



Principal's Message

One of the best ways to support your son or daughter with school is to be aware of what is going on in their academic and social world. There are many times when families would like to find answers regarding policies and procedures, courses or assignments, but they aren't sure how to access that information. Additionally, there are many new and exciting things happening at Richmond Hill High School and keeping the school community informed is a priority for us. We encourage you to visit the RHHS website at <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/richmondhill.hs>. You may access important announcements and overall school information, such as Student Guidelines; staff contact information; department information; School Council meeting dates and minutes; and essential Guidance information. To make it easy to find, there are buttons to click which go directly to important items (i.e. Teachassist), where students and parents can check their current marks online. To pay for a school item or field trip, click on the "School Cash Online" button. There is a quick link to "Career Cruising" where students can plan and research their education pathway, take interest inventories and select their courses for the following year. Students and parents can also catch up on daily announcements regarding teams, clubs and trips and read the weekly bulletin that informs families about upcoming school events and community notices. Finally, if students or parents are aware of a bullying or drug issue, an act of theft or vandalism or even cheating, they might want to report this to the school by clicking the "Report It" banner. This is an anonymous reporting tool that makes the school aware about concerns or suggestions. Students can also follow the Richmond Hill Student Council through Twitter at [rhhsstuco.org](https://twitter.com/rhhsstuco). So whether you are new to the RHHS family or have been with us for four years, you can access valuable information regarding the school, events or even courses by visiting one of the above.

With our current enrollment at approximately 1700 students, we are extremely fortunate to have acquired a third Vice Principal who started February 1st, 2016. On behalf of all of the staff, students and community, we would like to welcome our new Vice Principal, Mr. Rob Cotey, to our school. Mr. Cotey has worked in York Region schools including Markville Secondary School; and for the past year and a half he was Department Head of History at Richmond Green Secondary School. He has International School experience having taught abroad in Kuwait. Rob has a passion for sports and the outdoors; and brings his expertise of technology to RHHS.

Our school council hosted evening presentations for parents including "The How's of Career Cruising" and "A Balanced Media Diet." Please mark your calendars for upcoming presentations on "Financial Literacy" in April and a special evening presentation in May on "Positive Peer Interactions", by Sara Dimmerman, Psychologist. Stay tuned for the dates which will be posted on our website.

As always, if you have any questions concerning your child, please contact Administration or any other staff member directly involved with your child.

S. Haliburton

Sandra Haliburton

Principal

BUSINESS NEWS

In the Classroom:

On December 12th, 2015, Mr. Hatzimalis' **Sports and Entertainment Marketing** class visited the Air Canada Centre to watch a Toronto Raptors game. The purpose of the trip was to analyze how stadiums are designed with the goal of improving the fan experience. The night was also a great way to bond with classmates and take in an exciting win for the home team.

The **Grade 10 Business (BBI)** students had a very successful Taste Test Challenge this semester and did a great job researching and marketing their chosen products. Guest speakers from the Canadian Bankers Association and Credit Canada were invited to provide guidance to students about personal finance issues. In addition, The Town of Richmond Hill (Entrepreneurship unit) hosted by Kitty Yung, was brought in to talk to students about the possibility of running their own summer business. Hopefully RHHS will produce some entrepreneurs this summer!

Marketing Class Bake Sale Competition was a huge success this semester! Students raised \$200 in their Apprentice Competition teams selling baked goods for Halloween.

The **Marketing (BMI3C)** class students were engaged in creative activities such as Egg Drop Competition, International feasts and Issues in Marketing. Students were engaged in building their Marketing plans in groups, filming commercials and developing interesting prototypes.



In The Community:

Congratulations to our 5 students who were honoured at the Ontario Business Educators Association for their outstanding achievements in the **OBEA Grade 11 and 12 Accounting Contests**. No other Ontario school accumulated this many awards in any given competition. The finalists included **Logan Grier, Brad Akbarpour, Thomas Chan, Dennis Fan and Kenneth Loong**.

The Business Department would like to thank the following community members for their time and contributions to our Business and Law courses. These guest speakers spoke engagingly on a variety of topics and provided students with career insights into their various areas of business and law specialization. Thanks goes to: Mr. Barry Plant, our School Liaison Officers with York Regional Police, Mr. Grant Parks, Project Manager at HRIZONS, Mr. Rajan Narayan, Software Engineer at Apple, Mr. Edward He, Senior Manager at Scotiabank.

In The Courts:

The **Grade 11 and 12 Law** students had the opportunity to spend a day at the Newmarket and Downtown Superior Courts where they were invited to speak to a Judge and Crown Attorney on careers and courtroom drama. Students were able to then sit in and observe the various trials and proceeding in the courthouse that day in preparation for mooting their own (very successful) Mock Trials back at RHHS.

BUSINESS NEWS



Charter Challenge Fall 2015, OJEN : The team of Benson Law, Amanda Oprisan, George Yun and Ray Luo competed in the Charter Challenge at the Court of Appeal on Dec. 9th. Their submission was chosen among 70 submissions across Ontario and Quebec to proceed to the final appeal. The students convincingly argued their legal submission in front of the panel of 3 justices and earned the highest written score for their factum submission in the 3.5 years the challenge has been held.

George Yun was recognized for **Best Oral Advocacy**, given by the Honourable Justice Epstein, after whom the award was named. A fantastic achievement for RHHS!



In The Clubs:

The year is underway for two of RHHS's most competitive clubs. **DECA** and the **MOCK TRIAL TEAM** have been busy preparing for provincial competitions in February and March. The 28 qualifying students and 4 leadership candidates from the Provincial **DECA** competition will be advancing to the International competition, ICDC, in Nashville, Tennessee this April. The **Mock Trial Team** will be competing in two tournaments including the Newmarket based Judge's Cup on February 22nd and the Invitational Regional York Region Round in March. Winners of the Judge's Cup Competition will move forward to moot at **LAW DAY**, in our Toronto Superior Courts in April. Good Luck to all student competitors!

DRAMA

Drama Department

The Drama Department had one of the busiest semesters on record. Ms. MacKay's grade 12 class entertained capacity crowds with their evenings of one act plays entitled "And Life Goes On", on December 3rd and 4th. This talented group presented four diverse one act plays that ran the gamut from thoughtful drama to side-splitting comedy. After 7 weeks of rehearsal this group of students functioned like a professional theatre company on and offstage. United in their collective goals, they succeeded in providing great entertainment while bonding like a supportive family as they functioned as actors, stage managers, sound and lighting technicians, marketers and sales agents. This holistic experience is one they will no doubt fondly remember for years to come.

The two grade 11 classes were occupied with the plays they performed for their respective audiences. In November, the period 1 class performed a play they created about the strain of family life, entitled "Family Portrait". The play touched on the challenges families face with respect to sibling rivalry, blended families, economic pressure, academic expectation and divorce. Working specifically to capture authentic, meaningful dialogue and character voice, the students used a variety of techniques when script writing. The results were arresting and thought provoking. "Family Portrait" was performed for 8 classes at RHHS.

The period 5 grade 11 drama class rehearsed and performed a series of comic and ironic scenes from the work of humorist Jules Feiffer. The play called "Full Bloom" consisted of short scenes and monologues. It was fashioned for their specific audience of senior citizens living at the Richmond Hill Retirement Residence. In preparation for their show the students paired up with folks from the seniors' residence and interviewed them, with the specific goal of getting to know their audience and finding out about their life experience. The students were moved by many of the stories their elders shared. In the second week of January the class was thrilled by their experience of performing for this grateful and charming audience.

The grade 9 and 10 drama students completed their semesters with original scripts that they wrote and performed in groups. Their final products illustrated that the creative imagination is alive and well at Richmond Hill High School. Thanks to all our drama students for an outstanding semester!

RHHS English Department Newsletter—Winter 2016

The first semester of the 2015-16 school year has been a very successful one with numerous activities and awards in our English program. We offer a warm welcome to our newest department members Mr. Kutluoglu and Ms. Adamkowski. In addition, there are numerous student achievements that we would like to acknowledge. First, we would like to congratulate Catherine Zheng for placing first in the Marion Drysdale Short Fiction competition with her piece on character transformation entitled "The Moth". Continuing this tradition of excellence we would like to recognize Chris Kingdon, Jessica Shapiro, and Linda Wang for placing first, second, and fourth out of ten thousand students across Canada, in the prestigious Turning Points Essay Competition. The results from the 2015 AP English exams were fantastic: nearly fifty per cent of participating students received perfect scores on two separate internationally recognized AP English exams. Six students received the distinction of AP National Scholar, while twelve received the honour of AP scholar. This year we are anticipating our largest AP English enrolment ever: over one hundred and fifty students.

In November we kicked off our literacy month celebrations by participating in numerous literacy initiatives including the Turning Points Essay Contest, the Richmond Hill Public Library Short Story Contest, the Marion Drysdale Creative Writing Contest for Poetry and Short Fiction, and the Canadian Poet's League Poetry Parade. Sir Kenneth Branagh's world renowned "Shakespeareance" interactive workshop also made a stop at Richmond Hill High School. Our students had the opportunity to gain a new appreciation for Hamlet and to discuss the craft of professional acting in Canada with two very famous actors from the Stratford Festival, Zach Smadu and Marvin Karon.

During the second semester Canadian author, poet, and spoken word artist Dwayne Morgan will be leading an amazing interactive slam poetry workshop for students at Richmond Hill High School. Mr. Morgan, the 2012 Canadian Festival of Spoken Word Slam Poetry Champion, will delight students with performances of several of his works and share his valuable insight with students on how to write and perform pieces for slam poetry competitions. The winners of our Slam Poetry competition will represent Richmond Hill High School at the YRDSB Slam Poetry Semi-Finals on February 29, 2016, and if successful, at the YRDSB Slam Poetry Finals this coming April. The 2015 RHHS Slam Poetry team of Chris Kingdon, Katy Brown, Sarah Berman, Alina Sewani, Zaynab Dhalla, and Jathusha Mahenthirarajan finished second in the overall competition. Students who are interested in joining the RHHS Slam Poetry Team can drop by the RHHS Slam Poetry Club every Friday after school in Room 1060 to sign up, or see Mr. Cimetta in the English Department office for more details.

Last semester the English department sponsored several field trips as extensions to our academic English program. Students visited the ROM to study the history and culture of Elizabethan England, while several classes attended animation workshops at the National Film Board of Canada and some other classes traveled to the TIFF Centre for a day of film production workshops. We also have a field trip scheduled to visit the Stratford Festival in May: forty-four students will have a chance to watch Macbeth on May 20. This will provide students with an opportunity to view an authentic production of an Elizabethan play in an environment replicating London's Globe Theatre.

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test will be held on March 31, 2016 and students have been preparing for it in their grades nine and ten classes throughout both semesters. This year we have the largest AP English enrolment ever in York Region (over 150 students) and we hope to continue our tradition of literary success on the two international AP English exams to be written in May. If you have any questions regarding the Literacy Test, Advanced Placement, or the English program at RHHS please feel free to contact the English department at any time.

Family Studies

We enjoyed meeting many of our future family studies students at the January 8th Parents' Night. The Family Studies Department offers a vast variety of learning opportunities with the focus always on the attainment of critical thinking and real life skills. We thought we would change the modality of our newsletter this semester and present some of our ideas in rhyming couplets.

Grade 9 Exploring Family Studies (HIF101):

Our grade nine course is so great,
We change topics at a fast rate.
The goal is to learn a little bit,
And what future courses are a good fit.
What you get is a sea
Of diverse opportunity.
You will learn about adolescent development,
Which is quite personally relevant.
How to develop relationships and maintain,
Along with the money-management game.
How to make a good decision,
And manage time with precision.
The functions of diverse families
And personal responsibilities.
You will learn to sew,
And make your skills grow.
You will also get to make food,
Doesn't this course sound good!



Take it now - there's no use resisting!

Family Studies

Grade 10: Food and Nutrition (HFN201):

Food and Nutrition the grade ten course,
Is completely elective and the best course.
You will learn how your food got to the table,
And how to correctly read a food label.
Learn to make informed food choices,
And listen to different nutritional voices.
The food we make is tasty,
But most important is safety.
Adjusting recipes; doubling, halving,
If you mess up you won't be laughing.
Practice makes perfect,
Make your lab time worth it.
Get ready for the ultimate performance,
Cupcake wars requires endurance!



Grade 11: Working with Infants and Young Children (HPW3C1):

Have you ever thought of working with kids?
Do you like the big ones or little ones in bibs?
There are many jobs in early childhood education,
Take this course and learn lots of information.
How to care for a baby, toddler or preschooler,
Use an infant simulator, what could be cooler?
Learn the basics of child development,
And how to understand different types of temperament.
Learn how to foster independence in children of different ages,
By learning about the different developmental stages.
Get to know the rules and regulations of working in a daycare,
And the laws of which you have to be constantly aware.
Interacting with children is tough,
But we'll make sure you've got the right stuff!



Family Studies

Grade 12: Nutrition and Health (HFA4U1):

You are what you eat

Vegetables and/or meat.

Choosing what to eat

Is a difficult feat.

Do you know where your food came from?

Probably not unless it was home grown.

Knowing what you can control

And your personal health is the goal.

Nutrition is a complex balancing act

Health is everything - is an important fact.

Certain lifestyle choices are correlated with disease,

And we should definitely be concerned about bees.

But there is so much we don't know,

For example the new upcoming GMO.

How much added sugar do you eat,

Versus how much do you move your feet?

It's a complex equation

With loads of interrelation.

Your health and nutrition will rise by the hour,

Because knowledge and skill is the ultimate power.



Family Studies

Grade 12: Human Development Throughout the Lifespan (HHG4M1):

This course studies the lifespan,
Covering from the start to the end of man.
It begins at the exact moment of conception,
And that development ends at adulthood is a
misconception.
We develop until death,
So this course has a lot of breadth.
We are continually developing,
Through operant conditioning.
Perhaps B.F. Skinner was right,
But Freud would give him a fight.
We are all trying to self-actualize,
But it's more difficult than we realize.
There are many opportunities for growth,
When it comes to nature versus nurture,
the answer is both.
This course is very interesting,
Take it now - there's no use resisting.



Family Studies

Grade 12: AP Psychology (IDC4UE):

Psychology is life
It shouldn't cause strife.
We know this course is AP
But in fact it's really easy.
To learn anything you need to
make it real
Relate it to yourself to seal the
deal.
Intelligence we know
Is something you can grow.
But you're born with your potential
To do most things mental.
There are multiple types
Howard Gardner got it right.
There is more to creativity
Than an intelligence test score to me.
Yes, psychology has a lot of theorists.
Most you need to know no longer exist.
This course is just an introduction,
With lots of motivation and emotion.
We are emotional beings who think
And who need food and drink.
But that's just the bottom of the
pyramid
Maslow's hierarchy of needs amid.
We do lots of cool assignments and
stuff.
Although the multiple-choice is rough.
At the end of the course you will feel
That this psychology stuff is the real deal!
On behalf of Ms. Ameilo, Ms. Kim , Ms. Stinson and Ms. Yousef, thank-you for a fantastic first
semester!

GUIDANCE

During the month of January, Guidance counsellors made presentations to discuss the course selection process for next year and educational pathways. We encourage students to make informed decisions about their course selections and to consult with teachers, counsellors and parents/guardians.

Course selections must be submitted to our school electronically by the student through Career Cruising. Once students have finalized their course selection they must lock in and submit their course selections by hitting the "submit" button on any one of the following dates: **February 16-22**. Students who require additional support with course selection can come to the library on **February 19, 2016** during any period of the day that they have a lunch or spare. A paper copy of student course selections must also be printed from Career Cruising and submitted along with a parent's signature to semester 2 homeroom teachers on or before **February 22, 2016**.

The Guidance department wishes all students a successful semester 2.

Library

This year, all grade nine students received two periods of library orientation, including a full session concerning school and public library electronic research databases. Students who completed a tutorial based on these resources were invited to a pizza party in the library during the last week of classes. We encourage all students to use these fabulous resources for both academic and personal research quests.

The RHHS Library's annual book contest commenced in November. Students will be eligible until the middle of June 2016 to provide one of two options based on a novel or non-fiction selection: either a postcard from one character to another, or a bookmark. Suggested book titles from our library, as well as contest templates, are available on the RHHS Library moodle (enrolment key "raiders") and in the library. The number of prizes will depend upon the number of participants.

VISUAL ARTS

Visual Arts Department

Some students worked with Barbara Hilts textile artist, Ontario Arts Council Artist in the Education Program. Barbara taught students different methods to apply colour to their drawstring bags. In second semester we have a cartoon/animation artist visiting the school to work with our students.



VISUAL ARTS (Continued)

The following are examples of 3D sculptural works produced by students from Grades 10 - 12 on display. Other 2D works are also on display within the school.

