



FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD

It is the week before exams begins and I should probably be making all kinds of suggestions about exam preparation and exam writing skills, but we've been doing that for some time now and, quite frankly, since this newsletter is primarily a form of communication to parents, it's the wrong audience at this stage in the game. I would, however, like to thank those of you who have responded to suggestions about study habits and have supported your child in at least understanding the value of appropriate preparation, even if the actual process of preparing is still a work in progress.

My more prevalent thoughts right now centre on the issues surrounding the bigger picture of education. A recent conversation with someone about the high expectations placed on young people by education systems today left me a bit unsettled. While I certainly agree that there is more and more content being shoved down the curriculum pipeline, I do not feel this is the greatest challenge posed to students. In my humble opinion, the greatest challenge lies in the fact that we are shoving so much content into the curriculum, without offering greater time to process it, (ie. a longer school year), that we are substituting raw knowledge for ethics. There is little time afforded to really work with students to help them understand the difference between right and wrong when it comes to applying all that knowledge.

Let me use the biggest, latest proof of this as an example. Who can deny that the financial markets are populated by extremely smart individuals who create complex global networks intended to generate and support worldwide economic activity? The person on the street can be easily impressed with the sophisticated mathematical models and graphs that drive this industry. In fact, the person on the street has, for the last ten to twenty years, invested heavily in a stock market about which he/she has little or no understanding. Frankly, I have no problem with this as we can't all expect to learn the nuances of complex systems. Rather, we trust in those who we believe do, and thus follow their advice.

But what happens when the nuances and investment tools become so complex and poorly understood that some of the most brilliant advisors throw up their hands even as they encourage others to invest? As we now know, plenty of information but no context of how it all comes together is a recipe for disaster. So why did the sales cycle not only continue, but spread and accelerate across the globe?

I don't know the answer to that, but it is a question worth pondering. Knowledge, without a grounding in ethical application, can be as dangerous as it is potentially beneficial. Yet we are bound and determined in educational systems to increase the volume of knowledge at the cost of time available to evaluate such ethical matters. It should come as no surprise then, that after several decades of such practice, we find ourselves with highly knowledgeable graduates who think only in the shortest type of time frames. In fact, we are all surrounded by masses of information with little time to evaluate it and step back to see the bigger picture of how its application might affect us for many years to come.

With the holidays offering greater time for family conversation, I invite you to challenge your children with discussions of values and ethics. They need your influence and our influence to be more than simply factual storage devices!

CHRISTMAS “PARTY”

There will be a “hot chocolate and dessert” Christmas party for students, staff and any interested families on Monday, Dec. 14, from 4-5 p.m. in the dining hall. Holiday music and some fun activities will take place and families are welcome to stay for dinner that evening at 5:30 if they wish. Price of admission is a dessert to share!

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.

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!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 9—Sr. Girls' Volleyball vs. SMLSS at Muskoka Woods—2:00 p.m.

— Sr. Boys' Basketball vs. Pickering College at Muskoka Woods—3:30 p.m.

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. 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

RLC SPORTS

Sr. Boys' Basketball—Last Wednesday the senior boys basketball team travelled to Pickering College. The boys showed vast improvement in play although the final result saw them coming up short losing 52-45. Hayden C. was the team's high scorer with 16 points. He also had a very rare four point play in the second quarter, being fouled while shooting a '3', making the shot and converting on the foul shot. David A. had a career high of 14 points. The next game is this Wed., Dec 9 at home against Pickering. Fans are invited to join us at Muskoka Woods for a 3:30 p.m. start.



SEEN AROUND CAMPUS



Snow finally descended and stayed on campus last week. By Saturday, Mauricio (above) was sporting some new warm headgear and Patrick and Gareth (right) were sporting their all-weather footwear, also known as running shoes! In fairness, they were heading to Toronto on a shopping trip so perhaps boots were not necessary to make it from residence to the van!



It's an

O.E. Christmas



Wrap a trip for your RLC enthusiast...

For More Information Contact Amy at: amy.flexman@rlc.on.ca

<p align="center">"Route of the Sun" Ecuador Surf, Service and Sun Trip</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>Link: www.iroamtheworld.com/Latin_America/RouteoftheSun.html</p>	<p align="center">RLC Ice Climbing Festival Pass</p> <p><u>January 9 & 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>OR - just 2 days of ice climbing \$100 - just 1 day of ice climbing \$60</p>
<p align="center">Quebec Ski and Snowboard Trip</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: \$500</p> <p>Contact Amy at: amy.flexman@rlc.on.ca for more info.</p>	<p align="center">ChocPaw Dogsledding Trip</p> <p><u>February 28 & 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>Link: http://www.chocpaw.com</p>
<p align="center">Whitewater Rafting and Aerial Park Weekend—Ottawa River</p> <p><u>June 4, 5 & 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>Links: www.espritrafting.com www.chutescoulonge.qc.ca</p>	<p align="center">Snowboard or Ski lessons Mt. St. Louis</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>Link: http://www.mslm.on.ca</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
<u>January Exams</u>							
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

