



RICHMOND SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

HOME OF THE COLTS - ESTABLISHED IN 1927

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Principal's Message:

I hope that the recent Thanksgiving long weekend provided all members of our community with an opportunity to appreciate everything we have to be thankful for - family, friends, good health, nutritious food and warm shelter. Living in Canada puts us amongst the most fortunate people in the world - our communities are modern and safe, we have excellent schools and medical services that are accessible to all and we respect and celebrate differences in a welcoming, multicultural nation. We encourage our students to embrace the incredible opportunity they have at Richmond Secondary School to learn and to pursue any future that interests them and to grow as thinkers, communicators and as personally and socially responsible citizens. Parents are reminded that the school will send home **Interim Progress Reports** on **Thursday October 25** and this document will provide information on how your student is progressing early in the school year. Parents will be able to book short **conference appointments** with teachers and these will be held on Monday **October 29** and Tuesday **October 30**. Please book appointments online at: <https://rhs.schoolappointments.com> (beginning October 22 at 4pm) or telephone the school if you need help.

Thank you, Mr. A

Terry Fox - Richmond Secondary School Celebrates a Canadian Hero:

Congratulations to all the RHS students and staff who participated in the 2018 Terry Fox Run on September 28. In 1980, an 18-year Terry Fox was a student at SFU and had just lost his leg to cancer when he decided to raise awareness by running a marathon a day in a journey across Canada. He hoped that each Canadian would donate \$1 to help find a cure for others. While a recurrence of cancer ended his journey after 143 days and 5,373 kilometres, his legacy lives on. The <http://www.terryfox.org> is still passionately engaged in fulfilling Terry's legacy and its single mission remains to "fund innovative cancer research". Cancer has touched most of our lives in some way and, on a warm and sunny fall day 38 years later, our students had a choice of running, jogging or walking over two different routes around Minoru Park and more than 1250 students and staff were involved. Thank you to everyone who participated, donated or supported our annual school-wide Terry Fox Run and the "pie-the-teacher" fun event on October 11, especially Ms. Kippan and the **P.E. Leadership** class for organizing every aspect of these wonderful community-building events. Our school raised and donated **\$1906** to the Terry Fox Foundation. See photos of the day on the school Instagram account.

Thank you Colts!



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Learner Profile for All RHS Students?

Educators all over the globe are discussing the attributes and competencies young people will need to learn, grow, work and live in a rapidly changing world. At RHS, we are engaging our students in the Core Competencies and the 10 attributes in the I.B. Learner Profile while also wondering what attributes do we want to develop in all students? Parents are welcome to join this conversation by attending PAC meetings and by reading these online links: RHS focus: <http://rhs.sd38.bc.ca/our-school-story> BC Core Competencies: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/competencies> and the IB Learner Profile: <https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/fd82f70643ef4086b7d3f292cc214962/learner-profile-en.pdf> The current draft of our RHS Learner Profile is included on the last page of this newsletter. Parents with comments or feedback on this poster are encouraged to email our principal at jallison@sd38.bc.ca

Interim Progress Reports and Parent-Teacher Conferences

Students will bring home informal or Interim reports on **Thursday, October 25**. These reports will provide an indication of how students are progressing in their classes as well as their attendance record early in the school year. Parents are urged to read the report and discuss it with your teen. Parents can make appointments to come to the school and meet with teachers on **Monday, October 29** from 2-4pm and **Tuesday, October 30** from 2-4pm and 6-8pm – note students will be dismissed at 1pm on these days. **Beginning Monday, October 22 at 4pm**, parents will be able to book short appointments online. If parents need help booking an appointment, please call the school at 604-668-6400. The link is:

<https://rhs.schoolappointments.com/>



Grade 8 Camp – Building a Positive Future at Richmond Secondary School

We hosted a very successful Grade 8 Camp & Sleep-Over on September 21 and 22. Our youngest students went ice skating, travelled to an off-site facility for fun games, painted images that represented them, talked about leaving a legacy and the importance of setting goals. They also enjoyed three meals together, participated in a lip sync contest, a scavenger hunt in the school and had a ton of fun! On Saturday, our Grade 8s listened to **Owen Fan** and **Nikol Grishin** two recent RHS graduates and now UBC students, as they shared their experiences in high school and university, and had some advice for our youngest students. Camp concluded by students writing a letter to themselves that included a polaroid photograph of each student. The students will open and read these letters at their Grade 12 prom in June of 2023! All Grade 8s also received a keepsake “Grade 8 SleepOver - Grad 2023” lanyard as well. Grade 8 Camp is an important community building activity at Richmond Secondary School and the event gets stronger every year. A big thank you to the more than 20 staff who supervised, especially to Ms. Chan and Mr. Winograd for organizing every aspect of this event! A **sincere thank you** to our 2018 Camp student leaders who led the two day Camp: **Santiago Avancena, Sandra Balitaan, Alyssa Cabrera, Daniel Cai, Anika Cardero, Perry Chahal, Wendy Cheung, Tiffany Chu, Kelly Chu, Chloe Chung, Emerson Cooke, Jamie Ello, Jayric Foong, Maria Jovic, Hazeem Kairo, Timothy Lai, Alicia Laing, Lucy Luo, Kim Magdangal, Irene Makarchuk, Andre Martin, Ashton Pawlik, Josh Peng, Tanner Pereschitz, Simran Prashar, Leo Qian, Vince Ramos, Nikol Rybolov, Rowel Sabahat, Anton Santos, Steven Shao, Vaibhav Sohni, Ethan Syho, Mariam Virk, Coby Visto, Wendy Wang, Amy Wong, Nicole Wong, Sharry Wu, Annie Zhang and Zac Zhang.**

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Parents Welcome at PAC & DAG:

The Parent Advisory Council (**PAC**) meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm in the library. The school needs more parents to join PAC! Parents also organize every aspect of our Dry After Grad (**DAG**) for our graduating students each year and to sustain this wonderful tradition, we need parents to donate, help and to volunteer. We welcome Grade 12 parents, but also need parents of all other grades to ensure DAG continues in the years ahead!! The next PAC and DAG meetings will be on **Wednesday, November 14**. To learn more about DAG, contact Rhonda Smith at mailto:rgab_smi@telus.net

Teenagers and Halloween?

Halloween is an opportunity for people of all ages to dress up and have some fun. Younger children look forward to designing and carving jack-o-lanterns, wearing costumes and trick or treating with their siblings, friends and parents. Hundreds of RHS students and staff will dress up at school on this day. Unfortunately, the days leading up to Halloween and the actual night of October 31 can sometimes include acts of destruction. The sight of large groups of teenagers, igniting fireworks and roaming streets, parks and schoolyards is not uncommon. The results can include personal injury, broken windows, small fires and other unnecessary acts of vandalism. Please know that the **RCMP** will be out in large numbers on this night and the school district hires extra security. We strongly encourage parents to speak with their teenage children - find out what their plans are for Halloween - encourage and insist that they behave responsibly or simply stay home and stay safe.

Vote on October 20!

All Canadian citizens 18-years of age or older are encouraged to vote in the local elections on **Saturday, October 20**. This election includes selecting the Mayor, City Council and the Board of Education. This is a great way for parents to model social responsibility – get informed and vote! Find out more about the candidates here:

https://www.richmond.ca/newsevents/city/2018_Election_Candidates.htm

Grad 2019 News:

Congratulations to our **Grads of 2019** on an outstanding Boat Cruise on the evening of September 28 - we had 250 students and staff on the 3-hour cruise around Stanley Park and downtown Vancouver. It was a beautiful and warm fall evening and the students had a great time with their friends and classmates! We also hosted 130 people at our Grade 12 Parent Info night on October 10 and reminded everyone that Grade 12s should be checking our RSS post-secondary website regularly: <https://msjonescareercentre.wordpress.com/> as well as Ms. Jones' Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Ms-Jones-Career-Centre-News-118346451579144/>

Grade 11s & 12s should also attend the *Post-Secondary Fair* at RHS on October 18 at 3pm and check out all the other post-secondary visits coming to RHS (e.g. Langara Sept. 25, SFU Oct. 2, CUE Oct. 3, U of Calgary Oct. 16, UBC Oct. 24, U of Toronto Nov. 6, UVic Nov. 7, Western Nov. 8 and Waterloo Nov. 20). Also, please note that Langara, Douglas, VCC and other colleges have already opened their application portals – apply early as these are great options and, if necessary, ideal back-up plans. For information on UBCs changing admission guidelines, check out: <https://you.ubc.ca/applying-ubc/2019-admission/>

Graduation Transitions (GT) for Grade 12s and Grade 11s

All current Grade 12 students must complete all the requirements of the 4-credit *Graduation Transitions* or **GT** to graduate this year. Once complete, students receive a grade of **RM** for Requirements Met on their report card and Ministry Transcript. All work will be submitted online and more information is available from Mr. Szeto in room 208. **Grade 12s** are reminded that they must complete GT to graduate – please see **Mr. Szeto** if you have any questions or need help. This year only, we are also allowing our current Grade 11 students the opportunity to complete the 4-credit Graduation Transitions requirement. This is the final year of GT, and if students do not complete the requirements, they will need to complete the new 4-credit Career Life Connections and Captstone project in order to graduate from any school in B.C. **Grade 11s** will also complete the requirements online and if they need help, are asked to meet with **Mr. Blair**, **Ms. Kwon** or **Mr. Allison** in the office.

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TOKTalks a Hit

On Friday October 5, almost 200 IB students packed into the theatre to watch groups of their peers present “TEDTalks” style presentations using concepts learned in Theory of Knowledge. The Grade 12 groups were required to integrate thoughtfully timed multimedia backdrops and present an essential question linked to whatever “real life situation” and “knowledge question” that interested them. The students were well prepared and made compelling and thoughtful presentations on a wide range of topics. The Grade 11s assessed the presentations and then discussed the TOK concepts with the Grade 12s after lunch. The event was also attended by a number of RHS staff and special guests, who were impressed with the inquiry, knowledge, thinking, communication and risk-taking on display!



Richmond Secondary – A Safe, Caring and Inclusive School Community:

The safety of all who learn and work at our school is very important to us. The Ministry of Education has developed a thoughtful strategy for schools called **E.R.A.S.E. – Expect Respect and a Safe Education** and each year we publish our ERASE strategies on the school website: <http://rhs.sd38.bc.ca/school-information/about-us/school-plans>

Everyone is welcome at our school and all students are expected demonstrate **kindness, care** and **respect** at all times – for themselves, for all others, including those who may appear different, **in person and online**. We discuss these expectations regularly and teachers and support staff are also aware of the need to reach out and get to know their students as individuals and to address concerning behaviours in a proactive, positive way. We introduce our themes of kindness, care and respect with our youngest students at Grade 8 Camp and we revisit these expectations with all students throughout the year. We believe that the best way to prevent a culture of intolerance is to celebrate and strengthen the positive connections between students and staff and to build a caring community and a sense of belonging at our school. Students who belong to a club, team, group or regular activity often develop a deeper sense of caring for each other and for the school. It is crucial that parents remain involved in their teens’ lives and are aware of their friends and social connections, including what they are doing online. If parents have concerns or are noticing changes in their child, they are encouraged to speak with their teen and reach out to an RHS counsellor or administrator if necessary. Not all conflict is bullying and there may be some conflict in high school, as in life, and we also want to help students grow into **resilient** people. However, any pattern of unwelcome or aggressive behavior, in person or online, is a serious concern and will **never** be acceptable at our school. When in doubt, please contact the school. There are also great online resources on what bullying is and is not, why people bully and how parents can help. www.erasebullying.ca www.needhelpnow.ca www.deal.org www.bullying.org www.cyberbullying.ca

Upcoming RHS Dates:

Oct. 19 – Pro-D Day	Oct. 22 Parents can book conference appts. online beginning at 4pm
Oct. 24 - Collaboration Day	Oct. 25 – Interim Progress Reports Home
Oct. 29/30 – Early Dismissal Days – 12:55pm	Oct. 29 – Parent-Teacher Conferences* 2-4pm
Oct. 30 – Parent-Teacher Conferences* 2-4pm & 6-8pm	*Parents book conferences online
Oct. 31 – Halloween – costume day!	Nov. 2 - Pro-D Day
Nov. 3-6 – I.B. Bamfield Trip	Nov. 4 – Daylight Savings Ends – set clocks back one hour
Nov. 9 – RHS Remembrance Ceremonies	Nov. 11 – Remembrance Day <i>Lest We Forget</i>
Nov. 12 – Remembrance Day holiday	Nov. 14 – Grade 9s To Work Day
Nov. 22 – Global Fundraising Dinner	Nov. 23 – Pro-D Day (New Curriculum)

Follow the School on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and subscribe to our Website
– all links can be found at: <https://rhs.sd38.bc.ca>



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COLTS ARE

RESILIENT

I have a growth mindset and I accept that learning may involve set-backs and adversity. I am resourceful in the face of challenges and change. I approach uncertainty with determination. I am courageous and willing to pursue new challenges.

CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKERS

I use critical and creative thinking skills to consider and analyze problems and formulate responses. I evaluate information to make thoughtful decisions. I am open-minded and curious and able to consider different points of view. I am innovative and can generate and develop ideas to change, adapt or create new solutions or interpretations.

RESPONSIBLE

I take responsibility for my choices, words and actions. I am principled and act with integrity and honesty. I have personal values and a sense of fairness and justice. I am a member of local and global communities and I have a widening sense of social and environmental responsibility.

CARING

As a member of a diverse community, I demonstrate kindness, care and respect toward all others. I show empathy and compassion and I respect the dignity and rights of all people. I strive to understand, welcome and include others.

REFLECTIVE

I am self-aware and understand my personal strengths and areas for growth. I am able to regulate my emotions and behaviour and I strive to be a balanced, healthy person. I am able to think about my learning and create plans for my own improvement.

COMMUNICATORS

I can connect and engage with others to share and develop ideas. I listen actively to the perspectives of others. I am able to exchange information, experiences and ideas confidently. I can present information clearly and communicate effectively using a wide range of verbal, non-verbal and visual formats, including technologies.



RICHMOND SECONDARY LEARNER PROFILE

At Richmond Secondary School, our mission is to develop people who are thoughtful, balanced and capable global citizens. As learners, we strive to embody the characteristics of this profile as we learn and grow as a community.

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