



JUNE 2008



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Editor: **Christine Clarke**

Mac Link

Home & School

Please note that in the past, the entire \$16.00 of your membership fee was sent directly to the QFHSA. We did not keep any part of it.

Starting in September, the membership fee will be \$20.00, \$16.00 of which will be sent to the QFHSA and \$3.00 per member will remain with your local H&S.

One dollar (\$1.00) per membership will be used to purchase breakfast coupons for needy children in the school. Associate member fee will be \$4.00.

Our membership form will be given out in August or emailed to you if you prefer.

Our members continue to be an extremely important part of Mac!

Have a very safe yet enjoyable summer!

Regards,

Linda – Membership Chair

betlin@videotron.ca

Linda Gibson
Chair - Mac H&S

Dear Mac Community,

Please support our advertisers who said "Yes" when we approached them and asked them to support us.

My first year as Mac Link editor has been a terrific experience.

I would like to give a special thank you to my son, Andrew Fogarty, for his patience and his Photoshop skills. Without his help I would not have been able to pull this together.

Our next issue will be in November.

Have a great summer!

The Editor.



As I write my last article for the Mac Link, I think about how far we have come in the 5 years since our beginnings on the Macdonald High School scene. You do have a say in what goes on in your children's school, and you can make a difference, but you need to get involved. Once your kids cross the parking lot and go to CEGEP you are out of the picture – **these 5 years at high school are your last years to get involved – and believe me it goes quickly.**

Over the years I have had the opportunity to work with our Governing Board, Home & School, Mr. Aitken, Mr. Fuzessy, Mr. Collins, staff members, and of course all of our parent volunteers. **I would like to say a special thank you to Debbie Boutin, Debbie Snyder, Liz Glasgow and Stevia Panageas for their involvement and friendship over the years.**

Remember to keep checking the school website. Have a safe and happy summer. And come September, join a parent group at Mac, and participate!

Cathy Hart-Noble
PPO Chair

Teamwork



"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Helen Keller

SERGE ST-DENIS

B.Sc. (Pharm), L.Ph., P.E.B.C.

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MACDONALD HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD

Macdonald High Governing Board

Another successful year at Macdonald High has come to a close. On behalf of the members of the Governing Board, I would like to thank our outstanding administrator Mr. Jim Aitken for a fantastic year. I would also like to thank the teachers, staff and parents who give of their time and energy to make the Governing Board an exciting and integral part of the Macdonald High community. We are one of the lucky schools where the different represented factions of our high school community come together in an effort to better the environment where our children come to learn. We try to find solutions together and work towards a common goal, the best interests of the entire student body.

The Governing Board is losing some key members this year; people who have given of themselves and who have gone over and above the call of duty.

Two were mentioned in the last Mac Link, Mrs. Allison Clarke and Mrs. Rickhey Margolies are graduating. One parent member that was unfortunately overlooked was Mrs. Karen Goodhand. Karen has been on the governing board for a number of years and has devoted herself to the advancement of ideas and principles that benefit the students of Macdonald High, as she "graduates" from Mac High, we wish her all the best and some much-deserved rest.

Last, but definitely not least, the Macdonald High community is losing an incredibly devoted human being who is known by almost every student and parent. Everyone who has had the benefit to get to know him respects him. I am of course referring to Mr. Dion Joseph. Mr. Joseph has been the voice of the teachers on the governing board; he has also been the driving force behind so many activities at Mac that it is difficult to envision the school without him. All will miss him and we wish him the best of luck in his new duties.

Robert Hamel, chair
Macdonald High Governing Board



"We all have this inner strength within us. Just rely on that solid foundation that you have started building with the education you've received. "

- Christopher Reeve



April –May and June are the shortest months of the year when you are a student activity advisor. There is never enough time to get all of the student life activities in. This spring, student leadership at Mac High has never been so busy. I will highlight a few – but there are so many things that have gone on that it spins my head and will not fit in this article. **Mac Camp** was a tremendous event that brought together students from all grade levels interested in leadership. With the help of Cory Tardiff our *Dawson College* intern and our Grade 11 student planning committee, our campers had a great time of bonding, learning, inspiring and planning. They can't wait until next year. The school board leadership camp (AKA **LBP Camp**) was incredible once again and Mac contributed strongly with two senior students being planners and our delegation was very strong and excellent ambassadors for Mac High and came home craving more.

Mac is well into its 100th year but still is as strong as ever. This term showed us again that Mac is an amazing school. We raised funds for the Old Brewery mission with a **Hat Day/ Bake Sale**, had **Mac Madness** Basketball tournament with the champion student team playing an all-star teacher team. The result was a fun-filled lunch time with some good basketball. Thankfully the teachers acted like bus drivers and took the students to school on the court!

The **year-end dance** was extreme with D.J. Phil and D.J. FX spinning some great tunes. We will be seeing more of PG productions next year as these student leaders take the helm as they enter Sec. 5. Who can forget - **TCBY** – what a fantastic way to celebrate the end of school, well over 400 delicious treats sold, setting the stage for the annual yearbook signing festival. There are a couple of activities left to come with Prom

just around the corner and our first ever **Pre-Prom** Senior visit when some of our Grads – dressed up in their fantastic outfits - plan to visit the Veterans. These activities and more have all been student driven from **IDEA TO ACTION**.

Speaking of next year we have our **Grade 7 Day** planning committee in place for opening day 2008 and our presidential elections are planned for the second week of school next September. We decided to put elections in the fall as it will give our presidential candidates a chance to meet all the new students next year and do a proper campaign. I can assure you that each candidate is a super student leader and will make an excellent Co-Pres. (Note: each and every student at Mac can join the Student Council by attending meetings but our student leadership team is lead by students elected by the general population of Mac High. Each and every student at Mac will have a vote.)

Thus ends the year. It is always a bittersweet time. Working with these high energy, visionary, super student leaders is an amazing ride.... A bit like herding cats, but an amazing ride non-the-less. I consider it a privilege to have worked with this group.... But as a teacher, July and August are two of my favorite words ☺

As a final note I will especially miss our graduating student leaders. The senior leadership class and our Grade 11 student leaders set the tone, have the maturity and work ethic to make a solid impact on Mac High. Specifically I want to note Zach Bruman, Kim Noble, Cynthia Rocha, Caelie Smith and Katy Shea . The fine young people have worked tirelessly at making Mac a better place for their fellow students and I congratulate them and thank them as they graduate. Good luck.

Leadershiply yours.

Mr. J. Roberts

"Some men see things as they are and say 'Why?' I dream things that never were and say 'Why not?'"

**Robert F. Kennedy
Assassinated June 5th, 1968**

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Reach for the top!



"There are two ways to spread happiness; either be the light who shines it or be the mirror who reflects it."

American Novelist Edith Wharton



**"Trust men and they will be true to you;
treat them greatly, and they will show
themselves great."**

Ralph Waldo Emerson



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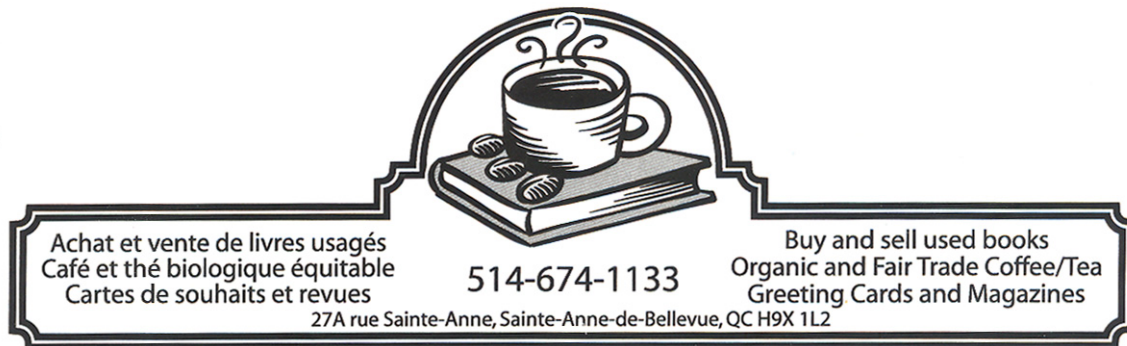
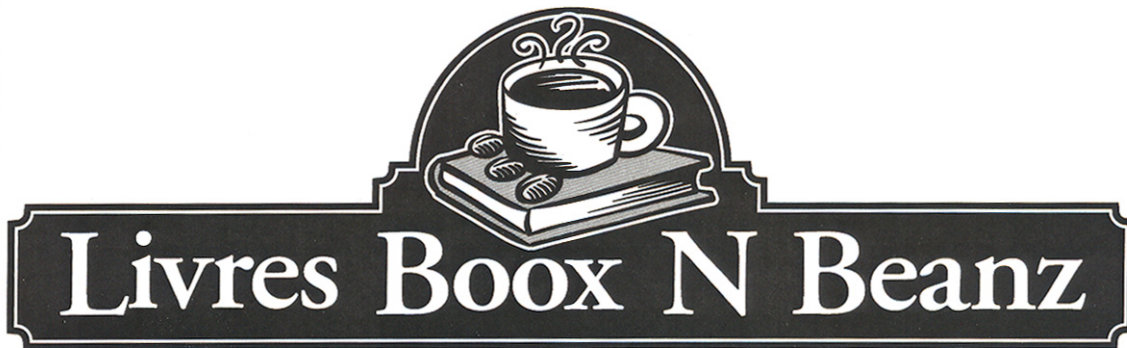
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Community Office

The last Mac Link is always a bittersweet note for me. It, of course, signals the end of the school year. As much as I love the summer and being off, I truly miss the students and the constant excitement that each new project brings. I feel a bit sad knowing that our "Grads" will have moved on in September, but enthused to see the next group of leaders making their mark.

Congratulations to those wonderful "Grads" enjoy your summer and Good Luck with all future endeavors!



This link also gives us a chance to say **Thank You to all of our Volunteers.** Bookbinders, Health Office people, Library helpers, drivers and anyone else who has offered that precious gift of time. It is so appreciated and hopefully you all know how important your contribution is to our school.

A final note for the year, a huge **Thank You to my husband, David Tuff.** His constant presence behind the scenes is invaluable.

Keep safe and enjoy the summer!

Sue Tuff
Community Office

Farewell Mr. Dion Joseph

The Home and School wishes their beloved Mr. Joseph a fond farewell. We want to take this opportunity to extend our sincerest congratulations to him on his promotion to Vice-Principal of Westwood Senior High School and to thank him for the enormous difference he has made to the staff, students and parents of the Macdonald High School Community.



I only just met Mr. Joseph this year and already I feel as if I am losing a friend. He made my transition from 'Mac mom' to Mac Link Editor an easy one. I will miss that smile of his!

Christine Clarke

"All the best from 'the Macro's'."

Thank you so much for having been a part of Amanda and David's lives. You are such a positive role model for kids of all ages who in return love and respect you. You will be greatly missed at our Home and School meetings. You have always been there to encourage and support our group no matter what we do.

Good Luck at your new school.....I will miss you.

Julie Lafontaine

I have known Mr. Joseph since Mini Mac. He is awesome with the kids. When it comes to them, time does not matter. The hours he spends with the kids and organizing events for them is way over the norm. Very few teachers have his dedication and passion for teaching. Grad

activities and Florida trip would not be as memorable without him. His departure will leave a hole that is going to be hard to fill. Mr. Joseph, enjoy your new responsibilities. Mac is going to miss you. Take care.

Rickhey

Best of Luck, Dion.

Terry Tansey

Mr. Joseph is the spirit of Macdonald High School. He will be sorely missed and impossible to replace. Good luck Dion!!!

Darcy

How amazing for Mr. Joseph, he certainly deserves it, but how sad for us! He will be very sorely missed here at MAC!

Home & School, Governing Board, Esteem Team, Staff Council, grad activities, sports activities, school plays, Talent shows, Dance shows, TOPS, Christmas Fairs, Pasta Dinners, extra-curricular trips, and an office door that was always open to students, staff and parents. We hope Westwood realizes just how lucky they are. Good luck - and we will certainly miss you!

Mac PPO

Mr. Joseph is one of the most dedicated teachers I have ever met. He gives so much of his personal time to make sure the kids get the utmost out of their high school experience. He has made many a Grad's final year at Mac one they will never forget. His dedication to Home and School was so appreciated, from attending all our meetings and helping at all of our fundraisers, we knew we could count on him.

Mr. Joseph, I wish you the very best of luck in your new position. The school you will be going to is a very fortunate school. They are getting a rare gem.

Congratulations and good luck at your new school. Mac will have big shoes to fill. You were and are the greatest.

Love Marla & Mom Peterma

Farewell Cont'd

Upon hearing about the promotion of Dion Joseph from Mac High to Vice-Principal of Westwood Sr. I couldn't even fathom anyone else so deserving of this title. Personally I think it should be Principal, but hey, that will come soon enough, I have no doubt what-so-ever!

I'm sorry for those students left at Mac or coming in to Mac that won't have the privilege of Dion Joseph counselling them. Teaching them. Laughing with them. It certainly will be their loss.

My five years working alongside Dion Joseph for numerous Mac functions, as well as at all the Home & School meetings, were the most memorable years of not only my daughter Katie's school life at Mac High, but mine as well. His dedication to the well being and education of Mac High students was nothing short of amazing. No one else in my daughter's school life, from elementary through high school, ever showed that much compassion or understanding for their kids. Every meeting of the Home and School Association he was there. Every craft sale, he was there. Just about every function Mac had, Dion was there. Graduation would not have been or will never be the same without Dion organizing the event with the grade 11 students. When my daughter was in her final year at Mac in 2002, their grad trip to Florida was cancelled due to concerns about what had happened in New York City on 9/11/2001. His regret for having to cancel that trip was felt for years to come even though there was nothing he could do about it.

He has certainly left an indelible mark on every student he's touched with his wit, his enthusiasm and his true dedication and concern for every one of them. I just want to say - Dion, I wish you all the very best as you go forward in what will be a most rewarding career.

And, you still owe me a visit for tea!

Sincerely,
Kathy Vaillancourt

Congratulations and best wishes, **Sue Brock –
H&S recording secretary**

Congrats on your promotion! You are the perfect person for the job! Thank you for choosing this profession as we, not just the students, have all benefited from knowing you. You never lost

your enthusiasm for Mac from the first day you arrived to now, almost 10 years later.

Keep smilin' your smile and may all the raccoons in your life always be on the other side of the fence and may your paperwork be at a minimum.

Good Luck, I'll miss you.

Mrs. Gibson (a.k.a. Linda)

" He who wishes to secure the good of others, has already secured his own."

Confucius



You will be in our hearts during your tour of duty with the UN Peacekeepers in Africa.

See you in September 2009 Mr. Taylor!!

DRIVING TO THE USA THIS SUMMER?

Here are some useful tips

By: Stephen J. Fogarty, attorney

Canada's strong dollar combined with less expensive gas prices stateside will continue to make US driving vacations popular this summer. Here are some points to keep in mind¹:

- Canadian and US border guards are not there "just for laughs". Jokes like "Looking for dynamite in there, are you?" will bring you nothing but trouble.
- When **driving or boating** to the US, **persons 19 and over** must present documentation that proves both identity and citizenship. Identification documents must include a photo, name and date of birth. **Children ages 18 and under** will only be required to present proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate.
- A person with a criminal record should check with a legal professional *before* travelling to determine if their particular record obliges them to obtain advance permission to enter the US.
- A criminal record does *not* automatically disappear. US and Canadian law enforcement agencies share their database. One must answer fully and truthfully any questions, even if a pardon was granted or they were found not guilty.
- If they fail to do so, or, if their criminal record includes dishonesty, violence or drugs, admission to the US may be refused and they may be "flagged" against future entries, unless a waiver is obtained.
- A false answer at the US border may also result in a charge of attempted illegal entry and even seizure of the vehicle.
- The vehicle's driver is responsible for answers given by passengers. *Your* vehicle can be impounded as the "transporter" of another person seeking entry against US regulations.
- Vehicle seizure can also result from transporting any illegal item across the border.
- Be sure to discuss these points *before* giving a ride to a US-bound friend or relative.
- The US and Canada follow strict rules to guard against child kidnapping. When travelling with a child from an ex-spouse, be sure to have your ex's written permission or a certified true copy of the Court order granting you access and/or travel rights. Bill 101 does not apply to US customs; you will need an official translation of French-language documents. Also, it is a good idea to have a permission letter when travelling with a child in the absence of your current spouse.
- Border guards may ensure that tourists have adequate funds and are not seeking to work without the required permission. If one's job status is "unemployed", expect numerous questions on finances and purposes of the US visit.
- Quebec Medicare does not provide complete coverage in the US. Consider purchasing US travel medical insurance.
- Always have a copy of your prescription to justify any medication and related paraphernalia (such as syringes).

Useful links:

Canada – <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travel-voyage/canadians-eng.html>

US – <http://www.dhs.gov/xtrvlsec/crossingborders/index.shtm>

¹ This article is for information purposes only and does not purport to provide a complete description of the legal issues involved.



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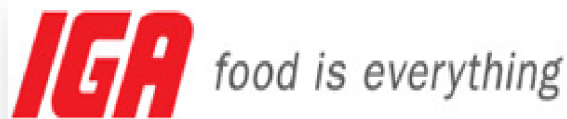
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The school year has ended already, and I would like to wish all our teachers, parents and students a well deserved summer vacation.

Take advantage of this period of rest and enjoy your favourite outdoor summer activities safely.



Déjà une autre année scolaire de terminée. Je désire souhaiter aux enseignantes et enseignants, aux parents ainsi qu'aux élèves de passer de belles vacances estivales bien méritées.

Tout en vous adonnant à vos activités d'été préférées, profitez de ce moment de repos en toute sécurité.

Yvon Marcoux
MNA for Vaudreuil

