



News

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A Word From The Administration



In our last newsletter, we began by announcing that spring had arrived! Unfortunately, we have not yet seen the warm sunny days of spring. Nonetheless, Royal West Academy continues to prepare for the GMAA spring season. Our rugby, track and field, and tennis teams anxiously await their opportunity to take to the field or court!

Royal West Academy would like to welcome to its community Ms. Lindsay Heckersbruch as vice principal. We are thrilled to have her join the RWA Administration as of April 25. Before RWA, Ms. Heckersbruch gained valuable experience as vice principal of John Paul I High School. Like Mr. Bateman, Ms. Heckersbruch will be responsible



for students whose family names begin with the letters M–Z.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Bateman for his tireless work and leadership as our vice principal for the last eight months. His dedication to RWA will thankfully continue as he returns to his teaching responsibilities. It has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Bateman on behalf of the RWA community!

This year's musical *Oh Boy, It's You Girl!*, a Mr. Floen original script, went off without a hitch on April 8–11 (see page 5 for details). As usual, the students put on superb performances each evening including a Dinner Theatre on the Friday, hosted by students and parents involved in the India Exchange. Obviously these productions do not happen

without enormous amounts of time and effort by those in front of and behind the lights. A huge congratulations and thank you to all involved.

Once again, our sports teams have found great success. The Midget Boys and Girls Badminton teams won the GMAA championships, and six female and fourteen male members of the badminton teams have qualified for the individual championship round. We wish the boys and girls the best of luck!

Parents should note that the tentative Pedagogical Day originally scheduled on May 30, 2014, is now on June 6. Classes begin at the regular time of 8:30 AM on May 30. This change was necessary as a result of the change of date for our Graduation Ceremonies which will now be held on June 5, 2014. The Graduation Ceremonies will be held at Salle Claude-Champagne on the campus of Université de Montréal. The move to Salle Claude-Champagne, a larger venue, will now ensure that each family will receive at least four tickets to the ceremony.

Once again this year, we must acknowledge the incredible efforts of our Home & School Association. On April 5–6, 36 Home & School volunteers gave their time once again to improve the physical appearance of our school. Led by Mrs. Cawthorn and Mr. Mendelson, volunteers painted the handrails, stairwells, doors, and the Easton Street entrance. Thank you to all the parent volunteers for your continued support of RWA. Your efforts have helped make our school a place we can all be proud of.

The Home & School will also be hosting our annual RWA Book Fair to be held on May 27–28, 2014 (8 AM–8 PM and 8 AM–1 PM, respectively). Students may use this opportunity to purchase books on their summer reading lists. Proceeds from this event go to support our school library. Summer Reading lists can be found on the RWA website.

On April 23, the administrative assistants (i.e., our secretaries) were recognized for their hard work and dedication to Royal West Academy. We would like to thank Ms. Taylor, Ms. Matalucci, Ms. Karabatsos, Ms. Spiroulias, Ms. Ibrahim, and Mme Thomasson for all they do to make



RWA a great place to work and learn!

On April 17, five RWA students participated in the annual EMSB Public Speaking Competition (see page 7 for details). Participating students qualified after winning the local RWA Public Speaking Competition. We're proud to report that Logan Stack captured a gold medal in Secondary III, Aaron Sossin won the Silver medal in Secondary IV, and Gloria Anastasopoulos won the bronze medal in the Secondary I category. Congratulations to all the participants and to the English Language Arts teachers that supported them.

We would also like to congratulate the Honour Band for reaching the gold standard at the EMSB Music Festival on April 16, performing under the direction of Ms. Purdy (see page 8 for details). Joining them with a silver rating were the RWA Winds. Congratulations to Ms. Purdy and Ms. Macleod for their impressive performances.

April 22–25 marked Earth Week at RWA. Students and staff were busy organizing activities to raise awareness for this important cause. Activities included a Green Bean potluck with a workshop on being a vegetarian, a plastic bag knitting workshop, morning yoga, fast fashion workshop (with

SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

Two fun-filled RWAF evenings!

On April 29, close to 200 Royal West Academy parents, students, and friends attended our fundraising event at the Centaur Theatre. The play *2 Pianos 4 Hands* was brilliant—an extremely funny, laugh-out-loud chronicle of

the joys and frustrations of learning a musical instrument, and glimpses of the pain of not quite measuring up, both to your own expectations and to those of your parents and teachers. Thanks to all who attended, to those parents who baked, and to everyone who



contributed a prize for our silent auction. An early count puts us at close to \$6000 raised!

The *O Music, Sweets and Music* benefit concert on April 4 helped raise over \$4000 for the Foundation's Capital Campaign. Everyone who attended was thoroughly entertained and delighted by RWA's talented students. We watched performances by the RWAF Jazz Band, Glee, the Secondary I A Capella choir, the Bardolators, an excerpt by singers and dancers from this year's hit musical Oh Boy, It's You Girl! along with an impressive chamber music recital by Eric Lui, Philip Fournier, Jonas Langer, and Thomas Bugden. This is the third year that this event has been held and it just keeps getting better and better! The reception after was a dessert lover's delight; as Ms. Purdy put it so well, "Right out of a feast from Hogwart's!"

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 gets 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 Now Series



- 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.



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clothing swap), a bike-in, a planter making workshop, and making re-usable napkins. Special thanks to the staff and Environment Committee for supporting these activities.

Finally, we would like to congratulate two graduating students for being awarded admissions bursaries from Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf. Anthony Cheung received a \$1000 bourse pour les étudiants leaders and Mackenzie Bleho received a \$500 bourse pour l'excellence du dossier scolaire. RWA is thrilled to hear of your accomplishments! RWA prides itself on providing a French immersion program that contributes to developing well-rounded and bilingual student leaders. Our students and staff can be proud!

O Music, Sweets And Music

By Mackenzie Bleho

On April 4, the students of the performing arts department at Royal West Academy assembled for what is the only student initiative of the year with proceeds going completely towards the Royal West Academy Foundation's project for the modernisation and improvement of our auditorium.



The evening was a harmonious blend of music, song, and dramatic performances, featuring the Secondary I Choir, the Jazz Band, Glee, the Bardolators, a saxophone chamber music ensemble, and the musical cast. All performers gave show-stopping performances and should be very proud of themselves.

One only needed to walk through the cafeteria as everyone gathered for the long-awaited treats and sweets to see what a good time was had by all. The evening also allowed the department to make a significant contribution to the RWAF's cause. It is thanks to the hard work of all involved that, someday, the institution that has become our beloved school's dessert concert will be able to be held on a stage befitting the quality of its performers.

Again, congratulations to all, and a sincere thank you to everyone who came out to give their support; it has not gone unnoticed.

Dance Show: Error (take 1)

By Arielle Grossman

Royal West Academy puts on a dance show every year, and each production is a huge success. This year's show, entitled *Error*, was no exception! The cast of nearly 100 students put in a lot of work all year. Both shows were



sold out. Each cast member showed exceptional talent, and as part of the cast I can definitely say this was the best one I've been in. Traditionally there is a story behind the show—this year it was about a girl who was framed and put in jail for murder. The story was excellently portrayed and the actress playing the main character, Kiana Dadson, was very well casted.

Every year the show is student-run with the supervision of a teacher in the school, Mr. Zigby. He put his heart and soul into ensuring the show would exceed the expectations of all. The six execs who ran and organized the show this year—Natasha Goodz, Reina Jordan, Jessica Muha, Claire Staton, Sierra Shuster-Leibner, and Emily Tilson—were exceptional and really made the show come together. No matter what issue arose, they took care of it with ease.

Each scene was choreographed by not only school alumni, but also students in the show. There were many different dance genres ranging from hip-hop to contemporary to stomp, and there was cultural representation as well, including Greek and Indian.

This show not only provided great entertainment, it also generated proceeds that were donated to Dans la Rue, a charity for homeless teens. This year we raised an astonishing \$6771, which could not have been accomplished without the assistance and hard work of many.

Error set the bar high, but I am sure that next year's cast will rise to the challenge.



Dance Show: Error (take 2)

By Victoria Krantzberg

Starting at the beginning of the school year, close to 100 students worked extremely hard to put together Royal West Academy's annual charity dance show. In the middle of September, students auditioned to be in the



cast of this year's show, titled *Error*. After selecting the dancers, practices began! Throughout the year, every member went to weekly scene practices to perfect their parts in the show.

After long months of meetings and intense practices, the week of the show finally came around. Students around the school began to invite friends, buy tickets, and hype up the show. Everyone was so excited to see what was sure to be RWA's best dance show yet! Dancers found out the theme of the production the night before the show, when they learned that the show would follow the story of a teenager who was wrongly accused of murder and kept in jail.

On the day of the show, dancers got their hair and makeup done by professionals and practiced all day. At 6 PM, the first show began. In front of a full house, the show was jampacked with hip-hop, ballet, contemporary, and cultural scenes that blew the audience away. At the end of the two and a half hour show, the dancers had a short break before doing it all over again at 9 PM, but even better! There was another full crowd and the dancers all had so much adrenaline. The show did not disappoint, and everyone who came to see it was in awe of how the students on stage could put on such a phenomenal show.

A huge "thank you" goes out to Mr. Zigby for organizing such an amazing show; to DJ 7sheep for providing us with the music and lighting; to all those who sponsored the show and contributed to the money we were able to raise for Dans La Rue; to the janitors for their late hours at school for practices and opening the school on pedagogical days; and lastly to the execs, choreographers, and students, for bringing their talent and skill to the stage and bringing the show to life!

Dans La Rue

By Petro Giannarakis

Dans La Rue is a Montreal-based organization offering resources and services for homeless youth and young adults. The charity offers a substantial amount of support and assistance to youth and young adults who are homeless and in a difficult situation.

For countless years Royal West Academy has been donating money to this organization. The auditorium had 300 floor seats and opened the balcony for seats as well. Tickets sold for \$10 apiece and not surprisingly, both the 6 PM and 9 PM shows were sold out.

After paying all the expenses, the show profited nearly \$8000. We donated \$6771 to Dans La Rue and \$1195 to the RWA Foundation auditorium project. I personally participated in the Dance Show and I am proud to say that my school donates money to Dans La Rue each and every year.

Dance Show is a great experience for students, dancers, and their families—but what is done with the money is even better. Dance Show should be supported like this every year, because on top of putting on an amazing show, we also help those in need.

Our Theresa Foundation Donation

By Emmanuelle del Buey

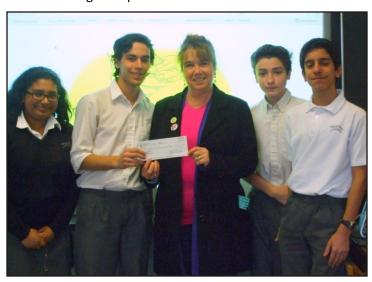
For lunch at Royal West Academy, students can go to the cafeteria or to one of the many nearby eateries. Having food is not a rarity for us. For the most part, we are well-fed and live in decent homes.

The Rice and Water Fast, organized annually by the Social Justice Club, may come as a shock. That ache in your stomach goes away after a little while. The weakness you feel during the fast is more uncomfortable, however. At first, a meal consisting of only rice and a limited amount of water might be unappetizing. But when you are truly hungry, you will accept any form of nourishment.

The majority of Malawians know only too well what it is like to have an empty stomach, and not just for 24 hours. In 2005, half of all child deaths in Malawi were related to malnutrition. Eighty percent of households depend on agriculture to earn their livelihood, but agricultural productivity is low, one reason being the region's proneness to drought. Out of the 187 countries ranked by the Human Development Index, Malawi is one of the world's poorest, ranking 171.

It is the responsibility of countries such as Canada, which is ranked 6, to support those who are suffering. The Theresa Foundation, the charitable organization the Social Justice Club chose to support with the proceeds from the Rice and Water Fast, was established by Mrs. Therese Bourque Lambert of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. It is a non-profit organization that has provided funds for the construction of new wells, bedding, clothing, and medicine as well as education, farming, and feeding programs in Malawi.

The Rice and Water Fast gave its participants a better understanding of deprivation so as to motivate them to



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raise as much money as possible. Partakers in this act of awareness collectively raised over \$5000, enough to build a borehole well in the village of Mnjale. Instead of having a bucket like a water well, a borehole well is covered by a hand-pump, which prevents contamination and eases access to the water.

Royal West Academy should be proud to know that it contributed to the effort towards a higher quality of life for the villagers of Mnjale. Malawi needs our support. The Theresa Foundation also raises money through two annual benefits: the Dawson Theatre Collective Play and the Annual Fall Concert Benefit. Visit www.theresafoundation.com for more information and to find more ways to help.

Oh Boy, It's You Girl!

By Ms. Freda Segal

The production of the musical *Oh Boy, It's You Girl!* was quite remarkable thanks to the efforts of the students and staff. A great deal of time and energy was put into it, and it showed. Even when things went terribly wrong, the actors were able to improvise and cover up the errors so that the audience had no knowledge of any mistakes. This is professionalism at its best and is rarely found in a high school play.

We want to extend a special thanks to Chris Barillaro, a musical director who was able to bring out remarkable musical ability in people who never considered themselves to be particularly good singers. Doug Floen, once again, directed the students in such a way that the stage picture

was always perfect and quite beautiful. Furthermore, Cathy Burnes, the main choreographer, outdid herself by creating magnificent dance numbers which would start off slowly and then build remarkably.

Finally, members of staff were there for many hours, including weekends and every night of the final week, working tirelessly with the students to make sure that the musical was a success.

Congratulations to all on a job well done!

A Midsummer Night's Dream

By Chloe Karam

Royal West Academy Bardolators, directed by Doug Floen, will soon be presenting their second play of the year by William Shakespeare right here in our very own auditorium. Since the first play of the year was *Hamlet*, a dark tragedy, we decided to lighten up the atmosphere by presenting the light comedy of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

If you are not already familiar with this farce by Shakespeare, you will be pleasantly surprised by the wit and enthusiasm of the characters played by our very own student actors: the Bardolators.

The play starts off with Theseus, the Duke of Athens, and Hippolyta, the Queen of Amazon, who are planning their wedding. Oberon, the king of the fairies, is mad at his Queen Titania, and wants to play a trick on her. Puck is a mischievous fairy who causes confusion and many



Mr. And



complications. He goes around with a magical flower that makes people fall in love with the first person that they see when they wake up. He also turns Nick Bottoms head into an ass, which is the first thing that Titania sees when she wakes up. Helena, Hermia, Demetrius and Lysander are all part of a big love triangle that gets played around with by Puck and his enchanting spells.

For those of you who love a classic comedy, I highly encourage your attendance to this next play.

Reserve these dates: Tuesday, May 20–Friday, May 23, 2014. Tickets for the evenings of Tuesday to Thursday are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors. Tickets for the Friday night dinner theatre are \$25.

On behalf of the Bardolators, I would like to thank all of our organizers who are the reason that these shows happen: Mr. Floen, Ms. Koyounian, Mr. Northey, Mrs. Westlake, Mr. Scriviner, and Mrs. Keiser. Come on out and enjoy a fun and comedic show!

Debate Club

By Isaac Harris

Every Wednesday at lunch throughout the year, Debate Club has met to learn, practice, and have fun. Debating is run by Ms. Holloway and has members from all grades. A debate is a formal argument made by two teams over a proposed

resolution. Topics cover a wide variety from political, social, and global issues to things that affect us as students.

Debaters can be of any experience level, even if it's your first time. This year, students from all grades were a part of Debate Club. Often, we will do debates in our own school that we prepare, but sometimes we go to tournaments against teams from other schools. In addition, we were able to host a debate tournament at Royal West Academy in December that was a great success. Throughout the year, we also sent a handful of debaters to tournaments and were able to win some team and individual awards.

I think that debating is a really positive thing because in addition to being a lot of fun, you can learn a lot of important skills that translate into actual schoolwork. The most important example of this is the ability to speak in front of others—this skill is essential in debating and is something that you can use for the rest of your life. It's also really awesome when we can see the transformation of people who were shy become confident enough to speak to a crowd through practice.

Salon des inventions

Par Mme Beaudoin, Mme Orlando, Mme Partington, M. O'Hayon, enseignants de science

Le 1er avril dernier, comme à chaque année, a eu lieu notre Salon des Inventions. Les élèves de secondaire 1 devaient construire un objet en utilisant deux machines simples dans le cadre de leur cours de Science et Technologie.

Nous désirons profiter de l'occasion pour féliciter tous les élèves et faire une mention spéciale à ceux qui ont reçu les votes du public dans les catégories suivantes :

- Most Eco-friendly: Gabriel Isabella, Elizabeth Rampersad et Daniel Ciocca
- Best "Bang" for your buck: Britney Slimovitch
- Most Pet friendly: Spencer Gearey, Alessia Pietrantonio, et Vassiliki Gicopoulos
- Techno-Savy: Paul Girouard, Riley States
- Most appealing to the eye: Julia Katz, Lauren Perlman

Brisebois

PELLE DOUBLE A, PREMIÈRE GÉNÉRATION

par Anika Audet et Alexandra Terrasi-



STATION SANITAIRE par Anthony Falcone, Julian Shaw, et Kourosch Akhbari

Public Speaking Competition

By Ms. Erika Kuch, English Language Arts Teacher Congratulations everyone!

All students who attend Royal West Academy participate in an annual public speaking program through their English Language Arts



classes. The process begins in the classroom where teachers prepare and help students practice their oratory skills. They learn the importance of enunciation, that public speaking is not as scary as it may seem, and how to keep an audience engaged in what they are speaking about by using their voices and words.

The Secondary I and II students worked on their storytelling skills by writing, and then delivering to an audience of their fellow classmates, a three-minute personal narrative. We have all learned a lot about each other over the past few weeks!

The Secondary III, IV, and V classes all wrote and delivered persuasive speeches on relevant social or global topics. Speeches ranged from serious to humorous, from inspirational to philosophical. Some of this year's topics included: the impact of grading in school, GMOs and why they are essential, highlighting the government's lack of support towards the field of science, why we should make the most of our lives in spite of our seeming insignificance in the grand scheme of the universe, and the plight of our aboriginal people. These speeches were not only entertaining but opened our minds on a wide range of issues.

One student from each English class was selected to compete in our in-school competition that was held on April 2. All of the candidates were well-prepared and delivered speeches of a high calibre. From this process, one student from each grade level was selected to represent RWA at the EMSB competition held on April 17.

Congratulations to the following students who competed in the EMSB Public Speaking competition:

- Gloria Anastasopoulos (Secondary I) Bronze
- Olivia Mendelson (Secondary II)
- Logan Stack (Secondary III) Gold
- Aaron Sossin (Secondary IV) Silver
- Eric Abrams (Secondary V)

We are very proud of you!

Rugby

By Sunny Pal

For more than 30 years, Rugby has been a big part of our school. At Royal West Academy, the program is led by Mr. Lapierre. Our school has a significant presence in the GMAA rugby world. Every year, 50–60 boys play for the Wildcats. Joining our team is a great way to meet new people from other schools, to become part of a community, and to be part of something bigger than yourself. Although it's cliché, working hard with many people creates a bond that is difficult to replicate.

Our games will be starting in May 2014. The Midget Boys have already had their first game of the season and the Juvenile Boys have played an exhibition match against Selwyn House School. We would greatly appreciate the support of anyone who comes out and watches. Although

we lost our first game, the support of our friends will help us have a great season.

Each year, we've had a full team for each age group. However, last year, I noticed that the Bantam team, composed of only Secondary I students, didn't have enough players to make a full set. This concerns me; many people would hate to see rugby die out in our school.

I, among many of my friends, started playing rugby in Secondary I and I've grown to appreciate the game immensely. Rugby is a game that requires all types of players: from small and fast to big and muscular. When I joined, I had no idea what rugby was, I did not know how to hold a ball much less know what it looks like. Many people start with the same level of skill yet, last year, the Midget Boys won the GMAA Championship. They had a perfect season and it was thanks to each and every individual that decided to show up for our practices.

Anyone can join rugby, it is a sport that requires no specialization. For the Secondary I students that are interested in joining, it is a great learning experience that can open many doors over the years.

If you come to one of our games, you may discover a new passion. Our home games take place at Ed Meagher Field (at Loyola High School). You can come and watch your friends, enjoy a good match, and support the school. The support of each and every one of you will help us play the best that we can.

EMSB Music Festival

By Ms. Ginette Purdy

Congratulations to members of Royal West Academy Winds and Honour Band for two excellent performances at the

EMSB Music Festival on April 16 at Rosemount High School. The RWA Winds received a silver rating and Honour Band received a gold. Ms. Macleod and I are extremely proud of you all!

Senior Robotics

By Thomas Bugden

On the February 20, schools from the general area of Montreal joined to compete in the annual 2014 CRC robotics competition. Since September, students have been preparing their robots to face the challenge posed at this year's competition. Unlike last year's challenge, which involved shooting foam balls, the students were asked to build stacking robots. These robots would be placed in an arena with three levels and three different shapes (cubes, spheres, and buckets); one shape was designated per level, and each level was filled with many of these shapes. Points were calculated based on the height of the stacks and on which level they were stacked. This meant that the robot needed to be able to navigate a ramp, pick up three different shapes and stack them precisely, which certainly posed a difficult challenge.

The Royal West Academy Senior Robotics team started by designing the robot and then they purchased the materials necessary from the nearby RONA hardware store. For months they worked countless hours after school to finish their robot for the competition. They worked out mistakes and redesigned certain parts to meet their needs, while taking advantage of RWA's fully equipped wood shop. More fine-tuning of the robot continued during the competition, but the students did their best to perform well and enjoy the weekend.





At the Vanier College facilities the mood of the competition was friendly and inviting; the main space was a large gym filled with booths for each school, each one decorated differently. In general the competition was less about being the best team and more about having the most fun. The students loved the experience and can expect to return to join next year's team.



RWA *Used* Uniform Sale

Organized by RWA Home & School Association

Monday, June 9, 2014 @ 7 PM-8 PM

in the school cafeteria (cash or cheques only)

Donations of any (clean) RWA uniforms may be dropped off at the school office @ 7:30 AM-15:30 PM no later than Friday, June 6, 2014.



RWA New Uniform Sale

Organized by RWA Home & School Association

Tuesday, June 10, 2014 @ 2 PM-8 PM

Wednesday, June 11, 2014 @ 3 PM-8 PM

in the school cafeteria (cash or cheques only)

RWA Book Fair (& Bake Sale!)

Organized by RWA Home & School Association and Babar Books

Tuesday, May 27, 2014, from 8 AM to 8 PM Wednesday, May 28, 2014, from 8 AM to 1 PM

in the Auditorium

(We accept cash, Amex, MasterCard, Visa, Interac, or cheques made payable to Babar Books/Livres Babar)

Enjoy convenient, one-stop shopping while supporting your school library! Take advantage of this opportunity to become familiar with Royal West Academy.

Prices are not reduced; they are bookstore prices. The RWA library receives a credit equal to a percentage of the sales. Last year, over 100 books were added to our library collection this way!

> **Summer Reading List books** for all grades will be available





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



WE WANT YOUR NEWS ARTICLES!



We are now accepting articles for the May-June 2014 edition of the RWA News!

Send your submissions to rwanews@gmail.com

Deadline date: FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2014

Thank you for your contribution!