



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 nd Wednesday at 6:30PM	Early Warning:	604-247-2658
Deputy Superintendent:	Mr. Rick Ryan	Twitter & Instagram:	@richmondcolts
Trustee Liaison:	Ms. Donna Sargent	Website:	http://rhs.sd38.bc.ca

Principal's Message

At Richmond Secondary School, we work thoughtfully every day to create a community where everyone feels safe and that they belong. We encourage students to appreciate their cultural and personal identities and to celebrate the 'unity in our diversity'. We genuinely believe that everyone is welcome at our school. On Wednesday, February 22, RHS will join communities across Canada and the globe to take a stand against any form of bullying. **Pink Shirt Day** is recognized on the last Wednesday in February and began in 2007 in a small town in Nova Scotia. After hearing that a new student was harassed and bullied for wearing a pink polo shirt, two older students used their own money to buy 50 pink t-shirts and they spread the word to others. The next day, their school was a sea of pink as a show of support for the new student. At RHS, it is our explicit expectation that we treat one another with **kindness, care** and **respect** every day. Thank you to our **Colt Ambassadors** for working together to make our school a welcoming **sea of pink** in celebration of the ideals that we live by every day! We encourage all students and staff to celebrate kindness and wear a little pink on February 22. Thank you, *Anita Kwon*

Kindness, Care and Respect



Every Day

Establishing Respectful Relationships and Consent

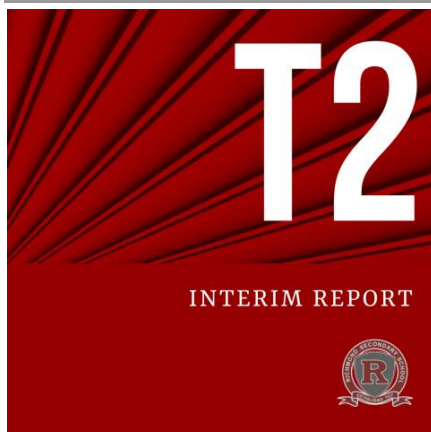
erase
EXPECT RESPECT &
A SAFE EDUCATION

Establishing respectful relationships and consent in our communities is important. erase is offering online interactive sessions focused on exploring consent and gender-based violence, with school-day sessions for students in Grades 8-12, and evening sessions suited for students in Grade 8 and above and their families. Led by expert trainers from Safer Schools Together, students and families will learn tips and tools to support discussions and to support positive connections. Families can register online at [CLICK HERE](#). Contact erase@gov.bc.ca with any questions or for more information.

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Term 2 Interim Reports



Term 2 Interim Reports were published electronically on Thursday, February 9 on MyEducation BC. This learning update contains descriptive comments regarding learning progress and/or comments on engagement or social responsibility. Parents and caregivers are urged to read and review the report and to discuss it with their teen. As always, parents and caregivers with concerns about their child's learning or achievement can reach out to their child's teacher(s) by contacting the school. Teacher emails are available on the school website: School Information > Our Staff. Our next communicating student learning opportunity will be Term 2 Report Cards which will be published after Spring Break on April 5.

Celebrating Black History



February's Black History Month is an opportunity to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians and their communities who have contributed to the culturally diverse and prosperous nation Canada is today. The legacy is long with significant contributions in the arts, education, government, sciences, and sports. The month also provides an opportunity for us to reflect on what it means to live in a world with diverse identities, voices and stories. Our students are encouraged to check out the Library Learning Commons' book display where students can read memoirs and books from Black authors and find out more about the legacy of important events in Black history. Students can learn more about prominent Black Canadians and Americans by scanning QR codes found in the interactive display outside the LLC. Included in this collection is Harry Jerome, a gifted athlete and track star and world record holder, who won an Olympic Bronze Medal at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics while teaching at Richmond High. Harry taught math and science at our school from 1964-1965.

freedom
to read week



semaine de La
LIBERTÉ
d'expression

Freedom to Read Week is February 19-25

Freedom to Read Week is an annual event that encourages Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom, which is guaranteed them under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This week provides an opportunity for Canadians to focus on issues of intellectual freedom as they affect their community, their province, our country, and countries around the world.

“Home of the Colts”



Sharing Our Learning

Miyawaki Pocket Forest at Richmond Secondary

Why is the MPF important to me? Why am I passionate about it? What have we done?

My name is Serena and I am the Co-President of the Richmond Secondary Green Team. It has always been of utmost importance to me to create tangible, impactful change. To be able to achieve such things in my position as the leader of a club; from getting a Just Transition petition tabled to running awareness campaigns, is incredible. The magnitude of resonance created by this Miyawaki Pocket Forest Project is comparable to very few things and it has made all those involved in the project better leaders, citizens, and caretakers of the Earth.

The Miyawaki Pocket Forest is designed to be a hub of biodiversity; ours contains over 30 different species local to Richmond and Oregon, planted at a density of 3 plants per square meter over an area of 100 square meters. We expect our forest to grow as much as 10x faster as opposed to the traditional 1-2 metres per year, harbour 100x more natural biodiversity due to the 20-30x more densely our forest is planted. Traditional afforestation techniques space their trees at a density of 1000 per hectare (10 000 square metres) while the Miyawaki Method puts 20 000 - 30 000 per hectare. Old-growth forests are especially endangered in BC - they take centuries to develop their complex and resistant ecosystems. Our aim with the Miyawaki Forest is to cut down on this growing time and restore native ecosystems within a few decades' time. More specifically, our Miyawaki Pocket Forest will offer a sanctuary for students and staff by absorbing dust from the air, sound from the nearby road, and carbon emissions. If a seedling with a dry weight of 300-500g grows into a tree around 10-20m tall with a dry weight of 1 ton, at least 40% of its weight is carbon. With the already incredible ability of trees to capture carbon from the environment, the impacts of our Miyawaki Pocket Forest are to be vast.

Prior to the November 19th planting, we ran propagation workshops, educational workshops for our feeder elementary schools (Ferris and Brighthouse), and an Earth Day and Equinox Celebration. Up until now, the Miyawaki Pocket Forest has truly been a work in progress - from a meeting with our core group of leaders on the Wednesday before the 19th to hammer out final details such as the catering, to going to the nursery to label the last of the plants on Friday. My day started at 6:00 AM with finalizing the species list and preparing the volunteer sign-in and plant check-out. Throughout the day, our core group worked hard on directing volunteers to their assigned plots, reporting the species at each plot, recording the plants that were taken out, etc. We all wore many different hats that day and ran around attending to different issues that came up, but all in all, it was a wonderful day for everyone.

To see so many people from different backgrounds: Richmond Secondary students, FedEx workers, family and friends, politicians, school board trustees, and many others come together on November 19th was a powerful image. In no other situation would so many people who were so different come together and bond over something they all cared about. This foreshadowed the community-building that was to come from our Miyawaki Pocket Forest. As leaders, we want to make people feel personally connected to what they do, and having volunteers involved in the whole process of planting was a great experience. To know that our project brought together so many people and unified the community over a project so large was incredible.

Follow the progression of our Miyawaki Pocket Forest on Instagram [@rss_ole](#).



“Home of the Colts”



Welcome Grade 7 Students – RHS Grads of 2028!

The Richmond Secondary School theatre was packed on the evening of Thursday, February 9 as we welcomed almost 300 Grade 7 parents and students to our school. Our future Colts met the principal, vice principals, school counsellor; learned a little about “life in high school”; and went on a school tour led by our student *Colt Ambassadors*. We have planned many activities for our “Grads of 2028” as we want to make their transition to high school as smooth and successful as possible. Our counsellors visited students at our family of feeder elementary schools the following week, and upcoming events include the Grade 7 basketball tournament or **Colt Country Classic** on March 6-7, and our annual **Grade 7 Welcome Day** on May 5. We also look forward to hosting our 8th annual **Grade 8 Mini-Camp** in September. It looks like another fantastic group of young people joining the RHS community next year and we are thrilled to welcome them to Richmond Secondary School – home of the Colts! Grade 7 parents are invited to bookmark our website <https://rhs.sd38.bc.ca/> and to start following us on Twitter and Instagram at [@RichmondColts](https://twitter.com/RichmondColts).



Parents Welcome at RHS!

At the February Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting, teacher consultant Leo West was our guest speaker. He spoke to parents and caregivers about Indigenous education in our schools and school district. The next PAC meeting will be on Wednesday, March 8 at 6:30 PM. Please check your email for the meeting details. We look forward to seeing new and returning parents! Contact the RHS PAC at rhsbcpac@gmail.com.

The Dry After Grad (DAG) Committee is busy organizing for DAG 2023. Their next meeting is in-person on Monday, March 6 at 7 PM in the LLC (Library).

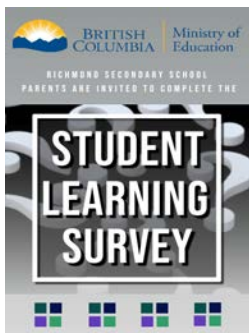
Follow the school on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and subscribe to our Website. All links can be found at <https://rhs.sd38.bc.ca>.



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Student Learning Survey



RHS students in Grades 10 and 12 will complete the Ministry of Education's "Student Learning Survey" on March 6-10. Each year, parents and guardians/caregivers of students in Grades 10 and 12 are invited to complete a parent version of this survey. Information from this survey will be used by the school and district to make informed decisions around long-term planning and goal-setting. The parent survey is available in many languages. Simply use the link below and go to the Direct Access login (bottom right), select SD38 Richmond, and then Richmond Secondary and answer the questions. The survey closes on Saturday, April 29, 2022.

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm

Grade 9 Science Fair

RHS grade 9 students will be participating in a Science Fair afterschool on Friday, February 24 in the large gym. Students posed and researched their own inquiry questions and will present their findings at the Fair. Family and friends are welcome to attend and support our emerauna scientific thinkers!



Kudos PE 10 Leadership

Earlier this month, Mrs. Kippan's PE 10 Leadership class raised \$567.30 for Feed-U-Cate 38, a very worthwhile cause that supports students in the school district who are experiencing food insecurity. This event is only one in a long history of philanthropy by PE 10 Leadership students past and present. Thank you to everyone for their support!



Colts Athletics Update

Congratulations to all our student-athletes who are representing our school with dedication and pride during the winter season which includes seven Colts basketball teams and the table tennis team. Our Grade 8 Boys' basketball team is led by alumni coaches Sylvain Istifain and Fasih Warriach. The Grade 8 Girls' team is led by dedicated teacher-coach Ms. Ip. Our youngest teams are learning the high school game and have improved their skills so much this season. The Grade 9 Boys' team have posted some big wins this season and is led by alumni coaches Ahmad Ghumman and Fayyaz Tejani. The Grade 9 Girls' team showed a lot of growth this season with some close finishes and is led by Mr. Leung. The Junior Boys' basketball team is working hard under the tutelage of coaches Daniel Afansjyevky and Jacob Abraham. Alumnus Fayyaz Tejani is coaching a talented Senior Boys' basketball squad who have competed strong throughout the season. Thanks to recent graduates Emma Lo, Aditi Surma, Emilie Sibayan, and Stelle Guzonour our Senior Girls' basketball team has enjoyed being able to compete this season. Thank you also to basketball staff sponsors Ms. Poppell, Mr. Lin, Mr. Lui, Ms. Chu, Mr. Wong, Mr. Chuang, Ms. Chan, Ms. Rooksby, Ms. Goulas, and Ms. Kwon for all their support. The Colts Table Tennis season is experiencing a lot of success and is sponsored by Mr. Cox, Mr. Furugori, and Mr. Lou. Post-season play has kept many of our teams busy as they head into city and South Fraser zone playoffs vying for a spot at the provincial championships. The spring sports season will happen next and includes Grades 8 and 9 boys' volleyball, badminton, ultimate, track, girls' soccer, tennis, and golf.

For more on Colts Athletics go to:

https://www.instagram.com/colts_athletics/

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Parking Reminders



Students, parents, and visitors are reminded to park in the designated visitor parking lot off of Minoru Boulevard. Please respect and follow the signage in each of the parking lots. Avoid staff designated lots including the front lot located at the main entrance to the school. Vehicles in violation are subject to removal at the driver/owner's expense. Thank you for your co-operation.

Grad Winter Formal 2023 Spectacular!

Over 200 grads and staff enjoyed an outstanding mid-year "Winter Formal" celebration on Thursday, February 16. All the members of the Grad 2023 class looked very sharp in their semi-formal attire at the Riverside Grand Ballroom in Richmond. The event was organized by the student-led Grad Committee and our seniors enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner and a night of dancing and fun with their graduating classmates. Lots of great memories were captured in the countless photographs and video taken during the night. The grads sincerely appreciated the support of our staff sponsors: Ms. Alison, Ms. Chan, Ms. Chu, Ms. Coblin, Mr. Cox, Mr. Furugori, Ms. Ho, Ms. Hom, Ms. Ip, Ms. C. Li, Ms. N. Li, Mr. Lin, Mr. Poon, Ms. Poppell, Ms. Seminutin, Ms. Shields, Ms. Turnbull, Mr. Wong, Ms. Goulas, Mr. Leung, and Ms. Kwon who helped our grads celebrate. Well done Richmond Secondary Grads of 2023 – a class act! Check out highlights on our Instagram [@richmondcolts](#).



Grad 2023 News

We held a Grade 12 assembly on February 13 and grads were reminded to book a *formal photo sitting* online at <http://www.artonagroup.com>. Photos are scheduled at the school for February 17-27 in the Artona mobile studio, and grads must have their photo taken to be included on the 2023 grad composite. Grade 12s received a paper handout describing these upcoming key Grad 2023 deadlines:

- Valedictory – payment deadline overdue
- Valedictorian and Historian Applications – due TUESDAY, MARCH 28
- Dinner & Dance – pay by FRIDAY, MARCH 31
- Dry After Grad – pay by FRIDAY, MARCH 31
- RHS Online Scholarship Application – due FRIDAY, APRIL 14
- RHS Grade 12 Service Hours Form – due FRIDAY, APRIL 14
- 30-Word Valedictory Write-Up – due FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Please welcome our new Career Information Advisor Mr. Hans Ng. Grads are reminded to check his website at least once a week for scholarship and post-secondary updates and info at <https://msjonescareercentre.wordpress.com/>

UPCOMING SCHOOL DATES

February 17-27	Formal Grad Photos by Artona	March 13-24	Spring Break
February 22	Pink Shirt Day at RHS	March 17	St. Patrick's Day
February 23	Collaboration Day	March 20	Spring Equinox
February 24	RHS Grade 9 Science Fair	March 20	International Day of Happiness
March 6-7	Colt Country Classic	March 21	World Poetry Day
March 8	Holi	March 22	Ramadan Begins
March 8	PAC Meeting at 6:30 PM	March 25	Earth Hour at 8:30 PM
March 12	Daylight Savings Begins (Clocks 1 hr Ahead)	March 28	Welcome Back (FGEH)

"Home of the Colts"





BECOME HOMESTAY at the RICHMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Be a host for an international student for a month, semester or year. Richmond International Education (RIE) Homestay Program is looking for local families to offer a welcoming home.

Contact us to find out more about this enriching opportunity.

study@sd38.bc.ca 604-668-6217



RICHMOND
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
ENRICHING GLOBAL MINDS

