



## A Word From The Administration

Mr. Tony Pita, Principal

Mr. Jeff Bateman, Vice-Principal

Ms. Chantal Juhasz, Vice-Principal

Mr. Steven Manstavich, Vice-Principal



It appears that winter has finally decided to give spring a chance! The sun begins to warm us, and warmer temperatures allow for spring wardrobes. 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.

During the week of April 9, Secondary III students participated in our annual trip to Washington DC while Secondary IV students travelled to Boston MA. The students had the opportunity to spend a few days visiting some of the most interesting sites in these cities and learning more about the history and political fabric of the United States.

Royal West Academy celebrated Earth Week on April 16–20. Students and staff were busy organizing and participating in activities to help raise awareness of environmental issues that affect us all. The group organized La Nuit Verte on April 19 in the auditorium. It was very well attended and the committee and

teachers, Ms. Almeida and Ms. Suarez, need to be commended for an excellent event and week.

The Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transportation, hosted a Town Hall meeting on April 12 at Royal West Academy. The meeting was well-attended considering the winter-like weather we were still receiving.

Alexander Jagic (Class of 2010) is a senior advisor to Mr. Garneau. It was great catching up with Alex on what he has been up to since graduation and the path that lead him to Ottawa.

Parents and administrators enjoyed an entertaining evening at the EMSB Volunteer Appreciation Night where parents with 15+ years' experience were recognized for their commitment to our schools. We



would like to reiterate our appreciation to all the volunteers that make RWA a strong and welcoming community dedicated to enriching the high school experience of our students.

At the Quebec Provincial Science Fair in Shawinigan QC, RWA was well represented. Alison Engo won the Intermediate Gold medal (Secondary III & IV) Laval University Award. Niraj Dayanandan, a Secondary V student, was awarded the Coupe Polytechnique, top prize for projects in Mathematics, Health, and Environmental Science.

Other individuals that we want to recognize and congratulate this month are:

- Tina Zhang (Secondary III) – 2018 Merit Award offered by the Women’s Canadian Club of Montreal (*see page 5 for details*)
- Aliya Hehar (Secondary V) – Awarded the Iva Tzokovitch Passion for Life Award
- Joshua Berry (Secondary V) – winner of the GMAA Juvenile Singles Badminton title



The annual Dessert Concert to raise money for the RWA Foundation was a huge success on April 20. It was an opportunity to see acts and performances by a number of the RWA

performing arts groups. The event was organized by our music department, Ms. Purdy and Ms. Macleod along with contributions from Bardolators (by Ms. Koyounian and Mr. Floen) and *Pandora, the musical* (by Ms. Kuch, Chris Barillaro, and Mr. Floen).

On April 17, RWA hosted its 3rd annual Hackathon (*see page 4 for details*). Eight schools took part, including 50 students from RWA. A big thank you to the event organizers: Mr. Northey, Mme Bourdeau, Mr. Vamvakas, and Mr. Nemeth.

On the heels of the Hackathon, our 36-member Robotics team—led by Mr. Nemeth, Mme Bourdeau,

and Ms. Fogel—took our Robocup team to Vanier College on April 20–21 (*see pages 3 & 6 for details*). The Juniors captured the title for the third straight year. The Cup is on display on the second floor near Room 207.

Once again the Home & School Association—under the leadership of Mr. P. Tamakuwala and Mr. M. Mendelson—hosted a volunteer painting weekend on April 21–22. These dedicated parents were able to paint four classrooms in the second floor west wing, the hallway to the music room, and Memorial Gym. A huge thank you to Bétonel for the donation of paint and supplies, and our friends at Trattoria Massi for delicious lunches.

Jiamei Wang (Secondary III) and Amy Doyle (Secondary I) represented RWA well at the EMSB Public Speaking competition, where both captured silver medals for their respective grade level.

On the debating front Ms. C. Holloway has been busy helping Dylan Gharibian and Antoine Parisé prepare to represent the school and the province at the Canadian Junior National Debating Championships in Calgary AB on May 4–6, 2018. We wish the team and coach safe travel and favourable arguments.

The Marine Biology trip to the Huntsman Marine Science Centre in beautiful St. Andrews NB took place on April 24–28. Fifty students along with Ms. Darouach, Mr. Zigby, Ms. Abraham, and Ms. M. Haghighat made the trek by coach bus. This annual curricular event exposes our students to a live, firsthand marine biology experience. Read more about this event in the May edition of RWA News.

This same week Honour Band made its way to Philadelphia PA for their annual tour. The group performs and attends clinics while taking in all the historical sites and culture that the birthplace of the United States has to offer. Look for more details about this trip in the May edition of RWA News as well.

The Bardolators’ spring production of *The Tempest* ran on April 23–26. Thursday’s performance was preceded by a wine and cheese. The talent and effort of these young thespians was on display once again. Congratulations to cast, crew, and coordinators on another wonderful production.

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

As the end of the school year approaches, please be aware that the last day of cafeteria service will be June 4, 2018. The cafeteria will not be providing services during the June exam period.

## Quebec Provincial Science Fair

By Ms. Jessica Fogel

Royal West Academy sent four teams to the Super Expo-sciences Hydro-Québec provincial science fair, which took place in Shawinigan on April 18–22. The students had an amazing time and made many new friends from all over Quebec and France. They also had the opportunity to view other projects and participate in several fun and educational activities. “It was an amazing experience I will never forget,” said Allison Engo.

**SUPER  
EXPO  
SCIENCES**  
Hydro-Québec

Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding projects:

- Niraj Dayanandan – University of Polytechnique Award
- Allison Engo – Laval University Award and Gold Medal for the intermediate category (Secondary III & IV)
- Athavan Thambimuthu
- Janvi Patel & Catherine Plawutsky



Niraj Dayanandan and Allison Engo will be moving on to the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Ottawa on May 12–19, 2018. Athavan Thambimuthu will be attending the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair taking place at the same time in Pittsburgh PA.

Good luck once again to these students, we are so proud of their accomplishments!

## RoboJunior

By Mr. Stephan Nemeth

On April 20–21, the RWA junior robotics team brought 38 students to the RoboJunior robotics competition that took place at Vanier College. Our students worked hard for three months preparing for this event. This year we brought ten teams to the competition and participated in three different events.



Four teams competed in the “Football” event, in which autonomous robots competed 2-on-2 to score the most goals. Congratulations to Robotis Kickrearendus (Noah Broccolini, Liem Yip, and Evan De La Rua) who took home first prize, and G-Murray (Nathan Bokobza, Maurice Elkouby, Riley Patterson, and Gene Feng) for winning third place!

In addition, three teams participated in “Save Metropolis,” in which students built a robot that travelled through a disaster city to transport civilians to the safety zone. Congratulations to both Robotopians (Priyesh Patel, Tyler Hamaker, and Luc Girouard) for taking home first place, and to Lil-Bots (Jason Kirsch, James Di Sciuillo, Lucas Bordo, and Kevin Steiner) for winning silver!





The last event, "Triathlon," consisted of a rope climb, tug-of-war, and drag race. Congratulations to team SPam3rs/Sabotage (Charles Velan, Xavier MacLaren, Guillaume Chambon, Harry Auchinleck, and Isabella Iannotti) for taking home the silver!

Royal West Academy won the overall cup this year thanks to the amazing work and dedication of all our students in the robotics program.

Very special thanks to all of our amazing parent volunteers for their help during the event. We couldn't have done it without you!

## Hackathon

By Mr. Stephan Nemeth

On April 17, Royal West Academy hosted the 3rd annual school-wide Hackathon.

A hackathon is a one-day event in which students collaborate on exciting coding, robotics, and gaming projects. Eight schools from the EMSB attended.



This year's theme was improving air and water pollution and waste management in the city of Montreal. We were truly amazed by what the students came up with in such a short period of time!

## A Cappella Choir

By Jessica Looper & Lola Raimbert

Royal West Academy's A Cappella choir is an extracurricular activity that is open to all grades. Their musical repertoire is broadly ranged from pop to classical. They usually perform without any instrumental accompaniment, with a couple exceptions. The choir is run by Ms. Macleod, one of RWA's music teachers. I decided to interview Lola Raimbert, one of the choir members, to find out a bit more about this ECA.

The choir practices twice a week, Mondays at lunch and Wednesdays after school. Monday sessions focus on a cappella skills, and members work on their repertoire that they will perform in concert on Wednesdays. They perform in every band concert at RWA, including the Holiday Concert, the Winter Concert, the Dessert Concert, and the Spring Concert, which is coming up soon. They are usually the opening act since they are one of the only vocal groups.

There are 22 members in the A Capella choir. It is open to anyone from any grade and no experience is needed. Auditions are required the first year you join to see your range and to make sure you can carry a tune. "Choir is a really fun way to improve your singing skills and it's a great way to meet students from other grades. It's also

very rewarding to hear the result of 30 people singing together without any instruments. When I started high school, singing in front of people was not something I enjoyed, but after just one year of choir I felt much more confident doing so,” Lola stated.

The A Cappella choir performs usually in three- to five-part harmonies in all different styles. They sing classical songs such as the traditional Spanish Christmas carol *Riu Riu Chiu*, and more modern songs from movies like *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* which were both performed at the Holiday Concert. They also sing jazz arrangements such as *Back to Black* by Amy Winehouse from their Dessert Concert performance. Lola’s favourite song was the pop song *I’m Yours* by Jason Mraz from the Winter Concert.

The choir recently performed in RWA’s Dessert Concert which took place on April 20. This concert featured many different groups such as Bardolators, the Musical, Glee Club, and all of the bands. Following the concert there was a large spread of desserts which all of the performers supplied. The choir sang three songs, one featured two different soloists and another was in a different language. “I really enjoyed myself while standing on stage, next to my friends, and singing. We were very successful in the concert. I can’t wait until the next one,” said Lola.

## Merit Award

By Ms. Lorena Morante, Regional Coordinator, Encounters With Canada

Congratulations to Tina Zhang of Royal West Academy, winner of a 2018 Merit Award offered by the Women’s Canadian Club of Montreal. The award is given to a deserving student aged 14 to 17 who excels academically and socially, who exhibits outstanding school and community involvement, and shows leadership ability.



Tina was awarded a week at Encounters With Canada, the country’s largest youth forum. During the 2018–2019 academic year, Tina 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 a variety of different theme weeks, including Science and Technology, Communications and Social Media, Medicine, Law, Business, Entrepreneurship Ecology, Sports, Global Affairs, and so much more.



Visit [www.ewc-rdc.ca/pub/](http://www.ewc-rdc.ca/pub/) for more information on this exciting once-in-a-lifetime experience.

## Career Explorations

By Katie Pallett-Wiesel & Davina Toledano

Career Explorations is an extracurricular activity at Royal West Academy, organized by Ms. DiPietro, designed to assist students interested in health science decide what field they want to pursue. I talked to Davina Toledano, a Secondary IV student who participated in this event, to find out more about the experience.

Students had the opportunity to choose an activity to participate in which would give them a look inside of the life of a professional in the field of health science. The options included neuroscience, the human anatomy: the heart, physiotherapy, dentistry, occupational therapy, parasites and diseases, radiology therapy, and a few others. Davina told me that after finding out about this extracurricular activity through the Daily Bulletin, she decided to sign up and explore the activity of neuroscience and the human anatomy: the heart. “These two fields grabbed my attention the most. My personal favourite was the neuroscience one. We had an amazing lecture on the functions of the brain (in a nutshell) and even got to hold a real human one at the end of the activity,” says Davina.

Davina informed me that she had a positive experience with this activity and that it helped her get a different



perspective on her career. She also added that it can be valuable even for people who aren't passionate about health science. Davina said, "I learned that you shouldn't expect yourself to know what field of science you want to go into without doing a bit of research on it. At first, I thought I was set on something like psychology, but after seeing how fascinating the activities based on the functions of the human brain were, I have completely been exposed to a new and broad field of interest."

Davina suggests that anyone who is unsure about their future career should participate in this activity next year because it helps you to become better informed before making any decisions. She says, "Make sure you choose something that interests you. This is a perfect opportunity to learn in depth about something you are passionate about and honestly, you can't go wrong with any of the choices. From my experience, all the professors were very open to questions. Don't be shy, ask as many as you could because that's what they're there for."

## Competing In Junior Robotics

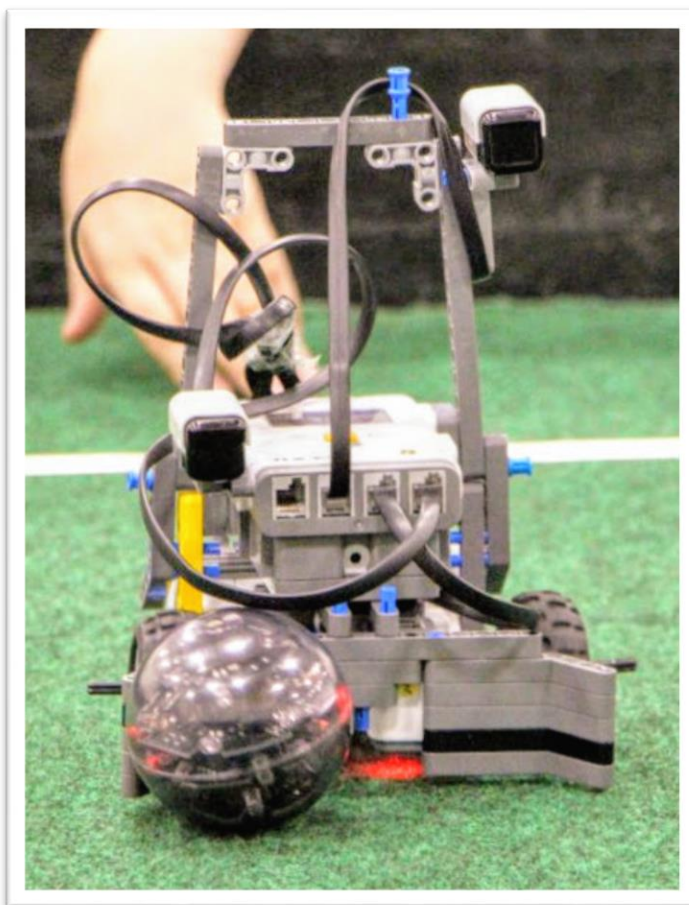
By Thomas Nikolantonakis

On April 20–21, there was a robotics competition held at Vanier College. Not just any robotics competition, but the 16th annual ScienceTech Junior Robotics competition. In this league, teams of up to four players from Secondary I and II can choose from multiple events:

- Soccer, where two teams of 2 battle it out on the field
- Save Metropolis, where robots must follow a line and complete various goals
- Triathlon, which consists of a rope climb, a tug-of-war, and a drag race.

Players from several school boards all over the city came together to compete in the competition. Last year, over 375 teams signed up and competed, including my three teammates and me. Here, I'll be recounting my experience at the competition.

It all started Friday morning, when we arrived at Vanier and were modifying our robots for the soccer



competition. The whole of Friday, we were testing and tweaking our programs and played a few games. By the end of the day, we won one game (the opposing team forfeited), we tied one game, and we lost another.

On Saturday, we reprogrammed and reinforced our robots, but unfortunately, we lost our first game to LaurenHill Academy and were knocked out of the competition. We watched our RWA friends compete in other events and celebrated when they won the Save Metropolis event. After that, there was an awards ceremony where Royal West Academy finished first overall in the high school class, and Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School came first in the elementary school class.

Unfortunately, this is my last year at the competition because next year I'll be too old to compete. To anyone out there willing to join a robotics team, I strongly recommend you do, as it is an easy way to make strong bonds with people who you share interests with—who will be your friends for the rest of high school—and will help you develop teamwork skills.

# The Governing Board Report

By Mr. Nijad Dahdah, Chair

The Governing Board held its regular meeting on April 23 at 7 PM in the school library.

In addition to the regular reports and documents that were presented for information or adoption, the governing board members discussed and approved the following:

- The RWA Budget Priorities for 2018–2019, which is part of the English Montreal School Board Budget Building Process 2018–2019 consultation

- May–June 2018 Exam Schedule
- School Calendar for 2018–2019
- School Trips for 2018–2019. Individual school trips that are outside the Greater Montreal Region
- The Principal presented updates on the school budget, for information only

The minutes of our Governing Board meetings are posted on the Royal West Academy website. The next governing board meeting is scheduled for May 29, 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

|           |                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| May 1–2   | Book Fair                       |
| May 4     | SLA Elections                   |
| May 10    | Spring Concert @ 7 PM           |
| May 13    | Mother's Day                    |
| May 14    | RWA Foundation meeting @ 7 PM   |
| May 15    | UN Debate                       |
| May 15    | Home & School meeting @ 7:30 PM |
| May 19–21 | Bike trip                       |
| May 21    | Victoria Day                    |
| May 28–31 | Mind POP Géographie             |
| May 29    | Governing Board meeting @ 7 PM  |
| May 31    | Art Vernissage                  |

# RWA



# News

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