

RWA



News

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FEBRUARY 2016

A Word From The Administration

Mr. Tony Pita, Principal

Ms. Chantal Juhasz, Vice-Principal

Mr. Steven Manstavich, Vice-Principal



During January, Royal West Academy Secondary V students wrote the Ministry exams for *français langue seconde*. We would like to congratulate Shannon Greisman, Isaac Lefebvre, and Gabriella Spiegler, who all received marks of 100% on all three competencies (écriture, lecture, and discussion)! We are very proud of this impressive accomplishment! We would also like to recognize the efforts of all our French teachers, whose dedication over the years in the RWA enriched immersion program, has so well prepared our students.

The late arrival of winter did not stop our Secondary II Ski Trip to Stoneham, QC. Over 140 students attended the trip, which took place on February 3–5. Students skied and tubed over the course of the three days. A good time was had by all!

The Secondary V Trip to New York City departed Montreal one day earlier, and over 170 students profited from visits to the United Nations, Museum of Modern Art, and Metropolitan Museum of Art as well as Broadway and off-Broadway productions.

Meanwhile, on February 4–5, Mr. Bateman's Secondary IV Leadership students took part in a Winter

Camp getaway, during which they participated in a variety of outdoor activities focused on developing their leadership skills.

Staff Appreciation Week took place on February 8–12. Big thanks go out to the members of RWA Home & School Association, who coordinated a number of amazing events, including seated-massage sessions for staff members, luncheon for staff on Tuesday, and breakfast on both Wednesday and Thursday of that week. Thank you very much to all of the parent volunteers who donated time and/or food to these events. Teachers and staff appreciated these efforts very much, and felt very appreciated themselves!

Salon des inventions and Science Fair took place on February 10 and 11, respectively. This year, both events were held in the New Gym, which allowed all Science Fair projects to be set up in one, central location. Secondary I students presented their inventions to their RWA peers during the morning periods that Wednesday. Congratulations to all Secondary I students who participated and a BIG Thank You to our Secondary I science teachers: Ms. Orlando, Ms. Kissin, and Mr. Ohayon.

The next day, nearly 400 students presented their Science Fair projects to judges, parents, elementary school students, and members of the general public. The projects were fantastic and the calibre of scientific inquiry demonstrated by our students was, once again, awe-inspiring! Special guest Dr. Joe Schwarcz provided an interesting talk on the importance of asking the right questions and drawing accurate conclusions. Thank you to Ms. Pevec, the Science Fair Coordinator! Also, thanks to all the science teachers who helped students as advisors in the lead-up to the fair as well as the laboratory technicians and support staff, without whom the Science Fair would not be possible.





This year's Exchange Program saw a group of Secondary III students, along with Mr. Diacoumacos, Mr. Vamvakas, and Ms. Westlake, off to India for nearly three weeks! Having departed on February 13, these students and their chaperones visited numerous locations in India, including the Taj Mahal and our host school. Thank you to the chaperones for your time; everyone involved had a safe and rewarding trip!

In February, Secondary I student Kayla Marcovecchio was awarded the high school prize for her video *What does education mean to me*, which was submitted by her teacher, Ms. Chawki, to a competition held by the Leadership Committee for English Education in Quebec (LCEEQ). Kayla's video—which can be seen at www.facebook.com/RoyalWestAcademyHighSchool/videos/564903183664267/—was presented at the LCEEQ's recent conference, among nearly 180 other videos that were submitted in the competition. Congratulations Kayla and Ms. Chawki!

Parent-Teacher Night is coming up on March 10, 2016. The two sessions are at 15:15 PM–17:15 PM and 19 PM–21:30 PM. Please note that these session times

are different than those that were offered last November.

In an effort to improve communication with our parents, RWA launched a pilot project on February 1 that automates homeroom attendance communication with parents. If a student is reported absent during homeroom, a parent will receive an automated call informing them of the absence. Some parents may have already informed the office of the upcoming absence as per RWA procedures. If that is the case, we appreciate your efforts to notify us. If a parent has not contacted the school, the message will ask that you call or email the RWA office to justify your child's absence. This system will only be used for homeroom attendance. Early dismissals or school activities later in the day will not activate the automated system.

Please note that, at this time, we are not able to adjust which phone numbers are called, but we will look into this option in the future. We welcome any feedback from parents in the coming weeks regarding this system. Adjustments may be made as we implement the system. If that is the case, we will continue to keep

you informed of these changes. Please feel free to email an administrator with your comments and/or concerns.

In an effort to improve safety and security, Royal West Academy will be holding a lockdown drill in the coming weeks. Parents should not be alarmed by this drill. This exercise is carried out at least once every year.

At their meeting on February 24, the Council of Commissioners of the EMSB unanimously passed a motion, put forward by RWA Commissioner Joseph Lalla, requesting funds under Measure 50511, for the addition of four classrooms, renovation to the school auditorium, and installation of an elevator. The EMSB is requesting funding of \$3,500,000 to complete this project. Although this is just an initial step, the RWA community would like to extend its gratitude to the Council of Commissioners and to senior management of the EMSB for their support of our continued efforts to improve the facilities at the disposal of our students and staff. We look forward to hearing from the Ministry in the coming months.

Now that Term 3 has begun, many of us have started thinking about year-end exams. Please note that these exams can begin as early as May 2016. Parents are asked to avoid scheduling appointments or summer vacations until they are certain that their child will not need to attend summer school (July 2016) or write supplemental exams (July 18–29, 2016). Additionally, parents should note that Term 3 is weighted at 60% of the final grade for a particular competency. Given the lengthy duration of this term (3½ months), if your child is experiencing difficulties, we encourage you to communicate regularly with their teachers. Email is the most efficient way of reaching teaching staff; email addresses can be found on the RWA website at www.royalwestacademy.com/?page_id=110. Teachers are listed by department.

Finally, Royal West Academy wishes a safe and restful March Break to all staff, students, and parents. Take some time to relax and regroup! The last four months of school will go by in a flash!

SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

By Ms. Sarah Goblot, RWA Foundation

A new auditorium for the school will open up possibilities in the performing arts and other creative endeavours. A modern facility of this kind will enable us to foster student talent in ways that are currently impossible given the outmoded structure and limited resources of our present auditorium space.

Since the auditorium campaign began, we have installed a new **light and sound system**, and provided training for students so they can take control of this system. We are currently in the process of negotiating the details around the new **air conditioning system**.



We would not be able to do this without the donations of the Royal West Academy community. So our thanks, and the thanks of our students, go out to you.

Our next big fundraiser is a professional performance of the second longest running off-Broadway show *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* at the Segal Centre on May 9, 2016. We have only a limited number of seats available. Tickets are \$65, but you get a \$25 tax receipt for each ticket purchased. Buy your tickets (before they are all gone) at <http://rwaf.ca/shop/tickets/i-love-you>.

One major fundraiser in support of the campaign is the biennial raffle, the top prize of which is **15 pairs of tickets to see the Canadiens** in the Desjardins section (unlimited food!). Here's a note from last year's winner, Andrew Robb (parent of Stefan Robb, Class of 2015):

Winning RWAFF raffle's second prize—10 pairs of tickets to the Montreal Canadiens home games—was probably the best family graduation gift we could have received! My son spent five great years at RWA, during which he became confident, excelled, matured, and made a ton of friends. Each time we go to a Habs game we are reminded of how truly fortunate he was to experience the RWA education. It has set him on a path of lifelong learning, discovery, and success. During his time at RWA, we were happy to contribute to the Foundation, knowing our support would make RWA an even better place for future students. The fact we won the tickets was icing on the cake! Now if only the Habs would win a bit more often...!

If you have any questions, would like to volunteer, or have any fundraising ideas, contact the foundation at rwafoundation@gmail.com. You can also make a donation at <http://rwaf.ca>.

Another Successful Science Fair

By Ms. Jennifer Pevec, RWA Science Fair Coordinator

Almost 400 Royal West Academy students from Secondary II to Secondary V participated in the 27th Annual Science Fair on February 11. This year, all the

projects were housed in the new gymnasium, where judges from both the academic and professional worlds evaluated the students' work during the morning. In the afternoon and early evening, the RWA Science Fair was opened up to the general public as well as students from nearby elementary schools.

The day ended with the awards ceremony, which included a special appearance by Dr. Joe Schwarcz, who gave a short speech and assisted in handing out awards. A full listing of award winners can be found on the RWA website at www.royalwestacademy.com/?p=3368.

Congratulations to all of this year's participants!

Leadership Winter Survival Camp

By Juliana Nunes



This year's Leadership camping trip happened on February 4–5 and was truly an amazing experience filled with laughter, joy, and many challenges at Camp Jouvence in Mont-Orford National Park. On the bus ride to the camp we were introduced to a game called *Assassin*, in which everyone was assigned someone they had to "kill", making the entire trip action-packed!

As soon as we arrived until the moment we left, we took part in team building activities. Although I could fill this article with how much I enjoyed each activity, some of my favourite games included sled building, team Arbraska, broomball, and GPS tracking. The enthusiastic animators and great teachers present at the camp (Mr. Bateman, Mme Roy, and Mme Moreau) that were kind enough to give us their time, made our one-of-a-kind stay and overall experience much more enjoyable.



Although our winter hasn't been very snowy, the weather was close to perfect for the entirety of our stay at Jouvence. As one of my good friends, Matthew Kis, described the camp on the bus ride back, "I enjoyed snowshoeing a lot, turning off our headlights, and looking up at the stars. It was beautiful and I had so much fun!"

A night group activity was organized for us on the night of February 4, when all of the students came together and gathered in the warm living room of our cabin next to the fireplace. We spent the majority of our time playing board games and making new friendships over interactive games such as Werewolf and Anomia. I have never felt so close to so many people at once and although we may have been there for as little as 48 hours, our two days and one night there were some of the most engaging and fun days that I have taken part in.

Mme Moreau said, "J'ai trouvé ce voyage fantastique! Toute la semaine j'étais heureuse. Je trouve que les élèves étaient très bon à s'organiser, cela m'a vraiment impressionnée."



Finally, to all the future students who are on the fence about taking Leadership: if you need something to convince you to choose this class as one of your two electives, then Jouvence is your answer. It is a thrilling adventure that will create friendships and bonds that will go beyond the classroom. I know that I had a great time and I'm sure most of the Leadership students will agree with me when I say that.

Shake-Scenes

By Ms. Gloria Koyounian



The Bardolators have been busy preparing Shake-Scenes.

This is an integral part of the Bardolators program for the senior Bards to practice blocking, dressing, and directing a key scene of a play taught at Royal West Academy in the ELA classrooms. It is an opportunity for students to teach their peers and spread the enthusiasm of Shakespeare throughout the school.

The Scenes are performed in Secondary I, II, and III classes. We have already started in the last week of February and will continue on into March.

*All the world's a stage, and all the men and
women merely players. They have their exits
and their entrances; And one man in his time
plays many parts
(As You Like It, Act II, Scene VII)*

Syrian Refugee Campaign

By Tyler Baum

Have you walked by the second floor west wing recently at Royal West Academy? Have you seen the long line-up of students at recess? Well, what everyone is lining up for is samosas!

Since the beginning of the year, teachers from the RWA English department have been selling samosas as part of their Syrian Refugee Campaign. Mr. Dufault, one of the teachers involved in the campaign, described the current conflict in Syria as "a humanitarian disaster that we haven't seen since the Second World War" and said that the teachers decided they wanted to help. Since then, samosas have been sold once a week in the second floor west wing hallway, for \$1.50 each or \$4 for three. All samosas were made at Maison Samosa Express in Ville Saint-Laurent.

Now that the campaign is over, the teachers raised nearly \$2000. This money was donated to three organisations:

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), and
- Réseau d'intervention auprès des personnes ayant subi la violence organisée (RIVO).

An additional \$1500 raised by RWA's Student Life Association during a Free Dress Day was also donated to MSF.



Selling samosas wasn't the only part of the campaign, though. In another effort to help Syrian refugees, both current and former RWA teachers sponsored two families from Syria, one of which is already in Montreal. Many donations, such as televisions, stoves, and winter jackets, have also been made to these families by RWA teachers, families, and students.

The RWA English department would like to thank everyone who contributed to this cause for their support and generosity over the past few months. Without the participation of the students, families, and other teachers at RWA, this campaign would not have been possible.

Samosas continue to be sold every Wednesday by the Social Justice Club. All proceeds are donated to various causes.

Debating Provincials

By Gabriel Coluni

On February 19–20, the Royal West Academy debate team participated in the annual debating provincials, hosted at Lower Canada College. Eight debate team members, including myself, competed against some of the best debaters in Quebec to fight for a spot at the

national debating tournament to be held in Saskatoon this year. Logan Stack won eighth best speaker in the senior debate category and will be going to the national tournament with his teammate, Caleb Foster. They came in fifth place as a team.

This year was my first time competing at the provincial level. I consider myself to be a fairly new member to the debating community and I felt this was an experience that would help me as a future debater. I participated in a couple of other debating tournaments at McGill University and Marianopolis College, but they do not come close to the provincials—the reason for this is because the schools participating bring only the best. I was honoured to be considered as one of RWA's best debaters even though I knew I wouldn't have a chance at winning any prizes! I asked Logan, a national level debater, if he thought he would be able to compete at the nationals this year and even he didn't think so. This shows how sometimes the underdog can come out on top.



Front row (from left): Logan Stack, Inés Gonzalez Pepe, Abigael Singer, Caleb Foster, Leiandros Kaklamanos (RWA graduate, judge).
Back row (from left): Daniel Mendelson, Gabriel Coluni, Jamie Fabian, Alexander Rona

In the end, the debating provincials was a moment in my life I won't forget. It was a great feeling being able to interact with different students who have the same interest as me. I would like to thank Ms. Koyounian and Mr. Manstavich for coming to the tournament and supporting us. I would also like to thank Ms. Holloway for making debate team possible, even after this year's labour situation. She has been such an influential factor in why I like debating so much and I feel this is the same for the other debaters.

RWA Alumni Association

By Ms. Sarah Goblot,
RWA Foundation

In memoriam

We are sad to announce the recent passing of Chloe Ann Haboush, class of 2005. Our deepest condolences go out to her family and friends.

Class reunions

Reunions for the classes of 1991 (25 years), 1996 (20 years), and 2006 (10 years) are still in discussion. More information will be available in upcoming editions of RWA News, including dates and contacts. To be kept up to date, contact alumni@rwaf.ca and/or join the MWHS-RWA Alumni Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MWHS.RWA.AlumniAssociation.



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 13–Mar 2	India exchange
Feb 24–Mar 5	Art trip: Europe
Feb 29–Mar 4	March Break
March 10	Parent-Teacher Interviews 15:15 – 17:30 PM & 19 – 21:30 PM
March 11	Pedagogical day
March 14	RWA Foundation meeting @ 7 PM
March 15–17	Musical: Vegas Bound
March 18	Pedagogical day (afternoon only)
March 18	Dance Show
March 21	Governing Board meeting @ 7 PM
March 24	Breast Cancer Fundraiser
March 25	Good Friday
March 28	Easter Monday

RWA

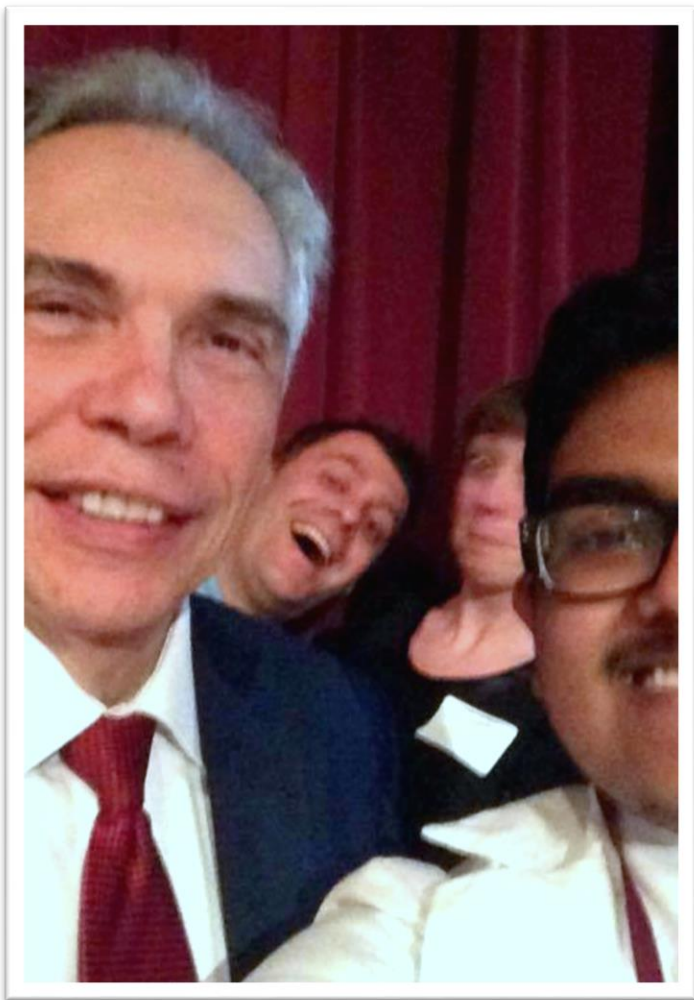


News

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





Make It A Habit!

The role you can play in protecting yourself and others online and offline

Make it a habit **ONLINE** to:

- ✿ Always add this line when sharing pictures electronically: "I do **not consent** to this picture being shared with anyone else."
- ✿ Get consent from a person before posting or sharing their picture (even if you are in the photo too).
- ✿ Ask to be untagged and to have posts taken down if you do not want the image online.
- ✿ Respect requests from others to be untagged or to take down posts.
- ✿ Avoid oversharing private information that you do not want shared with others.
- ✿ Carefully handle information others share with you. If it wasn't intended to be shared, don't share it.
- ✿ Consider yourself and others before sharing.

When a person is being mistreated by others:

Online

- ➔ Do not 'like' or forward harmful messages.
- ➔ Challenge hurtful messages with messages, such as "That's not cool" or "I think s/he is awesome," etc.
- ➔ Send a message to the person to see if they are okay and to let them know that how they are being treated is wrong.
- ➔ Message the person who is posting harmful content or images and let them know that what they are doing is not okay.
- ➔ Save a copy of the harmful correspondence of content and go to an adult who will help.

Offline

- ➔ Refuse to participate and remove yourself from the situation.
- ➔ Be kind and include that person in school groups, what you are doing at lunch, etc.
- ➔ Privately go to the person who is being mistreated and tell them that you don't agree with what is happening to them.
- ➔ Go to an adult to let them know what is going on.
- ➔ Anonymously report your concerns to an adult.



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Royal West Academy presents



Student Night
Tuesday March 15
Students 5\$
Seniors \$10 - Adults \$15

Wednesday March 16
Seniors & Students \$10 - Adults \$15
at 7:30 pm

Wine & Cheese Night
Thursday March 17
Performance at 7:30 pm
Wine & cheese served as of 6:30 pm
Tickets \$20

at the Marymount Adult Centre
5785 Parkhaven Ave, Côte St. Luc

An original
production by
Doug Floen

Directed by
Doug Floen

Music Direction
by Chris Barillaro