



# Newsletter

Issue #5

## Brazilian Drumming Workshops

On January 23 and 24, the student of Harmony were treated to a couple Brazilian drumming workshop. This was the result of an ArtistInspire grant that Ms Della Valle applied for. The sessions were led by a charismatic artist named Mr. Auro Moura.

Students learned about important Brazilian rhythms, chants and culture. They also learned Brazilian cultural manifestations through singing and dancing, and discovered various musical

instruments of Brazil (shakers, tambourines, drums, etc). On January 31<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Taia Goedert joined Auro to lead our students through a performance of singing and dancing.



## Kindergarten Eye examinations

On January 8, 2025, Kindergarten students received an eye-examination from the À l'École de la Vue program. This is operated by the Eye Disease Foundation. With the coordination or Mr. Nicolas Cote and Mme. Francine Landry, our students were able to receive an examination to ensure vision health hopefully for years to come.

## Ms. Cait's departure

January marked the end of Ms. Cait's time with us at Harmony. Although her time with us was short, we appreciate the love and hard work she gave to our students.

We wish her all the best going forward.

We welcome Ms. Alexandra Ferrara as the new Kindergarten health and cycle 2, 3 CCQ teacher.



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Did you know Mr. Jamie Little was born on a leap year (February 29) and is only 15 years old?

Did you know that Ms. Ariane went to culinary school?

Did you know Ms. Cheryce has a 3-year-old bunny named Flopsy

Did you know Ms. Heather Meehan's favorite ice cream is Haagen-Dazs Mint chocolate chip?

## Dental Hygienists' visit to Harmony

From January 23 to January 29, 2025, Harmony grade 2 students were visited by Mme. Sylvie Beland and Mms. Isabelle Cinq-Mars. This is a program offered through the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de la Montérégie-Ouest. Students who brought in their permission forms were given the application of dental sealants. We are happy to be a part of this program that provides a wonderful service to our Harmony families.



## Cafeteria Construction Project

January saw the construction of our multi-purpose room in the cafeteria. Along with the budget cuts (see government budget cuts section), NFSB has received official notice that Harmony's application for an extension has been rejected. NFSB, recognizing the high number of Harmony student enrolment and lack of space has been able to fund the creation of a multi-purpose room. This space will allow for small group pull-outs to reduce the oversized classrooms and also give a room for professionals and specialists to work in. The construction took place over 2-weeks from January 20-31. Although it created some operational changes to the school and daycare, we are very pleased to have this new useable space.



## Lunar New Year

January 29, 2025 marked the beginning of the Year of the Snake according to the Chinese Lunar Calendar. This is the start date for a 16-day spring festival. Celebrated by millions around the world, this is a time for traditions, family reunions and hopes for good fortune in the coming year. According to tradition, the snake is a symbol of wisdom and transformation. This comes with opportunities for personal growth and change. The Chinese zodiac is based on a 12-year cycle so all those born in 2025, 2013, 2001, 1989, 1977, etc. would all be born under the sign of the snake.

As always, Ms. Cheryce has created fantastic murals to celebrate this occasion with the Harmony community. Thank you for your wonderful work, Ms.Cheryce.



## Budget Cuts

Just before the Christmas holiday break, the provincial government announced a deficit of \$11 billion and mandated cuts to many public programs. The education sector was ordered to cut cost by over \$150 million. NFSB's portion of that pot is over \$500000. More information will be made available as the decision is made on which budgets will be absorbing these cuts.

*New month, new intentions, new goals, new love,  
new light, and new beginnings.*

*April Mae Monterrosa*



# Glimpses from the classrooms

Although January marked a period of assessments and examinations to conclude Term 2, it did not take the fun out of our classrooms. The grade 2 students made hot chocolate in a crockpot to celebrate the completion of their situational problem "A Tasty hot chocolate." Kindergarten students took advantage of the snow pile created by the plow for a fun sliding outing. Ms. Scarlet joined out grade 5 and 6 classes to make paper snakes to celebrate the lunar new year (she also brought in her real snake as a show and tell). Several students also helped with the organization of the ever-growing lost and found.



## Fun Lunchtime Activities

The Physical Education Department, Ms. Rachelle and Ms. Cait, continued the intramural hockey throughout the month of January. Students have made their teams and are ready for the tournaments. The Knitting club started this month at lunch. With almost 40 students registered, it is quite a busy setting (Volunteers are welcome). Lunch tutoring and fun activities outdoors are also happening during the student breaks.

## Tutoring

Tutoring session #2 began the week of January 13<sup>th</sup>. There are over 50 students enrolled in the program this session.

## Pet Therapy at Harmony

The Pet Therapy program provided by Au Bout Du Museau continued for session #2. The recommended students see the animal and therapist on Tuesdays.

This will be another 4-5 week session.

## Upcoming events in February

Staff Appreciation week Feb 3-7  
Feb 4 online presentations for Black History Month  
Feb 10 & 21 Ped Days  
Feb 12 Governing Board  
Feb 14 Report Cards, Valentines Day  
Feb 20,21 Parent-Teacher interviews  
Feb 23-28 Spirit week

*Though February is short, it is filled with lots of sweet surprises.*  
Charmaine J Forde.