



# RICHMOND SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

HOME OF THE COLTS - ESTABLISHED IN 1927

Principal:	Ms. Anita Kwon	Address:	7171 Minoru Blvd, Richmond, BC, V6Y 1Z3
Vice Principals:	Ms. Adrienne Goulas & Mr. Lester Leung	Phone:	604-668-6400
PAC:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 6:30PM	Early Warning:	604-247-2658
Deputy Superintendent:	Mr. Rick Ryan	Twitter & Instagram:	@richmondcolts
Trustee Liaison:	Ms. Heather Larson	Website:	http://rhs.sd38.bc.ca

## Principal's Message

Welcome students and parents to the 2022-2023 school year at Richmond Secondary School! Our enrollment is currently just over 1120 students. Our students have returned to school with great enthusiasm and energy and we are excited to be working with them. Our primary purpose is to meet the learning needs of each of our students and provide them with a safe and supportive environment in which they can grow into *responsible, reflective, caring* and *resilient* young people who can *think* and *communicate* effectively. At our opening grade assemblies, we welcomed everyone, clarified expectations and encouraged students to get involved in life outside the classroom in a positive way. We reintroduced our themes of **kindness, care** and **respect** – for yourself and for all others at our school and in our community. We spoke about the importance of having a growth mindset, *being your best you*, and being **resilient**, but also asking for help when you need it – we care about students and we want everyone to be successful. Students were encouraged to set realistic goals and engage actively in their learning while also maintaining balance in their lives. I invite parents and caregivers to subscribe to our school website and follow us on social media for the latest RHS news and upcoming events. We look forward to meeting parents and caregivers on our **Meet the Teacher** evening on Wednesday, September 21 at 6:30 PM.

Thank you, *Anita Kwon*

## Welcome to Richmond Secondary!

Our school organization is only as good as the people who attend, work and learn here. We are excited to welcome the following new staff members to our school for the 2022-2023 school year. We wish them well and look forward to their contributions to the Richmond Secondary School community! Welcome to:



<b>Ms. C. Chu</b>	Resource/CLE/Science	<b>Ms. C. Li</b>	English/ELL
<b>Ms. N. Bouchagour</b>	Noon Hour Supervisor	<b>Ms. C. Mackie</b>	Educational Assistant
<b>Ms. P. Curtis</b>	Colt Young Parent Program	<b>Ms. M. Orozco</b>	Food Services Kitchen Aide
<b>Ms. J. Donald</b>	Food Services Kitchen Aide	<b>Ms. K. Owen</b>	Educational Assistant
<b>Mr. A. Hajek</b>	YTIT Professional Cook	<b>Mr. M. Poon</b>	Business Ed/ICT
<b>Ms. R. Herechka</b>	Educational Assistant	<b>Ms. B. Schneebeli</b>	Counsellor
<b>Mr. P. Lam</b>	Counsellor	<b>Ms. E. Smirfitt</b>	English
<b>Ms. C. Lee</b>	Administrative Assistant	<b>Mr. D. Track</b>	English/ELL/Tech Ed CAD
<b>Mr. L. Leung</b>	Vice Principal	<b>Ms. Z. Wang</b>	Culinary Arts

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## Important Health Reminders

All students and staff are expected to perform a general health check before coming to school each day. While there is no longer a required list of symptoms to consider, **generally if students are not feeling well they need to stay at home.** This also applies to staff, families, and visitors. We continue to encourage regular handwashing/sanitization, and proper sneezing/coughing etiquette. Mask wearing is a personal choice and respected for those who choose to use this added prevention measure. At RSS we have continued with the following practices to support healthy and supportive spaces for our community:

- Hand Sanitizer stations are found at all the entrances to the school.
- Disinfectant solution and wipes are available in all learning spaces.
- Classrooms continue to be open and available to students during lunch.
- To avoid large groups, students are encouraged to enter/exit the school closest to their classroom and to use exterior pathways to get to their classes.

We thank everyone for their co-operation and for their part in keeping our community safe.



## Student and Family Affordability Fund



Recently, the provincial government announced a new, one time [Student and Family Affordability Fund](#). This fund is designed to assist families who require financial assistance with school-related costs such as school and course fees, workbooks, specialty supplies, field trips and other school-related charges and costs. The additional funding will also be used to support school meal programs and other nutritional supports for students. We want to work with our families to ensure that students have what they need in order to be successful at school. Families are invited to reach out if they are in need of assistance with school supplies, fees or other school-related costs. Please email the school at [Richmond@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:Richmond@sd38.bc.ca) using "Attention Principal SFAF" in the subject line, and include your child's name and grade in the body of the message. We will do our best to follow up with your requests in a timely manner. All requests will be treated with dignity, and privacy will be respected. Thank you for your patience.

## Meet the Teachers – Wednesday, September 21



Parents and caregivers are invited and encouraged to come to the school on **Wednesday, September 21** to meet their teen's teachers. The evening will begin at **6:30 PM** in the gym where parents will meet and hear from our principal and then tour the school, following an open house format, to meet teachers. Students will bring home a copy of their timetable, with teachers' names and locations on September 20. Please note, the purpose of this event is to meet teachers, put a face to a name, and find out more about what students will learn this year – it is not intended for one-on-one conversations about student progress. Parents are able to email teachers at any time – look on the school website under [School Information > Our Staff](#) for contact information. Please plan to attend on Wednesday, September 21!

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## Student Accounts – MS Teams, Scholantis Portal, MyEducation BC, MyWeeklyPlanner

All Richmond Secondary students have been issued credentials to access SD38 district accounts for **MS Teams**, the **Scholantis Portal**, **MyEducation BC**, and **MyWeeklyPlanner**. Students can access computer labs, the Scholantis Portal, Office 365, Microsoft Teams, and more. It is very important that all RHS students have access to these digital platforms and tools. Students should see an administrator in the office if they can't access any of these tools.

- **MS Teams** is the communication and collaboration platform that many RHS teachers will use for class communication, sharing class materials and resources, video conferencing, collaborative work, and file storage. Students will have access to the Office Apps (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, etc.) while at school and at home, and will be provided with secure personal file storage within OneDrive.
- The **Scholantis Portal** is the platform used for student e-portfolios and is where students upload their Core Competency self-assessments.
- **MyEducation BC** is the platform students and parents use to access schedules, attendance, report cards, transcript information, and much more. Students and parents each have an account with their own login credentials.
- **MyWeeklyPlanner** is the platform students will use to sign up for Personal Learning Time (PLT) each week.

## Personal Learning Time (PLT)

In the first few weeks, we have gradually implemented Personal Learning Time (PLT) where students have been using this self-directed time for their learning with teacher support. Students can use the time to complete assignments, prepare for upcoming assessments, get academic support, organize their learning, work on projects, pursue areas of personal interest, and more. Each week students sign up for a teacher-supported learning space on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30-9:30 AM. Students are encouraged to organize their learning plan (take an inventory of what needs to be done), prioritize tasks, make a plan, and sign up online at [rhs.myweeklyplanner.net](https://rhs.myweeklyplanner.net). We recommend that students sign up no later than the Monday before PLT days.



## RHS Terry Fox Run on September 26

Richmond Secondary will once again honour a great Canadian hero by participating in the **Terry Fox Run** on **Monday, September 26**. Terry Fox was an 18-year old student at SFU when he lost his leg to cancer. He decided to raise awareness and funds by running across Canada, the equivalent of a full marathon a day, on one leg. His **Marathon of Hope** covered over 3000 miles when he had to stop as the cancer returned. Terry Fox passed away at the age of 22, yet his remarkable story continues to inspire Canada and the world. All students and staff will travel to Minoru Park and run or walk together on September 26. Students from our PE Leadership class will be collecting money and students are asked to bring a small donation, if they are able. All proceeds raised by the school will be sent to the Terry Fox Foundation to support ongoing cancer research. Learn more at: <http://www.terryfox.org>

## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – September 30



September 30 is a federal statutory holiday called the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**, and all schools in the Richmond School District will be closed. This day provides an opportunity for all Canadians to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools. On September 30, we encourage all members of our community to find meaningful ways to recognize and raise awareness about the history and legacies of the residential school system in Canada. In addition, RHS will join SD38 schools in observing **Orange Shirt Day** on Thursday, September 29.

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## Getting Involved at Richmond Secondary and Building a Strong Colts Community

All RHS students are encouraged to get involved in at least one positive activity this school year. Try out for a team, volunteer as a manager, or come out to games and cheer on the Colts. Students can also join or lead a club, participate in Colts Rec, participate in Spirit Week, or raise awareness or funds for local or global causes. We will be hosting a virtual **Clubs' Day** on MS Teams on September 29 where students can find out about all the clubs that will be offered this school year. Other events like the **Grade 8 Camp** and **Student Council Spirit Week** are early opportunities for students to be connected and involved in our school. Vibrant school spirit and a strong sense of belonging are important and we encourage all students to make the choice to get involved! Be sure to follow the school Instagram account to see photos of all that is happening at Richmond High! **#GoColts**

### Grade 8 Camp – Building a Positive Future at Richmond Secondary School

We hosted a very successful adapted Grade 8 Camp on September 16. Our youngest students engaged in a series of informative, active and fun events and team-building activities in the community and at the school, and enjoyed two meals together. Grade 8s learned tips for success in high school, the importance of being organized and setting goals and they wrote letters to their "future Grade 12 self" which included a polaroid photograph of themselves. The students will open and read these letters at their Grade 12 prom in June of 2027! All Grade 8s also received a keepsake "Grade 8 Camp-Grad 2027" lanyard. Most importantly, our youngest Colts got to know one another better, make some friends and interact with positive senior student leaders. Grade 8 Camp is an important community building activity at Richmond Secondary School and the event gets stronger every year. A big thank you to Ms. Chan, Ms. Li, Mr. Lin, and Ms. Yasui for overseeing every aspect of this event! A sincere thank you to our 47 student leaders who organized and led the Camp: **Bayan Abou-Mourad, Abdurrahm Alibasyah, Edrian Atienza, Rafael Balitaan, Gabby Bernardo, Koen Brusse, Jimbo Cai, Jason Chan, Kathy Chen, Steven Cheng, Emma Chiew, Serena Chin, Amanda Chu, Jason Chung, Mary Diago, Heather Fung, Meraiah Gaillard, Ethan Gotay, Kalia He, Ahmed Hessein, Kelly Huang, Sandy Huang, Westley Hung, Rahma Kabeer, Rayaan Khan, Nora Kuo, Bobby Lin, Evan Lin, Felix Lo, Max Long, Angela Luo, Megan Miao, Tiana Murgatroyd, Kristina Ngo, Polina Povoroznyuk, Ali Saffari, Samiksha Sah, Eric Shi, Amna Siddiqui, Timothy Solnyshkin, Elena Sun, Helen Tan, Veselina Volik, Lucas Wang, Hassan Warriach, Alex Wong, and Kevan Wu.**



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## Clubs' Day – Thursday, September 29

Not all students are super athletes, or actors or musicians nor do they want to be prominent leaders in the school and this is okay. We also know that students who are connected to others in a positive group or activity are able to form friendships, have an increased sense of belonging, and have a more well-rounded experience in high school. Last year, there were more than 40 clubs offered at RHS. Clubs are run by students and sponsored by staff, and are open to all students from Grades 8 to 12. A few club examples include Art, Gardening, First Responders, Colt Ambassadors, Green Team, Debate – something for almost every interest. Stay tuned for details on our upcoming virtual Clubs' Day event on Thursday, September 29. Students can find out what the clubs do, when they meet, and sign up – you will have more fun and enjoy school more!

## Colts Athletics – Fall Season Begins!

For updates on our athletic teams, follow [@Colts\\_Athletics](#) on Instagram or go to the athletics website <http://coltsathletics.weebly.com/> or contact our Athletic Director Ms. Ip. These RHS teams are offered in the RSSAA fall season: boys' soccer, senior boys' volleyball, junior boys' volleyball, senior girls' volleyball, grade 8 girls' volleyball, grade 9 girls' volleyball, grade 10 girls' volleyball, cross country, and swimming. [#GoColts](#)



## Fall Equinox Celebration – Wednesday, September 21



The RSS Green Team is hosting a Fall Equinox Celebration to welcome everyone back to school! Come and join us on **Wednesday, September 21** from 3:30-5:30 PM in our Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE) space for:

- Live music featuring RSS students
- JPeachy— Local performer & puppeteer
- Casa Meshiko — Aztec Dance for the Earth
- Live Planting of our Miyawaki Pocket Forest
- Free food and refreshments will be served

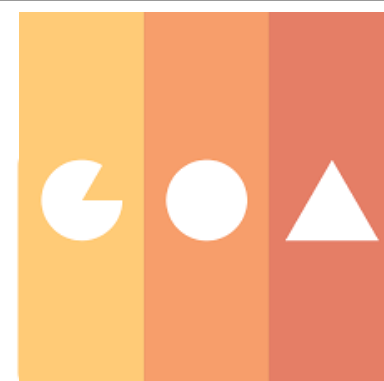
## Game of Apps Season 6

Are you interested in learning more about mobile app development? Game of Apps is an after-school program that empowers students with practical technical and life skills to help them succeed in 21st century careers. Work with local professional developers and designers in this full-year online program where student teams will receive training on designing, developing, and building a mobile app as a final product. No prior experience is needed. The Richmond School District will once again subsidize the cost of the program (limited). For more details or to sign up for an info session go to [gameofapps.org](http://gameofapps.org).

**GoA Update:** <https://gameofapps.org/updates>

**General Info:** <https://gameofapps.org/program-information>

**Register:** <https://goa.fyi/register>



**Game of Apps**

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## Academic Excellence at Richmond Secondary School

The Ministry of Education reported that 254 or 87% of our 2022 graduating students achieved "Honours" status for obtaining a "higher than 3.0 (a better than B average) in the best 76 credits for required courses and elective credits". The percentage of RHS students who achieve "Honours" status in the 3-year graduation program far exceeds the provincial average.

Richmond Secondary is the only school in the District certified to offer the *International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme*. This challenging two-year program is recognized by universities all over the world for producing very thoughtful, knowledgeable, capable and well-rounded learners. IB students are externally evaluated using a 7-point scale in the six required subject areas and can earn 3 additional points for the 'core areas' of Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay, for a maximum of 45 points. Students need a minimum of 24 points and meet additional requirements to achieve an IB Diploma. An IB Diploma score of 40 or more points is outstanding and indicates that students have achieved exceptionally well on a world-wide scale. Congratulations to all 84 RSS students who achieved an IB Diploma in 2022 and to the following students for achieving an exceptional score of >40, including Arthur Guo who earned the maximum score possible (less than 1% of students achieve this):

Noah Berger (41)	Anthony Ji (41)	Owen Shi (41)	Ann Wong (41)
Scott Feng (40)	Inshall Kabeer (44)	Hanson Sun (44)	Gary Wu (41)
Rowah Gheriani (42)	Chantal Lee (41)	Michelle Tan (40)	Alia Xu (41)
Arthur Guo (45)	Angela Li (40)	Leo Tian (44)	Alex Yao (40)
Daniel Guo (40)	Winston Li (41)	Emily Wang (44)	Jack Yao (41)
Angela He (40)	Anrui Liu (43)	Jason Wang (40)	Owen Zhang (44)
Catherine Ho (40)	Rosie Liu (43)	Leo Tang (41)	Grace Zhang (41)
Michael Huang (41)	Emma Lo (40)	Ludi Wang (42)	Xiao Yu Zhang (40)

## September is Literacy Month and the RHS Library Learning Commons (LLC) is Open!

A book is a gift  
you can open again  
and again!



Students who read regularly are often curious learners who do well in school. At RHS, our Library Learning Commons (LLC) is open from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM. The LLC is a welcoming place for all students to do research, to complete projects and assignments, to read for pleasure, or to just hang out and relax. We have comfortable seating and study areas, and five collaborative tables with laptops and flat screen TVs to allow students to work in groups. We also have a 3-D printer and we add hundreds of new books every year. Our LLC staff includes Ms. Betty Chung and Mr. Travis Truong and they are always available to help students do research or to find something interesting to read. We encourage all students to follow the LLC on Instagram and Twitter @rss\_library to stay informed about the latest books and events.

## Richmond Secondary School's Teaching Kitchen

At RHS, we are very fortunate to have a full-service cafeteria located in the school. The cafeteria is now open and available to students at break and lunch. Students from the district's Youth Train in Trades Professional Cook program along with RHS culinary students, under the direction and supervision of our culinary staff of Ms. Wang, Chef Hajek, Mr. Tang, Ms. Bratkowski, Ms. Donald, and Ms. Orozco are preparing flavourful and nutritious meals and treats for students and staff to purchase at very reasonable and affordable prices. Each week the teaching kitchen publishes a menu full of diverse and delicious food options. Check Twitter and Instagram, the hallway televisions, MS Teams, or the board outside the cafeteria for the weekly menu.



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## Parents Welcome at RHS!

All parents and caregivers of RHS students are welcome to attend **Parent Advisory Council (PAC)** meetings. Our first PAC meeting was held on the evening of September 14 in the LLC and it was great to connect with parents! Our PAC typically meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM. PAC is a great way to meet other parents and find out more about the school, changing education policies, and hot teen topics. **Note, we are currently seeking parent volunteers to organize and chair the PAC. Interested parents should email the principal at [akwon@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:akwon@sd38.bc.ca).**

Similarly, parents are invited to join **Dry After Grad (DAG)** to be involved in a very satisfying project and meet and work with other keen RHS parents. We need parents of the grads of 2023, but also parents of current Grades 11, 10 and younger students to be sure the RHS DAG experience remains vibrant and successful for all students when they get to Grade 12. Stay tuned for more details on the DAG planning committee. **Interested parents should email the principal at [akwon@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:akwon@sd38.bc.ca).**

## Stay Connected to RHS

Every member of our community leads a busy life balancing school, work, and family responsibilities. At RHS, we will do our best to communicate regularly with students, parents, and members of our wider school community. We invite everyone to register a current active email with the school, and to bookmark and subscribe to our school website – it is the best source of the most up-to-date school information. Similarly, we are active on social media, and you will find links to our Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook on the RHS website. Please stay connected!

<http://rhs.sd38.bc.ca/>



## Parent's Guide to Emergency Preparedness



The Richmond Board of Education has as its highest priority the safety of students and staff, and upholds the duty of care that is expected from our school community. Being ready to address different scenarios in collaboration with first responders and relevant community agencies takes considerable preparation on the part of school and district staff. The district engages with an ongoing emergency management cycle in order to provide thoughtful and effective emergency response to our schools. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with district emergency management protocols at [CLICK HERE](#).

## Student Accident Insurance - Optional

The Richmond School District recommends that families understand their insurance coverage and, if necessary, consider optional family and student accident or injury insurance coverage through the "InsureMyKids®" program, underwritten by Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. The "InsureMyKids®" accident insurance program offers protection against the potentially high costs of any injury resulting from unexpected accidents and is especially valuable for families who do not have medical or dental plans, have limited plans, or have active children who enjoy sports and outdoor activities. Parents can find out more by contacting the company at 1-800-463-5437 or by exploring their website at <http://www.insuremykids.com>

## Traffic Safety in School Zones

With school starting up, it is important to remind both drivers and pedestrians to keep traffic safety in mind and remain alert during their commutes. Here are some tips from ICBC to make travelling to and from school safe for everyone:

### Drivers

- Stick to the Speed Limit
- Scan Crosswalks and Intersections from Left to Right as You Approach
- Leave Your Phone Alone
- Notice if Other Drivers are Slowing Down or Stopping
- Give Yourself Enough Stopping Distance
- Watch for School Buses

### Pedestrians

- Cross Only at Marked or Controlled Crosswalks
- Look Both Ways Before Crossing the Street
- Make Eye Contact with Drivers Approaching the Crosswalk
- Double-Check Lights and Signals are Working at Controlled Crosswalks

### Parents

- Let Your Child Enter and Exit Your Car on the Side Closest to the Sidewalk
- Before Starting Your Car, Check for Small Children Hidden From Your View

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## Grade 12 – Grad 2023 News



Grade 12 is an exciting year and there are a lot of deadlines, processes, events, and information for students and families. Our dedicated school counsellors and our Career Information Advisor work hard to keep up-to-date and share information on post-secondary applications, deadlines, and scholarships. Grades 12s are encouraged to attend the university and college visits for RHS, do some research and make an appointment to see their counsellor or Ms. Jones. The **Canadian Universities Event** (CUE) takes place at various times during the month of October. This is an opportunity to connect with representatives from universities and colleges all over Canada. We will host a **Grade 12 Parent Info Night** on Wednesday, October 5 at 6:30 PM. Grade 12 students should **bookmark this website & Facebook page** and check them every week:

<https://msjonescareercentre.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Ms-Jones-Career-Centre-News-118346451579144/>

### RHS Clothing and Merchandise



RHS students are encouraged to show their school spirit and pride and can do so by purchasing a piece of Colt clothing. The **Colt Zone**, located beside room 207, is fully stocked with value-priced RHS branded clothing and merchandise and is open at lunch.

### Upcoming School Dates

September 19	National Day of Mourning	October 5	World Teachers' Day
September 21	Fall Equinox Celebration at 3:30 PM	October 5	Grade 12 Parent Info Night at 6:30 PM
September 21	Meet the Teacher at 6:30 PM	October 7	Mawlid al-Nabi
September 22	Collaboration Day	October 7	Grade 10 Yearbook Photos
September 23	Pro-D Day	October 10	Thanksgiving Holiday
September 25	Rosh Hashanah Begins	October 12	PAC Meeting at 6:30 PM
September 26	Terry Fox Run	October 13	Photo Retakes
September 26	IB Grad 2022 at 6:30 PM	October 17	Grade 8 Yearbooks
September 28	Grade 11 IB Orientation	October 20	Collaboration Day
September 29	Grade 9 Yearbook Photos	October 21	Pro-D Day
September 29	Clubs' Day at Lunch (Virtual)	October 24	Diwali
September 29	Grad Boat Cruise	October 26	PSBC Fair at 3:30 PM
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	October 27	Term 1 Interim Reports Published
October 4	Yom Kippur Begins	October 31	Halloween
October 5	Dussehra	Oct 31-Nov 1	Graduation Assessment Days

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