



## FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD

As I launch into my second year at Rosseau Lake College, I am looking forward to implementing the first few phases of the school's latest strategic initiative. While the economic conditions all around us are challenging to say the least, such economic cycles are common and put any organization's adaptability and viability to the test. Those that survive are those that have a clear and necessary mission and who direct their resources accordingly.

I suppose my comments should begin with an invitation to view the plan. It was created over a five month period last year through the combined efforts of board members, faculty members, alumni, past and current parents and students who formed various committees and offered insight and input into the factors they felt would best contribute to the success of the school. More precisely, there was a great deal of strategizing about the factors that would lead to the success of providing students who attend RLC with the best schooling and educational experiences possible, under the guidance of outstanding faculty. After all, a great school is not really about "the school"; it is about the students who will benefit from their time spent together in the process of learning.

The strategic plan can be found on the school's website ([www.rosseaulakecollege.com](http://www.rosseaulakecollege.com)) by clicking on the Welcome bar on the left, then Strategic Plan 2009. If you take a little time to review this document, you will notice that the two highest priorities are the programming elements for students and the compensation and work conditions for faculty, as they should be. If you can attract and retain excellent teachers, delivering academic, artistic, athletic and character-building programmes that offer every student an opportunity to develop into a well-rounded and respectful young person with a full array of opportunities after high school, then the rest is pretty simple.

Virtually all of the changes we have implemented for the 2009/2010 school year are intended to focus on the highest priorities of student programming and faculty work conditions. I have listed some of those changes on the next pages. While much of my time last year was spent in observation and understanding the "status quo" of the daily operations and the long-term objectives of the school, this year will be spent implementing ideas to support the consensus that was achieved during the strategic planning process. I am very much looking forward to working with everyone in the school community to do that and invite your thoughts and ideas at any time during the year.

To that end, I'd like to clarify one understanding about my role in the school. While many educational administrators distance themselves from the daily interactions with parents and students, I have intentionally directed my career in small schools so that I do not have to become a paper-pusher. I do my administrative early in the mornings and later in the evenings and prefer to spend the days teaching and talking to students, parents and teachers about ways to help each student become "the best of self." Do not hesitate to call or e-mail because you fear I am too busy. I may not always be available on the spot but it will be very rare when you will not hear back from me within 24 hours!

## CONTACT LIST 2009/2010

We have restructured some of the functions in the school and to help clarify the contact information, we thought we'd list people and functions below. Anyone can be contacted by calling the main school number at 705-732-4351 or through listed e-mails.

<b>Academic Concerns</b> –	The first contact should be the subject teacher (first name.last name@rlc.on.ca) - If issues are unresolved, then contact Graham Hookey ( <a href="mailto:graham.hookey@rlc.on.ca">graham.hookey@rlc.on.ca</a> )
<b>Admissions Information</b> –	Julie Cameron-Smales ( <a href="mailto:julie.smales@rlc.on.ca">julie.smales@rlc.on.ca</a> )
<b>Advancement/Fundraising/Alumni</b> –	Graham Hookey ( <a href="mailto:graham.hookey@rlc.on.ca">graham.hookey@rlc.on.ca</a> )
<b>Athletic Programme</b> –	Trent Howell ( <a href="mailto:trent.howell@rlc.on.ca">trent.howell@rlc.on.ca</a> )
<b>Finance Questions</b> –	Sylvia Scott ( <a href="mailto:sylvia.scott@rlc.on.ca">sylvia.scott@rlc.on.ca</a> )
<b>Health Issues</b> –	Fiona Harrower ( <a href="mailto:fiona.harrower@rlc.on.ca">fiona.harrower@rlc.on.ca</a> )
<b>Office Enquiries</b> –	Jackie Watkinson ( <a href="mailto:jackie.watkinson@rlc.on.ca">jackie.watkinson@rlc.on.ca</a> ) Linda Sinasac - ( <a href="mailto:linda.sinasac@rlc.on.ca">linda.sinasac@rlc.on.ca</a> )
<b>Property Management</b> –	Jim Moring ( <a href="mailto:jim.moring@rlc.on.ca">jim.moring@rlc.on.ca</a> )
<b>Student/College Counselling Services</b> –	Cheryl Bissonette ( <a href="mailto:cheryl.bissonette@rlc.on.ca">cheryl.bissonette@rlc.on.ca</a> )
<b>Student Life/Residential Life</b> –	Lance Postma ( <a href="mailto:lance.postma@rlc.on.ca">lance.postma@rlc.on.ca</a> )

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The beginning of any school year is very busy and it is easy to get overwhelmed with the flow of paperwork and events, all planned with good intentions but often overlapping into an endless sea of “things to do.” To help keep things straight, we hope to publish, weekly, a list of upcoming events so that there is a constant awareness of the things going on in the school and the deadlines for any paperwork necessary.

**Aug. 1**—The office will be sending out information to all parents regarding registration day, as well as course selection forms for high school students. ALL INFORMATION SENT OUT CAN ALSO BE ACCESSED ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE ([www.rosseauwakecollege.com](http://www.rosseauwakecollege.com)) by going to the Parents section from the home page.

**Aug. 14**—Student course selection forms should be returned to the office for final scheduling purposes. These forms are included in the mailing package or can be run off the website. They can be mailed back, faxed back (705-732-6319) or scanned and e-mailed to Mrs. Bissonette ([cheryl.bissonette@rlc.on.ca](mailto:cheryl.bissonette@rlc.on.ca)) or Mr. Hookey ([graham.hookey@rlc.on.ca](mailto:graham.hookey@rlc.on.ca)). As well, any other paperwork necessary for registration can be sent in ahead of time to speed up the registration process.

**Sept. 7**—We are inviting any parents and students who are in the area to join us on campus for a **Welcome or Welcome Back Day**. From 9 a.m.-12 p.m., we have a few community work projects (light work with many hands) to do. We'll have lunch from noon to 1:00 p.m. and then the afternoon can be some relaxing family time enjoying the waterfront activities or simply chatting to staff, or fellow parents and students. The idea is to share a little time together without the chaos of Registration Day paperwork! Boarding students will be able to move in things to residence during the day but do not stay that evening.

**Sept. 8—Registration Day**— 9 a.m.—3:00 p.m. The details of Registration Day and the first week of classes are included in the mailing.

**Sept. 14—17 (gr. 7-11) and Sept. 14—18 (gr. 12)**—The entire school is involved in **outdoor trips** and/or experiences. Details are on page 4 of this newsletter.

**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!

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# H1N1 PREPARATIONS

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As public health officials gather information about the potential concerns regarding a flu pandemic during the fall, RLC has been making plans to support the local initiatives and to ensure the highest level of care for our students and staff. The current level of understanding supports the concept that the risk of spreading the flu virus is extended over a 10 day period. Someone who has been exposed may go for three days without direct symptoms and then may be contagious for 7 days after coming down with the flu. A minor outbreak of flu symptoms is not unusual in any educational setting in the fall but we will be following different protocols in the event of an H1N1 outbreak.

With nursing staff on campus every day, we will be monitoring the health of all students on a continuous basis. Boarding students exhibiting flu symptoms will be isolated from the rest of the student body for a period of 7 days and will be closely monitored at all times. Day students will be sent home and asked to remain there for 7 days. However, should the number of students or staff who are ill exceed our capacity to isolate them, or to provide adequate supervision or instruction, we will proceed to close the school for a two week period. Boarding students will be either sent home or placed with guardians. An infrastructure of communication will be established to provide students with guidance for continuing work in academic courses during this period of time.

In the interim, we will encourage all students to practice good hygiene, particularly when it comes to regular hand-washing, to reduce the risk of viral transmissions of any kind.

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## ACADEMICS

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**Through a constant evaluation of effective instructional strategies, and the scheduling structures to support those strategies, there have been some new ideas instituted for this year at various grade levels.**

**Grade 7/8** - The grade 7 and grade 8 students will be scheduled into classes on the same rotational schedule as grade 9-12 and thus will share lunch with the whole school. This will give us more flexibility to bring in "specialty" teachers to support music, French, art, computers, ESL and outdoor education but more importantly, will offer them the opportunity to participate in clubs and activities that take place at noon hour. Our goal is to have the students see themselves as part of the whole school, not as a separate elementary division. Although they will still have core subject and homeroom teachers, their scheduling and routines will help them develop the work habits and material management skills to make the transition to high school a simple and successful one.

**Grade 9 and 10 Math, French, ESL and Learning Support** - For the last couple of years the school has been on a semester system, where students take a smaller number of subjects at a time and for longer periods. This allows students to concentrate their attention in fewer areas at a time and is excellent training for post-secondary studies. It does have a challenging side to it, particularly for the students in grades 9 and 10 when they can find themselves going a full year between courses in subjects like math or French, which benefit from regular reinforcement. As well, students who take an ESL course or a Learning Support course can find themselves struggling in the semester when such support is not available. Hence, we have moderated our grade 9 and 10 programme to ensure that all students have math daily throughout the school year, and those who are in French, ESL or Learning Support will also have daily classes through both semesters. This means students will have five courses a semester (3 full and 2 half), rather than 4 full, but we do believe this will serve them well in developing the skills necessary to be successful in senior high school math and language courses.

**Grade 11 and 12** - The full semestering of courses in grades 11 and 12 will continue but RLC has joined a consortium of independent schools who are offering high quality on-line courses both to expand the offerings available to students with timetabling conflicts and to offer some students experience in taking on-line courses. Even at the university level, the development of on-line courses is increasing rapidly and practicing the skills associated with such learning can be beneficial. Although communication takes place between the teacher and student, and the other students in the class, it is often through delayed digital formats and blogs. Hence, the format is more like an independent study course with occasional feedback and interaction with others. These courses will run all year and for September there are limited spaces in the following areas: Computer Science 11; Environmental Science 11; World Religions 11; Computer Science 12; Data Management 12; Economics 12; Environment & Resource Management 12; Writer's Craft 12. Interested students should speak to Mrs. Cheryl Bissonnette regarding registration in such courses.

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# OUTTRIP TRADITION CONTINUES

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For years, students who have attended RLC have shared a common experience, the September outtrip. Intended as a bonding exercise for both students and staff, the outtrips also have a number of educational purposes. Students often develop a new set of skills related to outdoor activities, everything from basic camping skills for students new to the Canadian outdoors, to canoeing, kayaking, climbing or leadership skills for those with more experience. During the first three days of school, students will attend a number of workshops in preparation for the Sept. 14—18 week of outdoor adventure. Planned trips include:

**Grade 7 - Grade 7&8 Outdoor Adventure Week at RLC (camping on property), September 14-17, 2009**

**Grade 8 - Grade 7&8 Outdoor Adventure Week at RLC (camping on property), September 14-17, 2009**

**Grade 9 - Killarney Park Canoeing Community Project, September 14-17, 2009**

**Grade 10 - Wilderness Survival (on local property) under the leadership of Mr. Len Beaulne and with astronomy expert Robin Tapley, September 14-17, 2009**

**Grade 11 - Sea Kayaking on Georgian Bay, September 14-17, 2009**

**Grade 12 - Environmental Conservation Trip (Dumoine River) environmental awareness, leadership and river conservation or WWOOFer option (community service work), September 14 - 18, 2009**

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## ATHLETICS

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When outtrips are done, RLC athletes will quickly gear up for the fall sports season. The fall sports include:

Under 14 Boys' Soccer; Under 16 Boys' Soccer; Senior Boys' Soccer

Under 14 Girls' Field Hockey; Sr. Girls' Field Hockey

Girls' Basketball

If there is enough interest, mountain biking.

Students are reminded to begin conditioning work well ahead of the start of the season with a minimum continuous run of 15-20 minutes a day, at least every second day, for the month preceding school opening. Due to the timing of our outtrips and the condensed schedule of competition, there is little time to do adequate conditioning work with the team. If we are to be competitive in our games, we must be fit enough at the start of the season to provide enough time in practice to develop the team game.

We are defending champs in the Sr. Girls' Field Hockey league and we have some up and coming young female athletes in both field hockey and basketball so the girls' teams should have exciting seasons.

Our soccer teams were competitive last year even though we didn't bring back any hardware but to maintain competitiveness this year, the fitness advantage should be on the top of our list.

If you have any questions about athletics, please feel free to contact Mr. Trent Howell at [trent.howell@rlc.on.ca](mailto:trent.howell@rlc.on.ca).