

RWA



News

WWW.ROYALWESTACADEMY.COM

NOVEMBER 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 month began with the Bardolators' performance of *Twelfth Night*. The performances, which took place October 29–November 2, 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.

Nous tenons à féliciter Ronit Gelbart, Sarah Klein, Samantha Tabacman, et Mia Moghrabi qui ont été choisis pour faire partie du Diller Teen Fellows Program. Ce programme de leadership de 12 mois se terminera par un voyage en Israël à l'été 2019.

On November 6, RWA hosted its second Secondary I Parent Seminar of the year. The topic of this seminar, *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 MindPOP team and Ms. Daphna Leibovici, who works in

the Student Services department of the EMSB. Our next Parent Seminar will take place on January 21, 2019, and will deal with the topic of stress and resilience, and the steps parents can take to support their child.

Le 8 novembre, notre école a fait preuve de respect envers ceux qui ont servi notre pays en participant aux cérémonies du Jour du Souvenir dirigées par notre animatrice spirituelle, Mme Trehin. Nos invités, anciens combattants et membres des forces armées ont tous fortement impressionné nos étudiants en nous demandant de penser à tous ceux qui se sont battus pour notre liberté au fil des ans.

Once again this year, we must acknowledge the efforts of our parent volunteers. On the weekend of November 10–11, 94 parents volunteered to paint for anywhere from a few hours to the entire two days—in total, 124 shifts were completed! Led by Mr. Michael Mendelson and Mr. Paras Tamakuwala, volunteers repainted the auditorium, the caretaker hallway & office, and an entire classroom as well as touch-ups to cabinets and doors leading to the staircases. A big thank you 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.

Du côté des sports, les membres de nos équipes de volleyball bantam et juvénile féminin ont chacun remporté la médaille d'or à leurs finales respectives. Les membres de nos équipes bantam et juvénile masculin ont quant à eux, remporté la médaille d'argent. Nous tenons à remercier Mr. Milen Hristov, Mme Leech-Pépin, Grace Martin-Chang & Zoe Small, et Mme Fogel pour le temps qu'ils ont dédié à entraîner ces équipes.

Quant aux finales de soccer, les membres de nos équipes de soccer bantam féminin et juvénile masculin (*voir page 6 pour les détails*) ont remporté la médaille d'or à leurs finales respectives. L'équipe de bantam



masculin a quant à elle remporté la médaille d'argent. Nous tenons à remercier Mme Huza, Mme Reddy, Mme Béline, et M. Bateman pour tous leurs efforts à entraîner ces équipes. Félicitations!

On November 13, all Secondary 1 students participated in an educational activity that was aimed at expanding their understanding of the stars, moon, solar system, and beyond. A 12-foot high inflatable planetarium was set up in the auditorium where, throughout the day, one class of Secondary 1 students explored the universe each period. They were guided through galaxies and nebulae, traveled around planets and supernovas and more, all of which were projected onto the interior walls of the planetarium structure. A big thank you to Ms. Dillon for organizing the event, and to the Secondary 1 French teachers as well as Ms. Kuch, who accompanied their classes to the activity.

Le 25 novembre, les membres du RWA Glee Club ont participé à la compétition annuelle Glee High School Showdown au bénéfice de la fondation Just for Kids. Nos étudiants ont recueilli plus de 4 000 \$ pour soutenir la Fondation. Nous sommes fiers de tous nos étudiants pour leur merveilleuse participation. Merci à Mme Kissin pour tout son travail acharné dans l'organisation et la préparation de nos étudiants, ainsi qu'à Kavisha Williams, ancienne élève de RWA.

L'équipe de l'émission matinale Breakfast Television est venue rencontrer l'équipe. Syntonisez leur reportage au <https://www.btmontreal.ca/videos/previewing-jfks-glee-high-school-showdown/>.

The cold days of winter are definitely here. 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; they may only wear their physical education jogging pants, if necessary, or appropriate external winter apparel.

Un rappel aux parents que vous avez l'option d'acheter des cartes repas (meal cards) au travers de la commission scolaire, à utiliser à la cafétéria de RWA (*voir page 9 pour les détails*). Une carte repas est un bon moyen pour votre enfant d'éviter de se promener avec de l'argent dans ses poches. C'est aussi une façon pour vous de vous assurer qu'ils mangent un bon repas

chaud et bien équilibré. Pour plus d'informations et pour acheter une carte repas pour votre enfant, allez au https://leminibistro.emsb.qc.ca/ui/s_public/meal-card.aspx.

In an effort to improve the safety and security of our students and staff, Royal West Academy will be holding a lockdown drill prior to the December holiday break. Parents should not be alarmed by this drill. This exercise is carried out at least once every year. In light of some other boards deciding to forego this drill, the EMSB is currently reviewing this practice. Until a decision is made on their part, we will continue with the current practice.

Enjoy the snow and get the family to build snowmen together!

SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

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

This past month the Royal West Academy Foundation had its first meeting of the new 2018 school year. As well, we conducted our annual general meeting welcoming new board directors and members. It was the first time in the five years that I have been involved that we had such an amazing influx of new parent volunteers. All five parents are new to our school and bring a lot of experience from previous charity work so we are happy, lucky, and honoured to have them as a part of our volunteer team.

We would also like to thank those parents who stepped down from the board as directors since their children graduated from our amazing school. We thank you for your years of volunteering and giving of yourselves for the betterment of our entire school community.

There are still several spots available to join and even be a part of the executive directors of the board as the position of Treasurer remains vacant, so please join us at our next meeting and pay it forward by giving an evening a month for your children, the school, and community at large.



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 December 10, 2018, at 7 PM in the Teachers' Lounge. Send me an email (info@rwaf.ca) to let me know you can make it, or if you have to skip it this month. Send me an email if you can only help in the wings (pun intended), but do let me know how you can help.

We need your help!

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!

RWA Grads Share Their CEGEP Experience

By Tabea De Vries

In less than two months, CEGEP applications open to Secondary V students all over Quebec. This process can appear daunting to many students, as they figure out

what programs particularly interest them and what school will work best for them. Having my own questions and concerns about the CEGEP experience and how our teachers here at Royal West Academy prepare us for the future, I decided to interview two RWA grads of 2018 to find out their views on the matter.

Angela Nelson and Alia Dobson eagerly shared their experiences and thoughts with me on transitioning from high school to CEGEP. They both attend Dawson College and are respectively in the Health Science and Liberal Arts programs. They are also both on the Division 2 Dawson Blues women's volleyball team, shown wearing their uniforms in the pictures below.



When I asked the grads about their feelings going into CEGEP, the response was pretty unanimous. "A new school seemed really scary to me, especially having been at Royal West Academy for five years and building such an amazing community there," said Alia. Angela responded emphatically, saying "I was extremely nervous!"—a feeling echoed by many Secondary V students.

I then asked, "In what ways has RWA prepared you for CEGEP and made the transition easier?". Angela responded saying, "I feel like I was a lot less shocked about the CEGEP workload coming from RWA, and adjusted better than many of my peers." Alia added, "Because we came from Royal West Academy, having been surrounded by high achieving students, we became more high achieving ourselves. The advanced classes we took also prepared us for the possibility of failure, which is inevitable in life, but they also taught us how to overcome failure and to work hard."

The final question I asked the girls was about the advice they would give to Secondary V students going through the same process they went through a year ago. Angela responded saying, "You should go into something you like and follow your heart!" Alia agreed, saying, "Pick something that you are interested in, but challenge yourself as well. Factor your strengths into the decision but don't restrict yourself."

As the Secondary V students of Royal West Academy prepare to apply to CEGEP, the advice and experience of these two students is invaluable and should definitely be taken into account when making the big decision!

Spanish Trip: Costa Rica

By Zoe Chapman



On February 27–March 7, 2019, Royal West Academy is offering a Costa Rica trip to its Secondary IV and V students. Although this trip is meant primarily for students who are currently in or who have already taken a Spanish class, all who are interested are permitted to sign up as well. To date, 34 students have registered for the trip.

Faculty member and teacher Mr. Wilson, alongside the administration, has spent a great deal of time organizing and preparing for the March Break trip. He has spent time researching and has referred back to past backpacking experiences in Central America in order to create the itinerary. This was all done to get a sense of which tourist attractions would be the most suitable for students. In an interview, he stated that Costa Rica has "all of the natural beauty and biodiversity, if not more, compared to other Central American countries."

Some of the everyday activities that will take place on the trip include: visiting a hot spring and a coffee and chocolate plantation, hiking to Arenal's hanging bridges, spending time at the beach in Playa Samara, and going snorkelling and sea kayaking. Students will also have the option to go on a canopy tour in Monteverde and to either go horseback riding in the mountains or take a surfing class.

The trip will not only be an outdoor adventure for RWA students, but an educational experience as well. Mr. Wilson says, "The best way to learn a new language

is to be immersed inside a country that speaks the language and to be exposed to it.” This is exactly what the trip offers. Students will be going into stores, and will hopefully be able to negotiate prices for themselves as well. In addition, they will be visiting a primary school and be able to converse with the Spanish speaking children. All in all, RWA students will obtain an incredible immersion experience in a foreign country.

At present, three additional RWA staff members, Ms. Tannous, Ms. Belina, and Ms. Reddy, will also be coming along on the trip. Ms. Tannous is RWA’s newest vice-principal and this will be an opportunity for her to get to know some of the students at the school. Ms. Belina has lots of experience dealing with international trips, can speak a little bit of Spanish, and is trained in CPR. Ms. Reddy, on the other hand, is very keen to go on the trip because she hasn’t been on an RWA school trip since she started teaching here last year. She also wants to see the beautiful nature that Costa Rica holds—particularly the monkeys!

As a whole, all of the participants going on the trip are extremely excited for this great opportunity.

30th Annual RWA Science Fair

By Ms. Jennifer Pevec, Science Fair Coordinator

Parents, family, friends, and alumni: be a part of this year’s annual Royal West Academy Science Fair! We are

looking for volunteers to help judge on February 14, 2019, at 8 AM–12:30 PM. We are also looking for your support with cash or prize donations.

If you can help out, simply go to the RWA website to register as a judge, or complete the *Donation Request Form* to make a prize donation.

For additional information, contact Jennifer Pevec at rwasciencefaircoordinator@gmail.com.

Honour Band Retreat

By Caterina De Felice

From October 19–21, the Royal West Academy Honour Band took their annual retreat in Orford QC. The goal of the weekend was for the members to improve their musical ability as individuals as well as an ensemble, while bonding as a group. The musicians had the opportunity to work with professional conductors and private coaches. They also participated in activities organized by the executive members of the band.

As a trumpet player in the ensemble, I got to experience the trip firsthand and had a very positive experience. On the first night, we had the opportunity to be conducted by Dr. Geoff Reynolds, the director of bands at University of Toronto. I as well as many of the members of the band were very nervous, as we had never been conducted by such a prestigious conductor. However, throughout the evening, we became more comfortable and received many helpful tips.





The second day focused on improving as a section. Each section worked with a private coach who specialized in a particular instrument. In the trumpet section, we worked on many aspects of music, but most importantly how to breathe properly. It seems strange, but just this small aspect of playing helped our section improve so much as a whole. As the section leader, I learned how to guide my section through a piece by giving them helpful cues and signals.

On Saturday evening, we enjoyed a campfire where we were able to eat s'mores and sing songs for hours. This was one of the better moments of the weekend where the band truly bonded. Older members got to know younger members and it really felt like we had become one.

On the final day of the trip, we had a band rehearsal where we got to see how much everybody had improved. Then we practiced our marching to prepare for our upcoming Santa Claus parades.

I as well as other members of the band had a great time throughout the entire weekend. "It was the best band camp of the three I went on!" said Honour Band president Lorne McLeod. The band improved drastically over the weekend and felt prepared for our upcoming performances.

I look forward to seeing how our band progresses throughout the rest of the year and am excited for my final year as an Honour Band member.

Juvenile Boys Win Soccer League

By Eric Duffield



Somehow, after two years of losing every single soccer game, the Royal West Academy juvenile boys won their division. This year they were placed in the Division 3, but it was a combined team of midget and juvenile since there weren't enough players. Winning the league, even in the third division, is still a great accomplishment.

One very exciting game was the semifinals against Bialek High School as this was a very stressful and tight game. Bialek scored first and held a 1-0 lead for almost the entire game. The game was uneventful until the last couple of minutes when a penalty shot was called against Bialek. Top scorer and MVP Olivier Morin buried the ball into the back of the net, tying the score. The game went on into overtime and ended without any further goals.

That meant penalty shots. Royal West Academy took the first shot and it was saved by the opposing goalkeeper. Luckily, our star goalkeeper Jack Tessari made an incredible save to keep the score tied. Both teams scored on all their shots until John Rennie's fourth shot where once again, Jack made a great save. All RWA had to do was score one more goal—and that is what they did, putting us through into the finals.

Another very exciting game was the finals, when Royal West Academy faced off against John Rennie High School, our biggest rivals. During the regular season, RWA won once and lost once against them.





The game was very tight and the two teams were evenly matched. Both teams were determined to win and play was very physical. At one point one of the RWA players even took out the opposing goalie, meriting a yellow card.

Royal West Academy's captain Christopher Coluni scored a goal at the start of the game, but soon after that John Rennie scored to tie the game. The score remained 1-1 during the rest of the game and the tension rose.

Finally, in the second period of overtime, Olivier Morin once again saved the day with an amazing shot that went over the goalie and into the top corner. Three minutes later the whistle was blown and the RWA boys won their first soccer banner in a very long time.

Royal West Academy went undefeated on their home field, and their only loss out of the eight games they played was against John Rennie. They could not have had such a successful season without the amazing coaching of Ms. Belina and help from our two managers.

Governing Board Report

By Ms. Fotini Markopoulos, Chair

The last Royal West Academy Governing Board meeting took place on November 20. Our two community representatives, Dr. Mahesh C. Sharma and Ms. Elysia Bryan-Baynes were welcomed and thanked for their dedication and commitment to our school.

Explanations of the Management and Educational Success Agreement (MESA), Grille-Matières, and 240 Renewal Application were given, followed by the approval from the RWA Governing Board.

The 2019-2020 Criteria for Principal Selection was adopted and a Budget Update was provided.

Our next meeting will be held on January 22, 2019.

On behalf of the RWA Governing Board, we wish the entire Royal West Academy Community happy holidays and may 2019 bring health and happiness to you and your loved ones!

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

December 3	Home & School meeting @ 7:30 PM
Dec 3–6	Food \$ Toy Drive
December 6	Holiday Concert
December 7	Pedagogical Day
Dec 10–14	MindPOP Science
Dec 10–14	Tyndale Week
December 12	RWA Foundation meeting @ 7 PM
Dec 17–20	Musical: <i>Hoedown</i>
Dec 24–Jan 4	Holiday season
January 7	Pedagogical Day
January 11	Variety Show
January 14	Home & School meeting @ 7:30 PM
Jan 14–18	MindPOP History
January 17	Winter Concert
January 21	Sec I Parents Seminar @ 7 PM
January 22	Winter Carnival
Jan 28–Feb 1	Mid-Year Exams

RWA



News

Editor

Ronald Pau (RWA alumni parent)

Assistant Editor

Naomi Zukerman (Sec V student)

Assistant Editor

Julia Baran-Polansky (Sec IV student)

Junior Assistant Editor

Daniella Maclean (Sec 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.





CSEM Nutrition et services alimentaires
EMSB Nutrition and Food Services



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.



Royal West Academy PRESENTS/PRÉSENTE

HOEDOWN



WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY / ÉCRIT ET RÉALISÉ PAR **Douglas Fleen**

MUSIC, VOCAL DIRECTION & ORCHESTRATION BY / MUSIQUE, RÉALISATION VOCALE ET ORCHESTRATION PAR **Chris Barillaro**

ASSOCIATE MUSICAL DIRECTOR
RÉALISATRICE MUSICALE ASSOCIÉE **Kyla Smith**

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHER
CHORÉGRAPHE DE DANSE **Jenny Rizzo**

COSTUME AND SET CO-ORDINATOR, PRODUCER, FACULTY ADVISOR
COORDINATRICE DE DÉCOR ET COSTUMES, PRODUCTRICE, CONSEILLÈRE DE FACULTÉ **Erika Kuch**

DECEMBER 17·18·19·20 7:30PM
DECEMBRE 17·18·19·20 19H30

15\$ ADULTS • 10\$ SENIORS AND STUDENTS • 5\$ MONDAY STUDENTS NIGHT (THE 17TH)
ADULTES • ÂGE D'OR ET ÉTUDIANTS • LUNDI SOIR ÉTUDIANTS (LE 18)

WINE & CHEESE
VIN ET FROMAGE

20\$ ADULTS AND SENIORS • 15\$ STUDENTS
ADULTES ET ÂGE D'OR • ÉTUDIANTS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 6:45PM • PERFORMANCE AT 7:30PM
JEUDI 20 DÉCEMBRE, 19H45 • PERFORMANCE À 19H30

