



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE  
**Eastern Townships**  
SCHOOL BOARD



January 5th &  
January 24th are  
Pedagogical days!



Tips & Tricks  
**NUTS & BOLTS**

# CONNECTIONS

## NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of CONNECTIONS for this school year of 2021-2022! Here we are already in December with the holidays knocking at our doors - can you believe it?! With many months of school already completed & numerous challenges faced, everyone is deserving of some time with family and friends to unwind, and recharge!! We hope that you will find some resources and information in this issue that will be of interest to you. Thank you for staying connected as we welcome in this NEW year together at the ETSB!

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## Tips & Tricks

### Complimentary Services:

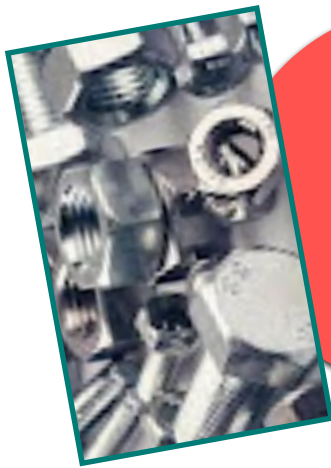
Here are some resources and info  
that we hope you will find  
pertinent and useful as we support  
our students and your children in  
their development!

#### INTERESTED IN TALENT DEVELOPMENT?

Do you know that more than 25,000 students in Quebec are considered being **gifted** and having a neurological difference? It represents 1 or 2 pupils per class and it's enough to fill the Bell Centre!

But who are they? And what can we learn from them regarding brain and **talent development**?

Whether it's for your **students**, yourself as an **educator** or a **parent** you know ... **there will be a conference for you!** More information to come soon from Emilie Rouaud, our pedagogical consultant responsible for the giftedness and talent development dossier.



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.

Meet Tamera Hadlock, an employee at the ETSB who completed her DEP in accounting in order to fulfill a career goal and continue her path of lifelong learning. You can check out the video [HERE](#)!

The African proverb: “It takes a village to raise a child” as we see a consistent increase in ETSB students’ graduation and certification rates. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our ETSB staff, students and the support of our families, we were able to reach our main Commitment to Success Plan objective - our 2013-2014 cohort achieved a 7-year graduation/certification rate of 76.6%. Despite COVID realities, we also saw an increase in our 6-year (75.4%) and 5-year (68.7%) graduation/certification rates, which is encouraging. With continued hard work and focus, we are confident that more students will experience success in one of the pathways available to them through the youth and adult sectors.



## 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...

CLCs offer many opportunities for our English-speaking families. Many of these promote activities for our preschool students and families. If you reside in the Danville/Richmond area, keep your eyes and ears open for a new parent-child program: “Ready, Set, Grow.” Set to begin in January 2022, this activity has been designed for parents with their babies and toddlers. For more information, please contact Siu-Min Jim ([jjims@etsb.qc.ca](mailto:jjims@etsb.qc.ca)) or Genevieve Manseau ([manseaug@edu.etsb.qc.ca](mailto:manseaug@edu.etsb.qc.ca))



Be sure to check out our other CLC's on Facebook as well so not to miss out on any great programs in the works! One such program offered by the Bedford-Farnham CLC is “The Parent-Child Mother Goose!” This early literacy program will run from January to March 2022 ... for details please contact Krista Steichi ([steichik@edu.etsb.qc.ca](mailto:steichik@edu.etsb.qc.ca)) and registration is now **OPEN!**





# Time to REGISTER!!



HEAD's UP!

It's almost time to **REGISTER** for the 2022-2023 school year!

Our Re-Registration period for returning students runs from **Jan 10<sup>th</sup> – Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 2022** \* Parents please check your emails for more information in January!

For NEW students you are invited to register from **Jan 24<sup>th</sup> – Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 2022** Kindly contact your school to register!

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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 21<sup>st</sup> 2022, with report cards issued on the parent portal on **February 7<sup>th</sup> 2022**. Marks for the first term will be weighted at 40% of the final grade.

## Preschool Report Cards

In K4, no official report card is mandated for the 2021-2022 school year. Your child's teacher will continue to 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.

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## **RETURN to CLASS January 2022**

For the return to school in January 2022, elementary and high school students will be back for in presence classes on **Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**. Please check your emails regularly for more information about your child's online/at a distance learning for January 6 & 7. Your child's school and/or teacher will be in contact.

As always, we want to thank you for your patience, understanding and, most importantly, your collaboration. We hope that you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season.

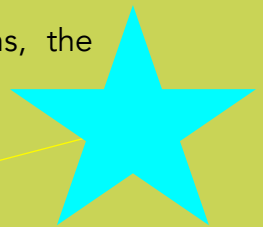
## Buildings and Grounds update ...

### Air Quality -

As part of the air quality testing required by the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ), the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) will be progressively deploying carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) monitors in its facilities over the next few weeks.

The installation schedule will follow the priority level of the buildings, according to the parameters set by the MEQ. The deployment will also be modulated according to the reception of the devices.

In addition to assessing the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in classrooms, the devices will also measure temperature and relative humidity.



# Inclement Weather & Snow Days

When a major storm is forecast, we are monitoring the situation closely. A 'Storm Watch' message will be posted on our website and Facebook page. This is a heads up for parents to monitor and check these pages early in the morning to see if classes have been cancelled and schools are closed.

Only when there has been a storm watch posted the day before will the school board post whether schools are open or closed. At all other times, we will only post if there is a cancellation or closure. The information is posted early on the ETSB website, Facebook page and media. Check the ETSB website for the list of media that broadcast school closures.

## Q & A on School/Centre Closures

**When weather forecasters are announcing that a major snowstorm is approaching, why doesn't the school board close the schools before the storm arrives?**

**Answer:** Please remember that the one element that can never be predicted with 100% accuracy is the weather. This means that the decision to close the school system cannot be taken hours before a storm arrives in our territory for the simple reason that past history has clearly demonstrated that forecasters have been incorrect, particularly in the prediction of snowfall amounts and ice conditions.

**Who decides and what is the decision making process?**

**Answer:** This decision is made once the consultation with bus contractors, designated key drivers, transportation superintendents, senior administrators and other Service Centres on our territory is completed. A rigorous process begins at 5:00 AM with key ETSB bus drivers and reports from our transporters. By 5:45 AM, consultation with Service Centres on the ETSB territory in the Estrie, Montérégie and Centre du Québec areas is underway with the final decision being made once many factors have been taken into consideration. The ETSB is continuously following the weather reports, to be ready to put this process into action as the need arises.

Due to the vast territory that the ETSB covers, the decision is never an easy one. Weather conditions can be very different in one part of the territory over another. The decision is made taking this into account, but if a parent feels that the conditions in their area are less favourable, they may decide not to send their child to school. Ultimately, it is the parent's decision and the school board respects that decision.

**What is the latest possible time to decide?**

**Answer:** The latest possible time to close the system is 6:15 a.m. After this time, buses have commenced the pick-up of students for transportation to the schools. Once the routes have started, students will not be taken back and dropped off at home.

**Are Daycares open when schools are closed?**

**Answer:** When schools are closed, daycares do not operate and therefore are closed as well.

And we saved the best for last...

*Dear ETSB families,*

*As 2021 comes to an end, we want to take this opportunity to recognize the tremendous efforts that our students, staff and parents have made this year. Thank you for your perseverance, understanding and your collaboration.*

*Although the holiday celebrations may not be traditional this year, may they be filled with love, happiness and peace. Please accept these heartfelt **holiday wishes** on behalf of our Council of commissioners and the Directors' Committee!  
Here's to a fabulous year ahead in 2022!*



Please find a letter from the Minister of Education Jean-François Roberge and the Minister for Education Isabelle Charest with a holiday message for you all!

English version: [click HERE!](#)

version française : [cliquez ICI!](#)