

NOVEMBER WORKSHOP NOT TO MISS!!

Gaining a Better Understanding of Students with Motor Impairments and Language Disorders

in collaboration with Mackay Rehabilitation Centre

November 28th, 2016

EMSB Board Office

Save the date!!! More to come...

MY TOP FIVE MUST READ STORIES THAT INSPIRED ME THIS YEAR

Number 5 – Music Makes a Difference in Students' Lives

Ms. Marie Francis, a high school music teacher at John Grant High School invited recording artist, David Hodges, to work with her students on a special project. In the two days, April 18th and 19th of this year, David Hodges along with several students who have a range of special needs recorded and produced a music video. The lyrics shed light "on their lives, their emotions, and their perceptions of the world," explains Ms. Francis (Inspirations, Spring/Summer 2016). Sara Camacho, a student who worked on this project went from being a very shy student to a student who felt she could "pretty much do anything." The benefits of working on such a project couldn't be better explained than by Joshua Phillips another student who worked on this project. "It felt kind of good 'cause after doing all that, imagine what I could do if I continue pushing, motivating myself." Thanks to the initiative of teacher Ms. Catherine Rendell-Green, who applied for a grant through Culture in the Schools the production of a music video was made possible. A great initiative was taken by two great teachers. For more on this great story check out the interview aired on May 30th on Global News, and their music video, a must see.

<http://globalnews.ca/video/2730576/a-musical-breakthrough>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijkbFSXjvCQ>

For more information on *Culture in the School* visit
<http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/contenus-communs/education/culture-education/the-essor-recognition-awards/submitting-a-project-proposal/>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MY TOP FIVE MUST READ
STORIES PAGE 1 - 4

A GOODY BAG OF
WEBSITES PAGE 5

APPS WORTH PUTTING ON
YOUR STUDENTS' IPAD,
IPHONE OR ANDROID
PAGE 5

BOOKS OF INTEREST
PAGE 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

DÉFI JANINE SUTTO
FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR
MAIH

September 25th, 2016

information:

communication@amdi.info

[go to website](#)

GAINING A BETTER
UNDERSTANDING OF
STUDENTS WITH MOTOR
IMPAIRMENTS AND
LANGUAGE DISORDERS

NOVEMBER 28, 2016
EMSB BOARD OFFICE

COPY EDITOR
Robin Colyer

Number 4 – The Fruits of a Teacher’s Great Initiative

Le Carrefour High School in Val d’Or offers their students with special needs a program that enables them to learn to become self-sufficient and autonomous through horticulture. Students are responsible for managing the school greenhouse La Serre des Tournesols where they grow a variety of vegetables, garden herbs, houseplants and of course, sunflowers to sell to the general public of Val d’Or. The school team wants to offer their students who have an intellectual disability the opportunity to develop their academics and important daily living skills through running a greenhouse. It all started as a small class project in 1997. Today they can boast about their successful enterprise since they grow and offer over two thousand plants every year.



Visit their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/events/1444250099220774/> and their school link <http://www.csob.qc.ca/agenda/vente-estivale-de-la-serre-des-tournesols-87>

Number 3 – High School Bus Driver

It was on a Tuesday evening while washing dishes that I heard of Craig Davidson for the first time. As I was listening to the Current, a daily radio show on CBC Radio, I stopped running water in my kitchen sink and sat down to pay attention to this particular interview. The guest, Craig Davidson, was an author who needed a day job to make ends meet. What's so special about his story? He took a job as a high school bus driver. Nothing special, yet? His passengers were all special needs students. It was his year as a bus driver that he came to know each one of his passengers and just how special each one of them were. In his memoir *Precious Cargo: My Year of Driving the Kids on School Bus 3077*, he explores the difficult subject of disability.

Having had very little exposure to people with physical or intellectual disabilities, he took the job telling himself that if he didn't think he was the right person, he would bow out. He didn't. He also talks about his fears, what he refers to as his worries. He worried about how his interactions would be like with the kids. Would he struggle, miss important social cues, make the kids feel bad because he felt awkward with them? This interview was one of the most compelling interviews I've heard in a very long time. Take a listen by following this link.

<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-april-19-2016-1.3542277/how-driving-a-school-bus-prompted-a-necessary-discussion-on-disability-and-stigma-1.3542521>

You'll probably want to sit down for this one.

Number 2 – “Les Différents” – A Hockey Team Like No Other

I came across this story a little while ago and I still like to go back to it when I need a little picker-upper. Documentary director H  l  ne Choquette brings us into the world of hockey at it’s finest. *Les Diff  rents* (The Different Ones) is a hockey team composed of players who all have an intellectual disability. It is the only one of it’s kind in Quebec. As Ms. Choquette explains, “people with intellectual disabilities are there but remain invisible. No one really takes the time to talk to them or get to know them” (loosely translated from ici. radio-canada, March 2015). It was by coming across this Laval hockey team that inspired her to turn a microphone and camera on the team players, coaches and founders of this unique and incredible team. She found it was a great way to give them all a voice. As I watched the documentary, I was amazed at how the coaches were with the players and how devoted they were to the team. As you listen to Mathieu Baron talk about his many roles in the team he says, “being with people with intellectual disabilities teaches me the value of true things, “le vrai”, when living in a materialistic society.” (loosely translated from ici. radio-canada, March 2015).

For over ten years now, Mathieu Baron and Emmanuel Auger have been coaching this hockey team every week. You learn that most of these players are very lonely and being part of a hockey team is incredibly important for them and is the hub of their social life.

I highly recommend this documentary, it’ll certainly change your perspective on life.

For a good read, I recommend this article by Hugo Dumas

http://plus.lapresse.ca/screens/1c417a55-4e1a-41db-bba1-30a0c0a5c435%7C_0.html

and another article from ici. radio-canada

http://ici.radio-canada.ca/emissions/medium_large/2014-2015/chronique.asp?idChronique=365511

For a sneak peek of the documentary visit

<http://tv.moietcie.ca/content/video-les-differents-visionnement-du-documentaire>

And before we get to **number 1** Robin would like to add her top pick moment of inspiration this year:

Last week at the talent show put on by Princess Elizabeth Elementary School I was witness to a spontaneous show of empathy and support by the student audience. A young boy was alone on stage beginning to sing when he blanked out for a moment and lost his place in the song. Someone in the audience began to softly sing along and many students joined in. The boy soon found his place and finished the song on his own, to a big applause. It warmed my heart to see the courage this boy had and to see young children being so supportive and respectful of him. Bravo!

Number 1 – Meet Laura

My all time favourite story is about a student attending North Hatley Elementary School. Laura Bolduc-Sanderson is an 11 year-old student who has down syndrome. In this tiny school of a little over sixty students, Laura is well loved by her school principal, Nicole Grégoire, teachers and especially her fellow classmates, of which some happen to be her very best friends.



Laura dancing with her best friend, Emma. Picture provided by Kate McKenna/CBC)

I first met Laura last winter during a school play presentation. Laura played her role as a school teacher beautifully. It was at that moment that I realized this is what successful inclusive education looks like. In my books, North Hatley Elementary School is to be celebrated for their achievements. The school's focus always is about what Laura can do and never about what she can't.

On May 11th, Ms. Grégoire held a school assembly to celebrate a book launch where Laura's portrait is featured. It was the perfect teaching opportunity, Ms. Grégoire explains, to talk about Down Syndrome. Although everyone knew Laura, "she found some students didn't know about Down Syndrome." McKenna, 2016. The association, which published the book *Visages de lumière*, sent enough copies for everyone. Laura graciously signed and distributed each copy to staff and fellow students.



Picture provided by Kate McKenna/CBC

Her parents were present for the event and took the time to answer her classmates' questions. Questions were wide-ranging and my favourite is when they asked when did they know she had Down Syndrome.

For a great read, follow this link

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/north-hatley-down-syndrome-assembly-1.3578267>

A goody bag of websites to note!

These websites are a great starting point for teachers who are interested in learning more about Project-Based Learning. These websites offer research articles and resources:

<http://pblchecklist.4teachers.org/index.shtml>

This website provides an “age-appropriate, customizable [project checklists](#) for written reports, multimedia projects, oral presentations, and science projects. The use of these checklists keeps students on track and allows them to take responsibility for their own learning through peer- and self-evaluation.”

<http://bie.org/about>

This website has “assembled a wide array of Project-Based Learning-related resources collected from fellow PBL travellers. The resources are organized into three broad categories: things to read, to watch, or to interact with.” You can also learn more about PBL by checking out the recommended resources for teachers, principles and other professionals working in the education field.

<http://project-based-learning-support.weebly.com>

“This website provides detailed explanation of how PBL benefits students at the elementary level and students with special needs.”



<http://wheelmap.org/en/map#/?zoom=14>

The Wheelmap interactive website is an open and free online map for wheelchair-accessible places. It empowers users to share and access information on the wheelchair-accessibility of public places. Like with Wikipedia, everyone can participate by tagging places.

<http://www.ric.edu/sherlockcenter/wwslist.html>

This website provides a list of Adapted Literature available through the Sherlock Center Resource Library. These resources are provided for teachers to help students with severe disabilities participate in the general curriculum.

Apps worth putting on your student's iPad, iPhone or Android

Wheelmap

The Wheelmap App is an open, free and global online map for wheel-chair accessible places. Users can find, mark and add accessible and less accessible public places on a virtual map.

Snap Type Pro — Recommended by Summit School

“SnapType helps students keep up with their peers in class even when their penmanship holds them back. Students can easily complete school worksheets with the help of an iPad or iPhone.

With SnapType, students can take a picture of their worksheets, or import worksheets from anywhere on their device. They can then use their iOS device keyboard to add text to these documents and print, email, or share their creations. It is the perfect solution for kids, and even adults, who struggle with their handwriting.” itunes

<https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/snaptypes-for-occupational/id866842989?mt=8>

StepByStep Pro

A therapeutic and educational tool which helps assess and improve the sequencing skills of every day tasks for kids and adults with an intellectual disability.

[StepByStep Pro Sequencing And Assessment For Adults and Kids With](#)



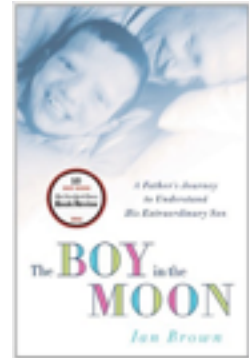
Books of Interest!



"One morning in 2008, desperate and impoverished while trying unsuccessfully to write, Davidson plucked a flyer out of his mailbox that read, "Bus Drivers Wanted." That was the first step towards an unlikely new career: driving a school bus full of special-needs kids for a year. Armed only with a sense of humour akin to

that of his charges, a creative approach to the challenge of driving a large, awkward vehicle while corralling a rowdy gang of kids, and unexpected reserves of empathy, Davidson takes us along for the ride. He shows us how his evolving relationship with the kids on that bus, each of them struggling physically as well as emotionally and socially, slowly but surely changed his life along with the lives of the "precious cargo" in his care. This is the extraordinary story of that year and those relationships. It is also a moving, important and universal story about how we see and treat people with special needs in our society."

Amazon.ca



"**The Boy in the Moon** is Ian Brown's powerful, honest, and emotionally complicated memoir of raising his son, Walker—one of only a few hundred people worldwide who live with an extremely rare genetic mutation.

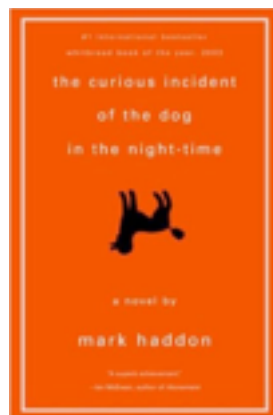
Born with CFC

(cardiofaciocutaneous)

syndrome, Walker Brown is a mystery, as remote to his family as the moon. Unable to speak or swallow, compelled to hit himself, requiring surgeries, and round-the-clock care, he becomes the focus of his father's keen intelligence. An investigative journalist, Ian Brown traveled the globe, meeting with genetic scientists and neurologists as well as parents of similar children, seeking ways to reach—and perhaps cure—his son. As Brown becomes part of a community of families, he lets go of his self-blame and his desire to "fix" Walker, learning to accept the boy he loves, just as he is." Amazon.ca

the curious incident of the dog in the night-time

"Narrated by a fifteen-year-old autistic savant obsessed with Sherlock Holmes, this dazzling novel weaves together an old-fashioned mystery, a contemporary coming-of-age story, and a fascinating excursion into a mind incapable of processing emotions." amazon.ca



Who are we?

Our Centre is one of 6 Centres of Excellence mandated by MELs to provide support, professional development, research activities and provincial expertise to the English sector. We service students who are physically, intellectually or multi-challenged in a school setting. Our team consists of our coordinator, Kymberley Morin and our secretary, Robin Colyer.

Centre of Excellence for the Physically, Intellectually and Multi-Challenged

Kymberley Morin , Coordinator

Robin Colyer, Secretary

<http://centreforexcellence.etsb.qc.ca>
centreforexcellence@etsb.qc.ca 819-868-0512