

Louise-Anne Poirier assumes presidency of St. George's School Board



Louise-Anne Poirier shares a moment with some St. George's School of Montreal students.

Westmount resident Louise Anne Poirier has been confirmed as the new president

Chuck Alexander
Education
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of the St. George's School of Montreal Board of Directors for a three year term. She succeeds Dr. Angela Genge, who served in that position since 2006.

St. George's School of Montreal was founded in 1930 and operates an elementary and high school on two separate campuses located on The Boulevard. This is a co-educational, non-denominational school committed to providing a student-centred education of the highest quality within a spirited, engaging, creative and cooperative environment. The school's philosophy encourages an individualized and flexible approach to learning and to teaching, while challenging each student to excel.

Ms. Poirier and her hus-

band, Connor O'Brien, have one child, Mikaela, who is in her first year of high school at St. George's. Prior to that, Mikaela attended the elementary school. By way of background Ms. Poirier graduated from the University of Montreal Law School in 1984. She also obtained a Master's in International and Public Affairs – Business and Finance in 1994 from Columbia University in New York City. She is presently vice-president of legal affairs and operations for Stanton Asset Management Inc., a Montreal investment advisory firm as well as chief financial officer of O'Leary Funds Management.

Most recently Ms. Poirier chaired the St. George's Education Committee which she continues to co-chair and remains a Parent Activity Committee member.

Dr. Genge, a resident of N.D.G. is an Associate Professor McGill University's Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery, Director of the Montreal Neurological Hospital's Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Clinic, and the

Director of the Neuro's Clinical Research Unit. Dr. Genge will remain a member of the Board of Directors as immediate Past President. She has two children, Rebeckah who has graduated in the Class of 2007 and another, Josh who is presently in Grade 10. Dr. Genge notes that she has been active with the school for almost 17 years now. "The group of parents who founded St. George's in 1930 were way ahead of their time," she said.

Ms. Poirier thanked Dr. Genge, "for her relentless commitment and leadership over the past three years as chair of the board." She went on to say, "Dr Genge has set a very high bar for the rest of us through her leadership, hard work and dedication to our children's education and the long-term

strength of our school. Among many accomplishments during her tenure, Angela established guidelines for strategic planning and oversaw the creation of a governance committee which has been very active, focusing on governance for our school, beginning at the board level." As the incoming chair, Ms. Poirier stated that it is her intention "to encourage community participation" whenever possible. "St.

George's is an exceptional place of learning," she said. "I will do my very best to guide our board in the pursuit of our school's great tradition of excellence in education, always striving to balance respect for the administration, faculty and staff's excellent work - and the value of parent involvement in our children's education."

Other Members of the Board of Directors are Dr. Lynn Butler-Kisber of Westmount (outside educator), Jeff Deeprise of N.D.G. (high school faculty representative), Marie-Hélène Gagnon of Montreal (elementary school faculty representative), Lesli Green of Hampstead (co-chair of the Development Committee), Joan Hudson Hayes of Westmount (past parent representative), Pam Itzcovitch of Town of Mount Royal

(chair of the Marketing Committee), Dean Mendel of Côte Saint-Luc (co-chair of the Development Committee), Nick Patulli of N.D.G. (chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee) Karen Poulsen of N.D.G. (chair of the Parent Activity Committee- PAC), Joanie Schwartz of Westmount (co-chair of the Education Committee), Kenneth W. Thorpe of Côte Saint-Luc (secretary) and Mark Zimmerman of Côte Saint-Luc (chair of the Finance Committee), Members at large are: Penny Bloch of Montreal, Lianne Deckelbaum of Westmount, Dr. Dubravka Diksic of Beaconsfield, Howard Dolman of Snowdon, David Glickman of Town of Mount Royal and Jason Levy of Montreal. James Officer is the head of school, a position he has held since 1993.

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