



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE  
**Eastern Townships**  
SCHOOL BOARD



November 19th &  
December 6th are  
Pedagogical days!



Tips & Tricks  
NUTS & BOLTS

# CONNECTIONS

## NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 1st volume of CONNECTIONS for this school year of 2021-2022! We hope that you and your family have settled back into a healthy routine as we move through these fall months. In this edition we have included some tips and tricks, useful info to keep handy and some school stories worth celebrating - we hope you enjoy & thank you for staying connected!

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# School Activities & Celebrations:

## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Together as Canadians, we recognized the 1st National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept 30th 2021.

Throughout our ETSB schools, students of all ages wore orange t-shirts in solidarity with our indigenous peoples; because EVERY child matters!

Over at Knowlton Academy, it was a "Sea of Orange" as all children and staff members proudly wore their t-shirts. The community supported the purchase of these t-shirts and were out to join the school's silent walk around town. There were signs of support carried, tears and smiles shared - it was a profound experience.

Many other schools held activities in support of "Orange t-shirt day" > Sherbrooke Elementary, Mansonville (kids made bannock bread and read indigenous books), Pope Memorial, Richmond Regional High School +++

## Terry Fox Runs

Numerous ETSB schools took part in the annual Terry Fox Run, (Princess Elizabeth, Waterloo, Heroes' Memorial, Farnham Elementary, Alexander Galt Regional High School and many more +++ )



Here are a couple highlights...

### TERRY FOX @ BUTLER ELEMENTARY

The run was held on October 5th 2021. The students were given the goal of raising \$4000 for cancer research. Principal Mr. Morgan sweetened the pot by agreeing to some rewards if students could reach their fundraising goal – he would get his hair wildly dyed, wear his undies over his clothes and hit the dunk tank. They doubled it by raising \$8238.30 – the highest ever in the school's history!!!

Thank you to the generosity of the community and school families, hats off to the Butler staff, and CONGRATULATIONS to the kids who went above and beyond for the benefit of others.

### MASSEY-VANIER'S TERRY FOX FUNDRAISER

More than 75 Massey-Vanier students took part in the 4km Terry Fox fundraiser held on Oct 14th. The walk ended in front of the Cowansville Town Hall where the students were addressed by the Mayor Sylvie Beauregard, and treated to a much-appreciated ice cream sandwich. Approximately 4500\$ was raised for cancer research this year. Way to go Massey-Vanier (featured in the above pic)!



> Go to the ETSB's Facebook page to see more pictures !!

## Photo Gallery



Top:  
Knowlton Academy's  
"Sea of Orange"

Mid:  
Sherbrooke Elementary  
students

Bottom:  
Making Bannock @  
Mansonville Elementary





***“School and Centre Administrator’s Week”***  
***October 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021***  
***“Semaine des directions d’établissement scolaire”***

Our School and Centre Administrators were celebrated the week of October 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> and we recognized their contribution to the ETSB’s collective success. We look to them for guidance, inspiration, experience, direction, and they answer the call. Our administrators are asked to face unforeseen challenges & navigate through uncharted waters, and for this we sincerely thank them for rising to the occasion day in and day out.

Their position as a School or Centre Administrator carries a lot of responsibility and their actions create results. Our administrators’ decisions are directly connected to the success of all our students and the overall atmosphere generated in our schools and centres. They lead by example, while guiding and supporting the educational activities that engage our students.

As pedagogical leaders who work with teachers, support staff, professionals, and senior management, their contribution is critical as we work together to achieve our goals. Again this year in the context of a pandemic, their contribution has been applaud worthy.

On behalf of the Council of Commissioners and Head Office Administrators of the Eastern Townships School Board, we congratulated all of our School and Centre Administrators during the “*Semaine des directions d’établissement scolaire*” and recognized their invaluable contribution. We thank them for their hard work, dedication, and their investment in our collective success.





# The ETSB is HIRING!

BIG news...there are many interesting opportunities here at the Eastern Townships School Board - why not join the team?!

The Board is currently looking for:

- Office Agent (Tax department) replacement position for one year**
- Maintenance (various positions and on-call replacements)**
- Caretakers(various positions and on-call replacements)**
- Handicapped Student Attendant and Special Education Technician**
- Professional positions (Psychoeducator, Psychologist)**

Enjoy great working conditions, and a positive BILINGUAL environment -  
check out the current job openings [HERE!](#)

We are in an ongoing recruitment mode, so check back in often & GOOD LUCK!!







## Tips & Tricks

## Complementary Services:

Here are some resources and info that we hope you will find pertinent and useful as we support our students and your children in their development!



### Autism in Context with Dr. Peter Vermeulen

On **March 28, 2022**, The **Centre of Excellence for Autism** is hosting an interactive webinar with **Dr. Peter Vermeulen on Autism in Context**. Please **see the flyer** for more details about the full day webinar open to professionals, educators and families.

Dr. Peter Vermeulen, MSc, PhD. started his career in the field of autism in 1987, working for the Vlaamse Vereniging Autisme (Flemish Autism Society) as diagnostician and home trainer for families with autistic children. He later became the director of the home training center and started gradually to share his experiences via presentations and books. Peter has written more than 15 books, some of them translated into more than 10 languages. His book "Autism as context blindness" won several prizes in the US. In 2019 Peter received the Passwerk Lifetime Achievement Award.

Spots are limited! [Click here to register.](#)

### Screening the screen time!

At ETSB, we value the rich integration of technology both in support of student learning & in preparing them for their future. In doing so, we realize the importance of educating our students on all that is available to them through social media, television, Netflix, etc, which means the adults need to be vigilant as to what the children are watching.

For instance, there is now a highly popular series on Netflix rated 18 years and older entitled *Squid Games*, that we feel you should be aware of. This series is about indebted people playing childish games in the hope of winning millions of dollars, but those who fail are coldly shot (shootings, murders, graphic scenes, suicides, etc.). This violent storyline promotes a feeling of confusion among young audiences and accentuates the impact of the shocking images or, worst, normalizes or desensitizes acts of violence.

We invite you to take the matter seriously. We encourage parents to consider the above information and to discuss it as they deem fit with their children. The important thing is to remain attentive to your children's reactions, listen without judging, answer questions and promote positive problem-solving attitudes. One way to help manage your child(ren)'s exposure/access to material that is deemed inappropriate, is to block 18-and-over series and movies on their [Netflix](#) profile.

We thank you for your time and vigilance as we help our children safely navigate our virtual world!



# Tik Tok Challenges



There is a recent trend that has been circulating through the TikTok App across North America with potentially serious and dangerous repercussions.

The most recent TikTok trend is called the “devious licks” challenge where every month students are encouraged to participate in a task that can be derogatory or hurtful to others or themselves (e.g., vandalizing school property, stealing, assaulting school staff members or peers, exposing themselves) and then posting the video on the TikTok App.

Parents play a vital role in providing a safe place to have discussions with their children about their role and influences on social media. For many teens, it is important to feel like they belong to a group of peers and gain public recognition on social media. Here are some tips on how parents can have a discussion with their children:

- Open a discussion about the TikTok challenges, include some of the ones you have heard about.
- Highlight that some challenges are funny or helpful while others can be hurtful or destructive. Ask them how they can tell the difference between the two.
- Discuss what the possible outcomes are for all involved. Ask the questions: Will someone get hurt? Will there be school disciplinary or legal repercussions? Does it help anyone?
- Emphasize the need to make good choices for themselves and not follow what others are doing when they *know or feel* something is not right.
- Be empathetic and nonjudgmental with your child, allow them to lead the discussion and do not interrupt them. Once they have finished, you can provide feedback.
- For younger children: Sounds-like, looks-like, feel-like, activity: ask your children what the impact of a particular challenge sounds-like (does it result in laughter or crying); looks-like (e.g., smile, grinding teeth, or tears), and feel-like (e.g., happiness/joy, fear, or sadness). Ask them if all who participate will experience the challenge in the same way? Is one laughing and another crying?

Below are links to resources that may be helpful to parents to learn more about TikTok and how to talk to your children about it.

[Parents Ultimate Guide to TikTok](#)

[Quick Guide to TikTok](#)

[TikTok’s Top 10 Tips for Parents](#)

[Co-viewing With Your Kids – Tip Sheet](#)

[13 Online Challenges Your Kids Already Know About](#)

[How to talk to your kids about the Devious Licks School TikTok Challenge](#)

Here are a couple of resources that you might find useful and informative when having these conversations with your child(ren) ...

"SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY - Online Safety in the Real World" >

An info document offered by the Missing Children's Network that gives some age specific pointers for parents. You can read the document [HERE!](#)

There is also a FREE 1 hour conference in French for parents that focuses on cyber safety.

Please see the flyer below and you can register through this [LINK!](#)

## Conférence en ligne gratuite

### Vers une saine gestion des écrans à la maison

Cette conférence en ligne est destinée aux parents afin de promouvoir une saine utilisation des écrans et d'agir en prévention de la cyberdépendance. Elle permettra de les appuyer dans la mise en place d'outils afin d'assurer l'encadrement des écrans à la maison. Plus précisément, les parents pourront en apprendre plus afin de favoriser un usage sain des différentes technologies, tout en obtenant des informations concernant les réseaux sociaux et les jeux vidéo, les concepts liés à la cyberdépendance, ainsi que les signes, les symptômes et les conséquences de la cyberdépendance.

**Marie-Josée Michaud,**  
spécialiste en activités cliniques,  
conférencière et formatrice pour Le Grand Chemin

**Le mardi 7 décembre 2021 à 19h00**

La conférence est d'une durée d'une heure.  
Vous pourrez ensuite poser vos questions!

**Inscription :**

[www.cqjdc.org](http://www.cqjdc.org)

Cette conférence vous est offerte gracieusement grâce  
au soutien financier de la Fondation Québec Philanthrope





## **COVID-19 Symptoms**

We thank you for your continuous help and support in keeping our schools and centres safe by keeping your child or children home when they have COVID-19 related symptoms. We have had very few cases in our school board since the beginning of the school year and this is thanks to your continuous efforts and those of our school teams who work diligently to ensure that their environment remains safe for all.

Please continue using the [online self-assessment tool](#) to know if your child should stay home and if they need to get tested for COVID-19.

These flyers created by the Direction de la santé publique de l'Estrie may also be useful:

[Children 6 months to 5 years old](#)

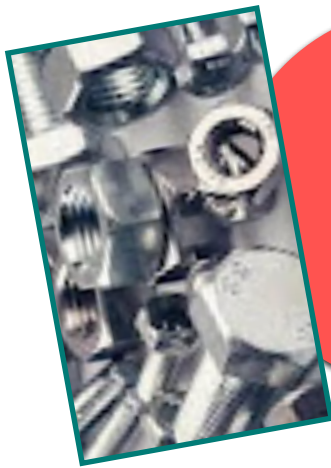
[Children 6-17 years old](#)

## **Positive COVID-19 Cases**

If your child receives a positive COVID-19 test result during the week, please contact the school principal to inform them of the situation. The school principal will then work in collaboration with our central school board team and the Direction de la santé publique to determine the actions to be taken.

If your child receives a positive COVID-19 test result over the weekend, please report it by calling [1-833-381-1196](tel:1-833-381-1196). Our central school board team will then contact your child's school principal and the Direction de la santé publique to determine the action to be taken.





NUTS  
&  
BOLTS



## Pedagogical Services Team:

The Pedagogical Services Team has as its mission, “to support ETSB Learning Communities.” Below you will find some resources and info that we hope you will find useful & interesting!

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### Exploring Different Pathways to Success

This year, we wish to promote *success stories* that our students experienced in accessing the different pathways available to them. These stories will be shared by students, teachers/school staff, parents or community stakeholders. We hope you enjoy these and feel free to contact us ([pedservices@etsb.qc.ca](mailto:pedservices@etsb.qc.ca)) if you have a particular success story that you would like to share.

**The Campus Brome Missisquoi (CBM) and the  
Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre (LVTC) present ....**

[CBM Women in  
WELDING!](#)

[LVTC La  
Concomitance!](#)



**Check out these videos!**



# COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRES

Our ETSB Community Learning Centres strengthen the connection between schools and their communities by creating partnerships and opportunities for life long learning! Have a look at what is taking place for parents...

## Perspectives On...



### CREATING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR CHILDREN AND MAINTAINING THEM DURING DIFFICULT TIMES

*Presented by Kirsten Greb, M.Ed & Janna Gillis, MA, CEMH and FSSTT*

**NOVEMBER 30, 2021  
7-8PM**

This webinar will explore ways to build and maintain healthy relationships with our children, navigate how these relationships evolve as our children grow and develop; and explore concrete ways to foster and build connections in our families.

**Register at**  
**[www.learnquebec.ca/workshops-and-information-sessions](http://www.learnquebec.ca/workshops-and-information-sessions)**



**[WWW.LEARNQUEBEC.CA](http://WWW.LEARNQUEBEC.CA)**





**Perspectives On**  
**PARENTING SERIES**

In collaboration with  
  
Centre of Excellence  
PIM

**INFORMATION SESSION FOR PARENTS OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: AN OVERVIEW OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, RESOURCES AND EXTERNAL SERVICES (AGES 4-12)** Presented by Sarah Lynch, Claudia De Luca and Sophia Orfanos -  
*Centre of Excellence Physically, Intellectually and Multi-Challenged*

**DECEMBER 7, 2021**  
**7 - 8 PM**

This webinar will provide parents with general information on the elementary school system and the programs that are offered for students with special needs. In addition, common terminology and an overview of external resources and supports will be presented. Parents will receive a digital brochure to serve as a reference tool. The presenters will be available to answer questions following the 30 minute presentation.

**Register at**  
**[www.learnquebec.ca/workshops-and-information-sessions](http://www.learnquebec.ca/workshops-and-information-sessions)**

  
**WWW.LEARNQUEBEC.CA**

To register  
for either  
course head  
[HERE!](#)

# The International Student Program



ISP welcoming activity, September 2021 at the Pinnacle.

Did you know the ETSB welcomes international students from all around the world? Over the past 12 years, we have welcomed over 500 students in our elementary and high schools and vocational centres. Students stay with us from a few weeks to a complete school year. Some will even stay in the province to continue their post-graduation studies.

This year, the ISP will welcome a total of 38 students coming from Austria, Cameroon, China, Germany, Haiti, Mexico, Philippines and Thailand.

The International Student Program is able to welcome youth from across the world thanks to a dynamic host family network. Lifelong relationships often emerge from hosting a student in your Canadian home. Our host families are supported by a coordination team available to them 24/7. Activities and trips are offered to students and their host families to expose them to our culture and the beautiful landscapes that the Eastern Townships and the province of Quebec have to offer.

Do you have a room available? Would you like to take part into this great adventure? Contact us to learn more about joining our Homestay network.

Marie-Michele Dorais [isp.homestay@etsb.qc.ca](mailto:isp.homestay@etsb.qc.ca)  
Facebook: [The ETSB's International Student Program \(ISP\)](#)

# Report Cards and Communications with Parents

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## Grades 1 to Secondary 5

The number of terms and report cards for the 2021-2022 school year has been reduced to two:

- The first term will end on January 21st, 2022, with report cards issued on the parent portal on **February 7th, 2022**. Marks for the first term will be weighted at 40% of the final grade;
- The second term will end on June 23rd, 2022, with report cards issued on the parent portal no later than **July 10, 2022**. These marks will be weighted at 60%, except for when the final mark includes the results of Ministerial examinations.

In order to keep you well-informed of your child(ren)'s development, two written communications will also be provided:

- The first, no later than November 19, 2021
- The second, no later than April 22, 2022

## Preschool Report Cards

In K4, no official report card is mandated for the 2021-2022 school year. Your child's teacher will be in communication with you to inform you of his/her progress,

In K5, your child's teacher will assess his/her overall development based on observations made throughout each term. This will be

communicated with you in two official report cards, which will include a grade explained by a legend.

## Ministerial examinations at the elementary level and in Secondary 4 & 5

Students in Grade 6 Elementary will be exposed to ministerial examinations in Mathematics and English Language Arts. The scope and the length of ministerial examinations have been reduced for this school year and their content will correspond to prioritized learning for 2021-2022. The weighting for these exams will count for 10% of your child's final mark.

Students in Secondary 4 Math & Science, as well as Secondary 5 English Language Arts and French as a Second Language will also be required to complete ministerial examinations, the results of which will be taken into account for the purpose of awarding a Secondary School Diploma. These exams are generally administered in May-June of each year, with a possibility of retakes in August or January. The weighting given to the exams in Secondary 4 and 5 has been reduced for the 2021-2022 school year. These exams will count for 20% of the final mark on your child's achievement record, instead of 50% .