



Polaris	
Heures d'ouverture	
M/L	10h - 18h
T/M	10h - 18h
W/M	10h - 18h
T/J	10h - 18h
F/V	10h - 18h

Hello From the President, Amanda Fritz



As you review the history of the Montreal Children's Library ([click here for a quick refresher!](#)), it's easy to see that this is an organization that embraces change in order to best serve disadvantaged families on and off the island of Montreal. For more than 87 years, the MCL has strived to provide fun, free literacy resources and activities to Montreal children in need, right where they live and play.

This past October, the MCL's Board of Directors made the difficult decision to close our branches in the Sud-Ouest and Ville-Marie boroughs due to a lack of funding. That action step allows us to fully support the operations of our very active Polaris branch in St-Michel, which remains a beacon of hope in the community, and our nationally recognized Parent-Child Mother Goose pre-literacy program, which currently operates at 9 sites in Greater Montreal.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to our library staff for all their hard work. It was with great regret that we had to say goodbye to Helen Kyne, Annie Gaudreau, and Erika Sullivan in October. We are grateful to these three incredible women who had helped to bring the world of imagination, books, and experiential learning to the MCL's young patrons.

As the MCL winds down its activities in 2016, we were able to squeeze in a fun addition before we wrap up the year. I am delighted to announce the first (ever!) edition of our e-newsletter. Now, you can have the MCL's news, events, and updates delivered right to your inbox *or* you can visit our website at mcl-bjm.ca whenever you want!

But before you begin to explore the rest of this edition...

On behalf of all of us at the Montreal Children's Library, a sincere thank you for being an important member of our community of patrons, donors, and friends. **It is your support that permits a little library to do BIG things for kids and their families, all at no charge.**

Would you like to become more involved with the MCL in 2017? We are always looking for more volunteers. Do you have a talent for fundraising, communications, education or governance? Use your unique experiences and skills to help the MCL thrive and expand. Contact me today at a.fritz@mcl-bjm.ca for more information.

And so from our bookshelves to yours, we wish you the happiest of holidays and a wonderful new year.

Les nouvelles du Nord

Par Paula Labrasseur et Pinfang Lu

Que de changements au cours des derniers mois à la bibliothèque Polaris!

- Une immense carte du monde dessinée sur le mur à l'entrée de la bibliothèque,
- plusieurs centaines de livres ajoutés à la collection,
- une réorganisation de la collection pour faciliter le repérage des documents,
- des ateliers de cinéma le vendredi, un jeu d'évasion (sur le thème "Qui a tué la bibliothécaire?") qui a connu un succès monstre pour l'Halloween, de nouveaux partenaires dans le quartier Saint-Michel...



Sans compter le don inespéré de 1100 livres neufs, qui seront emballés puis offerts à 100 enfants qui fréquentent la bibliothèque lors de notre soirée "L'atelier du Père Noël", qui aura lieu le 22 décembre prochain.

Au programme de cette fête... Sans compter le don inespéré de 1100 livres neufs, qui seront emballés puis offerts à 100 enfants qui fréquentent la bibliothèque lors de notre soirée "L'atelier du Père Noël", qui aura lieu le 22 décembre décoration de biscuits en pain d'épices, pêche à la canne de Noël, photobooth avec la chaise du Père Noël et j'en passe!

Qu'est-ce qui s'en vient cet hiver? Des ateliers d'improvisation en collaboration avec le centre, nos fameux ateliers de science et d'échecs, des soirées de jeux vidéos, un tout nouveau jeu d'évasion pour la Saint-Valentin, la renaissance du Club de lecture, et plusieurs projets sur le feu, excitants mais secrets pour l'instant!

Bref, selon les dires de plusieurs dans le Centre René Goupil, voici une bibliothèque qui renaît!



Les jeunes sont déjà dans l'esprit des fêtes

Parent-Child Mother Goose Program Takes Flight

By Rachel Wagner Lemblé

With over 400 families speaking 29 different home-languages, our weekly pre-literacy music program for parents and their infants represents the joy and diversity of the Montreal area.

Professional photographer, Méli ssa Giguère, volunteered to take pictures and show just that. [Watch this short video and smile with delight!](#)

What parents are saying:

“Mother Goose has made me a better mom. Sometimes when I am feeling frustrated with my kids I start to sing the songs we learned...it’s hard to be stay angry while singing.”

“I missed my exercise class...but I needed to go to Mother Goose.”

“This program has been a salvation for me.”

We couldn’t be more grateful to offer this program and for those who so fully sustain Mother Goose’s “flight.” We’ll be opening our tenth site in January. We invite you to join us at the site and day most convenient to your family. [Find more information at our website.](#)



We are also excited to announce that we are authorized to conduct Teacher Training Workshops in English or French for potential Mother Goose Animators.

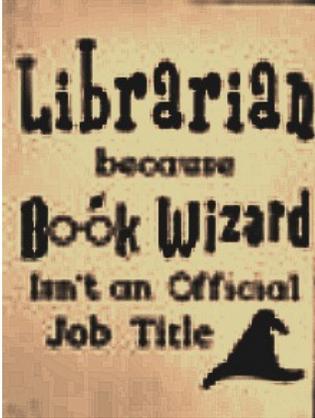
This two-day workshop covers program logistics, techniques, rhymes, songs and oral storytelling.

A program participant wrote, “I took from this workshop: Confidence, resources, examples of how to adapt to our community, and a detailed explanation of the “why” this is valuable.”

The cost for the two-day workshop and materials is \$330/per participant.

We invite any interested party to contact me at wagner.rachel@gmail.com to schedule a site visit and see how the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program can help your community take flight!

Merci Elizabeth!



After 37 years of dedicated service spreading a love of literacy and books to children, Elizabeth Macdonnell retired from her position as the Vega Branch Librarian on September 3, 2016.

It is not an exaggeration to say that Elizabeth was adored by the kids who experienced first-hand her amazing spirit, colourful creativity, engaging voice and collection of eye-catching, hand-made puppets. She created a joyful reading experience for children of all ages.

[Click here to view this short video tribute.](#)

Elizabeth has been a wonderful "Book Wizard" for the MCL. We wish her a "charm-filled" life in her retirement!

Bridging the Literacy Gap

For the past 25 years, the Annual Bridge Luncheon in support of the Montreal Children's Library takes place in autumn. Thank you to our loyal bridge players, Mountainside United Church, and an energetic team of volunteers and bakers for keeping this fun tradition going another year.

The MCL board of directors expresses sincere gratitude for the generous support of individuals, foundations and businesses throughout the past 87 years. Donations allow the MCL to offer its library services, programs (science, chess, crafts, theatre, etc.) and outreach activities free of charge.

Special recognition goes to the Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre Board at this time. Since 1970, there has been an MCL branch in Little Burgundy. Due to financial constraints, the difficult but hopeful decision was made recently by the MCL Board to gift the branch's assets to the centre.

How thrilling that the local community will continue to nurture the joy of reading and life-long learning. Another kind of bridge for child literacy!



Les événements à venir

Le Défi caritatif Banque Scotia

By Fred Horowitz (Board Member)



On **April 22 and April 23 of 2017**, for the fifth consecutive year, The Montreal Children's Library (MCL) will be participating in the Scotia Bank Charity Challenge (Le Défi caritatif Banque Scotia 2017).

En 2013, après quelques doutes au sujet du retour sur investissement, le conseil d'administration de la BJM choisit de s'inscrire, et comme il s'avère, cette initiative est devenue notre plus grande activité de financement.

Over the course of the last four years, here's what we've accomplished (round figures)...**\$45,000 raised, 600 donors, 15-25 racers (walkers or runners) per year.**

Avec notre participation à cette course, nous sommes parvenus à augmenter notre visibilité, à créer un esprit d'équipe distinct, en plus de développer nos muscles de façon amusante!

More Fun Events Are Coming!

MCL board members are busy planning some entertaining ways for you to meet other supporters of the library in 2017. The next newsletter will share more details.

Our goal is to always keep the « fun » in fundraisers! (Spoiler alert! The popular whiskey-tasting workshop is back again!)



**Joyeuses Fêtes et tous nos meilleurs voeux
pour la nouvelle année!**

Happy Holidays and best wishes for the New Year!