



FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD

This past Friday, alumna Katie Tsuyuki (Class of 2001) returned to the school to address the students during sports period. Katie is a member of the Canadian National Snowboarding team, an activity she began as a grade 9 student in Rosseau Lake College. She hopes to qualify for the Olympics in a series of events over the next couple of months. Katie took time from her busy training schedule to join us and reflect a bit on her experiences at Rosseau and the qualities she felt have led to her success.

It will come as no surprise to you, as adults, that the two qualities she mentioned as most important to success were passion and persistence. Frankly, it came as no surprise to the students. They have heard it before, often, and from various sources. We all know this to be true. If you love what you do and work hard enough at it for long enough, you will be successful. The problem for students in grades 7-12 is that they are spending the vast majority of their time pursuing a wide range of activities, including various academic subjects, sports, arts activities and work experience. They do not have the option of pursuing a single-minded passion and thus, for many of them, it is difficult to develop persistence in the areas for which they do not have a real passion.

Outside of the activities prescribed by school and family obligations, that might not be the case. How many of them have a single-minded focus on video games, social networking, recreational reading, music, dance, hockey or some other activity for which they DO currently have a passion? I'd venture to say that many of them demonstrate passion and persistence at such activities even though we, as adults, would like them to do something else we deem more worthwhile.

One hundred years ago, the majority of young people graduated from grade 8 and either worked side-by-side in the fields with their parents or took up some form of manual labour apprenticeship. By the age of 15 or 16 they were contributing to society by engaging in productive labour. Fifty years ago the line of entering the productive work force shifted from grade 8 to high school graduation and in the last 20 years the line has shifted to an undergraduate degree. In other words, most young people today do not join the productive work force until they at least graduate from high school and, in many cases, from university.

This lengthened period of pursuing "general studies" rather than focusing on a specific passion, in combination with performing functions that are process oriented rather than production oriented, has led to some frustration for youth and the perception by many adults that they don't have the work ethic or perseverance of previous generations. Personally, I sense many young people are simply biding their time and waiting for the opportunity to be able to "bust out" and do something worthwhile. In the interim, their passion and perseverance tend to be directed toward recreational activities while they await the culmination of "paying their dues in school" and then getting out into the world to apply that passion and perseverance to something that is truly meaningful to them.

ANNUAL FUND

Thanks to the following families who have contributed to the Annual Fund in the last three weeks:

The de Mercado family, the Dube family, the Gilbert family, the Hennig family, the Hookey family, the Just family, the Kiesel family, the Osler family, the Redlarski family, the Rice family, the Shaw family, the Sterne family, and the Turnbull family. Annual Fund contributions go directly to funding student activities in academic enrichment, the arts and athletics and help to ensure RLC students have rich educational experiences beyond the classroom.

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) or the school office (school.office@rlc.on.ca) and we'll forward one to you immediately.

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 Tues., 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/Admissions 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. 9 – Combined field trip: Grade 11 bio, Grade 12 Earth and Space class, all the Grade 10s, Grade 12 chemistry class to Body Worlds and Grade 9 to Romeo and Juliet. 7:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. (approx)

Nov. 10—FACULTY MEETING—DAY BUSES DEPART AT 4:00 P.M., ONE HOUR EARLIER THAN USUAL!

Nov. 11 – Remembrance Day Ceremony in RAC -10:40 a.m.
 - Fall Arts Festival Rehearsal for the whole school—3:30– 5:00 p.m.
 - Fall Arts Festival – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Rowntree Family Academic Centre

Nov. 13-17 – Scheduled home weekend (Day buses depart at 12:10 p.m. on Nov. 13 and the Toronto bus departs at 12:30 p.m.)

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 7–9 p.m.

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

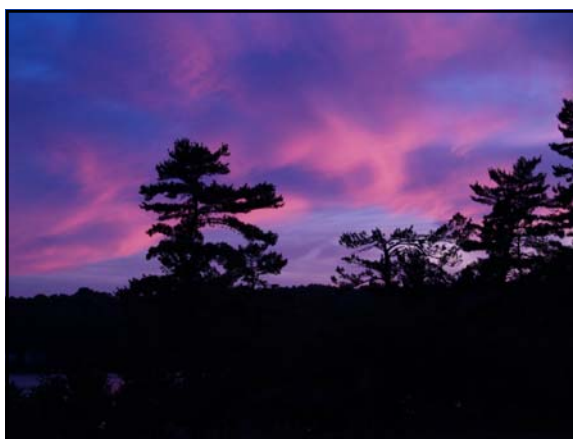
Dec. 17—Dismissal at 12:00 p.m. for Christmas Break

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

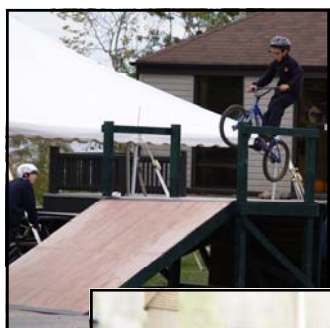
An early fall sunset over the RLC campus. This is an untouched photo with no colour corrections or changes!



RLC SPORTS

We are currently in the transition time between fall and winter sports. Last week, the first series of tryouts for winter teams began, although Nordic skiing and snowboarding enthusiasts were limited to identifying their interest and then engaging in some good old dodgeball in the gym!

Winter teams include boys' basketball, girls' volleyball, Nordic skiing, snowboarding and freestyle skiing. The number of teams we field will depend on the number of students who commit to each sport so that we can determine if there will be junior and senior teams with benches long enough to cope with the inevitable injuries and sickness that determine if we have enough players to successfully compete at any given point in time. In recent years this has been a particular challenge for players interested in hockey and while we do not currently play in a hockey league, we do try to schedule a few practices and games for students who would enjoy representing their school in some exhibition matches.



FALL ARTS FESTIVAL—NOV. 11, 7-9 P.M.

With a new staging area built into the RAC, and a new format for the fall arts event, we are looking forward to a great evening of arts entertainment this coming Wednesday and invite all of you to encourage friends and relatives to attend and share the evening with our students. There's something for everyone, with various forms of instrumental and vocal music, dramatic readings, dance, film and visual arts.

Break the cycle of television as the evening entertainment and join us to enjoy the talents and raw enthusiasm of RLC arts students. If that "sell" isn't enough, keep in mind there are free refreshments so now there is truly no excuse for not attending!

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 by November 27th. A \$500 deposit is due on Friday, November 27th 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!

SEEN AROUND CAMPUS



The Grade 8s completed their first Science ISU of the year. After studying the erosive power of water along rivers, lakes, and oceans the Grade 8s set their minds to devising ways to reduce the erosive power of water and to stabilize shorelines. There were many different ideas and the models were well made and well presented. The future of our planet is in good hands with this young group!



Alumna Katie Tsuyuki (Class of 2001) poses with Ms Flexman (right) and some of her snowboarding "fans" (above) after she spoke with the entire student body about what it takes to be successful. Katie hopes to make the Olympic Snowboarding Team in the next couple of months and she'll have lots of RLC students pulling for her!