

RWA



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February 2026

WORDS FROM THE ADMIN



*Principal David Lee (center)
with Vice-Principal Nicholas Rafael (left) and
Vice-Principal Steven Manstavich (right)*

The Royal West Academy Administration would like to wish a Happy New Year to all staff, students, and community, as we welcome some new faces to our team! Interim principal David Lee, as well as Interim Vice-Principal Nicholas Rafael. We hope this year will bring everyone continued health, joy, prosperity and success!

Tyndale Week

Tyndale Week was a MASSIVE success this year. We raised a grand total of about \$10,600, eclipsing last years total of \$9300. Thank you all for the work that you do – Tyndale St. George’s charity will profit massively from this. A massive thanks to Mr. Bateman for running Penny Wars once again, which raised over \$4600, and to Ms. Kissin’s Homeroom 308 which raised over \$800 to win the homeroom pizza lunch (by selling pizza, ironically).



Homeroom 308 fundraiser: teacher karaoke

Assemblies

Some powerful assemblies are happening at RWA:

Thursday January 29th - Black History Month Assembly with Overture with the Arts (OWTA)



Monday, February 2nd - Black History Month Assembly with Montreal Steppers



Retirement of Howard Held



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Holiday Concert

The Performing Arts Centre was filled with the beautiful sounds of RWA's ECA ensembles, as well as some of the senior chamber music ensembles at the Holiday Concert in December. The ECA ensembles that took part are RWA Winds, RWA Jazz Band, and the Honour Band.



Swim Team

The RWA Swim team is having another outstanding year of performances at the GMAA swim meets. Many qualifiers will be participating in the Championship meet on February 19th at the Cote St. Luc Aquatic Center.



Food and Clothing Drives

Staff and students came together once again this year during the winter for our yearly Clothing and food drives for homeless shelters at Resilience Montreal, as well as a sock drive entitled "Stepping Up Montréal"

The food was provided to John Grant High School for families in need over the holidays. We are so proud of our students and their families for continuing to support the community and being so generous in their donations.



Course Selections

Once again students of all levels received assemblies from our wonderful guidance counsellors Ms. Michal Weiberg and Ms. Serena Vaillancourt about all the classes and opportunities that are available to them. This is a great way to keep students focused on their current classes as well as look toward the future when assessing their goals and aspirations. Dream Big!



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Kombucha



Stoichiometry



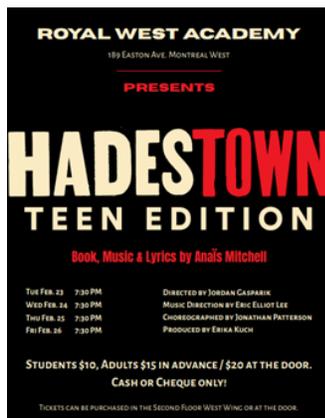
Holiday Breakfast



RWA Musical

The talented cast and crew are hard at work putting the final touches on this year's show.

You won't want to miss this one, so stay tuned for ticket sales coming soon for the highly anticipated RWA annual musical, HADESTOWN.



- Feb 16-20 - Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week
- Feb. 16 - RWA Science Fair alternate date
- Feb. 18 - Sec 4 & 5 FLE Sortie Theatre
- Feb. 18 - RWAHSA meeting via Zoom
- Feb 19 - GB meeting
- Feb 23 - 26 - Musical Production
- Feb. 23 - Term 2 Report Cards posted
- Feb. 25 - Locker Clean-up
- Feb. 25 - Sec. 3-5 Math Competition
- Mar. 2 - 6 - March Break
- Mar. 9 - 10 - Study Day
- Mar. 9 - RWA meeting



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Royal West Academy Home & School Association News

Royal West Academy Foundation 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 an RWAHSA FundScrip supporter!

1

Buy Gift Cards

2

Shop As Usual

3

Pay With Gift Cards

4

Raise Funds



RWA School Store 2026

The RWA School Store is gearing up for an exciting 2026 filled with creativity, leadership, and community spirit! This year, our leadership students are organizing a bake sale and a hands-on tie-dye workshop, while our wonderful parent volunteers are hosting a bubble

tea sale. Students have also been hard at work creating Valentine's cards and friendship bracelets, all available for purchase. In addition to our usual school supplies, snacks, swag, and gently used uniforms, we are pleased to offer science boards for sale at \$12. Students who volunteer or participate in our workshops can earn their ECA credits, and may also request a reference letter to support their summer job applications-making the School Store a great way to get involved and build valuable experience. We are proud to be applying for the OSE Entrepreneur Challenge for the fourth year in a row. All proceeds from the School Store are reinvested directly into our school community, supporting teacher wish lists, the science fair, and many other initiatives that benefit our students. Your patronage, donations of used uniforms, and continued support are truly appreciated. Together, we're making a positive impact!

RWA NEWS

- Editor Kelly Arfin-Gurevitch (RWA parent)
- Junior Assistant Editor Emma Q. (Sec V student)
- Junior Assistant Editor Anastasia M. (Sec IV student)
- Junior Assistant Editor Clara C. (Sec IV student)
- Junior Assistant Editor Juliet K. K. (Sec IV student)
- Junior Assistant Editor Kristen N. (Sec IV student)
- Staff Advisor Mr. Nicholas Rafael (Vice-Principal)

RWA News is published during the academic year on the school's website at www.royalwestacademy.com. Articles, comments, and suggestions may be directed to the editor at rwanews@gmail.com

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Turning Ideas into Creations: RWA's Science Fair

By: Taym A.

With the annual Royal West Academy Science Fair being less than a month away, everybody is on the edge of their seats. The Science Fair is an opportunity that grants students from Secondary I-V the ability to turn their astonishing ideas into possible solutions for real-world problems through their ingenuity. The Foundation Gym gets filled up with countless projects consisting of experiments, inventions, and more—all driven by hard work- highlighting RWA students' creativity, critical-thinking skills, and the strong teamwork behind the projects.

After many hours of research, preparation, and experimenting, students compile their results and get ready to present their projects. As you walk around the gym, admiring each display and engaging with the scientists behind them, a sense of dedication, hard work and positivity fill the air. Ava B., student in the Secondary V science pathway shares what she's most excited about as well as what her project entails, saying "my project is about testing the ability of natural substances to filter impure water. I'm excited to run these tests in hopes of finding a more effective and environmentally friendly solution to filtration". Ava's passion and determination is an amazing example of how Science Fair allows for students to challenge complex problems whether it's environmental, technological, pure sciences, or cultural, using available resources and creativity.

None of the success is possible without the incredible effort and sacrifice that the organizers devote into making the Science Fair happen. Mr. A. Wiltzer, a teacher and the Science Fair organizer, gives us a different perspective, a deeper meaning behind the event, stating "I organize the Science Fair because of the importance I place on independent discovery in science. I believe that there is a topic in science that interests anyone. Giving people the forum to find that topic, and then watching the students be proud of the work they've done makes me very happy".

As the date of February 12, 2026 nears, it's important to note that the Science Fair isn't just a display of projects, but a showcase of many interests and talented students encouraged to solve problems. From environmental innovations to technological inventions, one thing is clear, when given an opportunity, the results turn out both inspiring and praiseworthy.

Global Issues Problem Solving:

Forging the Next Generation of Leaders and Innovators

By: Naima F-H.

My decision to attend Royal West Academy for high school was in large part driven by a desire for a challenging and engaging learning environment. And indeed, RWA did provide this challenge, and more, in large part thanks to enrichment programs offered through the EMSB's Gifted and Exceptional Learners mandate, whose dual goal is "to help bright and talented students achieve their high potential and to provide the society with educated professionals" (Dr. Birlean, personal communication).

One of the enrichment initiatives in which I have participated for the last three years is Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS). It is part of a larger international program called Future Problem Solving (FPSPI), which has been around for just over 50 years but has only been in Canada for three. Founded in 1974 by Dr. E. Paul Torrence, FPSPI aims to teach students the creative problem-solving process as well as how to apply it to imminent real-world issues that will be faced by our society in the next two or three decades. For example, over the last few years, we have discussed rising sea levels, challenges concerning Antarctica, autonomous transportation, the increasing robotic workforce, and even the video game industry. GIPS is one of four competitive programs at FPSPI, and it focuses on teamwork and collaboration to create the best and most humanitarian solutions. Its goal is to give us tools to work together, to improve the world, to resolve challenges we will be facing as we graduate and enter the workforce. The format of this competition keeps the students engaged, encouraged, and somehow hopeful in the face of the most daunting issues of our time.

Throughout the school year, there are two practice competitions, two qualifying competitions, and one final international competition that takes place in the United States and hosts students from fourteen countries. For the last two years and for this year as well, the competition will be held at Indiana University Bloomington. Royal West Academy was the first Canadian high school to participate in this competition, and in every year of our participation, we have sent at least one team all the way to the final level. I have had the opportunity to attend twice, and both times were some of the most enriching and inspiring trips on which I have ever been. I encourage every school to bring GIPS to their students, to experience its impact for themselves.



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Where all the fun Begins: Royal West SLA

By Joseph L.

Do you love all the activities by students, for students, put on at Royal West Academy? If so please give a big round of applause to our schools best association – the Student Life Association (SLA). Every year new students are interviewed and accepted to join. This group of students organizes all “student life” activities, such as barbeques, dances and fundraisers. It is run by teacher and Royal West Academy graduate Mr. Adam Wiltzer, and has a slate of two student co-presidents, an event planner, and a secretary that gets elected annually by the student body. All SLA members make up homeroom 306, the classroom of Mr. Wiltzer. They meet every morning in homeroom to discuss announcements, student news, and what’s coming up on the school calendar.

Overseeing SLA takes lots of dedication and commitment outside of school hours, making it very time consuming. As Mr. Wiltzer stated, “Besides making me overly tired and increasing my coffee budget, it truly does make me happy to be able to give students positive experiences in high school.” It’s his job to advise the students of upcoming plans and ideas he has for future activities. He says that all the hard work is worth it, he loves being there for his students and he loves being responsible for their activities. As a former RWA student, those were some of his best memories at the school, so being able to give back is his pleasure.

One SLA student shared that they feel being in SLA has really helped them grow as a person. Due to the fact that their job is to collaborate with their peers and ensure that what they're doing as a group is what's best for all students, they feel more open-minded; for example, while planning and making decisions regarding events, you have to not only share your opinion, but also listen to others. In SLA they work together and it's helped them be more open minded.

So, if you're someone who enjoys school activities like dances and parties, keep in mind that most of the preparation and setup is done by our very own SLA members. If you know someone in SLA make sure to thank them for the work that they do to keep the school fun and entertaining for all.

Snow Much Fun: RWA Gears Up for Winter Carnival Day

By: Lucas M.

Grab your gloves and button your coats! A Royal West Academy tradition is back on January 21, 2026: Winter Carnival! So many activities to pick from, however will you choose? With this article’s insider information from the Student Life Association, you’ll no doubt pick in-school activities! “Winter Carnival is always one of the best days of the year,” says Secondary V student Gordie S. “It’s nice to have a break and just enjoy school time with friends.” And with four entertaining activity rooms, rotating groups every hour and 25 minutes, and something for everyone, students can expect a jam-packed day of entertainment and school spirit.

The excitement begins at 8:30 am, when students arrive and head straight for their first activity. For the first hour of the day, students from Cabane à Sucre will also be joining in on the fun, taking part in indoor activities before heading out at 9:30 am.

Looking to burn off energy? One of the most anticipated stops is the New Gym, where students will be able to play volleyball, basketball, or whatever sport they please. With music playing, the gym is set to be one of the loudest and most energetic spaces of the day. Whether you’re playing for fun or more competitively, this room is all about movement, teamwork, and school spirit.

After an energetic first rotation, you’ll definitely want a place to wind down, and the art and board games room has you covered. Students can draw, create, and challenge friends to board games while music plays in the background. It’s the perfect place to relax, laugh, and have fun with peers.

Need a break? Head to the movie room, where students can sit back and enjoy a film complete with popcorn and juice boxes. Cozy, calm, and comfortable—this room offers the ultimate recharge before heading to your next rotation.

Another crowd-favourite is the circle games in the Performing Arts Center, where students will participate in interactive activities using gym equipment. These games are fast-paced, inclusive, and guaranteed to keep everyone moving while building teamwork and positive energy.

Winter Carnival Day is more than just fun – it’s a celebration of everything that makes RWA special: community, creativity, and school pride. So get ready, RWA, and choose in-school activities. Unforgettable fun awaits!



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The Best Act in Dance Show!

By: Sam B.

Every year at Royal West Academy, the dance show takes place: an extracurricular activity in which several groups of students learn and perform different dances. This year's dance show will take place on March 20th, 2026. Every year, there is a dance in which a group of secondary V boys learn choreography and perform in the show, and it has become an anticipated part of the show. This year, the choreographers are Sienna T. and Emily R., and the dancers include myself, Antonio Jeffery A., Jake W., Thomas W., Taym A., Giuseppe S., Nicolas Y., Sebastian N., William M., and James P. All of this was organized by teacher Ms. Jody-Amélie Cayer.

These boys have worked hard for weeks, rehearsing and practicing an energetic routine. Choreographer Sienna says, "This group of boys works extremely well together and has great chemistry, and I'm excited to see what the dance will look like when we finish". Truly a team with a strong connection, working hard together and helping each other to learn and improve their dancing. The choreographers lead this group with high morale and motivate them with their organized and passionate choreography, teaching this group how to collaborate for an impressive performance.

Each track was chosen by the choreographers who designed a never-before-seen dance to go along with it. Each song has a set of innovative and interesting dance moves strung together with fluidity. These dance moves are created to fit perfectly with the lyric and beat of each song.

The Secondary V boys' act will include 3 popular songs edited together to ensure smooth transitions. The first song will be "Maria" by Justin Bieber, an exciting and upbeat song to bring on amazing energy at the start of the dance, and will seamlessly transition into the song "Finesse" by Bruno Mars. "Finesse" is another upbeat and energetic song and transitions to the last track, "Up Down (Do This All Day)" by T-Pain featuring B.o.B.

This secondary V dance is a tradition, and this year will surely not disappoint! From the combination of two excellent choreographers and an amazing group of dancers, plus a spectacular selection of songs impressive dance moves, and unique, exciting choreography styles!

The Quietest Club at Royal West Academy

By: Clara C.

RWA is filled with lively hallways, packed schedules, and constant movement, so finding a moment of quiet may feel rare. However, every Monday during lunchtime, one classroom offers students exactly that: a calm, focused space dedicated entirely to reading. The Silent Reading Club, run by Mr. Michael Wilson, has become a steady refuge for students looking to slow down and reconnect with their favourite books and find a moment of peace.

The Silent Reading Club was created with a simple goal in mind: to give students time and space to read without pressure. Designed as a quiet retreat during lunch, this club offers students an opportunity to recharge and step away from the commotion of the school day. Rather than rushing from one activity to another, students are encouraged to take a moment for themselves with a book.

The club also responds to a pattern commonly seen at RWA. While many students arrive in Secondary I and II as enthusiastic readers, Mr. Wilson observes that the habit can gradually fade as academic demands increase. By offering a consistent and welcoming space for reading, the Silent Reading Club encourages students to maintain a connection with books throughout high school, not for assignments or grades, but purely for enjoyment.

I noticed that what truly sets the club apart from a regular in-class reading period is the element of choice. Students attend because they want to be there, and that choice shapes the atmosphere of the room. The space is treated with respect and quiet understanding which creates a calm and focused environment where interruptions are rare and everyone, including Mr. Wilson, can fully settle into their reading. Mr. Wilson describes the weekly session as a way to pause and reset, especially at the start of a busy week. Knowing there is a quiet 50 minutes reserved for reading helps bring a sense of balance to the hectic beginning of the week.

For students who are unsure about joining, Mr. Wilson's advice is simple: try it once, with a good book and a quiet space, it may become a highlight of your week. The Silent Reading Club stands as a reminder that sometimes the most meaningful school moments happen in silence.



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A Night To Remember

By Lucy R.

On the frosty night of December 12, 2025, the gymnasium was transformed into a sparkling winter wonderland as Secondary I and II students filtered in for this year's Winter Formal. Students came ready for fun, and the school did not disappoint, delivering an action-packed evening that will not be forgotten anytime soon.

The room was decked out in shimmering silver streamers, icy themed decor and soft glowing lights that made it feel magical. A very busy photo booth was close by, where guests were able to capture special moments through a quick selfie in front of an Instagram-worthy backdrop. Whether blowing a kissy face or sticking a tongue out, everyone enjoyed creating fun memories they could save forever with their friends.

The dance floor quickly became the main attraction. DJ Ashwin, an RWA student, played some sick tunes, causing a ripple of students to rush to show off their moves. So much cheer and laughter filled the area as everyone danced together, encouraging each other to let loose and be their most authentic selves. Even the students of the Student Life Association joined in on the fun, adding to the crazy and welcoming atmosphere.

Students arrived to the dance dressed in their best outfits. From sparkling dresses to smart bow ties, the room soon became a sort of fashion show, revealing just how much effort everyone put into the night. Friends from outside of RWA were also invited to join, creating an even bigger crowd. When people needed a break from the dance floor, the snack table was a perfect place to visit and refuel their energy with the juice and chips provided.

The event was a major success, with around 250 tickets sold and \$2,500 raised. The major turn-out for RWA's second ever Winter Formal just shows how happy students were to come together and share a good time. More than anything, this dance allowed the Secondary I and II students to form real, possibly even unexpected connections, share a good laugh, and really build a strong school spirit. When our school comes together, the results always exceed expectations!

Work Hard, Play Harder

By: Dimitrios K.

Do your parents dissuade or forbid you from playing video games after school? Are you sick and tired of having to go to school every day? Well, now there's something to look forward to with Mr. Marco Pomenti's Video Game Club.

Since the start of the school year, Mr. Pomenti has given students a chance to unwind and play their favourite video games with their friends and take a break from schoolwork during lunch. The club takes place on different days for all grade levels, with the Seniors gaming on Day 6 and the Juniors on Day 3. Each session is offered to a maximum of 25 students, so you'd better go quick because spots fill up fast. There are 7 different controllers for several different Nintendo Switch games, such as Super Smash Bros and Mario Kart. Kids are eager to get to room 109 early at lunch so they can be the first ones to get a turn, but even if you're late, there are always many rounds to ensure everyone gets a chance to play. The room is always filled with energy and fun vibes, so if you hear cheering or laughter in the first floor west wing it's thanks to Mr. Pomenti's video game club.

If you aren't intrigued yet, don't worry, because there's more: stay just 30 minutes per lunch for 10 sessions, and you will be awarded a cultural credit. Can you believe that? Who would want to go outside in the cold instead of completing their credits by playing video games with their friends? Even students who already have all their credits are joining anyway because of the good times had during this lunch hour, making lasting memories along the way.

Watch the bulletin carefully every morning because you might just miss an announcement about a potential tournament versus other schools in their favourite Nintendo Switch Games. Join the video games club so you can be the first to know if this tournament is launched!

So next time you need a break from recoup, meet your friends who are waiting for you at Mr. Pomenti's video games club in room 109 for a great time and even a credit.



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The Robotics Club at Royal West Academy

By: Benjamin L.

Gears spinning, keyboard typing and robots coming to life — this is just a typical Monday night at the Robotics Club. While some students relax at home, students who participate in the Royal West Academy Senior Robotics Club are putting their minds to great use and coming together for something great.

This extracurricular activity (ECA) starts as early as September, when a theme for the year is decided. The theme this year is *Clue*. This means that all projects will be related in one way or another to that movie. The goal of the club is to prepare students for a four-day CRC robotics competition where students from many high schools and CEGEPs compete to win different prizes. Students are in charge of it all, from website creation to robot programming. Tasks and workloads are divided into different categories to ensure equal distribution. What's particular about this club is the fact that each group has a leader who essentially organizes the tasks and the way that makes sense for the team as a whole. In Robotics, you get to learn skills like leadership, communication, and teamwork. These are all essential skills for developing minds. The commitment students make to this club is remarkable, as they meet every Monday night for two hours, and on top of that, it's not uncommon for students to come in on PED days or even weekends, putting the CRC competition before their other interests or pastimes. Most sports programs last only a few months, but this lasts most of the school year, once again proving the participants' dedication to the practice.

Mila C., a proud member of this group, explains how "over the years, RWA has won several robotics competition prizes, but at the end of the day, it's really the memories and the lessons you learned that make robotics such an enjoyable experience". The CRC competition has been attended by our school for many years, and for good reason. Our students are gifted not just academically but also in their creativity and teamwork skills. It's impossible to talk about this club without mentioning its staff advisors, Mr. Stephan Nemeth and Mr. Alexander Macpherson. These teachers are some of the most knowledgeable in the fields of technology and logic, making them the perfect mentors for these curious minds.

With this year's CRC competition right around the corner, students are gearing up for another season of fierce

competition and collaboration. It's about way more than prizes and competitions, it's about making connections with classmates and especially learning as a group. For students ready to challenge themselves and build something extraordinary, the Robotics Club is the place to be in your senior years. Next time you see a robotics student in the halls, wish them luck as they prepare for the February competition!

Open Gym, Closed Boredom

By: Ryan C.

Ever find yourself bored at lunch, wandering around with nothing to do? Or maybe you just want a fun way to break up your school day, get moving, and hang out with friends? That's exactly what Open Gym at Royal West Academy is for! This extra-curricular activity gives students from all grades a chance to play sports, catch up with friends, and spend lunch in a way that's way more fun than just sitting around.

Open Gym runs on a rotating schedule; On odd days, Secondary III to V students take over the gym, while Secondary I and II get their turn on even days. This keeps things fair, organized, and prevents the gym from getting too crowded.

Once you step inside, the options are endless. You can shoot some hoops, play badminton, volleyball, or anything really—it all depends on what's available. Whether you're working on your basketball shot, perfecting your serve, or just playing casually with friends, Open Gym really does have something for everyone.

If you're tired of walking around Westminster, or maybe you're just bored and have nothing to do during lunch, Open Gym is the place for you! It's a place to move, laugh, and make some fun memories, all while earning a sports credit at the same time. As Thomas M. said, "Open Gym is where I improve both my social skills with friends and my fancy skills on the court". But Open Gym isn't just about sports. It's a place where many grades spend time together, so you can meet new people too. Whether you're serious or just looking for something fun to do, Open Gym has what you need. So grab your shoes, rally your friends, and head to the New Gym, where the fun is non-stop and boredom is officially closed!



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Exhibit-ing Excitement at the Museum of Fine Arts!

By Katerina T.

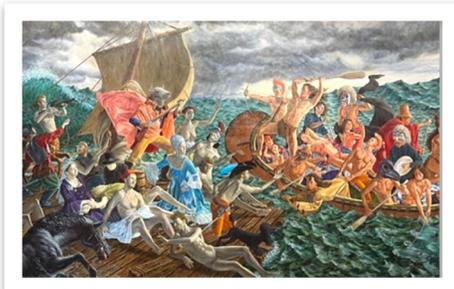
Art is subjective. However, one thing we can all agree on is that it is always better to interpret and admire art in person! On October 22, two Secondary V Visual Arts classes, led by our art teacher, Mr. Nick Rafael, had the amazing opportunity of visiting the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts to see a temporary exhibition by the Cree artist Kent Monkman entitled “History Is Painted by the Victors”. This exhibition will be available at the museum until March 8, 2026.

Our group was ushered into the largest art museum in the country to be introduced to a visionary visual artist - Kent Monkman. In this exhibition, Monkman, who is a First Nations artist, explores the often-overlooked perspective of Indigenous experiences during Western and European colonization. On his huge canvases, using a Renaissance style of painting, he portrays not only the struggles, hardships, and losses of Indigenous peoples during that time, but their culture, values, and traditions as well. In addition to this, Monkman touches on themes of sexuality, the supernatural, and humour using his alter ego, Miss Chief Eagle Testickle, who is a powerful mystical figure that appears in many of his works.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the exhibition and were very intrigued by the unique style and depictions of history presented to them. One student, Sophie M., said that she “really liked the paintings because they were thought-provoking, and [she] appreciated the opportunity to experience them in person.”.

After being guided through Kent Monkman’s world, students were invited to participate in a creative workshop at the museum, where we created collages based on the themes and style of art we had just experienced. Students were challenged to create their own thought-provoking art piece, which was accompanied by interesting discussion on people’s opinions and thoughts on everything they learned earlier.

I highly recommend anyone who has not seen the exhibition to check it out and experience a stimulating perspective on Western history. You won’t regret it!



Capturing the Final Year

Sofia H.

As the school year races by, moments often blur together, especially during senior year. Classes, practices, games, extracurricular activities, and last-minute homework all blend together. But for members of the yearbook committee, those moments are paused, framed, and remembered. Through documenting the school year, Royal West Academy’s yearbook has a unique way of bringing students closer to the school community while helping everyone appreciate their final year from a completely different lens.

Sports play a major role in shaping school spirit, and Yearbook members are often right on the sidelines capturing it all. From the intensity of playoff games to the quiet focus before a race or match, photographing sports reveals the effort behind every win and loss. You begin to notice details others might miss: the teamwork demonstrated through a team huddle, the determination on an athlete’s face, or the crowd erupting after a big play. These moments tell larger stories about dedication, passion, and school pride.

Being on the Yearbook committee also creates connections across grade levels and friend groups. Kiara S-F., a current member of RWA's yearbook committee, states: “Participating and dedicating my time to this club has given me a deeper appreciation for RWA”. As a member, you’re not just documenting your own experiences, you’re telling everyone’s stories. Talking to athletes, coaches, and fans helps break social barriers and builds a sense of belonging. Suddenly, familiar faces turn into friends, classmates into teammates, and school events feel more meaningful because of your understanding of the people behind them.

For seniors helping to bring the yearbook to life, it offers something even more special: perspective. Instead of rushing through the year, you slow down to observe it. You realize how much effort goes into every season, every event, and every moment. Documenting these moments makes you more present, allowing you to fully enjoy the final firsts and lasts of high school. In the end, the yearbook is more than just a book, it’s a shared memory. By capturing sports, ECAs, and school life, the yearbook committee helps preserve the energy, emotion, and unity of the year. And for those behind the camera, it turns senior year into something richer, more connected, and unforgettable—making it one of the most interesting and valued clubs at RWA.

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The Next Big Thing Out of RWA:

Oliver B's Rise in Canadian Swimming

By Lucas B.

At just 16 years old, Oliver B. is already gaining traction on the national stage, establishing himself as one of Canada's most promising long-distance swimmers. Standing at 5'9" and weighing 155 pounds, he competes in the 15-18 age category while training with the Pointe Claire Swim Club (PCSC), a program known for producing elite-level talent. Oliver excels in his academics, maintaining a 90 average. Between an intense training schedule, competitions, and scholarly dedication, he represents the modern student-athlete at its pinnacle. Outside of swimming, Oliver loves fishing and hiking.

At the 2025 Canada Games last summer, Oliver delivered a standout performance for Team Quebec. Competing against the best young athletes from each province, Oliver captured five gold medals in the 400, 800, 1500 free, a relay event, and an open water race. "The 2025 Canada Games were really solid," he says. "It was really cool to represent Quebec and compete against the other provinces." His sheer dominance in these events highlighted his versatility and winning nature, setting him apart from his peers and putting him on the map.

Oliver balances his busy schedule of practices and swim meets with good grades at RWA. Managing school while training up to ten times per week requires maturity and discipline beyond his years. Rather than being stressed, he has created a system that works. "I balance my school work at RWA by always communicating with my teachers, that's how I get my way out of things," he says. "Funny enough, I don't do much homework at home, I just manage to do it all in class". This allows him to stay focused both in the pool and in the classroom, proving that he can pursue his sport without falling behind.

His biggest inspiration is his father, Chris, who competed in the 1998 Nagano Olympics in cross-country skiing. Oliver aspires to go to the Olympics just like his dad. "I really look up to him and want to do all the stuff he did", Oliver says.

In the future, his goals go beyond regular standards. His immediate objective is to qualify for the Junior Pan Pacific Championships in 2026, earning him a spot on the Canadian junior national team and competing against swimmers from over 30 countries. The following year, he has his sights set on

World Junior Championships or even perhaps the World Senior Championships if he is able to reach that level. Ultimately, the Olympic dream stands out. "The 2028 LA Olympics...that's in my sights," Oliver says. "And if not, 2032." It's a big dream, but the confidence comes from all the hard training he's gone through, consistently progressing every year.

His next big event is the Canada Open in February, a high-level meet for top swimmers from across the country and potentially an international competition as well. With no age categories, the event will pit him against Canada's best swimmers, an opportunity he embraces with excitement rather than cowardice. Preparation for the meet has been intense. "I've been training ten times a week," he says. "I'm at training camp right now in Toronto for a week. So lots of hard training everyday"

As Oliver continues to grow, his potential points upward. With proven success on the national stage with a disciplined approach to his school work, and inspiration drawn from an Olympic legacy, he embodies the qualities of a student-athlete destined for success. Still early in his journey, he is not just chasing medals; he's building the foundation for a future of being one of the best long-distance swimmers in the world.



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February 2026

Wildcats Hungry for Wins!

By: Gordie S.

Royal West Academy Futsal is back! After a heartbreaking second-place finish last year, the Royal West Academy Wildcats are ready to prove themselves and make their way to provincials, as well as their first ever GMAA win! In case you missed it, let me take you through a quick recap of the season so far.

Preseason saw the Wildcats clinch an exciting comeback win, scoring two in the final minute to snatch victory from the jaws of the St. Thomas futsal team in their own gym. This meant that, heading into the first game of the season, our Juvenile boys were hyped and ready to bring all the energy to the first game of the season.

Bring the energy they did! The first game was at home against Selwyn House on December 5, 2025, and the atmosphere was electric. Nicolas S., an RWA student who attended the game, described the ambience during the game from the perspective of a fan: "The futsal game was amazing [...] Everyone on the bench watching was excited, especially the student section in the corner going crazy with a drum [...] It was more lively than some professional soccer games I've been to with 20,000 fans at least. We were all hyping up Jonah [the RWA goalkeeper] when he made crucial saves. My favourite moment was at the end when the whole team went to celebrate with Jonah and all the fans came to join in too. It really reminded me of the sense of school spirit and friendship we all have here."

The celebrations weren't for naught, as the Wildcats took this game in a comfortable 4-3 win in a strong start to the season.

Unfortunately, in the coming weeks, misfortune fell upon the Juvenile Futsal team. First, Jonah T., who had been the hero of the previous match, fell ill for what was arguably the biggest match of the season: Vincent Massey College at home on December 17. A win would see them triumph over the team who beat them last year in the finals, while a loss might knock the wind out of this team in form. The Wildcats put in a stunning effort in the first half, managing to lead VMC 2-1 at the half, but unfortunately the champions were able to clinch a win.

The next bit of bad luck was when Nicholas Y., a starter on the

team, was injured and deemed unable to play for three weeks. To cap it all off, Ryan B., the team's star player, was unable to attend the next match. This lack of personnel is the main factor in the next defeat they suffered, a big loss at the home of those whom they had previously beaten, Selwyn House. With two losses under their belt, the RWA futsal team knew they had to step up for the next few games.

You know what they say, pressure makes diamonds. Even without Jonah and Nick, the Wildcats were able to pull off an impressive 10-7 win against John Rennie High School at home on January 14, 2026. With a return some people can only dream of, Ryan B. scored four goals in his first game back. On top of this, Alex C. scored a hat trick in his second game back from a three-month-long injury. While this game was one of personal success stories, the hype that the team showed after the game demonstrated that, for them, it isn't all about doing well individually; it's about winning as a team.

So what's next for RWA Futsal? Well, with an upcoming game against VMC and three more later in the season, this year is far from over. I would encourage anyone who gets the chance to come watch a game! Our boys have a really good chance of going all the way this year, so anyone who makes it to the provincials better watch out! For more information, follow @rwajuv.ftusal26 on Instagram!

