



FONDATION PEARSON POUR L'ÉDUCATION

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PEARSON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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As you are all aware, since 2009 , the FSSTT has run *Venture Camp* in Lasalle, affording children in Lasalle and Verdun with affective disorders two weeks of so much fun that they are unaware of the therapeutic aspect of the program. From its inception, while sharing a school with the ESD Literacy Camp has avoided the cost of opening a school uniquely for Venture, the salaries and school materials have been supplied solely through PEF. The first year PEF paid alone ; in subsequent years the support of the Real Estate Board of Montreal Foundation for Kids and Fondation Jeunesse-Vie has made the camp possible.

Venture Camp is one of a growing number of vital summer programs which are, in whole or in part, dependent on PEF. The only road out of generational poverty is education. Middle class kids enjoy summers filled with a gamut of enriching activities, camps, and travel and return to school refreshed and ready to learn. Less advantaged students not only often spend the summer hanging out in back alleys, bored and getting into trouble, their literacy and numeracy levels regress by up to 3 months over the period due to lack of stimulation.

Securing stable recurrent funding and growth for summer camps is one of the most crucial demands for PEF in the coming year. Besides Venture, PEF supports the *Riverdale Boys To Men Adventure Weekend*, (for young men with no father figure at home) and the *Verdun Transition Camp* (preparing identified at-risk Grade 6 students to make good choices, and be happy , socially self-confident, and successful in high school) . By next year, we hope to be able to supply scholarships to the self-financing *Junior Voyageurs* for 10 students identified by their teachers as students who would really profit from the enrichment, but for whom the \$450 fee is out of reach.

As has been eloquently promoted by the CPC and the PEF Board this spring, we firmly believe that outreach to other causes and to other continents is great, but we must not forget that within our own territory, there are families in need, there are students living in deplorable conditions. Let's take care of our own family first. You can imagine how pleased I am to report to you the wonderful gesture one LBP school has made to another.

Dorval Elementary School Governing Board decided last fall that a portion of any fundraising done for self (Grade 6 Grad, Grade 5 trip. etc) will be reserved to give to a charity to be decided in the spring. Embracing the idea of caring for our own, DES this month voted to donate their \$2500 fundraising surplus to Verdun Transition Camp. Supplementing the support of Écoles Montréalaises, the donation will allow the camp to function this summer, with a nest egg remaining for summer, 2014. LBP kids are really making a difference for LBP kids.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Freeston, President