



# PRESS RELEASE

Friday, September 4

## NHL DEFENCEMAN SCANDELLA TO BE NAMED HONOURARY AMBASSADOR FOR NEW ROYAL VALE HOCKEY PROGRAM

**MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 2, 2015-** Marco Scandella, a 25 year old star defenceman for the National Hockey League's Minnesota Wild, will make a special visit to his former high school, Royal Vale in NDG (5851 Somerled), on Friday morning, September 4 (11 a.m.) at which time he will be named an honorary ambassador of a new elite hockey program.

Scandella, who also attended the English Montreal School Board's Westmount High School and Willingdon Elementary in NDG, will be accompanied by his uncle Sergio Momesso and his new agent Michael Baslyk. Momesso, who attended the EMSB's St. Monica Elementary and Marymount Academy International, played 13 seasons in the NHL with the Montreal Canadiens, St. Louis Blues, New York Rangers, Vancouver Canucks and Toronto Maple Leafs. He is presently the colour commentator for Habs broadcasts on TSN 690. Baslyk is a graduate of the EMSB's Edinburgh Elementary and Royal West Academy in Montreal West. A former pro hockey player himself, he is part of a new sports agency called Quartex Management, where his partners are well known businessmen Lino Saputo and Mitch Garber. Scandella is their first client.

The hockey program at Royal Vale is for students at the elementary and secondary levels and coordinated by Greg Orsini of Rapid Hockey Development. Initially it will be offering on and off-ice training before and after school, not conflicting with classes and utilizing the nearby Doug Harvey Arena. Scandella's former physical education teacher, Chris Lagakos, is among those spearheading the program.

Royal Vale Principal Nathalie Lacroix reports that a lot of exciting developments will occur at Royal Vale this year. More than \$700, 000 in renovations to the building have been done in recent months, from new windows to a freshly painted auditorium. A new playground structure and climbing wall will soon be ready. Besides the elite hockey program, a competitive fencing club will be introduced. Academically, on the eve of open house season, the high school will launch sports, music and drama concentration programs for 2016-2017 and for students who do not wish to enroll in French immersion (70 percent of subjects taught in French), a 30 percent option called Français Flex will debut. "All of these new programs are a wonderful addition to our school, which already offers high quality education and obtains outstanding results," says Ms. Lacroix.

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