



February 2017

Principal's Message

Parents and guardians play an important role in school and are key partners in our students' success. As such, I encourage you to be aware of all the exciting academic and social opportunities that are available to your children at RHHS. We email a weekly bulletin to parents that outlines upcoming important events and information to the address we have on file. Please contact the Main Office if you are not receiving this weekly communication. Students can follow the Richmond Hill Student Council through Twitter @RHHS_StuCo to learn about fun events planned by their council. We also post all important dates on our school website at <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/richmondhill.hs>. Additionally, on our website, you will find information about school policies and procedures, staff email addresses and phone extensions, courses offered at RHHS, School Council meeting dates, agendas, meeting slides and minutes. On our website there are also direct links to *TeachAssist* (for students to access mark updates) and to *School Cash Online* (for students/parents to purchase items such as field trips). There is also important course and career information on the website from the Guidance Department and a link to *Career Cruising*. This site is where students can plan which courses to choose, take interest inventories to determine their strengths and to conduct research on various education pathways. There is a *Report It* button on our website in the event that students or parents are aware of a bullying or drug issue, an act of theft or vandalism or cheating. This is an anonymous reporting tool that makes the school aware of concerns or suggestions. So whether you are new to the RHHS family or have been with us some time, you can access valuable information regarding the school, events or even courses by visiting one of the above communication sources.

Our School Council has hosted evening presentations for parents and community members including an evening session on TeachAssist and Google Apps for Education, and brought a guest speaker from Addiction Services York Region to speak about technology and gaming addiction. We look forward to additional evening presentations. More information is available on our school website under the School Council tab.

For Semester 2 we would like to tell you about some changes in administration. We welcome a newly appointed Vice-Principal, Ms. Mitchell. She is an experienced and knowledgeable school leader with extensive experience in the York Region District School Board and has most recently been serving as a teacher in Learning Resource Services. I am leaving to be the Principal at Middlefield Collegiate Institute. Vice Principal Ruytenbeek will assume the role of Acting Principal until Principal Sandy Haliburton's return. I would like to add that I have thoroughly enjoyed my three and a half years at RHHS and I wish all students and their families all the best in the future.

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

Aline Daniel
Acting Principal

Message from our Trustee

We are now halfway through the school year. This is a good time to reflect on all that your child has learned and to look at setting goals for the rest of the school year.

Our Board believes that student well-being and achievement go hand-in-hand. One of our goals set out in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Plan](#) is to “continuously increase student achievement and well-being through a culture of caring and learning.”

The Ministry of Education has recently identified [four priorities for well-being](#): positive mental health, safe and accepting schools, healthy schools, and equity and inclusive education. As a Board of Trustees, we will continue to further work in all of these areas to support student well-being in line with these priorities.

There are many resources on the Board website to help support student well-being, including tips for [talking about mental health](#), [managing stress](#), [packing healthy lunches](#) and [addressing incidents of bullying](#).

Creating a healthy, safe and welcoming learning environment is key to helping our students reach their full potential. All of us have an important role to play in creating an environment that enables our students to thrive.

I wish you all the best for a healthy, happy and successful 2017.

Bullying Prevention Measures

The York Region District School Board (YRDSB) has launched a new web reporting tool that allows students, parents and community members to report bullying incidents as well as positive behaviours and events related to our students and learning environments. The online tool, called **Report It!**, is a web button on the YRDSB homepage (www.yrdsb.ca) that links to an online form where users report bullying or positive behaviours that are consistent with Character Matters.

The development of this tool is the result of student feedback from an anti-bullying conference held last spring. It is meant for reporting **non-emergencies only** and deals solely with **student** issues. Follow-up will be determined by the severity of the incident and may involve sharing information with authorities. Users may submit reports anonymously (although anonymity cannot be absolutely guaranteed).

YRDSB is also asking students, parents, teachers and community members to “Take the Pledge” against bullying. To learn more, click on “The Pledge” image on the YRDSB website or go to www.ctvbarrie.ca.

@YRDSB Now Up and Tweeting!

Parents and students who are interested in learning more about what is going on in York Region public schools are invited to follow the York Region District School Board’s newly established Twitter account.

Visit www.twitter.com/yrdsb to follow the York Region District School Board.



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Letters of Attendance/ Enrolment

Students/parents
requiring letters of
attendance/enrolment
need to give the office 48
hours notice.

Thank you for your
co-operation.

Business

Highlights from our Business and Law Courses

Grade 10 Business - Marketing Taste Test



The Grade 10 Business students applied their knowledge of marketing in the field of experimental market research. In a small group, they conducted a blind product test and the Grade 9 Business students were invited to participate. Afterwards, the Grade 10s reported on the results.



Thank you to our guest speakers: Sudesh Aggarwal from the Canadian Bankers Association, and Mark Tsipilevich, Senior Education Facilitator from Credit Canada Debt Solutions .

Accounting - Community Speakers

A special thanks to Rita Lau(Manulife Financial), Alan Halabi(Acceinfo), Shums Kassam(KIK), and Simon Lau(TD Canada Trust) who talked with students about their experiences in the world of business.

Financial Literacy Assembly



In October, the Business Department hosted an interactive financial presentation seminar ***Funny Money***, featuring James Cunningham. Our grade 11 and 12 students were both entertained and empowered with the knowledge they need to make good financial decisions about budgeting, organizing debt and investing.

Law -This semester's grade 11 ***Canadian Law*** and grade 12 ***International Law*** classes had the opportunity to observe law in action at the Newmarket and the University Courthouses. Additionally, the grade 12 students participated in the **OJEN Charter Challenge** again this semester, with one of our teams placing 1st for the third consecutive finalists competition! The winning team beat out approximately 60 other submissions from across Ontario and then mooted their appeal in front of the Court of Appeal Judicial Panel from Osgoode Hall, this December. What an exceptional year for our students and such a prestigious recognition for RHHS!



Congratulations to the 1st place team of **Davesh Bharwani, Aaqib Us-**

mani, Talon Zhu and Reza Qurban-Ali.

Thank you to our community lawyers, John Ormston and Barry Plant, and our school liaison officers with the York Regional Police who came to speak to our law classes.

DRAMA

Drama Department

The drama department was full of activity this semester. Ms. MacKay's grade 12 class performed their one act plays entitled "More than Meets the Eye" on December 8th and 9th, 2016. This production consisted of three plays that spanned the emotional continuum from dark and sinister to hilarious. The evening began with "The Face is the Place", a hard-hitting drama that explores the world of girl gangs in a high school. "Dinner with the MacGuffins" is a play about a typical 1950's American family with a secret. Finally the evening ended with "Controlling Interest" which explores the battle of the sexes from the perspective of eight-year-old boys. One of most remarkable highlights of the rehearsal process was the frequent contact the director and the students had with all three playwrights. The communication with these artists enriched the experience for all involved. The students performed to capacity crowds and the result was a thought-provoking and entertaining evening at the theatre.

The grade 11 drama class developed an original play about transitioning to high school and performed it for the grade 8 students from our feeder schools in early November. "Get Schooled" was a light-hearted comedy with a weighty message. The play explored key topics which relate to success in high school, including the importance of getting involved, strategies for studying, and healthy choices. The students enjoyed the chance to perform for these future "Raiders" and the grade 8s and their teachers expressed appreciation for the warm and funny look at high school life.

The grade 9 and 10 drama students spent the last four weeks of semester honing their collaboration skills by writing original scripts and rehearsing and performing these works for one another. While writing by committee is a challenge, the final products proved that the creative imaginations of our drama students are rich and that "stories about the human condition" make compelling entertainment. Thanks to all our drama students for a wonderful semester of fun and hard work!

RHHS English Department Newsletter—Winter 2017

The first semester of the 2016-17 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 member Ms. Koliviras; we would also like to congratulate Mr. Cimetta on winning the Teacher of the Year Award from Teen Ink Magazine. In addition, there are numerous student achievements that we would like to acknowledge. First, we would like to congratulate Alina Sewani for winning the Robert MacDonald Award for Excellence in English Literature and Gaya Bin Noon for winning the Marie Pick Award for Proficiency in English Writing. Continuing this tradition of excellence we also would like to recognize Emily Xu for placing first out of ten thousand students across Canada, in the prestigious Turning Points Essay Competition. The results from the 2016 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.

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 7, 2017, and if successful, at the YRDSB Slam Poetry Finals this coming April. The 2016 RHHS Slam Poetry team of Nora Alganabi, Zaynab Dhalla, Olivia Leung, Jathusha Mahenthirajan, and Alina Sewani all gave inspired performances, propelling the team to a second place finish. 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 other classes attended animation workshops at the National Film Board of Canada or 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 Romeo and Juliet on Wednesday, May 24. 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 Thursday, March 30, 2017 and students have been preparing for it in their grades nine and ten classes throughout both semesters. This year we are anticipating 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

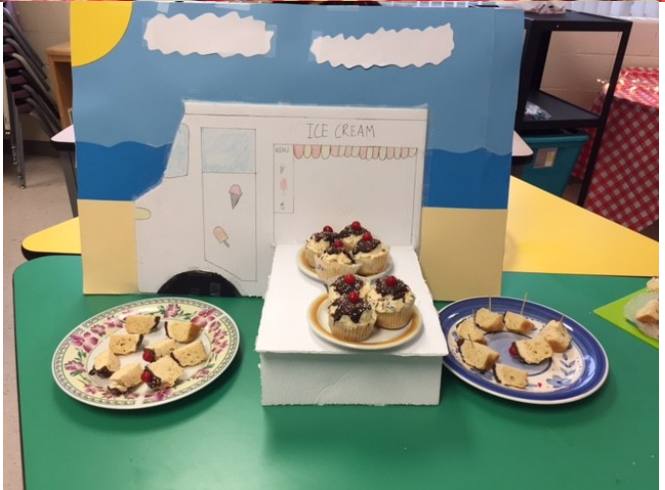
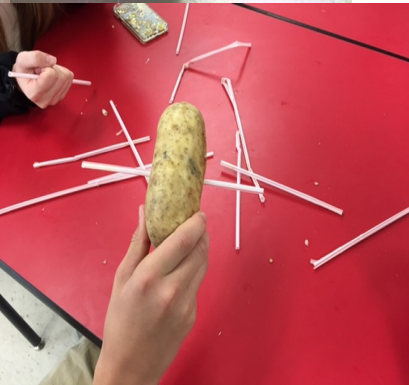
Family Studies in Pictures

Grade 9 Exploring Family Studies (HIFO1):



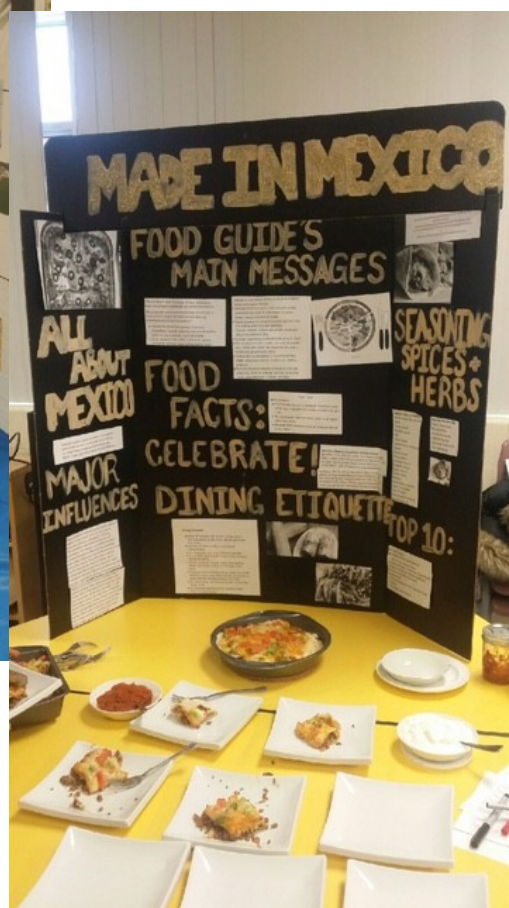
Family Studies Con't

Grade 10 Food and Nutrition



Family Studies Con't

Grade 11 Cultural Foods (HFC3M1):



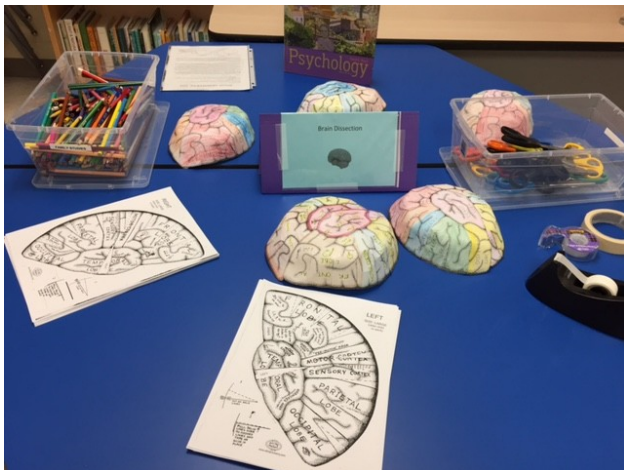
Family Studies Con't

Grade 11 Gender Studies (HSG3M1):

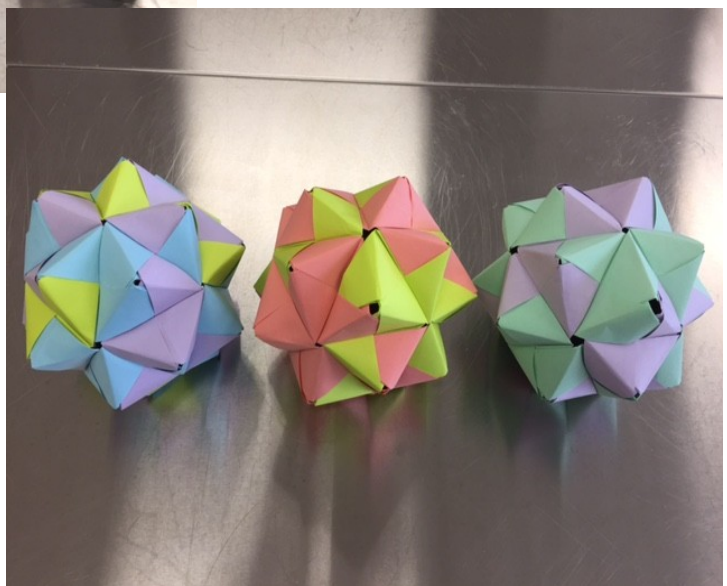


Family Studies Con't

Grade 12 Human Development Throughout the Lifespan (HHG4M1)



Grade 12 AP Psychology (IDC4UE):



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. We have sent all instructions, handouts and presentations about course selection to students through their board gapps email account. In order access this email account student will use their student number@gapps.yrdsb.ca. (ex. 123456789@gapps.yrdsb.ca)

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 13-24**. Students who require additional support with course selection can come to the library on **February 16, 2017** 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 27, 2017**.

Students who wish to request a timetable change for semester two are to go to their gapps email account and follow the instructions provided.

The Guidance department wishes all students a successful semester 2.

MUSIC AT RICHMOND HILL HIGH SCHOOL

Remembrance Day

On Sunday November 6, 2016 the Gold Band participated in the Town of Richmond Hill's Remembrance Day ceremony at the town Cenotaph. The Gold Band has had the honour of being part of this community remembrance for over 30 years. Many thanks to the students who performed and honoured our lost men and women of the military.

Holiday Serenade 2016

On Wednesday December 14 the Music Department presented the annual Holiday Serenade concert at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Performers included the grade 9 Concert Band, grade 10 Silver Band, senior Gold Band, the Gold Fever Jazz Ensemble, the grade 9 and 10 vocal classes, the Jazz Choir, Vocal Fusion and the flute and saxophone ensembles. Thanks for all the parent support at the concert. This was our biggest house ever at the RHCPA!

York University Grade 10 Invitational Band Festival

On February 11th the grade 10 Silver Band will participate in this annual festival. They will get to hear 4 other grade 10 bands from some of the GTA's best music programs and also have chance to perform and be adjudicated by York University's Music Professor and composer Bill Thomas. They will use the input from this festival to better prepare for the OBA festival in the following week.

Ontario Band Association Music Festival

During the week of February 10th the Gold Band, Silver Band and the Concert Band will participate in the prestigious Ontario Band Association Music Festival at Le Parc, 8432 Leslie St. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend this performance. The Gold Band performs on Wednesday February 15 from 5:00 – 5:30 pm. The Silver Band performs on Thursday February 16 from 3:00-3:30 and the Concert Band performs on Wednesday February 15 from 7:45-8:15 pm.

Sounds of Spring

On Wednesday May 17th, the Music department will present the year-end concert at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. All of the department's ensembles will be performing. Ticket information will be forthcoming as this date nears.

Music Awards Banquet

All Music students should put aside this date in their calendar. Tuesday May 23 is the annual Music Awards Banquet. On that evening we gather to eat and honour and celebrate our musical accomplishments, both group and individual. We will enjoy the fine buffet at the Mandarin before presenting our many awards. It is also an evening to honour our graduating musicians as they head off to the next stage of their educational life.

Visual Arts

Feb 2017 Visual Arts Department newsletter images



Images of summative artworks.



Visual Arts

Grade 10 hand cast mixed media sculpture



Visual Arts

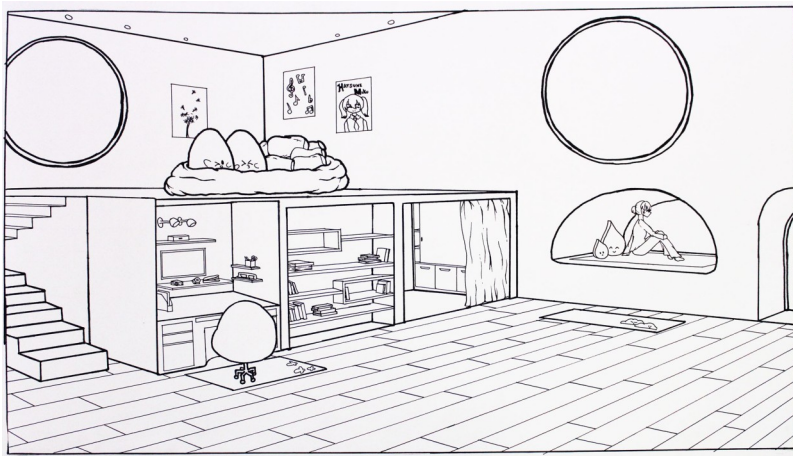
Grade 12 dry point prints



Grade 11 drawing and cartooning class



Visual Arts



grade 9 drawing



grade 9 sketch



grade 10 painting