



## FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD

With just a few days before the Christmas break and the view outside looking like a montage of photos from the North Pole, I thought I would offer a little gratitude for the blessings we have at Rosseau. This Christmas I have bought and am distributing to my family and friends, small polished stones with the word "Gratitude" etched into them. I will suggest to them that they carry the stones around in their pocket and when they feel on some days that life is conspiring against them, that they take them out, read the etching and remember the many things in their lives for which they can be grateful. Gratitude is, in my opinion, truly a gift and a little daily exercise in using it may make a huge difference.

On my part, I am grateful to the administrative staff, Mr. L. Postma, Mr. Beaulne, Ms Cameron-Smales, Mrs. C. Bissonette, Mrs. J. Turvey, Mrs. Watkinson and Mrs. Sinasac for keeping the operations of the school running smoothly in my absence. I am grateful for Mr. Howell and all of the coaches who have organized the daily physical activities for students and shared with them the many benefits of training and competition. I am grateful to Mrs. Copland, Mrs. Curtis and Mr. Headley who persistently encourage students to explore and develop their creative and artistic sides. I'm grateful to Ms Flexman and the O.E. staff and volunteers who offer students many unique outdoor experiences. I'm grateful for the nursing staff, Mrs. Harrower and Mrs. Thomson who work diligently to keep the students healthy. I am grateful to all of the academic staff who guide the learning of the students and support them when they meet the inevitable challenges that arise during the learning process and I am grateful to Mr. Postma, Mrs. Howell, Mrs. P. Bissonette and Ms Reitmeier who serve as advisors to student leadership programs.

I am grateful to the many support staff of the school who ensure that the lives of students both living on and coming to campus each day are safe and comfortable. Mr. Matheson and the kitchen staff, Mr. Moring and the maintenance and housekeeping crew, Mrs. Scott and Ms Casey in finance and, of course, the bus drivers who bring the students to school each day, all serve to support the goal of providing students with a high standard of living in a remote setting. Even more critical, I am grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Beaulne, Mrs. Christopher and Ms Sheppard, Mr. McCready and Mr. and Mrs. Howell who live with boarding students 24 hours a day and provide the counseling and guidance of loving and concerned parents.

I am grateful for the many parents who support the school with volunteer time (Board, Parent Guild, classroom enrichment), financial support (donations to Annual Fund and capital projects), and support to staff and students through regular and positive, constructive communications.

Finally, I am grateful for the students we have at RLC this year. I hear from many staff members that this year, to date, has been one of the best they can remember. The "school" is the students, and we're blessed with the quality of student leadership and participation in all events we are seeing.

I extend to everyone, staff, families and students, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of RLC and my wife and I, our very best wishes for a safe holiday, a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy new year!

## EARLY BUSES

Parents of day students, in particular, are reminded that on Tuesday, Dec. 15, staff will be holding an assessment meeting after school and thus day buses will depart one hour earlier, at 4:00 p.m. As well, on Thursday, Dec. 17, school will end at noon and day buses will depart the campus at 12:15 p.m.

The bus to Toronto, for boarding students, will depart the campus on Thursday, Dec. 17 at 12:30 p.m.

## RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS

After 37 years of serving the staff and students of RLC in the kitchen, Doreen Fraser will be retiring at the end of this week. A soft-spoken but always pleasant “grandmother” fixture on campus, Doreen will be missed by everyone but with plans to travel and camp with her husband, she is looking forward to this new adventure that includes a LOT LESS dirty dishes!

From all of us at RLC, we wish Doreen safe travels and a long and healthy new phase of life!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Dec. 14-17**—Christmas Exams (see schedule later in the newsletter)

**Dec. 14**—Family Christmas Party from 4-5 p.m.—bring along a dessert!  
- Student Council Bake Sale

**Dec. 15**—Staff assessment meeting—**Day buses leave at 4:00 p.m.**

**Dec. 17**—Dismissal for Christmas Break—Day buses depart at 12:15 p.m.  
- bus for Toronto departs at 12:30 p.m.

**Dec. 18—Jan. 5**—Christmas Break

**Jan. 5**—Boarding students return to residence. (Bus schedule is e-mailed to boarding families)

**Jan. 6**—Classes begin

**Jan. 18-21**—End of semester exams for classes that did not have exams before Christmas

**Jan. 21**—End of Semester 1

**Jan. 21—25**—Long weekend

**Jan. 26**—Semester 2 begins

## ANNUAL FUND

Contributions to the Annual Fund continue to come in. Thanks, so far, to the Antunes family, the Benson family, the Bissonette family, the Cole family, the de Mercado family, the Dube family, the Gallagher family, the Gilbert family, the Grossman family, the Harte family, the Hennig family, the Hookey family, the Just family, the Kiesel family, the Nishikawa family, the Osler family, the Redlarski family, the Rice family, the Shaw family, the Smales family, the Sterne family, and the Tabobandung family, the Turnbull family, for gifts that have totalled just under \$30,000. Remember, a gift of any size helps to fund student activities in academic enrichment, the arts and athletics and helps to ensure RLC students have rich educational experiences beyond the classroom. **There is still time to contribute for a tax deduction for the 2009 tax year but that window closes on Dec. 31!**

While the 2009 Annual campaign officially ends on Dec. 31, the 2010 Annual campaign begins on Jan. 1! It's never a bad time to make a donation to the school and while the reminders will certainly drop off, the need never does; there is much more that we'd like to do to enrich the lives of our students!

## SNOW DAYS

Given that we have just finished three snow days, this may seem a bit late, but there's plenty of winter to go and we just wanted to be sure that the concept of snow days is understood by everyone.

First, as a day and boarding school, our status is different than local schools. While radio announcements locally will declare schools closed, RLC is NEVER closed. What is cancelled, in our case, is transportation to the school for day students.

Second, on a snow day, we continue with a half day of academic classes in the morning and a half day of student activities in the afternoon. Day students who can make it into the school (those who live locally or those whose parents can bring them in) should be at school. Those unable to attend should contact their teachers through e-mail for assignments or, in the event of power issues, should continue to work on any assignments, ISUs (independent study units required for all high school courses), reading or simply moving forward independently in the course. While there will not always be perfect symmetry between those who are in class and those who aren't, it is possible to minimize the differences with a little thought about how to best use the time at home.

We realize that sometime a storm can blow in and students will not have all of their books with them so there will always be a review conducted of anything covered in class and any tests or assignments that were due on a snow day will simply be rescheduled for the first day back. However, keep in mind that once the weather clears, the school is always open for day students to come in and pick up any books or notes that they need.

We are looking at various ways that technology might be utilized to assist in instruction when students are unable to make it to school but we are wary of large investments which, in the reality of a Muskoka snowstorm, will be rendered useless by power outages!



# SEEN AROUND CAMPUS



The Polar Bear Club had its December “dip” on Monday, Dec. 10. Clockwise from top left: Diana M and Bridget H swim for the dock; the group poses for a shot before jumping; David K and Michael R spring into action!

If you heard the rumour that there might have been a bit of snow last week, you heard right. The area around the school received over 100 cm. of snow between Wed. Dec. 9 and Fri. Dec. 11. While it is not unusual for the school to have hundreds of centimeters of snow on the ground during the winter, it is a bit unusual to get that much, that quickly. In NASCAR language, that’s 0-100 cm in 2.2 days! The grade 11 girls below don’t seem to mind the snow although this was early in the storm!



It's an

# O.E. Christmas



*Wrap a trip for your RLC enthusiast...*

For More Information Contact Amy at: [amy.flexman@rlc.on.ca](mailto:amy.flexman@rlc.on.ca)

<p align="center"><b>“Route of the Sun” Ecuador Surf, Service and Sun Trip</b></p> <p><u>March 6-16, 2010</u></p> <p>Education for the whole family—This could be for everyone on your Christmas list and go as a family at a low rate through Rosseau Lake College!</p> <p>Price: \$3000</p> <p><b>Link:</b> <a href="http://www.iroamtheworld.com/Latin_America/RouteoftheSun.html">www.iroamtheworld.com/Latin_America/RouteoftheSun.html</a></p>	<p align="center"><b>RLC Ice Climbing Festival Pass</b></p> <p><u>January 9 &amp; 10, 2010</u></p> <p>Two days of ice-climbing, photo, video and ticket to Blaine Mackie Live at the Rosseau Memorial Hall on Saturday, January 9, 2010.</p> <p>Price: \$150</p> <p><b>OR</b> - just 2 days of ice climbing \$100 - just 1 day of ice climbing \$60</p>
<p align="center"><b>Quebec Ski and Snowboard Trip</b></p> <p><u>January 21-25, 2010</u></p> <p>Visit Le Massif Resort and Mt. St. Anne Ski Resort for 3 days of riding. Plus, stay in an authentic Quebec auberge, bowling for a night, Quebec culture, delicious traditional food, telemark ski festival—option to try telemark skiing for a day!</p> <p>Price: \$600</p> <p>Contact Amy at: <a href="mailto:amy.flexman@rlc.on.ca">amy.flexman@rlc.on.ca</a> for more info.</p>	<p align="center"><b>ChocPaw Dogsledding Trip</b></p> <p><u>February 28 &amp; March 1, 2010</u></p> <p>Spend two days in Algonquin Park driving your own sled and learning about caring for the sled dogs and exploring the winter beauty.</p> <p>Price: \$350</p> <p><b>Link:</b> <a href="http://www.chocpaw.com">http://www.chocpaw.com</a></p>
<p align="center"><b>Whitewater Rafting and Aerial Park Weekend—Ottawa River</b></p> <p><u>June 4, 5 &amp; 6, 2010</u></p> <p>Be guided down the adventurous whitewater rapids of the Ottawa River with Esprit Rafting (winner of the National Geographic Best Outfitters on Earth Award). Camp overnight beside the Ottawa River and spend a day zip-lining and exploring historic Chutes Coulonge from an aerial aspect.</p> <p>Price: \$350</p> <p><b>Links:</b> <a href="http://www.espritrafting.com">www.espritrafting.com</a> <a href="http://www.chutescoulonge.qc.ca">www.chutescoulonge.qc.ca</a></p>	<p align="center"><b>Snowboard or Ski lessons Mt. St. Louis</b></p> <p><u>Any Sunday in the winter when RLC travels to Mt. St. Louis Day Students Welcome</u></p> <p>Improve your son/daughter’s performance on the slopes or in the park.</p> <p>Price: TBA (contact Amy)</p> <p><b>Link:</b> <a href="http://www.mslm.on.ca">http://www.mslm.on.ca</a></p>

### Exam Schedule

We are dividing the exams this year between December and January. Our goal is to reduce the stress of all exams being written in one short period at the end of January, leading to exhaustion for staff and students before the second semester even begins. As well, by having exams before the Christmas break, it allows students to relax a bit more over the holidays, gives staff more time to grade exams carefully and allows exams to be returned so that students can review what they did well on in both preparation for, and writing of, exams.

		Gr. 7	Gr. 8	Gr. 9	Gr.10	Gr. 11	Gr. 12
Dec. 14	9 a.m.	Eng	Math	Geog Eng	Art OE Music	Music	Earth and Space Music
Dec. 14	1 p.m.					Bio	
Dec. 15	9 a.m.			ESL GLE			
Dec. 15	1 p.m.			Math	Eng Hist		Art Math
Dec. 16	9 a.m.	Socials	Socials	Comp OE	Math	Eng Math	
Dec. 16	1 p.m.				GLE ESL Health		
Dec. 17	9 a.m.	Math	Eng	Music	Sci Comp	OE ESL	Eng French
<b><u>January Exams</u></b>							
Jan. 18	9 a.m.					Physics	Int'l Bus.
Jan. 19	9 a.m.			French		Econ	
Jan. 20	9 a.m.				French		Chem Philosophy
Jan. 21	9 a.m.			Science			World Issues

Jump on in, Andrew; the water's fine!

