



Words From The Admin



Principal Tony Pita (right) with Vice-Principal Steven Manstavich (left) and Vice-Principal Catherine

Staff Changes

Royal West Academy welcomes back Mr. S. Manstavich as vice-principal (M-Z). A sincere thank you to Ms. J. Fogel who stepped into the position for a few months and who now returns to her science classroom. Another big thank you goes out to Ms. H. Ghadirian who ensured that students in Ms. Fogel's classes progressed as required in her absence.

Winter at RWA

It is that time of year when road conditions often lead to slower traffic. Please ensure students leave the house a little earlier than usual so they can arrive at school safely and on time. A reminder about school uniform expectations in this cold weather can be found in the code of conduct. We strongly urge all students to have an RWA sweater or cardigan.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Secondary V students were invited to a Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Montreal West Monument on November 9. Students heard from special guests Navy Captain Robert D. M. Taylor, Private Rizavi of the Royal Montreal Regiment, and Dr. Drummond, local enthusiast responsible for the Lest We Forget posters around Montreal West. Royal West Academy

Secondary V student Francis Q. performed *The Last Post* and the *Reveille* while other Secondary V students Enya B., Raphaëlla E., Isaac S., and Marilena S. contributed to the ceremony by reciting *In Flanders Fields* and *Au champ d'honneur*.



On November 11, all of RWA paused for a virtual presentation organized by Ms. J. Trehin, Mr. D. Dupuis, and Mr. D. Linton.

Blue Shirt Day

Royal West Academy students were encouraged to wear blue shirts on November 14 to raise awareness and funds to support youth with Type 1 Diabetes. Donations totalled over \$550 and were sent to I Challenge Diabetes. Also on November 14, representatives from RWA's DiaCare ECA hosted some special guest speakers to learn more about Type 1 Diabetes and how to invoke legislative change to increase accessibility to medicine for youth with Type 1 Diabetes.



Parent Teacher Interviews

It was a pleasure to host families for Parent Teacher Interviews on November 17 in the Foundation Gym. Our students are grateful to those who bought from their fundraising tables and appreciative to those who had positive comments regarding the display of artwork. The next Parent Teacher Interviews will be on March 16, 2023 and we anticipate that it will be held virtually.

Secondary I Music Concerts

As the first Arts rotation came to an end, Ms. S. Macleod's Secondary I music students showcased what they learned over the last few weeks with intimate class concerts. Congratulations to all students learning to read music, play a new instrument, and work in a band. The next Arts rotation is in mid-March 2023.



Wildcats Bringing Home Banners

In recent weeks, RWA volleyball, soccer, and cross country have brought home championship banners. Congratulations to all our athletes who represent RWA with pride!

Secondary III Theatre Trip

Secondary III students saw *The Covenant*, written by RWA alum Alice Abracen, at the Segal Theatre recently. [EMSB's Holocaust Education Program podcast](#) delves deeper into the students' reactions.

School Trips

The Secondary I class enjoyed a day at La Base de plein air Bon départ. Organization for the Secondary II, IV, and V ski trips are well under way. Meanwhile the Exchange trip has adapted to the circumstances on multiple occasions and will be enjoying some time in Italy.

Beehive club

As the bees that call the RWA roof home prepare to hibernate for the winter, students in the Beehive Club ECA shift their attention to other bee-related activities. In November, students were given a workshop from Alvéole about collecting wax from a beehive.



Winter Concert

Royal West Academy ensembles held their Winter Concert the evening of December 8. The audience was regaled with a beautiful performance. Congratulations to all musicians and to music teachers Ms. Purdy and Ms. Macleod. A big thank you to Westmount High School for hosting the event while our auditorium is under construction.

Tyndale Week

Since the 1980s, RWA has held an annual Tyndale Week which includes raising funds for Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre in Little Burgundy. The week of December 5 was action-packed, including a myriad of fundraising events, a food-drive, a toy drive, Penny Wars, and a Dress Down Day. We will announce the funds raised in our next issue.



School Building Improvements

The construction on the auditorium continues to make strides. We are still hoping for a late spring finish for this project. Now that the two main building washroom renovations are complete, the crew has turned their attention to two washrooms in the west wing of the school. Completion for these latter two washrooms is estimated by the end of the mid-year break.

Locker Clean Up

Students will be given time during extended homeroom on December 22, 2022 to clean up their lockers. This is a time to re-organize, tidy, and reset for the new year.

Mid-Year Break

RWA would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in our community a restful break surrounded by loved ones. Take some time to do something nice for yourself and for others. Please remember that January 9, 2023 is a pedagogical day.

Drop-off and Pick-up

As outlined in the school agenda, Easton Avenue is the official drop-off and pick-up zone. We appreciate that the nearby construction is an added inconvenience recently, but please note that Ainslie Avenue is a no-stop zone. For the safety of our students and staff, and to uphold the good relationship with the neighbourhood residents, please refrain from speeding and using driveways to turn around. We are in regular communication with the SPVM and the town of Montreal West who may begin issuing tickets to those not respecting the drop-off and pick-up zone. While the nearby construction continues, we strongly encourage our RWA students to use public transportation or to walk.

Basquiat Exhibit

By Olivia D.

Secondary IV and V's second trip for visual arts this year.

On November 8, I had the honour of visiting the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and viewing their new exhibit on the work of Jean-Michel Basquiat titled *Seeing Loud: Basquiat and Music*. I observed many of his artworks and witnessed his inspiration: music. Each section of the tour was a different music genre that influenced him. These included jazz, opera, hip-hop, and classical music.

GIVING US ROOM TO LEARN TOGETHER

The Active Learning Classroom Campaign

Last month the **RWA Foundation**, in collaboration with Royal West Academy, launched a new and important fundraising initiative to benefit our kids, our staff, and our school.

The Active Learning Classroom Fundraising Campaign

Funds raised will go towards the modernization of classrooms to accommodate different learning styles and facilitate movement and collaboration of students within classes. Over the next several years, more and more classrooms will be identified to undergo this transformation.

During the 2022–2023 school year, the objective of this pilot project is to raise \$80,000 for three classrooms:

- Room 301 Math and Science
- Room 313 History and Ethics
- Room 209 English and Drama

Since the campaign launch last month, the feedback from parents, staff and students has been wonderful. We were so pleased to meet and exchange with many parents at the RWA Foundation table on November 17 during Parent-Teacher Interviews.

Attending the ***Into the Woods Jr*** musical on Dec. 19, 20, 21 or 22?

Visit the RWA Foundation table to say hello.

We look forward to meeting you!

Give Today!

Please support Royal West Academy's Active Learning Classroom Campaign.
Visit rwaf.ca

The Royal West Academy Foundation is run by volunteer parents. If you'd like to help out, please send us an email at info@rwaf.ca.

We were guided through the exhibit, stopping in every room to see what art it had to offer. We got a chance to see Basquiat's own band Gray perform some of the works he was commissioned to create. As well, there were artworks that he created and old sketchbooks that had been deconstructed. All of his artworks felt deeply intimate and personal because Basquiat worked by spilling his thoughts onto a canvas in any way he saw fit. This exhibit introduced a new way to create art to Royal West Academy students, who are taught to think critically.

One of the trip's participants, Molly D., said, "The jazz exhibit was my favourite. Being able to see the art he created that was inspired by this genre and the jazz music he created was incredible. He is such a versatile artist who was able to express his passion in so many ways."

The art teachers who organized this trip—Ms. C. Suarez, Mr. P. Stewart-Reid, and Mr. N. Rafael—did a wonderful choice of choosing the activity we would be participating in. The exhibit was greatly enjoyed by those who attended, myself included, and much can be learned from Basquiat's artworks.

So far only the joint Secondary IV and V art classes have had a chance to visit, but fear not! Secondary V art students in the science pathway will be visiting the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts on January 27, 2023 to see the exhibit. Any other RWA students interested in visiting the exhibit can do so for free, along with any other exhibits at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Waste Reduction Week

By Lucille S.

Where does all that waste go?

Waste Reduction Week was October 17–23. This week happens once a year to raise awareness of how much waste we produce and what we can do to reduce it. Here at Royal West Academy, the Environment Committee organized multiple workshops and activities during the week.

We started preparing well in advance and thinking of ideas for what we could do during the week. We discussed our ideas at our weekly meetings and then decided on organizing a Waste Free Lunch challenge and doing our usual presentations and workshops, each organized by a small team of two or three. We formed our groups and came up with our ideas for our activity

and then got to work planning it out and preparing what we would need. Next, we needed to find classrooms for where the workshops would take place, and luckily many teachers were willing to lend us a room. After that, we planned out the schedule for the week and made sure there was at least one activity each day. Finally, we started publicity, a key element for the week otherwise no one would come to our workshops! We posted a message in the Daily Bulletin and made our round of homeroom visits to inform students and teachers about Waste Reduction Week.



Then came our time to shine. After weeks of planning and preparation, the week was finally here. Safe to say, we were all a little anxious about presenting in front of a group of students and nervous about how many people would show up, and how the workshops would go. And they turned out great! There was a good number of students in attendance for each one, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves! The teacher supervisor for the *Waste Sorting Workshop* said it was "Very detailed and very precise. Bravo!"

The workshops took place in multiple different rooms in the school every day during the week during lunch or after school. They ranged from informational presentations to ecological DIY projects! We had a presentation explaining *Greenwashing* (a form of advertising where a company misleads the public to believe its products are eco-friendly for marketing purposes only), another one on the impacts of *Ocean Pollution*, a useful guide on *How to Sort Your Waste*, and another on *Compost & Cleanup*. Then we had DIY workshops on how to make recycled notebooks, how to make recycled tote bags out of t-shirts, and how to do plastic crochet!

There were a few difficulties, of course. For example, some workshops were more popular than expected and there weren't enough supplies for all the people that showed up. And during one of the lunchtime workshops, the practice fire drill started and the students had to evacuate the building! However, overall, this was definitely a great experience, and a fun and successful Waste Reduction Week! Stay tuned for Earth Week, which will be happening in April 2023.

Social Justice Club

By Kayla L.

A club that's perfect for everybody!

Amongst many of the extracurricular activities offered here at Royal West Academy, Social Justice Club is one of the most engaging, structured, and well-sought-after activities. It offers everybody the opportunity to learn and spread awareness about current global issues which many students express interest in.

This ECA has been run by Mrs. K. Cukier for many years, making her very experienced, passionate, and knowledgeable for those who partake in the activity. She demonstrates this passion by the many Social Justice Club activities and fundraisers that she sets up. One of the fundraisers that are happening this year, as well as happening every year, is Mrs. K. Cukier's well-renowned samosa sales which occur every Tuesday in the second floor west wing. All proceeds go to the Red Cross Pakistan Floods Appeal. This samosa sale is deemed to be a huge success because of the overwhelming support from every single student at this school who lines up to get samosas.

The Social Justice Club welcomes everybody in the school who has a drive or an interest to make a change in the world or to spread awareness of certain topics and issues. As said by Mrs. Cukier, "Racism, discrimination, poverty, conflict, environmental degradation, and injustice all concern and trouble you. If you want to learn more and do more, express your outrage, and deepen your compassion then the social justice club is perfect for you!"

This club goes on during the whole year, allowing students to go into the depth of certain issues, while also being able to learn about many issues happening all around the world. Besides the learning aspect of this club, it allows students to build and enhance friendships

with each other because they express similar interests in social justice.

Throughout this year, students have discussed many topics such as the Pakistan Floods. Only four months have passed since the beginning of the school year, therefore students can expect to cover so much more which is truly extraordinary and offers such an enriching learning experience. As somebody who used to be a part of the Social Justice club when I was in Secondary I, I can truly say that I still remember how awesome of a club it was. It even shaped the person I am today by allowing myself to be more conscious and empathetic to the issues that are happening currently.

Curling Team

By Dominic L.

Sweeping our way to a clean sweep!

Coming off a second-place finish in last year's GMAA championship, Royal West Academy's curling team is eager to prove that they have what it takes to bring the banner home for the 2022–2023 season.

November 7: over 20 students ranging from Secondary I to V gather in the lobby of the Montreal West Curling Club, all eager to demonstrate their curling skills and prowess in hopes of being selected for RWA's team. Mr. J. Bateman, the supervisor for curling, and Coach Swain, a parent volunteer, observe the tryout and begin to fill out the list for the 12-person team.

Once the players were decided, the team immediately got to work. The next three practices were spent



working on drills, playing friendly matches, and of course socializing and having fun. The players improved their skills together as a team, which has helped create numerous bonds and a sense of community.

Curling may be less popular than other sports at our school, but that does not make it any less fun! Watching a player aim and hit the perfect shot, especially after seeing the physical and mental effort that goes into sweeping and guiding a stone across the ice, can be truly exhilarating!

When asked about his thoughts on the upcoming season, Mr. Bateman exclaimed that “with this group of dedicated curlers, our level of success is in our own hands.” He also mentioned how he was “more than optimistic” about the team’s upcoming matches.

Those words held especially true on November 28, during the team’s first match against Bialik High School, a newcomer to the league. Excitement was high among the players, but there was still some nervousness in the air. Thankfully, these nerves were overcome, and RWA managed to defeat Bialik with an impressive final score of 4-0, breaking the ice and laying the groundwork for a promising season.

Royal West Academy’s curling team is an amazing way to make new friends and, with the help of Mr. Bateman, it has truly become a tight-knit family. As the season progresses, we cannot wait to make new memories and win more matches together; not just as a team, but as a family!

Badminton Time!

By Jason X.

An excellent way to get in some more exercise while having fun!

Royal West Academy offers several different extracurricular activities for students to expand their interests. One such activity is the school’s badminton team, where anyone from any grade level can try out. Joining the badminton team is a great way of exercising while learning the importance of teamwork and cooperation!

Badminton is not necessarily a very hard sport to get started with. Many of my friends who made the team last year only started taking badminton seriously that very year. With a bit of practice and a few pointers from teachers or friends, you could easily become an

amazing badminton player! One doubles player from last year’s midget team said, “I always found badminton to be a fun sport, but only got into it last year because of my friends. It was a great way to improve my cooperation skills, as in doubles it is necessary to play around each other and be aware of our skills and flaws.”

That is very true. Although badminton might not appear like a sport that requires much teamwork, especially in singles, there is still a lot of working together present. By practicing with others, one can learn from their strategies to improve themselves as a player. Team members will give pointers to others, and the entire team can grow together. In doubles, however, teamwork is crucial. A strong sense of spatial awareness is needed, as both you and your teammate must adequately cover the entire court to leave no open gap. It is also important that you and your teammate communicate so that every shot is returned flawlessly. Badminton is a great sport to learn teamwork!

The coach, Mr. R. Aiken, is an excellent badminton player who is always giving the team advice and teaching us how to become better players. He says, “Badminton is a great example of a sport that combines the need for athleticism, along with the mental component of sports. We’re hoping to have a huge number of students come to try out in the new year! Being a part of the badminton team is a very good time.”

I cannot agree more. Badminton is a very fun sport and you should come to try it out this year!

RWA’s Expectations for Spectator Behaviour

By RWA P.E. & Athletics, Administration, Staff

Hello there! We are so happy to have you back on the sidelines and in the stands, in support of our student athletes as they play and compete against other schools. We know how excited and pleased our students are when they have family, friends, and teachers present to cheer them on.

That said, it is imperative that we all set the proper example of how one should behave during athletic competitions. So often, due to the impressive amount of maturity, grace, and respect that our students display on a daily basis, it can be easy to forget how impressionable they still are. We all participate in the student athletes’ quality of life. Their desire and their



choice to continue playing in future years is directly related to the enjoyment experienced in the current season. We can all contribute to putting an emphasis on turning adverse elements of a game into teachable moments and learning experiences.

Let us please remember that our opponents are also young people looking to enjoy themselves. The coaches are trying their best to provide positive experiences for all involved. The referees are trying to make every call correctly. Our P.E. and Athletics programs are just as, if not more, proud of our banners won for sportspersonship, as for those hanging for championships.

Games are meant to be fun! We are incredibly appreciative of everyone being mindful of the positive impact they can have. We look forward to welcoming many large crowds in 2023. We hope to see you there!

Thank you.

The Governing Board Report

By Mr. David Stollow, Chair

Royal West Academy's Annual General Assembly, which was very well-attended, took place on September 22. Four RWA parent representatives and two substitute parent representatives were elected, for two-year terms, to the Governing Board (GB). The parent delegate to the EMSBPC (the EMSB Parents Committee) and the alternate parent delegate were also named. In addition to elected parent representatives, the GB is made up of teachers, school staff, and the two Student Life Association (SLA) co-presidents. Members of RWA's administration, our EMSB commissioner, and two community representatives also attend GB meetings as non-voting members.

Since the start of the school year, we've held two GB meetings, on October 24 and November 24. Below is a sample of some of the matters that we discussed or approved during our meetings.

During our first meeting, we elected the chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer of the GB. We approved the GB's internal Rules of Operation, the mandates of Home & School and Foundation, and the student trips in Montreal and the surrounding areas for 2022–2023. We also approved the RWA Co-Op proposal (for the new school store).

During our second meeting, we approved RWA's annual report on the Educational Project and the school's budget.

Governing Board meetings, which take place in RWA's library, are open to RWA parents (the dates are posted on RWA's [website](#) under the "Governing Board" tab). Every meeting has a "Question Period for the Public", during which parents can ask questions on issues that fall within the mandate of the GB. You can also email the GB at rwagb@emsb.qc.ca.

The minutes of each meeting, once they have been approved at a subsequent meeting, and the documents discussed during the meeting, including the reports of various persons (principal, teachers, SLA, etc.), are posted on school website under the "Governing Board" tab.

Our next meeting is on January 16, 2023 at 7 PM.

On behalf of the GB, I want to wish the entire RWA community a safe, healthy, and happy new year.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 19–22	Musical: <i>Into the Woods Jr</i>
December 20	Holiday lunch in cafeteria
December 22	Locker clean-up
Dec 26–Jan 6	Holiday break
January 9	Pedagogical Day
January 13	Secondary V CEGEP Assembly
January 16	Governing Board meeting @ 7 PM
January 16	Secondary I Parent seminar
January 17	Winter Carnival
January 18	Home & School meeting @ 7:30 PM
Jan 17–19	Winter Concert
January 20	Variety Show
Jan 23–27	MindPOP Math
January 26	Semester 1 ends
January 27	Semester 2 begins
January 27	Museum trip
Jan 31–Feb 3	Sec II Ski trip: Stoneham QC



Royal West Academy (performed at Wagar School) presents

PRODUCTION OF

INTO THE WOODS JR.

Music and Lyrics by
Stephen Sondheim

Book by
James Lapine

Originally Directed on Broadway by
James Lapine

Dec. 19th – 7:30pm Adults \$15/Students \$5
Dec. 20th – 7:30pm Adults \$15/Students \$10
Dec. 21st – 7:30pm Adults \$15/Students \$10
Dec. 22nd – 7:30pm Adults \$15/Students \$10

Directed by Jordan Gasparik
Musical Director Chris Barillard
Add. Choreography by Jonathan Patterson
Producer/Faculty Advisor Erika Kuch

**Tickets can be purchased at Royal West Academy during lunch
outside of Room 216 or at the door (Wagar School Auditorium).**

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI (mtishows.com).

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 rwaneews@gmail.com.

