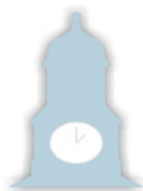


# RWA



# News

WWW.ROYALWESTACADEMY.COM

NOVEMBER 2013

## A Word From The Administration



Since our last newsletter, we have had some new additions and changes to our Royal West Academy staff. We would like to welcome Ms. Partington, who is replacing Ms. Kissin in the science department. We are thrilled to announce that Mme Prachar has returned from sick leave, which means that Mme Deschenes has moved on to Rosemount High School. Ms. Matalucci is the newest addition to the administrative team, replacing Ms. Maclean as secretary. Our trusted nurse, Mme Rheume, begins a new chapter in her life, as she has retired from her position with the CSSS Cavendish. She will be missed by all staff and students but we wish her the best in her retirement.

Once again this year we must acknowledge the incredible efforts of our **Home & School Association**. Every year the Home & School supports RWA's mission by providing financial support to our programs and by volunteering in our school. Each September the RWA administration submits a "wish list" to the Home & School on behalf of its staff. Once again the Home & School has been incredibly generous by providing instructional materials, sports equipment, and building improvements in excess of \$20,000.

On November 2–3, the Home & School volunteers gave their time once again to improving the look of our school. Led by Mrs. Cawthorn and Mr. Mendelson, volunteers painted the nurse's office, the prefect room, the science lab, the stairwell doors, and the Ainslie Street entrance. Thank you to all the parent volunteers for your continued support of RWA. Your efforts have helped make Royal West Academy a place we can all be proud of.

I would also like to thank the **RWA Foundation** for the wonderful sound and light equipment that has been installed as Phase I of the RWA Auditorium Project. Many long hours have been spent planning and raising the funds necessary to offer our community a very modern and professional quality system. Our students will now benefit from a sound and light system that compares to the amazing talents.

Congratulations to Beatrice Bourdeau-Levesque, Tanya Chen, Jesse Chevrier, and Nathalie Wong, for receiving the **Robert A. Peck Award**. The students were honoured at the November 27 meeting of the EMSB Council of Commissioners. All four students are presently Secondary V students at Royal West Academy. They were awarded the Robert A. Peck prize for earning the highest grade in the English Montreal School Board—all four earned a grade of 99% in the Secondary V French Second Language Ministry Examination. Congratulations to them and the French Department staff, in particular Mme Prachar who was their teacher last year.

On November 11, students and staff honoured the memory of all those that sacrificed to serve in the Canadian military. Spiritual Animator Mr. Monachino planned a touching and respectful ceremony. We remember and thank all those who have served and the many service men and women that continue to defend our country and the freedoms of people around the world.

In the world of sports, RWA teams have once again distinguished themselves on the court and the field. The **Bantam** and **Juvenile Girls volleyball** teams both earned the silver medal in GMAA league play. Meanwhile, the **Juvenile Girls soccer** team also finished strong and captured the silver medal. Congratulations to the players and the coaches of these teams.

On November 27, RWA held its first **lock down drill** of the school year. We are happy to report that students and staff did everything necessary to ensure that RWA is prepared in the event of an incident. Drills like these allow us to evaluate our plans and make the necessary adjustments to ensure your children are safe at school. We remind parents



and students that in the event of a future lock down, parents should not attempt to communicate with their children via cell phones. A high volume of calls may crash the cellular phone network and may hinder communication between emergency personnel. In an emergency situation the administration would communicate with parents through the mass notification system. This system has already proven to be effective and reliable when initiated.

Finally, we once again request your cooperation when dropping off or picking up your children. There have been complaints to the Town of Montreal West by residents on Ainslie Street. In previous editions of this newsletter and through our telephone mass notification system, we have warned parents of the **no-stopping zone on Ainslie Street** which came into effect this school year. Unfortunately, some continue to use this side of the school. This may result in a fine from Montreal West Public Security or the SPVM. We

remind parents that the safest place to drop off your child is on Easton Avenue. We thank you for your cooperation.

## Peace and Remembrance Ceremony

By Mr. Joseph Monachino, Spiritual Care and Community Animator

On November 11, the students of Royal West Academy gathered together to remember, reflect, and respond at the 12th Annual Peace and Remembrance Ceremony. Since its inception, the celebration has been organized by Mr. Monachino.



This year we were honoured to have Sergeant John Clendinneng (Canadian Decoration) as our guest speaker. Sergeant Clendinneng is currently retired after 25 years of Regular Service with the Canadian Forces. He served with NATO as well as on United Nations Peacekeeping Tours.

# SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

## Just in time for Hamlet!

Thanks to the hard work of parents and RWA board directors Mitch White, Paul Broomberg, and Emilio Travisano; parent and Oscar Peterson Hall stage manager John Davis; parent and Assistant Director, Material Resources at the EMSB Costa Spyridakos; and Royal West Academy principal Mr. Pita, a new state-of-the-art light and sound system was installed by the Kloda Focus Group at the end of November. Without them, the Shakespeare production of Hamlet would not have gone on.

The desperately-needed new systems cost around \$80,000 plus taxes and include ten or more new speakers over the stage, subwoofers on or in front of the stage, over thirty completely adjustable professional theatre lights, and a new mixing board capable of handling two to three dozen simultaneous inputs. According to Mr. Davis, the equipment at RWA will be as advanced and as good as what is available at Concordia's Oscar Peterson Hall.


A big thank you to all the parents who have supported the Foundation through the years. We could not have realized this without your financial contributions. We are excited about taking this first concrete step forward to improving

our auditorium and transforming it into a real Performance Arts Centre, deserving of our students' talents. We hope that all those who set foot in the auditorium, to enjoy Hamlet or any other upcoming production or event, will be impressed by the new light and sound system.

The Foundation is now planning a new fundraising campaign, probably for the spring, to keep the momentum going for the renovations. While the new light and sound systems are a big step forward, there is a tremendous amount of work still to do to improve our auditorium.

We can't stop now!

### Now there are three ways you can donate!

- **By credit card:** go to [www.royalwestacademy.com/foundation](http://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 Capital Campaign information package, please email your mailing address to [rwafoundation@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.royalwestacademy.com/foundation) and clicking on "RWA Solicitation".



In addition to Sergeant Clendinneng, we were privileged to have Carl Bindman, graduated RWA student, as well as our own Mme Goudreau to speak at the ceremony. Mr. Bindman spoke about military heritage, and Mme Goudreau shared with us her personal experiences of her time at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial.

Other special guests included Mr. Lloyd MacIntyre, National Governor of the Air Cadet League of Canada, and Ms. Della Robertson, Squadron Advisor from 1 West Montreal Air Cadet Squadron. Captain and Commanding Officer Jean-Philippe Décarie and 2nd Lieutenant Josée Bélanger, also from 1 West Montreal Squadron, attended the ceremony and were accompanied by several cadets from that squadron who provided the official flag party for the event.



The ceremony provided students with an opportunity to learn about, and pay tribute to, the many men and women whose sacrifices have allowed us to enjoy the freedoms we do today. The incredibly executed and moving music, played by Honour Band under the direction of Ms. Purdy, provided an extraordinary opportunity for reflection.

The ceremony was a source of strength and empowerment for all those who attended, enabling students to understand that they can be instrumental in effecting change, and that they are connected to their community both locally and globally. Regardless of border, colour, nationality, or cultural difference, we all as humans, pray for peace.

## Park n' Lot Project: Fall 2013 Update

By Ali Byers

This was a big year for the collective garden here at Royal West Academy, which is saying a lot considering it was only the garden's second growing season. For those unfamiliar with the project, the Park n' Lot is a garden run by students of the school and Action Communiterre. It was created and built by students with a whole lot of help in the spring of

2012 and is aimed at encouraging a more sustainable lifestyle through agriculture. This year we believe that we took a step in the right direction by removing the asphalt and thereby reducing the heat-island effect as well as demonstrating that in this concrete jungle called the city, there is always room for more green spaces.

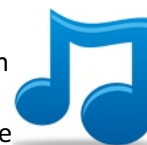
Despite it being the garden's second growing season, it was a year of firsts. In addition to being the first season without asphalt in the garden, it was also the first year for a lot of other important aspects of the garden. This was the first growing season with Mme Bourdeau taking over as staff advisor for the project, which worked out phenomenally. Furthermore, this was the first year that the majority of students involved with the project helped maintain the garden during the summer. This means we were able to work with the other gardeners and enjoy the produce from the garden.

All in all, during this season at the Park n' Lot, many vegetables and fruits were harvested and enjoyed and everyone learned a little something about the satisfaction that comes from pulling something you can eat out of the ground.

## Honour Band

By Eric Liu

For over 35 years, Royal West Academy's Honour Band has been marching and playing in numerous parades and events. Conducted by Ms. G. Purdy, who has been the director for the past 14 years, they have often been awarded with many prizes, and have continued marching to this day. Honour Band plays in many venues, and each member is rewarded two credits at the end of the school year.



Although it consists primarily of Secondary IV and V students, this ensemble will also accept a handful of talented Secondary IIIs. Ms. Purdy usually allows around 40–50 musicians into the band, limiting each section to a handful of well-picked players. Most band instruments are accepted, ranging from clarinets, flutes, and saxophones to bassoons, oboes, brass, and auxiliary percussion. Often looked up to by aspiring music students, Honour Band members are hugely committed, encompassing many hours of practice per week as well as the occasional marching rehearsal during lunch period. After just a couple of rehearsals, all the members of Honour Band become much closer and have their friendships refined. In fact, it can become such a natural part of a student's life and allows each and every band member the opportunity to share experiences with their fellow band mates.

Every year Honour Band goes to two different locations on band trips to showcase their talents in a number of concerts



and performances. For the past several years, the band would travel together to Orford in October to receive specialized training at band camp. Last year the second trip was special, the location being Havana, Cuba. This year the location will be Philadelphia PA instead, as the Cuba trip only happens once every three years. Lots of fundraisers are done throughout the year to bring the costs of these trips down to a minimum, and all students are urged to participate.

There are many events hosted by the school that call on Honour Band to provide music or entertainment. For example, they play in the majority of school assemblies, like the Remembrance Day assembly. They also play at the RWA Open House, showcasing their talent to younger kids who look to join Royal West Academy in the future. Finally, they play in many parades and were even showcased on the Rick Mercer Report during the Saint Patrick's Day parade last spring ([www.cbc.ca/mercerreport/episodes/season-10/season-10-episode-19](http://www.cbc.ca/mercerreport/episodes/season-10/season-10-episode-19)).

Honour Band is an extremely fun ECA and it is recommended that others sign up to audition—it is really an amazing experience.

## World Press Photo Exhibit

By Zack Kifell

At the beginning of this school year, the Secondary V students were lucky enough to attend the World Press Photo Exhibit 2013. The visit was a mandatory Contemporary World field trip that took place at the Marché Bonsecours.

WORLD PRESS PHOTO

As the students walked in, they saw arrays of beautiful photographs from around the world filled the exhibit. I, along with others, could not believe what I was seeing. It was the most wonderful exhibit I had ever seen. To see from a different perspective the events going on around the world amazed me. Seeing the beauty and horror that our world possesses was mind-boggling; how can we have such beauty yet such disgusting tragedies?

As we walked around the exhibit with a tour guide, everyone in the group was so fascinated and paid such close attention to everything being shown and said. When the tour was finally over and we reached the end of the exhibit, I thought to myself how amazing the visit was. It was so fascinating and I enjoyed learning and seeing so much of the world around us. I know that next year, I will be attending the 2014 exhibit, if it returns.

I highly suggest checking out the photos from this year's exhibit at [www.worldpressphoto.org/awards/2013](http://www.worldpressphoto.org/awards/2013).

## Apple Picking

By Sarah Cosentino

For the third year in a row, the Environment Committee here at Royal West Academy, offered an Apple Picking outing for students of all grades. On October 17, students, teachers, and parents met at Maniadakis Organic Orchard.



The owner and founder of the orchard, Emmanuel Maniadakis, greeted us with fresh, home-squeezed apple juice and a beautiful view. All the way in to Franklin Centre, the farm looked over a huge amount of land and, though it was far, the scenery was worth the drive. Emmanuel explained to us the difference between organic and conventional growing. We learned about ways to improve our eating habits and all about the importance for us and the environment of going organic. Following this interesting speech and the answering of our questions, we picked beautiful and delicious apples that were brought back to our homes and to the school for our apple pie baking extracurricular activity. After, families and friends were free to go, but most stayed for a nice lunch in the orchard.



This year was our best turnout yet and this ECA will return for years to come. It is a fun way to go outside and learn about the environment; not to mention the purchase of some tasty apples that will last for weeks!

## Honour Band: Band Camp

By Julian Ritchie

On the weekend of November 23, the Royal West Academy Honour Band departed on its yearly trip to Band Camp. The point of this trip was to let the band bond, socialize, and become a better group. This year, the band went to CAMMAC in Harrington, Quebec. It was absolutely stunning and luxurious.



At band camp, the days were broken up into sections. The meals were delicious and homemade. We also played





multiple games and organized activities that let us get to know one another.

The Saturday following our arrival, the band was split up into our respective sections and Ms. Purdy brought in professionals, each specializing in a different instrument. They worked with us on our sound and how to play as one. The following day, we had a full band rehearsal and the difference in our playing and sound was phenomenal.

This trip allowed Honour Band members to get to know one another and with that, our playing has improved as well. We are much stronger as a group and are more unified while playing. The trip was a grand success and let Honour Band become a much better ensemble.

## Midget Girls Volleyball

By Sofia Di Caprio, middle position

**Bump, set, hit, spike!**

**That's the way we like to fight!**



Although the Midget Girls volleyball team may have lost in the semi-finals, they had a great season with their coach Ms. Dillon and manager Mr. Mateus. Leading up to the playoffs, the girls finished the season in second place behind their rival team, Villa Maria High School. Royal West Academy's Wildcats had six wins, one loss, and five draws.

"It is a tradition for Royal West Academy's girls volleyball teams to have a volleyball camp during the last week of summer. We practice twice a week and strategize constantly. Volleyball is in our blood and we deserve gold next year," said Leah Finlay, power on the court.

On November 7, RWA was proud to host the playoffs for the Midget Girls volleyball league. The girls were ecstatic to win their two sets in the quarter finals against Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School. Confident to play the semi-finals that same afternoon, RWA faced Westwood High School. For the past two years, the team has lost to Westwood in the finals, however this time they had to beat their opposing team in the semi-finals to move on. Determined to win, the Wildcats played very well the first set but came up short by two points. Unfortunately, they also lost the second set.

Disappointed but still proud of the way they played, the



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

**Deadline date: MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2013**

Thank you for your contribution!



team is looking forward to continuing their post-volleyball season in a separate league, which includes tournaments against AAA teams. With several practices a week, improvement is definitely in their reach to beat their rival teams next year.

Simona D'Adamo, setter on the court, says, "As a team, I think we need to focus on what we want in every game and have that confidence that will lead us to success."



## Wanted: Science Fair Judges

By Ms. Ann MacKay, RWA Science Fair Coordinator

The 2014 edition of the Royal West Academy Science Fair will be held on February 14, 2014.



Students from Secondary II to Secondary V will be participating. We are looking for parents and student alumni who can come out and judge the projects between 9 AM and 12 noon that day. A science background is an asset, but not required! We will provide you with guidance and information prior to and on the morning of the fair so that you have a good idea of how to judge and give a final mark.

Also, until January 30, 2014, we are accepting prize donations. An amount of \$20 for example, allows a student to receive recognition for an exceptional science fair project.

Please visit the school website at [www.royalwestacademy.com](http://www.royalwestacademy.com) for complete information.





The students of the **Visual Art classes** grades 8 to 11 have been addressing the issue of **BULLYING** and creating artworks **addressing & denouncing** this terrible social disease throughout the months of November & December.



**Please come visit the art exhibit in the auditorium on December 17th from 8:30 am to 3 pm.**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



December 2–6	Holiday Food Drive
December 2–6	Tyndale Week
December 3	Home & School Meeting @ 7 PM
December 3–6	Bardolators present: Hamlet
December 6	Free Dress Day
December 7	Debate Tournament
December 10	UN Debate
December 10	Vaccinations (Secondary III)
December 12	Holiday Concert @ 7 PM
December 17	Artists Against Bullying Exhibit
December 20	Last day of classes
Dec 23–Jan 3	Holidays

*For more information about our activities, visit:*  
[WWW.ROYALWESTACADEMY.COM](http://WWW.ROYALWESTACADEMY.COM)

# RWA



# News

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 Tony Pita (principal)

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