

RWA



News

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APRIL 2019

## A Word From The Administration

Mr. Tony Pita, Principal

Ms. Chantal Juhasz, Vice-Principal

Mr. Steven Manstavich, Vice-Principal

Ms. Christy Tannous, Vice-Principal

Mr. Rob Aiken, Interim Vice-Principal

The snow has melted, which can only mean that the warmer weather is on its way! As always, this is a reminder that the end of the school year will soon be upon us. Students and staff are also beginning to think about and plan for the upcoming end-of-year exams.

### Voyages scolaires

Le 1er avril, deux groupes d'élèves ont quitté Montréal en direction des États-Unis. Nos élèves de secondaire 3 avaient comme destination la ville de Washington, tandis que nos élèves de secondaire 4 se sont rendus à Boston (voir page 3 pour les détails).

Ces élèves ont eu l'occasion de passer quatre à cinq jours à visiter et à en apprendre davantage sur l'histoire et le tissu politique des États-Unis.

### Earth Week

Earth Week took place at Royal West Academy on April 23–26. Students and staff were busy organizing and participating in activities to raise awareness about this year's theme, *Industrial Pollution*, and its impact on the environment. On April 25, the Environment Committee hosted La Nuit Verte which took place in the school auditorium. The event was well attended and included art exhibits, musical performances, and delicious vegetarian cuisine. Thank you to Ms. Suarez and Ms. Almeida for all of their work and to our environmentally-committed students for their dedication to this important issue.

### Soirée de reconnaissance des bénévoles

Les parents bénévoles et les membres de l'administration ont pu passer du temps ensemble lors de la soirée de reconnaissance des bénévoles de la EMSB, au cours de laquelle les parents ayant plus de cinq ans d'expérience ont été reconnus pour leur engagement envers nos écoles. Nous tenons à remercier tous les bénévoles qui font de RWA une communauté accueillante, dédiée à enrichir l'expérience de nos élèves.

### Science Fair

At the Quebec Provincial Science Fair, which took place April 11–14, Adelka Felcarek-Hope, Sofia McVetty, and Hajeong Seo represented RWA. Hajeong was awarded with the bronze medal. All three students will be going on to the Canada-wide competition taking place May 11–18, 2019. Once again we would like to thank our Science Department, led by Ms. Dillon and Ms. Fogel, for the incredible work in preparing our students for these competitions.

### Iva Tzokovitch Passion for Life Award

Nous tenons à féliciter Grace Martin-Chang, gagnante du prix « Iva Tzokovitch Passion for Life Award ». Ce prix est attribué à la mémoire d'Iva Tzokovitch, finissante à RWA en 2006, pour sa passion et sa joie de vivre. Le prix a été remis par M. Pita devant tous les camarades de classe de Grace.

### Debating/Public Speaking

On the debating front, Cameron O'Hare and his partner Claudia Leroux are set to debate in the Junior Canadian National Debating Championship to be held in Montreal on May 24–26, 2019.

Keith Moussa and Asghar Taqvi attended the Senior Nationals in Halifax on April 11–14.



As for the Public Speaking Competition, held on April 8 at the EMSB, Naomi Raimbert (Secondary I), Emmi Ricard (Secondary II), and Cameron O'Hare (Secondary III) represented RWA. Cameron won the first prize, which came with a scholarship from the Women's Canadian Club to attend Encounters with Canada. He was also featured on the EMSB podcast (which can be heard at <https://soundcloud.com/englishmtlpodcasts/emsb-podcast-2019-public-speaking-competition>).

Thank you to Ms. C. Holloway for her time in helping the students prepare.

### Dessert Concert

Le concert annuel préféré de tous ceux qui ont la dent sucrée, le Dessert Concert, a eu lieu le 29 avril. Les spectateurs ont eu la chance d'assister à des représentations de plusieurs groupes du « RWA performing arts groups », ainsi que du spectacle musical *Hoe Down* (de Mme Kuch, Chris Barillaro et M. Floen). L'événement a été organisé par Mmes Purdy et Macleod, du département de musique. Tous les fonds (plus de \$6000) amassés cette soirée ont été remis à la RWA Foundation.

### Marine Biology trip

The Marine Biology trip to the Huntsman Marine Science Centre in beautiful St. Andrews NB took place on April 23–27. Fifty students along with Ms. Darouach, Mr. Zigby, Mr. Magee, and Ms. McKittrick made the trek by coach bus. This annual curricular event exposes our students to a live, firsthand marine biology experience.

### Bardolators

Les Bardolators nous ont impressionnés pour une deuxième fois cette année, cette fois avec leur production printanière de *Hamlet*, de William Shakespeare. Les représentations ont eu lieu du 15–17 avril. Félicitations aux acteurs, à l'équipe et aux coordinateurs pour cette superbe production.

### Cafeteria Services

As the end of the school year approaches, please be aware that the last day of cafeteria service will be May 31, 2019. The cafeteria will not be providing services during the June exam period. On June 3, classes will end and the SLA will hold its farewell BBQ, the first major activity for the new SLA slate, elected on May 10.

### Journée pédagogique

La journée pédagogique du 7 juin 2019 est maintenant officielle. Cela signifie qu'il n'y aura pas de cours ni d'examens le vendredi 7 juin.

### Last day of classes

The last full day of classes is June 3, 2019. Students are required to wear their proper school uniform until May 31. They may wear their physical education uniform after that date, if they choose to do so. Otherwise, they are expected to wear their regular uniform along with their school shoes.

### Casiers

Tous les casiers doivent être vidés graduellement, pour s'assurer qu'ils soient complètement vides au plus tard le 3 juin 2019 à 8h40. Les cadenas doivent être retournés aux enseignants titulaires (homeroom) avant le 3 juin, sans quoi les étudiants devront s'acquitter de frais de 5,50 \$. Les cadenas restants seront retirés le 4 juin et l'école ne sera pas responsable des objets demeurants dans les casiers.

### Vacation plans and summer school

A reminder that 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 2019) or write supplemental exams (July 22–August 2, 2019). If your child is experiencing difficulties, we encourage you to communicate regularly with their teachers.

## SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

By Mr. Mitchell White, RWA President

Spring has finally arrived, and the RWA Foundation has had a busy season so far!

First of all, a big thanks to Ms. Purdy, all the performers, and their parents who made this year's Dessert Concert the most successful one ever in RWA history! The proceeds from the event totalled an astounding \$7000, including a \$1000 donation from the local RBC branch on Westminster, which was presented to the

Foundation at the show. These funds will go towards the Foundation's campaign for a new Performing Arts Centre, "Sharing the Stage with You."

Thanks to all those of you who supported the event by buying tickets to the sold-out show.

While on the topic of performing arts, I wanted to let you know that this school year we are finally looking into new chairs and enhanced sound, audiovisual, and lighting systems that will dramatically improve the audience experience at our various concerts and shows.

Did you know you can buy a chair in your child's name in honour of their graduation? Or at any time, regardless of their grade? Families of the graduating class of 2019 are especially encouraged to make this gift that leaves a lasting legacy in your grad's name and a place that they will always be welcome to sit in whenever they choose to return.

Buying a "Grad Chair" in your grad's name is simple and quickly done online—just visit us at <http://rwaf.ca/shop/donations/chair/>

The first chair is \$250, and if you would like to purchase an additional chair for another student in your family at the same time, the cost is just \$100 per additional chair.

Our next meeting will be on May 13, 2019 at 7 PM in the Teachers Lounge on the second floor. If you can lend a hand, or even if you're just curious, come see what we're all about! Access is via the Ainslie Road entrance. If you want to help but cannot make the meeting, just send me an email.

Enjoy the warmer weather!

## Boston Trip

By Amber Saad

Royal West Academy students of Secondary IV recently went on a four-day, three-night trip to Boston MA. The trip took place on April 1–4, which allowed us students to start this stressful month with a fun outing.

After a six-hour bus ride, we arrived in Boston mid-afternoon on Monday. One of the very first activities we participated in was one that allowed us to familiarize ourselves with the wonderful city of Boston. We went on a tour of the Charles River, which runs through the

city. The tour took place on a duck boat as opposed to standard boat. A duck boat is vehicle that can drive on land and also float on water, like a duck (hence its name). This was a great way to start the trip as it allowed us to see the city of Boston as a whole before we explored different parts of it.

Another memorable activity on this trip was our tour of Salem, which took place on our second day on the trip. We walked around in the small town and learned about its dark history, most notably the Salem Witch Trials. Our tour guide was a very knowledgeable volunteer who was eager to answer all of our questions regarding her town.

We then visited the New England Aquarium, where we saw unique and exotic species of fish and marine life.

For dinner, we ate at the Fire + Ice Restaurant, which is a buffet-style restaurant. We were all allowed to put whatever foods we wanted on a bowl and watch the chefs cook our meal right in front of our eyes. Not only was it enjoyable to watch, the food was delicious as well!

That evening, we went to watch the Charles Playhouse production of the play *Shear Madness*. In the play, one of the characters is murdered in a barbershop and the audience has to help the cast in solving the mystery of who committed the crime. The actors had to improvise entertaining responses to the audience's theories and they were very quick on their feet at coming up with these funny comments. The play was fantastic and everybody in the audience was thoroughly entertained from beginning to end.

On the third day of the trip, we visited Harvard University. Each group of students was given a tour by Harvard students and they were eager to proudly show us their wonderful school. We saw where the freshmen dine and the buildings in which they dorm. Our guide even pointed out Theodore Roosevelt's old dorm to us! Walking through the Harvard campus felt like walking through history. The structures were beautifully crafted and each one was representative of the decade in which it was built. For example, the Sciences building was built recently and looked very modern, whereas the Harry Elkins Widener Library was built in 1915 and appeared old-fashioned. It was fascinating to learn about all the







celebrities and well-known figures who attended this classic school.

On the very last day, before boarding the bus, we visited Fenway Park. It was exactly the way it appears on television: an all-American, patriotic baseball field. We saw the chair which represents the longest home run ever hit in Fenway Park. It was painted red to differentiate it from the other chairs, and it could be seen from the other end of the stadium. It was incredible to see a piece of history in person.



Overall, the Boston trip was an amazing experience for all who participated. Not only was it fun, it was very educational. We learned about the history of many different locations and artifacts. I strongly encourage every future Secondary IV student to attend this trip as it was the perfect combination of an entertaining outing and a fantastic learning experience.

## My Biggest Takeaway From Royal West Academy

By Sam Rocklin

Every year Royal West Academy hosts a completely student run dance show. I have taken part in this event since I was in Secondary III and it has had a huge effect on my life at school. At the start of each year, tryouts take place that determine which scenes you get to be in for that year's Dance Show. This is always a time filled with excitement along with some stress. It's nerve-wracking to wait for the scene list to come out. This year, I wanted to get more involved in the show and choreograph. My friend Maxine Noik and I offered to take on the challenge of choreographing the Secondary IV boys dance scene.

After getting together with Maxine and making up our first dance, I was very excited for our first practice with the boys. To be perfectly honest, it didn't go as expected. They were much harder to teach and manage then I could have ever imagined. It really was a challenge for me to take control of the group and teach them our choreography. I just wanted them to be ready for the show. Managing the scenes I was in along with the scene I was choreographing was a big and time consuming task—although very worth my while. I developed really good leadership skills and learned how to gain the respect of people my own age.

Dance Show is what defines my Royal West Academy experience. I've made connections and memories with so many peers, students in other grades, and even teachers who all have a passion in common: dance. When I graduate, I know I won't remember everything I've learnt in math or science classes, but I will definitely remember my time spent rehearsing, choreographing, and performing in Dance Show.

The reason why Dance Show is such a big deal for Royal West Academy is because it's run completely by teenagers to help teenagers. This student led dance show raises thousands of dollars every year for Dans la Rue, which is an organization that helps teenagers in need. One day, after hours of dance show practice, I was packing up my back and getting ready to leave school when Mr. Zigby, who was very involved in the show, walked by me. The show was coming up and it

was a very busy day. There was so much to do and so little time. I remember him saying “This show is all you guys. Royal West’s most successful night of the year is all because of you guys. It’s something you should be very proud of.” What he said that evening really stuck with me.

The night before the show, there is always a dress rehearsal. Everything came together after being at school almost every day until 5 PM and about 100 students putting their all into this show. The day of the dress rehearsal is one of my favourite days of the year. We do a full run-through of the show and I love watching all the scenes perform. By the end, the Secondary IV boys really stepped up their game and they were ready for the show.



The next day was show day. Nothing compares to the adrenaline rush while getting ready for the show and running the dance for the last time before going out on stage. Those three minutes on stage is what you have spent hours and hours practicing for all year. The feeling while your out there is indescribable. The boys’ performance was out of this world and they made me so proud. I also really felt a sense of accomplishment and pride. Maxine and I got them from where they started to where they finished and it was an overwhelmingly good feeling.

All to say, Dance Show is a huge part of my social experience at Royal West Academy. It has given me so many opportunities to grow and really enjoy my time in high school. I don’t think I’ll ever forget the late practices with friends, getting sponsors for Dans la Rue,

or the feeling of performing for a great cause. I can’t wait to see what next years’ Dance Show has in store for all of us!



## The Governing Board Report

By Ms. Fotini Markopoulos, Chair

The last Governing Board meeting was held on April 23. Interim Vice-Principal Mr. Aiken (replacing Vice-Principal Ms. Juhasz) and Mme Bourdeau (replacing Teacher Representative Mrs. Purdy) were welcomed to the Governing Board. As usual, quorum was met and another productive meeting took place, with the following highlights.

A detailed explanation, followed by a discussion period, and finally an approval from the Governing Board were given for the following items:

- 2019–2020 Rules of Conduct and Safety Measures
- 2019–2020 School Fees
- 2019–2020 Overnight Trips
- 2019–2020 School Calendar
- June 2019 Exam Schedule

As done regularly throughout the year, Mr. Pita provided the Governing Board a Budget Update.

Our next Governing Board meeting has been changed to May 30, 2019. We look forward to seeing you there!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 30–May 1	Book Fair @ 8 PM
May 9	Spring Concert @ 7 PM
May 10	SLA elections
May 13	RWA Foundation meeting @ 7 PM
May 18–20	Bike Trip
May 20	Journée nationale des patriotes
May 21–22	Sec II Drama
May 23	Art Vernissage @ 3 PM
May 27	Home & School meeting @ 7:30 PM
May 27–31	MindPOP Geography
May 28	Governing Board meeting @ 7 PM

## 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!

## USED UNIFORMS ACCEPTED ALL YEAR!

Home & School accepts used uniforms all year long. If you have used uniforms to donate to the Used Uniform Sale in June, you or your child can drop items off at the school store on all regular school days during the lunch hour, or at the main office during regular school hours.

# RWA



# News

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