



# Runnymede Collegiate Institute

Newsletter – February 2010

## **Message from the Principal – Lynn Farquharson**

Enclosed in this mailing is the final report card for your son or daughter for the 1st semester. January was a busy month as students completed final summative evaluations and exams in their courses. We have now begun the 2nd semester and students are settling into their classes. Congratulations to all students on their achievements in the 1st semester. Some of our grade 12 students who have now completed their 30 credits and all their graduation requirements are also leaving us at this time.

The beginning of a new semester always signals new beginnings and opportunities for students to re-engage in the process of learning and success. Academic success is very much predicated on good attendance and punctuality. There is no mystery in this relationship. At Runnymede we continually stress to students the importance of attending classes, participating in a meaningful way during the class, completing homework, on-going assessments and evaluations, being aware of due dates and keeping abreast of the expectations for each course. These self-management skills are so important for them to develop here at Runnymede and will serve them well when they leave high school to pursue post-secondary education or to enter the world of work. We ask for your help and support in ensuring that your son/daughter attend all their classes, on time, everyday. If your son/daughter is absent from school, we would appreciate a phone call to report their absence. This message can be left on the school's general mail box if you can't reach an office assistant. As well, we would ask that you please provide a written note if a student is arriving late or leaving early from school for an appointment.

We also strive to ensure that we are providing a safe and caring learning environment for all students. One of the ways we achieve this is through our school uniform policy. Students must be in proper uniform and wearing it correctly as outlined in our uniform policy. The policy can be found in the handbook for students and parents that was given out to all students in September: also available on the school's website.

There are a few staff changes to report for the 2nd semester. **Ms. Thackray** in our math dept. is returning after being on leave in semester one and we welcome **Mr. Marinelli** who will be joining the math dept.

The beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester also signals the beginning of planning for September 2010. Our guidance counsellors will be meeting with students in February about course selections for next year.

Students will be completing course selection forms and bringing them home for parent/guardian signatures. We make every attempt to provide the courses that students choose, but if sufficient numbers of students do not select a course, it may not run next year.

## **Ward 7 Education Council**

Irene Atkinson, Trustee for Ward 7, holds her education council meetings approximately every other month. Mr. Harpreet Gulri is Runnymede's parent representative at these meetings.

Should you wish to receive the Ward 7 Update to keep informed as to what is discussed at these meetings, please call Mrs. Kinkaid, our office administrator and provide your email address.

## **Art**

### **Art students visit new AGO and Textile Museum**

Visual Arts students in grade 10 and 11 got their chance to see the new Art Gallery of Ontario designed by architect Richard Gehry, the last week of November. They also visited the fascinating but little known Textile Museum situated behind Toronto City Hall, just off of University Avenue.

Our day started at the Textile Museum with students Ashley Melgar and Samantha Burns assisting student James Morrison into a complicated man's kimona which fit together like a puzzle. Students were interested to discover that clothing and textiles such as paisley shawls are considered art.

Most students were wowed by the new AGO building and we were lucky enough to see a double rainbow from our vantage point on the curving staircase. A special exhibit on sculptor Alexander Calder captured their attention and inspired an in class assignment on wire sculptures of faces.

Students did drawings in the new African Gallery and loved the modern African inspired sculptures made of shoes.

The new extension of Contemporary Art was hands down, the favorite.

Students loved the media works and the distorted portrait sculpture.

It was a great introduction to the gallery with many students vowing to come back to see the King Tut exhibition. Next time the students get a chance to go to an art gallery they will be quick to sign up.

### **Literacy**

All grade 10 students in Ontario will be writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test on April 8, 2010. We will be offering the **JUMPSTART TO LITERACY** program again this year to assist our students in preparation for the test. The first two sessions will be held at lunchtime on February 17 and 18. These sessions will focus on the format of the test and test-taking strategies. Subsequent sessions will look at specific writing tasks and reading samples. The sessions are also open to Grade 9 students who are interested in preparing for next year's test.

### **Drama Department**

The Drama Club will be performing Chekhov's one act production *A Marriage Proposal*. It will be performed in mid April during regular school time for the student body. Please listen for announcements for upcoming auditions taking place the week of February 8 -11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Student Success**

On February 18<sup>th</sup> ten students from Runnymede will be attending an all day African Canadian Students' Conference called "Choosing Success" at OISE - University of Toronto. Part of the conference will be to make students aware of the initiatives already available to support all of our students at Runnymede in order to help them get their credits and be successful.

As well the group will be working on learning skills and strategies for positive engagement for their own learning and within the school, setting or reinforcing academic, social and personal goals and being encouraged to see themselves as a leader among their peers.

Finally they will be given the opportunity to share their learning and outcomes with the teaching staff and their peers at the school.

### **Guidance**

As we start second semester, we are already looking forward to the 2010-2011 school year. On February 18, we will be hosting a Walkabout, an opportunity for students to speak with teachers and learn about courses offered for next year. Through the following week, guidance counselors will be visiting homerooms and distributing option sheets. It is important that parents/guardians check over course selections for next year.

Many of our graduating students have applied to university and college for next year. Semester 1 final marks will be transmitted soon to the Ontario Universities and Ontario Colleges Application Centres. Students are reminded that any offers of admission are conditional upon their final marks and upon completion of their high school diploma. Forty hours of community service is a diploma requirement, thus, all potential grads should ensure that their community service is completed as soon as possible.

### **Co-operative and Career Education**

Congratulations to our semester one Co-op students on their achievements in a broad range of Co-op placement opportunities. Once again, students have demonstrated that commitment and motivation to maximize their learning potential are necessary for success. Students who demonstrated reliability and initiative earned the highest praise and top evaluation from their Co-op placement supervisors.

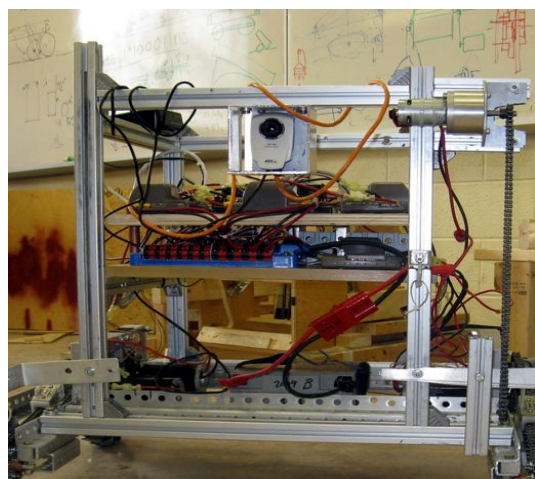
A number of students have been accepted for apprenticeship while others have been offered part time work.

All students have experienced opportunities to better understand their strengths and areas for improvement enabling them to continue their education with a clearer sense of their career paths.

Upcoming students are encouraged to consider any of our Dual Credit College Programs which allow students to experience Co-op and one full credit college course (at no expense). The Dual Credit Programs offer students up to 5 credits in one semester. See Student Services or Co-op for additional information.

### **Runnymede Robotics 2010**

Our award winning Runnymede Robotics team is in full swing, constructing this year's robot. The team, comprising of about 90 students, teachers and mentors, is very excited building our most impressive robot yet. We have a total of six weeks to build a robot using a kit of parts and building materials. Runnymede Robotics would like to thank all the parents and sponsors for their financial support making it possible for us to participate in two regional competitions this year. We will be in Waterloo, Ontario for the Waterloo Regional at The Physical Activities Complex, University of Waterloo from March 25 to March 27 and then at Canada's largest FIRST Robotics competition, the Greater Toronto Regional, April 1 to April 3 held at The Hershey Centre, Mississauga. Good luck to Runnymede Robotics as it finishes the robot over the next few weeks. For more information visit: [www.runnymedecollegiate.com/first/](http://www.runnymedecollegiate.com/first/)



### **Runnymede Ravens Athletics**

Some highlights from the winter sports season:

The winter season has been extremely busy with extra-curricular athletic activities. A very special thanks to our dedicated coaches, Mrs. Kotsopoulos, Mr. Gibbons, Mr. Murray, Mrs. Noseworthy, Ms. Kurchak, Ms. Pidhayny, and Mr. Kalantzakos for the endless hours they have spent to give our student-athletes the opportunity to participate and mature throughout their sport seasons.

### **OFSAA Provincial Championship UPDATES**

**\*\*Come by the gym and check out our new OFSAA Banner additions\*\***

### **Boys Volleyball**

The Senior Boys Volleyball team defeated Bloor CI 3-2 to become the Single "A" City Champions. The boys qualified for the OFSAA Championships in Bowmanville and represented the TDSB with their usual high degree of class and respect. Our first Volleyball OFSAA experience was definitely a highlight with plenty of time spent team building and soaking up the atmosphere. The boys will definitely have a hunger to return next year.



### **Girls Basketball**

The Senior Girls Basketball team travelled to Cornwall to represent the TDSB at the OFSAA championship. The girls played strong games against some of the top teams in the province. All of Cornwall was impressed with the enthusiasm and spirit of our very young team. The girls were recognized for their efforts by the OFSAA organizing committee and were awarded the OFSAA Team Sportsmanship Award. Congratulations Girls!!!!



### **Boys Basketball** (Coach: Mr. Kalantzakos)

At time of writing, the Senior Boys Basketball team is deep into their season. Although the boys failed to qualify for the West Region Playoffs, their hopes are still alive in the City Playdowns. In the coming weeks the boys will battle in the city playoffs to try and advance to OFSAA in Sturgeon Falls.

In tournament play the Senior boys have been very busy competing for the second time in the Southwood Classic in Cambridge and the Ridley College Invitational in St. Catherines.

Although this team has had to overcome many challenges and obstacles, the boys have worked harder than ever. Good Luck in the qualifiers.

The junior boys' basketball team was a young inexperienced team. Although their season record didn't qualify the team for playoffs the boys battled hard in all of their games.

This young squad learned about the technical aspects of the game and improved in all areas of offense and defense. This young team showed a lot of potential and promise to be a competitive team in the future. Congratulations boys!

### **Girls Volleyball** (Coach: Mrs. Kotsopoulos)

Following a rebuilding year the senior girls' volleyball team has shown themselves to be a competitive team this season. Working to improve on their offense the girls are currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in their division.

The team looks forward to some exciting play off matches. The junior girls volleyball team has shown tremendous potential and have continued to improve with every game. Their dedication and positive attitudes are noteworthy!

The team has one regular season match left and look to move into a playoff position.

### **Hockey** (Coaches: Mr. Murray and Ms. Kurchak)

This year our young hockey team has continued to practice and train hard. The goal for our team is to continue to improve and build on our successful start

### **Swim Team** (Coaches: Mrs. Noseworthy, Ms. Pidhayny)

Runnymede CI is taking full advantage of our amazing pool facility. Swim coaches Ms. Pidhayny and Mrs. Noseworthy are working hard with our young team to improve their overall fitness and ability. This year's team has some young hopefuls looking to turn some heads and make some splashes at the West Regionals.

Thanks to the coaches for all their early morning practices.

## **Runnymede at the Olympics???????**

Students are centre stage as Olympic Torch comes to Toronto.

As thousands of revellers gathered in Nathan Phillips Square, TDSB students took centre stage



when the Olympic Torch arrived at City Hall on Dec. 17.

Thanks to an opportunity from the City of Toronto, six TDSB middle and high school sports teams lined the red carpet on the downtown ice rink as temperatures plummeted to -7 C.

The [Olympic Torch Relay](#) doesn't come right through the GTA very often. In fact, it hasn't even made an appearance in Ontario in over two decades, prior to Calgary's hosting of the Olympics in 1988. Before arriving at Nathan Phillips Square, the Relay made its way down Yonge Street from Richmond Hill before heading to a celebration in Scarborough attended by hundreds of TDSB students. Runners then snaked their way downtown via York Mills Avenue and the southern portion of Yonge Street before arriving at Nathan Phillips Square just after 7:30 p.m.

To participate in the community celebration, students and coaches were asked to write a short essay describing how their team reflects the principles of the Olympics.



## **Ravens Senior Boys' Volleyball**

The Healthy Active Living Education Department at RCI strives to make fitness, health, athletics and sport an integral part of life for all students. Composed of students with varying backgrounds, ages and skill levels, the team's remarkable dedication towards making a connection between sport participation, education and positive health living gave them an edge on competition throughout the year. "The passion exhibited by this team has resonated around the halls of Runnymede," said coach John Kalantzakos. "They have been positive role models and continue to lead by example in the school and on the court."

## **RAC (Runnymede Athletic Council) in the Community**

The Athletic council has been extremely busy making sure that all athletic events have run smoothly. As we return from EXAMS look for the registration for our Ball Hockey Intramural.

Also, now is the time to think about increasing your involvement for next year, keep your eyes open for volunteer opportunities with this exciting student athletic council.

SIGN-UP, GET INVOLVED, HAVE FUN and GET FIT.

## **CHUM CITY CHRISTMAS WISH**

This year Runnymede Athletic Council members Kimberly Robin and Saudia Rahamat teamed up to run a very successful coin drive, with all proceeds being donated to the Chum City Christmas Wish. The coin drive was able to buy approximately 50 gifts and provide a small cash donation for the less fortunate. Good Job Girls!

