

### *Students Shine with Disney Magic*



It was an exciting evening for Kells music students at Oscar Peterson Hall on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Students performed ‘Disney Magic,’ a celebration of Disney songs throughout the years.

Enthusiastic, passionate, and joyful, students performed the catchy classic Disney tunes and had the audience filled with delight. They invited us all to ‘Be Our Guest,’ and took the audience on a Disney journey visiting Cinderella and her little birds, ‘Under the Sea’ creatures from The Little Mermaid, Pinocchio and friends, and Disney’s favourite princesses interpreting a multilingual version of Frozen’s “Let It Go”... and many others! *(Continued Page 17)*

### **Catalyst of Change**

Like everything else today, the traditional model of a High School Principal – a disciplinarian, staid, and somber manager of an institute of learning – has also been disrupted and no longer holds. Today an effective principal must externally manage the learning expectations of both parents and the community and internally orchestrate a multifaceted and fast-changing learning environment. It is easy to see why quality leadership is hard to find!

Kells Academy was lucky to find just such a person and was excited to welcome Neil Banerjee as their new High School Principal at the start of the 2017-18 academic year.



*Neil Banerjee, High School Principal*

Mr. Banerjee’s qualifications include a Bachelor of Education and a Master’s in Educational Leadership both from McGill University, Montreal. He has teaching experience in Media Technology and Physical Education for the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program. He has a thirst for adventure and is a globetrotter who has traversed 4 continents and visited 15 countries. An avid skier, his ideal way to spend the weekend is skiing in the Laurentians. He plays the guitar and has been a successful coach winning 16 championships in lacrosse and soccer. With such a well-rounded profile, Kells has full confidence that Mr. Banerjee’s abilities and exuberance are a perfect fit with the vision that the school has for its future. *(Continued Page 3)*

# International Peace Day at Kells Elementary

*I pledge that I will have the courage to respect myself and others.  
I will not hurt, tease, put down or bully anyone.  
I pledge to use kind words and help others to build peace.  
If I ever forget this pledge, I promise to learn from my mistakes and keep trying.  
Peace begins with me.*



- The Kells Peace Pledge

International Peace Day was enthusiastically observed by Kells Academy in September 2017. Established in 1981 by the United Nations through a unanimous resolution to promote a Culture of Peace, the International Peace Day is observed across the world each September 21st. It is not merely a pledge for peace in global politics, but a commitment to improve every facet of life from social justice to neighborhood issues.

Kells believes that is never too early to learn about positive action, community service, empathetic acts of kindness, and global friendships; we are committed to instilling universal and humanistic values in our diverse student population. The Elementary School had therefore organized a number of interesting events around this special day.

Grade 6 students started the day by reading the Kells Peace Pledge in every classroom and then had each student sign their name on it by way of solidifying the student's commitment to building a peaceful environment in the school. To prepare for the day, each class read the story "What Does Peace Feel Like?" and then had the opportunity to reflect on what peace looks, smells, sounds, tastes, and feels like to them. Based on this, students in Grade 6 helped create an iMovie, where each student presented their reflection, along with a personal drawing. The movie was presented to the entire school during the Peace Day assembly in the afternoon and the program concluded with the entire school reciting the Peace Pledge in one voice.

By Christine Mazzamauro

## Kells Juvenile Boys are the New GMAA Champions

Kells Juvenile Boys futsal team went into the playoffs with an undefeated regular season, a record of seven wins, and an overtime win. After a thrilling semi final against CPI, the Cinderella story continued into the finals against LBPHS. The game went back and forth leading up to the final minutes of regulation when Kells tied the game 3-3 sending the game into overtime.

With suspense looming in the air, the crowd took over and cheered on the team as though they were the 6th player on the court. With overtime proving a stalemate, the ultimate champions were victorious in a shootout victory. The fans rushed to the players in celebration of Kells Academy first city championship for futsal.



Congratulations to all players and coach Cassandra Fischer on an undefeated season and setting a milestone for the Kells Athletics program.

By Neil Banerjee

## Catalyst of Change *(continued from page 1)*

Young and motivated, he brings to Kells a solid educational background, fascinating life experience, and a dedication to his chosen profession as an educationist.

It was not always like this. As a student Neil struggled through school. It was a high school teacher who motivated him and turned his educational path around. This positive mentorship and the transformational impact that it had on his life made him realize the importance of fostering meaningful relationships, which subsequently made him turn to education as a career. He now wants to give back what he received as a student.

This is evident in his personal involvement with the students. From coaching the juvenile boys basketball team to creating a good rapport with both students and staff, Mr. Banerjee is respected and approachable. Students frequently pass by his office for advice or a friendly chat. When asked what he believes is the best way to start the school day, without hesitation he responds, “A good cup of coffee and playing Ping-Pong with students in the cafeteria.” In fact, Mr. Banerjee has adapted to the Kells culture so seamlessly that it is hard to believe that he has been part of the school community for only a short time. After just one academic year in office he happily informed us that it has been as fulfilling an experience for him as it has been for us.

When asked about what he likes best about Kells, he highlights the community feel of the school, the diversity and sincerity of the students, the impressive staff, and the fact that technology is a driving force behind the education offered at Kells. Mr. Banerjee is impressed with what students accomplish at Kells. “Perseverance runs through our school”, he claims. “I am amazed by English Language Learners and how they overcome the challenges that they face in school. It is admirable how all the students are so dedicated and motivated to be successful.”



Mr. Banerjee aims to continue fostering a forward thinking school environment based on his core principles of community, mindfulness, creativity, and respect. It makes him proud to support Kells’ initiatives for student-centered learning and technological integration. In the future, he would like to see more global learning in the school with potential student exchanges with other countries, a continued attachment and involvement with the local community, Kells’ comprehensive arts program showcased with a travel component, and an expansion of the school’s athletics program.

As educational institutions of the 21<sup>st</sup> century redefine what makes for a successful school in this new digital age, for Mr. Banerjee the one unchangeable is the student - who must remain the center of it all. As a Principal, his vision is to lead and inspire students to strive for excellence whether in academics, sports, or the arts. His devotion to education is evident.

With Neil Banerjee as the catalyst for change, we are confident that an exciting future lies ahead for Kells Academy.

**By Emily Marosi**



## Let's Talk Science

A national award winning charitable organization, Let's Talk Science, offers unique learning opportunities to engage students in science, technology, engineering, and math. Local program volunteers from Concordia University held a workshop at school for Ms. Cammalleri's science classes and shared their enthusiasm for science.

In groups, students made their own lava lamps to learn about the relationship of oil and water and the role of density in the mixing of liquids. They also made balloon rockets as they explored principles of energy, pressure, propulsion, and thrust.

Special thanks to Let's Talk Science outreach program volunteers for an informative hands-on learning experience.

By Laura Cammalleri



let's talk  
**science**  
inspiring discovery

## Supporting the Premies



**World Prematurity Day, November 17th**

1 baby in 10 is born premature. Worldwide.

The annual World Prematurity Day brings awareness to the large number of premature births worldwide each year. The leading cause of death in children under the age of five, prematurity often results in long term health issues for survivors.

On November 17th, students wore purple and made small donations to the Jewish General Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, bringing attention to the life saving research and treatment provided at this high-risk centre.



By Marla Perlman

# Striving for a Sense of Play and Imagination

## *Flex Drama Class*

Students of the Flex Drama class were asked for some words they would use to describe their experience. They said: “Fun, active, peculiar, so dramatic, extra terrestrial, engaging, alternative, and safe”. One student exclaimed, “It’s like a tomato; you wouldn’t immediately rush to it. You know, it doesn’t look like a strawberry or cake or something...but once you try it, it’s pretty sweet”.

In the drama flex class, we’ve been striving for a sense of play and imagination. This can be hard to establish. Performers and drama makers need to feel safe, but creatively stimulated. They must have a heightened awareness, but also the courage to keep going. These are skills that come in little step by little step when experiencing games and situations that ask you to create and imagine.



In this class, we used a number of different games and exercises for this purpose. We played cat and mouse with scarf blindfolds. We made little puppet shows. We mimicked each other’s facial expressions. We were citizens passing by a revolving park bench. We jumped over a skipping rope. We wore masks. We stretched. We used 9 words to talk about something we were obsessed with. By throwing ourselves into all of these activities, we took those little steps toward an experience of play and imagination.

**By Daniel Hickie**

## **Socktober**

Socks are one of the most requested items by Canadian shelters each year. The elementary grade 3 class challenged the entire school to step up and donate new socks during the first two weeks of October. The response that they received was admirable.

After learning about the global Socktober campaign, students made flyers and posters and encouraged their peers to donate socks for the homeless. This kind and caring group of students were motivated to help families in need.

Inspired by their homeroom teacher, Ms. Skinner, students counted their new sock donations each day, eagerly anticipating what their total number might be. They were thrilled to announce that they had collected over 380 pairs of socks, which were donated to the Open Door Shelter in Montreal.

**By Emily Skinner**



# The Kells Academy Language Center

## A Fast-Track for International Students

The Kells Academy Language Center is the latest pedagogical innovation that the school can boast about. It opened its doors in the Fall of 2017 in Westmount. Headed by Najma Ali-Secours, it has succeeded in generating a lot of positive attention and buzz within the Montreal school community in the few months since its opening.

As international enrollment at Kells Academy rises, the school has been sensitive to the needs of its foreign students who come from all over the world including the Ukraine, China, Vietnam, Syria, Korea, and Turkey. The vision of the director, Irene Woods, has always been to ease the pressure that these students feel as they struggle to adapt to a foreign culture and academic milieu, while simultaneously coping with the pressure of learning a foreign language and maintaining their grades. Unfortunately, due to the lack of space on the main campus, the projected plan to provide these students with special resources to learn English and fast-track their assimilation into the mainstream classroom plan remained on the back-burner until last fall when Kells was lucky to rent some space not far from the main school.

With this lateral expansion, the new Language Center now offers its international students the opportunity not only to improve their language skills but also to enjoy field trips, games, and special events while at the same time participating in clubs and sports teams with their peers at the main high school.

At the Language Center students study full-time in the beautiful and modern campus where they are taught by specialist teachers trained in ESL (English as a Foreign Language). Together with English, they also study Math, History, and Science in order to stay abreast with the mainstream curriculum. Students are tested every 2 months and as soon as it is determined that their language skills are strong enough, they are transferred to the main high school campus.

It was incredibly gratifying to see the director's vision transferred into reality as the first batch of students graduated from the Center to their mainstream classroom. The students were assessed during the week of October 30, 2017 and the majority of them advanced to higher levels within 2 months. However, a few were deemed strong enough to graduate from the Language Center and were integrated into the main campus class on November 6, 2017 within 60 days of intensive language training! We see this as a precursor of many successes to follow.



***Najma Ali-Secours:***

***Language Specialist at Kells Language  
Center***



To best serve the students who need more time to improve their language skills, the center will remain open throughout the summer of 2018 and offer a program where the students can also enjoy extra-curricular activities. For four days in the week, the focus in the mornings will be to continue work on their English and develop their speaking, listening, writing, and reading comprehension skills, while the afternoons will be dedicated to learning English through art, film, music, or comics. Fridays have been slotted as field trip days when students will learn English on the move.

Kells is extremely proud to be able to offer this intensive language learning program and it is hoped that it will help its international students achieve higher levels of self-confidence, accomplishment, success, and a richer experience of Canada.

**By Najma Ali-Secours**



## *Student Recognition Ceremony*

A special assembly took place to celebrate Honour Roll recipients and recognition for Athletics and Student Council.

The significance of honour roll is to recognize students who have displayed commitment and dedication to outstanding effort and achievement. Honour Roll students who have maintained an overall average of 85% or higher received certificates for first honours.

New this year, we recognized students who maintained an overall average of 80% or higher who received second honours. In addition, exceptional merit certificates were awarded to students with the top 3 overall average for their respective grade level.

The athletic recipients were recognized for outstanding teamwork and contribution towards their team.

Finally STUCO (Student Council) recipients were recognized for citizenship and outstanding volunteer work.

We congratulate all students and encourage them to keep up the great work and continue to pursue their goals for term three.

**By Neil Banerjee**



# En Plein Air



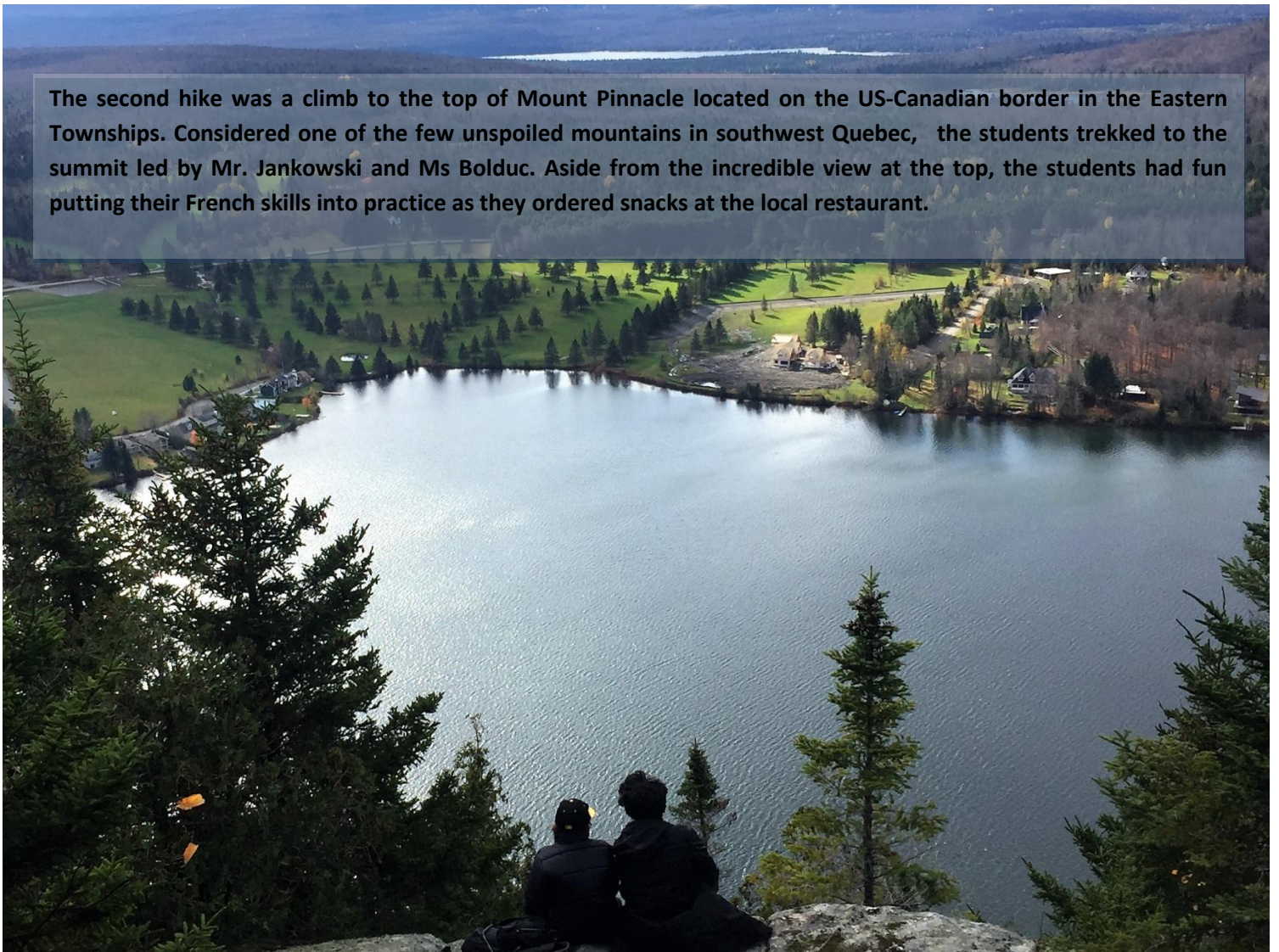
This year the three treks of the French hiking club, En Plein Air, were once again a great success. Over thirty students signed up and three different locations were chosen so that returning hikers would be able to experience a new environment.

The first hike was at the Alfred Kelly Nature Reserve about an hour drive from Montreal. Mr. Lipinski led the students to the reserve which is a great place for bird watchers as well as home to moose, beaver, and small animals such as porcupine, and the American mink. The park is also well-known for its rare red oak, white pine, maple, and linden trees.

A lake in the middle of the reserve that is used by mallards and waterfowl was chosen as the picnic spot for lunch before the group started its trek back. While avoiding muddy patches, the students got to practice their French by naming and identifying the various natural objects in their surroundings.







The second hike was a climb to the top of Mount Pinnacle located on the US-Canadian border in the Eastern Townships. Considered one of the few unspoiled mountains in southwest Quebec, the students trekked to the summit led by Mr. Jankowski and Ms Bolduc. Aside from the incredible view at the top, the students had fun putting their French skills into practice as they ordered snacks at the local restaurant.

Finally, Ms. Rubenovitch and a few students hiked through the beautiful Gault Nature Reserve on Mont Saint-Hilaire. The land, including the mountain itself, was once owned by a wealthy English businessman named Gault who left the property to McGill University which maintains it today. The reserve encompasses over a thousand hectares of primeval forest and is used for both research and recreation. The group enjoyed a typical chilly Canadian fall day, trekking amongst the vibrant colored leaves and was lucky to see a number of different woodland creatures in their natural habitat.



The students of the hiking club unanimously agreed that all three trips were a great success and a wonderful way to improve their French skills! Experiencing the best of Canadian nature and the spectacular views with great company, have all created rich memories that will be a lifelong treasure. They all eagerly look forward to more hikes and fun adventures with En Plein Air next fall!

**By Kimberly Blain**



# Intermiel Farm

## It's a Buzz at Elementary

After a study of bees, kindergarten to grade two students buzzed with excitement as they headed to the Intermiel Honey Farm for an authentic learning experience. Students learned about bee society and the life of a beehive, the importance of pollination, the role of the beekeeper, and the extraction of honey.

Two lucky students were chosen to wear a beekeeper's outfit and help the beekeeper open an active beehive. They pulled the honeycomb from the hive and were shown how the wax is removed. In the extraction room, students were selected to turn the handle of the extractor as they watched the honey flow from the combs.

Students' favourite moments included the honey taste test, when they were able to taste the many varieties of honey produced at the farm. After ending the day by playing with the farm animals, students happily headed back to school with a jar of fresh honey in hand.

**By Pippa Brady & Andrea Miller**





# Classe Nature

## Team Work in the Woods

A great adventure in the woods was had on the annual Classe Nature trip to Outaouais, Quebec. It was a natural playground for the grades 7 and 8 classes to explore over the course of two days.

They worked together to overcome team challenges from crossing a raging river to moving across a field on a set of A-frame stilts. The activities were engaging for the students and taught them valuable life skills. They faced each obstacle as a team and learned about the importance of communication, listening to others, and strategizing effectively.



They made new friends and lasting memories. Many students have a new found appreciation for nature after participating in this class trip; the experience in the woods was beneficial to students on so many levels.

**By Alycia Bartczak**





## Anti-Bullying Seminar

The Tandem team strives to make a difference in the community of Côte-des-Neiges – Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. Their objective is to increase the sense of security of its citizens and to teach them strategies to reduce their risk of becoming victims of crime.

At Kells Academy, we recognize the importance of promoting tolerance within the student body and giving them tools to prevent bullying.

Our Grade 7 classes welcomed Joseph Lambert from the Tandem organization, a group that works on creating a safer environment in the Montreal area.

Continuing with the bullying awareness and prevention theme both classes delved into this term, Joseph engaged the group in an interactive discussion about the importance of maintaining a safe space in school and the classroom.



Joseph's closing message resonated with the group as he implored students to be part of the solution, not the problem. He asked everyone to own their actions, question the role they play in this issue, and to step-up and make a change.

**By Kelly Donivan**

## From *ME* to *WE*: Action Campaigns for WE Charity

After receiving an award in June 2017 for outstanding contribution, Kells Elementary was even more motivated than usual to exceed our previous donations to the N.D.G. Food Depot for the Halloween 'WE Scare Hunger Campaign'. By taking part in action campaigns for WE Schools, Kells Elementary is making a difference both locally and around the world.

The Spirit Committee hung posters and went class to class to bring awareness to students about the need to scare away hunger from our community. Non-perishable food items were collected for a period of two weeks.

In addition to the food drive, Spirit Committee members got creative and enjoyed making a rainbow of Halloween Slime. Excited students of all ages lined up to make a slime purchase, allowing us to also make a monetary contribution to the N.D.G. Food Depot.



Beginning the first of our Global action campaigns on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, students held our annual Rafiki Bracelet and Bake Sale. Rafiki bracelets are handmade by women in Kenya using traditional skills passed on through generations. Each purchase helps to impact not only the life of the artisan, but of a child or family in a WE Charity partner community.

**By Marla Perlman**





## Classe Rouge

The leadership retreat for Grade 11 students was one they will always remember. The excitement was palpable when they went up to Wentworth, Quebec to take part in an overnight trip as part of their physical education program.



Students were put into teams and took part in a series of team-building challenges that tested them both mentally and physically. Teams were awarded points for working together during activities with the winning team earning a month of free dress for PE classes. Highlights of the trip included: archery, forest obstacle courses, zip lining, the Amazing Race, campfires, and much more.



The students worked extremely well together, had a great time, and most importantly demonstrated some of the key qualities that it takes to be a leader.

**By Jamie Bolduc**





# Lest we Forget

## Elementary Rocks

It was a memorable ceremony that Kells Elementary participated in on Remembrance Day. Leading up to the tribute, students learned about Canada's military history. Each class was given a battle of particular significance to Canada to represent on a wreath that was laid during the assembly. Students also wrote up information about the battle in a school book that was passed around after the ceremony so the whole school could learn about the different military initiatives. While the wreaths were laid, the choir sang "Take One Minute to Stand."

Following the assembly, all classes headed outside with their Remembrance Rocks that had been previously decorated. Remembrance Rocks is an initiative that began at Eden Camp in the United Kingdom. Students decorated rocks with a poppy, the words 'Remembrance Rocks', and any other images of remembrance they wished to include. As part of our acts of remembrance, we took our rocks into the local parks and hid them for others to find. The goal of Remembrance Rocks is to help people to take a moment to think about the sacrifice all members of the Armed Forces make to maintain our safety and freedom.

By Katie Singleton



# Knitting for Tiny Miracles

## Keeping the Premies Warm

Our FLEX crochet class took part in a heartwarming initiative by making beautiful blankets for the premature babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at The Jewish General Hospital.

Rosaleen Rinzler, chair of the JGH Auxiliary, is passionate about helping the Tiny Miracles and supporting this important cause. Being one of the largest birthing centers in the province of Quebec, this hospital delivers over 4500 babies per year of which 700 are premature newborns. Babies born in this unit may weigh as little as 500 grams, around one pound. When Rosaleen approached us to ask for our support, the students were eager to help. A group of high school students got busy knitting blankets with especially soft fabric and in the signature colour purple for preemies.



Clara Verna & Deborah Andriantseheno with teacher, Jill Chapman

For World Prematurity Day, student council organized a free dress day and raised \$350 to donate to the NICU.

The Kells community is proud to support this important cause in Montreal that helps these tiny miracles have a better chance at life.

By Emily Marosi



Clara Verna & Deborah Andriantseheno with Claudia Cinquino, NICU nurse.

Once the blankets were completed, we were invited to the hospital to have a tour of the incredible Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and present our special gifts.

Two high school students and talented knitters, Clara Verna and Deborah Andriantseheno, accompanied by myself and the FLEX knitting teacher, Jill Chapman, had a most rewarding visit to the NICU. We met with Claudia Cinquino, NICU nurse care counselor, who spoke to us about the amazing work that happens in this unit to save these fragile lives. We learned a great deal about the care of the preemies and the initiatives of the NICU.





Thanks to Mr. Kennedy for his exceptional musical direction, Marla Perlman for her endless support, along with a dedicated team of individuals (especially Ms. Rizzo, Ms. Pietracupa, Ms. Nielsen, Alireza, and Ms. Stephanie), the many students and teachers who assisted backstage, and Ms. Rubenovitch, Ms. Miceli, Ms. Skrivanos, Mr. Hickie, and students for the ambitious undertaking of creating a dreamy, magical Disney castle set.

But the greatest thank you goes out to all the students who performed that evening.

Their hard work, exceptional talents, and artistry shone brightly on stage and left us all feeling proud and inspired, reminding us that “When You wish Upon A Star Your Dreams Come True.” Congratulations to everyone involved!

**By Tina Mancini**



## Kells Scores Big in Canada Wide Math Competition

At the recently held contest administered by the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing at the University of Waterloo, one of our grade 11 students, Howard (Haoran) Qin, tied for 1st place overall with the highest possible score.

Additionally, one of our grade 10 students, Hyeonji Kim, obtained the second highest provincial score on the Cayley competition in 2018, earning two exclusive invitations to intensive mathematics summer camps held at the University of Ottawa and the University of Waterloo. The majority of our senior students placed in the top 25% nationally with Kells ranked among the top performing private schools in the province.

Kells Academy places a strong emphasis on mathematics. In addition to offering students the option to follow advanced and individually-tailored curricula, students in middle and secondary school have the opportunity to participate in several challenging mathematics competitions throughout the academic year. These contests, administered by the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing at the University of Waterloo, are a unique and enriching experience, allowing our students to compete both on an individual basis and as part of a team against more than 25,000 other secondary students across Canada and internationally.



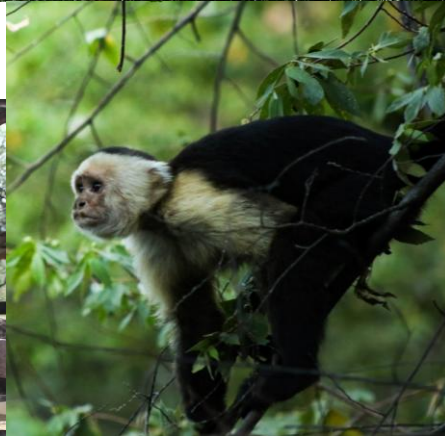
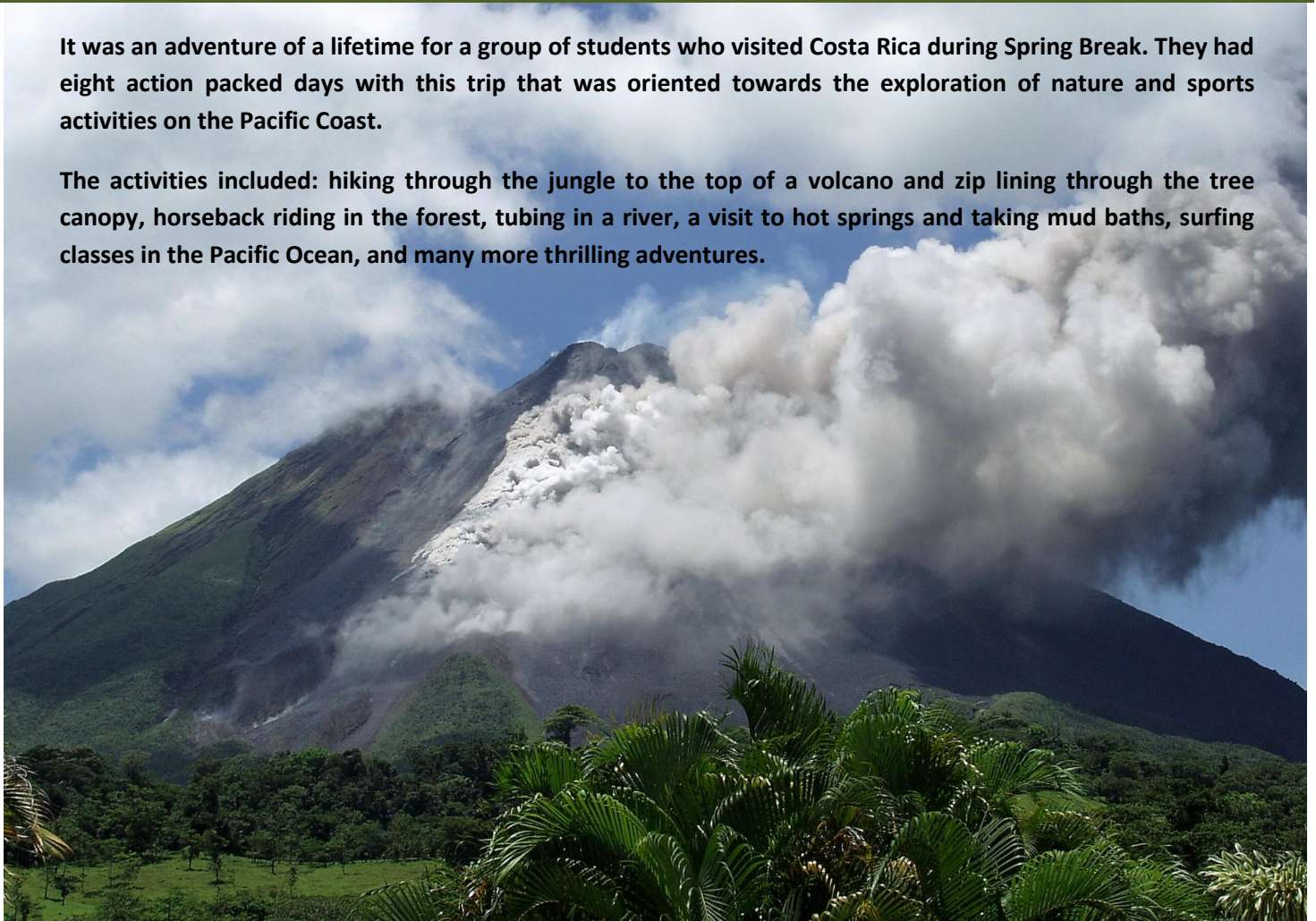
**By Michelle Burstein**



# Pacific Costa Rican Adventure

It was an adventure of a lifetime for a group of students who visited Costa Rica during Spring Break. They had eight action packed days with this trip that was oriented towards the exploration of nature and sports activities on the Pacific Coast.

The activities included: hiking through the jungle to the top of a volcano and zip lining through the tree canopy, horseback riding in the forest, tubing in a river, a visit to hot springs and taking mud baths, surfing classes in the Pacific Ocean, and many more thrilling adventures.





We stayed in two beautiful lodges with contrasting landscapes. The first one was situated in the mountains of Rincon de la Vieja National Park. It had a great view of the Costa Rican landscape and a pottery making workshop. The second lodge was smaller and entirely reserved for our group. A well trained chef was cooking thematic meals for us and it was always a culinary treat to see what we would be surprised with at each meal.

One can truly say that this trip was an amazing adventure and the students will always have incredible memories.

To see and do so much over eight days, in a unique and exotic location doesn't happen often.

**By Pawel Jankowski**



Please join us for our

# 'Student For A Day'

Program

at Kells High School



## EXPERIENCE BEING A 'STUDENT FOR A DAY'

We are hosting a 'student for a day' activity (by appointment). If you are looking to transfer your child from their school, this day is for you!

This is a great opportunity to see Kells in action! Spending the day as a Kells student provides a unique occasion to experience our innovative program, which is designed to enhance your child's strengths in a positive and nurturing environment.

**This exciting day includes:**

- A guided tour
- An experience in interesting classes
- A day to interact with Kells students and teachers
- Participation in our dynamic FLEX program
- A lunch courtesy of Kells

Come and experience being a 'student for a day'. Please call to confirm your participation 514-485-8565 or email [kadmin@kells.ca](mailto:kadmin@kells.ca)

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!**

Kells Academy, 6865 De Maisonneuve West, Montreal, Quebec. H4B 1T1

For more information: [www.kells.ca](http://www.kells.ca)