

## Letters

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE...

**O**n behalf of Alexander Galt Regional High School and all Christmas basket recipients, I would like to personally thank all our donors and collaborators for their kind donations this holiday season. Their continued support has allowed us to assist families in need in the Galt community - which would not have been possible without their generous donations. The kindness in your heart to give back has had a positive impact on local families and has made a tremendous difference.

Our collaborators have also played an important role in making this campaign a success over the years. Our local newspaper, The Record, has been our faithful partner since 1999. As well, the Lennoxville Provigo and its staff, have graciously acted as Santa's elves for the past two years by ordering the food and packing the baskets for us - so thank you.

Spreading Christmas cheer is something I have always enjoyed but this year I would like to extend the cheer to you - our donors. The campaign was exceedingly successful and that is all thanks to you - it could not have been done without you.

Thank you again for your compassion and continued support. Your generous assistance makes it possible for our GALT families to have a brighter Christmas holiday!

**MANY THANKS,  
TRACY LYNCH  
SPIRITUAL LIFE ANIMATOR AT AGRHS**

# Mansonville Elementary School registration 2018-19

Sherbrooke Record · 29 Jan 2018 · 5

Mansonville Elementary School is holding its annual registration from January 22 to February 2, 2018 and they are eager to let everyone know what the school has to offer. In a safe and welcoming, bilingual environment, the school strives for excellence while recognizing every child's potential and uniqueness. The aim is for students to achieve their full potential and be prepared for life: academically, physically, socially and morally.



The school boasts a bilingual prekindergarten program for four year olds. Classes are equipped with tablets, laptops and smart board technology. Small multi-age classes and early intervention programs give your child a solid start. 9.5 hours a week are allotted for French Second Language instruction and 7-8 hours of English mother tongue instruction.

In addition to academic programming, the school offers swimming and ski/snowboarding programs, daily breakfast program, a Lego Robotics club, regular cooking activities, seasonal outdoor learning with PENS, Forest Fridays, Yoga, and experiential learning. The school also has devoted and motivated professionals and a dynamic Parent Participation Organization and Governing Board.

Anyone interested in having more information or if you would like to register your child and require eligibility information to attend English school, is encouraged to call 450-292-5622.

Mansonville Elementary School hopes to be given the chance to share with you what it has to offer. To fully appreciate the atmosphere and experience the benefits of MES, a visit is encouraged and can be arranged by giving the school a call at the number listed above.

# A sit-down with the ETSB's new Director General

By Matthew McCully

**T**he Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) started off the New Year with a new Director General. Kandy Mackey, previously Assistant DG, received the appointment during a special meeting of the council of commissioners just before the Christmas holidays.

While there is often a large learning curve and a period of adjustment in a new job, Mackey has been with the ETSB for 21 years as a teacher, principal and director, so she was ready to get to work immediately.

"The transition was surprisingly smooth," Mackey said.

"People know who I am; they know what I bring," she added.

Without the need to introduce Mackey as a new face on the ETSB scene, The Record asked the DG to help demystify the goings on at the board level that are often lost on the average parent or community member, wondering what a dozen people at a meeting in Magog have to do with student success.

Mackey described the board as the first line of defense.

"We protect schools and centres from the whirlwind so they can focus on what they need to do," commented Mackey.

"As a classroom teacher, I remember feeling very isolated," she said. Part of Mackey's approach as DG is to bring down those walls and use a collaborative approach to share what works and what doesn't work to achieve student success.

Mackey explained that part of her job

and that of other board administrators is to explore new approaches and tools that could be applied to ETSB classrooms.

"Here is what the latest evidence tells us," she said, presenting the findings to the council of commissioners, which serves as the 'voice of the people', ultimately choosing the best direction to take in the interests of students and parents.

With education being a vital part of a community, it often falls under scrutiny. In many cases, that can be because the frame of reference for the average parent is based on their last experience in elementary or high school.

Since Mackey began her career as a teacher and has spent the past two decades with a keen eye on all aspects of education, The Record asked exactly how different things are in the field compared to 20 years ago.

"There is so much new information about how the brain works," Mackey said, which has had a big impact on what happens these days in the classroom.

"We've moved away from teaching strategies," she said, focusing more how students are learning.

There are also physical changes in classes.

Some parents may remember desks in rows with a map of the world and chalk board. Today, there are stationary bikes in some classes, balls to sit on instead of chairs, desks together in clusters for team exercises.

"All these physical changes, there's a reason behind them," Mackey said, adding that there are a variety of learning styles to consider.

While the buildings may look the same on the outside, Mackey assured what is happening in the classrooms today is quite different, focused on openness and using a wide range of approaches and technology as tools for deeper learning.

Given the speed at which the employment landscape is changing thanks to technology, The Record asked Mackey how the ETSB is preparing students for

a world that could change dramatically within decade.

"The number one focus is on learning to learn," Mackey said.

"Careers that last 35-40 years, they don't exist anymore," she said.

"If people can learn how to learn, all doors can be opened."

Mackey said the ETSB is doing exciting work these days with mathematics.

"We really want our learners to become mathematical thinkers," she said.

Making learning visible is also important, Mackey added. "We want our students to become more cognisant of their learning," she said, to create more of a growth mindset instead of a fixed mindset.

While she is already familiar with the territory, Mackey is planning a tour of ETSB schools and centres after March break to re-introduce herself in her new role as DG.

When asked if she had a final message to extend to the Townshippers, Mackey had two thoughts; the first was point out the value of education and all its paths. "Whether it's vocational trades or enriched paths, the choices students have," Mackey said, "there are a lot of wonderful things happening in our schools."

Mackey's final word was to point out that the heart of the English school system is community involvement.

"The involvement of parents, community members, and the impact it has on students, that always astounds me," Mackey said.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

# Do-ET career and skills day tour wraps up



The Unlock your Future: Discover Opportunities in the Eastern Townships - or Do-ET tour - ended in a big way at Alexander Galt Regional High School on January 17. Unlike the prior two half-day events at Massey-Vanier and Richmond Regional High Schools, the Galt event was a full day affair. Students in secondary 4, 5 and the Work Oriented Training Path program had the chance to explore their future with many diverse opportunities in the Townships.

The event hosted two keynote speakers, both Galt alumni. Shawn Young addressed students about his journey from a bachelor's degree in Physics to co-founder and CEO of Classcraft in 2014. Recognized worldwide, used in over 20,000 schools in the United States alone and based in Sherbrooke, students were fascinated with what can be achieved in our community.

Amelia Kingsley, now an osteopath in two different clinics in Sherbrooke, demonstrated her academic persistence and love for our region during her keynote speech for the afternoon session. Also sitting on career panels, we were thrilled to have Amelia and Shawn

dedicate their time to our event.

Students participated in three types of activities through the event. Career panels were chosen based on student interest and consisted of professionals from the region in the fields of Medical and Health, Sports and Recreation, Education and Social Services, and Business. Workshops focusing on post-secondary skills were hosted by organizations including CJE, YES Montreal, Dale Carnegie Training, CEDEC, and various other professionals. Students had a networking area to visit booths with local employers, educational institutions, and community resources.

We would like to thank participants of the event for their time and commitment to making this day a success for the students of Galt!

## Thank you, Brenda!

During the fall of 2017, Townshippers' Association was lucky enough to welcome an enthusiastic and hardworking intern from the Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre. Brenda Morin worked with us for five months, helping to plan and carry out the 2017-2018 Health Link information sessions, which took place at the Armoury Community Centre in Bury.

Brenda quickly became an invaluable asset to our Health Link organizing team. Her energy and spirit shone through in her work, and her warm smile and welcoming attitude made everyone feel at ease with her. With a lot of event-planning experience already under her belt, Brenda's organizational skills and enthusiasm were evident as early as the first session she attended (on her first day, no less!). It takes a good deal of behind-the-scenes planning to make

each Health Link session run smoothly, and Brenda played an important role in this whole process.

Today, we say a special "thank you" to Brenda and wish her all the best for her future career!

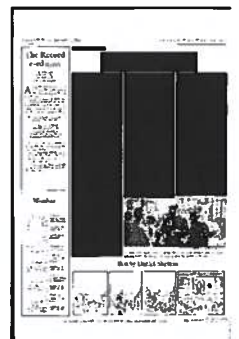
## Interested in knowing what's next for Health Link?

Health Link is a series of English-language health information sessions intended to offer health and wellness information in English to English speakers from the Haut-Saint-François region. The sessions also introduce English speakers to the services and health professionals that can help them meet their health and social service needs. Topics covered in these sessions vary (from diabetes to exercise, nutrition to mental health, etc.), and are selected according to feedback received from participants.

Three new Health Link sessions will take place this winter and spring, with the first one happening on Wednesday, March 21. This session will feature the "I Stand Up for Myself" interactive workshop, presented by DIRA-Estrie. Watch for more information about this upcoming activity in a future column.

Health Link is a collaboration between The Eaton Valley Community Learning Centre, the CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS's Haut-Saint-François RLS, the Centre d'Action Bénévole du Haut-Saint-François, and Townshippers'. It is a CHSSN initiative funded by Health Canada through the Roadmap for Canada's Official Languages 2013-2018: Education, Immigration, Communities.

This weekly column in The Record keeps you in touch with Townshippers' Association's activities and news. For



# Porte ouverte aux caméras sur autobus



**IAN BUSSI RES**  
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**Le ministre des Transports Andr  Fortin a ouvert la porte mardi   la possibilit  d'installer des cam ras radar photo sur les autobus scolaires afin de sanctionner les conducteurs qui omettent de s'arr ter quand les feux clignotants sont en fonction.**

«D'entr e de jeu, je suis tout   fait favorable   l'id e. Il y a d j   un projet-pilote   Ottawa et le pr sident de la F d ration des commissions scolaires m'en a parl  lui aussi», a d clar  le ministre en marge de la conf rence de presse de lancement de la 30  campagne de s curit  en transport scolaire de la F d ration des transporteurs par autobus.

En 2015, un projet pilote avait autoris  Ottawa   installer des cam ras sur les bras d'arr t de certains autobus scolaires. L'initiative avait permis de constater qu'il y avait en moyenne cinq infractions par jour pour chaque trajet d'autobus.

En raison des r sultats du projet-pilote, la capitale f d rale a annonc  en novembre que six cam ras, vendues entre 16 000 \$ et 18 000 \$ chacune, seraient dor navant

install es en permanence sur des autobus scolaires.

## PEU DE CONTRAVENTIONS

Luc Lafrance, pr sident-directeur g n ral de la F d ration des transporteurs par autobus, conc de que le nombre d'infractions   la loi est actuellement largement sup rieur   la quantit  de contraventions remises par les policiers.

«Selon les chiffres de la Soci t  de l'assurance automobile du Qu bec (SAAQ), il se donne chaque ann e   peine 1000 contraventions pour ne pas avoir respect  les feux clignotants au Qu bec, tout  a pour 10 000 autobus scolaires qui transportent plus d'un demi-million d' coliers et qui font en moyenne 20 millions de kilom tres par jour. C'est tr s peu!» a-t-il d clar .

M. Lafrance a ajout  qu'il avait  t  mis au courant que les fabricants de ces cam ras avaient fait une demande au gouvernement du Qu bec pour obtenir un projet pilote semblable   celui tent    Ottawa en 2015.

## BILAN ROUTIER

Le ministre Fortin a conc d  que le bilan routier s' tait beaucoup am lior  pour les autobus scolaires au Qu bec. «Mais m me si le bilan s'est am lior , un seul accident peut mener   une fin tragique», a-t-il mis en garde.

Selon le ministre, le dernier cas d'un  l ve d c d    l'int rieur d'un autobus impliqu  dans un accident de la route remonterait  

1986 alors que M. Lafrance a affirm  qu'en 2006, un autre accident avait impliqu  une  l ve qui venait de sortir de l'autobus.

V rification faite cependant, le 27 novembre, une adolescente de 17 ans est d c d e apr s avoir  t  heurt e par un autobus scolaire   Saint-Eustache et le 14 septembre, une cycliste de 61 ans a trouv  la mort   Montr al apr s avoir  t  elle aussi frapp e par un des fameux v hicules jaunes. En 2011, une collision entre une fourgonnette et un autobus d' coliers a fait quatre morts et quatre bless s graves   Sainte-Genevi ve-de-Berthier, dans Lanaudli re.

Selon la SAAQ, 292 personnes ont subi des blessures dans des accidents impliquant des autobus scolaires en 2016, 29 de moins qu'en 2015. Parmi celles-ci, 276 ont  t  bless es l g rement et 11 gravement. Cinq adultes, soit un occupant un autobus scolaire et quatre occupant un autre v hicule, sont d c d s. Notons que ces donn es couvrent les accidents li s au transport scolaire au sens large et l'autobus n' tait pas n cessairement impliqu  dans l'accident.

