



## FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD

This past weekend I participated in a conference hosted by the Canadian Association of Independent Schools for Heads of School and Board Chairs in King City. For Heads and Chairs, this is the single most important weekend of professional development during the year. Just once a year do “leaders” from across the country get together to both discuss common problems and to listen to speakers talk about the future of education. Board Chair, Greg Mannion and Vice-Chair, Susan Benson also attended the conference.

With a general decline in the total number of students in the school system and the recent financial strains on the economy, the most common topic was enrolment. There wasn't a single school that wasn't feeling some pressure and many schools were having to make adjustments to a new financial reality. While there was much discussion of new and collaborative marketing strategies, particularly for boarding schools, there was also much discussion about options to reduce costs. Clearly, there was a sense that increasing revenue through tuition hikes or additional fund-raising was not likely and thus economies would have to come through cuts in programmes or personnel.

Naturally, there was great consternation over such options. It is a combination of the quality of both academic and co-curricular programming, and smaller class sizes, that has separated independent schools from public schools. Reducing either of these value factors would make price of private education seem even higher and might lead to even more attrition.

The options of many of the larger and older schools are very different from the options available to smaller or younger schools, of which RLC is one. While large schools talk about allocating endowments differently or ramping up their alumni to raise additional funds, the smaller schools talk about enrolment. It is the number of students in the seats that determines the viability of small schools year to year. Like many households, financial stability is very simple; you have to balance what you earn with what you spend.

Julie Cameron-Smales and Jeanette Turvey form our admissions team at RLC. They devise the strategies to get the RLC story into the local community, the national community and the international community but they are only two people. As we all recognized this weekend, the reality of admissions is that marketing does not come from ads in a newspaper, spots on a radio or trips to school fairs all over the world. While all of these marketing options help, the one that makes the BIGGEST difference is the reputation of the school in the social circles of families that have attended or are attending the school. We make the best case for our school by working hard to provide the students who come to us with an education that has value and then simply encouraging our families and alumni to spread the word.

I have never believed that any marketing other than providing a great education would ever “grow” or “save” a school and nothing I heard this weekend changed that belief. Here at RLC we will continue to work hard to help students achieve success and then encourage everyone to spread the word!

## THE PARENT GUILD MEETINGS

Mr. Hookey apologizes for the short notice for parents/guardians in the Toronto area, but his schedule of treatments each week is not determined until the end of the week before. Although he had a couple of offers to host a meeting of parents interested in talking about the role of the Parent Guild in the school, they were both at extreme ends of the city. Certainly not as graciously hosted as it might have been in a home, Mr. Hookey has decided to opt for convenience by hosting a meeting in the small eating area directly in front of the Second Cup Coffee Shop at the York Mills Centre on the northeast corner of Yonge St. and York Mills. This is just a minute south of the 401 and there is easy parking at the subway station, as well as easy access by transit. The meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 29 at 5:30 p.m. and he promises will not be more than an hour unless YOU want it to be! If you will be attending, please let Mr. Hookey know via e-mail so he can be on the lookout for you. (graham.hookey@rlc.on.ca)

## GRADE 7/8 COFFEE AND CURRICULUM

Grade 7 and 8 parents are invited to a coffee and curriculum meeting **TOMORROW (Tuesday, October 27th)** beginning at 8:30 a.m. You'll be able to accompany your child to assembly and then head back to their homeroom class to have teachers present some background information on the skills they are trying to develop with your children this year, the strategies they will use for that development and the content of the curriculum they are covering. There will also be an opportunity, over coffee and a muffin, to get to know the parents of other students in your child's class. We're predicting this opportunity to last no more than 1 hour for those of you dealing with workplace arrangements. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Howell, Ms Bingham or Mrs. Smales.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct. 27**—Grade 7/8 Coffee and Curriculum meeting in the Dining Hall at 8:30 a.m. This is a chance to come to assembly, visit the classroom and meet other parents in your child's grade.

**Oct. 28** – Jr. Soccer at CDS; Sr. BB at TYS; Sr. Soccer at TYS; Sr. VBall at BVG. (2 half day schedules – classes in a.m. and study periods in p.m.)

**Oct . 29** – Hallowe'en Dance 8-11:00 p.m.

**Oct. 31** – Sr. Field Hockey Finals at RLC

**Nov. 3** – Canadian Independent School Music Festival Auditions in Whitby

**Nov. 4** – Sr. Boys' Soccer Playoffs

**Nov. 7** – Sr. Boys' Soccer Finals

**Nov. 9** – Combined field trip: Gr. 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. 11** – Fall Arts Festival – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Rowntree Family Academic Centre

**Nov. 13-17** – Scheduled home weekend

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

## RLC SPORTS

**Sr. Girls' Field Hockey**— The field hockey team won their exhibition game against Parry Sound High School last Wed. by a score of 5-0, keeping their undefeated record intact. Goals were scored by Ally B. (x2), Heather M., Mel F. (right), and Julia S. We will be going into the division playoffs this Saturday, Oct. 31st, in first place. RLC will be hosting the top 4 teams in the division, with the first games being played at 11:30 am (RLC vs Trflagar Castle School and Albert College vs Lakefield), with the winners then playing off for the championship after a short break, at 1:30 or 2:00 pm. Fans, especially loud and enthusiastic ones, are welcomed!



**Sr. Girls' Basketball**— The basketball team came to the realization this week that three season-ending injuries, on a team with 7 players, really spelled the end of the season for them. The remainder of the games in their schedule have been cancelled and now, "let the physiotherapy begin!"

**Sr. Boys' Volleyball**— The boys' volleyball team played an exhibition match against Huntsville High School last week and while they played very competitively for one set, lost the match in three straight sets to a much taller team.



**Sr. Boys' Soccer**— The team played Appleby College last week and lost 6-1. The RLC goal was scored by Matt A. who came up from defense for about 5 minutes and ended up scoring. Maybe we should leave him on the forward line more often!

**Jr. Boys' Soccer**—The team was quite overmatched in size and speed by a grade 9/10 team from Parry Sound High School in an exhibition game this week, falling by a score of a bunch to 3. RLC scorers were Tyler C., Patrick R., and Harrison G.

## FALL ARTS FESTIVAL—NOV. 11, 7-9 P.M.

We are expanding the usual fall band concert to include various "arts" activities that involve both group and individual performances as well as film presentations. Mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend for an evening of entertainment and celebration of the varied talents of RLC students.

## SEEN AROUND CAMPUS

The Grade 7 science class was thrilled to welcome Mr. Michael Silver, father of current grade 7 student, Lexie, to class on Wednesday, October 21. He brought along his incredible collection of fossils and meteorites. Mr. Silver did an excellent job taking the class on an adventure right from the Big Bang all the way to the present day. Students learned all about the creation of stars, galaxies, and planets. They got to handle many authentic specimens, including a fragment believed to be from Mercury, Theropod eggs found in China, numerous Trilobites, Tyrannosaurus Rex teeth, dinosaur skin, fossilized insects, a 50 million year-old wasp trapped in amber, a tooth from an 80-foot precursor to the Great White Shark, and even fossilized feces. There isn't enough room here to list all of the incredible specimens that the students got to explore. One lucky student even won an authentic meteorite to take home and start his own collection with. It was a fantastic afternoon that the Grade 7s will remember for a very long time. A huge thank you from the grade 7s to Mr. Silver for sharing his knowledge and collection!



Mr. Michael Silver passes around some of the samples of various fossils and meteorites he has collected.

Mauricio takes a closer look at some of the fossils.



Zach and Gareth get ready to cut parts for their Muskoka chair, a project they are working on in the woodworking club on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

## **"SIGN UP FOR CHRISTMAS AND MARCH BREAK OUTDOOR EDUCATION TRIPS BY OCTOBER 30th!!!!"**

This is just a reminder to all parents of grade 10, 11 and 12 students who might be interested in the senior outdoor education credit courses during Christmas Break or March Break, that they will have to have their \$500 deposits in by October 30th to hold their spots and therefore confirm if there are enough students to run the two trips.

This year during the Christmas Break (from December 27 - January 8) there will be an "Eco-Adventure Discovery and Climb to the Top of Mexico Trip" running for one of our Senior Outdoor Activities Courses (PAD40). This trip will commence with a flight from Toronto to Mexico, arriving in Jalcomulco, Mexico where we will explore jungle hikes, lagoons, remote villages, waterfalls, rafting, rappelling, Mexican sweat lodge ceremonies, and get to know the locals as we lend a hand in the small, welcoming town of Jalcomulco. Ms Flexman used to lead outdoor adventure trips with Esprit out of this quaint little town and is happy to be returning to have Esprit guide our trip. Learn about Esprit at [www.espritrafting.com](http://www.espritrafting.com). We will depart from Esprit and Jalcomulco after 5 days and head to meet Hector Ponce de Leon (one of the world's top climbers and school group specialists) who will lead us on a hike up to the top of a smaller climb La Malinche and then ascend to the highest peak in Mexico (the third highest in North America) Pico de Orizaba at 5,636 m (18,490 ft) above sea level (pictured at right). Hector has hiked many students up to the peak from high schools, colleges and adult groups and can be explored at [www.hectorponcedeleon.com](http://www.hectorponcedeleon.com). Amy Flexman met Hector last year at a risk management conference and they have set up a great program for the RLC students. Our training for this course will begin next week. The total cost of this trip is approximately \$2500 and will be finalized once we have the total number of students going on the course trip.



Our second Senior Outdoor Activities Course Trip occurs during March Break and it is a Ski and Snowboard Course in British Columbia. This course will include big mountain ski and snowboard instruction for 3 days, a two day mountain safety training course, and a day of cross country skiing at Kicking Horse Mountain. The group will then travel to Revelstoke Mountain for 3 days of more big mountain instruction and fine-tuning their technical skills. The final ski or snowboard day will be at Lake Louise (one of Canada's oldest ski resorts) and will include a telemark ski or park lesson for the day. The students will stay in a rented house and cook their own meals under staff supervision as well as take part in night activities such as indoor climbing, swimming, skating/hockey, tubing and safety classes. Prior to the trip the students will demonstrate their ski or snowboard ability and must be a very confident Blue Square skier by the start of the trip. The students will be helping a new skier or snowboarder learn how to ride with one introduction lesson and then revisit the same student later in the year and give feedback and more advanced instructions. The students will also have to make a ski or snowboard film featuring themselves. The course is excellent and custom made by RLC for our students. This course is also approximately \$2500 (dependent upon the number of students who enroll) and students must be confirmed by October 30th with a \$500 deposit.

For any questions about these two trips please contact Amy Flexman @ 705-732-4351 ext 34 or [amy.flexman@rlc.on.ca](mailto:amy.flexman@rlc.on.ca).

There will also be a March Break Route of the Sun trip to Ecuador open to all students, friends and families that you can look up on our school website. This trip must be booked by November 11th. Again contact Amy for more details.

There are a lot of exciting opportunities that RLC offers with custom made itineraries and unbeatable prices. Speak to your son or daughter about these trips to explore the world and learn about new cultures, people, places and adventures.

Yours in adventure,  
Amy Flexman  
Head of Outdoor Education  
Rosseau Lake College

## **DID YOU KNOW...**

...the Student Council is currently conducting a food drive to collect non-perishable food items for the Manna Food Bank in Bracebridge? Donations can be brought into the office before October 31st.

...RLC has the opportunity to offer the OFSC Snowmobile Safety Training Course on Saturday, November 7th from 9:00 am until 2:30 pm. The cost is \$30 per participant, and 12 participants are required for the course to run. Participants need to be 12 years of age to successfully complete the course and receive their Snow Vehicle Operator's Licence. The course is open to day students as well as boarding students. The session will be in the David Perry Classroom located in the Rowntree Family Academic Centre. Please contact Mrs. Cheryl Bissonette by Wednesday, October 28th at 705-732-4351 ext. 26 or [cheryl.bissonette@rlc.on.ca](mailto:cheryl.bissonette@rlc.on.ca) to register your child.

....Our latest alumni newsletter was sent out on Thursday October 22nd, to everyone within our data base. If you would like to receive copies of the alum newsletter, in addition to The Beacon, please contact Jeanette Turvey in Admissions at [jeanette.turvey@rlc.on.ca](mailto:jeanette.turvey@rlc.on.ca). A copy of this newsletter is also available from our website under Alumni news.