \$11,000; that paid for the new sign at the entrance. They voted on which panel to choose, finally deciding that, rather than being subtle, they would go big

or go home! When the sign was installed last year, the students could see that the fundraising was working. The kids were really proud," said Ms. Nadon.

The fundraising for Phase II, another Caffucino Coffee campaign, is now going on for the more costly aspect of the project that should be built this summer if all goes according to plan. After receiving some funding from the Eastern Townships School Board, Alexander Galt High School, and the Quebec Ministry of Education, the Beautification Project committee had to raise another \$25,000. Math teacher Christian Côté has also been helping with the coffee campaign. "We're applying now for more grants. We recently received \$2,000 from the Tillotson Coaticook Region Fund to purchase the sound system for the area. The speakers will add a lot; teachers will even be able to hold classes in the gazebo."

"For once I wanted the students to really be a part of something; usually they are left out of the process. But being part of the process means they will want to take care of it. They've learnt that their ideas are worthwhile, that they have a voice," commented Ms. Nadon.

Asked if the Beautification Project was connected to the school's 50th anniversary in 2019, the French teacher said: "If we can finish phase II by the end of the summer it will be the best 50th anniversary present ever!"

Anyone who would like to contribute to the AGRHS Beautification Project by buying some

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delicious coffee can do so by contacting Catherine Nadon by email at [nadonc@edu.etsb.qc.ca](mailto:nadonc@edu.etsb.qc.ca) or they can buy the coffee through a Galt student, but they have to do it soon. The campaign ends on April 18th. Tax receipts for orders \$25 and more can be provided.

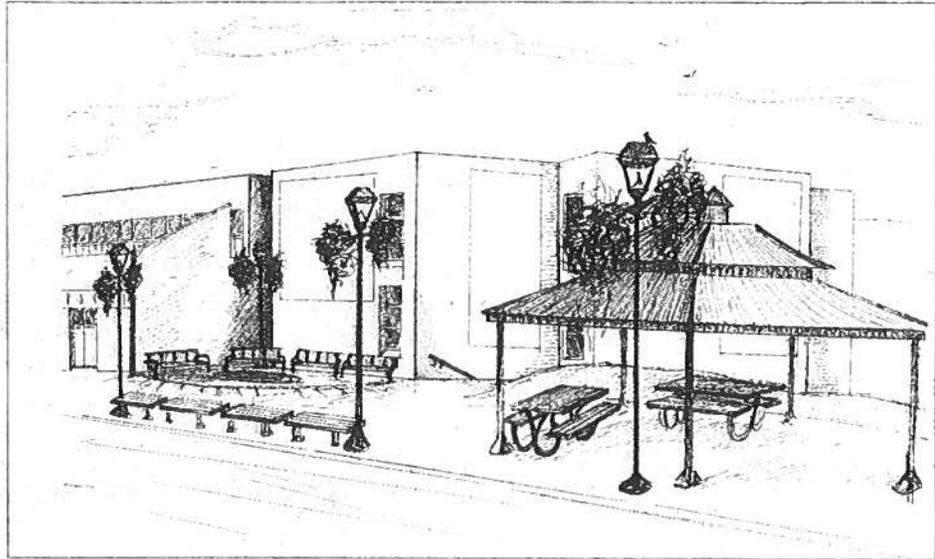


photo courtesy AGHS

The exterior entrance to the high school will be completely transformed into a welcoming and multi-functional area.

*St. Armand Journal, April 11, 2018*

# Beauty and the Beast coming to Galt

**Victoria Vanier  
Sherbrooke, Lennoxville**

Students in Alexander Galt High School's Drama Department are getting ready to bring a tale as old as time to the Galt stage: you guessed it, Beauty and the Beast! The cast of over fifty will be performing the beloved musical "Beauty and the Beast Jr." from April 19th to April 21st, 7:00 pm each night, and a very special performance, a Prince/Princess dress-up Matinee, on Saturday, April 21st, at 10:00 am.

This spring's play is being directed by Adriana Lyons and student director Kevin Parnell. Drama teacher Olivia Grenier, rather than directing this one, will be working on the costumes, hair and make-up. Specially adapted for younger actors, the play will feature all the favourite musical numbers like "Be our Guest" and "Belle" as well as numbers from the original 1994 Broadway play. "Beauty and the Beast Jr." is sure to be a musical that the whole family can enjoy!

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Since SES was the recipient of Musécole's first fundraiser, Rivette and a group of her students also participated in the concert. One of the songs they performed was 'Nobody Rules You,' by Canadian singer songwriter Dany Michel.

The 'be who you want to be' motto of the song resonated so much with Rivette and her choir that they decided to perform it again at the upcoming ETSB United in Music concert.

Each of the participating schools will perform a song at the upcoming concert, followed by three group songs that all 400 students will sing and play together.

The programme will include powerful songs like Blowin' in the Wind by Bob Dylan, Let it Be by the Beatles and the traditional hymn Amazing Grace.

Rivette credited the work of MVHS music teacher Bill Jarand, who gets the stage ready to host the 12 visiting schools for the festival.

"He does all of the set design and sets up everything for the show," Rivette said. A few other music teachers will head to the school Sunday to help Jarand with finishing touches, Rivette said.

In previous years, musicians from MVHS formed the house band, entertaining the audience while the various groups set up for their songs. Rivette said this year MVHS will be joined by musicians from Galt.

Other new additions this year include a group coming from Farnham Elementary School, a gang of baritone ukulele players from Sutton, and close to 70 students from Lennoxville Elementary School, directed by local singer songwriter Jonathan Macaulay.

Macaulay began working with LES students last year to start a choir. This year, he is one of the teachers for the MAC class, and also has a singing club/choir with the students during lunch hour. When he heard about the festival from Galt music teacher Chris Obermeir, he decided to get involved.

"We jumped in," Macaulay said. His MAC class and the LES choir will sing Blowin' in the Wind. "It should be lots of fun," he said, excited for his first ETSB United in Music festival.

Rivette pointed out that not all of the participating schools have a full music program. In some cases, there are teachers responsible for other subjects who work on music with students on the side.

Over the years Rivette has remarked that as the festival continues to grow, the different schools inspire and motivate each other to improve.

"This is giving music a place," Rivette said.

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