



MINI OLYMPIC FLAME REVAMPS
SCHOOL SPIRIT
- PAGE 2



GET ALL THE JUICY DETAILS ON YOUR
2014-2015 STUDENT COUNCIL
- PAGE 8



RIVERDALE'S BALL HOCKEY LEGACY BEGAN
IN 1976 AND CONTINUES TO LIVE ON IN THE
HEART AND SOUL OF RIVERDALE'S FIRST EVER
BALL HOCKEY TEAM
- PAGE 11

The Riverdale Spectator

June 27, 2014

Spring/Summer Edition

Volume XIII, Issue II

Smooth Criminals snatch gold



William Jiang poses with pride as his champion country Smooth Criminals prepare for the Opening Ceremonies of the Mini-Olympics. (Photo by Sally Twin)

Danielle Truong

Co-Editor

After four days of intense competition, the Smooth Criminals were crowned Riverdale's Mini Olympics Champions of 2014.

Having scored a grand total of 409 points, a whopping 67 points more than the runners up and 179 points more than the last place team, the Smooth Criminals could not be touched.

With a great costume, the perfect cheer and the will to win, it was clear that they were not going to settle for anything other than gold.

The Smooth Criminals claimed the first place title in seven events and came in second place in ten other events.

The team dominated in track and field, charades, boggle, heads up, spoons, the crossword challenge, and of course best cheer and spirit.

They also ended up tying for second place in Super Twister with the Mighty Ninjas and tied for first place with the Bank Robbers in an intense match of Girls dodge ball and Minute-to-win it.

The team definitely looked the part as well, everyone on the team sporting their signature

orange jump suits with Cody Labarbera, Billal Abdulkader, Mr. Lau, Mr. Simoneau and Mr. Lowe as police officers which scored them second place in the best costume category, losing the first place spot to Underwater Empire.

Their secret to success?

"Definitely school spirit and a large part of it came from the teachers since they're the ones with the experience from the previous Mini Olympics," says Smooth Criminal team member Monica Chow.

With Mr. Simoneau and Mr. Lau taking charge, they shared their Mini-Olympics wisdom in order to train the first generation of Olympians.

"Having taken part in two Mini-Olympics, I've never seen a teacher as proactive as Mr. Simoneau," says Mini Olympics veteran Tony Zhang.

The participation coming from the members of the Smooth Criminals also played a huge role in their victory, as they were one of the three teams that had 100% participation in all 43 events.

"We had lots of people participating so we didn't get deducted any points at all," Dillon Chan explained.

Although the team managed to come out on top, their journey to the top was not all smooth sailing.

For the first three days of competition, the team was unable to score enough points to take the lead, bouncing around the bottom three spots. But when the big day arrived, the team was ready to win back the points.

"I was very proud of my team," says Smooth Criminals member Grace Koutsogianopoulos. "We were able to climb from fifth place all the way to first within one day."

"They were an amazing team. Their spirit, skill, and overall team effort was what made them stand out, they were definitely the team to beat," says Party Animals member Lisa Xiong.

"When it was announced that they were the winners, I was not surprised at all. After all, they deserved it."

Like all the other teams, they battled their way through the rigorous events and challenges. Those who were brave enough to tackle the events were challenged mentally, physically and emotionally.

As the students gained more experience, they realized that while having strong individuals on

their team would be an asset, it was a group effort that would allow them to win it all and in the end.

"It was a great experience that I will never forget, and it was also a great chance for everyone to get to know people that I wouldn't have had a chance to meet otherwise," says Koutsogianopoulos.

The Smooth Criminals are an example of how dedication and school spirit play a large role achieving Mini-Olympic success. Not only did their spirit encourage those within their team, but the spirit of the Smooth Criminals was contagious which gave the other teams a more competitive edge and inspired them to be passionate about their own teams.

On Friday May 2nd, the team was awarded for their hard work and achievement. Their flag, along with the flags of the second and third place teams Vibrant Flamingos and Underwater Empire, were put on display in the atrium for the rest of the year as a reminder of what hard work, dedication, and school spirit can obtain.

As Smooth Criminal Kenny Yu put it, "We were just really smooth."

CAN'T GET ENOUGH?

CHECK OUT WHAT RIVERDALE STUDENTS
ARE DOING; FROM HOCKEY GAMES TO NYC,
EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS ON
PAGE 6 & 7

WHO WAS HONOURED WITH THE COVENANT
TITLE OF 2014 ATHLETE OF THE YEAR?
FIND OUT ON
PAGE 11

INDEX...

MINI OLYMPICS	2
NEWS	4
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT	9
SPORTS	10

THE RIVERDALE
SPECTATOR

Volume XIII, Issue II:
Spring 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

Euegnia Lee

Lucy Yam

news editor

Jane Huang

arts & entertainment

Dillon Chan

Kelly Voong

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.

Mini-Olympics in a nutshell

Lisa Xiong and Danielle Truong

Co-Editors

Day 1 Let the games begin! Day 1 of Mini Olympics kicked off bright and early in the morning at 7:00 am in the gym with some good ol' games of basketball. Four teams emerged victorious, gaining a spot in the semi-finals at lunch.

When the clock struck 11:15 to signify lunch, instead of filing to their usual lunch destinations, for once, students gathered in Gym A to watch the very first lunch time Mini Olympic activity... Wipeout! Teams of four were given the task of completing an obstacle course in a race against their opponents. As participants ran through the obstacle course, they were hit by dodge balls and tennis balls from Riverdale's favourite obstacle race distractions Mr. Lau and Mr. Lowe. In the end, Bank Robbers came out on top with a total of 12 points.

In Gym B, Vibrant Flamingoes and Mighty Ninjas advanced to the basketball finals while Vibrant Flamin-

ball, scoring 12 points for MN.

Lunch began with a round of Fly on the Wall as teams frantically tried to duct tape some of their smallest members on the cold, hard walls of the gym. As people started falling off the walls mere seconds after the game began, Safwaan Patel on Mighty Ninjas was the last one standing after 58 seconds on the wall.

The games continued with several rounds of Minute to Win It, featuring challenging tasks such as cup stacking, ball fanning, and elastic shooting. By the time the bell rang to signify the end of lunch, Bank Robbers and Smooth Criminals tied for first place, each accumulating a total of 13 points.

Day 4 The time had finally come! Once the Olympic Flame was lit and the Opening Ceremony came to a close, all the teams filed out of the field and headed to their respective locations for the competitions to begin! The events covered a range of sports, challenges

mer Grant Crewe led the Legendary Wizards to victory.

The second session of events consisted of the eating contest in the cafeteria as teams were forced to complete the Saltine cracker challenge amongst other delicious concoctions the planning committee came up with. In the end, the Vibrant Flamingoes proved who had stomach and willpower of a champion, capturing first place in the eating contest.

The second half also featured Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader in the auditorium, Name that Tune, and Super Twister in the Atrium. The Vibrant Flamingoes and Party Animals came out on top in the second session with the teams taking first place in 3 events each.

As the second session came to a close, everyone rushed to their final sets of events.

Vuk Zivic cup stacking (Photo: Sally Twin)



fought through the movies, celebrities and animals act-it-out categories.

The bell rang at 3:00, but the games were definitely not over. Some may even have said the games have not even begun, as the obstacle course was about to commence in the back field. All the students rushed outside to see their fellow teammates and teachers compete in the biggest event of the entire competition.

It's safe to say that they kept the best for last, as this truly was the biggest collection of Riverdale students that the back field has seen in years (with the exception of the opening ceremonies of course). As hundreds of



Party Animals making quite an entrance for the parade.
(Photo by Lisa Xiong)

goes, Duck Tape, Party Animals, and Underwater Empire moved on into the next round for Ultimate Frisbee.

Day 2 Did someone say soccer? Kind of... Day 2 began with futsal, a smaller indoor variant of soccer. Duck Tape showed that ducks could play futsal after all, earning the covenant title of Mini Olympics Futsal Champions.

At lunch, people gathered in Gym A to watch their team members give it their all in a big game of Just Dance on the Wii. Never had Just Dance seem so fun and exciting, as the entire gym filled with over a hundred students gathered and danced, even without a controller. Amidst all the talented dancers, Legendary Wizards managed to dance their way into victory, with the Vibrant Flamingoes coming a close second behind.

Meanwhile, in Gym B, the Vibrant Flamingoes showed who the real ballers were—winning a whopping 16 points for their team as they placed first in co-ed basketball.

Day 3 The third day began merely an hour after the break of dawn yet again as teams filed into the gym to spike, volley, and bump their way to the top in volleyball. After a heart pumping morning, Mighty Ninjas out spiked them all emerging victorious in volley-

and games that pushed teams to their limits, physically and mentally.

The first session of the games included Ball Hockey in Gym A where the Party Animals dominated and brought the team out of last place, the Rap Battle and Badminton which were won by the Vibrant Flamingoes. The Smooth Criminals were crowned winners in Track and Field, Charades, and Spoons. Water World Extravaganza took place in the pool in, where swim-

Top Chef Riverdale took place in the cafeteria, where the Mighty Ninjas received first place as they assembled a very sweet cookie castle creation. European Handball and Dodge ball also took place in the gyms, where both events were won by the Bank Robbers with a tie between Duck Tape and Smooth Criminals for second. An intense battle of Heads Up, made famous by Ellen DeGeneres, took place in the auditorium where the teams

students gathered around the gates of the back field, anticipation filled the air.

Each team had five members running the race, with one student from each grade along with a staff member. As the whistle blew to commence the game, team members rushed to the first challenge. They were given the task of spinning dizzily in circles

(continued on next page, see "Devour")



Lighting up Mini-Olympics flame brings glory once again

Brenda Truong

News Editor

Anticipation filled the air on Thursday, May 1, 2014 as Riverdale Collegiate Institute stood gathered in the back field to witness the lighting of the Mini Olympic flame, followed by an afternoon of school-wide events.

After several country meetings consisting of country names, costumes, and strategic planning in and around the school, the turnout had proved the competitive nature of this event.

The afternoon started with a school-wide barbeque and country parade.

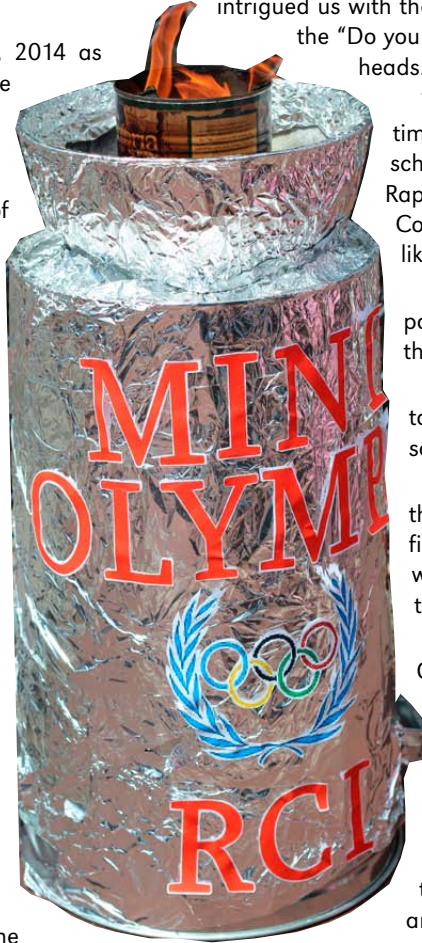
Members of every country were dressed in costumes of many: Jumpsuits, swimwear, wizards, party attire, black uniform, and the list goes on. Soon came the cheer off, where every country gathered in the tennis courts to sing and dance to their cheer, showing off their Olympic spirit.

This soon followed a profound moment for the Riverdale community as retired teacher Mr. Fallis lit the Mini Olympic flame, and ran with it around the track in the tennis courts. The school sat in applause for Mr. Fallis' induction of Ms. McMahon-Nelson and Ms. Gallagher as retired teachers at Riverdale, as they were given the flame to run with as well.

The 'official' start of Mini Olympics 2014 had been long awaited since the revelation of its return at the Welcome Back assembly, not so any moons ago in the Fall.

Since then, students have been exposed to the much-publicized event.

Though no grade up to the graduating class have actually participated in Mini Olympics, teachers and victory lap students have intrigued us with their stories, not to mention the video promos with the "Do you have what it takes?" slogan running through our heads.



The afternoon had been split into three event timeslots, with events designated in all areas of the school. This included the auditorium, which held the Rap Battle, the back field, which held the Obstacle Course, and various classrooms, which held events like Heads Up! and Spoons.

The bell would ring after each time slot, and points would be distributed by first, second and third place, decreasing with each tier.

These events brought students of all grades together, whether it was working together on the same country or competing on opposing sides.

As the clock would draw nearer to the end of the timeslot, the classrooms and designated areas filled up with excitement and encouragement from watching that last faceoff or the announcement of the winners.

With the winding down of the school day, Mini Olympics was close to an ending with points being tallied, determining those last victories.

Results were to be posted the next day stirring much of the conversation, but I believe that it was the Olympic experience that made it hard to think that the auditorium or the gym or even the classrooms could hold more fun than the typical assemblies, PE or athletic competitions, and of course going to class.

Mini-Olympics was a fun way for students to get active and show their school spirit I can't wait for the next one. — JADE TULLICK

I have never seen the school so united and I felt so proud to be a part of all the amazing spirit! My favorite and most memorable part of the year for sure. — KATIE BELL

Mini-Olympics will never be forgotten, through all the tears, sweat, and screams we went through for our country, it was all worth it! It was an awesome experience. — EDWARD CHAN

I thought the Mini-Olympics was a lot of fun, although some kids rather were not as enthusiastic as others, it was still a lot of fun to go and watch competitions and cheer for our home team! — BRIDGET ONG

You've been hit by, you've been struck by theeee SMOOTH CRIMINALS! — WILLIAM JIANG



Vibrant Flamingos, winner of the race, lighting up their balloon.

Criminals devour competition

(con't from previous page)

and then walking along a thin wooden line without falling out of line. The second obstacle was the hoop toss, where members had to throw Frisbees through the Mini Olympic rings. The third task was a messy one—participants had to carry leaking bags of dirt from one post to another without losing too much of the bag contents. This was followed by everyone's favourite, the Slip 'n Slide. From

literally. Spectators watched as their peers dunked their heads in flower petal filled water to do push ups.

The next task proved the lighthearted cruelty of the Mini Olympics planning committee, as participants had to walk around with an egg on a spoon, arms still shaking from the push ups.

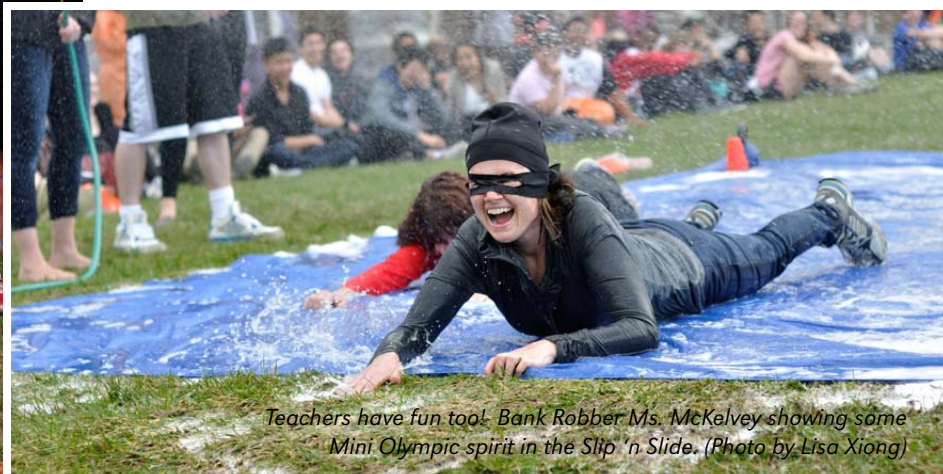
The next task was a bit of a messy one. Racers buried their faces in plates of whip cream to find five and spit out five jelly-

may have finished the fast paced racing portion of the course first, they could not win without popping the balloon. The difficulty of this task was a heartbreaker for many teams, but for some, it was a victory. Vibrant Flamingos came in first place, stealing the title of Obstaclecourse champion from Mini Olympics powerhouse Smooth Criminals, who came in second.

With the pop of the eighth and last balloon, Mini Olympics came to an end. Four days of jam packed games and activities have brought the school together and raised Riverdale spirit to an all-time high.

At the Awards ceremony the following day, Smooth Criminals was given the title of Mini Olympics winner followed by Vibrant Flamingos and Underwater Empire, who came in second and third place respectively.

Mini Olympics may be over, but the flame still burns in the heart, and perhaps the injuries, of all the participants, from teachers to students. The next Mini Olympics will be in 2018. Mr. Wakelin, Mr. Duong, and the rest of the Mini Olympic enthusiasts are already counting down the days.



Teachers have fun too! Bank Robber Ms. McKelvey showing some Mini Olympic spirit in the Slip 'n Slide. (Photo by Lisa Xiong)

Mr. Wakelin's smooth smile and thumbs up to Mr. Duong's Miley-esque tongue out and Ms. McKelvey's ever-constant smile, it's no doubt that everyone had a blast as they slid down the blue tarp.

As students and teachers came to the end of the Slip 'n Slide, they faced inflatable pools of water,

beans for the judges to see.

The last task was a tricky one. As the fifth team member came to the finish line, teams were given a matchbox to light up and burn a piece of string. The string would then continue to burn upwards, popping a balloon.

Despite the fact that teams

Art gazing in the Big Apple: an NYC photo essay

Lisa Xiong

Co-Editor

On April 9, a group of forty Riverdale students along with Mr. Bradley, Ms. Rogers, and Ms. Tsingos boarded a bus for a five day trip to the City that never sleeps, most commonly referred to as New York City.

With the guidance of our tour guides Avi, Gaelan, and Lia, the group spent three full jam packed days visiting art galleries, museums, and the many other exciting sightseeing opportunities that NYC has to offer.

DAY 1

Immediately following the lunch bell, all 46 of us boarded the bus and said goodbye to Riverdale. Thanks to our bus driver Will, we made it to New Jersey safe and sound ten hours later—with many snack breaks along the way of course.

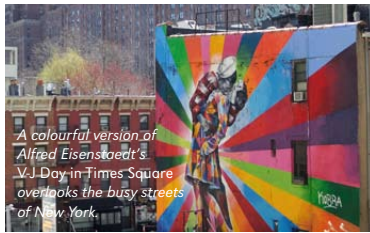
DAY 2

We woke up bright and early to start off our first full day in New York with a walking tour of Harlem, followed by a visit to Columbia University.



After, hopefully absorbing all the spare brain cells that the Ivy League students had to offer, we headed to the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, a large cathedral that reminded me of a less occupied version of the Notre Dame in Montreal and Paris.

We then hopped on the bus and continued the day with a visit to the High Line, a beautiful industrialized park above the busy Manhattan streets.



After lunch, we spent the afternoon Gallery hopping in Chelsea. Some of us even got an advanced preview of James Franco's newest exhibit "New Film Stills" at Pace Gallery. We then crossed the Brooklyn Bridge to the Brooklyn Museum, where we viewed feminist Judy Chicago's stunning piece "The Dinner Party" and a seven metre long page of the Egyptian's the "Book of the Dead" amongst other works before heading to the Rockefeller Centre.

While lining up for the Top of the Rock, we met a man who was running his own "designer" store in a suitcase, selling even more products than many actual stores themselves.



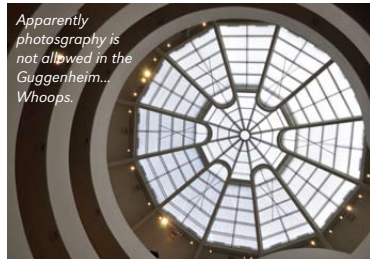
I think it's safe to say that he left us all wondering how he could pack so much in his suitcase—and why the police hadn't caught up to him yet.

We ended the day on the Top of the Rock with a stunning night time view of the New York skyline 850 ft above the ground.



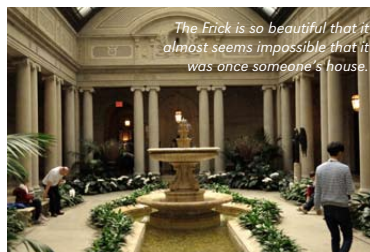
DAY 3

After experimenting with the hotel's newly brought-out conveyor-belt-esque pancake machine, we hit the road and headed to The Guggenheim, a contemporary art gallery featuring beautiful architecture that left some of us slightly dizzy with its spiralling ramp and slanted floors.



While waiting for the rest of the group outside of The Guggenheim, Riverdale made a mark on New Yorkers as we joined a street performer for an epic rendition of Ben E. King's "Stand By Me".

After having lunch at Grand Central Station and visiting the Frick Museum, a large mansion-turned-private-art-gallery, we headed into Queens for an hour and a half exploration of MoMa PS1, home to some of the world's most experimental artworks.



We then had dinner and shopped amongst the lights in Times Square and then headed to Walter Kerr Theatre on Broadway to watch the ambitious—and slightly crazy Monty Navarro climb the ranks of the D'Ysquith royal family tree in the hilarious musical "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder".



As we left the theatre, we spotted James Franco's red carpet premiere of his new show across the street. With us almost running into him at the gallery the day before, I think it's safe to conclude that he was following us (and not the other way around of course). What an exciting end to an equally exciting day!

DAY 4

We began the day with a nice, long stroll in Central Park and made a stop at the Strawberry Gardens to pay tribute to John Lennon.

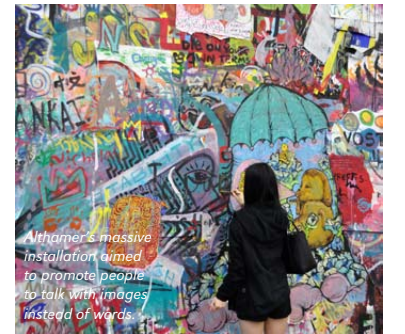


We then headed to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the largest art museum in the United States and one of the top ten in the entire world. After an hour of Greek statues, Roman busts, and Asian jewellery, we hopped on the bus to visit the Main Branch of the New York Public Library.

Considering that the Stephen A. Schwartzman Building of the library doubles as an art gallery and music space, it's hands down more exciting than any library here in Toronto. The exhibit on display when we visited was "The ABC of It: Why Children's Books

Matter", an interactive exhibit that left us all nostalgic with displays of our favourite childhood book characters.

After lunch, we boarded the bus for the ever so famous New Museum in Manhattan. The rooftop terrace and Pawel Althamer's interactive exhibit "The Draftmen's Congress" left us satisfied with our last art gallery visit



After dinner, shopping, and exploration in SoHo, New York's fashion district, we headed to the Danspace Theatre for an intimate performance of contemporary interpretive dance. With the floor rolling, skirt rippling, and thigh slapping, I think we could all agree at the end that it was a unique way to end our New York visit.

DAY 5

As we loaded the bus for home on the last day, we were all sad as we said goodbye to New York City. On the way home, we made stops at an outlet mall in Pennsylvania and at the Corning Glass Museum in Corning, NY.

Unfortunately, before we knew it, we passed the border, saw the "Welcome to Toronto" sign. Less than an hour later, the bus stopped in front of Riverdale; we were home.

To sum it up in one sentence: New York was one exhilarating, song singing, Staples-cheering, exhilarating, art-filled amazing five days.

R&I music takes on Cleveland, Ohio

Danielle Truong

Co-Editor

On April 23rd 2014, 53 Music students along with 3 chaperons, embarked on a 6 hour journey to the home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland, Ohio.

The students piled up in the atrium at 9:30 AM and once everyone was in attendance we boarded the bus where we met our lovely bus driver Lorrie.

After checking into the hotel and freaking out about having a microwave, mini fridge and a pull out couch in our rooms and thinking that we were the special ones, we soon found out that every room had the same features. We got back onto the bus and headed to the Corner Alley for dinner, arcade games and bowling. Once we got back to the hotel, everyone took advantage of the swimming pool, weight room and of course, the free Wi-Fi.

The next morning, our Cleveland adventure was about to begin! After a buffet breakfast that featured a made to order omelette bar, we got back on the bus for a jam packed day at The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and The Great Lakes Science Centre both of which were located on the shore of Lake Erie.

Our first stop was the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame which exhibited displays from both the past and the present.

From The Beatles, to Prince and Elvis and even Katy Perry memorabilia were just some of the many inductees in the Museum.

Just across the street from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame was the Great Lakes Science Centre. The Science Centre featured over 100 hands-on exhibits and activities for students to explore. We then took a walking tour around downtown Cleveland (led by our very own, Mr.Varahidus) to the Tower City Centre for some shopping and dinner at the Hard Rock Café where we learned that the Hard Rock Café restaurants own more Rock and Roll memorabilia than the Rock N Roll Hall of Fame!

Once we had finished our meals and had purchased enough chicken nuggets to feed a small army, we headed off to Severance Hall to see the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra. The symphony programme included Bach's Sinfonia No.2, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.1 which featured and Haydn's Symphony No.103.

Our second day in Cleveland was a rainy one, but as Canadians, we managed to brave the weather during our visit to the Cleveland Metro Parks Zoo. We spent the morning exploring the different exhibits and paying a visit to the koalas, flamingos and the aquatics centre. The zoo also

featured an indoor rain forest exhibit with tropical amphibians, reptiles and birds.

Once we bid farewell to the animals and had made souvenir purchases at the gift shop, we then headed to the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory to explore the Riemenschneider Bach Institute where we saw displays of sheet music that had been hand written by Bach himself. We were also lucky enough to attend a Vocal Master Class lead by Canadian Baritone Daniel Lichti. When the Master Class ended, we were lead to a room to hear a Brass Concert performed by students of the Conservatory. We were then taken on a tour of the Music facilities by our tour guide Rachel.

While we had some time before dinner, Lorrie our bus driver had a brilliant idea to give us 15 minutes to shop at Kmart to pick up snacks for the bus ride home the next day. We students definitely took advantage of the opportunity and we all walked out of the store carrying, cases of flavoured coca cola, jugs of Arizona and every bag of hot cheetos they had in stock.

Dinner was held at Buca Di Beppo, an Italian restaurant serving pasta and salads, family style. After dinner, it was time. We were about to have the time of our lives at the Playhouse



(Photo: Chase Haddleton)

Square Palace where we would see the famous Musical, American Idiot which featured songs by Green Day. It was definitely a great way to end an amazing trip.

Now, you're probably thinking why did we choose Cleveland? Even the American border security guard chuckled at the fact that a bus full of Canadian high school students were headed to the city. For a majority of us, it was our very first time in Cleveland but sometimes it isn't about where you go or even what you do when you get there, it's about the people you are with and the memories that you

make.

When students were asked about their best memory or favourite part of the trip, many of them responded saying that the bus ride and the time spent in the hotel were their favourites because of the endless number of inside jokes and new friendships that were formed in the short period of time. Going on these trips gives students the opportunity to spend time with other students and with the teacher as well. I think it's safe to say that each and every one of us went home satisfied and we couldn't have asked for a better trip.

Konnichiwa nippon-koku! RCI-NWUSS Exchange 2.0



Riverdale's Gillian Toliver with a NWUSS exchange student during their Toronto visit in February 2014.

Hannah Halcro

Opinions Editor

With initiative from the Japanese government last year, 23 Riverdale students corresponded in a ten-day reciprocal exchange with students of the Nara Women's University Secondary School in Nara, Japan. As a result of the solid relationship struck between these two schools, RCI and NWUSS have decided to further strengthen their friendship through an independent exchange during the 2014-2015 school year.

This second Japan exchange in a row offers a different taste of travel, as it will be very different from the Kakehashi program that took place this past year. It will instead follow a similar model as the other international exchange programs that RCI facilitates.

Four students will take part in this program, chosen through preliminary written application, then secondary interview processes from the pool of next year's grade 10s and 11s, as well as any future grade 12s who are not planning on graduating next year. Because of the timing of the exchange dates, a student would not be able to graduate from RCI in the same year that they travel the exchange.

The Japanese students will visit their RCI host families and come to school for nine weeks starting late October until just after Christmas 2014. Their Riverdale counterparts will live with them in Nara and attend school there from late January to late March. The administration hopes

that the March return-date will give the students involved enough time to catch up on school work before culminating season begins.

Before travelling to Japan, the students selected for this program will be taught basic Japanese to the point where they will be able to carry simple conversation.

Each student will also get ahead in as much school work as possible before travelling. While in Japan, students are not expected to do RCI work, but instead immerse themselves in Japanese culture and way of life.

It is for this reason that the four students selected be of consistent academic competencies, capable of handling the increased workload set upon them by the length of this exchange. As well, the selected students must be able to adapt to new customs, and be unafraid of the many challenges that this exchange entails.

The selection process has already begun with an information meeting lead by Mr Harvey. At the time of writing, initial applications are due to the office by May 13th. RCI hopes to name their representatives for this exchange by the end of May.

Though only four students will be able to participate this coming year, if all goes well, RCI and NWUSS hope to build a lasting bridge with annual exchanges, eventually increasing in size.

As a former visitor to Japan, the writer of this article highly encourages all those eligible to apply for this program. It is truly an experience of a lifetime.

Spectator wins big at newspaper awards



Lisa Xiong

Co-Editor

On May 22, 2014, a group from *The Riverdale Spectator* staff attended the Toronto Star High School Newspaper Awards (TSHSNA) held at the Toronto Star Press Centre in Woodbridge and came home with five awards.

The Spectator was awarded runner up Best Volunteer Newspaper in Ontario, second only to Marc Garneau's *The Reckoner*.

Individually, Annika Lautens received runner up in Sports Reporting while Lisa Xiong captured two awards, first place in both Feature and News

Photography.

The Spectator's former editor Jolson Lim also received the Brad Henderson Award, a scholarship named after the founder of the TSHSNA and former journalist at the Toronto Star.

When he founded the awards, Henderson aimed to recognize and celebrate the dedication and hard work of future journalists across Ontario.

The TSHSNA, now in its 18th year, has grown tremendously. The Star now receives nearly 800 entries each year.

Library learning space revamped



The new design features a more modernized open space to cater to students' needs (Photo: Sally Twin)

Jane Huang

News Editor

In November 2013, Riverdale Collegiate Institute's library shut its doors for a week to categorize, restructure, and take inventory of its collection of over 20 000 books. This was one of many steps that have been taken to revamp, refresh, and modernize the school's library.

Since then, the library has seen a plethora of awesome new updates and adjustments that are tailored to suit everybody's needs.

From the Walden room, the Manga Zone, and the cozy reading space for the studious and introspective library-goers to the new netbooks, Kobo readers, and iPads for the tech-savvy students, the library has something for everyone.

Perhaps the most exciting addition of all is the newly installed 3D printer, which will allow students to work with a technology that has been heralded by experts as the future of advanced manufacturing and design.

All these changes are part of the plan to transform the school's library into a more

creative and vibrant learning space that is better suited to the 21st century.

As Assistant Curriculum Leader and head librarian, Ms. Dempster has taken the lead in the renovation of the school's library, working in partnership with Ms RamberanSingh and all interested stakeholders.

"Our plan is to continue to build a collaborative and inclusive learning commons with a variety of learning zones and resources, where students and staff can explore and collaborate on anything they wish to learn," she explained.

School libraries are no longer just static book museums, they are evolving to adapt to the demands of learners. Today's libraries have much more content to offer than ever before, and it's plain to see that RCI's library is no exception. Coming soon to the library is a laptop bar, a device recharging station, a flat-screen television display, and a creator zone.

Stay tuned and be sure to head on over to RCI's library to make use of these great new resources!

Paris: le bon, le mauvais, et l'intéressant



Teagan Perez and her exchange family smiling for the camera while skiing in the Alps (Photo: Teagan Perez)

Teagan Perez

Contributing Writer

Je m'appelle Taegan Perez et pour 3 mois j'étais à Paris, France. J'étais là-bas en échange avec ma correspondante Tiphaine Rosset. Tiphaine était ici à Riverdale pour 3 mois au début de cette année scolaire. En février de 2014 c'était à moi d'aller en France. Au départ j'étais hypernerveuse parce que moi, je ne connaissais pas la famille de Tiphaine; peut-être ils ne m'aimeraient pas ou moi, je ne les aimerais pas! Je suis très contente d'annoncer que j'avais tort sur les deux points!

C'était le 5 février, 2014 et j'ai posé les derniers articles dans ma valise. C'était la première fois pour moi de faire un long vol en avion. Le vol n'était pas plus mal, mais parce que c'était le Canada et tout le monde sait qu'au Canada il neige beaucoup, l'avion a mis 4 heures pour quitter l'aéroport. C'était pas amusant et j'avais hâte d'aller en France!

Lors de mon arrivée, j'ai découvert que la maison de Tiphaine était dans une très belle ville qui s'appelle Rueil de Malmaison. Je me rappelle que quand je suis arrivée, je me suis dit que c'était la plus belle maison que j'avais jamais vue. Et puis j'ai eu la surprise de la bise. Tous les membres de sa famille me disaient « Bonjour! » en me faisant la bise sur les deux joues. Pour moi c'était trop bizarre parce qu'au Canada, on se dit « Bonjour! » mais on ne le fait

pas en s'embrassant!

Je me rappelle aussi d'avoir peur de parler avec la famille de Tiphaine pour la première semaine... mais la deuxième semaine nous sommes allés faire du ski dans les Alpes! C'était la première fois pour moi et moi j'ai adoré! Aussi dans cette semaine c'était l'anniversaire de la plus petite, Gatiennne, qui fêtait ses 8 ans! À la fin de l'échange Gatiennne et moi étions les meilleures amies car elle est comme mon petit frère qui a le même âge qu'elle.

Côté école, je pense que j'ai fait sept semaines au lycée pendant mon séjour, mais ne vous inquiétez pas parce qu'il y a beaucoup de vacances scolaires en France. En plus, je me suis fait plein d'amis avec lesquels je suis encore en communication.

Toutefois, l'école est un peu bizarre en France. Par exemple, il est tout à fait possible d'avoir une journée scolaire qui commence à 8:00h et termine à 17:00h. Aussi, un cours pourrait durer 1 heure, 1.5 heures, ou même 2 heures.

En tout, c'était la meilleure expérience de ma vie, et je la referais sans aucune hésitation. Aussi, je la recommanderais à tout le monde. C'est vrai que cela prend beaucoup de temps et de préparation à l'école, mais la quantité de français que vous apprenez, vous ne pourrez pas l'apprendre en classe.

Enfin, c'est mon histoire, Paris: le bon, le mauvais, et l'intéressant.

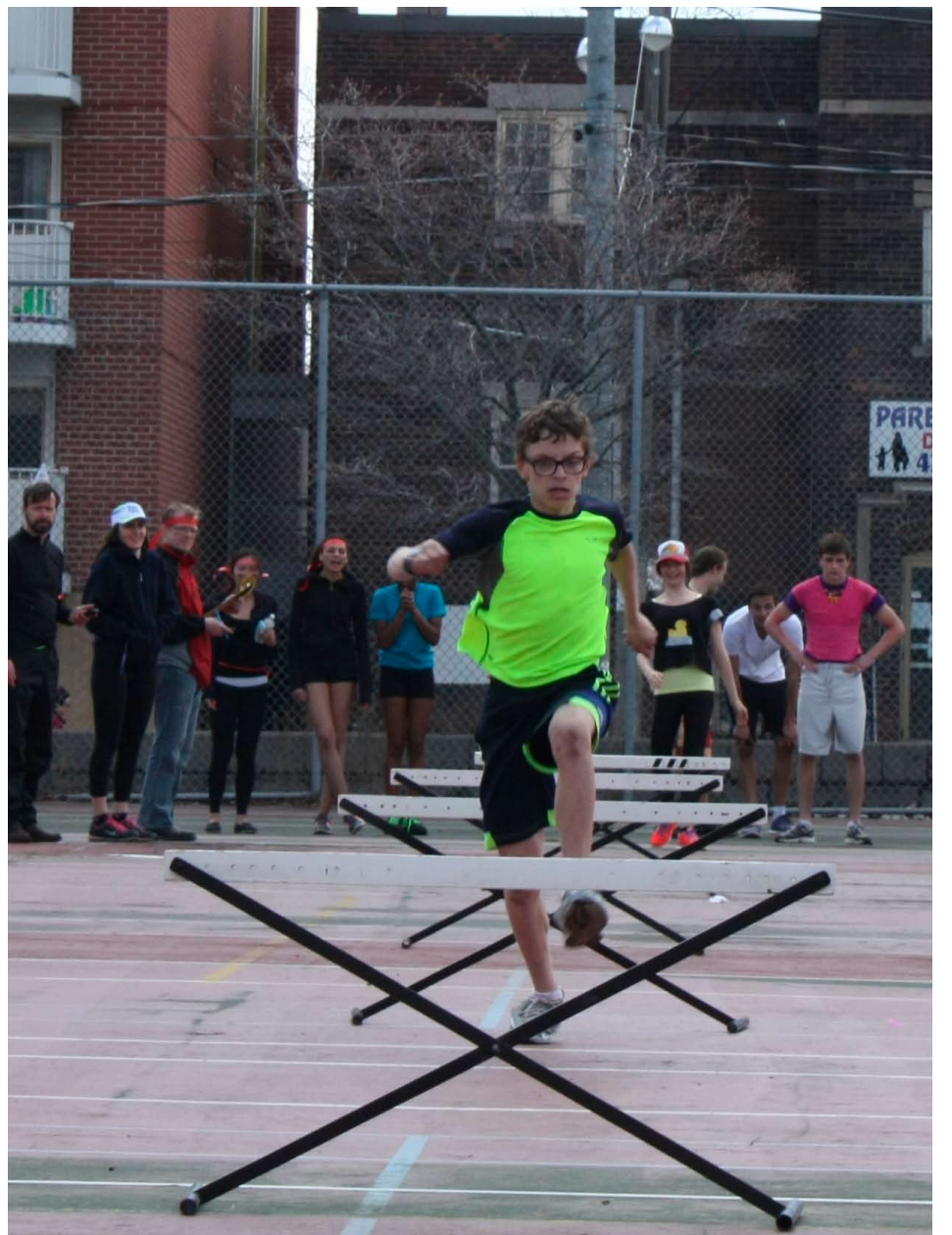


L I F E A T

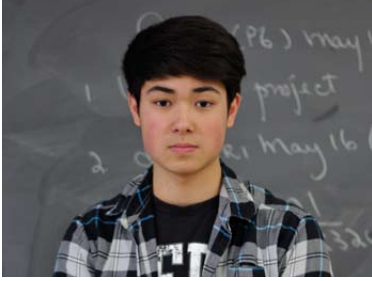




R I V E R D A L E



New year, new Chris



Christopher Choquette

Student Council President 14-15

Hey Riverdale! After ten months of hard work, the school year is finally coming to an end. We have had an exciting year with the return of our school spirit, and that spirit is here to stay.

I'd first like to say, on behalf of all the elected Student Council members, that we are grateful for your support and hope that you will continue to be involved in your school in the following year.

Though our duties have not officially started, we have already been working hard to learn the ropes. We have many different ideas that we want to implement. Hopefully we'll get through them all, and any others that we think of along the way. While I could describe any number of the ideas we have, I would like to refrain from any specifics until the next school year commences; I don't want to make any promises that are not kept. Though the specifics may change throughout the year as we deal with the issues that are thrown our way, there will be some key qualities that will be maintained.

The first is coordination between Student Council and all the other councils and clubs around the school. Though Student Council does a lot for our school, the clubs promote a lot of fun activities and events that could be coordinated with us to improve upon them.

Second, Riverdale will be involved in the TDSB SuperCouncil, permitting our ideas to go to the TDSB and giving us a say in our policies and regulations.

Third, Student Council represents the voice of the student body. To ensure we represent your wishes properly, we will continue to monitor your opinions through various media, such as Facebook, ask.fm, etc.

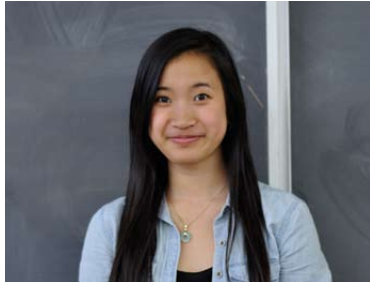
In my opinion, these qualities are imperative to the success of Student Council, and if maintained will secure a smooth and enjoyable year for us all, regardless of the specific events that happen. While the details are still long in the making, I would like to continue to this year's Mini Olympic success with a new form of end of the year entertainment: Exam Jam.

Exam period is a stressful time for many, with increased workloads and less time for both sleep, and fun. Exam Jam can make it a bit easier, with fun activities and some time off.

This year we have one of the most diverse groups of Student Council members that we've ever had. Aside from our diversity, we all have a unique skill set that we bring to the table. From humour to being serious to singing, this year's Council has it all; as I'm sure you've already seen from our speeches.

I'm confident that together we can ameliorate the revival of our school spirit, and make next year another year to remember.

Dawn of a new day: Student Council 14-15:



**KELLY VOONG
(VICE PRESIDENT)**

AT: How do you plan on improving the school next year?

KV: Currently we have the ask.fm and that seems to be working well. We still need to find ways to get everyone to voice their opinions. Not just about washroom locks and soap, but about more important issues around the school.

AT: Any fresh ideas for next year?

KV: Definitely more creative spirit days, for example an 80s day. This years went well, but we're still reviving the spirit here at Riverdale, so I hope to make them even better.

AT: What are your ideas for prom?

KV: The administration is a bit iffy, but I will be striving to have a themed prom next year. I want to make sure everyone has a fun time, because it's not just about the venue and decorations. I want to make sure everyone has an amazing prom experience. I want to be able to help with finding places to get your hair done, your nails done, where you can get dresses, corsages etc.

AT: Why do you think you were you voted as VP?

KV: Im already experienced with how everything works on Student Council and I think they saw I deserved it because I will work really hard once again.



**YASSIN AITMAATALLAH
(JUNIOR REP)**

AT: As a Grade 9, you are the youngest on SAC. What do you have to bring to the table?

YA: I got to represent the Grade 9s in a good way. I got to show that I'm the right person for the job.

AT: What are you looking forward to next year?

YA: Being a bigger part of RCI and being a part of all the activities and setting up for the events,

AT: How do you feel about being the only junior amongst on SAC?

YA: I don't feel nervous, I feel alright because I get to work with people older than me. I'm usually stuck with working with people in my grade. So I like meeting other people.

AT: Do you have any fresh new ideas for next year?

YA: You know how we have BYOB(anana) and you get ice cream? I feel like doing events like that more often. We should also have more intramurals because I don't think we have enough. We only had three this year and I don't think that's enough.

AT: Is there anything else you would like to add?

YA: I wanted to change the vending machine prices, but Mr Dermer told me that it's under contract so I can't really do much about it. I also want to cancel the Grade 9 late policy because I don't think it's fair to get the other grades to not have a late policy.



**ZACH SHERMAN
(SENIOR REP)**

AT: What can you bring to the table next year?

ZS: Very creative ideas for new extra-curricular events, things that more people will be able to enjoy, and hopefully we can get more people out and participating in these events.

AT: Why do you think people voted you, there's been talk about your beautiful voice?

ZS: I had a lot of people tell me that I had a really good speech, and that I sounded very confident, as well as that they liked my ideas. That was surely a plus. I wasn't big on doing a big dance or song, it was really to the point so I think people really appreciated that.

AT: What do you look forward to next year?

ZS: Being able to give more students a voice and a say, so that way more people will be able to enjoy their time here at school.

AT: How come you didn't run as a Junior Rep two years ago?

ZS: I wasn't really motivated in my junior years, clearly missing out. Now as a senior student guess I've gained more confidence.

AT: Why did you feel now was the time?

ZS: Some people were saying they noticed Student Council was always within the same friends group, one that I wasn't in and I wanted to get in on it, see what was going on and be able to help out.

AT: Anything to add?

ZS: My campaign week was rigorous, like jumping through rings.



**GRIFFIN PORTER
(SOCIAL CONVENOR)**

AT: What can you bring to the table next year?

GP: I think I'd bring a lot of fun, because I'm upbeat, I'm energetic, and I want to make the next school year fun.

AT: Any new ideas for next year?

GP: I've been looking at the past to see what people have done, to see what works and what hasn't worked. Stephen and I hope to build off of that while bringing our new flavour to things.

AT: So you and Stephen will be working together, would you say you two are friends that will be able to collaborate a lot?

GP: I wouldn't say we're best friends, but we've had a few classes together, I like him and I think he's a good guy.

AT: How do you plan on changing Riverdale, what visions do you have?

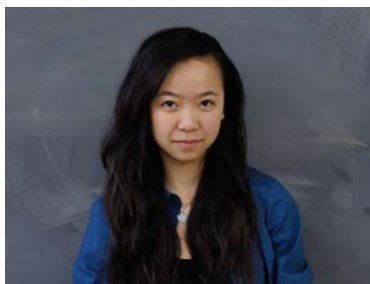
GP: I dont have any specifics, but I mean it's already a good place to go to school, and I want to make sure it remains that way. You can go to any school and learn math and science, but what makes Riverdale so great is that there's so much more to do here, and I want to continue the tradition of past Student Councils by making sure students continuously have things to do such as extracurriculars.

AT: Why do you think people voted you?

GP: Ghosts.

AT: Anything to add?

GP: I think it's going to be a fun year, and I hope everyone else as fun too!



**NELIA WONG
(VPX)**

AT: How do you plan on improving the school?

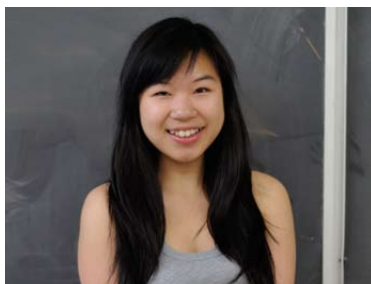
NW: Working hard to keep everyone involved and making Student Council decisions about the school more transparent to our student body. I really want to make sure everyone's staying in touch, and everyone's connected. I hope to be able to voice student opinions better through me to the Student Council.

AT: Any new ideas for next year?

NW: Not really. I'm not much of an idea person, I prefer to be more on the getting work done side of things.

AT: Why do you think you were selected to be VPX?

NW: I think I'm the perfect person for VPX because I enjoy dealing with external affairs such as SuperCouncil. I am apart of SuperCouncil as the Student Trustee and I can bring Riverdale's fresh opinions to my meetings with the board.



**SAMMI HUANG
(SECRETARY)**

AT: What can you bring to Student Council?

SH: More input from the juniors, because I have a younger sister who will be grade 9 next year. I'm hoping it will allow me to get input from the nines and tens and also get them involved.

AT: As head of many other clubs, what do you look forward to in the difference between those and student council?

SH: I've tried to stay involved, so I guess the only difference is that I'm now in front of the school, and there will be more student involvement. I can be a bigger role model in the school now.

AT: Student Council with the boyfriend?

SH: I guess it's exciting, but I dont think the Council is happy about that.

AT: Do you think as the power house couple, there's something you can bring to the table together?

SH: Maybe.

AT: Why do you think you were voted?

SH: I think I have more experience with other clubs and I've interacted with many different grades. Being a senior might mean more recognition.

AT: How was your campaign week?

SH: I really enjoyed making the posters.



**CARL HUANG
(TREASURER)**

AT: How does it feel to be back on Student Council for a second year?

CH: I'm excited for next year, the new Council is really nice and really fun.

AT: Do you think you'll like them better than last year's group?

CH: No, last year's council was really helpful. Props to Vernon!

AT: What more do you have to offer the school next year?

CH: In my speech I mentioned really working hard to get students' input on the equipment and other things that we buy for the school.

AT: The role of the treasurer involves money, but what else did you find yourself doing?

CH: I look forward to buying the equipment for the events we hold. The returning members will also be looked at as the go-to-person. We'll really try to be mentors for next year.

AT: Anything to add?

CH: I am excited for next year's Council's brand new faces and to see what they can bring.



**STEPHEN DIEP
(SOCIAL CONVENOR)**

AT: What can you bring to the table next year?

SD: Hopefully I can bring some fun, some spirit, some moral. I'm not sure exactly what I can bring, but it comes in a mysterious package where it just all comes out, which students will see next year.

AT: Why do you think you were chosen to be one of the social convenors?

SD: Perhaps they felt it was a good day. Perhaps since I ran last year, more people know me, especially from that one line. I think my speech was pretty motivational, because it was about standing up for something.

AT: Any ideas for spirit next year?

SD: For the events in the atrium such as spirit week, I hope to bring in more creative ideas.

AT: How do you intend on improving riverdale?

SD: Since not every student participates with events, hopefully I can get more people to join in because I usually see spectators around.

AT: Anything to add?

SD: I achieved, because I believed.

Aliyah Thomas

Layout Editor

Spring has sprung: a symphony of sounds



(Photo: Selena Lam)

Dillon Chan

Arts and Entertainment

The few weeks before the 15th of May, students and teachers of Riverdale Collegiate's music department worked tirelessly to produce their finest gem yet – the 2014 Annual Spring Concert, an event that would showcase the musical prowess of Riverdale musicians.

The show took off with Mr. Varahidis and the Beginner Band. The Beginner band is comprised of students enrolled in the Grade 9 beginner band course. They may be beginner in name; however they are definitely not beginners at performing. They showed the spectators what's good with *The Tenth Planet*, *Sanctus*, and *Casey's Last Run*.

Following the beginner band, the Chamber Choir, conducted by none other than Ms. Rayman, performed an excerpt from Brahms's *Requiem*. This German song is no easy feat, and was performed by Riverdale's most dedicated vocalists.

After that, the Chamber Choir, Ms. Law and the Junior Strings made their appearance. They performed *Tango Trocadero* and *Fantasia For Strings*, both of which were lively and upbeat pieces.

Next up was Princess Rayman (yet again) but this time, it was the Junior Band that was conducted. They performed two pieces; *Shenandoah* and the popular pop song, *We Are Young*, by FUN.

Concluding the Junior Band's performance, Ms. Rayman had to undergo the very excruciating mission of travelling from the front of the stage – to the front of the choral risers, a whopping five metres.

It was then that Ms. Rayman conducted the Choral Ensemble through 90% of a Queen medley accompanied by the wonderful Ms. Nguyen, Michi K., and Tristan L-G., who played the piano, bass, and drums respectively.

Ms. Law then made a return with the Intermediate Strings playing a single piece – *Variations on a Well-Known Sea Chantey*.

Following the Intermediate Strings, Ms. Sumi finally made her appearance with the Concert Band. They played the ever-popular *Skyfall*, featuring Ariel Plytas as Adele and an intense piece entitled *Cyclone*. The ending of *Cyclone*

concluded the end of Act I of the concert, and the beginning of the Market Place intermission.

The Market Place is an event that takes place during the intermission in which small ensembles provide background music for spectators while they talk amongst themselves and purchase baked goods. However, the ensembles during this market place were not merely background; they were the main attraction. As soon as the spectators purchased their treats, they flocked around one of two "boxes" of the atrium and heard lovely ensembles of all kinds perform. *Lonely Boy*, *Fly Me To The Moon*, *I Will Follow You Into The Dark* and *I See Fire* are well known songs adapted to a small ensemble setting and wonderfully executed by students from all three music departments. Even the percussion section included their own ensemble with an unofficially named piece, entitled *Hullabaloo*. Once the last ensemble's performance came to a stop, Spring Concert attendees were pumped and ready to watch Act II.

Ms. Sumi and the Jazz Band kicked off Act II with a cool-cat piece, *C-Jam Blues*. The Jazz Band followed up with *Pennsylvania 6-5000* and played the Jackson 5's *I Want You Back* to conclude their performance.

Ms. Law returned to the stage bringing with her the Senior Strings. They performed excerpts from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, namely, from Spring and Summer. After that, they played an electrifying rendition of Led Zepplin's *Kashmir* featuring Ms. Nguyen as the conductor and Hallows and Law as soloists, with Dermer as a guest drummer.

The next group that performed was the first of its kind at Riverdale. Varahidis took the stage again, with a group of students that follow his word religiously. They are the Men's Chorus, a choral ensemble of young men at Riverdale. They first sang a graceful song called *The Pasture*, but followed it up with a fierce song titled the *Battle of Jericho*.

No more than 20 minutes had passed after the Jazz Band performance, and yet Ms. Sumi returned to the stage with the superb Wind Ensemble. They began by performing *At a Dixieland Jazz Funeral* which featured a combo of soloists in the spotlight. Next, they performed a beautiful piece by E. Whitacre entitled *October*.

In an almost bipolar fashion, the Wind Ensemble switched from a calm, swaying piece to the fast paced, rhythmically complex piece *Sevens*, composed by S.R. Hazo. And with that, the Wind Ensemble left the stage with a bang.

Ms. Law didn't get much of a break either, and came back with the Concert Strings. They performed an arrangement of the popular piano piece, *River Flows in You*, with Ms. Nguyen as piano accompaniment. Next, they played music from Disney's *Brave*, featuring the magnificent student-candidate duo, Ms. Nguyen and Ms. Hallows playing percussion.

Shortly after, Ms. Rayman and the Choral Ensemble reappeared on stage. They sang a rhythmically challenging Indonesian song entitled *Janger* and followed it up with a beautifully calming song called the *Cloths of Heaven*. The composer, Mark Sirett, was even kind enough to have come to Riverdale to run a workshop with the vocal students. Lastly, they finish by singing the last bit of the Queen medley, *Teo Torriate*.

The audience was watching the concert and attentively listened to a large variety of music. It is understandable that the audience was a little tired, gloomy... miserable, perhaps?

Mr. Varahidis and the Orchestra paired with Ms. Rayman and the choir, brought to the concert a medley of songs from the classic musical *Les Miserables*. Featuring both instrumental and vocal sections, as well as covering many songs, it was a lengthy performance. But in the end, it was well received by the wonderful audience, whom did not seem to be so miserable after the fact.

The Orchestra and Choir duo marked the end of Riverdale's annual Spring Concert. More so than other years, there was a large teacher-candidate presence. The efforts of Ms. Nguyen and Ms. Hallows were greatly appreciated as well as the super accompanist, Ms. Rivers-Moore, continuing to contribute to Riverdale after retiring.

As flowers bloom during the spring season, so do the talents of music students during the Spring Concert. A lively and marvelous event that occurs annually, it is surely not an event to be missed.

An evening of accumulated arts

Hannah Halcro

Opinions Editor

On Thursday May 29th, several classes of Grade 10 English students in conjunction with the senior drama class were pleased to bring their culminating works to show in an open event of arts appreciation. The evening consisted of an arts display in the atrium from 6:00pm, and then moved into the auditorium with a full set of drama performances beginning at 7:00pm.

The art project portion was put together by Ms Hegge and Ms Pisechny's Grade 10 English classes. These students created visual art pieces surrounding their study of Elie Weisel's holocaust memoir *Night*, as well as multimedia presentations inspired by issues in the Riverdale community. Samples of these works were displayed in the first portion of the event.



Meanwhile, the senior drama class was pulled into a full production company for the end of the year. Comprised of just over twenty Grade 11 and 12 students, this group of individuals performed a set of three comedic short plays, all by Russian playwright Anton Chekhov, as well as a handful of intermission acts from individual students.

These pieces were presented under the pretense of "works in progress" as a lack of rehearsal time made for unpolished performances, although nonetheless entertaining. Much of this culminating production has been placed under the direct jurisdiction of student directors and organizers, as leadership has been one the main goals of the course.



"The drama performance and the art project are very different but the evening is essentially a celebration of some of the culminating activities of students in the English/Drama department," as said Ms Hegge, the drama and English teacher who, along with Ms Pisechny, organized the event, weathering the worst of rescheduling errors and student absences.

As this year at Riverdale draws to a close, hard work pays off in a display of culminating projects. Although fewer than sixty audience members attended (as seems to be the trend for drama productions at this school), those who went got their fill of entertainment.



Spring sports recap

Annika Lautens

Sports Editor

VARSITY GIRL'S SOCCER

Undefeated during the regular season, the girls’ soccer team captained by Alex Tse and Ellisia Calvo continued their winning streak throughout the playoffs. They won their top 16 game against Central Tech and won in the quarter finals against North Toronto in overtime with penalty shots after playing for two hours in 30°C weather! In the semi finals on May 28th against Danforth Tech the girls won 3-1. Unfortunately, their streak came to an end as they lost 2-1 in a nailbiting game against Harbord CI in the finals. Nevertheless, it was an amazing well-played game. Congratulations girls on your silver medal! When asked to define the highlight of the season, Alex Tse said, “seeing Ms. Doudoumas coming to the field with all the boys from the other school carrying our stuff.”

VARSITY GIRL'S SOFTBALL

Even though the girls lost all their games this season including the quarter finals, captains Annie Bowen and Chelsea Bertin aren’t letting it phase them. With a big smile on her face Bowen had this to say about the season: “Winning doesn’t make a good team, the people on it do, and by those lines we had the best team in the league. Even though we didn’t win many games (or any) that’s not all that matters. The people on the team made it great.” Special thanks to Mr. Fallis for coming back to coach!

VARSITY BOYS LACROSSE

Led by captains Colin Tse, Jaekobbb Wade and Derrick Wong, the boys had an incredible season with 3 wins, 4 losses and 1 tie. They then went on to win the Tier II Championships.

Congrats boys! Thanks to coaches Mikael Cullen, Nate, Andrew Langlands, Ms. McKelvey and Ms. Linde for the awesome season.

CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

Although this team had their ups and downs captains Katie Bell and Brandon Nguyen led their team to 4 wins and 5 losses this season. They played a double header for playoffs but unfortunately lost in the quarter finals. Special thanks to Mr. Le for stepping up and taking over the team.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

After coming 7th in and all day tournament, Captains Connie Quach and Andrew Quach lead their team to 1 win, 1 tie and 3 losses during the regular season. Captain Connie Quach had this to say to her team: “As co-captain, I am very proud with the efforts of the ultimate team. Over the six week period, the team then and now are both different in skill and chemistry. something we have learned as a team is the spirit of the game and now we can reflect on a very memorable season. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication!”

TRACK AND FIELD

With the biggest team they’ve had in years, Mr. Fick’s track team has had a huge amount of success. In regionals Amanda Morch claimed gold in 100m hurdles and 400m hurdles, Mackenzie Leblanc garnered silver in triple jump, Davina Li nabbed bronze in long jump, the 4x100m girls relay team fought for bronze and Aliyah Thomas secured silver in triple jump. Kyle Stevens was the champion of the hurdles, winning two gold medals in 110m and 400m, Adam Pharoah brought home two golds in 100m and 200m, Kareem Brugmann won gold in 400m and bronze in 100m, newcomer

Alex Hoerner won gold in 3000m while Nathaniel Cunningham won silver in 200m. Plus both junior boys 4x100m relay team received medals with Stanley Sik’s group winning silver and Ridwan Bhuiyan’s team winning bronze. At Metros, Morch came 4th in the 100m hurdles and 3rd in the 400m hurdles, Stevens came 3rd in the 110 hurdles and 2nd in the 400 hurdles, Leblanc came 8th in triple jump, Pharoah came 8th in the 200m, while Hoerner came 6th in the 3000m, and Brugmann came 5th in the 400m. Morch and Stevens advanced to OFSSA from June 5th - 7th.

BADMINTON

The badminton team really made Riverdale proud this season. At regionals they won all their games! Mixed doubles A and girls doubles A came in 1st place, boys doubles A, girls singles A and girls doubles B came 2nd with boys singles A coming in 3rd. At the city championships, our girls doubles A - Amy Vong and Angela Lam - placed 3rd place and Erica Ly place 1st in girls singles, both qualifying for OFSAA. Unfortunately, Jason Lam playing boy’s singles placed 5th, one spot away from qualifying for OFSAA. At OFSAA, Amy Vong and Angela Lam placed Top 6 in B Flight and Erica Ly placed Top 6 in A Flight. Many thanks to coaches Mr. Duong & Ms. Balazs for leading this team to so many amazing victories!

BANTAM BOYS RUGBY

With the semi-finals on June 3rd, the Grade 9 boys team is one of the last teams still going. Coach Robb has led them to a 1-5 record. Although their original captain Declan Barber got injured and was forced to sit out for the rest of the season, the boys did not let that stop that stop them. Current captain Nick Totman stepped up and kept the team going through his spirit and dedication.



A Harbord Tiger attempts to take possession of the ball from Charlotte Fleming in the South Region Girl's Varsity Soccer Tier II Championship. (Photo by Lisa Xiong)

Coed Co-ed Volleyball South Region							
School	G	W	L	F	A	Pts	
	East						
Danforth	9	9	0	27	3	18	
North Toronto	8	6	2	20	14	12	
Lawrence Park	8	5	3	17	11	10	
Northern	6	2	4	10	14	4	
East York	6	2	4	9	14	4	
Riverdale	7	2	5	9	16	4	
Rosedale	6	0	6	2	18	0	
Regular Season							
W	Riverdale	3	vs.	Rosedale	0		
L	Danforth	3	vs.	Riverdale	0		
L	North Toronto	3	vs.	Riverdale	1		
W	Riverdale	3	vs.	East York	1		
L	Lawrence Park	3	vs.	Riverdale	0		
L	Riverdale	2	vs.	Northern	3		
Quarter-Finals							
L	Riverdale	0	vs.	Western Technical	3		
Ultimate Frisbee South Region Tier 1							
School	G	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
	East						
Northern	4	4	0	0	44	9	8
Marc Garneau	4	3	1	0	39	2	6
North Toronto	4	2	1	1	29	28	5
Riverdale	4	1	2	1	24	33	3
Leaside	4	1	3	0	19	34	2
Forest Hill	4	0	4	0	10	39	0
Regular Season							
L	Riverdale	1	vs.	Northern SS	11		
L	Riverdale	4	vs.	Marc Garneau	12		
W	Forest Hill	1	vs.	Riverdale	10		
T	North Toronto	9	vs.	Riverdale	9		
Boys Lacrosse District Region							
School	G	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Malvern	5	5	0	0	50	10	10
Birchmount	4	3	1	0	29	18	6
Etobicoke	4	3	1	0	14	15	6
Humberside	4	2	2	0	22	21	4
Lakeshore	4	0	3	1	13	26	1
Riverdale	4	0	3	1	14	30	1
Agincourt	3	0	3	0	1	23	0
Regular Season							
L	Malvern	9	vs.	Riverdale	2		
L	Birchmount	11	vs.	Riverdale	4		
L	Riverdale	3	vs.	Etobicoke	5		
T	Riverdale	5	vs.	Lakeshore	5		
Coed Badminton South Region Tier 1							
School	G	W	L	F	A	Pts	
	East Pool						
Riverdale	6	6	0	170	28	170	
Lawrence Park	6	4	2	131	65	131	
Northern	6	4	2	106	86	106	
North Toronto	6	4	2	96	98	96	
Leaside	6	2	4	79	121	79	
Marc Garneau	6	1	5	78	122	78	
Regular Season							
W	Marc Garneau	6	vs.	Riverdale	28		
W	Riverdale	30	vs.	Northern	5		
W	Riverdale	30	vs.	Leaside	1		
W	Forest Hill	0	vs.	Riverdale	30		
W	Riverdale	22	vs.	Lawrence Park	16		
Girls Softball South Region Tier 1							
School	G	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Leaside	6	6	0	0	93	6	12
Northern	6	5	1	0	78	56	10
East York	6	3	2	1	53	68	7
Lawrence Park	6	3	3	0	64	56	6
Humberside	6	2	3	1	69	65	5
Riverdale	6	0	5	1	28	70	1
Harbord	6	0	5	1	28	92	1
Regular Season							
L	Leaside	17	vs.	Riverdale	0		
L	Riverdale	7	vs.	Lawrence Park	13		
T	Harbord	1	vs.	Riverdale	1		
L	Riverdale	12	vs.	Northern	13		
L	Riverdale	4	vs.	Humberside	17		
L	East York	9	vs.	Riverdale	4		
Quarter Finals							
Riverdale	2	vs.	East York	11			
Coed Table Tennis All Region Varsity							
School	G	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
	Northeast						
Malvern	5	5	0	0	45	18	10
York Mills	5	4	1	0	37	25	8
Danforth	5	2	3	0	33	31	4
SATEC	5	2	3	0	26	36	4
Woburn	5	1	4	0	24	39	2

Northern	5	1	4	0	24	40	2
<i>Southeast</i>							
Riverdale	5	5	0	0	47	6	10
North Toronto	5	4	1	0	39	18	8
Vaughan Road	5	3	2	0	33	25	6
Monarch	5	2	3	0	23	30	4
Earl Haig	5	1	4	0	13	40	1
Western Tech	5	0	5	0	9	45	0
Central Comm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Westview	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Regular Season</i>							
W North Toronto	3	vs.	Riverdale	7			
W Earl Haig	2	vs.	Riverdale	10			
W Monarch Park	0	vs.	Riverdale	10			
W Riverdale	10	vs.	Western Technical	0			
W Riverdale	10	vs.	Vaughan Road	1			
<i>Quarter-Final</i>							
W Porter	0	vs.	Riverdale	10			
<i>Semi-Final</i>							
W York Mills	5	vs.	Riverdale	7			
<i>Championship-Final</i>							
W Riverdale	10	vs.	North Toronto	0			

Boys Baseball South Region Tier 1							
School	G	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Humberside	8	7	1	0	74	27	14
Lawrence Park	8	7	1	0	56	28	14
Malvern	8	7	1	0	59	20	14
Oakwood	8	4	4	0	43	45	8
North Toronto	8	3	4	1	47	40	7
Leaside	8	3	5	0	50	49	6
Northern	8	2	5	1	33	68	5
Riverdale	8	2	6	0	26	71	4
Forest Hill	8	0	8	0	32	72	0

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Junior Female



Athlete: Frankie St. Louis
Grade: 9

Sport: Basketball, Field hockey, Volleyball, Soccer

Accomplishments: Frankie was at the heart of the Varsity Girls Soccer Team this year, Frankie scored the only goal in a hard-fought battle in the South Region Tier II Championships earlier this month.

Her field hockey, volleyball, and soccer coach, Ms. Doudoumis commented, "It was a pleasure to coach Frankie. She is a very dedicated, punctual, respectful, fair, skillful, and coachable player. Frankie contributed impressively to the success of every team she took part in and her outstanding contributions are greatly appreciated by Riverdale."

As she is only in Grade 9, Frankie has three more years at Riverdale to flourish and develop as an athlete.

Junior Male



Athlete: Kareem Brugmann
Grade: 9

Sport: Soccer, Basketball, Ball hockey, Track and field

Accomplishments: Kareem was the only Grade 9 athlete to make the ball hockey team, which lost in the provincial championship. "He earned a spot as centre with his speed and tenacity," commented Coach Simoneau.

Always looking for a challenge, Kareem tried his luck at basketball for the first time, winning a spot on the city finalist bantam team.

Not only a star on the rink, Kareem also excels in Track and Field. During his track season earlier this year, Kareem captured gold in 400 m and bronze in 100 m dash at the TDSSAA South Track Championships.

Although Kareem has only been a Raider for nine months, he shows the dedication, strength, and spirit of a True Riverdale Raider.

Senior Female



Athlete: Emily Russell
Grade: 12

Sports: Cross Country, Field Hockey, Swimming, Track and Field, Softball

Accomplishments: Emily is a strong leader and always has a positive attitude. She has an amazing stroke and is as graceful as a fish in the water, but don't let that fool you. She is as powerful and fierce as a shark.

Emily was the one to beat at the OFSAA Swimming Championships earlier this year. Emily came home with silver in 100 m freestyle and gold in 50 m freestyle.

In June 2012, Emily was featured as Junior Athlete of the Year. For the past two years, she has continued to demonstrate and develop the essential qualities that led her to be awarded Athlete of the Year once again. Congratulations and keep up the good work Emily.

Senior Male



Athlete: Max White
Grade: 12

Sports: Tennis, Ice Hockey, Ball Hockey, Lacrosse, Baseball

Accomplishments: Max was the captain of the the ice hockey, ball hockey, and baseball teams and it is not hard to see why. Max was not only an amazing leader, he was a role model for his younger team mates on and off the rink.

Not only is he a dedicated athlete in school, his dedication extended past Riverdale walls. Max is a member of Team Canada U18 and will be heading to Hungary for the World Ball Hockey Federation Junior Championships this month. Congratulations and Riverdale wishes you all the best, show Hungary some of that True Raider spirit.

Long live ball hockey: a player's perspective

Max White

Sports Editor

In 1976, Riverdale Collegiate student Jim Plytas began the Withrow Park Ball Hockey League (WPBHL). The league has continued to operate in one form or another ever since.

The league has grown so much in the years since its formation that it now uses both the Withrow Park and Jimmie Simpson rinks for regular season games.

With over a thousand players, the league has divisions for boys, girls, men, and women.

Players from the WPBHL have had high level national and international experience, including the men's team that has travelled to the World Championships in Plzen, Czech Republic, eight players who were on the 2011 U15 National Championship winning team, and two players who won bronze medals at the U16 World Junior Championships in Pisek, Czech Republic with Team Canada.

All of these players have helped put Riverdale and the Withrow Park Ball Hockey League on the national and international stage. We are known as a ball hockey hotbed and this is all due to the vision a young Riverdale student had thirty-nine years ago.

All of the players on this year's Raiders ball hockey squad have played for the Withrow Park Knights for their entire careers. Their experience in the sport made the Raiders a favorite in the provincial tournament, even though they hadn't competed at this level before.

Every player on the team had participated in, and won, the Provincial Championships one year or another for Withrow Park. Some of us were on the National Championship winning team in 2011. We even have five players at the school on this year's Junior Team Canada travelling to Budapest, Hungary for the World Championships. Our track record in the sport is definitely well-established.

That is why this year Coach Simoneau thought it would only be fitting if Riverdale entered its own team in the Ontario Ball Hockey Association's Provincial High School Tournament.

All the boys were pumped up for the first game of the tournament and came out running hard. We got up on the scoreboard early and we never looked back.

In the round robin we outscored our opponents by a whopping 20-1. As our coaches said, "We were the team to beat".

We had other teams scared when they looked up at the scoreboard and saw scores of 6-0, 10-0, and 4-1, all in our favor. Despite our wins, we knew the semi-finals were going to be



(Above) Riverdale's first ever ball hockey team is made up entirely of players from Riverdale graduate Jim Plytas' Withrow Park Ball Hockey League. This picture was taken after losing a hardfought battle 3-2 to Holy Cross in the gold medal game at the provincial championship in Mississauga, Ontario.

tough.

We were playing against our archrival from Provincials, the Penetang Blazers. We had defeated them 4-1 in the round robin, but knew they would come back harder and give us a tough game.

The bad blood from the first game had carried over but our team kept its cool and let the Blazers go to the penalty box. We capitalized on our power plays, as we had done for all of the round robin games, and the final score was 7-0.

The outcome was definitely better than we had expected. Nonetheless, we were excited to have made the final.

In the final we played Holy Cross, a team from York Region, but could not get the same jump we had in our four previous games.

A combination of bad hockey luck and being shorthanded for most of the game limited our scoring chances, and we were

unable to get on the board first.

Unfortunately, our collective offensive talents were not on par with our previous outings and we were defeated 3-2, despite the fact that we had more talent than our opponents.

The ball hockey gods were not on our side.

The experience of playing in this tournament was both satisfying individually and as a group. Our school spirit and desire to play a team game made the two days very enjoyable.

Despite not winning, we have much to look forward to in the coming years, as we hope to make this team a tradition.

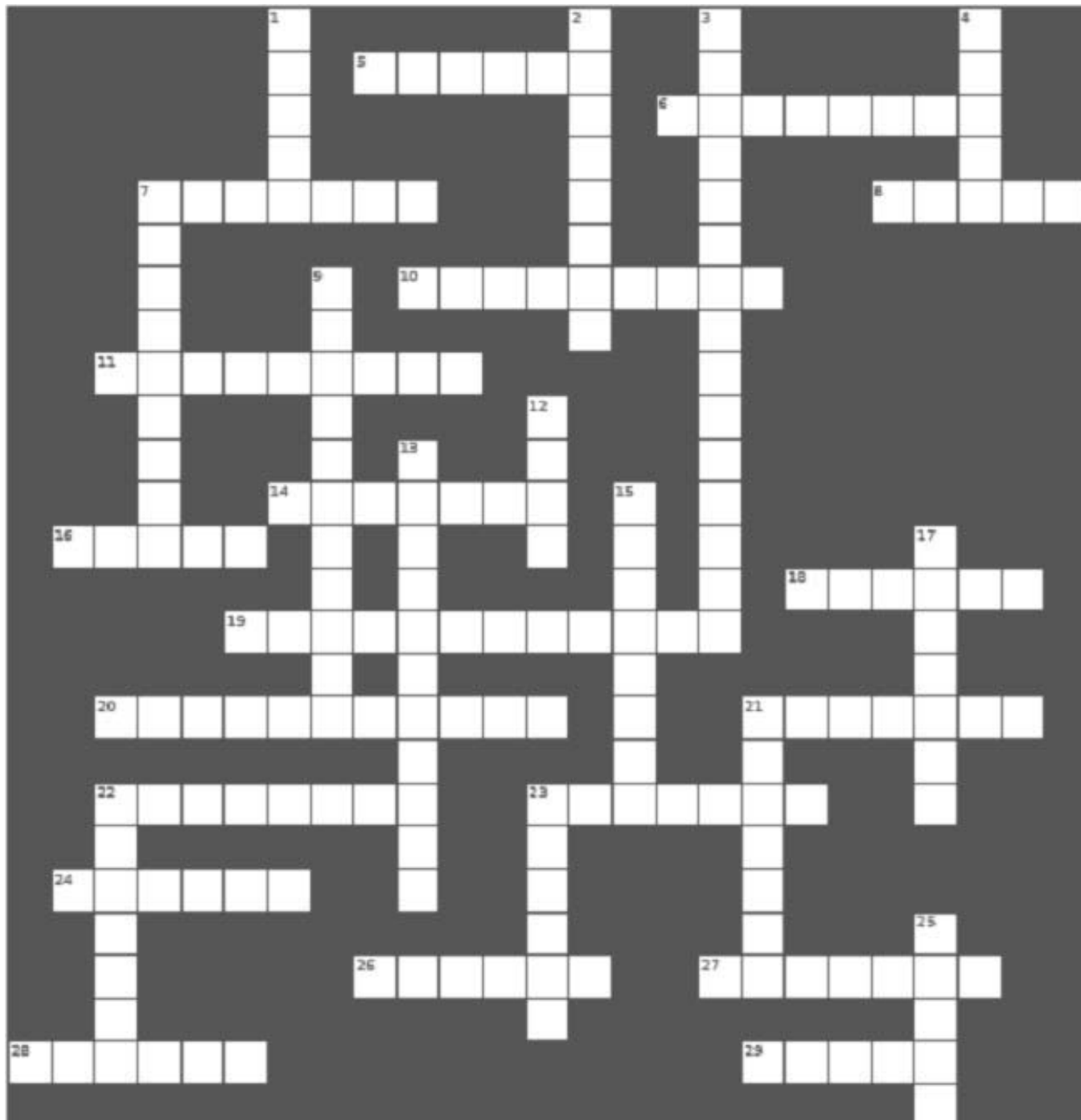
As a member of the inaugural Riverdale Raiders Ball Hockey Team, I would like to thank the coaches, teachers who let us out of school to participate, parents who drove and cheered us on and finally my teammates who really came together as a group and worked hard to make us an excellent team and not just a strong bunch of individuals.



World Cup Fever

Ryan Wakelin

Former Raider Boy



Identify the country from its FIFA code.

Across:

5. MEX
6. COL
7. ALG
8. ITA
10. CRC
11. ARG
14. NIG
16. ESP
18. GRE
19. USA
20. SUI
21. ENG
22. CMR
23. BEL
24. BIH
26. RUS
27. URU
28. FRA
29. KOR

Down:

1. CHI
2. HON
3. 2014 MINI-OLYMPIC CHAMPS
4. GHA
7. AUS
9. CIV
12. IRN
13. NED
15. POR
17. GER
21. ECU
22. CRO
23. BRA
25. JPN

Top 10 reasons why teenagers do not get enough sleep

Hannah Halcro

Opinions Editor

1. Texting. Not going to lie.
2. Staying up waiting for someone to text you, and then reading an entire book instead.
3. Having no book to read but instead an angry and somewhat inappropriate papermonster that screams salaciously "DO ME" from the other side of your desk. Breathing unevenly, you slowly pick up a pencil, and gingerly scan over the first page's curves and markings. It trembles beneath you. You cringe and try to get it over with as quickly as you can. Yet somehow by the time you've pounded that homework into its sickly satisfaction it's already three in the morning.
4. The internet. Not going to lie.
5. Thoughts. Believe it or not, we adolescents actually experience this phenomena. Being the occupiers of that awkward 'in between' section of life, we get both thoughts of the future, and thoughts of the past in

equal prescriptions. Side effects are not listed on the box but could prove dangerous if overdosage occurs. Thoughts: thoughts of that test I must have failed yesterday, and thoughts of the one I'm surely going to flunk tomorrow. Thoughts of that one funny time in grade nine when someone made an odd joke about holding the principle up by his ears, and for some reason we all died laughing only to be resurrected into our current selves, and thoughts about how much better life after high school is going to be. Wishes that it will be at least as good as this.

But the thoughts that plague us most are the ones that come out late in the dark: the thoughts about the now. The current. This forgotten span of time between consciousness and sleep. You ask yourself what kind of person is lying in your bed and you realise you don't know. You don't know yourself. You haven't lived on this planet long enough to know yourself. Thoughts of insane

inadequacy and how much you apparently suck at life, circle above you like hawks ready to dive. They take pot shots into the audience of your subconscious with bullets like 'useless' and 'waste of space'. Thoughts of the homework you forgot to do sit on your bedpost like vultures ready to feast on the scraps of what's left of your midnight self-esteem. Like a bad night in the clubs (except you've never actually done that because your fake ID sucks or is non-existent) none of this will be remembered clearly in the morning. But the feelings will stain like bad memories of three-year-old bed wetting. By the time three am rolls around, you've rolled around so much that your bed is no longer the comfortable safe haven that it's meant to be. The sheets are tangled around your bare legs constricting their movement, not allowing you to run away. The only reason you know you aren't in purgatory is that you are still thinking those thoughts.

6. Worries, although similar to thoughts worries add the extra zest of anxiety and the sting of regrets. Add a drink and fries and make it a combo for only \$8.95
7. Parties: not nearly as often as one would think.
8. Pretending you are at a party when you are really not because
9. Your parents think you need to get out of the house more because
10. You don't have as many friends as you used to. They have fallen away into their own midnight caves of eternal wakefulness, becoming empty shells in the daytime and not really waking up until they are already home. You keep in touch but you don't have any classes together so you try your best to communicate in primitive binary across the electromagnetic waves strung between two rusty tin cans and the ever present light of the screens.
11. Because you forgot something that you should have mentioned

earlier and now have to fit in as a post script.

13. because you've apparently forgotten how to count and that ten comes before
18. because you've already done it wrong so you might as well keep going now.
19. why are you still here?
15. Social networks. Not going to lie.
16. Seriously isn't there something you need to be doing right now
14. Wait you can't go to bed there's a test tomorrow.
12. There is no number 12 in high school but
17. because numbers have become irrelevant to you, and time is just another number that doesn't play by your rules. You go to sleep when you are tired and not a minute before. Time is relative. Light is not. So it's not bedtime, until you turn your laptop, desktop, mobile phone, headlamp, reading candle, brain sparks, your light off.