



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:	Mr. David Yang	Website:	http://rhs.sd38.bc.ca

Principal's Message

Welcome to 2024! The start of a new year is an ideal time for students to clarify goals and make adjustments as necessary to be sure they are on a pathway to achieve personal goals and aspirations. January also marks the mid-way point of the school calendar and students will soon be asked to make course and program selections for the next school year. We urge our returning students and parents to read the course descriptions on the school website and for students to listen and ask questions – your counsellors and teachers, your parents, classmates, older siblings and friends can all help you make the right choices for next year. Our 2024-2025 timetable will be constructed based on student course selections, so choose your courses and alternate selections carefully and thoughtfully – take the time now to plan for your future success. I also remind members of our 2024 graduating class to be fully mindful during these final months of high school and enjoy this busy but memorable time. Please reach out to your counsellor or our career advisor if you need help planning any aspect of your post-secondary life.

Thank you, *Anita Kwon*

Inclement Weather Information



With increased cold and wet weather conditions, RHS families should review the district's [Information of Emergencies & Inclement Weather](#). During an emergency, the district's first priority is to ensure student and staff safety. The district works closely with local municipalities and emergency services to assess the situation, gather accurate information, and implement emergency safety protocols. The district will try to determine closures due to inclement weather by 6:30 AM. Updates will be delivered using social media and school and district websites. Only **school closures** will be announcement by the media. No announcement will be made saying that school are open.

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Graduation Assessment Days – Tuesday, January 23 & Wednesday, January 24

On January 23 and 24, we will host the Graduation Literacy 12 Assessment (GLA 12) for grade 12 students. Students must check their assessment date and time and location on the posted schedules. The schedules have been put up around the school and have also been posted on the **Richmond – Grade 12 Students MS Teams**. We will follow an alternate bell schedule on these days.

Please note the following instructions for ALL students on January 23-24:

- Students scheduled for the GLA 12 should **arrive by 8:00 AM** to their assigned location. Bring photo ID.
- **Grade 9s:** Report to the large gym for career education activities on January 24 in PLT 1.
- **Grade 10s:** Report to the Multipurpose room for a career programs presentation on January 23 in PLT 1.
- **Grade 11s:** Report to the Multipurpose room for a career programs presentation on January 23 in PLT 2.
- All other grade 8-12 students sign up for PLT 1 and PLT 2 sessions.

GRADUATION ASSESSMENT DAYS
January 23 and 24

ALTERNATE BELL SCHEDULE	
8:15 - 11:15	GLA 12
8:30 - 9:50	PLT 1
9:55 - 11:15	PLT 2
11:20 - 12:00	BLOCK F/B
12:05 - 12:45	BLOCK G/C
12:45 - 1:30	LUNCH
1:35 - 2:15	BLOCK E/A
2:20 - 3:00	BLOCK H/D

Graduation Assessment Results

The November 2023 graduation assessment results are now available for students and parents to review. Students can access and view their results on either one of these platforms:

1. **MyEducation BC** - Family top tab > Assessment side tab
2. **Student Transcript Services (STS)** – Sign up for a BCeID at <http://www.studenttranscripts.gov.bc.ca>

Mental Health #LetsTalk – Wednesday, January 24



The annual “Let’s Talk Day” that will be recognized all across Canada is on **Wednesday, January 24**. It is important for families and teens to spend time reflecting on what it means to be “healthy”. Many will identify being free of illness, eating well, getting enough sleep and exercising regularly as keys to ‘being healthy’ yet mental and emotional health may be taken for granted, or not talked about at all because of the stigma that may be attached to mental health issues. The truth is, many people wrestle with stress, anxiety, negative thoughts, feeling low or depressed at times in their lives and it is okay to talk about it. More importantly, we need to be ready to listen carefully to our family members and friends. Richmond Secondary School students need to know that we care about them. Our counsellors are always available and parents can get help from their family doctor or learn more on a wide range of excellent online resources. Explore some of these online sites:

<http://letstalk.bell.ca/en/>

<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/mental-health>

<https://youthinbc.com>

<https://keltymentalhealth.ca>

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Program Planning & Course Selection for 2024-2025

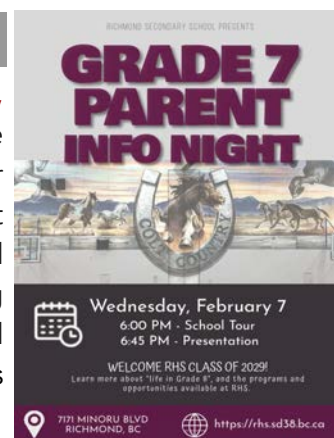
Richmond Secondary School counsellors will host Grades 8-11 assemblies for RSS students on **Thursday, January 25** and students will receive a personalized course selection form, learn about options for courses, graduation requirements and post-secondary pre-requisites to prepare them for choosing their courses for next year. Our timetable and staffing for 2024-2025 is determined based on student enrollment and course requests, so students must select courses carefully, taking into consideration their summer school and online learning plans. It is difficult to make course changes later in the process. Grades 8-11 students will have an opportunity to check and confirm their course selections later in the spring. Students and parents are encouraged to read the online course descriptions, discuss options with their classmates and current teachers, and choose courses thoughtfully. Please read the 2024-2025 RHS course descriptions online at: <https://rhs.sd38.bc.ca/students/program-planning-course-selection> and be sure to carefully enter your course requests on the MyEducation BC Student Portal and get your completed course selection form signed by parents submitted to the office by **Thursday, February 8**. This is important. All student course requests will be checked by RHS counsellors and if students or parents have any questions about the course selection process, please contact your counsellor.



NEW! RSS Counselling Website
<https://www.rsscounselling.com>

Grade 7 Parent Information Night – Wednesday, February 7

We will host our Grade 7 Parent Information Night in the school theatre on **Wednesday, February 7** at **6:00 PM**. All parents and guardians of Grade 7 students who live in the Richmond catchment area and those who may apply to attend the school next year are invited to attend. This will be a great opportunity to get to visit the school, meet the principal, vice principals and some other staff, learn more about Richmond Secondary School, and ask any questions you may have. We look forward to meeting members of the RHS grad class of 2029! Parents can find out more by calling Richmond at 604-668-6400 or checking out our website at: <http://rhs.sd38.bc.ca/> and following us @RichmondColts on X (formerly) Twitter and Instagram.



Richmond School Transfer Process

Richmond students who want to apply for a transfer to a school that is outside of their catchment area **MUST APPLY TO TRANSFER**. This includes out-of-catchment students with a brother or sister currently at a secondary school and students currently in Grade 7 who attend a feeder school but live in another catchment area. Students who are already attending a secondary school out of their catchment area and want to stay, do not have to reapply. The Round 1 Transfer period will be from **February 5-29, 2024** and these applications are for the 2023-2024 school year. Transfer forms must be submitted to the school you are applying to, on or before **February 29**. Out-of-catchment students in grade 10 applying to the IB Diploma Programme, **do not** have to submit a school transfer form. (IB applications were due Friday, January 12.)

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



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Governor General's Academic Bronze Medal

Congratulations to **Harry Peng** for being awarded the Governor General's academic bronze medal as the top student in Richmond Secondary School's graduating class of 2023. Harry earned the highest combined grade 11 and 12 scholastic average out of 275 students in the graduating class.

"For more than 125 years, the Governor General's Academic Medals have recognized the outstanding scholastic achievements of students in Canada. They are awarded to the student graduating with the highest average from a high school, as well as from approved college or university programs. Pierre Trudeau, Tommy Douglas, Kim Campbell, Robert Bourassa, Robert Stanfield and Gabrielle Roy are just some of the more than 50 000 people who have received the Governor General's Academic Medal as the start of a life of accomplishment." (SOURCE: Governor General of Canada Website)



Richmond Reading Riot Returns



The 9th Annual Richmond Reading Riot has begun in the Richmond Secondary School Library Learning Commons! There are 12 titles from a diverse group of genres and authors. Read as many of the books as you want. Rate each book on the blue ballot and put it into the box in the LLC. The more you read, the more chances you have at winning weekly prizes and the grand prize giveaway. Happy Reading! 📖

Parents and Caregivers Welcome at RHS!

The next Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting is on Wednesday, January 17 at 6:30 PM in-person in the Library Learning Commons (LLC). We have a special presentation from the RHS Counselling Department on program and career planning. We look forward to seeing new and returning parents and caregivers. Contact the RHS PAC at rhsbcpac@gmail.com.

The next Dry After Grad (DAG) meeting is on Wednesday, January 17 at 7:30 PM in-person in the Library Learning Commons (LLC). DAG is looking for grade 11 and 12 parents and caregivers to help in organizing this fabulous end-of-the-year celebration for the RHS Grads of 2024. Contact the DAG at dag2024rhs@gmail.com.

erase Website

The **erase** (expect respect and a safe education) website is an excellent resource for parents and caregivers, as well as students and educators for valuable information and resources on topics such as mental health, SOGI, racism, bullying, consent, gender-based violence, on-line safety, and more:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase>

erase | EXPECT RESPECT &
A SAFE EDUCATION

Get REDI Zoom Webinar Series

Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion with Richmond School District

Parents and caregivers are invited to attend a presentation on SD38 initiatives around inclusion and belonging. The session is designed to help participants understand the district's commitment to reconciliation, equity, diversity and inclusion, and the values and language that inform our practices in schools. Zoom presentations are available January 25 at 7 PM or January 30 at 11 AM. See the attached flyer for registration details. Space is limited so register now!

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Grade 12 News and Reminders – RHS Grads of 2024

The **PSI** portal on the Ministry of Education Student Secure Web Login is open and Grade 12s are urged to complete this task so post-secondary schools can access your grades – go to StudentTranscripts at: <https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/welcome.jsp>

The **2024 Winter Formal** is on **Thursday, February 15** at the Riverside Banquet Hall’s Grand Ballroom.

A mobile photo studio from Artona will be at Richmond Secondary School from **February 25 – March 5** and all Grade 12s who want their name and photo to be included on the **“RHS Grad 2024” composite** must book a sitting and have their photo taken by Artona: <http://www.artonagroup.com>

Grade 12s interested in applying for any of the internal Richmond Secondary **scholarships** must complete the “RSS Scholarship Form” available on the school website on or before **April 12** – remember, students must apply to be considered for any scholarships. Look on the RHS website under STUDENTS > Grade 12 Information.

The 30-word **Valedictory write-ups** are due by **April 12** – look on the RHS website under STUDENTS > Grade 12 Information.

Grade 12s should also be checking the bulletin board by the Counselling Centre and the Career Information website at <https://rhs.sd38.bc.ca/students/rss-career-centre> for post-secondary and scholarship information and application deadlines and other news.

UPCOMING SCHOOL DATES

January 17	PAC Meeting 6:30, DAG Meeting 7:30 PM	February 14	<i>Valentine’s Day</i> ♥
January 23-24	Graduation Assessment Days	February 14	Collaboration Day
January 24	<i>#LetsTalk</i> Mental Health Day	February 14	PAC Meeting 6:30, DAG Meeting 7:30 PM
January 25	Program Planning Assemblies	February 15	<i>Canada Flag Day!</i> 🇨🇦
January 29	Pro-D Day	February 15	Grade 12 Winter Formal
February	Black History Month	February 16	Pro-D Day
February 7	Grade 7 Parent Info Night at 6 PM	February 19	<i>Family Day Holiday</i>
February 8	Course Selection Forms & Online Entry DUE	February 25-March 5	Formal Grad Photos by Artona
February 8	Informal Learning Update #2 Published	February 28	<i>Pink Shirt Day at RHS</i>
February 10	<i>Lunar Chinese New Year of the Dragon</i>		

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Get REDI

Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion with Richmond School District

A webinar series on Zoom for parents and caregivers to understand and support SD38 initiatives around inclusion and belonging.

This initial 60-minute session is designed to help you understand the district's commitment to reconciliation, equity, diversity and inclusion, and the values and language that inform our practices in schools. The facilitator, Destine Lord, will draw on the district's strategic plan to drive the conversation and make connections between the plan, the district's vision, and introductory concepts of anti-oppression. By building the language, you can help support your learner as they move between home and school and back again. There will be opportunities with future sessions to further explore REDI concepts.



Destine Lord (she/her) is a consultant and facilitator actively working towards the elimination of racism in Canada. For the last 15 years, she has worked in both the private and public sectors, facilitating workshops and training sessions related to anti-racism,

change management, and reconciliation. As a Black Canadian, Destine can draw on her lived experiences to inform conversations about racism. She is excited to be supporting the Richmond School District and our work to build equity and inclusion and a sense belonging for all students and staff.

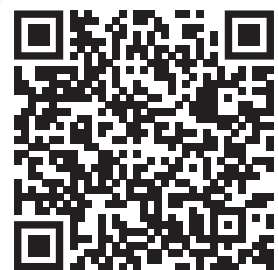
Registration

These repeated webinar sessions are intended for Richmond School District parents and caregivers only. **As space is limited, please register in advance for one session using one of the QR codes below.**

**January 25, 2024
at 7 p.m.**



**January 30, 2024
at 11 a.m.**





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