



## FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD

I have just finished reading through the comments on all the reports that were completed in this past week. Those reports represent the midway point for semestered courses and the quarter point for full year courses and will have both grades and effort ratings. Final editing and recording will take place this week and they should be mailed next week.

We talk about “best of self” at RLC on a regular basis. The intent of this mantra is to encourage students to extend themselves to do all that they can in performing to the best of their ability, in the classroom, on the playing field, on the stage or as a contributing member of the community and society in general. Personally, I do not dwell on grades. Too often we measure the “quality” of students by the numerical value of their grades. For the student who has a naturally good memory, and does well in school with little effort, such a measure leads to the belief that “best of self” is really measured by the judgment of others on some arbitrary or subjective scale. This can result in complacency for a naturally talented student and frustration for a hard-working but not as naturally talented student.

As an educator and a parent, I have always targeted the effort rating as the most important one in determining if students or my own children were giving it their best. I realize there is some subjectivity to this as well and so I follow it up with the question, “Did you give it your all?” If a student can look me in the eye and say he/she has done everything possible to achieve the best results they could, then I congratulate them on the grade. It is, after all, the best of self for them. If they wince when I ask that question, or admit there is more that they could have done, then I tell them they owe that obligation of full effort to themselves because they don’t yet know what they are capable of doing and thus cannot yet be the best of self.

I’ve tended to coach sports with the same principle. I usually ask the players if they want to play recreationally (have fun experiencing a sport) or competitively (have fun becoming the best athlete/team possible). Recreational play requires you to learn the rules, learn the basics and practice enough to be able to perform. But competitive play requires you to practise harder, to really push yourself to develop better skills and better fitness. Natural athletes eventually get beaten by athletes who outwork them so if you want to be competitive, it’s the work ethic that is more important than the natural ability. Put the two together, and you have the elite athlete.

I was pleased to see the results of many students in this first formal report. I know many are working hard and their effort ratings are indicative of that. I was pleased because THEY know they are doing their best, not because of their grades per se. For others, the maturity to really lay their effort on the line every day is not quite there yet and so we will continue to encourage them to take that step towards acting in such a way that they will know, in their own mind, that they gave all they had in the pursuit of their best performance.

The greatest satisfaction comes, not from meeting the expectations of others, but from knowing you did your best. It’s all that can be expected and all you can do!

## PARENT DIRECTORY

At the request of the Parent Guild, a Parent Directory will be distributed via e-mail this week listing contact information for all families in the school except those who asked not to be included. If you do NOT wish to be included, contact Jackie Watkinson at [jackie.watkinson@rlc.on.ca](mailto:jackie.watkinson@rlc.on.ca) or 750-732-4351.

## ANNUAL FUND

The Annual Fund Campaign continues. Our goal is to get as close to 100% participation by all families as possible. Keep in mind contributions have varied in the past from \$25 to \$10,000. If you would like to contribute but have not yet received your donation form and return envelope, please contact Mr. Hookey ([graham.hookey@rlc.on.ca](mailto:graham.hookey@rlc.on.ca)) or the school office ([school.office@rlc.on.ca](mailto:school.office@rlc.on.ca)) and we'll forward one to you immediately.

Funds raised go directly to supporting student activities in academic enrichment, the arts and athletics.

## ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

We are currently accepting applications for second semester (beginning at the end of January) for both day and boarding students so if you know someone looking for a change for that semester, please encourage them to look our way. Also, we have two Open Houses scheduled for interested families. One is Sat., Nov 28th (12:00—3:00 p.m.) at the school, and the other is Tuesday, Dec. 1st in Barrie (7-9 p.m.—431 Bayview Dr. Suite #1). All details and invitations to the Open House are listed on our website under Admissions/Admission Events.

Calling all Grade 7/9 in September Siblings.....We are scheduling all siblings to spend a day at the school to experience if RLC is the right fit for them. Please contact Admissions if you would like your child to attend the school for the day. The month of November is now full but we are booking December and onward.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Nov. 20**—Grad Photos

**Nov. 28**—Admissions Open House at RLC—12:00—5:00 p.m.

**Nov. 30**—Parent Guild meeting (Dining hall) 9:00 a.m.

**Dec. 1**—Admissions Open House in Barrie—431 Bayview Dr., Suite #1 from —9 p.m.

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

**Dec. 17**—Dismissal at 12:00 p.m. for Christmas Break

**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

# FALL ARTS FESTIVAL—NOV. 11



MCs Liz M. and Blaine M. stall for time during a stage change (left) but the first arts festival of the year was well received and has generated much thought about future possibilities. Thanks to Mr. Headley, Mrs. Copland and Ms Bingham for preparing students, and of course, to the student performers themselves. The next performances will be Feb. 19, as part of our Winter Carnival Activities.



## SEEN AROUND CAMPUS



The school held its annual Remembrance Day ceremony in the RAC on November 11, with the grade 10 Canadian history students leading the way. Thanks to Emma F. (left) who played "Taps" and to everyone who joined us for this solemn and heartfelt occasion.



The grade seven, eight and nine outdoor education classes had the opportunity this week to learn the game of Ultimate from an expert. Chee Chan, who has played on Canada's national team, came to RLC to share his expertise and help the students hone their throwing, catching, and all-around Ultimate skills. The students had a great time meeting Chee, and their Ultimate skills improved visibly in the time he was here. Perhaps in the future one of these students will be back to share his or her own Ultimate expertise with the RLC community!

### 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



## **OUTDOOR EDUCATION NEWS**

### **RLC Ice Climbing Festival—Jan. 9/10**

Have you climbed on a wall or a rock face and are looking for a new climbing challenge? Have you ever dreamed of scaling frozen waterfalls? The RLC Ice Climbing Festival is a unique opportunity to learn these very skills! Students will learn how to safely travel on snow and ice using crampons and ice axes. Students will begin on low gradient ice and progress to climbing vertical ice on ropes anchored above the climbs. Students will climb at local Muskoka Ice Climbing sites and be supervised by Ms Flexman and Angus Murray (Former Head of Outdoor Education at RLC from 2000 to 2005.)

**Clothing:** Students will need warm clothing and a pair of hiking boots with a stiff sole (to accommodate crampons)

**Cost:** The event is open to all students for Saturday and grades 9 – 12 for Saturday and Sunday. The cost of the course is \$50 for grades 7 & 8 students and \$100 for high school students, staff, friends and family. Don't miss out! Contact Ms Flexman to sign up.



### **MARCH BREAK WITH ROSSEAU LAKE COLLEGE IN ECUADOR!**

During March Break this year we have some RLC students off to British Columbia to ski and snowboard for two weeks as part of an OE course – but we also have another INCREDIBLE March Break opportunity!

R.O.A.M. Adventures (the company that Amy Flexman guides outdoor trips for in the summers) is offering an extraordinary sun, surf and service trip for RLC students, friends and families for 8 days during March Break. The Route of the Sun Multi-Sport Adventure will take RLC participants on a variety of adventures including surfing lessons most days, hiking, exploring remote villages and markets, visiting “mini Galapagos” via boat, kayak and snorkelling, archaeological site exploration, endemic wildlife viewing and research, canoeing, enjoying pristine beaches, beach hotels and cabanas, beachline clean ups and cultural night events. The sample jam-packed itinerary can be found on our website and you can contact Amy Flexman for more information. This trip is only ~ \$3000 (normally this trip costs \$4500 but R.O.A.M. is giving us a deal this year). If you, your family, or your son or daughter are interested in learning more about this trip, contact Amy Flexman [amy.flexman@rlc.on.ca](mailto:amy.flexman@rlc.on.ca) by November 27<sup>th</sup>. A \$500 deposit is due on Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup> to secure your spot. A minimum of four people must sign up to run the trip. Don't miss out on another incredible RLC opportunity!