

children showed how touched they were by Hana's story. Learning new vocabulary was also an important part of the unit and that should help the children in their upcoming Language Arts exam.

**DROPOUT RATE:** Youth Fusion is thrilled to collaborate with the Social Development Society of Ville-Marie (SDSVM) and Concordia University to develop seven activities at two Montreal high schools: the EMSB's James Lyng in St. Henri and Pierre-Dupuy of the CDSM in the Ville Marie borough. High school drop out rates are a daunting social reality and this innovative project has already inspired hundreds of high school students to get involved in concrete activities, and feel motivated at school.

To address the realities of the Ville-Marie and St-Henri boroughs, where the percentage of dropout rates is alarming, *Youth Fusion* established partnerships with Concordia University, James Lyng and Pierre-Dupuy. Through these partnerships, seven student interns from Concordia have been given the opportunity to work as community involvement coordinators at these two schools to motivate the high school students to spend their time in more creative and productive ways.

The following seven activities will continue until May 30<sup>th</sup> 2009: an environmental "green team," a young entrepreneurs club, a student newspaper, an end-of-year musical concert, a science fair, a recreation team, and a student government. These seven activities are already encouraging the students at Pierre-Dupuy and James Lyng to work together towards a common goal, thus strengthening their school spirit and sense of belonging. Moreover, these three-month internships offer invaluable professional work experience to Concordia students.

*Youth Fusion*, a non-profit organization, seeks to promote creative youth empowerment, contribute to the development of socially

conscious citizens, and encourage Quebec's youth to get involved in their communities and succeed academically. Ultimately, Youth Fusion seeks to increase high school retention rates among youth. For more details, log on to [www.youthfusionquebec.org](http://www.youthfusionquebec.org) or contact **Gabriel Bran Lopez** at 514.848.2424 ext. 5136

## TIP CORNER

**Editor's Note:** The Communications Department of the EMSB is contacted regularly by organizers of different conferences, facilitators of interesting workshops and developers of innovative fundraising opportunities. We screen these requests and make the information available to schools and centres. From this point on, we will group these in our Tip Corner and give in-school administrators, teachers, other staff, parent groups and even students of making contact directly.



**Alan Greenberg is back with his Houdini Magic Club.**

**HOUDINI MAGIC CLUB:** Alan Greenberg's Houdini Magic Club is available for after school programs. Go to [www.houdinimagicclub.com](http://www.houdinimagicclub.com) and check out the information flyer section of the EMSB website where there are also details about a new summer science camp at Marianopolis College.