

Pearson Profile

Lester B. Pearson Catholic High School

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Principal's message

A definition of a school building is “four walls surrounding the future” (Roland Barth). So what is happening within our four walls? Again this fall, Lester B. Pearson Catholic High School's distinctiveness is quite evident with the numerous academic activities our staff prepares for the success of our students. The homework club welcomes students on Mondays and Wednesdays 3-4:30 in room 209. The Boys Read Club and the Twilight Readers Club are keeping our boys and girls engaged in reading and discussions about their books. Courses will be starting mid-November on Grade 7-8 after school literacy and numeracy and the after school Literacy Test preparation. The focus on literacy is evident in displays showcased in the school. This is the direction our school continues to take to ensure success for all. These academic activities are balanced with the numerous clubs and teams our students can join to remain healthy and happy. One fortunate group of students will be off to Italy from November 21-29 to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Ortona where Canadian soldiers died.

There are so many learning opportunities within these “four walls” that I am confident in saying that the future of our students is well taken care of at our school. Every day our staff demonstrates that “We Care for God's Creation” with the work that they do with your children.

Manon Séguin

November trip to the Ortona battlefield

During the last week of November, 19 students and 3 staff members will be attending the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Ortona. The battle, fought in and around that Italian port on the Adriatic during a wet Christmas in 1943, was one of the most intense street fights by Canadian and Allied forces during the Second World War. Members of the Canadian First Infantry Division and the 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade were engaged in combat with elite German paratroopers from the 1st Fallschirmjaeger Division.

Students from Lester B. Pearson will be representing our soldiers who died winning the decisive battle. The soldiers were members of the 48th Highlanders of Canada from Toronto and the Three Rivers Regiment (12th Canadian Armoured Regiment) from Trois Rivières, Quebec. Students from Pearson each researched their soldier, gaining information such as their hometown, parents, ages, etc. All the students will have a chance to visit their soldier's grave at the Moro River Canadian War Cemetery. In addition to the ceremonies at the cemetery, the students will participate in a march into Ortona along the same route taken by Canadian soldiers 65 years ago. Students will get

to interact with both veterans and locals at the various ceremonies commemorating the battle.

Students on the trip will be bringing Canadian flags signed by Pearson students and staff to place on various graves in the Cemetery. These graves will be recorded and staff and students back home can “adopt” a soldier’s grave in Italy.

The trip will also allow students to experience such locations as Milan, Florence, Monte Cassino (the site of another fierce battle) and Rome. While in Rome, students will have an opportunity to attend a Mass at the Vatican.

Pastoral notes from Chaplaincy Leader Tony Adams

Greetings to all the good people of our school community! (That’s You!) Our year continues to evolve exceptionally well here at Lester B. Pearson. Our opening liturgies have been completed with the gracious assistance of Fr. McEvoy; a group of our students just participated in a very successful Faith Mentorship Day at St. Basil’s Parish out in the west end; and we are about to pack up and ship off some senior students to Tim Horton’s great camp facility in Quyon, Quebec, to attend a two-day camp on the board’s spiritual theme “We Care for God’s Creation.” It is life in the fast lane, as usual!

Now as we rapidly approach November, the traditional month where we begin by honouring our deceased with the feasts of All Saints and All Souls and when we then continue throughout the month with respect and reverence for all who have died, can I ask a little favour of you? Please don’t get too caught up in the whole Halloween thing.

In truth, Halloween as we know it is a very shallow reflection of the mystery that this time of the year points to – the wisdom in our recognizing our mortality. Furthermore, let’s face it – Halloween is a scandalous waste of money! A few years back, the Retail Council of Canada indicated that Canadians would spend over \$800-million on Halloween treats and costumes. This is a terrible cultural extravagance that we really can’t afford when people are homeless and going to food banks daily in our country. So please consider being very modest in your spending this Halloween and perhaps think about sending some of the money you save to a local charity. (Hey, if you are so inclined, the Global team is fundraising right now for a school and special projects in Cambita, Dominican Republic!) The point is that choosing to resist our culture and to direct a portion of our Halloween spending to the poor is a very real way to live the preferential option for the poor that we Christians have proudly inherited. Please think about it and better yet, do it! Peace.

Our students win scholarships

LBP Class of 2008 graduates were recipients of post-secondary scholarships and awards. Seven of our students won the province’s Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top Scholarships, awarded for top marks. They are Camille Alam, Michelle English, Sami Majdalany, David Medhin, Kathleen Parisien, Kathryn Thomas and Laura Young. The scholarships are worth up to a maximum of \$3500 per year for up to four years. Congratulations to all and well done!

High School Literacy Test preparation

Beginning on November 11, our school will be offering an after-school course to help prepare students for the High School Literacy Test. The course will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M., for nine weeks.

Attendance is important. We ask your help in ensuring that your son/daughter attends all of these sessions. The course is designed to prepare students for the Ontario Literacy Test, which will be written on April 2, 2009. Students who have failed previous tests, or who need extra help in language-related courses are encouraged to register for this course. Please contact Mrs. Schreider, before November 3, at 613-741-4525 regarding information and registration.

Grade 7-8 Literacy Course

The Grade 7-8 After School Literacy Course will begin on November 10. It will run from 3:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. on Mondays and Wednesdays, for nine weeks. The course will focus on enhancing skills learned in the Language Arts program at our school. It will target students who are having difficulty in the regular program.

Attendance is important. We ask your help in ensuring that your child attends all of these sessions. Please contact Mrs. Schreider, before November 3, at 613-741-4525 regarding information and registration.

Grade 7-8 Numeracy Course

The Grade 7-8 After School Numeracy Course will begin on November 11. It will run from 3:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, for nine weeks. The course will focus on enhancing skills learned in the Mathematics program at our school.

Attendance is important. We ask your help in ensuring that your child attends all of these sessions. Please contact Mrs. Schreider, before November 3, at 613-741-4525 regarding information and registration.

Rideauwood addiction counselors offer advice to parents

On Tuesday, November 4, Lester B. Pearson is hosting a Community Youth Resources Fair that will feature numerous booths and presentations from various speakers, including the RCMP, to help parents cope with adolescent development and its menace of drug addiction. If you feel you need help in understanding adolescent development, this is for you. Location: LBP school cafetorium, 6:30 – 9:30 P.M.

Computer assistive technology night for parents

LBP's Special Education and Student Services is hosting an information evening for parents on software programs available to support Grade 4-12 students with an exceptionality. It could also be useful for most parents. The evening will help you set up your home computer to make it homework friendly at almost no cost. Several computer programs will be featured such as Smart Ideas or Co-Writer. The evening will also provide tips to help your child save and transfer work between home and school.

Workshop location:

St. Paul High School auditorium, 2675 Draper Avenue

Tuesday, November 4, 6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Registration deadline: October 30. Please contact Mrs. Beltempo, 613-741-4525.

Cappies are back

Our Cappie Critics are back! Pearson has a number of talented and enthusiastic writers on the team. Throughout the school year, these students will attend and critique high school plays and musicals. The top six reviews for each show will be published in *The Ottawa Citizen*. Look for us! Our critics are: Taylor Bourdeau, Catherine Labrecque, Katherine MacGregor, Lisa Mulder, Sophia Pantuso, Vanessa Tanner and Curtis Deslauriers-Vermette. .

Students write for local newspaper

As previously reported in *Pearson Profile*, several students were published last year in a student section of the *Weekly Journal*, an East Ottawa newspaper. This year students will continue their participation and write articles on news at Lester B. Pearson and the neighbouring community. The “Student Journal” is included in the paper once a month for distribution to east end high schools and surrounding communities. It can also be accessed online at www.eastottawa.ca Click on *student journal*.

LBP Library sponsors student-run programs

Our library is sponsoring and supervising the Red Maple Book Club (reading/discussion for Grades 7-8) and the White Pine Book Club (ditto for Grades 9-10). These programs are organized, promoted and run by students. They support self-directed learning and the development of student leadership. Library Club Quizzes, written and directed by senior student members of the Library Club, are also on the agenda to stimulate students’ sense of academic adventure and competition.

LBP does well in High School Cross Country races

On October 16 and 23, LBP’s High School Cross Country team participated in the East Conference and National Capital Championships. The Junior boys finished third in the East and seventh in the National Capital meet. Congratulations to all members of the LBP team:

Midget Girls: Caroline MacIsaac, Siobhan Kerwin, Emily Diab

Midget Boys: Nick Pereira, Joel Regnier

Junior Boys: Jeff Haga, Josh Hamzeh, Nick Halverson, Jose Cerrud-Mack, Bahaa Khaddaj, Adam Campbell

Senior Girls: Nancy Scherf, Molly O’Ray

Senior Boys: Justin Foster

Catholic School Parents’ Association (CSPA) invites your participation

The Catholic School Parents’ Association is the regional group representing all parents in our Board. It invites all parents and school council members to get on its mailing list.

CPSA has a monthly newsletter with information on its meetings, parent workshops, Board information, School Council information and Ministry of Education information. It welcomes information to share with other schools, especially workshops and fundraisers. For more information, see www.ottawacspa.ca and contact Caroline Bachynski at cbgv@rogers.com to sign up.

Co-op Corner – “thanks to local employers for student placements”

In Health Care and Community Learning:

St. Michael Catholic Elementary
Ottawa Hospital Civic Campus – Vascular Surgery
Ottawa Regional Cancer Clinic
Professional Physio – Montreal Road
City of Ottawa – St. Laurent Complex
Beacon Hill Learning Centre
Thomas D’Arcy McGee Elementary
Assumption Catholic Elementary
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary
Brother Andre Catholic Elementary
Loeb Centre for Vocational Training

In Retail:

Habitat for Humanity Re-Store
Canadian Tire – Ogilvie Road
La Senza – St. Laurent
Deserre’s Art Store
Bulk Barn – Gloucester Centre
Toys R Us – St. Laurent
Zellers – Gloucester Centre
Future Shop – Silver City
RONA – Innes
Little Critters Pet Shop Inc.
Sportmart – SilverCity

Our United Way Campaign was launched October 8

Over the past few years, the Ottawa Catholic School Board has successfully raised funds for the Catholic Education Foundation (CEF). CEF is a charitable foundation recognized by the United Way in Ottawa. Its funds are directed to educational programs or emergency help for impoverished children in our Board. If you already support the United Way through your employer, you may wish to direct your contributions to the CEF. Please note the Charitable Registration No.: 89003 6122 RR0001. If you wish to contribute directly, please contact us at your Catholic School Parents Association, www.ottawacspa.ca for a United Way pledge form.

Exciting enrichment workshops for ages 5-14!

Do you have a bright child? The Association for Bright Children (ABC) of Ontario, Ottawa Region Chapter, has announced its roster of educational programs on Saturdays from October 25 to November 29. These are 90-minute workshops, 9:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. or 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at St. Paul's High School, 2675 Draper Avenue, Ottawa. Courses start at \$80, plus materials fee and \$20 per registration. The 44 courses offer something of interest to almost any child or youth. Check the ABC website www.abcontario.ca/ottawa for details.

Student of the month

Congratulations to the winners:

September

Grades 7-8 Mona Mitri

Grades 9-12 Cynthia Ngarachu

Our School Trustee

Mrs. Katalin Sheskay

Tel: 613-842-0166

Fax: 613-748-3632

Superintendent

Mr. Brent Wilson

Tel: 613-224-4455 ext. 2303

Fax: 613-224-0793

If you want to call about your children: 613-741-4525

Vice-Principal Student surnames

Ms. Murphy-Semenchuk A – G

Mr. Rigucci H – M

Ms. Schreider N – Z

Counsellors

Mr. Nigro A – G

Ms. Gifford H – M

Mr. Couture N – Z

Mark your calendar!

November

- 3 Public meeting on future of Jean Vanier Catholic Intermediate School
 at Jean Vanier Catholic Intermediate School, 320 Lajoie Street, 7:00 P.M.
- 3-7 Grade 8 EBSCO orientation
- 4 Evening for parents featuring guest speakers, information booths. Cafetorium
 6:30 – 9:30 P.M.
- 5 Take Your Kids to Work (Grade 9)
- 5 End of half-credit courses

- 6 Grade 8 girls HPV immunization, A.M.
- 10-13 Remembrance Week
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 13 Grade 9-12 high school report card distribution
- 13 Grade 7-8 Dance. 1:10 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. High school dance 7:30 to 10:30 P.M.
- 14 Professional Development Day. School closed.
- 19 Grades 7-9: Ottawa 67's Presentation 9:00 -10:00 A.M.
- 20 Parent-teacher interviews Grades 9-12. Early dismissal Grades 7-12 at 2:00 P.M.
- 20 Last day for level changes
- 26-28 Inner City Retreat
- 27 Grade 7-8 first report card distribution
- 30 First Sunday of Advent

December

- 1 School Council Meeting. 7:00 P.M. library
- 3 Christmas story reading. Library 12:45 – 1:09 P.M.
- 4 Parent-teacher interviews Grades 7-8. Early dismissal Grades 7-12 at 2:00 P.M.
- 7 Second Sunday of Advent
- 10 Christmas story reading. Library 12:45 – 1:09 P.M.
- 14 Third Sunday of Advent
- 17 Christmas story reading. Library 12:45 – 1:09 P.M.
- 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 22-Jan2 Christmas Break

We care for God's Creation

No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do.

-- Dorothy Day