

RWA



News

WWW.ROYALWESTACADEMY.COM

FEBRUARY 2015

Un mot de l'administration

Mr. Tony Pita, Principal

Mme Nathalie Cheff, Vice-Principal

Ms. Chantal Juhasz, Vice-Principal



Comme vous le savez déjà, on ne s'ennuie jamais à l'académie Royal West!

Nous aimerions souligner le retour de Mme Partington qui remplacera Mme Fogel qui nous quitte pour commencer son congé de maternité. Nous souhaitons à cette dernière et à sa famille santé et bonheur!

Durant les examens de janvier, nos élèves de secondaire V ont écrit leur examen de français langue seconde du ministère de l'Éducation. Cinq de nos élèves ont reçu la note parfaite de 100 % dans les trois compétences soit en écriture, lecture et discussion.

Nous aimerions féliciter Jessica Muha, Alexandra Paquette, Ashley Saad, Charlotte Ouimet et Massimo Vatisas pour ce bel exploit! Nous sommes très fiers de vous! D'autant plus, nous applaudissons le travail exceptionnel de nos enseignants de français qui ont, au fil des ans, bien préparé nos élèves à travers notre programme d'immersion enrichie!

L'intense froid hivernal n'a pas empêché nos élèves de s'amuser dans la neige! Du 3 au 6 février, 138 élèves de secondaire II ont bravé la température extrême pour skier à Stoneham et glisser sur tubes à Valcartier (*voir page 4 pour les détails*), tandis que nos élèves de

secondaire V en ont profité pour faire les touristes à New York! Tout le monde a eu beaucoup de plaisir! Nous levons notre chapeau aux organisateurs et aux chaperons pour avoir accompagné ces groupes!

La Semaine de l'appréciation des employés en enseignement a eu lieu à RWA la semaine du 9 février. Tout le personnel a eu droit à de nombreuses gâteries telles qu'un court massage, un déjeuner, des collations, des smoothies et un diner incroyable! Disons que nous avons été très choyés! Nous voulons remercier les parents du Home & School et tous les bénévoles qui ont travaillé très fort pour nous faire sentir appréciés!

Cette année, nous avons décidé de combiner le Salon des inventions (*voir page 4 pour les détails*) et l'Expo-sciences. Le premier événement a eu lieu le 11 février et on a pu constater l'ingéniosité et l'originalité de nos plus jeunes élèves de l'école! Plusieurs se sont démarqués par leur enthousiasme et leurs efforts! L'Expo-sciences s'est déroulée le lendemain, c'est-à-dire le 12 février. Nous avons eu environ 450 participants qui ont travaillé très fort pour nous présenter un projet avec démarche et contenu scientifiques. De plus, à la remise des prix, nous avons eu le privilège de recevoir M. Marc Garneau, astronaute et député fédéral.

Durant la relâche scolaire du 2 au 6 mars 2015, les élèves du Honour Band auront la chance de se retrouver sous le soleil de Cuba et le Comité environnemental visitera de son côté le Costa Rica. Nous leur souhaitons chacun du beau temps chaud et un voyage sécuritaire!

Dès notre retour de congé, les bulletins seront distribués aux élèves en classe le 10 mars 2015, et les entrevues parents-enseignants se dérouleront le 12 mars, de 15 h 15 à 17 h 15 et de 19 h à 21 h 30. Autres dates importantes à retenir : journée pédagogique le 13 mars 2015, un après-midi



pédagogique le 18, en plus d'une autre journée pédagogique le 19 mars. Veuillez noter que la troisième étape durera plus de trois mois. Si votre enfant éprouve des difficultés, on vous demande de communiquer régulièrement avec ses enseignants. Le meilleur moyen de communiquer avec ces derniers demeure le courriel. Toutes les adresses se retrouvent sur le site Web de l'école.

À l'automne, nous avons changé les fenêtres du West Wing afin d'améliorer et d'entretenir notre édifice. Débutant en mars 2015, notre école fera partie d'un

projet d'économie d'énergie avec ESCO (un investissement de 1,5 million \$) pour :

- optimiser et réduire notre consommation d'énergie (réduction de 202,4 tonnes de gaz à effet de serre);
- améliorer l'environnement de l'école;
- économiser des coûts d'énergie.

Nous changerons donc notre système de chauffage (chaudières, ventilation au 102 et points de contrôle numériques) et notre mode d'éclairage (en DEL) pour des modèles plus récents et efficaces.

SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

Buy a ticket now—you could be a winner in this year's RWAFF raffle! Here's what a previous winner had to say about their experience winning in the 2013 raffle:

Alfred Bishai, winner of the grand prize (15 pairs of Habs tickets)

Well as a hockey lover and a player as a kid, I grew up without having been to the old Forum for a hockey game until I was 17 or so.

Winning these tickets was a HUGE thrill for me and being able to take my girls to a game in THOSE seats was amazing. The seats are between the blue line and red line. It's a great view with no obstructions at all. Plus not worrying about the insane prices at the Centre Bell (because food and drink are included) was a relief!! But the best was being able to spend precious moments with my girls.

One of the best moments happened during one of Saku Koivu's last games. He was playing really well and the fans kept chanting his name every time he was on the ice—it was amazing.

It was truly worth the \$40 I spent on my raffle ticket, and it was for a great cause to benefit my daughter's school! THANK YOU RWAFF!



The Raffle for 2015–2016 Canadiens Season Tickets. For only \$40 we are offering you the chance to win a pair of tickets in the Desjardins section (free food!). First prize is a pair of tickets for 15 games, second prize gets you two tickets to 10 games, and third, fourth, and fifth prizes are 7 games, 5 games, and 5 games, respectively.

This year we are also offering a 55" HD LED TV and a pair of Giant Bicycles for the sixth and seventh prizes. Eighth prize is 2 three-day passes to the 2015 Osheaga festival.

We have 4500 tickets to sell. We need every family at Royal West Academy to sell at least 5 tickets! Please purchase tickets online at www.rwaf.ca, or if you need multiple tickets to sell to friends and family, go to <http://rwaf.ca/shop/raffle-tickets/canadiens-hockey-raffle-2015-16-season> and click on the "consignment" link. Tickets can also be picked up from the school office.

Un rappel à tous à propos de l'uniforme : nous demandons bien sûr à tous les élèves de porter l'uniforme tel qu'il est indiqué dans les règlements de l'école, en plus d'arriver et de quitter en portant l'uniforme en tout temps, même s'il fait un froid arctique! Enfin, en juin 2015, il y aura une nouveauté à

l'uniforme d'éducation physique : un short plus confortable fait de matériel dry-fit sera disponible pour tous au magasin de l'école.

SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

(continued)

Here's what another previous winner had to say about their experience winning in the 2013 raffle:

Nathalie Bendavid, winner of the second prize

How did I turn my RWAFF raffle winnings from hockey tickets into a Caribbean cruise?

One day last year, I received a phone call from a very friendly guy named Kirk, representing the Royal West Academy Foundation, advising me that I had won a prize in the RWAFF raffle. Lovely, I thought, fantastic, what did I win? Frankly, I didn't even remember the raffle tickets I had purchased. I was so grateful to RWA for the quality of education they provide that whenever they asked for a donation, I was only too happy to oblige.

Kirk informed me that I had won hockey tickets. I turned to my ten-year-old and said, "Honey, you are going to a hockey game with your dad." He was clearly thrilled. I was deflated because I don't really like hockey.

I then asked Kirk to hand the tickets to my daughter as I didn't see why I had to come and pick them up. However, he insisted that I had to sign an official Loto-Québec document before collecting my prize. I thought that was a bit much for hockey tickets; after all, how much could they be worth, \$20? I agreed and said I would come in to collect them when I had time. In retrospect, he must have thought I was rather pretentious and NUTS!

I went back to work and forgot all about my prize. Later that day I told my husband that I had won some hockey tickets and that they wanted me to go sign a Loto-Québec form to accept them. I remember asking him whether he thought that was ludicrous or not. Well, I got an earful then. Apparently, hockey tickets do not cost \$20, and he was very aware of the available prizes and their actual value, as he had also purchased raffle tickets. That was when I realized that my prize had a significant value.

Well, well, well! I sold those tickets and used the money to take my family on a cruise. So for me, the prize was not hockey tickets, it was a CARIBBEAN CRUISE! What will it be for you?

You can play a part!

We are always looking for volunteers to join the RWA Foundation. No matter your experience or time available, everyone can play a role. If you have any questions or fundraising ideas, contact Jasmin Uhthoff, Vice-President, at rwafoundation@gmail.com or visit us at <http://rwaf.ca>.

Make a donation! Just go to our website at <http://rwaf.ca> and give what you can. Every donation takes us closer to transforming our 80-year-old auditorium into a state-of-the-art Performing Arts Centre for our children.



Invention Convention

By Kayley Hussein

Yes, Invention Convention time has come and gone. Secondary I students at Royal West Academy had been working on their projects since early October. In groups of two or three, they worked on creating new inventions that they thought the world was missing. They created a completely new object or enhanced an already existing invention.

First of all, they had to plan out all the steps needed to create their products in their *Cahier de Charges*, which is what mechanics and professional inventors use to plan out the process of building objects. This step took four months to properly complete and finalize. Next, the actual invention had to be made as well as the poster board to advertise the product. The team also had to create an oral presentation for the day of the Invention Convention, February 11.

Based on how complex the invention was and the various details of the board and oral presentation, many long hours had to be devoted to the project. The time needed varied but some projects took as long as 20 hours.

teach students how to advertise, and to even help kids learn more about the fascinating world of simple machines. These projects challenged the mind!



The auditorium, where the convention was held, was packed within the first ten minutes—and not just with Secondary I presenters. The numbers grew with parents, teachers, and classes from older grades. Being one of the Secondary I inventors, this experience was, for me, amazing and educational. The Invention Convention gave students a great opportunity to show off their creative side, their scientific minds, and their marketing skills. The results were unbelievable!

Secondary II Ski Trip: Stoneham

By Matthew Ciarlelli



The Stoneham ski trip was an amazing experience filled with joy, laughter, challenges, and accomplishments.

On the first day of the trip, we all woke up in our usual households knowing we would be living elsewhere for the next four days. We got to school at 7:30 AM and left for Stoneham at 8:30 AM. We had three hours of highway ahead of us to get to the hotel. During the bus ride, we all learned something about each other and some of us made new friends. Upon arrival at the hotel, we all got clear instructions on where our rooms were and what time to be out and ready to go skiing. When we got to the ski hill, we met our instructors and skied for two and half hours. The best part of that day was after we had eaten dinner, when we went tubing at Valcartier and had a blast with our friends.



So many brilliant ideas were brought to the Invention Convention. Here are a few examples: animal feeders, products to make life easier for the elderly, new and well-thought-out games, and even a contraption that removes your shirt if you have difficulties. The purpose of the Invention Convention was to help students educate themselves and others about the endless possibilities of creativity combined with science, to





The next day started off with an excellent breakfast followed by three hours of skiing during which we learned and progressed even more. At noon, we all met at the cafeteria for a well-deserved lunch, because three hours of skiing made us very hungry. After lunch, we returned to the ski hill for another three hours of lessons. The night began with a dinner followed by karaoke. We all sang, danced, and certainly laughed throughout the whole evening.

The third day of the trip was, in my opinion, the most memorable of all because not only did we ski all day with our group and instructors, but we also went night skiing with our closest friends. Night skiing was an exciting part of the trip because not many of us get the opportunity to do it often. It was a little colder skiing at night, but I don't think any of us really minded, we were having too much fun. The trails were all lit up so the scenery was absolutely beautiful.

The last day was bittersweet. We skied all day and had a great time as usual but we were all a little sad that it was ending. Once we finished skiing, we had dinner and we all said our goodbyes as we all went our separate ways to our assigned buses.

Overall, this trip will be a memory that we will someday be shared with our kids and grandchildren. It is a memory that will stay with us for the rest of our lives and that we will cherish forever.

A big thank you is deserved for our dedicated and amazing teachers—Mme Cheff, Mme Roy, Ms. Belina, Ms. Thomasson, Mme Bourdeau, Mr. Thomasson, M. Nemeth, and Mr. Northey—for making this an amazing trip that not only will we remember as individuals but also for a trip that has bonded the Secondary II students in a very special way.

Leadership Winter Experience

By Mr. Jeff Bateman

The Leadership winter experience on January 20–21 at Jouvence in Orford was not really “camping”!





The two-day activity camp was designed to expose the PE Leadership students to activities that would enable them to employ some of the skills they had acquired and honed during the school year. For example, GPS tracking, construction of survival shelters and fires, and sled-building, were just a few of the activities the students participated in.

The weather cooperated, offering a very wintry experience for us to endure. Temperatures were low, spirits were high, and memories were made while expanding experiences and friendships.

Games, music, and a large fire in the common room helped warm the bodies and minds of the students after a spirited pick-up game of broomball.

A huge thank you to Mme Roy and Mr. Aiken for giving up time with their families to accompany Mr. Bateman on this adventure!

RWA Robotics at CRC Actimania

By Alex Ohayon

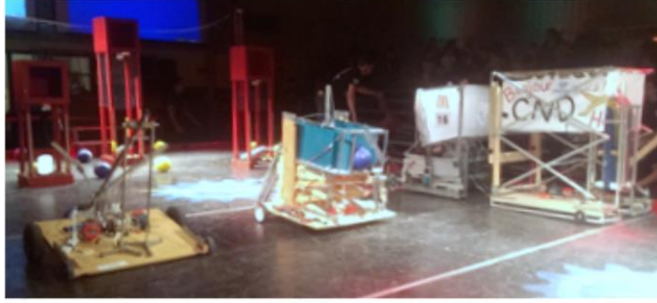


During the long weekend of February 12–14, while most people were at home relaxing, the Royal West Academy Robotics Club was at the 2015 CRC competition with 30 other schools.

This year the competition was about picking up balls and putting them into corresponding baskets. There were three different types of switches—a teeter-totter, a button, and a wheel—all of which must be activated by the robot. Each of the three different baskets of different heights corresponded to a switch.

The robot we built used a conveyer belt to pick up the balls and a scissor lift to bring them up to the

corresponding basket heights. Not only was building this robot a challenge, but driving it was just as hard.



Royal West Academy made it to 12th place out of 31 teams. In my opinion, this was quite an improvement over last year. But the competition is not meant to be competitive. It's a very friendly competition. Teams help each other and everyone is there for the common goal of having fun.



We plan to compete again in next year's robotics CRC competition. Students in Secondary III, IV, and V are welcome to join next year. We will however be losing a member that has been a part of Robotics Club since the beginning, Jonathan Bijeau. Jonathan will be graduating this year and we plan to compete against him next year as he will certainly be there with his college.

If you would like to see the highlights of this year's competition, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TwbJnw-5Cs.

A special thank you to Mr. Munro, Mr. Nemeth, Ms. Henriquez, and Mr. Northey for helping out.

Breast Cancer Committee

By Leah Tracey

Breast cancer is sadly one of the most common and horrible diseases there are these days in Canada. Believe it or not, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation estimated that in 2014 alone, around 24,000 women and 210 men would be diagnosed with breast cancer. It was also estimated that 5000 women and 60 men would die from this disease.

The breast cancer mortality rate peaked in 1986, but thankfully since then it has been decreasing. Specialized advancements in technology are what have been helping this decreasing mortality rate. These advancements are all thanks to the great fundraising that people do for this cause.

At the beginning of the 2014–2015 school year, two Royal West Academy students, Miranda Lalla (Secondary III) and Jayme Rothstein (Secondary IV), wanted to help make a change. These girls started up the Breast Cancer Committee here at RWA.



The RWA Breast Cancer Committee is made up of approximately 35 students from Secondary III and IV, who attend multiple meetings every month to discuss the progress and upcoming events of the committee.

So far this year, this committee has organized multiple events, including Candy Grams (on Halloween); a raffle sponsored by MAC Cosmetics, Starbucks, and DAVIDsTEA; and Menchie's Frozen Yogurt. The committee has already raised approximately \$1000, with all of its funds going to the Cedars Cancer Institute.

The Committee is now in the process of planning its biggest event yet at RWA: the Breast Cancer Committee's show, "I Am Strong". This event will take

place on April 2, 2015, at 7 PM, at Royal West Academy. It will include the performances of 32 RWA students, a raffle, a bake sale, refreshments, and a bracelet sale.

The whole committee hopes that this event will be a great success and wishes that as many people as possible will come out and show their support for this great cause!

The Governing Board Report

By Mr. Kirk Kelly, Chair, Governing Board

This will be a short report this month though a lot has been going on at Governing Board.

At its previous meeting held in January, the Governing Board decided on a new format for the minutes of each meeting that involved a good deal of detail about the discussions that took place on each issue before a final vote was taken. The intent was to provide a better record of the meetings so that parents, teachers, and students, would better understand the Board's positions.

In the meeting of February 11, the Board revisited its decision and decided, now that it was looking at the detailed minutes of the January meeting that ran to ten pages, to revert to the old format of having only the motions and the votes recorded. Key concerns were that Board members taking unpopular positions might be stigmatized and that the longer form of the minutes did not conform to the sample format provided by the EMSB. The discussion will likely be taken up again in the future.

If you have an opinion on whether minutes should be short and to the point, or detailed enough that non-Board members can understand the workings of the Board, please let me know at kirkkelly@sympatico.ca.

The subcommittee created to examine the possibility of setting up a portal for Royal West Academy presented a progress report. A number of possible solutions have been examined and some preliminary testing was done. Mr. Pita suggested that the subcommittee work closely with the Director of IT for the EMSB as he is also studying the issue of a portal solution for all EMSB schools. The committee agreed.

The subcommittee then proposed a roadmap for the next three months, with the goal of having a concrete

recommendation for the Board by the end of this academic year. Some of the key steps include:

- i) Establish a governance framework for the project. Identify key stakeholders in each of the user communities: sponsor, teaching staff, administrative staff, students, parents, and EMSB.
- ii) Establish first draft of functional and non-functional requirements for the solution.
- iii) Determine which solutions to consider.
- iv) Organize live demonstrations of the viable solutions. Update requirements based on what was learned from the demos.
- v) Finalize selection criteria and weighting.
- vi) Independent testing by the stakeholders. Establish a mechanism for collecting stakeholder feedback. Collect and consolidate feedback from stakeholders.
- vii) Analyze the results.
- viii) Prepare a formal recommendation:
 - 1) Ideal technical solution
 - 2) Implementation/training recommendations
 - 3) New roles/responsibilities (e.g., teacher support, parent support, etc.)
- ix) Table subcommittee final report at the May 2015 Governing Board meeting.

Efforts to set up a life skills course for students in Secondary V continue. Some preliminary discussions have been held in the Contemporary World area to assess the practicality of setting aside four to eight classes for Life Skills. One key advantage of having the Life Skills material in the Contemporary World course is that the course is mandatory for all Secondary V students. Not all teachers have had a chance to weigh in yet so the discussions are ongoing.

The review of the trip policy requested by the Board is also progressing. Ms. Purdy has summarized the key issues that need to be addressed and the Staff Council has begun to discuss them. Once the Council has recommendations, they will be sent to the Board for discussion.

Every year, the Board is required to prepare a document that sets out the criteria for the selection of a principal at Royal West Academy. This document is used by the EMSB whenever it is necessary to appoint a new principal. If you think of it as an insurance policy, you would be on the right track. The document only

exists in case it is needed, not because the Board intends to switch principals at RWA every year.

Finally, the Board began to work on the Budget Building Process for next year's budget for the school board. Each year, the Ministry sets goals for the school networks, touching on things like academic achievement, retention, safety and security, professional development, etc. The school board in turn consults with the schools to determine the best ways for the whole school network to achieve those goals, given the material and budget constraints in effect.

In the not too distant past, schools were asked what it was that the Board should do with additional resources: more librarians, more books, fix buildings, etc. For the last few years, schools are asked what it is that they are currently doing that they do not want to see cut. Each school is limited to five choices. The Board assumes that you might, grudgingly, accept cuts to whatever activities you don't list.

The tentative priority list for Royal West Academy for the 2015–2016 budget year follows:

- 1) Frontline support for students through adequate student services staff, guidance counselors, and addiction counselors;
- 2) IT technical support including support for a student-parent-teacher portal and ensuring the effective functioning of both hardware and software;
- 3) Pedagogical technology support to assist teachers with content creation and integration of the available technology tools into pedagogy;
- 4) Devolve professional development budgets to Royal West Academy to ensure training is appropriate to our special programs and the needs of our teachers;
- 5) Fully fund pedagogical support materials.

The Board is soliciting feedback on the priority list from students and teachers, and intends to return to the discussion of budget priorities in its next meeting.



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

Feb 25–Mar 6 Honour Band trip: Cuba

Feb 25–Mar 7 Environment Committee trip:
Costa Rica

Mar 2–6 March Break

Mar 11 Governing Board meeting @ 7 PM

Mar 12 Parent-Teacher interviews
(3:15–5:15 PM & 7:00–9:30 PM)

Mar 13 Pedagogical Day

Mar 16 RWA Foundation meeting @ 7 PM

Mar 18 Pedagogical Day (afternoon only)

Mar 19 Pedagogical Day

Mar 20 Dance Show

Mar 23–27 Secondary III trip: Washington DC

Mar 27 Pedagogical Day (tentative)

RWA



News

Editor

Ronald Pau (RWA parent)

Assistant Editor

Sophie Sun (Secondary V student)

Junior Assistant Editor

Yi Sen Wang (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.





Alissa Sklar, Ph.D. runs risk(within)reason, a Montreal consultancy project focused on kids, technology and risky behaviours. Dr. Sklar has a Ph.D. in communications and cultural studies, taught in the Communication Studies Department at Concordia University and worked in the field of adolescent risk prevention at McGill University. In addition to her academic and consulting work, Dr. Sklar is a multiple award winning feature writer, with a particular interest in parenting, youth and digital technology issues. For more information, please visit www.risk-within-reason.com



Raising Your Child as a Digital Citizen: A FREE Workshop for Students and Their Parents

Presentation and discussion with Alissa Sklar, Ph.D.

- Learn what it means to raise a “digital citizen”
- Understand how technology use has changed the way kids socialize, do schoolwork and sleep
- Set up effective household rules to complement what they are learning in school
- Create and enforce reasonable limits on use of digital devices
- Keep your kids talking to you about what’s on their mind and what’s happening at school
- Build positive online “footprints” for future school and job applications
- How to (mostly) stop worrying by being prepared.

Join us for a practical discussion about what you should know when it comes to kids and digital technology, and what you can do to promote safe, responsible, creative and productive use of these wonderful tools.

Wednesday, April 22

19:00 – 21:00

Royal West Academy Auditorium

Recommended for Secondary 1, 2 & 3

Students of all grade levels and their parents are welcome!

Please register in advance, by email: rwaadmissions@emsb.qc.ca



Royal West Academy