



# Kells Elementary Newsletter

2290 Cavendish Blvd., Montréal, Québec, H4B 2M7  
Tel: 514.487.2345 • Fax: 514.487.2081 • www.kells.ca

## Congratulations Kells Elementary Graduates

Kells Elementary's grade 6 graduates shared their accomplishments with family, friends and teachers at the convocation ceremony held at Oscar Peterson Hall on June 3rd. Donning regal graduation robes of royal blue, the grade 6 graduates opened the ceremony with a heartfelt rendition of "O Canada." Mrs. Marla Perlman, Head of Kells Elementary, distributed hard-earned diplomas to the graduates and spoke proudly of their accomplishments. In her speech, Ms. Irene Woods emphasized the pleasure she takes in the fact that the graduates were enthusiastically involved in school-wide activities throughout their time at Kells.

Jordan Artzy-McCendie gave a sincere valedictory address to his fellow graduates. While reflecting the sentiments of his peers, he highlighted the values that had been instilled during his time at Kells and the importance kindness, consideration of others and believing in oneself will continue to play in their lives.



Ms. Perlman & Kierron Campbell-Kassie receiving diploma



David Steinberg-Zwirek receives diploma from Ms. Perlman



Charles Lee receives Outstanding Student Award



Sonia Kao receives diploma from Ms. Perlman



Mr. Kennedy and Spencer Halickman receiving award for Achievement in Music

We were honored to have Mr. Alex Shoumatoff, a well-known American writer speak at our convocation. Mr. Shoumatoff drew on his varied life experiences to give

the graduates sound advice. He urged students to be curious about the world around them, to believe in themselves, and to protect the world they live in.

## Elementary Farewell Address



Jordan Artzy-McCendie, Elementary Valedictorian

Jordan Artzy-McCendie had the honour of delivering the Elementary Farewell Address at the 2011 Kells Convocation on June 3rd.

He began by announcing that his speech was the result of a class project involving group effort, cooperation and brainstorming. He said that the grade six graduates were confident, proud and prepared for new challenges.

At Kells, the students were taught to believe in themselves and to recognize their strengths and talents. Each of them has something special to offer the world

and the teachers encouraged them to work to make their dreams come true.

Jordan added: "We have learned to be kind to our peers... and think about world issues and others less fortunate than ourselves. We have raised money for The Terry Fox Foundation, Unicef, The Heart and Stroke Foundation, Haiti and The Red Cross."

This grade six student used vivid imagery in his speech, saying, "Life at Kells is a nurturing environment. And, like saplings that have been given every

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# Awards and Special Prizes – Elementary School

## Elementary Awards 2011

The Outstanding Student Award .....	Charles Lee
Most Improved Student Award .....	Jordana Kucharsky-Hiess
Achievement in French .....	Nicholas DiTullio
Progress in French .....	Sonia Kao
Achievement in Physical Education .....	Tehorakwaneken Goodleaf
Achievement in Music .....	Spencer Halickman
Achievement in Art .....	Jordan Artzy-McCendie
Green Committee award for Environmental Awareness .....	Brooke-Lynne Russo
Kells Elementary School Spirit Award .....	Spencer Halickman
Elementary Farewell Address .....	Jordan Artzy-McCendie

## Canadian Mathematica Centrum Pythagorus Competition

Kudos to Elementary Cycle 3, year 2 students Simon Ahn, Jordan Artzy-McCendie, Nicholas DiTullio, Charles Lee, and Sima Sukkar who participated in the Canadian Mathematica



Charles Lee

Centrum Pythagorus Competition. Several Kells Elementary participants scored above the Canadian national average. Special congratulations to Charles Lee, whose exceptional score placed him on the Canadian National Honour Roll. Well done!

## Elementary Grad Party

Graduating elementary students celebrated in style at their grad party on June 16th, 2011. The school gym was completely transformed with shimmering back-lit curtains, balloons and festive coloured lights. Parents and teachers enjoyed mingling, as students danced the night away led by a D.J., M.C. and an animator. Students also visited the

air brush tattoo table, took photos for personalized snow globes, played foosball and air hockey. As if that weren't enough, a buffet dinner, complete with a cupcake tower for dessert, was enjoyed by all. A very memorable moment was the presentation of 5 denim bean bag chairs, gifted to the new school library/media centre, from the graduating class. At the

end of the night, each graduate took home a gift bag which included a t-shirt signed by all of the graduates, a generous gift from the Cioffi and Feoli families. Our very sincere gratitude goes to all members of the graduation committee for their efforts in making the 2011 elementary grad party a night to remember.



Yasmine Mahrach, Ayana Potts, Brooke-Lynne Russo, Rebecca Kyte



David Steinberg-Zwirek, Winnie Lau, Sonia Kao, Joanna Ngan



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opportunity to flourish, we have grown and matured. With such a great start in life we can weather whatever storms come our way."

In his conclusion, Jordan thanked the staff at Kells and the parents for their help and encouragement, commenting that although they were shy and unsure when they began elementary school, their self-esteem grew every year.



Elementary graduates



# Elementary Cycle 3 Camp Jouvence Trip

Cycle 3 students enjoyed glorious weather on May 30th and 31st during their stay at Camp Jouvence in Parc Orford in the Eastern Townships. They spent a sunny afternoon out on the lake in both kayaks and mayaks and enjoyed a game

of kayak water polo. A Jouvence original "Capture the Flag" style game followed dinner, and the evening ended with marshmallows roasted over a bonfire and a round of spine-tingling scary stories. The next morning, students worked

together to navigate the obstacles of Fort Jouvence. Challenges included effectively communicating with each other in order to coordinate their movements when groups of students had their feet strapped to two long wooden planks.



Athena Nemeth



Caleb Foster, Hugo Ingrouille



Manar Al Sicksick, Jessica Macintosh



Conrad Corning-Racette



Winnie Lau, Sonia Kao, Tehorakwaneken Goodleaf



Joseph Zuckerman



## Looking Forward to the New School Year

2011-2012 promises to be another exciting and dynamic school year at Kells Elementary, as we continue to emphasize the pedagogical values which make our school unique, while implementing new and progressive ideas.

Maintaining a safe and nurturing school climate, with the help of our student Peace Ambassadors, remains a priority, and we will continue to abide by our Peaceful Schools International mandate. Our "Fish! Philosophy" is a means for creating a positive school culture, shaping the attitudes of our students, and the way they choose to treat others.

In order to enhance students' learning opportunities, we recognize

the importance of staying current in a rapidly changing world of technological advancement. With the addition of a SMART Board to each classroom, and the introduction of the iPad 2 to students in kindergarten through grade 6, we will use the tools of this digital age as a catalyst for teaching and learning.

This year also marks the opening of our new library/media centre. This colourful, welcoming space is sure to be favored by our students, as they enjoy reading on the comfortable bean bag chairs generously donated by the 2011 graduating class.

We recognize the value of the arts as an effective mode of developing creativity, self-expression and confidence, and our

visual art, drama and music program will once again highlight our students' vibrant enthusiasm and talent. The new school year also brings the eagerly anticipated transformation of our music room into an in-house recording studio.

Along with the stimulating curriculum plans our teachers are preparing, a variety of student clubs, committees, sports, special events, field trips and surprises will make each day a new adventure. Students' voices will soon ring out in the hallways and the school will again house an active community of learners. I look forward to sharing news of their many successes and accomplishments as we begin another exciting journey of discovery.

Marla Perlman



## “Finding Stuff Out”

Kells Elementary was selected as the site for the filming of various episodes of a new science education series, produced by Apartment 11 TV, to be televised on TVO beginning in September 2011.

Cycle two and three students shared their charisma and smarts when they were filmed for segments for the show. They also had the opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look and learn about the production process when watching the show's director, cameraman and sound and lighting technicians in action. Students were excited to visit with the show's host, 15-year-old Vancouver-based actor, Harrison Houde, who previously appeared in the movie "Diary of a Wimpy Kid." Watch for our students' appearances on "Finding Stuff Out" on TVO, coming this fall!



## Elementary Family Fun Fair

What better way to end the school year than with a Kells Elementary Family Fun Fair? A beautiful June day with sunny skies was the perfect setting for our event which included carnival games, face painting, tug of war, line dancing, potato sack races, a Glee Club performance and a huge air bouncer. Barbecued hot dogs and pizza were plentiful, and bags of old-fashioned popcorn and a bake sale added to the treats.

In addition to prizes won by students for game participation, there were terrific prizes won in our raffle such as art supplies, sports equipment, an MP3 player and gift certificates to Cinemas Guzzo, Toys R Us, and iTunes.

Many thanks to Ms. Pinchuk for organizing the Fun Fair and to the many parent volunteers, former Kells Elementary graduates, and teachers who assisted with the event. Thanks also to the many friends and family members of the Kells community who joined us at the fair in support of the school.



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After spending these two years back home in Germany, I thought it was about time for a change of wallpaper once again. Therefore, I started studying aerospace engineering at the University in Sheffield in the United Kingdom, a country that I had previously never visited. The aerospace engineering degree course was great fun and offered various opportunities not only to design and build mini unmanned aerial vehicles, but also to apply my engineering knowledge and creativity to help people with disabilities. I graduated with an MA Engineering (honours) degree in the summer of 2008.

So where am I now, nine years after graduating from Kells? I'm still in the United Kingdom, working as a mechanical engineer for Thales Group, a multinational company and major player in the aerospace and defence industry. I love my job because every day I get to design

cutting-edge technology for both civil and military customers. It's a great experience to see something that I have designed on a computer come to life in the real world being used on an everyday basis. Apart from my day-to-day job, I also get the opportunity to work closely with schools to promote engineering as a profession. Judging science fairs is, therefore, as much part of my job as is working with teams of students that participate in competitions such as electric-car races.

I have no doubt that my year at Kells Academy was instrumental in helping me to achieve my goals and shape me into who I am today. Being away from home for a considerable amount of time at the age of 16 has been a great learning experience for me and I would strongly recommend spending a year abroad to anyone who gets the opportunity.

Looking back at the last nine years, it is apparent to me how important it is to

maintain contact with old friends. It is easy to lose touch after graduating from high school, as people move on to go to different schools in various parts of the world. I am currently planning the 10-year reunion of the Kells Academy Class of 2002 and cannot wait to see my classmates again and find out what everybody is up to.

It has also become clear to me how important it is to make things happen for yourself – using the opportunities that you are given but also creating opportunities if you get stuck – in order to keep developing personally and professionally. After all, “obstacles are those frightful things that you see when you take your eyes off your goals” (H. Ford). I'm sure Kells will give you all the tools that you need to be successful in life, but it's up to you to make the best use of them.

*Fabian Bauer*

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held in September to introduce students to the iPad, as well as optional after-school workshops, teaching students to use popular software such as Excel, Photoshop and PowerPoint.

Secondary I, II and III classes are the first to participate in a project that provides an Apple iPad 2 to each student. Students will receive an Apple iPad 2 that will be used in most of their classes. The device can be used to access a vast array of educational applications (better known as 'apps') as visual aids, revision tools and reference materials for all academic subjects. Students can access the Internet using the iPads as well as use it as an agenda and organizational tool.

There are almost half a million apps available right now (not including games!). The Kells technology team is selecting and testing the most useful educational apps, matching them to the Quebec curriculum, and preparing 120 iPads to roll out to students beginning in September. Currently, there are over 600 free educational apps, and over 20,000 educational apps in total.

From exploring cell structure

in 3D, to interactive historical maps, to math games, to animated Shakespeare apps, there is a plethora of educational benefits to be gained from the iPad in the classroom.

Whether it be netbooks, individual laptops, or the latest iPad 3, the senior students are in store for a technological surprise as the year moves forward. The new MacBooks and the use of SMART boards in almost every classroom will stimulate student-centered interactive learning in the higher grades. Workshops on academic research, using online resources like Project MUSE, will also help prepare students for CEGEP and beyond.

SMART Boards are interactive whiteboards that not only project information from a computer or laptop but also work as huge touchscreens. Interactive lessons for every subject can be created, allowing the students to come up to the board to explore geometric shapes, solve math puzzles, or correct the grammar of a sentence. The array of possibilities is immense.

On July 20, SMART Technologies released an interface that allows students to use their iPads to enter individual

answers to interactive quizzes using the SMART board. This allows teachers and students to see the entire class's quiz results with one click. Teachers can gauge the students' understanding of a new concept instantaneously! The Kells technology team is collaborating with SMART training staff to arrange sessions for teachers in the aims of boosting the presence of SMART lessons in the coming term.

Twenty new MacBooks were made available in September for all grades to use. Especially useful for media work, the MacBooks are not only useful word processors but come equipped with a range of software. The MacBooks will be especially beneficial for photo and video editing and creative assignments.

With the rapid pace at which technology is advancing, Kells is doing its best to keep apace of the educational benefits that can be reaped from all the new devices emerging on the market. We hope that with the input from parents and students, we can make the most of technology and bring it into the classroom - benefiting each student in their present learning and also preparing them for the technologies in their futures.

