



RICHVIEW COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE
1738 Islington Avenue
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9A 3N2

<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/richview>



Parent and Community Newsletter - March 2014

Principal's Message



Dear Richview Family,

Tempus fugit... It is the self-evident truth of any vibrant school that, "time flies." Thanks to a remarkable student body, supportive parents and an incomparable teaching staff, Richview is able to achieve the lofty goals set in our Mission Statement: "...a safe and caring English and French Immersion school with strong community ties, rigorously prepares its diverse student population to be well-rounded future leaders through extensive academic and co-curricular programs."

Safety First

Our community benefits from a responsible student body with keen parental oversight. As a result, Richview is relatively free from inappropriate behaviours and enjoys among the lowest suspension rates in the Board, 0.82%. Also, regarding safety, I ask that when dropping off or picking up students, please do so in the heart of the parking lot so as to prevent a build-up of cars, that eventually blocks the flow of traffic at the entrances at Eglinton and Islington. In terms of maintaining a respectful school tone, we ask you to review the Student Agenda pages, commencing on page 19, with a particular emphasis on the need for students to refrain from wearing headgear whenever and wherever they are in the building. This is also a key feature of helping us to identify trespassers - these unwelcome visitors almost always cover their heads so as to evade being caught on video surveillance.

Optional Attendance

We hosted over 600 families at the January 7th Open House, concrete evidence of our long and stable tradition of safety and strong academic, athletic, artistic and leadership programming. As we did last year, we will run the 2014-2015 school year with "limited" optional attendance in the Regular and Extended French programs and, "closed" in the French Immersion program. Our enrolment is actually over capacity, but being "limited" enables Richview to welcome the siblings of current students who would not otherwise be able to access enrolment.

Principal's Advisory Group

Now in its third year and run on the strength of Staff Advisor, **Ms. Calabria**, the senior executives and mentors will again meet with all grade 9 students in March to meet two objectives. *First*, cover areas of interest as identified by

junior students, namely: Developing leadership skills, Dealing effectively with friends / relationships, Success in academics and dealing with teachers, Health and Wellness, School and Community Involvement. *Second*, making stronger connections with the seniors to whom junior students can reach out for advice and support.

Information Technology

The challenge to meet teaching and learning needs in IT remains unchanged but thanks to our Parent Council's efforts, a number of fundraising activities has raised \$8000 toward improvements in our Library Commons and the next phases of fundraising will be school and community-wide, with a series of events in the early Fall. At the last report, we shared the fact that we introduced 3 mobile computer labs. Since then, we have added a set of SMART Response Clickers and 9 safe Wireless Access Points. Five more are on order. This will enable students to *bring their own devices* and capitalize on the growing connectivity.

Cyber Safety

The judicious use of personal electronic devices remains at the forefront of parents and educators. At Richview, we believe it is indispensable to inform our student body of the costs and benefits of social media. To this end, we again arranged a presentation for our students delivered by our School Council-approved industry expert. To compliment your family internet safety practices, please consider these tips:

- Be sure that 'privacy' settings are sufficient on Social Media Accounts
- Never post personal or sensitive information that will allow your identity to be 'stolen'
- Parents SHOULD ALWAYS follow their children on Social Media Accounts
- Never write anything that you would not say in a face to face situation
- DO NOT post pictures that you would not want a prospective employer to see
- Whatever is posted remains on the Internet in one form or another FOREVER

Watch the link to the two and a half minute video below:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7pYHN9iC9I>

If you haven't already done so, be sure to add the

re-designed and newly launched Richview website to your favourites:

<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/richview/Home.aspx>

Musical Sensation - Spamalot!

By the time you read this, well over one thousand members of the Richview community will have enjoyed our production of *Spamalot*. All would agree, our students have immense talent, passion and dedication. Of course, the same can be said for the many staff members who, in front of and behind the scenes, made sure the students had the complete benefit of their support. Key to all of this was the marvellous and incredible contributions made over months by many members of our parent community. It was a small army of set builders, costume sewers, make-up artists, ticket providers and concession stand attendants. Thank you, Staff Directors **Ms. Fitzgerald** and **Mr. Osachoff** for your tireless dedication to student success.

Staff Changes

Our gratitude and best wishes are extended to long time and successful Music and Math teacher, **Mr. Hamilton**, who retired January 31, 2014. He will be dearly missed and we owe a large debt of gratitude for his unwavering support of Richview students. We are saddened by the loss, due to budget cuts, of our colleagues: **Mr. Jefferies**, **Mr. Cohen**, **Ms. Dinadis**, **Ms. Nave**, **Ms. Policarpo** and **Ms. Yu**. At the same, we extend our best to staff currently on Leaves of Absence: **Ms. Barton** in Social Science and Humanities, **Ms. Brandon** in English, **Ms. Fontes** in Moderns, **Mr. Pylypczak** in Communication Technology, **Ms. Siiskonen** and **Ms. Tarko** in French Immersion and our Education Assistant, **Ms. Greville**.

Welcome to many new members of the Richview Family: **Mr. Inches**, Head of Caretaking, **Ms. Campoverde** in French Modern Languages, and alumnus **Mr. Dipchand** in Immersion and English; welcome back, **Mr. Gallo** in Health and Phys-Ed.

We welcome Long Term Occasional Teachers: **Ms. Cardoni** in French Immersion, **Ms. Issacs** in Social Science/Humanities, **Ms. Kalami** in Mathematics, **Ms. Kopun** in Immersion, **Ms. Pacitti** in Mathematics, **Mr. Ragno** in Communication Technology, **Mr. Richards** in English and welcome back to **Ms. Savage** - this time in Social Science and Humanities.

THE ARTS

Music



The Music Department is a busy place to be. The music students are actively involved in the community with various ensembles. We offer 3 Concert Bands, 2 String Ensembles, two Orchestras, a Jazz Band, and a Chamber Choir. All this activity keeps life interesting and busy in the music department. All music students participated in a Bucket Drumming Clinic in November, and had the opportunity to attend a free concert by the Canadian Brass, which was fun and educational!

This January saw the retirement of Mr. Hamilton. We thank him for all he has done for music at Richview and wish him good health and happiness.

The Intermediate Strings 🎵



The Intermediate Strings is made up of students from the grade 9 and 10 string classes. They performed at our annual Christmas Concert in December and will be performing on May 1st at our Spring Symphonia.

The Junior Band 🎵

The Junior Band performed for their first time at the Christmas Concert in December and are preparing for the Spring Concert in May. They have been working

very hard learning to play their instruments and participating in a Band Ensemble. Some of them have progressed to amazing levels after only 4 ½ months of learning.



The Stage Band 🎵



The Stage Band, or Jazz Band, is an extracurricular group from across the 4 grades. They play the 'cool' music! At Christmas time, they had the audience rocking to *Here Comes Santa Claus*. The Stage Band, the Senior Strings and the

Senior Band performed at a Christmas party for ReConnect Mental Health Services in Etobicoke on December 4th. They performed 1 ½ hours of music and the performance was very appreciated. It allowed our students to give back to our community and provide some joy for others at Christmas.



The Senior Band 🎵

The Senior Band consists of students from grades 11 and 12 with additional advanced students from the younger grades. The Senior Band performed at the Christmas Concert and at the Reconnect Mental Health Concert. They had the opportunity to attend a performance/lecture at The Toronto Consort, Canada's leading Medieval and Renaissance Music Ensemble, in February. Some members travelled to Central Park Lodge to perform carols for the Senior Citizens at Christmas.

THE ARTS

Senior Strings

The Senior Strings is made up of students from the grade 11 and 12 string class. So far this year, they have performed at our Remembrance Day Assembly, our annual Commencement Ceremony, Reconnect Mental Health Concert, a Christmas Banquet and some of them attended the Christmas Performance at Central Park Lodge. They had the opportunity to attend a performance/lecture at The Toronto Consort in February, Canada's leading Medieval and Renaissance Music Ensemble.



The Choir 🎵

This enthusiastic group of singers, from grade 9-12, has had a good time this Fall.

The Choir performed at our Christmas Concert and will be performing at our Spring Symphonia. They performed at Central Park Lodge for Christmas, singing carols, going room to room spreading some joy. They performed at the Black History Assembly this February, singing the Black National Anthem.



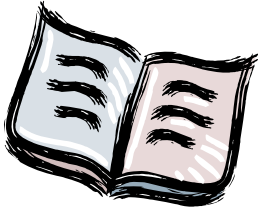
The Intermediate Band

This band consists of students in grade 9 and 10. They performed at our annual Christmas Concert and will be performing at our Spring Symphonia in May. Some of these students participate in other ensembles like Stage Band, Senior Band and Chamber Choir. A great bunch of enthusiastic kids!

Senior Orchestra 🎵

This ensemble meets once a week and consists of students from grade 11 and 12. They participated in the numerous musical opportunities this term as well.





ENGLISH DEPT.

The Richview English department continues to enjoy a constantly changing program which reflects the richness of the curriculum. New initiatives implemented this year, focused on encouraging students to improve their literacy skills and saw the design of challenging, enriching and innovative activities that address the diverse interest and needs of students. Students enjoy the graphic novel, more relevant and enriching media studies, as well as student-centered differentiated instruction and evaluation in their English classes. The department remains passionately committed to student development and a learning experience, which emphasizes the relevance of class material to the world beyond the classroom.

The transitional year of grade 9 offers students many opportunities to develop or to improve their literacy skills. Using traditional texts such as the works of William Shakespeare and popular graphic texts such as *Scott Pilgrim*, the grade 9 program focuses on core skills (e.g. predicting, summarizing, inferring, synthesizing, and reflecting) necessary across the curriculum. To that end, the grade 9 teachers continue to implement the new TDSB Literacy Diagnostic Kit this year to effectively identify areas of strength and need for each student in order ensure student success this year and in the years to come.

WRITER'S CRAFT

It is a busy year for this year's Writer's Craft students who have just embarked on our yearly cross-curricular endeavour with the grade 12 media students. Future screenwriters collaborated on movie scripts which they will see brought to the screen by the aspiring movie makers from the IDC (grade 12) course later on this year. These films will be showcased at Richview's very first Film Festival on Thursday, April 3.

MEDIA

The Richview Herald

Our online newspaper continues to be a writing success, showcasing the work of our very own Saints from all grades. Our news-team, made up of over 25 writers, photographers, social media conveners, videographers and editing team, work together every month to put together a stunning collection which reflects the latest school happenings and students voices. Please have a look at our latest offerings at: www.richviewherald.com.

LITERACY

In preparation for the EQAO test on March 27 the literacy department has implemented a *Lunch and Learn* program. Every Wednesday at lunch, students (who have been identified as at-risk by their teachers, or who have been unsuccessful at a first EQAO attempt) gather with a group of teacher volunteers to practice EQAO style questions. Each Wednesday the group tackles one of the reading and writing skills from the test in the hopes that these focused tutorials will help our students be successful.

All our grade 10 students have also been preparing for the EQAO test with a practice book which each student received at the beginning of the year. When time permits, students practice with their English teachers, but students are encouraged to practice with the workbook on their own or to visit www.eqao.com for additional sample questions. The week before the EQAO test, students will also receive additional practice of all questions in all their classes in a "rush week" style application .

Canadian & World Studies, Social Studies & the Humanities



New Departmental Additions

Our department would like to extend a warm welcome to the new teachers who have joined our team since this September;

Ms. Manitaros, Ms. Barton, Ms. Striftobolas, Ms. Savage and Ms. Isaacs have united with our veteran team of **Mr. Giuliani, Mr. Eng, Ms. Toogood, Ms. Markakos, Mr. Koumoutseas and Ms. McDonagh-Vella.**



Clockwise from left, Geography teacher **Mr. Giuliani** DJs at his annual "Dance, Dance, Romance, Romance" Valentines Day soiree while **Ms. Diomis** sings along; Grade 12 students **Uneek McLaughlin** and **Nicole Shin** pose between classes, Grade 12 World History students **Olivia Huber** and **Marijana Zec** represent the needs of the Nobles at the Estates General in France, 1789; **Ms. Manitaros, Ariel McLean** and **Mr. Eng** at the Sainly Speakeasy, (L-R) **Liam Pye, William Westaway, Dylan Forgas, Nicolas DiMarco, Adam Pacyga, Filip Dinic, Gustavo Peterson** and **Janet Lee** representing RCI at the Leaside G20 Summit Party; **Ms. McDonagh-Vella** enjoying DJ G's video dance party on February 14th.

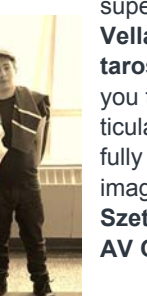
Stepping Back in Time; The Sainly Speakeasy

On Friday, January 31st, 2014, led by our grade 10 Canadian History teachers, **Mr. Eng** and **Ms. Manitaros**, Richview CI's cafeteria transformed into a **1920s Speakeasy**. Our grade 10 students donned their boas and fedoras, as well as dancing shoes and sassy 1920s and 1930s attitudes, to become notable historical figures of the Roaring Twenties and the Dirty Thirties. We rolled out the red carpet, spotlights and press to record their fabulous fashionable statements and students proved themselves to be the "bee's knees." They networked and interviewed each other while the soundtrack of *Boardwalk Empire* put everyone in the festive mood.

The smooth operation almost came to a halt when two local members of the "law enforcement," **Sergeant William Westaway** (Gr 12 World History) and **Special Investigations Officer Aiden Kent** (Grade 12 World History) asked Mr. Eng for his permit. However, after some quick negotiations on **Mr. Eng's** part and some muscle from the unscrupulous **Ms. Manitaros**, the hullabaloo subsided and our iconic patrons were allowed to relax and raise their Canada Dry ginger ale to celebrate the **Chinese New Year** and their success.

Many thanks go out to **Mr. Giuliani** for his technical support, **Ms. Toogood** for her artistic direction, **Ms. Kletke** for her support and fantastic costume, and all the students and staff who helped supervise the event, especially **Ms. McDonagh-Vella's Grade 12 World History** and **Ms. Manitaros' Grade 12 Families** classes. Finally, thank you to **Mr. Ragno** and his Yearbook students, particularly **Liana Mallia** and **Ariel McLean** for beautifully capturing the event as shown in some of the images here. Thank you to **Riva Bahn** and **Gordon Szeto** for their professionalism and support as the AV Crew.

"Canada Dry"





Canadian & World Studies, Social Studies & the Humanities

Additional Highlights:

Inquisition Club

Ms. McDonagh-Vella is pleased to host the Inquisition Club and the subsidiary club of Logical Games in her classroom (Room 215) on Thursdays and Mondays respectively. Facilitated by Grade 12 students **Janet Lee, Shadi Laghai and Andrea Gonsalves**, the club leaves few stones unturned during its weekly debate. New members are always welcome!



G20 Summit

This Autumn several of our students travelled across Toronto to act as delegates for the **Leaside G20**. They were outstanding ambassadors for both RCI and their respective nations. Specifically, **Gustavo Peterson** was recognized for his Diplomatic Excellence on behalf of Italy (photo below). Congratulations to all participants for their professionalism and diligence to fairly represent their countries unique needs and wants. Many thanks to **Nicholas DiMarco** for his coverage of the event in the *Richview Herald*.



Departmental Spotlights for 2013-2014

Every newsletter we pick a few of our departmental courses or events to highlight and this one is no exception! Enjoy reading about some of the unique experiences we offer to our students at RCI.

International Law

Many students know **Ms. Striftobolas** from her involvement in coaching, Muskoka Woods, DECA and Business Studies, but did you also know that she is also a Crime Scene Investigator in her spare time? Her **Grade 12 International Law** students were able to apply their CSI skills when they were relocated to a science classroom for fingerprint testing. Ever inventive, Ms. Striftobolas, kept students thoroughly engrossed with her makeshift lab which included baby powder, home made play-dough, glass slides, makeup brushes and more. It was reported that students were thrilled to get their hands "dirty" during this experiential learning opportunity and a few are now considering auditioning for a new CBC series entitled *CSI Toronto*.



Above (Clockwise) International Law students *Jessica Balliwalla, Alana Moore and Chantal Laing* collect fingerprints; *Olivia Huber* dusts for prints; students compare the Crime Scene prints with their database samples.

Geography

Grade 9 Canadian Geography students were engaged in a "tasteful" experience a few weeks ago when **Mr. Giuliani** challenged them to replicate a geographical **landform** out of baked goods. While Mr. G's classes are all about creating an engaging learning experience that enralls the audio-visual and kinesthetic students, in this class he brought geography to the taste buds as well! As the landforms (a small sample photographed to the right) can attest, the students worked really hard on creating not only thoughtful culinary works of art, but also demonstrated their critical thinking skills as they justified the variety of items they added to demonstrate their knowledge.

Grade 12 World Issues students have been applying their research methods to a recent international inquiry assignment. **Mr. G's** classes have been asked to investigate a country, its role in the modern world, as well as its resources and cultural diversity. The students have been presenting an outstanding synopsis of these nations. Walking past, you may have heard a Bollywood classic tune, smelled freshly baked crepes, or heard students debating the positive and negative ramifications of globalization.





Canadian & World Studies, Social Studies & the Humanities

Richview Remembers; November 11th 2013

On **Monday November 11th**, we held our annual **Remembrance Day** ceremony that was coordinated by both our **English and French Canadian and World Studies teachers**. For this year's memorial service we focused upon our students' responses to the question of "*Why Remember?*" Their responses were both astounding and incredibly moving.

The **Masters of Ceremony** were two eloquent Grade 10 Canadian History students, **Sarah D'Onofrio** and **Ben Sprenger**. There were a wide range of contributions from many of our students across the curriculum. Of particular note, we would like to thank Grade 10 student **Cristian Cruz-Wood**, who filmed and edited a moving Remembrance video using primary footage and artifacts with student and teacher responses to the "*Why Remember?*" theme. Grade 11 American History student **Jillian Pappas**, who was awarded a trip to Normandy, France this past April for a personal essay she submitted to the **Vimy Ridge Foundation**, shared her recollections of the trip through a touching speech and her mementos. Grade 10 student **Emily Guglielmin** wrote an original work of poetry entitled "**Here we Lie**," and was joined by **Sabbie Qadeer** and **Kara Ouk** to recite the prose to the student body. **Mr. Nunes** selected the poem by Francophone artist and songwriter **Jean Goujon** entitled "**Le Chant des Desparus**" (The Chant of the Disappeared). His selection was beautifully delivered by **Dylan Forgas** and **Brittany Loncar**. Grade 11 student **Rachel Adjei** shared a powerful original work in which she contemplated on the gravity of, and responsibility to, studying the past. She encouraged us to learn from our own histories and examine our individual roles in community leadership; battle apathy and to shape a better global future.

Richview's **Strings Ensemble** played a stirring rendition of *Amazing Grace* before we heard from **Liam Pye**, **Previni Rasiah**, **Dylan Forgas** and **Lindsay Soon**. These Grade 12s shared their reflections of their travels to French war sites and memorials dedicated to the grave losses of life in the Second and First World Wars as part of the French immersion tour led by **Mr. Nunes** last March Break. Bagpiper **Greg Boulet**, trumpeter **Grant Benjamin** and vocalist **Kezia Allen** added poignant moments to the ceremony with their extraordinary musical talent. Additionally, this year we were proud to have students who are in the local **Cadets** partake in our ceremony. **Aaliyah Abbot**, **Fenil Patel**, **Melissa Guislain**, **Melinda Khodai**, **Sherome Riley** and **Justin Seepaul** solemnly stood sentry to the unmarked crosses on display at our memorial service and demonstrated a flag parade at the close of our ceremony.

We would like to also acknowledge the multitude of students and staff who helped to make the ceremony possible and the tone so respectful:

Wreath Bearers: Cristian Cruz-Wood, Anjelica Giansante, Steven Vrankovan, Samedia Sulo

Musicians: The Strings Ensemble led by Mrs. O'Brien.

The AV crew: Riva Bahn, Gordon Szeto, Ikjot Grewal and Ms. Fitzgerald.

Posters and Cross Construction: Ms. Toogood and the grade 9/10 Art class.



Canadian & World Studies, Social Studies & the Humanities



Department
Course
Offerings
for the
2014-2015
Academic
Year



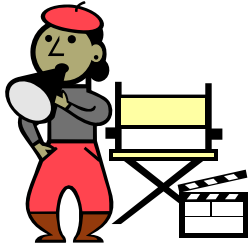
C&WS, SS&H
Student
Certificate
of
Recognition



If you are a student who has a passion and commitment to the study of the Liberal Arts, we have created an award to acknowledge your dedication to our course offerings:

Certificate of Recognition:
will be awarded to Grade 12 students who have successfully completed **7 courses** across the wide range offered from Grade 9 to 12 in C&WS, SS&H (including the compulsory Grade 9 Geography and Grade 10 History courses required by the Ministry of Education).

Honours Certification of Recognition:
will be awarded to Grade 12 students that have successfully completed **9 courses** across the wide range offered from Grade 9 to 12 in C&WS, SS&H (including the compulsory Grade 9 Geography and Grade 10 History courses required by the Ministry of Education).



MEDIA STUDIES

The grade 10 Media Arts course offers students their first opportunity to explore the impact of media on their lives and to participate in a small way, in the production thereof. The course started with a focus on advertising, both deconstructing and creating, and then shifted its attention to documentary and mockumentary film. The classes participated in the "Doc in a DAY" workshop at TIFF which gave them a brief glimpse into the documentary film making process. The classes will make their own documentary films on topics of their choosing, filming and editing all of their own work, the best of which will be screened at Richview's first annual Film Festival in April.

The EMS class this year had the opportunity to attend the "Film in a Day" workshop at TIFF where they learned to script, plan, and execute the shooting of a short film. The class is going to take their newfound knowledge to a Grade 5 class at Norseman Public School and teach them how to make a film in a day. The goal is to have a collaborative project ready to screen at the first annual Richview Film Festival. Also, the class is immersed in a study of counterculture which will culminate in the production of "Zines", hand made, independently produced magazines that will be on display in conjunction with the Festival.

The IDC class is also going to be producing a film, in class, for the Richview Film Festival. For a few years now, the Grade 12 IDC class has collaborated with the Grade 12 Writer's Craft class in a project whereby the IDC students film a script prepared by the Writer's Craft students. These films will, hopefully, provide the bulk of the program at the festival and will showcase the best talent of both classes. Besides this, the IDC class continues to prepare students for Media Studies beyond High School as many of them will pursue the vast array of media oriented programming available at both the College and University levels.

Richview Film Festival



Thursday April 3rd 2014

MODERNS DEPT.

Bonjour! Les Nouvelles du Département de langues modernes à Richview!

The Modern Languages Department continues to transform and flourish. Our first group of Extended French students have successfully reached their grade 12 year! We look forward to awarding these students the TDSB's *Certificates of Bilingual Studies in Extended French* at Commencement this October (a first for Richview Collegiate). We are also happy to welcome students from **John English Junior Middle School**, in addition to the students from our current Extended French feeder schools (**Greenholme** and **Bloorlea**). The program has been a wonderful addition and we look forward to its continued success.

In addition to welcoming all incoming French Immersion, Extended French, Core French and International Language students to Richview, we would also like to introduce the following new staff members to our department: **Sra./Mlle Campoverde**, **M. Dipchand**, and **Mlle Kopun**. Their creativity, positive energy, volunteerism and unique skills are true assets to the students and staff at Richview. We are delighted to have these fine teachers join our Modern Languages Department.

This year, Richview Collegiate has joined forces with **York University's Faculty of Education**. We are happy to host two teacher candidates from York-Glendon campus and York-Keele campus. **Mlle Hala Faress** and **Mme Dragana Rakovac-Pavlovic** will be with us throughout the course of this school year. Teacher mentors include **M. Dhamo** and **Mlle Cardoni**. Best wishes to both Hala and Dragana for a successful practicum experience.

In order to evolve our teaching approaches and continue to enrich our students with new learning styles and resources, we are thrilled to highlight the following additions that have taken place in our department this school year: **Mme Niehaus** and **Mme Striftoboulos** have introduced a new interactive learning technology to their Core French and Information Technology Course students. These SMART Clickers enable all students to actively participate in their learning throughout a lesson. Responses are anonymous to peers yet they provide immediate feedback to each individual student and their teacher regarding the student's progress prior to evaluations. The Moderns Department is eager to expand this tool to more courses this school year as they become more frequently utilized on the secondary and post-secondary level. The feedback from students, parents/guardians and staff has been very positive. Students have indicated that this form of learning is fun, which in our books makes this tool a true success! We are also

happy to announce that the English Department and Modern Languages Department joined forces early this school year to add more Wi-Fi hotspots to some of our classrooms. Students and staff have benefited from these additions as they provide safe web access via the TDSB internet server to all wireless devices in range. In terms of new literature, the department has introduced the following new works this school year: *Oscar et la dame rose* (grade 9 French Immersion), *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* (grade 12 French Immersion), and the graphic novel *Persepolis* (grade 12 Extended French).

In November, grade 11 and 12 Core, Extended and Immersion students had presentations by representatives from the **University of York, Glendon Campus** and from the **University of Ottawa** about their exciting programs. As university applications have gone out, we are very happy to hear that many of our Moderns students are considering pursuing their studies in a French milieu.

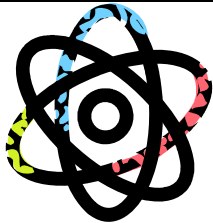
On Friday, February 21st 2014, over 100 grade 11 French Immersion, grade 11 Core French and grade 12 Core French students attended the *Cinéfranco Toronto Film Festival* accompanied by **Mme Couvreur**, **M. Dipchand**,



Mlle Cardoni and **Mme Legault**. They enjoyed this French learning experience at the Bloor Docs cinema where they watched *Couleur de peau miel* – a film based on an autobiographical graphic novel exploring the conflicted identity of Jung, a famous Belgian-Korean cartoonist. Quelle expérience merveilleuse!

Upcoming events related to the Modern Languages Department include the **March Break trip to France, Holland and Belgium**. Best wishes to all students and staff participating in this wonderful cultural and linguistic learning experience! We also look forward to our annual **Concours d'Art Oratoire** competition happening on Monday, March 3rd 2014. This public speaking symposium takes place in the Spring and is integrated into our grade 9 and 12 French Immersion, Extended French and Core French courses. Meilleurs voeux à chaque participant.

As the school year continues, we would like to wish our Moderns students all the best in their academic studies. We look forward to continued success in the Modern Languages Department. **Vive les langues modernes!**



SCIENCE DEPT.

As always, science has been a very busy department. Earlier this year, our grade 11 biology students had an enlightening presentation on forestry management in Canada. Our grade 9s will soon be following up with a similar styled workshop on farming practices in Ontario.

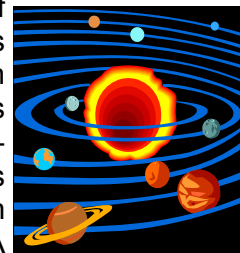


In March, all biology students will be taking part in the Trillium Gift of Life presentation. Following the presentation, five of our classes will be setting up their own presentations for the rest of the school to enjoy in our cafeteria. The participating grade 11 classes will be presenting their research on a variety of organs and organ systems, while the grade 12s will present their research on biotechnologies that compliment

or will likely replace organ transplants.

In addition to the on-going curriculum activities in our department, a number of teachers have been supporting students in a variety of extracurricular competitions. This year, the competitions were kicked-off by the Crystal Growing Club. Currently students are training for the Engineering Idol competition and U of T's Biology Competition. We wish them success.

Finally, our department has been focusing on developing connections outside our department that will help foster richer learning experiences within our programs. Our first attempt was a cross-curricular examination of density between some of our grade 9 science and business classes. The data generated in science was used by business as part of the students' training in data analysis with Excel. Students then used their business training in Excel to analyze data from NASA for planetary trends. The pilot project was definitely a success.



Other activities that have helped us develop connections outside our department included an Astronomy competition between two of our classes facilitated by our library. We have also completed the first phase of a teacher exchange between Thistleton CI and Richview CI, designed to help us develop an ambitious comparative anatomy lab for our grade 11 biology students. Phase two will occur in the Spring.

As we move into the final months of our year, our department will be coming to terms with the fact there is never enough time to do all we want with our students. However, with persistent optimism, we will try to squeeze as much creative programming in as we can. Stay tune to watch the sparks fly!