



## Congratulations on a wonderful Winter Ball

Amy-Sue Brown - staff reporter

Winter Ball 2007 proved to be a critical dance in Riverside history after administration threatened to cancel school dances permanently. Due to the damage in the school bathrooms and inappropriate behavior displayed by students

**I'm proud to be a staff member here at Riverside tonight.**

-Ms. Ebenal

”

under the influence, dances were cancelled after last year's Winter Ball for the remainder of the school year. This year's Winter Ball on December 3<sup>rd</sup> put students under the scrutiny of teachers and administration to see if students



A. Brown/Eddy

Sean Kumar and Chantel Wright dancing together at this year's Winter Ball with a masquerade theme.

could live up to expectations or if they would repeat last year's fatal mistakes.

The concerns that staff had about

the night began to diminish after the doors closed. There was already a noticeable difference in the atmosphere of the dance in

comparison to last year.

“[The difference was like] night and day. The students have stepped up; they've proven they

can be responsible adults,” said vice principal Laurie Ebenal; “It's a pleasure to be here, everyone's having a good time. I'm proud to be a staff member here at Riverside tonight.” Unlike last year, there was no damage to school property. Riverside pride was clearly visible in both the dress and demeanor of students on and off the dance floor.

“I think we did a better job making our expectations clear,” said Principal Scott Robinson, “Students had higher expectations of each other, which wasn't the case last year.” Mr. Robinson credited the improvement in behavior to the promotion for the event. The administration spent time talking to individual students and groups in an effort to assure that this year's Winter Ball met all expectations.

“[There's] more appropriate behavior, I feel a lot more comfortable to be here,” said Kimmie Werner at the dance.



K. Shong/Eddy

Contestants of all ages scarf down their 12 wagon wheels for the wagon wheel eating contest.

## Riverside's a little bit country

Amy-Sue Brown - staff reporter

Riverside's Music Department brought back their entire country repertoire to “A Country Fair”. The event was held at the school on Friday November 7<sup>th</sup> raising over 4,000 dollars for their tour in May to Alaska. All the students were dressed up in the country theme, and helped manage stations and activities for family, friends and students to enjoy. Several guests were invited to perform and provide live entertainment for most of the night, including a professional square dancing group from Port Moody called “Ocean Waves” as well as a couple of elementary

schools.

“The night was a success. All friends, family, music department students and members of the community joined together in an evening of western music, costumes, dance and celebration,” said music teacher Carol Sirianni.

The gymnasium was decorated as a town and separated into different parts, consisting of places like the church where cake walks took place, and boot hill cemetery where a professional photographer took “wanted” pictures. The town park was full of games such as a polar slide, ring toss and plink-o where kids could play for tickets to spend at the prize table. A chili cook-out

contest was held in the saloon. Guests could sample and vote for their favorites. At the school house, children could colour pictures and get their faces painted by Riverside students. A community bingo was held in the cafeteria and the night was complete with a barbeque and a live horse at the front doors.

Through out the night different contests were held in the middle of the gym such as a tug-o-war, sack race and wagon wheel eating contest. The night finally wrapped up with performances from both the band and choir; the last song of the evening being *Happy Trails* to thank everyone for coming out.

## National kick-a-ginger-day, harmless humor or dangerous discrimination?

Rebecca Tipper - staff reporter

Thursday November 20<sup>th</sup> approximately 5,000 students all around Canada took part in a facebook event, “Kick a Ginger Day.”

The “event” encouraged students to go up to the redhead students in their school and kick them. This idea came from a *South Park* episode where they were making fun of redheads saying that they were “nasty” and “born with a disease”, and that it was best to kick the “gingers”.

A fourteen year old boy from Vancouver Island, who was

the creator of this facebook group, said that it was only meant to be taken as a joke; however, this “joke” has harmed many redheaded students all across Canada who no longer feel safe enough to be able to go to school, afraid that they will be kicked again by their peers. Redheaded students who left their school had bruises covering their legs from being kicked so many times.

Tulani Ackerman, a teacher from Prince Rupert Secondary School, told CBC News about how her younger brother was kicked by many different students throughout the entire day until he finally fled the school

because he was so scared to be around his peers, and that night he felt so terrified and unsafe that he would not go out anywhere without someone with him. Ackerman and her class dyed their hair red on November 27 to denounce the violence.

Tammy Douglas, a Comox Valley RCMP Constable, said that the group is being investigated and that they are looking to charge those who were involved in this attack. “...this is sort of inciting hate. It's a hate crime really,” said Douglas to the *Vancouver Sun*.

An Ottawa mother let her 13 year old son

stay home from school after finding out he had been told by his students peers they were going to be kicking him on that day making him so afraid that he did not want to go to school.

Isn't school suppose to be the place where students can feel safe? This incident truly shows that the anti-bullying messages going around are not really getting through to some kids, and that more work in schools, community and the family is needed to combat inappropriate “teasing” that can be a quick transition to violence and intolerance.



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# Finding solace in hard times?

In the past few months, the economy has taken a significant downfall. People have sold their houses and cars, taken second jobs, and some have even gone bankrupt. But when things couldn't get any worse, Christmas is just around the corner. It's the biggest shopping season of the year and people spend hundreds, even thousands of dollars on gifts, food, and decorations that they don't necessarily need.

Because of the economy, people have put tighter leashes around their money. After spending it on necessary things like bill payments, groceries, and gas, and many may cut their Christmas spending nearly in half, leading to a less than satisfying holiday for some people. Christmas tradition for many people would be to spend as much as they can on other people or get as many presents stuffed under their plastic Christmas trees as possible. But with the current economy, that might not be possible for many middle class families this year, who have lived comfortably for the past while. This year is going to be especially hard for the families that are under the poverty line; those that we help with the Christmas Hampers. If they rely on us to bring them a happy Christmas when we are budgeting ourselves, this holiday could quickly turn into something that no one wants it to be.

Families are not the only ones that are feeling the financial squeeze. Ontario is built on its auto industry, which is primarily GM, Ford, and Chrysler. Because fuel is at such a high price, people don't necessarily want massive trucks and pickups that drink down gas like it's an open bar. People want cars that can save gas and use it at a better rate, costing them less money in the long run. Because of this trickle down effect, people not wanting to buy the cars that the companies make, the 'Big Three' are in more trouble than you can believe.

Even the logging business is having a major dilemma. The U.S.A. is our biggest client; they buy more wood from us than anyone else. The main use for that wood is to build houses and apartments, but people don't want to buy new properties if they can't afford them. This puts some loggers and then a few construction workers out of a job, who would evidently put less money back into the economy because of their financial situation, causing the economy to suffer even more.

But this doesn't have to be all bad news. This could be a chance for us as a country to lead a change in the way we live and in what we do. The Canadian government and industries have an opportunity with this economic wake up call to invest in fuel efficient cars and green businesses which would make the planet better for us all. We could effectively change the planet for the rest of time!

This economic turbulence will eventually pass, but before it does, we will have to get through this cost demanding season. Regardless of how many hundreds of dollars you spend or how many presents you happen to get, this holiday is meant for happy memories, so let's keep it that way.

*The editorials that appear in this space represent the opinion of the Eddy. They do not necessarily represent the personal views of the writer. The positions taken in the editorials are arrived through discussion among members of the Eddy staff.*



## POINT COUNTER POINT

# Holidays should be neutral



Christmas is almost around the bend and shops, schools and various organizations are putting up their decorations keeping in mind that Canada is a nation with many ethnicities and religions. Yes, Canada's founding nations, the French and the English are Christian that traditionally celebrates the birth of Christ. But Canada has evolved into the nation it is today, one of many identities. As a multicultural community, we don't want to offend or exclude anyone, so language and symbols around

Christmas have to remain neutral.

One of the changes that has occurred to remain neutral is that district schools use the term 'Winter Vacation' instead of 'Christmas Break', so that all religions can be happy that the schools don't just refer to students that celebrate Christmas. Also many elementary schools have assembly's around this time of year and they sing a lot of songs, but some songs have been taken away; for instance, instead of kids singing the **Little Drummer Boy**, they sing **Frosty the Snow Man**, a beloved children's song that everyone of any religion can enjoy. Even in middle schools and some high schools, they have activities around this time of year that are fun and that anyone from any religion can participate in. Government offices quite rightly remove all religions overtones

connected to Christmas such as the Nativity Scene because some might find it disrespectful if their beliefs are not considered as are the people who celebrate Christmas.

We should all be proud that we are surrounded by so many different religions, and that we are exposed to many cultures from all over the world. Many people would feel offended and complain if City Hall displayed the Menorah, a Jewish Hanukkah symbol, or the Crescent Moon of Islam. So why are Christian symbols accepted? Taking the 'Christ' out of Christmas and saying Happy Holidays is perfectly acceptable if it means not offending any one group! We can't force a religion on someone; it's a family or a personal choice to celebrate a religious holiday whether its, Ramadan, Christmas or Hanukkah.

# Sticking with the status quo



Here comes the season of spending money, cold weather, and most of all, political correctness. Christmas has been the prominent tradition in Canada since 1867, and everything from the suggestions to rewrite classic Christmas carols, to the taking down of Christmas trees in certain public places happens during this time of year to create a more secular environment.

Living in a place with no distinction is not living at all, and it is not possible to please everyone either. We can't just try to neutralize a tradition we've been living with for so long, out of fear of possibly antagonizing others, especially since the great part of living in Canada is that it is a multicultural place that welcomes people who come from other countries to visit or move to permanently.

For the people who don't feel comfortable following the traditions Canada has historically followed, they can always find a group of people who celebrate the same morals, and traditions as them. For example, if you're Chinese, there are many Chinese communities all over Vancouver and same goes for the Japanese, Italians, Iranians, ect. One shouldn't be surprised when

walking down the streets of these places to see shop signs with no English translations. Why the pressure to say "Happy Holiday" instead of "Merry Christmas"? with so many culturally diverse areas throughout our cities. People who choose to celebrate Christmas (About 77% of Canadian's are Christian) should go by the rule of their majority, and the people who don't like it can celebrate their own holidays with people who choose to as well.

To have respect for each other is of course important, but "Happy Holidays" is generic and bland and not as meaningful as a "Merry Christmas" is.

Can you imagine watching *A Charlie Brown Holiday* instead of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*? Some things should just stay the way they are.

**the eddy**  
riverside secondary

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

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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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# Video games can lead to deadly addiction

Konrad Spurek - staff reporter

Video game addiction is quickly becoming a serious problem in the lives of youth, especially males.

Polls have suggested that as many as 12% of gamers are addicted, but numbers can vary depending on the game. MMORPG, (Massively multiplayer online role-playing games) are considered to be more addicting than other video games. One MMORPG in particular, World of Warcraft, is very obsessive. 40% of WoW players are considered to be addicted, studies say.

The difference between MMORPGs and regular video games is that regular video games have an end. You play through a number of levels or stages and

eventually the storyline has an ending. MMORPGs, however, have no ending. There is always another skill to train, quest to do, etc. The game goes on whether you are logged on or not, which results in the addicted player spending as much time online as possible.

Another particularly addicting trait in MMORPGs is the fact that you are playing with thousands, if not millions, of other players. Players become engrossed in their gaming community, often ignoring or even abandoning their real life community. The anonymity of being online is a plus for many gamers. A social outcast in real life can dominate a video game and become popular, which can lead to the gamer



Image courtesy of Flickr

Some addiction clinics for alcoholics and are now even open to gamers.

enjoying his/her game life more than real life.

Many people dispute whether video game addiction can be considered an addiction at all.

Nevertheless, video game addiction clinics have opened up around the world. Many "regular addiction" clinics accept video game addicts to their programs.

One such addiction clinic in Richmond says that video game addiction accounts for 80% of one youth counselor's case load.

There are extreme examples of what happens when gamers go too far, like the man who died after gaming for 50 hours straight or parents that left their children to die at home while they were at an internet café.

Probably the most well-known story is that of Brandon Crisp. Crisp ran away from his home after his parents took away his XBOX 360. He later died from chest injuries after a fall from a tree. Experts say that since Crisp was more interested in his gaming life, his parent's taking away his XBOX was the equivalent of taking away his life.

## Law 12 class debates Winnipeg bylaw in mock trial

Amy-Sue Brown - staff reporter

Mr. Perry's law 12 class began a mock trial addressing the issue of pan handling on Thursday November 6<sup>th</sup>. The class was divided into two teams, flipping a coin to see who would be representing the city of Winnipeg and who would represent NAPO (National Anti-Poverty Organization). Mr. Perry stood as judge and the trial lasted for 5 classes, finishing on Friday November 14<sup>th</sup>.

The issue was brought on by the new bylaw Winnipeg passed that prohibited panhandling in public places, for example, bus stops or vending machines. NAPO claims that this new bylaw violates rights of equality, freedom of speech and



A. Brown/Eddy

Mr. Perry's law 12 students contemplating the case for the debate.

discrimination because it targets people living in poverty and prohibits them from asking for help. The city of Winnipeg argues in contrast that the bylaw affects

all people, and is to protect the people from panhandlers taking advantage of people. "It's actually a really interesting case," said Law 12 student Flavia Stana, "Poverty

is a really big issue. We only see it usually on a global scale, but its right at home here."

The purpose of the mock trial was to teach students the fundamentals of addressing the court. "I think that it's a way for them to learn that law is a performing art... as a trial lawyer, you have to be able to perform on your feet and think on your feet in front of an audience," commented Law 12 teacher Mr. Perry, "These students are getting the opportunity to learn that there's more to being a lawyer than just knowing the law. You have to be able to communicate effectively."

Each student will write an in class essay, pretending that they are the judge and present which side they think should win the case.

## Remembering more than ever

Farnaz Masoodi - staff reporter

Riverside Secondary had a Remembrance Day assembly on Friday November 7<sup>th</sup> to remember all those brave people who lost their lives fighting for our country.

The assembly started off with every one rising to sing O' Canada, accompanied by the school choir, and then a Welcome speech by Principal Mr. Robinson.

"It has some personal meaning to me," said Robinson about his speech.

"As I spoke about during the ceremony, both my grandfathers fought in the Second World War and their experiences had some lasting impact on my parents and then on me. Having this family connection helps me keep it real, instead of just thinking or talking about anonymous people who I have no connection to."

Student MC Brooke Johansen read a piece entitled "Connecting the Past with the Present," which demonstrated the parallels of war in the past, and compared them to the wars of now.

Brooke then introduced a movement piece by Mr. Secunda's



F. Masoodi/Eddy

Mr. Secunda's drama class perform a movement piece, representing everything from birth to marriage.

drama class, with music accompanied by student Kirsten Durand singing a beautiful rendition of "Let It Be" by The Beatles.

The interpretive piece that the drama class performed represented everything from birth to marriage with wonderful poise and a message hidden within the flawless movements of the performers. Without any words

spoken, they delivered a strong and poignant look on life and death.

Student MC's Roman Carelli and Shannan Singh shared the stage with a reading that linked past wars to the current wars in the Middle East, and the choir performed "Bridge over Troubled Waters" in perfect harmony.

MC Brooke Johansen then introduced the Honoured Guest

Speaker, Jean Paul Dupreril, who told his stories of war, sacrifice, and inspiration.

Student Daniel Jung also read a poem entitled "60 Seconds Once a Year," and afterwards, everyone rose for a moment of silence, followed by the classic bugle call, "Last Post."

Brooke then proceeded to read out the names of Local War Veterans as the Leadership students lit candles for every name read out, in memory of each local soldier who served in the war.

The students in the audience also showed to be very attentive throughout the entire assembly.

"I was completely blown away by the level of maturity and respect shown by the audience," said Mr. Robinson.

"Guests to the school, as well as a number of staff members, commented to me that they had never witnessed such respect and it made me very proud to be the principal of Riverside."

Though wars have passed, they are still happening to this day, Riverside showed the respect and esteem that would make any soldier proud.

## Meet the Council

Iris Jong - staff reporter

Student Council had their first meeting in Mr. Lemieux class on October 21<sup>st</sup>. They discussed school issues, future goals and their upcoming events for the school. The Student Council members are Leigh Selden, Kyleigh Francles, Joseph Ohio, Alyssa Meg, Dakota Merradita, Jason Lu, Marek Murkowski, Shannon Knight, Jenny Wong, Meghan Lu, Chris Ohio, Patrick Ohio, Joanne Paeng, and Yasmin Darcy.

The Student Council, unlike Leadership, represents the student body, and is usually voted in by the students of Riverside. This year the members won by acclamation. The Student Council suggests their opinions about the school issues and sends the opinions to the principal. The student council has done a lot of beneficial things for our school, such as getting microwaves, coming up with RAP videos and making dress code changes.

Mr. Lemieux and Mr. Lepore are the advisors of the Student Council. They help organize the Student Council, but never give students directions.

"I hope the Student Council sets goals that would reflect the wishes of the student body of Riverside Secondary and that would show leadership," said Lemieux.

The Student Councils goals for this year are to interview the student body about what they think Riverside should improve upon, and make positive changes based on the actual students' opinions. Other goals are to address the rising price of graduation photos and have music in the cafeteria.



# A time for giving

Tori Dove  
-staff reporter

Riverside teacher Elizabeth Bancroft has taken over the Christmas hampers from counselor Brian Kenny who retired last June. Bancroft feels very strongly about helping people in our community especially for the holiday season. The Christmas Hampers are about giving to those families in need and making their Christmas shine a little brighter. The families apply to the SHARE program that then sends a list to Riverside. Our school does not help any families with children who attend Riverside to ensure confidentiality for the family as well as the student. This year our school has started collecting the hampers early to make sure the students have plenty of time to bring in their contributions and to make sure hampers are complete.

R.A.P officially starts to collect the hampers on Wednesday December 3, 2008. Riverside has many traditions when it comes to the Christmas hampers. The Home Economics class makes bath salts and Christmas cards to personalize the hampers. The administration

**Christmas hampers are such a great way to give back to the community.**

**-Bancroft**

”

buys Safeway gift cards for every family and adds a letter on behalf of Riverside Secondary. The best food products for the hampers are proteins like peanut butter, salmon, tuna, chunky soups and seasonal baking goods. Toiletry products such as toilet paper and specialty



# CHRISTMAS

# RIVERSIDE

## Christmas the way

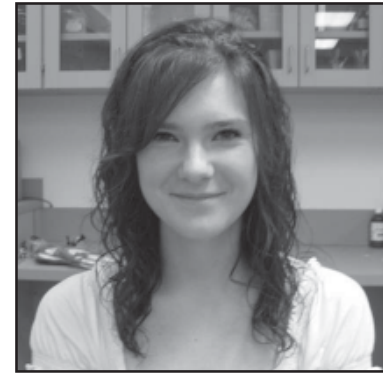
Alaina Kuipers

How did the birth of Christ, 2000 years ago, end up with robot-like shoppers running rampant? The history of Christmas is based around the life of Jesus. The birth of Christ starts with the pregnancy of Mary. The angel Gabriel told her to go to Bethlehem, give birth to a son. Jesus gave birth in a barn because there was no room in the inn. Jesus, God's only son, was born in Bethlehem. The Sheppard came to give gifts. Since then, Christmas has been a time when people give gifts. Christmas was a typical European tradition but that was only until the early 19th century when it officially entered into the Christmas tradition. An advertiser's dream, bringing in millions of dollars, has been rumored that Coca-Cola invented Santa. Santa has been around for ages. Coca-Cola created him and it's told to be the reason Santa is the way he is. The men in North America, but the idea didn't catch on until the 18th century. Saint Nicholas is the figure for the figure of Santa Claus. He was a bishop in Lycia which is modern day Turkey. He was known for giving generous gifts to the poor around Christmas. The plump, white bearded man in a red suit and hat. The Santa phenomenon began, Christmas is a time of the holidays and turned into a special time.



*“My mom is always so stressed during the holidays.”*

- Arden Laliberte  
Grade 11



*“My family spends at least \$1000 on Christmas presents.”*

-Taylore Penman  
Grade 11

# Eco-friendly Christmas

Rebecca Tipper  
-staff reporter

These days more people are trying to live an eco-friendly life, from recycling to buying organic food. But a necessary question for this Christmas season is, how can one have an eco friendly Christmas? Along with all the presents come a lot of garbage for the landfills, packaging, gift wrap, Christmas trees and energy wasting lights. The average Canadian throws away four pounds of trash a day, this can double over the Christmas season ([www.wasteonline.com](http://www.wasteonline.com)).



courtesy of Flickr.com

**Pop bottles and cans make great eco-ornaments.**

but sooner or later they are thrown out because they don't last forever. They are made out of non-biodegradable materials that sit in landfills forever, but real Christmas trees are recycled and made into mulch and reintroduced into the earth as a nutrient. Another option would be to keep the trees in a planter and put it outside after the Christmas season.

There is also the matter of all the

electricity used with the Christmas lights that are put out all around yards, and homes. You can still use all of the lights; however, it would be more eco friendly if to use LED lights- a more green way to celebrate Christmas. Not only does using LED lights help the planet, it helps you save more money as they use a lot less electricity. Christmas is a time for giving; we should start thinking about giving back to our planet.

# Christmas word search

L	W	H	S	V	M	I	S	G	C	A	R	D	S
H	C	H	I	M	N	E	Y	G	Y	P	H	R	E
Y	Y	C	A	R	O	L	S	Y	O	Y	M	E	L
A	U	N	S	N	O	I	T	A	R	O	C	E	D
D	Y	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	G	D	N
I	T	V	T	R	U	D	O	L	P	H	I	N	A
L	R	M	N	C	R	A	F	T	S	U	F	I	C
O	E	M	A	S	L	E	I	G	H	S	T	E	E
H	E	W	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	S	R	V

CHRISTMAS  
GIFTS  
SANTA  
TREE  
CRAFTS

RUDOLPH  
HOLIDAY  
CARDS  
SLEIGH  
REINDEER

STOCKING  
CHIMNEY  
CANDLES  
DECORATIONS  
CAROLS



# Down by the

# What do you wa



Grade 10-  
Karen Lidher

*“A cat so I can have more cats.”*



Grade 9-  
Atena Rostarian

*“To go back to my country.”*



Grade 9-  
Masha

*“To go to*



# MERRY CHRISTMAS AT RIVERSIDE



## Merry Christmas!

Iraqi - Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah

French - *Joyeux Noël* Thai - *Sawadee Pee Mai*

German - **Froehliche Weihnachten**

Brazilian - **Bons Festas e Feliz Ano Novo**

Cantonese - **Gun Tso Sun Tan'Gung Haw Sun**

Spanish - *Feliz Navidad* Hindi - Shub Naya Baras

Greek - KALA CHRISTOUYENNA!

way it should be

staff reporter

years ago, become a sprint to the mall from store to store? A traditional story of the story of Jesus' birth. The story of the Virgin Mary who was told by the Holy Spirit to have a son, and name him Jesus. Mary was told that there was no room in the inn, so Jesus was born in a manger and three wise men and shepherds followed him. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Christian and early North American celebration, the Christmas story was popularized in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when Santa Claus was introduced. Santa Claus is an American Christmas custom. It has been popularized by Coca-Cola, but the truth is that Santa Claus did help create the image of Santa Claus. Santa Claus is one of the most famous characters in the world. The story of Santa Claus has been around since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Saint Nicholas of Myra is the leading inspiration for Santa Claus. He was a 4<sup>th</sup> century Greek bishop of Myra in Turkey. Nicholas was famous for his gift-giving. We all recognize him as a man in a red and white suit. Some time after the 18<sup>th</sup> century, he started to lose the true meaning of his gift-giving. The Christmas shopping spree.



*"My Favorite part about Christmas is going to my cousin's house."*

- Kimmie Werner



in every local mall. Not only does the Christmas shopping spree represent materialism during the Christmas season. Christmas is now made into one of the most popular holidays, next to Valentine's Day. Studies show that people spend more money on Christmas purchases, they are more likely to be stressed because of the Christmas spirit. Psychologists say that people are over stressed because of the demands on their time. The average person spends more money on Christmas shopping alone. Cutting down on Christmas shopping, more stress is created in the New Year. People have to pay back the money spent. People feel stressed because one can avoid the Christmas shopping spree in a panic at closing time. People are less likely to buy Christmas presents and more likely to buy Christmas cards. People buy Christmas cards instead of buying presents. Why not make a new tradition like snowboarding or cross country skiing. Christmas is mainly spent shopping to make your Christmas the way it



*"I like to make cards instead of buying them."*

-Thomas Henriksson  
Grade 10

### Christmas in the community

Natasha Bjarnason  
-staff reporter

Are you looking for a way to get in the Christmas Spirit this season?

Check out these activities in and around our community.

 <p>Evergreen Cultural Centre &amp; Coastal Sound Music Academy present "Coastal Sound Family of Choirs Christmas" Tickets: early bird: \$15 / \$10 / \$5 After Dec 8: \$20 / \$15 / \$10 December 14 at 3pm and 7pm</p>	<p>Evergreen Cultural Centre &amp; the Pacific Symphonic Wind Ensemble present "Sleigh Ride and Other Winter Sport" Tickets: 25/ 20/ 15/ 12\$ December 13<sup>th</sup> at 8pm</p>	 <p>Showstoppers Academy A Show stopping Christmas Concert Friday, December 19, 2008 7:00pm Terry Fox Theatre Adult: 8/6 \$ Ticket Number: 778-285-7664</p>
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## A Croation Christmas

Jelena Vatavuk  
-guest reporter

Many different cultures have diverse traditions that they partake in every holiday season. I am from a Croatian background and so I am Catholic and my family also has a few Christmas time traditions that we follow. Starting on Christmas Eve, Croats will fast, serving and eating only seafood instead of other meat during meals. Then as the evening comes, we will get ready to attend midnight mass. Midnight mass is a church service that begins at eleven pm on Christmas Eve and lasts until one am on Christmas Day. Many Croats will attend this mass, and usually you can find a large portion of the community

attending. The church is usually completely full and many will listen to mass outside! It is a formal event, and it is very bad etiquette to have a cell phone go off or to wear jeans, running shoes or any provocative clothing. Inside, the church is beautifully decorated with many candles and flowers. At the church I attend, there is a "Tamburica" orchestra that plays throughout the mass. The Tamburica is a traditional Croatian mandolin-like instrument, and it just so happens that I play it. So as my parents attend mass in the regular pews, my brother and I, along with the rest of the orchestra will play Croatian Christmas songs along with the choir, on the higher up balcony inside my church. The music played and songs sung are

almost all religious and have to do with the birth of Christ. The mass can be easily heard from outside. When mass is over, everyone drives home to bed. Most will wake up fairly early on Christmas Day again to open presents and get ready again for church because there is also a Christmas Day mass. Mass starts at ten am and goes till around noon. At both these masses, confession is available. It is very important to go to confession so to be cleansed for such a holy and important day. When mass is finished, we go home and have a very large dinner of delicious, traditional Croation food. We celebrate Christmas as a family and then when it's time to eat, we say a blessing and dig in! Its always such a fun time!

## What do you want for Christmas?

What do you want for Christmas?



Grade 12-  
Aina-Sanati  
"I want to go to the USA!"



Grade 12-  
Sven Lee  
"I want a new car."



Grade 11-  
Jerry Chen  
"An iTouch would be cool."



## Festive scrambler

Unscramble the words below:

1. rtsfyo_____	11. neca_____
2. scoegro_____	12. snrpseet_____
3. treceebal_____	13. lvsee_____
4. gengog_____	14. lthgsi_____
5. llseb_____	15. legnsa_____
6. olylh_____	16. paereilcf_____
7. uchrh_____	
8. bgadnoxyi_____	8. Boxing Day.
9. etslvaif_____	7. Church.
10. tavnaioc_____	6. Holly.
	5. Bells.
	4. Eggnog.
	3. Celebrate.
	2. Scrooge.
	1. Frosty.
	15. Angels.
	14. Lights.
	13. Elves.
	12. Presents.
	11. Cane.
	10. Vacation.
	9. Festival.
	16. Fireplace.





Tuesday, December 9th, 2008 - Vol. 13 No. 4

# Hawthorne greeting from R-Side

Rebecca Tipper  
- staff reporter

In an effort to reach out to the community and a group of people who are often overlooked and neglected, the leadership classes have been going to senior homes and helping out in anyway that they are able to. The block A leadership class has been going on Thursday mornings to visit the seniors living in the North & South Cottages of Hawthorne Lodge. Some of the senior citizens there are suffering from different levels of dementia. Dementia results in seniors not knowing their loved ones, and sometimes even themselves. The leadership classes have been separating into two groups; one goes to the North Cottage and the other goes to the South Cottage.

The south deals with more progressed levels of dementia. Some of the activities that they do



J. Blaxland/staff

Leadership Student Fatima Aziz at Hawthorne Lodge.

there with the seniors include reading the morning newspaper to them, sitting and talking, drawing, colouring, singing songs, walking

around, baking, and simply being company. Students are going to be making Discovery Kits for the seniors. A Discovery Kit is a 3-D,

themed tool assembled for the exploration of their memories. Enclosed in the box are various items that can be used to stimulate

the five senses and help bring back some happy memories.

The boxes are based on themes such as sewing, fishing, the Prairies, and other things that the seniors were interested in. "It makes me hope that when I get older, that I can be in a place with so much positivity," said block A Leadership student Chantel Lukawesky.

The block C leadership class has been visiting the Hawthorne tower where the senior citizens there need assisted living. Some of the students are paired up with a senior and do activities together such as helping them write their autobiographies, do word searches and just visit. They are planning on doing a Christmas Talent show for the seniors there. "Going to visit the seniors is not only rewarding for them, but for the leadership students at the same time," said the Leadership students.

# R-Side students featured in art show

Tori Dove - staff reporter

This year many Riverside art students were invited back to the annual Circle Craft fair at the Pacific Convention Center in Vancouver. Our school was recommended to Circle Craft by art teacher Mike McElgunn from Gleneagle. Our school had fifteen grade eleven and twelve students submitting art work that included mixed media, paintings, sculptures and photographs. Some of the students who participated in this event where Leeann Dimock, Morgan Easthope, Marissa Forsythe, Shannon McCubbin, Leigh Selden, Kim Werner and Devin Lee. "I am extremely proud of all of the students involved in the exhibition; it is a true pleasure to work with them and to support them as they blossom into such amazing artists,"

said art teacher Janice Schmidt. One of the art pieces that will be showcased was a mixed media project called "Humanimals." This art piece is a combination of india

**I am extremely proud of all of the students involved in the exhibition,**

**- Janice Schmidt**  
”

ink and other art materials that reveal humanized animals. Some of the other art pieces in the show include a far out fashion illustration, a mediaeval princess

drawing and several black and white photographs. Unlike the other artists and their art pieces at Circle Craft, the students work is not to make a profit, but to show our community just how talented our youth is; however, many requests have been made to purchase some of the Humanimals art pieces from the students. Circle Craft is an excellent opportunity for students to get their work out for the public to see because it is a high profile show that many people around the world visit. "All of the students have done extremely strong work, that's why they were picked to be in the show," said Schmidt. "The students are all very talented, all take direction and constructive criticism well, and all work extremely hard often putting in extra hours outside of class time and exceeding expectations."



K.Shong/Eddy

Devin Lee and her Humanimal portrait at the Circle Craft fair

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# A Look at 2008

Susana Martinez -staff reporter

There has been many memorable events and moments in 2008, some have happened on the world stage, and others have happened right here at Riverside.

## 2008 Olympics

Canada represented itself very well at the Beijing Olympics with our athletes doing a fantastic job, winning a total of 18 medals - 3 Gold, 9 Silver, and 6 Bronze.

## The American Elections

Barack Obama, the Democratic presidential nominee, was elected the 44<sup>th</sup> president of the United States on Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup>, defeating the Republican pick for president, John McCain. Breaking

the racial barrier in American politics, the country chose him as its first African American president, an historical event.

## Dark Knight

The top rated movie of 2008 was the thrilling Dark Knight. Batman raises the stakes on his adventure to dismantle the remaining criminals that walk the city streets of Gotham with help from his partners Lieutenant Jim Gordon and District Attorney Harvey Dent. They find themselves prey to the chaos brought on by the criminal mastermind The Joker. The movie also garnered lots of attention because one of its stars, Keith Ledger, died tragically from a drug overdose before the movie came out.

## Umoja

Riverside hosted the South African musical cast of "Umoja," which means 'unity' in Swahili, the language of the people of Eastern Africa. The group partnered up with Riverside school music students to help collect and ship unused Coquitlam school books to schools in Africa. It was a very successful collaboration, with a total of 10,000 books collected, packaged and shipped

## Senior girls Basketball Team

The senior girls basketball team had a very successful year in 2008. they lost at the provincials but against the Elgin Park Orcas. With 2000 people in attendance The Orcas took the win with the final score of 71-67.





# Riversides's 2009 fashion guide

**Sarah Wahedi- staff reporter**

Keep this article on-hand when you clean out your closet for the New Year, and ring in 2009 with a style conscious wardrobe. Christmas time is when we start making our wish-lists, and fashion lovers, it is the time to seek some advice on what to ask Santa for. Comparing the latest runway looks to easy bargain finds that you can look for at any mall is something that you should experiment with. Grab an entertainment magazine and hit the stores with open minded choices. To find the look of winter, we scoured to find the biggest runway collections by the biggest names in fashion. Kate Gyorgy (above left) is wearing a similar outfit that was found on mega model Skye Stracke modeling for Chanel. The new fall-winter 2009 season included the latest



S. Wahedi/The Eddy

**Kate Gyorgy modeling affordable clothes in comparison to more pricey options.**

cashmere throws and oriental styled trench-coats that the designers of Chanel had mentioned would be the must have items of the winter season. The Black Leather 3.1 PhillipLim Handbag is valued at \$650 and an almost exact resemblance of the Phillip Lim handbag can be found at the Aldo in Coquitlam Centre



Courtesy of Teen Vogue

valued at approximately \$40. The shawl that our model is wearing is from Urban Behavior which was an inspiration not only from the Chanel line, but a new trend alert that's been slowly coming out from recent runway shows. The Chanel shawl is worth roughly around \$800 and the Aritzia cashmere shawl is worth \$80. The chances

of buying the exact outfit of a big fashion name is not likely, but adding a little bit of personal taste or throwing in a simple necklace, scarf, handbag, or belt can really accessorize the perfect winter outfit. Furthermore, a big question that keeps coming up is what are the perfect boots? A really good pair of boots that aren't as expensive as Uggs or as glamorous as Jimmy Choos, is the new waterproof LaFarge boots from Aldo worth around \$140. They'll last you through the rough winter and the wool lining will keep you warm even in the most frigid mornings. Concluding this month's fashion article, keep in mind that your clothing represents your personality and trying to find that perfect outfit for the holiday season just takes a bit of comparing and an eye for fashion.

## Upcoming Concerts

### George Canyon

When: December 12th  
Where: Massey Theatre  
Genre: Country

### Theory of a Dead Man

When: January 26th  
Where: The Center for the Performing arts  
Genre: Alternative Rock

### Brad Paisley

When: February 24th  
Where: General Motors Place  
Genre: Country

### Britney Spears

When: April 8th  
Where: General Motors Place  
Genre: Pop / Rock

\*See ticketmaster.com for more details

# Macbeth moves audience

**Amy-Sue Brown- staff reporter**

Riverside actors blew the audience away with their performance of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The tragic tale revealed an improvement in talent from last year's metfest performance.

The story of *Macbeth* takes us through the life of Macbeth after his encounter with three strange witches predicting his eventual crowning. After one of their predictions comes to pass, Macbeth becomes tempted with the idea of becoming king and begins to take matters into his own

hands. As the play progresses, Macbeth battles with his morals before losing hold of them completely, which brings to pass his own demise.

Myles McCarthy did an amazing job in the role of Macbeth, effectively communicating the transition points in the play and Macbeth's own inner conflict with powerful feeling in his voice, face and demeanor. Not to be overshadowed was Kirsten Arthurs playing Lady Macbeth. In combination with McCarthy the two brought a powerful chemistry that allowed even the most Shakespeare illiterate people of the

audience to feel their relationship.

Another commendable performance was that of grade nine student David Lees. With several bit parts in the play, he showed amazing maturity in each of his roles that made him a pleasure to watch. The vocal performances by Kirsten Durand as Hecate set the mood for the play in several scenes; opening the play itself with a haunting feeling.

Last but not least Emily Wilson, Joylyn Secunda and Jen Soroczka as the three eerie witches who came together as a team and played off of each other to make this a truly unforgettable performance.



R. Pope/The Eddy

**Riverside's drama department gave a show stopper performance in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.**



### Canucks need to change

The Vancouver Canucks have been one of the most mediocre teams in the NHL for pretty much their entire existence and I'm getting tired of it. Sure, they're doing pretty good this season (They were 14-9-2 when I wrote this article), but let me remind you that they had pretty much the same record at this point of the season last year, and the year before that. What do they have to show for these good starts: Absolutely nothing.

Unless they win the Cup this year, the Canucks just need to start over and follow the Pittsburgh Penguins model - suffer through a few years of losing, get high draft picks, and build a core of young talent.

It's been getting harder and harder for me to get excited about this team over the past couple years. Changes need to be made.

## Natasha Bjarnason and Konrad Spurek

present...

# POTSHOTS

TOUGH TALK FOR A TOUGH WORLD



### Hippo Critical

Taking pop, candy, and chocolate out of our school vending machines is pointless if you leave hamburgers, fries, nuggets and pizza on the cafeteria menu. I mean, since the school has taken out sugary drinks from the vending machines and Rapid Stop, kids have just been going to the Shell and Chevron at lunch and buying it there. No one's going to buy an overpriced Fruit 2 Go when you can get a box of them for a buck, and why would you spend a fortune on apple chips when Doritos are so much cheaper and a five minute walk away from the school?

The school is losing money, but kids get the drinks anyway, so we might as well bring it back. This is money that the school could be using to buy books or get better sports equipment. So in reality, we aren't ranting about the lack of sugary drinks, we're ranting because we want a better future for our students. PEACE!

### Couch Potato

Don't you hate it when you're busting your buns in gym, wanting to get a good workout and to win whatever game you're playing, and some lazy, lame-oh person is just standing there and not putting any effort in? If you say *anything* to them like "c'mon lets get a move on" reply with "Nobody's passing me the ball." Maybe if you moved you around and tried just a bit YOU WOULD GET THE BALL.

Another annoying thing is when you're running around the school for warm up and there are always those five people walking in the back. Even when most of the running/jogging people return to the school you have to wait for those people to walk back, which takes time out of the fun activities planned. These are usually the same sort of people who are complaining about the 150 required physical activity minutes a week. But if you can't even break a sweat during gym, maybe it wouldn't be such a bad thing.





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# Riverside's champion volleyball teams



Chifundo Phiri- staff reporter

It has been a successful year for Riverside's Volleyball teams. The Sr. Girls, Jr. Girls, Jr. Boys and the Grade 9 are the four best teams in the District.

The junior boys and girls had the most successful season in school history. They both won the District Championship. The Girls went undefeated in the entire competition and ranked number one at the Districts. "We've had to work our way through some tough situations, but over the last couple of weeks if not months we've been playing some good volleyball," Mr. Colombo said. While Mr. Gee, the Jr. Girls head Coach said, "We simply responded to situations better. Mentally, the players have responded. The Girls carried the momentum into the Fraser Valley, and made it possible to defeat the host and finish second.

The Provincial Championships were rather crucial for the Jr. Girls. They faced several matches that could have ended their chances, but they were able to pull it through and show off their talents by defeating a very difficult MEI team in 3 sets in the quarter finals. Not only that, the Jr. Girls were able to defeat Pacific Academy in 3 sets in the semi finals. The Jr.girls were up again in the finals facing Earl Marriot trying their best, but couldn't get through; they lost in 3 straight sets. Tyler Turnbull was an all-star for her exceptional performance. Mallory Sall and Megan Chong also had strong performances throughout the tournament

## Sr. boys soccer make it to provincials

Laura Munroe - staff reporter

The Senior Soccer Boys team, the Riverside Rapids, made it to Provincials at the Burnaby Sports Complex on November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. They finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the Fraser Valleys, losing two games against Charles Best and Centennial. It's the second time for a Riverside soccer team to make Provincials.

They lost the first game against Charles Best 2-1, but won the second game 3-0 against Dover Bay on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Overall they came 6<sup>th</sup>.The boys are from mixed grades starting at 10 to 12. Defender Shaun Mudliar is really happy the team made provincials. "It's really exciting, and we're pumped to play," said Mudliar.

The team is very good at passing the ball and supporting each other, definitely a team effort. The Rapids worked hard to get where they are



M. Luongo/Staff

The senior boys excited after a succesful season pose for a shot.

today. "Its not like everyday you go to provincials," said Mudliar.

Dan Ostrovsky who plays striker or stopper can't believe they made the Provincials. "It's just been unreal; we're going to give it our best shot and it's going to be huge," commented Ostrovsky. He is very proud of the team and how Riverside Rapids got better and

to help the junior Rapids to a second place finish. "We believe if there's a problem, we knock our head against it until it finally breaks down. We're learning (as a team) if there's a door there, maybe it's easier going through the door. The players are coming back and meeting every positive play with a positive response and every not-so-positive play with a positive response." said Mr. Gee

The Grade 9 Boys Volleyball team also made it by winning the Districts against Charles Best. The district finals were hard for the Gr. 9 Boys, but they managed to win 5 of the games they played. "It was a hard match, but very exciting for the boys considering they had lost to Charles Best the week before," said Mr. Askew. He also said that the hard work, good practice and playing against the Jr. Boys helped prepare the team for their final match. This year was just a beginning for the Gr.9 boys; next year can only get better.

The Sr. Girls also went on to win the Districts. This is the first time in three years the team played in the tournament and they were determined to put everything on the line. "This just goes back to the idea of getting the win when we're down," said head coach Mr. Gee.

The Sr. Girls entered the district championships undefeated and ranked #1. They faced Terry Fox and easily defeated them in the quarter finals, which gave them a chance to face Charles Best in the semi-finals. They defeated Charles Best in 3 straight sets to advance to the finals. This was one of the best districts in which they were able to defeat Pinetree

Secondary, and won the championship in a 5 set marathon. The Sr. Girls had also a chance for the Provincial Championship. The girls were ranked 4<sup>th</sup> entering the tournament. In the quarter-finals the girls faced the host Kelowna Sr. Secondary school. This is the first time in three years the team played in the Provincials, and the team was determined to put everything on the line.

"In front of a very boisterous Kelowna crowd the girls were able to upset Kelowna in an unbelievable 5 set match to advance to the semi-finals," said Mr. Gee. Once again in the semi-finals, the Sr. Girls faced Semiahmoo. "Semiahmoo was simply too strong for the young Riverside team," said Mr. Gee. The team unfortunately lost in 3 straight sets which resulted in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Province.

Mr. Gee said the girls pulled out one of their "grittiest and determined" performances of the year to beat Delta Secondary for the bronze medal. Jen Neilson had an MVP level performance in the entire tournament and was given a first team All-Star, while Andrea Bucko also had one of her best tournaments of the year and received a second team All-Star.

At the end of the season, the team experienced mixed emotions. After such a tremendous jump in the quality that came just a few weeks too late to think about playing in the provincial tournament, there was both excitement for the possibilities of next year and sadness that the four seniors won't get to experience it.



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