

RWA



News

WWW.ROYALWESTACADEMY.COM

OCTOBER 2019

A Word From The Administration

Ms. Angela Vaudry, Principal
Ms. Chantal Juhasz, Vice-Principal
Mr. Steven Manstavich, Vice-Principal
Ms. Christy Tannous, Vice-Principal



Secondary I Parent Seminar

Our Secondary I Parent Seminars kicked off this year on October 2, with an informative presentation by our MindPOP team, Mr. Mateus and Ms. Almeida. The seminar focused on teenage development and students' transition to high school, particularly to Royal West Academy. About 100 parents were present at this presentation on the workings of the adolescent mind. The next seminar (originally scheduled for November 5, 2019) has been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances—information about the rescheduled date will be communicated to the Secondary I parents as soon as it becomes available.

Examens d'admission

Nos examens d'admission se sont déroulés les 5 et 6 octobre. Nous remercions tout particulièrement M. Mateus, Mme Klisouris, Mme Schreiber, et Mme Di Pietro ainsi que nos étudiants bénévoles sans qui il nous aurait été impossible d'organiser un tel événement.

CEGEP Information Evening

On October 23, Royal West Academy hosted its annual CEGEP Information Evening. Representatives from both

English and French CEGEPs located in Montreal and Ontario were in attendance. After a general overview of the CEGEP admissions process, students and parents were able to visit representatives from two CEGEPs of their choice for 25-minute presentations on the programs offered in those institutions. A third session, over 40 minutes, allowed students and parents to ask individual questions of all the CEGEPs present. Over 200 students and parents were in attendance. We would like to thank RWA guidance counsellors Ms. Klisouris and Ms. Schreiber for organizing the event.

Fondation Terry Fox

Les élèves en secondaire 2 ont entrepris leur campagne annuelle de financement pour la Fondation Terry Fox (*voir détails en page 4*). Les élèves ont travaillé sans relâche pour recueillir plus de 8750 \$! Félicitations aux élèves et merci à MM. Aiken et Bateman, et Mme O'Neil pour leur leadership.

HOPS Program

Congratulations to Secondary V students Harley Eiley, Allison Engo, Adelka Felcarek-Hope, Mia Moghrabi, Maxine Noik, and Simon Radhakrishna for being selected for the Hospital Opportunity Program for Students. The HOPS program provides an opportunity for students from a variety of high schools to observe and assist medical personnel within a large hospital setting. The Auxiliary of the Jewish General Hospital arranges for students to spend a half-day per week for two 5-week periods in various departments of the hospital. Special thanks to Ms. Di Pietro, Ms. Klisouris, and Ms. Schreiber for their work in preparing students for the selection process.

GMAA Cross-Country

Félicitations à tous nos coureurs qui ont participé à la course annuelle GMAA Cross-Country le 10 octobre. Nous remercions les élèves en Leadership qui ont généreusement offert leur temps en tant que bénévoles. Nous tenons aussi à remercier Mme O'Neil pour avoir coordonné l'événement.



Sports

Congratulations to the bantam and midget girls Cross-Country teams for winning the GMAA championship banner. The midget boys finished a close second, and both the bantam boys and juvenile boys came in third. A great job by all 83 athletes that competed for Royal West Academy!

Governing Board

À notre première réunion le 24 octobre (*voir détails en page 3*), le RWA Governing Board a élu Mme Anne Monereau à la présidence et Mme Jacqueline Stein-Elman à la vice-présidence pour l'année 2019–2020. Félicitations mesdames! Nous sommes impatients de commencer à travailler avec tous les membres du Governing Board pour améliorer les services éducatifs et la vie scolaire des élèves et parents de RWA. Le Governing Board se réunira à la bibliothèque de l'école à 19 h aux dates suivantes:

- 25 novembre 2019
- 23 janvier 2020
- 24 février 2020
- 26 mars 2020
- 27 avril 2020
- 28 mai 2020
- 8 juin 2020 (réception des bénévoles)

Les réunions sont publiques et comprennent une période de questions. Une liste complète de tous les membres et leurs coordonnées ainsi que les procès-verbaux des réunions précédentes sont disponibles sur le site Web de RWA et en cliquant sur «Governing Board».

Climate March

Hundreds of thousands rallied at the Montreal climate march on September 27. Swedish teen environmental activist Greta Thunberg led the protest on that day. Two RWA students, Caroline Morris and Trent Deschamps-Coinner, were interviewed with regards to the climate march on CBC Radio Noon, which can be heard at www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-102-radio-noon-montreal/clip/15738457-greta-thunberg-and-climate-march-in-montreal

Enjoy the beautiful fall colours while they last! Winter is coming!

SHARING THE STAGE WITH YOU.

By Mr. Mitchell White, RWA Foundation
President

Dear Royal West Academy parents,

I have some great news: our highly anticipated Big Super Raffle is back by popular demand!

The Royal West Academy Foundation (RWAF) is holding a fantastic raffle once again to raise funds for our beloved school. Ticket buyers can win one of two pairs of great seats to the **Jonas Brothers** concert, to be held on November 27, 2019, at the Bell Centre. These seats are valued at more than \$400 per pair, and offer an amazing view of the stage. They are impossible to come by, so your best chance of scoring a pair is to buy a raffle ticket! (or two or three) (or six!)

We also have some great secondary prizes, thanks to the support the RWAF has received from Evenko. Stay tuned for more details about these prizes in the coming days.

Raffle tickets are just \$10 each (or 6 for \$50) and can be purchased online at <https://rwaf.ca/shop/raffle-tickets/big-super-raffle-fall-2019>. Tickets will also be sold at the school as well as online.

The draw will take place on November 18, 2019.

Organizing a raffle is a lot of work, and we are always looking for volunteers. If you would like to help sell tickets or spread the word, please let us know! Get in touch with the RWAF at info@rwaf.ca.

Or come out to our next meeting, to be held November 11, 2019, at 7 PM in the Teachers' Lounge on the second floor (access via the Ainslie entrance). If you can lend a hand, or even if you're just curious, come see what we're all about! If you want to help but can't make the meeting, just send us an email at info@rwaf.ca.

Good luck, and thanks for supporting the RWA Foundation as we raise money for the school!



The Governing Board Report

By Ms. Anne Monereau, Chair & Ms. Jacqueline Stein-Elman, Vice Chair

The first Governing Board meeting was held on October 24. Elections took place and the positions were filled as follows:

- Chair – Ms. Anne Monereau (parent)
- Vice-Chair – Ms. Jacqueline Stein-Elman (parent)
- Secretary – Ms. Leigh Partington (teacher)
- Treasurer – Mr. Earl Rubin (parent)
- As previously elected, Mr. Norm Gharibian remains the Parent Delegate and Ms. Anne Monereau the Alternate Delegate
- The Governing Board agreed to invite Dr. Mahesh C. Sharma and Ms. Elysia Bryan-Baynes to once again be our Community Representatives—they both subsequently agreed

Highlights of the meeting include:

- Approval of the internal rules of operation of the Governing Board
- Budget update, including notice of a surplus allocation of \$15,000 for Royal West Academy
- The Principal's report, including the status of the application process for 2020–2021 and an update on filling vacant teaching posts (now completed for RWA)
- The Governing Board's approval for the Administration to approve local day trips for students
- Approval of Home & School and Foundation mandates for the 2019–2020 year

The Governing Board also established the meeting dates for the 2019–2020 school year. They will be held as follows:

- November 25, 2019
- January 23, 2020
- February 24, 2020
- March 26, 2020
- April 27, 2020
- May 28, 2020
- June 8, 2020

Meetings take place in the school library at 7 PM. All are welcome! We hope to see you at our next meeting—

but in case you miss us, the minutes are posted on the RWA website.

Wishing you all a very successful year!

Interview: Ms. Angela Vaudry

By Matteo Solomita

On October 24, I interviewed the newest addition to the Royal West Academy family, Ms. Angela Vaudry. Being our new principal, it seemed fitting to both welcome her and get to know her better. Walking into her office, I felt a kind of warmth and kindness putting me at ease, followed by a personality that's all too kind, with a very interesting background. Being a principal is a tough job, with kids always wanting to rebel against them because of their duty to enforce strict rules, but with Ms. Vaudry I noticed that although she takes her job seriously, she does her best to make school an enjoyable place for all.



I began with the casual conversation starter, “How are you liking Royal West so far?” So far she's enjoying it. I later asked which schools Ms. Vaudry has worked at previously, with her stating, “I taught for about seven years at James Lyng High School ... I was [vice-principal] at Vincent Massey ... for about three years ... principal at James Lyng for three years ... and then most recently for the last three years I've been at John Grant and Links special needs schools.”

Obviously this isn't Ms. Vaudry's first role in an administrative position, having worked at different schools all over Montreal. I asked her which high school she attended. She graduated high school at Thomas D'Arcy McGee Centre for the Fine and Performing Arts, where she studied art and dance. Following high school she studied in the arts at Dawson College, then studied Art Education at Concordia University. After hearing she studied art, I asked Ms. Vaudry why she had decided to follow more of an administrative role. Due to her starting university at age 26 and already being a mother, she didn't have time to establish herself; she also liked the nurturing aspect of a teacher, so an art

teacher she became, saying, “My two loves ... the best of two worlds.” When asked about uniforms, she understands the pros and cons of them at school having worn one for two years, but she feels it “lends professionalism to the class.”

Being a student in Secondary V, I wondered what kind of advice Ms. Vaudry had in store for us, knowing that next year we would be attending CEGEP. She simply stated, “Figure out what it is they want to do, because we all have interests, but not just what you think you should do, but what you want to do ... Only by experiencing it [will] you really get a sense if you have skills in it or have interests in it.”

Ms. Vaudry really does her best to make kids feel at home, and if you were to ask students who she has taught, they will say that she has a very “human” side to her. She goes on to say that, in the workplace, she does her best to make new relationships with her co-workers, but finds it hard to find someone that actually understands her, especially since she’s the principal. She doesn’t like the whole hierarchy triangle, but rather thinks of all her peers as equals and hopes to form strong bonds with staff who don’t just think of her as a boss.

I then asked about hobbies that Ms. Vaudry likes and what she’s like outside of school. It turns out she likes her sci-fi—who would’ve thought she’s obsessed with Star Wars? One of her sons is even named Harrison, after Harrison Ford, which I think is pretty cool. Besides her art and Star Wars, she likes to crochet, and has been doing a lot of research on her ancestry tree, which is fascinating to see who you were related too. She actually found out she has an ancestor who has a statue in Quebec City.

To end of the pleasant interview with Ms. Vaudry I asked if she had any advice to offer to the RWA family, to which she says, “Have fun, you guys are all under 17 years old. If you don’t have fun now, you’re not going to have fun when you’re my age ... when it’s time to be serious, you have to be serious, but you have to balance that in your life.”

Terry Fox Event

By Ms. Marie-Claire O’Neil

Once again the Secondary II students at Royal West Academy have stepped up to the challenge of training for our annual Terry Fox event and seeking pledges for the Terry Fox Foundation. It has been 16 years since RWA Secondary II students began fundraising and participating in this event.

The students raised \$8751.30 this year—the top earner this year is Natalya Babkine, who raised \$360 by going door to door over many days. Well done Natalya!

The Secondary II students spent the beginning of each physical and health education class preparing for the race day, running distances ranging from 800 m to 2400 m. During one of the physical and health education classes, students watched a Terry Fox documentary, which inspired them to do their best during the race day.

Terry Fox began his marathon of hope in 1980 because he wanted to make a difference. The Secondary II students at Royal West Academy are continuing his efforts in hopes of increasing survival rates for numerous types of cancer. Thank you to everyone who donated to this cause and to the Secondary II students for working so hard to achieve their goals.

RWANews

Editor	Ronald Pau (RWA alumni parent)
Assistant Editor	Daniela MacLean (Sec V student)
Junior Assistant Editor	TBA (Sec IV student)
Junior Assistant Editor	TBA (Sec IV student)
Staff Advisor	Christy Tannous (Vice-Principal)

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 .



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 1	Bardolators Fall Production
November 6	Pedagogical Day (afternoon only)
November 7	Remembrance Day assemblies
November 8	SLA Dance @ 7 PM
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 11	RWA Foundation meeting @ 7 PM
Nov 11–14	MindPOP Math
November 14	Sec III vaccinations
November 15	Pedagogical Day
Nov 18–21	Anti-Bullying Week
November 19	Pink Shirt Day
November 21	Parent-Teacher Interviews 2:30 PM–5:30 PM & 7 PM–9:30 PM
November 22	Pedagogical Day
November 28	Sec 1 Tyndale assembly
November 29	Pedagogical Day



**A NICOTINE-FREE
VAPE IS NOT
A WORRY-FREE
VAPE.**

Vapes can expose you to toxic chemicals like formaldehyde and acrolein, even if they don't have nicotine.

 **FDA** U.S. FOOD & DRUG
ADMINISTRATION

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.

