

RWA



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October 2025

WORDS FROM THE ADMIN



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

Welcome back

The Royal West Administration and staff are thrilled to welcome our students and families to a new school year. The hallways are already buzzing with energy, and we are looking forward to another year of learning, growth, and community. Thank you for your ongoing support – together we make RWA a great place to learn and belong.

Meet the Sec 1 Teachers

This year's event was held in-person on September 11th and was very well attended. Parents had the chance to hear about their child's academic courses and meet with their homeroom teachers. Additionally, there was a presentation from Student Services regarding guidance services, our ECA program, peer tutoring, and the MindPOP program.

Welcome Back Assembly

Students of all grades were treated to a very entertaining Welcome Back Assembly. SLA co-presidents Eolande M. and Katerina T. were the emcees for the event, introducing members of Student Services and fellow students, who in turn showcased many of the enriching activities offered at RWA. The administration also reviewed important safety information related to traffic and bullying.

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.

New/returning staff

The RWA administration team is excited to welcome back students, staff, and parents to the 2025-2026 academic year. Some staffing updates include:

New staff members

Emily Evans (Visual Arts)
Marianne Perais (Science)
Serena Vaillancourt (Guidance)
Lina Testa (School Organization Tech.)

Welcome Back Returning Staff

Steve Manstavich (Vice-principal)
Marika Bateman (Resource)
Ruth Bensoussan (Math)
Lynn Bourdeau (français/PPO)
Tom Gordon (Math/Science)
Ariane Gouin (français)
Phil Laurie (Caretaker)
Hélène Leblanc (français)
A.J Macpherson (Ed Tech, CCQ)
Stephan Nemeth (Ed Tech/Science)
Marco Pomenti (ELA/CCQ)
Abby Rachelson (Secretary)
Jagdeep Trehin (PDCIA)



Open House

Our students are great ambassadors to our school as they offered visitors some insight on the day in the life of an RWA student. We believe approximately 2200 visitors were in attendance at Open House on September 18th. Thank you to all our staff and student volunteers for showcasing our incredible school



RWA



NEWS

WWW.ROYALWESTACADEMY.COM

October 2025

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 our school-community animator (ECA coordinator) Ms. Di Pietro, at sdipietro@emsb.qc.ca. LEARN Quebec is another great resource for any student needing additional academic support.



**LEARN TUTORING
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

Pedestrian Safety

Members of the administration and the Student Services Department greeted new and returning students at strategically selected street corners during the first week of school. We direct students to follow the safest path from their public transportation drop off, using designated crosswalks, to arrive securely at RWA.



Welcome Back BBQ

The Student Life Association's first big event of the year was a tremendous success. Students and staff were well fed all while enjoying music and organized activities.



Awards Ceremony

Award winners were invited to recognize achievements from the 2024-2025 school year at the Awards Ceremony in October. We celebrated those who earned the top mark in a particular course, MVP title for the sports ECA, national distinction in the Waterloo Math Competition, and those who made the Principal's List. Additionally, in honour of RWA's founders, the four students recognized for their commitment and contribution to our ECA program were presented with Taylor-Negm awards.



RWA



NEWS

WWW.ROYALWESTACADEMY.COM

October 2025

Student of the Month

Royal West is very proud to announce EMSB's student of the month for September was our very own Isabella G., for her work supporting the homeless. Accompanied by her family, Isabella received her distinction during the September 30th Council of Commissioners meeting. For more information about Isabella's work and her acceptance speech, please visit [EMSB Update: Student Voices: Isabelle Guy from Royal West Academy on why she supports the homeless](#)



Cegep Assembly

The Guidance Department presented to all Grade 11 students regarding post-secondary information. There will be a follow-up assembly as Cegep applications near. Grade 11 students are encouraged to schedule individual meetings with a member of the Guidance team to discuss their particular case.



Sec 1 Day Trip

Grade 7 students had the opportunity to connect and develop their team skills on September 15th during the Secondary 1 Day Trip. Students participated in a variety of physical activities led by animators from Dynamix. The various activities encouraged students to work together in teams and connect with their peers.

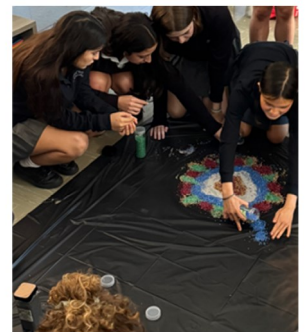
Terry Fox

Congratulations to all the staff and students who contributed to RWA's Terry Fox run October 17th. The Secondary II students train for the run as part of their physical education class while Leadership students coordinate the logistics of the event. RWA is proud to be an annual participant in this Canadian event.



Secondary 4 CCQ

Our grade 10 CCQ classes will be learning about and engaging in many different cultural celebrations throughout the year. These lessons are entirely student run. Students teach a class about their assigned cultural celebration and run an activity that immerses everyone in the celebration. This month, we started off strong by celebrating Diwali, the festival of lights. Ms. Todi's CCQ students had their peers craft their own rangolas, diyas, and got to taste test some delicious samosas!



RWA



NEWS

WWW.ROYALWESTACADEMY.COM

October 2025

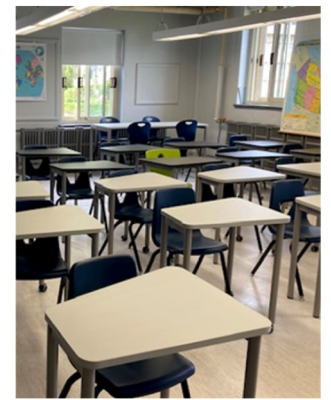
RWA Students Explore Indigenous Culture in Kahnawake

On Friday, September 19, 2025, students from Royal West Academy took part in a meaningful cultural excursion to **Kahnawake**, organized through the **Diversity Caravan ECA**. This visit marked the beginning of a series of cultural experiences planned for the school year, with September's focus centered on **Truth and Reconciliation**. Accompanied by Mr. Diacoumacos, Ms. Di Pietro, and Ms. Trehin (PDCIA), students spent the day engaging with members of the First Nations community, gaining insight into the rich oral traditions and historical significance of the area. The day's activities included:

- A **guided tour** of the community, offering historical and cultural context
- A **Lacrosse workshop**, where students learned and practiced traditional skills
- A **medicine walk** through nature, highlighting the use of local herbs for healing
- A visit to an **active longhouse**, providing a glimpse into traditional living spaces
- **Storytelling and art sharing** with community elders, who generously shared their experiences and creative practices. This immersive experience not only deepened students' understanding of Indigenous culture but also fostered meaningful dialogue and reflection. As the Diversity Caravan continues its journey, students can look forward to more opportunities to explore and celebrate cultural diversity throughout the year.

Active Learning Classroom 101

RWA's Foundation proudly celebrated two more milestones. Classrooms 101 and 313 have been outfitted with modern, versatile furniture designed to enhance collaboration and learning. The tireless efforts of this parents organization is greatly appreciated. A special thank you goes to the Rемаi family, whose meaningful contribution has created a lasting impact on our school community. Please join us for events this school year to raise money to transform more spaces into active learning classrooms.



Top: RWA Foundation President Jesse Chaim, Kelly Rемаi, Principal Tony Pita and Vice-Principal Steven Manstovich
Bottom: Jesse Chaim, Kelly Rемаi, and RWA Teacher Ms. Cayer



- Oct. 21 - 24 - MindPOP ELA
- Oct. 21 - 24 - Waste Reduction Week
- Oct. 22 - Sec 4/5 Visual Arts Museum Trip
- Oct. 22 - EMSB Career Fair
- Oct. 23 - Sec. 4 CEGEP Presentation PAC
- Oct. 24 - RWA Spirit Day
- Oct. 31 - Halloween Dress up day
- Nov. 4 - Term 1 Ends
- Nov. 5 - Term 2 begins
- Nov. 6 - Honour Band Activity P5&6
- Nov. 6 - Sec. 1,2,3 Drama activity
- Nov. 7 - Ped Day



RWA



NEWS

WWW.ROYALWESTACADEMY.COM

October 2025

Royal West Academy Home & School Association News



RWAHSA has partnered with FundScrip for a fundraiser made simple: support RWAHSA while you shop for the things you already need, and a percentage comes back to us! It's the easiest way to shop, gift, and support—all at once! Click [HERE](#) to become a supporter of RWAHSA On FundScrip.

FundScrip
RWAHSA group code: **6T4XMZ**



The Royal West Academy school store (RWA CO-OP) began in 2023. It is a volunteer run enterprise, open daily at lunch, which serves as a second hand uniform shop, school supply store and swag/spirit wear boutique. This may be a store, but it is so much more! Students can volunteer on their lunch hour to

earn ECA credits and referrals for summer job applications. Students create art pieces for decoration and signs for the store, they create "spirit wear" through tie-dye workshops, they express themselves on our "chalk-wall", they stock shelves, do inventory, work the cash, triage the donations, lead the merchandising of our display case, stock the vending machine, all while collaborating with a parent volunteer as well as their peers. Staff and students alike have been influential in what we carry and sell. From art pencils, locks, and science boards, to popcorn and RWA tuques, the store is more than a fundraiser for the school. It is a space where students can purchase items, recommend items, donate items, and be a part of their school store.



The school store is looking for more volunteers! The store is open daily at lunch. If you want to volunteer, please send an email to rwastore189@gmail.com.

Royal West Academy Foundation News

GIVING US ROOM TO LEARN TOGETHER
The Active Learning Classroom Campaign



Four Classrooms Transformed — Let's Build More!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of families, alumni, and friends, the **Royal West Academy Foundation** has now completed four Active Learning Classrooms — vibrant, modern spaces that inspire collaboration, creativity, and engagement. These classrooms are transforming how our students learn and connect with their teachers every day.

But we're not done yet! With **your continued support**, we can bring even more of these innovative spaces to life. Every contribution **helps us enrich the Royal West Academy experience and shape the future of learning.**

Please support the Active Learning Classroom Campaign — visit rwaf.ca and give today!

Join us at the next RWA Foundation meeting.
[Click here for dates and times](#)

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

Give Today!

RWA NEWS

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RWA



NEWS

WWW.ROYALWESTACADEMY.COM

October 2025

The Long-Awaited Bot Battle!

RWA Robotics Ready to Dominate the Competition

By: Sangithan P.

The new school year has promised victory for RWA's Senior Robotics team! I knew right from the first meeting where our team was on task and focused for this year's competition, MoDuel 2026, which is hosted by CRC Robotics and has a variety of different tournaments, e.g., robot building, film, kiosk, programming, and web design. A bunch of our team is filled with veterans who've been at the competition for years on end, and there's one thing we want: victory.

Last year, the competition, TakTik 2025, was held at the St. Pius X Career Centre. The robotics competition involved making a robot that was able to carry disks and place them on poles located around the three-by-three grid playing field to capture stations and essentially play a game of tic-tac-toe. You'll see different types of simple yet complex games each year, which makes it even more fun!

With the new rules for this year coming soon, the current anticipation our team has been feeling is through the roof! We have been working tirelessly to prepare and help teach new members how to work in their respective departments. For example, since our robot team can't actually build a robot without knowing the game rules, we've committed multiple sessions to teach the basics to new Secondary III members. Let's just say we have some prodigies that could revolutionize the team in the near future!

As I've been helping the younger members, a part of me remembers the journey our robotics veterans have been through. From making kiosk designs and playing infuriating card games, to building robots at a level we never could have imagined. We had spent multiple hours on Wednesdays and, especially, on Saturdays working for these competitions, learning, and growing each day.

None of this could have been possible without our advisors, Mr. Stephan Nemeth and Mr. Alexander McLachlan-Macpherson, who've spent countless hours of their own time to make sure we succeed. Aristotle S., one of our team captains, is confident in our ability to dominate the competition. "If there's one thing I believe in, it's the hardships and obstacles that have led us to this moment. We will win".

BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ

By: Sarah R.

On September 12th at lunch, Royal West Academy held its annual Back to School BBQ! The back field was buzzing with excitement, giggles, and the smell of grilled hotdogs. This much-loved and appreciated event was the perfect way to kick off the school year and bring the community back together after a long summer.

From juicy hotdogs and cheesy pizza to cool, refreshing snow cones, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Upbeat music filled the air as students of all grades played friendly games of soccer and spikeball. Meanwhile, others lined up for face painting, waiting to be decorated with butterflies, flowers or anything you could possibly imagine. The face-painters were so kind and patient, making sure to get every detail just right. The field was full of excited students with colorful designs on their arms, legs, and faces.

In the meantime, another activity was taking place, the "SLA Soak". For just one dollar, students could place their name into one of many buckets, each labelled with the name of a Student Life Association member. Near the end of lunch, one name was drawn from each bucket and the lucky winner got to drench that SLA member with a full bucket of cold water. I suppose we can say that the SLA Soak really made a splash!

"I've been to every single barbeque and they are so much fun," said Secondary V student, Sebastian N., "Every single year, it's better than the last!"

As a newer student at RWA, this was my first time ever attending the Back to School BBQ. I'll admit that I expected it to be a bit boring or underwhelming, but it ended up being an amazing lunchtime. I got to spend an hour in the sun having fun, laughing and eating with my friends. We came hungry and left full... of food and school spirit!

Whether you came for the food, stayed for the games, or just wanted to soak a classmate, the Back to School BBQ really showed everyone what RWA is all about: community, school spirit, and inclusivity.

Thank you to SLA for hosting this wonderful event!



RWA



NEWS

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October 2025

An Adventurous ECA Makes a Comeback!

By: Jane R.

On October 3, Royal West Academy held its first canoe camping trip since COVID-19! Originally, this trip was led by Mr. Jamal Zigby, and took place in Ontario, but due to stricter travel regulations brought this year's trip to Parc Nationale de la Mauricie, a Canadian national park. Pandemic restrictions prevented this extracurricular activity (ECA) from running for a few years, but when two students approached the staff requesting its return, Ms. Marie-Alessia Zuccaro was more than happy to help. Having some experience with camping herself, she was easily convinced to organize the trip, and lots of people immediately expressed interest, pushing the maximum number of students on the trip to rise from 24 to 30.

The three day trip was loaded with fun activities. The group left school at 8 am on a Friday morning and took a two and a half hour bus ride to their campsite. After arriving, they went on a nine-kilometer hike with views overlooking a lake, and saw beautiful fall colors spreading over the trees. Despite one of the biggest concerns of this trip being the forecast, the students lucked out with perfect weather! They ate lunch by a waterfall, went back to pitch their tents and ended the night around the campfire and roasting marshmallows. On the second day, the 30 students and five chaperones boarded 13 canoes and ventured off on a 12km paddle to an island, where some of them went for a short swim. Although the water was quite cold, students shared that it was still refreshing. On Sunday, everybody woke up in time to clean up the site and socialize before taking the bus back to RWA. Although the end of the trip was bittersweet, several students and teachers expressed their interest in doing it again next year!

Overall, the whole thing was a huge success! Like Ms. Zuccaro said, "There was something for everybody." In addition, one of the coolest aspects of this trip is that most of it was organized by the students themselves. From cooking dinner to washing the dishes, it was RWA students who took the initiative and put in the effort to bring this trip back to Royal West Academy.



Starting the Year Off with a Splash!

By: Corie T.

Royal West Academy may not have a pool, but that's not stopping us from practicing our swimming! Starting in the fall, RWA runs a weekly swim team extracurricular activity that spans two months. Students get an early dismissal every Wednesday and, as a group, commute by bus to Côte-Saint-Luc Aquatic and Community Centre for training.

There's a wide variety of levels to choose from to ensure that all students can find the perfect place for them. The beginner group is for those who have little swimming experience, who might not feel entirely comfortable in the water and want to learn new strokes while improving their confidence. The intermediate level is for swimmers who know the basics but want to refine their technique. In the advanced level, the coaches design challenging sets that even competitive swimmers will enjoy.

A fun aspect about the RWA swim team is that the coaches are students! If you're an experienced swimmer or have coached before, you can apply as a student coach at the beginning of the year. Last year, I had the chance to coach and I enjoyed myself so much that I decided to do it again this year. Coaching isn't just fun; it also teaches high school students important life skills such as leadership and organization. Dorothy S states: "Being a coach taught me a bunch of different things. You have to plan practices in advance, give feedback to swimmers, and be confident while leading warmups".

The RWA swim team isn't just about practices; we also compete! There are four competitions where students are given the opportunity to put their hard work to use and race against other schools. If they perform well enough, they could get the chance to compete at the championships. Competitions are a great opportunity to bond with team mates, show school spirit, and celebrate their progress together no matter how big or small.

Overall, this ECA has so much to offer, whether you're learning to swim, training competitively, or stepping up as a coach. As a current swim team coach, I think that students should take advantage of this ECA because there's something in it for everyone.



RWA



NEWS

WWW.ROYALWESTACADEMY.COM

October 2025

Behind the Scenes at RWA

By: Erin S.

It has only been about a month since the start of the 2025-2026 school year, yet Royal West Academy's extracurricular activities have been getting busy. One being the school's very own "Lights&Sound" ECA, which has had its schedule packed! With one event after another, both during and outside school hours, this club is called on for almost anything and everything. The club is responsible for working alongside the heads of the school, the administration, and Student Life Association, as well as with other performance ECAs.

Lights&Sound is an ECA for students with an eye or ear (or both) for all things production. With help from senior members, those who are interviewed and accepted will learn how to handle the lighting and audio equipment found in the school, mainly in the Performing Arts Center. The team, consisting of 19 members scattered evenly across Secondary II to V, is tasked with numerous opportunities to test and work on their skills. Recently, members have been covering events such as the Welcome Back BBQ and Assemblies, CEGEP and Vaccine Presentations, and Open House. In the beginning, microphones and projector set-up seem to be their only job, but come early November, the members should expect a change in speed. The Drama Production ECA will be performing Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* this year and will soon begin its off-script rehearsals, where Lights&Sound starts to learn the storyline and works with the director to bring their ideas to life — with lights and sound effects, of course.

Lights&Sound is not only for assisting others; they pride themselves on having a tight social group that is more than "necessary for the school". Sarah B-C., a co-leader of the club, expresses that "Lights&Sound for me is a time to get together and collaborate with others who share my same interests, and have fun." They organize events on their own time, such as the *Olympics*, a time-honored tradition. Members are split into teams and compete in skill challenges, such as playing a song from a speaker, or timed wire untangling competitions. These activities not only improve their skills but also build team spirit.

I encourage you to come see us in action. Coming up in December is the theater performance, and in 2026, when we take on the Musical. You might be surprised by their level of skill and professionalism. Trust me, as the co-leader of Light&Sound 2025-26, I would know.

A Sweet Start to Senior Year

By: Lily C.

Ever since Secondary I, we've watched the grads go from smiling in their front field pictures to posing in their caps and gowns at their graduation ceremony. We still felt young as these moments dawned upon us, when we were suddenly hit with the realization of our final year by being assigned our first official senior task: selling chocolates.

For decades, Secondary V students have been entrusted with the sale of chocolates to help fund their prom night. This year, each student was instructed to sell a box of World's Finest Chocolate. This company, originally founded in Montreal, specializes in fundraising for events and assures schools a good appeal for funds. To incentivize sales, the Grad Committee guaranteed rewards to the students who sold second boxes and created a raffle for those who brought their money within the first few days. Additionally, there are several other exciting fundraisers that will follow the chocolate sales, such as raffle tickets for the parents and bake sales, many of which will take place during lunch and at special events.

On what seemed like a regular September day, the 2026 Royal West Academy graduates were called over to room 213. The west wing was flooded with students, excited and full of anticipation for the new challenge. As soon as we were handed our boxes, no time was wasted and we began to sell our chocolates in a frenzy. Filled with senior pride and holding tight onto our white and yellow boxes, we tried every possible technique to sell all of our chocolates. We stood outside the Ainslie doors and asked younger students to buy some sweets, bargained with strangers on the train, convinced our friends to contribute, knocked on our neighbors doors, persuaded our families into buying them, and so much more. However this fundraiser did not only contribute to lowering our prom costs; it gave us memories to think back to. This experience grew our community, with everybody learning someone's name and making new friends. This experience brought the grade together with the thrill of team spirit, cooperation, support, and harmony, leaving us eager and impatient to experience all the other wonders our senior year at RWA has to offer.



RWA



NEWS

WWW.ROYALWESTACADEMY.COM

October 2025

A Sneak Peek Into Grad Committee

By: Maya R.

Interested in fundraising and planning? Want to be part of the big decisions regarding your prom? The Grad Committee is the group to look into! It is a great way to be extensively involved in your graduation/prom arrangements and fundraising once you reach Secondary V. It's an extracurricular activity (ECA) that offers two credits: cultural and community. Being a part of this committee takes lots of organization, responsibility, and hard work. We host events such as the RWA open house bake sale, TCBY (frozen yogurt) sales, grad chocolate selling, as well as other fundraisers throughout the school year. This year, the teacher in charge of this committee is Dr. Daniela Colannino. Without her and the Grad Committee members, prom tickets would be much more expensive.

At least once a week, we are expected to be in our homeroom by 8:05 AM for meetings about things such as ordering the grad chocolates, choosing the prom theme, and planning events. We are proud to share that this year's open house sale brought over \$500 worth of profits which will all go towards our 2026 prom!

Another aspect of the ECA is our Instagram account. This is where this year's Secondary V students can find information about upcoming. The RWA Daily Bulletin is also a great place to find updates for all things graduation related. If you are part of the graduating class of 2026 and have Instagram, follow us @rwa2026_gradcommittee.

Committee member Jeeya S., offered short rundown of what Grad Committee does. "At the end of the day, our committee isn't just to decide on cute decorations for our prom, but is more focused on raising money in order to lower ticket prices." The Grad Committee can sometimes be viewed as a "party planning" club, but it's so much more than that. We put in hours and hours of work throughout the year in order for the prom to be a night to remember, and most importantly, to make it affordable. Jeeya also finds that the best aspect of the committee is building deeper connections with the members during events. Finally, here's a piece of advice she wishes to give to future members: "Don't be shy to give your opinion or ideas because there are more people than you think who would appreciate them. You won't regret sharing your thoughts."

Coming this February: Friendships and Fun in New York City

By: Avery M.

In just four short months, our graduating class will be off to the bright lights of New York City! This unforgettable four day trip will give the grads the opportunity to experience the wonders of NYC. From Broadway shows and shopping, to museums and history, this trip is filled with culture and new experiences. An action packed itinerary allows us to experience the best that NYC has to offer along with providing some freedom to choose attractions that interest us. In past years, students have been given the privilege to watch moving Broadway shows and exhilarating sporting events.

The best part is that students will be able to experience these unique attractions with their close friends. This trip is not just an opportunity to travel; it's a chance for the grade to come together and connect, to share a memorable experience at the end of their high school lives. Mr. Michael Wilson, one of the trip organizers, recalls fondly "seeing Musical students in tears after seeing the Great Gatsby on Broadway last year. They felt like they had made it"!



Not only will students have the opportunity to experience thrilling Broadway shows, and exhilarating sports games, they will also visit landmark attractions like Fifth Avenue, the Museum of Modern Art, and get to try some of New York's famous foods.

Last year's trip cost under \$1300.00 and that included daily breakfasts along with the attractions, this year's costs are expected to be about the same. The only other expenses students will have are their dinner and lunches and any spending money they may want to bring. All the students will be hearing more about this trip and the itinerary in their finance class, so that they can start researching and planning where they want to eat, and what activities they want to choose.

This is going to be a memorable experience, and Mr. Wilson hopes that as we one day "look back on our high school years, the NYC trip will be among our best memories". As Alicia Keyes once said, "Big lights will inspire you". So, get ready, grads, to get into an "Empire State of Mind"!



RWA



NEWS

WWW.ROYALWESTACADEMY.COM

October 2025

RWA Cross-Country Team Trains for the GMAA Race

By: Aristotle S.

Royal West Academy's cross-country team is preparing for the upcoming GMAA race on October 9th at Mount Royal Park. High schools from across Montreal will be participating. The athletes will be running two to five kilometers, depending on their age group, through mountainous terrain.

The competition is expected to be intense. The school will be facing runners from Loyola High School, Westmount High School, and Howard S. Billings Regional High School. In the past, these schools have posed quite a challenge, but it's nothing the team can't handle. With the graduation of runners like Scott C. and Alexandre B., the team has some big shoes to fill. Look out for Alice T., William B. and Hugo C. to lead in their respective races!

The team has been training rigorously for the event. Practices have included long-distance runs, sprinting, running up hills, and drafting, a technique involving running behind someone to reduce wind resistance. Students from the Leadership Program have stepped up to coach the Bantam division. These practices have helped the runners target areas that need improvement. "If you want to be a beast, then you have to train like a beast," said Mr. Nicholas Rafael, one of the head coaches.

At this time, the forecast calls for rain. This could significantly worsen track conditions, resulting in reduced grip and poor visibility, so the athletes are preparing for that possibility. They plan to bring raincoats and tarps for the downtime, as well as shoes with deeper grooves. Slower times are expected, but if our team plans properly, the poor weather could become an advantage.

The team has one final practice before the big day. This practice will likely focus on long-distance running, with racing tips incorporated throughout. This will allow the athletes one final chance to push beyond their normal capabilities. Some students continue to train at home by running, biking, and even swimming.

Will RWA bring home any banners? We'll have to wait and see. Go Wildcats!



Grad Committee's Sweet Success

By: Sitara D.

During Royal West Academy's annual open house, the Grad Committee sold 'berry' delicious homemade goods to raise funds for their upcoming prom. This eager group of Secondary V students rose like yeast to the occasion by dividing the work between themselves in order to make sure that it ran as smooth as butter. Some handed out baked goods while others handled the money. After about two hours, the students took a "whisk" and brought out chocolate boxes which led them to sell out of their goods. It was very encouraging to witness our first fundraiser go so well. The warmhearted people who purchased from us bought the goods with such kindness that I only recognize from people within the RWA community. Phoebe C, a member of the grad committee, stated: "I think it kind of helped the open house as a whole because it showed the willingness to bake and show school spirit". It is nice to think that the grad committee is making an impact not only by ensuring the Secondary V's senior year is enjoyable, but also in baking up some school spirit. After having counted all of our hard earned money, we came to a total of over \$600, which will jumpstart our prom campaign. Overall, this aspect of the open house was a sweet success.

In addition to the bake sale, another table was set up with a sign titled "Sec 5 Q and A". Here, RWA's loyal and excited students answered questions from visitors. They made sure to talk about their experience at this school with full honesty and excitement. It was very nice to see the light in their eyes as they described their experiences.



Following this fundraiser's success, I was eager to learn about what this ECA has planned next. I was not disappointed when I heard about their chocolate sales, raffles, and Halloween candy sales that they were baking up. I hope that we all share the same level of excitement for what's to come.

RWA



NEWS

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October 2025

**Freezies, Passes, and Teamwork:
Bantam Girls Kick Off their Season**

By: Graziella T.

On September 22nd, the Bantam Girls Soccer team kicked off the season with a 3-0 loss against one of the strongest teams in our division, Collège Sainte-Anne. However, with five games still remaining before playoffs, the girls are just getting started. Throughout the match, leadership student Edwina T. and I noticed important details from scanning the field before making and receiving a pass, ball control, and positioning to communication on the field. I remember thinking, "The game revealed mistakes that I believe the girls can easily improve on and hopefully after practice, I will see them applying what I taught them during our next game."

After a scoreless game against Collège Sainte-Anne, the girls reset and came back stronger in their next match versus our rivals, Loyola High School, on October 2nd. Time was ticking away, and Edwina and I had to think: if no one scores, the game will end in shootouts. The girls had practiced just in case this happened, so we already knew the top scorers. With the "Fweeet!" of the referee's whistle, we were prepared for the penalties. I called the team in: "Okay, girls, it's time. We made you girls practice in case this would happen so that you'd be as ready as you can possibly be. Eliana, Clara, and Marina will start. If it's a tie after three girls have gone from both teams...", Edwina continued, "We will pick one girl at a time to shoot until a winner is determined." We all put our hands in and on Hannah R.'s count we screamed: "Wildcats!"

As the referee signaled the start of the shootout, our girls lined up at midfield, shoulder to shoulder, silent and tense, their eyes fixed on the net. The girls waited for their turn, each knowing the weight of the moment. Every shot was a heartbeat—fast, loud, and impossible to ignore. As Marina K., our third shooter, stepped forward, everyone knew that we would win if she scored. She took a few steps back, charged forward, and struck the ball as everyone watched it slice through the air and hit the net. Goal! She scored! The team exploded with joy, sprinting to the net in a wave of celebration. Edwina turned to me and said: "We did it!". We congratulated the girls and had them line up to shake the opposing team's hands. Ms. E. Evans handed out refreshments after the game, and the girls went home happy knowing that

they should be proud and to rest up for tomorrow's game against Collège Sainte-Anne.

After a successful game, we were eager to win the next. However, it wasn't going to be easy considering who our opponent was. I reminded the girls that we can win again as long as we continue to communicate, look up when receiving or passing the ball, and use the space around us. I also reminded them not to get too ahead of themselves after scoring a goal and to reset as if the game was still scoreless.

Unfortunately, we lost again to Collège Sainte-Anne. However, the score was only 2-1. The girls fought hard and I believe with our team's spirit and their growth, we can beat them next time. On a high note, I am happy to report that we just secured a 3-0 victory over Vincent Massey Collegiate. Congrats ladies, what a well-deserved win!

Special thanks to Ms. Emily Evans, Mme Marianne Perrais, and Kate L.'s father for helping with the team!

