



## FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD

As you are receiving this newsletter, I'm likely sitting in a canoe on Bell Lake, in Killarney Provincial Park. It's outtrip week and I'm with the grade 9s on my way to spending four days and three nights canoeing, hiking, camping, taking photos, playing cards, taking more than a few moments to reflect on life at sunset and sunrise, telling tall tales around the campfire and performing some community service by cleaning up campsites. Imagine, I get paid for this!

I began my career as an outdoor education teacher, taking many students on canoe trips, hiking trips, cross-country ski trips and snowshoe trips. Although I enjoyed the experiences a great deal, I usually found them too short to develop much of a rapport with students. Sure, we had some fun and spent some long nights talking about serious issues around a campfire, but in just a few days or perhaps a week, we would all go our separate ways and never meet again. They would be back in school and I would be out with the next group.

I left that position after three years and went into the class so that I could have a group of students I could call "my own", but I continued to plan extensive outdoor experiences for them. In the first year I had my own class of students, a mix of grade 7 and 8, we took three camping trips, a fall hiking excursion, a winter snowshoe expedition and a spring bike trip. We packed every moment of curriculum into the spaces between the trips because we were all eager to get out and learn from our experiences. I leveraged that, of course, putting conditions on participation in the trips around effort in the class. Funny, I never had a single behaviour problem in that class even though I had thirty-eight students.

I've spoken to many alumni of RLC who look at the fall outtrip as one of the biggest highlights of their time in the school. It's a bit chaotic getting everyone prepared in a short time. It's a sacrifice of academic time at the beginning of the year. It's a risk any time you take students out of a building and there is lots of anxiety on occasion for new students and parents. Still, there is no better way to start a year in a small community than to simply get to know each other. The shared memories of an outtrip, regardless of the weather, or sometimes as a result of the weather, are deeply etched in the minds of everyone. It is here that real bonds of trust between students and their friends and students and their teachers truly begin to evolve.

We have a film-making contest and a photo contest running during the outtrips to encourage student creativity but also to ensure that there are recorded memories to share with friends and family now and to keep for many years to come. Once we return and put the shows together, we'll be sure to post them on YouTube or on the website to be enjoyed by everyone.

I hope you have a good week wherever you are. I know I will in the middle of nowhere!

# FIRST WEEK CANDIDS AT RLC



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sept. 14—18**—The entire school is involved in **outdoor trips** and/or experiences. Grade 7/8 classes sleep on campus but visit numerous local outdoor activities; Grade 9 are off to Killarney Park for canoeing; Grade 10 will be doing their own version of “Survival” on Mr. Beaulne’s farm near the school; Grade 11 will be kayaking on Georgian Bay; Grade 12’s will be either canoeing the Dumoine River or doing some volunteer work on, and learning about, an organic farm.

**Sept. 25**—Join us in the afternoon for the annual **Terry Fox Charity Run** to raise funds for cancer research.

**Oct. 2-4—Homecoming Weekend**—We’re trying to expand on a “family” event this year by inviting grandparents to join us on the morning of Friday, Oct. 2, to attend assembly, classes and lunch with their grandchildren and get a real sense of life here at RLC. On Saturday, Oct. 3, most of our athletic teams will be engaged in home games and we invite families to join us both as a cheering section and to enjoy lunch together. On Sunday, Oct. 4, the annual RLC Golf Tournament will bring together alumni, parents and student golfers to enjoy a round of golf and a dinner. Mark these events on your calendar now; more details to follow!

**Oct. 9**—Classes are for just a half day on Oct. 9 and the afternoon is set aside for P/T conferences.

**Oct. 10—13**—Thanksgiving holiday for all students. All residences are closed until Tues. Oct. 13 at 6:00 p.m. and classes resume Wed. Oct. 14.

## FALL COLOURS WEEKEND AND 15TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC TOURNEY

Friday, Oct. 2—We'd like to invite any grandparents who can make arrangements, to join us for lunch and an afternoon of travelling to classes and activities with your grandchild. This is for GRANDPARENTS only, a special time set aside to get a little insight into what your grandchildren are experiencing here at RLC.

Saturday, Oct. 3—RLC families, alumni, and friends are all invited to join us on campus to enjoy the beauty of Muskoka's autumn colors and to cheer on your child(ren) at a variety of sporting events. We will also have more activities, like gardening in the Lady Eaton garden, a Shadow River canoe excursion and our second annual pot luck early Thanksgiving lunch, (we provide main course and visiting families provide either salads or deserts).

Sunday, Oct. 4—We are excited to announce that our annual Golf Classic will be held at the beautiful new Muskoka Bay Club in Gravenhurst, Ontario. Come play the course that has been voted "**Best Golf Course You Can Play**" by Score magazine. This will be a best ball event and limited to the first 72 golfers confirming space. We have been able to secure an incredible price of \$149.00/pp including brunch, 18 holes of golf, and a golf cart. (This is over \$75 less than the green fees alone!) To confirm your attendance for golf at Muskoka Bay Club please contact Jeanette Turvey at 705.732.4351 ext. 21 or [jeanette.turvey@rlc.on.ca](mailto:jeanette.turvey@rlc.on.ca). We look forward to seeing you out there on this spectacular course, all the while enjoying the company of fellow RLC community members. Registration will commence at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday with brunch at the beautiful new Club House commencing at 11:15 a.m. Brunch will then be followed by a shot gun start at 12:30 p.m. Awards and Presentations will follow the tournament, again being held in the picturesque Clubhouse with cocktails and tapas.

RLC's Annual Fall Colour event will be arriving quickly so plan to join us and share the beauty of Muskoka's autumn colours.



# SPORTS AND CLUBS

The initial try outs are complete and this year we are excited to be fielding the following varsity sports teams: Senior Girls Field Hockey, Senior Girls Basketball, Senior Boys Soccer, Junior Boys Soccer, and Senior Boys Volleyball. These teams will practise every night from 4:00—5:00 p.m. on regular school days.

In addition, the clubs programme appears to have been well received with students signing up for yearbook, baking, woodworking, guitar, photography, and art clubs on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00—5:00 p.m.

In the intramural sport programme, which runs on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays from 4:00—5:00 p.m., many students have taken our philosophy of active living to heart and have signed up for a Weights & Fitness programme that will include a wide variety of activities from casual walking to intensive interval training; long distance running to pilates and core work; traditional weight lifting to yoga. Mountain Biking is another crowd favourite, particularly with our international students. It is shaping up to be a great Fall term in sports!

We are excited about the many opportunities available at RLC for students to try new things and we are pleased with how many students were willing to try a new sport last week. Our goal at RLC is to get students active in pursuits that interest and challenge them. Your questions, comments, and suggestions are always welcome.

Yours in sport,

Trent Howell



Enrique and Montse take their swimming test before outtrip....

...just in case they follow Myle's and Aaron's example!

