## Dollard's Talia Hershon has a passion to dance



Talia Hershon's passion for dance began at a very young age when her mom Sandy enrolled her in a ballet class in a chalet on the West Island. It was non-stop from that point

After graduating from high school and completing many years of dance training, Talia was accepted into a one year program at The Jerusalem School of Music and Dance at



some of her students.

Talia Hershon, pictured here with

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Hebrew University. When she returned, the Dollard des Ormeaux resident found work as a part-time instructor and choreographer at Bonnie's School of Dance while continuing her academic career in the faculty of Education at McGill University.

"After working as a choreographer and teacher for one year, I was offered to direct the contemporary/jazz competitive dance teams while continuing to teach various classes at the studio," Talia says, "Throughout the season, my teams competed in several competitions in Montreal and consistently placed very highly. As we spent many hours together, my bond with the students grew tremendously."

Throughout her years teaching at the studio, Talia fell in love with teaching such hard working and dedicated students and it made her realize that she wanted to continue doing this forever. When the director of the studio decide to retire following the 2014-2015 season, Talia made a life changing decision. Only 20 years of age and time to go still towards her degree at McGill, she kept the operation alive at 4495 Westpark Boulevard in Pierrefonds and redubbed it Studio 95 Dance Complex. Her dad David, a well experienced businessman, has given her a hand with his administrative expertise while mom Sandy even helps with some classes.

Classes are limited to five to eight students while parentteacher contact is very much part of the process. Weekly classes are offered, from recreational to competitive, in styles such as acro, jazz, ballet, contemporary, tap, lyrical, musical theatre, hip hop, and break dancing for all ages and levels. Talia schedules classes around her McGill course load and

"Continuing my education at McGill I am extremely grateful for all of the support from my family and my extended dance family, and the families of my students,' Talia says. "I am very eager to begin this new journey and excited to see where this adventure will take me.' Info: www.studio95dance.com, 514-241-7974 info@studio95dance.com.

HEALTH FESTIVAL: Excitement is building as Montreal -Action Sport Physio prepares for its second annual West Island Health Festival, organized by SGS Fitness. It will take place on Sat-

urday, Sept. 26 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at the Dollard des Ormeaux Community Centre (12001 de Salaberry). The event is completely free and open to the public. Organizer Jonathan Kerr says those on hand will have access to a wide array of energetic speakers with quality health information, entertainment, door prizes and activities. Top health care providers and professionals will present on topics including Going Gluten Free, Healthy Exercising, Body Weight and Anxiety Management and Mood Disorders, Dr. Laurie Betito. a resident of Dollard and the host of CJAD's popular Passion program, will be the keynote speaker.

COHEN CHATTER: The West Island-based Montreal Center for Anxiety and Depression (955 Blvd. St. Jean, Suite 305) is presenting a special lectures series (Sept. 30 and Oct. 7 at 7:15 p.m.) with bestselling author and clinical director Sandra Reich to help better understand anxiety, depression, relationship issues, self-sabotage, self-esteem, enabling, victimization and more! Only 70 spots are available on a first come, first serve basis. Info: 514-777-4530... In a recent column about Dollard des Ormeaux's Ashley Sahakian, who returned from Toronto and the Miss Canada Globe Pageant as Miss Quebec Globe, she was incorrectly identified as 29 years of age. She is 20. Please see my blog.

Have something to share? Email me at mcohen@thesuburban.com or leave a message at 514-484-9203, ext. 307. Follow me on Twitter @mikecohencsl and at http://blog.thesuburban.com

## **ETHAN**

Mackenzie and many of his friends to join the giving. According to Ethan's mom, Tracy Petzke, several of his friends and family have matched the donation.

"I did it because my brother did it," Mackenzie said, "I wanted to make the kids feel better."

"On Monday Ethan will bring his letter to the school principal just in case Subban actually decides to visit," Petzke explained with a big smile. "We have gotten a much bigger response than we expected."

The Suburban caught up with Ethan and his sister Mackenzie, wearing their Habs jerseys, at the annual Beacon Hill corn roast last Saturday.

"I did something for the kids and P.K. Subban," Ethan said, "I thought it would be a nice thing cause there are a lot of kids that are sick.'

"My mom did a deposit online that goes to the kids. Things will be a little bit better," he explained. "I inspired a lot of people, even people we don't know, so we can collect more money."

MP Francis Scarpaleggia also met with a very enthusiastic Ethan at the corn roast.

"PK Subban has inspired young kids and one of the kids has taken a leadership role and inspired other young kids, that is how it is suppose to happen," Scarpaleggia said after speaking with Ethan. "It was so authentic from him. It was a gesture that was purely from the heart.'

Late Saturday night while Ethan was fast asleep he got Subban's attention. Subban tweeted to Ethan giving him props for stepping up.

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