

January 15, 2021

Letter to the Staff of RCI:

On behalf of the parents/guardians of RCI, the School Council Executive members recognize that all of the teachers, administrative staff and support staff at RCI are working hard to ensure that our students continue to learn and remain safe during this difficult time. We would like to acknowledge the outstanding work that you are doing and to express our appreciation.

Thank you so very much to each and every teacher who has been going above and beyond during this school year. This remote learning model has been challenging for everyone and you have managed technical problems, modified assignments, adjusted your teaching, encouraged and managed student attendance and student assessment. The list is endless and you have each accomplished all of this while managing your own family needs. We are grateful.

Thank you so much to Ms. Cernic for your tireless support of our students in guidance, particularly for those students preparing for post- secondary learning. We know that you are also supporting our incoming grade 9 students and new families as they navigate My Blueprint for the first time and appreciate the work you are doing.

Thank you to Ms. Thornton and Ms. Ferguson for hosting the Commencement Viewing Party for our Graduates of 2020 and their friends and families and ensuring that it was a special and memorable event for them. You continue to reach out to students, staff and families to ensure everyone feels supported and included and we are grateful.

Thank you to Ms. Bylykbashi for keeping us current with your daily inspirational tweets and reminders and your positive words of encouragement. You celebrate our students and our school community with such enthusiasm and share the successes of your colleagues with the wider community and we love you for it.

Thank you to Ms. Fernandes for continuing to promote the Masters Program to the grade 8 student community and accommodating each applicant through an individual student assessment process. You remind us why RCI is Worth Studying and we appreciate the extra attention you are taking for potential students.

Thank you Ms. Kemp, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Gayle and Ms. Bylykbashi for coordinating and hosting our first Virtual Arts Night and giving the students, their friends and their families an opportunity to share and celebrate the amazing talents of our students.

Thank you to Ms. Lambert, Mr. Enns and Ms. Tenenbaum for the challenging task of creating a school yearbook and coordinating students' efforts to make sure this tradition continues.

Thank you Mr. Kennedy for turning your at-home kitchen into a laboratory and ensuring our science students have a very creative lab experience. When we received information regarding the Virtual Resource Room, we witnessed once again your continued commitment to our students and it is appreciated.

Thank you to Ms. Lovell for livening up and humanizing virtual classes with eagerly anticipated appearances by Harley the cat.

Thank you to Ms. Marlea Burgess for the patience and professionalism you always display with the endless calls and requests made to the main office. You are the backbone of the school and we know we can always depend on you.

Thank you to Ms. Maria Puca-Sorella. We are so grateful to have you as the Office Administrator who keeps the main office so organized, particularly during a time of constant change.

Thank you to Ms. Rita Espana for being such a super hard worker not only in the main office, but also for your support in Guidance.

Thank you to Ms. Roseanne Pedota for being an important part of the office team each morning. We are proud to have such wonderful office staff that prove daily that they can handle anything. We admire your work ethic and your commitment to our school and appreciate the work that all the office staff do each day. We applaud you all.

Thank you to our award winning principal, Mr. Edwards for everything that you do to make Runnymede a safe and inclusive environment for all. You always make sure that we all feel supported and you continue to prioritize the well being, safety and mental health of our students. We are grateful for your leadership and thoughtfulness.

In the wise words on Mr. Edwards, “This pandemic has shown us that persistence is critical and that when we come together as a collective, we can overcome any obstacle.” (November 14, 2020). Through your actions and your words, you have demonstrated your persistence and our students are benefiting from your continued commitment. We thank you all!

Warmest Regards from your School Council Executive
(on behalf of all RCI parents/guardians),

Jackie Marrie
Lucy Coyle
Melanie Boyd-Brown (Powell)
Mageswaran Palany
Robynne Ostry
Lisa Truant-Tan