

Touch Tomorrow



THE PRIORY SCHOOL



## Mission & Philosophy

The Priory's mission is to nurture each child's inherent curiosity, develop an enthusiasm for learning and encourage intellectual and creative initiative, preparing the child to be a responsible, tolerant and self-confident global citizen.

The Priory believes that a child's earliest school years are the most important. It is at this time that the seeds of academic and life skills are sown. An environment that is nurturing, secure, caring and aware of individual needs is the key to future success.



# Responsibility & Integrity

We, the teachers and principal of The Priory School, firmly believe that the children of our school will grow up to be responsible, productive, independent and worthy adults if they develop in a nurturing and respectful atmosphere where these values are held to be indispensable.

In September 1947, The Priory School first opened its doors to 25 children in "Le Manoir," an old stone house in N.D.G. For the founders, Frances E. Ballantyne and Alphonsine Howlett, education was of premier importance, as their own families were reaching school age. They were convinced that these early years could not be compromised. Driven by their vision of a structured yet creative education and by young children's thirst for care, attention and academic stimulation, they founded The Priory.

The number of students gradually increased, and by 1949 the school moved to the larger premises it occupies today, Lindsey House on The Boulevard. The number of students continued to increase. To accommodate this, the Ballantyne Building was constructed, adding a multipurpose hall, classrooms, an art studio and library. It was officially opened by Governor General Georges Vanier in 1961.

September of 1998 saw the successful completion of The Priory Rejuvenation Project, which provided the school with a state of the art computer centre, library, art room and multi-purpose gymnasium, Alphonsine Paré-Howlett Hall. This allowed The Priory to remain at the forefront of the elementary educational community.

Today, The Priory welcomes approximately 170 pupils and maintains the traditions that have made it so successful over time. In partnership with the parents, the Priory works to ensure that children are allowed to be children in a small, warm, orderly environment which helps them develop their first learning skills and nurtures a love of learning.



"Children are given to parents in trust. How they turn out depends largely upon the kind of formation they receive. Parents cannot do the job alone. They need to pool their efforts and engage skilled help. The result is a school."<sup>7</sup>

Frances Ballantyne, Co-founder of The Priory

### The school

The Priory is an independent, co-educational, English elementary school offering classes from Kindergarten to the end of Cycle 3 (Grades K-6).

The Priory welcomes pupils who may not otherwise be eligible for English education in the province of Quebec. As the school does not receive government assistance, The Priory can provide instruction in English to any child regardless of the parents' origins or language.

The school is English Catholic and open to all faiths. The school's philosophy is to nurture an interest in, a respect for, and an appreciation of all the creeds and nations of our cosmopolitan student body.

### Enrollment

The Priory has an enrollment of approximately 170 students each year. Class size ranges from 20 to 24 students.

### Atmosphere

The Priory offers a small, warm, caring environment with an orderly structure. The Priory believes this is the key to helping children develop their first learning skills and ensuring that education will continue to be a happy and rewarding experience.



### Location

Located in an economically stable, quiet, residential area close to downtown Montreal, The Priory offers a safe, secure environment. The school's spacious grounds include climbing frames, a jungle gym and a sliding hill for winter fun.

### Facilities

State-of-the-art computer centre, library, French instruction room, multi-purpose gymnasium, art studio, playground and recreation field with a skating rink for winter activities.

### Administration

The school is administered by a Board of Directors which includes active parents. The Board, in close cooperation with the Principal, sets the overall school policies.

### The Priory Parents' Association

The Parents' Association, to which all parents belong, plays an active role in the life of the school. (Supervision on field trips, lunch time duty, fundraising, socials, etc.)

The Priory's environment and curriculum are designed to provide a creative, well-rounded learning experience with a strong emphasis on the basics. Mathematics, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies are taught by the classroom teacher, while subjects such as Français langue seconde, Art, Physical Education, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Music are taught by specialists. ICT education begins in Kindergarten and continues through each level to Grade 6. Computer information and communication technology are not acquired in isolation but are firmly integrated into the curriculum.

At The Priory, the average class size is strictly limited so students do not have to compete for attention. In Kindergarten and Cycle 1, teaching assistants help meet the children's individual needs, while small class sizes and innovative team teaching strategies ensure that effective and meaningful learning takes place during those important formative years of primary education. The collaborative learning/teaching framework which is evident at all levels, provides a balance between individual and interdependent learning, emphasizing self-discipline and communication skills.

The Priory was founded as a Catholic school and today, as always, welcomes students of all backgrounds while maintaining its spiritual and moral integrity. The universal values common to all faiths are promoted and integrated into the religious program.

The curriculum is not confined to the classroom and many activities are organized which allow children to further develop social and cooperative skills and self-confidence. Our Integrated Science program, with links to both Canadian and American universities, has students from Cycle 3 working collaboratively together in teams to discover and solve all manner of "hot" science topics. The Math program from Kindergarten to the end of Cycle 3, incorporates hands-on learning and the teaching of Chess with traditional mathematical principals. Accolades from The Bar Association of Montreal and The Commonwealth Essay Contest attest to the high level of literacy that our Language Arts program provides to our students. As a school specializing in elementary education with no high school attached, our students have to and do maintain a high academic standard in order to be admitted into the independent high schools of Montreal. In fact, many of our students receive academic scholarships from these institutions.

Above all, we believe children should be allowed to be children: to sing, to perform in their own plays and concerts, to play games, to discover the city's museums, explore the world around them and never cease to wonder.

*\*Cycle curriculum guides are available upon request.*





# Faith & Community

The Priory was founded as a Catholic school and today, as always, welcomes students of all backgrounds while maintaining its spiritual and moral integrity. The universal values common to all faiths are promoted and integrated into the religious program.

The Priory's twice weekly assemblies are an important aspect of school life, offering the children the opportunity to gather as members of the Priory family. At these times, they share Priory news, acknowledge achievements, reflect, pray, sing and experience the spirit of our community.

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and a dark blue or black dress with a belt, is hanging from a yellow horizontal bar on a playground structure. She is smiling broadly, looking upwards. Other children in similar uniforms are visible in the background, also on the structure. The background is slightly blurred, showing trees with autumn foliage. The overall scene is bright and cheerful.

# Respect & Diversity

Above all, we believe children should be allowed to be children: to sing, to perform in their own plays and concerts, to play games, to discover the city's museums, explore the world around them and never cease to wonder.

#### Extracurricular Activities

A wide range of extracurricular activities is offered after school between 3:20 p.m. and 4:20 p.m.

A few examples are:

- Choir
- Skating
- Drama
- Chess
- Arts and Crafts
- Intramural Sports
- Science
- Computer/Science
- French Appreciation

#### Sports

The Priory takes pride in its two co-ed interscholastic sports teams, soccer and basketball, which have brought recognition for both quality of play and sportsmanship. Participation, whether interscholastic or intramural, as supporters or players, develops a strong sense of teamwork and respect for healthy competition. This builds character and instills a collaborative spirit, essential for future growth and success.

#### Priory Traditions

The Priory hosts an annual Chess Tournament, which serves as a pre-provincial match-up for chess aficionados of Quebec Association of Independent Schools.

In keeping with the school's sense of family, The Priory holds an annual Field Day and Family Barbecue each June where present, past and future parents and students experience the essence of The Priory community in a fun-filled afternoon.



### School Hours

School begins at 8:15 a.m. for all students.

Dismissal time is staggered:

Kindergarten - 2:45 p.m.

Cycle 1 - 3:00 p.m.

Cycle 2 & 3 - 3:15 p.m.

Recreation times are also staggered to ensure pupils' comfort and safety.

### Pre/post school supervision

Pupils are supervised in the schoolyard starting at 7:45 a.m. The after-school program runs from 3:45 to 6:00 p.m. every day on the school premises. The program includes homework supervision, playtime, structured activities and a light snack. Parents may choose to register students on a regular or drop-in basis, as the need arises. In the event of delays, parents can rest assured that their children are supervised and cared for until they arrive. This after-school supervision is available to all Priory students under a separate fee.

### Assemblies

The Priory's twice weekly assemblies are an important aspect of school life, offering the children the opportunity to gather as members of the Priory family. At these times, they share Priory news, acknowledge achievements, reflect, pray, sing and experience the spirit of our community.

### Lunches

One of the highlights of the Priory day is the delicious hot lunch, freshly prepared each day in our own kitchen. Lunch hours are a time of shared enjoyment and responsibilities by staff and pupils alike. Parents too are invited to share our table!

### Uniform

All Priory pupils are required to wear the standard Priory uniform starting in Grade 1.

Kindergarten is required to wear the physical education uniform daily while all other Priory students wear their gym attire on physical education days.

Uniform items, new and used, are available from The Potter Boutique, located in the school.



Here's what  
they say about  
The Priory...

"The Priory girls fit right in at Sacred Heart and we value their wonderful sense of community. They are well-prepared for a full academic and cultural life and their infectious spirit complements the atmosphere that we are developing for our students."

*Elaine Brooks,*  
Headmistress, The Sacred Heart School of Montreal

"Students from The Priory are always well prepared. They have a solid academic foundation, contribute significantly to Loyola's extracurricular activity programs and bring with them a good sense of self discipline and respect for others."

*Keith Fitzpatrick,* Principal of Loyola High School

"Without question, the vast majority of girls have had great success in their academic and extracurricular work. One consistent aspect of The Priory girls has been their citizenship. Their concern for the welfare of others speaks well of the culture and ethos of The Priory."

*Geoffrey Dowd,* Principal, Trafalgar School for Girls



"We warmly welcome students from The Priory. Your students are well prepared for the academic and extra-curricular challenges of LCC's Middle School. It's obvious that they are products of a warm, caring and supportive school and they adapt quickly here at LCC..."

*Dr. Paul Bennett,*  
Headmaster, Lower Canada College

"The Priory students arrive at Selwyn House prepared to engage positively in the challenge that learning requires."

*William Mitchell,*  
Headmaster, Selwyn House

"Creating a caring environment where the child comes above all else and where no effort is spared in helping each one develop to his or her full potential will continue to be our task."

*John Marinelli,* Principal, The Priory

"The Priory has been a second home for my children, providing them in their formative years with a truly unique learning experience. Under the loving guidance of a dedicated staff my children achieved academic excellence and developed intellectually, morally and socially. Countless generations of children, including myself, have passed through its doors on the way to leading successful and meaningful lives."

*Magda Bruce,* Interpreter, former student and parent of three Priory students



"I have been doubly blessed to be able to work in an environment where I am encouraged and motivated to be the best teacher that I can be and to have sent my two children to a school which not only provided them with an excellent academic education, but also gave them the self-confidence and human values necessary to become good citizens of the world."

*Debra Merritt,* Kindergarten teacher and parent

"It was apparent during our visit that the teachers and all the staff seem to believe in the importance of providing children with a small-group, caring, yet structured environment... we believe that in such an environment our son will thrive."

*Prospective Parent following Open House*

"My school has the best school yard ever.

There is a jungle gym, playground and a skating rink." *Grade 2 student*



"The Priory takes a large place in my heart. When I wake up in the morning I know I'm not going to a big monster school, I'm going to my other family, my school family. The Priory is my second home." *Grade 6 student*

"All four children in my family attended The Priory in the 1960's and my parents were very involved in school life. The Priory has always been a strong community with a high level of parental involvement, but at the same time surprisingly international and multicultural in its make-up. An excellent education is fundamental, but the ability to impart a strong set of shared values and community is more important now than ever. I see in The Priory of today, a school that places a high priority on cultivating an open mind, an inquisitive spirit and a sense of self in relationship to others; this is why I chose The Priory for my son." *Diane Wickham, Alumna and parent of a Priory student*



"The years from Kindergarten to grade six are highly significant in the intellectual, emotional and spiritual development of all human beings. These are the years to develop self-confidence and self-awareness, while at the same time coming to realize the needs of others.

The child's innate curiosity needs to be guided in a way that keeps that curiosity alive to grow into a life-long intellectual curiosity. And this happens only in an atmosphere not of drudgery but of joy in the act of learning-experiencing what Bernard Lonergan has termed 'the pure desire to know'.

This is the image I have always noted in the Priory's school agenda."

*J. Martin O'Hara, Former member of the Board of The Priory School, Retired Professor of Education, McGill University, and Vice-president (Academic) Thomas More Institute*

"I am a new student in grade 5. My mom and dad visited many schools but said the Priory was the best. The atmosphere is very friendly and the teachers are the best. It's fun to learn".

*New student grade 5*

"I really enjoy the school subjects: they're interesting and you learn a lot from them. I love being encouraged to try hard and learn all I can."

*Grade 5 student*

"The Priory was a great place that laid the foundation for the rest of my life. Academically, it prepared me for the rigors of high school, but most importantly, when I think of The Priory, I think of giving to others. The Priory instilled a sense of community in me, something that is a major part of me today."

*Andrew Grove, Alumnus*





THE PRIORY SCHOOL

THE PRIORY SCHOOL  
3120 The Boulevard  
Montréal, QC H3Y 1R9

tel 514 935 5966 fax 514 935 1428  
admissions@priory.qc.ca  
www.priory.qc.ca