



ANNUAL REPORT

JOLIETTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2008-2009

NEW SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with great pride and thankfulness that the Joliette Elementary School (JES) Community shares in the excitement of the building of a new school. We would like to thank the many stakeholders who believed that JES was deserving of a new school. The exact location in the Joliette area remains to be determined as does the year when students will cross the threshold of their new school.

INTRODUCTION

VISION

- To ensure that all our students are literate by the end of Cycle 1 and to provide opportunities to all our students to increase English proficiency in reading and writing;
- To create a safe and caring school environment;
- To actively involve students in their own learning experience.

MISSION

- To prioritize reading and balanced literacy activities on a daily basis
- To adapt/modify academic programs
- To ensure a safe learning environment by adhering to our school-wide Behaviour Plan
- To foster student-centered learning experiences to promote student engagement

SCHOOL PORTRAIT

Joliette Elementary School (JES) serves a widely-dispersed student population of 192 students from Kindergarten to Cycle 3; Year 2 (Level 6). The school consists of a main building, and 8 portables which contain 7 classrooms. There are ten



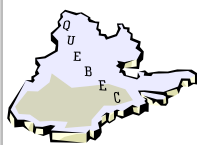
operating classrooms, a library, a gym, a computer lab, a resource room, a staff room, a kitchen, a classroom reserved for specialist teachers and the caretakers, a classroom used as a lunchroom, a classroom used as an art/lunchroom, and an office reserved for the CLSC nurse, the Behaviour technician and school board professionals. The front of the main building houses the principal and the school secretaries' offices.

There are 26 staff members: 15 teachers, 10 support staff, and 1 administrator. Complementary Educational Services are offered through the school psychologist one day per week, and the speech pathologist 1 day per month.

The classes are as follows:

Kindergarten:	2 groups	Cycle 1:	2 classes
Cycle 2:	3 classes	Cycle 3:	3 classes

The school is located in the municipality of St-Paul-de-Joliette, adjacent to Joliette. The students originate from 43 municipalities which explain why for most of our students, the social network established at school is central to their lives. JES is the only English elementary school in the Joliette area. The great majority of students are bused to school, and because the territory is so vast, some students spend over three hours traveling to and from school daily. There is a strict bus code and disrespectful behaviour is addressed immediately; the safety of the students and the driver is of the highest priority. Buses are provided by two school boards – the Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier School Board and our sister, francophone school board, *La commission scolaire des Samares*. There are 5 (five) transfer points where students transfer to other buses. Two bus supervisors have been assigned to two transfer points where student traffic is high so as to provide a safe and reassuring environment for our students. Out-of-zone students are accepted if class size permits and if parents accept to travel their child to and from school. JES's school attendance zone is delimited by the following municipalities:



- NORTH: Ste-Émilie-de-l'Énergie; St-Damien;
St-Charles-de-Mandeville
- SOUTH: St-Sulpice; L'Assomption
- EAST: St-Barthélémy
- WEST: St-Calixte (excluding St-Calixte village)

SCHOOL COMMITTEES

To better support our Educational Project, this year saw the establishment of the PPO (Parent Participation Organization) who raised over \$5,000. thus offering our students a wide possibility of activities and field trips.



Our Governing Board met six times this year and worked hand-in-hand with both the PPO and Teacher Council. Once again this year, Teacher Council had a large membership and assumed the task of ensuring that the very best decisions were taken to ensure the students' welfare. The School Level Special Needs Committee (SLSNC) was particularly effective this year and met monthly. Our Resource/Remedial Teacher assumed the chair of this committee and her daily implication with the teachers facilitated the implementation of various government grants/mesures, and the preparation of dossiers for eventual assessments by our professionals.

With the support of the SWLSB and the many government grants, we strove throughout the year to make Joliette Elementary School a thriving, happy and safe learning community.

NEW JOLIETTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WEBSITE

The posting of Joliette Elementary School's new website has been the culmination of several months work by the principal, Louise A. McLaughlin, and a volunteer parent, Mr. Bob Pellerin. The new look of the website brings JES into the 21st century, and will allow browsers to discover the many facets that make JES a unique school in the Lanaudière region.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

WELLNESS GRANT

The allocation this year was \$1 352.00. Starting on February 5, 2009, two groups participated in Hip Hop classes held at lunch time for a duration of 12 weeks. The classes were held on Thursdays. Once again, the invitation was extended to Cycle 3 students with a participation of over 40 students. There was an unexpected enthusiasm for this activity – the students were truly appreciative to learn this popular dance style. A balanced participation of boys and girls indicated that this activity was regarded as a real drawing card for our older students. The dance school *École de danse Suzie Fontaine* located in a neighbouring community provided the instruction, and organized an end-of-session Hip Hop show on May 13, 2009. The activity was appreciated by all the participants and we are grateful to the MELs for this generous grant.



HOMEWORK GRANT

Last year's popularity of the activities under the Homework Grant umbrella made for a repeat performance! The allocation for our school was \$7 241.00. This year we hired a third supervisor to support the students with their homework.

One supervisor welcomed students in a classroom and supported them with their homework, assignments, projects, and unfinished class work. Attendance was high with an average attendance of 346 students monthly. Parents, teachers and students were all invited to recommend student attendance at Homework Club. This service was greatly appreciated by our entire school community.

A second supervisor oversaw the computer lab. Students were invited to attend only twice weekly after we realized that many students were happy to visit the computer lab daily. Attendance was based on a first come; first served basis. Here also, students were able to complete homework/assignments that required the use of a computer and the guidance of the supervisor. This service further supported students developing keyboarding and IT skills. Here also, the turnout was high with an average monthly attendance rate of 555 students.

A third supervisor was invited to support students experiencing difficulties with organizational skills. Completing homework and assignments is hampered when a student's materials and desk are in a clutter. The supervisor helped students recommended by the teachers, giving them tips on how to better organize themselves. Teachers noticed that this support made a definite difference in the students' productivity.

The Homework Grant is a much appreciated allocation allowing the entire student population to benefit throughout the year.

LIBRARY GRANT

We have been able to further support literacy with this year's grant of \$2 861.20 to our school. To offer a selection of appreciated books by elementary-age students, the Library Clerk and the principal contacted neighbouring school libraries to enquire as to what books were being taken out regularly by their young clientele. The conclusions allowed us to make purchases that would meet our students' needs. The categories that have proven the most popular are non-fiction with an accent on sports, and animals. The books most taken out this year were drawn from the purchases made in the last 3 years. At JES, students visit the library weekly and take out books in both French and English with the proportion of French and English changing as they progress through the cycles.



In addition this year, the Library Clerk opened the library during morning recess and attracted a varied and new group of readers. Students who were reluctant readers became frequent visitors. That development was particularly gratifying. The monthly statistics indicate a very high turnout with an average attendance of 333 students per month. This new initiative yielded extremely positive results.

CULTURE IN THE SCHOOLS GRANT

The allocation this year was \$978.00. Last year's experience of exploring world music was such a success that finding an artist that would captivate the students' attention was a challenge. Happily, Jacques Boutin was available and gave our entire school population a magical experience in early December 2008. Mr. Boutin is a puppeteer who has worked with Jjm Henson, the famed Muppets creator. Mr. Boutin's pedagogical and theatrical background enhanced his workshops. He began with a history of puppetry and invited the students to discover the joys of making a puppet. A pedagogical booklet was available to the teachers to prepare the students for the workshop. This grant was very much appreciated. As a northern school, our students have fewer occasions to benefit from cultural activities and they are always extremely grateful for such school-wide initiatives.

MESURE D'ACCUEIL GRANT

The allocation this year was \$1 980.00. Once again, our school was able to support students newly arrived to Quebec as well as those benefitting from a second year of French language assistance. There were seven (7) students who participated in this support measure in 2008-2009: four (4) were able to avail themselves of this service for the second year, and three (3) for their first year. There was marked progress with all students as the pre and post reports indicated. They were grouped into two groups based on their abilities and met with a French teacher for two, one-hour blocks weekly. This is a particularly appreciated grant and our French teachers are grateful for the support offered to these newly arrived students from Ontario and California. This year, 10 percent of the grant was put aside to purchase materials to support the French teacher's work with the students.

MESURE 50670

This grant provided our school with \$3 948.00 so as to purchase IT equipment. With teacher consensus, we purchased a media centre set in a portable cart which



includes an LCD projector mounted on an adjustable shelf, a DVD/VCR panel and speakers.

The media cart permits teachers to offer lessons in various rooms in the school thus enhancing their lessons. We have also been able to support student presentations with this new equipment. We are extremely grateful for this very generous grant.

SPECIAL NEEDS GRANTS (MESURES 30050 & 30059)

The School Level Special Needs Committee (SLSNC) proposed the following for JES:

MESURE 30050

The SLSNC decided to offer direct support to the students experiencing a marked delay in literacy. The staff unanimously supported this decision. An attendant was assigned to seven (7) students throughout the cycles (Level 2 – 3 students for 8 hrs; Level 3 – 1 student for 1.5 hours; Level 5 – 3 students for 5.5 hours). The attendant's intervention with the students began on April 7, 2009 and ended on June 8, 2009 when the \$3 662. grant was depleted.

The attendant supported the students in the classroom. The attendant had access to adapted/modified materials provided by the teachers as well as appropriate leveled readers. The teachers as well as the Resource/Remedial teacher were available to answer questions raised by the attendant.

We are extremely grateful to the MELS for this generous grant and the help it provided to our neediest readers.

MESURE 30059

This grant was for \$732.40 and allowed teachers to work alongside a SWLSB's Literacy consultant to redesign the English Language Arts (ELA) program for Cycles 2 and 3 for 2009-2010. On May 8, 2009, four (4) teachers met with the consultant and looked at how we could better meet our students' literacy needs. With a population whose mother tongue is French, our teachers are faced with unique challenges in facilitating our students' acquisition of English. In the last two years, we have striven to enhance the learning of English. Last year, we allotted more time to the teaching of ELA in Cycle 1. This year, the ELA program has been redesigned in the later cycles to maintain the support begun in Cycle 1. This grant has allowed the teachers to apply the knowledge they have gathered at the Board's Literacy workshops and make it come alive for our students. Next year is promising: to better support the mastery of the many ELA competencies that continue to challenge our students.



SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

We organized several school outings this year thanks to fundraising done by teachers in 2007-2008 and carried over to this year's budget, and the generous fundraising efforts undertaken by our newly-formed Parent Participation Organization (PPO).

There were ten (10) field trips this year with a basic agreement with the staff that every class would benefit from two (2) field trips. Destinations were selected to highlight activities in the Lanaudière region thus limiting busing costs.

Kindergarten & Cycle 1

- CLAP (Centre Lanaudière d'activités physiques): November 7, 2008 (Joliette)
- Camp Boute-en-train (outdoor activities): June 2, 2009-06-14 (Chertsey)

Cycle 2

- CLAP (Centre Lanaudière d'activités physiques): November 14, 2008 (Joliette)
- Camp Boute-en-train (outdoor activities): June 2, 2009-06-14 (Chertsey)

Cycle 3

- Arbraska (obstacle course in a forest setting): November 7, 2008 (Rawdon)
- Arundel (overnight camping experience – Level 6 only): June 3, 4, and 5, 2009.
- ÉquitArts (riding & art activities – Level 5 only): June 5 (St-Barthélemy)

SPECIAL FIELD TRIPS

Bowling: Students who received three (3) or less bus tickets during the fall of 2008 were treated to an afternoon of bowling in Joliette. We began this activity last year and it has been a huge hit!

This activity has impacted positively on the remainder of the year with an average of 3 bus tickets per month since the onset of 2009 for a student population of 190 students. Considering that our students come from over 40 communities and travel, on average, 90 minutes per day (45 minutes X 2), those statistics are particularly encouraging.

HALO Run on Mount-Royal: Students (42) were selected by the Physical Education teacher from Levels 3-6 to run alongside thousands of students from the Montreal region (Cycle 2 – 1km; Cycle 3 – 2km). The event was held on April 29, 2009.

Ms. Sophie's Penpal Visit: On Wednesday, May 13, 2009, Ms. Sophie invited her homeroom class to École Marie-Anne in Rawdon to spend a day with the students' penpals.



Ms. Sophie's Overnight Camping Adventure: On June 9, 2009, Ms. Sophie invited a selection of students from all the classes she taught this year and who met her criteria to an overnight camping experience on her property.

In addition to the many field trips this year, students were treated to visiting artists/guests: Mr. Boutin, a world-class puppeteer, *Reptile Man* who introduced a variety of reptiles to the students, and Geordie Productions who offered our school population a wonderful play.

BEHAVIOUR PLAN

JES's elaborate Behavior Plan underpins our concerted efforts as a school community. Grants described above along with school-wide incentives to offer the students a wide variety of activities create an atmosphere of respect and collegiality. Posting our Code of Conduct throughout the school serves as a daily reminder of JES's Vision and Mission. Our Discipline Code along with our collaborative efforts has yielded particularly positive results this year.