

RWA



News

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FEBRUARY 2017

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 Ministère exams for français, langue seconde. We would like to congratulate Katya Kredl and Selena Laneuville, who received marks of 100% on all three (écriture, lecture, and discussion) competencies! 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.

Recent snowfalls provided our Secondary II students with fantastic ski conditions for our ski trip to Stoneham QC. Over 140 students attended the trip, which took place on February 7–10. Students skied and tubed over the course of the three days—a good time was had by all! Thank you to Mme C. Belina and Mme L. Bourdeau for organizing such a fun experience, and all the teacher chaperones who accompanied the students.

The Secondary V trip to New York NY departed from Montreal with over 140 students, who profited from visits to the Museum of Modern Art and the American

Museum of Natural History as well as Broadway and off-Broadway productions, and professional sporting events. A record snowfall provided some extra excitement while the group was in NYC! Thank you to Ms. M.-C. O'Neil for organizing the trip, and to all of the staff chaperones.

Meanwhile, on February 7–8, Mr. J. Bateman's Secondary IV Leadership and Leisure students took part in a Winter Experience (*see page 5 for details*), during which they participated in a variety of outdoor activities focused on developing their leadership skills.

Students in the Senior Robotics Club competed in the CRC Robotics Competition at Vanier College on February 16–18 (*see page 6 for details*). The competition included CEGEPs and high schools from the Montreal area. Our students earned first prize in the programming portion of the competition. Special thanks to Mr. S. Nemeth, Mr. A. Munro, and Mr. M. Stewart for their leadership.

On February 17, our Junior Debating Team of Yimaj Baharun and Dylan Gharibian qualified for the National Championships, in Vancouver BC, taking place in April 2017. Congratulations and special thanks to their coach, Ms. C. Holloway.

Congratulations also go out to both the Bantam and Midget Girls Indoor Track and Field Teams for winning their respective GMAA Championships. Special thanks to their coach Ms. O'Neil, for her efforts.

Secondary V student, Dean Bizogias, was recently invited to participate in the *Prix du Mérite en histoire*, thanks to his exceptional results on the MEES Uniform exam for Secondary IV Histoire et éducation à la citoyenneté. Congratulations to Dean, and good luck with your upcoming competition.



Staff Appreciation Week took place on February 20–23. Big thanks go out to the members of the 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 Monday and Wednesday. Thank you very much to all 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!

The Salon des inventions took place on February 22, when Secondary I students presented their inventions to their RWA peers during the morning periods of that Wednesday. Congratulations to all the students who participated and a big THANK YOU to our Secondary I science teachers: Ms. N. Orlando, Ms. L. Kissin, Ms. M.-A. Zuccaro, and Mr. M. Ohayon.

The next day was the Science Fair, where over 320 students presented their 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. Thank you to Ms. J. 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.

Royal West Academy's All-Gender Washroom was recently renovated and now includes six newly constructed stalls, with neoprene privacy strips on either side of each door jamb. This renovation was possible because of the accumulated surplus currently benefitting the EMSB.



Parent-Teacher Night is coming up on March 16, 2017. The two sessions are at 3:15 PM–5:15 PM and 7 PM – 9:30 PM. Please note that these session times are different than those that were offered last November.

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 2017. 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 2017) or write supplemental exams (July 21–28, 2017). 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=3458.

Finally, Royal West Academy wishes a safe and restful March Break (March 6–10, 2017) to all staff, students, and parents. Take some time to relax and regroup! The remaining four months of school will go by in a flash!

SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

Hockey Raffle: Habs vs Panthers
By Mr. Mitchell White, RWA President

The HABS raffle is in full steam. Last month, our first early bird winner, Sheila Fanzolato, won tickets to the game against Washington on February 4.

We are pleased to announce that we have another early bird draw for the game against the Florida Panthers on March 30, 2017. Everyone who buys a ticket before March 26, 2017 will be entered into that draw.

All funds raised from the raffle will help us move ahead with Phase II of the renovations: air conditioning! We are asking all Royal West Academy families to sell at least four tickets (no, you don't need to buy them all yourself). Please help us reach our goal.

Tickets are now available for \$50 each on the RWA Foundation website at <https://rwaf.ca/shop/raffle-tickets/canadiens-hockey-raffle/>. The final draw will be in September 2017. All the prizes are for the 2017–2018 hockey season and include tickets in the all-you-can-eat Desjardins section:

- 1st prize – 10 pairs of tickets (a \$4125 value)
- 2nd prize – 7 pairs of tickets (a \$2887 value)
- 3rd prize – 5 pairs of tickets (a \$2062 value)
- 4th prize – 5 pairs of tickets (a \$2062 value)
- 5th prize – 5 pairs of tickets (a \$2062 value)
- 6th prize – 3 pairs of tickets (a \$1238 value)
- 7th prize – 3 pairs of tickets (a \$1238 value)
- 8th prize – 1 pair of tickets (a \$413 value)
- 9th prize – 1 pair of tickets (a \$413 value)
- 10th prize – 1 pair of tickets (a \$413 value)

This raffle is registered with Loto-Québec.

Agatha Christie's Appointment with Death

Save the date: April 13, 2017. This performance is a staff/alumni production produced by Doug Floen and supported by stage managers Teresa Kaeser and Maya Radhakrishna in support of the RWA Foundation **Sharing the Stage With You** Capital Campaign.

How can you 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. Our focus in the coming year will be on organizing more special events and fundraisers, so anyone with an interest or expertise in that field would be a very welcome addition to the team. If you have any questions or fundraising ideas, contact Mitchell White, President, RWA Foundation, at rwafoundation@gmail.com.

RWA Foundation Chair Campaign

By Ms. Laurie Rossitto-Abrams

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the RWA Foundation Chair Campaign. The following names will be inscribed on a recognition plaque that will be permanently mounted in the new auditorium:

Class of 1963:
James Morehouse

Class of 1991:
Felix Duong

Class of 1992:
Dany Blumer
Shaun Morehouse

Class of 1994:
Robert Duong
Lorie Venturella

Class of 1997:
Lawrence Duong

Class of 2003:
Kim Belair

Class of 2010:
Maria Jill Koziris

Class of 2011:
Sam Creamer
Kelly Hennigan
Demetrios William Koziris

Class of 2012:
Mila Eve Broomberg
Erica Bugden
Ioannis Wesley Koziris

Class of 2013:
Megan Wade-Darragh

Class of 2014:
Eric Abrams
Kristin J. Hum
Nicholas Haralabos Koziris
Ashley Langburt
Emma Loerick
Michael Paknys
Laurel Walfish

Class of 2015:
Omar Ahmad-Valdez
Maria Anoussos
Liam Blount-Castonguay
Daniel Broomberg
Thomas Bugden
André Ciccio
Rachel Copnick
Michelle Creamer
Jared Fried
Tanya Glowacki
Rebecca Gotteiner



Jaden R. Green
Daniel Guardia
Richard D. Heller
Sean Hennegan
Geoffrey Kelly
MacKay-Drummond Family
Annie Plotkin
Adam Ptack
Stefan Robb
Ethan Shahin
Breanna Sherman
Megan Yee-Wong

Class of 2016:
Justin Abrams
James Elman
Zoe Fagnoli-Brown
Chloe Ginsberg
Joshua I. Hum
Minahil Khan
Rachel Kimmelman
Simon Petros Koziris
Emma Langburt
Jennifer Mashaal
Owen Miller
Celina Pasquale
Matteo Pannunzio
Abigael Singer
Max Taylor
Vanessa Travisano
Konstantinos Christopher Tsiolis
Jaad Van Der Wee

Class of 2017:
Audrey Baillairgé
Alex Belitzky
Jonah Fried
Simon Germain
Maxwell L. Lee
Olivia Mendelson

Class of 2018:
Tara Ginsberg
Stephanos Georgios Koziris
Kaylah Langburt
Edward Mendelson
Sarah Mograhbi (2 chairs)
Evelyn Perkins

Liza Shahin
Cody Sherman
Romy Shoam
Madison Hailey White
Gabriel Zaccara

Class of 2019:
Darian De Bellis
William Mendelson
Carl Miller
Melina Tsiolis

Class of 2020:
Juliana Abrams
Lacey Baillairgé
Caileigh Grace Bates
Toby Kimmelman
Mia Mograhbi (2 chairs)
Stephania Tsiolis

Class of 2021:
Phoenix Boyd
Sophie Henin-Levine
Sydney Levitt
Max Mograhbi (2 chairs)
Jenna Price
Rylie Montana White

In honour of Mahesh Sharma

In loving memory of Shyama Kumari Sharma,
Uma Sharma, Sandhya Sharma and Swati
Sharma

In honour of Howard Davidson and family

Special thanks to:
Graduating class of 2013
Graduating class of 2014
Graduating class of 2015
Graduating class of 2016
R. Howard Webster Foundation

If you would like an inscription with your name, your
child's name, your parent's name, etc., donations can
be made to the Chair Campaign at <https://rwaf.ca>.



Quebec Band Association

By Catherine Plawutsky



The Quebec Band Association (QBA) held their twelfth annual Honour Band on February 10–11. This event was a concert that featured two concert bands of different age groups, made up of students from schools in and around Montreal that share a love for music. Students are encouraged to sign up for this weekend of musical performance through their music teachers. Older students (including myself) are part of the Symphonic Honour Band while younger students are in the Concert Honour Band.

Weeks before, participants received the music they were expected to play. The Symphonic Honour Band met in Vanier's auditorium on the Friday evening and had a full-band rehearsal. We got to know our amazing band director, Alain Cazes, and ran through our repertoire and got used to each other as an ensemble. We met again early Saturday morning and had sectionals with specialized clinicians and more band rehearsals. We did all of this to prepare for the concert that night. We performed in front of our family and friends after just over one day of preparation.

Eight Royal West Academy students from Secondary III and Secondary IV participated in the Symphonic Honour Band: Kaylah Langburt, Amanda Kronish, Alison Looper, Chloe Martin, Carl Ek, Clara Chemtov, Christina Polichronopoulos, and myself. Kaylah says, "QBA made me more confident in my playing skills because I had to be more independent."



(from left) Christina Polichronopoulos, Clara Chemtov, Catherine Plawutsky, Chloe Martin, Carl Ek, Kaylah Langburt, Alison Looper, Amanda Kronish

That weekend provided a great opportunity for young musicians like ourselves. We got to meet other musicians in an environment that caters to the learning and development of musical talent. This event gave us the opportunity to work with experienced professionals and expand our knowledge of our instruments. We were challenged to work on new pieces with an unfamiliar group of students under the direction of an unfamiliar conductor. It exposed us to new techniques, a new repertoire, new styles of teaching, and new people.

Quebec Band Association has already started planning the 2018 Honour Band. It is an incredible, intensive experience that showcases and nurtures young musical talent. Honour Band is a place where you can become a better musician and have fun!

Leadership Winter Camping Trip

By Angela Nelson



On February 7, at 8:30 AM, over 60 Leadership students were milling around in the Royal West Academy cafeteria, abuzz with excitement. Usually we would be heading into homeroom at this hour, but that day we were about to board a bus for our winter camping trip.

Two hours later, we arrived at Camp Jouvence in Orford QC. After unloading our bags from the buses, we were given an hour of free time. The camp offered various activities we could do during our free time such as winter volleyball, snow soccer, broomball, skating, and cross country skiing.

During our short but exciting stay, we participated in several group activities, including snowshoeing, orienteering, obstacle courses, and a series of team building activities. On top of all this, we were playing a game of *Gotcha!* throughout the entire trip. The game consisted of each student and teacher receiving a "target" (the name of another player in the game), who they had to catch alone, with no one seeing or hearing them, and whisper "Gotcha!" to. If they completed this task successfully, they would take their victim's target and continue catching—collecting as many targets as possible until they were either caught themselves or we ran out of time. This resulted in new friendships being





born out of alliances and added an extra challenge for students during their down time.

To me, this trip was more than just a school outing. It gave students an opportunity to relax and have fun with their friends, all the while making new ones and developing useful life skills.

“[The trip] allows Leadership students to use the skills we’ve been working on all year in a winter environment,” says Mr. Bateman, teacher of the Leadership course and trip coordinator.

Camp Jouvence, meaning ‘youth’ in English, was aptly named, I think. The trip was the rejuvenating breath of fresh air we all desperately needed.

Senior Robotics Competition

By William Lumsden



On February 16–18, the Royal West Academy Senior Robotics Team attended the CRC Loops 2017 robotics competition. The CRC competition is an intense competition where CEGEPs and high schools from all over Montreal come to compete against each other. To compete in the competition, each school is expected to select a theme. From that theme, they must build a robot to compete in the main competition.

This year, robots needed to gather and launch spools in order to gain points. Schools were placed into teams of two to compete against another team. The teams would start at the opposite ends of a playing field. Robots would collect spools out of a dispenser and throw them either under or over a wall located at the centre of the field. Teams earned points based on where the spools landed as well as each spool collected.

Each school also had the option to compete in several other challenges such as a kiosk competition, a website competition, a programming competition, and a video competition. The overall winner was then determined using a calculation of rankings from all the different competitions.

Our robotics team worked very hard all year to prepare for this event. Earlier on in the year, we had chosen our theme to be Tetris. We would meet every Wednesday after school for two hours in order to prepare for the competition. As we neared the competition, we would often meet up on weekends to add finishing touches to our robot.

The competition took place at Vanier College. The morning of the first day, we met up with the kiosk crew in order to set up our kiosk—a large wooden structure where we set up our tools. Our kiosk also boasted a small bar and a game of Tetris projected on a wall (a shout-out to Marianopolis College for their Tetris high score of 680,000).





earning us a place on the podium and a commemorative plaque.

Overall, I really enjoyed the experience. I found the competition to be an exciting and interactive experience. Though it was quite challenging, I enjoyed every moment of it and I cannot wait for next year.

Lucinda at the Rook'n Roll

By Olivia Fanning

Royal West Academy's musical cast once again put on an amazing performance! The show (a new and improved second version of *Lucinda*), which took place on December 19–22, had an original script written by retired RWA English teacher Mr. D. Floen. The songs, selected from various Broadway musicals, were chosen and arranged by former RWA student Chris Barillaro. Other members of the creative team included Ian Baird as musical director, Jenny Rizzo as director of vocals, and Jonathan Patterson as dance choreographer. The amount of time put into rehearsals was quite evident



with the quality of the singing and dance choreography, and the memorization of so many lines.

The storyline, based on *Cinderella*, was done in a way to give the well-known tale a different and modern twist. It was set in an old bar run by the evil stepmother (Ida Mae), played by Willa Bateman, whose powerful voice amazed the audience. The title role of Lucinda, meant to represent Cinderella, was played by Zoe Knox, who had a stunning voice. Jake Cohen, who played the role of Prince Charming, was one of the crowd's favourites. Many other talented students (a cast of 35!) were involved in the production to make it quite the memorable performance. One aspect that I particularly enjoyed was the addition of the "Sinbeams" (the Rook'n Roll's showgirls) and the "Bar Boys" (Ida Mae's waiters and eye candy) who added something new to the show. On-stage energy was incredible, especially considering the production was put on four nights in a row.

The opening and closing numbers—*Magic to Do* and *Anything Can Happen*—were performed by the entire cast for an extremely strong start and finish. *Agony*, sung by Anthony Falcone and Jake Cohen as the confused love interests, was definitely one of the funniest numbers of the show. Finally, *Defying Gravity* was one of the most memorable pieces of the show, performed by the powerful voices of Willa Bateman and Zoe Knox.



(standing from left) Anthony Falcone, Zoe Knox, Jake Cohen, Willa Bateman.

The school's annual musical is something much looked forward to by many. Such performances are only a small representation of what the school offers in terms of extracurricular activities, but they are an excellent opportunity for students thinking of applying to the

school to see what RWA has to offer. The 2016 musical cast has a lot to be proud of in terms of the show they put together and what they managed to accomplish as a whole. I have been attending the musical for many years now and the acting skills and voices never cease to amaze me year after year.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar 1–8	Honour Band trip: Cuba
Mar 6–10	March Break
March 16	Parent-Teacher Interviews 2:30–5:15 PM & 7–9:30 PM
March 17	Pedagogical Day
March 20	RWA Foundation meeting @ 7 PM
March 24	Pedagogical Day (afternoon only)
March 24	Dance Show: Hour 24
Mar 26–28	Regional Science Fair
March 27	Governing Board meeting @ 7 PM
March 31	Pedagogical Day



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!

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 rwanews@gmail.com.

