

RWA



News

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A Word From The Administration

Mr. Tony Pita, Principal

Ms. Chantal Juhasz, Vice-Principal

Mr. Steven Manstavich, Vice-Principal



A Word From The Administration

The beginning of the school year was met with many smiling faces, renewed energy, and an abundance of sunshine and humidity! We would like to offer a warm welcome to our newest additions: Secondary I students and upper graders who are the newest additions to the Royal West Academy family.

We would also like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our new staff members:

- M. Elmadjid Lahmar (Français)
- Mr. Brendan Dunne (Social Studies and ERC)
- Mr. Michael Wilson (ELA and Social Studies)
- Ms. Anita Reddy (ELA and ERC)
- Ms. Ashleigh Huza (Math and Science)
- Ms. Alison Holloway (ELA and Film)
- Ms. Aziza Djebrani (Secretary)
- Ms. Susan Carmichael (Student Services Tech.)

Ms. Holloway is replacing Ms. Terry Smiley, who recently decided to begin her much deserved

retirement. We wish Ms. Smiley a long and healthy retirement, surrounded by cherished friends and family!

The school year began on an enthusiastic note, with the Student Life Association welcoming the Secondary I students at our annual Orientation on August 28. The SLA members organized activities and offered tours of the school in the hope that students would be well prepared for their first day of classes. Special thanks to our co-presidents, Jillian Loth and Lily Puterman-Salzman, for their leadership in making this event possible.

The RWA Foundation and the Bardolators England Trip organized a Drive 4 UR School fundraiser on September 15 with our local Ford Lincoln Gabriel dealership. Staff and parents volunteered to test drive a Ford vehicle of their choice—each test drive raised \$20 for RWA. We are happy to report that the event raised \$2800. Special thanks to Ms. Lori Rinaldi for her help in organizing this initiative. The Foundation's Habs Hockey Raffle was also held on September 15—the lucky winners will enjoy season ticket packages in the Desjardins section to watch the Montreal Canadiens.

During the first week of school staff members were once again visible in their brightly coloured vests, directing the student pedestrian traffic from the Montréal-Ouest train station. Pedestrian safety procedures were also reviewed at our annual start-of-year assemblies. As well, on September 21, representatives of the AMT train service were present at lunch to provide a workshop concerning train safety and appropriate behaviour. This was especially relevant considering the recent tragic train accident that occurred the week prior. The AMT representatives debuted a new and very interesting virtual reality (VR) safety experience for students to test as well. We ask that parents discuss the issue of traffic safety with their



child. Please note that there are three sets of commuter trains running through the Montréal-Ouest train station—always assume that there may be more than one train coming through at a time. Remember to look both ways, cross the road only at the crosswalks specified for students, stay alert, do not wear headphones, avoid texting, and practice safety first!

In addition, there are large numbers of students boarding the STM buses after school. It is important to line up and board the bus in an orderly fashion, so that no one gets hurt. Parent drivers are reminded that drop-off and pick-up of students takes place on Easton Avenue ONLY! Easton is the only safe drop-off area for students. Ainslie Road is a No Stopping zone—if you drop off your child on Ainslie, you risk receiving an \$85 ticket from Public Security. Also please note that Easton access to Westminster Avenue South remains closed. Drivers are to enter Easton from Westminster, drop off their child at the Easton end of the school, and then continue around the in order to exit onto Westminster via Ainslie. This is being done to ensure the public's security as traffic in the area has increased due to the closure of the Saint-Jacques Street exit off of Highway 20. We ask that parents remain vigilant while navigating this area. Please continue to help keep our students and staff safe!

Our Meet the Secondary I Teacher evening was held on September 6. Parents were given short presentations by teachers from all subject domains including MindPOP. They also had an opportunity to hear from the Administration, the Secondary I homeroom teachers, and our school Student Services Department. We know that the transition to high school may be difficult and we encourage students to have a period of downtime to relax! Parents are encouraged to ensure that their child NOT have a cell phone or computer available during these times of rest. Cell phones should not be used as alarm clocks—the distractions far outweigh the benefits.

Members of our three major parent organizations, the RWA Home & School, the RWA Foundation, and the RWA Governing Board, also gave presentations and welcomed new parents to Royal West Academy. For more information on upcoming events and opportunities to get involved at RWA, please consult

the websites for these parent groups, which can be accessed through the school website at www.royalwestacademy.com.

On September 14–15, over 170 students participated in our annual Secondary I Trip to the Laurentians. This camp experience allowed students and staff the opportunity to get to know each other. Special thanks to our trip organizers, Mme Bourdeau and Mme Dupaul, and the teacher chaperones for their time and effort in making this trip possible.

On September 18, Royal West Academy opened its doors to nearly 2000 visitors for our annual Open House. Special thanks to the volunteer students and parents who were all great ambassadors for RWA. This year RWA unveiled its new electronic application system that allows parents to register their child, upload report cards, and pay the registration fee using PayPal or a credit card. Qualifying tests were written on September 23–24. Special thanks to Mr. Mateus, Ms. Wineberg, Ms. Dimopoulos, Ms. Di Pietro, Ms. Paolillo, and our student monitors for all their hard work in organizing and administering these tests.

At its Annual General Meeting on September 28, the following parents were elected to two-year terms as parent representatives to the RWA Governing Board: Mr. Nijad Dahdah, Ms. Jacqueline Stein-Elman, and Mr. David Stollow. These three members will join the following parents in the second year of their two year terms: Mr. Ryan Ortiz, Ms. Lori Rinaldi, Ms. Arzine Brochu, Mr. Norm Gharibian, and Ms. Anne Monereau. Mr. Gharibian will continue in his role as CPC Delegate and Parent Commissioner. Ms. Monereau will again serve as Alternate Delegate.

As many of you have heard, the Quebec Government recently passed Bill 105 amending the Education Act. As a result, Parent Commissioners now have the right to vote at Council of Commissioners Meetings. In addition, the law allows for substitute members to be appointed or elected at the Annual General Assembly—parents elected Ms. Fotini Markopoulos as this year's parent substitute.

The Governing Board will hold its first meeting on October 10, 2017, at 7 PM in the school library. At that time, the Governing Board will decide on all future

meeting dates. Meetings are open to the public and a question period is always part of the agenda. Minutes from all meetings can be found on the RWA website.

The RWA Home & School Association's next meeting is on October 17, 2017, at 7:30 PM. The Home & School Association provides much needed funds for pedagogical materials, special events, and building improvements. Home & School volunteers staff the library, work in the school store, paint the school, support special events like the Science Fair and Graduation Ceremony, bake goods from home, and supervise SLA dances. With your help, the Home & School will undoubtedly be in a position to make many more contributions that will enhance your child's educational experience at RWA. All our parents are encouraged to get involved!

If your child requires tutoring at any time this year, RWA has an excellent peer-tutoring program at minimal cost. Any questions or concerns in this area should be directed to Ms. Di Pietro, our school-community animator (ECA coordinator), at sdipietro@emsb.qc.ca.

Royal West Academy has a long tradition of acceptance, awareness, and action on social justice issues. Last school year, Royal West Academy responded to requests from our students to include an all-gender washroom in the second floor West Wing area of the school. Students uncomfortable using this space can still use six gender-specific washrooms located throughout the school. The school also added private changing stalls for students in Physical Education classes. We are extremely proud of how our community has responded to these important changes.

Finally, on October 13, 2017, students will receive their first progress report cards. Parents are asked to sign the envelope and have their child return it to their homeroom teacher on October 16, 2017. The same envelope will be used for all four report cards. The same process will apply in November when RWA issues the Term I report cards. Parents should keep the report for their records.

The Royal West Academy Administration and Staff wish all our students and parents a successful and enjoyable year!

SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

By Mr. Mitchell White, President &
Robert Ceminara, Treasurer

School started just last month, but the RWA Foundation has been busy!

During winter earlier this year, we started our raffle to win Habs season tickets, which culminated with a draw on September 15. The raffle raised close to \$30,000 for the school. A big thank you to all of our families who supported the raffle by purchasing tickets and spreading the word about the raffle—and congratulations to our lucky winners!

- Grand Prize Winner: Wendy Hedrich
- 2nd prize: Ryan Rebelo
- 3rd prize: Ken Elman
- 4th prize: Allan Mandelzys
- 5th prize: Wendy Schaffer-Berenbaum
- 6th prize: RHR Company
- 7th prize: Emily Drysdale
- 8th prize: Kathleen Pellerin
- 9th prize: Tracey Beaufile
- 10th prize: Raynald



Left: Ryan Rebelo's mother, Ann Hynna (second prize winner)
Right: Wendy Schaffer-Berenbaum's son, Jack Berenbaum (fifth prize winner)

Also on September 15, Royal West Academy hosted a new fundraising initiative in collaboration with Ford Lincoln Gabriel—the Drive 4 UR School. All of the proceeds from this event was shared between the Foundation and the Bardolators (England Trip).

Participants got to take a ride around the school in one of several Ford Lincoln cars, including a Ford Mustang convertible.

Save The Date: May 31–June 1, 2018

One of the most popular events last year was the RWA Staff and Alumni production of Agatha Christie's Appointment With Death. We are happy to report that Mr. Douglas Floen will be back again with another production, this time with students as well as staff, on May 31 and June 1, 2018. Mark these dates on your calendar and keep on watching this spot for more details.

We Need Your Help!

The RWA Foundation was incorporated in June 1997 by volunteer parents and mandated to raise money for three capital improvement projects: a new gym, renovation of the auditorium, and enlargement of the library.

The new gym was completed several years back by parent volunteers who are no longer at the school, but our children are reaping the rewards of this fundraising project.

Our current project is the transformation of the over 85-year-old auditorium. The auditorium we used daily for band practices, theatre rehearsals, musical, dance recitals, models UN debates, assemblies, and classes.

Over the last four years we have raised close to \$450,000 through various campaigns. A new sound and lighting system has already been invested into the theatre, benefiting the current students—and parents when we go to cheer on our children. We are also in line to receive \$500,000 grant from the government towards this project.

But we need your help raising more money.

A donation is always appreciated—you can make one online at <https://rwaf.ca/>.

But we also need people to help with the fundraising. Specifically, we need people to help out with the following committees:

- **Architecture/Construction/Renovation:** working closely with the school board and the

architecture firm to make sure that the project stays on track and in accordance with all rules and regulations regarding school renovations. Experience with engineering/architecture is a bonus, but not required. **Communications and Marketing:** keeping our website up to date, sharing articles of interest on our Facebook page, helping create marketing material for specific initiatives, writing articles about the Foundation for RWA News, and grammar/spell checking anything that has been produced (a second eye is always appreciated!).

- **Event Planning:** helping promote our yearly Night at the Segal, helping with the above mentioned Staff and Student play (specifically, helping to sell advertising space in the programme).
- **External Fundraising and Stakeholder Development:** helping apply for grants, reaching out to businesses and high profile individuals to request a financial donation.
- **Media and Commercial Relations:** making sure our campaign and initiatives get the proper exposure in local media.
- **School Liaison:** ensuring that the staff is kept informed about our proposed initiatives.
- **Alumni Liaison:** promoting our named chair campaign for graduates and looking for ways to obtain alumni donations.
- **Volunteer Coordination:** coordinating volunteers to help out at various events at the school whether it be speaking about the Foundation or staffing a table selling merchandise.
- **Merchandise Coordination:** selling mugs, tuques, bags, and a few other things. Helping identify other items that our community would like to purchase, finding a distributor, and start selling them (via the website or at school events).
- **Donor Relations:** tracking donations (financial or in kind) and ensuring that tax receipts, etc. are distributed as appropriate. Ensuring that the list of donors on the website and screens at the school are kept up to date.

Are there any other ways you can help? We're sure there are other areas. If you have an idea, let us know.

Our students are already benefiting from the money raised in this campaign as well as from the new gym campaign raised by parent volunteers who are no longer at the school. Volunteers today will continue to benefit our students (we are close to installing an air conditioning system in the auditorium).

But more importantly, we are creating a legacy for future generations of RWA students. Royal West Academy is one of, if not *the*, best school in Quebec. Students from all across the greater Montreal area are invited to apply for admission. Let's make sure that the facilities match the calibre of our past, current, and future students. Imagine the pride when your child comes back 5, 17, even 23 years from now for a reunion held in the new auditorium and sees their name up on the donor wall. Imagine when they come back here with your grandchildren and see the family's name on the donor wall. Leave your mark. Support the auditorium campaign.

Our next meeting is October 16, 2017, at 7 PM in the Teachers' Lounge. Send us an email at info@rwaf.ca to let us know you can make it, or if you have to skip it this month. Send us an email if you can only help in the wings (pun intended). But do let us know how you can help.

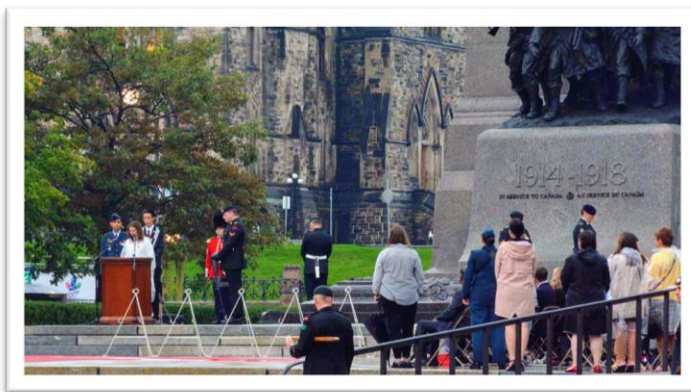
Thank you in advance.

Anniversary Of The Dieppe Raid

By Magali Goblot

*Ils étaient jeunes, jeunes comme nous
Ils ont servi, donnant généreusement d'eux-mêmes.
Nous leur promettons, en dépit du temps qui passe,
De porter le flambeau et de ne jamais oublier.
Nous nous souviendrons d'eux.*

I spoke these words at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa in front of a group of dignitaries that included veterans and members of parliament, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. They, and other people ventured out in the rain to honour our soldiers who fought at the Dieppe Raid in France during World War II. It was the culmination of a series of events that I participated in as part of the Official Canadian Government Delegation to France for the 75th Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid. I was one of four



students from across the country who were chosen to represent the youth of Canada.

The Dieppe Raid was the first time Canadian soldiers fought in World War II and it was the first grand scale Allied attack. The goal of this mission was to gather intelligence on the German defence and also to test strategies on liberating the coastal towns of France. Unfortunately, the mission was not successful. Thousands of lives were lost and many soldiers were taken prisoners of war. The town was later liberated by the Canadian Army following the Normandy Liberations.

I initially flew to Ottawa to meet the delegation and receive a debriefing of how things would proceed. I met the other youths at the airport before we headed to our hotel. The other youths were from Regina, Saskatchewan; Toronto, Ontario; and Dieppe, New Brunswick (which was named after the town of Dieppe, France in commemoration of the Dieppe Raid). We all represented cities that had had regiments that participated in the Dieppe Raid, with the exception of the girl from Dieppe.

We did a lot of preparations before heading to France. For example, we, the youths and our leader, made poppy crosses and decorated some kites we would later fly on the beach at Dieppe. As we were working on these projects, we met a couple and their niece who were part of the delegation and had flown in from Alberta. The man was a World War II veteran and his niece showed us a YouTube video of his experiences. He talked a lot about the love he had for his wife and how lucky he was to have her—it was very cute. Later, in Ottawa, we had a debriefing session where we met more veterans of all ages, and I met someone who had been in the same regiment my great-grandfather, the Black Watch.



After a couple of days in Ottawa, we headed to the Canadian Reception Centre at Ottawa Airport where we passed through a private security line and got a private waiting room for the entire delegation—it was the same area foreign dignitaries and the prime minister went through. We boarded a military airbus that was only for us and flew to France. We landed in Lille Airport, the closest airport to Dieppe that could accommodate us. We then got on a coach bus and drove to Rouen, which was where we were staying. We arrived at our hotel at around 3 AM local time.

The youth schedule was different from the rest of the delegation's schedule. Our first day in France started at

around 7 AM when we went to Dieppe to meet some of the local youth and tour a *biomarine*, an undercover hospital built into the side of a cliff in the 1920s and had been used to provide aid for the villagers when the village was under Nazi Germany Occupation during World War II. Later that day, we were given a tour of the battlegrounds with the rest of the delegation by official Canadian military historians. There were four Dieppe veterans travelling with us as a part of the delegation. When one of the historians was talking about the positioning of a German radio tower, one of the veterans interrupted him to correct him about the positioning. He then proceeded to share what he had lived through when he had landed on the beaches. The entire crowd was silent when he shared his experiences. I don't really know how to describe the feeling of hearing someone's personal experiences during a battle that had been fought on the very ground you were standing on. It's something both chilling and unforgettable.

The rest of the time in France consisted of various commemorative ceremonies in Dieppe and other surrounding towns that had been battlefields during the raid. We attended a moving Indigenous Sunrise Ceremony as well as different events hosted by the Government of Canada and the French towns. It was then that I learned how important Canada's involvement in the Dieppe Raid was to the people who



lived through it. Many French people would come out to the veterans and hug them in appreciation. They asked for autographs and some even cried while shaking the hands the veterans because they were so thankful. I overheard someone who was a child during the raid and had been playing on the hills when it happened. He had felt helpless because he couldn't do anything to help. He said that even though the raid had not been successful, it had brought a lot of hope to the people of Dieppe because they had thought they had been forgotten. Upon seeing the effort of the soldiers, they had realized they were not alone and they had support.

I spoke at several of the ceremonies and laid some wreaths on behalf of the youth of Canada at other ceremonies. I also presented a research project I had done about my great-grandfather, Thomas Anyon, who had fought and was killed in World War II in the Normandy Invasion. His regiment, the Black Watch of Montreal, was one of the Canadian regiments that had fought in Dieppe.

I was chosen to participate in this memorable event due to my involvement with *Encounters With Canada* as well as my bilingualism. *Encounters with Canada* is a nationwide program offered to young Canadians in which they go to Ottawa for a week to explore career paths. There are a variety of themed weeks available

from medicine to sports to international relations, which is the theme that I chose.

Did You Miss Having A Start Of The Year Party This Year? Want To Do Something About It For Next Year?

By Ms. Lindsay McLeod & Mr. Kirk Kelly

If you're like us, you really enjoy the fun of the Start of the Year events. It's a great chance for students, families, staff, and members of the Montreal West community to have fun, meet new people, and generally let loose. It's also the only event where everyone in the Royal West Academy family comes out to play.

After three great years, we really missed SOY this year. So we decided to see if other people felt the same way and were willing to make sure the party wasn't cancelled for next year.

If you would like to see a Start of the Year party in Fall 2018 and you're willing to work a little to ensure it happens, send us an email at lindscot@videotron.ca or kirkkelly@sympatico.ca. Once we have names from students, parents, and staff, we'll try and set a time for



all of us to meet at the school and talk about how we're going to make sure SOY #4 is a blast.

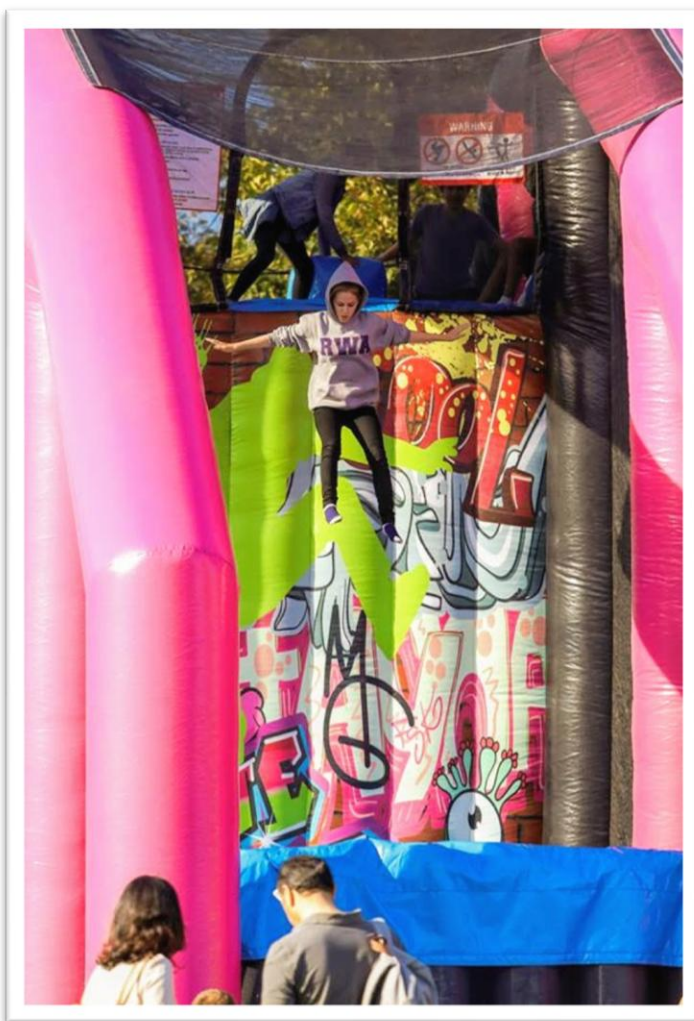
Remember: students, parents, and staff are all welcome to be part of the SOY #4 working group. Let's start next year off with the biggest Start of the Year event ever!

We'll be in touch.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 4	Secondary I Parent Seminar @ 7 PM
October 9	Thanksgiving Day
Oct 10–16	National Debate Seminar (Port Hope, ON)
October 13	Progress reports
October 13	SLA Dance
October 16	RWA Foundation meeting @ 7 PM
October 17	Home & School meeting @ 7:30 PM
Oct 18–19	Grad photos
Oct 20–22	Honour Band Retreat
Oct 23–26	MindPop ELA
Oct 23–26	Waste Reduction Week
October 24	Psychology Film Festival (am only)
October 27	Pedagogical Day
October 31	Halloween: Dress down day
Nov 1–3	Bardolators: A Midsummer's Night Dream



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!

RWA



News

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Junior Assistant Editor	(Secondary IV student)
Staff Advisor	Tony Pita (Principal)

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.

