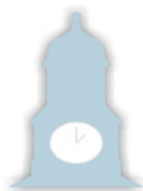


RWA



News

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SEPTEMBER 2013

A Word From The Administration



It has been a great start to the school year at Royal West Academy. I would like to offer a warm welcome to our newest additions, grade 7s, and upper graders who are new to the RWA family.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our new staff members and to those who are returning from leaves of absence:

- Ms. A. Pieropan (Secretary)
- Ms. L. Lawrence
- Ms. M.A. Zuccaro (Math, ERC, Histoire, and Biology)
- Ms. C. Suarez (Visual Arts and Ed. Tech. and Programming)
- Ms. K. Cukier (English)
- Mr. C. Northey (English and Ed. Tech. and Programming)
- Ms. M. Deschenes (Français)
- Ms. J. Fogel (Science)
- Ms. A. Salhany (Français)
- Ms. S. McLeod (Music and Computers)
- Mr. F. Martin (Physical Education)
- Ms. J. Cayer (ERC, Contemporary World, History)

As you may know, Mr. N. Stamiris has been appointed Interim Principal of Elizabeth Ballantyne Elementary School. Replacing him in the interim will be Mme N. Cheff who has, until recently, been a French teacher at RWA. Like Mr. Stamiris, Mme Cheff will be responsible for students whose family names begin with the letters A–L. Also filling in the interim is Physical Education teacher, Mr. J. Bateman, who will be replacing Ms. I. Margetis who was appointed Principal of Saint Monica Elementary School. Like

Ms. Margetis, Mr. Bateman will be responsible for students whose family names begin with the letters M–Z. Please feel free to call either administrator if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child or about the programs offered at Royal West Academy.

This school year got off to an enthusiastic start with the Student Life Association welcoming the Secondary I students at Orientation. The SLA then kicked off what promises to be a great year with a supremely well-organized Welcome Back BBQ. Students enjoyed some great hot dogs, fruit, corn, and a little homemade entertainment that included a dunk tank. Among the victims of the dunk tank were Mr. Bateman (aka “Batman”), Mr. J. Zigby, Mr. J. Mateus, and Mr. A. Munro!

Once again, during the first week of school, staff members were visible in their orange vests, directing the student pedestrian traffic from the Montreal West train station. Please discuss the issue of traffic safety with your child. Note that there are three sets of commuter trains running through the Montreal West train station. Assume that there may be more than one train coming through at a time. Remember to look both ways, cross the roads only at the crosswalks specified for students, stay alert, do not wear headphones, and practice safety first!

In addition, there are large numbers of students boarding the buses after school. It is important to line up and board the bus in an orderly fashion so that no one gets hurt. Also, parent drivers are reminded that the drop-off and pick-up of students should take place on Easton Avenue ONLY! Easton Avenue is the only safe drop-off area for students. Ainslie Street is now a No Stopping Zone. If you drop off your child on Ainslie, you risk receiving an \$85 ticket!

Our Secondary I Meet the Teacher evening was held on September 3. Parents were given short presentations by teachers from all subject domains. They also had an opportunity to hear from the administration, the Secondary I homeroom teachers, and our school guidance counsellor and psychologist. Counsellors discussed the sometimes difficult transition to high school and the pressure some students may feel at Royal West Academy. I



SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

School may have only started a month ago, but the RWA Foundation has been busy!

In May we started the raffle to win Habs' season tickets. The raffle culminated in Royal West Academy's 30th anniversary gala with RWA graduate (1998) and Global TV Montreal late-night anchor Elysia Bryan-Baynes serving as emcee. Over 200 people attended the event, which featured prizes, a silent auction, and performances by RWA students, including the school's award-winning Honour Band. As well, there were a few selections from the musical *Anything Goes*, and a performance by the school's Bardolators from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, both under the direction of Doug Floen.



The RWA 30th anniversary Gala organizing committee with emcee and RWA grad Elysia Bryan-Baynes. From left to right: Jasmin Uhthoff, Elysia, Ginger Swift (head of the committee), Erica Brown, Diane Charlton, and Lindsay McLeod.

The raffle alone raised just over \$40,000, which is unfortunately short of the Foundation's \$70,000 goal. As you may have noticed, the auditorium has no sound system and barely functional lighting. The Foundation has received bids for both the sound and the lighting system that could be installed immediately and kept once the space is renovated—the lowest bid is \$67,000. The monies raised from the raffle, along with donations from the past years, will go towards the installation of the new sound and lighting systems. We hope to move ahead with this project this fall.




Thank you to all parents who bought a raffle ticket and an even bigger thank you to those who helped sell more tickets. And congratulations to our five lucky winners:

- 1st prize: Alfred Bishai (ticket #1831)
- 2nd prize: Nathalie Bendavid (ticket #045)
- 3rd prize: Nicholas Audet (ticket #1529)
- 4th prize: John Robertson (ticket #1877)
- 5th prize: Louis Boissonneault (ticket #0337)

How can you play a part? We are always looking for volunteers to join the RWA Foundation. No matter your experience or time available, everyone can play a role. Our focus in the coming year will be on organizing more special events and fundraisers so anyone with an interest or expertise in that field would be a very welcome addition to the team. If you have any questions or fundraising ideas contact Jasmin Uhthoff, President, RWA Foundation at rwafoundation@gmail.com.

Now there are three ways you can donate!

- **By credit card:** go to www.royalwestacademy.com/foundation and click on the  button.
- **By cheque:** make it out to the order of Royal West Academy Foundation and drop it off at the school office or mail it to RWA Foundation at the school's address.
- **Make a pledge:** complete the card inside the campaign brochure sent home with your child and drop it off at the school office or mail it to RWA Foundation at the school's address.

If you would like to receive an RWA Foundation Capital Campaign information package, please email your mailing address to rwafoundation@gmail.com and we will gladly send you one; or you can check out the PDF version by going to www.royalwestacademy.com/foundation and clicking on "RWA Foundation Solicitation".

would like to thank Dr. Vassiliou and Mr. Mateus for their efforts in organizing this very informative session for parents.

On September 23, during our 2013 Open House, RWA opened its doors to several hundred visitors. Special thanks to the Prefects, SLA, and volunteer students and parents who were great ambassadors for the school. Qualifying exams will be written on the weekend of October 5–6.

At the Annual General Meeting of September 12, the following parents were elected for the next two years as parent representatives to the Governing Board: Mr. J. Raskin, Mr. M. Delis, Ms. D. Dimock, and Mr. M. Mendelson. They join second-year members Mr. K. Kelly, Mr. N. Dahdah, Ms. B. Feigenbaum, and Ms. L. Rinaldi. Mr. Dahdah was also re-elected as the Regional Delegate for Royal West Academy. A Parent Advisory Committee consisting of nine members was also established with Ms. K. Cawthorn being elected the PAC Chairman.

The RWA Foundation organized the Royal West Academy 30th Anniversary Gala. The Gala was emceed by alumnus Ms. E. Bryan-Baynes. She joined Global TV in 2003, filling a variety of roles since then, including a role in research, reporting, and political coverage at the National Assembly. She was also a producer for the Evening News and News Final. Her perseverance has paid off: since June, she has been the News anchor on Global Montreal. Guests were treated to performances by the Honour Band, Little Rock Blues Group, Bardolators, and the RWA Musical. Thank you to all those who bought raffle tickets or bid on the silent auction items. The evening proved to be a huge success with proceeds going to the RWA Auditorium Renovation Project.

The RWA Home & School's next meeting will take place on October 22, 2013. The Home & School Association provides much needed funds for pedagogical materials, special events, and building improvements. With your help, the Home & School will undoubtedly be in a position to make many more contributions that will enhance your child's educational experience at Royal West Academy. All our parents are encouraged to get involved!

Most students have already begun participating in our Extra-Curricular Activities Program. Many sports teams have already had tryouts or their first games; those involved in other categories of activity have had initial meetings and sign-up campaigns to get things underway. The list of ECAs is available on our website at www.royalwestacademy.com. We encourage parents to help plan their children's participation in this program. Students are required to complete three ECAs in the categories of their choice: Community Service,

Environment, Culture, and Sports. Students are not permitted to skip the same ECA category over two consecutive years. Please contact Ms. S. Di Pietro at sdipietro@emsb.qc.ca should any questions arise. We recommend that parents purchase insurance for their child at the beginning of every school year.

If a student requires tutoring at any time this year, RWA has an excellent Peer Tutoring program at a minimal cost. Any questions or concerns in this area should also be directed to Ms. Di Pietro.

This year, several improvements to our facility are expected. Thanks to the Home & School, our library is now air-conditioned—students are now able to complete school work or study on even the most humid of days. The reception area has also been renovated—improvements include new floors, painting, and new modern and more functional furniture for our secretarial staff—special thanks to the RWA Governing Board for their support of this project. Soon work will begin to replace the guillotine windows in the West Wing—the ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir, et du Sport has allocated \$341,000 towards this project—windows in the main building will also be repaired at the same time.

Mme Cheff, Mr. Bateman, and I wish all our students and parents a successful and enjoyable year!

RWA Science Fair

By Ms. Ann MacKay, Coordinator, RWA Science Fair

Registration has begun for the 23rd edition of the Royal West Academy Science Fair. The event will take place on February 14, 2014.



Participation is mandatory once for Secondary II–IV students. The mark received is recorded on their final Secondary IV report cards and carries a weight of two credits. A student can repeat the Science Fair, where the best of their received marks is then submitted. Secondary V Chemistry students are obligated to participate and their mark is recorded on their report card. All students must attend the fair to receive their mark.

Science classes were visited the week of September 23 to present an overview of the process and hand out registration forms. The first deadline is to hand in the registration form by October 18. All forms and information will be posted on www.royalwestacademy.com. The website is the best place to stay informed and up-to-date on how the students should be progressing as well as additional information about the fair.

The students receive their marks from a panel of volunteer judges. It is a very rewarding experience to be a volunteer

judge—the students cannot receive a mark without them! The minimum commitment is from 9 AM–12 noon. A science background is an asset but certainly not a requirement. More details will be emailed, prior to the fair, to those interested in judging. If you are available and interested in helping out, please complete and email the form from the website to rwasciencefair@hotmail.com.

There is also group of judges who judge a category called “Special Projects”. These deserving projects receive a cash award from donations made to the Science Fair. A tax receipt is issued for donations over \$20. If you would like to make a donation for prizes, please download the form from the RWA website and mail/submit it to the school office.

Peer Tutoring

By Ms. Sadia Di Pietro

The Peer Tutoring program is once again being offered at Royal West Academy. Last year the program ran very successfully with a grand total of 41 Peer Tutors happily helping 54 students within the school.

We have similar aspirations for the 2013–2014 school year as we already have a number of capable students in Secondary III, IV, and V who are eager to begin tutoring. The cost is \$10/hour and students may be tutored either once or preferably twice a week.

Should there be any questions regarding the Peer Tutoring program, please contact Ms. Di Pietro at school at 514-489-8454 or sdipietro@emsb.qc.ca. Students may pick up request forms in Ms. Di Pietro’s office in Room 225.

Career Exploration Program

By Ms. Sadia Di Pietro

For the past 38 years, the Career Exploration Program has been offered to students with the intention of providing them an opportunity to explore an area of occupational interest first-hand. Hopefully this experience will assist students in making appropriate and realistic career plans for the future.

Students are assigned a half or full day in a profession or trade of their choice. Through observation, discussion, and sometimes practical work, students learn the many facets of a particular occupation.

This program is offered only to EMSB Secondary IV and V students. Some examples of the different fields include Accounting, Actuary, Airline, Animal Health Care, Art, Commerce, Computer and Information Systems, Counselling, Dental Health Care, Engineering, Fashion, Film, Human Resources, Industrial Design, Interior Design, Journalism, Laboratory Medicine, Law, Life Sciences, Medical

Research, Medicine, Music, Mechanics, Nursing, Ophthalmology, Optometry, Osteopathy, Paramedic, Pharmacy, Photography, Rehabilitation, Physical Sciences, Psychology, Politics, Public Relations, Radiology, Real Estate, Social Services, Teaching, Television, Therapy, Translation, Travel, etc.

For more information, please contact Ms. Di Pietro in Room 225 to pick up an application form.

Encounters With Canada

By Ms. Sadia Di Pietro

Canada’s largest youth forum



Students aged 14 to 17 are invited to take part in Encounters with Canada, a week-long bilingual citizenship and career-exploration program in Ottawa. Throughout the school year, young people from across the country gather at the Terry Fox Youth Centre for an unforgettable week of hands-on workshops, fascinating theme-related outings, and cultural events.

They choose from among 12 different theme weeks:

- Science and Technology
- Arts and Culture
- Sports and Fitness
- Canada Remembers
- Law
- Medicine and Health
- Politics in Canada
- Journalism and Communications
- International Affairs
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Ecology and Environment
- Vimy: Canada’s Coming of Age

Participants connect with each other throughout the Program, strengthening friendships and creating linkages across the country. Together, they go to the theatre, visit national museums, attend uniquely Canadian events and special ceremonies, and interact with politicians, musicians, ecologists, authors, police officers, and other Canadian leaders.

Each week concludes with a Friday-night banquet, one last opportunity for participants to be with their newly found friends made during a jam-packed week of activities. Participants return home with a stronger sense of community and an increased desire to do their share.

For more information, please contact Ms. Di Pietro in Room 225, and check out the Encounters with Canada website at www.encounters-rencontres.ca.



Bike-In

By Thomas Bugden

Bike-In 2013 was great! Leading up to September 20, the Environment Committee had signed up around 60 students for the activity. As they prepared for the Bike-In, students planned out how to get to meeting spots along the way to school and made backup plans for the day's transportation.

The annual Bike-In is an activity that consists of students grouping up and biking in to school as a unit. Before arriving at school the students met at Trenholme Park on Sherbrooke Street West. Students came from all over Montreal to arrive at Trenholme Park at 7:40 in the morning on September 20.

The Bike-In usually consists of cyclists taking up a whole lane while biking to school but this year it was decided that we would not. Unfortunately we could not have brought as much attention to ourselves for this Car-Free Day as we could have if we had taken up a whole lane on Sherbrooke Street.

The activity was not only for people who bike to school regularly. Many people living in Montreal West met up with the other bikers at Trenholme Park to help raise awareness by biking to school. Sean, a Secondary IV student who took part in the activity said, "I bike a fair bit, but I don't bike everywhere." He lives within walking distance from school and yet he came out to Trenholme Park just to bike back to school with us.

The main point of the activity was to take part in and raise awareness of Car-Free Day. With a larger group than last year I would say that we succeeded in doing just that.



WE WANT YOUR NEWS ARTICLES!



We are now accepting articles for the October 2013 edition of the RWA News!

Send your submissions to rwaneews@gmail.com

Deadline date: **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2013**

Thank you for your contribution!

RWA



News

Editor
Assistant Editor
Junior Assistant Editor
Staff Advisor

Ronald Pau (RWA parent & uncle)
Tanya Chen (Secondary V student)
Sophie Sun (Secondary IV student)
Tony Pita (principal)

RWA News is published monthly during the academic year (from September to May) on the Royal West Academy website at www.royalwestacademy.com. All articles, comments, and suggestions should be directed to the editor at rwaneews@gmail.com

Governing Board 2013–14 Meetings

For this 2013–2014 school year, the Governing Board of Royal West Academy will be holding its meetings at 7 PM in the school library on the following dates:



- Monday, October 21, 2013
- Monday, November 11, 2013
- Monday, January 20, 2014
- Monday, March 10, 2014
- Monday, April 14, 2014
- Monday, May 26, 2014
- Wednesday, June 4, 2014

Meetings are open to the public and all meetings include a question period. Minutes of meetings will be available at www.royalwestacademy.com.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



October 1	Orientation Evening @ 7 PM
October 2	Application Deadline @ 7 PM
October 5	Qualifying Exams A–L @ 9 AM–12 noon
October 6	Qualifying Exams M–Z @ 9 AM–12 noon
October 7	Pedagogical Day (afternoon only)
October 7	RWA Foundation meeting @ 7 PM
October 7–11	Terry Fox Run
October 14	Thanksgiving Day
October 15	Secondary III vaccinations
October 15–18	Waste Reduction Week
October 17	Pedagogical Day
October 18	Grad photos
October 21	Governing Board meeting @ 7 PM
October 22	Home & School meeting @ 7:30 PM
October 24–25	Horror Play
October 29	Pedagogical Day (afternoon only)
October 31	Halloween: Free Dress Day

For more information about our activities, visit:
WWW.ROYALWESTACADEMY.COM



Library Volunteers Needed

By Ms. Sheila Warren, Library Staffing Liaison

With only one full-time person on staff, we are looking for volunteers to keep the library running smoothly for students and teachers. Please consider taking one of these weekly shifts:

- Wednesday 8 AM–10:30 AM
- Thursday 8 AM–10:30 AM

For more information, please contact Ms. Sheila Warren at 514-783-1377 or faourwarren@yahoo.com.

