



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE SIR-WILFRID-LAURIER
SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Souvenir Elementary School recognized by the Council of Commissioners

Rosemère, September 27, 2023 – The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) Council of Commissioners was thrilled to recognize the dedicated team who planned a truly unique and extraordinary event held at Souvenir Elementary School on September 7th, 2023.



Twelve members of the prestigious Canadian Forces Parachute Demonstration Team, known as the Skyhawks, flew gracefully from the blue skies of Laval and landed on the soccer field at Souvenir Elementary School. The breathtaking performance left everyone in awe, serving as a reminder of the dedication, teamwork and unparalleled skill possessed by these remarkable individuals who serve our Country.

“I am so pleased to extended my heartfelt congratulations to the school team in successfully obtaining special permission from the Canadian Armed Forces Parachute Team which designated Souvenir Elementary School as *Skyhawk Territory*,” said SWLSB Chairperson Paolo Galati.

This collaboration stands as a tribute to the memory of Sgt. Chris Karigiannis, an alumnus of Souvenir Elementary School and Laval Liberty High School (now Laval Senior Academy), who was killed in Afghanistan in 2007. Sgt. Karigiannis was the youngest member of the Skyhawks at the time of his selection, representing the spirit of personal excellence, service, and courage. His inspirational story continues to motivate students and staff alike.

“Our council was extremely pleased to recognize the dedicated staff who organized this unique event. Jill Davey, Teacher, Goretti Dematos, Special Education Technician, Helen Kalipolidis, Principal and Sunday Skoufaras, Vice-Principal,” continued Paolo Galati.

Additionally, the Council recognized the significant contributions of two committee members of the Pedagogical Services Department, Mr. Daniel Johnson and Mrs. Cheryl Smith, Spiritual Care Animators, who couldn't be physically present at the Council of Commissioners meeting.

The Council commended the organizing committee for organizing an event of this scale, especially during the busy back-to-school period. Commissioners Barbara Barrasso and Olivia Landry, who were both present at the event, expressed their admiration for the outstanding Skyhawks parachuting performances.

“Souvenir Elementary School's partnership with the Skyhawks and parachute demonstration event embodies the dedication and commitment of our school teams who never hesitate to go out of their way to ensure students can experience unforgettable moments such as this one.” concluded Mr. Galati.

The Council's hope is that this partnership will serve as a source of inspiration for students, encouraging them to strive for excellence, embrace the values of courage and service, and actively contribute to a brighter future for themselves and their community.

With a workforce of more than 2,000 employees, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is the third-largest English school board of the Province of Québec and boasts a graduation rate of 88.3%. Its territory comprises the administrative regions of Laval, Laurentides and Lanaudière. The school board provides preschool, elementary, secondary and adult education, together with vocational training services to over 14,000 students in 35 schools and 4 centres. It also offers business training services.

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