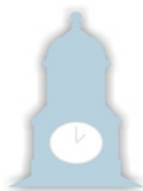


RWA



News

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JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2014

A Word From The Administration



Well it didn't take long for Royal West Academy to get back on track after a two-week holiday break. On January 15, SLA organized our annual Carnival Day (see page 7). Students were able to choose from a variety of activities including skiing, snowboarding, tubing, rock climbing, skating, hockey, and school activities. Students and staff enjoyed a beautiful winter's day filled with laughter and joy. Special thanks once again to our SLA and their staff advisor, Mr. Zigby.

Other events so far this year included: our Winter Concert (see page 5) where students performed under the direction of Ms. Purdy and Ms. Macleod, and our Variety Show (see page 6). An amazing group of performers entertained a full house. Special thanks to our staff advisors, Ms. Dillon, Mr. Dupuis, Mr. Girardin, Ms. Holloway, Mr. Mateus, Mr. Monachino, Mr. Nemeth, and Mr. Zigby. SLA also organized our most recent school dance on February 21, sporting a James Bond theme. Students were entertained by our own Alessandro Kreslin (Secondary V) as he served up a popular blend of music for everyone's enjoyment.

The RWA Science Fair (see page 7) was held on February 14, with over 300 participants this year. This event would not be possible without the support of our science teachers and Ms. MacKay, our Science Fair Coordinator. Preparation for the Science Fair began in September and will conclude with our top finishing students participating in the Regional Science Fair on March 23–25, 2014. We would like to congratulate all the participants. Special thanks also to all the volunteer judges and the Home & School Association for supporting this event.

Between January 13 and February 10, members of the

Administration and the Guidance Department visited students from Secondary I to IV to discuss course selections for the 2014–2015 school year. Students were made aware of the electives available to them and were given the opportunity to ask questions about their academic future. Should your child not be returning to RWA in 2014–2015, please notify the Administration in writing as soon as possible so we that may offer admission to applicants on our waiting list.

The month of February has been very busy for students and staff. The month began with our annual grade level trips for students in Secondary II, IV, and V. Secondary II students spent four days skiing the slopes at Stoneham, where they enjoyed great conditions and had a great time (see page 6). Special thanks to Ms. Cheff and all the staff supervisors for their dedication and support. The Secondary IV ski trip to Mont-Sainte-Anne and Le Massif took place over three days during the weekend of February 7–9 (see page 7) and was also a great experience for students and staff. Special thanks to the trip organizer, Mr. Zigby, and all the staff who participated. Finally, the long awaited Secondary V trip to New York City also took place February 4–7 (see page 8). Special thanks to Mr. Aiken and the other staff members for their dedication to this event. The last of our grade level trips for Secondary III students will be to Washington DC, on March 24–28, 2014—those students are anxiously awaiting their chance to visit the US capitol.

It is no surprise to see over 30 RWA staff members participating in these valuable experiences. We would like to thank them for taking their precious time away from their families so our students could create great memories and relationships outside of the classroom.

I would like to thank the Home & School Association for spoiling our entire staff during Staff Appreciation Week (February 10–14). We were treated to wonderful recess treats, 10-minute massages, and the traditional and incredibly tasty gourmet lunch—enough for three times the staff. To all those who cooked, baked, and served the staff, we appreciate your generosity and continued support. It is an honour and a pleasure to work with such great students and supportive parents. Your involvement inspires us all!



In the world of sports, we would like to congratulate the Juvenile Boys Hockey Team on a great season. Coached by Mr. Bateman, the team captured the silver medal in this year's GMAA final. Congratulations boys! Royal West Academy also saw four basketball teams qualify for this year's playoffs. The Midget Girls Basketball Team will play for the GMAA championship on March 18, 2014, against our sister school, Vincent Massey Collegiate. Good luck girls!

On February 17, RWA began the long awaited replacement of windows in the west wing—teachers could be seen celebrating this accomplishment! Old guillotine windows



SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

Royal West Academy Foundation announces its new fundraiser called **FundScrip**

Every month, you spend hundreds of dollars on food, gas, clothing, pharmaceuticals, restaurants, electronics, home renovations, department stores, and so on. Why not pay for some, or all, of your purchases using gift cards bought at face value from FundScrip-participating retailers? Best of all, a percentage of every gift card purchased is contributed to our auditorium's fundraising efforts.

So instead of paying with cash or a debit card, you use a gift card that you purchased through RWA's FundScrip. It costs you nothing extra but you raise money for the school.

How does it work?

FundScrip has hundreds of retailers listed on their site. You can purchase gift cards from any one or more of these retailers and a percentage of your purchase will be given

to RWA—and you receive the full value of the cards you purchase.

For example, to obtain a \$250 Metro gift card from FundScrip for your groceries, you pay \$250. Meanwhile, Royal West Academy earns 3% of that card's value, or \$7.50. So if you spend \$250 a week on groceries using only FundScrip cards, Royal West Academy will earn \$7.50 each week—that works out to a donation of \$390 in one year without you actually spending any extra money!

Some other examples:

- 23 supporters joined FundScrip in our first week. If each of them buys \$100 of gift cards for Chapters (at 8%), Royal West Academy earns \$184.
- If 200 families bought \$200 of their weekly groceries using FundScrip gift cards, the families would earn Royal West Academy \$62,400 in one year without changing their shopping habits.
- If 500 families bought \$200 of their weekly groceries using FundScrip gift cards, Royal West Academy would earn \$156,000 per year!

RWA's FundScrip goal is to pay for a new air conditioning system for the auditorium. Here's how you can help:

1. Go to www.fundscrip.com
2. Sign up with this Invitation Code: **WMSTBS**
3. Purchase gift cards for your favourite stores
4. Repeat step 3



will now be replaced by a safer and energy efficient window. This project, valued at \$261,000, would not be possible without the English Montreal School Board and the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport. Special thanks to Mr. Spyridakos, assistant director of the Material Resources Department at the EMSB, for his support.

A reminder to all parents that report cards will be issued on March 11, 2014, and will be followed by Parent-Teacher Interviews on March 13, 2014. Interviews will be held at 3:15–5:30 PM and 7:00–9:30 PM in the school auditorium. We hope to see you all there. Parents are reminded that Term 3 is worth 60% of your child's final grade. Given the length of Term 3, we encourage you to communicate regularly with your child's teachers. Email is the most effective way to initiate communication with teachers. Please do not make vacation plans until you are sure your child will not have to attend summer school or write a supplemental examination. We are not able to change the dates or requirements because of vacation plans.

Parents should note that the Tentative Professional Day appearing on the calendar on March 28, 2014, is now

confirmed—there will be no school for students on that day. The May/June exam schedules will be available in late April 2014 for parents and students. The Council of Commissioners recently approved the 2014–2015 school calendar—parents should take note that the first day of classes will be on September 2, 2014.

SPVM Bullying And The Internet

By Mme Nathalie Cheff

On February 18–20, Constables Nobert and DiAngelis from the SPVM presented a workshop to our Secondary I, II, and III students on bullying, cyberbullying, and appropriate use of the Internet. The purpose was to inform and sensitize our students to the effects and consequences of these types of actions for all those involved.

The first topic of discussion was bullying, which is defined as a deliberate, repeated, and hostile act that aims to hurt someone. Bullying may be verbal, psychological, or physical, and is characterized by an imbalance of power and force. In bullying, there are three actors: the victim, the aggressor, and the witnesses. According to these police officers, the best person to help stop the bullying is a witness. Many will

SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

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 Ted Dykstra and Richard Greenblatt. This play will resonate with adults and high school students alike!




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 Gallery will follow this event.

Ticket price: \$50 (show and reception, taxes included). Order your tickets now at www.rwaf.ca (a tax receipt will be issued for \$25—the cost to RWAF). Early orders will get the better seats!

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 RWAF 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 "RWAF Solicitation".

choose to ignore it and not get involved, but that one person who stands up and speaks out against it will make the difference and has a very good chance at ending the situation by doing so. At Royal West Academy, everyone should avoid involvement in any form of violence, even as a bystander, and anyone can report a bullying situation to a teacher, a guidance counsellor, an administrator, or any other staff member, anonymously, in person, or via a parent.

The second part of this workshop was on cyberbullying. This occurs when someone insults, threatens, or degrades another by using hateful comments by email, by instant messaging, or on a website. It was reported that 20% of 10- to 11-year-old children have received at least one upsetting email and 43% of 15- to 17-year-old students have received an invitation to meet someone they don't know.

Finally, the last important point was the appropriate, or rather inappropriate, use of the Internet. The sharing of inappropriate images or pictures has the potential to become a more serious problem as it will very soon be illegal to share or possess bullying images or inappropriate nude pictures of someone under the age of 18. The possession of nude photographs—including those of a friend—will be considered by the justice system as possession or distribution of juvenile porn and may lead to criminal charges.

Royal West Academy continues its efforts to educate our students on the dangers of bullying and the appropriate use of technology. However, education does not stop at school. Parents must work in collaboration with schools to teach children how to be responsible digital citizens. Education, supervision, and dialogue are the keys to success!

Artists Against Bullying

By Charlotte Ouimet
Bullying.

We've all heard about it and know it's there, yet many people just ignore the issue or sweep it under the carpet. Even the schools that do address the topic do so by mostly giving speeches that the students forget about the second they're over. Royal West Academy decided to take a new approach to the problem and created an event called Artists Against Bullying.

Art students from different grades all created artwork that had to do with bullying. All the artwork had inspiring messages and tried to show how horrible bullying can be in one way or another. This approach to bullying was much more effective than giving a boring lecture since it inspired students to approach the problem in thoughtful and creative manner. They had to consider the effects of bullying on their own rather than being told what to do.

Not only were the messages behind the artwork beautiful and inspiring, but so were the pieces of art themselves. Some students made artwork that showed someone before and after bullying as awareness for the cause. Others teamed up and created a big tableau using mixed media. No matter what material used, the result was always the same: gorgeous. The art students successfully took an ugly subject and made it beautiful.

As well as encouraging the students making the artwork to address the issue, this event also allowed for non-art students to be exposed to the problem. During Artists Against Bullying Day, anybody in the school could go to the auditorium to see all the mesmerizing creations. Many teachers even encouraged their students to go and visit during class time.



In the end, this way of addressing bullying allowed many students from the school to get involved and become informed. Bullying can't be ignored because it won't just go away; we have to fight it together.

It's A Bird! It's A Plane! No, It's Lassman!!!

By RWA staff & students

The RWA community wants to acknowledge the quick thinking and fast actions of Matthew Lassman, a Secondary V student at Royal West Academy.



At lunch time on February 26, Matthew intervened with a man choking at Patisserie de la Gare (affectionately known as the Pat) on Westminster Avenue and probably saved the man's life. Sheena McLaughlin, an employee at the Pat, commented on Matthew's super-calm and confident approach to the whole situation, "He just stood up and did it without thinking about it".

As Matthew and a friend were sitting in the popular coffee and pastry shop, a man began choking on what appeared to be a quiche crust. Matthew asked the gentleman if he was

choking. The man could not respond, but was flailing his arms. Matthew told him what he was going to help and that it might hurt. He then proceeded to administer abdominal thrusts to the man, dislodging the piece of food.

"I really didn't know what was going on until I saw the piece of food come flying out," says McLaughlin.

The man thanked Matthew and the restaurant patrons applauded him. Matthew has no formal training in first aid or CPR, but was reacting to a situation and drawing on information obtained from television and the Internet. When questioned about this heroic actions, Mr. Lassman responded by saying, "I just wanted to do the right thing and be a vector of change instead of waiting for someone else to do something."

Matthew, we are all very proud of you and thankful that you are a part of our community.

Taking Stock: A Music Update

By Mackenzie Bleho

Being halfway through the academic year, as we are, it is always wise to look back and see how far we have come. For the music department, though it is only five months into the year, it has already been an eventful one.



The first big night of the year for our musicians was December 12: the Royal West Academy Holiday Concert, gathering the school's extracurricular ensembles under one roof for the first time all year. Glee Club, the choir, RWA Winds, Jazz Band, and Honour Band worked hard through the night to spread some holiday cheer and to warm the hearts of friends, family, and supporters of all sorts. Pieces ranged from contemporary to classical, with tastes of everything in between, and it was a wonderful baptism for the 2013–2014 music department. The evening ended on a high note, with Honour Band and RWA Winds taking the stage together in a massed band performance of a traditional German carol, embodying the spirit of the season in their sharing of the stage and their moving performance. Spectators were left imbued with good cheer, and musicians were justly proud of all they had accomplished in the short time since September.

On January 23, the RWA community converged on the auditorium for a second time, eager for the show that was in store. It was that time of year again, that of the Winter Concert. The evening was no disappointment. It was kicked off by an impressive performance by a massed band of the Secondary II music classes. This was the first on-stage public performance of their musical careers at RWA, and they set the tone for the evening quite well, executing pieces ranging

from epochs of an Arthurian nature to African-inspired grooves. This performance was followed by one by their Secondary III peers, well-versed already in the art of moving a crowd with their musicianship. The final performance before intermission was that by the famous Jazz Band, blowing the audience away with their renditions of many recognizable pieces, such as a Jackson 5 standard. By the intermission, onlookers were left breathless and eager for more.

While the crowd enjoyed their break, the showstoppers were in the music room, going through their final preparations and raring to go. Donning burgundy blazers and winning smiles, they took to the stage. What followed was an artist's palette of pieces, the band's repertoire being quite varied, ranging from a slow and beautiful lullaby, to a moving tribute to our veterans, to a jazz classic featuring an impressive solo on alto saxophone performed by Julia Warren. The Honour Band, as always, sent everyone off very well, their performance being the culmination of what had been a truly magnificent evening of music-making, each ensemble adding a special something to the experience and to the music. Everyone who participated should be very proud of themselves and of their peers; they performed with prowess and feeling, and their excitement made it all the better.

Now, the department sits in comfortable springtime limbo, major performances done with for the time being. However, though they may seem idle, that is far from the case. Music students in Secondary II and III continue their studies, building up a new repertoire for their final performance in May 2014. The same is true of RWA Winds, the junior extracurricular ensemble. The Jazz Band continues to practice weekly, in preparation for the Dessert Concert that will take place on April 4, 2014. Vocal groups are also meeting regularly to hone their talents.

As for the Honour Band, they are getting back into their marching season, two Saint Patrick's Day parades being in the near future. They also persist in our rigorous practice, getting ready for the many opportunities for exposure that await them in the spring. In addition to the parades, they too will perform in the Dessert Concert and the Spring Concert. However, an experience unique to the Honour Band is the trip to Philadelphia that is planned for late April 2014. The band will immerse itself culturally in the city and will perform at various venues, especially in situations of community outreach, performing for students and the elderly. Band members are excited for the opportunity to reach a broader audience, and the repertoire continues to grow in preparation.

To finish, keep your eyes open for the musicians of RWA! They may not be seen just yet, but they are hard at work,

and waiting for their next chance to draw you into their music and share their passion with you!

Stoneham Ski Trip

By Jonah Fried

There are many words that could describe the Secondary II Stoneham ski trip, except they would all probably be synonyms for one word: fantastic. Stoneham was where we created the dearest memories that we will cherish forever. Everyone had the time of their lives, getting to know the people we spend every day with, while strengthening close friendships.



The main aspect of the trip was, of course, the skiing and snowboarding. It was incredibly relaxing and exhilarating to be able to go out and glide down slopes while watching the beautiful scenery of Quebec City around us. Even if people weren't the greatest of skiers or snowboarders, they challenged themselves and learned a new sport.

Throughout the trip, we all enjoyed delicious cuisine and we were entertained with many activities. The first night, we had the pleasure of going tubing at Village Valcartier, where we soared through the air as if we were on thrilling rollercoasters. After another day of skiing, we finished the next evening with a karaoke contest and dance. Anyone who looked my way would have seen a Royal West Academy student dancing crazily to the music all night long, after listening to the talented singers of our grade. The night before we left, we had the chance to ski through the hill in

darkness, only the lights shining above us led the way during the night skiing. Later that evening, a memorable medal ceremony was held, which brought smiles to many winners.

Through the entire trip, the students were fortunate enough to have such great teachers and supervisors who were always there if help was needed. Great times and memories were shared throughout this trip. Thank you to all those who helped make this ski trip the fantastic journey it was.

Variety Show

By Karley McIlwaine

The Royal West Academy Variety Show is an annual event which showcases talented students that are enrolled at our school.

The students worked very hard in preparation for this event, from going through auditions, to two after-school practices every week leading up to the show.



The big show took place on January 17, accompanied by a full house to encourage all the courageous performers. There were over 25 performances with acts ranging from stand-up comedy to singing—there was even a surprise teacher act!

Out of the performers, there were multiple musical acts. Though there were many, they were all unique. There were many acoustic songs covering different genres and even a couple of bands that bravely performed originals.

