

Books can be a form of salvation, a way out of loneliness, a method of understanding and of being understood. C'est ce que les livres ont fait pour eux, et c'est ce qu'ils continuent de faire. Ils nous aident à comprendre, à garder l'espoir et à nous préparer à ce qui nous attend. (Adrienne Clarkson)

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La Bibliothèque des jeunes de Montréal
 The Montreal Children's Library
 depuis 1929
www.mcl-bjm.ca

Hello from the president, Amanda Fritz

Discover the wines of Italy. Join us for a fun wine-tasting workshop on **Thursday May 18th at 7pm** at the beautiful **Louis-Joseph Forget House**, an historic mansion located at 1195 Sherbrooke W.



- A sampling of 5 delightful wines.
- A raffle with vintage wines as prizes.
- Refreshments! Music! Fun company!
- **Tickets: \$40 per person.**

[Click here to purchase tickets online](#) or for more information.

To pay with cheque or cash please reserve with a.fritz@mcl-bjm.ca

Spotlight on Polaris Branch

Les nouvelles du Nord

Par Paula Labrasseur et Pinfang Lu

Quoi de neuf à la bibliothèque ces temps-ci? Les 14 et 15 février dernier, nous avons organisé la seconde édition des jeux d'évasion sur le thème Le Prisonnier du Donjon. Cette fois-ci, nous avons invité 4 classes de 5e année de l'école Saint-Noël Chabanel, et nous avons offert l'activité à 3 groupes de jeunes après l'école, pour un total de 120 jeunes participants. Tous les groupes ont réussi à résoudre les énigmes et ont pu sortir du donjon du roi Hastur!

Pour le printemps 2017, en plus de nos activités scientifiques, du club d'échecs et des soirées de jeux vidéos, nous poursuivons notre partenariat

avec le Centre de Loisirs René Goupil et accueillons à nouveau le Club d'impro, animé par l'intervenant Dedou.

Une nouvelle activité s'ajoute à la liste: une soirée de jeux de société pour les 8 à 12 ans, de 18h à 19h, un vendredi par mois. L'idée est de faire découvrir aux jeunes les jeux de la bibliothèque ainsi que des jeux plus complexes qui leur permettra de développer leur logique et leur capacité à travailler en équipe. Le tout accompagné de biscuits et d'une tasse de tisane!



Au menu des événements à la bibliothèque, on retrouve la finale hivernale du club d'impro, le 28 mars dernier, dans laquelle se sont affrontées nos deux équipes, une chasse aux trésors organisée par 2 enfants, Afaf et Narimane (10 avril), un tournoi de jeux vidéos (28 avril) et un tournoi d'échecs (juin). La Bibliothèque des Jeunes s'exporte aussi hors de ses murs! Elle sera présente au Gala des Nouveaux-nés, pour accueillir les tout-petits et leurs familles, le 27 avril. Nous animerons également une activité pour la Semaine Québécoise des familles au Parc Ovilà Légaré, le vendredi 12 mai, en compagnie de la Bibliothèque de Saint-Michel.

De nombreux autres projets sont en processus de création, tant de façon indépendante qu'en concertation de quartier, mais ils demeurent secrets pour le moment. Chuuuuut!

The North Star

What's new with the library? On February 14th and 15th we organized a second "*escape the room*" activity, known as *The Prisoner of the Dungeon*. For this activity, we invited four 5th-grade classes from Saint-Noël Chabanel School to attend. Three separate groups of after-school children also had a chance to test their skills. A grand total of 120 children participated in the fun and all players successfully solved the riddles and escaped King Hastur's dungeon!

For Spring 2017, along with our regularly scheduled Science Club, Chess Club, and Video Game Nights, we will be offering an Improv Club, in partnership with the Centre de Loisirs René Goupil and the animator *Dedou*.

Another new addition to the activity roster is a monthly Society Game Night. It will take place one Friday of each month from 6pm to 7pm and it's for children ages 8 to 12. Participants get the chance to discover the library's collection of games. The more complex games will help to develop critical thinking and team-building skills... while the children enjoy some cookies and a cup of tea at the same time!

Special events (past and future) to highlight:

- the Winter finale for the Improv Club (March 28th) - two groups faced off against each other and demonstrated their improv skills,
- a treasure hunt organized by two children, Afaf and Narimane (April 10th),
- a video game tournament (April 28th), and
- a chess tournament (June).

The Montreal Children's Library is also doing outreach! On April 27th we will be at the *Gala des Nouveaux-nés*, helping to welcome babies and their families to the community. On top of that, we will be animating an activity for *Family Week* at the Ovilà Légaré Parc on May 12th, in collaboration with the Saint-Michel Library.

Many other projects, both independently organized and/or in partnership with other community organizations, are coming but they remain secret for now. Shhhhhhh!



"First Light to Star Bright"
Parent-Child Mother Goose Program
By Rachel Wagner Lemblé



Within the "First Light to Star Bright" Parent-Child Mother Goose Program we meet parents of all persuasions. Some parents are immediately attracted to the program and sign-up citing a desire for their infant's "educational enrichment." Other moms participate "just to get out of the house." My favourite group might be those who initially feel unsure about the program.

Recently I received a "testimonial" from Aleksandra who started by saying singing to her twins seemed dorky. She continued...

"Not too long ago, I was driving and thinking about how little I expected of Mother Goose when I signed up the first time.... I thought about how to

classify this experience and the effect it has had on the life of our family. I thought about the changes - me actually singing with and to my kids, my kids singing, enjoying, and dancing to the music, the friends we've made along the way, the solidarity of the other members and the radiant positive energy from, the animators, Jana and Laurel. I realized something; Mother Goose was literally life changing. It changed our lives. Not in an earth-shattering way but nonetheless it did. It pervaded our lives and enabled positive changes. So now I'm a dorky mom who sings silly songs about peeling bananas and going to the moon with her kids and I'm better for it and so are my kids."

At the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program we couldn't be more excited to change lives, one family at a time.

Hands Up For MCL!



On April 8th, some MCL board members, staff and volunteers participated in a strategic visioning workshop facilitated by Sabrina McFadden from the *Centre for Community Organizations*. (Thank you, Sabrina, for your enthusiastic guidance.)

The next step is for the board to create and order a list of MCL's priorities (from most important to less important) for the next 3 years. Upon completion of this task, the board can then develop focused action plans accordingly. One realistic, do-able action plan per year is the goal.

Meet 3 More Members of the Board



Hi, my name is **Alexandra D'Arrisso** but most people know me as 'Ali.' I live in Pointe-Claire with my husband, Mark and my dog, Dexter.

I work in an elementary school in Montreal and love kids and books! I've been lucky to be part of the MCL family for over 5 years.

Name the nursery rhyme that you still like best?

My favorite nursery rhyme is *Little Miss Muffet*. I can relate to her fear of spiders!

What was your favourite book as a child (< 6 years old)?

I love the *Brambly Hedge* stories. I used to spend hours just looking at those charmingly illustrated pages.

What was your most treasured childhood arts and crafts project?

I made a dream catcher when I was in Grade 5 that I still have on my bedroom wall to 'catch' my bad dreams.

Describe a favourite childhood memory that involves a book?

When I was growing up, my mom took me to story time every Saturday. It was always warm and cozy and my love of books definitely started there.

My name is **Amanda Fritz**. My favorite things are cats, popcorn, fleece pants, and books!

I have a passion for volunteering and love the MCL's mission of helping kids learn to love reading. A voracious reader myself, I'll devour anything in my path - from sci fi, to self help, to hard-boiled fiction ... and even the occasional cat biography.



Name the nursery rhyme that you still like best?

'Mother may I go out to swim?' I still sing it when I'm about to jump in the lake or pool!

What was your favourite book as a child (< 6 years old)?

'Hurry up slowpoke' - Geez that mouse was slow!

What was your most treasured childhood arts and crafts project?

A key hanger I tole-painted, which mistakenly reads "Are Cottage" - it still hangs in our country home today!

Describe a favourite childhood memory that involves a book?

In grade school we received little awards at the monthly assembly based on how many books we read - paper twigs (5), logs (10) or beavers (25). I proudly remember earning that beaver and claiming it before the entire student body!

My name is **Astrid Morin** and I serve as Co-Chair of the Communications Committee. I work as a Consultant at a public relations firm in Montreal.

It was natural for me to get involved in an organization such as this one: both my parents have worked in libraries for the majority of their careers, and so you can say that I kind of grew up in that milieu.



Name the nursery rhyme that you still like best?

Row Row Row The Boat. A classic. I loved when it was sung in unison with other people in succession.

What was your favourite book as a child (< 6 years old)?

L'Histoire de Babar (The Story of Babar) by Jean De Brunhoff. I was a HUGE fan of elephants as a child, and so this one was a particular favourite of mine.

What was your most treasured childhood arts and crafts project?

Painting. My mum would set up a table for my little sister and me in the kitchen and would let us paint to our heart's content. I wasn't very talented at it, but it was always a blast.

Describe a favourite childhood memory that involves a book?

Some of my fondest childhood memories are of my father taking my sister and me to the library on the weekend. We would spend hours scouring the

bookshelves and exploring all the books that were at our disposal and sitting in those big comfy chairs and reading together.

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 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.



We are committed to raising **\$15,000** this year. Please support us if you haven't done so yet. [Click here and then press the Donate button under the top photo.](#)

Don't worry. It's not too late! Donations will be accepted several days after the challenge is finished.

Merci! Thank you!

Please share this newsletter with friends and relatives who value the presence of libraries in our communities. Personal "word-of-mouth" publicity is the best kind for the [Montreal Children's Library](#), the little library that does BIG things for kids. Help keep its future bright by introducing the MCL to new supporters.

A short update about the library's activities and news.

[Click here to contact the MCL](#)

| Or call (514) 276-7309 |

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