



A Word From The Administration

Mr. Tony Pita, Principal

Mr. Jeff Bateman, Vice-Principal

Ms. Chantal Juhasz, Vice-Principal

Mr. Steven Manstavich, Vice-Principal



So what's cooking?



Here's what's cooking...

So far March has not brought with it any sign of spring. But that is not always a negative thing. The school office has a new secretary, Ms. Somaiya Ali. Ms. Ali is replacing Ms. Aziza Djibrani, who has moved on to a new post at Marymount Adult Centre. Please be sure to say hello to Ms. Ali the next time you stop by the office.

Our second Parent-Teacher Interview evening was held on March 15. The parking was difficult due to the recent

snow, but attendance was as expected. Parents are reminded that they can reach out to their child's teachers through email at any time. The course outlines that were handed out at the beginning of the year have this contact information listed.

Our school Honour Band took part in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 18. The low temperatures hampered instruments, but not enthusiasm and talent. Well done to the Band and Ms. Purdy for their commitment to an exercise that is an annual tradition here in Montreal.

As a follow-up to the success of the Science Fair, this year RWA sent nine projects to the Montreal Regional Science & Technology Fair held at Concordia University (*see page 3 for details*). Congratulations to the students involved and their coordinators Ms. Dillon and Ms. Fogel.

In a seldom talked about activity, RWA placed third in this year's Battle of the Books competition on March 27 at the EMSB. Our students represented us well and we are very proud of their accomplishments.

Our Senior Ski Trip to the Quebec City area certainly had the benefit of great conditions from the recent snow fall. Trip supervisors Ms. Colannino, Ms. Dillon, Mr. Zigby, and Mr. Doug Roy need to be recognized for offering their free time to make this trip possible. Another school group that did not mind the snow and low temperatures here in Montreal were the art students and staff that spent their March Break in Italy. Special thanks to Mr. Aiken, Ms. Belina, Ms. Juhasz, Ms. Leech-Pepin, and Ms. Suarez for all the planning and sacrificing March Break with their families to make this trip a reality. From all accounts these trips were spectacular, bringing experiences, friendships, and memories to last a lifetime.





Just before the March Break, two Royal West Academy teams captured GMAA titles for their sports. The first was the Bantam Girls Basketball team, coached by Ms. A. Holloway, who captured RWA's first GMAA basketball title since 2006. The victory came with some controversy, but was well deserved nonetheless. This was an outstanding regular season and playoffs for the girls. The second championship was won by the Bantam Boys Hockey team, coached by Mr. Jeremy Held, Mr. Howard Held, and Ms. Salmers (*see page 5 for details*). The victory capped off an excellent 13–1

season record. Both groups played with discipline and sportsmanship, demonstrating the true philosophy of school sports. Congratulations to the players and thank you to the coaching staffs for their commitment and leadership.

Another tradition that March brings is the annual Dance Show. With the proceeds from this event going to Dans la rue and the RWA Foundation, the students (and staff to a lesser extent) treated us to an evening of outstanding dance routines from a wide variety of styles and cultures. Over 100 students take part in the shows, which brings to a conclusion a seven-month journey of preparations, choreographing, and performance of their own creation. A huge thank you and congratulations to the Dance Show student executive: Sasha Azoulay, Alex Harboun, Amanda Kaplan, Jillian Rodin, Tashiah Roper-Mungal, and Macey Zemel along with the time and commitment of the event coordinators, Ms. Cayer and Mr. Zigby as well as the many session supervisors that help make this event a reality.

In an effort to improve safety and security, Royal West Academy has begun the necessary work to replace the



outdated intercom system. Every class and office now has a telephone system that not only allows the office to communicate directly with a classroom, but also allows teachers to make external calls to emergency services. This significant investment was made possible by the Regional Director, Ms. Pela Nickoletopoulos, and the Material Resource Department led by Assistant Director Mr. Costa Spyridakos.

In the coming days, parents of Secondary III and IV students will be receiving a course list that represents the tentative academic load for their children in the 2018–2019 school year. This list is based on the student's indicated preference, course availability, and academic results to date. Please be aware that this academic load is subject to change based on final marks and/or any scheduling constraints. Final marks for Secondary IV and V students as well as the marks of several courses (accelerated Math, PPO, and Art) for Secondary III students will be printed on the Résultats des apprentissages sanctionnés, sent by the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur to their home address in early July 2018.

A word of caution to parents of Secondary V students regarding their placement in the CEGEP program of their choice. As you know, many CEGEPs can only accommodate a fraction of the students that apply every year. If your child is admitted to the CEGEP program of choice, note that this acceptance is conditional. In the past, we have seen students have their acceptance revoked in July because their grades dropped below a standard acceptable to the CEGEP. We encourage all students, with the support of their parents, to continue the practices that have ensured their success to date.

As we approach the end of year, we are preparing for the end-of-year exams. Parents are reminded that students must be in school for exams. The official exam schedule will be available at the end of April 2018. Many exams are already scheduled in May 2018, therefore parents should avoid making appointments for their children during this time. Any absence for an end-of-year exam must be supported by a medical note and cannot be rescheduled. We appreciate your cooperation. Parents should also avoid booking travel or making plans for summer camp if their child's success

in any course remains uncertain. Accommodations for summer plans will not be possible should your child require summer school or need to write a supplemental exam. More information will be available on the EMSB website in the coming months regarding summer school.

Please enjoy the pleasures that longer periods of daylight bring to your life and be that light for someone else.

Happy Spring!

Montreal Regional Science & Technology Fair

By Ms. Jessica Fogel & Ms. Andrea Dillon

Royal West Academy sent nine science fair projects to the Montreal Regional Science & Technology Fair, which took place on March 25–27 at Concordia University. The students did exceptionally well, winning medals and many awards! Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding projects:

**EXPO
SCIENCES**

- Niraj Dayanandan (Gold Medal – Senior 1; Concordia Faculty of Arts & Science Entrance Bursary; Concordia Office of the Vice-President, Research & Graduate Studies Award; Concordia Library Award; Cercles des jeunes naturalistes Award; Super expo-sciences Hydro-Québec Experimentation & Design Award)
- Allison Engo (Gold Medal – Intermediate; Merck Student Researcher Award; Champlain College Saint Lambert Award; Super expo-sciences



Hydro-Québec Experimentation & Design Award)

- Janvi Patel & Catherine Plawutsky (Bronze Medal – Senior 1; McGill Faculty of Engineering Award, Super expo-sciences Hydro-Québec Experimentation & Design Award)
- Athavan Thambimuthu (Highest Distinction; Antidote Award for Quality of Language; Concordia Faculty of Engineering & Computer Science Innovation Scholarship; McGill Faculty of Engineering Award; Intel International Science & Engineering Fair Participation Award; Super expo-sciences Hydro-Québec Experimentation & Design Award)
- Tara Krochmalnek & Sarah Manascu (Highest Distinction; Réseau ACTION TI-Youth Award in Information Technology)
- Jonah Roy (Highest Distinction; Concordia Office of the Vice-President, Research & Graduate Studies Award; Concordia Centre for Structural & Functional Genomics Award for Biotechnology)
- Yuan Ding (Highest Distinction; Concordia Faculty of Arts & Science Department of Biology Award)
- Adelka Felcarek-Hope & Sophia Clifton-Harting (Highest Distinction; McGill Biology Award; McGill Redpath Museum Award)
- Nathaniel Bechard (Distinction)

Furthermore, Athavan Thambimuthu was selected to join the Canadian team at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, taking place in Pittsburgh PA on May 13–19, 2018. He, along with Niraj Dayanandan, Janvi Patel, Catherine Plawutsky, and Allison Engo, were also selected to attend the Super expo-sciences Hydro Québec (provincial science fair) in Shawinigan on April 18–22, 2018.

Good luck to these students as they continue to proudly represent Royal West Academy!

Pink Shirt Day

By Kulsoom Taqvi

Pink Shirt Day originated at Central Kings Rural High School in Cambridge NS. In 2007, two students—David

Shepherd and Travis Price—decided to take a stand against bullying by distributing 50 pink shirts in protest after Secondary III student Chuck McNeill was harassed for wearing a pink shirt on his first day of school. Since then, Pink Shirt Day is celebrated globally and has raised funds and awareness about the issue of bullying worldwide. This year, Pink Shirt Day’s focus was cyberbullying.

On February 28, Royal West Academy hosted Anti-Bullying Pink Shirt Day in hopes of encouraging teens to think twice before pressing “send”. Students and teachers alike sported pink shirts and sweatshirts in a united front against cyberbullying and the negative effects it can entail. In our technologically advancing world, it has become significantly easier to spread hateful rumors and nasty comments. With anonymity, intimidators can easily hide behind their screens and post negative comments or embarrassing pictures. Luckily, Pink Shirt Day is a big step in the right direction, encouraging teens to show their support for victims and spread a positive message.

Although Pink Shirt Day is held annually, anti-bullying should be encouraged every day. Fortunately, many schools have provisions against bullying and helpful resources for victims. At RWA, a “bully box” can be found in the hallway near the boys’ gym where students can freely and anonymously report bullying. It really is a helpful resource!

All in all, Pink Shirt Day at RWA was a success with most of its students sporting a variety of pink shirts.



Hopefully, more victims of bullying now know that they aren't alone and are supported. Positivity is always the answer!

Boys Bantam Hockey

By Anurag Bhowmick

Royal West Academy students are known as competitive students who strive academically. However, many don't know Royal West Academy excels in many sports, including soccer, volleyball, and hockey. Our new gym is filled up with many Greater Montreal Athletics Association banners spanning several years—and this year we will hang another one!

The RWA Bantam Boys Hockey team are the pride of our school and represent us throughout GMAA competitions. The team is led by Mr. Held, his son Jeremy Held, and Mr. Bateman. The team is assisted by Ms. Salmers and two secondary IV students, Matthew Goldenberg and William Mendelson. The team consists of Secondary I, II, and III students. Throughout the whole competition, Royal West Academy had 14 wins and 1 loss. In the semifinals, the RWA Wildcats cruised to a 9–3 victory against Westwood High School. After, they headed to the finals against Collège St-Jean-Vianney, where they won the championship with a huge 6–0 win!

Markus Lulic Deschenaux is a secondary II student who has the love and passion for hockey. He is part of the bantam boys team and won the Game MVP in the championship match. After the game, I asked Markus for his thoughts on the championship game and the GMAA league. "I feel like our team performed really well for a championship game. We stayed out of the

penalty box, we took lots of shots on the opposing goaltender, and had control over the game."

The bantam boys were excellent throughout the league as well. They outscored their opponents by 99 goals in the 15 games they played while conceding 31 goals. Their strong defensive line also showed resilience as the Wildcats had kept a successful clean sheet in the championship cup. "We played really good in the defensive aspect as we only allowed a few shots on Justin Chhabra, our starting goaltender, that's why we won 6–0", Markus said.

Before the championship game, Markus sensed the team and the coaching staff felt that there was a lot of stress throughout the locker room, but the team was ready to give their best. After leading by three goals on the first period, that relieved a lot of the stress on the team and the coaches. Markus added that he would dedicate this win to the RWA coaching staff, as they helped him and the team improve on the ice and play with linked chemistry. He also wanted to dedicate this win to RWA parents and guardians who offered carpooling to the arena and supported the team throughout the competition.

We have to acknowledge the fact that our RWA hockey team put in hours and hours of practice and effort after school. That effort paid off with a banner which will be hung in the New Gym. All of the players had promised to play for the team logo on the front of the jersey and not the name on the back.

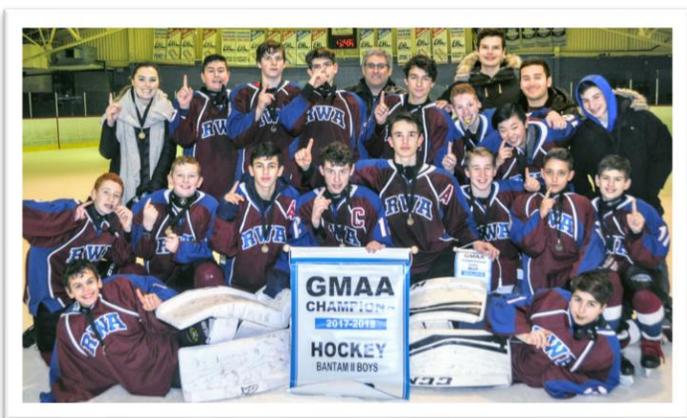
I am not a diehard fan of hockey, but I am proud to say this out loud with all of RWA community: Win, Lose or Tie, RWA Wildcats fan till I die!

The Governing Board Report

By Mr. Nijad Dahdah, Chair

The Governing Board held its regular meeting on March 19 at 7 PM in the school library.

In addition to the regular reports and documents that were presented for information or adoption, the Principal presented updates to the current student Code of Conduct. The 2018–2019 Code of Conduct will be included in the student agenda for the new school



year. A summary of changes is available as a document on the Royal West Academy Governing Board website.

The EMSB had requested all governing boards to comment on the draft copy of the “EMSB Commitment-to-Success Plan” that was compiled from the individual plans that the schools had submitted to the school board. Our governing board members briefly discussed the draft document and completed a one-page survey in which we included the following two comments:

- 1) RWA Governing Board encourages the EMSB to recognize and fund gifted and advanced students as having “special needs” and to fund programs that allow them to achieve their maximum potential.
- 2) RWA Governing Board encourages the EMSB to include secondary schools in the increased

physical activity initiative especially in consideration of the significant impact this would have in improving the students’ wellness and in decreasing any stress they may have.

The last item on the agenda was the allocation of the 2017–2018 RWA Governing Board budget (currently about \$265). After a short discussion, the members unanimously resolved to give these funds to RWA to buy food and refreshments for the Volunteers Appreciation evening in June.

The minutes of our board meetings are posted on the RWA website. The next governing board meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2018 at 7 PM in the school library. Our meetings are open to all RWA stakeholders.

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.

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

March 30	Good Friday
April 2	Easter Monday
April 3	Home & School meeting @ 7:30 PM
April 9–13	Sec III trip: Washington DC
April 10–13	Sec IV trip: Boston MA
April 16	RWA Foundation meeting @ 7 PM
April 16–20	Earth Week
April 17	Hack-a-thon
April 19	Nuit Verte
April 20	Dessert Concert
April 20–21	Junior Robotics Competition
April 23	Governing Board meeting @ 7 PM
April 23–26	Bardolotars: The Tempest
April 23–26	Mind POP English Language Arts
April 24–28	Marine Biology trip
April 26–30	Honour Band trip
April 27	Pedagogical Day
May 1–2	Book Fair

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.





CSEM Nutrition et services alimentaires
EMSB Nutrition and Food Services



NEW

Cafeteria Meal Cards

Now available in your EMSB Cafeteria!

For use in all EMSB High School cafeterias, a cafeteria **MEAL CARD** is a great way to avoid carrying money and shortens the wait time to enjoying your delicious and nutritious meal. A **MEAL CARD** is valid for 11 meal deals* at the cost of 10. *What a deal!*

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