

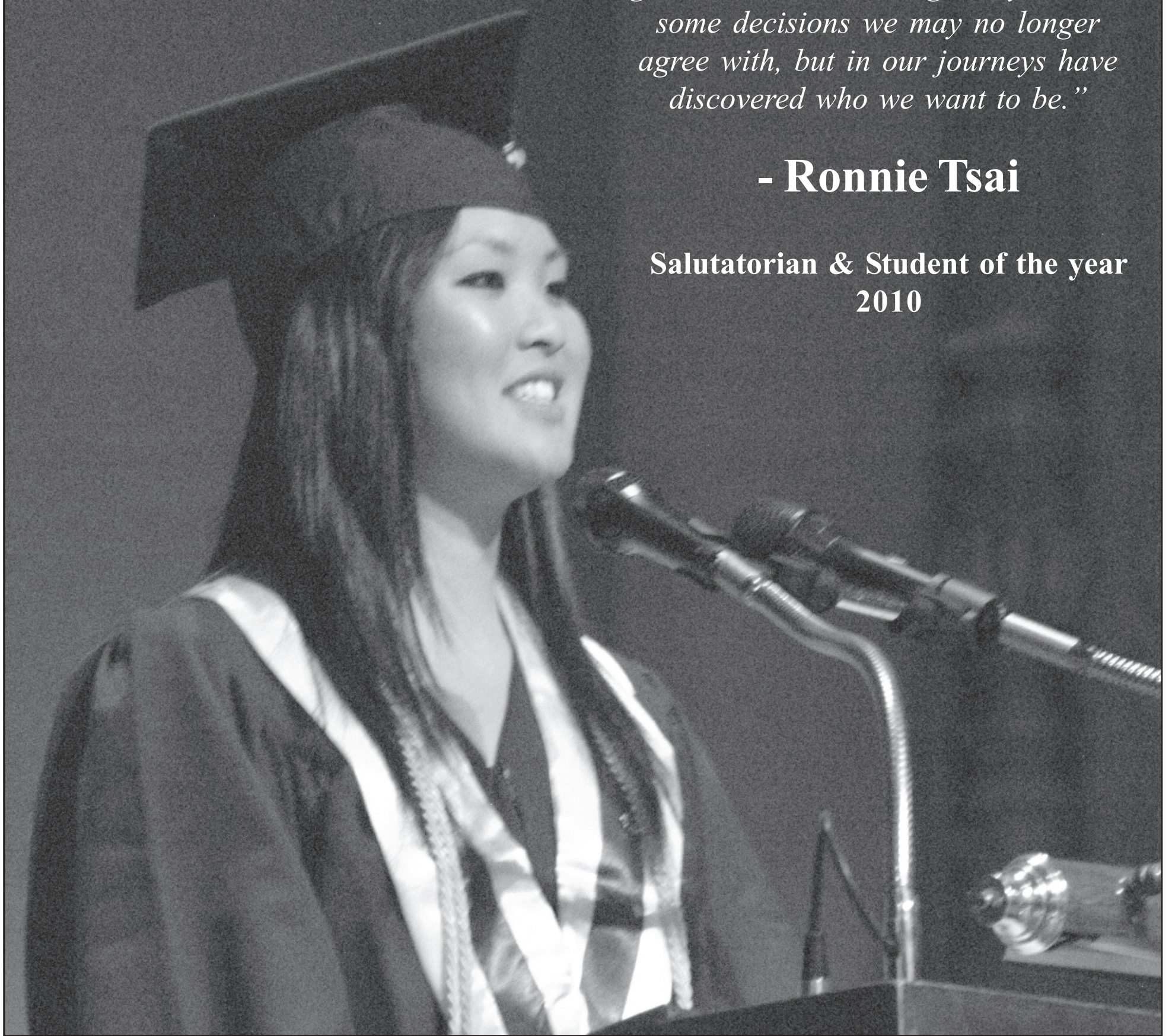


Grad 2010

"We have all taken different paths to get where we are sitting today - made some decisions we may no longer agree with, but in our journeys have discovered who we want to be."

- Ronnie Tsai

**Salutatorian & Student of the year
2010**



**French Immersion students
tour France - p.3**



**Riverside Student *Eden*
Nzeyimana wins national
history contest- p.4**



**12 Hour Relay raises \$4600
for Sierra Leone - p.5**



**Grad 2010: Scholarship
winners & Valedictorian
address - 6, 12**



Teens should redefine their image

Lorraine Lidher - staff reporter

In many recent media reports there have been disturbing stories of a trend involving senior students taking advantage of junior students. The general nature of the problem seems to involve predatory behaviour and inappropriate sexual games at various high schools around the lower mainland. The media has portrayed boys as being uncontrollable sex offenders and girls as being shallow and empty, willing to do anything for attention. Social networking sites, popular music videos and movies seem to be normalizing this behaviour. Rap music often portrays men as the aggressors and females the ready and willing objects of sexual gratification. The over sexualization of teens has led to many negative developments. Many teenagers (mostly girls) are developing a negative sexual self-image, eating-disorders, anxiety and depression, and the messages in pop culture are underling many of these issues according to the American Psychological Association. Senior male students at Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary allegedly set up a Facebook competition to see who could try and seduce the most grade-eight girls; however, there have been no reported victims of this game and no one was charged. A possible reason for the lack of charges or victims coming forward might be the intense code of silence that many teens adhere to or severe embarrassment. Police have also been warning parents and schools of so called LG parties (LG stands for little girl) where older teenagers use Facebook to invite girls as young as 12 and 13 to get drunk, and engage in sexual activity. People who participate in these acts try to capitalize on a young girl's insecurity about popularity and image and use alcohol to prey on them. The long hours teens spend on Facebook and other social networking sites can also lead to situations where almost their entire lives are posted on the internet, making them easy targets of predators. Also, the added effect of young people's parents not knowing much of what's going on in their child's online life adds to the disconnect and increases the risk of them potentially becoming a target of LG parties. Also, many people become labeled and targeted once pictures are posted. To Facebook's credit, both of these acts would have gone unnoticed had not it been discovered through Facebook. There are many legal, health, and emotional repercussions this trend. The legal age of sexual consent in Canada is sixteen. Twelve and thirteen year old teens can only consent to sex with people within a two year age difference. If someone is having sex with a minor, then they could be charged with statutory rape. There is also the risk with unsafe sex of getting pregnant or contacting a STD. The act of being used up and thrown away like trash dehumanizes people and destroys their self-esteem. Many teens now feel that they have to maintain a sexual, perfect image to be wanted and have meaning in their lives. This causes teens to reach out to engage in harmful activities because they are perceived as normal in pop culture, and the thinking is they might gain status. There are ways to fix these troubling trends. The media caters to the trends to make money. If we change what we tolerate in pop cultural then the media will change their message and stop the over sexualization of teens. We need to be aware and on the lookout for behaviours that are used to manipulate and hurt others and put a stop to them.

The editorials that appear in the 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 the members of the Eddy staff.



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

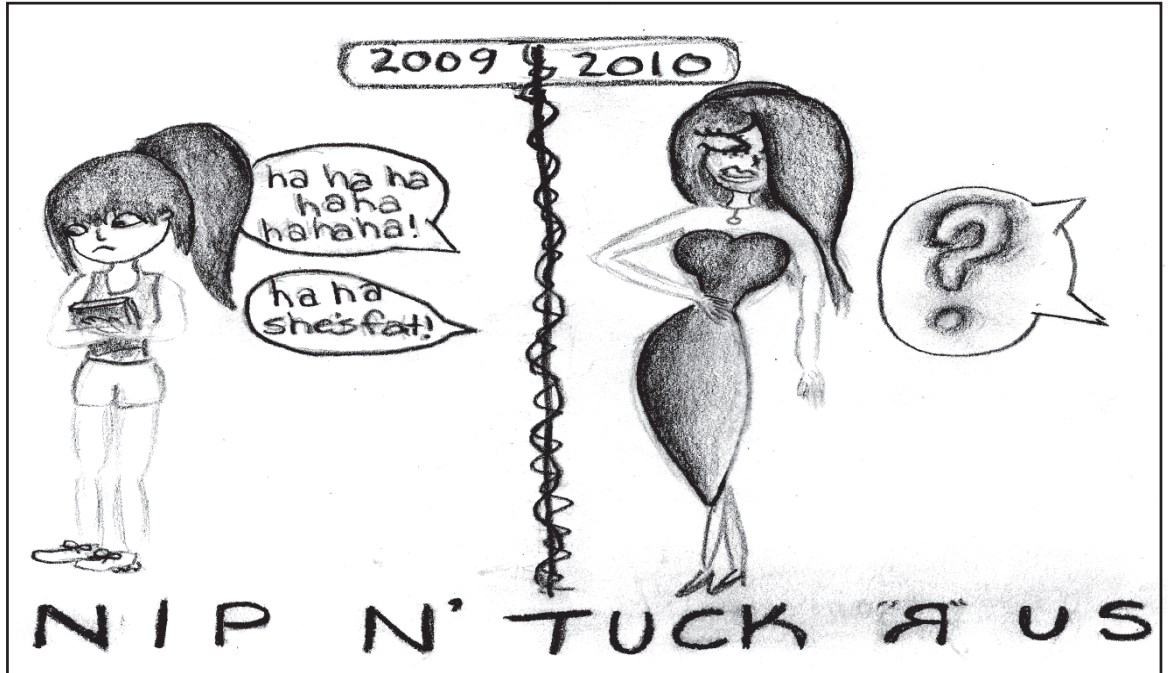
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POINT COUNTER POINT

Teens shouldn't find 'plastic' a cure to insecurity



It is growing more and more apparent that in our society beauty is an important factor to your overall persona, but does that mean that teens as young as 13 should be altering their appearance to fit in?

It seems that even more now than ever, young people are resorting to plastic surgery to fix the flaws that they see in themselves. Although, some teens decide to get plastic surgery for medical reasons, most teens are after the cosmetic appeal that they feel they can obtain from getting plastic surgery. Statistics show that most teens that undergo plastic surgery procedures were the victims of

some sort of bully or taunting over their appearance. Others who received these procedures were said to be extremely insecure and in need a cosmetic change in order to "boost" their confidence. Studies also show that plastic surgery doesn't always help boost confidence. Those who received cosmetic procedures in hopes that it would help boost their self esteem were no more confident after they received their surgeries than they were before.

Teen's confidence should not have to find their confidence in how ascetically pleasing they are. They should be able to find it in the other qualities that they possess. Also, by choosing to get plastic surgery because of what others think of your cosmetic appearance, you're letting people govern your life, and isn't self esteem what you think about yourself, not what others think of you?

Plastic surgery comes with risks that many teens may not be ready for. Some teens may not realize that plastic surgery really is surgery and comes with emotional and health issues that they may not have thought of before getting their procedures.

Since many teens see plastic surgery as a quick fix to the flaws that they have they may fail to research all the potential complications that could happen to them.

Personally, I find these statistics about teens getting cosmetic procedures disturbing because shouldn't we be teaching these teens to be confident in the skin that they were born in? By allowing them to get these procedures aren't we teaching them that changing yourself to achieve the approval of others or a media ideal is more important than learning to be confident and secure about the way you are?

Plastic surgery can improve people's lives



It is often said that 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder.' It's an expression repeatedly heard, yet it seems that beauty is actually in 'the eye of society.' Whether or not we've realized it, society has always valued beauty. Unknowingly, we have grown up with the subliminal message that beauty is more admirable than being average. For example, cartoons we've watched depict the good protagonist as someone that is more attractive when compared to the evil antagonist, such as Snow White and her evil stepmother, or Cinderella and her evil stepsisters in the Disney movies.

While not everyone possesses, based on society's standards, attractive features, more people are turning to beauty products as a result. It is normal to go into a store and see the amount of beauty products, from eye creams to face shapers, all claiming to alter your physical appearance to help one achieve an ideal look. Maintaining the 'perfect image' with diet, exercise, and products may not be enough though, to fend off any stress, pressure or anxiety. Plastic surgery results are often long lasting and dramatic when compared to these beauty products.

While some might argue that appearance is not important in everyday life, there have been studies where conclusions have shown that people that were considered more attractive had more advantages than those that were considered as 'average'. In a study conducted by the University

of Texas and Michigan State University, results have shown that average looking people earn 3 to 8 percent less compared to those who were deemed more physically attractive. Additionally, another study done by the University of Miami showed that attractiveness played a part in GPA boosting for students. They concluded that physical attractiveness "has a positive and statistical impact on GPA for students."

As techniques in plastic surgery continue to advance further, procedures improve and develop, gradually becoming the new, modern way to improve flaws. It boosts self-confidence in the individual, resulting in him or her being confident and outgoing. While it may seem superficial, the reality is that if one keeps the surgery in perspective, understand the risks involved and does not become addicted to it, it can improve one's quality of life.



Communications class goes to France

Maya Reddy-Thom -staff reporter

Riverside's, French Communications class left for their annual trip to France on Friday, April 30. The group of 30, including students, monitors and helpers, visited several cities throughout France during their 18 day trip. Along with the grade 10 communications class, four grade 11 students that had taken the course last year went along to help out, as well as five graduated ex-students of Mr. Larrivée's to supervise and make sure the trip ran as smoothly as possible. "It was a great experience to go along

a second time," said grade 11 student Harkiran Thandi, "having the experience of the trip already, it was a great time." The group visited various cities while in France. They visited *Caen*, and the historical site of Juno Beach (one of the main landing sites in world war two where the Canadian troops debarked on D-Day.) In *Coutances* they stayed with pen pal families they had been in contact with. In *Champignolles* and *Sauzet* they also stayed with French families and got to experience life in France. "We stayed with several of the same families we'd stayed with last year," said Thandi, "it was great to see them again!" "My favourite place [to have visited] was



Group of Communications students having fun in France.

Photo Courtesy of Harkiran Thandi



Photo Courtesy of Fiona Beales

From left to right : Fiona Beales, Hilary Buick, Amanda Poh, Devon Dupuis, Alysha Nightingale, Parris Beauschesne and Erica Maglio.

probably Nimes," said Fiona Beales, a grade 9 student, "I really enjoyed staying with the family and getting a real taste of what French culture is really like." Of course, the group spent time touring Paris as well. They stayed in a hostel, visited the Eiffel tower, and had plenty of time for shopping and seeing tourist attractions. "I thought it was amazing to see the difference in architecture and the beauty of the city," said Beales. "The main cause of the trip was to have a cultural experience where we could practice our French," said grade 11 student Bryony Edwards.

Though the trip was not only for sightseeing, the Communications class wrote and performed a French play of about an hour, which they presented in various venues throughout France. The play was formed of several smaller skits and plays - some comedic, some philosophic and a mini opera from last year.

"I love the fact that I now have seen the country in two different ways that I wouldn't have experienced without this trip. I really enjoyed travelling with the class and Monsieur [Larrivée] and would go again in an instant," said Beales.

Caroline Smolski wins French speaking contest Provincials



Eric Bruchmann - staff reporter

Students from across the province put their skills to the test on Saturday, May 8, competing in French public speaking, in a festival held at the University of British Columbia. *Concours d'art oratoire*, a public speaking event, is sponsored by the British Columbia & Yukon Branch of Canadian Parents for French. A one day event, the provincial competition features the first place winners from each district competing against each other, in their own respective categories. Many competed this year, including Caroline Smolski, a grade 12 student at Riverside Secondary School. Smolski presented a well-received speech, titled *Les droits des femmes en Afghanistan*, on women's rights in Afghanistan. "It's a really interesting topic," said Smolski, explaining her motivation for writing the speech. "It's relevant to society right now, especially with all the turmoil that's going on over there, and I read some books on it, which really inspired me to tell people about it." Smolski succeeded, winning in her category. "I won some money out of it," said Smolski, adding, "it looks good on a resume."

From Florence to Vancouver

- the Italian exchange students had a wonderful time touring the town and reuniting with friends!

Tessa Quayle -staff reporter

Riverside students were reunited with their Italian exchange partners in Vancouver during the first week of May. Students from ITC Volta in Florence, Italy arrived at YVR on May 2nd, with a full week of Lower Mainland sightseeing ahead of them. The trip began for the students the very next day, with their itinerary first taking them to Gastown and Chinatown. Within two days, they were able to see some of the most well-known locations in Vancouver, including Granville Island and the UBC Anthropology museum. On the morning of May 5th, they were welcomed by Mr. Robinson in the library, before spending a full day attending class with their exchange partners. With Riverside's classes being much

shorter, and the school day ending much later, some Italian students found the experience vastly

given a couple hours to shop and have lunch in the downtown area of Victoria. The last few days of

city. One group of students had a barbeque, while others took their billets to local malls, and a group even went to Whistler to go zip lining. As Monday rolled around, the trip began to come to a close with a final visit to the Vancouver Aquarium and last minute shopping. A farewell ceremony and dessert buffet was held at the school in the evening, where students began to say goodbye and shared some final memories with each other. The students of ITC Volta left from YVR early the next morning, prepared for the 10 hour flight that would take them home. The departure was bittersweet for the Italian billets, who were excited to go home and see their own families, yet sad to leave behind Vancouver and their new found friends.



The Canadian and Italian exchange group students visit the ziplines in Whistler.

Photo Courtesy of Ms. Schmidt

different from their school located more than 8000 kilometers away. They also enjoyed a field trip, spending a day in Victoria. The excursion, which began at five am, included a visit to the Royal British Columbia Museum and a whale watching tour. Students were also

the exchange were just as full of activities as the start of the trip. Visits to the Capilano Suspension Bridge, bike tours of Stanley Park and the seawall brought the school week to a close, and the weekend gave the Canadians and Italians time to relax and enjoy the



Monday, June 7, 2010 Vol. 14 No.4

French Immersion student beats French Canadians in Begbie contest

Livia Turnbull - staff reporter

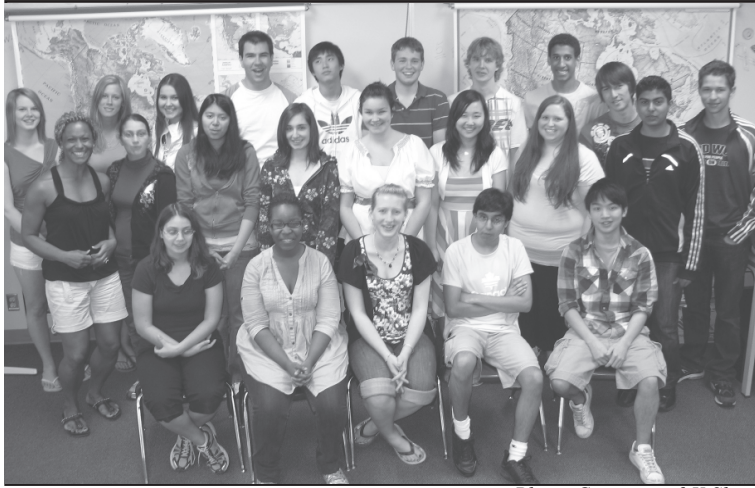
Every year, Riverside participates in the national Begbie Contest and our students have done very well each year. This year, one of the national winners was from Riverside, a grade 11 girl named Eden Nzeyimana. Nzeyimana scored top marks in the French Begbie Contest nationally, at 94% and, in addition to winning one thousand dollars, will get to go on an all expenses paid trip to Ottawa to meet the Governor General in November. "I'm really happy to have won and it's a great honor to be able meet the Governor General in person," said Nzeyimana. When asked what was her favorite part of contest she had

this to say,"The best experience of the contest for me was actually getting to write it, since I had a previous engagement on the same day." Our English winner, Alyssa Wiens, a Grade 12 student, won

Chan, Marcelina Kozlow, Anna - Lee Martin, and Jelena Vatauvuk. The Begbie Contest was introduced in 1993 as a way to encourage interest in Canadian history among secondary school stu-

dent levels. The contest was originally only in British Columbia, but since 2001 it has been a nationwide contest and is known outside the History Contest. Interest in Canadian history is apparent; as this

day and also the ability to think critically along with their interpretation skills. Needless to say, Riverside is a big supporter of the Begbie Contest. "It's an amazing opportunity for students who are interested in Social Studies to test their knowledge about Canadian History and to compete with students across the country," said Ms. Chin, Socials teacher and organizer of the Begbie Contest for Riverside. She hopes the Begbie Contest will continue to encourage inter-



All Begbie Contest participants from Riverside.



Eden Nzeyimana and Alyssa Wiens, Begbie participants.

est in Canadian history for many years to come and it will most likely do so, thanks to Riverside's support.

with her mark of 94%, but, unfortunately, did not manage to win the nationals. Other top participants from Riverside include Homan

dents. At that point in time, Science and Math classes had already sparked students' interest by offering various contests at differ-

year there were 15 000 participants nationwide. The exam itself tests students' knowledge of Canadian history from 1850 up to the present

Students show off work in mall art show for scholarships

Livia Turnbull - staff reporter

On May 26th, three students from Riverside displayed their best artwork in an art show at Coquitlam Centre in hopes of a scholarship. One of the students, Lydia Sng, won the five hundred dollar scholarship from Coquitlam Centre for her work. The body of her work used a mixture of watercolors and computer graphics. The other two representatives from Riverside - Rianne Brown and Devin Kim - used a mixture of mediums in each of their works as well. But, these three girls are not the only Riverside students involved in the art show. Over a hundred Riverside students had their work displayed on the lower floor of Coquitlam Centre. The art show

has been going on for over ten years and Riverside has been involved in it since the very beginning. One of the prizes is five hundred dollars from Coquitlam Centre to help support the winner at the Emily Carr Art Institute, which is given to the best art student from out of the four secondary schools in the district. (Riverside, Terry Fox, Gleneagle and Centennial) Each school is only allowed three scholarship applicants maximum and the winners are chosen by a jury of three art educators. In addition to the five hundred dollar scholarship, there is also a thousand dollar one for the top-all around student from all the schools. In the all the years Riverside has participated in the



Grade 12 scholarship hopefuls: Rianne Brown, Lydia Sng, and Devin Kim.

show, at least one student has managed to win that scholarship.

The works of Riverside students were displayed in the centre court

while the scholarship applicants' work was on display near Old Navy.

Powerful plays pinpoint teens' peer pressure problems

Larissa Martinovic - staff reporter

Mr. Secunda and some students in drama have been performing theme plays at various middle schools in the area.

The messages and themes in the plays are: dating dilemmas, revenge, peer pressure, pregnancy, family abuse, bullying and the difficulty negotiating friendships. Basically everything that teens face or could happen in middle or high school is explored. "It's about creating a connection with yourself and others," said Secunda. These plays are meant to give the middle school kids an idea about high school and some issues they might go through.

The plays reinforce that young people face a variety of pressures and they need to know their concerns are normal. "If you want to



Simon Jagla and Joylyn Secunda performing in one of the plays.

get into the arts, don't let anyone hold you back," said Secunda. The message these plays reveal are that if you want to do something, but you are afraid people will make fun of you, don't let them intimidate

you. The plays were also performed as matinees before Riverside audiences.

"Amazingly put together, with a little bit of everything," said grade 11 student Christian Fowler.

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Monday, June 7, Vol. 14 - No. 4

If talent is a sickness, Riverside is infected

Daniel Jung - staff reporter

"It's always amazing to see what a wide range of talents our students have."

- Ms. Schmidt

As the year 2010 rolled around, Riverside students excitedly prepared themselves for its 14th annual talent show, a show that is known for its always spectacular performers and their dazzling acts. This year's performers consisted of bands, dancers, singers, and a certain magician that, as always, was a show-stopper. Also, this year, Riverside had the honor of hosting Italian exchange students. One in particular, Raimondo Viernes, wowed the audience with a stunning freestyle hip-hop dance routine. The talent show proved to be a wonderful opportunity to showcase students' unique abilities, as they are usually not seen on a usual basis. Regardless

of what kind of a "group" they might fall into outside of the show, the students' impressive skills and talents have proven to be entertaining for all who come to watch the show. The fact that it is a friendly, but also a competitive, environment ensures that most performers received a big adrenaline rush on stage! A few of the acts of the night included an original acoustic guitar/rap piece, interpretive & tap dancing, a shredding metal band, and even a cover of the well-known song "Baby" by Justin Bieber. Shahem Sarsam and Ala'a Founouni, who won the People's Choice award, put on a heart-wrenching and humorous performance of the song "Hero" by Enrique Iglesias, and many in the audience were laughing so hard they began to cry. In the band category, the 'Boey Boys' placed first after they played their original song "The Anthem". Andrew Haydock and Brianne Higo put on

an impressive dance routine, and this placed them first in the dance category. The ever-so-clever and self-taught magician Alexander Seaman put on a good show as always, and was the winner in the variety category. Overall, Riverside's talent show of 2010 was outstanding in every aspect. The night couldn't have gone more smoothly and it went off without a hitch. Ms. Bates and her team of dedicated volunteers' countless hours spent planning paid off tenfold, and made the show a definite night to remember.



Gleneagle students Annie Yeung and Dianne Cho performing "Baby."

All photographs taken by Jordan Megahy.



Aubrey Maxwell performing an original song.



Tyler Shaw of the Boey Boys. Intense!



Ala'a Founini and Shahem Sarsam in their emotional rendition of "Hero."



Alex Seaman at the start of his magic act.



The Korean Spice Girls!



Matt Higgins captured in the energy of the moment.

12 hour relay runners rapidly raise a well

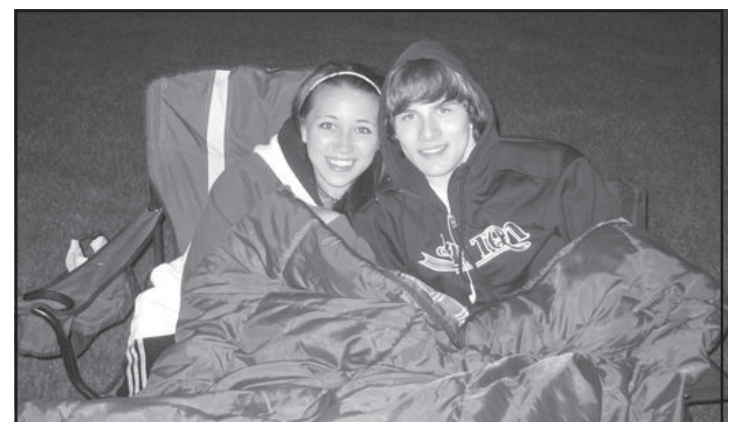
Michael Seaman - staff reporter

Sierra Leone is a country where people don't have proper access to fresh water, but after the Riverside secondary students were done with the 13th annual 12 hour relay, Sierra Leone is one fresh water well closer to having a lot more. The 12 hour relay is always organized to tackle a major problem throughout the world. This year on Friday, May 7 at 6pm to Saturday, May 8 at 6am, the 12 hour relay raised enough money to build a well for the people in Sierra Leone. The 12 hour relay was ran by teams of 10 to 12 students who ran around the Pitt River track three times before passing off the baton to the next member, who then ran, and so on. "It was one of the greatest experiences of my life that benefitted others," said Isaac Baldwin, a Gr.9 student and participant. Some of the participants brought tents, frisbees, food, and drinks for something to do when they weren't running. Buying a well is expensive. The money raised by

all 259 participants was through an attendance fee, and some donations and pledges. After expenses, the relay made \$4 600. This money was added to the money raised by the grad fashion show, which made \$3 100. Special thanks should go to John Lees, a Gr.9 student at Riverside who raised \$217 on his own, which was the most out of all the pledges. A well known organization called "Free the Children" took the money raised and are going to build the well in Sierra Leone. "In the end, the 12 hour relay was a success and we exceeded our goal of \$5 000," said Mrs. Blaxland who helped organize the event. It wouldn't have come together the way it did without all of the helpers including 30 students, some teachers and Riverside's three administrators. There was also a soup and hot chocolate tent, which was just the right thing to add to the night. All of the thanks goes to the many people who gave their time and efforts including the donation suppliers, the sponsor suppliers, and the soup and hot

chocolate tent sponsor families. The donation suppliers were: Sysco Food Service located in Port Coquitlam, who donated hot chocolate mix; Tank 4 Tank, located in Coquitlam, supplied propane tanks and propane. The sponsor suppliers were: PWS Water, located in Port Coquitlam, who gave purified water; Austin Gourmet, located in Coquitlam, provided soup and The BBQ Shop located in Port Coquitlam provided warmers and cookers.

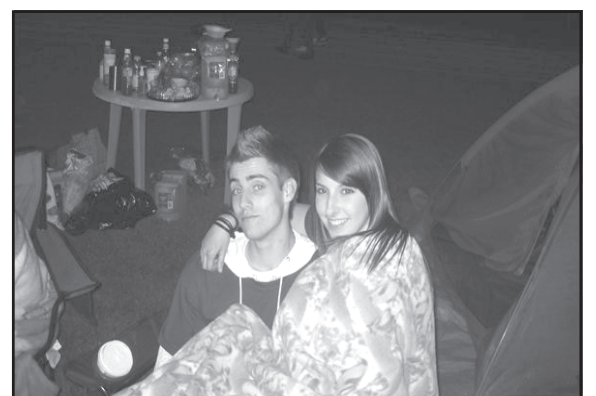
Photos courtesy of Brendan Williams



Nicole Milton and Lindsay Lucas keeping in the body heat!



Caitlin Laughlin and Raj Kothary taking a late-night stroll around the track.



Evan Sinclair and Nicole Goddard snuggling up outside the tents.



Grad 2010

With approximately 340 grads, Grad 2010 is one of the biggest grad classes Riverside has ever had. This year's valedictorian was none other than Ala'a Founouni, and he gave a charismatic speech at the grad commencement which included loud exclamations of "Grad One Oh, we run show!"

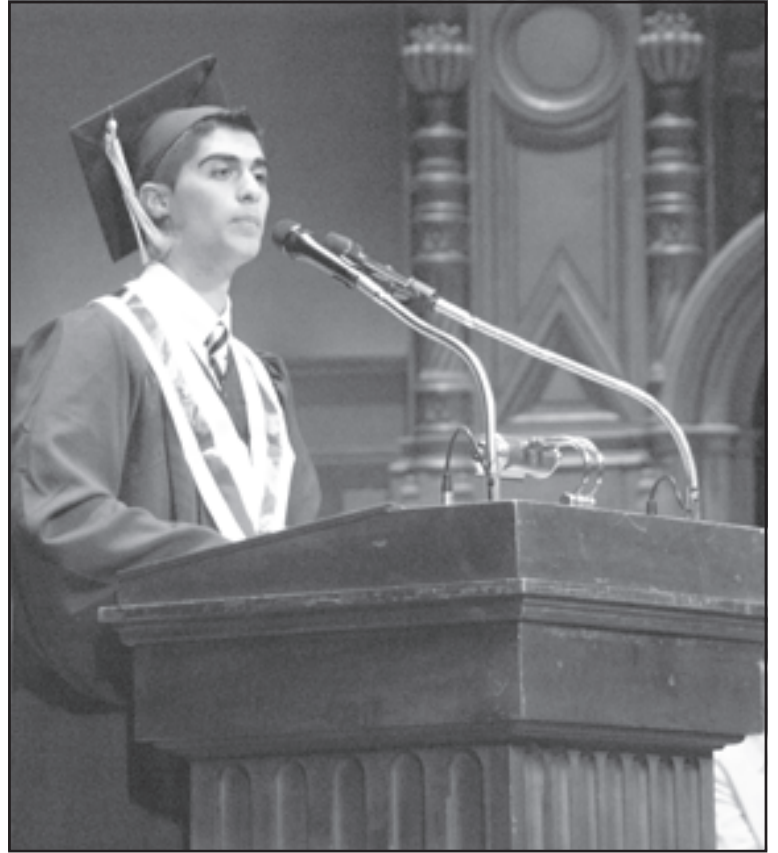
On May 20, grad commencement was held at the Orpheum theatre in Vancouver. There were over 1,000 spectators as all the grad students nervously or enthusiastically strutted across the stage. Overall, it was a night of cap throwing that none of the students will ever forget. The weather was rainy on Saturday, May 29 for the dinner dance which was held at the Four Seasons Hotel Park Ballroom in Vancouver, but the rain didn't stop the graduates from having fun in their elegant dresses and classy tuxedos.

This year's grad group had lots of positive energy, according to the Principal, Mr. Robinson. "I will miss the energy that this class has, and it trickles down through the whole school. They're super enthusiastic for whatever task they take on, and that influences the rest of the school because the grad class always has an effect on the rest of the school."

As well as positive energy, the grad students had another quality to offer. "They have willingness to help others around the school and the community, such as the 12 hour relay and the Me to We day, to name a few."

As for advice for the future, Mr. Robinson has told the grad students to "live everyday to the fullest. You never know what's going to happen today, tomorrow, or even a year from now. Make the most of your life because we're lucky to be here."

Congrats grad 10' you did it!



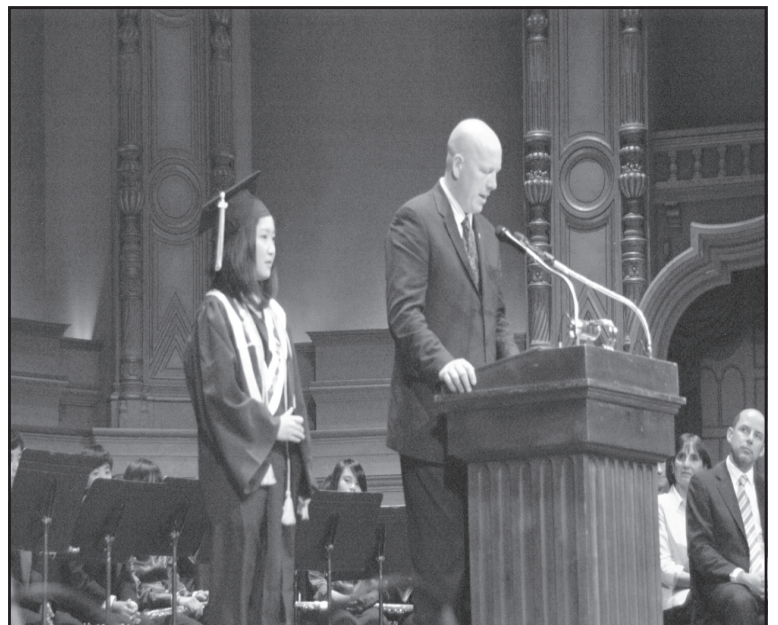
K.Shong/Eddy

Grad 2010's valedictorian Ala'a Founouni giving his speech.



K.Shong/Eddy

Grad 2010's scholarship winners.



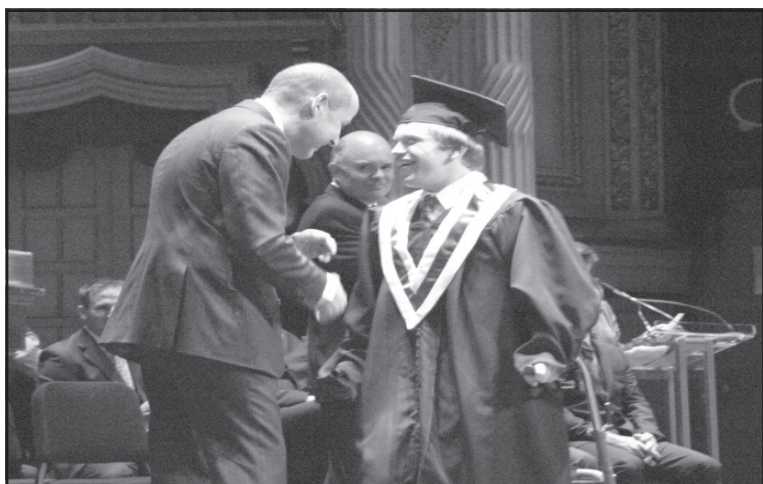
K.Shong/Eddy

Meghan Lui receiving the Governor General award.



K.Shong/Eddy

Matthew Higgins striking a pose with Mr. Robinson.



K.Shong/Eddy

Wesley McGuffin shaking hands with Mr. Robinson.

Scholarships winners

Ronnie Tsai:

Student of the Year 2010 Award
Gordon Betcher Scholarship
HSBC Basketball Scholarship
Loran Regional Finalist
Mayko McLeod Basketball Scholarship
Violet Richardson Award
SFU Dean's Faculty of Science Scholarship

Sarah Arthur:

Artona Visual Arts Scholarship
BC Soccer Association Scholarship
Dogwood/District Scholarship
University of Alberta Excellence Scholarship
SFU Summit Scholarship

Clare Wyatt:

UBC Major Entrance Award
UBC Presidents' Entrance Scholarship
CUPE Local 561 Bursary
Dogwood/District Scholarship

Rosa Youssefi:

DPAC Robert Reid McBay Award
UBC Presidents' Entrance Scholarship
SFU Summit Scholarship

Danielle Bigioli:

SFU Dean's Scholarship Faculty of Arts
Artona Visual Arts Scholarship
Dogwood/District Scholarship

Katherine McKinnon:

SFU Summit Scholarship
UBC Presidents' Entrance Scholarship
Dogwood/District Scholarship

Rianne Brown:

Riverside PAC Scholarship
SFU Summit Scholarship
Dogwood/District Scholarship

Ala'a Founouni:

SFU Summit Scholarship
André Laliberté Scholarship
Dogwood/District Scholarship

Megan Lui:

Governor General Award
Rapids Award
SFU Shrum Shad Valley Scholarship
UBC Presidents' Entrance Scholarship

Jenny Wang:

BC Secondary School Academic Excellence Scholarship
Dogwood/District Scholarship
UBC Presidents' Entrance

Scholarship

John Wong:

BC Secondary School Academic Excellence Scholarship
CTA Student Assistance Bursary
UBC Presidents' Entrance Scholarship

Lucy Vranceanu:

Rapids Award
SFU Summit Scholarship
UBC Presidents' Entrance Scholarship

Tamana Aurom:

Kwayhquiltum Middle School Scholarship
SFU Summit Scholarship
University of Ottawa Admission Scholarship

Josh Wong:

Discovery House Pre-School Award
Dogwood/District Scholarship

Zere Nugmanova:

Royal Purple of Canada Bursary
SFU Summit Scholarship

Andrew Haydock:

Dance Mode Production Scholarship

Vanessa Bradley:

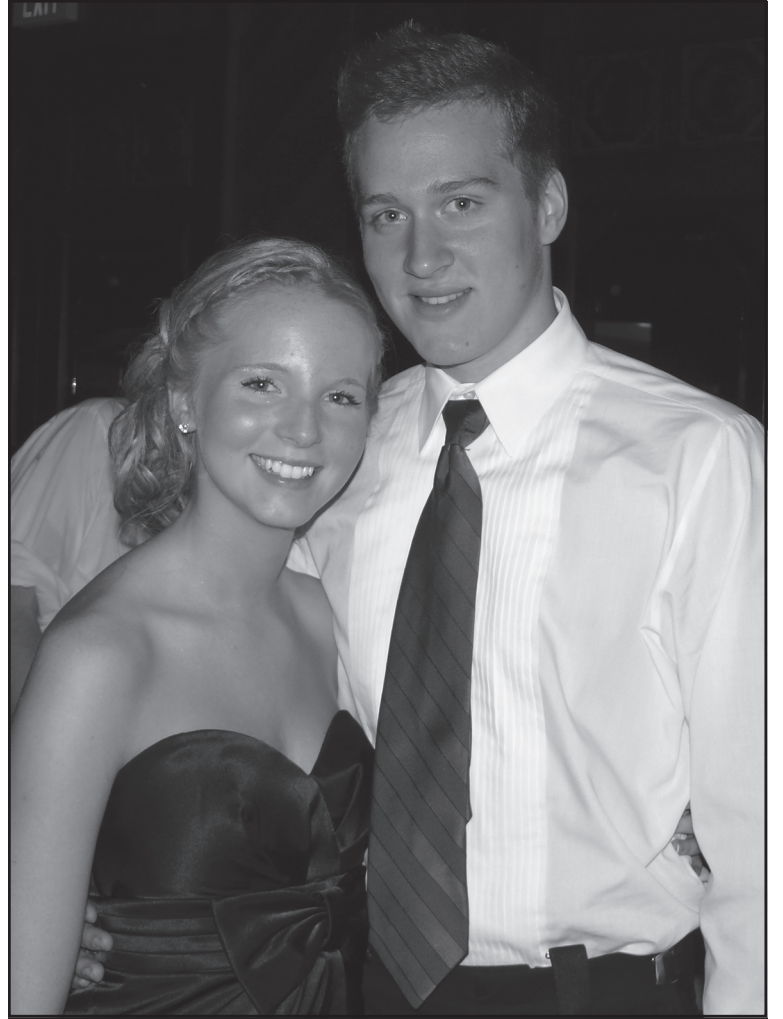
Aboriginal Education Bursary



It was a night to remember!



A group of 2010 grads striking a pose.



Tara Broughton and Shane Vail.



Alex Gain and Esteban L.V.

*Congratulations
Grads of 2010 !*



Paige Johnson and Lauren Volpatti



Justin Dupuis



From left to right: Chantel Lukawsky, Bonnie, Jocelyn Jagpal and Shannon Knight

All photos courtesy of B. Angstadt



New take on an old legend falls shy of the bullseye

Emily Nomland - staff reporter

From director **Ridley Scott**, the director of many successful films such as *Hannibal* and *Black Hawk Down*, comes yet another remake of the classic story of *Robin Hood*, a hero that steals from the rich and gives to the poor alongside his posse, the "Merry Men." In this edition, Robin Longstride is played by **Russell Crowe**. Alongside **Crowe** is **Cate Blanchett**, who plays Marion Loxley, who is Robin Longstride's love interest. Together, they create the newest addition to this timeless classic.

The first motion picture of *Robin Hood* was in 1912 starring **Robert Frazer**, which was 98 years ago. It was in black and white, silent, and had a runtime of 30 minutes. From that movie, many adaptations to the famous tale have been created, whether it's in colour, with sound, starring Canadian actor **Errol Flynn**, or even created with an ani-



Russell Crowe as Robion Hood and Cate Blanchett as Marion Loxley

courtesy of Google

mated fox. After over 100 "different" perspectives on this common storyline, was it even worth it to make yet another movie?

With new technology being added to make new films, this edi-

tion of *Robin Hood* should have used this to its advantage, but the fight scenes were painfully slow and not frequent enough. The major fight scene was far into the movie, and that was the most "ex-

citing" part of the movie since it was littered with useless dialogue and Hollywood clichés. The genre is "action" not "dialogue," and **Ridley Scott** couldn't grasp that fact.

Other cast members include **Max Von Sydow** who plays Sir Walter Loxley, **William Hurt** who plays William Marshal, **Mark Strong** who plays Godfrey, **Oscar Isaac** who plays Prince John, **Danny Huston** who plays King Richard the Lionheart, **Eileen Atkins** who plays Eleanor of Aquitaine, **Mark Addy** who plays Friar Tuck, **Matthew Macfadyen** who plays the Sheriff of Nottingham, **Kevin Durand** who plays Little John, **Scott Grimes** who plays Will Scarlet, **Alan Doyle** who plays Alan-A-Dale, **Léa Seydoux** who plays Isabella of Angoulême, and **Douglas Hodge** who plays Sir Robert Loxley.

With such A-list actors, a well-known and usually successful director, advances in technology, and a pre-made storyline, this version of *Robin Hood* should have been a blockbuster, but since it's all about phony dialogue and lifeless fight scenes, this 2010 adaptation falls a little shy of a bullseye.

Summer is a great time for video game picks

Lorriane Lidher- staff reporter

While summer is a time for going outside, there is still room for a playing a few video games. This summer is a great time for new releases, long awaited sequels, and time to catch up on all those unfinished games you were to busy to play.

StarCraft II: Wings of Liberty

Publisher:Blizzard Entertainment

Release Date: July 27

Platform: PC

Rated: RP

This is the long awaited sequel to 1998 real time strategy game *StarCraft*. With a new 3D-graphic engine, new game units, and game play and new abilities for classic units, the game will explore more

story content and more characters. But will it live up to it's predecessor?

Metal Gear Solid: Peace Walker

Publisher:Konami

Release Date: June 8

Platforms:PSP

Rated T for teen

This game picks up from were MGS 3 *Snake Eater* left off, as you take control of Big Boss and find out how he builds "Outer Heaven". With traditional MGS game play and storytelling, *Peace Walker* will not disappoint.

Final Fantasy 13

Publisher: Square Enix

Release date: March 9

Platforms:Playstation 3

and X-box 360 Rated T for teen

This is the latest installment in the *Final Fantasy* franchise. While the game has undergone some changes to the aspects of the *Final Fantasy* genre, the game still delivers a solid, and interesting plot, fun battle system, and unique characters and enemies. With about 50 hours of game play, *Final Fantasy 13* will keep the RPG lover busy all summer.

Red Dead Redemption Publisher: RockStar Games

Release Date: May 18

Platform:Playstation 3 and

Xbox 360

Rated M for mature

From the makers of *Grand Theft Auto* series, *Red Dead Redemption* offers an original Wild West experience that game makers have ignored in the past. With an open world environment, an original plot, and many side missions, this game promises to entertain.

Super Mario Galaxy 2

Publisher: Nintendo

Release Date: May 23

Platforms: Nintendo Wii

Rated E for everyone

This is the sequel to the smash hit *Super Mario Galaxy*. The game will feature new worlds to explore, new power ups and everyone's favorite side kick the adorable Yoshi! This is a game that everyone can enjoy. the question is will it offer something new or will it just feel like playing the same game again?

Ucoming summer concerts

Erika Gebhardt - staff reporter

Nickelback-

Thursday, June, 2010

Alternative rock, Heavy metal

Iron Maiden-

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Heavy metal

Sarah McLachlan-

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Pop, Adult contemporary (Lilith Fair)

Rihanna-

Sunday, July 4, 2010

R&B, Pop, Dance

Backstreet Boys-

Friday, August 6m 2010

Pop, Rock, R&B

Michael Bublé-

Friday, August 20, 2010

Jazz, Soft rock

Lady Gaga-

Monday August 23, 2010

Pop, Dance, Electronica

Jonas Brothers-

Wednesday, September 15,

2010

Soft rock, Teen pop

****All at GM Place except Sarah McLachlan is at Pitt Meadows Airport****

Summer concerts 2010

- Go to www.Livenation.ca for more information about ticket prices.

Say hello to the new Backstreet Boys!

Erika Gebhardt - staff reporter

The Varsity Fanclub, also known as VFC, is an all American singing group from Los Angeles, California. Varsity Fanclub was first discovered in 2006 during an audition for a production company. The main objective of the auditions was to find a group of five people who are vocalists, dancers and song writers. Each of these young boys did an amazing job, according to the viewers of the show, and they shocked and dazzled all of the judges. The members in the band are: Bobby Edner from Los Angeles, David Brandt from Indiana, Thomas Fiss from San Diego, and both Drew Ryan Scott and Jayk Purdy from Las Vegas. Varsity Fanclub's first special showcase concert was performed at the EMI Rooftop on

August 19, 2008 in New York City. As of May 28, 2009, Thomas Fiss left the band (according to fans of Varsity Fanclub) because the San Diego soloist professionals wanted him to become a soloist, and he also wanted to pursue his career as a soloist. Fiss was replaced by 17 year old actor, singer and dancer Thomas Carter also known as "TC Carter," from Los Angeles. Varsity Fanclub is a band that plays only pop music. This boy band is a younger version of the Backstreet Boys from 1993. Varsity Fanclub has been around for four years, and when the band formed, "we didn't really know each other in the beginning, and now we treat each other as brothers," said Drew Ryan Scott, the main singer and dancer in the band. Varsity Fanclub gets their inspiration and motivation from all



Varsity Fanclub

courtesy of Google

of their fans. "Without the help from our fans we would have gotten nowhere," said the band members. Varsity Fanclub's best-selling album *Future Love* came out on January 13, 2009, and

followed by their newest album, *Spank That* was released on April 27, 2010 is also currently on iTunes. The bands new self-titled album will be released in the summer of 2010.



Coming soon to a theatre near you - Avatar Gully

Brendan Williams - staff reporter

People would say that so far 2010 has been a great year for the movie business. With such big box office movies like *Shutter Island* making \$40.2 million in the first weekend and the highest grossing film of all time *Avatar*, making over \$2.7 billion, it makes you ask the question, where do they come up with such original ideas? Maybe they aren't original at all.

In 2003, a James Mangold movie by the name of *Identity* came out in theatres. An interesting story about ten strangers stranded at a desolate motel in Nevada who become acquainted with each other when they find out that they're being killed off one by one. Meanwhile, a psychiatrist is trying to prove why a man accused of murder is innocent. At the end of

the movie, you find out that the man that has been accused is really a psychotic killer with multiple personalities and he realizes that one of his personalities, (a boy at the motel) was responsible for killing everyone.

Seven years later, *Shutter Island* comes out in theatres with what is being called one of the greatest movie endings. A man who is looking for a killer on the loose finds out that he is actually the killer. The movie shows that the man is mentally ill. Did director Martin Scorsese get ideas from *Identity*, or was it simply a coincidence?

Let's look at the clearly more popular movie *Avatar*. This story is about a beautiful planet untouched by humans where giant creatures called Na'vi live until the arrival of man causes problems. One of the Na'vi girls discovers a

human male who is destroying the planet but she decides to save his life. The human male and the Na'vi girl begin to like each other. The human male sees the beauty of Pandora and has a change of heart and decides to try and save the planet. With help from the Na'vi and some glowing objects, they succeed and the humans lose.

Then there is the story of the *FernGully*. A beautiful rainforest untouched by humans, where tiny creatures called fairies live until the arrival of man threatens to destroy their world. One of the girl fairies saves a human male's life. They begin to like each other. The male sees the beauty of the rainforest and has a change of heart, deciding to try and save them. With help from the fairies and some glowing objects, they succeed and the humans lose. Sound familiar? Do you think director James



Photo Courtesy of Google

An interesting comparison between the family friendly cartoon *Ferngully* and the box office blow-out *Avatar*.

Cameron thought of this brilliant story line by himself, or do you think he had some influence?

Even if this re telling of stories is true, does it matter? Every idea has been stolen from time to time. Every Clint Eastwood movie is based around an introverted maverick.

Every Arnold Schwarzenegger movie is based around a macho man. Every Michael Cera movie is an awkward teen comedy. Next time you see the new Jack Black movie don't expect a poetic drama - expect a humorous chubby oaf for a main character.

Top 6 things to do this summer in Beautiful British Columbia

Christian Fowler - staff reporter

The one question that always plagues students during the summer holidays is "what should I do today?" This article is here to answer that question.

1. A trip to **Stanley Park**: This is by far one of the biggest attractions for any Vancouverite. There is a lot to do there such as roller blade or bike along the sea wall, or visit the hollow tree, or see the 9:00 gun. There are water parks and food as well as nice places to sit and soak up some rays.

2. Go for a hike in **Lynn Canyon Park**: With its large free suspension bridge and variety of hiking trails Lynn Canyon is a really nice place to go on a hot summer day, so pack your bags with lots of water and trail mix and



The Lynn Canyon Suspension Bridge and a 1966 Ford Mustang at the Show and Shine festival.



Photo Courtesy of Google

maybe a swim suit and head out for a really nice day.

3. Take a trip to the past at the **BC Renaissance Festival**: on July 16, 17, 18 you have been officially invited by King James to come to **Steller's Grove** (Thunderbird

Show Park, 24550 72nd Ave, Langley) to enjoy 3 days of magic and chivalry as you help the king uncover a major plot. Admission: Adults \$15, Children/Seniors \$10, Family Rates Available.

4. Chill out at the **Golden Spike**

Days Festival: help celebrate Rocky Point's 34th annual Golden Spike Days Festival on July 1,2,3,4 and listen to the music and embrace the history of Port Moody and the CPR gold rush. With food and live entertainment, it's sure to be a great

time of fun and excitement.

5. Show off your stuff at the **Sounds of Summer Ford Mustang Show & Shine** and Meet the "Hot Rod Hotties.": on Sunday, June 27th from 9am-3pm head on down to 2071 Kingsway Ave, Port Coquitlam for the annual show and shine. Its 15\$ to enter your car and it all goes to a good cause, and if you don't have a car head on down and see what other people have for free.

6. Take your friends to the Canada day celebration at **Castle Park**: on July 1st Castle Park will be having its annual Canada Day celebration. Come celebrate Canada's 143rd birthday and enjoy all the things that Port Coquitlam has to offer. There will be booths and bouncy castles. Bring your friends and family for a wonderful time of fun and activities.



Down By The Riverside

What are your plans for this summer?



Danielle Desjardin - grade 9

"I'll be going to camp and hanging out with friends all summer."



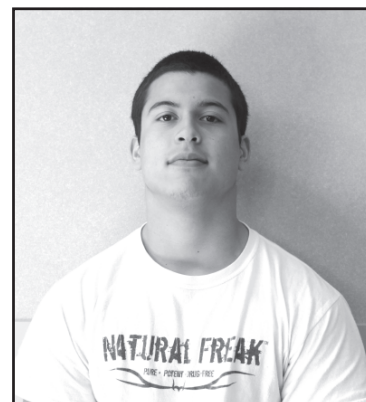
Mrs. Hudon - P.E. Teacher

"I'm spending the summer in Canim Lake at my log home in Cariboo."



Ala'a Founouni - grade 12

"Travelling, exploring new cultures and figuring out my destiny."



Danny Escobar - grade 12

"I'm going to be working out and going to the beach all summer."



Kim McMahon - grade 12

"Working full time, living at the beach and getting my bronze on."



Ticket sales hit Vancouver with KO punch

Robert Klimowicz - staff reporter

UFC 115 is coming to General Motors place in Vancouver, British Columbia, on June 12th, 2010. The event had problems at first with getting approval because some believe it is too violent. Due to the efforts of the event organizer Dana White, it was eventually approved by the city of Vancouver.

The controversy over bringing the UFC to Vancouver has kept it away for the past ten years. However many believe that it is a legitimate sport, and that the reality is these fighters have been training their whole lives to master Muay Thai, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Judo, Tae Kwon Do, Boxing, and whatever their specialty martial art is. Many believe these fighters have a right to showcase their talents. These fighters train everyday to be able to go into the octagon (THE RING) once every few months to put on a show for their fans and to make a good living. The UFC initially had



Photo Courtesy of Google

Chuck Liddell and Rich Franklin meet for the first time in UFC 115, Vancouver

problems when it started because of the violent nature of the sport, and was only seen in a few states across the US. But the UFC has

expanded to a sport seen all over the world and is in fact one of the fastest growing sports out there.

The main event of the show is featuring Chuck "The Ice Man" Liddell against a former math teacher Rich Franklin. The fight

should be a very good one because many young kids out there see Chuck Liddell as an icon for his amazing fighting ability and his unorthodox fighting style. Liddell was initially supposed to fight Tito Ortiz, but Ortiz was forced to back out of the fight due to personal issues. Another fight that was long awaited was between Thiago Avles and Jon Fitch, but unfortunately it was rescheduled for the third time and moved to UFC 117.

So now the co-main event is a fight between Mirko Cro Cop and Pat "HD" Barry. Aside from these two fights, there are nine other fights scheduled for UFC 115 in Vancouver. The event sold out in an amazing thirty minutes after tickets were made available, which set a UFC record for the fastest sell out in UFC history. The previous record was set in Montreal Canada at UFC 83, which was ironically the first UFC event in Canada.

Poco Pirate prospect Taylor Green off to Seattle



Shong/Eddy

Taylor Green drafted 26th overall to the Seattle Thunderbirds in the 2010 WHL Bantam Draft.

David Terzis - staff reporter

Taylor Green, (6 foot 6, 200 pounds) has been drafted to the WHL under rather short notice. It is every hockey player's dream to play in the NHL and seeing how the WHL often leads up to the NHL, one must believe Taylor Green is more than a little excited. Green first found out he got drafted by watching the online WHL draft. "I was watching the draft on my laptop with my dad beside me, we refreshed the page constantly and I got a phone call, it was a good friend congratulating me for being drafted; I didn't believe him and thought he was joking with me." My dad and I refreshed the page

and we saw Taylor Green 26 overall. I was pretty excited, not only to be a part in the WHL, but I was also excited to be playing on a team that needed defensemen." said Green.

Green was not the only one happy about being drafted to Seattle; the Thunderbird's GM, Russ Farewell, was also happy to assign Green. "We have added another imposing player on the blue line. Green has tremendous potential to develop into an outstanding player. His skating and hand skills are what make this player so exciting and at 6'6 the upside was too much to pass up," said Farewell. "It's very exciting to hear; hopefully I can make the team

in a couple years and start pitching in!" said Green. His stats last season with the Poco Pirates were as impressive as ever, recording 12 goals, 38 assists in just 42 games played. Green's hockey intelligence and size may have contributed to being drafted. Growing up he idolized Chris Pronger, a Stanley Cup and Olympic 2010 Champion, even though he thinks his defensive style meshes more with Tyler Myers, a member of the Buffalo Sabres. Growing up in Canada, it is virtually every little boys dream to play in the NHL. As this dream becomes closer and closer to a reality, it truly looks like Taylor Green is living the dream.

Promising Poco athletes going above and beyond

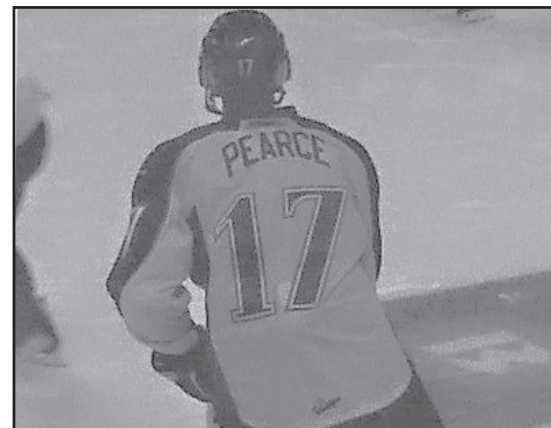


Taylor Green - staff reporter

Grade 12 student and soon to be graduate Roman Carrelli has recently signed with the Junior B Sockeyes out of Richmond. Carrelli stands at 5'5 and weighs 235 pounds. He played Midget C in PoCo last year and totaled 33 points in 35 games to go along with 97 penalty minutes. The Sockeyes are in need of defenseman this season and Carrelli is hoping that he might be the one to fit the bill for the Junior B squad. "It depends on what they need," said Carrelli "I'm an enforcer, grinder type player and a lot will depend on my play in training camp." The Sockeyes will hold their camp from August 17th to 21st. We wish Roman good luck going forward and will be looking out for him in a Sockeyes uniform not too far down the road.



The Terry Fox Ravens surprised a lot of teams this year coming 5th in the provincials after a slow start to the season. They had a solid all around team but much of their success goes to star grade 11 point guard Bret Macdonald. "We did really well this year," said Bret, "Our key to success was the chemistry among our players." Bret ran the Ravens offence this season and has been compared by teammates to Steve Nash of the Phoenix Suns, a 6'3 passing point guard. "Next year I'll just be looking to develop our team and help Fox make a run at the title," said Bret, "After that hopefully I can play University ball and take it from there." Fox looks poised to make a deep title run next year and we wish Bret luck in his future. "I couldn't have had the success I've had without the support of my coaches and teammates, those are the guys I play for."



Elgin Pearce is entering his third season in the Western Hockey League this coming September and looks ready for a breakout year. Pearce tallied 3 goals and 4 assists for 7 points this year in 45 games for the Ice and with players leaving next year, he will look to take on a more substantial role with the team. Pearce was drafted 42nd overall in the 2007 draft by Kootney and played as a rookie at age 16. Kootney has stated they will be looking for a deep playoff run next year and will need their veterans to step up. Pearce will be a young vet, but a vet none the less, and the Ice will need his leadership to shine through if they hope to capture a WHL and Memorial cup championship. We wish Elgin the best of luck going forward and hope as he graduates he continues to make PoCo and Riverside proud!



The race for the coveted cup is on

Chris Wallsmith - staff reporter

NHL playoffs have come and gone and it's hard to believe that they went away so fast. With quick first rounds, the Vancouver Canucks knocked off the LA Kings in 6 games after falling behind 2-1 in the first three. The Detroit Red Wings stunned the Phoenix Coyotes, and perhaps the biggest upset of the playoffs was the Montréal Canadiens eliminating the Washington Capitals, who were heavy favorites to win the cup. Among other favorites eliminated, the New Jersey Devils were swept in the first four games and the Buffalo Sabres eliminated. Other teams who advanced to round two were the San Jose Sharks, Philadelphia Flyers, Pittsburgh Penguins and Chicago Blackhawks.

The second round brought a familiar matchup, the Blackhawks against the Canucks for the second year in a row, but the Canucks were disappointed yet



Jaroslav Halak makes a save during one of the playoff games.

courtesy of Google

again as the Blackhawks won the series in six games. With home losses in games three, four and six, the Canucks were handed a series loss on May 11th two years in a

row. It looks as if their play did not match up to the physical or offensive power of the Blackhawks. The Sharks moved on to the next round as they defeated

the experienced and skilled Red Wings in five games. The Montreal Canadiens defeated the defending Stanley Cup Champions, the Pittsburgh Penguins in convincing

fashion after being in a 2-1 series deficit, to win it 4-3. The playoff leading goal scorer Michael Camalleri (13 goals) scored the Canadiens third goal and game winner.

Jaroslav Halak had perhaps the greatest rookie playoff performance since the former Montreal Canadian Patrick Roy. The Habs advanced to the Eastern Conference Finals to play the Philadelphia Flyers, who earlier became the third team to ever come back from a 3-0 series to win 4-3 against the Boston Bruins, in the Eastern Conference Finals. The Stanley Cup finals created a new rivalry as the Philadelphia Flyers, who were the seventh place team and huge underdogs to win the cup, faced off against the Chicago Blackhawks, a young offensive powerhouse, after the Sharks were swept and the Canadiens were destroyed in every category. Chicago has jumped on top of the Philadelphia Flyers and look to win the Stanley Cup.

Riverside Sr. Rugby finishes with pride

David Terzis - staff reporter

Heartbreak struck every member of the senior boy's rugby team as they lost their final game against Guildford Park 25-0 on May 11. The team showed tremendous enthusiasm and traits of leadership for the whole season. Many junior players had to play a year up due to many injuries with the seniors. Although many players may feel bitter about the loss in their final game, it was still a very successful season.

Michael Collins, the Senior Rugby Head Coach stated earlier in the year "The big challenge for the team is getting everybody to practice hard so they can stay undefeated." Staying undefeated in



The Rugby team in a pre-game huddle.

K.Shong/eddy

any given season is a near impossible, so going through a season with one loss should be seen as an achievement rather than a short

coming. Next year's team will have lots of experience and will have a promising chance to win it all.

Rainy days don't dampen track stars' spirits

Christian Fowler - staff reporter

This year has been a very eventful year in the world of Riverside track and field, with students participating in a wide variety of events from 100 meter to 3000 meter, from the high jump to triple jump.

Sadly with all the seniors

graduating, the Riverside track and field team will be losing its star senior athletes, but is has been said that among the junior athletes there is great promise, such as one of Riverside's star junior athlete Sebastian Restrepo who competed in long jump and beat his personal best.

There are many shining stars among the senior athletes but some shine brighter such as Sarah Arthur who is going to be going to the provincials for her amazing skills in the 100 meter.

When asked how she would rate the season over all Ms.Leonard said it was a rainy but fun season in track this year, with many successful performances by athletes.

Congratulations to all the athletes who trained hard and competed to the best of their abilities this season in track and field, and for the stars going to provincials, Riverside Secondary school wishes you good luck.

Grade 12 track athlete Aimee Grant competes in the shot-put event.



Photo courtesy of P. Barrington

Rewarding Tennis season comes a to close



Lucy Mah serves up the ball in a tennis team practice.

Photo courtesy of Paul Sather

Jordyne Bird - staff reporter

The Riverside tennis season for this year's team has been a fairly rough one with the awful weather. With most of the games were rained out and rescheduled; it made for a very hectic agenda. The actual games on the other hand went fairly well. With the team competing hard and everyone giving it his/her best it resulted in a rewarding season. Jedi Tetik is one of the team's best players with an undefeated season and a thrilling tiebreaker match in the last game of the year; however, individuals cannot advance to the Fraser Valleys. It is only as a team

that they can advance, and with some strong players they are hoping to build up an even better team for next year. Both the girl and boy teams were built out of both beginners and veterans, but even with the skill level differences, they rallied together for a great season. The season went from the second week of April until the second week of May. Not a very long season, but they got as much accomplished as they could with all of the rescheduled games. Thankfully, there was a week of sun at the end of the season so they could fit in some games in the warm summer weather.

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Monday, June 7, 2010 - Vol. 14 No. 4

By Ala'a Founouni -
Valedictorian

Good evening loving parents, wise teachers, devoted friends, and beautiful Riverside graduates. Throughout this unforgettable evening, we will laugh, we will smile, and we may even shed a few tears. But most importantly, we will honour the fact that we are officially the most ridiculously good-looking group of students to ever cross this stage. Tonight, we will commemorate our childhood, celebrate our wonderful high school years, and visualize our bright future. By the end of the night, everyone will recognize that the Class of 2010 has raised the bar to an unattainable extent. As a prominent hip-hop artist by the name of Lil Wayne once said, "Welcome to the show, we are the main attraction!"

Let us begin by reminiscing over our childhood. When we were young, Pokémon trading cards were sweeping the nation, our parents lovingly packed our lunches with delicious fruit rollups, and girls worshiped the best-selling girl group of all time, the Spice Girls. We had an excuse to make mistakes, because life was simply a learning experience.

However, my first learning experience occurred in front of a packed audience at the elementary school talent show. Like many other children, I grew up idolizing Michael Jackson, so I performed a dance routine to the beat of Billie Jean. Throughout my performance, I truly felt like the King of Pop. But sadly, my principal did not enjoy the nonstop pelvic thrusting, and he suddenly turned my music off. A child had just experienced his greatest failure, and his dreams were instantly shattered. I was left standing alone in the midst of Michael Jackson's signature move, the crotch grab. But as Barack Obama once said, "Making your mark on the world takes patience, it takes commitment, and it comes with plenty of failure along the way." Therefore, I believe that the most significant lesson we gain through childhood is learning how to transform failure into motivation.

Ironically, some of our greatest heroes were once the greatest failures. Are you aware that Michael Jordan locked himself in his room, and cried for days because he was cut from his high school basketball team? Did you know that Walt Disney was fired by his newspaper editor because he supposedly lacked ideas and imagination? My friends, we must always have the courage to follow our heart and intuition, because once we build the confidence to

"When you finally recognize your passion, follow your dream whole-heartedly, because the whole world steps aside for the people who know where they are going."

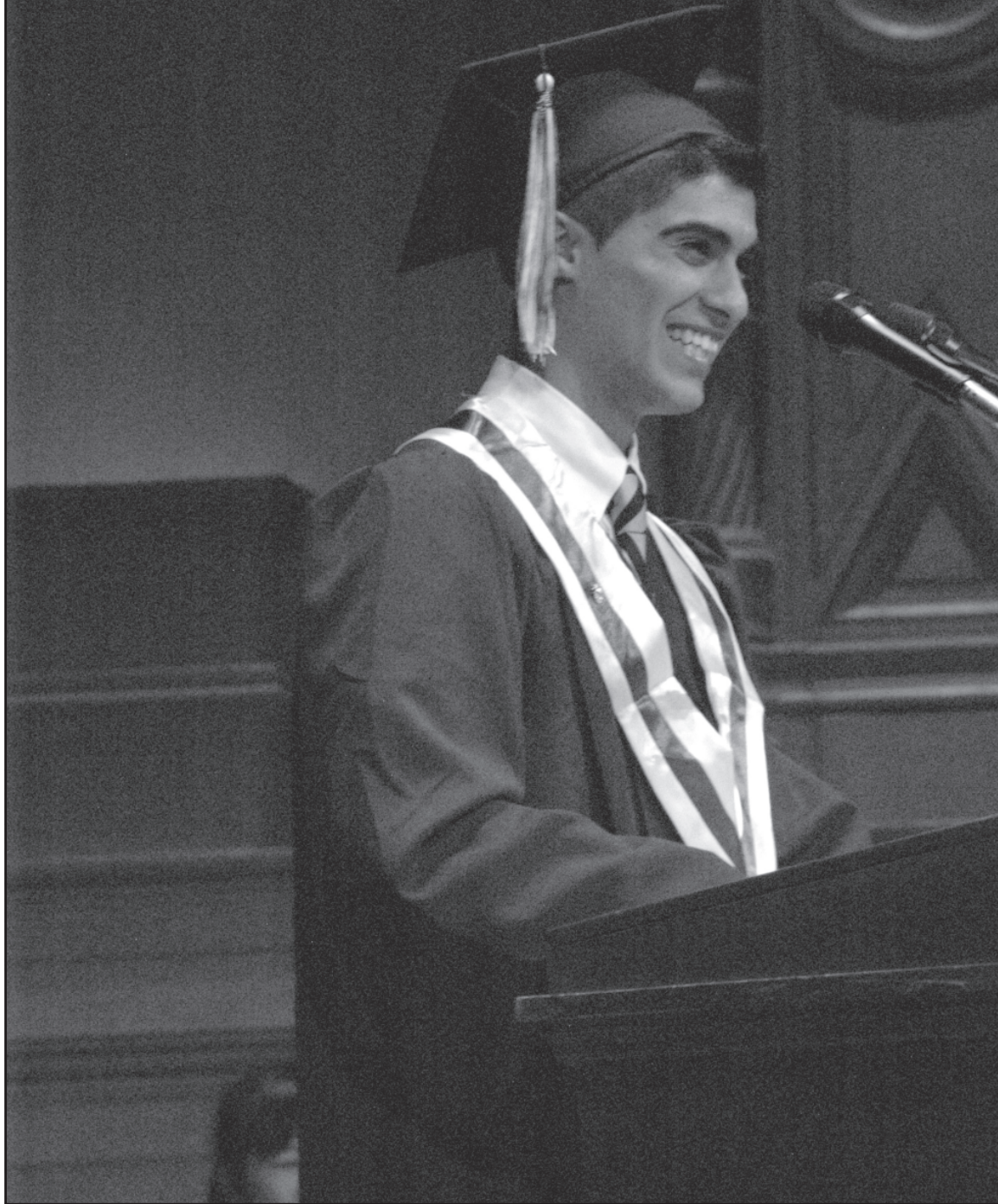


Photo Courtesy of K.Shong

Ala'a Founouni - Class of 2010 Valedictorian

overcome failure, anything can be achievable. As a brilliant mastermind by the name of Josh Wong once said, "Bro! Fight fire with fire; just make sure yours is hotter!"

Who can possibly forget our first day at Riverside Secondary? We were intimidated, insecure, but finally independent! At first, high school felt like survival of the fittest. We were divided into specific groups such as the Ballers, the Hockey Guys, and the Chads. Nevertheless, we all shared one thing in common... The fear that we would encounter the same psychological warfare and evil social rules that Lindsay Lohan faced in the eye-opening movie: "Mean Girls." But luckily, high school was much different!

As we anticipated our exciting high school experience, we fantasized over the money we would acquire from our first job; we imagined the attention we would receive when driving our

new car; and we predicted that life would simply be one massive party. However, today, these adolescent dreams seem materialistic when compared to the life-changing courses we enjoyed, the loyal friends we made, and the maturity we gained.

In Grade 9, I joined the Riverside Basketball team coached by Mr. Askew. Throughout our impressive season, we learned priceless lessons on determination, discipline, and teamwork. However, we also shared memories that shall never be forgotten. I still recall when Mr. Askew constantly forgot all of our names. As a result, he accidentally came up with wonderful nicknames for our teammates. One practice, Raj Kothary suddenly earned the most popular name in the world, as Mr. Askew shouted "That a boy Mohammad, you're doing great brother!" The next practice, Farid Kaywan apparently transformed into a girl, as Mr. Askew yelled

"Yeah Fatima! Keep working hard!" We played to the best of our abilities, and along the way, we enjoyed countless hilarious moments. Therefore, I am confident that any student who has been involved in Riverside Athletics can relate to these magnificent experiences.

To all the dedicated French Immersion students who persistently devoted themselves to a crazy French frog teacher, be proud. As we go on, we must remember these legendary words: "L'intelligence, c'est la capacité de s'adapter." Mr. Larrivée, you have always been a father-figure to all of your students, you changed our lives in countless ways, thank you for always being there.

Over the years, numerous students had the luxury of enjoying various school trips to countries such as Tanzania, Cuba, and France. As we travelled collectively, these journeys opened our eyes to diverse

languages, traditions, and people. Nevertheless, the most beautiful part was having the ability to explore these unique cultures together. For the teachers who took the time out to organize these trips, we sincerely appreciate your guidance.

Our students have constantly shown their awareness by fundraising for remarkable causes. This year, Rapid Change hosted Strut for Sierra Leone with the purpose of raising money to build a well in a poverty stricken African country. While showcasing our extremely attractive students dressed in grad dresses and tuxedos, Rapid Change raised over three thousand dollars in one night! Riverside, can I get a hallelujah?

Finally, while maintaining our strong academic standing, we have always found the time to celebrate. Each morning, as we hopped up off the bed, and turned our swag on for school, we did it with pure satisfaction. Whether we participated in Spirit Assemblies, School Dances, or even Talent Shows, our enthusiasm has always been exceptional. To cap off our amazing year, Andrew Haydock and Kim McMahon planned the Jersey Shore party. On that special night, we fist pumped like champs, and raised over a thousand dollars for our Grad Class. We follow the work hard, play hard philosophy. We bleed blue and green, and we are proud of it!

Ferris Bueller once said, "Life moves pretty fast, and if you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." Therefore, we must recognize that success is not a destination, but a continuous journey. So while we look forward to our future, we must never overlook our present. Always treasure the loyal friendships we gained through high school, continue to laugh every day, and do not be afraid to enjoy a delicious bowl of lucky charms, because you deserve it!

In the end, if we do not learn how to chill out, we will burn out. Wherever your ambitions take you in life, remember to stay safe. When you finally recognize your passion, follow your dream whole-heartedly, because the whole world steps aside for the people who know where they are going. My beautiful Riverside graduates, I officially declare that it is time to trade in these blue, square-shaped hats for sombreros... Because we are about to have a fiesta! Please repeat after me, Grad 1-0, we run show! **CLASS OF 2010, LET'S CELEBRATE!**

