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NOVEMBER 2017

### A Word From The Administration

Mr. Tony Pita, Principal

Ms. Chantal Juhasz, Vice-Principal

Mr. Steven Manstavich, Vice-Principal



The month began with the Bardolators' performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (see page 3 for details). The performances, which took place October 30–November 3, were very well-attended and well-received. Royal West Academy is proud of all our budding thespians who worked very hard to put on an amazing performance. A special thank you to Ms. Koyounian, Ms. Westlake, and Mr. Floen for their hard work in helping to prepare students for this event.

On November 7, RWA hosted its second Secondary I Parent Seminar of the year. The topic of this seminar, entitled *Keeping Your Child Safe in the Digital World*, dealt with the very relevant theme of digital technology and how it affects the lives of teenagers. It also dealt with how parents can be active participants in helping guide and inform their children concerning the dangers of digital presence. The presentation was hosted by our school's Mind POP team and Ms. Daphna Leibovici, who works in the Student Services department of the EMSB. Our next Parent Seminar will take place on January 24, 2018, and will deal with the topic of stress and resilience, and the steps parents can take to support their child.

On November 8, our school demonstrated respect to those who have served our country by participating in Remembrance Day ceremonies led by our spiritual animator, Ms. Trehin (see page 4 for details). Our guests, veterans, and members of the armed forces, all made a powerful impression upon our students as we remembered those who have fought for our freedom over the years.

Once again this year, we must acknowledge the efforts of our parent volunteers. On the weekend of November 11–12, a number of parents gave their time to improve the physical appearance of our school. Led by Mr. Michael Mendelson and Mr. Paras Tamakuwala, volunteers helped to repaint nine classrooms, along with touch-ups to the hallways, computer lab, and the main office. Thanks to all the parent volunteers for their continued support of RWA. Your efforts have helped make our school a place we can all be proud of.

We would like to extend our sincerest congratulations to Jesse Frijja-Gruman. Jesse, who is a new Secondary I student at RWA, recently played the lead role in the critically acclaimed Segal Centre for Performing Arts production of *The Hockey Sweater*. The musical is based on the acclaimed short story by Roch Carrier. Jesse portrayed young Roch Carrier and did a tremendous job in what was his first ever on-stage musical performance. Congratulations Jesse, we are all very proud of you!!

On November 19 members of the RWA Glee Club took first place in the Glee High School Showdown put on by the Just for Kids Foundation. Our students raised close to \$5000 in support of the Foundation. We are proud of all of our students for their wonderful participation. Thank you to Ms. Kissin for all of her hard work in helping to organize and prepare our students.





A note to parents that you may purchase meal cards for your child through the EMSB. A meal card is valid for 11 meal deals but is priced at the cost of 10, meaning the 11th meal deal is FREE! For more information and to register your child for a meal card, go to [https://leminibistro.emsb.qc.ca/ui/s\\_public/meal-card.aspx](https://leminibistro.emsb.qc.ca/ui/s_public/meal-card.aspx).

In athletics news, on November 4, members of our Midget and Juvenile Girls Volleyball teams participated in the finals of their respective leagues. Both the Juvenile and Midget Girls teams took top spot. A thank you goes out to Mr. Milen Christov (Juvenile Girls) and Ms. Leech-Pepin (Midget Girls) for all of their time and dedication in helping to coach our girls this year.

The cold days of winter are definitely on the way. Parents and students are reminded that students must come to and leave school in uniform. Students may not wear jeans or any other pants with their skirts or over their school pants. Students may only wear their



physical education jogging pants, if necessary, or appropriate external winter apparel.

## SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

Honour your child's success at Royal West Academy  
By Mitchell White, Secondary V parent

Support the chair campaign and see your child's name inscribed on a plaque of recognition to be mounted permanently in the new auditorium. A tax-deductible donation of \$250 enables the Foundation to purchase one chair. And it's easy: just go to <http://rwaf.ca> and click on the chair. You'll be taken to the donation page and your tax receipt will be mailed to you.

Your child benefits from an incredible school environment, rich in activities and events. Leave a lasting recognition of your child's success for all to see—and a comfortable seat for all to sit and enjoy the performances and events put on by talented RWA students.

Donations must be received by December 31, 2017, to receive a tax receipt for 2017.



Help the school raise money for the auditorium without spending a dime. Or a nickel. Or a penny (if you still have any hanging around).  
By Sarah Goblot

How? Purchase gift cards for groceries or gas or books or booze through FundScrip and help us get a new auditorium at no extra cost to you.

Seems too good to be true? Each store donates a percentage of the card to RWA, with an average donation per order of 3%.

Holiday shopping blitz! Chapters, Starbucks, Sephora, Gap, Bath & Body Works, Cineplex, Best Buy, Bureau en Gros, iTunes, Sears, Walmart, Canadian Tire, Toys "R" Us, Atmosphere, Running Room, spas—for the full list of vendors, see [www.FundScrip.com/retailers](http://www.FundScrip.com/retailers).

New: rechargeable and electronic cards for some vendors.

Sign up online and get your cards faster:

- Go to [www.FundScrip.com](http://www.FundScrip.com)
- Use the invitation code **WMSTBS**
- Order your gift cards
- Have them delivered to the school
- Repeat every week ☺

Online payment options:

- Electronic Funds Transfer/EFT (direct debit from your account): the best and easiest to pay. Requires application and void cheque sent to FundScrip
- Online Bill Payment: add FundScrip as a bill payee to your online bank info. Once you've placed your order, you must manually transfer the amount to FundScrip (you won't be sent a bill—it's up to you to go to your bank and make the transfer). Allow three business days to process payment.
- Credit Card: earnings reduced by 1.99% (but still worth it if this is easiest for you).

Other groups at RWA use FundScrip. If you are part of one of those groups, please continue to support them.

The November paper order is for RWAF FundScrip orders only.

The Royal West Academy Foundation is run by volunteer parents and is currently focused on transforming our over 80-year-old auditorium into a state-of-the-art Performing Arts Centre for our children. The auditorium plays a central role in the academic life and extra-curricular activities at Royal West Academy. If you have any questions, would like to volunteer or have any fundraising ideas, contact the foundation at [rwfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:rwfoundation@gmail.com). You can also make a donation at <http://rwaf.ca>.

## A Wonderful Performance

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, written by William Shakespeare, and directed by Mr. Douglas Floen, was performed by Royal West Academy's Bardolators on October 30–November 3.

The play begins with the character Hermia who is being forced to marry Demetrius whom she doesn't love. She decides to run away with her true love, Lysander. Demetrius follows, pursued by Helena who is in love with him. Meanwhile, in the magical forest, King Oberon is fighting with his Queen, Titania, and a group of workmen steal themselves into the forest to secretly practice a play they want to perform for the Duke's wedding day. All three stories intertwine, ending happily as this is a romantic comedy. In the end, Hermia and Lysander marry, Helena and Demetrius marry, and the workmen get to perform their play for everyone on the Duke's wedding day.

Students commented on how well all “the actors played a really amazing role since it is really hard to remember all the lines and they performed it without hesitation.” Some favourites were:

- Francis Flute, played by Owen Bruemmer, who “delivered laughter throughout the play”
- Nick Bottom, played by Christina Polichronopoulos, who “performed with passion and humour,” and
- Puck, played by John Valerio and Zachary Cohen, who “embodied the mischievous Robin Goodfellow faithfully”.



All the actors are commended for doing “great”. Audience members commented upon how “the characters worked really well together knowing their lines and their movements. The singers were well synchronized and knew everything by heart. The actors projected their voices wonderfully and were easy to understand even from the back of the auditorium. They also played their roles beautifully and were true to their character’s personalities.”

The concept of the play was well received, though some found “some of the language confusing since it was Shakespearean.” There was praise for the production’s director, Mr. Floen, who created a “fluid storyline and effective blocking,” making the play “easily understood.”

Comments about the stage was described as “really beautiful with a lot of plants and decorations to set the scene. The lighting was also really well done, since there was always a light or an effect which brought in the audience and set the mood. The dancers were tightly choreographed and, overall, the play was most interesting and eye catching; everything seemed to go as planned.”

The costumes were really reported as being “captivating, since they suited the play perfectly for the

time period and characters.” The makeup was also reported as so “amazing” that one reviewer is planning on joining next year’s makeup crew, though some felt that the older characters required more faithful makeup to appropriately reveal their older age. “Every person had makeup on and, for this reason, some of the actors weren’t even recognizable to me.” The sound effects played a huge role since they created the setting of the scene and showed suspense when the fairies were singing.

The audience was really attentive, especially since there was lots of humour, which kept them interested. All performances through November 1–3 ended in a standing ovation. Congratulations to the Bardolators for another successful production!

## We Will Remember Them

by Naomi Zukerman



On November 8, Royal West Academy hosted the annual Remembrance Day ceremonies. Students were left with the influential words of our esteemed guests and will certainly reflect in the days prior to November 11.



The two minutes of silence that mark Remembrance Day are more than just an opportunity to acknowledge the past, they are an occasion to commemorate those who have fallen and pay our respects. Without their sacrifices we, as a nation, would

not be living freely today. This was made clear during the assemblies. The veterans who spoke were personable and engaging. As a prefect, I was fortunate enough to hear a variety of speeches throughout the day, due to my volunteering. I was captivated by all of the veterans' stories.

Unlike previous years, I immediately noticed the presence of several Royal West Academy students who fulfilled their duties as cadets. I did not realize that we had cadets among us and it was an honour to have them represent us on stage. They wore their uniforms with pride and carried the flag with dignity. Nevertheless, student involvement was not limited to the cadets; three Secondary V students shared written compositions in both English and French followed by two short speeches from members of the Social Justice Club. All those mentioned spoke with eloquence and delivered informative presentations. Royal West Academy's Honour Band was also present and executed

their pieces beautifully.

During the *Ode of Remembrance* (an excerpt of the poem *For the Fallen* by Laurence Binyon), the audience joined together to recite the words "we will remember them." At that moment, we were all united and speaking for a common cause. This is when I realized how powerful Remembrance Day truly is.

As always, these ceremonies were an undeniable success as I am sure they will continue to be for years to come. Thank you to our guests, the coordinators, the staff team, and the students for their time and effort.

*"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old: age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."*

—Laurence Binyon, "Ode of Remembrance"



## L'histoire de Montréal

Par Mme Nancy Dupaul

*Dans le cadre de mon cours d'histoire et pour le 375e anniversaire de Montréal, les élèves sont invités à visiter des lieux de mémoire qui représentent bien l'histoire de Montréal.*

## Magasin Morgan's

Par Emma Rodriguez

L'ancien magasin Morgan's, maintenant occupé par la compagnie de la Baie d'Hudson, se trouve au milieu de la rue Sainte-Catherine, une des rues les plus fréquentées de Montréal, en face du célèbre Square Phillips. Il est connu comme un monument du centre-ville de Montréal.

L'édifice a été construit par la compagnie de Henry Morgan. L'entreprise fut fondée par Henry Morgan, un écossais-canadien, en 1845. C'était un homme innovateur grâce à ses grands magasins, une idée pas encore explorée au Canada. La compagnie a été achetée par la Compagnie de la Baie d'Hudson en 1960.

Avec ses quatre étages et une façade luxueuse, le bâtiment est une beauté architecturale. Il a été conçu





par John Pierce Hill, un architecte écossais, en 1891. Il a importé de grès rouge d'Écosse pour construire le bâtiment et décorer la façade. À la fin, le projet a couté 400 000 dollars, ou dix millions dollars aujourd'hui, et a pris dix ans à compléter. En 1923, le bâtiment a ajouté un prolongement de huit étages grâce au grand succès de l'ouverture du magasin.

Cette construction fut le début du développement de la rue Sainte-Catherine, qui est maintenant une rue pleine de centres commerciaux et de magasins.

Les marchandises vendues dans le magasin sont produites grâce à l'industrialisation qui commença au 19e siècle. L'industrialisation a permis la grande production de marchandises à bas prix et le développement des magasins à grande surface.

En conclusion, ce bâtiment de La Baie d'Hudson est un monument historique et intéressant.



## Une ville au cœur de l'histoire : Le Grand Tronc

Par Zoe Chapman

L'Édifice du Grand Tronc se trouve à Montréal, Québec sur la rue McGill. Cet édifice historique a été construit en utilisant principalement de la pierre pour les façades et du goudron et du gravier pour le toit.

Il a été construit entre 1899 et 1902 sous le commandement de l'architecte Richard A. Waite afin d'avoir un endroit propice où peuvent s'installer les employés qui font partie de l'administration de la compagnie ferroviaire (la Compagnie du Grand Tronc). Ceci provoque le développement plus rapide du chemin de fer au Canada au 19e et 20e siècle. Aujourd'hui, le bâtiment a la fonction de servir comme lieu de bureaux de transport et de communication.

En 1899, la Ville de Montréal concède des terrains et des bâtiments (l'un d'entre eux est l'Édifice du Grand Tronc) à la Compagnie du Grand Tronc en raison d'une entente que ces deux institutions ont ensemble. Cette dernière permet à la compagnie de maintenir son siège social canadien dans l'édifice pendant à peu près vingt ans.

La compagnie et l'Édifice du Grand Tronc occupent une place extrêmement importante dans l'histoire de Montréal. Avec l'aide de l'administration de la compagnie ferroviaire située dans l'édifice, la compagnie peut continuer de développer l'économie du Canada grâce au chemin de fer. Le réseau ferroviaire est au cœur de l'industrialisation pendant les années 1800 et 1900. Ce réseau construit par la Compagnie du Grand Tronc relie les principales villes de la Province du Canada (le tronçon Montréal-Toronto est un des plus importants), le Nouveau-Brunswick et la Nouvelle-Écosse.

Tous ces aspects mentionnés ci-dessus ont aidé énormément au développement de l'économie et de l'industrialisation au Canada tout en attirant plus de monde intéressé à s'installer et vivre ici.

# Student Leadership in Injury Prevention Program

By Julia Baran-Polansky

What is the student leadership in injury prevention program (SLIPP)? It is a year-long student-run program that allows its members to learn about and raise awareness for possible teenage dangers, such as alcohol intoxication, distracted driving, and road safety.

This year's SLIPP team is comprised of eight Secondary IV students and one Secondary V student. This year's goal is to spread as much awareness as possible. To do so, we have set up an amazing, jam-packed year of events, starting with our seatbelt awareness day and finishing with our public service announcement. Our PSA will be explaining the dangers of alcohol intoxication and how to handle yourself in that situation. It will be shown to students in May 2018.

I chose to join this year's SLIPP team after I watched a television announcement, published and created by Sussex Safer Roads. The video shows how seatbelts are an extremely effective tool when it comes to saving a life as well as the importance of life itself. The message stuck with me and made me want to make a difference in any way that I could, which enticed me to join SLIPP



From left: Ms. Di Pietro, Alison Stoowler, Julia Baran-Polansky, Tara Krochmalnek, Meiri Tsuruzono, Emma Wolfe, Jihan Lee (not shown: Jenna Del Paggio, Samara Ben Ahmed)

when I heard about the committee.

Another SLIPP member's story touched me as well, and thanks to them I will be sharing it with you. Alison Stoowler, one of our Secondary IV members, said, "I chose to join the program after attending a ribbon tying ceremony for the MADD bench in the foyer of our school." That bench is in commemoration of a former Royal West Academy student who perished in a drunk driving accident a few years ago.

Every year in Quebec, approximately 1000 people are involved in motor vehicle accidents. Of those, about 390 people lose their lives and 57 of the accidents involve individuals aged 15 to 24 years old (SAAQ, 2014). It is crucial for everyone to be aware of the dangers of driving under the influence and the importance of wearing a seatbelt. It only takes one accident to change someone's life forever. If you take one thing from this article, let it be to think twice, because life is precious.

## Appréciation d'art

Par Mme Louise Moreau



*Pour le 375e anniversaire de Montréal, plusieurs œuvres d'art ont été installées dans la ville. Les élèves de 4e secondaire devaient aller les voir et en choisir une en particulier. Quelques élèves vous font part de leur appréciation.*

## L'art du passé

Par Maya Schmidt

Nom de l'œuvre : Nature humaine

Artiste : Ugo Rondinone d'origine Suisse

Lieu : rue Sherbrooke O., rue Metcalfe

J'ai choisi cette sculpture extraordinaire créée avec de la pierre bleue et de l'acier parce que j'aime sa beauté simpliste. J'apprécie la rugosité de la pierre car l'œuvre semble être sculptée par la main de l'artiste au lieu d'avoir été lissée par des machines. Sur la rue, la hauteur grandiose du monument se distingue des si elle n'est pas peinte avec une variété de couleurs, sa stature fait forte impression. Le moyen que l'artiste a adopté est très unique et ça me fait penser à Stonehenge au Royaume-Uni. Pourtant, l'œuvre est encore plus intéressante car elle est en forme humaine. La position



des grosses pierres symbolise des êtres géants respectés et sages du passé et j'aime que ce monument rende hommage aux peuples inuits. L'œuvre évoque des images d'êtres surnaturels gigantesques venant de l'imagination et m'a surtout impressionnée.

Pumpkin était l'une de mes œuvres d'art préférées parce que, non seulement la façon dont elle a été construite était magnifique et unique, mais l'histoire était aussi fascinante. J'ai aimé comment cette pièce d'art est un autoportrait et un alter ego pour l'artiste puisque les citrouilles sont un aliment très connu au Japon. J'ai trouvé que la réflexion du soleil sur l'acier inoxydable poli qui a créé un chatoiement de lumière était très belle. J'apprécie la réflexion de toutes les images qui l'entourent; cela a vraiment ajouté de la beauté à la citrouille. La peinture à l'uréthane orange trouvée à l'intérieur de l'œuvre d'art la rendait unique car elle contrastait avec la couleur du métal. J'ai aussi aimé comment la couleur d'une vraie citrouille a été incorporée dans la sculpture et comment elle était seulement visible des trous couvrant la surface de la citrouille.

## La citrouille brillante

Par Aviva Wiseman

Nom de l'œuvre: Pumpkin

Artiste: Yayoi Kusama

Origine: Matsumoto, Japon

Adresse: 1175, rue Sherbrooke O., Montréal



## Les géants du passé

Par Soraya Barin

Nom de l'œuvre: Mât totémique des pensionnats

Artiste: Charles Joseph

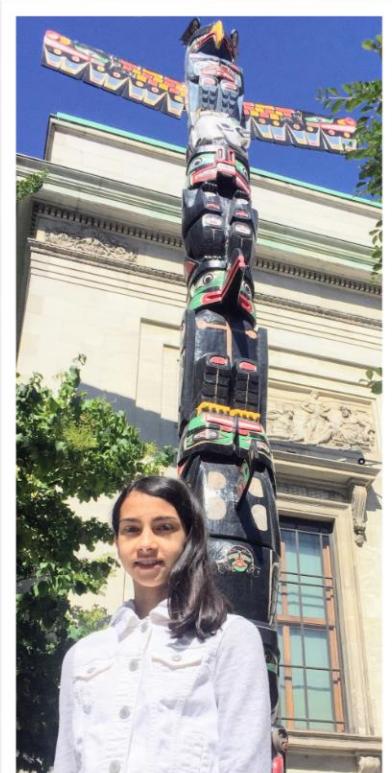
Son origine: Né en 1959 à Alert Bay, en Colombie-Britannique

Lieu où l'œuvre se retrouve: en avant du Musée des beaux-arts sur le coin des rues Bishop et Sherbrooke O.

Dès le moment où j'ai vu ce mât totémique, je l'adorais.

Premièrement, la hauteur a attiré mon attention.

Même si j'avais déjà vu des images sur l'Internet, je n'aurais jamais pensé que l'œuvre serait si grande. Les couleurs étaient vibrantes et les



dessins étaient très détaillés et originaux. J'ai porté une attention particulière aux animaux et aux personnages sculptés sur le totem et puis j'ai trouvé que chacun d'eux représentait un aspect différent de la vie des Autochtones, ainsi que ce qu'ils ont vécu. Même l'intégration de la croix illustre la présence de la religion catholique et l'évolution de la culture amérindienne. Je pense que c'est génial que ce monument soit construit d'images qui communiquent une histoire. Cela rend cette œuvre vivante et enchantée. Dans l'ensemble, cette statue englobe de nombreux aspects artistiques que je trouve intéressants.

## La lumière dans les ruelles

Par Maya Wiseman

Nom de l'œuvre: Frontière

Artiste et son origine: Pavitra Wickramasinghe d'origine sri lankaise

Lieu où l'œuvre se retrouve: intersection de rue Sainte-Catherine E. et rue Sanguinet

Pour le 375e anniversaire de Montréal, Pavitra

Wickramasinghe a créé un jardin volant qui est éclairé par des lumières magnifiquement formées à l'intérieur d'un canoë. La plupart des artistes font leurs œuvres dans des endroits où beaucoup de gens passent et peuvent admirer leur travail. Wickramasinghe a choisi de placer cette



œuvre magnifique dans une ruelle sombre. Avoir sa pièce exposée dans un espace sombre a créé un contraste entre la rayonnante œuvre d'art et son environnement. Avec l'œuvre d'art étant le seul morceau de lumière dans l'espace, elle attire l'œil et tout ce qui l'entoure disparaît. Toutes les lumières accrochées au bateau volant créent une superbe exposition d'ombres à travers les murs de brique des bâtiments entourant l'œuvre. Lorsque vous regardez cette œuvre d'art, c'est vraiment comme un rêve.

## Le monde dans une rue

Par Sam Amar

L'œuvre que j'ai visitée s'appelle La Balade pour la Paix. Elle est située sur une partie de la rue Sherbrooke O. (entre rue Mackay et boul. Robert-Bourassa). Elle est composée de près de deux-cents drapeaux immenses représentant tous les pays. De plus, plusieurs d'œuvres qui mettent en valeur l'Expo 67 étaient montrées. L'œuvre était installée par le Musée des beaux-arts, un musée à Montréal.

J'ai beaucoup aimé cette œuvre. Elle m'a permis de découvrir des nombreux pays étrangers qui se situent dans des continents exotiques. Ça m'étonnait qu'il y ait tellement de pays que je ne connaissais pas. Après l'avoir vu, j'ai fortement voulu satisfaire mon désir d'explorer! J'ai apprécié marcher le long de la rue, car à chaque dix pas, il avait un nouveau défi qui se présentait, qui était de deviner le nom du pays associé au drapeau. Aussi, j'ai adoré le fait qu'on pouvait prendre des très belles photos de la rue décorée. De plus, j'étais



très intéressé par les nombreuses œuvres des photographes canadiens se situant tout au long de la route. C'était très fascinant de voir une rue ordinaire transformée en musée ouvert. J'ai fort aimé cette œuvre.

## Une porte se ferme et une autre s'ouvre

Par Maria Moshopoulos

L'œuvre que j'ai choisie pour ce projet est Seuils de Michel de Broin, né à Montréal, au Québec en 1970. Cette œuvre se situe au coin des rues Sainte-Catherine E. et Sanguinet. J'ai sélectionné cette œuvre car je la trouvais intéressante et j'étais curieuse de savoir ce à quoi elle ressemblait. Je voulais voir comment l'artiste avait pris des vieilles portes de métro pour les transformer en œuvre d'art. Ce que j'ai aimé est comment Michel de Broin a pris des objets qui étaient hors d'usage et leur a donné une nouvelle vie. J'ai aussi apprécié comment ça m'a fait penser à l'idée que les métros se développent et, qu'à partir d'un



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moment, ces portes ne seront plus en usage. J'étais stupéfiée par comment chaque porte ouvrait l'une après l'autre. J'avais l'impression d'être dans le métro chaque fois qu'elles s'ouvraient. J'ai vraiment adoré voir cette œuvre.

## Les figures sans tête!

Par Liam Baum

Le nom de la statue que j'ai choisie s'appelle les Figures marchants, sculptée par Magdalena Abakanowicz qui est née à Falenty en Pologne le 20 juin 1930 et est décédée le 14 avril 2017. L'œuvre se retrouve au 1245, rue Sherbrooke O.

J'ai choisi cette sculpture à cause de sa signification intéressante. Elle représente la vie après une enfance difficile, incluant l'invasion nazie et l'occupation soviétique du pays de Abakanowicz. Les figures symbolisent la liberté d'expression individuelle. Mes grands-parents qui vivaient en Pologne et en Belgique, comme l'artiste, ont été affectés par l'invasion nazie. Mon grand-père a été capturé et emprisonné à Auschwitz et ma grand-mère s'est cachée chez des nonnes pendant de nombreuses années. Ils sont encore vivants aujourd'hui et c'est pour cette raison que je crois que la statue est une œuvre incroyable.

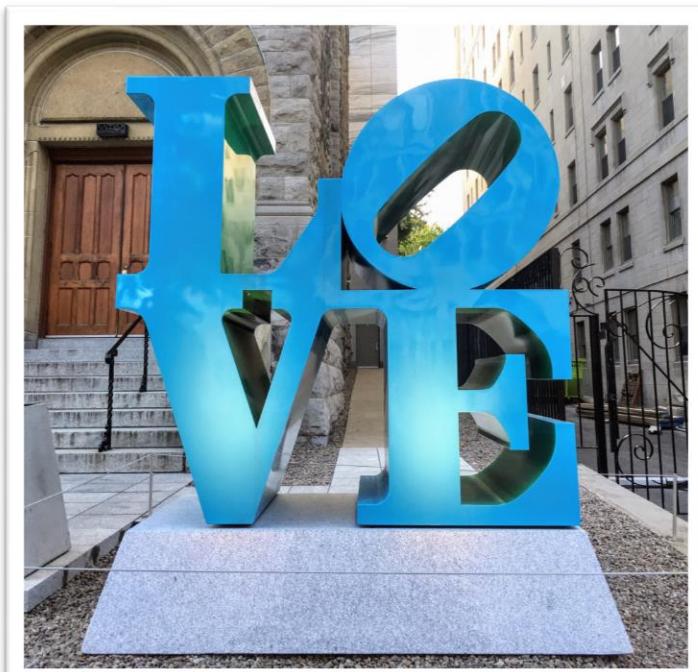


J'aime que la statue soit simple (la seule couleur des figures est le brun), mais a une signification importante. C'est une œuvre dérangeante, mais fascinante en même temps car les figures n'ont pas de têtes, mais des jambes très grandes!

## L'amour pour tous

Par Tarah Barakett

L'œuvre que j'ai choisie pour ce projet est « LOVE Blue Green » qui a été créée par l'artiste Robert Indiana (né Robert Clark). Il est né à New Castle en Indiana aux États-Unis en 1928. Cette œuvre se trouve sur la rue Sherbrooke O. à Montréal à l'adresse 1350, rue Sherbrooke O. juste en face de la Salle Bourgie.



J'ai choisi cette œuvre pour de nombreuses raisons. Les couleurs de l'œuvre sont très vibrantes, ce qui m'a attirée dès le début. J'aime la façon dont les lettres ont été placées pour créer l'œuvre. Elle la rend plus imposante et audacieuse. J'aime aussi le message que cette statue diffuse. Dans un monde de chaos, le fait de se rappeler que l'amour, avant tout, est ce qui nous unit est très important. Cela nous rappelle que même après 375 ans, tout le monde est uni et aimé dans la ville que l'on aime bien. Je pense que cette statue était une des plus réussies parmi celles que j'ai vues lors de ma randonnée autour de Montréal. Elle correspond bien avec le thème de l'évènement et, même si elle est

simple, elle porte un message de positivité et d'amour; un message que plusieurs personnes ont besoin d'entendre et de voir dans leur vie.

## Robotics

by Colin Evans

After finishing in 8th place among high schools at last year's CRC Robotics Competition held at Vanier College, the members of the Senior Robotics Club (ranging from Secondary III to V), led by teacher Mr. Nemeth, were disappointed with their result. But, as a member of the club, I know how determined the whole team was to improve.



Following the competition, a meeting was immediately organized to think of possible ways to progress the following year as we believed that it would be a great opportunity to gain an advantage over the rest of the field.

Among the solutions suggested, the team decided to use the 2017 Junior Robotics Competition, being held at Royal West Academy, as an opportunity to raise funds for more advanced materials, the main one being aluminum instead of wood as the primary material. Each member helped in one way or another, whether it was selling treats to the visitors or giving the younger participants a sneak peek at what to expect in Senior Robotics.

Since the rules for the upcoming competition at Laval Senior Academy on February 1–3, 2018, were released on October 30, the team has never felt closer. The new members have been welcomed with open arms and the participants show up for every Tuesday session, ready to work hard before going home with a sense of accomplishment and pride.

The competition is about more than just building a robot. The members are separated into several groups. The programming competition challenges the students to complete an obstacle course as fast as possible. Last year, we were victorious among high schools in this part of the competition, but unfortunately it wasn't enough to win the whole thing. A kiosk must also be built to show off the project. A website must present each participant and their background. Finally, a video is also

made by volunteers from the drama and computer science classes. All of these elements will be judged for the final results.

The CRC Robotics Competition is an excellent opportunity for students to learn workshop skills as well as enhance their intellectual capabilities. There is a strong sense of teamwork and pride as we work harder and harder to make it to the top step of the podium.

## Finding A Balance

by Linda Song with Jenna Del Paggio



From the very beginning of Secondary I, students at Royal West Academy hear that their Secondary IV academic year will be one of the most important and defining times in their high school careers. As new Secondary IV students, this fact may follow many of us around and act as a heavy weight on our shoulders.

Although it is important to be mindful of our academics, students must also not forget to devote time to doing what they love and to relax, from which they can reap many benefits, such as reduced stress levels, greater concentration, and even improved health. One's hobbies can be considered, to them, as an outlet for letting out frustrations that allows them to momentarily escape the stress and anxiety set upon them by their grades. While this is highly beneficial, students may feel like they are simply lacking the sufficient amount of time to be able to participate in leisurely activities. Thus the question comes down to: should we balance leisure and studies? If so, does a perfect harmony exist?

Jenna Del Paggio, an RWA student, explains her situation as being difficult at times, but not impossible. "Some days I feel like I just don't have enough time to get everything done. There are nights where I return from volleyball practice and find myself overwhelmed with homework, but only wanting to sleep."

She then added that although things may seem daunting, it is still possible to succeed in both departments. There is always a way to get everything

done if you are willing to work for it. Jenna tells me that, for her, a big part of this is prioritizing your tasks and setting your mind to complete them. "I've discovered that your mentality plays a huge role in your academics, and your life in general. Staying calm and not panicking is something that I've had to learn to do. This definitely isn't easy but it allows me to focus on my work and spend my time on what really matters."

Jenna claims that the key to ensuring a healthy harmony between work, recreation, and rest, is to use your time wisely by staying organized. Knowing exactly what you have to do and when to do it results in less anxiety and higher productivity. Finally, Jenna added that getting enough sleep is crucial as it prepares you to work the following day, making it easier to tackle hard tasks and allowing individuals to complete things more efficiently.

So while this first term hasn't been the easiest, with correct time-management, a proper mindset, and a healthy lifestyle, it remains a possibility to balance academics with leisure, achieving desired results in both departments, as Jenna has shown us. At the end of the day, we must keep in mind that, even though school presents our daily lives with certain struggles, it is still a worthwhile experience, and countless wonderful memories will be made along the way, no matter your grades.

## Governing Board Report

By Mr. Nijad Dahdah, Chair

The Governing Board held its meeting on November 20 at 7 PM in the school library.

In addition to brief reports from the parent delegate, principal, student representatives, Foundation, and Home & School, the members were advised about the status of implementation of the full version of Schoology. There is not much to report at this time, but some progress, one way or another, is expected in the next few weeks. We will keep you posted. In the meantime, Royal West Academy will continue using the current, free but limited, version.

The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing and approving the Management & Educational Success Agreement (MESA) between RWA and the EMSB. The MESA Annual Report for 2016–2017 was presented in detail by the vice-principal, Ms. Juhasz. After the report, Ms. Juhasz presented, again in detail, the MESA for 2015–2018. All members—parents, students, teachers, staff, and support staff—had a chance to ask questions and discuss the elements of the report.

The Grille-Matières 2018–2019 was presented by the principal, Mr. Pita, who explained the subjects offered at RWA from Secondary I to Secondary V and the number of periods each subject is taught in a seven-day cycle. This document was approved unanimously at the meeting.

The above mentioned three documents and the minutes of the October 2017 Governing Board meeting are available on the RWA website under the Governing Board link.

Our next Governing Board meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2018. All meetings are open to all RWA stakeholders, and there is always a time reserved for questions from the public.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish you, on behalf of all the Governing Board members, a very happy and relaxing holiday season. All the best for 2018!



## LOST AND FOUND POLICY

Please be advised that the Lost and Found boxes are cleaned out on the 15th of each month. While labeled items are returned to their owners, several bags of unclaimed unlabeled items are removed and donated to charity every month. So if you are looking for lost items, make sure to look for them before the 15th!

The Lost and Found bins are located in three areas at Royal West Academy:

- outside the new gym
- outside the guidance office
- in the main office under the teachers' mailboxes

In the meantime, please label all your belongings!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 4–8	Food & Toy Drive
Dec 4–8	Tyndale Week
December 5	Home & School meeting @ 7:30 PM
December 6	Diversity Caravan
December 7	Holiday Concert @ 7 PM
Dec 11–15	Computer Science Week
Dec 11–15	Mind POP Science
December 16	Hack-o-Thon
Dec 18–21	Musical: Pandora!
December 19	RWA Foundation meeting @ 7 PM
December 22	Holiday Accessory Day
December 22	Last day of classes
Dec 23–Jan 7	Holidays
January 8	Pedagogical Day
January 9	Classes resume
January 11	Governing Board meeting @ 7 PM
January 12	Variety Show @ 7 PM
January 15	RWA Foundation meeting @ 7 PM
January 16	UN Debate
January 16	Home & School meeting @ 7:30 PM
January 18	Winter Concert @ 7 PM
January 19	SLA Dance
Jan 22–26	Mind POP History
January 23	Winter Carnival
January 24	Secondary I Parent Seminar @ 7 PM
Jan 29–Feb 2	Mid-year exams

# RWA



# News

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### Junior Assistant Editor

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ROYAL WEST ACADEMY PRESENTS/PRÉSENTE



# PANDORA!

AN ORIGINAL PRODUCTION BY/PRODUCTION ORIGINALE PAR DOUG FLOEN      DIRECTED BY/RÉALISÉ PAR DOUG FLOEN

MUSIC DIRECTION BY/RÉALISATION MUSICALE PAR CHRIS BARILLARO      LYRICS BY/PAROLES PAR TAYLOR BARUCHEL      CHOREOGRAPHY BY/CHORÉGRAPHIE PAR JENNY RIZZO

DECEMBER 18-19-20-21 7:30PM  
DÉCEMBRE 18-19-20-21 19H30

15\$ ADULTS • 10\$ SENIORS AND STUDENTS • 5\$ MONDAY STUDENTS NIGHT (THE 18<sup>TH</sup>)  
ADULTES • ÂGE D'OR ET ÉTUDIANTS • LUNDI SOIR ÉTUDIANTS (LE 18)

WINE & CHEESE 20\$ ADULTS AND SENIORS • 15\$ STUDENTS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 6:45PM • PERFORMANCE AT 7:30PM  
VIN ET FROMAGE 20\$ ADULTES ET ÂGE D'OR • 15\$ ÉTUDIANTS JEUDI 21 DÉCEMBRE, 18H45 • PERFORMANCE À 19H30