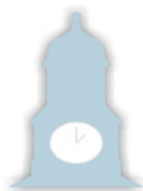


RWA



News

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DECEMBER 2013

A Word From The Administration



Once again students and staff came together this year for a great cause on December 2–6. Homerooms battled to raise money and collect non-perishable food items in support of **Tyndale St-Georges** and the **NDG Food Depot**. The halls were busy with students finding creative ways to raise money for a worthy cause. The week ended with the traditional “Penny Wars” that saw students from each grade battle to raise the most money. Despite a very close race, the **Secondary V** students came out on top in this year’s battle! We are all proud of the efforts of our students and staff during this time of peace and giving to those who are less fortunate. Special thanks to all for their efforts!

Royal West Academy also hosted its annual **United Nations Debate** through our Secondary V Contemporary World classes. Students represented countries and organizations from around the world while debating United Nations resolutions related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Special thanks to our staff—**Ms. Cayer, Ms. Almeida, Mr. Dupuis, Mr. Floen, Ms. Ibrahim, and Mr. Bateman**—for their efforts in organizing this valuable learning experience.

On December 7, RWA proudly hosted eight schools from the Montreal area in a debating tournament. Royal West Academy entered two debate teams and came away with a third place finish by the team of **Logan Stack** and **Isaac Harris**. Special thanks to **Ms. Holloway** and **Ms. Cukier** for organizing this event.

As most parents know, RWA offers an extensive list of extracurricular activities. These activities are organized and

supervised voluntarily by teachers, parents, and even students. These volunteers dedicate many hours to provide students with activities that they will enjoy and learn from. Winning or finishing first is never the objective. Healthy competition is encouraged but not at the expense of fair play, sportsmanship, and cooperation. Parents are always welcome to attend competitions and support their children. We ask that this support be positive and not interfere with the coaching or direction of the teacher, coach, or student volunteer. Royal West Academy has always shown great sportsmanship and support for our own teams and visiting teams alike. We ask that parents avoid open criticism or direction of players or coaches, no matter what the score may be. Addressing visiting players or coaches is considered inappropriate by RWA and the GMAA. As adults, we all share in the responsibility for being positive role models for our children.

In early January, students and parents will receive their **2014–15 Course Selection Forms**. This document serves as your child’s registration for next year. We ask that you respect the deadlines identified on the course selection form. Students presently in Secondary I will be required to select their arts course despite not having completed the three rotations in Music, Visual Arts, and Drama. We ask that students make their choice immediately, but students may revise their choice later in the year. Any student at any level can change their selections at any time between January and June by forwarding to the administration a letter signed by a parent. Placement in an elective of your choice is contingent on enrollment, grades, and prerequisites. If your child is not returning to Royal West Academy, please attach a letter to that effect and return it with the Course Selection Form.

Finally, on behalf of the entire RWA staff, I would like to wish all our students and their families a wonderful holiday season filled with joy and the precious company of loved ones! A happy and healthy 2014 to all!



SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

We've got holiday gifts for the whole family!

Check out the new Royal West Academy Foundation website (www.rwaf.ca) for some great ideas for gifts for the holidays! Mugs for the grandparents, drawstring backpacks for the kids, and aprons for Mom and Dad! We will ensure that you get them before the holidays if you order by Wednesday, December 18, 2013.

Here's another great holiday gift idea—the gift of a great Canadian play that has won accolades and awards all across North America. Mark April 29, 2014, in your calendars! Back by popular demand, we will be hosting a night at the Centaur Theatre to see the award-winning play, *2 Pianos, 4 Hands*, by Canadians Ted Dykstra and Richard Greenblatt. The show stars Reza Jacobs and Bryce Kulak and is directed by Richard Greenblatt. It's the story of two wunderkinds who work tirelessly toward concert pianist stardom. They endure hours of practice, cutthroat competitions, and pressure from teachers and pushy parents. As years of sacrifice and learning the art of playing the piano unfold on stage, they come to the sobering realization that becoming the next Glenn Gould or Vladimir Horowitz may be out of their reach. The two actors/pianists portray an impressive and often hilarious range of characters and perform pieces by classical, pop, and jazz legends, mesmerizing audiences with their piano wizardry.

A reception at Centaur's Seagram Art Gallery will follow this event.

Ticket price: \$50 (taxes included). Regular priced ticket is \$36. A tax receipt will be issued for \$25. Order your tickets online at www.rwaf.ca in time for the holidays and we will send you an electronic confirmation that you can tuck into a stocking or envelope for the lucky recipient.

The brand new auditorium light and sound systems are installed and working great

Last Thursday saw the official inauguration of the new light and sound system in RWA's auditorium. Costing over \$80,000 and including over 30 theatre lights, 10 speakers above the stage with even more on stage, and a control board that can handle up to 32 inputs, the system was deemed an incredible success by Honour Band leaders Ms. Purdy and choir and Glee Club leader Ms. Macleod. One student wag was heard to remark that he had always wondered what was written on the papers in front of him and now he could see that it was music.


The lights and sound system could never have been purchased without the generous donations and involvement of the students and parents at Royal West Academy. Thanks to everyone for a job well done!

But let's not rest on our laurels just yet. There's still a lot left to do. The next big challenges will be air conditioning and comfortable seats. Look for a big campaign leading up to a huge parents and students celebration next fall to welcome everyone back to school and to start the year off on the right foot.



SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

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 Capital Campaign information package, please email your mailing address to rwaoundation@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 Solicitation".

Library Volunteering

By Megan Yee-Wong

The school library is a place for studying in a quiet and relaxing atmosphere. However, it also offers an opportunity for students of all grades to volunteer their time while earning an extra-curricular activity (ECA) credit. They help run the library throughout the school year alongside the librarian, Ms. Lawrence, and parent volunteers.

Volunteering at the library is an activity that gives people a chance to get to know how it operates. Whether it's



organizing the shelves, categorizing new books, or working at the checkout desk, there is always something to do.

At the library, you can sign up for a day of the week to work during the entire term. You can also work with a friend on the same days to complete your ECA credits together. If a student does seven hours of work, they can receive one cultural or community credit. With an additional seven hours, they can receive two.

I think that it is important for students to contribute to the Royal West community in any way they can. I feel that this activity is a good way to do so while having fun and earning an ECA credit.

Although some may be new to library volunteering, it is easy to get used to, and can easily become an enjoyable and memorable experience!

Bantam Girls Soccer

By Mr. Jeff Bateman

The 2013–14 Bantam Girls Soccer season got off to a roaring start with over 40 Secondary I and II girls out for try-outs. There was a strong group of returning players and many new faces that all had solid soccer skills. It was tough to make a roster of 15 that would represent the school in Division 1 GMAA.



The season got off to a strong start with a couple of solid wins, but then things turned a little for the team where injuries and a very skilled competition gave the coaches and players a big serving of reality. Through the regular schedule of games the team played well enough to secure a spot in the GMAA playoffs (which is a single-elimination format).

Royal West Academy had to travel to Pierrefonds to play PCHS on a very cold October evening. The girls played their hearts out, but our opponents proved to more than we could handle.

All in all it was a very successful soccer season full of great soccer, friends, and memories. We would like to thank Mr. Jim Kinnear for helping with the coaching and all the parents that came out every game to help inspire the girls toward their best. It was a pleasure to work with these wonderful student athletes and to watch them grow as both athletes and people.





RWA



News

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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 rwanews@gmail.com



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



January 6	Classes resume
January 13	RWA Foundation Meeting @ 7 PM
January 14	Home & School Meeting @ 7:30 PM
January 15	Winter Carnival
January 17	Variety Show
January 20	Governing Board Meeting @ 7 PM
January 23	Winter Concert @ 7 PM
January 27–31	Mid-Year Exams

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



WE WANT YOUR NEWS ARTICLES!



Send your submissions to rwanews@gmail.com

2014

Happy New Year!

We are now accepting articles for the
January 2014 edition of the RWA News!
Deadline date: **FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2014**
Thank you for your contribution!

