

# WHS NEWS

Westmount High Parent Participation Organization

November 2007

## PPO Activities This Year

The Westmount High PPO is looking forward to an active year – by the time you receive this newsletter, parent volunteers will already have helped with a major clean up of the school's garage, the preparation of the mailing of the report cards, and the organization of the Book Fair. Plans are also underway for a **MULTICULTURAL DINNER and a CAR BOOT SALE** (a community garage sale on the British model).

The PPO meets monthly in the Teachers' Lounge and any parent is welcome to attend at any time. If you are unable to attend meetings, but want to stay informed of PPO activities and volunteer options, please email us at [whsnews@hotmail.com](mailto:whsnews@hotmail.com) to be added to our mailing list.

Sign up sheets will for the PPO contact list and for the Multicultural Dinner will be available at parent-teacher interviews.

## MEETING DATES

Dec 11, 2007	Mar 18, 2008
Jan 8, 2008	Apr 8, 2008
Feb 12, 2008	May 13, 2008
	June 3, 2008

## CANADIAN TIRE MONEY COLLECTION

The PPO will be collecting "Canadian Tire money" again this year. There will be a box for donations in the school lobby during parent-teacher interviews.

## Governing Board Meeting Dates:

December 4	April 1
January 15	May 6
February 5	June 10
March 11	

7 pm in the school library. Meetings are open to all.

## Extra-curricular Activity Support

There are many new ECAs at Westmount High this year and the staff could use some parent support! Monitors are needed for the computer lab during the lunch break, and for the Games Room after school. This would mean providing an adult presence in the room, who could notify a staff member in the rare event of any problem. Our coaches also need help providing transportation for our sports teams to and from matches at various schools in Montreal – if you can help out with these, please contact Robert Green at [rgreen72@gmail.com](mailto:rgreen72@gmail.com) or leave a message for Mr. Green at the school (514-933-2701).

## STAFF CONTRIBUTIONS

This year's drama production will be "The Odd Couple" – students are already rehearsing with Mr. Corcos and Ms. Vourdousis – look for it in the Spring! The drama improv group is also meeting regularly.

WHS students had the opportunity to connect with the Westmount community when they decorated the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club for Hallowe'en this year. (D. Vourdousis)

There was a memorial service for Heather Edelstein, the WHS student who died tragically in August. The students are staff were given the opportunity to express a touching and heartfelt farewell to Heather – thanks to Gladys Batten-Baldwin and Dina Vourdousis for coordinating this.

## GUIDANCE NEWS

It has been a busy start to the school year and as usual Guidance is bustling with activity. I have a new Guidance Intern **Sasha Lerner** who has done a great job so far getting to know many of the new students.

The guidance team has visited all the grade 10 and 11 classes in early September. The topics that were covered include post-secondary options, high school leaving requirements and career exploration programs available to the students.

This is a very trying time for the Secondary V students as they are anxious about leaving high school and making career decisions. I will offer the parents a workshop on planning for CEGEP & Post-Secondary options on **Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** Please email me to let me know you will be attending at [Kallen@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:Kallen@emsb.qc.ca) interested in pursuing. (K. Allen)

## High School Graduation Requirements:

To graduate from High School the student must have 54 credits at the Secondary 4 or 5 level. Among those credits, you must have at least 20 credits at the Secondary V level.

The following credits are compulsory for the **graduating class of 2008 (Grade 11 students)**:

Grade 11	English 516	6 credits
Grade 11	French 544	4 credits
Grade 10	History/Histoire Que/Can	4 credits
Grade 10	Mathematics 416	6 credits
Grade 10	Physical Science 416	6 credits

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## WESTMOUNT BOOK FAIR

Westmount High School

Thursday, November 15

3:30 pm—8:30 pm



Selected second hand books at low prices! (most books, 50 cents each)

Donations of used books may be dropped off on Wednesday, November 14, 5 pm – 9 pm.

**Volunteers needed** for set up November 14 after 5 pm, to help out on the 15<sup>th</sup> and for clean up at 8:30 pm.

Email [whsnews@hotmail.com](mailto:whsnews@hotmail.com) or telephone 514-483-3600.

## Staff Contributions *continued*

Ms. Faustini has started a **Walking Club** which meets every Tuesday during lunch hour. They visit the Westmount Greenhouse, explore the Westmount area and socialize. A **Skating Club** meets every Thursday during lunch hour. Students go to the Westmount Arena and have free skating between 1:15 - 1:40 pm. Free of charge.

On a monthly basis, Cycle I students in Ms. Faustini's class have planned outings to Westmount Public library where they participate in activities, create projects and begin assignments. They meet authors and learn about different forms of literature. Each month is a new theme based on subject related. Study rooms are reserved for them as well. -- Mrs. Faustini , Room 211

### Library News

Our librarian, Susan Chau has been organizing guest speakers to come into the school:

On November 19 novelists Monique Polak and Lori Weber will be speaking to students in grade 10 and 11 (as well as Gr 9 enriched). Both of these writers are well known for their novels for young adults.

On November 21, one of Canada's best-loved authors, Brian Doyle will be speaking to students in Sec. 1 & II. Brian Doyle's novels are published internationally and have won many awards in Canada and abroad and is an engaging public speaker.

French department

**Dictée des Ameriques:** It is back this year again. Three students will represent Westmount High in the spelling contest called La dictée des Amériques. Melissa Akerib, Emmy Begum and Genius Rofiq are the three courageous girls who volunteered for this big event. We wish them best of luck !

**French chatting club:** The French chatting club is open every day 1 at lunch time in room 108. Topics vary from movies, t.v. shows, favorite songs, best trips, etc. This club is open to grade 10 and 11 students.

**Outing to see the play : *Un simple soldat*:** Grade 11 students who read the play *Un simple soldat* are going to see it on stage on November 14th at Théâtre Denise Pelletier. This play is a classic of Québec's French literature by Marcel Dubé.

**French A.P.:** All grade 10 and 11 students are invited to take on the challenge of French A.P. If you have not started tutoring for French A.P. join us in room 108 every day 2. See you there.

**French Récupération:** Every French teacher is offering tutoring to students who wish to improve their French on different days and times. See posted schedules for each teacher or ask your son or daughter to give you a copy of their teacher's availabilities.

Hope to see you all at Parent Teacher interviews on Thursday Nov 15 Au plaisir de vous voir en grand nombre. - L. Khanji

### GUIDANCE, CONT'D – Karen Allen

**Grade 7 Transition Program:** The WHS Prefect Board organized some activities in the beginning of the year to help with the transition to high school including opening day tours and Hot Dog Lunch. The goal is to organize a winter retreat for the grade 7's their teachers and the prefects in February 2007. More details to follow...

**Career Exploration Program:** The Career Exploration program is a job shadowing program for Grade 10 and 11 students across the EMSB network. 73 students have applied to this program, and between February and April they will visit the career of their choice for a day. It's a wonderful experience for students to have the opportunity to meet professionals, visit the work place and learn about a field that they are interested in pursuing.

**CEGEP APPLICATION FORMS:** These will be arriving in **January 2008**. When they do, I will be visiting the classes and explaining the application procedure. The deadline for **Fall 2008** admission is **March 1<sup>st</sup> 2008**.

**CAREER CRUISING AT WESTMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL:** We have a program that is available to all students to help with career decision making. It is a computer program, which can help you, "Find the Right Career, Explore Careers, and post-secondary institutions throughout Canada. This career tool can be accessed through the Internet, so you can work on it at your convenience. The website is: [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com). Username: Westmount PSWD: CAREERS

### EMSB CAREER FAIR

All Grade 10 and 11 students at Westmount High attended the annual Career Fair at St. Pius X High school on October 26th and 27<sup>th</sup>. It was quite successful and Westmount Alumni, Malik Shaheed was the guest host.

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## Governing Board Fundraising Appeal

By now you will have heard about Westmount High's continuing success, as recognized in the latest rankings regarding school success, which listed WHS as one of the most improved schools in the province. This progress would have been impossible without a great deal of team work on the part of the administration, staff and students of the school and deserves to be supported!. Last year, a Fundraising Committee made up of parents, staff and administration identified a couple of fundraising priorities:

- \* Our science labs badly need updating if we wish to be able to offer Advanced Placement Science classes and to enhance the science curriculum for all students;
- \* Our Physical Education program is also short of resources, and the importance of Phys Ed is getting increasing attention. Our staff is energetic and committed – we'd like to support them with top quality equipment.

The Governing Board makes every effort to keep our school fees among the lowest in the system, however, we are asking families who are in a position to do so, to consider making a tax deductible donation to the school this year.

*(please make cheques payable to the EMSB. Write "Westmount High fundraising" on the note line. Tax receipts are available on donations of \$25 and over). Cheques may be sent to M. Cristofaro, Westmount High School, 4350 St. Catherine Street West, Westmount, QC H3Z 1R1*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_