



Mr. André Knox

the electronic faces to the real-life people!

For a number of exchange students, the visit was kicked off by a soccer match. Both the girls and the boys teams had a GMAA game on Royal West Academy's home turf that afternoon. This was a good chance to see the school and to mingle a little. We had just enough time to meet the others at Buffet Vichy for the formal group welcome. Thanks to our fundraising activities, each student was presented with a Canada hoodie, which were a big hit and worn by the German guests throughout their visit.

There were days when we went to class while the guests toured the city. Other days, we embarked on joint trips. In Rigaud, we had a blast at the Sucrierie de la Montagne. This event broke the ice: we played spoons, danced, and had a traditional cabane à sucre experience. Weekends were planned by individual families. Many of us teamed up for shopping, Arbraska, paintball, Tremblant, apple-picking, Parc Omega, etc. The Agarwal family hosted a party for the German students celebrating a birthday while here. Everyone attended.

My billet, Amelie Klingler, and I shared a room and we got to know each other quite well. My little sister and Amelie even became friends on Facebook! My mother stressed a little over the vegetarian meals, but in the end, the whole family experience went smoothly.

We were lucky to have a photographer in our midst. Zoe's dad, Mr. André Knox, captured lots of great shots at various events. We agreed that the long bus rides were among the

best parts. I think the exchange students liked the chance to let loose during these free moments.

Although the trip came to a close in Chinatown, the real finale and pièce de résistance was the last Friday's adventure. We met at the Vendôme metro station, headed to the Montreal Pool Room, got drenched jet-boating on the Lachine Rapids, caught some street culture in Old Montreal, ate a hearty meal at the Vieux-Port Steakhouse, and finished off the evening with a cruise. That day was truly memorable. Some students participated in the street performances, some found the jet-boating scary, and ALL thoroughly enjoyed the day.



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I am grateful to have been selected for this program. I am looking forward to the next leg of the experience in Bavaria and I thank all those making this possible.

## The Germany Exchange

By Manisha Patel, former exchange student

Germany: the continent of Europe, the country of fast cars, and the home of Mozart and Beethoven. This exhilarating experience will create many lifetime memories. These young Royal West Academy students have merely embarked on their incredible journey to this wonderful country.



A few weeks ago, the German exchange students visited our RWA family with open arms as they experienced Montreal's diverse culture and attractions. From a classic poutine to jet boating, they were able to feel what it was like to be Canadian, eh? These travelers will never forget the marvelous time spent in Montreal.

One RWA student, Neel Agarwal, participating in the Germany Exchange, said "My experience was everlasting and I haven't even gone to Germany yet!"

Our RWA students have taken part in hosting the German students. Now, it is their turn to prepare for their trip to

Germany. Their 16-day trip will consist of visiting Amsterdam, Munich, Vienna, Austria, and many more of Europe's finest.

As a former exchange student (I participated in last year's India Exchange), I understand the excitement that will only continue to grow as the time approaches. This unforgettable opportunity to travel the world will bring these young minds closer together, venturing the world with the close-knit family that they have created. This exchange trip will not only be unbelievable throughout the duration of their trip, thereafter it will ignite their passion to travel and view the world.

So I say take a minute to capture the moment, take pictures that will be ever so sentimental, make memories that will make you nostalgic, and have fun!

## Light The Night Walk

By Cassandra Napolitano & Ketna Patel

Let's play a little game. When we say a word, say the first one that comes to mind.

"Cancer"

Was "Death" the first word you thought about? The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada is trying to





change your mind. They are trying to help patients survive their battle with blood cancer. They want the word "Survival" to pop into your mind when you hear the word "Cancer". The Light The Night Walk is how all of us can make a difference.

The Light The Night Walk is a annual event where communities, corporations, teams, and friends and family across Canada help raise awareness and funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada (LLSC). The walk takes place in many large cities across Canada, including Montreal, Quebec City, Vancouver, and Victoria. The goal of this yearly project is to raise funds for blood cancer research, free educational materials and events for patients and their families, local programs such as Family Support Groups, and assistance through the LLSC's Information Resource Centre. The Light The Night Walk helps the community by raising awareness for Leukemia and Lymphoma, and gives ways to help the tragedies families go through when a loved one is diagnosed.

This year, the Light The Night Walk was held on October 19 at Parc Jean-Drapeau. The event started around 5:30 PM and ended around 9:30 PM. Before the walk, there was food and drink from Domino's Pizza and Van Houtte, two of the Walk's sponsors. When everyone was settled in, there was a performance by Young Avz. The people who attended this event started walking the five kilometres at around 7:30 PM and walked for about two hours through Parc Jean-Drapeau.

Light The Night is open to all people who wish to participate and raise awareness for blood cancer. There are thousands of people who walk in this event. They include survivors (who carry white lanterns), people who walk for lost loved ones (gold lanterns), and supporters who have not been affected by Leukemia or Lymphoma (red lanterns).



Light The Night is also an event for survivors to show that battling and fighting cancer is possible. There are tents that represent different teams, each with their own survivors. Each team has a certain amount of people, and together they raise money for the LLSC to save more battling patients. During the walk, there was a section called the

Walk of Silence, where bags containing candles and names of lost ones are placed along the path to commemorate and remember those who did not win their battle.

This year, Montreal raised over \$1 million for the LLSC, which is all going toward treatments and research for blood cancer. Many companies like Tommy Hilfiger contributed and donated over \$10,000 for Light The Night. Schools in Montreal, Laval, and surroundings all raised money for this event, including Royal West Academy, who raised about \$2200.

This walk helps bring people together and makes us realize that there really is hope. Finding a cure may be tough, but it isn't impossible. Facing the world may be tough, but it isn't impossible. Battling cancer may be tough, but it most certainly is not impossible.

## Canoe Camping Trip

By Jeremy Held

The canoe camping trip for Secondary V students is a physical and mental test of endurance and strength, and definitely a great experience for all who participate.

The first day involved a couple of hours of canoeing and one short portage, which wasn't too bad, but it was good to get the feel of being out in the wilderness. There was also a little stop-off at a waterfall, where we were able to jump off a rock around two metres above the water. Although the water was pretty cold, it was fun to jump off and swim around for a bit.



The second day was the real challenge, with hours of canoeing and six portages, ranging from 200 to 800 metres each. Everyone worked together to carry the canoes for the longer portages, and after six long portages, we finally got to the canyon, which was definitely worth the work done during the day. The canoe ride in that canyon was probably the most peaceful and satisfying part of the trip, where we

were just able to drift through, not paddle as much, and enjoy the sounds of nature and feeling of accomplishment after the long day's work.

At night, we all sat around the campfire, tell stories, roast marshmallows, and stay close to keep each other warm.

It was overall an incredible experience and I recommend for people to do it in the future, because I know I would do it again in a second.

## Mountain Biking At Bromont

By Jake Forman

On October 5, Mr. Girardin led an amazing trip to Bromont. The one-day excursion lasted roughly seven and a half hours. We all met at school around 8:15 AM, loaded up the bikes on the cars of parent volunteers and left for the hill. Bromont is located in the Eastern Townships on Mont Brome. At the resort, they modified the chairlift to accommodate bikes during the summer months. If you're seeking a thrill or just want to have fun, then this is the ECA for you.

The trails at Bromont are rated either as a green circle, blue square, red diamond, or double black diamond, increasing in difficulty in that order. When we first arrived, we found it odd that there was a second green trail, as we remembered that in previous years there had only been one easy trail. After riding that trail we discovered why: I rode it two years ago as a blue. It was full of sharp turns, narrow wooden



platforms, and steep slopes. It was much harder than anticipated but we all survived with no injuries.

After a long day of mountain biking we were all very tired. I'm sure many of us were sore too. But we all had a great time. I'm definitely going to sign up again next year.

I'd like to thank the parent volunteers for helping to drive the students and the bikes to the hill and for riding the trails with us. Without them this activity would not be possible. I'd also like to thank Mr. Girardin and fellow teachers for organizing this amazing activity.

## Get Your Yearbook!

By Mme Nathalie Cheff

Yes, you! A yearbook is a big, collective scrapbook of all the different things that make Royal West Academy so wonderful. Don't you want to be able to show your kids who your friends were? Who you went to prom with? Who your favourite teachers were? What clubs you were in? Of course you do!



The yearbook can be bought for the low, low price of \$30 (payable in cash or by a cheque made out to Royal West Academy).

Order your yearbook at either [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com) (credit card only) on November 1–December 20, 2013 (click on "Buy Your Yearbook") or in homeroom (cash or cheque) on November 19–29, 2013.



## WE WANT YOUR NEWS ARTICLES!



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

Send your submissions to [rwaneews@gmail.com](mailto:rwaneews@gmail.com)

Deadline date: **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2013**

Thank you for your contribution!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



November 1	Halloween Dance
November 3	Daylight Savings Time ends
November 4	RWA Foundation Meeting @ 7 PM
November 7	Pedagogical Day (afternoon only)
November 8	Pedagogical Day
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 13–14	Junior Play
November 15	First Term Report issued
November 15	Rock Show
November 20	Parent-Teacher interviews (3:15–5:30 pm & 7:00–9:30 pm)
November 21–22	Pedagogical Days

For more information about our activities, visit:

[WWW.ROYALWESTACADEMY.COM](http://WWW.ROYALWESTACADEMY.COM)

# RWA



# News

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

