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SEPTEMBER 2018

A Word From The Administration

Mr. Tony Pita, Principal

Ms. Chantal Juhasz, Vice-Principal

Mr. Steven Manstavich, Vice-Principal

Ms. Christy Tannous, Vice-Principal



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 Secondary I students and new upper graders who are the latest additions to the Royal West Academy family.

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

- Christy Tannous (Vice Principal)
- Gabriela Gaizer (Français)
- Joe Lambert-Kirouac (Science & Technologie, Math)
- James Magee (Ed. Tech and Science & Technologie)
- Michelle Warner (English and Drama)
- Tonicia Spencer (Secretary)
- Rena Klisouris (Guidance Counselor)
- Sybil Raymond (Behaviour Technician)

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome some of our returning staff members:

- Alissa Bakouri (Français)

- Samira Chawki (English, Drama, PPO)
- Myriam Deschênes (Français)
- Allison Holloway (English, History, ERC, Film)
- Ashleigh-Marie Huza (Science & Technologie, Math)
- Anita Reddy (English)
- George Fowler (Behaviour Technician)
- Jenna Labell (Drug Addiction Counselor)
- Eva D'Adamo (Secretary)

Mr. Magee is replacing Mr. Andre Vamvakas, who recently decided to pursue other ventures. We wish Mr. Vamvakas well in his future endeavours.



Cet été, nous avons effectué des rénovations majeures dans notre bibliothèque. Grâce au soutien financier de notre Commission scolaire English-Montreal ainsi qu'aux campagnes de collectes de fonds de RWA Home & School et de notre conseil d'établissement (Governing Board), nous avons pu amasser plus de 140 000 \$. Le plan d'étage choisi a entièrement été conçu par les groupes de secondaire 3 en Ed Tech Programming de M. Nemeth. Nos bibliothécaires, Stephanie Germain et Anna Supino, ont pris en charge le projet et se sont assuré du bon déroulement des





travaux. Afin de s'assurer que la bibliothèque est prête pour le retour des élèves, Mme Supino a même décidé d'écourter ses vacances d'été. Nous tenons à remercier tous les parents et élèves qui nous ont aidés à remplir puis à vider plus de 200 boîtes de livres.

Manny Bizogias (currently in Secondary V) also kept busy this summer with his internship at the McGill University Health Centre Volunteer Services Department as part of the Student Training and Educational Training Program (STEP), which welcomes students in Secondary IV and V, and CEGEP 1 each summer for a 50-hour program. Students are assigned to volunteer tasks in the hospital. They also take part in

weekly workshops that focus on valuable life skills such as CV and cover letter writing, time management training, and the importance of communicating. Manny's brother Dean (an RWA graduate) also completed the STEP program two years ago. The Bizogias brothers' love of health sciences has been heavily influenced by their mother, Roula Vrentzos, Coordinator of the Epilepsy Clinic at The Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital, a role she has held for the past 25 years.

L'année scolaire a commencé avec enthousiasme. Le 27 août dernier, l'association étudiante (SLA) a accueilli les élèves de secondaire 1. Les membres du SLA ont offert des visites guidées de l'école. Ils ont aussi organisé des activités pour ces nouveaux étudiants afin de bien les préparer pour leur première journée d'école à RWA. Nous remercions plus particulièrement nos coprésidents, Spyridon Markopoulos et Gregoria Gassios, d'avoir fait preuve de leadership dans la réalisation de cet événement.

Durant la première semaine d'école, les membres du personnel de RWA, vêtus de leurs vestons aux couleurs vives, ont aidé à diriger la circulation piétonne à partir de la gare Montréal-Ouest. Les procédures de sécurité



sur les sentiers piétonniers ont également été revues lors de nos assemblées en début d'année. Nous demandons aux parents de discuter des règles de sécurité routière avec leurs enfants. Veuillez noter que trois trains de banlieue traversent la gare Montréal-Ouest – les élèves devraient toujours s'attendre à ce que plus d'un train passe à la fois. N'oubliez jamais de regarder dans les deux directions avant de traverser la rue et ne traversez qu'aux passages pour piétons prévus à cet effet. Restez toujours vigilants. Ne portez jamais d'écouteurs et évitez de texter. La sécurité doit demeurer une priorité.

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 side of the school, and then continue around to Ainslie to return onto Westminster. 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!

Notre soirée « Meet the Secondary I Teacher » a eu lieu le 5 septembre dernier. Les responsables du programme MindPOP et les enseignants de divers départements ont pu présenter aux parents un aperçu de l'année. Les parents ont également pu rencontrer les membres du personnel administratif, les enseignants titulaires de secondaire 1 et notre département des services aux étudiants. Nous savons que la transition vers le secondaire peut être parfois difficile et nous encourageons les élèves à prendre des pauses détente. Les parents devraient également encourager leurs enfants à ne pas utiliser leur téléphone cellulaire ou leur ordinateur durant ces pauses de façon à pouvoir pleinement profiter de leur période de repos.

Des membres de nos trois principales associations parentales (RWA Home & School, RWA Foundation et RWA Governing Board) étaient également présents lors de cette soirée pour accueillir les nouveaux parents, présenter les informations concernant les différentes associations et répondre aux questions. Pour en savoir davantage sur les divers événements ou encore pour vous impliquer, veuillez consulter notre site Web à www.royalwestacademy.com.

Le voyage annuel des élèves de secondaire 1 a eu lieu les 27 et 28 septembre derniers. Plus de 170 étudiants ont pris part à ce voyage de deux jours dans les Laurentides. Cette expérience a permis aux élèves et aux enseignants de passer des moments privilégiés ensemble et ainsi apprendre à mieux se connaître. Un gros merci à M. Bateman et à tous nos accompagnateurs sans qui ce voyage n'aurait pu être réalisé.

Le 17 septembre dernier, RWA a accueilli plus de 1000 visiteurs à sa journée Portes ouvertes. Un gros merci aux étudiants et aux parents bénévoles qui ont tous été d'excellents ambassadeurs pour l'école.

Nos examens d'admission se sont déroulés les 22 et 23 septembre. Nous remercions tout particulièrement M. Mateus, Mme Klisouris, Mme Dimopoulos et Mme Di Pietro ainsi que nos étudiants bénévoles sans qui il nous aurait été impossible d'organiser un tel événement.

At its annual General Meeting on September 27, the following parents were elected for two-year terms as parent representatives to the RWA Governing Board: Mr. Norm Gharibian, Mr. Ryan Ortiz, Mr. Earl Rubin, and Ms. Fotini Markopoulos. Also, Ms. Anne Monereau was elected for a one-year term. These parent members will join Mr. Nijad Dahdah, Ms. Jacqueline Stein-Elman, and Mr. David Stolow, who are all in the second year of their two-year terms. Mr. Gharibian will continue in his role as EMSBPC (EMSB Parents Committee) Delegate and Parent Commissioner. Ms. Monereau will again serve as Alternate Delegate.

The Governing Board will hold its first meeting on October 2, 2018, 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.

La prochaine réunion de la RWA Home & School Association aura lieu le 22 octobre 2018 à 19 h 30. Cette association fournit à l'école des fonds indispensables pour l'achat de matériel pédagogique, l'organisation d'événements spéciaux et des travaux de rénovation comme ceux de la bibliothèque entrepris cet été. Les parents bénévoles s'occupent de la bibliothèque, travaillent dans le magasin de l'école, peignent l'école, soutiennent des événements spéciaux comme l'Expo Sciences et la cérémonie de remise des diplômes, préparent des gâteries faites maison et supervisent les danses. Avec votre aide, l'association sera sans aucun doute en mesure de contribuer à améliorer l'expérience éducative de votre enfant à RWA. Nous encourageons tous nos parents à s'impliquer.

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.

Et pour finir, tous les élèves recevront leur premier rapport préliminaire « Progress Report » le 15 octobre 2018. Nous demandons aux parents de signer l'enveloppe dès que possible pour que les élèves puissent la retourner à leur enseignant titulaire au plus tard le 17 octobre. Veuillez noter que la même enveloppe sera utilisée pour les quatre bulletins. Nous procéderons de la même façon en novembre lorsque les bulletins de la première étape seront envoyés à la maison. Les parents doivent conserver tous ces rapports chez eux.

The Royal West Academy administration and staff wish all our students and parents a successful and enjoyable year!

Prime Minister's Science Fair

By Allison Engo

This past week, I was honoured to attend the Prime Minister's Science Fair at Parliament Hill in Ottawa ON. They had invited 30 young scientists from across Canada who had shown scientific innovation in health,

technology, and the environment. I was thrilled to be there because I got to meet many VIPs and to reunite with many of my fellow Canada-Wide Science Fair medalists.

The morning was devoted to a round table meeting with the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Federal Minister of Science and Sport. We took turns describing our projects and I was impressed by the breadth of innovative ideas. The spirit of discovery was certainly very strong in that room.

That afternoon, we set up our projects and we were visited by parliamentary ministers and senators. I was delighted to meet people who have the power to shape our lives such as the Honourable Jane Philpott, Senator Grant Mitchell, and many others. The Honourable Kirsty Duncan was warm and welcoming as she had many encouraging words for all of us.

The highlight of the day was when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau came to see me. I was delighted to find out that he already knew the details of my project and he showed great interest in dietary antioxidants. We also spent some time talking about Royal West Academy and our home town Montreal. In the end, he left me with some advice, “Allison, expect the unexpected.”

The irony of it was that so far, 2018 was already full of unexpected events—I could not believe that I had just had a one-on-one meeting with the prime minister of Canada to discuss my personal interests. What an unforgettable day!



SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

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

We need your help!

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

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

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

Over the last five years we have raised close to \$500,000 through various campaigns. A new sound and light system has already been invested into the theatre, benefiting our current students (and their parents when they go to cheer them). We are also in line to receive an additional \$500,000 grant from the government geared towards this project (project updates will be done following the provincial elections).

We also need your help raising more money. A donation is always appreciated—you can make one online at <https://rwaf.ca>. We also have various donor recognition levels—what do you think of “The [insert your name here] Auditorium”? What a great way to immortalize your family!

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

- **Architecture/Construction/Renovation:** work closely with the school board and the architecture firm to make sure the project

remains 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:** keep our website up to date, share articles of interest on our Facebook page, help create marketing material for specific initiatives, write articles about the Foundation for *RWA News*, and grammar/spell check anything that is produced (a second eye is always appreciated!).
- **Event Planning:** help promote our yearly *Night at the Segal*, help with the Staff and Student play (specifically, help to sell ad space in the programme).
- **External Fundraising and Stakeholder Development:** help apply for grants, reach out to businesses and high-profile individuals to request a financial donation.
- **Media and Commercial Relations:** make sure our campaign and initiatives get the proper exposure in local media.
- **School Liaison:** ensure that the staff is kept informed about our proposed initiatives.
- **Alumni Liaison:** promote our named chair campaign for graduates and look for ways to obtain alumni donations.
- **Volunteer Coordination:** coordinate volunteers to help out at various school events, whether it be speaking about the Foundation or staffing a table selling merchandise.
- **Merchandise Coordination:** help identify items that our community would like to purchase (we already sell mugs, tuques, bags, and several other items), find a distributor, and start selling them (via the website or at school events).
- **Donor Relations:** track donations (financial or in kind) and ensure that tax receipts, etc. are distributed as appropriate. Ensure the list of donors on the website and school display screens are kept up-to-date.

Are there any other ways you can help? (I’m sure there are.) If you have an idea, let us know.

Our students are already benefiting from the money raised in this campaign as well as the new gym campaign raised by parent volunteers who are no longer at the school. Volunteers today will continue to benefit our students and the students going forward.

But more importantly, we are creating a legacy for future generations of RWA students. Royal West Academy is one of the best schools in Quebec—perhaps even *the* best school. Students from all across the greater Montreal area are invited to apply for admission. Let's make sure that our facilities match the calibre of our past, current, and future students. Imagine the pride they will feel when your child comes

back in 5 or 15 or 25 years for a reunion 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 15, 2018, at 7 PM in the Teachers' Lounge. Send me an email to let me know you can make it, or if you have to skip it this month. Send me an email (info@rwaf.ca) if you can only help in the wings (pun intended), but do let me know how you can help.

Thank you in advance!

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.

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

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| October 2 | Governing Board meeting @ 7 PM |
| October 8 | Thanksgiving Day |
| October 15 | RWA Foundation meeting @ 7 PM |
| Oct 17–18 | Grad photos |
| October 19 | Pedagogical Day |
| Oct 19–21 | Honour Band retreat |
| October 22 | Home & School meeting @ 7:30 PM |
| Oct 22–26 | MindPOP ELA |
| Oct 22–26 | Waste Reduction Week |
| Oct 29–Nov 2 | Bardolators: ??? |

RWA News

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CSEM Nutrition et services alimentaires
EMSB Nutrition and Food Services



NEW

Cafeteria Meal Cards

Now available in your EMSB Cafeteria!

For use in all EMSB High School cafeterias, a cafeteria **MEAL CARD** is a great way to avoid carrying money and shortens the wait time to enjoying your delicious and nutritious meal. A **MEAL CARD** is valid for 11 meal deals* at the cost of 10. ***What a deal!***

Price: \$40.00 per Meal Card

A Meal Card = 10 meal deals* + one FREE!

*Meal deal includes: an entrée, vegetable, soup or dessert of the day, choice of milk, juice or water (330ml)



Purchase your Meal Card(s) now!

Visit <https://leminibistro.emsb.qc.ca>

Click on Buy Meal Card button (in red) and follow instructions.

Once purchased, meal card(s) will be delivered to your child's school for pick-up at the main office within 3 to 5 school days.

See online for terms and conditions.

