



Kells Newsletter

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Winter 2011

Let's Make a Night to Remember

*An unforgettable evening...
Lovely Andalay joins Bryan Adams
in his closing number!*

On Saturday, November 27th, at Place des Arts, Lovely Andalay and her sister performed before a live audience with Bryan Adams. The occasion was a Christmas party hosted by Mr. Robert Miller, CEO and owner of Future Electronics. Mr. Miller generously invited Lovely's teachers at Kells High School, her former teachers at Kells Elementary and the Kells school band. The evening was a huge success with Bryan Adams delighting the audience with hit after hit while maintaining an ongoing exchange of witticism with his adoring fans. The finale was a big surprise for all the guests from Kells; it featured Lovely, her sister, and Bryan Adams singing All For One, which brought down the house with the applause that was generated.

The Kells community was extremely proud to see one of its own students perform with poise and confidence for everyone in attendance in Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier at Place des Arts. Lovely's strong melodic voice resonated with power and emotion.

The following week, during a school assembly, Lovely, together with Jim Khayata, grade 11 core band guitar player, accompanied by Mr. Kennedy on guitar, performed the same song for an equally enthusiastic audience. Lovely is presently rehearsing



Lovely Andalay & Bryan Adams at Place Des Arts

for Kells' upcoming spring musical that will take place in Oscar Peterson Hall.

Special thanks to Mr. Miller for including us in this special event. The administration and staff of Kells Academy, Elementary and Secondary, extend our sincerest gratitude for the strong endorsement he gave our school in his welcome address that evening, and for recommending Kells to anyone seeking a high quality education for their children.



Jim Khayata, Lovely Andalay & Mr. Kennedy perform during the school assembly

Olympic Medalist Speaks at Kells Academy's Convocation



Jennifer Heil, Olympic Medalist addresses the grads of 2010

We were delighted to welcome Jennifer Heil to speak at our convocation on June 4, in Concordia's Oscar Peterson Hall. Ms. Heil is one of Canada's great athletes; she is the 2006 Olympic champion in freestyle mogul skiing and the Silver Olympic Medalist at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

In his introduction, Mr. Houston, High School Head, described Ms. Heil as a role model for young Canadians. As well as being an Olympian, Ms. Heil has earned 18 gold and 12 silver medals over the 2003-2006 competition seasons. Ms. Heil is also active in charitable organizations including being an athlete ambassador for the David Suzuki foundation's program "Play It Cool." She is currently studying commerce at McGill University.

Ms. Heil gave a wonderful description of her determination to become an Olympic gold medalist in the face of what seemed like insurmountable challenges. Her message to the graduates was to “dare to dream” big dreams and make them become reality with plenty of hard work and determination. Her encouraging words set the stage for what would become an inspiring convocation filled with moments of pride, joy and nostalgia. Mr. Houston thanked Ms. Heil and told the graduates to keep this message in mind when faced with the many challenges they are bound to encounter in their future studies and careers.

Next, Mrs. Perlman addressed the elementary graduates by congratulating them for all they had accomplished. She told them that the school-wide theme, “Be the change you want to see” enhanced all initiatives including curriculum, humanitarianism, peace, education and environmental awareness. She reminded them of their contributions to school life as peer mediators, peace ambassadors, kindergarten helpers, to name but a few. Mrs. Perlman thanked their teachers for their inspiration and efforts, and the parents for their work on committees and for encouraging their children to achieve their personal best. In urging the graduates to go on to set goals, work hard and not worry about making mistakes, she quoted from Anne Frank’s diary, “How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” Her message to the graduates was to use their knowledge and compassion to “be the change they want to see” as they embark on their high school careers.

After the procession of graduates crossed the stage to receive their diplomas, it was the valedictorians’ turn to speak. Unexpectedly, we got to experience an example of how to react with grace when faced with one of life’s challenges. — Our elementary valedictorian, Oualid



Elementary valedictorian, Oualid Slaoui

Slaoui, got to the podium to discover that Ms. Heil had inadvertently removed his carefully crafted valedictory speech. To an

impressed audience, Oualid spoke extemporaneously about his experience at Kells. He expressed his sadness at leaving Kells elementary and thanked Mrs. Perlman and his teachers for helping him achieve his personal best. Appropriately, his speech was about not letting obstacles get in the way of what you want to accomplish. Well done, Oualid!

J.P. Falet and Haya Aziz shared the honour as high school valedictorians. Addressing the audience in French, English and some Arabic, each told the story of their journey to graduation. J.P. was raised in Quebec City and Haya came to Canada from war torn Iraq. Both expressed their gratitude for the warm welcome they received from their classmates and their teachers. To a captive audience, they recalled many of the wonderful memories they shared with their classmates. The audience laughed and applauded as they recounted events such as Classe Rouge, winter days and Cabane à sucre. They thanked their parents, teachers and the administration for their encouragement and support. In closing, J.P. told us that he is confident that he and his classmates are well prepared for all the challenges ahead. Haya told the graduates that as of today they become accountable to the world, to the future and to all the possibilities life has to offer.



Valedictorians, Haya Aziz & J.P. Falet are presently studying Health Science at Marianopolis. They both received the Roasters Foundation Award of Excellence, a \$3000 award given to the 2 students with the highest high school averages.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Woods told the graduates that the class had brought a special dynamic to the school and had won a place in all our hearts. As a group, they had excelled academically and have made us proud of all their accomplishments. Many students in spite of considerable challenges have been accepted to CEGEPs and the discipline of their choice. She applauded their contributions to the student council, yearbook committee and the very successful fundraising event for Haiti. Ms.

Woods told them to take Ms. Heil’s inspiring message to heart – that anything can be accomplished with will and determination. She thanked the parents for their ongoing support, the teachers and all the people who had made this day possible. She thanked the Kells Band – under Mr. Kennedy’s direction – for their moving rendition of Miley Cyrus’ song, “The Climb.” Ms. Woods closed by wishing all our graduates success and happiness in the future and looked forward to keeping in touch with them as members of our Alumni.

Simpson Senior Shield Award



Ms. Woods presents the Simpson Senior Shield Award to Max Laroche

Every year, at Graduation, one student is awarded the Simpson Senior Shield Award given in memory of Margaret Simpson, a very special former English teacher at Kells, who was an inspiration to students with learning disabilities. The Simpson Senior Shield is given to a graduate who best exemplifies a Kells student: one who has overcome obstacles and succeeded either academically or personally. The 2010 award was given to Max Laroche, who in spite of being dyslexic, achieved academic success and was also an active participant in school activities. A key member of the school core band, he played electric guitar for three years and made a spectacular performance in grade 7 as MC at the spring concert held at the Oscar Peterson Hall. Max is presently studying Commerce at Marianopolis College and plans to pursue a career in Business.

Best wishes to the grads of 2010 - At the Prom...



Salima Medouar, Haya Aziz, Avanti Garde, Nour Zein, Sophia Elamile, Michelle Azzi, Dana Bader, Rim Khalil, Michael Chow, Minh Tran



Micah Levy, Ashley Diabo, Elias Eid, Claudia Eldada, Max Laroche, Karim ElHajj, Brogen McComber



Bobby Borsellino, Max Cunliffe, Spiro Mammias



Mr. Paquette, Mrs. Paquette, Julien Paquette & Alexandra Bonsaint



Cho Family



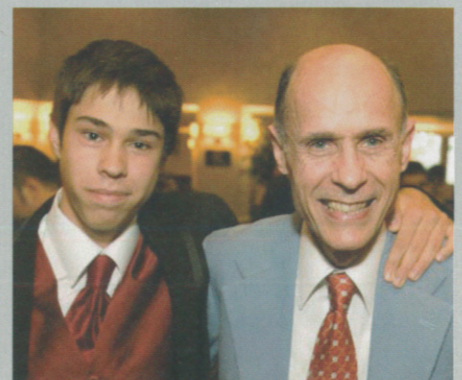
Mrs. Levy, Mr. Levy & Ms. Woods



Mr. Christian Schroeder, Ms. Baiba Sredere, Edvard Schroeder



Patrick Gallagher & Lyudmila Kim



J.P. Falet & Mr. Falet

Congratulations to All our Graduates!

High School (Secondary 5)

Haya Aziz
Michelle Azzi
Dana Bader
Alexandra Bonsaint
Bobby Borsellino
Chloe-Victoria Cartier
Ka Kiu Chan
Dongwoo Cho
Chung Chun Chow
Max Cunliffe
Ashley Diabo
Dominique Dominguez
Elias Eid
Mohamed El Gamal
Karim El Hajj
Sophia Elamile
Claudia Eldada
Jean-Pierre Falet
Alexandra Flegg
Patrick Gallagher
Avanti Garde
Hoang Huyen Huynh
Jida Jiang
Rim Khalil
Lyudmila Kim
Hyun Ji Ku
Maxim Laroche
Micah Levy
Shams Lotfy
Spiro Mammias
Brogen McComber
Korley McComber
Salima Medouar
Pok Man Ng
Minh Anh Nguyen
Robert Olvera-Joseph
Julien Paquette
David Parizot
Daniela Perez
Thanh Thuy Truc Pham
Santiago Rengel

Charlotte Saillant
Julien Sarkis
Edvard Schroeder
Usman Sheikh
Ramez Soliman
Aaryaman Sundarakrishnan
Leora Syne
Jeremy Tomov
Ngoc Anh Minh Tran
Alican Ulker
Nour Zein
Timothy Zimmermann

Elementary School (Grade 6)

Matthew Acel
Saleem Al Sicksick
Lovely Andalay
Emily Arnovitz
Jonathan Balazic
Matthew Benoit
Madison Benoit
Mark Brody
Aaron Douek
Cecilia Eraso-Hernandez
Spencer Fayer
Sean Featherstone
Alessia Fiumidinisi
Benjamin Grant
Chloe Goldenberg
Ray Halabi
Muho Han
Mark Jarjour
Byeong Oh Kim
Alejandro Lacasia
Anthony Matosic
Joe Nemeth
Quincy Okopie
Aya Rifai
Khalil Rifai
Oualid Slaoui
Brian Yoo

Bilingual Certificates

- Alexandra Bonsaint
- Sophia Elamile
- Karim El-Hajj
- J.P. Falet
- Patrick Gallagher
- Maxim Laroche
- Shams Lotfy
- Salima Medouar
- Julien Paquette
- Charlotte Saillant

SUBJECT PRIZES

Most Improved French	Rim Khalil
Physics	Minh Tran
Math CST Option	Hyun Ji Ku
Math Tech and Sc. Option	Max Cunliffe
Business Law	Sophia Elamile
Media	Patrick Gallagher
Visual Arts	Ginny Pham
Music	Max Laroche and Salima Medouar
Sports Plus	Mohamed El Gamal and Jeremy Tomov
Phys. Ed. and English as a Second Language	Michael Chow
Chemistry	Haya Aziz
Computers	J.P. Falet
French, Math: Science Option, Contemporary World History, English, Special Scholarship Award	Haya Aziz and J.P. Falet
Contribution to Yearbook	Haya Aziz and Alexandra Bonsaint
Most Improved Student	Pok Man (Michael) Ng
Outstanding School Spirit	Alexandra Bonsaint
Simpson Senior Shield	Max Laroche
Valedictorian Award	Haya Aziz and J.P. Falet
Governor General Award	Haya Aziz

Elementary Awards 2010

Academic Achievement	Muho Han
Academic Achievement	Cecilia Eraso
Most Improved Student	Chloe Goldenberg
Consistent Effort in French	Madison Benoit
Physical Education Award for Achievement and Sportmanship	Steven Kim, Aya Rifai
Achievement in Music	Lovely Andalay
Environmental Awareness Award	Ben Grant
School Spirit & Valedictorian	Oualid Slaoui

A Tribute to Love *Spring Concert, 2010*

Every year, the music students at Kells Academy begin work early in the school year for their much-anticipated annual spring concert that is held at the Oscar Peterson Hall. May 2010's spring concert was a tribute to the universal language of love. The students performed a variety of love songs that ranged from 1950s' classics such as Buddy Holly's "Everyday" and Sam Cooke's "Wonderful World," to modern soon-to-be classics such as Jason Mraz's "I'm Yours." The fact that the

concert was a collaborative effort between elementary and high school further showcased the talent that exists at every level at Kells Academy.

Mr. Kennedy

Coming this spring, Kells Academy tips its hat and kicks up its heels in a salute to Broadway.

Sure to be another smash hit, more information about our 2011 musical extravaganza will be available soon!



Emmy Aronovitch



Haya Aziz, Max Laroche, Jim Khayata, Mr. Kennedy



Paula Black



Federica Rinaldi



Mirelle Lupovici



Brooke-Lynne Russo, Sonia Kao, Ayana Potts



Aaron Douek, Joe Nemeth, Ewen Tremaine



Chloe Cartier



Soojin Kil



Josh Artzy-McCendie, Mark Brody, Lovely Andalay, Joe Nemeth, Max Roy-MacDonald



Tommy Fuentes, Serena Spinelli

Classe Rouge 2010

Dreary weather did not succeed in dampening the ebullient spirits of the Grade 11 students who participated in the Classe Rouge trip this past September. The Bas de Plein Air campsite near Mont-Tremblant in the Laurentians was ideally suited to usher in the start of a new school year. Surrounded by bright fall foliage, sloping hills and Lac Maskinongé, the students enjoyed outdoor activities such as archery and horseback riding. The excursion provided students, and teachers alike, with the opportu-

nity to develop a variety of new skills – whether it be adeptly maneuvering a canoe or singing the hits during a lively round of karaoke. Both students and teachers were marked by this unforgettable experience and look forward to returning for Classe Neige this winter.

A big thank you is extended to Mr. Cairns, Mr. Robertson, Mr. Jankowski and Ms. Campbell for making this year's trip a tremendous success!



MADD Presentation at Royal West Academy

Kells tenth graders attended a MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) presentation at Royal West Academy on September 30, 2010.

MADD started out as a grassroots movement and has now grown to 100 Chapters and Community Leaders with over 7500 volunteers across Canada.

During the presentation, students learnt about MADD's mission: to put an end to impaired driving and to support victims who have been affected by this crime. Using films, testimonials and statistics, the MADD volunteers emphasized the horrific effects of drunk driving. As Grade 10 students will soon be getting their driver's licences, MADD's message was a prevalent one.

Special thanks to Royal West Academy and MADD.



A Visit to Our Nation's Capital

At the beginning of October, Canadian history students in Grades 9 and 11 visited our nation's capital. The day started off with a walk through the Museum of Civilization's Canada Hall where costumed actors and life-size exhibits faithfully brought history to life. Our whirlwind tour of Ottawa continued with a visit to the Royal Canadian Mint where students explored the facility and learnt how our coinage is made (and how much it's all worth!). The daylong trip ended with a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament during which students had the opportunity to witness firsthand where many of our nation's important issues are

debated and discussed. Students also learnt the historical significance of many of our national symbols. Without a doubt,

Kells Academy's bright, young historians not only benefited from, but also delighted in, this enriching experience

Ms. Campbell



Miruna Furdui, Razanah Silawi, Sani Azuz, Rayan Chatila, Jalal Kazemisaied, Mariana Abou-Chedid, Abdul Mansour, Omar Jbara, Mert Ulker, Eloa Lucchesi & Ms. Forestell

Peer Mediation at Kells Academy



Miriam Rose gives a workshop on Peer Mediation at Kells

On Friday, November 26th, eleven Kells students took advantage of the Montreal Teachers Convention and sacrificed their "ped day" to participate in a special training workshop on Peer Mediation. Braving the icy sidewalks and streets, they gave up a day of sleeping-in to discover the meaning of "active listening," and practise the several steps of the mediation process, from identifying the problem, to discovering feelings, generating solutions, and reaching an agreement. The group was joined by an alumnus and former mediator, Haya Aziz, now attending Marianopolis College, who helped with the workshop. Students will continue to practise their skills before they are called upon to mediate their first dispute. All mediations are both voluntary and confidential, and have been proven in the past to be extremely effective in defusing conflict between students. The peer mediation skills that are learnt will prove useful long after the students graduate from Kells Academy.

Kathleen Weil, Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities, Visits Kells



Kathleen Weil visits Kells

On October 13th, Kells Academy played host to Ms. Kathleen Weil, the Quebec Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities and Member of the National Assembly for NDG.

As a former Justice Minister, Ms. Weil has gained a wide range of experiences in government. Addressing the Secondary V students, she related how she decided to enter politics, balancing the

demands of a family with the desire to effect change in our society. Ms. Weil told how her father came to Quebec from the United States, knowing no French, but making sure his children learned the language.

Ms. Weil emphasized Quebec's need to attract new immigrants, especially young people, to replace the aging population. Students then asked several pertinent questions about laws and government, before Ms. Weil took a tour of the Kells building.

Ms. Weil was impressed with Kells' students and looks forward to seeing them again when the students tour the parliament buildings in Quebec City.

Mr. Houston



Sani Azuz, Cody Lahaçhe, Jeremie Benarrosh listen to Kathleen Weil as she answers student questions



Halloween Dance 2010 – a *Rightful* Success



On October 29th, we held our first big event, the Halloween dance. A “haunted house” was set up in the locker area adjacent to the cafeteria where the dancing took place.

Special thanks to student council members, teachers, and all those who volunteered to help. You did a great job!

Soojin Kil, Student Council President

The haunted house was amazing with black curtains, fake blood, spider webs, a fog machine and most importantly, “dead people” who scared everyone as they entered this frightening place. Over and over again, the students went through the house and we could even hear them screaming from as far away as the dance floor.

The dance was a huge success with the cafeteria filled with students having an incredible time. The night was remarkable and everyone had fun. Some students even said this was the best Kells dance ever. We are planning to have another one soon!



Grade 6 Visit



Left to right, counterclockwise: Conrad Corning-Racette, Tehorakwaneken Goodleaf, Yazan Habashy



Left to right, clockwise: Jordana Kucharsky-Hiess, Rebecca Kyte, Yasmine Mahrach, Mina Malaz



Left to right: Sonia Kao, Ayana Potts, Joanna Ngan, Winnie Lau

Kells Sports 2010-2011

The Kells Academy Sports teams are off to a spectacular start this year. In both soccer and basketball, our teams have played extremely competitive games creating enthusiasm among the players and the fans. In boys' soccer, the highlight of the season was our 2 to 1 win over Selwyn House. In spite of not making it to the playoffs this year, the team plans to take the league by storm by building an unbeatable team for next season.

Presently, our basketball team is number one in the league. We are extremely proud of the talent and team spirit our students have brought to the lineup. Our coach, Dr. Simon, believes this is an excellent team and plans to build on it for next year.

The girls' soccer team had its first practice in December and it looks like an exciting season is in its way. We still have room for more girls to join and encourage them to try out.

Many other exciting sports activities planned for this year include: volleyball, indoor soccer, badminton, rugby, ping pong tournaments, intramural hockey, the Halo Road Race, and three versus three world-cup soccer.

Special thanks to Mr. Celani and Dr. Simon for helping out, and to Mr. Cairns for organizing these activities.



*Kells Basketball Team: Nick Ayoub, Bryant Richards, Marc Sarhan, Dr. Simon, Abdul Mansour, Gregory Shlafman, Shane Donovan, Jin Sung Choi, Joey Cheaib, Fares Alarmouti
Missing: Oliver Shoumatoff, Zachary Shoumatoff*



Kells Soccer Team: Sanad Abu-Ragheb, Paul Matta, Fares Alarmouti, Sani iAzuz, Junho Song, Joshua Artzy-McCendie, Marc Sarhan, Philip Bui-Mitchell, Fabian Grauel, Dimitri ElKhoury, Rayan Chatila, Josef Mandour, Alper Aseo, Abdul Mansour, Sami Alkadri, Mahmud Khalil, Omar Refaat, Federico Lacasia, Jin Sung Choi, Nizar Bekai

The Open Mind



Samantha Josephson names the Kells Newspaper, THE OPEN MIND

In October, Kells published the first edition of its brand-new student newspaper, "The Open Mind." The title was suggested by grade 9 student, Samantha Josephson, and inspired by the school's motto, "We Open Minds."

Students from grades 7 through 10 work together to research and write articles on various topics, such as a visiting speaker's presentation on bullying, international holidays and school events like Servant's Day. The paper also features creative work, including poems written by students, an advice column and a poll of attendees at Kells' open house. Students meet on Mondays after school to plan, discuss and write articles. The 2nd edition of "The Open Mind" was published at the beginning of December.

Ms. Morris

Spanish Club



Newspaper Committee



Ms. Morris, Beruk Demiss, Samantha Josephson, Amy Nguyen, Alice Lemay, Ms. Derby

SCHOOL LIFE

ESL Club



Back Row: Yu Fan Law, Lan Phuong Pham, Eunji Cho, Ms. Ariane Lawler (Teacher),
Suyeon Lee, Yoon Ha Seo
Front Row: Trong Duc Le, Yan Zhi Duan, Hui Yu Han

Hip Hop



Cecilia Eraso, Tai Ngoc Pham, Jordano Maglieri, Lovely Andalay

Remembrance Day Ceremony



Jim Khayata, Mirelle Lupovici, Anna Arrobas, Soojin Kil perform "Tears from Heaven"

At 11:00 am, on the 11th day of the 11th month, Kells students, like so many students across Canada and many other countries, honoured our veterans with a minute of silence.

Prior to that moment, students took part in a special assembly. Mr. Robertson talked about the meaning of the poppy on Remembrance Day. Also, there was a moving Power-Point presentation by Megan Jutras and Mr. Kennedy's media class, accompanied by a group of Mr. Kennedy's music students performing the song "Tears from Heaven."

Mr. Houston

Congratulations to our Term 1 Honor Roll Students

SEC 1:

Yasmeen Hlaili
Oualid Slaoui
Cecilia Eraso
Jennifer Paul
Nese Nur Selamoglu
Benjamin Grant

SEC 2:

Yasmine Dabbous
Yasmeen Dajani
Adeline Saive
Christina Papagiannis
Alper Aseo
Beruk Demiss
Yasmina Elamile

SEC 3:

Caroline Abi Azar
Eunji Cho
Tristan Sigurdsson-Morris
Sophia Quach
Sasha Cote

SEC 4:

Amy Nguyen
Nizar Bekai
Sungjin Cho
Fabian Grauel
Ibrahim Zeineddin
Alice Lemay

SEC 5:

Soojin Kil
Omar Jbara
Yurui (Fairy) Zhou
Mitchell Goodyear
Trong Duc Le
Erica Yang
Jim Khayata
Angela Joy Diaz
Sohyoun Lim
Jun Ho Song

Students must attain a minimum average of 85% in order to make the Honor Roll.