



## FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD

Let me begin by wishing everyone a very Happy New Year. I sincerely hope that your holidays were an opportunity to enjoy some family time together and relax a bit from the stresses that 2009 brought. Of course, if you were flying in or out of the U.S., you likely had MORE stress than usual given the heightened security that existed over the holiday travel rush. Perhaps a New Year's resolution for all of us who don't already do this, is to learn to meditate and relax even in the midst of stressful situations!

For Rosseau Lake College, 2009 saw the completion of a strategic plan that reached to the core values of the organization. In consultation with trustees, staff, parents, students and alumni we determined that the focus of the school would be narrowed to reinforce that the program we offer is a university-preparatory program and that students who wish to attend the school must personally WANT to be here. We concluded that two of the greatest strengths of the school were the small size and subsequent stronger relationships between students and adults, and the use of the outdoor setting for the development of a healthy lifestyle.

This might not seem like much of a change but, in reality, it profoundly affects the admissions process. During interviews, students and parents are clearly educated on the values and potential drawbacks of a small school that has a challenging academic programme, a high expectation of community behaviour and an emphasis on using the outdoors. Such a setting is not for everyone and for those who balk, we must be prepared to accept that while enrolment in the school is critical to our success, the wrong enrolment can be disastrous for everyone.

With the recession deepening in 2009, or at best not improving, this shift in admission philosophy and a decline in the number of students applying to all boarding schools in North America, meant that the 2009/2010 enrolment would not be as strong as we would have liked it to be. On the flip side, we have seen a more committed and positive student body this year and while we pinch our pennies on the one hand, we also pinch ourselves at the good fortune we have to work with such students and their families.

Of course, 2010 is going to challenge us once again. The admissions office has been working very hard on establishing new contacts globally and clarifying with all of our network of agents and supporters, the type of student that we feel will not only succeed, but thrive in the kind of educational setting we offer. We are not recruiting students; we are recruiting the right students.

While I have many goals and "resolutions" for 2010, none is more important than ensuring that the students, new and returning, who attend RLC are well served because they got exactly what they thought they would get when they enrolled. They will get a strong, skills-based education preparing them for university; they will get the influence of adults who WANT to see students succeed in school and life; they will enjoy a healthy outdoor lifestyle. "Let the games begin!"

## BUSES TO RLC ON JAN. 5, 2010

For the return trip on Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> the bus will depart Sherway Gardens at 6:30 p.m.

Stop 1 – Sherway Gardens at 6:30 p.m.

Stop 2 – York Mills Subway Station on Old York Mills Road at 7:00 p.m.

Stop 3 – Hwy 9 in the car pool area – 7:30 – 7:45 p.m.

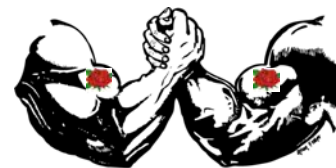
Stop 4 – Barrie—parking lot behind the Canadian Tire Store, Bayfield Mall (Bayfield St.) – 8:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Stop 5 – RLC at 9:30 p.m.

Students who are not using school transportation must return to the school by 9:30 p.m. Tuesday evening.

## GUNS AND ROSES ARM-WRESTLING TOURNNEY

Last year we began what we hope will become an annual fun tournament of arm-wrestling and so this will be our second year. Students can sign up to compete in their own grade levels in a double-elimination format leading to grade level champions for both boys and girls. Each year has its “epic” battles and surprise entrants. Students will be signing up this week and the tournament will proceed to the finals at the end of the semester.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan. 6** - Classes begin

**Jan. 9** - Jr./Sr. Boys' Basketball at SAC  
- Jr./Sr. Girls' Volleyball at LCS

**Jan. 11** - Sr. Boys' BB vs. Pickering at Muskoka - 3:30 p.m.

**Jan. 12** - Jr. Girls' Volleyball vs. Pickering at Muskoka - 3:30 p.m.

**Jan. 13** - CISAA Snowboarding competition – 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
- Sr. Girls' Volleyball at SCS

**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

**Feb. 12-16** - Long Weekend

**Feb. 19** - Winter Arts Festival at RLC

**Feb. 20** - RLC Winter Carnival and Polar Bear Club Dip!

**March 5-22** - March Break

**April 8** - Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test-(Any students from grade 10 and up who have not yet successfully completed it must write the test to be eligible for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma) This is a one-day test date and students should NOT miss it if at all possible!

# SEEN AROUND CAMPUS



## OUTDOOR EDUCATION NEWS

The ice-climbing festival, originally scheduled for both Saturday, Jan. 9th and Sunday, Jan. 10, will now only offer Sunday ice climbing. It will be \$60/ person for the day. Permission forms are on the web and must be signed in order to climb. Ms Sheppard will be collecting the forms from interested students and/or parents. All you need are good snow gear, sturdy hiking boots/winter boots, a permission form, \$60 and a good attitude!

## ANNUAL FUND THANKS—FALL 2009

The final list of contributors to this fall's Annual Fund is listed below both as a thank you to them for their generosity to the school and as a final check to ensure that all donors have been listed and tax receipts issued. Those who contributed in December will be receiving their tax receipts in the next week. If your name is on the list but you have not received your receipt for 2009 tax purposes, or if your name is NOT on the list but you've either sent in a donation or received a tax receipt, please contact Mr. Hookey at the school so we can ensure any corrections and paper-work are completed. Again, thank you to all of the fall donors and, you guessed it, the 2010 Annual Fund Campaign is now officially open!

Carlos and Heather Antunes  
 Mark and Susan Benson  
 Cheryl Bissonette  
 Mel Bissonette and Cheryl Hollows  
 Julie Cameron-Smales  
 Bill and Elinor Cole  
 Lionel and Winsome de Mercado  
 Carolyn Sherar-Doornink  
 Pat and Daphne Dubé  
 Amy Flexman  
 Thomas Gallagher  
 Darcy and Brenda Gilbert  
 Chris Grossman and Kim Ward  
 John and Fiona Hargraff  
 Becky Harte  
 Brian and Diane Hennig

Graham and Donna Hookey  
 Bob Just and Patricia Lewis  
 Ron Lehman  
 Prof. Ludwig and Antje Kiesel  
 Greg and Marilyn Mannion  
 Jeff Mitchell  
 Ted and Ruth Nishikawa  
 Lawton Osler  
 Peter Perry  
 Ted and Maggie Redlarski  
 Liz Rice  
 Alfred Roissl  
 Graham and Carla Shaw  
 Don Smales  
 John and Carole-Lynn Sterne  
 Joseph Ralf and Tina Tabobandung  
 Rodd and Dr. Hilary Turnbull

