

RWA



News

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FEBRUARY 2018

A Word From The Administration

Mr. Tony Pita, Principal

Mr. Jeff Bateman, Vice-Principal

Ms. Chantal Juhasz, Vice-Principal

Mr. Steven Manstavich, Vice-Principal



Heavy snowfall in January benefitted our Secondary II students with fantastic ski conditions for their annual ski trip to Stoneham, QC. One hundred and thirty-five students attended the trip, which took place February 6–9. Students skied and tubed over the course of four days—a good time was had by all! Thank you to Mme C. Belina and all the teacher chaperones for their commitment to this wonderful experience.

The Secondary V trip to New York City, NY, took place February 6–9 as well. Over 170 students experienced the Big Apple, through musical theatre, professional sports, museums, and the sites that only New York, New York has to offer. Thank you to Mr. R. Aiken for organizing the trip, and to all of the staff chaperones for giving of their time to make this experience possible.

Students in the Senior Robotics Club competed in the CRC Robotics Competition at Laval Senior Academy on February 1–3 (*see page 3 for details*). The competition included CEGEPs and high schools from the Montreal area. Our students earned 2nd prize in the programming portion of the competition and reached

the semifinals in the robotics portion. Special thanks to Mr. S. Nemeth, Mr. C. Northey, Mr. F. Girardin, and Ms. C. Suarez Stewart for their leadership.

Congratulations to our Juvenile Girls Indoor Track and Field Team for winning the GMAA Championships. A big thank you to their coach, Ms. M.-C. O'Neil, for her efforts and commitment.



Staff Appreciation Week took place February 19–23. A big thank to the Royal West Academy Home & School Association for their efforts. All week we were treated to scrumptious delights at recess and lunches fit for royalty. Ms. Heidi Rackover coordinated the event, overseeing more than a hundred volunteers bake, cook, and set-up each day's spread. Teachers and staff were moved by their efforts and felt very APPRECIATED!!

The Salon des inventions took place on February 14, where Secondary I students presented their inventions to their RWA peers. There were approximately 70 inventions, some certain to go on to be big money-makers in the future. Congratulations to all the students who participated and a big THANK YOU to our Secondary I science teachers and prefects for their help with the event.

On February 15, almost 400 students from Secondary II–V participated in the 29th Annual RWA



Science Fair (*see page 4 for details*). Again this year, all the projects were housed in the Foundation Gym, where almost 170 judges from the academic and professional world graded the projects in a variety of categories. The projects were fantastic and the calibre of scientific inquiry demonstrated by our students was, once again, awe-inspiring. Thank you to Ms. Jennifer Pevec, the Science Fair coordinator! Also, thanks to all the laboratory technicians and science teachers who helped students as advisors in the lead-up to the fair.

February 26 was the date for the Tyndale Penny-Wars winners' half-day off, which saw the Secondary Vs and Mr. Girardin's homeroom 104 leave school early. Members of the Leadership & Leisure Studies class, taught by Ms. N. Salmers, presented Tyndale St-Georges executive director Mr. Christopher Lockhart with a cheque for \$10,361.



From left: Ms. Salmers, Manny Bizogias, Emma Rothstein, Mr. Christopher Lockhart, Mr. Pita

Parent Teacher interviews are coming up on March 15, 2018. Once again the two sessions are at 3:15 PM–5:15 PM and 7 PM–9:30 PM.

Now that Term 3 has begun, many of us have started thinking about year-end exams. Please note that these exams begin in May 2018. Parents are asked to avoid scheduling appointments or summer vacations until they are certain that their child will not need to attend summer school (July 2018) or write supplemental exams (July 21–28, 2018). Additionally, parents should note that Term 3 is weighted at 60% of the final grade for a particular competency. Given the lengthy duration of this term (3½ months), if your child is experiencing

difficulties, we encourage you to communicate regularly with their teachers. Email is the most efficient way of reaching teaching staff—email addresses can be found on the RWA website at www.royalwestacademy.com.

Finally, Royal West Academy wishes a safe trip to the group heading off on the art trip to Italy and everyone travelling over the March Break (March 5–9, 2018). Be safe and bring back stories and memories to share. Rest and recharge for the home stretch, that is third term.

SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

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

My daughter graduates this year. Madison has benefited from an incredible school environment rich in activities and events, and has made many good friends. This school has provided her with an academic and social foundation that will remain with her all her life. I want to make sure that we recognize the contribution that RWA has given her and so I donated to the Chair Campaign in her name.

By supporting the Chair Campaign, Madison's name and graduating year will be inscribed on a plaque of recognition that will be permanently mounted in the new auditorium. Additionally, her name appears on the display screens outside the auditorium right now. We are leaving a lasting recognition of her success at RWA.

I challenge all parents of children graduating this year to donate to the Chair Campaign. Let's aim for 100% participation of the Class of 2018!

Additionally, supporting the chair campaign means that we will finally get some decent chairs in the auditorium. As I still have another child at the school, I know I will appreciate it when I watch the performance and events put on by our talented RWA students.

Your tax-deductible donation of \$250 lets the Foundation 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 isn't graduating this year? You can still donate to the Campaign and your child's name and graduating year will appear on the display screens, and eventually on the permanent plaque. Alumni are welcome to have their names inscribed as well!

Thank you!

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 rwafoundation@gmail.com. You can also make a donation at <http://rwaf.ca>.

Are you a web guru? We need your help with our WordPress-based website. If you can help, send us an email at info@rwaf.ca. You don't have to attend the meetings to help.

Our next meeting is March 12, 2018, at 7 PM in the teachers lounge. All are welcome to attend.

POWE

By Tara Krochmalnek



Promoting Opportunities for Women in Engineering (POWE) is an annual conference held at McGill University for high school girls interested in future engineering and science opportunities. On February 8, 150 students prepared for a fun-filled day of activities. Our day began with a warm welcome in McGill's Student Society ballroom. We began our first task, a team design challenge. Our scenario consisted of designing a device to maximize water collection from a well.

Afterwards, we had the opportunity to engage with a panel of students, professors, and engineers from the McGill Engineering Department. The presenters shared their eye-opening experiences, professional journeys, and medical engineering research.



From left: Tara Krochmalnek, Alessia Silvana Lumsden, Tina Zhang, Vanessa Lee, Adelka Felcarek-Hope

In the afternoon, students toured engineering labs on site. My group was fortunate to explore research on plasma formation, STEM cells, and techniques that improve insulin production in patients with type 1 diabetes. We learned about McGill's Baja Racing and Rocket teams. The conference wrapped up with a presentation from an engineering industry speaker.

POWE allowed me to meet new people, further teamwork experiences, and learn about various aspects that make engineering unique. I hope that this conference continues to inspire many more high school students for years to come.

CRC Robotics Competition

By Noah Kestenbaum



On February 1, Royal West Academy's very own Senior Robotics Team headed to the 2018 CRC Robotics Competition. For many months our team, made up of Secondary III, IV, and V students have been working relentlessly to perfect the design of this year's robot. Our Star Wars themed kiosk for the competition had been well thought out and looked amazing. With the help of our increased budget from the school, and fundraising at the Junior Robotics Competition last year, we were ready as ever to compete in the competition.



This year the competition was held at Laval Senior Academy, and due to the unfortunate timing of our exams on the same week, we started with a little bump. The competition was held over three days, with Day One having its highs and lows. Problems with our robot that we would have never thought of were appearing, many were caused by the smallest of details. By the end of the day we had managed to pass inspection on our robot, which was a small win.

Day Two of the competition started off very slow, as only one of my teammates and I were present at the competition due to exams. Though our school was small in numbers we had the help of many other schools that were at the competition. By lunch we had the majority of our team back and, most importantly, a working robot.

On the last day of the competition, we were at full strength. In fact, we were doing quite well in the rankings. Although we didn't get a direct bye into the

semifinals, due to our earlier performance, we were hustling to get as far into the tournament as we could. We couldn't have been prouder of our performance in the tournament, even getting into the quarter finals. We also succeeded in getting second place in the programming competition which was a great feat for us. All in all, this was our best year at the competition.

Another Successful Science Fair



By Ms. Jennifer Pevec, Science Fair Coordinator

Almost 400 students from Secondary II to V participated in the 29th Annual Royal West Academy Science Fair on February 15. Once again this year, all the projects were housed in the New Gym where almost 170 judges from both the academic and professional worlds evaluated the students' work during the morning. In the early afternoon and evening, the RWA Science Fair opened





up to visitors and 175 students from four nearby elementary schools.

The day ended with the awards ceremony. A full listing of those awards can be found on the RWA website.



Pandora: A Backstage Perspective

By Clara Chemtov, one of the Pandoras

The last week of school before the winter break is always an exciting time. The prospect of joyful hours in the snow or on a warm beach are definitely inviting. This year, however, the last week was especially exciting for the cast, crew, and spectators of *Pandora*, Royal West Academy's 2017–2018 musical, which ran on December 18–21. It was an entirely original production, with the script by Mr. Douglas Floen, music by RWA alumnus and musical director, Mr. Chris Barillaro, lyrics by Taylor Baruchel, and choreography by

Jenny Rizzo. Ms. E. Kuch produced the show and was our faculty advisor.

This play told the story of the Craven Coven, and their leader, Trauma, as they tried to bring down the good citizens of Happy Valley by introducing them to the lovely Pandora and her box of evil spirits. Overall, everyone's hard work payed off, and the show was a smashing success.

The cast and crew of the musical had been rehearsing since early September, meeting twice a week to learn the songs and choreographies featured throughout. In November, the play started to piece its way together, with the inclusion of stage rehearsals under the direction of Mr. Floen. Shortly after, the group added weekend rehearsals to the mix, which is where it truly began to come to life.

As the two-week mark approached, we were rehearsing up to six times a week! These practices never became tiresome, though, because the excitement and sheer joy of performing were enough to make them want to work even harder.

The week of the show, the students would meet in the backstage area at around 5 PM to get into their costumes. As it was the first step toward getting ready, there was always a giddy feeling of happiness in the air. Then everyone proceeded to the art room to get their stage makeup done by the makeup crew. Once this was completed, it was time to check the microphones and then head to the final step: the warmup.

The cast's warmup consisted first of vocal exercises around the piano, and then an acting warmup to shake off any jitters. This acting portion is a favourite among many cast members because it allows everyone to be a little silly. It also is performed at the beginning of every rehearsal, so the feeling of familiarity before the show helps to settle nerves. Finally, as the awaited moment approached, the actors were called to their places. And, with a dimming of the lights, the show began!

After the end of each night, the feeling backstage was always one of overwhelming joy and pride. There was also a palpable sense of self-accomplishment and satisfaction as the cast and crew revelled in the



whirlwind of the evening. And then, it was time to put everything back for the next performance!

All too soon, the closing night arrived, and with it came many emotions, and more than a few tears. Everyone was sad to have to bring an end those amazing few months, because, though the process may have taken lots of time and energy, it was a chance for a group of students, who otherwise might not have known each other, to become a family. The bonds we had created were stronger than steel, and the memories shared will last a lifetime.

But the story doesn't end here. We will all still be together (minus the graduating cast and crew members—Finn, Cle-Anna, Elizabeth, Anthony, Ben, Kaylah, Kevisha, Esme, Anna, Sabrina, and Gabriel—we wish you all the best) and looking in the same direction: next year's musical. Auditions will be held at the end of the school year and believe me when I say this isn't something you want to miss out on. It's open to all students from Secondary II to V, so if you like to sing, dance, act, or all of the above, stay tuned! We look forward to seeing you!

The Governing Board Report

By Mr. Nijad Dahdah, Chair

The Governing Board held its regular meeting on January 11 at 7 PM in the school library.

At the meeting, it was reported by the alternate parent delegate that the EMSB is planning to implement Mosaik (GRICS portal) for all its schools. Although this portal is supposed to replace all others that are currently used by some schools, our school administration had not yet received a written directive from the Board. As it stands, RWA is using the free version of Schoology. More information will be shared with you as it becomes available.

The principal presented the annual school budget for 2017–2018 and the Board members discussed the budget items in detail. Members were advised of the amount allocated by the EMSB as per the MEES Mesures 2017–2018 and were asked to verify the calculations associated with this amount in the budget.

The annual EMSB Volunteer Appreciation Night is scheduled for April 17, 2018. The Board invites the people who have volunteered at EMSB schools for five years or more to this annual gala. The five years duration is cumulative and includes years that were spent volunteering at elementary and high school levels at EMSB schools.

The minutes of our Governing Board meetings are posted on the RWA website after their approval at the subsequent Board meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2018, at 7 PM in the school library. Our meetings are open to all RWA stakeholders.

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!

USED UNIFORMS ACCEPTED ALL YEAR!

Home & School accepts used uniforms all year long. If you have used uniforms to donate to the Used Uniform Sale in June, you or your child can drop items off at the school store on all regular school days during the lunch hour, or at the main office during regular school hours.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 28	Anti-Bullying Pink Shirt Day
Feb 28–Mar 10	Art trip: Italy
Feb 28–Mar 10	Iceland trip
March 1–7	Computer Science trip: San Francisco CA
March 5–9	March Break
March 12	RWA Foundation meeting @ 7 PM
March 15	Parent Teacher interviews: 3:15 PM–5:30 PM & 7 PM–9:30 PM
March 16	Pedagogical Day
March 16–18	Spring ski trip: Mont Sainte-Anne
March 19	Governing Board meeting @ 7 PM
March 19–23	Mind POP Math
March 23	Pedagogical Day (afternoon)
March 23	Dance Show @ 6 PM & 9 PM
March 25–27	Regional Science Fair
March 26–29	Social Justice Week
March 30	Good Friday
April 2	Easter Monday
April 3	Home & School meeting @ 7:30 PM

RWA



News

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RWA News is published during the academic year (from September to May) on the Royal West Academy website at www.royalwestacademy.com. Articles, comments, and suggestions may be directed to the editor at rwaneews@gmail.com.





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See online for terms and conditions.

