

Runnymede CI School Council Newsletter

April/May 2019

Dates to Remember

Apr 3 – TDSB Summer e-learning registration opens

Apr 4 – Sounds of Toronto (Steel Pan) @ Roy Thompson Hall, 7pm

Apr 10 – Assembly (Dwayne Morgan)

Apr 12 – End of Semester 2, Term 1, Mountview Transition Meeting

Apr 17 – RUSTCO Dress Down Day

Apr 18 – Report Cards Mailed Out

Apr 19 – No School! Good Friday

Apr 22 – No School! Easter Monday

Apr 29 – Full Disclosure Day

Apr 29 – School Council Executive Meeting (7-9 pm)

May 1 – Deadline to confirm with Ontario College admission

May 4 – Community Garage Sale

May 6 – Summer School registration

May 7 – Assembly (Jeff Martin)

May 15 – Spring Arts Night

May 27 – School Council Mtg (7-9pm)

May 31 – RCI Musical – SAVE THE DATE!!

Spring is finally here (we hope!) and RCI has lots going on in sports, arts, and academics. Read on for all the great things happening!

YOUR PARENT COUNCIL AT WORK

The Parent School Council has been hard at work this year on many endeavours, including:

- Participating in TDSB meetings re: Mountview transition
- Attending Ward 7 meetings to stay updated on changes to education and adding parent input when needed
- Coordinating a Direct Donation campaign to fund a Wish List created by RCI teachers and students (see below)
- Applying for and receiving the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant and holding a Speaker Event specifically for RCI and other community parents
- Coordinating parent involvement with events throughout the year, including Arts Nights, Commencement, and Staff Appreciation Lunch
- Creating a Constitution and By-Laws for the Parent School Council in accordance with TDSB requirements

As we all know, many hands make light work. Consider helping out by attending a Council meeting, volunteering for a need (see next page) or running for Council next year!

SAVE THE DATES

Apr 29th – Executive Planning Meeting

**May 27th – School Council General Meeting
(all parents invited)**

**June 5th – Speaker Event for Parents
(more details to come)**

Sign up for the **Principal's Bulletin and Weekly Update** on the RCI home webpage at www.runnymedecollegiate.com and always be in the know!

Volunteers Needed!

May 4 – Prom Garage Sale: any and all parent help would be greatly appreciated! Even a couple hours between 7am-3pm would be great.

Contact Ms. Lovell at carlotta.lovell@tdsb.on.ca

May 15 – Spring Arts Night: lots of areas where help would be appreciated, whether it's selling baked goods or monitoring the silent auction. We also welcome performers if you're so inclined - and your child allows! ☺ Contact Ms. Bylykbashi at janelle.bylykbashi@tdsb.on.ca

RCI's School Musical: do you have a special talent for making sets or sewing costumes? Then help our kids put on the best show of the season!

Contact Ms. Bylykbashi at janelle.bylykbashi@tdsb.on.ca

June 27 (1-3pm) – Commencement: 2-3 parents are needed to help distribute water throughout the ceremony. Contact Ms. McCrimmon at karen.mccrimmon@tdsb.on.ca if you can help out

Help Keep Prom Ticket Prices Down

Thank you to all parents who generously donated items for our upcoming raffle. Donations are still being accepted. Please contact Ms. Lovell at carlotta.lovell@tdsb.on.ca

The **Community Garage Sale** is back just in time for your Spring Cleaning! Rent a table or just come shop on May 4th from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the North Parking Lot.

The charge to rent a table (8ft) is \$25, and community members can set up their wares for sale. Net proceeds go towards Prom.

Any interested parent or community member should contact Ms. Lovell at carlotta.lovell@tdsb.on.ca to rent a table. Tables will be reserved on a first come first served basis, and might sell out quickly.

From RUSTCO

President's Day Dress Down is April 17 - Happy Birthday Harsimran!

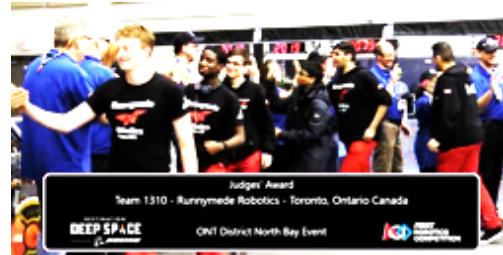
Spring Spirit Days will run from April 23 to 26

RUSTCO executive elections are coming up in May. Please encourage interested students to run for the positions of Junior Vice President, Senior Vice President, and President.

SAVE THE DATE: June 1, 2019 - Community Fair @ RCI 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. rain or shine!

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM 1310!

Our amazing RCI Robotics Team 1310 competed in the FIRST ONT District North Bay Competition March 28-30. Not only did they finish as District Finalists – they came home with the Judges' Award! Thank you to all of our supporters, teacher mentors and parent mentors!



FROM CANADIAN AND WORLD STUDIES AND HUMANITIES

Congratulations to the students who placed in this year's Royal Canadian Legion Poster and Poetry contest. All students who took part submitted fantastic work, and special mention should go to:

- Sade Darajat who won 3rd in our district and 1st in our zone for Intermediate Poetry
- Alyssa Tian who won 2nd place in our zone for Senior Black and White Poster
- Armita Ebrahmnejad who won 2nd place in our zone for Senior Poem

We were so excited to host the **Holodomor Mobile Classroom** this year. Grade 10 History students and some Grade 11 HSP students had the chance to learn more about this dark chapter in history (the Ukrainian Genocide). The Grade 12 Equity and Social Justice class was fortunate to be the first class to take part in their new lesson: Breaking the Sound Barrier, and co-created an amazing poster about standing up when you see something wrong. Thank you to the Holodomor Foundation for their amazing work!

FROM ATHLETICS

Another successful **Winter Season** has wrapped up with over 130 student participants! Congratulations to all of our athletes for their dedication and commitment over the winter season. As always our athletes have displayed hard work, perseverance and excellent sportsmanship!

Jr Boys Basketball	Sr Boys Basketball	Jr Girls Volleyball
Sr Girls Volleyball	Swimming	Cheer
Badminton (Intramural club with 50 members)		

The **Spring Season** is underway with practices already taking place last week and others coming up:

Co-Ed Volleyball	Track and Field	Girls Slo-Pitch
Co-Ed Ultimate Frisbee	Girls Soccer	

RBA (Intramural Basketball) - Lunchtime intramural basketball league has begun with over 60 students participating. This is always a much-anticipated event with a lot of excitement in the gym!

Runnymede CI was host to:

- TDESAA (TDSB elementary) Grade 5 Basketball Championship Tournament
- TDESAA (TDSB elementary) Grade 5 Volleyball Championship Tournament
- each tournament hosted over 100 elementary students from across the TDSB

Weed Out the Risk - all Phys Ed classes will be participating in workshops presented by MADD Canada on May 16 and May 17 about cannabis use (max. 30 students/workshop)

Field Trips

Gr. 11/12 Girls Phys Ed class attended a trip to the Etobicoke Field Studies Centre to learn about Northern First Nations traditions and participate in Arctic Winter Games and an afternoon of snowshoeing



Right to Play

- in the midst of their 6 week after school program at George Syme (every Tuesday)
- involves 20 Runnymede leaders and approx. 55 George Syme elementary students
- our team was interviewed and featured on a livestream event for Right to Play Canada's celebration of World Children's Day
- Runnymede leaders participated in and are featured in Right to Play's "Visual Manual" which will be released in the spring and used internationally attending a day of leadership at the Brickworks on April 10 with Northern Secondary School
- will have a leadership role at the Youth to Youth Symposium (event that showcases elementary school programs) on April 26

Right to Play and Marcus Stroman!!!!

Our Right to Play leaders and potential future leaders were chosen to participate in a special presentation in our library with none other than Marcus Stroman, starting pitcher of the Toronto Blue Jays!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Our leaders were completely shell shocked and over the moon! Not only did they play a Right to Play game with him (Marcus says it just may be the new Jays locker room game), but participated in a question and answer period where he shared uplifting and inspirational stories from his personal life before signing and giving each student a pair of sneakers from his personal collection. He was a true gentleman!





This year's **RCI Spring Arts Night** will sparkle with a very inspiring twist. We have partnered with CAMH and Laura Landauer to present "One Brave Night" - an Arts Showcase that will feature the amazing talents of our RCI students and special friends and guests of our community to raise funds for a very good cause.

Please join us on **May 15th, 2019 @ 6:30 PM** to enjoy the amazing talents of our RCI students and special guests. This fun filled evening will have activities for the whole family, including:

- Silent auction and art exhibition
- Face painting
- Arts and crafts
- Bake sale
- Popcorn, cotton candy, BBQ and so much more!

Please visit [One Brave Night Donation](#) to donate to this very important cause.

All other proceeds made from our Bake Sale, popcorn/cotton candy and BBQ stands will go directly to our Arts Department. We thank you in advance for all of your support and love.

The "RCI Wellness Warriors" strive to spread the message that #mentalhealthishealth and express passion and creativity to inspire hope for the one in five Canadians who experience mental illness.

FROM GUIDANCE

Community Partners

- Breakaway Addiction Services will be running Harm Reduction workshops for ALL Gr. 10 students during the month of April
- Toronto Police Services Youth In Policing will be here on April 15th @ lunch to promote and recruit for their Fall job opportunities
- Many new scholarships, community service and job opportunities have been posted on the bulletin boards in Guidance as well as on the Runnymede Agenda APP

Summer School

- Registration begins on **Monday, May 6, 2019** at 10:00 a.m. and closes at 12:00 p.m. on Friday June 26, 2019
- Register at www.creditprograms.ca
- All classes begin on **Tuesday, July 2, 2019** and conclude on Friday, July 26, 2019.

Summer E-Learning

- Registration opens **April 3rd, 2019**
- Session 1: Tuesday July 2 - July 29th (The exams are on July 25th...Students are not required to be in class after that date)
- Session 2: Thursday July 18 - August 16th (The exams are on August 14th...Students are not required to be in class after that date)
- Register at www.creditprograms.ca

OTHER WAYS TO STAY UPDATED

There are many resources for parents on the TDSB and PIAC (Parent Involvement Advisory Committee) websites. Check out the following links:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward7/>

<http://torontopiac.com/index.html>

Help Support Runnymede Collegiate Institute Students!

What is it?

For the first time, Parent School Council is asking RCI families to make a voluntary, tax-deductible, donation to the school in support of our children's education. Rather than having multiple fundraisers, the Direct Donation campaign allows families to donate **one time** to fund enrichment programs.

Why a Direct Donation campaign?

Basic provincial funding does not cover all of the many needs for upgrading or replacing equipment, or for introducing new, or enhancing current, programs at the school. The Direct Donation fundraising campaign will support these extra requests to help our children move forward faster and be more engaged.

Where will the money go?

All the funds raised will go directly to fulfill the priority list of needs and wants identified by RCI teachers and students (see below). The total of their requests is \$23,000. An update will be provided by the school year end to let you know how much was raised and where the funds were allocated.

How much can I contribute?

There is no minimum or maximum required. Our goal is to raise \$23,000, which would cover the Wish List we received from teachers and students. If each student's family donates just \$45, we will reach this goal!

When do I need to make a donation?

We request that donations be submitted by **Friday, April 26th**, so that we may make decisions on allocations by year-end.

There are two easy ways to donate:

1. Donate Online through [School Cash Online](#); or
2. Donate by cheque or cash at the Administration Office in the school. 8 am - 4 pm. Cheques should be made out to: **TDSB**, with the Comment Line stating: **RCI Direct Donation Campaign**

Tax receipts are available upon request for any donation amount.

THANK YOU for supporting Runnymede Collegiate Institute's Direct Donation Campaign! Your donation is an investment in your child's education!

RCI WISH LIST

Your donation will directly fund these priority requests, identified by RCI teachers and students:

Arts

New printmaking press
Silk screen kit to make tee-shirts

English

Books for the 2 new English classes that are integrating the JETS reading program

Library

12 library computers require updating
New books focused on equity and inclusion

Music

Licensing fee for the school musical production

Technology

8 charging carts for multiple Chrome Books
Replacing 23 old computers

Thrive/Equity and Wellness

Small fridge for Raven's Retreat, to hold water and ice packs, where students have a quiet place to rest, if needed

Ward 7 Council Meeting
March 4, 2019 7:00pm-9:00pm
Parkdale Public School, Library
Minutes

Present: Trustee Robin Pilkey. Superintendents Tracy Hayhurst and Sandra Tondat, Deborah Keefe - EQAO, Patricia Tapp - EQAO, Geordie Gibbon - EQAO, Principal Richard Stein - Parkdale Jr & Sr., Principal Simona Emiliani, Humbercrest Oona Cass - Parkdale CI, Dena Warman - Parkdale PS, Marala Satua - Queen Vic, Madeleine Crickshank - Garden, Lisa Patsiopoulos - Keele, Justine Whelan - Mountview, Loen Hansford - Keele (PIAC), Daniela Hawkins - Humbercrest, Lucy Coyle - Runnymede CI, Neila Longman - Parkdale CI

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Trustee Robin Pilkey began the meeting at 7:07pm. Welcoming everyone and announcing that the next Ward 7 Meeting will be a Budget meeting on Thursday March 21st at Fern Ave. Public School co-hosted with Trustee Stephanie Donaldson of Ward 9. <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/ward9/docs/2019%2003%2021%20Ward%209%20and%207%20Budget%20Meeting%20v1.pdf>
2. **EQAO Presentation:** Superintendents Tracy Hayhurst and Sandra Tondat introduced Deborah Keefe and Patricia Tapp from the EQAO School Support and Outreach Office. They were joined by their colleague Gordie Gibbon. They are here to provide information on the EQAO tests, how parents can support their children and the school.
 - a. Patricia Tapp began the presentation explaining the EQAO mandate: http://www.eqao.com/en/about_eqao/about_the_agency/mandate/Pages/Mandate.aspx
The EQAO was established in 1996 by the Royal Commission on Learning <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/abcs/rcom/main.html> EQAO assesses math and language skills at key points in learning. It is a large scale assessment assessing cumulative knowledge over time <http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments>
 - i. The current CEO Norah Marsh is working to make changes to the EQAO to modernize the test and make sure it is equitable http://www.eqao.com/en/about_eqao/modernization .
 - ii. The EQAO is scored and reported on in a consistent and objective manner. All Scorers are trained specifically for marking EQAO and each scorer marks only one question for consistency http://www.eqao.com/en/about_eqao/apply-to-work-with_eqao Results are provided comparable to school and province. EQAO based on the Ontario Curriculum. teachers write the questions based on the skills expected for that level. Questions are field tested and developed over 4 years and reviewed by a sensitivity committee. This differs from classroom assessment which measures how well students have learned specific skills, provide quick results and are based on the teachers knowledge of each student.
 - iii. The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is given in grade 10, this is a high stakes assessment and is double scored (2 scorers for each question), students must pass this test or take a remedial course to receive their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

- iv. EQAO helps to track individual student's achievement throughout the system from elementary to secondary. Children in publicly funded schools must take the EQAO. They do not have to study. Teachers prepare students by teaching good test taking skills. Parents can get sample questions and more information in the **Parent** section of the EQAO website <http://www.eqao.com/en> Parents receive the results for their child the September following the testing year. Results for Schools, Boards and the Province can be found on the website <http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/results> Students who have IEPs will receive the same accommodations when writing the EQAO as they receive in the IEP.
- v. Schools use the results to see if they are meeting curriculum expectations, to see where their strengths are and where they can make improvements and to make sure they have effective teaching practices.
- vi. Comparisons Nationally and Internationally: all provinces except PEI do provincial assessment tests. BC, Alberta and Quebec are the most commonly compared with the EQAO. Also look at international comparisons through PISA and TIMS <http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/national-international-assessments>
- b. Deborah Keefe explained how the test is given in TDSB and fielded questions: TDSB test math and language in grade 3 with math in french for French Immersion Students. Grade 6 is math and language and all testing is in english. Grade 10 is the OSSLT.
 - i. There are sample questions on the web <http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/examples-of-the-assessments>
 - ii. How are English Language Learners accommodated? ELL students can use dual language dictionaries, they can have a scribe and may be exempt from some parts of the test. The EQAO gives a baseline data for each student as they progress.
 - iii. How can parents support their children through EQAO? Parents can support their child's learning without pressure. Make sure they attend school regularly especially during the testing period.

3. Trustee's Report:

- a. The Parents as Partners Conference is happening at the Beanfield Centre Saturday March 30th. <https://www.parentsaspartners.ca/>
- b. Hiring Freeze from Provincial Government: This is poorly worded. The real storey is; staff allocations would usually be done this week in the TDSB however, this needs to be put on hold because the Government will be making an announcement about class sizes by March 15th. More information will be available at the budget Ward Council Meeting on March 21st <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/ward9/docs/2019%2003%2021%20Ward%209%20and%207%20Budget%20Meeting%20v1.pdf>

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm