



Centennial's 35th Anniversary a Resounding Success!

Inspired by the Fab Four and the beat of a new generation, Centennial's 35th Anniversary Weekend Celebration went off without a hitch as parents, alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends came together to celebrate the past, enjoy the present and build our future together.



35th Anniversary Co-Chairs Stephen J. Hall (HS'80) and Karen Griffin, and Head of School Angela Burgos accept a painting from former Head Barry Stevens at the third Annual Past Board Dinner

The weekend began with a dinner for past and current board members on Thursday, April 14th. This was the 3rd Annual Past Board Dinner, which provides a unique opportunity to share our current successes with so many of the key individuals who helped the school get where it is today. Entertained by the musical genius of the Cougar Band during the cocktail hour, board members were afforded a sneak peek at the student artwork displayed in the gym throughout the weekend and enjoyed a viewing of the first installment of the "Centennial Stories" video project that was undertaken this anniversary year.



Grade 9 drama performance, directed by Ms. Boudreau



Fab Four Bartenders Bob Alexander, Brian MacPherson, Merritt Adams and John McMahon

Friday began with a breakfast and words of welcome from Head of School Angela Burgos and 35th Anniversary Co-Chairs Karen Griffin and Stephen J. Hall (HS'80). The students then took us on a Magical Mystery Tour of the Arts at Centennial, which included an art exhibit, drama and band performances. Our most sincere congratulations to all students and teachers who participated in these productions - what a wealth of talent, commitment and dedication!

On Friday night, the College lounge was transformed into our very own Yellow Submarine, where our Fab Four bartenders served up a wonderful time to alumni, parents, faculty and staff. The room was filled with smiles and laughter as former students reminisced with their teachers, parents connected with teachers and alumni and the past was brought into the present. Special thanks to Ron Kogan (HS'82) for his generous contribution of indispensable refreshments!



Grade 7 students Stephanie Johnson and Lia Milot tackle the Cougar Challenge, with a little help from Mr. & Mrs. Milot

The Ticket to Ride: Cougar Challenge on Saturday afternoon gave everyone the chance to discover Centennial's hidden corners - and what a challenge it was! Over 25 teams raced through the Academy and College buildings in

search of glory. And what's an Anniversary without a birthday? Cool Cat celebrated the big 1-0 with a huge cake and the warm wishes of the entire Centennial family.

There was certainly a whole lot of shakin' going on at the Hippy Hippy Shake at the Delta Centre-Ville on Saturday night. The Beatles cover band Help! kept the dance floor jam-packed and all our guests were delighted by the creative 60's-inspired meal. Kudos to the class of 1975 for a great turnout and to Judge Gerald Lebovits (HS'72) for wow'ing the audience by taking over the drum kit and setting the beat for "Mustang Sally" and "Wild Thing"!



Gerald Lebovits (HS'72) gets a whole lotta shakin' going on at the Hippy Hippy Shake

As the weekend came to a close, we turned our attention to the future. Families and friends gathered in the student lounge for the official unveiling of a mural painted by Art Alive club members, inspired by Robert Frost's poem *The Road Less Traveled*. Students and teachers shared their thoughts about what makes Centennial such a wonderful place to learn, grow and succeed.

by Jennifer Laliberté

continued on page 4 - see "A Word from the Co-Chairs"



Head of School Angela Burgos enlisted the help of students to present our vision for the future, based on the Robert Frost Poem *The Road Less Traveled*.

Centennial Stories

In the early fall of 2004, an initiative that had been germinating for several years was put into motion by Head of School Angela Burgos. The idea, whose onset coincided flawlessly with the 35th Anniversary celebrations of this past April, was to capture the memories and thoughts of past and present members of the Centennial community - students, alumni, teachers and parents - through videotaped interviews. These recollections, of time spent, friendships made, careers developed, and potential achieved would be gathered together in an ever-growing document that could be used for a multitude of educational and promotional purposes, and would contribute to the building of an oral and visual history of Centennial life for future generations. Working in tandem with members of the Advancement team, we began our journey, calling the proj-

ect "Centennial Stories". Now, with the 2004-05 school year behind us and over six hours of footage in our vault, we have been able to create a first draft of "Centennial Stories". With rave reviews from audience members, we know we are on the right track and are looking forward to continuing with this evolving project. So keep your eyes open for us and get ready to tell YOUR story. You will recognize us because we will have our video cameras at the ready!

by Stacey DeWolfe



Cool Cat celebrates his 10th Birthday



Hippy Hippy Shake Co-Chair Lorraine Le Rossignol, with very groovy husband, Danny

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www.centennial.qc.ca

Academy

Tues., August 30 - School Opening

Mon., September 5 - Labour Day

Thurs., September 8 - Parent Orientation

Thurs., September 15 - Curriculum Evening

Fri., September 16 - Terry Fox Run

Mon., October 3 - Ped Day

Wed., October 5 - Annual General Meeting

Thurs., October 6 - Open House

Mon., October 10 - Thanksgiving Holiday

Fri., October 28 - Term 1 Ends

College

Mon., August 1 to Fri., August 19 - Registration and Course Selection

Fri., August 19 - Orientation

Tues., August 23 - Classes Begin

Mon., September 5 - Labour Day

Tues., September 20 - Course Drop and Withdrawal Period ends

Mon., October 10 - Thanksgiving Holiday

Mon., October 17 - Parent/Student/Instructor Evening

Mon., October 24 - Open House

Centennial Students Embark on a Grecian Odyssey

Last spring, two patient teachers decided to bring a group of Centennial students on a Grecian Odyssey. Thirty-two curious students from grades 10 and 11 eagerly signed up for the voyage, partly, it must be said, to avoid the last three days of classes before March Break.... we did not know what the trip had in store for us.



Centennial students and teachers at the Acropolis in Athens

Once the plane touched the runway of Eleftherios Venizelos Airport, our Greek Odyssey officially began and each of us fought to be the first one to step on Greece's ancient soil. Our first stop was the pearl of Athens, the Acropolis. Against the backdrop of the Parthenon and the Temple of Athena, we were taught about Ancient Greek civilization - oh how some of us envied their superior math skills! That afternoon, we went shopping in the markets of Monasteriki for our initiation to

the art of bargain-hunting.

The next morning we started out quite early for our tour of the Aegean Sea. As we approached the first island, everyone's fatigue drifted away. We went to Hydra, whose inhabitants figured prominently in the Greek War of Independence, then sailed on to Aegina, where the first coins of the western world were made in the 7th century B.C. Finally we cruised to Poros, the island of Poseidon, God of the Sea.

Over the course of the following days, we traveled to the mysterious lands of Delphi, where the Ancient Greek oracles predicted the future of heroes. We journeyed through the Peloponnese to Olympia, the site of the first Olympic games and ran along the same fields as early champions. At the famous open-air theater of Epidaurus, one of the best preserved in all of Greece, we sang modern pop songs at the top of our lungs and walked along the beaches of the Aegean sea as night fell over the water. On our last night in Greece, we experienced modern Greek culture firsthand by eating in a traditional taverna and being entertained by a belly-dance performance to the sound of the bouzoukis. The following morning, we left Athens, leaving tears behind at the end of this amazing odyssey, but gaining an unforgettable life story in the company of wonderful friends.

by Jonathan Lai (HS'05)

Centennial College Graduation

It is often said that Centennial College is our best-kept secret: a unique institution where students are taught the life skills and discipline to achieve success in higher studies and in life. Nowhere is



Angela Burgos presents the Director General's Award to salutatorian Mariana Maletskas (CO'05)

our success more evident than in the words and smiles of our students and their parents at every College Graduation. The Class of 2005 being no exception, Board members, faculty, parents and friends were delighted to

share in the celebration of the 2005 Graduation Exercises on May 19th.

Many people from many walks of life addressed the assembled audience on this occasion: Chair of the Board Karen Griffin, Director General Angela Burgos, faculty speaker Sergio Martinez, Salutatorian Marlena Maletskas, College Director John McMahon and Valedictorian Warren Grzywacz - each with their own message of congratulations, their own story of success. Yet despite their differences in perspective or in age, one common thread recurred: the idea that Centennial College truly is a family, where everyone knows your name and will do what it takes to help you reach your potential. Centennial



Valedictorian Warren Grzywacz (CO'05)

College would like to thank the Class of 2005 for proving that our programs

Building the Future - Centennial's Strategic Plan

In light of Bill 104 and the impact that this legislation, combined with Quebec's low birth rate, will soon begin to have on admission figures of English schools across the province, the need to plan for the future is more pronounced than ever. To ensure Centennial's continued success and growth, we employed the services of Independent School Management (ISM) to devise a strategy that will strengthen Centennial's position in the evolving landscape of education in Quebec and ensure that our students continue to benefit from the individual attention, stimulating programs and unsurpassed services that Centennial provides.

In February 2005, ISM Senior Consultant Charles Snowden Jr. visited the school to conduct a five-day institutional assessment and interviews with a variety of constituents. His preliminary report, highlighting our assets, liabilities and areas requiring improvement, was presented to the Board in March.

Centennial's Strategic Plan is the result of consultation with a wide-range of constituents: past and current parents, faculty and staff, board members, students and alumni who share a vested

interest in building our future. Fifty constituents were invited to a brainstorming session in April where they were asked to envision the ideal Centennial of 2011 and to prioritize the identified items. These were then costed by the Director of Business Administration Debbie Donelle and the Head of School Angela Burgos. A different group of 50 constituents was asked to participate in a second session, focusing on reviewing the ranking given the estimated cost of each item and the ensuing effect on tuition.



Parent Natalino Di Censo at the Long-Range Planning brainstorming session on April 2nd, 2005

Centennial's Strategic Plan will guide us through 2011. The details of the plan will be communicated to the entire school community in the fall of 2005 and progress reports will be provided annually as we continue to work together to build our future.

by Jennifer Laliberté

and approach to learning are effective. We look forward to seeing you all again and to the opportunity to bear witness to your continued success. Congratulations!

by Jennifer Laliberté

College Yearbook Makes a Comeback

After a thirteen-year absence, intense preparations are underway for the triumphant return of the Centennial College yearbook. The soon-to-be-completed 2005 edition hopes to capture the sense of family and community that is Centennial College, as well as celebrating the diversity and accomplishments of its individual students. The yearbook is being produced in-house by the loyal members of the faculty and student-run Yearbook Committee, supported as always by the devoted efforts of the extremely talented Technology



College student Miriam Groom peruses the last issue of the College Yearbook

Department With a nod to the last known edition, a 1992 annual (which clearly proves that a retro-revival of early 90s fashions is long overdue), the current edition seeks to close this lengthy gap and renew a tradition which we hope will continue well into the future. With a mandate to produce an inclusive collection that is both memorable and classy, the Yearbook Committee (and its photographic contributors) has been busy gathering the pictures, artwork and recollections necessary to fill its many pages. With expectations high, and anticipation growing, the editorial and design teams will be working diligently throughout August and September to have the completed yearbook ready for distribution in October, 2005.

by Stacey DeWolfe

Curriculum News

In October 2004, Centennial Academy announced its candidacy to the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB-MYP). Since that time, administrators and teachers have been working hard to prepare for the next phase of the process: implementation. Below are the answers to some frequently asked questions about the Middle Years Programme and how it fits into the provincial reforms (QEP) that will come into effect in September 2005.

How does the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) support the implementation of the Quebec Education Program (QEP)?

The MYP is a framework that provides an opportunity to develop a student-centered curriculum around the concepts of Holistic Education, Inter-Cultural Awareness and Communication.

With these key elements permeating the curriculum, students are exposed to many different subjects, skills and experiences. They will be guided in forming their own international outlook as well as developing an awareness of their learning process to foster the continuation of this learning throughout their life. The curriculum shifts the emphasis from teacher instruction (transmission) to student learning (construction and transformation).

The Quebec Education Programme (QEP) is based on the same principles. In fact, the MYP framework is designed to support the curriculum content of the QEP.

Helpful websites: www.ibo.org; www.qais.qc.ca; www.qesnrecit.qc.ca

How will assessment change?

The MYP is a holistic approach so this means that we recognize that students learn in different ways. Assessment is

varied to include: project work, presentations, role-play, debates, examinations etc. Teachers will use different tools and assessment methods to gather information about their students (student portfolios, check lists, observation grids, problem solving situations, one to one dialogue, tests, reports, journals, logs, projects etc.)

Assessment is continuous and involves teacher feedback to help students improve as well as assess their progress at that time. The assessment is criterion-referenced which means that students are assessed on what skills and competencies they learned, not just on the number of questions they answered correctly.

How have our teachers prepared for these changes?

Centennial teachers are dedicated, knowledgeable and lifelong learners. They understand that they also need to continue their development and expertise in order to support student-

centered learning. Throughout this year and into next year most of the grade 7 and 8 teachers will receive specific IBO-MYP training to develop their expertise.

Our teachers are "mapping" the curriculum so we can develop lessons and units of study based on our students' needs, abilities and interests. The Areas of Interaction or main unit themes are integrated through the subject areas. Students need to have an understanding of these themes: Approaches to Learning, Community and Service, Health and Social Education, Environment, *Homo Faber*. Teachers learned more about project-based and inquiry-based learning in order to provide their students with opportunities to explore real life concepts. They also learned about differentiated learning in the classroom:

continued on page 4 - see "Middle Years Program"

Centennial Students Reach Out To the Community

One of the five key themes forming the basis of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program is the development of an altruistic attitude through community involvement and service. This year, Centennial students rose to the challenge by contributing a combined total of over 3 382 hours of their personal time.

Centennial students have made a difference through a variety of initiatives, raising funds for important causes and giving of themselves for the greater good. As the world was shaken by news of a devastating tsunami this past December, students came together to show their support by raising enough money to donate three "Schools in a Box", a global schoolhouse initiative through UNICEF. Our annual initiatives like the Terry Fox Run and Denim Day, which supports breast cancer research, raised \$6,557 and \$1,547 respectively for these important causes.

A special partnership was forged this year with the Montreal Children's

Hospital, who has also been celebrating an anniversary this year, their 100th! At a special assembly on May 25th, two representatives from the MCH visited the school to accept a cheque from Centennial's student body in the amount of \$1,452. Kim Muchantef, Coordinator of Special Events of the MCH Foundation and Dr. Fancizka Baltzer, Director of the Adolescent Medicine Clinic commended the students on their initiative and expressed heartfelt thanks for the contribution, which has been designated to fund the services offered by the Adolescent Medicine Clinic. With the bar set so high, it will be wonderful to see what their creative hearts and minds will accomplish next year!

by Jennifer Laliberté



From Left to Right: Dr. Fancizka Baltzer, Ms. Kim Muchantef, Jonathan Lai (HS'05), Gilbert Fung (HS'05), Santiago Menghini, Wilfred Valenta and Ms. Lana Burton

In Brief...

Founder's Day

For the very first time in our 35 year history, Centennial Academy and College students gathered together in the gymnasium for a special assembly to celebrate Founder's Day and to honour a very special teacher for his 25 years of service.



Left to Right: John McMahon, College Director, Director General Angela Burgos, Ms. Michele Turner and Mr. Sergio Martinez

On April 27th, 2005, our entire student body came together to celebrate the dedication of Mr. Sergio Martinez, who has been teaching psychology and humanities at Centennial College since August of 1980. As recounted by his long-time friend and colleague Michele Turner, Mr. Martinez has a wonderful story to tell - of the life he left behind in Chile in the early 1970's, of adjustments to Canadian winters, and of a love of teaching that has never faded.

New Rugby Team Serves it up!

This year's rugby team brought up many questions and concerns such as: "isn't it a dangerous sport?" and "aren't we a little inexperienced?" But it didn't take long before these concerns were put to rest. The Juvenile Boys Rugby team commenced their season with an impact that was off the Richter scale. After just a month of practice, Centennial Academy's rugby team sent the Selwyn House team home empty-handed. With a surge of confidence we entered a 7's tournament, one involving more intensity and stamina, and surpassed our own expectations by winning half of our games! We couldn't have had such a successful season, actually we couldn't have had a season at all without Ms. Burton, our devoted coach, who pushed the



team to strive for excellence and convinced the school to allow us to play.

Having the participation of more than 20 students, including grade 9 prodigies who struggled to compete at the Juvenile level, we were able to boost school spirit. We played 7 games, 3 of which we won including our last game of the season. Tom Reed bulldozed through everyone in the last 10 seconds to score the game-winning try and boy, did we ever! Let this be a reminder that this was our first, but certainly not our last season.

by Brian Azimov (HS'05)

Centennial Breaks Ground with Emergency Response Plan

In the spring of 2004, Centennial Academy and College embarked on a project to increase the safety and security of all students and staff by creating an Emergency Response Plan for the entire school. In the wake of 9/11, schools across the U.S. have increased their security and invested heavily in the creation of adequate procedures to respond to any emergency. Centennial is one of the first schools in the Montreal region to embark on such a far-reaching project - one that goes well beyond the standard fire-evacuation procedure established in most schools. We contracted the services of Prudent, a company specializing in emergency plans, to assist the Planning Committee in creating and implementing a broad emergency response plan that would update and expand upon our current standards. The dedicated Planning Committee includes members of the entire Centennial staff, including administrators, support staff and

faculty from both the Academy and the College.

Prudent's first task was to perform a risk assessment of the school's community environment and facilities. Their expertise and final report served as the foundation for the Planning Committee in the development of the schools' new Emergency Response Plan. This new plan is far-reaching and covers directives for many possible emergencies such as fire, bomb threat, confinement, gas leak, or violent threat to individuals, just to name a few.

Now that the plan has been finalized, the committee will spend the next few months training all personnel. This training will involve familiarizing all staff with the details of the plan and performing training exercises for the most critical tasks. In the fall of 2005, the Planning Committee will expand the training procedures to involve small groups of students and eventually the entire school.

by Debbie Donelle

Sergio Martinez also works as a journalist for El Popular and hosts a radio program at CKUT Radio McGill. He is the author of two books, *Chronicles of Exile* and *Between Lenin and Lennon*, a historical view of youth militancy in Chile during the 1960s

by Jennifer Laliberté

Rock and Roll is Here to Stay!

Rock and Roll was here to stay at Centennial Academy on May 6th 2005 as talented students and faculty lit up the stage at the Talent Show. With a number of outstanding performances from bands, vocalists, dancers and future actors and actresses, school spirit was the order of the day. In only two short weeks of preparation, students and faculty managed to put together a great show under the guidance and encouragement of Student Life Coordinator Angela Branston. The grade 9 Drama class received a standing ovation for their spectacular opening performance of "Greased Lightning" and not a student in the house could pass up the chance to see Mr. Alexander, Mr. Cheyne and Mr. Olsson bring back their glory days with the help of grade 10 student Caroline Stanimir for their rendition of time-honoured classics.



Grade 9 drama class performs Grease Lightning!

This year's Rock N' Roll Medley was a great success and was truly memorable for everyone. To be continued... in 2006!!!

by Angela Branston

Karlie Marquis Outstanding Student Award Finalist

For the first time in several years, Centennial Academy nominated a student for the prestigious Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal "Desjardins" Outstanding Student Award.

For her outstanding achievements, Karlie Marquis was nominated in the Science and Mathematics category. She was awarded first place among the nominees from QAIS-member schools in her category and was honoured with all 69 finalists at a business luncheon on May 17th, 2005. Congratulations Karlie!

by Jennifer Laliberté

NFL Star Alvin Powell Visits Centennial

Centennial Academy students attended a special presentation by former NFL offensive lineman Alvin Powell. Powell



has dedicated the past ten years of his life to the prevention of drug and substance abuse as well as helping those in crises suffering from the disease of addiction.

At an imposing 6'5", Powell captivated the audience with his energy and candor while describing how his personal battle with addiction stripped him of his career, his family and his self-

respect. Interestingly, it was in Montreal - where he traveled with plans to take his own life - that Powell found the courage and the strength to turn his life around. Through his affiliation with the Saving Station Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of substance abuse, Powell has now visited hundreds of high schools, universities, sports associations and corporations. With a rare ability to reach a variety of teenagers in a meaningful way, Powell left an undeniable impression on all Centennial Academy students - and, more importantly, somewhere to go for help.

For more information of the Saving Station Foundation, please visit www.savingstationfoundation.com

by Jennifer Laliberté

Alumni Updates

Melanie Thiede (HS '96) moved to Victoria, BC in 1998 and though she loves her new home, she was thrilled by the warm welcome she received from several of her teachers when she returned to Montreal for the 35th Anniversary Celebrations in April. Melanie can be reached via e-mail at rpg80@yahoo.com.

Jamie Lim (HS'94) is currently working as a federal health policy analyst in Ottawa. She is completing her M.A. in Public Policy and Administration at Carleton University.

Chris Papp (HS'92) proposed to Julie Houle on April 2, 2005 (and she said yes!)



Chris Papp and Julie Houle

Ian McLannet (HS'92) was married to Elaine Cobb in October 2005 in Toronto, where they have been living for the past 4 years. Ian's sister **Jillian McLannet (HS'94)** is living in Montreal and working as a physiotherapist.



Rachel and Taylor Foley

Sean Foley (HS'89) and his wife Alison had twin girls on January 14 of this year. Rachel and Taylor Foley are happy and healthy and Mom (and Dad!) are

doing great - except for some sleepless nights!

After graduation from university **Brad Johnson (HS'88, CO'91)** pursued a career as an airline pilot and moved to the United States. He is currently a Captain with US Airways Express and lives in New York.

Jonathan Wasserman (HS'86) was married to Carole Alalouf in August 2003. The ceremony was performed at an ancient synagogue in Barcelona that had not been used for services for over 600 years.



Laila Wasserman

Their daughter Laila was born here in Montreal on November 8th 2005. Jonathan continues to act as the Chief Operating Officer for Oceanwide Inc., a software company serving the global cargo transportation industry.

To submit an Alumni Update or a change of address, please contact the Centennial Academy & College Alumni Office at (514) 486-5533 ext. 236 or jlaliberte@centennial.qc.ca

Staff News

Sarah Cummings will be married to Robert Truszkowski on July 16th in her hometown of Manotick, Ontario. We wish them both all the best!

Grade 9 Coordinator **Tammy Groff** has been accepted to McGill University to complete a Master's Degree in Education.

Congratulations to **Ray Lawson** and his wife Sarine on the birth of their son Ray Jr. on March 13th 2005.

Virginia Proctor was married to Jason Normandeau at the Hotel Intercontinental in Montreal on February 18th 2005.

Plans for next year's Career Day include adding more sessions, which will give each student the chance to hear a larger number of speakers. In addition, next year's grade 11 class will be participating in a "Job Shadowing Day" in the fall, during which each student will spend an entire day observing a professional of their choice on the job.

For more information on these and other Career Education events at Centennial, contact **Karla Gruodis** at 486-5533 (ext. 275) or kgruodis@centennial.qc.ca.

by Karla Gruodis

A Word from the Co-Chairs

(continued from page 1)

On behalf of the 35th Planning Committee we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the members of the Centennial community for their participation in our 35th Anniversary Celebrations. You all contributed to make this weekend a resounding success. We were delighted to welcome students, alumni, current and past parents, faculty and staff, past and present board members as well as friends back to Centennial Academy and College to reconnect both with each other and with Centennial.

The 35th Anniversary Celebration weekend would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our tireless Planning Committee, faculty and staff of Centennial. Once again the Centennial family demonstrated what a great team they really are - thank you. We have captured the celebration weekend in many wonderful photographs and we encourage you to keep your eye on the 35th Anniversary website (www.centennial.qc.ca/35years) so that you too can enjoy them. We are pleased to announce that a special souvenir publication is also planned for the fall.

We truly appreciate your sustained involvement and support as we continue to celebrate this 35th Anniversary year. We look forward to other occasions to meet you again on the road to building a bright future for Centennial Academy and College.

by Karen Griffin & Stephen J. Hall (HS'80)

Students Explore Options at Career Day

On February 9th 2005 Centennial Academy held its annual Career Day event. An integral part of the school's expanding Career Education program, it allowed students in Grades 9-11 to meet with professionals in areas as diverse as law enforcement, advertising and physiotherapy.

The half day of activities was launched with an inspiring key note speech

given by Gazette restaurant and food critic Lesley Chesterman, who used examples from her own life to show how each individual can convert their strengths and interests into meaningful and satisfying work. This speech reinforced Head of School Angela Burgos's main message to the students - that if they follow their hearts and work hard, professional success and fulfillment is within their grasp.

Following these general addresses students moved to classroom settings, where they met with professionals from different fields in small groups.

Alumni Return to Centennial to Share Their Stories

At a very moving ceremony on June 3rd, members of the Board of Directors, faculty, staff, parents and friends gathered to congratulate the Class of 2005. Guest speaker David Mendelsohn (HS'86) was touched by the spirit of camaraderie and the heartfelt appreciation for teachers and staff that was apparent throughout the ceremony. In his speech, he stressed the importance of staying true to your dreams, no matter how large they may seem and taking the time to let these dreams come to fruition. He spoke about not rushing down any particular path, and having the strength to resist the temptation of measuring our dreams against others'.



David Mendelsohn (HS'86) with Class of 2005 graduate Brian Azimov.

Since his own graduation less than twenty years ago, David has distinguished himself both as a scholar

and as an athlete. He was inducted into the Centennial Sports Wall of Distinction in 1993 and now coaches McGill University's women's and men's wrestling teams. To complete his second Ph.D., he was recently awarded the Trudeau Scholarship, a very prestigious grant awarded by the Trudeau Foundation to outstanding doctoral candidates in the social sciences and humanities. His project is entitled *Two Cultures: One Land* - an examination of the socio-linguistic factors that come into play when Israelis and Palestinians talk to each other. To pursue this fascinating project, David will be leaving Montreal with his wife and daughter to settle in Israel.

Laura Leslie (CO'88) returned as a guest speaker at this year's Career Day and was invited to address our students again at the annual Athletics Banquet in May. She is also a Centennial Sports Wall of Distinction inductee for her outstanding contribution to women's hockey. After graduating from Centennial, Laura pursued a degree in Athletic Therapy, bringing her exciting style on the ice to the Concordia Stingers and helping them win five Quebec championships in six years. She earned several honors throughout her career with the Stingers and while maintaining her position as the top scorer in the Quebec league. After leaving the Stingers as the all-time leading scorer in women's hockey, she played on the provincial team for eight years and was a member of Team Canada, win-



Laura Leslie (CO'88) speaks at 2005 Athletics Banquet

ning a gold medal at the world championships in 1994.

Despite an impressive career in athletics, Laura also took her studies very seriously, and has established a career as a respected athletic therapist and osteopath with Concordia Sports Medicine and Multi-Therapy. She is also a part-time faculty professor teaching Therapeutic Modalities in Sports Medicine in the Department of Exercise Science. Laura's inspiring background proved to be the perfect motivation for our young athletes at the 2005 Sports Banquet, as she encouraged them to follow their heart's desires, work hard, and never to forget the important lessons learned both on the field and in the classroom.

by Jennifer Laliberte

Middle Years Program

(continued from page 2)

developing lessons and units of study to meet the different needs of our students. This year the English teachers in the Middle School held two portfolio assessment workshops lead by Julie Oelmann. This information lends itself to all subject areas so that students will be able to demonstrate their accomplishments through a multi-disciplinary portfolio of their work.

Technology plays an integral part in the learning partnership. This year students in grade 7 used laptops in the classroom well over sixty percent of their day to assist them in their learning. Teachers and students were involved in a variety of innovative projects, creating web quests in geography and English; electronic portfolios in English and interdisciplinary media projects in grade 9 English, geography and technology. Next year, laptops will be used by the grade 8 students and the grade 9's will have the additional service of a mobile laptop unit. A grade 9 laptop purchase program for 2006 is being explored by the school's Informational Technology Committee and Administration team.

by Jean Fillatre

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Anniversary Co-Chair and Chair of the Board; Karla Gruodis, College and Career Advisor; Stephen J. Hall (HS'80), 35th Anniversary Co-Chair and Chair of the Foundation; Jonathan Lai (HS'05).