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December 2023

Words From The Admin



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

Welcome Back!

The RWA administration team is excited to welcome back students, staff, and parents to the 2023-2024 academic year. Some staffing updates include:

New staff members

- Victoria Gagliano (Math)
- Marika Bateman (ELA/Social Studies)
- Zoe Vlogiannitis (ELA/Drama)
- Dexter Mohan (Maintenance worker – evening)

Welcome Back Returning Staff

- Antoine Tétreault (Français/Univers Sociale)
- Adam Wiltzer (Math/Science)
- Alex Todi (English/ERC)
- James Magee (Science)
- Thomas Gordon (Math/Science)
- Ariane Gouin (French/PPO)
- Madeline Crist (Youth Counsellor)
- Helene Ibrahim (School Secretary)

Wrap Up Moments from 2022-2023

Fundraising for RWA Alumni

Secondary V Financial Education classes organized activities to raise funds for RWA alumni [Amanda Tam's plight with ALS](#). Amanda visited the school in June to gratefully collect a cheque and chat with former teachers. Her spirit is commendable.

Award of Merit

Physical Education teacher, Mr. Rob Aiken, was selected among provincial nominees for the Award of Merit. This honour from the RSEQ recognizes school staff who are dedicated to coaching competitive extra-curricular sports. Congratulations Mr. Aiken and thank you for your commitment to RWA's sports teams.





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Global Issues Problem Solving

Since November 2022, a group of Sec I-III students have been meeting weekly for the Global-Issues Problem Solving (GIPS) ECA. This program enables students to think creatively and explore collaboratively a selected topic from a diverse range of contemporary global topics. RWA's Secondary III team (Anya F., Jake G., Sophie, I., and Sumin W.) qualified for the International Conference at UMass Amherst in June.



Teacher's Workshop

On the evening of August 28th, Ms. Cukier, Ms. Amro, Ms. Partington, Ms. Cayer, and Ms. Colannino took part in a painting workshop on Kahnawake. It was part of our work with Kahienes Sky, a knowledge keeper and consultant from Kahnawake. With her guidance, we are hoping to bring more awareness and education about Indigenous history and culture into the school. Inspired by our paintings, we refer to this initiative as Sharing the Forest. We look forward to our continued work with Kahienes as



2023-2024

School Building Improvements

RWA's Performing Arts Centre is tremendously close to being completed. While patiently waiting for a few more odds and ends, staff and students have enjoyed the facility already for a few assemblies.

Cold weather

As the leaves have changed and the weather dips, students are encouraged to dress warmly. Other than the regular uniform, only grey, navy or burgundy sweatpants in solid colours with no patterns may be worn to school as leg wear in the cold weather. Pajama pants are not permitted. Only the school cardigan, pullover, or zippered jacket purchased from the RWA supplier are permitted in academic classes. During physical education, students are encouraged to wear the RWA sweats.

Welcome Back BBQ

A huge congratulations goes out to SLA for hosting this event. The weather was wonderful, the turnout was great, and Mr. Held's annual work behind the grill remains the best in land.



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Welcome Back Assemblies

In September, each grade gathered in the Performing Arts Centre for their respective Welcome Back Assembly emceed by SLA co-presidents Eve B. and Eva T. Members of the student services department and support staff were introduced and ECAs were showcased. The assemblies culminated in a video by the Coleman brothers (Sec IV) outlining how to be a Good Citizen of RWA, EMSB, and Montreal West.

Awards Ceremony

Student achievements from 2022-2023 were recognized at an Awards Ceremony at the end of September. Academics, athletics, and extra-curriculars accomplishments were all celebrated. Congratulations to all winners!

Admissions and Open House

RWA received upwards of 1500 visitors at their Open House this year. Honour Band regaled the crowd in the Performing Arts Centres just before Mr. Pita, principal, gave a brief presentation. Thank you to all the student volunteers – the school's best ambassadors! And to the staff who so passionately demonstrated the richness of our programs.

Academics

All Standards and Procedures documents can be found on the school's website. If your child requires tutoring at any time this year, RWA has an excellent peer-tutoring program at minimal cost. Any questions or concerns in this area should be directed to Ms Di Pietro, our school-community animator (ECA coordinator), at sdipietro@emsb.qc.ca. LEARN Quebec is another great resource for any student needing additional academic support.



**LEARN TUTORING
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

ECAs

Extra-curricular activities are an integral part of RWA's program. Students are required to participate in 3 out of 4 different types of activities (cultural, sport, community service, and environment). Activities may take place before school, at lunch, or after school. Here is the link for [ECA Activities](#) 2023-2024.

Orange Shirt Day

For the finale to RWA's Peace Week, students were encouraged to wear orange to celebrate and promote awareness for Truth and Reconciliation. Class activities included artwork and storytelling to honour the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, to celebrate resiliency, and to affirm a commitment that every child matters. Funds raised went to Native Friendship Circle of Montreal.



EMSB Educ & Career Fair

On October 25, St. Pius X Career Centre hosted RWA's Secondary V students for the EMSB Educational & Career Fair. Students were given the opportunity to engage with ambassadors from a variety of Cegeps and to participate in activities centered around trades and careers.

Cross-Country Banners

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the cross-country race at Mont-Royal. RWA returned home with four banners: bantam boys, bantam girls, cadet boys, and juvenile girls. A special congratulations to the students who won individual medals: Mikaelle P. (gold medal), Alice T. (bronze medal), Scott C. (silver medal), and Mia F. (gold medal).



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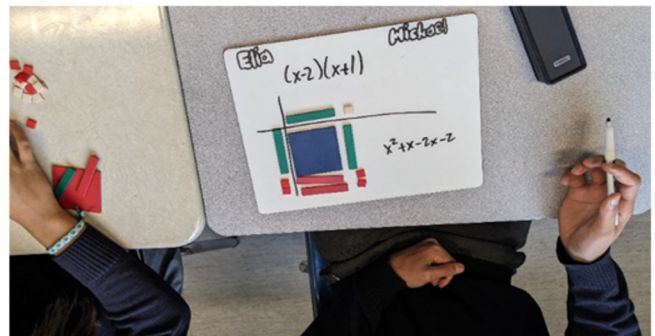
Musical

This year's musical, *Lucky Stiff*, will run in RWA's Performing Arts Centre between February 19-22. The students are already rehearsing with staff leader Ms. Kuch and musical director



Algebra Tiles: Hands-on Math learning in Math 2A

Students in Ms. Partington's Math class have been using algebra tiles to better visualize binomial multiplication. This model helps students understand key Secondary III concepts such as like terms, coefficients and the distributive property. Students enjoyed the hands-on aspect of the activity and got the opportunity to discuss and learn with their peers.



Debating

A big congratulations to our junior debating team for an excellent performance at this year's first junior debating tournament hosted by AVH School. Beatrice R. and Dylan M. came in second place for their group ranking. A big thank you also goes out to our coach Cameron O'Hare.



Royal West Academy Home and School

Royal West Academy Home and School Association meets regularly - our next meeting will be January 24 at 7pm. Please check the Royal West Academy School calendar: https://www.royalwestacademy.com/?page_id=856 for information about meeting times, and the link to join. All parents are welcome!

Royal West Academy Parent Participation Organization (PPO)

This fall, at the Royal West Academy Annual General Assembly, parents voted again to form a Parent Participation Organization (PPO). One of the purposes of the PPO, according to the Education Act, is to "encourage the collaboration of parents in developing, implementing and periodically evaluating the school's educational project and their participation in fostering their child's success." Given that all EMSB schools are in the midst of preparing their educational projects, which will serve as a roadmap for individual schools during the coming years, we feel it is an especially important time for Royal West Academy parents to come together and help ensure parent voices are heard as part of the stakeholder consultation. To learn more, please visit ParentParticipationOrgRWA@gmail.com



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Wildcats vs Wildcats!

By: Adamo Bellitto

On November 9th, 2023, Royal West Academy's Girls Volleyball Cadet Team A and Team B fought for a spot in the finals. The undefeated Team A wanted to keep that streak going, but the underdog Team B wasn't going down without a fight! Before the game began I interviewed a player from each team, on Team A, Xanthe Quinlan said that she was very confident going into the game and Emma Sgrignuoli on Team B said that she was going into the game ready to try as hard as she could! In the end, the game ended 25-17 and 25-12 in favor of Team A. While I was watching the game, I could tell that both teams were trying as hard as they could. After the game I asked Kiana Hughes on Team A a few questions, one question I asked was if the match was difficult and she responded with: "It was tough, they played a good game". This was Team B's first every year together and was composed of mostly Secondary 3s, which is impressive since they came this far. Team A went on to win the rest of the tournament and take home an RSEQ banner!



RWA Capsule

By: Lauren Engo

Ever had the incredible chance to go back a quarter century and immerse yourself in the lives of the students and staff at Royal West Academy?

Twenty-five years ago, a time capsule was ceremoniously buried near our school entrance in the presence of the Mayor of Montreal West and other dignitaries. Consequently, 2023 holds special significance as a year in which we can learn about our past and appreciate where we stand today. It is also the 25th anniversary of the EMSB, marking not only a celebration of our school's rich history but also of our tight-knit school community. Back then, Mr. S. Nemeth was an RWA student who helped bury the capsule and Mr. A. Diacoumacos was a first-year teacher! On November 2, Mr. Diacoumacos proudly directed the archeological digs. Despite having no markers, the capsule was found and dug up using old pictures and pure deduction. The opening ceremony took place two weeks later with the students, Mr. Diacoumacos, and staff members in attendance. As Mr. S. Manstavich accurately put it, "The time capsule is a snapshot in time."

To the tune of the Beatles and loud cheers, the time capsule lid was opened, revealing a treasure trove of historical artifacts: Newspapers, magazines and CDs from another era. Also revealed were photo albums, a gold environmental trophy, and a yearbook just to name a few. Mr. Diacoumacos filled us in on some of the historical importance of each item. For instance, a Canadian hockey magazine prompted him to inquire about the last time the Habs won a trophy.

All in all, the time capsule accomplished its goal of giving us a glimpse into 1998 when we students were not even born yet. Fortunately, Mr. Diacoumacos and other staff who attended the original burial returned 25 years later to offer us insights into our school's history and values. Our next goal will be to create a new time capsule. So, Class of 2024, we have a unique chance to contribute to RWA history! Imagine opening it in 2048 and sharing our present history and values with the next generation of students.



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Royal West Starts Strong, Convincing Win Over Royal Vale

By: Adamo Bellitto

Royal West Academy defeated Royal Vale 26-16 in a thrilling season opener to start what looks to be a very promising season for our flag football team. The game started with a quick four and out for Royal Vale as they could not get by Royal West Academy's defense. Royal West Academy's first drive is what really set the tone for the rest of the game. In just the second offensive snap, veteran quarterback Owen Rourke threw a bomb down the field to receiver Darius Villavera for an incredible 50-yard touchdown. The extra point was converted, giving the Wildcats an early 7-0 lead. The momentum didn't stop there as in the next defensive play, Matteo Gonzalves returned a pick-six to extend the lead to 13-0. With a late punt into the endzone by Royal Vale, the score at the end of the first quarter was 13-1.

Royal West Academy kept the ball rolling in the second quarter with back-to-back 15-yard gains by Noah Giberovitch. Owen then threw a 30-yard touchdown to Tim Kim-Main to further extend Royal West Academy's lead. Throughout the game, Royal West Academy dominated on both sides of the ball, as Aidan Roskies snagged two interceptions to close out the quarter. In an interview after the game, Aidan said "I had fun and I'm excited for the future of the team." So far Royal West Academy has not given Royal Vale anything to work with. Royal Vale would have to switch things up to try and stop the dominant Wildcats. The score before half: 20 Royal West Academy to 1 Royal Vale.

Royal West Academy started the third quarter slower with the offence not being able to convert on any points and was forced to punt. This led to a huge 50-yard touchdown by Royal Vale's receiver bringing the score to 20-8. Royal West Academy's offence struggled for a second drive in a row as they were forced to punt again. This gave Royal Vale the hope they needed to bring this game closer. With an excellent touchdown run by their quarterback, Royal Vale brought the score to 20-15. Fortunately, Royal West Academy was able to pick it back up in the fourth quarter with a quick touchdown and some great defensive stops to close out the game. With a final score of 26-16, Royal West Academy picked up their first win of the season in exciting fashion.

Royal West Academy quarterback Owen Rourke said that after ups and downs in previous seasons, he thinks that this Wildcats team can go far this season and is ready to lead this team to, hopefully, a championship. Owen finished the season opener

with 173 passing yards along with a completion rate of 67 percent. Royal West Academy is looking very promising this season and will surprise a lot of teams with their incredible play.

Royal West Academy Foundation

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backpacks for
the RWA
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