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# TheRiverdaleSpectator

December 10, 2014

Winter Edition

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## Volleyball suffers double heartbreaker at home

Emma Duggan

Sports Writer

The senior and junior boys' volleyball teams played with finesse and skill as they powered their way to the semi-finals of Tier 1.

Overcoming their inexperience, the juniors won all of their regular season games except one. They were a determined and dedicated group of individuals who attended four practices a week and developed the necessary discipline to become a skilled team.

"The best moment of the season was either the York Mills tournament or the game against North Toronto. The tournament was a lot of fun and was a good bonding experience for the team. The game against North Toronto was the best game all year, the best volleyball we played," captain Bryce Larson said.

The Junior Raiders were a force on the court with their accurate passing, quick reflexes and explosive spikes. They were a tough team to beat as they cruised through the regular season and into Tier 1 playoffs. Their quarter final game against Parkdale was a bit shaky at moments as the players' nerves showed during the first set. They made a few too many mistakes, causing them to lose. They came out with more strength and confidence in the second and third game, fighting back to beat Parkdale.

In the semi-final match, the boys played Lawrence Park, the only team to whom they had lost in the regular season. A jittery start lead to the loss of the first set. During the second set the boys played hard, diving over the floor and digging up everything the opposition threw at them. They came back to win that set. The third and



(Above) Nursing a slim lead, Jaekobb Wade slams the ball past a Humberside defender as Andrejs Linde looks on. (Photo by Dillon Chan.)

final set of the semi-finals was nerve-racking, as points bounced back and forth, with both teams playing as hard as they could to earn a coveted spot in the finals. Unfortunately for the Riverdale boys lost in a nail-biting third set 13-15.

"The season was fun and a good experience. We should have beaten Lawrence Park," summed up Bryce Larson.

"It was a tough way to end the season and our inexperience in the playoffs showed, but hopefully the players have gained valuable experience throughout the season to use in the future," added coach Ron Lowe.

The senior boys' volleyball team, coached by Mr. Wakelin, had a very exciting season winning all but one of their league games. These experienced athletes have been playing together

since their junior year.

The team gelled from the beginning. The boys were all committed and attended many practices to perfect their play. Their aggressiveness during games was admirable and undoubtedly a factor in their fantastic season. Their powerful hits and precise passing helped them to become a high-achieving team which captured first place at the end of the regular season in the south division.

Captain Brandon Nguyen concluded, "The best moment was winning the Danforth tournament. In my whole high school experience I haven't won the Danforth tournament until this year."

In their quarter final game against Lawrence Park, the Senior Raiders played with skill

and confidence which helped them to defeat their opponent in straight sets.

In the semi-finals they played Humberside. Both teams played a long and exhilarating five set match. Riverdale lost the first two sets to Humberside but picked it up in the third and fourth game, as they came back and won those sets. The fifth game was tough. Both teams played brilliant volleyball but unfortunately for Riverdale, they lost to Huskies in the fifth and final set.

Setter Jakob Gilbert summed up their thrilling season, "I've been on the volleyball team for four years now and this year was the best, it was amazing playing with this group of guys, and I am pleased to have spent my last year with them!"

### CAN'T GET ENOUGH?

**CHECK OUT WHAT RIVERDALE STUDENTS ARE  
DOING; FROM SPIRIT WEEK TO THE QUEST FOR  
THE BEST EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS ON  
PAGE 8 & 9**

**WHAT ARE OUR NEW TEACHERS LIKE? THE  
SPECTATOR INTERROGATED THE FRESH MEAT,  
AND THEY PASSED WITH FLYING COLOURS!  
PAGE 4**

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## Grade twelves experience mock refugee camp

■ Annika Lautens

Editor

(University of Toronto, University College)  
On the afternoon of September 26, 2014, Ms. Wong's grade twelve World Issues class got to experience a mock Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctor's Without Borders) refugee camp.

As an independent international medical relief organization, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) provides emergency medical care to people all over the world caught in various disasters such as armed conflicts, floods, earthquakes, epidemics of disease and malnutrition crisis.

Organised by the club, *Friends of MSF*, passionate University of Toronto students organised stations in the mock refugee camp to simulate living conditions and common problems found in such places at Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan.

When asked why going to such an event is so crucial, Ms Wong replied, "It's important for us all as students. It allows us to experience the plights of others while allowing ourselves to do a small bit to lessen their suffering," (referring to the required two dollar donation to participate in the event.) "It reiterates the need to pay attention to our world that we share across all borders."

The four stations reflected the services MSF provides: nutrition, medical, suturing and water/sanitation.

Students got to take a turn at treating patients with limited resources and sewing up "wounds" in pig's feet, the heat of the day intensifying both the smell and experience.

Before attending the stations Ms. Wong's class sat in on a lecture by Dr. James Maskalyk, a working journalist and physician for MSF.

Recently returning from Dadaab, Kenya, home to the world's largest refugee camp, Dr. Maskalyk talked of witnessing kidnapping threats, starvation, war withered health facilities and extreme overpopulation, stating he sometimes experienced 150 patients to only one doctor.

"His dedication to the cause is amazing. The stories were very inspirational and left many of us quite emotional," commented World Issues student Elana Malloy.

Ending the lecture, Dr. Maskalyk emphasized the need for students to pay attention to the world around them and how vital it is to make health care available to everyone.

As he concluded, his passion radiated through his voice, "The only difference between us and refugees is geography."

## Spirit Week with a twist: Battle of the Grades

■ Kayli Chen

News Writer

From Monday September 22<sup>th</sup> to Friday September 26<sup>th</sup>, the student council hosted its annual spirit week, otherwise known as a battle of the grades!

Each day featured a unique theme and called out students to earn points for their grade, simply by taking part in the given event. The week started off with the ever so popular *#SwagDay* photo-shoot and was followed by the festive *Tiki Tuesday*, beloved *Twin Day*, relaxing *Pajama day*, and *Raiders Day*, a Riverdale tradition.

During the week-long event, magazine worthy photos were taken, new records were set in limbo, and the newly introduced sword fight proved to be a major success! The atrium was filled with tons of excited



Annika Lautens, Yasmin Khatau, Emma Duggan, Alex Tse & Maya Blumenthal showing some swag smiles at the photodrop during the RCI "swag" day. Photo by Selina Lam

students, ready to fight for their grade while having as much fun as possible.

As expected, the Grade 12's dominated and took the trophy, but had a tough time taking the lead from the Grade 10's.

"It [was] a good day," commented Stephen Diep, a member of the student council. "[Spirit week] was a lot of work, but

it was definitely worth it."

Even after the week ended, smiles were spread across Riverdale as students reminisced about the past week. With the school year only just beginning, there is no doubt that there are many more spirit-building events to come, and the excitement only continues to build!



A couple of weeks after their win, 9K takes a break during Grade 9 Quest for the Best. Photo by Tony Xu

## 9K wins Grade 9 cheer off

■ Shahir Haradwala

News Writer

On Tuesday October 7 at approximately 9:15 AM, Mr. Wakelin's home form, 9K, was announced as the winners of Grade 9 Cheer off, a competition in which all of the Grade 9 Home Forms were to create a cheer to represent themselves.

Mr. Fick, one of the guidance counsellors, began the Grade 9 Cheer Off Competition 12 years ago, looking for something in

which all home forms could work together early on, be loud, and confident.

"I wanted a fun competition and boosting experience which all the students and teachers look forward to. Something in which even the weakest students would emerge as leaders.

A week earlier prime organizer, Mr. Fick first visited all the Grade 9 Home Forms and selected the finest cheers. A week later, the selected home forms began

competing at the Cheer Off Assembly. The assembly began at 8:50 AM, with 8 Home Forms competing for the top spot.

A few hours after the assembly, the top classes were declared over the announcements. Ms. Gulen's 09D emerged as 4th place. Ms. Tsourounis's 09A was 3rd. Mr. Le's 09M turned out to be 2nd, and of course, Mr. Wakelin's 09K was 1st.

Mr. Wakelin's Home Form, 9K, will remain the defending champion for the Grade 9 Cheer Offs, until next year.

# Kakehashi exchange helps students in many ways: Harvey

## Fresh meat interviews

Shahir Haradwala

News Writer



### Questions

1. Which subject do you teach?
2. What is your educational background?
3. What is your goal in life?
4. What are five adjectives you would use to describe yourself?
5. What do you think about Riverdale?
6. What is your favorite movie/television show?
7. What's the greatest challenge facing students today?

### Ms. Topp

1. "GLS, Science, and Phys. Ed."
2. "I have a Masters in Biology, 2 Bachelor of Sciences in Kinesiology and Natural Resources, and a Bachelor of Education from UofT."
3. "To have interesting experiences, to grown & learn, and to give back!"
4. "Outdoorsy, overactive, sportsy, thoughtful, and wacky."
5. "I definitely love the people here! The staff and students are so welcoming and inviting. I also love how there are many extracurriculars and that there are so many people with different interests!"
6. "Princess Bride and the Batman series."
7. "Distractions and time management skills. Students definitely need to improve on these two things."

### Ms. Tsourounis

1. "French, English, BTT, Civics and Careers."
2. "I have degrees in French and English at Glendon - York and a Bachelor of Education from UofT."
3. "To remain true to myself."
4. "Creative, energetic, linguistic, intuitive, and confident!"
5. "Riverdale is very welcoming and it's a community. I love being here because not every place is like that!"
6. "I love the show Seinfeld."
7. "There is a lot of negativity and students need to know their place. They should always remember to be positive!"

### Ms. Sotos

1. "History, BTT, and Ojibwe."
2. "I have a Bachelors of Art from St. George, UofT and I am currently going to Queens University for Teacher's College."
3. "To inspire the lives of different youth!"
4. "Passionate, talkative, compassionate, direct, and supportive."
5. "I love R.C.!! The students are great and there are so many events and! What I found unique about Riverdale is that it is very technologically advanced, compared to other schools!"
6. "Buffy the Vampire, Real Housewife, and Gone with the Wind."
7. "Addiction to technology. While it is beneficial, it is still a great challenge for students."

### Ms. Kumaria

1. "Biology, Chemistry, and BTT."
2. "I have a Bachelor of Science, a degree in Biochemistry and Biotechnology, all from University of Waterloo. I received my Bachelor of Education from UofT."
3. "I'd like to have a happy family and a rewarding career, with the former being my priority!"
4. "Adventurous, patient, caring, accepting, and forgiving."
5. "Riverdale's a great place! I think that the energy is definitely unique about it! There is also so much activity going on in the school, which is not something all schools have!"
6. "I love Breaking Bad, Modern Family, and Homeland!"
7. "I think the greatest challenge is that information Overload. Information is everywhere - it's now even at everyone's fingertips!"

### Ms. Policarpo

1. "History, BTT, and Math."
2. "I have a Bachelor of Education from UofT, a Degree Major in Math and a Degree Minor in History from Glendon College."
3. "To be able to know that I found something good in everyday."
4. "Talkative, sensitive, curious, sarcastic, and motivated."
5. "The people here are very supportive and students have different personalities, which is great!"
6. "The Perks of being a Wallflower."
7. "Students need to learn to accept themselves for who they are instead of what the outside world expects."

Kiya Alexis

News Writer

Last October, 23 Grade 11 & 12 students from Riverdale Collegiate embarked on a remarkable 10 day exchange trip to Japan called Kakehashi, which translates to "building bridges". One year later, another exchange has started with students from the Nara Woman's Secondary School, the same school as first group of Kakehashi students.

This year only four students will be going, but their exchange will be for three exciting, eye-opening, and beautiful life changing months.

The lucky Riverdalians who will be travelling to Japan in three months are Olivia Stillar, Grace Feiler, Luke Martin and John Klaasen.

Their exchange partners have recently arrived in Canada, and visited Riverdale. Their Japanese partners are, in order Nadoka Shimizu, Nao Fujita, Tomoo Urata, and Yuta Kimoto.

Last year, Mr. Harvey was a staff adviser on the Kakehashi exchange and he didn't want this program to end, so he has found a way to continue the Kakehashi exchange trip program and build stronger bridges with Nara Woman's Secondary School. Harvey agreed to participate in an interview with the Riverdale Spectator regarding the Kakehashi Project.

**Spec:** Why do you feel this exchange is beneficial to both schools, but Riverdale more specifically?

**Kenn Harvey (KH):** There are many reasons I think this is beneficial to both schools but here are a few.

1) Experiencing a culture first hand and for a prolonged period of time gives you a much deeper appreciation of both culture's strengths and shows us where we can grow and improve as people.

2) International experience can be a significant asset when you enter the work force.

3) The immersive experience of living somewhere where you struggle with the language and have to adjust to the culture can cause some challenges. Having to face some challenges, make sacrifices and adjustments, and experience discomfort helps build resilience, self-reliance and strength.

4) It should be a lot of fun.

In terms of RCI, I think our biggest benefit is the connection with an Asian country. All indications are that there is a global shift in power to the east and there are a number of reports that say that being able to navigate Asian cultures will be significant in the upcoming years. I also think that as our students and communities form bonds, there will be a lasting link between us that will grow.

**Spec:** Any inspiring words you would like to share about the exchange, and the relationship forming with Nara Woman's Secondary School and RCI?

**KH:** I really hope this is the beginning of a long relationship between the two schools. I would hope that the exchange continues and that we are able to grow it a little. I also hope we find new ways to interact and share ideas.

Ever thought of journalism as a career? How do you think you'll get into journalism after high school? Build your portfolio now; write for the Spectator!

# Net neutrality is a fight for freedom

■ **Dillon Chan**

Managing Editor

Internet service providers (ISPs) around the world have proposed changes in governmental protocols that will powerfully impact the internet for consumers by restricting and monetizing information access for corporate benefit. Although the heart of the issue lies in the United States, the threat of losing a free, neutral internet is also present in Canada.

ISPs have built their companies and reputation on being common carriers, a service that is responsible for the transport of goods. That is, the consumer is charged for the delivery of content and not for the content itself. This concept is akin to paying for electricity; the consumer pays for electricity, but not for the appliances that use electricity. Recently however, that has not been the case.

America's Federal Communications Commission (FCC) had long considered ISPs to be common carriers, but that changed in 2005 when ISPs were ruled to be classified as an information service. As an information service, ISPs were able to perform their business without as much scrutiny from the FCC, who regulates them.

The FCC's ruling of ISPs as an information service grants ISPs the ability to do many things they could not do as a common carrier- most importantly, the ability to control data.

Many consider the internet to be a free service in which every participant has equal right and opportunity to share information. ISPs controlling the data that reaches consumers may change this definition entirely.

In 2005, Telus Mobility of Canada blocked access to a protest webpage from its consumers. This was and still is a big deal. This event demonstrated that ISPs can restrict freedom to information, a founding concept of the internet from its very inception.

The permutations of ISP data control are limitless. For example, Bell Canada may decide to slow down or entirely restrict access to websites such as Netflix, in order to increase

traffic to Bell's own video streaming services. The classification of ISPs as an information service is truly inhibiting to the concept of a neutral and open internet.

The FCC is currently in the process of reforming its protocols and definitions in order to establish net neutrality. As of June 19, 2014 there are at least 1.1 million comments on the FCC website regarding net neutrality.

"I won't be too happy", said Sammi Huang, a twelfth grader at RCI, when asked about how she would feel about paying more for slower internet that restricted access to certain kinds of websites or data.

"I would feel that it's very unfair and that it's not worth the money," said Samantha Chan, a grade 11 student at Riverdale.

"It's the communications aspect that I like about the Internet. Being able to reach people from around the world in a click is awesome," continued Chan.

As a common carrier, ISPs would be obliged to treat all data equally for all users of the internet. Unfortunately, they are classified as an information service and have no obligation to equally deliver data as a common carrier would.

"I never knew," said Huang when told that ISPs are already restricting access to data.

The Internet is a vast hub of information and every user has equal rights to share and access most of that information should the owners choose.

After learning about the examples of ISPs restricting access to data, it begs the question: what will become of the Internet?

Both the FCC and the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, however, are changing protocols and structure regarding net neutrality. Take a stand and ensure the internet remains free and open for all.



The library offers a new space to welcome readers. *Photo by Selina Lam*

## The library writes a new chapter

■ **Brenda Truong**

News Editor

A trip to the library here at Riverdale Collegiate Institute may be evidently different this year with all the changes taken place. These changes include the new study bar, the installment of TV's, as well as the 3D printer and architect's table.

This was all accomplished with the help of the SWAT Team. That is, the Students Who Advance Technology Team. The SWAT Team was introduced last year by Ms. Dempster and many of our graduates who have worked together to enhance the library's resources.

Riverdale's library went through a week-long renovation in September of 2013 which resulted in a large scale revamp in organization and inventory. This was only the beginning of the revitalization. From planning alongside an architect for layout restructuring, to building the fixtures for the library, the SWAT Team did it all within the past year.

The finished product? Riverdale's very own study bar. From the simplistic decor, to the inviting arrangement, the library's new setup offers appeal and motivation for students to study during spares and lunches as well as before and after school. Geared with multiple outlets and spacious tables for both group study and independent study, the library's new accommodations meet all of the standards of today's tech savvy students.

"The open space in the library motivates students to come [to the library] during spares and overall changes make the library more

modern," says grade 11 student Amy Lin.

The project cost four thousand dollars of the library's budget, and the cost of the 3D printer came out of the Riverdale's one hundred thousand dollar State Farms' Celebrate My Drive grand prize in 2012.

New pieces of equipment also include five iPads, five PC laptops, and a Macbook.

The SWAT Team also intends to introduce a new stream of communication via an interface on the TV's in the library, atrium, and cafeteria. The TV's will be turned on during the day and will broadcast announcements on the big screen in rotation. Along with Academic Workspace on school computers, the TV's will provide those important announcements that might have been missed throughout the day.

With the installment of new equipment, students are able to access the most up to date technology. "The [installment of the] 3D printer and architect's table is really to encourage [use for] the arts and science departments" said SWAT Team leader Andrew Bradley.

When asked about the SWAT Team's biggest goal for the year, Bradley was all hands in the air for the 3D printer. "Ultimately, the 3D printer is the students' investment."

The SWAT Team offers technical support during lunch in the library by the Help desk in front of the librarians' office.



Co-captains Frankie St. Louis and Emma Hoerner receive the South Region Junior Girls Championship plaque. *(Photo by Sahil Aziz and Haseeb Arif.)*

## We the south-champs

■ **Frankie St. Louis & Emma Hoerner**  
Contributing Writers

The Junior Girls' basketball team won the Tier II South Region Championship on October 30th with a landslide win 43-25 against East York C.I.

The game was hosted at Malvern C.I. where there was a loud and enthusiastic crowd.

The team, consisting of 15 skilled girls, played their hearts out in terrible conditions. Malvern's gym floor was so dirty that the girls were sliding everywhere and often getting called for travelling. Even with all the travelling calls, they were able to adapt

to their surroundings like true athletes, and play their game.

Although the champions didn't have home court advantage, they still had an abundance of support from Riverdale fans, such as Ms Lum, who brought a cowbell and said "I hear a ship coming in, a championship!" to anyone willing to listen.

The team was undefeated through the regular season. One of the main reasons was that they had an encouraging and faithful coach, Mr Duong, to help and support them throughout the journey.

Coach Duong stated, "By far the best girls' team I have ever coached in 13 years,

and it was fun because everyone got along so well. It wasn't just about the championship, but how we worked together as a team."

Team co-captain Frankie St. Louis exclaimed, "We definitely deserved a championship. Our focus and effort in practice shows that hard work pays off."

The other team co-captain, Emma Hoerner, added, "It was a great season and couldn't have been achieved without all of the support from the girls on the squad. Ball is life!"

# The rise of Chris-nation

■ **Annika Lautens**  
Editor-in-chief

"So how long have you wanted to be a stripper?"

His cheeks turn a rosy pink and a laugh escapes his lips.

"Well...I technically did follow the dress code..."

If there's one thing Christopher Choquette-Choo will leave behind in Riverdale history, it's his legendary presidential campaign.

During the student council elections last May, many hopeful students got up on stage in hopes of winning the crowd's approval and more importantly their votes. While many students attempted to "dance" and "sing", Chris came prepared to lay it all on the line, literally, by slowly taking off various layers of clothing and hanging them on a make-shift clothes line until he was down to his shorts and undershirt.

"I didn't strip just to strip. The

point was to show how far I would go to lay it on the line."

Four months later I join him in the student council office, watching as Chris is surrounded by organised chaos as other student council members wander in and out, looking to him for answers which he is ready to supply.

Agreeing to meet me on his "not busy day," Chris has a student council meeting about spirit week after we're done, followed by a Strings rehearsal, only to return home to do his work from a very heavy course load.

Now in his fourth year at Riverdale, Chris got his start at Jackman Ave Public School where he described himself as "a big, shy nerd," he later continued to Earl Grey Senior Public School.

"I was a nerd but I was always hanging out with friends-I wasn't a loner."

He laughs it off and uncomfortably sits in his chair, furrowing his brow.

"I was inspired by the class presidents in the TV shows I used to watch after school. I knew I wanted to be a leader when I saw how big of an impact student council had during my grade nine year."

Just as we are start discussing his job as a lifeguard, Carl Huang comes rushing in, talking a mile a minute before coming to an abrupt stop when he sees Chris and I talking.

"Oh, my bad, guys. You doing homework or something?"

Chris explains we're doing an interview for the Spectator so the student body can know more about him. After joking around how difficult it will be to

make Chris sound good, they quickly huddle around the computer and get down to business.

Similar to watching a tiger in the jungle, I get to witness first hand the workings of student council. Not wasting a second, Chris makes rapid fire decisions and it's clear he's in his natural habitat. Although the two members were originally thinking two different thoughts, Chris, like the true negotiator that he is, persuades a compromise, his enthusiasm radiating through; next thing I know I'm helping draw up a scoreboard for Spirit Week.

When I ask the dreaded question all grade twelve students are sick-to-death of hearing, he doesn't shy away, but sits a little taller in his seat exclaiming his plans on never, ever leaving the school. Unless of course he gets accepted into engineering



# How to tame the stress storm

## Nine ways to to deal with everyday frustrations

■ **Charlotte Flemming**  
Opinion Writer

Not always do I "stress out", but when I do, it's never pretty. School, report card marks, and the future. These, along with deadlines seem to cause the greatest amount of stress for students.

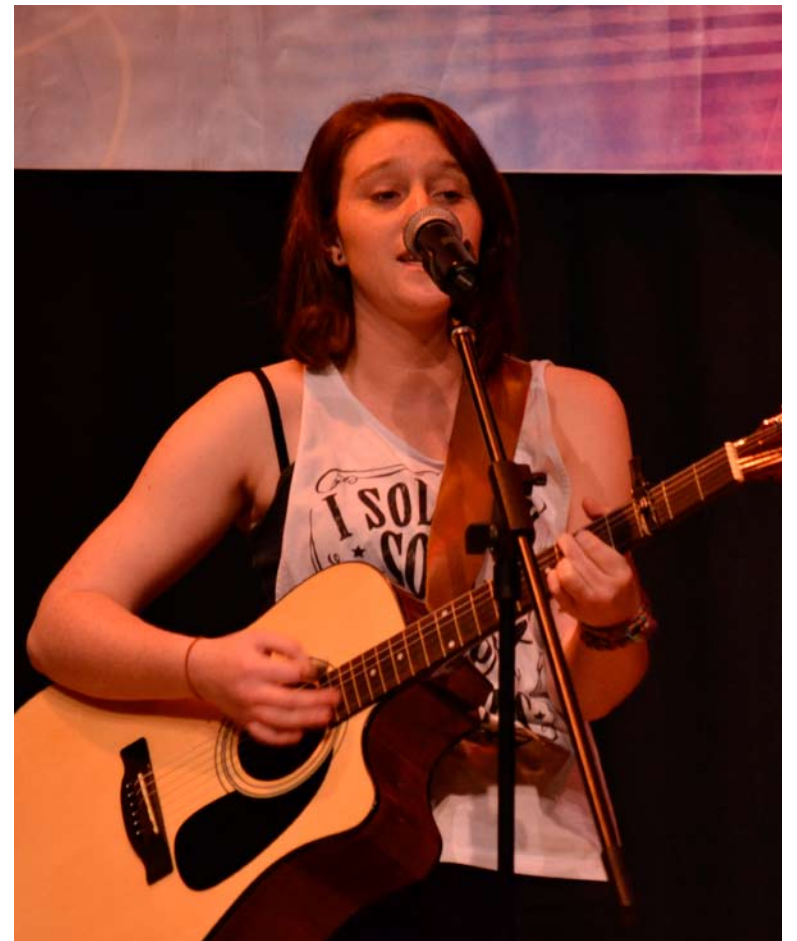
Although I don't pretend to be an expert, here are nine ways that help me deal with the everyday frustrations or stress. Some may seem like distractions at first, but they will help to zoom out and to recognize what's pressuring you, why and how important it really is.

1. Be in the moment, pay attention to your senses. Feel the cold air from the Canadian winds, and listen to the crunch of snow beneath your feet.
2. Listen to your favorite soothing music. Or release some stress dancing in the kitchen to Beyoncé. Whichever you prefer, I like both. A nice classical playlist does wonders for completing homework.
3. Talk to people! Work with people on what you are having difficulty with to gain some new perspectives. Join a homework or study group, and go ask teachers for help. Do what you can to improve your knowledge and understanding
4. Exercise!!! Pay attention to your body. Take a minute to recognize where you're tense or comfortable. If you have knots in your shoulders from your heavy backpack, grab a tennis ball and massage them, or get someone to do it for you.
5. Write in a journal, express how you feel (it doesn't have to be in writing but I recommend it!). It helps

to express what you might find difficult to say aloud. Putting what you feel in to words has a funny way of relieving an incredible amount of pressure, while helping you recognize what's bothering you. It might sound cheesy, but write what you're grateful and happy to experience. It leaves you with a hopeful outlook on your surroundings.

4. Realize what you can and can't do. Also, don't be afraid to say no. You don't need to do everything. You can't do a six month project in one week, let alone a night, but you can plan your time appropriately and efficiently. If you set aside time to complete many small tasks over time, it's much easier to complete and stay motivated than trying to complete many steps all at once.
3. For school work, have copies of assignments, PowerPoints, and rubrics. Take pictures and send people notes, so if you or your friend loses one, you have a copy. Download the text books, never again will you carry heavy textbooks home. If you can find them online, take pictures or photocopy what you need.
2. Reserve yourself some time to do want you want. Have your "me time". Have a good laugh. Socialize and keep your mental health in check. Burnout is not where you want to be, trust me. If you notice your habits or outlook changing negatively under stress, find someone to talk to. Support is the best way to stay afloat. If you're losing motivation be sure to stop in the guidance office or talk to someone you trust.
1. Accept what you can't change, stay positive and trust yourself.

# Tumilty wins Riverdale Idol



Riverdale Idol winner Jordanna Tumilty belts out a tune while playing guitar. She won the latest edition of the singing contest with a rendition of Drown by Front Porch Step. Ariel Plytas finished 2nd and Kitty Twin finished 3rd. This is the fifth year of the Riverdale Idol competition.

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## Submissions Policy

All submissions are to be emailed or shared with riverdalespectator@gmail.com. News articles should be 250 words or less. Op/Ed articles should be 500 words or less. Letters to the editor should be 150 words or less. If email is a problem, submit articles on diskette to Mr. Simoneau.



The 2012/2013 Student Council pose proudly with the giant check. Photo from Spectator archives.

# A hundred thousand dollars - bust or bombshell?

■ Lanze Lhaze &amp; Anchika Khanna

Opinion Writers

In the fall of 2012, Riverdale Collegiate was the recipient of the Celebrate My Drive academic grant of \$100,000. We won the money thanks to our students' dedicated on-line voting.

A breakdown of where the \$100,000 was spent can be found in Riverdale's Academic Workspace.

Take a good look. The 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 Student Councils were the main contributors in deciding where to spend the money.

Meetings were held, principal and president present, and votes were cast. But Principal Harvey did have the executive decision. He says that he let the students decide where to spend it, as they are the ones who won it, but did occasionally weigh in, or offer suggestions of his own.

A large sum was immediately donated to a local charitable organization. This was an action the Student Council decided to take even before the money was won.

The 2013 prom was also a notable expense. The graduates of that year were served frozen yogurt, courtesy of *Menchie's*. The graduates last year, 2014, were not. Fair? The money was won that year, and so it makes sense that they would celebrate it that year exclusively. But it wasn't just the class of 2013 that online voted, it was everyone. We'll let this one slide...

Annoyed concerns were widely voiced about the slushy and popcorn machines, which were used sparingly, but it is often not considered that these were minimal expenses in the long run. These frivolities did little to hurt our budget and some would say the slushies were a great investment. Or maybe just us...

Another grievance from the students was that exactly zero dollars of the money was spent on improving the bathrooms and

other facilities around the school.

"They won the money when I was a sophomore, so I really thought that by the time I graduated we'd have that soft, 3-ply toilet paper I've been promised my entire secondary school career but I have this feeling that it's not going to happen," one senior said. While this is obviously a joke, it does speak for some real questions people are asking everyday.

Mr. Harvey had an explanation. Unfortunately, it is against board policy to spend externally inputted or donated money to the school on improving basic facilities or safety. The idea behind this TDSB policy is equality for all schools, regardless of average family income or neighborhood; public schools in more affluent districts or communities shouldn't be any safer or better facilitated than any other schools.

Just as it would be unfair for a school in a more affluent neighborhood to be unable to spend money donated to the school fund by parents on better textbooks or personal laptops for the students, Riverdale can't spend its prize money improving other basic facilities to improve our school. That means no improvement to the bathrooms.

Another thing about the money: it was put into the Riverdale bank account, but because it was not all spent in that year, the surplus was rolled over into the next year's fund, and the surplus of that was rolled over into this year's fund again.

Aspects of the breakdown definitely surprised us, and we are sure everyone will see something they weren't aware of before, or will be surprised at how much or how little a specific expense costs. Overall, we feel it was spent slowly and wisely, with sporadic bursts of impulse. But we're not saying we could have done a better job. It's hard to please over a thousand students and fifty teachers.

## Make this the year of empowerment

"The year of empowerment," shouts Me to We speaker Morgan "Momo" Metowe, "the year of empowerment!"

The only way I can describe my feelings after leaving the Free the Children, Me to We assembly on the afternoon of Monday, December 8th, is empowered. For an hour I listened freely to an awkward but charismatic man who chooses to refer to himself as "Momo," describe the struggles women have with equality. You can see my initial skepticism. But, boy, was I wrong.

This is a year of change and the media is seemingly behind it 100%, new reports every week publicizing new accounts of women struggling against being made to feel inferior. With the recent outpouring of news starring Jian Ghomeshi's career as a man exploiting women in physical and mental ways, a new spotlight has been put on an all-too-often silent issue. Instead of cowering in fear, this has brought a wave of sexual harassment reports, and public discussion, uniting women in declaring how unacceptable this behaviour really is.

Many Riverdalians are eager to embrace the change as shown through the very active clubs at our school including *Because I am a Girl*, *Free the Children* and *Riverdale Against Discrimination*. A new club this year, *Female Leaders of Tomorrow* (FELT).

Also, the *Boys Athletic Association* (BAA) and *Girls Athletic Association* (GAA) hosted an assembly on the Montreal Massacre the following Thursday. Instead of the usual raucous behaviour, students were quiet and respectful, the impact of the tragedy hitting hard.

Become involved in one of these clubs. Make your voice heard. You have the luxury of attending a school in a country that *allows* you to meet in such groups. Do not waste such an opportunity.

Just as Metowe encouraged the Riverdale students to be leaders of the future, let's hope the rest of the world follows in taking part in "breaking off barriers to change and to create a world of difference."

- Annika Lautens, Editor-in-chief

### Have a beef? Comment? Something to say?

Then write a letter to the editor. Have your thoughts published for all to see. Be proud and show your mom and pop that all those English classes have paid off. Write a letter now!

Send it to rcipaper@yahoo.com with the subject line **Letter To Editor** and read it in the next issue.

# Having fun isn't hard when you've got SSR

■ Yasmin Khatau

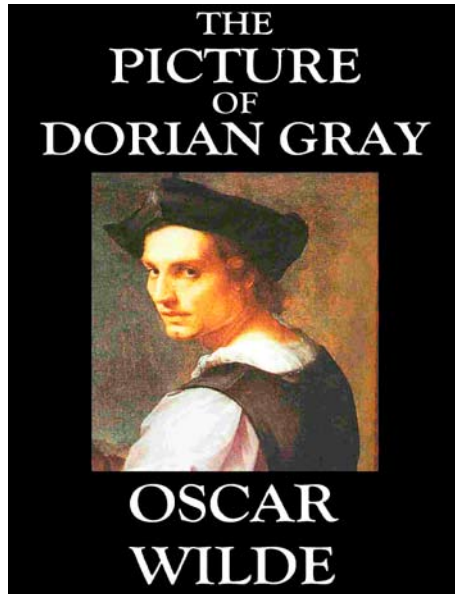
Opinion Writer

Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) is many different things to many different students.

Known to some students as "annoying SSR," it's a good opportunity to text and chat inconspicuously with friends. For others, it's the perfect time to do that biology homework you know your teacher will be checking, or to get a little more studying in for Mr. Whiddon's math test next period.

It is very unfortunate that a small number of students take that time to actually read a book and escape the stress of school for 20 minutes. The reality of SSR is that it is a gift given to us by the school, and we need to start appreciating it.

Reading can be a fun adventure or an important life lesson, and the best way to start exploring is to start reading during SSR. These are only three books out of millions in the world of different genres just waiting to be discovered.

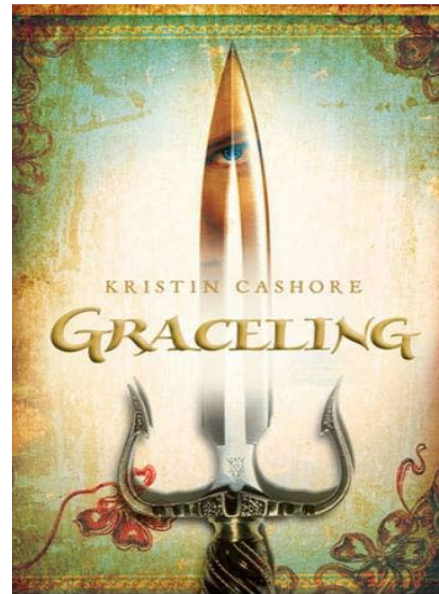


1 Classical lovers should try *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde's outstanding ability to tell a story with an amazing message is extremely apparent in this classic novel. Dorian Gray is a

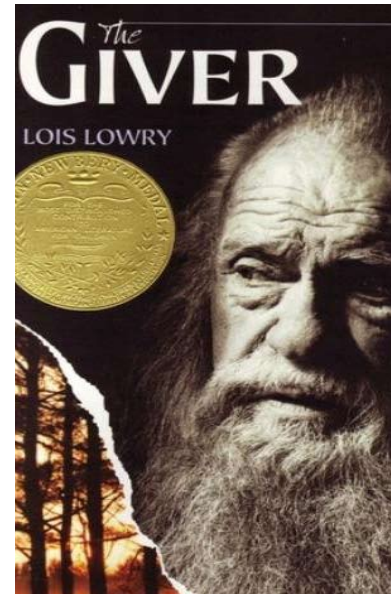
he is, he wishes to stay young and handsome forever. His wish comes true, although he slowly realizes that beauty may not be the only thing worth living for as he watches himself age on the painting and his life around him fall apart.

strong female character. In a setting of seven kingdoms, there are people known as "Gracelings" who are born with a special skill or magical ability. They are mostly feared or used as the King's personal property depending on their Grace. The main character



2 Fantasy lovers should try *Graceling* by Kristin Cashore.

This is a beautiful action-packed and well written story about magic and mystery with a



Grace.

3 Science Fiction lovers should try *The Giver* by Lois Lowry.

This is an old yet wonderful book that discusses dystopia in a seemingly utopian society with highly relevant themes to our society today. Jonas lives in a world where there is no fear, pain, or choice as every person is assigned a role in the Community and work in harmony. When Jonas is chosen for the role of Receiver of Memory, he discovers firsthand the beauty and pain of memory, pleasure and individualism from a wise man known as The Giver. A movie adaptation of *The Giver* was released in August and is definitely worth watching if you enjoyed the book.

Riverdale is also lucky enough to have a great library with amazing library helpers and staff. Make sure to head down to the school library today to find the perfect book for you, and you will find that SSR will no longer be annoying but will be the best part of your day.

# Blumenthal explains the wonders of the French exchange

■ Maya Blumenthal

Opinions Editor

Imagine yourself walking around Paris, chatting with your friends in French and eating a crepe. Or imagine yourself at home near Barcelona, having a conversation with your host family all in Spanish over dinner. All this, plus many other unforgettable moments could become a reality if you opt for a student exchange.

Last year, three Riverdale students participated in a three month exchange to France. They hosted their partners in Toronto from mid-August to early November, and went to stay with them in France from early February to May. When asked, they described their experience as "priceless" and "life-changing".

I also went abroad this summer. I spent three weeks in French Switzerland and then hosted my partner here in Canada for three weeks. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me.

There are numerous benefits to doing an exchange. You can learn

a new language or enhance existing language skills, make life-long friends, discover yourself, and explore a different culture.

You can choose to go abroad for anywhere between three weeks and three months, but the benefits stay the same. No matter how long you go for, your language skills will improve drastically. I spent five years in the extended French program, so I had a good grammar base, but have difficulties talking in French. Being in an environment where I was constantly talking or listening to French really made a difference in my skills.

As Taegan Perez, one of the three students who went abroad last year, said, "It was hands down the most amazing experience of my life, and I think the French language skills I learned there are priceless. I couldn't have asked for anything more."

During an exchange, you'll be spending a lot of time with your exchange partner, and will probably become very close. Although I haven't seen my partner since August, I still talk to her on Facebook or Snapchat

her often.

As one of the Riverdale students who went abroad last year said, "Although the exchange only lasted for six months, the friends I made will last a lifetime." Each student said they are still in contact with their exchange partner, and that they plan to visit each other in the future.

Exchange is a great time to discover yourself. For most of us, it's the first time being away from home for so long with so much responsibility. It's a chance to try new things, and test your limits.

One of the students who went to France said that the biggest lesson he learned was to "trust your gut". He explains that going to school in France, without understanding what was going on around him was very difficult. However, he added, "That was what made my experience more unique. Taking risks every day and pushing myself to stay involved made the experience so worthwhile."

Another great thing you learn during an exchange is the culture of the country you are visiting. Unlike going on a trip with your family or with school, on exchange you get to learn about all the cultural differences between your exchange country and



Blumenthal and exchange partner relax in the Switzerland sun. Photo by Maya Blumenthal

Canada. Discovering a new way of life, understanding new ways of thinking, and becoming more tolerant of other cultures are some of the advantages of doing an exchange.

Joshua MacGregor, one of the Riverdale students who went abroad last year, explains that "experiencing different cultures opens your eyes to the complexity of our world, and gives you a fresh perspective on the ways you can live your life."

One of the differences between Canada and France he mentions is the longer school days in France,

which are balanced out by longer vacations. While both have their benefits, MacGregor says he prefers the French system. I dare say, who wouldn't like more vacation?

An exchange is a life-changing experience. From learning a language, making friends, understanding a country and getting to know yourself, it'll surely be a great adventure.



L I F E



A T





# RIVERDALE



# A day in the life of a typical high schooler (but not me, of course, definitely not me.)

Griffin Porter

Contributing Writer

7:15am

Wake up. Question how humans ever functioned in the days before caffeine. Ponder existence of such awful music on morning radio. Why are they telling me to go to the Club at 7:15 in the morning? Yell at anyone who will listen for making school begin so early.

7:45am

Roll out of bed. Fall face first on to floor. Realize next time you should step out of bed. Check clock. See that you are now extremely late. Panic. Try to save time by eating breakfast without chewing. Choke and get rushed to hospital. They clear the blockage, and drop you off at school. Mixed blessing.

8:45am

First period begins. Curse the gods for putting Calculus so early in the day, when your brain isn't awake enough to understand calculus. Realize that no matter when you have it, you will never understand calculus. Curse Isaac Newton for inventing calculus. Proceed to play games on mobile device, sneakily hidden under your desk, until the end of the period. Ignore fact that in order to understand calculus, you could just pay attention in Calculus.

9:50am

Listen to announcements. Wonder how on earth this school could have so many clubs. Think that you should create a cool new club. Realize that no one but you would join competitive tulip growing club. Attempt to power nap before next period.

10:55am

Power nap becomes real nap. Friends decide to leave you there as a joke. Realize that



Drawing by Brendan Wong

your friends are jerks. Make mental note to slip laxative into friends' juice boxes. Run to next class. Be publicly humiliated with scathing pun from English teacher. Slink timidly to desk. Start watching the clock until lunch.

11:35am

Eat Lunch. Realize that when food is chewed, chances of choking are lowered significantly. Attempt to write a university thesis on this huge

scientific breakthrough. Assume you will receive Ph. D, and quit high school. University laughs in your face. Stupid, smug university phone-answering people.

12:35pm

Begin third class of the day. Stare out window. See interesting bird. Bird flies through glass window and starts breathing fire. Are you asleep again? Probably. Wake up. Teacher grows a second head. Are you still asleep? Actually, no. So that's weird. Be taught the rest of the lesson by teacher's second head.

1:50pm

Begin final class of the day. Music class. Piece of cake. But there's a written test. How can you even find enough questions to put on a music class written test? This teacher is insane. Or are they a genius? You just blew your own mind. Get so busy blowing your own mind that you forget to actually write the test. Hand in paper blank, except for a freaking fantastic drawing of a brain exploding. Expect full marks.

3:00pm

School day finally over. Looking back on it, it was pretty average. Walk home. Sit down to do homework. Get distracted by the mysterious creature that is "The Internet." Don't get to any homework for six hours.

9:00pm

Decide that it's much too late to do homework at this point. Go to watch TV. Laugh at the exploits of the funny and original characters on your glowing screen.

3:00am

Realize you've watched TV for six hours. #WORTHIT. Realize you have to get up at 7:15 the next morning for school. #STILLWORTHIT. After all, you can always just sleep in class.

# Essential tips for the modern concert-goer

Debbie Narh

Opinion Writer

Let's be honest, going to concerts and seeing bands live, ones that you love, is the best thing ever. It's total bliss, especially if they play your favourite song. Unfortunately, going to concerts takes a lot of work and there are a lot of things that could easily turn your amazing night into a not so great one. Here are some helpful tips.

**Don't need it, don't bring it.** Coat check isn't always open. It may be colder now but some venues just don't have it. Make sure you don't bring a huge bag or purse and then be super surprised if it breaks apart or something is stolen. Don't bring anything you won't use; it's a waste of space.

**Merch Table first. Always go to merch first.** You know what the worse thing is about concerts? The merch is always sold out by the end. It's horrible because if you're unsure about a purchase, everything will be gone by the end. And merch stuff is limited edition. Like, get them before you regret it! The chances of you getting first pick of the good stuff are high at the beginning of the concert and extremely low by the end of it. Always go to the merch table first, even if that means not saving the best spots.

**Always be nice.** If you want to get to the front, being nice isn't going to hurt your chances of getting there. However, being a jerk and pushing everyone in your way might. A simple "Excuse me!" and "Sorry!" isn't going to kill you.

**DRINK TONS OF WATER.** This is how venues get the big bucks. It's sort of a lose-lose situation for you here since you can't bring water bottles into venues and the water they're selling are about \$3.50 each. It's crazy! But what's worse is stopping a show because you fainted. If you're lucky enough, security and band members will pass out water bottles for free to share with the crowd. Just don't drink too much at once or else you'll puke. But stay hydrated. This is essential.

**Bring enough money.** This one is a another hard one because you never know when enough's enough. Well, first of all, if you want a tee, it's always less than a ticket so if you paid about forty for the ticket, bring forty for a shirt. Bracelets are always five to ten dollars. CDs range from ten to twenty dollars depending on fanciness.

**Wear comfy shoes!** Girls, don't wear heels to a concert. Not even if it's a Lady Gaga one. It's stupid, your feet will hurt and you will complain. Be smart. Guys, don't wear your awesome combat/super heavy boots. If your crowd surfing and one of those beauties hit someone? In the face? All hell will break loose, I promise. The best shoes to wear are vans or converse; anything comfy and worn down enough that if anything happens to them, you won't care.

# Fear not! Quick thoughts on tots

Adam Melnyk

Contributing Writer

Here's a quick thought on tots. Yes, those tots. Tater Tots. Oven crunchies. Spud puppies – or whatever else you call them. These tot-sized cylinders of shredded potatoes are an American staple.

Since 1956, Tater Tots have dominated the frozen food market and continue to feed millions of loyal customers. They are tasty and ready in minutes – crunchy on the outside, warm gooiness on the inside. The gold of their crispy shell would put two Chainz's jewelry cabinet to shame. Tater Tots *really* are the best thing since sliced bread.

Yet, Tater Tots are not sold in Riverdale's cafeteria. Although disturbing, the truth must not be disregarded in this matter. In lieu of these one-bite delicacies, the cafeteria is stocked with boring, old French fries. This article is by no means a food critique, however the cafeteria fries, to put it nicely, lack love. Their soft and dry consistency leaves an unsavory aftertaste on the palette, which screams heartburn.

Plus, Tater Tots are not only delicious but also very cost effective. A quick Internet search shows that Costco is selling 8 lb. bags of these suckers for less than \$8. Consider the weight of a newborn baby in Tater Tots. Not even the horrendous potato wedges sold at Smoker's Mart can compete with those pound-for-pound prices. In fact, when Tater Tots were released to the market almost 60 years ago, they were so cheap that consumers didn't buy them at first. It wasn't until the manufacturer Ore-Ida raised the price of Tater Tots that they began to sell. Students rely on low prices and good food.

So where are the Tots?



Truthfully, as disheartening as it might be for the cafeteria staff to dismiss their french fry ambitions, Tater Tots are also time effective to prepare. Whether they're fried or baked, small bits of potato should not take any longer than twenty minutes to cook. And if baked, the Tots

can be left unattended in the oven to golden while the cafeteria staff prepare other lunchtime orders. Time is money, and lunch is only an hour long. Riverdale's cafeteria cannot remain Totless. The students have been deprived for too long. These small pockets of edible paradise are tasty, cost effective, and take little time to prepare. As Shakespeare once said, "we know what we are, but know not what we may be."

He was right for he did not understand the full potential of potatoes. So cuddle the spud puppies and discover what's hot about Tots.



(Above) Josh MacGregor goes in for a kiss. The director and actor spearheaded the student production of *Henry V*. Photo by Si-Ming Chow

## MacGregor wields mighty sword

■ **Morag Taylor & Amie Leung**  
Arts & Entertainment Editors

If you know Joshua MacGregor in Grade 12, you know that he has a love for theatre. But it is only when you sit down with him that you realize it's not just a love—it's a passion.

On December 2nd and 3rd, MacGregor and 19 other students (yes, just students) of Riverdale Collegiate Institute will put on a play called *Henry V* by the famous playwright, William Shakespeare.

Directed and adapted by MacGregor, the abridged play explores the themes of war and the fight for power, the consequences of treachery and corruption.

When asked what role he will play, he laughs a bit and almost doesn't know what to say because he has no specific role: he is the director, Henry V himself, the organizer of costumes, and responsible for putting it all together. Let's just say his passion is evident in his willingness to do a five-person job.

Admission to the performance will be free to all; however, donations are also appreciated and will be made directly to the Drama dept. (that last factor was very important to the talented young director).

MacGregor discovered his esteem for theatre along with his love for Shakespeare in Grade 10. When he heard that there would be no opportunity for fellow theatre-loving students to put on a play this year, he simply made the

opportunity happen.

MacGregor felt that he needed to "resurrect the dead beast that is theatre in Riverdale," which further proves just how dramatic and expressive he really is.

From there, he convinced people he knew to join his project. When there were still spaces to be filled, he held open auditions for all students.

*Henry V* was chosen as the play to be performed because MacGregor says, "It's underrated." According to him, classics are classics, but they've been done. He figured that if he was starting his own project and putting that much work into it, he should choose something different, something people won't expect.

Time has been an issue for MacGregor and his team, as most of the actors are in Grade 12 and it's hard to figure out a time when everyone is available. That is why MacGregor is hoping that everyone will know their lines and have their costumes (kindly provided or paid for by the Drama Dept.) by the start of November.

When asked what has been the best thing about the project, his answer wasn't that he got to be director, or that he got to choose his own role. It was "the people."

What drives Josh MacGregor the director, Josh MacGregor the actor, stems not only from the theatre and all of its beautiful theatricality, but also for the process and the people he met and got to work with, which became the biggest reward of all.

## Lest we forget - Riverdale students perform in Remembrance Day ceremony

■ **Dillon Chan**  
Arts & Entertainment Editors

To honour all the brave soldiers and innocent civilians impacted by the horrors of war, Riverdale Collegiate put on its annual Remembrance Day assembly on November 11th. The assembly featured both beautiful and heart-breaking pieces as performed by the music, art, and drama departments that depicted the effects of war.

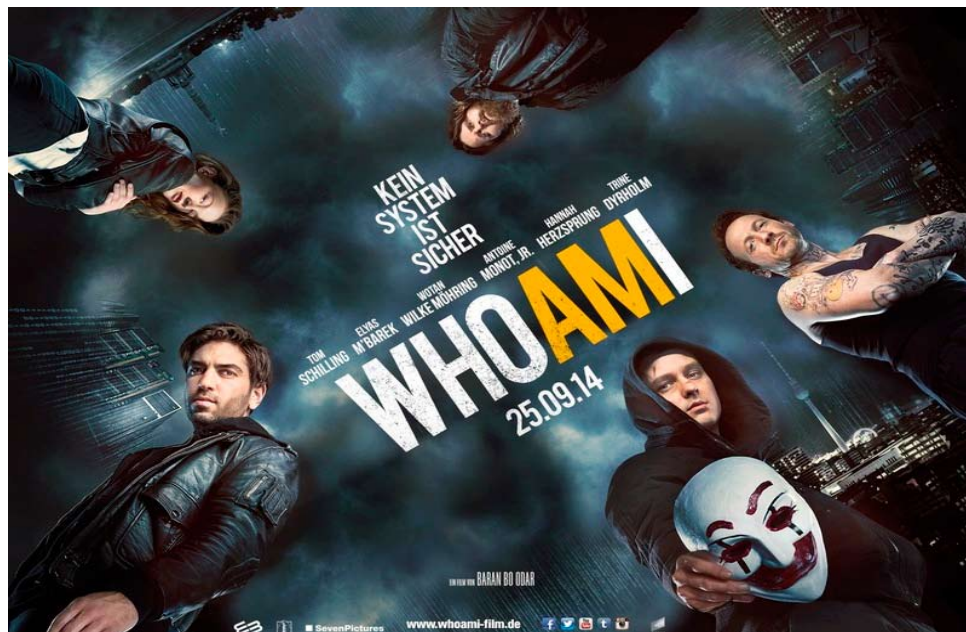
Henry Krol, an English teacher at Riverdale, lead the programme of the assembly, establishing a solemn yet positive tone for the assembly

as he introduced the various works.

The selection of pieces from the music and arts departments were all intertwined with the theme of remembrance.

As Riverdale students assembled in the auditorium, the Wind Ensemble performed *First Suite in Eb*, a piece by Gustav Holst followed by *O Canada* and *Fanfare for the Unsung Hero* by Matt Conaway.

Riverdale's Concert Strings performed *Jupiter*, a jolly and stately piece that is part of Holst's suite entitled, *The Planets*. The British song *I Vow to Thee, My Country* is often sung at Remembrance Day ceremonies and is based on



## Who Am I is slick and suspenseful Kein System ist sicher (No System is Safe)

■ **Amie Leung**  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

It's said that whatever gets posted on the internet stays on the internet—the same can be said for what happens in Las Vegas. But even with a password that is a minimum of eight characters containing at least one uppercase letter and digit, is your personal information truly safe?

The German film, *Who Am I — Kein System ist sicher*, shown at the Toronto International Film Festival this year, explores the question of identity that arises in our increasingly anonymous age of information.

It follows the story of Benjamin Engel (played by Tom Schilling), a talented, young computer whiz proficient at machine code but a self-proclaimed "nobody".

After a stunt that lands him into doing community service, he meets Max (Elyas M'Barek)—ambitious, bold, and charismatic—whose specialty is social engineering, or the "hacking" of people. Through Max, Ben is introduced to two other masters of the technological craft, Stephan (Wotan Wilke Möhring) and Paul (Antoine Monot Jr.).

Together, they form the hacker collective CLAY (Clowns Laughing @ You), hacking whatever they can get their hands on.

"The more audacious we were," Engel says, "the more we could achieve." Their feats range from the relatively innocuous to the downright outrageous, catching the attention of the media

as they make a name for themselves and attempt to "hack the world."

But when the group is suspected to be involved in organized crime with the Russian cyber mafia after their successful infiltration of the German Federal Intelligence servers, their skills are put to the test in a deadly game of cat-and-mouse.

Directed by Baran bo Odar, *Who Am I* is a study in deceptive mind games, a constantly exciting, fast-paced techno-thriller that will leave you breathless. The film is unique in its portrayal of the online world's elusive underbelly known as the darknet that even audiences who know little about the subject can easily follow.

Although viewers may find certain sequences of the film implausible and Ben's romance with Marie (Hannah Herzsprung) largely unnecessary, the actors consistently deliver believable performances and bring forth characters that are engaging and authentic.

The soundtrack, which features the likes of Boys Noize and Royal Blood, is seamlessly woven into this complex story and serves to enhance the crackling tension and high stakes.

Overall, this film is slick and stylish with a thought-provoking double-twist at the end, and is definitely well worth your time.

Full of suspense and intrigue, plus an edgy soundtrack that you'll remember long after the credits have rolled, *Who Am I* delves into the gritty world of hackers in a reality where No System is Safe.

Welcome to the Underground.

the tune of Jupiter.

The choir sung a beautifully haunting rendition of the poem *Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep*, originally written by Mary Elizabeth Frye and choralized by Eleanor Daley. The message of the poem is both sad yet graceful and gave listeners a surreal experience.

Both junior and senior drama classes performed monologues from the book *Six War Years* by Barry Broadfoot. The performers played the role of both Canadians at home and abroad and gave viewers an inside perspective on the effect of World War II.

Gustav Holst composed *First Suite in Eb* for

military band in 1909 and depicted the upbeat state of the military and pleasant outlook on life at the time. *The Planets* was written from 1914 to 1916, years just after World War I. Frye's poem depicts a perspective of life after death, or rather, the lack of death.

This was an especially significant Remembrance Day due to the dreadful shooting of Cpl. Nathan Cirillo in late October.

With more people sporting poppies than ever, it's important to keep in mind that Remembrance day is about remembering and honouring those affected by wars, regardless of religion, sex, or race.

## 9L first ever Quest-for-the-Best champs

■ **Derrick Wong**

*Sports Editor*

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> Riverdale's class of 2018 participated in Riverdale's first ever Grade 9 Quest for the Best.

The event consisted of six different events similar to last year's Mini-Olympics and ending with one last special race.

It was organized by Riverdale's Boys and Girls Athletic Associations accompanied by spectacular student volunteers from the Student Council and Peer Buddies.

The morning started off with a slow, quiet, unenthusiastic group, and ended with an enlightening, energized, and enthusiastic vibe.

The events selected were a marble pipe line race, classics like tug-of-war, an obstacle course,

plane and structure builds, and a ping-pong ball fanning race, purposely chosen to involve as many students as possible, working as a team.

"Grade 9 day was really fun! I really liked the obstacle course and tug-of-war," commented Kristjan Lautens, a Riverdale freshman.

Each event and homeform was accompanied by two GAA members, two BAA members and their peer buddies. Revealing to, at times, a very unenthusiastic grade 9 group, the student volunteers showed just how fun and exciting life at Riverdale can be.

The decisive final event consisted of the top two home forms competing against one another in a 4-man mini-van push race.

9L's van broke through

the ribbon first, naming them Riverdale's first ever grade 9 Quest for the Best Champions!

With such success in the inaugural year of this event, the student body only hopes that each year a new Grade 9 Quest for the Best Champion can be announced.

With over 30 student volunteers and the support from the staff and admin, life at Riverdale can be more than just books and tests.

Stanley Sik, a member of the BAA, put it into perspective, "It was a great success and will go down in Riverdale's history for years to come. The grade nines were so spirited and pumped up. You could feel the true Raiders spirit from everyone. I can't wait to do it again!"

## Riverdale adds a third team to its field hockey lineup



*Sweaty and tired, the "A" field hockey team poses after a tough game against Monarch Park.*

■ **Nuzhaar Sabreen**

*Sports Writer*

After a week and a half of gruelling 7 am tryouts in September, every girl hoping to join the Girls' Varsity Field Hockey team were surprised to find they all made the final cut.

Originally planning to have only an A and B team, field hockey coaches Ms. Lum and Mr. Fallis had an astonishing turnout each morning, with over 60 girls showing up for the first tryout.

Ms. Lum decided to add an entirely new tier to Riverdale's field hockey roster - the C-team.

She credited Mr. Fallis for the idea of all the girls participating in the sport, and playing for Riverdale.

"It's the John Fallis effect,"

she explains. "Which means we want to take everybody we can and just expose them [to the sport], and try to give everyone a positive experience."

The Girls' A-team had a successful season and were able to advance to the playoffs, yet fell short to Malvern CI in the semi-final round.

Teams B and C both played well throughout the season, with team C just missing the playoffs after a loss to Monarch Park.

Despite short endings to the season, the relationships formed within each team improved, and as a result the experience for every player was unforgettable.

It was just what Ms. Lum and Mr. Fallis had hoped for.

"At first, I hardly knew anybody

at tryouts," said left winger Mariama Barud. "By the time the season started, we all grew very comfortable around each other."

Right-inner Annie Bowen, a senior at Riverdale, has played for the team since her freshman year. "This year was the best one so far," she stated.

Left-midfielder Ava Rutgers only picked up the sport this year, saying, "I'm very happy to say that we all improved so much since we first started, and I will try out next year for sure."

"They learned a lot on how to play and how to work together," said Ms. Lum. "It's not about how you don't always win, but about how you support each other."



Robbie Hamilton brings his "A" game in tennis championships.  
*Photo by Dillon Chan*

## Things go south for Northern

### Riverdale avenges regular season tennis loss in semi-finals

■ **Robbie Hamilton**

*Contributing Writer*

It was a cool, windy afternoon when the Boys Varsity Tennis Team defeated Northern 6-2 to claim their third straight Tier II championship.

Northern came into the game undefeated, after beating Riverdale 8-0 in regular season play, and early on it looked like they would repeat the victory. However, Riverdale came back with a vengeance. A heroic comeback from Sebastian (Seb) Hewlett and Ben Koven on court A sealed the deal, and the Raiders took the top prize.

Hewlett and Koven, who had been down 11-7 in a first-to-twelve match, won four straight games to take the match to a tie-break at 11-11.

At this point, Northern was already giving up; it turned out that their top team were a pair of sore losers at heart, and Hewlett and Koven swept the tiebreak 7-0, no contest.

Meanwhile, Robbie Hamilton and captain Archie St. Louis played a solid match, defeating Northern's court B team 12-7.

In the last point, after a few shots back and forth, Hamilton hit a smash

about a hundred miles an hour. It clearly should have ended it. But one of the Northern players managed to get his racquet on it, lobbing the ball up to St. Louis' right side.

St. Louis, who is left handed, switched his racquet into his right hand in a moment of insanity and somehow managed to smash the ball with his off-hand. This time, the smash was too much and Riverdale took the match.

Adam Melnyk and Callum O'Neil also won, steamrolling Northern's court D 12-3.

Court C was the last to finish, and at this point Riverdale had already won, but all the teams stayed to watch Jowa Malcolmson and Gabe Kanter finish their match. It was a nail-biter, but Northern edged Riverdale slightly to prevent a total blowout.

It was another successful season for the Tennis Team, this time led by Coach Stevens (after Coach Tram left the squad).

Riverdale has now won three straight championships.

Most tennis fans are wondering: how many more until Riverdale finally moves up to Tier I?

## ATHLETES OF THE MOMENT



**Mitchell Graham**

**Grade:** 9  
**Sport:** Volleyball  
**Position:** Setter

**Accomplishments:** Mitchell was a phenomenal player and valuable asset to the Jr. Boys Volleyball Team as he helped lead the team all the way to the semi-finals. His fast thinking and accurate sets proved valuable to the team and was a highly important aspect of their success. Delivering the ball adeptly in vital moments, he showed great skill and determination in all his games.

**Their favourite moment:** The semi-final game against Lawrence Park where the boys showed a lot of heart, winning back the second set despite a loss in the first.



**Lily Bernard**

**Grade:** 9  
**Sport:** Basketball  
**Position:** Point guard

**Accomplishments:** Lily was a talented point guard for the Jr. Girls Basketball Team, helping her team to win the South Region Championships. Despite it being her first year at Riverdale, she showed confidence and expertise on the court, calling the plays and making the passes which helped lead the team to their success. She quickly became a vital asset to her first team as a Riverdalian.

**Their favourite moment:** Winning the finals and the first match of the season, where she bonded with her the new team.



**Alex Hoerner**

**Grade:** 10  
**Sports:** Cross country, Soccer  
**Positions:** N/A, Striker

**Accomplishments:** Alex is an accomplished athlete, competing in both Cross Country and the Jr. Boys Soccer Team. He is going to OFSAA for Cross Country, an amazing achievement earned by his dedication and prowess where only the only the most skilled athletes go. He was an excellent striker for the soccer team, his skill and agility making him a very capable player. He has had a very busy season, and earned many great accomplishments.

**Their favourite moment:** Making it to OFSAA and finishing the regular soccer season undefeated.



**Frankie St. Louis**

**Grade:** 10  
**Sports:** Field hockey, Basketball  
**Positions:** Right Midfield, Guard

**Accomplishments:** Frankie was an outstanding player for both the Girls Field Hockey A Team and the Jr. Girls' Basketball Team. Being the co-captain of the Field Hockey A Team despite her young age, she showed her prowess on the field and was a essential member. On the basketball team, she showed mastery of the ball with her fast breaks and offensive plays. She was a valuable asset of both teams and her contributions were admirable.

**Their favourite moment:** Winning the basketball finals.



**Kevin Zhang**

**Grade:** 11  
**Sport:** Volleyball  
**Position(s):** Left/power side

**Accomplishments:** Kevin was a distinguished player for the Sr. Boys Volleyball Team, who went to the semi-finals. From his serves to his spikes, he was a force to be reckoned with. As one of the few grade 11 starters, he showed his skill both offensively and defensively on the court. He is a very strong player who put everything he had into each point.

**Their favourite moment:** The semi-final game against Humberside, which went on for 5 sets, the longest match he has ever played.



**Edana Golbourne**

**Grade:** 11  
**Sport:** Basketball  
**Position:** Forward

**Accomplishments:** Edana was a remarkable player for the Sr. Girls Basketball Team, where she was co-captain. Playing on the Senior team since grade 10, her exceptional skills speak for itself. As a forward, she converted many passes into points despite difficult adversaries from opposing teams. She was one of the top scoring players, making her expertise vital in leading the team to the semi-finals.

**Their favourite moment:** The bus rides to the away games, where the girls joked around and had fun as a team.



**Kyle Stevens**

**Grade:** 12  
**Sport:** Soccer  
**Position:** Striker

**Accomplishments:** Kyle was an phenomenal player for the Sr. Boys Soccer Team. An incredible striker, he was responsible for many of their points throughout the season. His speed, dexterity and precision made him a truly formidable player. He is finishing his last senior season with a bang, as he helped the team make it to the quarter-finals of the southern division's tier 1, a big achievement for the team.

**Their favourite moment:** Playing with his teammates and finishing top 3 in the regular season.



**Alex Tse**

**Grade:** 12  
**Sport:** Basketball  
**Position:** Point guard

**Accomplishments:** Alex was a vital player of the Sr. Girl's basketball team. As co-captain and point guard, she was a strong leader. She showed her expertise on the court which helped the team reach the semi-finals. Skilled in both calling plays and driving the ball, she scored many points while assisting her teammates in doing the same. She's an extremely talented and dedicated player that is willing to give it her all on the court.

**Their favourite moment:** The intense semi-final game against East York, where the cheering Riverdale crowd created a positive atmosphere and experience.

Junior Girls Basketball – Tier II

School	G	W	L	F	A	Pts
<i>Riverdale</i>	8	8	0	348	150	16
East York	8	6	2	315	204	12
Malvern	8	6	2	302	202	12
Bloor	8	4	4	238	252	8
Harbord	7	3	4	185	199	6
Parkdale	7	2	5	154	264	4
Marc Garneau	7	1	6	114	289	2
Rosedale	7	0	7	165	261	0

Senior Girls Basketball – Tier II

School	G	W	L	F	A	Pts
East						
East York	7	7	0	302	182	14
<i>Riverdale</i>	7	4	3	240	175	8
Monarch Park	7	4	3	244	207	8
Marc Garneau	6	3	3	238	210	6
Malvern	6	3	3	170	159	6
Forest Hill	6	1	5	133	261	2
College Francais	6	0	6	164	321	0
West						
Harbord	7	7	0	350	113	14
Humberside	6	4	2	196	150	8
Ursula Franklin	6	4	2	168	163	8
Parkdale	6	4	2	129	143	8
Western Tech	6	1	5	130	185	2
Bloor	6	1	5	133	199	2
Central Commerce	6	1	5	140	269	2

Bantam Boys Rugby 7s

School	G	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Pool A							
Sir Oliver Mowat	4	4	0	0	116	32	12
Malvern A	4	3	1	0	99	35	10
Victoria Park	4	2	2	0	55	84	8
<i>Riverdale</i>	4	1	3	0	62	67	6
Dr Norman Bethune	4	0	4	0	31	145	4
Pool B							
David & Mary Thomson	4	4	0	0	108	26	12
RH King Academy	4	3	1	0	118	27	10
Malvern B	4	1	3	0	52	82	6
Don Mills	4	1	3	0	45	88	6
Martingrove	4	1	3	0	20	120	6

Junior Boys Rugby 7s

School	G	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Pool C							
D&Mary Thomson	4	4	0	0	112	19	9
Cedarbrae	4	2	2	0	69	38	7
Albert Campbell	4	1	3	0	38	64	5
RH King B	4	0	3	1	17	112	3
Pool D							
Sir Oliver Mowat	4	4	0	0	94	27	9
<i>Riverdale</i>	4	2	2	0	54	42	7
RH King A	4	2	2	0	54	44	5
Lester B Pearson	4	0	3	1	22	114	3

Junior Boys Soccer

School	G	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
<i>Riverdale</i>	6	6	0	0	18	2	18
Northern	6	5	0	1	24	9	16
Harbord	6	4	1	1	16	7	13
Malvern	6	4	1	1	11	7	13
Forest Hill	6	4	2	0	21	10	12
East York	6	4	2	0	21	10	12
Lawrence Park	6	4	2	0	11	4	12
Danforth	6	3	3	0	20	14	9
Marc Garneau	6	2	3	1	12	18	7
Monarch Park	6	2	3	1	6	16	7
Jarvis	6	2	4	0	14	14	6
Bloor	6	1	3	2	10	13	5
Parkdale	6	1	3	2	9	18	5
Central Tech	6	1	5	0	10	21	3
Oakwood	6	0	5	1	3	26	1
Western Tech	6	0	6	0	8	25	0

# Junior Girls complete undefeated season with South Region Title



(Above) Emma Hoerner focuses on securing the ball as she drives to the hoop in the South Region Championship game. The Raiders went undefeated in their drive to the title, crushing East York 43-25 in the final. Hoerner led the Raiders with 10 points, followed closely by Lily Bernard with 8 points. (Photo by Haseeb Arif and Sahil Aziz.)

Senior Boys Soccer – Tier I

School	G	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
East							
East York	8	6	1	1	26	8	19
<i>Riverdale</i>	7	4	2	1	17	12	13
Central Tech	7	4	3	0	10	13	12
Jarvis	7	3	2	2	14	7	11
College Francais	7	3	4	0	14	14	9
Marc Garneau	7	3	4	0	8	14	9
Malvern	7	2	4	1	6	14	7
Leaside HS	7	1	5	1	3	13	4
West							
Harbord	7	3	1	3	13	8	12
Humberside	6	2	0	4	8	4	10
Ursula Franklin	6	2	1	3	11	8	9
Lawrence Park	6	2	2	2	6	6	8
Parkdale	6	2	2	2	10	10	8
Northern	6	2	3	1	5	7	7
Oakwood	6	0	5	1	6	19	1

Junior Boys Volleyball

School	G	W	L	F	A	Pts
East						
<i>Riverdale</i>	6	5	1	10	4	10
North Toronto	6	4	2	8	5	8
Northern	5	2	3	6	6	4
Marc Garneau	5	1	4	2	8	2
Danforth	4	0	4	0	8	0
West						
Bloor	6	6	0	12	3	12
Lawrence Park	6	5	1	11	3	10
Harbord	4	1	3	2	6	2
Western Tech	5	1	4	5	8	2
Parkdale	5	1	4	4	9	2

Senior Boys Volleyball – Tier I

School	G	W	L	F	A	Pts
East						
<i>Riverdale</i>	9	8	1	18	3	16
Monarch Park	9	7	2	16	11	14
North Toronto	8	5	3	11	7	10
Danforth	8	5	3	10	9	10
Northern	7	2	5	6	10	4
Marc Garneau	7	2	5	6	11	4
East York	7	2	5	5	12	4
Forest Hill	7	0	7	5	14	0
West						
Parkdale	9	8	1	18	3	16
Humberside	9	8	1	17	8	16
Harbord	8	5	3	12	7	10
Lawrence Park	8	4	4	9	10	8
Ursula Franklin	7	3	4	8	10	6
Bloor	7	2	5	5	12	4
Jarvis	7	1	6	5	12	2
Western Tech	7	0	7	2	14	0

Senior Boys Tennis Tier II

School	G	Pts
Danforth	6	16
Malvern	6	8
Jarvis	6	6
Humberside	7	29
East York	7	23
Northern	8	58
<i>Riverdale</i>	8	48

Senior Girls Tennis Tier II

School	G	Pts
South-East		
Malvern	4	14
Leaside HS	4	13
Riverdale	5	13
Northern	6	26
South-West		
Forest Hill	3	0
North Toronto	4	17
Parkdale	4	13
Lawrence Park	6	47

## One year away

Kristjan Lautens

Sports Writer



Peter Holland celebrates a goal, bringing leaf fans to their feet in excitement.

Photo by Richard Lautens

One year away. It seems to be the official slogan for Toronto Sports Fans. It gives us a undeserved, yet still relieving excitement for next year making us believe we can do better.

Thanksgiving has now come and gone and as the World Series comes to a close we now have a fresh start as fans ignorantly expect championships.

Torontonians have just gotten over the Blue Jays 21st consecutive season without going to the playoffs. Now we look to the big one. The NHL.

We look to the Leafs to finally settle our appetite for wins this season after their monumental collapses in the past two years.

The Maple Leafs are looking to build off of the last couple seasons and get back to the post-season, but can they?

Toronto had a good off-season acquiring some much needed depth with signing forwards like former Canuck, David Booth and making his return to Toronto after just one short season, Leo Komarov.

They also improved upon their defence with long time Blue, Roman Polak. Polak was a great addition even if it came at the cost of Swede Carl Gunnarsson.

The Leafs also lost centre Dave Bolland, wingers Nikolay Kulemin and Mason Raymond and defenseman Tim Gleason.

But the biggest gain of the summer was through the draft. They picked up Willie Nylander, a forward with soft hands and a huge hockey I.Q. He should be a powerful force in a few years.

But was that enough? The Leafs biggest strength is scoring. Constantly finishing in the top half of the league in goals scored.

The Leafs have many scoring wingers like Phil Kessel, James van Riemsdyk and Joffery Lupul who will undoubtedly put up over 50 points.

Their goaltenders are the class of the league despite it being a struggle for many prior years. Jonathan Bernier is a top 10 goalie at 26 years old with James Reimer providing a steady backup.

Morgan Rielly and Jake Gardiner are two of the best young and promising defencemen in the world right now, and it'll be a pleasure to watch those two develop into stars.

But for all their successes there are just as many problems, none of which are bigger than the defence.

The Maple Leafs lack that one star defenceman like Drew Doughty, Shea Weber, Duncan Keith or Mark Giordano. Dion Phaneuf is best suited for second line role with no more than 22 minutes a night. However due to big gaps in that position he's relied on to play 25-30 minutes a night.

The range in that position is woeful, with everyone forced to play above their potential.

Top end talent at centre ice is a big worry. Toronto lacks that true #1 centre that can rack up 70+ points. Tyler Bozak and Nazem Kadri try to replace the production of a legitimate #1 centre year after year. Yet, they fail year after year.

This next problem can't be seen on the ice but rather on the bench. Coach Randy Carlyle is a good coach. Yet this is fit is worse than George Clooney as Batman.

Carlyle's aggressive, in your face, loud mouth coaching style doesn't mesh well at all with Toronto's stars. Carlyle plays a cycle offence on a team that's much more suited for a rush offence. Not to mention they are completely devoid of a defensive system.

But luckily, after changes to all of Randy's assistants and changes in the front office, he'll be dropped at the first sign of trouble.

Our Toronto Maple Leafs have some good young talent and a plethora of viable scoring options. Yet idiotic and oblivious management will be stuck at a crossroads where they aren't as fast as the Montreal Canadiens or as strong as the Boston

Bruins.

GM Dave Nonis will continue to put off a much needed rebuild and will screw up the already lost franchise even more. The Maple Leafs will not be good enough for a playoff spot nor bad enough to put their claims on the Connor McDavid sweepstakes.

With how their team is being run, the 46 year cup drought will quickly turn into 50 or more. The question has to be raised: How many more years will mangement fool themselves into thinking the Leafs are contenders? Something has to be done soon or the Toronto Maple Leafs will be stuck in the unremarkable for years. But that won't stop fans from thinking they're one year away.

## Raptors: worth watching

Griffin Porter

Sports Writer

The last time a Toronto team won anything of significance was Joe Carter's legendary home run to win the World Series for the Blue Jays. The year was 1993. The oldest students at RCI wouldn't even be born for four more years. Eric Clapton won three Grammys for Song of the Year, Album of the Year and Record of the year. Bill Clinton was the President of the United States. And Toronto threw a party the likes of which no Riverdale student has ever seen.

But that may change soon. Because the Toronto Raptors are well on the way to winning an NBA Championship. At the time of writing this, the Raptors are 8-2, off to the best start in franchise history and in first place in the Eastern Conference. They're the best team that nobody down south is watching, with only one game on American national television this year. But the USA is still noticing, which is the true measure of when a Canadian team is doing well. Sports Illustrated is posting articles to Facebook about why more teams should be watching the Raptors, and TNT analysts, the leading basketball analysts in the world, are starting to discuss the Raptors more and more. This truly is a team on the rise.

The team is lead by two men who are emerging as true stars in the NBA. Point guard Kyle Lowry enjoyed a breakout season last year, but put the entire city on a nervous vibe when he became a free agent this summer, allowing him to go to any team he chose. However, Lowry shattered



Kyle Lowry makes a face as he runs into some heavy defence from Philadelphia's KJ McDaniels. Photo by Richard Lautens

the myth that big-name free agents don't want to sign in Toronto, choosing to sign a 4-year, \$48 million contract with the Raptors. This, along with his tenacious defense, tremendous leadership and deadly 3-point shot has made him a fan favourite on this team. He is accompanied by shooting guard DeMar DeRozan, who was named an NBA All-Star for the first time last year. DeRozan specializes in putting the ball in the basket in any way possible, both with a consistent jump shot and the ability to throw down massive slam dunks. He is fast becoming a superstar in the NBA, and accompanied by young pieces such as center Jonas Valanciunas and small forward Terrence Ross, as well as veterans like James Johnson and Lou Williams, this dynamic duo of Lowry and DeRozan are looking to lead Toronto to a championship.

For too long the Toronto Maple Leafs, and their win-less ways have dominated this city. There's nothing wrong with cheering for both teams, but from now on, how about we pay attention to the team that's actually going to make history?

## MISSED THE OLYMPICS

Brendan Wong-McAdam



FIN

THE  
CARTOONIST

Brendan Wong-McAdam is a grade 12 student with a knack for cartooning. Although he thinks it would be cool to pursue it as a career, like most senior students, Brendan is confused about his future. Inspired by such classics as *Looney Tunes* and *The Simpsons*, Brandon spends the majority of his time doodling.