

CHOPPIN', FOR CHARITY



Extend the holiday's spirit

Tara Macklin editor-in-chief

If the over crowded malls, extra hours at work and the general hysteria of those around you isn't obvious than you must be living under a rock. It is the holiday season again and as per usual many people have forgotten what the holidays are about: giving, being charitable and spending time with the ones you love.

Riverside is a very diverse school that celebrates many different holidays such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Ramadan which is celebrated in October. For more information on the different winter holidays that Riverside has to offer turn to pages 6 and 7 for our special holiday feature.

For many people this holiday season is the only real time that they have to spend with their family. Unfortunately many people forget that and just focus on the material things that the malls and the TV have hardwired into their head. Giving things to each other isn't what people think about anymore. All they think about is what they might be getting.

Because of that Riverside has the Christmas hampers that Mr. Kenny organizes every year that have helped many families in the Tri-City area for 25 years, 10 of which were at Riverside Secondary. These hampers happen with the help of students and are needed every year to help the families.

Riverside, with the help of the Leadership class also organized an afternoon with Santa to help underprivileged students at Central elementary have a happy holiday.

Normally it is a Christmas Dinner but this year it was thought that it would make more of a difference to the children to have an afternoon with Santa where they could meet him take a picture and get a present. It was a successful idea and the children really enjoyed their afternoon.

Outside of Riverside there is still many ways to help others. There are the many red Salvation Army kettles scattered around the community and there is an extra special volunteer at Coquitlam center who sings Christmas carols and generally brightens up people's days.

The only problem with all this donating and good cheer towards others is that it ends right after Christmas. Why not year round? It's not just the holiday season that people are in need of extra help it should be more of a year round effort for the people who are in need.

Riverside continues to do its part every year such as the school SEGA is trying to build in Kenya, the Terry Fox Run and Madame Mannavarayan and the volunteers that go with her to help orphanages world wide.

Often when Riverside's own families have gone through some tough times anonymous help has appeared through donations and help provided by staff and students.

A good school is more than just about curriculum delivery. When its staff and students model the kind of before they expect grads to carry with them into life, it is doing its job. Riverside is such a school. Best wishes to all for a warm and happy holiday season and good fortune for 2008



POINT COUNTER POINT

Save 4000 lives for the price of one?



Unless one is a police officer, no one can imagine the fear of running into an unknown, life threatening situation every single day on the job. In today's society, gangs, weapons, drugs and overall violence have frightened the public and have made them feel like they need to be constantly protected.

The true fact is police officers are only human. Their job of serving and protecting the population is being performed as well as they can, but some people seem to think that if the police are present, they are always safe. If a suspect is acting as erratically as some do, police have to think of the best decision for the general population, not of the violent individual that is compromising everyone's safety - including the police.

Police started using tasers in 1999, and since the start of using them they have saved approximately four thousand lives. If the police are worried about inflicting a serious injury on one suspect, they could put other lives

at risk. Tasers were introduced as a non lethal method of dealing with potentially lethal confrontation.

It is the police's job to go into a call prepared, even though they are unaware of the circumstances that will follow once they get there. If the police did not use the taser, many more people would die unnecessarily.

If a suspect escapes or harms others the police were too lax. If the suspect ends up injured or killed resisting, the police are brutal.

It's an impossible job. Police officers risk their safety on every shift they go on, and if tasers are taken away, everyone's life will be in greater jeopardy.

Electric chair or tasers? Its all the same



Tasers aren't safe. Duh. Everybody knew that already. So why do the police feel the need to use them? Aren't the police supposed to serve and protect? If so, it's not working.

Police carry tasers for 'protection purposes only,' or so it may seem. Honestly, there are way too many taser deaths for that to ring true. Guns are serious weapons, and they have major strings attached, only to be used if there are lives in danger. But tasers seem to have developed from similar weapon to tools without any restrictions. You're

annoying an officer; you get 1000 volts of electricity zapped through you.

It seems like it has become a fact of life. This is a rather disgusting fact of life, seeing as people have died. They may not necessarily be particularly innocent individuals, but they still deserve to live, even if it is a life in a jail cell.

In Canada, the taser related deaths have reached 20 since July 2003. With those statistics, it may as well be the electric chair. Canada had supposedly abolished capital punishment, but what's the difference to the victims' families if it was meant to kill or not. Victims are still dead.

Mainly, the problem with these so called 'humane' weapons are that they're considered safe, so they're used more often than they generally need to be. A police officer armed with a taser is more likely to use it than an officer with a gun is likely to use it. Because

the officer has most likely been told that the taser is safe.

The time that we live in offers dangerous technology, and tasers are included in that. No human being should have the power to kill another human, even a police officer, who is supposed to protect us, not harm us. If tasers are just going to cause more deaths and injuries, they should be banned.

There must be some other way to incapacitate a person other than tasing them - perhaps one that's non-life threatening.

Pain is no problem, as long as there's no lasting damage. If a tool that can be used like a taser or a gun that puts a person into enough pain that they can't fight someone anymore, but doesn't kill them, then it's worth it.

The line between lethal force is blurred by the tasers. No longer is there a clear distinction between when potentially lethal force can or should be used.



The Eddy has been the independent voice of the students of Riverside Secondary since 1996 and is produced monthly by the Journalism 11 class.

Journalistic styles and standards conform to those of the Canadian Press. The Eddy welcomes letters to the editor. Letters, however transmitted, must be signed and free of libel.

Additional articles, writing, and opinion pieces are accepted and will be published as space allows.

The Eddy reserves the right to edit all submitted material for brevity, and style.

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Chopping for charity helps sick kids

Holden Grant
staff reporter

Bald has taken over the fashion world, just ask Howie Mandel, Bruce Willis, Chris Daughtry or even Britney Spears. But a handful of Riverside's own courageous students are doing this for much more than just fame or fortune, they shaved off their locks to gain money for cancer and blood disorder patients and their families.

It feels pretty good to know that I could help a good cause

- Joe Boleak

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It was a pretty big turnout on Friday, November the 24th as five brave pupils shaved their heads all for the sake of raising awareness and funds towards "Balding for Dollars." **Jon Boleak**, one of the head shavers, speaks out about his experience with the Balding for Dollars foundation, "It feels pretty good to know that I could help a good cause, I shaved my head for the greater

good, although it didn't really affect me because I shave my head pretty often." The cause was all it took and students, **Thomas Osmond, Kim Werner, Heather Lounds, Trevor Robertson, and Jon Boleak**, along with Riverside's own SEA **Shelly Jones**, went down to the cafeteria and shaved their heads. They were able to raise \$135 in the afternoon and made an outstanding effort to gather a whopping \$1300

dollars for the whole event. The B.C. Children's Hospital Foundation is pleased to hear this and Riverside is equally as proud. Families are grateful to individuals that can help them and their children out, as the financial aid goes to them and their families.

"Balding for Dollars" was initiated by parents and BC Children's Hospital staff, who were touched at the idea of childhood cancer and



Thomas Osmond, Kim Werner, Heather Lounds, Shelly Jones, Trevor Robertson, and Jon Boleak show their support by shaving off their locks, raising \$135 in one day, \$1300 for the entire event, to B.C. Children's Hospital.

other blood disorders. It is held in British Columbia as a one-day event every year and it has now spread across B.C. and the founders were able to raise

\$280,000 dollars to go to this worthy cause this year.

Over 500 people helped to support the Balding for Dollars and Riverside is proud to have been a part of

this fight against childhood cancer. Principal Scott Robinson was very positive about what he thought about the students, "Often teenagers are shown in the

media in a negative way and when our students came through, the way they did it proves that the stereotypes about teens are often wrong."

A mom shares her pain for a cause

Erika Grosset
staff reporter

Just imagine a mother's pain when she finds out that her oldest child has committed suicide. That is what **Jude Platzer** experienced eight years ago after trying to save her fifteen year old son **Josh**, who had a long hard struggle with severe depression.

Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem, and maybe if I would've known how permanent, I could've saved Josh.

-Jude Platzer

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After what **Platzer** went through, she was determined to change her sorrow into something positive that could help other teens and their families who are going through something similar. "Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem, and maybe if I would've known how permanent, I could've saved Josh," said **Platzer**.

She created the **Josh Platzer Society** organization to help raise awareness of this tragedy and others in hopes that she could prevent this from happening to another family.

It may seem shocking, but according to **Platzer** two thirds of high school students consider suicide as an option when going through their troublesome teenage years. Teens are more at risk to commit suicide because of confusing issues during this critical point in their lives.

Sexuality, peer pressure, school, hormones, a relationship ending or a history of violence and abuse in the home make teens even more at risk of developing depression, which may lead to suicide if untreated.

Sadly, suicides are well planned and the person who is contemplating it is usually very serious and determined. It is quite uncommon for children ten and under to attempt suicide, but surprisingly there have been tragedies in that age group and the numbers are increasing.

"Suicide has been an obvious taboo topic, and is



Jude Platzer, sharing the story of her son Josh with students of Ms. Bancroft's and Ms. Shong's Planning 10 classes.

not something many families talk to each other about over dinner. It is an extremely serious matter and people refuse to talk about it because of the pain associated with it," said **Platzer**. The fact is, suicide is the second leading cause of death among teens, next to car accidents, and more people die from suicide than HIV/AIDS, war and homicide each year.

Platzer spoke in the library to the Planning 10 classes of **Elizabeth Bancroft** and **Kathy Shong**.

What can you do to help prevent teen suicide?

- If someone you know brings up the subject of suicide, take them seriously
- Reassure that person that you are there for support and that you care about them
- Listen openly without judging
- Do NOT lecture them

In Your Face!



Myles McCarthy

Age: 14
Hometown: Port Coquitlam
Writes: right
Heroes: the Beatles
Sport: boxing
Favorite part about Riverside: The drama department
Favorite band or singer: A Perfect Circle
Favorite Pastime: playing Playstation 3
Where would you like to visit: Japan
Where would like to live: Greece
What is the perfect woman: a good friend
What are you reading: fantasy
Cake or pie: pie
Pet peeve: unhygienic people
Where do you see yourself in 20 years: doing something art related.



Kenny keeps collecting cans for a cause

Sulmas Mosleh - staff reporter

The holidays are here once again and Riverside snatches every opportunity they get to help those in need. The Christmas Hampers have been a tradition here at Riverside Secondary since 1996 when the school

We're acting locally, thinking globally.
-Brian Kenny
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opened. Riverside has prepared over 750 hampers in the past ten years for those who are less fortunate with cooperation from SHARE society. This project is done in RAP class which allows everyone to join in and participate. Some people become very involved and passionate, and accompany their RAP teacher



Brian Kenny with one of the Christmas hampers Riverside's RAP classes put together to help others in need.

when delivering the hamper that they have put together.

Brian Kenny, one of the counselors at Riverside, is the organizer of this project and has been doing hampers for over 25

years. "Charity should start at home, but charity should be unseen," said Kenny. "It's the only activity that the whole school participates in." He says that in order to offer help to those in less

fortunate countries, we need to put ourselves first and make sure that the people in our community have it good too. "We're acting locally, thinking globally," explained Kenny. To help other

people in the world, Kenny says we should first concentrate on those less fortunate here, before we start looking at the big picture in other countries.

To ensure that they put together the best hamper, the RAP classes have to work together. Instead of bringing a random, old can from their family pantry at home that they never used, students are expected to think about what they can buy and bring in and to think about what the family would enjoy the most as if it were them and their family. RAP teachers most often make contact with the family that they're sponsoring to find out about ages of the family members, any allergies, pets and other information that would help make their hamper the best. At times, a RAP class will be sponsoring a family several years in a row until they're back on their feet and then sponsor another family themselves.

Coffee, where art thou?

Holden Grant - staff reporter

A few weeks ago the coffee was removed from the cafeteria by the ministry of education. As mentioned in an earlier issue this is a part of the junk food ration orchestrated by Shirley Bond.

This could mean that the report cards of students who need coffee in the morning will plummet. After all, caffeine is a fuel human's use as a wake up call in the morning; people thrive on coffee and have for many of generations. Now that there is no more coffee in the cafeteria, where will students go to get their coffee?

Since the ministry has not taken away the teacher's coffee why would they want to take away ours? Riverside student Jeff Eom has his own opinion and says. In recent studies, evidence shows that caffeine does not stunt a child's growth.

The coffee machine was popular, so why would coffee be such a big deal with our health? If anything, coffee has benefited adults and teens alike. Coffee has been known to minimize sickness such as extreme cold conditions like bronchitis or pneumonia. Every year 30 % of students suffer from these two viruses, so if the ministry wanted students to attend class and learn why would they take the coffee away?

This means beyond the caffeine, coffee is truly healthy to drink and even though it has died down somewhat. It's not fair to the students who drink coffee as a means of not only habit, but a way to wake up in the morning. The controversy surrounding the coffee machine is still alive and well, unlike the students who are experiencing coffee withdrawal.



Students from Central Elementary enjoyed a great, fun filled afternoon on December 5, courtesy of the Leadership class. Games, crafts, magic tricks and even a surprise visit from the one and only St. Nick helped make the event fun.

Plastic babies for future moms

Bryony Edward - staff reporter

At Riverside Secondary, students get an opportunity to take care of a baby for the whole weekend by feeding, burping and changing its diapers.

The name of the course is Child Development. Of course, these babies are not real, but plastic, with realistic features. Teaching this course is Cindy Cuccione. She has been teaching this course for five years.

Her favourite part about is that students can feel comfortable while learning about life experiences, to talk and ask questions about things they wouldn't normally discuss with others. Mrs. Cuccione thinks that everyone should take this course, both girls and boys. This course is a great way to show students



Kylie Nicholls & Meaghan Taylor with weekend RealCare babies.

that they are not ready to care for a baby of their own. Students only get the RealCare baby for the weekend then they bring them back on Monday. Whether that is a good or bad thing, don't forget the babies

cry and can sometimes be fussy. Taking this course, students may feel more confident about baby care, but also realize that there is a lot more to taking care of a baby than changing its outfit.

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Students speak the international language of friendship

Riverside students play host to Japanese students from sister school.

Megan South-Flett
Staff Reporter

Students of Chikushidai High School, from Fukuoka in southern Japan, walked through Riverside's halls bright and early on Tuesday, November 13. For most of these students this was their first visit to Canada and it was clear that they loved it.

The visit was organized by Japanese/E.S.L teacher Catherine Yamamoto and the International Education of Coquitlam, months before the expected arrival. In total 65 students, three teachers, and Principal Yutaka Kumamoto, along with two tour guides, were welcomed into the school by student volunteers and Yamamoto's Japanese classes.

Chikushidai students were separated into several groups, each traveling to different sections of the school for different activities. Students crafted their own ceramic maple leaves with the help of art

teachers Janice Schmidt and Teri Bates, followed by designing personalized cards and envelopes to be mailed later in the Career Centre.

Students indulged in a small luncheon of cookies, sandwiches and hot chocolate, and afterwards were introduced to a portion of North American history with a station devoted to First Nations culture.

Throughout the day teachers and Kumamoto-san were quite taken by Riverside's students, finding each one approachable and friendly, creating a nice, comfortable atmosphere for the overseas visitors. Aya Yamashita, student of Chikushidai, was quite taken by the Canada trip, "It was my first visit, and I would like to come back."

When lunch arrived, avoiding the chaos that may have ensued with the additional 1400 bodies wandering the halls, Chikushidai guests were lead to Gym C where a formal welcome was given by Principal Scott Robinson, as well



Some of the Japanese, Chikushidai High School students and Riverside Students smile while eating lunch.

as a speech from Kumamoto-san, expressing thanks and gratitude for the hospitality. "It was fantastic. Our students put a ton of work into organizing the day. The principal and teachers were very impressed," said Robinson.

After a lunch of hot dogs and donuts, students had time to socialize with each other. Everyone was interacting with students from a different culture in such a natural way, one would not have known at first glance that no one spoke

the same language, everyone was just having a good time.

"All the hard work was worthwhile for that moment of connection," says Yamamoto, "...seeing the universal language of friendship."

CD art legacy celebrates Riverside's 10th anniversary

Tori Dove - Staff Reporter

Sometime last year former students Lauren Selden and Haejin An with help from Shannon McCubbin came up with an idea to tie together Riverside's students, faculty and ex graduates in one artistic piece.

Riverside art teacher, Kelly Selden wanted the art project to be open for the whole community to join in. Teachers, students, graduates and parents all participated in the assembling of the CD mosaic that now hangs in

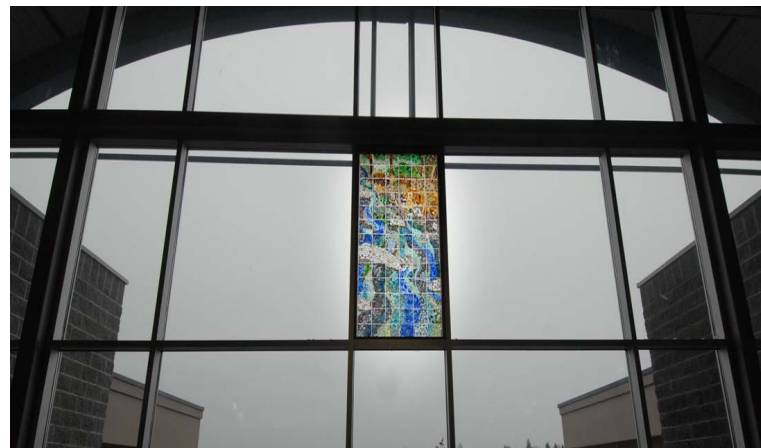
the main window above the foyer. "This is a community projects that involved everyone, not just the artists," said Selden.

The idea was created for Riverside's tenth anniversary where one of the panels was finished at the anniversary celebration last November. "This piece of art will be a Riverside legacy. It involves everyone who was apart of the school," said Selden.

The project consists of three panels. The first panel was put up last week and the last two panels

are being completed and are going up sometime near the end of the school year. The end result of the mosaic is of the Coquitlam River, which flows behind Riverside.

Colored glass and beads were donated to create the mosaic as well as scraps of glass and other materials from assorted stores. The glass was cut into shape and then glued onto the rough drawing inside the CD case. A transparent lacquer was then poured over the glass to keep it in hold and give it a shine.



T.Dove/ Eddy

A CD cases art display celebrates community and R'side's 10th year.

Who is responsible for recycling at high schools?

Riverside Secondary helps out our world and third world countries with recycling.

Ada Lo
Guest Columnist

What if garbage started piling up in front of your door? This will become a reality if people do not recycle. We all share this planet. As teenagers we will become leaders in the world, so shouldn't we take the initiative and start caring for our planet through recycling?

Riverside Secondary School has been involved with recycling for the past eight years. Jeanne Mannavarayan runs a recycling program so that each day, juice boxes and pop cans are collected and counted. Each week, 2500-3000 items are collected by students. All of the money from Recycling helps buy supplies for orphanages in developing nations. All of the money from Recycling

helps buy supplies for orphanages in developing nations. These supplies include medicine, school supplies, toys, and daily basic necessities such as clothes, shoes, toothbrushes, toothpaste and towels.

Riverside won second place in the Provincial Recycling competition last year and first place the year before. This competition awards monetary prizes to the top two schools which have the most recyclables per student. Regardless of this prestigious achievement, this program needs a lot of work. Each day, four students are needed to help collect and count recyclables. Considering that there are approximately 198 days of school, if we multiply this by 4 for 4 students per day, then we would need approx. 792 students per school year. However, there are

1400 students in the school and at the moment only 7 students regularly make the effort to help out.

Is recycling every student's responsibility? Should Recycling be mandatory for every student in the school? If every student helped with recycling, then each student would only need to volunteer ONCE per school year.

Grade 12 students are required to complete 30 hours of volunteer or work experience in order to graduate. Would it be reasonable to make 2 out of these 30 hours mandatory for recycling so that the burden does not always fall on the shoulders of the same students?

Recycling is an unpleasant task. That is why gloves are provided. The fact that Recycling is an unpleasant task does not give students an excuse to not recycle.

Everyone is responsible for looking after our planet and the mess we've created. If we don't recycle, who will clean up our mess?

Are students really too busy to volunteer one hour during the school year? One hour to care for the environment?

Global Warming is a "hot" issue in our society. But what have we done as a school district to decrease the effects of Global Warming?

By reusing our resources, we can save our limited resources for generations to come. At the same time, factories will produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

If high school students take the initiative to recycle, we can keep garbage out of the landfills and away from our front doors.

There are 1400 students in the school and at the moment only 7 students regularly make the effort to help out.

- Ada Lo

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There's more to the holidays

Seasonal observances may differ but all

According to the bible, thousands of years ago God created a human named Adam. He got lonely so God made Eve out of his rib. They lived in the garden of Eden. His one rule for them was not to eat from the tree of knowledge. One day Eve was near the tree and the devil disguised as a snake was coiling through the tree. He convinced Eve to take a bite of the apple and in turn Eve convinced Adam. God drove them out of the garden and closed the gates of heaven. Years later his son Jesus came to earth to sacrifice himself so the gates of heaven could be opened up. People celebrate Christmas because that was the day that Jesus sacrificed Himself for mankind. Catholics have a midnight mass on Christmas Eve to celebrate his death and many other doctrines of the Christianity have church on different times around Christmas day. To celebrate his death people give presents, break bread and drink wine. Because of such a sacrifice a common theme for this holiday is Peace and Joy.



Karla Dziarmaga celebrates Christmas on the 24th, she has a big feast with 12 dishes. Each one representing one of the 12 apostles. She opens presents and goes to church for midnight mass. The next day, Christmas, she has a big feast on leftovers from the previous night and goes to friends' houses and "Parties".

and therefore gates of heaven. God gave up his son to go to Earth and Himself so that heaven could be opened up. People celebrate Christmas because that



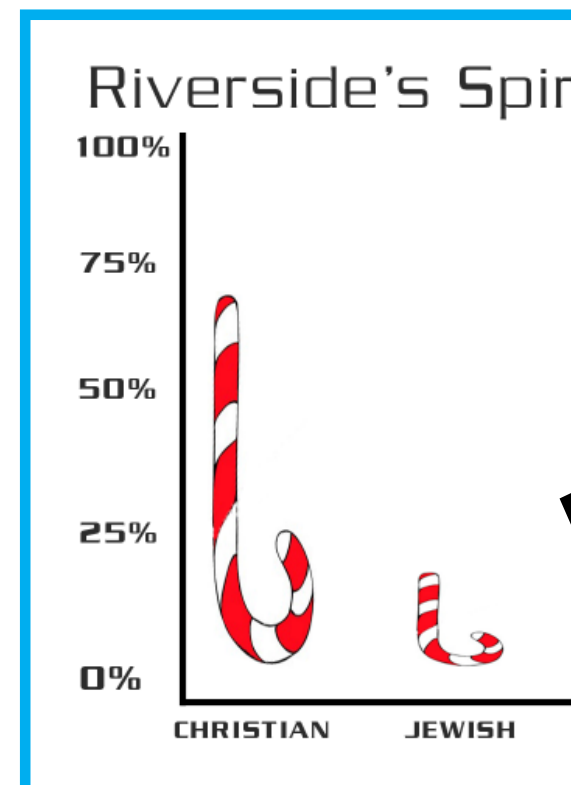
Tyler Homfeld celebrates Christmas with a turkey dinner which he cooks and he opens presents Christmas morning. He says it's more about family than religion.



Christmialism is a new holiday that isn't really official. It is similar to Christmas but all things circle around material things and how many presents people are getting on

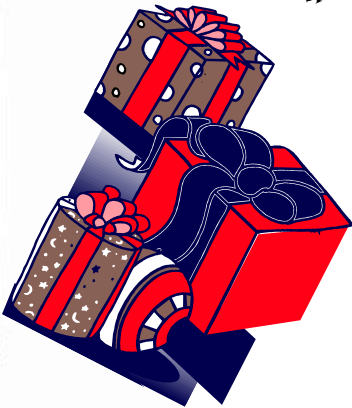
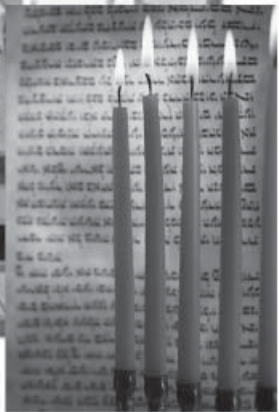


Christmas morning. It is the holiday that makes millions for the mall and other stores. It is the busiest time of year and is the holiday that circles around Santa and the reindeer. Decorating the tree and the front lawn are perfect examples. They didn't start historically and don't really have a meaning other than spirit and good cheer. It's the perfect pop-culture example of what North America has evolved into. On a positive note it does have its advantages. The main theme is the spirit of giving and though many have forgotten that it still feels good when seeing someone open your gift with happiness. Spreading good cheer by singing Christmas carols and donating to the food bank is very beneficial whether you realize it or not. Making snow angels and drinking hot chocolate are a fun part of this commercial holiday and if you don't find it fun, to bad because it's all over the media anyway. It wouldn't be so easy to make fun of if there was actually a root to this holiday rather than just mindless spending on material things that are used only once or twice by the children there bought for.





Days than just Santa Claus I have peace and good will in common



George Wu opens gifts, goes back to his country to see his parents and he also parties it up. He doesn't celebrate Christmas spiritually.



Hanukkah was originated thousands of years ago in Jerusalem. The word Hanukkah means dedication. It is named for the rebuilding of the Temple of Jerusalem after Antiochus IV and his troops destroyed Jerusalem. Once the re-building was complete they went to start the eternal flame but realized that there was not enough olive oil to feed the people for one day. But miraculously the olive oil lasted for eight days which is how long it takes to make a new batch of olive oil. To celebrate this historical event people light candles on a candelabra called a menorah for each of the eight days of the holiday to remember the past. Children also get presents on every day of this celebration and most of the foods are cooked with olive oil to appreciate what they are thankful for. On the menorah there are nine candles. Four on each side that lit every day of the holiday and one in the centre to light them called the slave candle. Each day people go to the nearest synagogue to further remember the past. On the last day of Hanukkah called Zot people repent their love for God.

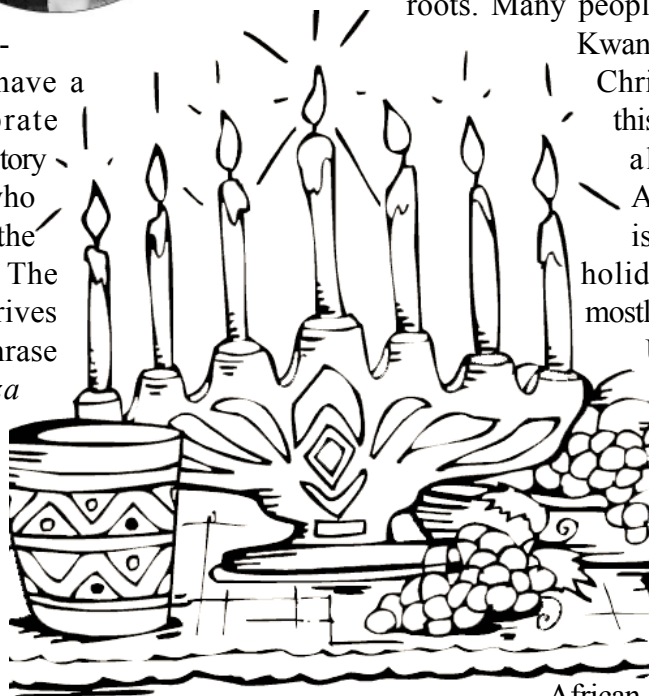


Brad Madeiros celebrates Christmas with a turkey dinner, drink egg nog, have family over and open presents. He doesn't celebrate spiritually and his favourite part is spending time with family and the atmosphere of Christmas.



Kwanzaa was created in 1966 in California by a man named Karenga, a black nationalist. He decided that African-Americans should have a holiday to celebrate themselves and their history rather than change who they are because of the country they're in. The name Kwanzaa derives from the Swahili phrase *matunda ya kwanza* which means first fruit. He added an 'a' to Kwanza so that it would be a seven letter word just like the seven day holiday. Each day represents a principal of blackness. To celebrate this they use a kinara which is a candelabra that holds seven candles. People also decorate their houses with brightly coloured African cloth and lots of fresh fruit.

People also dress up in traditional Pan-African clothing and children have ceremonies to learn to respect and idolize their elders. Kwanzaa has helped many people return to their roots. Many people who celebrate Kwanzaa also celebrate Christmas. They do this because they are also North American and that is a very popular holiday. Kwanzaa is mostly celebrated in the U.S. but there are still many people who celebrate it in Canada. For a long time Karenga felt that this holiday was only to be celebrated by African Americans. But in 1997 it officially became an open celebration to all races.



Spiritual Makeup

KWANZAA **OTHER**





Tori Dove

Late Start

You are a growing, vibrant young human being who needs their beauty sleep. So why does the school insist on making the school hours start so early!

Teachers know that high school is one big beauty contest and that only the few with high status and chiseled features can win, so why would they want to torture us in the morning hours? They can see that we are falling asleep at our desk and aren't listening, so wouldn't they want us to be at our prime and ready to learn?

All I am asking for is a little more time for snoozing and a little less time to learn about Shakespeare.

Teachers can squeeze their activities into the shortened day, because aren't they always saying, that they can pretty much do anything?

POTSHOTS

TOUGH TALK FOR A TOUGH WORLD



Sulmas Mosleh

Transitions

When you were in middle school your teachers were always on your case about finishing your homework and "acting like an adult" because you were about to start high school. They always said my high school teachers would not follow me around and if I didn't finish my homework, too bad.

I had fuzzy dreams about my high school teachers not caring and just letting me work at my own pace. Well that dream was crapped on when I figured out that high school teachers really do care about homework. If most of us are old enough to drive then we should be trusted to make our own decisions about homework completion. Teachers, stop tracking us down to do our homework because it won't make us care anymore about it.

Bathrooms

Imagine this, you are walking into the girl's bathroom and you put down your new Chanel leather tote bag onto the counter thinking that it would be all fine and dandy. What could ruin your bag? Well, apparently water can murder your new fabulous bag with water damage that is beyond repair.

Can people not be a little considerate and wipe the counter off after they spray water all over the counter top. It takes all of two seconds to make someone's life a little easier.

I also do not appreciate coming out of the washroom looking like I didn't make it to the toilet because I have water stains on my pants, it's just not a good look for me.

So all you water babies in there: Clean up your act or start handing out rain ponchos.

Testing

Every other day, you come to school, and what do you get? A test! We have so much homework, so many assignments including our own responsibilities at home, and then we have to study for all the tests that come our way everyday.

Learning shouldn't be through standardized tests, it should be how much you know about the subject itself.

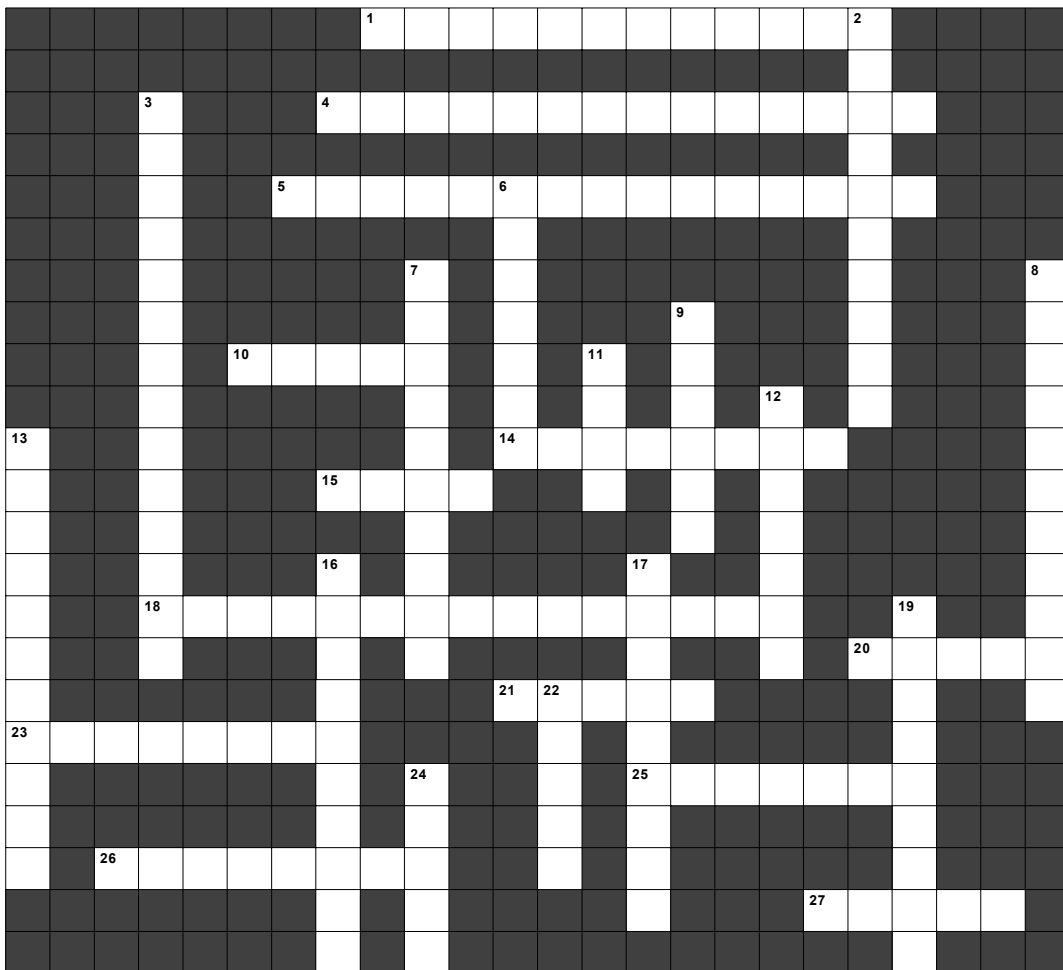
Tests aren't the right way to prove how much knowledge you have of the subject you're learning. Instead of testing kids, teachers should get into more in-depth learning. It's lame how we have to study for all these tests especially when half the questions on the test, we didn't even learn about.

Hallways

Why is there always junk on the floor? And, it's not even garbage. It's almost always smashed pieces of fruit, which people spill all over the place. And, when they spill them, it's not like they get down on the ground and clean them up. No, the random grapes and things could easily get picked up as soon as they're dropped. But, instead of that, as usual, people are too lazy to bend down, and the janitors are stuck trying to scrape them off the floor later.

Shouldn't we try to take a little pride in our school's appearance?

If there are visitors, things like that reflect on whether or not we care about our learning environment. And, it's not like anyone is asking much, just clean up your own mess.



ACROSS

- 1 "I want a _____ for Christmas."
- 4 Who wrote "A Christmas Carol"?
- 5 Another name for Santa
- 10 OFFICALLY how many reindeer does Santa have?
- 14 A Jewish celebration
- 15 Abbreviation for Christmas
- 18 Who is the protagonist of "A Christmas Carol"?
- 20 not a creature was stirring, not even a _____
- 21 "I'll a want for Christmas is my two front _____"
- 23 Who stops George from jumping off the bridge?
- 25 "Frosty the _____"
- 26 In what does Santa hide your presents?

DOWN

- 2 "I saw Momma kissing _____"
- 3 Santa's diet consists of _____
- 6 Who is the misfit of the reindeers?
- 7 The _____ is a ballet performance
- 8 What are the two Christmas colours?
- 9 The type of bird usually eaten for Christmas dinner
- 11 Traditional type of Christmas tree
- 12 Before the invention of Christmas lights, what was used?
- 13 Who is Tiny Tim's father?
- 16 What is the traditional flavour of a candy cane?
- 17 The three wise-men followed the _____
- 19 Day after Christmas
- 22 Who works in Santa's workshop?
- 24 Whenever a bell rings, an _____ gets its wings



A Blast From The Past

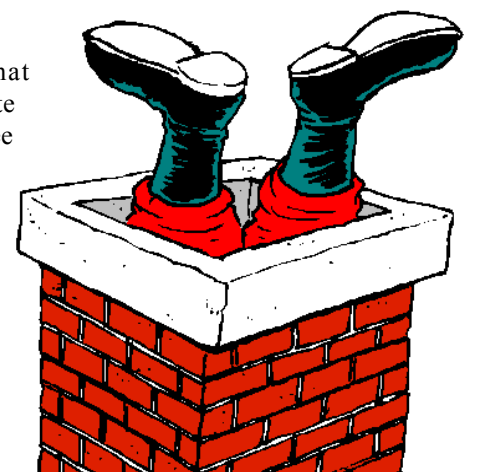
Bryony Edward-Staff Reporter

Everyone enjoys a bit of entertainment every once and awhile, especially when the audience gets to watch students of their own community perform. On November 6th Riverside Secondary School held a band concert that celebrated the 50's. This event was a fundraiser.

Riverside Secondary's junior and senior band to play and the choir to sing. A slideshow of pictures was shown of the Socktober event that had occurred in October. Both events were organized by the band teacher Carol Sirianni, the concert was about an hour and a half long.

They had a concession stand outside Riverside Secondary's theatre and even a magic show performed by Alex Seaman, a grade 10 at Riverside Secondary.

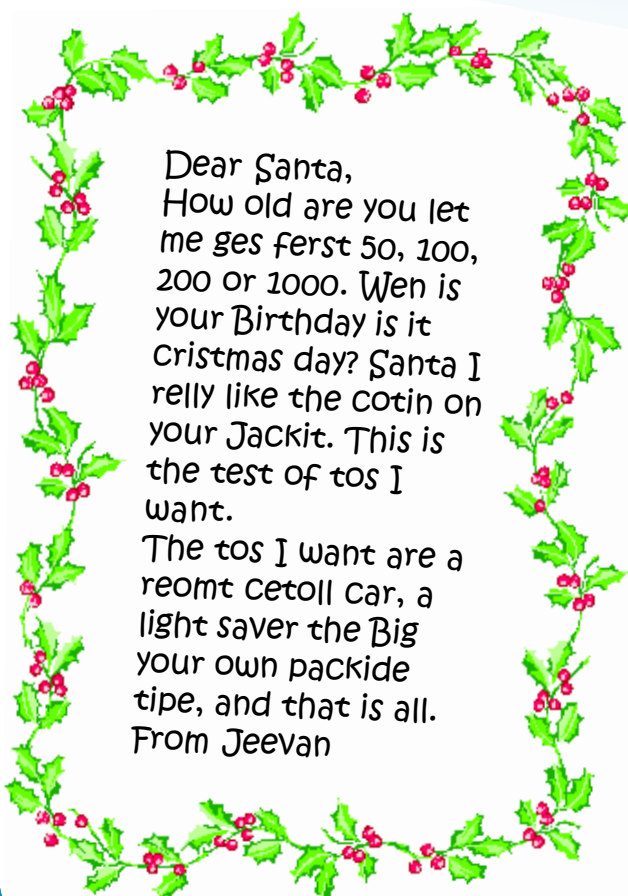
The event was very entertaining and had a variety of performances, whether upbeat, or a softer beat it was all very good. The girls performing in the event got to wear 50's skirts like the ones you would see in the movie Grease. The junior band that performed that evening was great despite only being together for three months. The concert is held every year with a different theme each time. The duration of the concert may have been an hour and a half long but was entertaining so therefore went by quickly. If you didn't catch this concert there's is always next year, don't miss out!





Dear Santa...Love Suzie

Mary Hill Elementary students share their Christmas wishes





Actors tackle bard's toughest play

Erika Grosset - staff reporter

Love's Labour's Lost was a hysterical play, with diverse scenes, and unusual characters. The twist to this play were the male actors playing the women's parts, and the lady actors playing the male parts. This certain play was one of the most intellectual plays Shakespeare has ever written, containing puns and more sophisticated words than his others. It was a challenge and an enjoyable play for the cast of Riverside's drama department to take on.

The play opens with the King of Navarre and his three companions Binron, Dumain, and Longeville. They promise each other that they will devote themselves to three years of nothing but study and education. Once the princess and her three ladies come to the kingdom, the king and his men fall hilariously in love with them.

Riverside's drama teacher **David Secunda** did an incredible job directing such a complicated play with a diverse range of characters, and his cast responded with teamwork and creativity. It is quite obvious that Secunda was able to communicate and instill the subtle aspects of this challenging play to his actors, and also to inspire them to extend their performances.

Carly Friesen, Emily Wilson, and Leigh Selden played the King's men, who ironically are some of the ladies in the cast, and did an amazing job leading the show along with **Jessica Ainsworth** who played the king. Other notable characters were **Stephanie Labbe** (Don Armado) and **Joylyn Secunda** (Moth).

Leila Kirves was outstanding playing the dramatic Holofernes, and **Amanda Bigioli** captured the hearts of the audience with her character Mercade. **Andrew Hamar, Matt Shaw, and Myles McCarthy** played some of the leading female roles, as Maria, Katharine, and Princess. They were hilarious just by watching them move, talk and act like the opposite sex. Shakespeare was never this campy.

The acting in Love's Labour's Lost was amazing. It was



plain to see the cast had rehearsed many times, and had enjoyed working as well as they did together. "The best experience? I would have to say the gender switching was pretty unusual and made it a lot of fun. Everyone got quite into their roles," said cast member, grade 11 Leigh Selden.

The play itself was a little hard to follow when it came to the storyline, because there wasn't a steady flow of scenes. "It was really funny, but hard to understand a lot of the time," said grade 11 Claire Campbell. Most teachers provided their students with a background story of the play before the performance which was beneficial to the students.

The cast had a great time together and learned a lot of new things. It was quite a unique experience for them, and they all enjoyed the challenges. "It was difficult to stay true to the play without adding cheap laughs, and it was hard to condense the play into a one hour show because of its length and complexities," said Selden.

Even though Love's Labour's Lost is one of Shakespeare's more intellectually challenging plays, Secunda and his cast put their talents and acting experience together to create not only an accessible play, but one that everyone enjoyed.



Left: Alanna Olson and Amanda Bigioli share an intimate moment on stage.

Above: Matt Shaw and Andrew Hamar switch genders for their appearance in Love's, Labour's, Lost.

Bimbos skewers old stereotype

Callum Beales - staff reporter

A Coupla Bimbos Sitting Around Talking is one of the 18 minute plays directed by ex-riverside student, **Chloe Ellis**. The play focuses on three young girls: your stereotypical dumb blondes, trying to make a plain jane type woman beautiful to impress four rich young men who are taking them on a yacht trip to The Hamptons.

Kirsten Durand, Brittney Jack and **Ilsa Lawin** play the bimbos very well, and seem very dumb and ditzy, so when they started to act smart, people, including myself, were genuinely surprised. plays

the exact opposite as the plain jane college girl and does so convincingly, even though she didn't have a large part in the play.

The one place where the play lagged was after the twist, when the "bimbos" alter the stereotype. The play turns into a bit of a dry socials lesson, but fortunately the pedantic dialogue didn't last that long.

It's definitely very impressive that the actresses were able to memorize what seemed like the whole history of Europe. A very entertaining play that set the bar high for the rest of the Metfest plays.



Kirsten Durand, Brittany Jack, and Ilsa Lawin have a conversation about their beaux.

Drudge works adult themes with insight and humour

Tara Macklin - staff reporter

This year Riverside Secondary chose *Spineless Drudge* as one of their three plays. It was an excellent decision on their part because it was clear that the audience loved every minute of it.

The acting was fantastic. The audience could feel the anger in Ross Junior (**Sami Wiebe**) and Nina's (**Paige Franklin**) voices when they lash out at their father for cheating on their mother.

Later on Imogene (**Eden Nezymana**) calls a priest to help deal with their problems. The priest (**Jennifer Soroczka**) arrives and is demanding, mean and speaks in

the most annoying monotone.

Every time she talked the audience's laughter threatened to drown out the dialogue.

Spineless Drudge is an 18 minute play about family issues and adultery. It involves two co workers (**Kyleigh Francks** and **Ryan Scramstad**) who have an affair and consequently the man has a wife named Imogene (Eden Nezymana) and her two children Ross Junior and Nina. (Sami Wiebe, Paige Franklin) The woman has a husband (**Brad Davis**) who is at war. The wife finds out about the affair and freaks out as well as the two children.

George, another co worker has a

large crush on Marsha and when he finds out about their affair he proceeds to beat Ross to a pulp. Soon others join in and pretty soon Ross is feeling very down on himself.

Overall *Spineless Drudge* was an amazing play that I would see over and over again. It managed to deal with serious adult themes in an insightful and humorous way. It is an excellent story and former student/director Chloe Ellis did a superb job directing this play and helping the actors with the unique portrayal of the characters. Many people will look forward to seeing her work in the future.



Samie Wiebe, Eden Nezymana, Paige Franklin, Dylan Matthews, Brian Richards, Jennifer Soroczka, and Ryan Scramstad fight about adultery.



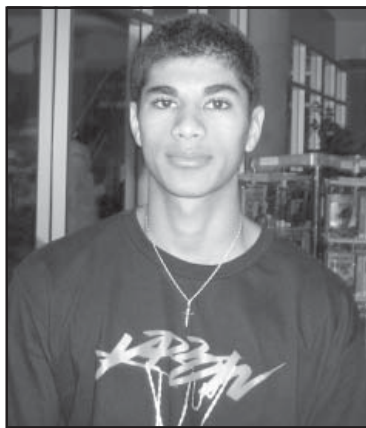
Down by the Riverside



What is your fondest Christmas memory?



June Su, Grade 12
My fondest memory of Christmas is of course opening up the presents!



Rashawn Berard, Grade 12
Waiting to wake up and run down the stairs to open gifts and hang out with my family.



Johnny Yon, Grade 12
When I opened up my PLAYSTATION 1!



Joey Thwaites, Grade 11
Waking up in the morning to open presents and enjoy the Christmas spirit.



Kady Wong, Grade 10
Whenever it actually snows on Christmas day and you can go out and run around in it

Career Centre is working for you

Career Centre advisor Beth David wants to help you get a job, get into college or even a get a scholarship

Selena Banser
staff reporter

Students walk by it every single day, yet many don't notice it's there. It's the Career Centre, in room 213, at the top of the stairs. "It is like a library. Students do not have to knock on the door before entering, they are welcome to use the computers at any time, and they don't even need to talk to me if they don't want to," said Career Centre coordinator Beth David.

David can help with anything to do with post secondary information, careers, scholarships, resumes, and jobs.

M. South-Flett/Eddy



Beth David won't stop until the job is done.

Students are usually looking for part time jobs because they have a lot of spare time and they would like to earn a little bit of money. More and more

students at the high school level are getting part time jobs. According to The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 57 percent of youth started working at

the age of 14, and 8 percent of all 14 year olds worked about 15 or more hours a week during academic weeks. Sixty-four percent of youth started working at 15 years old, and 17 percent worked 15 hours or more a week during academic weeks.

There is information and resources on the Riverside career centre website with all kinds of information about universities, careers, scholarships, events and contest, and a personality and interest test. While job hunting, having a good, impressive resume is always important. "Present yourself well, and have the right attitude," said David.

Grade 9 student, Philip Pol, works at Silver City. He makes five hundred to six hundred dollars per month, and works about 18 to 22 hours per week. At work, he serves customers, works at the till, takes complaints, and cleans up. He works at the food and counter, and with the food counter

money, as well. "I like working at Silver City because of the people and friends you make. It's a lot of fun, and it doesn't even seem like work sometimes," said Philip.

The career centre is open to all students from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.

How can the Career Centre help you?

Students are welcome to use the room and resources for the following:

- Research career related information
- Post secondary options
- Scholarships and school projects
- Study
- Make resumes or update them

Gong Show ball kills future dances

A significant number of partiers damaged school facilities and shocked supervisors with lewd behaviour

Megan South-Flett
staff reporter

Winter Ball, the pinnacle and most anticipated dance of the winter season for most seniors, ended in disappointment for both students and teachers. As a result of some students' inappropriate behaviour, Riverside's spring dance is now canceled, and in fact, the futures of all dances is now under review.

With a variety of music, a mocktail bar

and mini buffet, the night held promise which was quickly spoiled. "We were unhappy with the overall tone," said vice principle Todd Clarkson.

Considering the assemblies of September, one would have expected the same behavior to be seen on Thursday night as what was displayed during the Halloween dance.

Many staff members supervising the evening were concerned with the intensity of the sexual

atmosphere, as grinding was not the only issue of concern; reports of groping, girls' skirts being hiked up, drunkenness, and vandalism in the boys' washroom were also witnessed.

Riverside is the last school in District 43 to have hosted school dances. Unfortunately, it seems the bad behavior is a cultural phenomenon.

Administration has been discussing future event policy, and the question remains: Will

Riverside keep dances, or will they just stop? "We can't professionally support this type of behavior at school functions," said Clerkson, citing safety issues.

Staff members acknowledge that not all students behaved inappropriately, but there were just far too many unpleasant incidents to ignore, and unfortunately, there may not be a future chance to improve behaviour for some time.

E. Grosset/Eddy



Claire Campbell, Erika Grosset, and Chantel Wright enjoying their first Winter Ball - perhaps the last dance of the year.



Sr. Girls Basketball as excellent as ever

With the addition of new post Carley Butcher Riverside has got the size they need.

Bryn Frayne - staff reporter

In the past the Riverside Senior Girls Basketball team has always been skilled but have had a small team. This year with the new addition of 6-foot-1 post **Carley Butcher**, they've gotten the size they've been needing. With the addition of the ex Pitt Meadows Secondary post, 5-foot-11 **Nicola Hitchcock** gets to play her natural power forward position, allowing 5-foot-10 **Lauren Rieu** to move to the small forward position, and with those changes it moves U-17 Select player, **Kristina Collins**, to shooting guard. These changes didn't move shooting guard **Stephanie Carkner**, but it has opened up many options for her to pass to. With these changes this has made this year's Rapids extremely dangerous. So dangerous that in the British Columbia High School Girls Basketball league Riverside Secondary's senior girls basketball team is ranked Number 1 overall in the AAA Division for the whole province.

For The Province's preseason senior girls all star team this year Riverside took 4 of the 10 spots. The province named Carley Butcher to their first all star team, and named Kristina Collins, Stephanie Carkner, and Nicola Hitchcock to their second team all stars.

This year's 8th annual HSBC Basketball Classic started December 3, 2007 with the Riverside Rapids coming in to the tournament ranked Number 1 in the province. This was the senior girls first chance to prove to themselves if they were really worth the top ranking, and the other



Ashley Armstrong races through the court with the ball against Walnut Grove. Riverside won 85-37.

teams to prove themselves against the number 1's. Riverside's first game was against Walnut Grove secondary. Riverside impressed their home crowd and showed that they were worth their top rank with an impressive 85-37 win. With the win the girls advanced to Wednesday's games. On Wednesday they played against a Fleetwood team who were coming into the

game with momentum from a 55-26 win against Kits. The game stayed close with only a 4 point lead going into the second half. Riverside came into the 2nd half of the game clearly wanting to win, and scored 10 unanswered points. The girls kept their momentum for the rest of the game and came out on top with a 58-40 win. Riverside advanced to the finals with a 93-57 win in

the semi-finals against Port Moody Secondary.

In the HSBC Finals Riverside played a third seeded Handsworth Royals. Riverside trailed the entire game until 1:48 was left in the game. "Handsworth shot the ball very well," said Langford. "They're a great team and I expect them to be an even better team after this experience." But with a Seattle University bound Carley Butcher scoring 31 points and draining a three-pointer with 43 seconds left in the game to make a 4 point lead, the girls were lead to a 75-71 victory.

With one tournament championship on their belts, the girls don't have time to rest with the up coming Tournament For Emily, December 14-15. "I thought our girls showed a lot of maturity in the final and did not panic. They worked hard and it paid off. We are right back in the frying pan this weekend with all the top teams in our tournament. We need to get better and keep working on our game. We have good depth and that is our strength", said Coach Paul Langford about the HSBC win and the upcoming tournament. The tournament will be held at Riverside and is in memory of the late Emily Inglis. All of the funds raised will be donated to childrens charities. 50% of the funds will be donated to Children's Hospital, 40% to Make-A-Wish Foundation, and 10% to Juvenile Diabetes.

The tournament will consist of senior girls teams from Argyle, Chilliwack, Mission, Elgin Park, Springbank, ITC Australia, Riverside, and the second place finishers in the HSBC tournament Handsworth.

Riverside's co-ed hockey continues to dominate

Bryn Frayne - staff reporter

Riverside in the past, having won the league championship three times in the last four years, has consistently been a strong team with past students and hockey team alumni **Mike Reddington** and **Brenden Silvester** now playing Junior A in the Western Hockey League, and **Zach Hamill** being recently drafted 8th overall to the Boston Bruins in the National Hockey League's 2007 draft.

Although this year with losing key players **Nick Anderson**, last year's goalie **Matt Walker**,

assistant captain **Manny Jagpal**, and new WHL Seattle Thunderbird **Brenden Silvester** it could have changed. But with strong players from Midget B teams in the community, Midget A players, Major Midget players, **Kyle Leung** who plays for the North Delta Devils in the Pacific International Junior B league, and the addition of **Taylor Smith** making this team co-ed, this year has been no different with Riverside consistently dominating their opponents.

Their first two games scores, both against West View, were 15-1, and

17-1, and their third game this season, versus Maple Ridge Secondary, 11-1. Their league consists of teams from the Port Coquitlam, Pitt Meadows, and Maple Ridge areas. This year Riverside's four opposing teams this season are Garibaldi Secondary, Pitt Meadows Secondary, Maple Ridge Secondary, and West View Secondary.

The league's season goes from early November and continues all the way until the middle of February, when they have the championship game between the

two top teams. All the games take place at the Ridge Meadows arena in Pitt Meadows. In their third meeting of the season, Riverside beat West view secondary with a triumphant score of 21-1.

While Riverside's hockey team is filled with mainly senior students and only a few juniors, who play in play in highly competitive leagues of hockey outside the school, their opposing teams consist mainly of junior players.



Taylor Smith the only girl on the hockey team.

Young, fast sr. boys look to impact in this year's AAA

Elliot Kim - staff reporter

The Riverside senior boy's basketball team started their new season by winning their first game against Mc Math, 78-77 score. The senior boys were losing by 77-76 until the last two seconds when a basket was scored by Matt Gerwing, won the game.

In their second game, the senior boys lost their match against South Ridge, a game that cost the senior boys their HSBC tournament. "We played well in the first half of the match but they were leading by 20 points and that made the

gap," said coach Jeremy Neufeld.

When asked how they played in their second game Neufeld also said, "Even though we didn't do too well in our second game I'm confident that we will do very well in the AAA league because we have a very small quick team, and they play very fast up the court and they are very good shooters."

There were three players who distinguished themselves during the two games that they played. **Mack Roth** grade 10, **Matt Gerwing** grade 11 and **Dj Chuy** grade 11, the senior boys will be



Matt Gerwing is being counted on to provide leadership along with DJ Chuy and Mack Roth.

playing their first home game against the Terry Fox Ravens on December 19th. The last remaining question is whether or not the sr. boys can rebound their way back into the win column.

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Consecutive Days 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

January 12, 2008; 3 x Consecutive Saturdays 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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