

RWA



News

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APRIL 2016

## A Word From The Administration

Mr. Tony Pita, Principal

Ms. Chantal Juhasz, Vice-Principal

Mr. Steven Manstavich, Vice-Principal



As the doldrums of grey winter finally leave us, the sun has begun shining upon us, and spring weather is in the air. As always, this portends the end of the school year. Students and staff are also beginning to think about and plan for the upcoming end-of-year exams.

During the week of April 4, Secondary III students participated in our annual grade level trip to Washington DC. Students had the opportunity to spend a full week visiting some of the most important sites in the city, including the Arlington National Cemetery, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and other historic landmarks. This trip allows students the opportunity to learn more about the cultural and political fabric of the United States through a first-hand look at the nerve-centre of American politics.

Sports are in full swing, and Royal West Academy has definitely had representation this year in the winter sports session. Congratulations must go out to our Girls Volleyball program for capturing the trifecta of championships, as the girls won Bantam, Midget, and Juvenile titles in the GMAA Winter League (*see page 9*). Our girls, however, would not have been able to achieve these results without the dedicated support of

our coaching staff. Mr. Mateus, Ms. Leech-Pepin, and Mr. Okpalugo all deserve credit for helping to prepare our amazing girls.

Congratulations should also go out to both our Midget and Juvenile Boys Badminton teams for finishing first in their respective leagues (*see page 10*). In individual play, the boys also achieved great success, including:

- Gold medals: Isaac Lefebvre, Paul Xie, Jesse Li, Jason Wang, Lucas Rasmussen
- Bronze medals: Josh Hum, Jordan Hum, Josh Berry

Thank you to Mr. Dufault for all of his hard work in helping to prepare our boys for competitive play.

During the weekend of April 9, four RWA students participated in the 2016 SEDA Canadian National Debate championships held in Saskatoon SK. Caleb Foster, Alex Rona, Logan Stack, and Daniel Mendelson all represented commendably both Royal West Academy and the province of Quebec. Thank you to Ms. Holloway for taking the time to work and help prepare our very talented students for this prestigious event. Her work and dedication to the team have been second to none!

Once again this year, we must acknowledge the efforts of our Parent Volunteers. On April 9–10, a number of parents gave their time once again to improve the physical appearance of our school (*see page 13*). Led by Mr. Mendelson and Ms. Cawthorn, volunteers undertook some impressive renovations to our Art Room 103. The volunteers also helped to repaint our Music Room 117, which was very much appreciated along with some touch-ups to the second floor hallway. Thank you to all the parent volunteers for the continued support of RWA. Your efforts have helped make our school a place we can all be proud of.



On April 15, three RWA students participated in the annual EMSB Public Speaking Competition. Royal West Academy is very proud of our representatives: Leia Khairy (Secondary I) and Kareem Brochu (Secondary III) who placed third, and Logan Stack (Secondary V) who received first prize. All three students represented RWA with distinction. Thank you very much to all the English Language Arts teachers that supported them as well as to Ms. Cukier and Mr. Dufault who helped to prepare the students for the tournament.

We are very proud to congratulate Alexandra Matos-Gerko (Secondary IV) on receiving the 2016 Merit Award offered by the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal (*see page 3*). The award is given on an annual basis to a student who shows a commitment to several facets of school life, including academics, cultural life, and the demonstration of leadership ability. Alexandra will now have the opportunity to participate for a full week, at no cost, in Encounters with Canada, the country's largest youth forum in our nation's capital.

Earth Week took place at Royal West Academy on April 18–22. Students and staff were busy organizing and participating in activities to raise awareness for this important cause. A variety of activities took place over the course of the week, including grade level assemblies, to raise awareness about environmental issues on April 20. On April 21, the Environment Committee hosted Nuit Verte, which took place in the school auditorium. The event was well attended and included art exhibits, musical performances, and poetry readings. Thank you to Ms. Suarez, Ms. Almeida, and Ms. Henriquez for all of their work, and to our environmentally committed students for their dedication to this important issue.

Forty-nine Secondary IV students taking the Enriched Biology course took part in the annual Marine Biology trip on April 26–29 at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre in Saint Andrews NB.

On April 27, Royal West Academy welcomed three guest speakers. Mr. Jason Novak (RWA Grad 2002), Ms. Jacqueline Stein (RWA Grad 2007), and Ms. Tiffany Hanskamp, who all work as lawyers for the De Grandpré Chait law firm, were kind enough to come to our school and visit with Mme Bourdeau's and Ms. Macleod's PPO classes. The purpose of the visit was

to discuss their insights and experiences, and to give students advice on how to stand out when going through the process of applying for a job as well as making career choices. They also discussed some of the procedures that are involved in applying to become a member of the Bar. After school, in Ms. Holloway's class, students were able to join them while they ran a Persuasive Argument workshop. Students were given the opportunity to develop their debating skills in front of a panel of professionals. Royal West would like to thank Mr. Novak, Ms. Hanskamp, and Ms. Stein for taking the time out of their busy schedules to join us. We would especially like to thank Ms. Anne Monereau, parent member of Royal West Academy's Governing Board, for taking the time to organize this event for our school.

The Home & School Association hosted our annual RWA Book Fair on May 3–4. Students used this opportunity to purchase books on their Summer Reading lists. Proceeds from this event go to support our School Library. Summer Reading lists can be found on the RWA website. Summer Reading books may also be available at your local library at no cost. The Montreal West Public Library offers a large selection of books from the 2016 Summer Reading list.

Just a friendly reminder for students who take public transit to and from school to remember that they represent Royal West Academy far beyond our walls. Please continue to use appropriate behaviour while travelling on buses and trains, ensuring that the community at large knows that Royal West truly is the best!

As the end of the school year approaches, please be aware that the last day of RWA cafeteria services will be May 31, 2016. The cafeteria will not be open during the last week of classes, nor during exams. Students are advised to bring their lunch or to make other arrangements for the period of June 1–20, 2016. The microwave ovens found in the cafeteria are available to students for use during this period.

Finally, documents detailing how to calculate a student's weighted average ([www.royalwestacademy.com/?page\\_id=2161](http://www.royalwestacademy.com/?page_id=2161)) and how to better understand moderation ([www.royalwestacademy.com/?page\\_id=2166](http://www.royalwestacademy.com/?page_id=2166)) are posted on



our RWA website. This information may be of interest and assistance to students and parents alike.

# SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

By Ms. Sarah Goblot, RWA Foundation

Only a few days left to buy your tickets for *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 \$30 tax receipt for each ticket purchased. **Buy your tickets today** at <https://rwaf.ca/shop/tickets/i-love-you/>.

Also coming up quickly is the **Ultimate Frisbee Challenge: Raw Disc Drive** on **May 14, 2016 at 2 PM** at Royal West Academy. This is a first time event for RWA and we're hoping to turn it into an annual event. The timing is perfect: the weather will be good (knock on wood) and it will be perfect for letting off steam just before exams. The ever-popular BeaverTails food truck will be there with their incredibly tempting goodies, and Dominos will be delivering pizza throughout the day. **Parents:** this is not limited only to students. Put together an adult team and challenge your kids. Let's show them what experience really means!

Planning has also started for the **Start of the Year (SOY) Celebration** on September 16, 2016 at 3 PM–7:30 PM. In addition to the great inflatable rides you've come to expect, we'll have Kangoo boots for you to try out along with Kangoo starter classes and a field for you to get hopping. If you would like to volunteer to help with the organizing and planning of the event, contact the Foundation at [rwafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:rwafoundation@gmail.com).

Purchase your **Fundscrip** cards for the summer, by going online at [www.fundscrip.com](http://www.fundscrip.com) and using the code WMSTBS.

## The Royal West Academy Foundation

The RWA Foundation is run by volunteer parents and is currently focused on transforming our over 80-year-old auditorium into a state-of-the-art Performing Arts Centre for our children. The auditorium plays a central

role in the academic life and extra-curricular activities at Royal West Academy.

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

## Women's Canadian Club of Montreal Merit Award

By Ms. Ellen Laughlin, Regional Coordinator, Encounters with Canada



Congratulations to Alexandra Matos, winner of the 2016 Merit Award offered by the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal. The award is given to a deserving student aged 14 to 17 years old, who excels academically and socially, who exhibits outstanding school and community involvement, and shows leadership ability.



Alexandra was awarded a week at Encounters With Canada, the country's largest youth forum. During the 2016–2017 academic year, Alexandra will join 140 other students from across Canada for a week in Ottawa. She will take part in exciting workshops, presentations, and outings that will help her learn more about her country, develop her leadership skills, and explore possible



future careers. She will choose from among a variety of different themed weeks including Science and Technology, Democracy and Youth, Communications and Social Media, Law, Medicine, Ecology, Sports, International Relations, and more.

## Secondary IV Field Trip: Montreal Museum Of Fine Arts



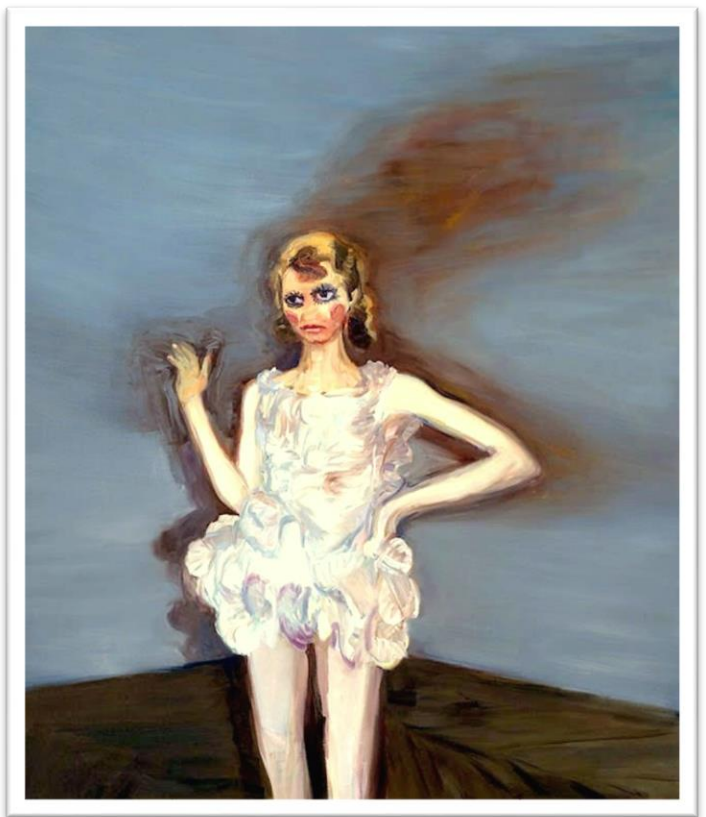
By Emma Ranalli

On March 23, Mr. Dufault's two Secondary IV classes took a field trip to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. The purpose of this visit was to find an artwork that we could then study and write a fine art response about. We left during third period to take the train downtown. Once we arrived at the Lucien-L'Allier train station, we took a nice walk through the downtown area of the city to finally arrive at our destination. We were free to go to the restaurant of our choice for lunch, then we met back at the museum to begin our visit. Once all gathered back at the museum to begin our visit, we all went our own way to find an artwork that we would like to study and do our art assignment on.

The fine art assignment assigned by Mr. Dufault was a very complex one that required lots of thought and reflection. Once our works of art had been selected, we had to observe it for a while and look at all the different aspects of the work. Then, we were required to spend about 15 minutes sketching out the work and filling out an art criticism handout. Finally, we had to write a response on the meaning of our artwork and discuss how this was shown through the piece.

The piece of art that I chose to work on and analyze through this assignment was a beautifully frightening painting called *Aging Ballerina Waving Goodbye* by Janet Werner. Werner places the women in her paintings in uncomfortable and troubling positions and exaggerates these women's features to make the audience question their ideals of beauty and where the fine line stands between pretty and ugly.

This mini field trip was a very enriching experience for all the students. Even though this visit only lasted a few hours, students had a chance to do an activity that they



may not have necessarily gone out and done on their own. Students could go visit artworks of all styles and eras and enjoy the beauty of the pieces in our local museum. "I especially enjoyed the contemporary art section of the museum," said Alexandra Matos, one of the students who went on the field trip.

## Art Trip

By George Hua



After much planning and discussing, this year's Art Trip to London and Paris is officially on! Despite the insufficient number of people, the trip's organizers (Ms. Henriquez and Ms. Suarez) were able to maintain the price for all students interested in going on the trip. The Art Trip will be on June 25–July 9, 2016. The goal of this trip is to enrich the students' knowledge, understanding and appreciation for art by exposing them to different cultures, languages, and histories of various ethnicities.

Amongst all the tourist attractions we'll be visiting, I'm especially looking forward to the London Eye, Stonehenge, Château de Versailles, Cimetière du Père Lachaise, and of course the Eiffel Tower.



At the biggest cemetery of Paris and the most visited cemetery in the world, we will be able to see the graves of many legends including Frédéric Chopin, Jim Morrison, and Oscar Wilde. As a classical pianist, I cannot be more excited about visiting Chopin's grave. It will be an unbelievable experience to be so close to this master of romantic music.

Stonehenge is something I have always wanted to go visit in person. Because of its long history of about 5000 years and its fascinating appearance, I cannot wait to be surrounded by these special monuments and to discover their hidden beauty.

Travelling to another country also means new food! French cuisine is regarded as a key element of the quality of life and the attractiveness of France. England is also known for its delicate and high-quality cuisine.

By going on this art trip, students wish to discover new cultures, different lifestyles, or simply a fresh atmosphere. As Secondary V student Karley McIlwaine said during an interview, "Europe's countries and cultures are so different from our own and it's an amazing opportunity to be exposed to something foreign." As we get a chance to become closer to our friends, we also wish to meet new people of different backgrounds. Talking to people from different countries is eye-opening, and may also let us discover more about our inner selves. Like all the other students going on this trip, I believe that this will be a memorable and unforgettable experience!

## Honour Band Trip: Toronto

By Vincent Levandier



During the weekend of April 15–17, the Royal West Academy Honour Band visited Toronto for their yearly trip. Although it was a trip that was close to home, it was still an amazing and unforgettable experience.

Our first stop was Bayridge Public School in Kingston ON. Once we arrived, we set up and performed a few pieces from our repertoire. The children enjoyed the music so much that they could be seen dancing in their seats. We enjoyed performing and



were very grateful to be able to play another concert in this shortened year.

The next day we visited the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto. One of the professors at the university, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, greeted us with open arms. For the 90 minutes, Dr. Reynolds taught us how to improve our sound quality. We learned a lot in those 90 minutes. After that clinic, the Honour Band was able to play better than they have all year long.

Then we started visiting many of Toronto's attractions. Over the next two days we visited places such as the CN Tower, Hockey Hall of Fame, Ripley's Aquarium, and the St. Lawrence Market. During the trip, all the members of the band began to bond and become much closer. By the time the trip was over we had become closer than ever.

We were also lucky enough to get a chance to see the Toronto Symphony Orchestra perform live. We arrived at the beautiful Roy Thomson Hall on April 16 and were extremely excited to see the show. We were treated to a wonderful hour filled with two amazing concertos that were composed by Bach and Shostakovich. It was a great musical experience for all of us and we greatly appreciated it.

The Honour Band's trip to Toronto was a huge success! It was filled with great experiences and lots of music. A big thanks to the chaperones and especially to Ms. Purdy for letting us experience this amazing trip!

## To Bard Or Not To Bard

By Kristina Nikolaou

Bardolators, conceived by Mr. Floen, is a group unique to Royal West Academy, in which students from Secondary I to V get together and perform two Shakespeare plays and scenes. Bardolators is an Extra Curricular Activity as well as an official class, and students who graduate from the program receive high school leaving credits.

"Shakescenes has been a core component from the day Bardolators was conceived. Bardolators was something he always wanted to do," says Ms. Koyounian, course facilitator and production co-ordinator for the group. Every year, the graduating Bards each get a chance to direct their own Shakescene. They get to choose the play, scene, and actors they want for their group. After practicing for a few weeks, presenting them to each other, and getting feedback, the Bards get to present to the English classrooms as a part of the ELA learning component. It is a very fun experience for those in the class, as afterwards they get to ask questions to make sure they understand the scenes, and even get to play fun games! This year's selections were *The Merchant of Venice*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The Shakescenes went exceptionally well. Secondary V students Caleb Foster and Dara Cunningham directed the *Romeo and Juliet*, Leela Shamash-Simard directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Joshua Rampersad directed *The Merchant of Venice*. *The Merchant of Venice* Shakescene also received positive feedback, especially regarding the characterization of the characters and the actors' ability to learn all their lines.

I played Shylock and had many lines to learn. At first, I was a bit worried, especially since I had much more lines than I was used to, but after a bit of practice I got comfortable with them. Lines aren't the only things to remember though! Blocking is also a crucial part. In my Shakescene there wasn't much to block, but every little movement, let it be pacing or motioning to one of the other characters, helped make the scene look more natural!

Characterization is one of the most important parts in a play, or in this case, a scene. There are so many ways to



play a role, and each way can change a scene drastically. Everyone in my Shakescene got together several times after school and during lunch, and had a chat on how we wanted to present our characters. We all decided to play our characters a bit differently than the usual portrayal, and it went flawlessly!



All in all, the Shakescenes this year were great; it couldn't have gone any better. To everyone in Royal West who enjoys Shakespeare: you should come and join Bardolators! We're always looking forward to having new members!

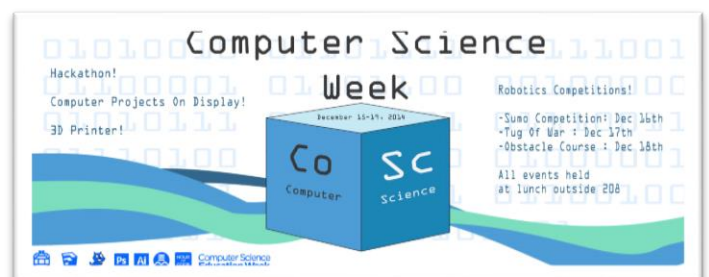
## Hackathon

By Jason Beccherini

On April 9, the first annual "Beta" Royal West Academy Hackathon took place and was a huge success!

A hackathon is an event in which a large number of people meet to engage in collaborative computer programming.

In our case, it was a six-hour event, open to all RWA students, where multiple teams raced against time to create and design a game in the language of their choosing. This year's theme was "choose your own adventure" and it was amazing to watch these students





create surprisingly beautiful and complicated games in such a short period of time.

This event was made possible by the Educational Technology Department of Royal West Academy and Mme Bourdeau. We are hoping to invite other EMSB schools to join in on next year's competition, which will take place at Royal West on December 9–10, 2016.

Hope to see you there!

## Encounters With Canada

By Kiara da Chao



Recently I had the opportunity to spend a week in Ottawa at Encounters With Canada. There I met other teenagers from across Canada and participated in engaging workshops.

This was a truly unforgettable experience. I learned so much about Canada and its provinces. After this trip I have a new appreciation for my country. Furthermore, I have made some valuable friendships with kind, bright, individuals from all across Canada. It was one of the best weeks of my life.

Encounters with Canada is a wonderful experience. I would like to thank the EMSB and its generous subsidy, which allowed me to participate in this remarkable experience that I will cherish as long as I live.

## Career Exploration Day

By Selena Laneuville

Career EXPO took place on April 15 at St. Pius X Career Centre. The EMSB organizes this yearly event to provide Secondary IV students with the chance of exploring vocational and technical training programs through fun workshops. Many students, myself included, did not know what to expect. However, everyone was pleasantly surprised by how much was learned and by how enjoyable the event was.

The exciting day started in the cafeteria at 8:20 AM where everyone was already buzzing with anticipation. After everyone was assigned their respective busses, we left for the career centre. On the bus, all of the students received a little booklet with information about their workshops. These workshops were chosen by each

student, a couple weeks prior. Everyone had a choice of two workshops: Aesthetics, Cooking, Fire-fighting, and Landscaping, were a few amongst many of the possible workshops.

Upon arrival at the career centre, all of the students were welcomed at the doors by the smiling staff. They immediately directed students towards the room where their workshop was held. Our first fifty minute workshop started at 9:30 AM. When the bell rang signalling that it was time to go to our next workshop, most of the students were surprised by how quickly time had passed. We headed towards our second workshop eager for what was next to come. The second workshop was as captivating as the first, and before we knew it, it was 11:15 AM and it was already time to head back to school. Everyone had such a great time that many were sad to leave.

The meeting time to board the busses was only at around 11:35 AM to make sure everyone was there on time. Since the students had a few minutes to spare, they had time to discuss with the representatives of their last workshop. Before boarding the busses, most of us reunited with friends to talk about the interesting morning we had, while enjoying snacks given to us before exiting the career centre. We left shortly after our scheduled departure time and arrived at Royal West Academy at around 12:10 PM, many of us with objects, such as plants, from our workshops.



At the Media Workshop (from left): Angela Mackenzie, Selena Laneuville, Michael Gagnon, Stefano Guadagnino

Not only did the students have an educational morning at Career EXPO but they also had an interesting one.

Most of us learned more about each career and program. In my case, I learned how to give an excellent hand massage in Aesthetics and how multi-faceted a journalist's job is in Media. Overall, as Secondary IV student Emily Gaudet said, "This was a great way for us to start thinking about all of the possibilities for our future."

## Vive Diu Latin

By Emily Gaudet

Teachers at Royal West Academy have started many new extracurricular activities for students to join this year. Amidst these new clubs, there is the Introduction to Latin Club. Run by history teacher Mme Dupaul, the club is open to students in Secondary I to V, and meetings are held once a week in Room 101. Members eat their lunch and discuss the basics of the Latin language. Among the topics discussed are basic vocabulary and word pronunciation.

While enjoying a nice place to eat with friends and learning the meaning of famous Latin phrases, students can earn a Cultural Credit after attending eight sessions! Furthermore, students touch base on Roman culture to get some background of the topic.



When asked about her decision to create this club, Mme Dupaul explained, "...like history, Latin is present in our culture [and can be found anywhere]..." Many of the words we use on a daily basis are derived from the Latin language—like the word "agenda"! Some languages that have been influenced by Latin are French, Spanish, and Italian. Why not discuss it?

When asked why she chose to join, a Secondary IV member answered that she thought it would be interesting to learn about a language that is the foundation of some of the words people use every day.

Mme Dupaul's hopes for this club is that the students will have the desire to continue their studies of the Latin language, and that new students will pursue their curiosity and want to join the club next year.

So, if you still don't know what "carpe diem" means, sit in on a meeting and brush up on your Latin!

## Bike Trip

By Simon Germain

As we reach the sign up deadline for the Bike Trip students and teachers alike are preparing their bodies and their bikes for the journey ahead. Last year, we started near Sherbrooke and then proceeded to bike back to Montreal over the course of three days, stopping at campsites overnight. This year, we are doing a similar three-day route to last year's but we are starting in the north near Mont Tremblant.

"Why are you doing this?" is a question I get asked a lot when talking to people about the bike trip. Personally I have always loved to mountain bike and that's what got me into it last year. However, there is a greater meaning to the bike trip: we show people that biking is an effective mode of transportation. As Mr. Nemeth, one of the chaperones on the trip last year, puts it, "If we are able to bike 230 km from one city to another, then there is really no reason that you cannot bike to school or work." I used to take the bus every day to get to school, but after the bike trip I started biking to school more often. Surprisingly there is only one con: biking is very weather dependent. On the other hand, the pros are: you do not pollute, you relieve congestion from the roads, it is just about as fast as taking the bus, and it's your workout for the day—just to name a few.



Bike trip was more than just making a statement, however; it was one of the greatest bonding experiences of my life. By the end of Day 1 last year, I had made friends with just about everyone on the trip, most of whose names I did not even know that same morning.

Bike trip also gives people a sense of accomplishment, not only at the end of the trip but at the end of each day. The days range between 70-80 km each, and when you look back on a map and see just how far you've come, it is rather impressive considering that you got to where you are now using nothing but the strength of your own body. The only thing I can compare that to is the canoe trips that I do every summer, and to put it in perspective, a long, hard day on a canoe trip is only 25 km. However, the days are not so long that you arrive to the campsite completely exhausted. Once we arrive at a campsite at about 4 or 5 PM, we still have tons of energy to play games and share stories.

This trip showed me that biking is more than just a sport but also an effective mode of transportation that anyone can do and that can be used every day. We are moving toward a society where we are constantly surrounded by traffic jams and the noise of cars engines and honking. Biking is probably the easiest way to solve that problem.

## Girls Volleyball

By Emily Brotman



Volleyball is a Royal West Academy tradition. For years now, the team led by Mr. Mateus has represented the school in the GMAA league, and more recently the French league. This year, along with other ECAs at RWA, the volleyball team was told that they would no longer be able to play due to the work-to-rule campaign that the teachers had joined in order to resist new working conditions proposed by the Quebec government. This came as a shock to many, as we all learned that the activities we loved to take part in would no longer be offered so long as the teachers' union and the government did not come to an agreement.

However, this did make the school stronger. While supporting our teachers, our dedication to the ECAs was

able to be seen. For the volleyball team, practices were organized outside of school by parents and players, allowing us to come together for the sport we love every Friday night, when we would rent out a gym and continue to progress.



Although we did miss both the leagues we had been planning on playing in, new solutions were found. Once work-to-rule situation was over, teams who had not been able to join the GMAA league got together and made a schedule for small tournaments against each other. Approximately once a week, teams would meet at one of their schools and play games against each other, just as we would have done in any other league. Once these were done, there were playoffs, ending with a final game that determined the winners for the Bantam, Midget, and Juvenile categories. This was the first year that all three RWA girls volleyball teams won the banner and the gold medal! This, to us, was the ultimate sign of all the hard work we had put into the game.



As players are told when they first join the team, and have repeated to them many times throughout the year, volleyball is a sport that is not only physically demanding but also mentally demanding. Our team mentality of determination is what allows us to thrive in the sport—without it, we would not be the players that we are today. Royal West Academy allows us to continue to grow as a team and as individuals, and on behalf of the teams, we are grateful for all the opportunities that the school gives us in terms of volleyball. Our dedicated coaches, Mr. Mateus, Ms. Leech-Pepin, and Mr. Okpalugo gave us a great amount of time and attention to let us reach our goals.



I have developed a close bond with every girl on my team, and I can easily say that without volleyball, my time at RWA would not be nearly as enjoyable as it has already been. Once I graduate, I know that being a part of the volleyball team will be one of my fondest memories of my time in high school.

## Boys Badminton Season

By Oliver Miller

Boys badminton is a very successful sport at Royal West Academy, and this year's season has been triumphant yet again. The team was able to attend the Team Championships, Individual Championships, and Provincial Championships.

The team's strong performance in the regular season determined whether or not they would participate in the end-of-year tournaments. This year the Bantam team finished with three wins, one loss, and two draws;

the Midget team with three wins and one loss, and the Juvenile team with six wins and zero losses.

Team Championships was the first test after the regular season. Royal West Academy's Midget and Juvenile teams were both invited. Both teams put together a great performance as they each brought home another badminton banner to hang up in the gym.

Individual Championships was, once again, a victory for many of the RWA students. Isaac Lefebvre, Paul Xie, Jesse Li, Jason Wang, and Lucas Rasmussen all achieved gold medals, while Josh Berry, Jordan Hum, and Josh Hum won bronze medals. Domenic Albano finished fourth; and Zack Rubin, Benjamin Herrington, and Thomas Jarvis, despite their early exits, put up a great fight.

The final challenge was the Provincials, the toughest tournament of the three. The team was put to the test against the top players and teams from Quebec. Royal West Academy put up a great fight against tough opponents, and while we did not bring home any medals, it was a great end to the season. "We played very well, but there is room for improvement," said coach Mr. Dufault regarding the team's performance at the tournament.



This has been an incredible season for the RWA Boys Badminton team. With a few more practices throughout the year, all of the levels can perform even better next season. Tryouts for the team next year will be held in





January 2017. All are welcome and encouraged to come and play for a chance to make the team. Secondary I and II students can try out for the Bantam team, Secondary III and IV students can try out for the Midget team, and Secondary V students can try out for the Juvenile team.

Hope to see you there!

## Open Gym

By Asad Taqvi

As the end of the year approaches many students are going to be completing their Extra Curricular Activities (ECAs). However, this year was special considering students are required to complete only one ECA credit. If you are a Royal West Academy student and still need an ECA credit in sports, Open Gym may be the best option for you!

Open Gym is an activity organized in the new gym every day at lunch. Students are free to come in before

12:40 PM and play sports until 1:00 PM. Badminton and volleyball courts are available in the winter season while basketball is offered year round.

Students register their names and tally the number of times they come. Once a student comes at least 20 times they will get a full sports credit. However, time is running out as there are only 30 days left until the end of the year. Despite this, coming just 10 times can earn you an easy half-credit.

There are many reasons as to why you should participate in Open Gym:

- Students can easily make new friends with the people who play with them.
- Open Gym has no tryouts—meaning you don't have to make the school team!
- Students can work on improving their skills to become better athletes.

I asked Eshwar Ganesan, a Secondary IV student at the school whether or not he felt Open Gym improved his



skills as a basketball player. He said, "Open Gym does help me for my feel of the game. Playing for a team really helps me put in skills that I acquire, like shooting, from Open Gym to the test and improve in game situations. You shouldn't force yourself to get better, you should like improvement voluntarily."

If you believe you can commit to coming to Open Gym on a regular basis, this activity will suit you and your friends. Open Gym will be available next year as well. Make sure to wear your regular gym gear!

## RWA Alumni Association

### A Local Champion

By Camryn Irgang

Imagine being given the opportunity to be a part of the Olympics for the sport that you love. Dori Yeats, a Royal West Academy alumnus, was given this opportunity for the sport that she is best at: wrestling.

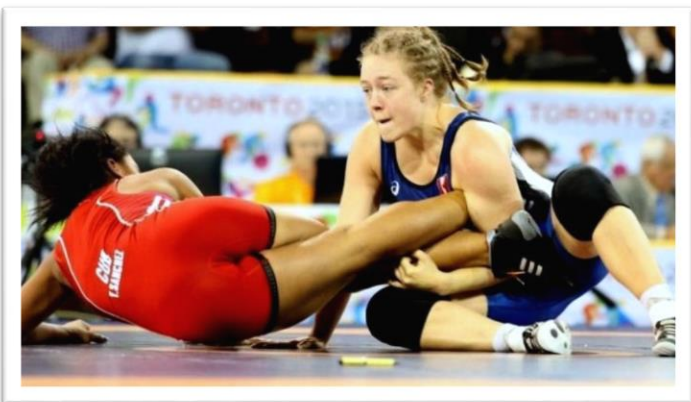
Dori started off trying to make it to the Olympics for gymnastics. Throughout Secondary I and II, she trained for about five hours a day, having to leave school early at 2:04 PM. During Secondary III, Dori realized that gymnastics wasn't going to take her very far in her athletic career.

Dori started to wrestle while still continuing gymnastics throughout Secondary III. Dori says that she chose to start wrestling because her dad was an Olympic wrestler and it was a new sport for women at the time. She also believed that she would have a good chance of making it very far if she continued on the wrestling path. During that school year, Dori swam laps every day at 6 AM and then went to school until 1 PM. She then started gymnastics at 1:30 PM until 5 PM, and finally

went to wrestling at 6 PM. The school was fine with Dori's training schedule as long as she kept her grades up. She was also excused from gym class to keep up with her schoolwork. Eventually, this schedule became too much to juggle and Dori decided it was time to quit gymnastics in February 2008.

After completely eliminating gymnastics from her schedule, Dori started to attend school for more hours every week. She tried to keep her competitions local and on weekends. As her wrestling career continued to progress, this didn't last very long. By the end of Secondary III, Dori had won her first national title for her age group. By the end of Secondary IV, Dori won the Canada Games. Since everything was moving very quickly for Dori, she started to miss a lot more school in Secondary V. She started competing nationally. At the end of Secondary V, Dori won the Youth Olympic Games. Dori graduated as an RWA honour roll student in 2010.

Mr. Zigby, Dori's physics teacher, was a big help to Dori throughout high school. He let her use his classroom to study every day at lunch so that she would be prepared for her exams and wouldn't have to miss prom or graduation. Asked about what he thought about Dori,



Mr. Zigby said, "Dori was a wonderfully pleasant young woman who was admired and loved by her class." He remembers Dori always having a smile and a positive attitude while she played for his rugby team as well as attended his physics class. He also mentioned that the provincial rugby coach asked Mr. Zigby about Dori continuing with rugby but he told him about her wrestling. These little aspects of Dori's high school experience show what an all-around happy, smart, and motivated person Dori is. All of her other teachers were very excited and were trying to help with her success in any way that they possibly could.

Since graduating, Dori has won the Commonwealth Games in 2011 and 2014, and the Junior World Championships in 2012 and 2013 as well as the Pan American Games in 2015. She has now qualified for the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Royal West is honoured to have such successful graduates. We are all excited to watch Dori wrestle this summer and cannot wait to hear many more stories about her success!

## Refreshing News From The Painting Crew

By Mr. Michael Mendelson & Ms. Kathleen Cawthorn, Home & School Painting Coordinators

Thanks to the many Royal West Academy parent volunteers, the April 9–10 painting weekend was another resounding success. The sixty hardworking and enthusiastic parent volunteers, who collectively put in over 275 hours managed to paint:

- the Art/Robotics room
- the Music room
- the radiator covers in the stairwells





- the first floor west wing
- the second floor hallway in the main building (including touch-ups to all the blue doors and arches)

A huge shout-out and thank you to Bétonel/Dulux who once again generously donated 25 gallons of paint, paintbrushes, and t-shirts for the project. Their gracious support in helping RWA brighten and refresh its walls speaks volumes as to how extraordinary a corporate citizen they are.

We were happy to see returning volunteers as well as many new faces, and look forward to an even bigger parent turnout for the next painting weekend in November!



## 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

|             |                                   |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| May 3–4     | Book Fair                         |
| May 6       | Variety Show @ 7 PM               |
| May 9,10,13 | Bardolators: Twelfth Night @ 7 PM |
| May 12      | Spring Concert @ 7 PM             |
| May 17      | Home & School meeting @ 7:30 PM   |
| May 20      | Free Dress day                    |
| May 20      | SLA Dance                         |
| May 21–23   | Bike Trip                         |
| May 23      | Victoria Day                      |
| May 25–27   | Art Show                          |

# RWA



# News

|                                |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Editor</b>                  | Ronald Pau (RWA parent)             |
| <b>Assistant Editor</b>        | Yi Sen Wang (Secondary V student)   |
| <b>Junior Assistant Editor</b> | Hayley Bleho (Secondary IV student) |
| <b>Junior Assistant Editor</b> | Alex Rona (Secondary IV student)    |
| <b>Staff Advisor</b>           | Tony Pita (Principal)               |

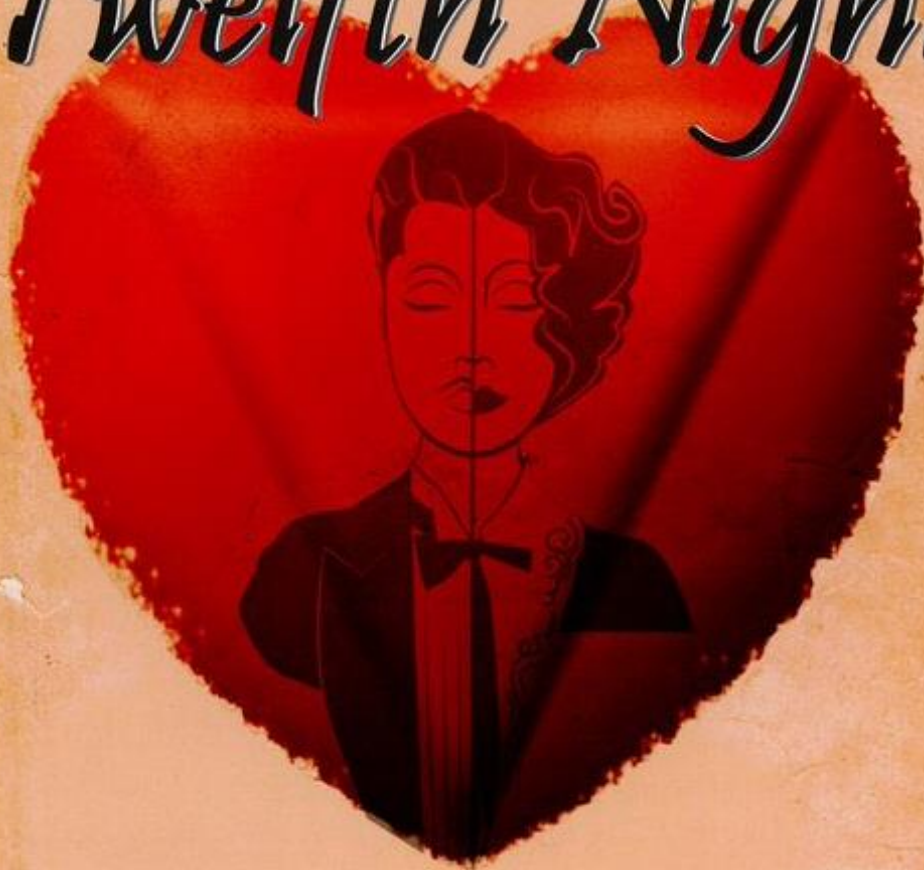
**RWA News** is published during the academic year (from September to May) on the Royal West Academy website at [www.royalwestacademy.com](http://www.royalwestacademy.com). Articles, comments, and suggestions may be directed to the editor at [rwanews@gmail.com](mailto:rwanews@gmail.com).





The Royal West Academy Bardolators  
present Shakespeare's  
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to aftern.

# Twelfth Night



*Monday May 9 at 7pm - 2 for 1!*

*Adults 2 for \$10, seniors 2 for \$7  
students 2 for \$5*

*Tuesday, May 10 - 7 pm*

*adults \$10, seniors \$7, students \$5*

*Friday, May 13*

*Wine and Cheese Night*

*Wine and cheese at 6pm performance at 7 pm  
\$20 (students \$10).*

Royal West Academy

189 Easton Ave. Montreal West, QC, H4X 1L4



RWA's

# RAW DISC DRIVE

## ULTIMATE FRISBEE CHALLENGE

**SATURDAY** May 14th 2-5pm

2-5pm, RWA soccer field

\*Rain Date: Sunday May 15th

**\$5 per player**

**MAX 7 PLAYERS PER TEAM**

Friends from other schools are welcome.  
Challenge them.

Parents are also welcome to play.

**REGISTRATION:** May 9th, 10th & 11th

Watch the Bulletin for more details

**BeaversTails** and **Dominos Pizza** and drinks



An RWAF Fundraiser for the new auditorium