



RIVERDALE KAKEHASHI STUDENTS SHARE THEIR FAVOURITE JAPANESE MEMORIES, FOODS, AND MORE!
- PAGE 5



RAIDERS IN ACTION, EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS OF RIVERDALE STUDENTS DOING THEIR 'THANG'.
- PAGES 6-7



EXCITED FOR MAY? GET AN EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW OF THE MINI-OLYMPIC SCHEDULE!
- PAGE 9

The Riverdale Spectator

March 31, 2014

Volume XI, Issue I

Tap, tenor, *Tequila* top talent show acts



Tequila Revival (Michael Courneya, Zack Mortimer, Isaac Gibbs, Michi Klippenstein and Stefan Divic) are crowned the group winner of *Riverdale's Got Talent*.

Danielle Truong

Co-Editor

First at *Riverdale Idol* and now at *Riverdale's Got Talent*, Alexander Stewart has taken Riverdale by storm and is a force to be reckoned with as he was awarded Best Solo Performance at this year's talent show.

Stewart touched the hearts and souls of everyone once again with his rendition of the Leonard Cohen's classic *Hallelujah*. Although he has yet to complete his first year of high school and is only 14 years old, this young man has already achieved celebrity status.

On Wednesday March 5th, Riverdale's Music Department hosted their annual event *Riverdale's Got Talent* featuring the return of many acts along with some fresh meat. It was hosted by Josh Vivian and Silas Vriend and judged by Mrs. Flatman, Ms. McMahon-Nelson, Mr. Varahidus and vocal student teacher Mr. O'Reilly.

The night kicked off with the return of *Acafellas* who have made a few new additions to the last year's group growing from eight members to 12.

Under the direction of former Riverdalian Kevin Yu, the *'Fellas* sang a vocal mash up of the number one hits - *Somebody That I Used to Know*, *Counting Stars*, and *When I was Your Man*.

Musicians Tharshika Jeyaraj and Peter Wu are no stranger to the *Riverdale's Got Talent* stage, as they wowed the crowd for a second year in a row with their piano and guitar solo performances.

Another returning performer was Irish tap dancer Victoria Preston-Walker who performed a dance duet with fellow tap dancer Adrien Warren.

As the girls left the stage to catch their breath, Victoria Preston-Walker was called back onto the stage by and was pleasantly surprised with a promposal from MC Josh Vivian. Later

on, the tap-dancing pair was called upon one last time when they were crowned Best Duo of the night.

If you were in attendance for this year's Chamber Night, you may recall the memorable performance of *Tequila* which featured Mr. Dermer playing the pineapple, banana and various other tropical fruits.

The boys were back as their band *Tequila Revival*, consisting of Michael Courneya, Stefan Divic, Isaac Gibbs, Michi Klippenstein and Zack Mortimer performed *Red Clay* by Freddie Hubbard and *YYZ* by Rush. They were crowned with the award for Best Group Performance.

This year Riverdale saw the amazing talents of a few very brave and talented Grade 9 students. In addition to Alexander Stewart, David Olivia-Weibe and James Camano performed duets with fellow senior students Derek Schmucker and Edward Chan.

Not only were all three freshman boys a part of the *Acafellas*, but Vocal Council's James

Camno also performed with his band TBN who blew us all away with their original songs *Ohhh* and *What Do You Do* (written and composed at our local McDonalds restaurant).

Aside from the musical performances, Hannah Halcro and Griffin Porter entertained us all with their amazing ability to capture the audience through spoken word and stand up comedy. Both students brought a breath of fresh air to the stage and left us with either something to think about or laugh about.

The talent show would not be complete without a few surprises.

The audience was in for treat with a special guest performance from Riverdale's very own Bruno Mars (Mr. Le) who was accompanied by the *Acafellas* in a performance of Bruno Mars's hit *When I Was Your Man* as well as a beautiful rendition of *Killing me Softly* by our Vocal student teachers Mr. O'Reilly and Ms. Horton.

CAN'T GET ENOUGH?

CHECK OUT WHAT RIVERDALE STUDENTS ARE DOING; FROM SPIRIT WEEK TO SEMI FORMAL... EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS ON PAGE 6 & 7

WHO ARE THE FRESH FACES WE'VE BEEN SEEING IN THE HALLWAYS AND CLASSROOMS? GET TO KNOW OUR NEW TEACHERS ON PAGE 9

INDEX...

OPINIONS	2
NEWS	3
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT	8
SPORTS	9

THE RIVERDALE
SPECTATOR

Volume XI, Issue I:
Winter Edition
c/o Riverdale
Collegiate Institute
1094 Gerrard St. E
Toronto, ON
M4M 2A1



Telephone:
416 - 393 - 9820

Fax:
416 - 393 - 0988

Email:
rcipaper@yahoo.com

editor-in-chief

Lisa Xiong

Danielle Truong

managing editor

Amber Young

layout editor

Vi Le

Aliyah Thomas

Eugenia Lee

Lucy Yam

news editor

Jane Huang

Brenda Truong

arts & entertainment

Kelly Voong

lifestyle

Bessie Barlis

Thandi Thomas

opinions editor

Nicole Werker

Hannah Halcro

sports editor

Max White

Annika Lautens

photo editor

Sally Twin

Dillon Chan

staff advisor

Andre Simoneau

Opinions expressed in the Spectator are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board or the publishers or Toronto District School Board. The Spectator is the official student newspaper of Riverdale Collegiate Institute. The Spectator is published by the Toronto District School Board.

Submissions Policy

All submissions are to be emailed to rcipaper@yahoo.com as Microsoft Word attachments. 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.

Oh, Raiderman! Where art thou?

Lisa Xiong

Co-Editor

On May 31, 2013 excitement filled the air as Riverdale welcomed a new member to the RCI community. In the midst of our 2012-2013 farewell assembly, we witnessed the birth of Raiderman. We were filled with excitement as our new mascot entered the stage and we cheered with joy when he vowed to attend every sports game.

Now, almost six months later, we see that Raiderman has broken his promise to us. What has happened to our one-eyed-hooked-hand friend? Apart from his brief appearance at the spirit assembly this past November, Raiderman has been MIA.

Perhaps he is travelling the country, spreading Raider spirit from coast to coast? Or maybe he has been left in the corner of a dusty storage room in the Phys. Ed. Department. The latter seems to be the most likely state of our beloved mascot.

After finally deciding that six months was six months too long without an answer to the mystery, I ventured down to the chamber of sweaty jocks, injured athletes, and funky scented lockers (more commonly known as the gym office) to find the truth to the mysterious disappearance of Raiderman.

Our School Spirit Guru, and former Riverdale student himself, Mr. Wakelin was kind enough to give some insight on our mascot's current situation.

"While Raiderman is a physical

entity—there is a costume," he began, "Raiderman (and Raidergirl) are actually more of an imaginary [concept] in the sense that [although] someone gets in a costume, [our mascot] actually lives inside of every Riverdale person."

"Raiderman is just a pile of red and blue cloth, but we, the students and staff of Riverdale, are real people," says Grade 12 swimmer Sally Twin, "We are the Raiders and we have to make sure our flame of school spirit does not blow out. It's not a costume's job.

"Raiderman may be just a costume, but it's the idea of being a True Raider that matters."

So where is our beloved mascot? The physical shell we see every now and then may be abandoned in the Phys. Ed. storage room awaiting the next spirit assembly, but more importantly, his spirit? The simple answer is that Riverdale spirit is everywhere.

Although he hasn't been present physically, Raiderman's principle of being a True Raider has always stuck with us. Look left, look right, look into the mirror; Raiderman lives within every member of the Riverdale community.

Raiderman may not be present at every sports game as he promised, but it's our job as Riverdalians to ensure that even without the presence of the costumed man, that we keep Riverdale spirit alive.

After all, you are Raiderman. I am Raiderman.

We are Raiderman.



Raiderman bows graciously to the crowd of cheering students at the last Athletic Awards Assembly. (Photo by Lisa Xiong)

What about the Arts?



(photo by Lisa Xiong)

Danielle Truong

Co-Editor

Here at Riverdale, we are very fortunate to have so many different subject departments, each with their own clubs, activities and events. But with such a diverse number of departments, it can be difficult not to constantly compete with one another when it comes to things such as funding, special events, and field trips. Unfortunately in many situations, the talents and hard work students and staff put into planning these events go unappreciated.

The Art Department is an example of a department with amazing talent that often goes unnoticed and is often overlooked. "I've always felt that the Art Department has not been appreciated in comparison to the Music Department" says Connie Quach.

One of the main issues the Art Department has had was not being able to go on any overnight trips in the Spring because of the limit for the number of trips that are allowed each year. Another predicament the Art Department, as well as many other departments at Riverdale, experience is not receiving proper funding for basic art supplies such as paint brushes.

"We have a collection of paint brushes, many from the dollar store, with ends that have completely hardened, it's like painting with sticks. We call it the 'Acropolis of Paintbrushes'," said Senior Art student and Student Council VPX, Lisa Xiong.

Although the students have made some significant improvements for this year with a very dedicated Art Council, led by Connie Quach, that plans events and activities for the entire student body such as making decorations and hosting weekly Art Club meetings where anyone can drop in and embrace their inner artists, the capabilities of Riverdale's art students are not as well known as they should be.

The Drama Department also has a similar situation, where the students are often unrecognized, as it is the smallest of all the Arts Departments. The issue with Drama is that the course is only available as an elective starting in grade 10 and the senior Drama class ends up being a grade 11/12 split. With such a small group of students, they unfortunately do not have an executive group of students to take on the leadership roles of planning any large events. "As of right now, Drama often just gets glossed over."

Although the Music department is the largest department of all the Arts, bigger isn't always necessarily better. This year's Band department is one of the largest departments at Riverdale with 9 sections in total which amounts to over 250 students. Having so many classes and musicians is wonderful, but it puts an enormous amount of pressure on the band teachers, Ms. Sumi, Ms. Rayman and Mr. Varahidis, who all teach multiple band classes in addition to other courses as well. Without having a full time band teacher, planning the concerts and running rehearsals becomes a difficult task for both the students and teachers.

As our school song says, "There is no better school". As students, it is through our successes and achievements that we have established Riverdale's reputation as a high school with a strong focus on academics. Although Riverdale isn't considered an arts school like Rosedale Heights or Etobicoke School of the Arts, but who say's we can't be?

Having School spirit isn't just about being on a sports team or participating in spirit days; it's about being supportive of your fellow classmates and teachers, and being an active member of our RCI community. Next time you watch a drama or musical performance, see a work of art on display or even pass by one of your teachers, take a minute to appreciate the talent and hard work they put into making Riverdale the best it can be.

Riverdale soars to record breaking heights



Over 300 Riverdale staff and students gathered in Gym A to witness this Guinness World Record breaking attempt.

Jane Huang

News Editor

On Friday, October 18th, Riverdale joined thousands of Canadians across the country in an attempt to establish the Guinness World Record for the largest simultaneous science lesson.

Staff, students, guests and media representatives gathered in Gym A at 1:00 PM for the record-breaking science lesson taking place at the same time nationwide.

The event, which coincided with *National Science and Technology Week*, consisted of a 30 minute science experiment that simulated the gravity and atmosphere on Earth, Mars, and the moon.

Students tested the flight distances of the three different types of paper airplanes representing the three celestial bodies. They then compared and discussed the results and used their data to make inferences about the effect of gravity and the atmosphere on Earth, Mars, and the moon.

This experiment explored atmospheric science, flight dynamics, the solar system, and the properties of gravity and air.

As a physics teacher and one of the main coordinators of the event at Riverdale, Mr. Le was particularly excited to take a break from the textbook and engage students in a creative and hands-on science lesson.

"The event was a very unique opportunity for Riverdale to take education outside of the classroom and learn through active participation," he said. "I believe this refreshing experience helped students see science in a new light."

The aim was to break last year's record of 13,701 participants at 88 locations across Canada. The data and evidence has been collected and forwarded to Guinness for final examination and calculation.

Riverdale is eagerly awaiting the announcement that will reveal whether or not the event managed to break the record. Results will be posted online at science.gc.ca.

A dress code for all

Nicole Werker

Opinions Editor

Every day before school, we students often find ourselves asking the same question: "What should I wear to school today?"

The choice is ours. Well, somewhat ours. We must abide by a certain set of rules that tell us what we can and cannot wear. It distinguishes the appropriate from the inappropriate.

The dress code rules are simple enough that students should be able to understand and obey. As an example, no tube tops or spaghetti straps and no vulgar graphic tees. For the most part, these rules are obeyed.

The dress code's purpose is to make the school more orderly, to create a safe environment for the students, and to keep all attire appropriate for school.

However, as a group we don't follow the rules all the time. When we don't we must face the consequences.

"Do you have a sweater in your locker that you can put on?" is a question with which many girls at RCI are familiar.

The purpose of the dress code is clear - school is our workplace, not a house party. At the workplace tops should meet bottoms and pants should be at the waist. Students should be dressed appropriately and ready to learn at 8:45 a.m.

It's not the rules that I have a problem with, but rather how they're

enforced. When I listen to the morning announcements on the PA about the dress code or hear countless stories from my female friends about being called down to the office because of what they decided to wear, it seems a double standard is at play for the girls.

The message has more to do with shaming the girls than anything else. It's not about dressing for learning, but about making sure we cover up to stop "boys from being boys."

We don't see boys being dress-coded for low-riding pants or shorts.

The dress code at Riverdale doesn't feel like it's here for my safety or well-being. It feels like another way to silence self-expression of some female students, while boys don't face the same restrictions.

In fact, if female students are continuously told not to do something without equal enforcement on both genders, they are going to defy again and again. This cycle practically encourages resistance to the rules.

I'm not saying the dress code should be abolished because I recognize its significance and being appropriate for school is important. However, I am asking for the authority figures at Riverdale not to use respect for education as a euphemism for "you're dressing too provocatively."

If RCI wants girls to take the dress code seriously, then apply the rules evenly and respectfully. When this happens, I will gladly change my crop top.

Breakfast Club serves on



(photo by Sally Twin)

Yet again, timetable changes deemed necessary

Hannah Halcro

Opinions Editor

Early this year students and teachers were once again spun about by the annual timetable swap in mid-October. Teachers were switched, students changed periods, and entire classes were moved into different time slots in a large kerfuffle that swept across the school like a frustrated gremlin with white-out and a permanent marker.

Many students, especially those in Grades 9 and 10, were upset and more than a little annoyed at the changes. "I got a new teacher," said one grade ten student, "who grades completely differently, so when I handed in an essay, I was marked on different aspects."

As one can imagine, this switch-up is difficult for both teachers and students when it comes to classwork and academics. However, the administration ensures that it is an entirely necessary process that puts the interest of the student body's long-term education first.

Every year, the TDSB makes an educated guess of how many students will be enrolled in the dozens of classes offered at each school for the following year.

This estimate is based on previous class sizes, how many students are expected to graduate, how many new students are expected to arrive from feeder schools, and other such statistics. However, the TDSB being the TDSB, does not do its estimating with any degree of accuracy; the numbers aren't unbelievably far-off, nor are they close enough to be left unchanged.

Oftentimes, students who might have graduated choose to stay another year, and sometimes their interest in a certain area of study is higher or lower than expected.

At most secondary level Toronto schools, the estimation is too high, and teachers are required to move elsewhere. However, at RCI, because we have so many students, the estimation is almost always too low, and the school needs to hire more

teachers to cover all the classes.

Unfortunately, because students are indecisive creatures, there is a lot of course switching and dropping at the beginning of September (hence the lines streaming out of the guidance office at nearly every lunch and after school for the first week or two after summer). Because of this, the school does not know how many students are in each class until the end of September.

In early October, tallies are done, and the school is faced with the issue of oversized classes. New teachers are hired, and many classes have to be rearranged and moved to different timeslots, affecting the whole school.

Mr. Fick, guidance counselor, assures that these changes are "not designed for any other reason than to give students smaller class sizes."

Making such drastic changes after a month of school is no small feat. It may seem like a bummer for all students and teachers with disrupted classes, but it turns out to be better for everyone in the long run.

Brenda Truong

News Editor

It's back, Riverdale! You may have noticed the *Breakfast Club* is once again serving hot breakfast every Friday.

Sometime between 8:15 and the morning bell, students are encouraged to stop by and grab freshly made hot breakfast items from the trolleys positioned by the attendance office and in the atrium.

A few of these breakfast items include egg and cheese sandwiches, and breakfast burritos; those modest white serving bags are yours for the taking!

This is needless to say that the *Breakfast Club* has come a long way from the obstacles thrown at them last year through controversial Bill 115. Although the Bill resulted in the diminishment of extracurricular activities, the *Breakfast Club* was able to demonstrate the importance of making sure the students at Riverdale are provided with a meal available before school.

"We have a strong committed group of students who did their best without a teacher," said Ms. Burbank, one of the dedicated staff advisors of the *Breakfast Club*.

They say "the show must go on", and so it did. Every day, between 8:15 and the morning bell, club members were seen at their expected locations in the school.

This is all thanks to Riverdale's *Breakfast Club* and its affiliation with *Breakfast for Learning by Canadian Living*.

The Breakfast Club prepares these meals alongside Ms. Burbank every Friday morning.

"Students and teachers alike now get to look forward to Fridays; not just because of the weekend, but because of our hot breakfasts," said *Breakfast Club* member and Student Council Treasurer Carl Huang. "Never go into battle on an empty stomach."

The Breakfast Club is anticipated to continue the hot breakfast program every Friday going into the New Year.

Olympic flame set to return after four year drought

Lucy Yam

Contributing Writer

Mini-Olympics has been a tradition at Riverdale since 1980. After a four-year absence, it is finally returning.

In the last few years Mini-Olympics has been a matter in question within the student body, and as time passed we had accepted the disappointing fact that it may not be coming back.

As last year's graduates were the last bunch to experience the luxury of the event, many current students are not too familiar with what it was and why everyone fought so hard for its return.

Mini-Olympics is composed of various activities and games that bring out the excitement and competitive nature within us, in a friendly and fun way. The student body is broken up into eight "countries". Points are awarded to participants and are tallied up to determine the winning country.

Guitar Hero, sumo wrestling, Rubik's Cube challenges, charades, athletics, chess, fly-on-the-wall, eating contests and an obstacle course finale are just a few of the quirky and fun activities seen in the 2010 Mini-Olympic Games.

This year, we can look forward to a mixture of classic athletic, mathematical, technical, and artistic challenges as well as new events that will be sure to cater to everyone's interests. The friendly faces of the Phys Ed. department encourage you to provide your input of activities you



want to take place. They are more than happy to hear the suggestions.

After interviewing a few fellow fifthyear students and teachers, their collective opinions drew many positive remarks when asked about how they would describe Mini-Olympics in three words.

"An incredible experience," said Jason Lam.

"Best time ever," added Jeremy Yang.

"Nothing is 'Mini'", opined Mr. Wakelin.

"So much fun!" exclaimed Ms. Ciabbarri.

"Fun, inclusive, memorable," concluded Ms. Nishio.

Being one of the few people who has experienced Mini-Olympics, all I can remember is how hilarious it

was to watch some of the events take place and how eager everyone was to sign up for events to represent their country.

Each team came up with their own name and costume. Our team was the *Legendary Ninjas*. Other teams included the *Fearless Barbarians*, *Juicy Moosey*, *EX-Cons*, *Gold Diggers*, *Action Heroes*, *Kings*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

The bottom line from what I gathered from teachers is to have fun and participate, as there is something for everyone.

Support your country towards victory, even if you're just there as

a spectator. Bring your enthusiasm and don't be afraid to let your school spirit go wild!

Mini-Olympics is just like the Summer and Winter Olympic Games in that it only happens every couple of years, so make sure you don't take this opportunity for granted. It is a rewarding break from regular day to day academics, a chance to engage in competitions with everyone in the school, and to earn boasting rights for your achievements.

Do you think your country has got what it takes to be champions? Join in on the games and show your stuff in May 2014!



Spirit strikes back: Raider spirit in a nutshell



Jason Lam and Michael Zhang enjoying a jaw-dropping game of musical chairs on Raider's Day. (photo by Lisa Xiong)

Aliyah Thomas and Sally Twin

Contributing Writers

Last year at Riverdale, Riverdaliens were deeply affected by Bill 115. Extra-curriculars were cut, putting an end to multiple teams, clubs, and events. As a result, much of the students' teamwork, collaboration and school spirit was lost.

Graduates left Riverdale feeling incomplete, while returning students feared for a round two of a boring school year.

This year, however, the return of extracurriculars returned with a bang.

At the start of the school year, Student Council hosted their annual *Spirit Week*. This year's event

started with our all-time favourite, *Twin Day*, followed by the newly introduced *#swagday*, onto the lazy, but comfy *Pajama Day*, then a first time success of *Tiki Thursday*, and finally ending with the traditional *Raider's Day*.

Students from all grades took the opportunity to participate in the events during lunch, including three-

legged races, a photo shoot, games of twister, limbo, and musical chairs. In all the events students showed their spirit. In the three-legged race and musical chairs students battled against each other to become the winner.

Spirit was shown in other activities as well, such as Halloween, which marked the day for both students and staff to revisit their childhood and come to school dressed up in their favourite costumes.

Teachers dressed in their finest Greek robes to raise spirit all in preparation for the upcoming Mini-Olympics and students that had forgotten their costumes were still able to participate in Halloween as the Prom Committee offered their expertise in face painting.

The film *PARAN-N-N-NORMAL* directed by Kevin Yu and his film crew was played in the auditorium on Halloween during lunch as well. The movie had a great turnout with exceptional acting from our fellow students.

"[There are] many great actors at Riverdale I never knew of. I look forward to working with them in the near future," commented Yu.

The day after, on the 1st of November, the Student Council continued the exciting Halloween celebration with a *Fear Factor Eating Contest*. This year, some of the crazy wild food concoctions

included a combination of whip cream and pickles. Delicious!

Not only did we see the return of school spirit in students, but in the faculty as well.

With Riverdale's first ever pep rally held in the beginning of November, teachers collaborated to make a medley of voice overs from today's most popular hits.

Some highlights included Mr. Miguel *What Does The Fox Say?* and Mr. Duong and Mrs. Rusnov's *Don't Stop Believin'* to which the crowd "aaaahhed" in adoration.

Finally, Mr. Simoneau's embraced his inner Miley Cyrus in an eye-opening performance of *Wrecking Ball*, leaving Riverdale students and staff shocked and speechless.

To commemorate the pep rally, Riverdale held its first *Red and Blue Day*.

The Student Council set up a game of Kool-Aid Pong, where students were invited to compete against each other during lunch.

On the side, GAA also provided face painting in red and blue to promote school spirit in preparation to raise spirit for the upcoming Mini-Olympics event in the Spring of 2014.

With spirit radiating all over school, Riverdaliens proudly wear red and blue anxiously awaiting the triumphant return of Mini-Olympics.

Kakehashi: building bridges for a brighter future

Connie Quach

Contributing Writer

Strong bonds are just another key ingredient on the path toward a better future.

"Ichi go, ichi e" is a saying in Japanese that I have grown to love. It is an expression that Japanese people use to describe a "once in a lifetime experience." I learned that saying before I departed on my exchange program to Japan and right from the beginning it touched my heart.

My journey began even before I stepped on the airplane for Japan. It began when I first heard about the Kakehashi project. Once I heard about this opportunity, I went to ask my parents if I could apply and that's when they asked me what this project was.

"This is a project where the Government of Japan has decided to send two hundred Canadians on a

because I did not truly understand the purpose of the trip, but now that I do. I am certain that this trip was certainly not a waste of the government's money.

When I arrived in Japan I was astonished with their technology right from the start, I especially took a great interest in their vending machines. Have you ever seen a vending machine that could provide a hot drink in a cup? I did not even care that I could not read what I was drinking.

During the first few days of Japan we made a stop at the Fujitsu technology hall where we got to learn about *Super Computer K*. This incredible computer can take information and calculate in a second what a single person would take 1.6 billion years to do. Not only that but this computer can create simulations of natural disasters and predict when



Riverdale Kakehashi students captured mid-leap overseas in Japan in October 2013. (photo by Mr. Harvey)

untouched wilderness. The warmth of the sun, beauty of this incredible view and the chanting of the monks made that moment the most relaxing moment of my entire life. It was a feeling that was indescribable and unforgettable.

Saying goodbye to the temple was hard because the moment we had all been waiting for finally came, it was the moment that would change our lives forever. It was time to meet our exchange partners.

My exchange partner was my Japanese twin, she and I had so much in common. She loved to play sports and her favourite sport was badminton, just like me.

What made this even funnier was that she was the shortest person in their group, while I was the shortest person in our group. I was with her for a total of three days and I feel

as though we made such a strong connection that is still connected through e-mail even though it has been a month since we got back.

None of us in the Kakehashi project would have ever imagined we would become so close with our exchange partners, but it happened. We sang, we laughed, we cried, and eventually said our goodbyes. My family in Japan had even said to me, "You are now a part of my family, our home is your home." I think it took a little over an hour for everyone to say their final goodbyes.

It is quite rare to see me shed a tear in public but Japan broke me down. On the last day, we had a big group hug and we all cried and reflected on our adventure.

I have now realised that this trip will create a better relationship between Canada and Japan. A lot

of people that were selected for this trip, including me, are very interested in business and I know this trip will create a brighter path in the business aspect for the future of Japan.

I am certain that the two hundred Canadians are telling people about this beautiful country and thus creating more tourism in Japan for future years.

Not only is the business aspect and tourism of Japan being strengthened for the future but the youth of Japan are learning how to network with other countries.

I have no doubt that Japan has a bright future and I hope to reconnect with this outstanding country one day,

I just keep telling myself, "This is not the time to say goodbye, but to say until next time."

(Right): Bianca Tang, Annika Lautens, Ellisia Calvo, Gillian Toliver, Katie Bell, and Connie Quach all smiles at the temple. (photo by Mr. Harvey)



ten day study tour of Japan and the same number of Japanese students will come to Canada. Riverdale Collegiate Institute was one out of the eight schools chosen to send 23 students and two staff supervisors to Japan."

Knowing my parents, I knew that I was about to hear a stern NO! come out of their mouths so I decided to add, "By the way, this trip is free."

Now you are probably asking yourself, "Why would Japan fund this trip?" You might even be thinking that this whole project is a waste of money. At the start of this trip I would not know the answer to your question

and how disastrous it can be which could end up saving thousands of people.

Although the technological aspect of Tokyo was amazing, I would have to say that I enjoyed the serenity aspect in Nara a bit more. When we arrived in Nara, we stayed at a temple which was the highlight of my trip. In fact, the views were so amazing that we teenagers were actually willing to get up at five in the morning to see the sights.

That morning there was a beautiful sunrise just peeking through the clouds and the sun was shining upon miles of trees that were

Group off to Ecuador

Nicole Werker

Opinions Editor

On March 7th, 2014 teacher Zoe Flatman and 13 Riverdale students will be traveling to Ecuador for the volunteer trip of a lifetime.

This *Me 2 We* trip is associated with EF Tours and *Free the Children*, the Canadian organization started by Craig and Marc Kielburger.

The group will spend ten days working in Ecuador, specifically in the province of Chimborazo.

Free the Children has been working to build schools in this province since 1999. However, *Free the Children* has decided to make Ecuador a permanent country in their *Adopt a Village* program in 2008.

While abroad, the RCI students will learn about the Ecuadorian culture and traditions such as 'Minga' a Kichwa, tradition that involves entire communities that work together on a project that benefits everyone.

This philosophy originated in Ecuador, but *Free the Children* was very inspired by it and now uses the philosophy and are dedicated to joining the 'Minga' for helping communities all across Ecuador.

During their stay, the students will be living in facilities provided by *Me 2 We*. However, during the day they will be working on building the new school for the community in Chimborazo.

In addition, the group will also have the opportunity to be a part of and lead action-planning sessions and social issues discussions with the *Me 2 We* facilitators

The RCI group will have the chance to learn some Spanish while abroad as well.

While in the province of Chimborazo, the group will not only be building in the community but also interacting with its members. For example, visiting local markets and playing sports with the children in Chimborazo.

This trip will be an amazing opportunity for all the people involved. It will be a chance to explore new things and learn about a culture that many of us know little about such as what the people in Ecuador eat, how they work and where they live. They will learn about the community and work very closely with them.

Japan Q&A corner

In October 2013, 23 Riverdale students spent 10 days in Japan on a student exchange program called the Kakehashi Project. Here is what they had to say about it...

Q: Favourite part of Japan?

Monica Chow: The temple stay at Nara was no doubt the highlight of my trip. Everything there was perfect, the scenic view, sunrise, temple tours, and the heart-to-heart talk with all the girls! I won't ever forget that night, love you guys.

Tina Vulevic: Bonding with all of the Kakehashi group people, and petting the deer ;3

Connie Quach: The temple stay, it was so peaceful and traditional. Jessie Liang: Being able to bond with all these wonderful people for 8 days

Q: What was the biggest difference between Canada and Japan?

TV: One shocking difference was the extreme silence, respect, and modesty with which the Japanese people carry themselves

CQ: THE VENDING MACHINES! They were everywhere! There was a lot of variety and it was pretty cheap.



(photo by Connie Quach)

Q: Weirdest food?

MC: Trying sukiyaki during my homestay, it was hotpot with beef and vegetables. But, with the Japanese twist... dipped in raw egg. Mmmmm oishii!

TV: Takoyaki... octopus balls with some strong-smelling sauce???

CQ: Baths... So we bought a package that looked adorable and our tour guide thought it was candy... It was not candy _.

JL: Marinated tangerines but they were super yum!!!

Heather Perry: Bath salts

Q: Weirdest experience abroad?

MC: Traditional Japanese baths. Enough said.

TV: Renting kimonos and walking around the town while everybody stared hahaha!

CQ: Japanese hot baths in the temple... That was something I will never forget.

JL: No question the public baths.



(photo by Jessie Liang)

Q: Any advice for Riverdadians travelling to Japan in the future?

MC: Be adventurous and be bold! There are so many places to explore and even more things to do in Japan, what are you waiting for?

TV: TRY EVERYTHING! Even if you think you won't like it, You'll never know unless you try! You could be missing out on the greatest experience of a lifetime.

CQ: Spend wisely; you will honestly want to buy everything you see.

JL: Try to get involved in any student exchanges when you get the chance to and if you go to Japan make sure to go either the Fall or the Spring because the scenery is beautiful!!



(photo by Mr. Harvey)

Q: Last but not least, what was your favourite memory?

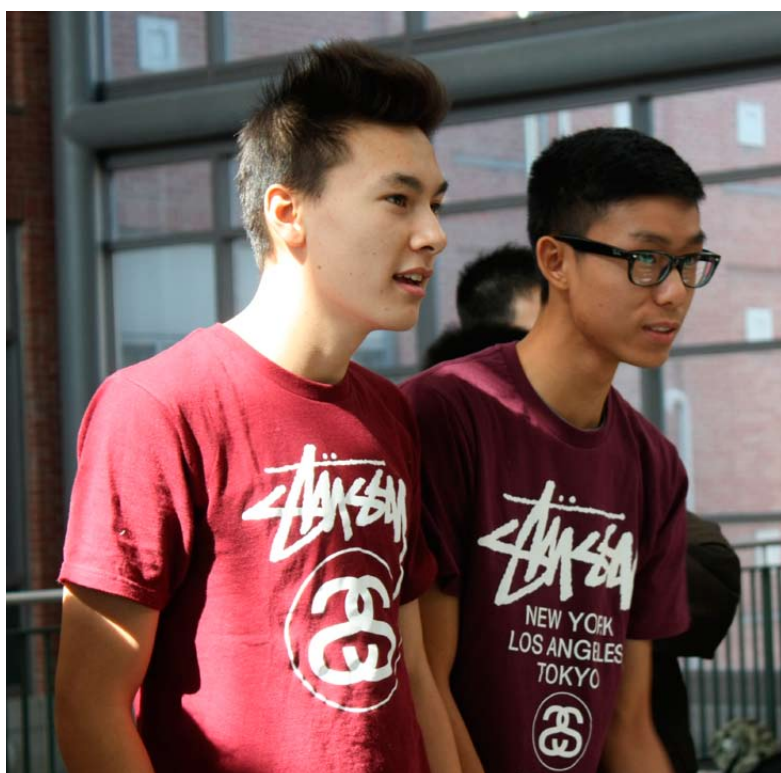
MC: All the freedom we were given in Japan. The 7-11 runs, Buying drinks from any vending machine we saw, and shopping with friends late at night while walking aimlessly in the downtown Ginza of Tokyo. Good times, good times.

TV: Sketchy cafe in ginza with ma girls Katie and Ellisia, Petting the deer and hunting for wi-fi in the buddhist temple with the girls at 1 am

CQ: Singing with the Japanese students at their school, we sang Totoro and high school musical songs. It was a beautiful moment.

JL: Feeling the connection we have with people that were just strangers across the pacific ocean days ago and singing the same songs in unison.





A chamber night of sounds



Ezra Greenspoon rocking out on the drums (photo by Yu-Lin Chan)

Dillon Chan

Arts and Entertainment Editor

On the chilly evening of the 7th of November, Riverdale's band room was blessed with a blend of sound that, unlike the usual, was beautiful and smooth. Student-led groups from Riverdale performed songs in an intimate performing environment. This night of performances was known as Chamber Night.

Undoubtedly the most memorable performance of the night was the piece Tequila, a repetitive yet energetic and engaging performance with a plethora of different instrumental solos.

The saxophone solo was very rich in tone, and the bass and saxophone players handed off instruments for a total of two bass solos.

However, the two most unique solos of Tequila were those of the cowbell and fruit. Cowbell solos are rarely seen, and so it was a humorous sight for the audience. The solo was rhythmically creative and also provided a melodic break.

Undeterred by the much applauded cowbell solo, the fruit solo was truly the highlight of the night. The soloist was none other than Riverdale's own Mr. Dermer, equipped with a güiro and a cart of fruit.

As Dermer played the güiro and left the fruit untouched, the audience became increasingly anxious, dying to discover the purpose of the fruits.

In one swift motion, Dermer switched from being an expert güiro player, to banging out a melodic solo by simply touching his assortment of fruits. How he did it, nobody knows.

Despite the sweet success of the fruit solo, the other acts are not to be overlooked. A group of stringed musicians performed an invigorating arrangement of a well-known piece by Mozart, *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*. The overall blend of the performance was excellent. The repeated eighth notes of the harmonizing instruments gave the piece its uplifting beat, and, despite the lack of a conductor, the group managed to play together as a single unit.

And let's not forget about the clarinet arrangement of Erik Satie's *Trois Gymnopédies no. 1* featuring three clarinets and a bass clarinet. The group was comprised of members of "beginner" band, yet the group gave the piece the slow, relaxing, and moving feel that it deserves. The blending between clarinets was superb, playing a gentle and soothing melody.

From the jazzy sounds of St. Thomas to the soothing voices of John Rutter's *A Gaelic Blessing* all the way to a beautiful, tear jerking rendition of *Music of the Night* from the Phantom of the Opera, Riverdale's annual Chamber Night is certainly an event to attend.

A festival of festive festivities



(photo by Sally Twin)

Dillon Chan

Arts and Entertainment Editor

On December 11th of 2013, when the festivities were at its peak. Smack dab in the middle of the holiday season, Riverdale had prepared for the whole school its festive concert, Festivus.

Otherwise known as the Winter Concert, Riverdale's music department prepared festive pieces amongst other miscellaneous ones as well. Some of the festive pieces included a Nigerian Christmas carol entitled *Betelehemu*, a jazzy rendition of *Frosty the Snowman*, *Jingle Bells*, and many others.

The first half of the concert was intended to direct attention to Riverdale's junior musicians.

First on the programme was the Beginner Band with Mr. Varahidis, a new music department staff member, performing *Rolling Tough* and *Jingle Bells*.

The Junior Strings, under the direction of Ms. Law, performed *Airplane* and *Christmas Kaleidoscope* featuring the surprising vocals from the beginner string players.

The Choral Ensemble performed *Betelehemu*, conducted by Ms. Rayman, and the Intermediate Strings

performed a medley of *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* and *A Holly Jolly Christmas*.

The Junior Band concluded the first half of the concert with *Voyage Jubiloso* and *Welcome Christmas*.

While the junior musicians were performing, the other music students were scrambling to prepare for the Market Place, a 30 minute intermission in between the two parts of the concert.

As the audience poured out of the auditorium, they were greeted with an ensemble of students playing a jazzy rendition of *Frosty the Snowman* atop the catwalk.

After that, the audience had the pleasure of watching other small ensembles perform while they purchased baked goods at the bake sale as well as raffle tickets in support of the Music Department.

The second half of the concert was directed towards our senior musicians.

The Jazz band with Ms. Sumi started off with *I'll Be Home for Christmas* and *Lullaby of Birdland*. The Choral Ensemble made another presence with the piece *Loch Lomond*,

Ms. Sumi and the Wind Ensemble

performed the futuristic *Andromeda* and the uplifting *We Wish You a Mambo Christmas* and Ms. Law with Concert Strings played Handel's majestic *Hallelujah* chorus, and a Holiday classic, *White Christmas*.

The Orchestra, under the command of Mr. Varahidis played an epic medley of songs from the *Pirates of the Caribbean* soundtrack with Ms. Law making her Xylophone debut.

Concluding the student performances was the Senior Choir performing *In Remembrance*, with Mr. Varahidis performing a euphonium solo, as well as the wonderful Freedom Trilogy featuring not only singers, but a slough of percussionists and a piano accompaniment as well.

To wrap up the concert, Ms. Rayman and music executives lead the audience and performers in a fun, interactive, and competitive sing-through of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

Hearing live is much different than hearing things on the radio. From *Jingle Bells* to *We Wish You a Mambo Christmas*, the Winter Concert is an annual event that is more fun to attend than to just read about in a newspaper.

And our Riverdale Idol winner is...



Alexander Stewart left the crowd speechless with his cover of *Stay*.

Kelly Voong

Arts and Entertainment Editor

This November, the Vocal Department presented their annual search for Riverdale's next idol. It was a difficult and tedious process but the competition only brought out the encouraging spirit within Riverdale's student body.

With the issue of Bill 115 last year, a lot of the students were unable to display their amazing voices. However, that did not stop their aspiration to prove their vocal abilities. It was truly an amazing turnout of both supporters and contestants this year.

Starting at the beginning, due to the large number contestants, the preliminaries occurred during two lunch periods unlike the original plan of just one. The judges (Mrs. Rayman and other music teachers) and Vocal Council members have all agreed that this was the hardest part of the entire competition.

The contestants consisted of

extremely talented singers which made the decision a lot harder. There was a clear division between the singers, soulful songbirds and soon to be pop stars.

However despite the talented students who came out, a cut had to be made. Only the top 16 could make it onto the next round, the semi-finals.

When it came to choosing the top six who would move on to the last round, the task was not any easier.

Thankfully, the auditorium was packed with spectators for both semi-final days and the decision was based off of not only the guest teacher judges and the music teachers, but the student body as well. Talk about unbiased!

In the end, despite the incredible talent displayed, only six remained: Aijah Nguyen, Alexander Stewart, Ariel Plytas, Rachel Leung, Latisha Neale and Jason Lam. It seemed as though the school was stunned with the incredible talent displayed by not only the top six finalists but also everyone who performed during the semi-finals.

The finals occurred last period Thursday, November 28th. Once you walked into the auditorium you could feel the enthusiastic atmosphere. The question still remained, who would be the next Riverdale Idol?

As the curtains came out and the intro music stopped, the anxiety from both the spectators and contestants sank in.

First up was Jason Lam. His performance left everyone wanting to know if he would love them better now after his cover of Ed Sheeran's *Lego House*.

Next, Rachel Leung came out with a rendition of Alicia Key's *Brand New Me* and showed Riverdale a brand new her as well.

Latisha Neale was no exception in the battle of the voices, she presented a strong performance of the Pussy Cat Doll favourite *Sway*. I'm sure a lot of us were hoping for the marimba rhythm to be never ending.

Freshman Aijah Nguyen stunned the entire audience with her rendition of Amy Winehouse's *Valerie*. How special would anyone named Valerie feel after that amazing performance?

Ariel Plytas dared us to let her be our one and only with her cover of

Adele's *One and Only*. Not only did she move the entire audience, but her performance definitely would have made Adele proud.

Finally, the last performer was freshman Alexander Stewart who won over the entire audience with Rihanna and Mikky Ekko's hit *Stay*. Riverdale certainly did not want to leave after hearing him tell us to stay.

In the end, with time running short the winners were not announced until the day after. With 50% of decision being the student votes and the other 50% being the Music Teacher's critique, Riverdale and the Vocal department had found their next Riverdale Idol.

In third place came Jason Lam, winning our hearts with his *Lego house*. Second place was awarded to our soulful songbird Ariel Plytas, and last but not least, our 2013-2014 Riverdale Idol came to be Alexander Stewart as his rendition of *Stay* was said to bring tears to the audience's eyes.

Of course we'll stay if you sing to us one more time!



TALENT SHOW FACES Peter Wu shreds the guitar (look at that pinky extension); Hannah Halcro makes a point; Zack Mortimer of the band Tequila beats the skins.

Mini-Olympics scheduled released

Mini-Olympics Master Schedule

	Mon. April 28th		Tues. April 29th		Wed. April 30th	
	<i>Before School</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Before School</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Before School</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
Gym A	Basketball (Co-ed)	Wipe Out	Futsal (Soccer) (Co-ed)	Just Dance	Volleyball (Co-ed)	Minute-To-Win-It & Fly-On-Wall
Gym B		Basketball Semis		Basketball Finals		Volleyball Finals
Back Field		Ultimate Frisbee (Co-ed)		Ultimate Frisbee (Co-ed)		

Thursday May 1st Master Schedule

	Session #1	Session #2	Session #3
Gym A	Ball Hockey		European Handball
Gym B	Badminton		Dodgeball
Blue Room	Table Tennis		
Room 149	What's App Tournament		Karaoke Contest
Cafeteria	Structure Build	Eating Contest	Top Chef Riverdale
Atrium	3 Legged Race	Super Twister	Egg Drop
Back Field		Obstacle Set-up	Obstacle Set-up
Tennis Courts	Track and Field	Home Run Hitting Contest	
Outside Café		Water Balloon Toss	
Auditorium	Rap Battle	Are you smarter than a 5 th Grader?	Heads Up Battle
Weight room	Strong Person Contest		
Room 305	Pictionary		Henna Contest
Room 319	Charades	Rubik's Cube	Boggle
Room 312		Speed Chess	Crossword Challenge
Room 212	Cards: Spoons	Cards: Big 2	Cards: Signal
Room 325	Sudoku	Name That Tune	
Pool	Water World Extravaganza		

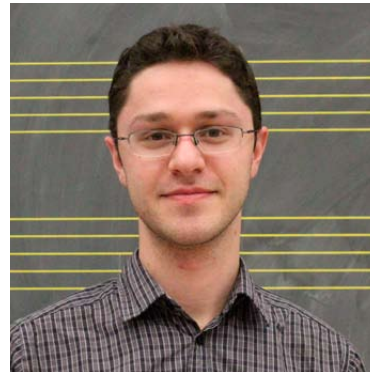
Obstacle Course will be held at 3:00 pm on the Back Field

Freshmeat

Introducing Riverdale's
finest new
staff members...

1. What department do you work in? Or what subjects do you teach?
2. What was your previous occupation?
3. What do you like best about Riverdale?
4. Name an unusual talent.
5. Who would play you in a movie?
6. Which staff member would make a good Santa Claus?
7. If you could be any animal, which would you be?
8. Superman or Clark Kent?
9. Apple cider or hot chocolate?
10. Handy dandy sanitizer?
11. Guilty pleasure?
12. Celebrity crush?
13. Lastly, what's your favourite holiday?

Leonidas Varahidis



1. Band, English, BTT
2. Band director at Highland Junior High School
3. Lots of students, great energy, prefers high schools
4. I play the Uphonium
5. Shia LaBeouf
6. Mr. Thairs
7. Cheetah
8. Superman
9. Apple cider
10. No
11. TLC (not the singing group)
12. Jennifer Lawrence
13. Christmas!

1. Office assistant
2. Customer Service Manager/ Credit Selection for Northern Response at Northern CI last year
3. The environment, and interacting with the teachers and students
4. Sewing halloween costumes
5. Melissa McCarthy
6. Mr. Thairs
7. Panda

Sharon McDonald



Alba Doudoumas



1. Phys. Ed
2. Teaching at Danforth and West Humber
3. Clean and Modern, happy mood
4. I speak 4 languages: Albanian, Greek English, French
5. Julia Roberts
6. Mr. Lowe
7. Ant, because they're hardworking
8. Superman
9. Hot chocolate
10. No
11. Vacation
12. Richard Gere
13. Christmas and Easter

Junior boys spike through to the championships

Annika Lautens

Sports Editor

On November 7th, 2013, the Junior Boys volleyball team beat Lawrence Park in two sets at a home game in the Tier One's South Region Championships.

The team, led by Captain Kevin Zhang, played a close game against Lawrence Park with Riverdale winning the first set by six points with a score of 25-19 in the first set. Although the second set was tied at 7-7, Riverdale's mental strength and endurance won out and the team won with a score of 25-11 in the second set.

With the team being undefeated in the regular season, it's clear that Mr. Lowe had high expectations from the start, "Every year I expect to win the South Region championships. This year's team I could see at the beginning had a lot of potential to do that. Looking at the returning players, they all had a strong commitment to the team and a lot of talent."

Unfortunately the Junior Boys season ended shortly afterwards with a loss in the city semi-finals to Agincourt in a heartbreaking close first set of 23-25. With nerves and anxiety flying high they lost the second set 21-25.

With the season ending, the excitement of the South Region Championship is still fresh in minds of Riverdale students.

The biggest contributing factor? "A total team effort, but Kevin Zhang kept the team cool and together, and Tony Zhu is one of the smartest, hardworking setters I've ever met," says a very proud Mr. Lowe.

Junior boys' volleyball always brings an interesting mix of experienced Grade 10s and new Grade 9s.

Riverdale can expect a lot to come from this group of talented boys.

Sr Girls Field Hockey | South Region | Tier I

School	G	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
North Toronto	10	7	2	1	24	10	33
Malvern	10	7	3	0	27	7	31
Humberside	9	4	5	0	9	15	21
Leaside HS	9	3	4	2	6	13	21
Riverdale	8	0	7	1	1	22	9

Regular Season

- L Riverdale 1 v. Malvern 4
- L Riverdale 0 v. Leaside 1
- L Riverdale 0 @ North Toronto 5
- L Riverdale 1 v. Humberside 2
- L Riverdale 1 v. North Toronto 4
- L Riverdale 0 v. Humberside 1
- L Riverdale 0 v. Malvern 5
- T Riverdale 0 v. Leaside 0

Girls Field Hockey | South Region | Tier II

School	G	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Pool A							
Malvern 2	5	4	1	0	11	3	17
Marc Garneau	6	3	2	1	10	8	15
East York	6	2	2	2	9	6	15
Riverdale 2	5	3	2	0	9	8	14
Monarch Park	5	0	3	2	3	6	9
North Toronto	5	0	4	1	1	15	7

Pool B							
Lawrence Park	6	6	0	0	29	2	24
Leaside 2	7	5	2	0	11	7	22
North Toronto 3	7	4	3	0	9	12	19
Harbord	6	3	3	0	10	9	15
Humberside 2	5	1	4	0	2	10	8
Jarvis	5	0	5	0	0	18	5

Regular Season

- L Riverdale 1 v. East York 3
- W Riverdale 1 v. Monarch Park 0
- W Riverdale 5 v. North Toronto 0
- L Riverdale 0 v. Malvern 5
- W Riverdale 2 v. Marc Garneau 0

Girls Volleyball | South Region | Senior

School	G	W	L	F	A	Pts
East						
Lawrence Park	10	10	0	20	0	20
Northern SS	10	9	1	18	5	18
North Toronto	10	7	3	15	6	14
Danforth	10	7	3	15	7	14
Riverdale	10	7	3	14	8	14
East York	10	5	5	10	12	10
Leaside	10	3	7	9	14	6
Rosedale Heights	10	3	7	9	14	6
Monarch Park	10	2	8	4	17	4
College Francais	10	1	9	3	18	2
Marc Garneau	10	1	9	3	19	2

Regular Season

- W Riverdale 2 @ East York 0 (25-17, 25-17)
- L Leaside 1 @ Riverdale 2 (25-10, 15-25, 15-9)
- L Riverdale 0 @ Northern SS 2 (23-25, 15-25)
- W Riverdale 2 @ Monarch Park 0 (25-13, 25-11)
- W Danforth C & TI 0 @ Riverdale 2 (25-23, 25-16)
- W Rosedale Heights SA 1 @ Riverdale 2 (25-21, 25-27, 15-12)
- W Riverdale 2 @ College Francais 0 (25-17, 25-20)
- W Marc Garneau 0 @ Riverdale 2 (25-18, 25-11)
- L North Toronto 2 @ Riverdale 0 (12-25, 11-25)
- L Riverdale 0 @ Lawrence Park 2 (15-25, 7-25)

Quarter Final

- W Western Tech 1 @ Riverdale 2

Semi-Final

- L Leaside 0 @ Riverdale 2

Girls Volleyball | South Region | Junior

School	G	W	L	F	A	Pts
East						
Malvern	9	9	0	18	1	18
Leaside	9	8	1	17	3	16
Riverdale	9	6	3	13	7	12
East York	9	5	4	11	9	10
Lawrence Park	9	5	4	11	10	10
North Toronto	9	5	4	11	10	10
Northern SS	9	3	6	10	14	6
Marc Garneau	9	2	7	6	15	4
Monarch Park	9	2	7	5	15	4
Danforth	9	0	9	0	18	0

Regular Season

- L Riverdale 1 @ East York 2 (17-25, 25-19, 12-15)
- L Leaside 2 @ Riverdale 0 (23-25, 18-25)
- W Riverdale 2 @ Northern SS 1 (13-25, 25-18, 16-14)
- W Riverdale 2 @ Monarch Park 0 (25-17, 25-15)
- W Danforth C & TI 0 @ Riverdale 2 (25-20, 25-13)
- L Riverdale 0 @ Malvern 2 (11-25, 16-25)
- W Marc Garneau 0 @ Riverdale 2 (25-12, 25-15)
- W North Toronto 0 @ Riverdale 2 (25-18, 25-20)
- W Riverdale 2 @ Lawrence Park 0

Quarter-Final

- L Riverdale 1 @ Humberside 2

Sr Boys Volleyball | South Region | Tier I

School	G	W	L	F	A	Pts
East						
Danforth	8	8	0	18	3	16
Riverdale	7	5	2	11	7	10
Lawrence Park	6	3	3	8	7	6
North Toronto	6	2	4	6	9	4
Northern SS	5	1	4	4	8	2
Marc Garneau	5	0	5	0	10	0

Regular Season

- W Riverdale 2 @ Marc Garneau 0
- L Danforth 2 @ Riverdale 1
- W Lawrence Park 1 @ Riverdale 2
- W Riverdale 2 @ Northern 0
- W Riverdale 2 @ North Toronto 1

Quarter-Final

- W Jarvis 0 @ Riverdale 2

Semi-Final

- L Riverdale 0 @ Humberside 3

Jr Girls Basketball | South Region | Tier II

School	G	W	L	F	A	Pts
East						
Leaside	5	5	0	221	54	10
East York	5	4	1	223	97	8
Malvern	5	3	2	176	100	6
Riverdale	5	2	3	100	121	4
Marc Garneau	5	1	4	83	190	2
Danforth	5	0	5	49	290	0

West						
Harbord	4	4	0	144	53	8
Bloor	4	3	1	151	111	6
Parkdale	4	2	2	146	120	4
Rosedale Heights	4	1	3	98	139	2
Western Tech	4	0	4	43	159	0

Regular Season

- L Riverdale 12 @ East York 43
- W Danforth C & TI 10 @ Riverdale 48
- L Leaside 33 @ Riverdale 5
- L Malvern 25 @ Riverdale 13
- W Marc Garneau 10 @ Riverdale 22

Regional Quarter-Final

- L Riverdale 19 @ Harbord 46

Sr Girls Basketball | South Region | Tier II

School	G	W	L	F	A	Pts
East						
Leaside	5	4	1	237	116	8
Monarch Park	5	4	1	197	139	8
Marc Garneau	5	3	2	167	163	6
Riverdale	5	3	2	124	117	6
Malvern	5	1	4	109	150	2
Forest Hill	5	0	5	62	211	0

West						
Bloor	6	6	0	239	186	12
Humberside	6	5	1	209	155	10
Harbord	6	4	2	187	147	8
Parkdale	6	3	3	172	167	6
Ursula Franklin	6	2	4	124	188	4
Western Tech	6	1	5	166	186	2
Central Commerce	6	0	6	151	219	0

Regular Season

- L Riverdale 24 @ Monarch Park 41
- W Riverdale 32 @ Forest Hill 7
- W Leaside 23 @ Riverdale 25
- W Malvern 13 @ Riverdale 25
- L Marc Garneau 33 @ Riverdale 18

Regional Quarter-Final

- L Riverdale 39 @ Bloor 49

Boys Hockey | South Region | Tier I

School	G	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Malvern	7	5	1	1	25	15	11
Leaside HS	7	5	2	0	31	17	10
Riverdale	7	3	2	2	27	23	8
North Toronto	7	3	2	2	20	19	8
Northern SS	7	3	3	1	22	20	7
Humberside	7	3	3	1	25	21	7
Lawrence Park	7	2	4	1	18	17	5
East York	7	0	7	0	12	48	0

Regular Season

- W Northern SS 3 vs. Riverdale 5
- L Lawrence Park 4 vs. Riverdale 1
- L Riverdale 0 vs. Humberside 4
- T Riverdale 4 vs. North Toronto 4
- T Riverdale 4 vs. Malvern 4
- W East York 4 vs. Riverdale 8
- W Riverdale 5 vs. Leaside 0

Quarter-Final

- L Humberside 3 vs. Riverdale 2

Girls Hockey | South/West Region | Tier II

School	G	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Humberside	5	5	0	0	26	6	10
Martingrove	5	4	1	0	22	11	8
Etobicoke SA	5	4	1	0	18	9	8
Richview	6	3	3	0	30	20	6
Silverthorn	5	1	4	0	12	27	2
Riverdale	5	0	4	1	7	22	1
Monarch Park	5	0	4	1	2	22	1

Regular Season

- T Riverdale 1 vs. Monarch Park 1
- L Riverdale 1 vs. Richview 5
- L Humberside 6 vs. Riverdale 1
- L Silverthorn 6 vs. Riverdale 3
- L Riverdale 1 vs. Etobicoke SA 4
- L Martingrove 6 vs. Riverdale 1

Quarter-Final

- L Riverdale 0 vs. Etobicoke 5

Sr Boys Basketball | South Region | Tier II

School	G	W	L	F	A	Pts
East						
Marc Garneau	10	8	2	651	527	16
Leaside	10	8	2	690	592	16
North Toronto	9	6	3	451	436	12
Danforth	10	6	4	605	505	12
Riverdale	10	4	6	567	494	8
Rosedale Heights	10	2	8	437	483	4
College Francais	9	0	9	273	637	0

West						
Humberside	10	8	2	523	411	16
Forest Hill	10	8	2	520	440	16
Central Commerce	10	8	2	605	500	16
Parkdale	10	5	5	513	463	10
Ursula Franklin	10	3	7	448	536	6
Bloor	10	3	7	389	493	6
Harbord	10	0	10	336	491	0

Regular Season

- W Danforth 54 @ Riverdale 58
- W Riverdale 74 @ College Francais 42
- L Riverdale 48 @ Leaside 50
- L North Toronto 46 @ Riverdale 44
- L Riverdale 54 @ Danforth C & TI 55
- W College Francais 26 @ Riverdale 65
- L Riverdale 44 @ North Toronto 51
- W Rosedale Heights 32 @ Riverdale 57
- L Riverdale 62 @ Marc Garneau 68
- L Marc Garneau 70 @ Riverdale 61

Jr Boys Basketball | South Region | Tier II

School	G	W	L	F	A	Pts
East						
Riverdale	10	9	1	604	359	18
College Francais	10	8	2	611	533	16
Jarvis	9	6	3	458	428	12
Leaside	10	5	5	483	480	10
Monarch Park	11	5	6	539	546	10
Marc Garneau	10	1	9	465	604	2
Danforth	10	1	9	348	558	2

West						
Humberside	10	10	0	607	400	20
Harbord	10	8	2	504	454	16
Bloor	10	7	3	501	410	14
Western Tech	10	5	5	432	412	10
Forest Hill	10	3	7	388	436	6
Parkdale	10	2	8	370	465	4
Ursula Franklin	10	0	10	249	474	0

Regular Season

- W Danforth C & TI 31 @ Riverdale 65
- L Riverdale 70 @ College Francais 71
- W Monarch Park 25 @ Riverdale 64
- W Riverdale 61 @ Leaside 38
- W Riverdale 42 @ Monarch Park 36
- W Riverdale 44 @ Danforth C & TI 15
- W College Francais 35 @ Riverdale 58
- W Jarvis 41 @ Riverdale 58
- W Riverdale 70 @ Marc Garneau 28
- W Marc Garneau 26 @ Riverdale 72

Regional Quarter-Final

- W Western Tech 48 @ Riverdale 56

Semi-Final

- W Riverdale 55 @ Jarvis 41

Final

- W College Francais 57 @ Riverdale 64

Boys Basketball | South Region | Bantam

School	G	W	L	F	A	Pts
East York	7	7	0	501	306	14
Riverdale	7	5	2	391	324	10
Central Commerce	7	5	2	416	341	10
Bloor	7	4	3	353	310	8
Northern SS	7	4	3	303	291	8
Central Tech	7	2	5	307	377	4
Western Tech	7	1	6	329	415	2
Monarch Park	7	0	7	170	406	0

Regular Season

- W Riverdale 55 @ Bloor 40
- W Riverdale 52 @ Central Tech 38
- L Northern SS 42 @ Riverdale 41
- W Central Commerce 52 @ Riverdale 60
- L East York 77 @ Riverdale 61
- W Riverdale 75 @ Western Tech 53
- W Riverdale 47 @ Monarch Park 22

ATHLETES OF THE MOMENT - FALL

JUNIOR FEMALE



Athlete: Edana Golbourne
Grade: 10

Sport: Basketball, Volleyball

Accomplishments: Edana not only played on the Senior Basketball team as a Grade 10 but was a dominant offensive weapon for the squad which made it to the quarter-finals. She is currently the starting middle for the Jr Volleyball team and forms a formidable block at the net. She is a leader on the court.

JUNIOR MALE



Athlete: Tony Xu
Grade: 10

Sport: Volleyball

Accomplishments: Tony was the steady setting influence that helped guide the Junior Boys' Volleyball team to an undefeated season and a Gold Medal in the South Region Championship. Mr. Lowe says that Tony is one of the smartest and toughest servers he has ever coached.

SENIOR FEMALE



Athlete: Emily Russell
Grade: 12

Sport: Cross-country, Field hockey

Accomplishments: In her final year at Riverdale Emily is continuing her dominance in athletics. In the fall, Emily used her endless aerobic endurance and drive to excel as a member of the cross-country and field hockey teams. Emily is entering the Winter season with OFSAA aspirations as she hopes to return to gold medal form in swimming.

SENIOR MALE



Athlete: Jakob Gilbert
Grade: 11

Sport: Volleyball, Basketball

Accomplishments: With three sports in less than four months Jakob is certainly a busy man. In the fall Jakob was the starting setter for the Senior volleyball team which made it to the semi-finals. Currently Jakob is a productive member of the swim and basketball teams.

President
praises
peeps

Vernon Li

Student Body President

Well Riverdale, I must say, this year has flown by in a blink of an eye. We've been through so much together and we still have a few months left so let's finish this year off with a bang!

Being elected into office, one of the biggest parts of my campaign was to hit school spirit hard and to hit it fast. Ranging from Spirit Week to the spirit assembly and to semi-formal, Riverdalians have proven that the so called "dead Riverdale spirit" has finally fallen. Riverdalians, it is time for a new age, an age where Riverdale spirit rises from the ashes and spreads to every corner of the school!

To start off, I just want to say that Riverdale's annual Spirit Week was simply amazing. This was not only because of the amount of students that showed up, but it was incredible to see our next generation of Riverdalians participating in so many spirit activities. Thus, a HUGE shoutout goes to all the Grade 9's for participating and we hope to see you at future events!

To those who didn't participate, I encourage you guys to come out and enjoy whatever activities are left because 30 years from now, you won't remember what happened in the classroom. However, you will remember that one day where you laughed, felt excitement and joy because of everything your high school had to offer.

Looking into the past, I remember promising a very special teacher of mine, Ms. Lum, that nearly everyone would be able to sing the school song by the end of my time in office. Huge shoutouts go to Ms. Rayman and Mr. Wakelin for assisting me in fulfilling this extremely difficult promise.

By organizing a home form cheeroff, hijacking the Get 2 Class Music Club to play the school song every single morning as well as having a spirit assembly, I believe that the school song is now stuck in everyone's heads. It sure is stuck in mine!

From the B.A.A's basketball intramural finals in the gym to the Kool-Aid Pong in the atrium, school spirit filled the hallways like never before. Directly after the lunch time activities, the Spirit Assembly was about to begin!

I think we can all say that Mr. Simoneau's Wrecking Ball act as well as Mr. Lowe's guitar playing stole the show at that assembly.

Not even I knew that Riverdalians could shout so loudly just to see a Student Council member get a pie to the face.

The assembly was about to be wrapped up and like always, we saved the best part for last. The news is finally out and I hope you're all as excited as I am!

Like I said earlier, this year is a special year. Riverdale's spirit is at an all-time high and that's why the school year of 2013/2014 is going to be an Olympic one. We've already seen the assemblies, hyped up the event and gathered with our countries so I hope all of you Riverdalians are just as excited as I am!

Thus, I conclude with this, it is time to fully revive school spirit! It is time to light the Mini-Olympic flame!

ATHLETES OF THE MOMENT - WINTER

JUNIOR FEMALE



Athlete: MacKenzie LeBlanc
Grade: 10

Sport: Volleyball

Accomplishments: MacKenzie was the left-side hitter on the Junior Girls Volleyball team. This spring she takes her skills to the Varsity Co-ed Volleyball team.

JUNIOR MALE



Athlete: Daniel Griffin
Grade: 10

Sport: Swimming

Accomplishments: Daniel swam to five medals this season: individual gold in the 50m fly at regionals and city finals, likewise as part of the Jr Boys 4 x 50 Relay team and a bronze as part of the Jr Boys 4 x 50 Free at the city finals.

SENIOR FEMALE



Athlete: Emily Russell
Grade: 12

Sport: Swimming

Accomplishments: Emily's trophy shelf is glittering with gold and silver after this year's swim season. She nabbed three gold medals at regionals, another three at city finals. She topped the season off at OFSAA with a gold in the 50m freestyle and silver in the 100m freestyle.

SENIOR MALE



Athlete: Derrick Wong
Grade: 12

Sport: Hockey

Accomplishments: Derrick was a top scorer on the Boys Hockey team. He was a leader on and off the ice. After organizing the RHL intramurals, he is looking forward to competing on Riverdale's first ball hockey team in the spring.

Junior Boys Basketball one point
away from perfect season

It was fitting that the Junior Raiders should meet College Francais in the finals for Junior Boys Basketball. After all, it was College Francais who had narrowly beaten the Raiders 71-

70 in the second game of the regular season.

It was the only loss the Raiders would register during their 9-1 regular season.

The Raiders amassed 604 points during the regular season under the shooting prowess of Haseeb Arif, Isaac Riedl, Shemar Ishmael and Nathaniel Cunningham and the agility of forward Alijah Weatherall, seven points shy of CF's total.

Riverdale easily handled Western Tech 56-48 in the quarter-finals. Stalling for the win after establishing

a sizable lead.

Scouting reports had it that Jarvis defeated the unbeaten Humberdale with one guard in particular scoring 43 points.

After this lone-shooter hit three 3-pointers in the semi-final game, Riverdale moved to a box-plus-one defence to contain him. Cunningham became the "plus-one" and shadowed Jarvis' lone star, shutting him down. Riverdale went on to win 55-41.

In the final, College Francais took a second half lead by as much as eight points. Down by four points at the start of the fourth quarter, the Raiders rallied to win 64-57.

Nathaniel Cunningham had 17 points off the bench. Point guard Isaac Riedl had 15.

Shemar Ishmael hit a clutch three-pointer in the last couple of minutes.

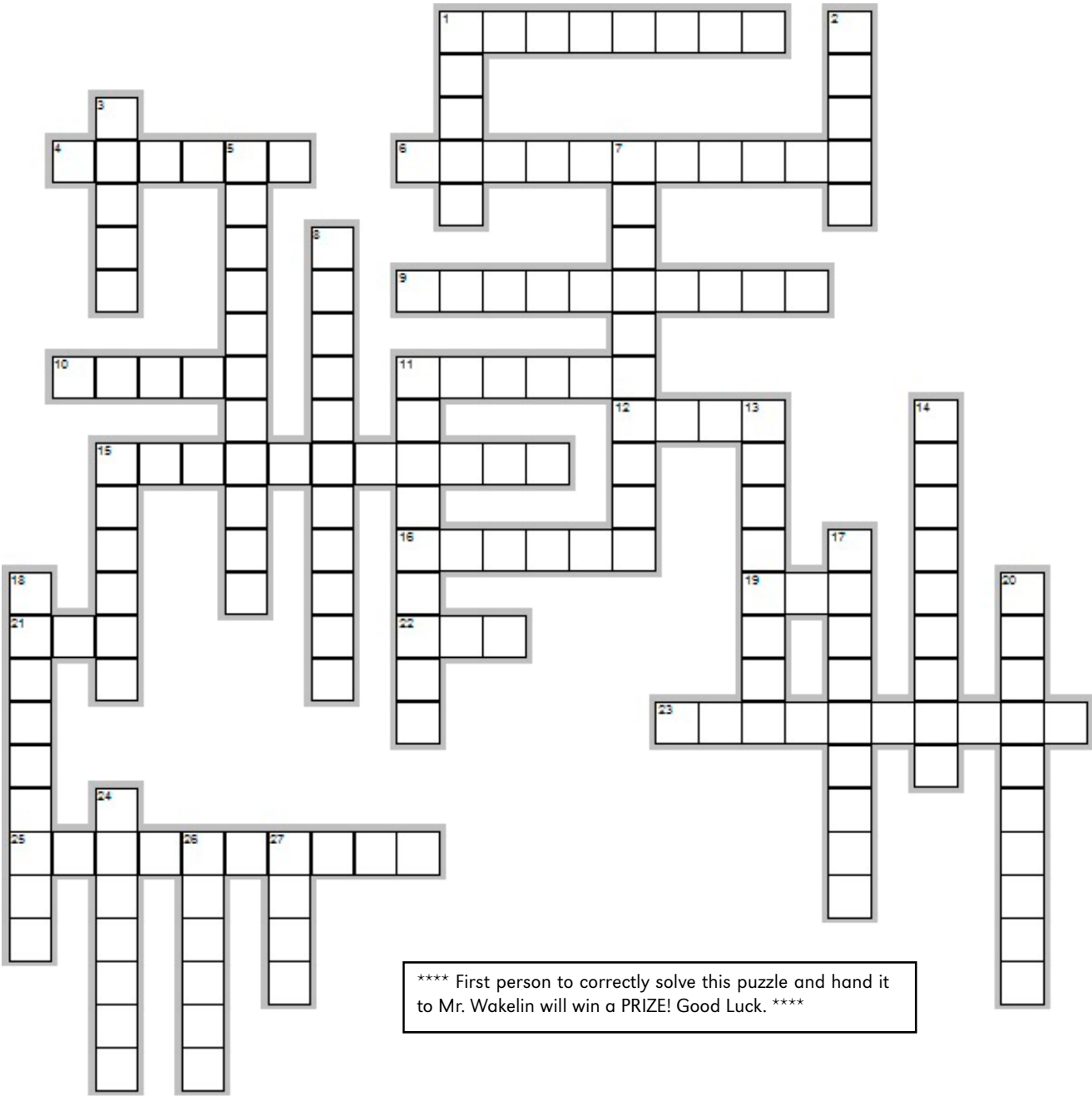
Haseeb Arif, playing through a leg injury, opened the second half with intensity when the Raiders were down. His overzealous rebounding was the turning point in the game.

Sadly, Marc Garneau's principal made a last-minute decision to ban fans from the final. The result was that the championship game was played before a crowd of two fans.

It's a NUMBERS Game

Ryan Wakelin

Former Raider Boy



**** First person to correctly solve this puzzle and hand it to Mr. Wakelin will win a PRIZE! Good Luck. ****

Across

1. Items in a bakers dozen.
4. Connie Quach's Honour Roll Average from Grade 10 (found outside attendance office)
6. Gold's Atomic Number
9. The age Riverdale turned in 2007
10. Seconds in a minute
11. Minutes in SSR
12. Number of Olympic Rings
15. Sydney Crosby
16. Months in a year
19. "____ and a Half Men"
21. The loneliest number
22. Number of outs in an inning of baseball
23. Wayne Gretzky
25. The sum of all the digits in Riverdale's phone number

Down

1. Teaspoons in one tablespoon
2. Harry Potter Books
3. Number of nights in hanukkah
5. Michael Jordan
7. Seasons of the Simpsons
8. Keys on a piano
11. Letters in the alphabet
13. Voting age in Canada
14. "Forever ____"
15. Soccer players on a field
17. Number of banners hanging in gym A
18. Only number retired by all Major League Baseball teams
20. Hours in a day
24. "____ Candles"
26. Andrew the hall monitor's age
27. "____ score and seven years ago"

The winter edit

Bessie Barlis and Thandi Thomas
Lifestyle Editors

Spring has sprung (well, almost), but do you remember the time when one step outside meant your nose turning red or your fingers becoming too frozen to text? That's right, we're talking about that special time of year when all you want to do is cuddle and watch movies in bed and drink loads of tea: Winter.

Here at the Spectator, we have rounded up the hottest fashion trends we spotted all of you wearing this past Winter.



(Clarke Tolton for Aritzia)

FOR THE GIRLS



(Zara; Aritzia)



Oversized Coats
(men's style)

Oversized coats: So cozy! It's like wearing a big blanket and still looking fly. You can run from school to Starbucks and back while staying toasty warm (plus it looks like you stole it from your boyfriend when really, it's probably your dad's).

Booties



(pacsun.com)

Booties: With a heel or not, they never go out of style. You look good without looking like you've really tried (we all want that) and they're so comfy. You can go all day from class to class without your feet getting sore.



(Urban Decay)

Makeup

Makeup: As for make-up, a bold lip and nude eye. It's time to make a statement.

FOR THE GUYS

Turtlenecks



(svply.com)

Turtlenecks: The 70s knew what was good. Plus, they're so comfy and go perfectly under any big comfy sweater.

Christmas Sweaters



(Eddie Bauer)

Christmas sweaters: The holidays is the only time when these bundles of warmth are acceptable so make the best of it and wear every reindeer, Santa, and elf sweater you can find.

What good is
the warmth of
summer, without
the cold of
winter to give it
sweetness.

JOHN STEINBECK