



And here's to you Mr. Robinson...

Principal Robinson to be new Assistant Superintendent in Richmond

Mitchell Stewart - staff reporter

In his fourth year here at Riverside, Mr. Robinson has decided to step down as principal to make way for his new job as the Assistant Superintendent of the Richmond school board. "It was a tough decision. This will be the first time that I don't get to work directly with students," said Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Robinson started his teaching career as a grade two teacher and eventually worked himself up to teaching grades three through eight. After teaching for six years, he became a middle school team leader and that is where he discovered his passion for leadership. During his sixth year teaching, a vice-principal job opened up at Moody Middle School and the rest is history. "I decided to apply to become a vice-principal the following year and was lucky enough to become the vice-principal of Moody Middle School six weeks later," said Robinson. Mr. Robinson had many favorite things to do around the school, but none more than the grad commencement ceremony at the end of each year. "Shaking every grad's hand as they cross the stage at the Orpheum fills me with great pride," said Robinson. He loved the chance to celebrate with all the grads and their families and also just being in the great atmosphere at the Orpheum.

One thing that will be much different for Mr. Robinson now is that he will no longer be in the same social role. He has worked with kids since the age of nineteen, but the new job will consist of working with teachers and principals and helping them to help their schools. "I love working with large groups of people and being an Assistant Superintendent in Richmond is going to give me that opportunity," Robinson said.

"Riverside is an incredible place because of the people in the school community and I know I can count on the students to give the new principal not only a warm welcome, but lots of good advice about how to make Riverside an even greater place than it is now," said Robinson.



K.Shong/eddy

Mr. Robinson at his desk during his last days at Riverside.

Everyone looked grand at the 1920's Winterball

Rachelle Lim - staff reporter

This year's Winter Ball was decked out in a 1920's theme. All students were put under high expectations in order for the dance to run smoothly. "The students did a great job and I was happy to see staff and parents coming out

tonight too," said Principal Scott Robinson. "This year, everyone made more of an effort to meet the expectations as set out by our school's code of conduct."

In comparison to previous years, this year's Winter Ball was proven to be better in keeping the school a secure and positive place for the

night. Students displayed adequate behavior with good energy running throughout the night.

"For the most part, kids acted their age," said Ms. Chin. "But as long as they were safe and they had a fun time, it made a good Winter Ball."



Photo Courtesy of Bonnie Angstadt

R'side's boys looking fine - Jesse Frempong, Adam Fraser, Nima Vakili, Yancey Ambrose, Garry Longman.



Photo Courtesy of Bonnie Angstadt

Morgan Wood and Lindsay Clark posing for the camera.



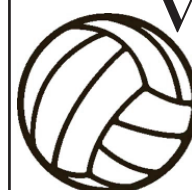
Get into the
Holiday
spirit!

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Volleyball compete
in Provincials

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Christmas is too stressful

Maya Reddy-Thom - staff reporter

The true meaning of Christmas (being a Christian holiday), is to celebrate the birth and message of Jesus Christ; at least it used to be. Christmas has slowly transformed into just another commercial holiday, where people focus on presents and money, and in the process lose the spiritual message of the day.

With all the pressure of getting our loved ones the best and most expensive gifts, we are losing sight of the entire point of the holiday: showing the people we care about that we love them. By simply making a card or doing something special together, such as going skating or to a free event, you can still give a thoughtful gift and express your feelings.

Christmas is barely a religious holiday at all anymore. Despite the fact that people are still educated and aware of the religious origin of the day, the first thoughts that come to mind when thinking about Christmas are presents, parties and snow. Not that this is necessarily a bad thing, but giving in the spiritual sense should be about our effort and time spent making the world a better place, not about last minute shopping, stress and money. Kids often base their gift choices on the latest Christmas commercial that catches their attention, and teens and adults are equally persuaded by the traditional marketing. Holiday season is the time where companies come out with their most obnoxious marketing, for example, Future shop's holiday motto: "You're going to need a bigger tree!" All stores and companies put emphasis on buying and giving more, essentially telling us that the more you have the better your Christmas will be, but we all know that come January, all that spending will catch up with you when the credit card bills come, and you'll be left wondering if the gifts you spent it all on are truly being appreciated. Studies have shown that children and citizens in poorer and undeveloped countries are generally happier people compared to citizens living in wealthy western countries. They have less commercial and monetary pressures, more emotional connections, and I don't think I'd be wrong in saying this goes for their Christmas traditions as well. Economists are predicting that due to the recent economic struggles, this year's holiday spending will be lower than usual, meaning that people will most likely be finding thrifter methods of holiday gift giving. This change could be extremely beneficial in giving us an opportunity to reform our commercialized society. By focusing less on the cost of the gift and more on the recipient, gift giving is guaranteed to become more meaningful and personalized. There are plenty of enjoyable ways to celebrate the holidays with friends and family that put little to no emphasis on money. For example, to celebrate with your friends you could spend a day inside drinking hot chocolate, baking gingerbread cookies and watching old Christmas movies. If the weather is permitting, you could organize a group snowball fight. If you are finding money tight this season, organize a secret Santa gift exchange with a group of friends or coworkers, in that case you only need to buy one gift but still get to spread your holiday cheer with all the people you care about.

Christmas, even our commercialized version, is about showing how much we care. The thing to remember is that the people you love shouldn't care how fancy or expensive your gift is, it truly is the thought that counts.

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 CENTER POINT

Black Ops, it's worth every cent



Reilly Gagno
Columnist

The C.O.D franchise has been a fantastic videogame series, but with its last release of *Call of Duty Black Ops* the game is flying off the shelves. *Black Ops* is the biggest seller for any game around the world in 2010. It sold roughly around 7 million copies of the game in the first 24 hours it was released. In my opinion, that alone would make me want to buy a game. I mean, come on, it sold 7 million copies of one game sold in 24

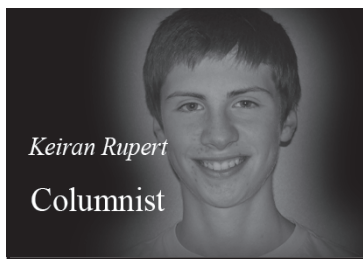
hours and set the newest sales record for 2010. A new thing that Activision (The publisher of the *Call of Duty* franchise) has brought to the online console world is that you get monthly or yearly subscriptions to *Black Ops* and get new maps, updates more than a month earlier than anybody else. Even though you have to pay an extra \$40-\$60 dollars, it is worth every cent with all the exclusive items you get online. Even though *Black Ops* is still running on the same game engine as *Call of Duty: World at War*, it still beats *Modern Warfare 2's* online gameplay.

I have heard that some people don't like the new interactive kill streaks such as the chopper gunner, or my personal favorite, the

gunship. The gun ship or the chopper gunner may leave your online character dormant and vulnerable in the game, but these two kill streaks will dominate.

The new C.O.D point system for buying your weapons and customization pieces is another new feature that is just the smartest thing that a game developer can possibly come up with. It brings a new feature in the way you play and changes your playing style because you don't just need XP to level up and get weapons and attachments; you also need the points to buy them, and I just absolutely love this new C.O.D points system. I can easily say that *Black Ops* is my most favorite *Call of Duty* game so far. So get *Black Ops*, it's worth it.

Activision is ripping you off



Keiran Rupert
Columnist

With over 7 million copies sold in the first 24 hours after its release, *Call of Duty: Black Ops* is set to become the highest grossing game in the *Call of Duty* franchise. Why is it so successful? Because many consumers, myself included, have shelled out \$59.99 every year to buy the newest *Call of Duty* game. The problem with this is that it is almost the same game as the one before it, usually with a few hours worth of added content and some other content taken away. Why do we pay for the same thing every

year? Video game publishers like Activision (who publishes the *Call of Duty* series) have established a good system for maximizing profit. These companies take titles like *Call of Duty* and have a development team pump out a sequel every year, taking the last game and giving it a new name, box art, and menus. Most of the time, quality isn't important because their consumers will buy the product no matter what.

This mentality makes for worse video games. Quality games are becoming rarer and rarer because companies don't want to put money and time into developing their games. They know that the more video games they release, the more they'll sell, regardless of quality.

I don't blame Activision, though, for trying to make money. It's

consumers who buy the games that are at fault. They enable these companies to put little money into games, and come out with a ton of sales. They lineup for games like *Black Ops* even if it's the same thing as another game the company released a year earlier. What does *Black Ops* really have that *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2* or *Call of Duty: World at War* doesn't?

The only real difference I see is the new campaign, which feels incoherent and unpolished. Once you've spent a few hours beating the campaign and playing multiplayer, what do you do? Try to "prestige" for the tenth time? By buying *Call of Duty* every year, you're enabling Activision to sell a mediocre product and encouraging other companies to do the same.



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R'side's third annual night market was a success



Elizabeth Boey playing an original song.



From left to right: Charlotte Heffelfinger, Deanna Kadota and Chelsea Salindong.



Gemma Vanderlee and Jackie Chin. D.Jung/eddy

Daniel Jung - staff reporter

Riverside Secondary is a high school that is well-known for its events. This year's annual Night Market displayed outstanding school spirit and was undoubtedly one of the best events to date. Led by Ms. Yamamoto and the Multicultural Leadership class, the Night Market showcased all of the various aspects of all Riverside's ethnic groups. The event was held

in the cafeteria, where games, prizes, performers, and lots of tasty food from around the world could be found. Needless to say, this event attracted many students and even some graduates, who didn't want to miss out on the opportunity.

The first aspect of the night market, multiculturalism, was the base of the event. A high percentage of Riverside's

Multicultural Leadership class is of Asian descent, and the event is very similar to the original (Richmond's famous "Night Market" that takes place throughout the summer). Korean, Japanese, and Chinese elements had a strong presence in Riverside's market.

The second aspect was, of course, the food. Everything from bubble tea to pierogies to festive

eggnog could be found at the market. Visitors could exchange their purchased tickets for all kinds of delectable treats from around the world.

The third thing the night market consisted of was performers. As always, the performances put on by students were splendid and entertaining, everything from dancers, to singers, and musicians. The fourth and final aspect, school

spirit, is what really shone. At the heart of every good school event lays school spirit, and without it even the most dazzling show would lack enthusiasm. The Night Market was full of excitement, bringing everyone together to celebrate and enjoy one another's company. Congratulations to Ms. Yamamoto and her class for doing an excellent job.

Best Buddies bonding beautifully

Livia Turnbull - staff reporter

The Skills Development kids are an often overlooked bunch, but the Best Buddies program has helped to bring them into the light. Best Buddies is a program where the students in the Skill Development class are matched up with students from Leadership class. Together, the buddies do a variety of activities, such as playing board games and making Halloween and Christmas crafts. In fact, before the end of the semester, the Best Buddies and Student Buddies are planning on going bowling together! But in order to make that plan happen, they need to raise funds. That is the reason why there was a cookie dough and candy cane fundraiser. The Best Buddies program has done so much for its participants already, but half those ideas would not be possible without the help of two student chairpeople, Grade 11 student My Lynn Quan and Grade 10 student Katrina Besler. Mrs. Blaxland is proud of the

program itself and of the two girls' efforts to help get it off the ground. "It's been really nice because now when I see the Skill Development students in the hall, I feel a connection to them," said Mrs. Blaxland when asked about the Best Buddies program.

The Best Buddies program did not originate at Riverside. The program is actually a charity organization founded in the United States by Anthony Kennedy Shriver. Best Buddies first came to Canada in 1993 and in 1995 it became a registered Canadian

charity. Today, Best Buddies has more than 200 chapters in Canada and many high schools, including Riverside have a Best Buddies chapter. "Best Buddies approached Riverside last year and asked if we were interested," said Blaxland. In addition to Canada and the U.S., Best Buddies has chapters operating in 44 different countries, such as Australia, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Ghana, Israel, and Kenya to name a few. Skill Development students are a part of our school and Best Buddies connects us all.



Students and their buddies working on a Christmas craft.

K.Shong/eddy

Students knit for homeless

Jesse Frempong - staff reporter

Ms. Selden and students at Riverside secondary school organized the knitting for homeless group last year, and are now doing it again this year. During lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays, students are able to join Ms. Selden in room 107 to help knit items for homeless people and families in the community.

Last year the knitting team only knitted for Christmas because they were limited to the amount of yarn that they could get. This year they will be knitting year round because families around the community decided to donate left over yarn they had after seeing an ad in the paper about the organization.

Previously the team was only able to donate 80 scarves to the Northside Grace Campus located on Lougheed Highway. This year the team hopes to knit more than 100 scarves, which means they will need more students to come and participate.

Rebecca Sigrist who is part of the knitting team has knit 22 scarves since the beginning of October. "The knitting is a good stress reliever, but we're also doing something for the community," Rebecca said.

Knitting is open to anybody who would like to become more active in social responsibility causes. There was an increase from last year, but they would like even more kids to help. "We plan on branching out into making hats, bracelets, and accessories," said Ms. Selden.



From left to right : Rebecca Sigrist, Tenika Thue, Ms. Selden, Rachelle Lim, Joevy Leong.

K.Shong/eddy

The Hamper tradition strong as ever

By Jordan Barone - staff reporter

Every year Riverside Secondary School's students participate in the Christmas hampers to help out a family that can't afford enough food and buy their children gifts for the holiday season. Every advisory in the school has a goal of making their family have a very great Christmas and to accomplish that, every class collects and brings in donations and canned food items. Riverside works with the charity SHARE and gets information on families in need in our community. How it works is every advisory gets a list for a family of what they need for the holiday season. Riverside students bring in money for gifts and food items that they selected from a list. Some advisories have more spirit for helping, and some advisories also have the advantage with more people, so they can collect more items. When the collection is complete,

students decorate the boxes filled with goodies, toys and food, and then it is driven by the students and their advisory teacher to the families' homes to give them their hampers. The grade nines that are new to the school are taught by the older kids the meaning of the hampers and why they should donate food items. Every year Riverside makes families all over the Tri Cities have a happier Christmas. This year Riverside will help over 70 families, and in the school's history over 1300 families have been helped.



Photo Courtesy of Google

Giving does not need to be materialistic.

A look at Christmas in Brazil

By Miriam Weber and Cristina Garofalo - staff reporters

It's hard to imagine a Christmas without snow, images of Santa, and the North Pole, but what symbols of Christmas do cultures in warmer climates have instead? In Brazil, massive trees are decorated and lit all over the city.

Fresh fruit and flowers are picked from the garden, which are used as pretty decorations. It's also a tradition to open gifts on Christmas Eve. In Brazil, they have a rooster which is a big symbol of a Brazilian Christmas. Legend says that the animals go to the barn where Jesus was born and talk to each other. The rooster would announce the birth of Jesus Christ. Many people go to *Misa de Gallo*, which basically means rooster's Mass on Christmas Eve. When the mass is over, you hear the rooster calling, announcing it is Christmas Day. Another difference is that in Brazil they don't have a Santa



Photo Courtesy of Google

Tree of Lights in Rio De Janeiro.

Clause. They focus more on the birth of Christ. They do, however, have something very similar, *Papai Noel*, who brings gifts to children. According to the legend, he lives in Greenland. When he arrives in Brazil, he wears red silk clothes due to the hot weather, and carries a bag full of presents. It is believed that he secretly leaves gifts at houses

on Christmas Day for every child that has been good. Food is typically a part of all Christmas celebrations. In Brazil they eat a special meal which includes dishes such as turkey, chicken, ham, rice, beans, mashed potatoes, and fresh and dried fruits. On Christmas day, the family would make a big breakfast and just relax.

Giving as it should be



Maya Reddy-Thom
staff reporter

Vice Principals Mr. Roos and Mr. Manhas (left) got into the Christmas spirit for a good cause. All last week Rapid Change charged students \$2 to get their photos taken with Santa. All proceeds are going to help Rapid Change's goal of raising \$7500 for building a school in Sierra Leone.



Leadership students along with Ms. Blaxland, put together care-kits, clothing and food to take down to those less fortunate at Oppenheimer Park in Vancouver. Last over 200 hundred homeless and shelter residents took advantage of the students hard work. "It's important to give back; we get so much." Isaac Baldwin (left - along with Kirsty Bertwell and Paige Williams.

Both photos: K.Shong/eddy

CHRISTMAS RIVERSIDE

Six things to do this

Kirk Iverson-

Under the Christmas Tree - Second Story Theatre



At Second Story Theatre (Downtown Poco) Fridays and Saturdays Dec 3-18th 7:30pm Tickets 5 dollars plus a 5 dollar Donation. It is an interactive

Christmas Musical for all ages. The audience helps create the Christmas story, so no two shows are the same!

Bright Nights at Stanley Park



Christmas in Vancouver means the return of many tried and true traditions, the Stanley Park Christmas train and display being a highlight for sure. Visit with farm animals and ride the colourful Christmas Train in this winter wonderland.

Grouse Mountain - The Peak of Christmas

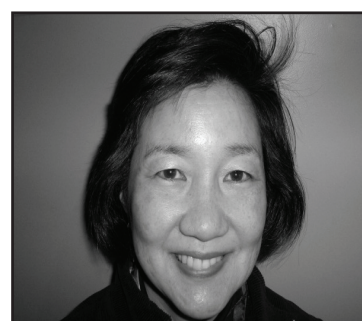


November 27th - December 24th Adult 19+ \$40 Youth 13 - 24 dollars. Meet real-life reindeer; accompany them on a sleigh ride, and even go ice skating

on a frozen pond! Keep in mind you are paying for your lift ticket, so you might as well plan a ski day too!

Down by the

What do you the Christmas



Ms. Yamamoto - Teacher

"I don't hate anything of this holiday except malls are always crowded by people during Christmas."



Chantal Cardoso - Grade 9

"I hate those over played carol songs on the radio, it makes me sick when I am in the car..."



Kaan Dan

"I hate how on the g Christmas is Jesus's birth

staff reporter

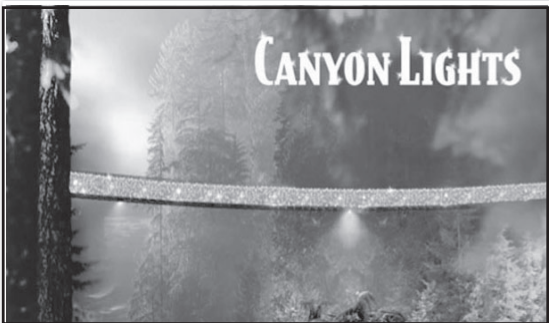
German Christmaskindmarkt



A unique Christmas celebration in the German Christmaskindmarkt fashion. Featuring vendors selling traditional German food (bratwurst) and beverages (Paulaner beer). In addition to the

great refreshments, vendors are open selling more traditional Christmas gifts such as carved toys and Sherpa hats. Christmas Crafts take place at a few tents.

Canyon Lights at Capilano Suspension Bridge



\$15 Adults 12+ \$5 for Kids under 12. Open till January 2nd. Capilano Suspension Bridge's annual holiday celebration is a wonderful winter scene, the canyon and bridge lit up with bright whimsical lights that brighten up

the park. Glass blowing, gingerbread cookie decorating and other activities are available to the whole family.

Festival of Lights at VanDusen Botanical Garden



Open Till January 2nd Teen (13-18) \$9.50 Adults 18+ \$13. Watch an amazing light show and stroll through amazing brightly lit paths, with fantastic plants and light displays. Enjoy delicious hot chocolate and even visit

Santa Claus and all his Elves!

the Riverside

dislike about Christmas Season?



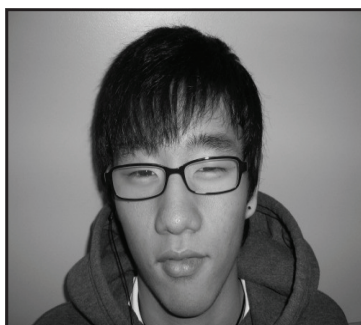
orcey - Grade 11

people only focus gifts nowadays, the day to celebrate day and have fun."



Daniel Lee - Grade 10

"One thing I hate about this holiday is that I can't have any presents from Santa Claus because I am too old."



Daniel Cho - Grade 12

"I hate watching snow melt."

Christmas style guide

Great outfits for the coming Holidays

By Sara Wahedi - staff reporter



For the minimalist

This outfit is for the girls who not only love the clean cut blazer and button up shirt, but also have an eye for pencil skirts and gold accented accessories. This particular collection of pieces is great for a simple Christmas dinner or even New Year's celebrations. Cheap basic pieces such as a button up shirt and leather platform shoes can be found at H&M for less than fifty dollars.



For the Soho look

The oversized skirt is becoming an extremely popular piece this season. The upcoming Spring-Summer collections of the runways are highlighting this simple piece. Although the Vancouver weather hasn't allowed us to be free with our choices in outfits, the oversized skirt will be an importance choice to keep in hand during the next few months. Available at Aritzia for seventy dollars.



For the new season

Black will be making a big comeback in 2011. Fashion designers such as Alexander Wang, Marc Jacobs, and Balmain have emphasized the importance of black in every girl's closet. Adding a simple symmetrical trench coat or a pair of harem pants are a good piece to add for the winter collection. Oxfords from ALDO are also available for forty five dollars until January 13th.

Your Guide to Christmas tunes

Tiana Muskego - staff reporter

Christmas music has changed a lot over the past ten years. For example, Mariah Carey's 1994 Christmas album, simply titled *Merry Christmas* includes classic songs such as *silent Night* and *Joy to the world*. All of these songs have a more gospel sound to them.

Her new Christmas album titled *To You* includes songs such as *Charlie Brown Christmas* with a more modern-pop feel to them. It also includes an extra festive version of *All I want for Christmas is You*. Although, many would still agree that the originals are still the best.

Another major singer who has the Christmas tradition is Taylor what sets her the rest is the fact her own songs about a break-up, good old song. Her 2009 album titled *Season* includes *Christmas Must More*. The song is meaning of without presents superficial 'it's all want' attitude that takes away from the joy and warmth of the holiday.



Mariah Carey's Christmas album. courtesy of Google

country-pop gotten into music Swift. But apart from all that she writes whether it be or even a Christmas Christmas *Sounds of the* the song *be Something* about the true Christmas and other about what I

Critics seem to be on the fence about her recreation of Christmas classics such as: *Santa Baby* and *White Christmas*, but Taylor reassures her fans, and fails to disappoint. These Christmas albums come highly recommended.



Riverside art students explore new techniques

Courtney Gemmell - staff reporter

What's new in the art world at Riverside? The drawing and painting eleven classes have just started a three part water colour series. This is when they make three different pieces of art, all connected by colour and theme, such as underwater scenes, graffiti, flowers, dresses, clocks etc. It is a really interesting way to do art, and unlike acrylics, water colour is lighter so one can see white through it, and it looks really nice when it is done. "Often students think they have to have really good skills and creativity for placement of the art and how to draw, but here we teach students how to develop skill, creativity and a good eye," said Ms. Schmidt. This is the seventh year that the drawing and painting eleven classes have looked at water colours, but in the last couple of years, they have focused more on the water colours and the three part series for it.



Jenny Kim, grade 11, paints 3 Mermaids Re-envisioned. K.Shong / eddy

Riverside students also shone at this year's Circle Craft art fair, on November 17 to the 21, the 37 annual show. Riverside has been in it since they first started inviting students to come to the show and

display their art. Now anyone in grade 11 or grade 12 can show their work to the art teachers who decide whose work goes in. This year sixteen Riverside students had their artwork displayed, but this is



3 Mermaids re-envisioned painting

Courtney Gemmell / eddy

the first year that they brought in a jury to vote on the winners. None of the Riverside students won this year, but Parris Beauchshe got an honorable mention. "It is a real honor for the teachers to see how

the students blossom from grade nine to the senior grades and how great it is that the people get to see the hard work that our students have put in to their art," said Ms. Schmidt.

Eden Nzeyimana earns a trip to Ottawa



Eden Nzeyimana posing for a photo in Ottawa.

Courtesy of Ms.Chin

Katlyn Anderson -staff reporter

It is always an honor when any Riverside student is recognized in the community, even more so when they are recognized on a national level which is the case for grade 12 student, Eden Nzeyimana. Eden won the Begbie competition in French. The Begbie competition is history based, giving students a chance to test their knowledge on it. The Begbie competition is a two hour test, one that you can apply to take for ten dollars. The test is designed to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge on Canadian history. "I won the Begbie national history contest, so I got a free trip to go to Parliament I got to participate in a ceremony and meet

the new Governor General (David Johnston) and I got to attend a

"It is a very big honour... it was great to meet somebody who is such a big part of the Canadian government."

-Eden Nzeyimana.

“

reception at the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa," said Eden. In addition to meeting the new Governor General, she also

received one thousand dollars spending money. "It was fun! He was really nice; he told us a story about his grandchildren in his speech. He's very passionate about education," said Eden.

Eden was not the only one to travel to Ottawa, our own Mrs.Chin did as well. "I'm happy when there's a student from BC who qualifies, and I'm particularly happy when it's a student from our school." She was a coordinator for the event. "It is a very big honour. When I entered this competition, I never thought that I would win, and it was great to meet somebody who is such a big part of the Canadian government," said Eden. There were also students from other competitions meeting him as well.

Santa makes a stop at Riverside

Ivy Malinowski - staff reporter

Riverside once again hosted a wonderful community Christmas dinner. Approximately fifty children and their families from local feeder schools to Riverside enjoyed a traditional turkey dinner provided by Riverside's Culinary Arts teacher, Mr. Straumford and his students. This event was organized by Mrs. Blaxland, Ms. Chittenden, and the schools Green Shirts and Leadership students. "We had a really good turn out this year. This wouldn't have turned out as good as it did without the student volunteers," said Chittenden. Mr. Roose brought his children as well. Riverside students entertained the children while they waited for Santa to show up and deliver gifts. Santa was none other than Mr. B. Kenny, Riverside's retired counselor. The leadership



A group of children at the community Christmas dinner on December 8th.

Ivy Malinowski/eddy

students helped the children make Christmas cards that were set up at some tables around the schools cafeteria. The children looked like they enjoyed getting their face painted with red noses like Santa. There was also a raffle draw where each parent signed up to win a prize.

After dinner was served, they were greeted by Santa and each child was called up on the stage to sit with him and receive a wrapped Christmas gift. The families seemed to enjoy watching their children play and celebrate the season of giving with Santa Clause.

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Riverside presents "The Tempest"

Brayden Fengler - staff reporter

Shakespeare is no stranger to the Riverside drama department, seeing as it's been the focus of the fall plays for the past five years, and this year is no exception with the performance of *The Tempest*. The play has a mostly female cast with only two male actors (Tyler Doiron and Eric Wilmot). The play starts out with a ship stuck at sea in a storm. The storm is being caused by Prospero (Robyn Vondracek) who is a powerful sorcerer, but also the Duchess of Milan which is where the play takes place. The passengers on the ship are separated prior to being washed up to different parts of Milan and this is where the story starts to unfold. Unfortunately there is really nothing to be unfolded because the play has an



Marissa Martin and Tyler Doiron in "The Tempest."

B.Fengler/The Eddy

extremely boring and confusing story line that only hardcore Shakespeare fans will enjoy/appreciate, and let's be honest

there aren't many of those around anymore. Some of the actors don't project enough to fill the room; the two main characters Ferdinand

(Tyler Doiron) and Miranda (Marissa Martin) lack emotion in line delivery and stage presence. Also the attempt to modernize the

play by including god awful versions of songs such as Katy Perry's "California Girls" and "Let it Be" by The Beatles fall flat, and, William Shakespeare probably rolled over in his grave. However this play isn't all bad news; the scenes with Trincula, Stephana and Caliban (Cydne Padon, Jennifer Soroczka and Eric Willmott) are very entertaining and a refreshing break from the rest of the play. All the actors in the play have talent and are very capable, but they aren't used to their full potential because the play itself is not entertaining; it's the same old Shakespeare Riverside has seen for years and I think everyone can agree that we want something different in the drama department! Something that people can enjoy and understand.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part



Alex Brown - staff reporter

Harry Potter is thrilling audiences.

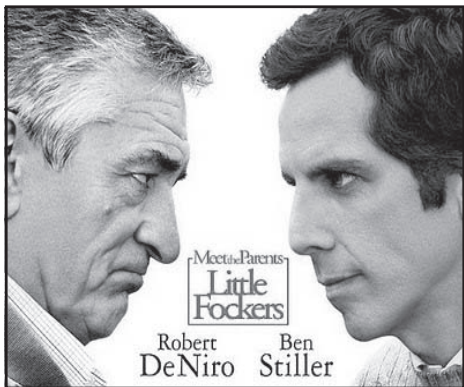
Courtesy of Google

In the first part of this final chapter of the series, the movie begins with action right from the start. Just a few days before his 18th birthday, Harry (with the help of friends and supporters) must escape from the only house he knew as home. Almost as soon as they take to the sky, they are swarmed by Death Eaters and the fight begins. From that point on, the movie is full of action and sadness with twists and turns at every possible point. As with many books that are brought to the silver screen, much

is either cut out or forgotten leaving fans with a feeling of something missing. The one major upside to Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows is that it is split into two parts and, therefore, more parts from the book can be in the movie, leaving fans happier. As for part one of the two part finale, it does stay pretty true to the book, leaving out very few details and changing very little. The acting in this movie as in the six prior hasn't really changed. All the same actors from the first six movies, minus the original Dumbledore, reunite in Harry Potter and the Deathly

Hallows. I find the acting in this movie very well done with all the actors portraying their roles just as any fan who has read the books would expect them to. As mentioned, this movie is full of action and sadness. This movie really shows us how much we need and rely on our friends especially in a time of need. Now if you haven't read the books or seen the movies, I would suggest you do that prior to seeing this one. So in conclusion this is definitely a movie I would suggest to anyone. Young or old, this is sure to be a movie you'll enjoy.

Christmas movies...back to classics!



Courtesy of Google

Aileen Choi - staff reporter
"Little Fockers"

Little Fockers is the third movie of the *Meet the Fockers* series. It is about Greg Focker and Pamela Focker getting married but Pamela's ex CIA father doesn't trust Greg and puts him through a bunch of tests until he finally warms up to him...sort of. A few years later, they have kids, also known as the Little Fockers. Christmas time comes around and Pamela's parents come to visit! Is the feud between dad and grandpa over? Little fockers will take you on a whole new ride this Christmas season.



Courtesy of Google

"A Christmas Carol"

A Christmas Carol is a classic Christmas movies that teach many life lessons, such as don't be stingy, love and a good heart. The story is about a cynical old man, Miser Ebenezer Scrooge, who transforms from a sour and mean person into a joyful, caring and loving person over night before Christmas by visitations from the Ghost of Christmases Past, present, and Yet to Come. On Christmas day, he has changed completely and gives back to the less fortunate.

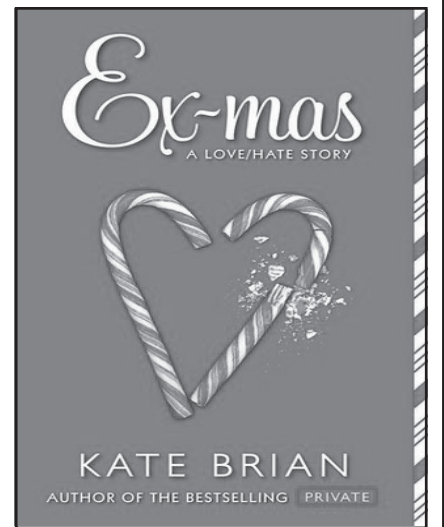


Courtesy of Google

"It's a Wonderful Life"

It's a Wonderful life is a popular holiday movie about a man, George Bailey, who has the perfect life: a loving family and his own business, which he inherited from his father. However, on Christmas Eve, George encounters business difficulties and loses the money they owe the bank so he considers committing suicide. Then, he is saved by his guardian angel, Clarence. He shows George what his life really means while the whole community comes together to help him out and Clarence achieves his goal as an angel.

"Ex-mas," an ex-celent Christmas read



Livia Turnbull - staff reporter

It's the start of Christmas Break at North Valley High and Lila Beckwith is throwing the biggest party of the year! As the co-queen of North Valley High, it is important that she throws this party or risk committing social suicide. However, her plans are thwarted by her little brother, Cooper, who informs her parents of the party plans right before they leave for Arizona. Enraged, Lila shows her Santa-obsessed brother an article on how global warming is melting the North Pole. Terrified, Cooper and his best friend, Tyler, decide to go a journey to save Santa. Now, Lila and Tyler's older brother, Beau must find the kids and bring them back. The only problem? Lila and Beau are an ex-couple. And the relationship between them is cold enough to stop global warming from melting the North Pole. But can a road trip make things between them heat up again? This book is light and fun, a good read for the holiday season. However, like many other teen books, this one is packed full of now current-pop culture references, making this book instantly dated in a year or two from now. Also, some the events in the story are a little implausible, such two eight year olds getting on a train by themselves without any adults asking questions. In conclusion, I recommend reading Ex-mas this year, but not the year after that.



Riverside has a winning passion for volleyball

Jakob Perrault - staff reporter

What a season Riverside Senior Boys and Girls Volleyball have had! 2010 has been their best season ever. For the girls, a great season was capped off with a second straight Fraser Valley Championship. The girls rallied back from behind and beat 3rd ranked Eal Marriot to take the title. Tylar Turnbull was a standout player achieving the tourney's MVP award, while Grade 11 Mallory Sall earned a first all-star team honor. Commenting on the team before the tournament, Coach Bryan Gee said, "I am quite confident they will play the best volley ball of the season this weekend. This has been a great season with a great team. I am proud of every girl and of what they have accomplished this year."

That confidence paid off for the team going into the Provincial Championships in Nanimo ranked



Coach Muro, team manager, Jundi Lee, and the senior boys volleyball team receive the bronze medal.

courtesy of Mr. C.Muro

second behind their nemesis, the number one ranked Handsworth Royals. After a hard fought battle against the Royals, the rankings in the end stayed the same with the Rapids taking home a Silver medal.

The Senior boys had an equally successful season. After a long season, the boys came in fourth at

the Fraser Valley Championship at Heritage Woods. This ensured them a place at the BC Provincial Championships in Kelowna where the Rapids beat the host team in a three set sweep to take home the Bronze medal. Some of the standout players in the tournament were power hitter Victor Zych and Liam Brett with his defensive



Mr. Gee, the senior girls volleyball team and the assistant coach receive the silver medal.

courtesy of Mr. B.Gee

blocks. Brendan Williams got honourable mention.

Despite these great individual performances by the veteran players, Coach Carlo Muro was quick to point out that "it isn't just these players that secured the win; the whole team works together to succeed." Coach Muro went on to add that most of these boys have

been playing together since they were in grade 6. The boys went into the tournament ranked 6 overall and coming home with the Bronze medal has made everyone very proud. Hopefully Riverside's powerhouse of volleyball teams will have continued success in the years to come, despite some of the veterans graduating. Go Rapids!

Are you ready to hit the slopes this season?

Brayden Fengler - staff reporter

Ski and snowboard season is upon us once again. It's time to dust off those skis and strap on your bindings because this season is going to be a good one. But before you hit the slopes you need to decide which mountain you will be going to and you need to ask yourself if your gear from years past is still functional and ready for this season. If your answer is no, then don't worry because there are plenty of deals on boards and skis floating around this season in stores and online, you just need to find the one that's right for you. Sports Chek has always been a



courtesy of Google

It's ski and snowboard season.

great place to get good quality sports equipment, and snowboards and skis are included

in that. They have a variety of men's, woman's and children's boards and skis, all with very rea-

sonable prices in the \$200 range, and right now for a limited time you get 20% off any snowboard or ski boots in the store with a purchase of any skis, snowboard or snowboard bindings. If you're an online shopper, then there are deals for you as well. A website called Ski Heart.com, a site that sells both Skis and Snowboards has 30% off select Burton snowboards and 20% off select cross country skis. Now once you get your new board or skis, it's time to decide what mountain to try them

out on. Whistler is the most expensive mountain around and a family ski trip sure won't be cheap with adult lift tickets priced at \$70.00 and youth priced at \$60.00, but you are getting your money's worth. Whistler has amazing sights and slopes, and Whistler Village has something for skiers and non-skiers alike. If you don't want to break the bank just to go skiing for a day, then you can also go to another local mountain such as Cypress, Seymour or Grouse. Youth lift tickets range in price from \$39.99 at Seymour, to \$47.99 at Cypress, but keep in mind no matter where you go or how much you spend you will have a blast.

Girl's B-ball set for another season



Michelle Spacek in the midst of a pass.

M.Stuart/eddy

Mitchell Stuart - staff reporter

The Rapid's senior girls' basketball team is once again ranked number two in the province and is looking forward to a great season. The team is built of 90% grade elevens, who have all played together since their grade nine days. Four of them played on the senior team last year as grade tens. The team is looking to rebound after getting knocked out of last

year's Provincials in the semi-finals by the number one ranked team, Handsworth. The team has lost a lot of size over the offseason, but according to Michelle Spacek, a point guard on the team, they make up for a lack of size with quickness and a good work ethic.

Handsworth and Riverside have been rivals for a few years now and it has always seemed like Handsworth has had the 'upper hand'; however, this year

together for as long as they have.

Riverside has only lost one game so far this season to W.J. Mouat Secondary School, who has a significant size advantage over Riverside. Other than that game, Riverside has been unstoppable since winning their first game of the season 88-33. Riverside is hoping to go all the way this year and believe they will have no problem running over their rival Handsworth along the way.

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