



Words From The Admin



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Vice-Principal

Catherine Lumsden

The robin's song, BIXI bike sightings, and crater-sized potholes—all signs that spring has (finally!) sprung in Montreal. This also means that the end of the school year is fast approaching. We hope students are starting to think about cleaning out lockers, book returns, and exams.

Last Day of Classes

The last full day of classes is June 2, 2022 for Secondary I to IV students. June 1, 2022 is the last day of classes for Secondary V students. June 3, 2022 is a pedagogical day at Royal West Academy. Students are required to wear their proper school uniform until May 27, 2022, after which they may wear their physical education uniform. Otherwise, they are expected to wear their regular uniform along with their shoes.

Locker Clean Up

Students are encouraged to start thinking about gradual locker clean up. Lockers must be completely emptied by 8:40 AM on June 2, 2022. At this time, locks must be returned to homeroom teachers to avoid a fee. On June 3, 2022, any locks remaining on lockers will be cut and Royal West Academy will not be responsible for items left in lockers.

Secondary V EMSB Accounts

Please be advised that Secondary V students will lose access to their EMSB account after graduation. Only students with active registrations maintain their access. Make sure to save any files/work you wish to keep **before June 30, 2022.**

Vacation Plans and Summer School

A reminder to parents to avoid scheduling appointments or summer vacations until they have seen the final exam schedule and they are certain their child will not need to attend summer school (July 2022) or need to write supplemental exams (July 19–August 2, 2022). If your child is experiencing difficulties, we encourage you to communicate with their teachers.

RWA Performing Arts Centre

Our much-anticipated auditorium renovations are about to begin! In the next month, contractors will start renovations in our auditorium and music room (old girls' gym). We will thus be moving our music classes from these spaces to allow the magic to happen. Your child's music teacher will provide your child with details. Please be assured that construction work and class displacements will respect all mandated health and safety measures.

Road Safety and Impaired Driving

This year, all Secondary V students received a presentation called "Is the Thrill Worth It" by trauma experts from the Montreal Children's Hospital. The presentation consisted of road safety and the risks of impaired driving among teenagers. The presentation concluded with a testimonial entitled "Craig's Story" told through the voice of his mother. She shared the tragic loss of her son as a result of impaired driving and reflected on the life-long impact it has had on his family, friends, and community.



Food Appreciation ECA

Boxermans, a restaurant owned by former RWA teacher Ms. Chawki's family, welcomed students from the Food Appreciation Club. Students had the opportunity to see the ins and outs of running a restaurant while enjoying a seven-course meal.



Les aventures de FLE 5e secondaire

Suite à la lecture de *La grosse femme d'à côté est enceinte*, les élèves de français langue d'enseignement (5e sec) ont eu la joie de découvrir le Plateau-Mont-Royal. Après un pique-nique au parc Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier, un guide nous a fait visiter les rues et les ruelles où vivent les personnages de Michel Tremblay. L'école Paul-Bruchési, la rue Fabre et le parc La Fontaine ont été les lieux les plus appréciés par les élèves, mais pas autant que la rencontre avec le chat Duplessis!



Social Justice for Ukraine

The Social Justice Club at Royal West Academy believes that social justice is simple. It's about fairness in societies. It's grounded in the idea that every human being deserves the full spectrum of political, economic and social rights, and opportunities. So when Russia began a military invasion of Ukraine on February 24, launching attacks on several cities, the Social Justice Club began developing a campaign to raise money in solidarity with the Ukrainian people. In exchange for a \$1 donation, students will receive a button that they are permitted to wear to show their support. Students also had the opportunity to bring in their own designs to create a custom button. In our first week of sales, the Social Justice Club raised over \$200—that's more than 200 buttons! All money raised will be donated to the Canadian Red Cross to help the humanitarian efforts in Ukraine.

Dynamix

On the pedagogical day on April 11, students had an opportunity to participate in an exciting team building extra-curricular through Dynamix. These experiences created opportunities to learn and have fun through hands-on, interactive activities. Dynamix will be returning to Royal West Academy this month.

Bouldering ECA

Students from the Bouldering Club went to Café Bloc to climb some walls and enjoy some sun.



Penny Wars is Back

By Philippe Markiewicz

This year was a great comeback for Royal West Academy's charity week: Penny Wars. Each grade has their own respective buckets in which they can drop coins in for positive points, and drop bills into the buckets of other grades for negative points. The prize at the end of the week: if your respective grade level has the most points, you are rewarded with a half day off so that your grade level can leave school early on a pre-specified day.

The competitive aspect of this charity event makes it that much more rewarding to donate because there is a prize, and it is a very fun week filled with special traditions. On the last day, the Secondary Vs dump all of the coins they have collected over the week (and possibly longer) into their buckets in one go. Everyone looks forward to Penny Wars prior to the winter holidays as a way to give to those in need. Even the teachers get in on the fun by contributing themselves, of course only to the grades they will have that afternoon.

Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre is an educational charity for the residents of Little Burgundy through the years of childhood to adulthood. We at RWA believe that education is a very important thing for kids and for adults, so being able to help them educate these young minds is a great opportunity that we cherish. Since 1927, Tyndale St-Georges' goal has been to provide people in need, from birth onwards, with the help they need.

This year we were able to raise nearly \$6000 dollars for Tyndale St-Georges—an extraordinary amount. For more information, visit their website at <https://tyndalestgeorges.com/>.

SLA Spring Secrets Revealed!

By Lauren Tzimopoulos

For some, spring is just the agony before summer where everyone crams for their exams, hates the rainy weather, and wishes the time passes by fast enough to be in shorts and bathing suits. For Student Life Association, spring is the time to be planning for Royal West Academy's next events.

Every year, there's April Madness, a week packed with daily activities for all students to enjoy. Following this

are the SLA elections for the next year's slate. Every year, SLA does an incredible job, ending the school year with excitement and relief that the year is over.

First and foremost, April Madness usually happens the third week of April. This year, SLA started the week off on the Tuesday with "Take a Selfie with Mr. Zigby." It required the students to take a picture with Mr. Zigby, and send it to the SLA Instagram. Wednesday, the madness continued and students had to draw a picture of their homeroom teacher. Thursday, SLA prepared an egg hunt for the school, where every egg had a certain amount of points each. The homeroom with the most points and enough spirit would win chocolate boxes. Finally, Friday was Bingo Day. The cards were available online and to any student who wanted to participate. A win in bingo is a win for a homeroom since the winner gets a pizza lunch for their homeroom!

Well of course, every year, the SLA elections make a fun and competitive environment for all students participating. Any student can run to be the grade representative for their respective cohort—just speak with Mr. Zigby and he will organize a small interview.



This year, it will be exhilarating to watch two very qualified slates run. During the second week of May 2022, students will vote for their preferred slate and grade representative. Now the real question is, which slate will win this year?

Ultimately, it is crucial to remember how important SLA is to this school, and how much they have really helped the school this year. Student Life Association is always welcoming new students to join. The key thing to remember is that Mr. Zigby is the person to talk to, and as he said himself, "SLA is full of students who are determined to make Royal West a better place."

The Power of Walking

By Adhayan Thambimuthu

Power Walking is an ECA offered by Royal West Academy every year during the spring and the autumn. This ECA, run by Ms. Di Pietro, offers students the opportunity to interact and socialize with their friends while simultaneously obtaining either a sport or environmental credit. Every Wednesday for ten weeks straight, students from Secondary I to V gather after school to embark on a relaxing 45-minute walk with their friends.

Although each session explores a different path of Montreal West, every session begins after school at 3:10 PM, when all the members meet near the new gym exit. Students wait patiently until the taking of attendance to start the adventure. When attendance is

over, students curiously follow Ms. Di Pietro to see which pathway they will be exploring in Montreal West. Once the clock hits 4 PM, the walk is officially finished. The students are then permitted to leave. After attending a minimum of eight sessions, the students may obtain a surprise treat during the last session of the season.

On April 20, I joined the Power Walking Club in one of their usual Wednesday sessions. Throughout the session, I quickly noticed this sense of community within the members. While still enjoying the fresh air outside after a long day of school, the members made an effort to socialize with their friends and even people in other grades. Despite the large group of power walkers this year, Ms. Di Pietro, the power-walking head, consistently ensures that all COVID-related health procedures and security protocols are respected.

As a proud participant of power walking since Secondary I, power walking has allowed me to make many of my closest friends. Being able to stroll along the sidewalks of Montreal West and interact with students from many different grades was truly an enjoyable experience. In view of the effects of the pandemic on the current high school years, I asked a new member, Shawn Korzeniewski, about his experience with power walking this year. Shawn explained, "Power walking with friends has been so fun this past year. During the week, I look forward to the Wednesday sessions. Even with the masks and the health procedures, it feels normal, similar to before the



pandemic, where people can just hang out outdoors with people without being afraid.”

As a fellow student who isn't really athletic, power walking is perfect for all students who want to achieve a sports or environmental credit in a fun and exciting way. Power walking has impacted my high school career in such a positive way. I recommend it to any student looking for a fun way to hang out with friends, even if they don't need the credit.

Dungeons and Dragons

By Jacob Rodrigo

Among the many extra-curricular activities in which I have participated during my years at Royal West Academy, one of them has a special place in my heart. I am talking, of course, about Dungeons and Dragons club. Last school year, Mr. Girardin created a Dungeons and Dragons club at the school. However, due to COVID, it was limited to only the students in his homeroom. I was in that homeroom and joined the club along with several other students.

Mr. Girardin has played D&D on and off ever since he was seven years old. During the pandemic, he started playing again and found it to be a lot of fun. He decided to create the D&D club at RWA because it was easy to do in a bubble and he wanted to provide the students with something other than class while in school. However, now that the COVID restrictions have loosened up, the club has grown. The club now has seven groups and Mr. Girardin is very happy and surprised by its rapid growth.

Most of the players had never played Dungeons and Dragons. One of the players that I interviewed said that she had zero experience with it and had only heard about it from TV shows. She joined because she heard that it was fun and she wanted to try something new. She says that in the end, it turned out to be very similar to what she expected and that she enjoys it a lot, especially her character. She loves animals so she made her character a druid, a shapeshifter who can turn into them.

So far, all of the players are enjoying playing Dungeons and Dragons. Mr. Girardin also urges anyone who is even slightly interested to give D&D a try, as it is a fun, collaborative game which uses everyone's imaginations.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 6	SLA Elections
May 9	Pedagogical Day
May 10–13	MindPOP Géographie
May 13	Dress-down Day
May 16	RWA Foundation meeting @ 7 PM
May 16	Home & School meeting @ 7:30 PM
May 17	Governing Board meeting @ 7 PM
May 18	Math Competition (Sec I, II)
May 23	Victoria/National Patriotes Day
May 26	Art Vernissage
May 31	Senior music recital



RWA



News

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