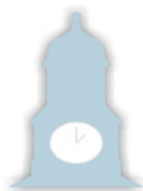


RWA



News

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MARCH 2014

A Word From The Administration



Believe it or not, spring has arrived!! With spring comes our annual grade level trip to Washington DC for Secondary III students. Our largest group ever, one hundred sixty-nine students and fifteen supervisors, departed for Washington on March 24 for a one-week tour of the US capital. Special thanks to Mr. Diacoumacos and the other chaperones for their support of this valuable and enjoyable educational experience.

Royal West Academy would like to welcome to its community, Ms. Julia Waks, and Mme Laurence Martin-Thériault. Ms. Waks is replacing Ms. Henriquez (Visual Arts) who is on an extended leave and Mme Martin-Thériault replaces Ms. Almeida (Social Studies) who has gone on maternity leave. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming both teachers to the RWA community.

On March 21, RWA hosted its annual Dance Show entitled "ERROR". The profits from this year's show will be donated to the RWA Foundation and the Dans La Rue charity. Over one hundred students prepared all year for this exciting display of dance talent from a variety of cultures and styles. As in previous years, the teachers performed a surprisingly great dance routine. Congratulations to this year's executive: Natasha Goodz, Reina Jordan, Claire Staton, Emily Tilson, Jessica Muha, and Sierra Shuster-Leibner. Special thanks to Mr. Zigby for all his time and effort on this project.

Our sports teams continue to distinguish themselves this year. Congratulations to the Midget Girls Basketball Team for winning the silver medal in this year's GMAA season. Joining the girls was the Bantam Boys Basketball Team who

also captured the silver medal. Once again this year, RWA has been crowned Midget Girls Indoor Track & Field Champions. The team championship was highlighted by an individual championship by Secondary IV student Kirsten Frantz, who won the aggregate championship in the Midget Girls category. Congratulations to all the participants. We are proud of your efforts and your accomplishments.

Parents should note that April 7, 2014, has been declared a Pedagogical Day as a result of the upcoming provincial elections. For this reason, the school will be closed for students. Parents wishing to contact their child's teacher may still do so on that day. Staff will be available during regular office hours.

In the coming days, parents of students in Secondary III and IV will be receiving a course list that represents the tentative academic load for your child for 2014–2015. It is based on your child's indicated preference and course availability as well as academic results to date. Please be aware that this academic load is subject to change based on your child's final marks and/or any scheduling constraints. Final marks for Secondary IV and V students as well as several courses (accelerated Math, PPO, and Art) for Secondary III students, will be those printed on the "Résultats des apprentissages sanctionnés" sent by MELS in early July.

As we approach the end of year, we begin to prepare for **end-of-year exams**. Parents are reminded that students must be in school for exams until June 21, 2014. The official exam schedule will be available at the end of April 2014. Many exams are already scheduled in May, therefore parents should avoid making appointments for their children during this time. **Any absence for an end-of-year exam must be supported by a medical note.** We appreciate your cooperation.

Social Justice Week

By KC Tsiolis

During the week of March 17–21, the Social Justice Club held its annual "Social Justice Week" in order to raise awareness on a variety of issues present in the world today.

The Club has been fundraising for three different charities



so far this year: Humane Society International/Canada (www.hsi.org/world/canada), Dans La Rue (www.danslarue.com), and The Trevor Project (www.thetrevorproject.org). Our donations for these charities come from selling samosas every second Thursday in the West Wing and fundraisers such as the Homeroom Competition. We raised a total of \$800 between the months of September and



November last year. Unlike some of the other fundraisers we have done this year, Social Justice Week was intended to raise awareness about certain issues and give students the opportunity to do something about them.

On Monday, a game show was hosted by two of our most committed members, Kristen and Natasha, in front of a small group of students in Room 212. It

SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

Renovating the Royal West Academy Auditorium – Upcoming Events

Got your tickets to see 2 Pianos 4 Hands on April 29, 2014?

Tickets are going fast for this popular, funny, and thought-provoking play at the Centaur Theatre. Enjoy a wonderful evening out, share some laughs with fellow RWA parents, and support your Foundation's capital campaign. Buy your tickets today at www.rwaf.ca. Don't wait—over half the tickets are already sold! Tickets are \$50 (taxes included) and a tax receipt will be issued for \$25.

Help us by donating prizes for a silent auction

Whether or not you can make it to the Centaur, we also need prizes for a silent auction for the reception after the show. Gift certificates from your favourite restaurants, spas, or stores; tickets to concerts and events; goods and merchandise from local stores; prizes of services (cooking, baking, sewing)—are all welcome! You can drop off your prize at the school office (labelled "RWAF auction") and include a note with the market value and contact information if you or the prize provider would like a tax receipt (note that gift certificates are not eligible for tax receipts).

Join us for "O Music, Sweets and Music" at RWA on April 4, 2014, at 7 PM!

Come and be entertained by RWA's talented students at a benefit concert for the Auditorium. The RWAF Jazz Band, Glee Club, Bardolators, and actors from this year's musical will all be performing. Tickets are only \$15 and include all-you-can-eat home-baked desserts after the show.

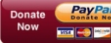
You can play a part!

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 for the coming year is on organizing more special events and fundraisers so anyone with an interest or expertise in that field would be a very welcome addition to our team. If you have any questions or fundraising ideas, contact Jasmin Uhthoff, President, RWAF at rwafoundation@gmail.com or visit rwaf.ca.

Make a donation!

Just go to rwaf.ca and give what you can. Every donation takes us closer to transforming our 80-year-old auditorium into a state-of-the-art Performing Arts Centre for our children.

Now there are three ways you can donate!

- **By credit card:** go to www.rwaf.ca and click on 
- **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 capital campaign brochure 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 at <http://rwaf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/RWA-PAC-Case-for-Support.pdf>.

was intended to be an informative and interactive session, to present facts and issues that were previously unknown to most students. Also on this day, students participating in Rice and Water began their 24-hour fast in order to raise awareness about those who don't have enough food. Each participant in the fast had to pledge \$50—all funds raised went towards the Theresa Foundation (www.theresafoundation.com) and their project to build a borehole well in the village of Mnjale, Malawi.



On Tuesday, hungry Rice and Water participants ate their only meal of their 24-hour fast, consisting of two cups of rice. Meanwhile, in the computer lab, a group of about half a dozen students participated in activities on <http://freerice.com>, a UN website that contains quizzes on various subjects. Ten grains of rice are donated to those in need for every correct answer in one of the quizzes. Together, we raised nearly 20,000 grains of rice in about half an hour, an impressive feat. After school, Rice and Water participants stayed for a "breaking of the fast" party, which included pizza.

On Thursday, we unfortunately did not hold any activities, but were able to sell samosas in the West Wing. We sold nearly all of the samosas that we had ordered on that day alone, and completely sold out by the end of the week. Meanwhile, in the foyer, we handed out ribbons of different colours, each one representing a different Social Justice issue, and we collected donations for The Trevor Project.

On Friday, the final day, we had the biggest turnout of any activity as Rice and Water participants came to Room 212 to listen to guest speakers representing the Theresa Foundation. They spoke about the current situation of Mnjale and the construction of the borehole well which we were raising funds for. It was a very informative session that allowed students to understand the importance of their participation in the fundraiser, and the impact that it would have.

The Social Justice Club would like to thank all of those who participated in the activities held during Social Justice Week as well as the volunteers who made this event possible. We hope that you will continue to support the club in our future endeavors, such as our final fundraiser of the year, which will be officially launched in the coming weeks.

A note from Ms. Smiley: The Social Justice Club is proud to announce their forthcoming membership to The Rotary Club as an Interact Club (www.rotary.org). We believe that this will be the start of many new ventures and adventures.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

By Phillip Fournier

As the Honour Band was getting ready for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade, Mother Nature had a different plan. All of the work and effort they had put into practicing for this event could not have prepared them for this weather. On this clear and sunny March 16, there was a low of -13°C and an agonizing wind chill dropping the temperature to below -20°C. After the Honour Band had finished warming up, all the instruments had frozen. They could not make a sound. Nevertheless, the parade had to go on. The band marched with heads held high and the pressure was on the percussion section to keep the Honour Band alive, with much success. The eight percussionists battled the cold and played without stopping for an hour and a half and demonstrated a great deal of dedication to the Honour Band.



"I am so proud of every single one of the bandies. They showed so much character coming out and marching in this weather," said Julia Warren, president of the Honour Band. When asked about their performance, she added that although it was a disappointment that the instruments had frozen, she was satisfied with the amount of effort the Honour Band had put in.



With their festive Irish apparel and decorations, they still managed to bring joy to the thousands of spectators who came from all around Montreal to watch on this bone chilling day.

The band continues to look forward to the fast approaching Philadelphia PA trip, in addition to the upcoming dessert concert, "O Music, Sweets and Music!"

Art Trip: Spain

By Nicole Machlout

On March 25, twenty-five Royal West Academy art students packed their bags and made their way to Spain. We were fortunate to enough to visit some of the most culturally enriched places in Spain: Madrid, Barcelona,





Gemma Stevens

Figures, and Bilbao.

In Madrid, we visited the Buen Retiro Park where we got to enjoy the beautiful scenery and take the time to sketch the nature surrounding us for a couple of hours. The majority of the trip was spent in Barcelona where we were able to visit some of Gaudi's most popular architecture including the famous Sagrada Família. We also explored the artwork of other popular Spanish artists such as Joan Miro and Pablo Picasso. One of the most delicious and colourful parts of our trip was when we visited the Mercat de Sant Josep de la Boqueria. La Boqueria is a market where you have a large variety of different fresh food to choose from such as fruits, vegetables, spices, cheese, seafood, meat, etc. We also had the opportunity to watch traditional Spanish dances formally called Flamenco followed by traditional Spanish cuisine where they served us tapas, which is a wide variety of appetizers.

From Barcelona, we took a day trip to Figures where we got to visit the Salvador Dali museum. I thought that this was one of the most impressive museums that we visited during



Gemma Stevens

the trip; since Dali's artwork and the museum had a lot to do with perspective—something you cannot necessarily fully appreciate by looking at it in a photograph. We also spent a couple of days in Bilbao where we visited the Guggenheim museum and even went to a local carnival.

When it came time to leave, everyone was very sad but we all went home with incredible memories—we had learned so much about everything surrounding us those couple of weeks. All in all, it was an amazing trip, thanks to the great company of the other students and of course our three incredible chaperones who organized this trip: Ms. Henriquez, Ms. Belina, and Mr. Nemeth.

Swim Team

By Michael Fania & Josh Goldberg-Penn

Every year, at the beginning of fall, RWA swim team sign up begins. The weekly practices begin at the start of November and stretch into January. With the expanding number of swimmers who have joined in the past two years, the practices now alternate each week. One week the juniors (Secondary I and II) will practice, then the next week the seniors (Secondary III, IV, and V) will practice. Some may be under the impression that the team is only meant for those who are experienced, but this is not the case. There are four types of swimmers in the team; those that only do the practices, those that do the practices and the meets, the swimmers out-of-school clubs that only come to the meets, and finally the coaches.



There are swimmers who only attend practices to improve their swimming techniques, to swim as a hobby, or those who do it for fun with their friends. The practices are one hour long, during which students can improve on their

different strokes (front crawl, breast stroke, butterfly, etc.), on their dives, flip turns, cardio, or lap time. Even if a student is an inexperienced swimmer, it does not matter. There are different lanes; the beginner lanes, the intermediate lanes, and lastly the expert lanes. On the first practice, the student will be placed accordingly in their respective group, depending on their swim level, so swimmers of all levels can have a fun time without being pushed out of their comfort zones!

Then, there are the students who attend not only the practices, but also the swim meets (competitions). Students must choose the events they would like to participate in, and must participate in at least two of four swim meets. The swimmer must reach a certain time (times may vary depending on grade level) to qualify and move on to the next round. If qualified, students move on to the championship, where they must race against the best swimmers and try to win to represent Royal West Academy. But of course, the RWA Swim Team is about having fun; win or lose!

Some students on the RWA Swim Team only participate in the swim meets. These students are either part of out-of-school swim clubs or swim teams, and already make their own practice time during the week, not needing the RWA Swim Team practices.

Lastly, there are the students who want to become swim coaches. To become a coach, one must meet certain criteria. Firstly, the student must be in at least Secondary III in order to sign up. Great leadership skills are required in a candidate if they are interested in becoming a coach. One must also be organized and creative in order to prepare different practices every week for the swimmers they are coaching. Lastly, you must have a strong and loud voice so your group can hear you no matter where they are in the pool.

The swim team is a great opportunity to improve and acquire new swimming techniques, participate in competitions, and to earn a sports credit! Students of all grades and levels are welcome to join!

Canadian Improv Games

By Constantinos Tsikinis

On February 19-22, several schools in the Montreal area participated in the Canadian Improv Games, a competition based on improvisational scenes, for the chance to advance to the National Improv Games. On the first two days, eight teams (four for each day) competed against each other in an attempt to make it to the regional finals. The third day was reserved for the six junior teams. Royal West Academy



participated from February 20 and onward—the senior team participated on February 20 and 22, while the junior team participated on February 21. On February 19, St. Thomas, Laurier Macdonald, Lasalle Comprehensive, and Westmount High Schools took part in the first night of the competition with St. Thomas getting the highest score and Laurier Macdonald getting the second highest score.

On their first night, RWA's senior team performed against John Rennie and Beaconsfield High Schools. They caught our attention as they showed us the competitiveness of cloud-watching and the struggles a teen faces as she tries to find her prom dress; they ended up in second place. In the middle of this show, the announcers hosted a game called "What's in the Box?", a raffle where people pay for tickets for a chance to win a t-shirt, show tickets, or the contents of the titular and mysterious box. On the very first night I ever attended an improv game, I bought a small handful of tickets and miraculously won. I naturally went for the box and received a slew of miscellaneous objects including a soccer trophy and construction paper—the experience alone was more than worth it.

On the following day, RWA's junior team, alongside St. Thomas, Westmount, Mother Theresa Junior High School, Marymount Academy, and Beaconsfield, competed in a competition that was separate from the senior teams. RWA showed us life as a sailor and how to make a pearl shine, taking third in the process—they were beaten out by Beaconsfield and St. Thomas. RWA's senior team later competed against Beaconsfield, St. Thomas, and Laurier Macdonald. By showing us the horrors of a smelly "butler", RWA walked away with a bronze medal.



Clockwise from top left: Isabel Pasian, Kailin Kreisl, Nikki Hanchet, Griffin Schwartz, Candice Pyo, Dustin Kage, Adam Amsel

Regardless of how the competitors placed, all of them performed spectacularly. Even if they didn't reach first place, our team won a place in our hearts as they hunted for the Legendary Umbrella and competed in the Ice Cream Sundae Making Olympics. Of course, that's not to

undermine the other competitors' performances. Whether it was Marymount showing us how difficult it is to find a pair of sunglasses, John Rennie building a stairway to heaven, or Beaconsfield demonstrating how many definitions of octopus exist, all of them entertained us greatly.

Juvenile Boys Hockey Team

By Mr. Jeff Bateman, Coach

For the first time in recent school history, Royal West Academy entered the GMAA/RSEQ Juvenile Hockey League. A majority of the players had represented RWA in the past, either on pee-wee or bantam teams. Coach Bateman was optimistic about the team's potential with so many experienced players committed to achieving success.



There was great chemistry, both on and off the ice, right from the start. Damon Hoge and Cameron Confuorti split the work in net and would turn out to be the strength of a team that would play "defence first" hockey. With the jump to the higher league, only four Secondary III players made the squad, so we were deep in mature, experienced players.

The season got off to a positive start with lots of ice time prior to the first game and great chemistry on the ice. Travelling over the bridge to play Kahnawake Survival School (KSS) was our first test and the boys were up for the challenge, earning a 4-3 win. The dressing room after the game was electric and there was a real positive vibe surrounding the players.

As the season moved along other commitments and injuries put a strain on team chemistry and made coaching a challenge. When the boys were there they wanted to play, but without commitment and perseverance, that factor that enables a team to gel wouldn't set. As a result, RWA lost its first hockey game in three years to West Island College.

It is every coach's hope that a loss like that acts as a wake-up call and pushes the team to an even higher level. To some extent that was the case, but the injuries kept coming and lines needed to be juggled and adjusted every game. The team fought through some adversity and ended the season in first place with a record of 9-1-2, both ties coming against our eventual championship opponent from KSS.

The championship game was played on February 26 at the Montreal West Arena. We had lots of fans on hand to help cheer us on to victory, but it wasn't to be. KSS got off to a two-goal lead and maintained strong pressure on the short-handed RWA defence for the entire game. Although there were a great many successes throughout the season, the

result in the championship was disappointing to say the least. Capturing the silver medal is noteworthy, but the result left us short of our season goal.

We want to thank our seniors for their efforts and dedication. Hopefully the experience will, in time, bring fond memories of a high school winter. For those returning to school, there is always next year. See you on the ice!

Coach: Mr. Bateman

Assistant Coach: Mr. Held

Assistant Student Coaches: Jaden Green & Richard Heller

Indoor Track & Field

By Mrs. Marie-Claire O'Neil

Royal West Academy has just completed another successful season of indoor track and field. Fifty-eight athletes trained through the months of January, February, and March in preparation for the competitions on March 20-21.

All of our athletes performed superbly. Congratulations to the Midget Girls for winning the GMAA team championship banner! Special mention to Kirsten Frantz, a member of the Midget Girls, for winning the aggregate award and for breaking a 31-year-old record in the 800 meter run.

Swim Team @ GMAA Finals

By Luca Carzoli da Chão

Every year, the Royal West Academy swim team competes against other schools in the Greater Montreal Athletic Association.



There are four meets for the West and East divisions in which swimmers attempt to qualify to swim in the final meet. Students can compete in: 100m freestyle, 50m fly, 50m freestyle, 4 x 50m medley relay, 100m medley, 50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, and 4 x 50m freestyle relay.

This year, RWA won medals in nine events:

- Elizabeth Rampersad in bantam girls 100m freestyle and in bantam girls 50m freestyle
- Jacob Rizzuto in midget boys 100m freestyle
- Jacob Lopez in midget boys 50m freestyle
- Logan Stack in midget boys 50m backstroke
- Tyler Seguin in midget boys 50m breaststroke
- the midget boys in 4 x 50m freestyle relay
- the bantam boys in 4 x 50m medley relay
- the midget boys in 4 x 50m medley relay

Points wise, the midget boys came in second overall out of thirteen teams.

The season is now over, but we look forward to improving our success next year. We invite all students interested in joining our team to come out to our first meeting next year.



Gemma Stevens



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



April 1	Salon des inventions
April 2	Public Speaking
April 4	Dessert Concert
April 7	Provincial Election Day (no school)
April 7	RWA Foundation meeting @ 7:30 PM
April 8–11	Musical: Oh Boy! It's You Girl!
April 9	Home & School meeting @ 7:30 PM
April 18	Good Friday
April 21	Easter Monday
April 22	Earth Day
April 22–25	Earth Week
April 23	UN Debate
April 24	La Nuit Verte
April 24–27	Honour Band trip: Philadelphia PA
April 28	Governing Board meeting @ 7 PM
April 29	Secondary III vaccinations
April 29–May 3	Marine Biology trip: St. Andrews NB
April 29	RWA Foundation presents: A Night At The Centaur Theatre

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



WE WANT YOUR NEWS ARTICLES!



We are now accepting articles for the
April 2014 edition of the RWA News!

Send your submissions to rwanews@gmail.com

Deadline date: **FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2014**

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 rwanews@gmail.com



Oh Boy, It's You Girl!

Tuesday April 8

Wednesday April 9

Thursday April 10

at 7:30 pm

Adults \$20

Seniors \$15

Students \$10

Dinner Theatre

Friday April 11

Dinner at 6:00 pm

Performance at 7:30 pm

tickets \$25

Douze Palmes Hotel