



ROYAL WEST ACADEMY  
**GOVERNING BOARD**  
189 EASTON AVE  
MONTREAL-WEST (QC) H4X 1L4

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

October 12, 2021

### **1. STAFFING**

There have been significant changes in our staffing.

#### New staff members:

- Catherine Lumsden (Vice-Principal A-L)
- Nadine Bolduc (Secretary – HR)
- Chad Du Mond (Guidance Counsellor A-L)
- Marie-Oriole Louissaint (Français)
- James Magee (Science)
- Nicholas Rafael (English/ Drama/ Art)
- Patrick Stewart-Reid (English/ Art)
- Claudia Pulice (ERC/ Histoire)

#### Returning staff:

- Steve Manstavich (Vice-Principal M-Z)
- Myriam Deschenes (Français)
- Louise Moreau (Français)
- Leigh Partington (Math/ Science)
- Sandy Roy (Français)
- Antoine Tétreault (Français/ Univers Sociale)
- Michal Wineberg (Guidance Counsellor)

I am pleased to report that all teaching vacancies have been filled, some on a temporary basis as we await confirmation of assignments from HR.

### **2. ATTESTATION DAY**

Official count on attestation day was 875

### **3. QUALIFYING EXAMS**

The EMSB has made the difficult decision to cancel qualifying exams for their schools. Understandably, gathering two groups of 300 grade 6 students from a variety of feeder schools, who are also unvaccinated due to their age, is not recommend at this time.

This decision has obviously complicated our admissions process, given that the results of the qualifying exams typically account for a large percentage of our applicants' final admissions scores, and allow us to offer early admission to our top performers. We are now relying on the remaining components, the file scores and interviews, in order to rank our applicants, and offer admission accordingly.

We've had 611 applicants this year

#### **4. COVID-19**

We are very proud of our school team, who continue to provide the high quality education our parents and guardians have come to expect from us, even during these trying times. As one can easily imagine, the responsibilities of our staff have been tremendously impacted by the global pandemic, and we are continuously adjusting to our new realities. Our staff is working hard to make sure that our students' academic and psycho-social needs, as well as their health and well-being are being cared for.

As of the writing of this report, there are no positive COVID cases to report within the school staff or student body (one case was declared prior to initiation of school year protocols). We appreciate the collective efforts made to keep us all safe and in school.

#### **5. CAMPAIN AGAINST POVERTY**

The Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) provides special allocations to schools to ensure food security - RWA has received monies for this purpose. Needy families may apply to have their children receive nutritious meals, daily, for the approximate cost of 1.50\$ per day. We are happy to provide this confidential service for our students. An email has been sent to the parents and guardians of our students with this offer of help.

#### **6. STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES (COURSE OUTLINES)**

Our Standards and Procedures documentation have been uploaded to our school website.

#### **7. RENOVATIONS**

Bathroom renovations (2<sup>nd</sup> floor boys, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor boys) have been delayed. Initially, the delay was due to scheduling. Once the bathrooms were demolished, a finding (fissure) required that a structural engineer be called upon to validate the resulting course of action. This caused further delay in the project. Completion of the project is expected by January 2022.

#### **8. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Please be advised that all Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs) fall under the authority of active school staff – no ECA may be organized/ managed without a staff moderator. Currently, RWA offers over 100 different options for students, which is well above the average in other high schools. The slate of activities is offered based on moderators' interests and is subject to change annually. Please be aware that staff participation in ECAs is on a voluntary basis – staff cannot be mandated to offer activities.