



RICHMOND SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

HOME OF THE COLTS - ESTABLISHED IN 1927

Principal:	Ms. Anita Kwon	Address:	7171 Minoru Blvd, Richmond, BC, V6Y 1Z3
Vice Principals:	Ms. Adrienne Goulas & Mr. Lester Leung	Phone:	604-668-6400
PAC:	2 nd Wednesday at 6:30PM	Early Warning:	604-247-2658
Deputy Superintendent:	Mr. Rick Ryan	Twitter & Instagram:	@richmondcolts
Trustee Liaison:	Ms. Donna Sargent	Website:	http://rhs.sd38.bc.ca

Principal's Message

We are 3 months into the school year and the pace of school is moving quickly with students managing multiple projects, assignments, and assessments. Our teachers are committed to making sure students are well prepared to do their best and are mindful of other expectations and deadlines students have. Parents/Caregivers can support their teen by helping them stay organized and checking in regularly to see if they are on top of their schoolwork, yet also maintaining reasonable life balance. When in doubt or you have concerns, talk to your teen and communicate with teachers as necessary. We have also arrived at the colder, rainy season and this can have an impact on health. Encourage your teen to wash their hands regularly, eat well, get regular exercise, and go to bed early enough to get the necessary sleep they need. Good nutrition, exercise, and rest will bolster their immune system and this helps teens manage the many challenges they face. We want our students to be balanced, healthy, and resilient young people and this requires a supportive partnership and ongoing communication between students, parents/caregivers, and the school. Thank you, *Anita Kwon*

Health and Safety Reminders as Illnesses on the Rise



With the respiratory illness season in full swing, and flu activity and respiratory illnesses such as influenza and RSV on the rise, students and families are reminded to perform a general health check before coming to school each day. **If you are sick and unable to participate fully in routine activities, do NOT come to school.** Basic measures for protecting students, staff, and families include: staying up to date with vaccines, practicing health awareness, washing/sanitizing hands regularly, and practicing good respiratory hygiene (cough or sneeze into your sleeve, not your hands).

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Remembrance Day Ceremonies Outstanding

Our sincere gratitude goes to the many students and staff who created and led our Remembrance Day ceremonies on November 10 and to the hundreds of students and staff who showed respect by dressing formally on this day. The assemblies were dignified and classy and provided an opportunity to reflect on the horrific consequences of war and appreciate the tremendous sacrifices made by millions of Canadians, including former RHS students. Students are completing *Personal and Social Core Competency* self-reflections with a focus on social awareness and responsibility: *How do you remember what you haven't known (as many people today have never experienced war)? What am I doing to remember? How can I contribute to building peaceful relationships and communities?* Special thanks to **Bayan Abou Mourad**, **Toshiya Sakagami**, and **Clara Sulit** who served as emcees. Our sincere appreciation to our student-cadet flag party, Mr. Sheppard and our talented band and choir students, and the Colt Ambassadors who ran our Poppy Campaign that raised money to support veterans and their families. A big thank you also to Ms. An, Ms. Chung, Ms. Ho, and Ms. Goulas for organizing our ceremonies. *Lest We Forget*



Sharing Our Learning: Grade 8 English Students at Vancouver Writer's Festival

In an exciting literary adventure, Ms. Kandola's English 8 classes recently had the fantastic opportunity to attend the Vancouver Writers Fest and listen to the author of *The Marrow Thieves*, Cherie Dimaline. The event was not only educational but also heaps of fun. The students, who are currently engrossed in reading *The Marrow Thieves* as part of their curriculum, were thrilled to hear directly from the author herself, and had very thoughtful questions for her. They were especially excited to get their own books signed and to take pictures with the author. Cherie Dimaline's insights and storytelling left our students inspired and eager to delve deeper into the novel, enhancing their learning experience. It was an incredible outing that not only broadened their literary horizons but also ignited their passion for reading and writing.



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Consent Education Grade Assemblies Thursday, November 23

Recently, the Ministry of Education and Child Care has expanded curriculum content in areas related to consent education and gender-based violence. More information can be found on the Erase BC website by [clicking here](#). The Richmond School district is partnering with the [Exploitation Education Institute](#) to share a presentation on 'All About Consent' with all secondary school and alternate program sites. This presentation will be occurring at Richmond Secondary School on Thursday, November 23. All grades will be participating. The aim of these interactive presentations is to provide students with more confidence in what constitutes consent (in-person and online) and how to practice it. Students will also learn more about how to access resources and support. Should you have any further questions please contact Ms. Kwon, the principal.

Family Erase Sessions for Safe, Caring and Respectful Digital Communities

Three free virtual erase learning sessions for families will be held on November 28 and 30, focusing on establishing safe, caring, and respectful digital communities. These sessions are best suited for families and youth aged 10 and above. Families may register at this link: [📄 erase family sessions november 2023.pdf](#). Please contact erase@gov.bc.ca with any questions or for more information.

erase | EXPECT RESPECT &
A SAFE EDUCATION

IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME INFO NIGHT – Wednesday, December 6

Richmond Secondary School

ib Diploma Programme

INFORMATION NIGHT

This District Program is open to ALL STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 11 in September 2024.

6th DEC | RICHMOND SECONDARY
7171 Minoru Boulevard
Multipurpose Room
Session starts at 6:30 PM

For more information please contact the IB Coordinator
Mr. David Miller at dmiller@sd38.bc.ca
<https://rhsib.wordpress.com> | PH: 604-668-6400

Are you a curious, capable and dedicated learner in Grade 10? The International Baccalaureate Diploma is a balanced and challenging two-year program of studies that is recognized by universities around the world for developing knowledgeable, open-minded, inquiring and capable thinkers and learners. All students (and parents) currently in Grade 10 at Richmond Secondary or attending any other high school in Richmond are welcome to attend our **IB Information Night on Wednesday, December 6 at 6:30 PM**. Learn more about the program, the application process, and the learner profile of successful IB students. For more information, parents and students can also contact our IB Coordinator Mr. Dave Miller at dmiller@sd38.bc.ca.

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Student Attendance

There is a strong correlation between student achievement and success with student attendance. Attendance includes being present, being engaged, and arriving on time. The number of students arriving late is alarming and unacceptable. This time of year the days are colder, wetter and darker and we see more cars on the road and traffic is a lot heavier especially during the morning commute. **Students and families need to plan ahead and leave extra time in the morning. School starts at 8:30 AM. Arrive at least 10-15 minutes before.** Knowing that there is traffic congestion in our parking lot after 8:05 AM, families need to plan with this in mind and moreso when there is inclement weather. If you get caught in the parking lot congestion, please have your child exit your vehicle safely and walk the remainder of the way to the school.

Snow?



As we approach winter and the snow season, parents are reminded that our **SCHOOL WILL BE OPEN**, unless officially closed by the Richmond School District. If it is snowing, please do not phone the school – listen to the radio and check the school and SD38 website for updates. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information on inclement weather.

Follow the school on Twitter and Instagram and check our website regularly. All links can be found at <https://rhs.sd38.bc.ca>.



Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

At the November PAC meeting, parents learned about the role of the school counsellor and supports they provide to students and families. A special thank you to our guest speakers **Ursula Pedersen** and **Marcia Cubbon** from the Richmond Secondary School counselling department. The next PAC meeting will be on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 PM. Please email your queries to rhsbcpac@gmail.com.

Dry After Grad (DAG) 2024

Planning for DAG 2024 has begun! DAG is the parent-hosted celebration for the Grade 12s held immediately after their June 27 Dinner & Dance. We have a group of dedicated and enthusiastic parents who have begun organizing this event. Parent support and volunteers are essential for this event to run. The next DAG meeting is on Wednesday, December 13 at 7:30 PM in the LLC. All grade 12 parents are welcome and we encourage grade 11 parents to get involved as well as it is a great opportunity to learn about the event when it is your turn to host. Please email your queries to dag2024rhs@gmail.com.

Opt-In to District/School Text Message Communication

The Richmond School District is implementing a new communication tool that will enable both the district and our school to send you text messages. This is being implemented to improve the ability to deliver time-sensitive information to you, including emergency notifications. Given the significance of this communication tool, we strongly encourage you to opt-in for this service. You can choose to opt-in by sending a text message to 978338 with the comment 'Yes'. Please complete this action before November 30, 2023. [CLICK HERE](#) for details.



Quitting Vaping Student Resource

Informed by QuitNow's engagement work with young people across BC, and feedback provided by the Youth Advisory Council at McCreary Centre Society, there is a new resource created to provide information and interactive activities on the health risks of vaping, the benefits of quitting vaping, and coping with addiction and mental health. There is a step-by-step guide youth can use to quit or reduce vaping. [CLICK HERE](#) for details.

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December Food Drive

We will be organizing our annual school-wide December Food Drive with all proceeds going to the Richmond Food Bank. RHS has a long tradition of supporting the Richmond Food Bank and we are known for our remarkable generosity. All members of our school are encouraged to participate and to donate what they are able. Both cash and food donations will be collected in block B on December 7-11-13-15. *#ColtsGive #ColtsCare*

Winter Music Concert

Parents, students, friends and community members are invited to attend our annual **Winter Music Concert** on **Tuesday, December 5** at 7 PM in the large gym. This is always a wonderful event as our talented groups perform a wide range of classic, pop, and holiday music. Admission is by donation. **SAVE THE DATE!**



Holiday Support for Families in Need

The *Richmond Cares Richmond Gives* organization hopes to brighten the holidays for local families in need. Eligible applicants will receive food and gift support to make the holiday season a little brighter for all members of their family. To learn more about *Richmond Cares Richmond Gives* or perhaps to find out how you can help, please contact their office at 604-279-7020 or email info@rcrg.org or web: <https://www.rcrg.org/>

Annual Community Christmas Luncheon

We will host the 48th annual Richmond High School **Community Christmas Luncheon** on **Thursday, December 14**. This has been a special event at our school for over four decades and is usually attended by District and RHS staff, Trustees, the Mayor and members of City Council, RCMP and Richmond Fire Department members, public health staff, RHS alumni, parents, and business people from all over Richmond. Enjoy a traditional holiday meal prepared by our Professional Cook Training students and come together to share warm season's greetings. All proceeds from this event will be donated to charitable causes locally and globally. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at:

<https://richmondsd38.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/69464/125/False/True>

Tickets are limited so buy your tickets now and by Monday, December 4.



Grad 2024 News

CLASS OF 2024

Grad photographs for the Yearbook were taken at the beginning of November. Grad comments and baby photos for the yearbook are now past due. Please see Mr. Zadorozny in room 140 with any questions.

There will be an important **Grade 12 Assembly** on Monday, November 27 in block G in the Multipurpose room. Topics to be covered will include: TVRs, GLA 12, Valedictory. Grad Committee will also have an opportunity to provide grade 12s an update on grad clothing.

A reminder to confirm your participation in the **2024 Valedictory Ceremony** by:

- Submitting your gown size **HERE** by Friday, December 8.
- Paying your \$40 Valedictory Fee by Thursday, December 21.

The deadline to purchase tickets for the **Winter Formal** is Thursday, December 21.

2024 Provincial Scholarship Awards

The Ministry of Education and Child Care awards 13,500 scholarships to eligible graduating students annually. Please review the [program summary](#) and use this [Scholarships Program infographic](#) to help start the conversation with students, parents, and staff about this opportunity. More information can be found on the [BC Achievement, District/Authority, BC Excellence](#), or [Pathway to Teacher Education](#) scholarship web pages. Contact scholarships@gov.bc.ca if you have questions.

Colts Athletics Update



Thank you to the coaches, sponsors and student-athletes who represented our school in the fall season. Fall teams included our senior girls' and boys' volleyball teams, our senior boys' soccer team, our Grade 8, Grade 9 and Grade 10 girls' volleyball teams, our cross-country team, and our swim team. All of our teams and athletes competed with skill and sportsmanship. Special congratulations to our dedicated senior girls' cross country team for their second place finish at the South Fraser Championships and for qualifying for the BC Championships. The winter sports season is already underway and our seven basketball teams and our table tennis team are practicing and preparing for league play. RHS is hosting the *Colts Elementary Volleyball Tournament* on Wednesday, November 29. Grade 6 and 7 students from 13 elementary schools will participate in this event thanks to Ms. Ip and our Athletic Leadership students. For more information on Richmond Colts athletics or if you would like to volunteer to help coach a team, please contact our Athletic Director Emily Ip at eip@sd38.bc.ca

UPCOMING SCHOOL DATES

November 21	Collaboration	December 13	PAC Meeting at 6:30 PM
November 27	<i>Guru Nanak Dev Sahib</i>	December 13	DAG Meeting at 7:30 PM in LLC
November 29	Colts Elementary Volleyball Tournament	December 7-15	<i>Hanukkah</i>
December	FOOD DRIVE Month at RHS	December 22	Breakfast with Santa
December 1	Pro-D Day	December 22	Last Day of School Before Winter Break
December 5	Winter Music Concert at 7:00	Dec 25 – Jan 5	Winter Break
December 6	Block Rotation – BCAD/FGEH	December 25	<i>Christmas</i>
December 6	IB Information Night at 6:30 PM	December 26	<i>Boxing Day</i>
December 7	Written Learning Update #1 Published	December 26	<i>Kwanzaa</i>
December 14	RSS Community Christmas Luncheon	January 1	<i>New Year's Day – Welcome 2024!</i>
December 12	Parent-Teacher Conferences (2-4,5-7)	January 8	School Re-Opens – BCAD
December 13	Parent-Teacher Conferences (2-4)		

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BECOME HOMESTAY at the RICHMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Be a host for an international student for a month, semester or year. Richmond International Education (RIE) Homestay Program is looking for local families to offer a welcoming home.

Contact us to find out more about this enriching opportunity.

study@sd38.bc.ca

604-668-6217



RICHMOND
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
ENRICHING GLOBAL MINDS

Community-Led Collaboration Project

We want to hear from families with children and youth with disabilities or support needs.

Families in Richmond are invited to participate in a conversation about services and supports for children and youth with disabilities or other support needs in your community.

We want to know what is working for families, what is missing and what a better network of services and supports could look like in Richmond.

Family Session #1 (in Mandarin 中文)

- **Wednesday, November 15** (6 – 8 pm)
 - **Richmond Caring Place Society**
 - 7000 Minoru Blvd, Richmond, BC

Family Session #2 (in English)

- **Thursday, November 16** (6 – 8 pm)
 - **Hugh Boyd Secondary School**
 - 9200 No 1 Rd, Richmond, BC

Family Concurrent Sessions #3 (in English)

- **Saturday, November 18** (10 am – 12 pm)
 - **Seedlings Early Childhood Development HUB**
 - 6380 No. 3 Rd, Richmond, BC
 - **East Richmond Community Hall**
 - 12360 Cambie Rd., Richmond, BC

All these sessions are FREE.
Options to attend in-person or virtual.
Food will be provided at in-person sessions.
Support for transportation and childcare will be available.

To register and for more information*:



www.inclusionbc.org/campaigns/clcp-richmond

*If you can't attend in person, there are other ways to participate. Please visit the website or call us at 1-844-488-4321.

WE want to hear from YOU

about CHILD CARE IN RICHMOND



Share your thoughts and ideas through

THE CHILD CARE STRATEGY SURVEY

✓ Access the online survey using the QR code here
or visit LetsTalkRichmond.ca/ChildCare2023



- ✓ Paper surveys available at participating locations:
- City Hall
 - Recreation centres
 - Richmond library branches

Survey deadline is Sunday, November 26, 2023

Your input will help inform Richmond's new 10 year Child Care Strategy

Contact childcare@richmond.ca for more information