



June 2017

Principal's Message

It is my time to say good-bye as the principal at Richmond Hill High School. It has been a rewarding three years for me and I will miss the staff and students. I am extremely proud of all the RHHS students. Students are respectful, hardworking and committed to making a positive contribution both inside and outside their school community.

It has been an exciting year at Richmond Hill High School with many student successes in academics, arts, sports, clubs and social justice activities. Our over 70 sports teams and clubs, drama nights or music nights have given us great pleasure and some teams or clubs have received awards or accolades-whether it be SLAM poetry, DECA, Debate Team, Mock Trial, YRAA or OFSSA sport winners, music festivals, math, computer or science contest winners...the list goes on.

I am pleased to say that Richmond Hill High School has again been named a certified gold eco school, which is no easy feat and an achievement worth celebrating. Congratulations are offered to every member of the school community for participating in this important endeavour. We couldn't have done it without you!

As well, it was a culmination of our graduates' time at RHHS with a few events. Our senior prom took place at the Grand Luxe and was a night for our graduates to remember. The 300 students who attended conducted themselves with pride and dignity and made the 20 staff members who supervised them proud to be their teachers. The graduation ceremony was held at the Terrace where 361 graduates walked across the stage to receive their diplomas, awards and many accolades. It was a proud moment for parents, family, friends and RHHS staff to see the culmination of the RHHS students' hard work in academics regardless of their pathway.

In closing, I would like to extend a thank you to all the staff of Richmond Hill High School for giving of their time both in and out of the classroom in making Richmond Hill High School a wonderful place to be. Best wishes to the teachers- Mr. Henry, Mr. Bennett and Mr. Seretis, who are retiring from Richmond Hill High School and have given countless hours of their time and expertise in helping students to be successful over the years. Finally, thank you to Ms. Sandy Sokol and Ms. Katherine Asmono and the members of the School Council who have provided valuable suggestions regarding the direction of the school.

I welcome Ms. Debbie Linkewich as the new principal at RHHS for September 2017. Ms. Linkewich has been in the role of principal at Pierre Elliot Trudeau High School in Markham and brings a wealth of experience. I wish her all the best as she moves into her new role at RHHS.

On behalf of Mr. Ruytenbeek, Mr. Cotey and Ms. Mitchell, we wish you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sandra Haliburton
Principal RHHS

Message from our Trustee

As we near the end of the school year, I want to thank you for all that you do to strengthen our schools and communities. This is a good time to celebrate your child's achievements over the past year.

One of our goals in the [Trustees' Multi-Year Plan](#) is to “continuously increase student achievement and well-being through a culture and caring and learning.” That includes a culture that emphasizes engagement and positive relationships among all the members of the school community – students, staff members, families and community members.

You, as parents/guardians, are our most important partners when it comes to education. The support you have provided to your child throughout this past school year will help to strengthen our schools and make a difference to your child's learning.

I encourage you to continue engaging your child in learning throughout the summer, and to help them to see the connections between what they are learning in school and the world around them. There are so many opportunities to do this over the summer, whether that's planning a budget with your child, enjoying the natural beauty in York Region, reading a book or visiting local sites. Whatever your plans are this summer, I wish you all a successful end to the school year, and a safe and enjoyable summer.

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

News from the Business Department

It has been a rewarding and exciting semester for the Business department and our talented business students. Here are a few of the highlights from our curricular and extra-curricular achievements:

Contests and Competitions:

DECA, DECA, DECA – RHHS took 36 qualifying students to Anaheim, California this April to compete in the ICDC International DECA competitions which involved 19 000 competitors from 7 different countries. Our incredible Richmond Hill students earned 2 first place trophies in the world, 1 second place trophy in the world and 1 top 10 finalist medal. We also had 6 students who earned medals for finishing in the top 20 of their respective categories. Congratulations to our DECA Club Executive and members on this amazing achievement!



Accounting & International Business Contests

On May 24th 2017, 20 RHHS students took part in writing the **OBEA Accounting Contest** with hundreds of the brightest accounting minds in the province. **Jimmy Yan** and **Shi Han Qin** finished second and fourth respectively, in the Grade 11 contest and **Ken Chen** finished 4th in the Grade 12 contest. These are incredible results and our students and teachers are congratulated on their outstanding results.



Congratulations to **Jessica Zheng** who finished 2nd in York Region in the OBEA International Business Contest.

Congratulations to this year's **RHHS Mock Trial School Team** who won 1st place in the York Region **Judges' Cup Mock Trial Competition** in April, after 6 long months of late meetings and preparation. The team then went on to capture 1st place at the **OBA- OJEN Central East Regional Mock Trial Competition at the Oshawa Courthouse**. It was an exceptional year for our school with 4 of our 11 team members receiving individual awards for *Tournament MVP*, *Top Advocacy* or *Best Witness Performance*. Thank you to **Mr. Roy Respicio** who has been with our RHHS teams for 10 years acting as our Community Lawyer Coach and who has dedicated many hours to facilitate our team's preparation every year.



Business con't

Highlights from our Business and Law Courses



This semester *the Introduction to Business* classes had the opportunity to visit the facilities of Cadbury, located on Gladstone Avenue in Toronto. The students were exposed to various areas of business, including production, marketing, sales and HR. In addition, Mark Tsipilevich of Credit Canada Debt Solutions, presented on the importance of credit management. Finally, in a well-attended carousel style display, our students enjoyed the challenge of conducting “taste test” primary market research with our RHHS grade 9 students.



Law - This semester's *Canadian Law* and *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** in both semesters, with teams placing as finalists in each semester. Thank you to our community lawyer, Barry Plant and our school liaison officers with the York Regional Police who came to speak to our law classes.

Marketing - It was an interactive and busy semester in **Marketing**. This year, the Grade 11 classes competed in the bi- annual Egg Drop Packaging competition and organized a Bake Sale among many other experiential learning activities. The class raised money with their food sales which were donated to the KIVA International Fund.

Guest Speakers - A special thank you to:

Justin Park, Regional Volunteer Coordinator of World Vision Canada

Rajesh Bharwani, a Portfolio Manager at Gryphon International Investment Corp.

Hamza Zafar, Consultant at Aon Hewitt

Badur Bardai, MBA, CPA, CMA, Financial Consultant

Elaine Kwong, Senior Financial Manager at Canon Canada

for taking time out of their busy work schedules to talk to our Grade 12 students about different careers in the financial world.

June Newsletter: Drama Department

Another year has come and gone, in a flash! Semester two was a flurry of activity in the Drama department and we are very proud of the work that students accomplished in all the grades. This semester's grade 12 students performed an evening of one act plays titled "Torn at the Seams". The first offering of the evening was a fantastical look at life and death, and the threads that bind families together. Act two began with a brutal comedy about 3 misfit teens who have rather shocking intentions. The evening ended with two raucous comedies, one that involved a regrettable tattoo and another which looked at office paranoia and romance. The crowds were huge, enthusiastic and supportive. The actors worked long hours to pull together and create a memorable evening of theatrical entertainment. No doubt it will be one of the key experiences they will remember when they think back to their time at R.H.H.S.

The grade 11 students wrote an original play called "Be True to You" about honouring yourself and your true spirit. It explored the consequences of giving away too much power to your peers. This meaningful offering with its important message was shared with the grade 7 and 8 students from 4 of our feeder schools. The experience benefitted the future raiders who got a chance to connect to high school students. Our grade 11 drama students loved the chance to visit their old elementary schools and share some sage advice about making positive choices in the future. The rich discussion that followed the presentations demonstrated that the message was well-received.

The grade 10 class bonded together and created some of the best work in mime, mask and tableau we have seen to date. However, it was the script writing that really set this group apart. Their original ideas and their ability to write authentic dialogue helped them to create compelling dramatic and side-splitting comedic short plays.

Finally, this semester's grade 9 classes pushed beyond boundaries and experienced breakthroughs when creating characters. Whether it was scene study, improvisation or movement, students proved that the best work involves creative risk taking, honesty and effective collaboration.

We'd like to thank all our drama students for a wonderful semester. Have a great summer!

English Department Update Summer 2017

As another eventful school year comes to its close, it is time to reflect on all of the wonderful opportunities we have had to celebrate student success.

First, we would like to offer a fond farewell to Ms. Koliviras and our student teacher Mr. Smiley; we would also like to congratulate Mr. Cimetta on winning the Teacher of the Year Award from Teen Ink Magazine. We would like to congratulate Amanda Oprisan for winning the Robert MacDonald Award for Excellence in English Literature and George Yun for winning the Marie Pick Award for Proficiency in English Writing. Continuing this tradition of excellence we would like to recognize Katelyn Wang for placing third out of ten thousand students across Canada, in the prestigious Turning Points Essay Competition. We also had our largest attendance ever for two internationally recognized Advanced Placement English exams, with over seventy students representing RHHS. The results will be published in the fall.

Students were engaged in numerous literacy initiatives this year including a visit from Sir Kenneth Branagh's world renowned "Shakespeareance" interactive workshop. Our students had an 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. Some of our other Literacy initiatives for the year included the Turning Points Essay Contest, the Richmond Hill Public Library Short Story Contest, the Marion Drysdale Creative Writing Contest for Poetry and Short Fiction, the Canadian Poet's League Poetry Parade and the Hot Docs Festival.

On April 19 Mr. Cimetta took his poetry slam team to the BE HEARD Spoken Word Festival, which brought together student writers from all corners of the school board to engage with internationally recognized spoken word poets in order to experience a morning of dynamic creative writing workshops. In the afternoon the 'Festival of Student Voices' students were invited to share their newly created poetry, alongside industry professionals, resulting in an experience that was both unifying and unique.

Participants were able to see, first hand, the emotional transformation that occurs when students feel engaged, supported, successful and listened to; BE HEARD purposefully curates spaces that are safe, and warmly welcomes students from our LGBTQ, FNMI, and At-Risk communities. The professional poets delighted students with performances of their works and shared their valuable insight with students on how to write and perform pieces for slam poetry competitions. The winners of our Slam Poetry competition represented Richmond Hill High School at the YRDSB Slam Poetry Finals on May 9, 2017. The 2017 RHHS Slam Poetry team of Nora Alganabi, Olivia Leung, Adam Linton, Kaitlyn Paglia, Aine Palmer, and Nikash Persaud all gave inspired performances, propelling the team to a third 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.

The English department sponsored several field trips this year 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 took a trip to the Stratford Festival to see Romeo and Juliet on May 24. This provided students with an opportunity to view an authentic production of an Elizabethan play in an environment replicating London's Globe Theatre. The play was superb and we highly recommend it as a possible summer excursion.

Finally, the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test was held on Thursday, March 30, 2017. School and Board results will be published at the end of August. Congratulations to all of our amazing teachers, students, and parents for making literacy a priority in every subject area. If you have any questions regarding the Literacy Test or the English program at RHHS please feel free to contact the

Family Studies

Family Studies “Necessary for Some, Good for All”

Metro Green Apple Grant:

We were fortunate enough to receive a Metro Green Apple Grant of \$1000 to help bolster our Breakfast program. The Family Studies Department applied for the grant to allow our students additional opportunities to be in the kitchen with an authentic task, providing healthy breakfast opportunities for our learning community. Some of our more adventurous options, such as hummus and vegetables, were not as well received as the more traditional breakfast fare but we definitely got students talking about the importance of eating breakfast. Our egg muffins loaded with fresh vegetables were a big hit and the banana muffins of course.

Fresh from the Farm Fundraiser for our Breakfast Program:



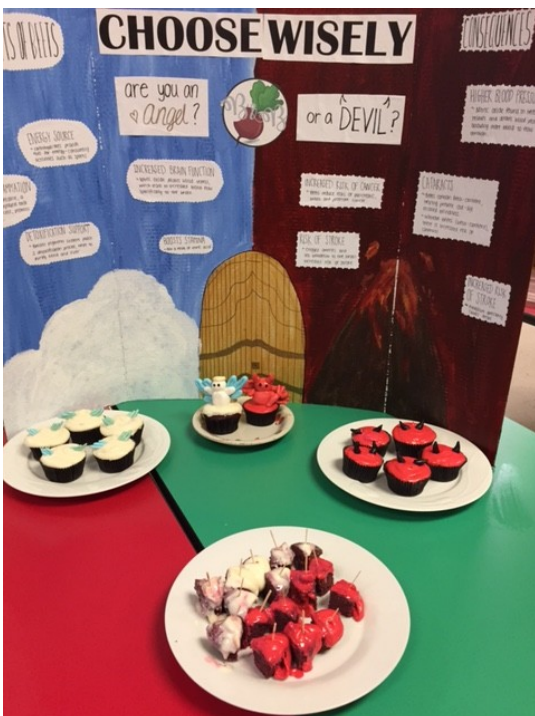
We are excited to bring the Fresh From the Farm initiative to Richmond Hill High School in September. Our students will be able to purchase Bundle A \$13 (5 lb white potatoes, 3 lb carrots, 3 lb yellow onions, and 3 lbs sweet potatoes) and/or Bundle B \$15 (8 lb of Empire apples) on school cash net in September for delivery in November. We are supporting good nutrition and Ontario farmers in perfect alignment with our Family Studies food courses curriculum getting students to make their own food from scratch. Best of all 40% of all sales will go directly to supporting our breakfast program. For more information on this initiative checkout the following website <http://www.freshfromfarm.ca/home.aspx>



Family Studies Con't

Food and Nutrition "Cupcake Wars: Nutrition Where You Least Expect It"

The grade 10 food and nutrition students completed their course culminating activity called "Cupcake Wars". For this task students had to bake delicious AND nutritious cupcakes that would be sure to impress. The creativity and problem solving skills required for this challenging culinary task resulted in cupcakes with ingredients one typically doesn't expect in a baked good: black beans, avocados, red quinoa, matcha green tea, yam, sweet potato, fresh fruits and sugar alternatives. Guest judges from around the school were wowed by the students' ingenuity and knowledge as the cupcakes were taste tested. As the icing on the cake, students were able to describe, in detail, the health benefits of the non-traditional baking ingredients that they incorporated into their cupcakes. Here's to cooking with nutrition in mind!



Family Studies Con't

A letter from our student:

AP Psychology in Gaya's Words:

I recently completed my first year of Health Studies at the University of Waterloo, but before I got here, during my time at Richmond Hill High, I took four AP exams: both English exams, one biology, and of course, the ever-important field of psychology. I passed all of them, thankfully, and was able to transfer my credits to Waterloo.

Unfortunately, most of these did not turn out to have been particularly useful. I got all the credits, but for three out of the four, I was just given a "1XX" credit, meaning I could not skip the required introductory courses in my first year. However, the fourth credit I received was PSYCH 101, or Introductory Psychology. Thanks to my taking AP Psychology and writing the exam, this course was the only one I was permitted to skip in first year.

It turned out to have been very convenient, because PSYCH 101 is a course that is required for a huge range of programs at Waterloo, including sciences, arts, and even some engineering. Class sizes get very large, and the material needs to be applicable to countless fields of study. Since I was spared this by taking it in high school, I decided to take a second year biopsychology class instead, which was more focused in an area I'm interested in.

Even if the credits don't transfer, though, I still feel like writing AP exams is an immeasurably valuable experience. The strategies I learned studying for those exams were really useful in preparing me for university, and I'm really glad I took all four of them.

Moreover, I'm really glad I took your class. Out of all the classes I took in grade 12, yours was one of the classes that prepared me the most for the pace and teaching style of university courses, and was by far the most interesting. I hope you're not going to forget me anytime soon, because I'm definitely never going to forget you.

Thanks,

Gaya

Family Studies Con't

Working with Infants and Young Children Mindfulness Training:

Working with Infants and Young Children students had the opportunity, thanks to Jackie Rogstad, to get some mindfulness training for twelve weeks in room 1037. Mindfulness gave students some strategies to increase attention, regulate emotions, and being more compassionate to others. Students favourite part was learning the “take five” technique that allows you to take that moment to connection your emotions to your behavior. A real interest in mindfulness seems have been sparked amongst the RHHS community. We look forward to Mindful Mondays in September.



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Guidance

We wish all of our students a happy and healthy summer holiday. The Guidance Department congratulates our graduating students for all their accomplishments and wishes them all the best with their post-secondary endeavours. To our returning students, we encourage you to take advantage of opportunities for personal and academic enrichment over the summer, such as taking a course in summer school, engaging in summer employment or volunteering to complete their required forty hours of community involvement. Students interested in applying to colleges or universities in the United States or United Kingdom should remember to make a guidance appointment to see Mr. Mark in Guidance between September 18 to October 6, 2017.

Below are important post-secondary planning activities taking place this coming Fall. The fairs listed below enable parents/guardians and students to speak with University/College representatives and to gather valuable information on programs, admissions requirements, tuition, scholarships and more. We encourage both students and parents/guardians to participate in these free events.

Ontario University Fair

Friday September 22 – Sunday September 24, 2017, 10:00am – 5:00pm each day

Metro Toronto Convention Centre – 222 Bremner Blvd.

For more information, visit <http://www.ouf.ca/>

Ontario College Information Fair

Tuesday October 24, 2017 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Wednesday October 25, 2017 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Enercare Centre – Exhibition Place

For more information, visit <http://www.ocif.ca/>

Study and Go Abroad Fair

October 1, 2017

Metro Toronto Convention Centre

Constitution Hall, Room 105-106

North Building

255 Front Street West

Fair: 1pm- 5pm

Free Seminar: 12 noon-5pm

For more information visit:

<http://www.studyandgoabroad.com/toronto/>

Richmond Hill High School Post-Secondary Pathways Fair

Richmond Hill High School

Wednesday November 22, 2017 - 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Many publicly funded Ontario Colleges and Universities will be in attendance.

Contact the RHHS Guidance Department for any questions.

Library

The Library Learning Commons:

The library's collection continues to grow, with the addition of numerous fiction and non-fiction selections to satisfy both educational and leisure reading. Recent reference additions include many literary criticism e-books. Students who wish to peruse these selections, or find reference material for summer school courses, should visit the RHHS Library moodle (the name of our school team is the enrolment code). Under the topic "Electronic Resources", select "Salem Press".

At the beginning of the upcoming semester, the library's annual orientation classes will occur. Our school's teacher-librarians will provide all Grade 9 students with an introduction to the resources and policies of the RHHS library learning commons. This will include essential instruction in accessing and using both the school's and the public library's electronic databases and virtual resources.

To accommodate new print additions, some well-worn and dated library materials have also been deleted from the collection. New furniture has been ordered to enhance features of modern learning, including collaboration and independent study.

Recently, the RHHS Library held its annual book contest draw; the winner of the Kindle e-book reader is Grade 12 student Kelly Ge. Thanks to all participants, who wrote very interesting reviews of the RHHS library books they chose to read. During the 2017-18 school year, the RHHS Library will sponsor a book club and contest, using a specific list of books selected by our students. Those interested in participating should see Mrs. Coleman at the beginning of September for details.

Happy reading!

Visual Arts



The Visual Arts Department would like to wish all of our graduates a wonderful and art filled future! We hope they continue to be life learners and be curious of their world.

We look forward to seeing everyone return to RHHS after a safe and restful summer. Remember to keep drawing from real-life!