



the Edinburgh Express

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A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Good day to everyone! As we are involved in our summer plans, we once again ask ourselves where the year went! Edinburgh School was hopping right up until the end with final activities such as our Grade 6 Graduation Ceremonies finishing off the year. My wishes to the graduating students and all the best to the families who will be bidding adieu to Edinburgh.

General Items:

The staff and I, with support from the EMSB, spent quite a deal of time developing and refining our **Management and Educational Success Agreement**. This document will be the template for improving our success rate and identifying areas of improvement. Edinburgh students do extremely well, but the government (education department) has asked us to bump things up a bit, so this we intend to do. We are still driven by our Success Plan which remains in place and I will be reporting our results to the Governing Board in the fall.

For those interested parents, we will have seats available on the **Governing Board** for the 2011- 2012 year. I also wish to congratulate the **New Home and School Executive**. Thank you to all outgoing parents.

I would like to thank the **Home & School Association** for all their support throughout the year. I mention this as the staff has been embracing **SMARTboard** technology and the parents have supported us in this endeavour. We hope to eventually equip all classrooms with SMART technology and will be looking at making a few more hardware purchases in the fall.

We are a school of compassion and caring.

Thank you letters were received at Edinburgh from **Dans La Rue** and **Plan International Canada** thanking us for our donations to aid street youth and aid relief efforts in Japan. Our children have played an active part recognizing and working to better the lives of other people. Some activities have included raffles, a bake sale and hot chocolate sale. We are all extremely proud of them.

May and June Events:

The **GMAA HALO road race** was held in early May and congratulations go to Molly Delaney and Bode Eichwede-Wilde who both placed first in their respective heats. Special mention goes to several other students who did well in their heats: Jacob Nanasi (2nd), Melika White (3rd), Abigail Delaney (4th), Sebastien Cantin (4th), and Louis Messier (3rd). Thank you to Jim and all the staff and volunteers who braved the cold and rain for this day. Congratulations to all the runners who trained hard and spent a chilly day running.

Our *maternelle* students officially culminated their year with a wonderful theatrical presentation. A special *merci* goes to M. Paul, Mme. Hanna and Mme. Marie-Claire. Congratulations to our young graduates who are advancing to Cycle 1 in the fall!

Mme. Stephanie Bénéteau visited us once again and held us captive with her animated stories told in French. She had kind words to describe the high level of French at Edinburgh.

Our graduates, for yet another year, enjoyed their overnight journey to **Kingston and the Thousand Islands**. The Grade 5 students visited **Québec City** and the Grade 4 children made their annual trek to their classe verte at

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INTRODUCING... YOUR 2011-2012 HOME AND SCHOOL EXECUTIVE

POSITION	
PRESIDENT	Tanya Radhakrishna
VICE-PRESIDENT	Talia Edwy (Feldstein)
Membership	Robert Barnes
Secretary	Natasha Savoie (Vincent)
Treasurer	Kathleen Piggott (Moncada)
Executive	Tara Durley (Sabourin)
Executive	Margo Pedersen (Rasmussen)
Executive	Blythe Ennis
Executive	Christine Mayers (Marcotte)
Executive	Sissi Gravel (Switzman)
Executive	Estrellita Bolofer (Aitken)
Executive	Cindy Itovitch

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL (cont'd)

P'tit Bonheur. The Grade 3 classes enjoyed a movie and the pool. We held our annual field day and the band and choir were going strong right until year-end. Thank you to Mr. Eves and Mme Jojo and her committee for a musical year!

We honoured our **volunteers** the morning of June 8th with songs, rhymes, a video presentation, a lot of tasty food and a few mementos. Without you, we would not be such a special place! Gratitude is sent to the parents and families who will be "graduating" this year – I know many of you have spent years volunteering in different capacities to make Edinburgh School so special. Please remember, whether you have a day, a week or more time, any amount of volunteering enriches your child's educational experience. Also, you are making a difference for all the children in the school.

Last, but not least, taking advantage of the Math Club and contest offered by a volunteer parent, **Taisei Fu** placed first in Quebec in Thales, the Grade 3 category of the Mathematica Centrum contest. Congratulations! Cont'd on page 5

Edinburgh Home & School Association

WRAPPING UP...

And so another school year has come to a close. For some of you it was full of the "firsts", for others lots of "lasts", but most of you are probably enjoying the time somewhere in between here at Edinburgh School.

Edinburgh Home & School always has a lot going on. Most likely you know about the SMARTBoards and the Robotics Program we supported this year, in addition to our regular financial support for the Music program.

H&S tries it's best to disperse the money that is so painstakingly raised during our various fundraisers throughout the year to benefit each student at some point during his or her years spent at the school. The decision about which endeavour to financially support does not always come easily. During our regular H&S meetings many questions are raised. Should we spend the money on items or tools that the EMSB (i.e. our tax dollars) may or may not eventually provide? Or should we act now and provide our children with up-to-date and current materials even though not every single child will benefit at the same time? We can assure you that the discussions are always lively, many points and opinions are taken into consideration and eventually put to a vote before the group. For example, during our last Home & School meeting of this year, we voted to purchase updated dictionaries and Bescherelles sets for each classroom (Gr. 3-6). As a result, these books will be permanently removed from school supply lists for those grades starting in the coming school year (2011-2012) effectively saving money.

If you are a H&S member you may be interested to share your opinion or share an idea. You are always welcome to attend our meetings and participate in the discussion and voting or if you can't attend the meetings e-mail an executive member with your ideas or comments.

On a more personal note, it is time for us to say thank you for all your support over the past few years. We hope that we pass a well structured & organized H&S organization on to our successors and wish Tanya & Talia and their newly elected team all the best. We've enjoyed our stint as H&S co-presidents and vice president tremendously and hope we served the school & community well.

Thank you and so long. Have a happy and safe summer!

Beatrice Genest, Lidia Spagnuolo & Heather Ogden

NEWS

From The Governing Board *by Dale Stack, Chair and Gail Goldman, Vice-Chair*

The Governing Board had a busy spring:

- Much effort and consideration were given to creating, in conjunction with teaching staff and Ms. Auclair, the first version of a document entitled: “*Management and Educational Success Agreement between the EMSB and Edinburgh School*”. This document is designed to identify academic strengths and weaknesses at our school and to put in place strategies to improve and monitor overall performance of our students. The document is preliminary and will be reviewed and refined as it evolves over time.
- The Governing Board also gave input to the EMSB on a variety of policy and consultative documents including budget priorities. We were encouraged to learn that the projected enrolment at our school remains strong and that our school is not slated for any reorganization or merger.
- The Communications and Promotions Committee of the Board is developing the new Edinburgh website; currently it is in the draft stage.
- Plaques in both English and French were commissioned to commemorate the burial of the time capsule.

There will be three openings for parents on the Governing Board in September 2011, and a new Chair of Governing Board will be elected from the new Board members, as Dale Stack is leaving the school this year. Both the Communications and Promotions and Enrichment Committees will also be recruiting volunteer parents in the fall. These are great opportunities to get involved in the school. If you are interested in finding out about a committee or joining a committee, please come to the first Governing Board meeting in September or contact the new Governing Board Chair in the fall. The work is shared, thus while your commitment is important, the workload is not labour intensive and is actually fun!

Our next meeting is the Annual Meeting in September where the elections of the new members to Governing Board take place; please consider running for a position. Also, take note that all parents are invited to attend this and any other Governing Board meeting, and the minutes from our meetings are posted on our Bulletin Board.

On behalf of the Governing Board at Edinburgh, we wish you all a relaxing, fun-filled, and healthy summer.

GRADE 3 STUDENT AT EDINBURGH FIRST IN QUEBEC

Edinburgh’s second year of participation in the Mathematica Centrum contest was a great success! This year, 36 children from Grades 3 to 5 participated in the Canada-wide contest.

Taisei Fu, a Grade 3 student, placed **FIRST** in Quebec in the contest. His near perfect score of 24/25 placed him only one point away from the Canadian champions. He was awarded a special Provincial Champion’s medal during a school assembly on June 20.

I am extremely proud of all the participants who prepared throughout the winter and early spring. Congratulations to everyone!

The Mathematica Centrum contest has been held annually in Canada since 1990. This year, over 64,000 students from Grades 3 to 9 participated. More information is available at www.mathematica.ca.

Tanya Radhakrishna
radhakrishna@videotron.ca

OTHER TOP SCORERS:

Grade 3	1. Taisei Fu 2. Lakelin Rudderham 3. Caroline Perron, Carl Miller, Patrick Crowther (tie)
Grade 4	1. Alicia Shen, Louis Yoon (tie) 3. Sasha Ross
Grade 5	1. Lucia Huang 2. Matthias LeePoy-Paxman 3. Elizabeth Barnes

THE PSA WAS A BUSY PLACE IN THE SPRING.

We had our end-of-year picnic. Dynamixs came along to help us with a fun afternoon. The children all seemed to have a good time. We did hear a few "Where are the jumpers" but once the children made their way around to all the games all thoughts of "jumpers" disappeared. Hot dogs, chips and ice cream finished off the afternoon. Luckily the sun shined through it all and a good time was had by all.

Our resident playwright, Jenny Chopra, directed the children in her play "Too Many Princesses and Not Enough Frogs". The children did a wonderful job, everyone sat enthralled. The set and costumes were wonderful too. Lots of work, time and effort went into this fabulous production. Well done to all and thank you Jenny.

Our annual "So You Think You Can Sing Edinburgh" was underway under the direction of Naomi and Kristin. We heard some very talented voices and the finals were held on June 16th. Not an easy task to judge this competition!

Our Leadership Program led by Lyn Smith was a great success. We have an excellent bunch of leaders who did a wonderful job. You might have seen them when you came in to pick up your children – they were wearing red vests. They worked with some of the younger children doing homework which worked very well and the younger children enjoyed having mentors. They helped out in the gym and with the Kindergarten's. They used conflict resolution with other students when needed. We will continue this program next year and, hopefully, make use of it at lunchtimes too.

We began planning for next year and have booked Karate and Judo classes. We have had to register these early as we need to know how many will be taking the classes. If your children want to take the classes, register as soon as possible; the spots are filling up very quickly. It is open from Grades 1 to 6, Tuesday's and Thursday's. Judo will be Monday and Wednesday. Holly will be back for the ever popular Hip Hop. Ian will be doing Art and Janice will be doing Irish Dance.

Speaking of Irish Dance, Janice is very proud of the dancing level her class at PSA has achieved. They competed in Montreal and Ottawa and won both solo medals and group medals. Well done girls and thank you Janice - we look forward to more of the same next year.

Next year we will have a new theme every month. Look out for our PSA World Tour. We are going to celebrate a different country each month. We will make flags and do activities and baking with a party at the end of each month.

You might even see a PSA newspaper; we are just working on our reporting skills.

We have lots of plans for the coming year. Come and register – places fill up fast.

See you all soon!

From all the Edinburgh PSA staff.



Janice and some of ther 'Irish' gals! Ella, Caroline, Kaesye and Esmé.

EDINBURGH GEOGRAPHY CLUB

During the Edinburgh Geography Club, the children who participated, from Grades 4, 5 & 6, learned about Unesco Heritage Sites around the world, Canadian Parks, famous world cities, natural disasters, weather & clouds as well as colourful geography: Yellow River in China, Purple Mountains in Ireland, the Red Sea and Greenland.

Every three weeks, we held recap quizzes to go over what they had learned. This was intended to build up to a final round which could have qualified one of the students to participate in the National Geographic Challenge. Due to an administrative error, the deadline to register was missed and we were unable to have a qualifying student represent the school in the final challenge.

Nevertheless, we wanted to reward the students for their hard work on the quizzes and in class. The students who placed in 1st to 3rd place in our in-class quizzes each received a copy of the latest Canadian Geographic Magazine. They were: Logan Stack (1st) Charlotte Baillie (2nd) Niraj Dayanandan (3rd). Runners up were Jakob Poronovich and Amalia Mastrobardino. All other students received a certificate of participation.

Next school year we hope to start the club earlier, so watch out for news on this sometime in the fall.

Beatrice Genest & Lidia Spagnuolo

VOLUNTEERING TEACHERS

What makes Edinburgh a great school? Good teachers? Motivated students? A pleasant atmosphere? Involved parents? A great staff?

These are things that make a school good, but at the end of the day many schools have these things. So what makes Edinburgh great? Well it is the extras.

Extra Curricular Activities (ECAs) are activities spear-headed by staff members that take place during their lunch hour or after school. The staff is not paid for this extra work; they do it on their own time because they want to offer our kids something more.

This year we extend our Thanks to:

Mr. Steve for his Breakdancing Club – what fun to watch the kids try out new moves.

M. Jonathan for his Robotics Club, and M. Turgeon for being there every week helping him out – a great way to show the kids that Science can be cool!

Ms. Auclair for heading up the Student Leadership Council – giving the kids the chance to try out new ideas and develop their leadership skills.

Mme Jojo, Mme Mélanie and Mme Fortin for La Chorale Edinburgh – proving to the kids that hard work can lead to amazing results.

Mr. Eves for his work with the Edinburgh Band – trying out new instruments and working together as a group makes for great music.

Jim for giving up his lunch hour to help our children train for the HALO and Cross-Country Races.

On behalf of the students and their parents, Thank You to each and every one of you for helping make Edinburgh GREAT!

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL (cont'd)

Wrap up....

We have made our preparations for the 2011-2012 year and have taken time to take your child into consideration. We do our best to ensure a good match for everyone and try our best throughout the year to meet your child's needs. The Home and School was gracious enough to be forward thinking and has allocated funds to purchase dictionaries and similar reference materials. You will notice that these items no longer appear on the supply list and these books will benefit all children through every cycle.

Our 2011-2012 school calendar will be posted on our website shortly. We do start classes on Wednesday, August 31st with a full day for cycles 1, 2 and 3. Kindergarten continues to offer progressive entry.

I would like to express my thanks to the staff and send kind wishes and gratitude to our four retiring teachers: Mr D'Abramo, Mrs. Feigelson, Mme Sarrasin and Mme. Bergeron. In the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, "*The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams*". Dream on!

Thank you for all your on-going support, encouragement and dedication to Edinburgh School. I am constantly hearing positive stories about our school staff and students and do not tire of hearing people state "*Edinburgh is a good school*". We all know that fall is lurking around that corner and our first full day is just around the corner! Enjoy your time together, your trips, simple relaxation or just hanging out at one of Montreal's famous festivals. Have a fun-filled summer and have a nice, restful break!

Leah Auclair, Principal

THANK YOU TO OUR SPRING FAIR VOLUNTEERS

A great big thank you to everyone who responded to our call out to volunteer at this year's Spring Fair. Thanks to you the event was a huge success.

Coordinators for the kitchen	Estrellita Bolifer & Sue Maheu
Volunteers for the kitchen	Stephanie Brennan, Tara Davis-Assil, Habiba Dalem, Bill Itovitch, Tina Hillenbrand, Christine Laberge, Connie Lombardi, Michele Maheu, Maria Mascia, Josh Miller, Jeanne Rheume, Kate Walker, Carolyn Wells
Candy table	Talia Edwy, Hanna Ostiguy-Hopp, Rania Papanas, Amanda Pointet
Popcorn and Cotton Candy	Mary Bianchini, Paula Brodeur, Claire Brown, Zelda Buckles, Roy Fu, Julie Goyette, Micheal Pitts, Laura Polomeno, Nathalie Ste-Marie
Surprise Bags	Patricia Dawes, Bama Dayanandan, Anita Dupressoir, Gianna Ferrera, Ethan Nanasi, Maxim Esler
Bakers	Too many to mention; but certainly talented people!
Bake table	Valerie Buchanan, Dahlia Nanasi, Tammy Lee McEwan, Lidia Spagnuolo, Trudy Wilkinson
Mid-way Games	Julia Edwards, Doug Hall, Micki Lanni, Christopher Lockhart, David Lovett, Sophie Lynch-Staunton, Rebecca Million, Patrick Murphy-Lavallee, Anna-Karina Poronovich, David Poronovich, Andrea Prupas, Brian Turgeon, Natasha Savoie, Jonathan Summers, Ravi Switzman
Face Painting	Mme Hanna, Kristen Drummond, Lidia Spagnuolo, Rocio Gomez de Serna
Scout climbing wall	Claudia Balestra, Suzanne Fortin
Co-ordinator for Raffles & Tickets	Tanya Radhakrishna
Raffles & Tickets	Lissa Beaupré, Cindy Itovitch, Susan Munday, Margo Pedersen, Karolyn Welch, Gaby Sperer, Nichol Roach, Petrina Lee Poy, Olga Gross
Inflatables	Jean-Yves Brault, Rene Bruemmer, Blythe Ennis, Sheldon Feldstein, Lina Forlini, Tim Halliday, Merid Munit, John Paxman, John Sharp, Rose Sondola, Halvdan Wettre
Cupcake decorating table	Sandra Chang, Larry Kredl, Mark Lehberg, Mary Mastromonaco
Everywhere	Beatrice Genest & Heather Ogden

We hope to have you back next year! We sincerely apologize if we forgot anybody!

Sissi Gravel & Christine Barnes