



November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Parents,

We have recently received a directive from the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur (MEES) to proceed with the testing for lead content in the water in our schools. The goal is to ensure that the concentration is compliant with the safety guidelines for acceptable lead levels provided by the MEES.

Water testing and analysis for all elementary schools, beginning with buildings built before 1981, as well as the implementation of the corrective measures, will be completed by June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020. The testing and analysis to identify the corrective measures for all other buildings will be completed by November 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. The EMSB's Material Resources (MR) Department will oversee the water testing via accredited laboratories.

As requested by the MEES, short-term preventative actions will be implemented by the MR Department. These measures include installing signage at designated drinking water sources (fountains, daycares, kitchens, etc.) and non-drinking water sources (bathroom sinks, etc.) indicating:

- 1) To run the water at least 1 minute (for fountains) or 5 minutes (for sinks) before drinking
- 2) The use of water in washrooms and cloakrooms is only for the washing of hands.

We remain committed to the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff. Over the last few years, the MR Department has replaced the majority of drinking fountains in our buildings. Some models installed include filtration systems which are certified for the reduction of lead. Nonetheless, rest assured that we will implement any and all corrective measures found to be necessary during the testing and analysis process.

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