



February 2015

Principal's Message

It has been an exciting first semester at Richmond Hill High School with many student successes in academics, arts, sports, clubs and social justice activities. There is an African proverb that states: "It takes a whole village to raise a child." At Richmond Hill High School, we strive to have this same spirit and understanding and have it experienced by our students as learners in our school community.

As the half way point of the 2014-2015 school year has been reached, I congratulate all students who have earned their credits. In the first semester, 68% of RHHS students have been successful in making the honour role.

Ms. Smith was transferred as Vice-Principal at Markville Secondary School in Markham. On behalf of all of the staff, students and community, we would like to thank her for her many contributions to our school and wish her well! We welcome our new Vice Principal, Mr. Paul Ruytenbeek to our school. Mr. Ruytenbeek has worked in many York Region schools and for the past two years has been the Vice Principal in Continuing Education.

Counsellors began the 2015-2016 course planning process with students during in-school grade assemblies. There are a variety of pathways that students can consider including apprenticeship, workplace, college and university. Students, in consultation with their parents/guardians, should be selecting courses very carefully as staffing and the school's timetable will be based on the courses selected at this time. We carefully consider the course requests made by students before we begin to "build" the timetable that attempts to provide all desired courses to our students for the coming year. It should be noted that once we build the timetable it will be difficult to accommodate requests to change courses.

Parents are reminded that the mental health of students is a very important part of being academically successful. Students often feel pressure to meet parental expectations of attaining good grades or taking courses that are not suited to their needs. In order to support our students' mental health, RHHS will be offering evening presentations for parents to address these concerns and offer strategies to support your son/daughter in May. Stay tuned for the dates which will be posted on our website.

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

Sandra Haliburton
Principal



ECO-SCHOOL
ECO-SCHOOL

RHHS is a Gold Rated Eco School

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 YRSB 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.



Richmond Hill High School

201 Yorkland St.,
Richmond Hill, ON
L4S 1A2

Phone: 905 884-2131

Fax: 905 884-9653

Email: richmond.hill.hs@yrdsb.ca

Website: <http://www.richmondhill.hs.yrdsb.ca>



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

Marketing Announcements... The Marketing Class *Bake Sale* Competition was a huge success this semester! Students raised almost \$200 which was well above target!

Shop, shop till you drop.....The Marketing Class *BMI3C*, participated in field trips to the Eaton's Center and Kensington Market to observe advertising techniques, interview patrons and examine sale promotions for the season. Students were able to apply their marketing theory to assess actual retail practices. Finally, our Annual Egg Drop competition had surprising results when students tested their packages and learned about the importance of packaging protection. Watch for us in the hall next semester when the next group of students test out their creative ideas.

ORDER IN THE COURT! This semester's law classes participated in *court visits* to the Newmarket Courts and the downtown Superior Courts where they were able to meet and question a Crown Attorney and Judge. Both grade 11 and 12 classes returned home to show their own courtroom savvy in this semester's in-class *Mock Trial competitions* which challenges students to convincingly argue their case as lawyers and witnesses.



Our Grade 12 students entertainingly staged their own *Murder Mysteries* in our school library in November and caught a couple of unsuspecting culprits. Students were required to recreate the crime scenes and forensic evidence before leading a group of investigators through the crimes scenes, the list of suspects and the police statements. Future criminals...BEWARE!

Thank you to our 2 International Business guest speakers in BBB this term: Mr. Sam Freedman from <http://freedmanharness.com>, and Mr. Faizool Mohamed - Senior Audit Manager at Scotiabank, New York.



DRAMA

Since the beginning of September, the drama department has been an active hub of creative energy. Grade nine classes worked their way through curriculum involving interpretive movement, mime, voice, improvisation, scene study and playwriting. Meanwhile, grade ten classes explored the mystery and power of the mask. The grade nine and ten classes were given a chance to showcase their talents in an evening of scene studies in early January. Parents and peers were treated to "slices of adolescent life" in these dramatic short scenes.

The grade eleven class wrote an original play on the topic of transitioning from elementary school to high school entitled "Be Careful What You Wish For". This theatrical offering was a comic look at student expectation and the role students play in determining a positive high school experience. The play was performed at Grade Eight Orientation Day for future Raiders who now attend our feeder schools in the community. The presentation was followed by a lively discussion about the grade eights' hopes and fears for the transition.

The grade twelve drama students mounted an ambitious evening of theatre involving a variety of fine short plays. On December 4th and 5th they performed "Only Human" to capacity crowds. This group of 28 talented actors revealed the humour, heartbreak, irony and poignancy of the human condition. They should be very proud of their creative and collaborative success.

ENGLISH

The first semester of the 2014-15 school year has been a very successful one with numerous activities and awards in our English program. First, we would like to congratulate Catherine Zheng whose prose passage "The Moth" won first place in the OSSTF Marion Drysdale Awards! We would also like to congratulate our 2014 winners Zachary Kroll and Katie Lyubchenko whose poems were accepted for publication in the Poetic Power Anthology and the Wings of Hope Anthology, respectively. Continuing this tradition of excellence we would like to recognize Mars He, Austin Tripp, and Zachary Kroll for placing in the top five, out of ten thousand students across Canada, in the prestigious Turning Points Essay Competition.

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. On December 5th, Sir Kenneth Branagh's world renowned "Shakespeareance" interactive workshop 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.

On December 8th, Canadian author, poet, and spoken word artist Dwayne Morgan held an interactive slam poetry workshop for students at Richmond Hill High School. Mr. Morgan, the 2012 Canadian Festival of Spoken Word/ Slam Poetry Champion, delighted students with a performance of several of his works. Afterwards, Mr. Morgan shared 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 March 27, 2015, and if successful, at the YRDSB Slam Poetry Finals on April 30, 2015. The 2014 RHHS Slam Poetry team of Chris Kingdon, Chelsea Kowalski, Sara Croitoru, Tobi Solebo, and Eric Oh finished third in the overall competition. Students who are interested in entering the RHHS Slam Poetry Competition may drop by the RHHS Slam Poetry Club every Tuesday after school in Room 1060 to sign up, or see Mr. Cimetta in the English Department office for more details.

This semester the English department sponsored several field trips as extensions to our academic English program. Mr. McCleary planned an insightful trip to the ROM for students to study the history and culture of Elizabethan England. Mr. Cheng took several classes to animation workshops at the National Film Board of Canada and Ms. Mashin's classes traveled to the TIFF Centre for a day of film production workshops. We also have two field trips scheduled to visit the Stratford Festival in May: eighty students will have a chance to watch either The Taming of the Shrew on May 14 or Pericles on May 21. 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 26, 2015 and students have been preparing for it in their grade nine and ten classes throughout semester one. Also, our Literacy teacher Ms. Mashin will be offering extra help for students every Tuesday after school. This year we have the largest AP English enrolment ever in York Region (over 140 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 November 5th Grade Eight Orientation Day and 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. Here are some of the highlights from our first semester classes...

Grade 9 Exploring Family Studies (HIF101):

Students had many opportunities to learn practical life skills that will serve them well in the future. First off, we had an opportunity to have two cooking labs where students learned basic kitchen skills as well as safety skills. Students baked luscious, mouth-watering sugar cookies that were devoured within seconds! In the second food lab, students were able to build upon their kitchen and safety skills and make gourmet pizzas that would rival any pizzeria in the city!



Secondly, students learned financial literacy where they were able to budget how they would live on their own for an entire year as a part of their Independent Study Unit. Students became very astute in understanding key financial terms like credit score, gross and net income, variable expenses and fixed expenses and understand how to incorporate entries into a budget. To top it off, our students went on a field trip to Yorkdale Mall to try to feasibly understand the real costs involved with living on one's own in the future. Way to go Grade 9 students!

Grade 10: Food and Nutrition (HFN201):

This semester the grade 10 Food and Nutrition students challenged their taste buds and expanded their culinary techniques. Some highlights include a virtual classroom with David Suzuki, an informative field trip to Ryerson University's School of Nutrition and a quick visit to the spectacular market at the Maple Leaf Garden's Loblaws. But nothing compares to the high energy and ever so flavourful cooking competition that the students completed at the end of the semester. Students used cinnamon, lemon, rosemary, mint, ginger and coconut in two different dishes to compete for gold in our Iron Chef cooking competition! In the end everyone was a winner and each student performed like culinary masters! Well-done grade 10s!

Family Studies Con't

Grade 11: Food and Culture (HFC3M1):

Well it has been yet another exciting semester with the grade 11 Food and Culture students. We had an exciting time during our annual field trip to Toronto touring the various vendors at the St. Lawrence Market. Students enjoyed cooking with various secret ingredients and expanding their culinary palates. They were able to explore flavours, aromas and ingredients from Canada and around the world. We are also pleased to say that we ended the semester with a bang - our International Food Fair was a great success with food and information regarding over twenty-five countries. Congratulations grade 11s!

Grade 12: Nutrition and Health (HFA4U1):

It was an interesting semester full of heated discussions related to diet and disease with the grade 12 Nutrition and Health students. On October 6th students had the opportunity to participate in a virtual classroom experience with the award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster David Suzuki, "Our Food Systems—Are You Hungry for Change?" Thanks to Mr. Fried for being an informative guest speaker on the low-carb lifestyle. The grade 12s also catered all of the heads' meetings as part of their real food for real people summative and we finished it all off with a fun Superfood Chopped Competition. Thanks to this great group of students for all of your help making food for others this semester!

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

The scope of this course entails looking at the entire human lifespan from the moment we are conceived until the end of our lives and everything in between. At last count, we investigated and studied close to 22 different theorists and theories related to human development in order that we may have a greater understanding of ourselves. Students presented Independent Study Unit Presentations on topics related to human development. Some topics included: cultural variations on death, giftedness, Asperger's syndrome, gender identity, impact of media on the development of children and teens, and many more.

The material covered in this course can be applied in varied ways. Students taking this course are very interested in many different career paths in the future. Some examples of different occupations include: forensic science, medical sciences, behavioural science, psychology, sociology, kinesiology, physiology & occupational therapy, social work, teaching, early childcare, etc. Wishing the Grade 12 students the best for second semester!

Grade 12: AP Psychology (IDC4UE):

This semester there were two brain stimulating sections of AP psychology full of hungry young minds eager for knowledge. It was a whirlwind of a semester getting through the entire AP course curriculum but we still found time for an extension to our campaign for change competition. Students decided to have a goats for change campaign the week before winter break to raise money for Free the Children. We had a goat scavenger hunt, sold goat-a-grams and cupcakes as well as had a goat games raffle raising \$547 for goats for families in the developing world through Free the Children. Congratulations AP Psychology students and all the best on the AP Psychology Exam Monday May 4th!

We are delighted to be offering a new, exciting Gender Studies Course in grade 11 providing a critical lens approach to equity issues in our society. This course enables students to explore the social construction of gender. Students will learn about the dynamic nature of gender roles and norms; sexism and power relations; and the impact of representations of women and men in the media, popular culture, and the arts. If you are interested in gender equity please register for this course on career cruising to ensure that there is sufficient interest to open a section.

On behalf of Ms. Ameilo, Ms. Kim and Ms. Stinson thank-you for a great first semester! Wishing you and your family all of the best in 2015!

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 selections they must lock in and submit their course selections by hitting the "submit" button between the following dates: **February 17-23**. Students who require additional support with course selections can come to the library on **February 20, 2015** during their lunch or spare period. A paper copy of the student's course selections must also be printed from Career Cruising signed with a parent's signature and submitted to their semester 2 homeroom teachers on or before **February 23, 2015**.

The members of the Guidance department wish all students a successful semester 2.

LIBRARY

Over the summer, the library's carpet was removed and new tile was installed. Prior to this installation, all the library resources were boxed by volunteer students, who received community service hours and a pizza lunch for their labour. Similarly, in September, all the boxed resources were unboxed and re-shelved by volunteers. Thanks to all the students who participated in this activity!

Students in Ms. Perlman-Callan's period 5 Visual Arts class designed eye-catching genre-based project board displays for the library. Some of the themes which were showcased included: Hallowe'en, war and peace, adventure, horror, mystery, science fiction, teen fiction, and fantasy.



The 2015 library book reading contest has begun! Students are encouraged to check out topic 12 in the RHHS Library resource center moodle (enrolment key: raiders) for contest instructions, entry forms, and a list of appropriate book selections. In June the library will host a pizza party for all participants, and a draw for an Indigo gift certificate as well as other prizes will be presented. Happy reading!

Math

In November our students had the opportunity to write three math contests, The Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge, the Canadian Intermediate Mathematics Challenge (CIMC) and the Canadian Senior Mathematics Challenge (CSMC). The top finishers in our school for the Canadian Open were **Zheng Meng Ao, Darren Chan, Nikita Kapustin, Lin Li, Tom Shan** and **Peter Wu**. These students will write The Sun Life Financial Repêchage Competition, an invitation-only challenge that serves as a qualifier for the Sun Life Financial Canadian Mathematical Olympiad (CMO). Congratulations and good luck! Honourable mention goes to **Sina Abbasi**, who wrote a perfect contest for **both** the Canadian Open and the Canadian Senior Mathematics Challenge. This is also the second year in a row that Sina has written a perfect CSMC. Amazing! More detailed results of the CIMC and the CSMC will be posted on our math website www.rhsmath.ca in the upcoming weeks.

For students interested in preparing for math contests, or who are just interested in math fun please visit the math club (Wednesdays after school in 2024). Our senior math club executive, **May Zhao, Jonathan Corbett** and **Alex Raita** have been doing an excellent job mathematically entertaining their members each week.

All students are reminded that **course selections** are rapidly approaching. We are excited to announce that **AP Statistics** will be running for the first time in our school in second semester. If you are interested in this course for next year, or if you have questions or concerns about choosing the appropriate math course, please talk to your semester 1 math teacher or drop by the math office. There are a variety of pathways available so no doors are closed! We want students to be successful, develop confidence, and enjoyment of mathematics – these only occur when students are taking the appropriate mathematics course. If you are experiencing any difficulties in your math courses please speak to your teacher immediately. Many resources are available, including the **math extra help room** open Monday – Friday after school in 2027.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce two new teachers to the math department: Ms.Jmemari and Ms.Park. Part-time and temporary teachers to the math department this year include Mr.Chu, Ms.Kostanenko, Mr.Kutluoglu and Ms.Waldon. All of these people have been wonderful in terms of their enthusiasm, dependability and willingness to help students.

Good luck to all in semester 2!

Mathematics Department

Music

Remembrance Day

For more than 30 years the Gold Band has been a part of the Town of Richmond Hill Remembrance Day ceremonies at the town Cenotaph. On Sunday November 9th the Band contributed 2 hymns and 2 anthems to the annual service. The Last Post was performed by our grade 12 trumpeter Natalie Ng.

Holiday Serenade

The musicians performed the first major concert of the year at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts on December 3, 2014. The show was a huge success with performers from grades 9 through 12 playing in 3 large concert bands in addition to jazz bands, small ensembles, jazz choir and the show choir. Many positive comments came from the audience and performers alike. It was an excellent evening of entertainment.

Festival Season Is Almost Upon Us

The Gold Band, Silver Band and Concert Band will be participating in the Ontario Band Assn. Festival in mid-February. The bands are preparing a variety of songs for the adjudicators and are looking forward to the workshops, evaluations and ratings. We are going for the Gold standard!

The jazz ensemble, Gold Fever, will be participating in the York University Jazz Festival later in February. After an absence from this festival for several years, we are back to strutting our stuff for the adjudicators. This is a great opportunity to play for a team of judges and receive feedback about our performance in a workshop format with some of the country's finest jazz musicians.

Upcoming Events

Apr. 9	Jazz Choir @ OVJ Fest.
April 23-26	Band trip to Chicago
May 15	Sounds Of Spring concert
May 26	Music Award Banquet

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Health and Physical Education Department has had another enjoyable and successful semester! The department has many classes including our regular physical and health education classes grades 9 to 11, fitness classes at both the grade 11 and 12 levels, the basketball course, our ever-enthusiastic developmentally delayed class, and a grade 12 exercise science class. With all the aforementioned classes running in second semester there is lots of fun ahead!

The winter season is well underway and the junior girls' volleyball team is energetic, determined and has shown vast improvement from the start of the season.

The junior boys' basketball team is riding a three game winning streak going into playoffs. After a strong second half the team is looking forward to making a push in the play-offs.

A young senior boys' basketball team reached the finals of the Huron Heights tournament and won the Silver Division in the Richmond Hill Invitational. They stumbled out of the gate in league play but have won two of their last three league games and are playing at a much higher level going into playoffs.

The senior girls' volleyball team won the Thornlea Invitational, reached the semifinals of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau tournament and the semifinals in their own RHHS fourteen team tournament. With games in hand, they find themselves in a battle for one of the eight playoff spots.

Finally, the Nordic Ski Team returns for its second year. The team will be participate in the Winterlude Triathlon (skate, ski, run) on January 31st in Ottawa, and will try to improve their race times, with the hope of qualifying for OFSAA, in upcoming YRAA events.

Special congratulations to Mr. Fried and the senior boys' soccer team who won their second York Region Championship in three years.

Also, during the fall season our boys' volleyball and girls' basketball teams played both consistently and competitively but unfortunately fell short of a playoff berth.

Our cricket team showed vast improvement, complimenting experienced players with new recruits. They continue to practice throughout the winter looking forward to next season.

Tennis team members Victor Nechita and David Sun won the senior boys' doubles York Region Championships while the senior girls' team of Kerry-Ann Cheung and Christina Drotenko reached the finals. Both teams will compete in the OFSAA championships in the spring.

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The fall also saw the return of senior football to RHHS. The team competed and improved to the point that in their final regular season game they lost 24 to 20 to the eventual York Region Tier II Champions. The junior football team also had a strong season that saw them reach the Tier I semi-finals.

After a two year break RHHS brought back its competitive swim team. 26 students participated and qualified for YRAA finals. Kai Dingman and Evans Lai will compete in the Open division at OFSAA in the spring.

Congratulations to all Raider athletes. Go Raiders Go!

VISUAL ARTS

It is hard to believe semester one is over – where has the time gone? Some of the highlights include our trip to the **Royal Winter Fair** with the photography and visual arts class, the animation class visiting their local **elementary school** to show off their creations, and our trip to the **Roots leather factory**. At the factory we learned 95% of the leather goods sold at Roots stores are made in Toronto. Students had a glimpse of how leather goods come to life from design to production to store.

This past semester, Bonnie Thomson (glass artist) was our visiting artist. She guided students to produce beautiful slumped glass plates and glass jewelry. Next semester we look forward to Steve Schulman (illustrator) who will lead our students to make a sequential art page, similar to a graphic novel. Both artist visits are supported and funded with the aid of the Ontario Arts Council.

pop art' reproductions from grade 10 ceramics

