



Kells Newsletter

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Fall - 2011

Congratulations Kells High School Graduates



Ms. Woods

At an emotional ceremony with Mr. Don Houston as Master of Ceremonies, 54 High School students received their diplomas. We were honored to have Mr. Alex Shoumatoff, a well known American writer (and also a Kells parent) speak at our Convocation. Mr. Shoumatoff

drew from his fascinating life experiences to give the graduates sound advice on taking the next

step in their futures. He urged students to be curious about the world around them, to believe in themselves, and to protect the world they live in.

Ms. Irene Woods, Director of Kells Academy congratulated the graduates for their academic accomplishments. Ms. Woods expressed her pride in student participation in all aspects of school life including sports and the arts as well as the production of the spectacular Broadway-style show, Musical Memories. She also recalled student achievements in competitions such as the Montreal Science Fair. The graduates have made friends, supported each other, and have set a positive example for younger students to follow.

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Miruna Furdui, Razanah Silawi, Ms. Iacobuta, Danielle Zunenshine, Genova Madani, Mariana Abou Chedid, and Summer Lazare

Welcome to Mr. Aitken our New Head of High School



We are pleased to introduce our New Head of High School, Mr. James Aitken. Mr. Aitken comes to Kells from the LBPSB where he has recently been the Principal of Lindsay Place High School. Apart from his positions as School Principal

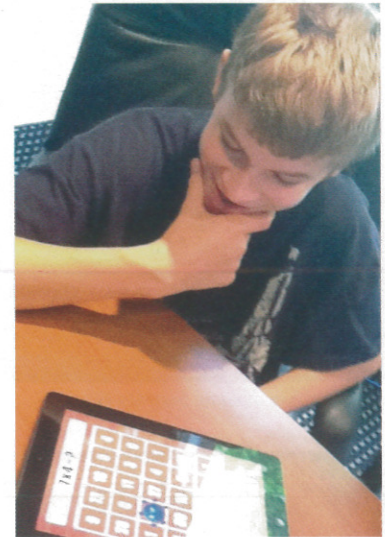
during his career, he has also worked as a Teacher, Basketball Coach, Staff Council Member, and Executive Committee Member of LBPSB. In addition, he has received several awards during his professional career including the

Award for Outstanding Contributions and the award as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals.

Mr. Aitken plans on making several innovations when he arrives at Kells. He expressed a strong interest in developing an enrichment program for students who are ready to be challenged beyond the curriculum. He is particularly interested in introducing Francais enrichi at all grade levels for students who come to Kells from the French school system. Our strong Math and Science students who successfully competed each year at the Montreal Science Fair will be encouraged to participate annually.

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Evolving Technology at Kells



Nicholas Lamoureux

Kells Academy is leading the surrounding region in the integration of technology into the classroom. In September, we are introducing iPad 2s to the grade 7, 8 and 9s, as well as upgrading 8 classrooms with SMART Boards, and introducing 20 MacBooks, available to all grades. The Kells technology team is working hard through the summer to update the existing laptops and upgrade the wireless internet.

With a significant investment in education technology and infrastructure, students will be exposed and trained to utilize technology as a tool and resource in order to enhance their learning. These tools will greatly improve independent and interactive learning. IT workshops will be 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 refer-

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Soojin Kil's valedictory address to the graduates was both heartfelt and inspiring. Soojin brought the audience to tears with a description of leaving her family, friends, and culture to come to Canada from Korea three years ago. She told us that adjusting to a new society involved a lot more than learning a new language. The greatest lesson she learned from her Canadian peers was to find out who you are and to be yourself. Soojin thanked her parents and her teachers for all of their support. Finally, she thanked her friends and expressed appreciation for the fact that Kells had prepared them for all the challenges that lie ahead.



Angela Diaz receives diploma from Ms. Woods



Jim Khayata



Jeremie Benarrosh receives diploma from Ms. Woods

High School Valedictory Address

Soojin Kil, a Korean girl who arrived in Canada only three years ago, was the high school valedictorian at the 2011 Kells Convocation. She captivated the audience with an emotional address. She spoke from the heart and shared her feelings about what it was like to be alone in a new country, attending an unfamiliar school, and living far away from her family and friends.



Soojin Kil

Soojin considered herself very fortunate for the friends, teachers, and mentors at Kells who made her realize that she is no different from them. The attention teachers gave to each individual student, not only about academics, but also about their lives outside of school, was palpable. Being at Kells, she learned many things that she has taken to heart as lessons in life. Teachers allowed students to develop deeper thinking, encouraged them to have a broader view of the world, but what they really taught was the value of education. She went on to say, "While we focused on just getting the research

paper done, the lesson was that we need to be accountable for our own work and that integrity is very important in life."

In particular, Soojin thanked her friends for being with her on this journey, "Thank you for teaching me true friendship and that a caring nudge or message can have a chain reaction in a person's life." She added, "Special thanks to my parents and my little sister, who unfortunately could not join us in this ceremony today, but I'm sure they are happier than anyone at this moment, cheering for me on the opposite side of the earth as they always have been." She also thanked her guardian, John: "I may often be shy to say thank you, but please know that I appreciate everything you have ever done for me, as you taught me how to truly believe in myself."

In conclusion, Soojin said, "Now it's finally all over, no more assemblies, no more uniform infractions, no more late slips. We will all be going our separate ways, leaving behind what we shared time over time. But remember, no matter how much time passes and wherever we might be, in the risk of sounding corny... the memories we had will keep us together. Our journeys have just begun. Like our life at Kells, our future holds countless laughs and amazing experiences. But the world won't always be on our side, and when times get tough



Soojin Kil receives Music Subject Prize from Mr. Kennedy

and it seems like you are all alone, having to go into battle, just remember all the lessons you've learned here, and just know that we have an armoury of knowledge and support to keep us protected, so we can move on to the next phase of our lives, proud to be ourselves, with our heads held high."

Awards and Special Prizes - High School

BILINGUAL CERTIFICATES

- Jeremie Benarrosh
- Alexis Hotte-Kilburn
- Anthony Cote
- Omar Jbara
- Frederic Gariepy
- Nicolas Lastrade-Brais

SCHOLARSHIP PRIZES

- Soojin Kil
- Alexis Hotte-Kilburn
- Omar Jbara

SPECIAL PRIZES

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Yearbook | Sara Lai |
| Student Council Award | Omar Jbara |
| Outstanding School Spirit | Fares Alarmouti and Soojin Kil |
| Most Improved Student | Jim Khayata |
| Simpson Senior Shield | Alexis Hotte-Kilburn |
| The Lieutenant-Governor's Medal | Nicholas Lastrade-Brais |
| Governor General of Canada Award | Soojin Kil |
| Valedictory plaque | Soojin Kil |

SUBJECT PRIZES

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------|--|
| English | Mitchell Goodyear | Physics | Erica Yang |
| Contemporary World | Mitchell Goodyear | Physical Education | Fares Alarmouti and Angela Diaz |
| French as a Second Language | Miruna Furdui | Sports Plus | Sara Lai and Summer Lazare;
Junho Song and Nick Ayoub |
| Most Improved French | Mariana Abou-Chedid
and Razanah Silawi | Drama | Danielle Zunenshine and Angela Diaz |
| Media | Razanah Silawi
and Mariana Abou-Chedid | Psychology | Jim Khayata and Miruna Furdui |
| Math CST Option | Jim Khayata | Music | Jim Khayata, Mirelle Lupovici,
and Soojin Kil |
| Math Science Option | Soojin Kil | Art | Trong Duc Le |
| Civil Law | Soojin Kil | | |



Ms. Morris and Mitchell Goodyear receiving the English Subject Prize



Ms. Forestell and Omar Jbara receiving the Student Council Award



Ms. Rosich and Alexis Hotte-Kilburn receiving the Simpson Senior Shield

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Mr. Aitken's vision for Kells ties in with our emphasis on educational development and team collaboration. He plans to work closely with the technology team in introducing the iPads to Grades 7, 8, and 9, and also in introducing Mac Notebooks to Grades 10 and 11. He is also committed to getting involved in developing a Community Program involving students and faculty.

Mr. Aitken also plans to work closely with Ms. Marla Perlman our Elementary Head to establish stronger bonds between Elementary and High School.

The staff and administration look forward to welcoming Mr. Aitken to Kells Academy. Based on Mr. Aitken's impressive credentials and ac-

complishments we believe he will provide the leadership necessary for the continued progressive growth of Kells Academy. As a team, we look forward to working with Mr. Aitken and introducing him to the student body on orientation day.

Congratulations to All our Graduates!

Grade 11 Graduates:

Mariana Abou-Chedid
 Fares Alarmouti
 Anna Arrobas
 Nicolas Ayoub
 Sani Azuz
 Calvin Ray Balendra
 Jeremie Benarrosh
 Dunya Cengiz
 Joey Cheaib
 Jin Sung Choi
 Anthony Cote
 Angela Joy Diaz
 Miruna Teodora Furdui
 Frederic Gariepy

Luis Garcia
 Farrah Girgis
 Mitchell Goodyear
 Alexis Hotte-Kilburn
 Megan Jacobs
 Omar Jbara
 Jalaeddin Kazemisaied
 Jim Khayata
 Soojin Kil
 Cody Lahache
 Yi An (Sara) Lai
 Nicolas Lastrade-Brais
 Yu Fan Law
 Summer Lazare

Trong Duc Le
 Seong Hyeon (Steven) Lim
 Sohyoun Lim
 Mirelle Lupovici
 Genova Madani
 Abdul Wahab Mansour
 Bonnie McComber
 Hayden McComber
 Johnny Moncada
 Thomas Montanari De Castro
 Sabrina Nguyen
 Anastacia Pentsos
 Lan Phuong Pham
 Bryant Richards

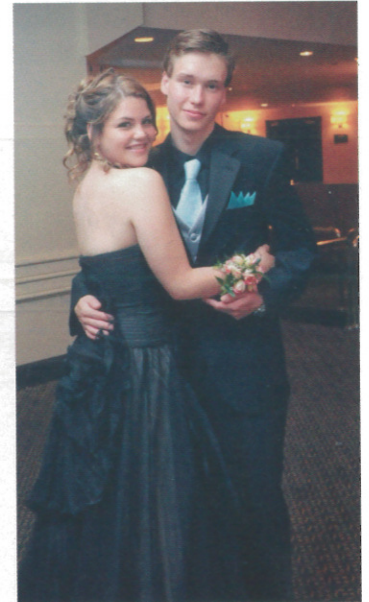
Marc Sarhan
 Jacob Sayers
 Justin Schena
 Oliver Shoumatoff
 Aron Orn Sigurdsson-Morris
 Razanah Silawi
 Jun Ho Song
 Noemi Stafford
 Mert Ulker
 Xiao Jiao (Erica) Yang
 Yurui (Fairy) Zhou
 Danielle Zunenshine



Soojin Kil, Jun Ho Song, Mirelle Lupovici, Fares Alarmouti and Razanah Silawi



Anna Arrobas & Mitchell Goodyear



Danielle Zuneneshine & Frederic Gariepy



Ms. Campbell, Mr. Jankowski, Ms. Mancini



Marc Sarhan, Jun Ho Song, Ms. Sipos, Summer Lazare, Ms. Seretis, Ms. Derby, Ms. Morris, Ms. Iacobuta, Ms. Ghanem, Abdul Mansour, and Steven Lim



Aron Sigurdsson, Alexis Hotte-Kilburn, Justin Schena, Nicolas Lastrade-Brais, Farrah Girgis, Guest, Sabrina Nguyen, Geoffrey D'Attena

MUSICAL MEMORIES

An accident on Broadway Street...

Musical characters lose their memories...

Together, they must find their way back to their show...

But how? They don't have much time...

The show must go on...

And it did, on April 28th!

Musical Memories was Kells' second musical to take to the stage at Oscar Peterson Concert Hall. Friends and families alike packed the theatre for the show's sold-out night on April 28th. Taking snippets from Broadway musicals, including *The Sound of Music*, *Shrek*, *American Idiot*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Peter Pan*, *Mamma Mia*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Annie*, *Footloose*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *the Music Man*, and *Grease*, Musical Memories told the story of musical characters who had to find their way back to their musical after losing their memories as a result of an accident on Broadway.

Once again, Kells elementary and secondary students collaborated in this effort to put on a show that left the audience wanting more. Students were featured as musicians, singers, dancers, and actors in a combination of these performance roles. It was very exciting to discover all this hidden talent and to see so many students come together to put on a remarkable show.



The show was directed, choreographed and written by Ms. Tina Mancini and the music was arranged and directed by Mr. Kennedy.

To all students who were involved onstage or backstage, & to all staff members involved, hats off to you! You were wonderful!

Musical Memories Cast Party:

The cast of Musical Memories had a chance to relive the evening at a party hosted by Kells Elementary. Students watched a slideshow of

the Musical followed by a picnic lunch which included cake. A wonderful time was had by all.



Josh Artzy McCendie, Geoffrey D'Attena, Sabrina Nguyen, Sara Lai, Lovely Andalay, Megan Jutras, Autumn Gabriel, Caroline Abi Azar, Amy Nguyen, Samantha Josephson, Max Roy MacDonald, and Spencer Fayer



Charlie Bird, Tyler Rosenoff, Amanda Balazic, Austin Unruh, Serena Spinelli, Brian Paltin, Emmy Aronovitch, Zoe Wachsberg, Tommy Fuentes, Caroline, and Philippe Zucker



Joanna Ngan, Charles Lee, David Steinberg Zwirek, Winnie Lau, and Sonia Kao

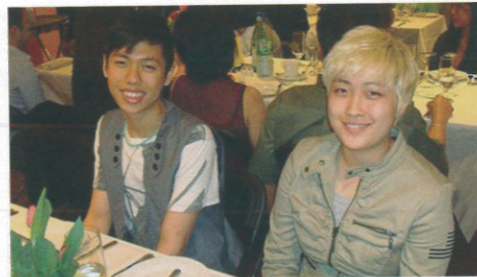
Kells Honour Roll Dinner 2011

The evening of May 24, 2011, saw the Kells cafeteria transformed into a gourmet restaurant to celebrate the achievements of Honour Roll students for 2010-2011. These students, who averaged over 85% on their term reports, attended with parents or special guests. Guest speaker, McGill chemistry professor, Dr. Ariel Fenster, delighted the audience with a show of chemical magic, highlighting the exciting nature of the sciences for future study. He amazed the 100 plus audience with some chemical "tricks." The students were each presented with a certificate and special gift in recognition of their high achievement.

Mr. Houston



Sophia Quach, Eunji Cho, Soojin Kil, Angela Diaz



Trong Duc Le & Sungjin Cho



Razanah Silawi & Ayah Abdullah



Mrs. Mansour, Mrs. Sarhan, Marc Sarhan, and Abdul Mansour

Go Kells Go!

Our first ever girls team, The Kells Killers, beat Centennial Academy and H S Billings.



Summer Lazare, Alice Lemay, Coach Cairns, Mirelle Lupovici, Soojin Kil, Retshepile Koketso, Angela Diaz, Lovely Andalay, Razanah Silawi, and Federica Rinaldi

KELLS GROWING SPORTS TEAMS...

Kells has talent! Kells sports teams did very well this year making us proud. The students worked very hard and grew together in their teams...

The first ever Rugby 7's Team. We competed at Concordia and have set great building blocks for next year.



Abdul Mansour, Gabriel Dansereau, Jun Ho Song, Fares Alarmouti, Nic Ayoub, Marc Sarhan, Coach Cairns, Dimitry El Khoury, Sanad Abu Ragheb, Oliver Shoumatoff, Jim Khayata, and Joey Cheaib

The Boys Outdoor Soccer Team did extremely well this year. We are proud of you!



Thomas Montanari, Jun Ho Song, Coach Cairns, Fares Alarmouti, Jin Sung Choi, Omar Refaat, Sani Azuz, Mahmoud Khalil, and Nizar Bekai

Basketball at Kells

The Basketball team led by Mr. Simon won their section and made it to the playoffs.



Nic Ayoub, Bryant Richards, Marc Sarhan, Mr. Simon, Greg Shalfman, Shane Donovan, Abdul Mansour, Jin Sung Choi, Joey Cheaib, Fares Alarmouti

The 2010-2011 School Year was historic in the history of Kells Academy. It marked the first year that Kells competed in the Greater Montreal Athletic Association (GMAA) basketball league. Kells entered the Juvenile Division 3 Boys Basketball League and was victorious! This strong team of players played unbelievably well, and showed great sportsmanship. They played against the following teams: Greaves Adventist Academy, Lower Canada College, and Centennial Acad-

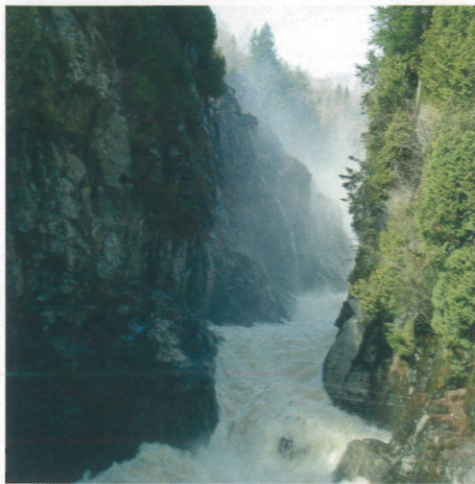
emy. The coach, Richard Simon, said that he was proud of his team, and that from all of the teams he had coached in previous years, the Kells team was the highlight for him.



Sortie à Québec

Cette année, le 12 et le 13 mai, le Département de français a organisé pour les élèves de secondaire 4 et 5 une sortie à Québec, la capitale de notre belle province.

Tout d'abord, les élèves ont déjeuné au restaurant de l'Assemblée Nationale, ensuite ils ont admiré les Chutes Montmorency et le Canyon Ste-Anne. Après avoir dîné au restaurant Aux anciens Canadiens, dans une ambiance spécifique québécoise, les élèves sont allés à pied explorer



un site important pour l'histoire du Québec: les Plaines d'Abraham.

Enfin, nos élèves ont participé à une activité interactive au Musée du Fort, où ils ont vécu, en son et lumière, les grands moments de notre histoire, en faisant la connaissance des personnages historiques qui ont joué des rôles importants dans la naissance de notre nation.

Simona Iacobuta



Miruna Furdul & Razanah Silawi



Kells lends a helping hand to our Canadian Friends of VAMOS in Cuernavaca, Mexico

After our successful production of Musical Memories, Kells made a \$5000 donation from seat sales to VAMOS.

VAMOS is a registered charitable organization based in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Due to the lack of basic facilities in Mexican public schools, Canadian Friends of VAMOS mobile learning centres enable students to spend up to 12 hours a week with facilitators learning laptop computers skills, researching and completing school projects and working on a community newspaper.

These students are performing extremely well in their public schools and have taken on the roles of teacher assistants to their teachers and peers. Thanks to VAMOS, these students have the opportunity to be leaders inspiring their classmates to move forward. Kells plans to continue its efforts to help this Mexican organization which supports underprivileged students in Mexico



Meet The Babies!

On June 1st, we welcomed and congratulated Ms. Michaeli and her little girl, Isabella and Ms. Ungureanu and her wee one, Stephanie. Congratulations also to Ms. D'Amato, who could not attend, for her new arrival, Alexia.



Ms. Ungureanu & Baby Stephanie



Christine Michaeli & Baby Isabella

Farewell Mr. Houston

At the 2011 convocation ceremony on June 3, 2011, Ms. Woods paid tribute to her colleague, Mr. Don Houston, who would be retiring at the end of the month.

For over 40 years, Mr. Houston dedicated his life to the field of education with a passion. He began his teaching career in Kenya and after moving to Montreal, first took a position with the PSBGM as a teacher and later went on to become an administrator. For the past five years, he served as Head of Kells High School where he established a strong bond with students and staff alike.

At Kells, Mr. Houston will be remembered for keeping everybody up to date on professional development, his great love for all things Canadian and his belief that given the appropriate opportunity, all students can be successful. Students will remember him for leadership training, peer mediation, overnight trips to Quebec City, ski trips, and the delight he took in taking the international students to the Laurentians to show them Quebec's beautiful fall foliage. He would also be remembered for the respect, patience, and understanding he showed students whenever they visited him in the office.

Speaking personally, Ms. Woods went on to thank Don Houston for his many contributions to school life over the past five years. She said how much she had enjoyed his calmness, professionalism and his ability to bring many talented individuals to speak at the school, some of whom even worked with them at Kells. She also appreciated his interest in all things historical, cultural and political. His enthusiasm for literature, the media, and even sports made him an interesting colleague and she very much looked forward to his continued friendship.

On behalf of the staff, students and administration at Kells, we wish Don Houston every success as he embarks on the next phase of his life.

LIFE AFTER KELLS



I initially joined Kells Academy in the fall of 2001 for a six-month school exchange. As I am from Germany, the purpose of this experience away from home in a foreign country was for me to improve my English and French language skills. However, I soon realised that I wanted to extend my stay in Canada and made the obtaining of a high school diploma at Kells Academy a personal milestone. Despite some struggles with courses such as Math 536 with Mrs. Styliaris, Economics and Biology with Mr. Robertson, and other subjects such as the History of Quebec and Canada, I eventually graduated from Kells in June 2002 and later went home to Germany to continue my education.

Following my return, my priority was to maintain my newly gained language skills and after

deciding that the German school system really wasn't for me, I entered the Bonn International School in 2002. Similar to Kells, this school was filled with students from all over the world, an environment that I have very much enjoyed working in ever since spending time in Montreal in 2001. After receiving numerous prizes such as the "Student of the Year Award," the "European Council of International Schools' Award for International Understanding," and an "Award for Demonstration of Outstanding Sporting Values," I finally completed my bilingual international baccalaureate and graduated top of the class in 2004.

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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ence 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!) Last month, 500 new apps were released each day. 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 benefit to be gained from the iPad in the classroom.

As the technology team amps up for the new school year, we are making plans for the grade 10 and 11 classes. 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 in-

stantaneously! 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 will be 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 pace 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.