



June 9, 2011

## St-John's Community Learning Centre

### *Coordinator's Annual Report*

St-John's Elementary has been a Community Learning Centre since 2007. Our mission has always been, and will always be to bring the community into the school to achieve student success and promote the student's well-being. Working together, the CLC and local partners offer services to achieve student success and improve the overall student's quality of life.

This year, St-John's focussed on activities and programs surrounding health, nutrition, and literacy. Our activities and programs have been successful in accomplishing many goals. Parents are happy and have noticed changes in their child /children's eating habits as well as an improvement and possibly a love for reading. Students are trying new foods and making healthier choices, understanding the importance of daily physical exercise and becoming more comfortable reading aloud.

An important and rather major activity that was implemented in the past and was focussed on again this year was our health and nutrition programs. Health and nutrition activities included Nutrition days and the 5/30 health challenge. Twice a month an animator from Bouffe Pontiac would present the students with information and "fun" activities on healthy eating. Following the presentation the students were shown how to prepare healthy meals that they got to enjoy after they cooked. The purpose of this activity was to promote the importance of healthy eating and to encourage the students to make better choices. The 5/30 challenge was held for a number

of weeks starting in March and each class got a chance to participate in “let’s get active” activities as well as “healthy snack” activities. At the end of the activities, all students received a FREE skipping rope to encourage daily physical exercise. Students expressed how much they enjoyed the health and nutrition activities and hoped they would be offered again next year.

Another activity implemented this year was the Reading Buddy program. The purpose of the program is to help students overcome their difficulties in reading as well as their fears of reading aloud and in front of their peers. Volunteers were recruited and trained with the help of Western QC Literacy Council. Students of a lower reading level were chosen from each class by their teachers and paired with a Reading Buddy where they were given a schedule and read once a week. May 31<sup>st</sup> we celebrated the student’s successful completion of the program as well as showed our appreciation to all volunteers for their time and involvement in making the Reading Buddy program a success. Students expressed the gratitude for the program and felt that it helped to improve their reading. Everyone enjoyed their one-on-one reading time, and expressed they would like to participate again next year. Teachers were grateful for the help of the program in general and felt it was an excellent approach to improve literacy in the school.

Although all programs implemented by the CLC seem to be successful in achieving goals and addressing the needs of the students, sustainable funding continues to be a major problem facing the CLC. The MRC is our only financial partner at the moment therefore their donation is substantial. Grants have been guaranteeing the delivery of our activities and programs throughout the year.

Jody Gagnon  
St-John’s CLC Coordinator