



**Mackay Centre School & Philip E. Layton School**  
6333 rue de Terrebonne, Montréal, H4B 1A8  
Tel.: (514) 483-0550 ext.1253 Fax: (514) 487-3676



## February 2019 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Guardians:

The days are getting longer and Spring Break is coming soon! There is a lot going on in February and March, so please check the dates carefully:

### IMPORTANT DATES

February 4-10	White Cane Week
February 5	<b>Governing Board Meetings</b> <b>Philip E. Layton School- GB meeting begins at 3:15</b> <b>Mackay Centre School- GB meeting begins at 6:30</b>
February 11-15	Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week
February 15	Deadline to submit Reverse Integration Program applications
February 18	Family Day - <b>NO SCHOOL</b> (Daycare Service available)
February 27	Distribution of report cards
February 28	Parent-Teacher-Therapist interviews
March 1	Mackay & Philip E. Layton Professional Day - <b>NO SCHOOL</b> (Daycare Service <b>NOT</b> available)
March 4-March 8	Spring Break - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
March 11	First day back to school after Spring Break
March 15	Board-Wide Professional Day - <b>NO SCHOOL</b> (Daycare Service available; students must pre-register)

### Very Important Notice

Please note that due to the snow day that we had on January 24, 2019, **Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> will now become a regular day**; therefore, all students will go to school and the bus service will run as usual.

let's go  
to school



### White Cane Week

In honour of White Cane week our students at Philip E. Layton will be participating in a Braille reading event that will take place on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Teachers will create a story with their students either in Braille or by other accessible means on the theme of "The Senses". Stories will be shared with all students and staff.

### GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS

Please note that we will be holding our governing board meetings on the following dates and times:

Tuesday, February 5, 2019 - Governing Board Meeting at 3:15 p.m. (Philip E. Layton School).

Tuesday, February 5, 2019 - Governing Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. (Mackay Centre School).

Also, please be informed that Tuesday, February 12 at 6:30 p.m. we will have a special Governing Board meeting. This meeting is for parents of both schools. We are in the process of developing the Educational Projects for our schools for the time period of 2019-2022. We will be discussing where we stand now and where we want to go and the survey results. We invite you to join us on this evening to share your thoughts.

### Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week

During the week of February 11-15 we will be celebrating *Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week*. Every year we reflect on the contributions that our staff members make to society. Our children are fortunate to have access to education. If possible, please take a moment to have your child write a simple note of appreciation to his/her teacher (and/or any support staff member).

### Health, Hygiene and Cleaning of Equipment

The following is a gentle reminder to all parents about health, hygiene and the cleaning of equipment:

We would like to begin by addressing your child's personal hygiene. We recognize and are sensitive to the busy reality of all families and the fragility of your children. It is most important that your child be bathed on a daily basis for prevention of infection, skin integrity and odor control. We realize that for some children

transfers in and out of a shower or bathtub are complex and we encourage all families to reach out to their CLSC for questions about equipment and safe transfer techniques if needed.

Children's teeth should be brushed twice a day if possible for best oral hygiene results. We understand that for some of the children this is a challenge and therefore it is important to consult with your dentist.

If your child is in a wheelchair all day, it is important to note that sweating and body odor are common due to the fact that children may overheat and movement is limited. For this reason we recommend that children's underclothing and clothing be changed daily. Outerwear should also be washed periodically.

It goes without saying that wheelchairs and other equipment must also be washed periodically. Cushion and headrest covers may need to be changed. Also please check under the wheelchair inserts for food or any other debris and wipe down regularly.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that if your child is sick, to please ensure that he or she is well enough before sending him/her back to school. Remember that certain children in our student population are very fragile and one child's cold can actually become another's pneumonia.

We would like to thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.



### **Monthly Theme**

As mentioned at the beginning of the year, each month we will be emphasizing a new theme. This month we are focusing on LOVE. Each class will be touching on this theme during the course of the month. We encourage you to discuss LOVE at home and ask your child(ren) what they have been talking about.

### **Reverse Integration Program Applications**

The E.M.S.B. and Mackay Centre School are continuing a joint venture, begun in 1973, in which a limited number of children in pre-kindergarten through grade 6 are given an opportunity to attend Mackay Centre School for one year. Reverse Integration students follow the regular curriculum and learn alongside students with physical disabilities at Mackay Centre School. The program boasts small class sizes, smart TV's in each classroom, weekly swimming and computer classes, Snoezellen Room, as well as the opportunity to learn and/or play alongside children who use sign language, communication devices and adapted equipment for recreation and mobility.



If you are interested in having your child/children attend the Reverse Integration program at Mackay Centre School for a year please complete and **submit 2 copies of the application** either by mail or fax (514-487-3676) postmarked by February 15, 2019. Please note that children with special needs or IEP's are not eligible to apply. Additional application forms are available at your school office or on the Mackay Centre School website. Please take the opportunity to learn more about our school and Reverse Integration program by visiting [www.emsb.qc.ca/mackay](http://www.emsb.qc.ca/mackay).

If your child is eligible to attend the Reverse Integration program, they will be invited for a two-day visit in March. At this time, applicants will be screened and selected based on individual class needs. Each year we evaluate the needs of our Mackay students and this determines if we are able to accept reverse integration students in a particular grade level. Parents will be invited to attend a *Parent Information Meeting* on the first day of your child's visit. A tour of the school and the classrooms will be organized at that time. You will be notified by mail of the date of your child's visit.

We receive more applications than available spaces so unfortunately not all students are eligible for admission. You should be notified of your child's admission to the program by the end of April.

Should you require further information please contact Mrs. Patrizia Ciccarelli, Principal, at (514-483-0550, extension 2253) or Mr. Greg Watson, Vice-Principal at (514-483-0550, extension 3253).

### **Report Cards and Parent-Teacher-Therapist Interviews**

On **Thursday, February 28, 2019** we will be holding Parent-Teacher-Therapist interviews. You are invited to meet with the classroom teacher and therapists to discuss your child's progress.

### **Spring Break**

Please be advised that Spring Break is from **Monday, March 4 to Friday, March 8**. **Students will return to school on Monday, March 11.**

