



Words From The Admin



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

Welcome to the final edition of the RWA Newsletter for the 2022–2023 academic year—and what a year it has been! We have endured, among other things, seemingly endless renovations and changes to travel rules impacting school trips. In the face of these challenges, Royal West Academy students pulled together, put on shows for the community, won sports banners, hosted celebratory events, and worked hard academically. Sending a huge thank you to the RWA staff whose enthusiasm and time fostered an environment of opportunity and growth for our students. Read on to learn about some of these wonderful moments.

SLA Election

The Student Leadership Association held their elections in May. Congratulations to all those who ran. It speaks volumes when so many students want to be involved in creating and organizing school activities that promote school spirit. Next year's SLA:

- Co-presidents: Eve B. and Eva T.
- Event Planner: Brad C.
- Secretary: Jake W.
- Secondary V representative: Darius V.
- Secondary IV representative: Spencer C.

- Secondary III representative: Kalista T.
- Secondary II representative: Beatrice R.

RWA Co-op

Under the guidance of Ms. Christina Capela from Home & School Association, the *Royal West Academy Co-op Project* was selected by the EMSB judges as a local prize winner for a \$5000 grant from OSEntrepreneur.



The judges were impressed by the creativity, innovation, and effort shown by our students. This money will be used to manage the evolution of the school store. Students, along with Home & School, will run the store that will sell second-hand uniforms and school supplies.



Hispanic Culture Day

Organized by the Spanish classes, all of RWA was invited to celebrate Hispanic Culture Day in the Memorial Gym at lunch. There was food, music, face painting, a pinata, and salsa dancing. A great time was had by all. Special thanks to Ms. Almeida and Mr. Wilson.



New York City Exchange Trip

Our cultural exchange students spent four days in New York City in May, accompanied by Mr. Diacoumacos, Mr. Vamvakas, and Ms. Todi. We were able to explore sites such as Times Square, Central Park, and Grand Central Station, among others. We took in the famous NYC skyline from the Brooklyn Bridge. We paid our respects at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, and explored the beauty of the Met. The students were able to bond with one another and enjoy one final trip together before graduation.



Robotics

In May, RWA attended Zone01 Robotics Competition, bringing 16 students that made up 5 teams. In the Sumo Competition, the team of Masha A., Daniel P., and Nate R. placed second out of twenty-eight teams. Several other RWA teams placed in the top ten. The team of Jacob F. and Danny H. qualified for the nationals in the Survival Mode Competition.



Halo Race

Congratulations to our Halo Race runners! At the bantam level, William B. won gold and Cooper M. won silver. For cadets, Scott C. won gold in the boys category while Olyvia C. won silver and Madison M. won bronze for the girls. Royal West Academy also had medalists in the juvenile age group, where Mia S. took home the gold for the girls and Roman B. won a bronze for the boys.

Art Vernissage

The annual Art Show took place on May 25, with much success. The cafeteria provided a beautiful space to showcase artworks from the Secondary IV and V levels. Students were in attendance from 3 PM–5 PM to present their work to invited friends and family. Together we celebrated the effort, creativity, and products of the art students.

Music in May

The students of RWA dazzled audiences with performances during the month of May. Our Spring Concert was a huge success. Music classes and ECA bands and choir performed to a packed auditorium at Westmount High School. We could not be prouder of the dedication and teamwork of our music students and ensemble members!



The senior music class not only performed at the Spring Concert, but they held a recital at the end of the month. Accompanied by extraordinary accompanist Marvin Haen, the Secondary IV and V music students performed solo works that they had selected and perfected over the past several weeks in the newly renovated music room. Bravo to all!

MS Walk

Royal West Academy had eight volunteers help run the West Island MS Walk on May 28. They helped set up tents, tables, and registration booths; run the face painting and cotton candy booths; and push wheelchairs.

The professionalism of the students earned much praise from the staff of the MS Society who repeatedly expressed how impressed they were.

Congratulations to all who volunteered!

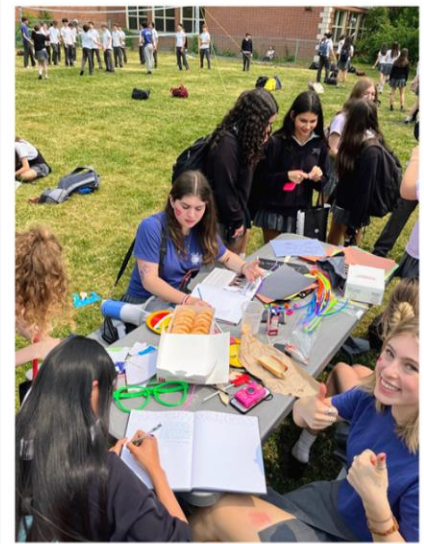


GMAA Banners

Congratulations to all our spring athletes for their seasons! Royal West Academy earned GMAA championship banners in Juvenile Boys Rugby, Juvenile Boys Track & Field, Juvenile Girls Track & Field, and Bantam Girls Track & Field.

Farewell BBQ

Student Life Association put on a wonderful BBQ to celebrate the end of the school year. Amidst the BBQ fare and sweet treats, students enjoyed some sunshine, volleyball, music, and face painting. Thank you very much to all the volunteers and to the tremendous efforts of SLA.



Secondary 5 EMSB Accounts

Please be advised that Secondary V students will lose access to their EMSB accounts after graduation. Only students with active registrations maintain their access.

Make sure to save any files or work you wish to keep before June 30, 2023.

Time to say Goodbye

We will soon be saying goodbye to our Secondary V students. In some cases, we will also be saying goodbye to some families that have been members of our

community for over a decade. To the graduates: we know that your photos, achievements, murals, and mosaics will continue to populate the hallways and live to inspire younger students. Additionally, we hope that your memories allow for a special place in your heart for Royal West Academy.

Latin Heritage Week

By Mr. Michael Wilson

In celebration of Latin Heritage Week, over 200 students came together to eat traditional sweets like dulce de leche, tres leches, and alfajores (all prepared by Royal West Academy Spanish students). There were games, face painting, limbo, a piñata, and of course music!

Leading into Latin Heritage week, Spanish students received free salsa lessons from Dance Conmigo, and our students were more than happy to show off and share their moves throughout the festivities.

Over 300\$ were raised during the event, but more importantly: *Todos lo pasaron muy bien!*



GIVING US ROOM TO LEARN TOGETHER

The Active Learning Classroom Campaign

"The physical space of the classroom can have a huge impact on both student and teacher mindset. **We all need to feel inspired when we sit down to do the hard work of learning (and teaching!) something new.**"



Ms. Partington
Room 301
Math and Science

Active Learning Classrooms are designed to promote individualized learning, facilitate movement and collaboration between students and teachers, and have been shown to increase engagement and motivation among students. The objective of the RWA pilot project is to raise \$80,000 for three classrooms:

- Room 301 Math and Science (Ms. Partington)
- Room 313 History and Ethics (Ms. Cayer)
- Room 209 English and Drama (Ms. Amro)

The Active Learning Classroom campaign is well underway! We need parent volunteers to work with us on the initiatives that will contribute to meeting our fundraising goals.

Join us on June 12 @ 7 PM virtually or in-person for our final RWA Foundation meeting of the year. Learn about initiatives planned for next year and how you can help. We look forward to seeing you there!

Give
Today!

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



Washington Trip 2023

By Mr. Michael Wilson

On April 24, 151 Secondary III students and 11 teachers/chaperones left Royal West Academy on a trip to Washington DC. The buses ran smoothly, the weather cooperated, and students had the chance to visit and explore Arlington National Cemetery, the National Mall, the Holocaust Memorial, and a lifetime of museums.

After long days students had the chance to unwind in the Georgetown neighbourhood, outlet shopping, and at Bowling Night (with unlimited buffet style pizza and wings).

It was a memorable experience for all, a welcome break from regular routines, and a great indication for future trips. The exemplary behaviour of the students, and dedication of the staff, made for an incredible trip and lifelong memories.

Le tour du Plateau de Michel Tremblay

Par Noémie E.-M.

Sortie FLE56

Le 24 avril dernier, les deux classes de français langue d'enseignement ont eu le privilège d'aller explorer l'univers de Michel Tremblay.

En suivant un guide, nous avons découvert où les personnages de

La Grosse Femme d'à côté est enceinte vivaient dans le roman. L'immersion dans ce monde fantastique nous a permis de découvrir un nouveau quartier de la ville: le Plateau-Mont-Royal. Cela nous a aussi donné la chance de finalement voir de quoi parlait l'auteur. Nous avons même vu l'école de quartier que les enfants fréquentaient dans l'histoire !

Le guide nous a aussi partagé certaines anecdotes à propos de la vie dans ce quartier à l'époque. Par exemple, il nous a parlé d'une tradition québécoise qui était de faire descendre le ou la meilleur(e) de la classe en tyrolienne de la fenêtre la plus haute de l'école jusqu'à l'église de l'autre côté de la rue.

Bref, cette sortie culturelle me rappellera que de bons souvenirs à chaque passage au Plateau-Mont-Royal !



The Governing Board Report

By Mr. David Stolow, Chair

The Governing Board met on May 15. At the meeting, the GB approved the school fees and course calendar for 2023–2024.

I want to thank everyone on the Governing Board for their time and dedication. It has been a pleasure serving with you.

I want to congratulate our graduating students and wish all members of the Royal West Academy community a healthy and restful summer.

Thank you Ron!

By Mr. Michael Wilson

RWA News and the Royal West Academy community have been very lucky to have Ronald Pau serving as the editor of our school newsletter since 2008. Ronald is the father of RWA graduates Myriam (2011), Daniel (2014), and Benjamin (2017) Vigny-Pau. After 15 years of service, Ronald is finally ready to step down and pass the torch into the very capable hands of Kelly Gurevitch.

It's been a pleasure to work with Ron who has very graciously given his time to not only to lend us his editing skills, but also to visit RWA classes every year to help students get started on their publications.

(On a personal note, I will miss our yearly lunches at Burger de Ville—the only form of compensation Ron would ever accept for his labours.)

It's doubtful that Ron had any idea of what he was signing up for when he first took the job, let alone staying on for one and a half decades. What's for certain is how much his work has been appreciated within the Royal West Academy community.

So thank you to Ron—we wish you luck and happiness in all your future endeavours!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 1	Graduation Ceremony
June 2	Pedagogical Day
June 5	End-of-Year BBQ
June 6	Last day of classes
June 7–20	Final exams
June 12	RWA Foundation meeting @ 7 PM
June 19	Governing Board meeting @ 7 PM
June 22	Graduation Prom
June 23	Holiday
June 26–28	Pedagogical Days
June 28	Last day for teachers
August 24–29	Pedagogical Days
August 28	Secondary I Orientation
August 30	First day of school

RWA



News

Editor

Ronald Pau (RWA alumni parent)

Junior Assistant Editor

Danielle S. (Sec IV student)

Junior Assistant Editor

Molly S. (Sec IV student)

Staff Advisor

Catherine Lumsden (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.

Well it's been quite the ride. For the past 15 years I have had the honour and the privilege of taking care of the newsletter for this amazing school. Karen and I could not have asked for a more positive and memorable secondary school experience for our three (now grown up) children. Perhaps that's why I chose to stick around after they all had graduated—the school staff, administration, students, and community were always a joy to work with. Thank you all for your support, your contributions, your ... well, everything.

But now I've overstayed my welcome. So I am pleased to hand the reins over to Kelly Gurevitch, our trusty and capable editor-in-chief-in-waiting. Be kind to Kelly—and also be generous with those article submissions!

I had a great time! May our paths cross again in the future.

*Take care,
ronald*

