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Du Purell dans les écoles



Photo: AFP



Marie Allard et **Katia Gagnon**
La Presse

«Il ne faut pas paniquer» avec la grippe A (H1N1) dans les écoles, a dit hier Josée Bouchard, présidente de la Fédération des commissions scolaires. «Il faut rassurer les gens: nous sommes en contact avec le ministère de l'Éducation, qui va faire le point lundi prochain avec la Santé publique. Nous sommes prêts à mettre en action ce qu'ils jugeront bon de faire.»

La rentrée des élèves est toujours prévue pour la fin de la semaine prochaine ou la suivante, selon les commissions scolaires. Des plans d'urgence ont été préparés. «On a des caisses de Purell et des masques», a dit en outre Mme Bouchard, sans savoir si la

désinfection des mains sera systématique dans toutes les écoles.

«Pour paraphraser un slogan bien connu, nous sommes prêts», a corroboré Diane De Courcy, présidente de la Commission scolaire de Montréal (CSDM). Les employées enceintes - plus vulnérables aux complications du virus - seront retirées dès qu'il y aura deux cas (suspects ou confirmés) de grippe A (H1N1) dans une école, a-t-elle dit.

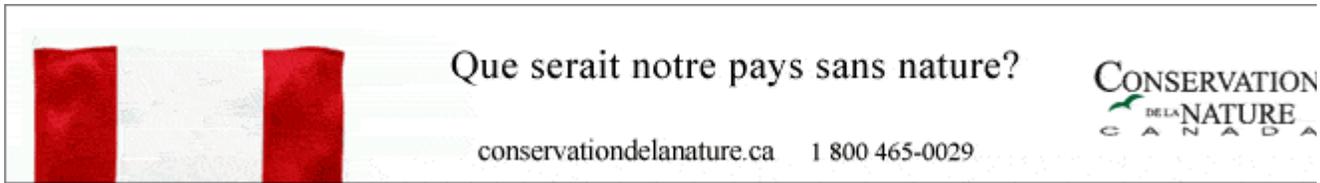
Retrait préventif

Cela ne causera pas trop de problèmes puisque la majorité des employées enceintes ont déjà un retrait préventif à la CSDM. Ces futures mères n'ont pas les anticorps contre le parvarovirus B19 - responsable de la «cinquième maladie» -, courant chez les enfants, qui peut causer la mort des foetus.

Dans l'ensemble des commissions scolaires, «si une femme enceinte arrive avec un billet du médecin, elle sera retirée du travail», a précisé Josée Bouchard. «Là aussi, c'est sûr que les commissions scolaires sont en attente des décisions de la Santé publique», a-t-elle ajouté.

Aucun décès associé à la grippe A (H1N1) n'a été signalé au Québec du 4 au 13 août, selon les dernières mises à jour de l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada. Le 14 août, une femme de 23 ans qui a contracté le virus en juin alors qu'elle était enceinte est toutefois morte à Montréal.

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La persévérance scolaire: la priorité absolue



Photo: Archives AP



Marie Allard

«La persévérance scolaire, c'est ma grande priorité», a dit Josée Bouchard, nouvelle présidente de la Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec, en entrevue à *La Presse* hier.

Le taux d'obtention de diplôme au secondaire, en 2003, dévoilé discrètement en juillet, a de quoi l'inquiéter. À peine 54,4% des jeunes du réseau public ont eu un diplôme après cinq ans d'études, soit 62,1% des filles et... seulement 47,1% des garçons. Quand on leur demande pourquoi ils persévèrent à l'école, les adolescents «retiennent la qualité de la relation qu'ils ont avec les enseignants et le parascolaire», a souligné Mme

Bouchard. Ce sont là des pistes de solution, à retrouver dans le plan d'action sur la persévérance scolaire promis pour la rentrée par la ministre de l'Éducation, espère-t-elle.

«Mon autre grande priorité, c'est la valorisation de notre réseau public», a indiqué Mme Bouchard. À la rentrée, cette année, les commissions scolaires accueilleront 18 376 élèves de moins que l'an dernier, en raison de la baisse démographique et de l'attrait du privé.

La solution? Geler les subventions publiques aux écoles privées, puis les éliminer d'ici cinq ans. «J'ai envoyé mes enfants à l'école publique et j'y suis allée, a indiqué Mme Bouchard. Je voulais être avec tout le monde.» Le don de 250 000\$ qu'Hydro-Québec avait prévu faire au collège Notre-Dame l'a outrée. «Il va falloir que notre élite prenne conscience que la clé de voûte du développement du Québec, c'est le réseau public.»

L'automne sera aussi marqué par le début des négociations, souvent houleuses par le passé, en vue de renouveler les conventions collectives dans le secteur de l'éducation. «On a beaucoup de choses à partager, les syndicats et nous, a assuré Mme Bouchard. On est sur la même longueur d'onde. On a à cœur la réussite des élèves.»



Nominations et mutations à la direction au CÉPEO



par **Kristina Brazeau**

[Voir tous les articles de Kristina Brazeau](#)

Article mis en ligne le 17 août 2009 à 11:49

[Soyez le premier à commenter cet article](#)

Le Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario (CÉPEO) a annoncé la mutation et les nominations de personnes à la direction et à la direction adjointe des ses écoles à compter de ce matin. M. René Chiasson joins l'équipe du CÉPEO à titre de directeur de l'école secondaire publique Omer-Deslauriers. Celui-ci œuvre dans le domaine de l'éducation depuis les années 80. Il a été directeur dans les écoles francophones de la région au cours des sept dernières années.

M. Luc Carrier, directeur à l'école secondaire publique Omer-Deslauriers à Ottawa, est muté à la direction de l'école élémentaire et secondaire publique L'Académie de la Seigneurie à Casselman. M. Carrier remplace Mme Manon Provost qui est maintenant à la direction de l'école élémentaire publique Nouvel-Horizon.

M. Jean-François Thibodeau est nommé provisoirement à titre de directeur adjoint à l'école secondaire publique Gisèle-Lalonde. M. Thibodeau remplace M. Matthieu Vachon à la direction adjointe pendant que ce dernier relève un défi au sein du ministère de l'Éducation de l'Ontario à titre d'agent de l'éducation. **(K.B.)**

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Schools ready for H1N1 vaccinations

By **DONNA CASEY, SUN MEDIA**

Last Updated: 19th August 2009, 6:39am

School administrators and teachers' unions say they're ready to help set up mass H1N1 vaccinations in schools.

While Ottawa's public health department is still mulling how it will deliver the swine flu vaccine once it's available in late October, the head of Ottawa's public school board said it would co-operate if local experts decide to give children the swine flu needle in schools.

"Students would have to have permission from their parents and we'd work closely with any plan (public health) would have," said Lyall Thompson, director of education of the Ottawa Carleton District School Board.

"It's not a disruption but a necessary situation so we would co-operate with them," said Thompson of organizing H1N1 flu clinics for students in schools.

Children, pregnant women and health care workers are considered the groups most at risk of contracting the respiratory virus.

Schools are the "logical place" for a mass vaccine campaign, said James Ryan, president of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association.

Officials from the City of Ottawa's public health unit were not available yesterday. The public health department only answers media questions on swine flu at their weekly Thursday press briefing.

With French-language students back to class next week followed by English students a week later, school officials and teachers are reviewing their pandemic plans for the expected second wave of H1N1 cases this fall.

Teachers who are pregnant — who can suffer serious complications if they contract H1N1 — are also a concern for teachers' unions.

If an outbreak occurs in a class, pregnant teachers should be moved to another school, said Ryan.

"We would request — or demand — for that teacher to be moved out of that school," said Ryan.

While Ottawa's French public school board is considering using parents as substitutes for teachers if too many staff fall ill, Thompson said children in English public schools will always have a certified teacher at the front of the class.

"We have 700 teachers on a supply list and a large number of retired teachers available, so there will always be a certified teacher in the classroom," said Thompson, adding public health officials will meet with the board's 150 principals next week.

Ryan said school administrators should consider closing schools instead of "risking the health of parents" by bringing them in as teacher-substitutes during a widespread outbreak.

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School flu-pandemic guide expected this week

CITIZEN NEWS SERVICES AUGUST 19, 2009

The federal government is expected to release new guidelines for schools this week on how they should respond to a severe swine flu pandemic in the fall, information Canadian teachers are anxiously awaiting. School boards have been fine-tuning their pandemic plans over the summer in preparation of a new school year and taking cues from their local public-health authorities and provincial health ministries, but the federal guidelines will also be welcomed, said Mary-Lou Donnelly, president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation. She warned, however, that there isn't much time to incorporate the federal guidelines into schools' pandemic plans.

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Health officials mull vaccine campaigns

By **DONNA CASEY, SUN MEDIA**

Last Updated: 19th August 2009, 6:41am

How do you convince the public to get an injection that's still getting tested for safety?

That's the challenge now facing public health experts as they work out the nuts and bolts of mounting two separate flu vaccine campaigns this fall.

The City of Ottawa's public health department is training 300 nurses to give H1N1 shots when the vaccine is ready by mid-October.

However, public health officials will first need to sell the merits of the shot to the most high-risk groups: Health care workers, children and pregnant women.

"Ideally, this is not going to be done aggressively and coercively. Public health can't afford to alienate health care workers in the middle of a pandemic," said Dr. Kumanan Wilson, a public-health policy specialist at the University of Ottawa, of the PR campaign to persuade doctors and nurses to get the swine flu shot.

Usually, only 50% of health care workers get the seasonal flu vaccine.

Nurses learned from the SARS crisis and are loath to put their own health at risk, said Linda Haslam-Stroud, president of the Ontario Nurses Association.

"But it's an individual's decision if a nurse wants to get the flu vaccine," said Stroud, adding some nurses have had "significant negative side effects" from the shot.

Hospitals try to get a high rate of flu shots among staff by using "vaccination caravans" — mobile nurses who visit wards to give busy nurses their flu shot, said Haslam-Stroud.

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Schools score well in Ontario rankings

Study puts elementary schools near top of heap

By AEDAN HELMER, SUN MEDIA

Last Updated: 19th August 2009, 6:47am

Several area elementary schools rank among the province's best, according to a report released Tuesday by think tank C.D. Howe Institute.

Report author David Johnson uses standardized test scores — compiled by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) — as a starting point for the study, but adjusts the rankings by “screening out” demographic differences that may put some schools and communities at an unfair disadvantage.

“The quality of the principal, the teachers and other staff is the leading factor specific to each school... Adjusting test scores to remove the influence of socio-economic factors yields measures of relative school performance that are more representative of a school's actual effectiveness than the rankings based on raw annual results,” writes Johnson in the study.

Among the top-scoring local schools are:

From the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic board, Bayshore, Holy Family and Our Lady of Victory.
From the Ottawa-Carleton District board, Devonshire, Katimavik and Woodroffe Ave schools.
Ottawa-Carleton District School Board chair Lynn Scott said while staff and trustees keep a close eye on the rankings, the results don't directly influence board planning.

Scott said the board conducts a careful independent analysis of each school.

“When we evaluate our schools we look at much more than just the EQAO results,” said Scott, adding there is a “range of indicators” that gauge the quality of a school.

The full study can be found at <http://www.cdhowe.org>.

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Child care changes 'disastrous' to city

By DEREK PUDDICOMBE, CITY HALL BUREAU

Last Updated: 18th August 2009, 3:37pm

Changes to child care funding could be "disastrous" for the city's budget and some child care centres may be forced to shut their doors.

Two city councillors say that with federal funding for child care disappearing next March and the province not willing to take on the financial responsibility, Ontario municipalities are going to be stuck with a huge cost.

"This is a clear and present danger," said Alta Vista Coun. Peter Hume, who spoke about the threat at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in Ottawa this week. Hume is also president of the association. "The federal government needs to continue that funding."

It could affect 300 subsidized child care spots and mean an additional \$3-million shortfall added onto the city budget.

"Child care centres will be closed," said Hume. "It's a tremendous pressure to add to the tax base."

The province has agreed to provide limited financial help, but not past September 2010.

Gloucester-Southgate Coun. Diane Deans said with the province providing little detail on how it plans to phase in all-day kindergarten in September 2010, which could take on young children now in day care, the city is left in a tricky spot.

"It has the potential to be a budget disaster for Ottawa," said Deans, who said she's shocked by the developments. "We could be losing hundreds of child care spaces. There is a total mix of children that could be affected."

A city briefing note prepared for Deans, who is also attending the conference, says there is a lot of concern about the possibility the funding will be discontinued.

"This will impact on service levels and services will have to be adjusted accordingly," says the document.

Deans said many families can't afford to pay for child care and depend on financial help from the government.

"This would be a traumatic loss," she said.

Deans said the big problem is that the city has been told the province doesn't have enough money to proceed with funding for all the four- and five-year-old children who would be accepted into all-day learning.

That means child care spots are still needed for the children who won't be accepted into the all day kindergarten.

"This is a huge problem," Deans said.

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Arnprior, Smiths Falls school among best in province: report

BY JOANNE LAUCIUS , THE OTTAWA CITIZEN AUGUST 18, 2009

OTTAWA — Two Eastern Ontario elementary schools are among the top 11 “best public schools” in the province — but schools in Ottawa should have performed better, says an economist who has analyzed school performance based on socio-economic factors.

Arnprior’s John XXIII Separate School placed in the 99th percentile in Grade 3 and the 100th percentile in Grade 6, while St. Francis de Sales Separate School in Smiths Falls was in the 100th percentile in Grade 3 and the 99th percentile in Grade 6, according to analysis by David Johnson, a professor of economics at Wilfrid Laurier University and education policy scholar at the Toronto-based economic think-tank the C.D. Howe Institute.

But scores in Ottawa were disappointing given the advantages of many households in the city. Ottawa schools have raw test scores that are about average compared to the rest of the province, said Johnson.

“However, because parents in Ottawa are generally better-educated than the rest of the province, we expect children to do better than the rest of the province,” he said. “They’re not performing as well as they should. Why? I don’t know.”

His analysis of about 4,000 public elementary schools considered performance in standardized Grade 3 and 6 tests between 2005-2006 and 2007-2008 as well as taking into account how the students actually performed when compared to expectations when certain factors are considered. These factors range from the percentage of families with a single parent to parental education levels and the percentage that speak English or French as their mother tongue.

In essence, St. Francis de Sales and John XXIII performed better than almost all other schools in the province in similar socio-economic circumstances.

Johnson believes that 40 to 50 per cent of the variation in average test scores can be explained by socio-economic factors. The rest is explained by the quality of the principal, teachers and other staff.

Raw test scores only tell us so much, he said.

“Why? Because the schools where more students come from homes that offer students the most advantages will usually have the highest success rates,” said Johnson, who used detailed socio-economic data gleaned from the 2006 census based on the location of the students’ homes.

Most educators realize that ranking schools by overall success rates says little about the quality of staff at any given school, he said. "I have created a fairer way of comparing schools to identify the best schools in the province."

According to this analysis, a school that performs as well as could be expected given student backgrounds would be in the 50th percentile.

Ottawa public board schools that fit roughly into this category include Broadview Public School, First Avenue Public School, Forest Valley Elementary School and Jack Donohue Public School.

In the Catholic school board, schools that performed about as well as expected include St. Anne, St. Anthony, St. James and Sacred Heart.

Schools that perform significantly better than expected given economic and social circumstances get a higher rating, while those that perform worse than expected have lower scores.

For example, a school that scores 90 per cent performs better than 90 per cent of the schools operating under similar socio-economic advantages and disadvantages. A school that scores 10 per cent has performed worse than 90 per cent of schools where children live in households with similar conditions.

Johnson said the reasons for high scores should be investigated. And he adds that it's noteworthy that 10 out of the 11 top schools in the province are Catholic schools.

"It is apparent from this result and other studies that Catholic boards are stronger than public boards."

Parents with children at a low percentile school should expect better results and they should talk to school and board staff about why they are not getting better results, said Johnson.

"School administrators should be very interested in what is happening at a school with a very low or a very high percentile score — they can learn from each how better to manage school resources and personnel," he said.

"The party line is that every school is equally good. That's flagrantly inconsistent with the data."

Bill Gartland, director of education at the Catholic District School Board, which oversees St. Francis de Sales, declined to speculate on why St. Francis de Sales performed so well, but said the board looks at provincial test results, then creates an improvement plan.

Staff, students and the community can all take credit for the success of John XXIII, said Michele Arbour, director of education at the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board.

“The John XXIII staff works collaboratively to analyze school data and effectively focus instruction on high-yield strategies.”

To view the full report go to: www.cdhowe.org

Top-performing Ottawa-Carleton District School Board Schools:

Percentile

School Gr. 3 Gr. 9

Devonshire 90 97

Woodroffe Ave. 92 94

Katimavik ES 94 91

Dunlop PS 89 90

Kars PS 89 NA

Worst-performing Ottawa-Carleton District School Board Schools:

Percentile

Gr. 3 Gr. 6

Queen Mary St. 1 1

Fitzroy Centennial 0 2

Churchill Alternative 5 2

Convent Glen 4 NA

Henry Munro MS NA 5

Manor Park 6 6

Best-performing Ottawa Catholic School Board schools:

Percentile

Gr. 3 Gr. 6

Bayshore 82 90

St. Leonard 73 77

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

79 68

Our Lady of Victory

52 90

Divine Infant 79 56

Worst-performing Ottawa Catholic School Board schools:

Percentile

Gr. 3 Gr. 6

St. Thomas More 4 11

St. Luke (Ottawa) 11 16

St. Brigid 14 13

Our Lady of Wisdom

18 10

St. Andrew 19 11

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A better way to measure school performance

BY DAVID JOHNSON, CITIZEN SPECIAL AUGUST 19, 2009

There are about 4,000 publicly funded elementary schools in Ontario, with about 250 of them in the Ottawa region.

There is also a great variation in school performance when it comes to bringing the best out in students, regardless of their socio-economic background.

How do parents, teachers, taxpayers and school administrators know if children are attending a "good school" -- one where the principal, teachers and staff make a real difference in student achievement?

In a new study for the C.D. Howe Institute, I provide answers to those questions with a methodology that screens out the influence of socio-economic factors on student performance on Ontario's standardized tests. This identifies schools that perform better, or worse, than other schools with students of similar backgrounds.

Each spring, Ontario elementary students write an Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Primary Assessment at the end of Grade 3 and a Junior Assessment at the end of Grade 6.

In these assessments, students who meet or exceed the provincial standards for their understanding of the mathematics, reading and writing curricula are reported as achieving Level 3 or Level 4 in each.

The percentage of all students who achieve a Level 3 or Level 4 at each school are published annually.

But the raw test scores can only tell us so much.

Why? Because the schools where more students come from homes that offer students the most advantages will usually have the highest success rates.

Accordingly, most educators realize that to rank schools by overall success rates would tell us little about the quality of staff at any given school. I have created a fairer way of comparing schools to identify the best schools in the province.

By linking student postal codes to census data on education, employment, and other variables, and by using data that describe students who write the EQAO exams in each year, I have constructed social and economic profiles for most Ontario schools that have at least 45 students enrolled using one, two or more often three years of assessments.

When these data are combined and linked to each school, it becomes apparent that about 40 to 50 per

cent of the variation in school success rates is associated with variation in the social and economic background of students.

And by focusing on the statistical variation that remains after the influence of these socio-economic variables have been accounted for, we can judge whether a school appears to be performing above or below average.

This comparison is fair to teachers and principals, because it is made only after separating out the effects of the student pool at the school. Schools that perform better than expected are above-average schools, while those that perform below expectations are below-average schools.

The schools I look at are assigned a percentile score according to the primary and junior assessments. A percentile score of 90, for instance, indicates that a school's results for that assessment are better than the results at 90 per cent of schools with similar socio-economic profiles. On the other hand, a percentile number of 10 indicates that 90 per cent of schools with similar students do better than this school.

To use percentile scores is not to offer a ranking. There is no statistical difference between a school with a percentile rating of 50 and of 51 but there is a difference between a school in the 90th percentile and a school in the 10th percentile.

What parents should understand is that this assessment system does allow us to say that among schools there is a meaningful variation in teaching quality. And to present school rankings that did not allow for the important role of the composition of students at those schools would be wrong.

Catholic schools consistently outperform public schools, both across Ontario and within Ottawa. Ottawa schools have raw test scores that are about average compared to the rest of the province.

However, because parents in Ottawa are generally better educated than the rest of the province, we expect children to do better than the rest of the province. The average performance of students in Ottawa can be improved upon.

A parent with children at a low percentile school could and should expect better results and talk to school and board staff about why they are not getting them. School administrators should be very interested in what is happening at a school with either a very low or a very high percentile score -- they can learn from each how better to manage school resources and personnel.

For interested parents, teachers and school administrators, these indicators, together with all of the social and economic data that describe a school, are available at the C.D. Howe Institute website (www.cdhowe.org), and readers can identify how well their own schools performed.

David Johnson is a professor of economics at Wilfrid Laurier University and an education policy scholar

Ottawa schools 'not performing as well as they should': analyst

Raw test scores for city students only average, Howe report says

BY JOANNE LAUCIUS, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN AUGUST 19, 2009

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District School Board schools

Percentile

Gr. 3 Gr. 6

Devonshire 90 97

Woodroffe Avenue 92 94

Katimavik Elementary School 94 91

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Kars Public School 89 NA

Worst-performing Ottawa-Carleton

District School Board schools

Percentile

Gr. 3 Gr. 6

Queen Mary St. 1 1

Fitzroy Centennial 0 2

Churchill Alternative 5 2

Convent Glen 4 NA

Henry Munro Middle School NA 5

Manor Park 6 6

Best-performing Ottawa Catholic

School Board schools

Percentile

Gr. 3 Gr. 6

Bayshore 82 90

St. Leonard 73 77

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton 79 68

Our Lady of Victory 52 90

Divine Infant 79 56

Worst-performing Ottawa Catholic

School Board schools

Percentile

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St. Thomas More 4 11

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