



Amie Watson, far right, talks about her experiences with food allergies during a University of the Streets Café session in NDG. See p. 11.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



Hampstead School principal Steven Erdelyi sets up a demonstration on the school's new Smart Board. See p. 22.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



Parents at John Grant are upset the opening of a new high school in the Giovanni Palatucci Facility is back on the table. See p. 19.

Photo: Michael Moore

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## CDN-NDG councillors decide Perez takes over as borough mayor

BY ISAAC OLSON

With Michael Applebaum as the new interim mayor of Montreal, the remaining five members of the CDN-NDG borough council needed to find a new borough mayor quickly. Lionel Perez, who has represented the Darlington electoral district since 2009, has stepped up to the plate.

“Obviously, Montreal has been going through a very tumultuous time,” said Perez in a phone interview. “A lot of change, and that change has affected our borough. I believe what our borough needs right now is stability, continuity and to maintain, nonetheless, a certain

dynamic force.”

Perez said he intends on continuing in the same general direction, but the population is “expecting more from elected officials and we need to ensure that we regain their trust.”

When he announced his candidacy for the seat, as mayor pro tem, he said all supporting documentation of all resolutions will now be available online the day of council meetings so residents can view them in depth and ask questions.

Secondly, he said the meetings will now be live streamed over the web so more people can view them from their homes.

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# From Smart Boards to iPads, Hampstead School goes hi-tech

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

After the initial introduction of electronic Smart Boards about four years ago, Hampstead School is continuing to implement new high-tech teaching tools that may be playing a role in accelerating the rate at which the grade school pupils are absorbing knowledge.

While there are plans at the school on Hampstead's Thurlow Rd. to purchase five new iPads, "the goal will eventually be to have iPads in all the classrooms," said Hampstead School principal Steven Erdelyi.

Public schools have come a long way since blackboards and chalk were two of the teacher's main tools for educating students. The administration at Hampstead School wants to continue acquiring more iPads two to three years after the initial purchase.

The aim is that eventually teachers and students would all be connected interactively, and lessons requiring a demonstra-

tion or illustration by the teacher would be displayed on each computerized desktop, rather than just on a board at the front of the classroom.

According to Erdelyi, certain studies suggest that in classes where technology is not used, students tend to lose interest after 15 or 20 minutes.

That might prove a little challenging for older generations educated with books and blackboards to believe. Were students less attentive a quarter-century ago when technology as a teaching aid was very limited? At the same time, is there evidence that new forms of technology are actually accelerating learning?

"From what we've seen, the Smart Board technology is definitely helping the kids learn how to read and write," said Erdelyi. "I think it gives them incentive when they can go up and use the technology and demonstrate what they've learned." He believes that in the near future, iPads will be linked to Smart Board technology.



Hampstead School principal Steven Erdelyi uses a Smart Board.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Teaching itself, which can at times be physically demanding, is perhaps also being made easier by the new technology. Whereas teachers used to stand at and sometimes reach for high spots on blackboards while teaching a lesson at the front of a class, increasingly the teacher

will be at the centre of an electronic hub to which the students will be connected.

"Long term that's where we're going," said Erdelyi. "The issue obviously is the cost at this point. Especially we're a public school, so we're dealing with a limited budget."

## Canada's synchronized swim team includes Hampsteader

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A Hampstead resident who loves swimming and the sensation of just being in the water is part of a team that will be representing Canada in an international synchronized swimming championship from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 in Tultitlan, Mexico.

In her fifth year on Canada's national synchronized swimming team, Lisa Mikelberg, 23, of Hampstead's Gayton Rd. started her career in the sport later than most.

"I actually used to be a gymnast," she said in an interview with the *Free Press* last week, a day prior to flying down to Mexico to train with her team before competing for the FINA Synchronized Swimming World Trophy.

Her introduction to synchronized swimming came when she was 13 and taking gymnastics at Lower Canada College. After being invited by a friend to try out synchronized swimming, she discovered a freedom of movement she hadn't previously known and she has excelled



Hampstead resident Lisa Mikelberg.

at the sport ever since.

She said she loves feeling the power and control of synchronized swimming. While the sport requires physical and mental toughness, synchronized swimmers must also try to be as graceful as possible.

"I always loved the water," said

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