



News @ STORM



Issue 3, April 2018

Principal's Message

Please keep this Newsletter of Important Dates for Future Reference

Stewardship:

An orientation towards service to others and taking personal responsibility for our actions.

Technology:

The use of information technology to shape the teaching and learning environment.

Opportunity:

Recognition of the individual and differing needs of all members of our community and that learning should address the whole person.

Responsiveness:

A mindset that change is a part of life and a chance to learn. Trying new things is part of the learning journey.

Metacurriculum:

A bias towards higher-order knowledge which defines what quality knowledge work is for students. Students are explicitly taught about thinking strategies and are engaged in constructing meaning.

Greetings Parents/Guardians

As usual there are many amazing events happening here at Rick Hansen over the remaining months of the semester. I encourage you to read through this letter to see all of the fantastic things that will be happening here this spring.

Information on Hansen happenings can also be found online on Twitter **@RickHansenPDSB** or at our school website at **rickhansenss.peelschools.org**. I encourage you to visit these sites regularly to stay up to date with school activities.

This Newsletter is being released in conjunction with the midterm reports for second semester. Please review your son/daughter's midterm report so that you may assist him/her with a plan to improve performance where necessary.

Enjoy the Spring!

Patricia Whyte, Principal

Graduating in 2017-2018? Commencement will take place **June 29, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.** at *The Living Arts Centre, Mississauga*. More information will follow. Make sure you check all lists as they are posted to ensure your name is included and that it is spelled correctly.

Note: All events for graduating students will be on SchoolCashOnline (eg purchasing graduation gown; grad breakfast; Prom). Make sure you are signed up. Information is available in the main office.

40 Hours Volunteer Work. *Without 40 volunteer hours, you will not meet Ministry criteria to graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.*



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STORMing Our Way to Student Success...

Co-op @ STORM



The Co-operative Education Program allows students to earn credits by integrating course curriculum with learning at a work placement. Students in all pathways-- apprenticeship, college, community living, university, or the workplace--can participate.

Benefits to students:

- gain workplace experience in a unique learning environment outside the classroom
- develop employability skills and work habits that are applicable to the workplace
- participate in hands-on learning in a safe and encouraging environment
- choose a work placement based on their interests, readiness and needs
- connect and build relationships with potential future employers
- BE HIRED PART-TIME!

Co-op placements:

Students can choose from a broad range of practical, hands-on co-op opportunities in a variety of sectors in the community that best suit their needs and interests, including:

- retail, marketing, design
- arts, media
- business, technology
- health, education, civil services
- skilled trades

Centralized placements:

Students interested in a placement with one of the following organizations should speak with a Co-op teacher. They will be required to apply a semester in advance. Placements include:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| • Trillium Health Partners | • PLASP |
| • Peel Police | • Living Arts Centre |
| • Mississauga News | • Habitat for Humanity |
| • Rogers Television | • Donato Salon & Spa |
| • Canadian Forces | |

Dual Credit Programs at a local College:

Dual Credit programs, available through all Peel secondary schools, provide grade 11 and 12 students with a unique opportunity to earn both college and non-compulsory secondary credits at the same time. College credits earned may be applied to a college program after high school. Choose from more than 50 courses at colleges such as: Centennial, George Brown, Humber, Seneca and Sheridan.

Benefits to students:

- opportunity to explore college programs and the college learning environment
- free tuition, no cost for textbooks, subsidized transportation, work boot subsidy
- free access to all facilities at the college, including athletic facilities, library, computer labs
- experience the transition to college, make informed decisions about post-secondary programs



Reshma is learning baking techniques



Zara is learning about being an automotive service technician

ASE Awards



This awards ceremony honours and celebrates our grade nine to eleven students who demonstrate Achievement, Success, and Excellence in their courses. Award winners truly show the STORM spirit of stewardship and dedicated performance to their work within the classroom and the school. The ceremony will take place on May 24th in the morning; invitations will indicate the time. Award winners will be given an invitation and more details in late April. We are looking forward to celebrating all our successes.

Ms. Dass and Ms. Balbaa

Guidance @ STORM

Summer School

Summer school offerings have been made available to students on the Rick Hansen Secondary School's website, the Peel District School Board's website, the Guidance Department's Google Classroom website, and on the summer school display board in the Guidance Office. Students wishing to register for a summer school course have been instructed to pick up a summer school registration form from the Guidance Office or from the Guidance Google classroom. Students must complete the summer school registration form and have it signed by a parent/guardian and return it to their Guidance Counsellor as early as possible. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss summer school options with their Guidance Counsellor.

Registration for summer school courses began on February 27, 2018.

Rick Hansen Secondary School is not a summer school location this year.

Pathways 2.0 – Week of May 14th to 18th

During the week of May 14th, the Guidance Department has arranged the following events:

May 16th – YMCA Job Search: Primarily focused on gr. 12 students entering the workforce upon graduation. Will provide tips and advice in searching and applying for jobs

May 16th – Volunteer Fair: Students requiring community service hours can connect with representatives from community organizations to explore volunteer opportunities

May 17th – Destination: Post-Secondary: An opportunity to network with:

- individuals from Trade Organizations and Trade Schools to learn more about apprenticeships programs, requirements, certifications, and careers
- GTA college and university recruitment officers to learn about college and university programs, admission requirements, courses of study, scholarships and financial aid, and campus life

Course Change Requests

Course change requests for the 2018-2019 school year can be made during the week of June 4th – June 8th. A request to change courses is not guaranteed as there are factors (i.e. course conflicts, no available space in a course, not having the pre-requisite, etc.) that might prevent your course change request from being accommodated. Course change request forms will only be made available on the Guidance Google Classroom website (access codes: cttxcbc or 8ogsnw).

If you make a course change in your myBlueprint school account, it will not be reflected in the courses you have selected for next year.

Volunteerism

Only eligible activities will be recognized towards your 40 hours diploma requirement. Please pick up a brochure in the Guidance Office or speak with your Guidance Counsellor to learn more about eligible activities.

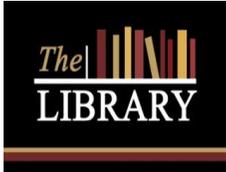
Guidance Google Classroom

Stay informed! The RHSS Guidance Department's Google Classroom website provides the latest information on a variety of topics including:

- post-secondary
- scholarships
- volunteerism
- summer school
- student jobs
- and much more

Access codes are: cttxcbc or 8ogsnw

Library @ STORM



Follow us on Twitter [@RHSSlibrary](https://twitter.com/RHSSlibrary).

Hot Docs Film Festival for Schools 2018

From April 26-May 6 classes are invited to come to the library to view top-rated documentaries that are part of the *Toronto Hot Docs International Film Festival*. Some of the films we will be showing this year include: ***Sonita***, the story of an Afghan refugee and music-lover; ***Indictment: the Crimes of Shelly Chartier***, the true crime story of an illegal social media scheme; ***What Lies Upstream***, a look at water contamination and chemical companies; ***Oka Legacy***, an examination of the 78-day land dispute stand-off between the RCMP and First Nations in Oka Quebec; and ***Soundtrack for a Revolution***, a look at the American civil rights movement through the music of the time.

Author Visits

The Library is pleased to be hosting two authors this Spring! The first, ***Ivan Coyote*** will share experiences about growing up in Northern Canada and the art of writing short stories. Ivan will also facilitate a separate workshop for youth interested in discussing issues of identity and social justice.



The second author, ***Mark Newman***, will share his knowledge and expertise on the Great Lakes and the environmental threats they face. Many of our grade 9 Science classes will learn more about invasive species and their impact on the ecosystems of our lakes.

Poetry Month

This Month we are displaying many new, and some older, poetry anthologies in our collection. Our intention is to nurture our students' love of language and creative writing. With the rise in popularity of spoken word poetry, more teens are realizing the power of words. We have responded to this renewed interest by acquiring more modern poetry books, with a wide range of social themes.



International Student Program @ STORM

Many of our International students hail from East Asia, so the Lunar New Year is of special significance. The International Student Club (ISC) and the Friends of the International Student Club (FISC) worked hard to organize a party to celebrate this very important occasion.

According to the lunar calendar, 2018 ushered in the Year of the Dog. Buttons that honor this were made for each participant who also received the traditional “hong bao” (Mandarin) or the “lì xì” or “mừng tuổi” (Vietnamese). These are red packets or envelopes of lucky money; the money part was substituted with chocolate coins. Actually, it is the red envelope that is more important than the content, as red is considered the symbol of energy, happiness and good luck.



Both the ISC and the FISC members put in a lot of hard work and dedication to make this party happen. Their enthusiasm was evident throughout the process – from the planning stage to its final realization. There were five “Games” rooms: traditional Lo To, Bau Cua Tom and Ludo, Calligraphy cum Origami, a photo booth, Just Dance and the very popular Karaoke Centre, run by our vocally gifted Ms. D’Silva! The participants were treated to a feast, enjoying gastronomical delights such as spring rolls, fried chicken - Korean style, Topoki (Korean rice cake), Chow Mein (Chinese fried noodles), Agar-agar (jelly) and by popular demand, bubble tea! In addition, voluntary performers graced the occasion with K-Pop dance, a Bollywood dance and a guitar performance. All in all, our students enjoyed the festivities tremendously. In their own words, “It was so much fun – it was like being home!” Many thanks go also to all our staff who assisted us, and especially to our Settlement Workers, Ms. Tracy Nguyen, for all her hard work, and to Ms. Kanagalingam, for her support.

Several of our students wrote the OSSLT this term. Our Co-Presidents organized tutorial sessions to assist our candidates. Our students who are looking forward to graduation next year are preparing to write the IELTS (International English language testing system), which is the English language proficiency test for higher education. Plans are afoot to look into supporting them in this endeavour.

In addition, our Match-Up program has seen some significant success. The one-to-one mentor-mentee match is helping some of our beginners to finally break through oral communication barriers. Bravo!

Modern Languages @ STORM

This semester, the Modern Languages department is happy to announce a number of different excursions to enrich the French learning experiences of Rick Hansen students. On March 5th a group of grade 10 and 11 French students spent a day in the life of a university student at the University of Toronto, Mississauga campus (UTM), as they enjoyed a French campus tour and sat in on a first or third year French lecture. On Friday, April 13th, the Grade 9 French students had the opportunity to learn about Maple Syrup production during an Outdoor Educational Field Trip to the Kortright Centre. Students enjoyed the walking tour and sampling the freshly made syrup. The next French field trip will be on May 9th, where grade 10s can look forward to their trip to the Art Gallery of Ontario for a French tour of francophone artwork from around the world. We look forward to these wonderful experiences and interacting *en français!*



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 where we share motivational and inspirational
 #PeelProud moments.



Follow Peel schools
 on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/peelschools.

Information Items from the Peel District School Board

ParentConnect

Online parent portal to access important student information

What is ParentConnect?

ParentConnect is a safe and secure website, created by the Peel District School Board that acts as a single point to stay informed and to access all electronic services provided to Peel board parents and legal guardians.



The parent-friendly website will allow you to:

- view school-based alerts and information
- access real time absence reporting
- view current and historic elementary report card information
- get up-to-date busing information
- review secondary school credit history and diploma status
- and more

To learn more about the benefits of ParentConnect, visit our school website or www.peelschools.org/parentconnect

Summer School 2018

Note: Rick Hansen SS is NOT a summer school site this year.

Secondary School full credit and 55-hour session classes will be offered at 12 high schools throughout the Board this summer. Peel eLearning-Summer classes, two-credit Co-operative Education, ESL and Summer Study/Travel programs are also available. Please visit www.peelschools.org/summerschool for more details.

RHSS Dates to Remember

SEMESTER 2

Sem. 2 Mid-Semester Reports distributed	Apr 24
Grad Formal Prom	May 10
Early Release.....	May 11
Victoria Day (no classes)	May 21
Arts Mingler 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.....	May 9
Grad Breakfast.....	May 9
ASE Awards 8:00-10:00 a.m. Grades 9-11.....	May 24
Early Release.....	June 8
EQAO Gr. 9 Math Testing Ministry	June 18
Athletic Banquet.....	June 6
In-Class Summatives	June 11-14
Locker Cleanout.....	June 19
Final Exams&Evaluations Sem 2(no classes).....	June 19-26
Yearbook Distribution day	TBD
Semester 2 Final Reports pick-up&exam review	June 28
Commencement.....	June 29

Early Release Days (dismissal @ 11:45 a.m.)

Semester 2: May 11; June 8

2017 2018 Parent Council Meeting Dates:

Semester 2 May 24