



Riverside Welcomes Mr. Ciolfitto

Tiana Muskego - staff reporter

Riverside started the New Year with its 6th principal in the school's 14 year history. While many are sad to see Scott Robinson go to Richmond, it is with curiosity and optimism that Riverside is slowly getting to know Mr. Anthony Ciolfitto. Ciolfitto started his career in education 14 years ago as a Math and Science teacher at Port Moody Secondary. He moved on to counseling and became part of the team that opened Heritage Woods Secondary. From there, he moved to Beijing, China to work as a Vice Principal. Coming full circle, Ciolfitto returned to Port Moody as a Vice Principal in 2007 before beginning 2011 as the Principal of Riverside.

Arriving at a new school in the middle of the school and year and following in the footsteps of a popular Principal can be a daunting task. When asked, Ciolfitto added that his biggest challenge will be "to understand the nuances and intricacies of this large organization that revolves around the social dynamics of 1400 students, 110 staff, parents, and community members." Ciolfitto believes that

building trust is necessary in order to have open and honest discussions about what is working, what needs refining and what matters most to the education and development of students at Riverside.

"He seems very friendly and genuine; he has come to a few of my classes to talk to us and tell us a bit about himself."

-Theresa Ly, grade 11.

”

Even though he has only been here a few weeks, his observations so far and Riverside's reputation have given Ciolfitto the impression that Riverside is an incredible school built on a strong sense of care, commitment, innovation and relationships.

When asked about what he thinks

he will enjoy most about his experience being a Principal at Riverside, he simply said, "being part of a success story."

Since arriving at Riverside, Ciolfitto has been making an effort to meet students. "He seems eager to get to know us with the survey in RAP and everything," said grade 11 student Ellen Chung.

When he is not settling in to his new job or reading books about education and human behaviour, Ciolfitto loves spending time with his wife and children. Some of his favourite hobbies are fly fishing, playing guitar, horseback riding and skiing. Favourite foods include Asian Fusion, and of course, good homemade pasta and sauce, "just like my grandmother makes it," said Ciolfitto.



Riverside's new Principal Mr. Ciolfitto.

K.Shong/eddy

Informed teens should have a vote



Liberal party leader candidate Mike de Jong.

Courtesy of Google

Kieran Rupert- staff reporter

With voter turnout declining each provincial election, Liberal leadership candidate Mike de Jong has promised to lower the voting age from 18 to 16 in order to engage young people in the political process and raise voter turnout.

"Young people can drive at 16," said de Jong, "they can enter the military and be raised to adult court, we give them these responsibilities so why not take the next logical step and let them be full participants."

As de Jong points out, political parties already allow 14-year-olds to vote in leadership contests. Would it be such a bad thing for 16-year-olds to vote in provincial elections?

Mike de Jong also suggested that students who begin to vote when they are young and still living at home may continue to vote when they move out and are too busy to worry about the provincial elections.

"We have to create a culture of engagement, and the only way to do that is to say to a student at a formative time in their lives, you are full members of society, and instead of leaving here and never voting or never voting until you're 40 or 50, here's your chance to make a difference," said de Jong. On the other hand, some argue that teenagers aren't responsible enough to vote. They argue that, because 16-year-olds generally live at home and don't need to pay taxes, they aren't concerned as much with where tax money goes.

They say that, at the age of 16, they aren't informed enough to make the right decision and they could be easily manipulated by pop culture and advertisement. However, teenagers may be as well-informed as ever, with television and the internet at their disposal.

Riverside student Sebastian Zein said, "I don't think there would be any problems with uneducated teenagers voting. The 16-year-old who wants to vote, isn't the same 16-year-old who doesn't follow politics." At least this would give kids an opportunity to be more engaged in politics.

The voting age was lowered in BC to 19 in 1952 and then to 18 in 1992. A number of countries have already lowered it to 16.

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Is Teachers' merit pay good for students ?

Rachelle Lim - Staff Reporter

The idea of paying teachers based on measurable outcomes from their students, rather than being paid on how long they've been on the job is an idea that politicians have continued to raise and teachers continue to reject. Merit pay means teachers being paid according to their teaching skills and not their years of experience. A teacher performing above the standard level or has experienced professional growth, may receive merit pay while other teachers who don't are maintained at their regular salary. Health Minister, Kevin Falcon promises to push for a merit-based pay system if he becomes premier after the party's leadership vote on February 26.

There are many controversies surrounding this idea, mainly because there are flaws that clash together on the whole idea of merit pay for teachers. One of them is that the merit system does not provide an accurate outcome of how well the teacher is teaching. Most merit programs are tied to how well students do on standardized tests. You cannot judge a teacher's capability by test scores. Students mainly learn at their own pace. Should a student get pushed constantly when they can't achieve a specific grade? Should a teacher feel the need to get pushed constantly to get rewarded? A student's performance does not always demonstrate a teacher's performance. As a result, this is seldom reliable on how teachers should get paid. A poor teacher still has 'A' students and great teachers bring kids from a 'C' to a 'C+'.

In the 1980s, merit pay was also a popular idea among policymakers who saw it as a good idea. However, few of the programs that were started back then remain today. The reason is that the merit pay programs didn't work out as planned and most of them had failed due to dishonesty and cheating on student's marks.

Another reason why the merit pay system is not widely supported is because it is unfair to teachers and students. Although many argue and say that this analysis can inform teachers to seek improvement while giving teachers the extra pay. How can we really judge teachers based on that notion? This can cause teaching preferences, as teachers do not want to be assigned students with bad behavior, learning difficulty, ESL students, etc. Teachers should not have to consider his/her pay check size when they prepare for the learning outcomes and different learning needs of their students.

Merit pay would encourage teachers to work harder, but it doesn't necessarily benefit the students. Merit pay would not improve a student's performance, mainly because teachers would become obsessed with financial rewards and with that, teachers become more mechanical and would drill lessons and will do repetition of their lectures to produce the best results. This would make students become uninterested and bored as they are being pushed, tested and pressured to achieve a high mark. Adding this extra money reward, merit pay will make teachers more focused on technical measures than their passion.

The editorials that appear on this page represent the opinion of the eddy. They do not necessarily represent the opinion of the writer. The positions taken are arrived at through discussion among members of the eddy staff.

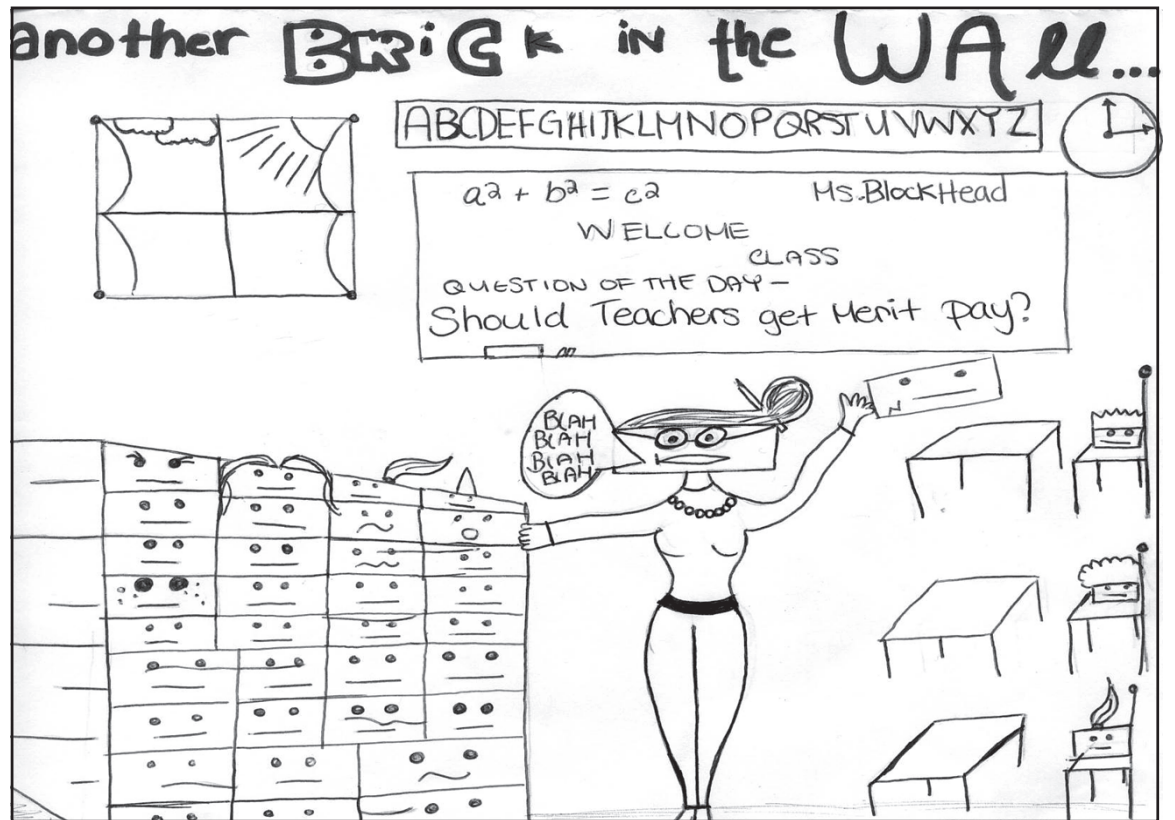
the eddy
riverside secondary

The Eddy has been the independent voice of the students of Riverside Secondary since 1996 and is produced monthly by the Journalism 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. Advertisers can reach the Eddy at eddy@sd43.bc.ca or by contacting Riverside Secondary.

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POINT COUNTER POINT

Parent role models, not stars



Kaitlyn Anderson
Columnist

Miley Cyrus, the 18 year old former Disney star was caught on video smoking an herb called Salvia. It is not her own responsibility to be in charge of the actions of her fans nor is it prudent for her fans to base their lives on her actions. Can you really blame this teenager for setting a bad example? She's a real person just like all her fans. Keep in mind that I'm not saying it is alright to do the drugs in the first

place, but if that's what she's choosing to do/try that's her choice. Sooner or later all of the child stars grow up and lead their own lives with their own choices.

Another thing that has to be mentioned is the fact that Salvia is 100% legal in the state of California. As immoral as the media wants to spin it, when it comes down to it she did nothing wrong! Personally, I drink coffee in the morning; caffeine is a legal drug and there is no controversy about people drinking it or taking it in pill form. Why not? Because it's legal and part of the lifestyle of so many people. Salvia may not be a large part of life around California, but it is just as legal as a cup of coffee with caffeine.

Just some food for thought but

if you were the mother or father of a Miley Cyrus or Hannah Montana fan, should you not have more influence over your children than a character they see on TV? If you can't control your kid or they choose to make their own decisions (and there is nothing wrong with that) I believe that you should not look at others who do the same activities and blame them. Miley Cyrus is not advocating for Salvia and the fact that she tried it should not be reason to try it yourself. But the fact that all celebrities are just human and live life the same way as everyone else shouldn't be reason to attack them over perfectly legal actions. At the end of the day, even the celebrities some people look up to have to live their own lives.

Why is Miley so smiley?



Ivy Malinowski
Columnist

Many young stars find themselves on national television and internet websites that focus on their not so good performances. Parents see their children watching Britney Spears, Lindsay Lohan and the newest most talked about teen celebrity, Miley Cyrus on television, and they get disgusted by her pole dancing and skimpy outfits that they present on stage. YouTube, TMZ channels and the internet show Miley Cyrus videos getting high on a Bong or dirty dancing as she performs Party in

the USA. Sources say on TMZ, that Miley Cyrus was smoking Salvia, which is a hallucinogenic drug. Salvia is legal in California, but not in Canada. Some people who were partying with her went back to that same room and took her infamous bong rip and created their own video. You also can see pictures of her over various websites of her posing half naked. Because of their pictures and videos, people post trashy comments about them. Another prime example of a "good girl gone bad" is Lindsay Lohan. She was always the "good little girl" who played in the Parent Trap and Life Size. Since she started acting at a young age, we saw her grow into this celebrity. Now she's been seen going to rehab for use of drugs and alcohol. We see these

inappropriate performances and the comments that others post on a video and assume the worst of them. Those images and words are seen by young children who dress like them, and perhaps think that drugs are alright to do. Miley Cyrus's twelve year old sister, Noah Cyrus has her own lingerie line, "Ooh! La La! Couture." Because of the look Miley Cyrus portrays, she is obviously trying to be like her older sister in ways. For that, Miley should take some control of her image. So should other young celebrities. To conclude this observation, teen celebrities should keep up a good image for their viewers and at least try not to bring their immature actions on camera. Because young people are watching and imitating the stars they idolize.



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Riverside student strives to make big changes

Maya Reddy-Thom
- staff reporter

Riverside students have always upheld a strong reputation for positive social change and community service, and one student in particular has shown a great deal of involvement and success in this regard. Grade 12 student Emily Chan has been an active student in our school through groups such as Green Shirts and Rapid Change, and is currently working with the *Me to We* foundation through Riverside's work experience program.

Every second Monday, Emily works at *Me to We's* downtown office doing a variety of jobs, including inventory, research, and even sitting in on meetings. "The office is modern and there are pictures all over of their work with

children in countries like Kenya, Ecuador, and India. It's a great environment," said Chan.

Emily has been involved with the *Free the Children Foundation* for the past 4 years, which gave her a contact when it came to Work Experience placements, as *Me to We* is a partner with *Free the Children*.

Along with Mondays at *Me to We*, Emily is working along with an advisor, hired by the Toskan Philanthropy Initiative. YPI is an initiative with the goal of



Emily Chan presenting to Planning 10 students. K.Shong/Eddy

strengthening local, grassroots, social service organizations, that Riverside has been involved with for several years. The initiative gives Planning 10 students the opportunity to make a difference and get involved in their community. After choosing an organization, groups of students create a presentation to prove to fellow students and judges why their organization deserves a five thousand dollar grant towards

their efforts in our community.

Along with her advisor, Emily is going to speak to Planning 10 classes introducing them to the project and speak of her experiences with it. "I like getting to interact with people through working with YPI; it's a change from all the behind the scenes work I do at the office," said Chan.

The involvement with the Youth Philanthropy initiative has been a very positive experience for Chan. "I really like getting to be creative with speech writing and practice public speaking," she said, "since all *Me to We* employees need to have professional public speaking training, I've gotten a lot of great feedback."

"It's definitely somewhere [*Me to We*] I'd be interested in continuing to work," said Chan, who plans to pursue a joint degree in Journalism and Human Rights after graduation from Riverside.

Vive Les Mini-Opéras



Askit from January 2011 Mini Opera. Courtesy of E. Waters

Alex Brown - staff reporter

This year's Conversations class taught by M. Larrivée, presented the Mini Operas to friends, family, and students on Wednesday, January 12th, 2011. It was a night filled with song, dance and multiple laughs and there was also a message behind each presentation.

Not only did this year's mini opera have songs about M. Larrivée and the grade nines, they also explored, in a humorous way, the theme of friendship and how personalities

sometimes clash leaving the audience with something to think about. Some of the students will have the opportunity to perform their plays in Quebec; however, only a select few are chosen after interviews and auditions. Once in Quebec they perform for the homeless, people with special needs, and elementary schools. They will perform eleven times over the course of one week.

When M.Larrivée was asked if there would be a Mini Opera next year he said: "It doesn't look like there will be." Although, he does have tendency of saying things will come to an end but continue, such as his retirement for example. Many hope this is one of those times when he says it's coming to an end, but doesn't because the operas are funny, entertaining, an overall good time and definitely something everyone should experience at least once.

R-side clothing a big hit

Jesse Frempong - staff reporter

The new wave of clothing this year was a huge hit for Riverside's marketing class. Adam Fraser, Kaitlin Franks, Nima Vakili and Tina Hoseinpour teamed up as entrepreneurs and helped to design and organize a blueprint for this year's Riverside clothing. Over the semester, the four students needed weeks of preparation and advertising for it to be a success. Facebook played a big part in advertising this year.

The team created a group named 'R-Side Clothing 2010/2011!' The group included 250 students and was ran by grade 11 student, Kaitlin Franks and grade 12 student, Tina Hoseinpour. Creating a group on Facebook abled them to ask the students questions on what students would like to wear, and which colors they would prefer sporting. While the two girls were running the Facebook group, grade 11 students, Adam Fraser and Nima Vavili were out at lunches placing posters in the hallways on in student's lockers. In



The Entrepreneur students and Mr. Rothenburger. K.Shong/Eddy

previous years, it seemed the majority of students that bought clothing were either graduates of the year or sports team members. This year far more students purchased items, which means the team had a good advertising scheme and the items and colors appealed to more students. Riverside clothing has been in progress for nine years, and with dedicated students running the line, it will be consistent for many years to come. Be sure to lookout for the spring clothing coming next semester.

Multi-tasking is a myth when you hit the books

Livia Turnbull - staff reporter

With the Provincials looming over Riverside like a giant cloud, it's time to do what most students dread: study. So, armed with their iPods and cellphones, poring over the study material of their choice, it's time to begin multitasking. However, come the day of the exam, they find that they cannot remember a thing. That's right, in reality, multitasking does more harm than good.

When you multitask, the brain's learning systems are affected. As a result, you are not giving each task enough attention. Not only that, but a study has shown that people who multitask do worse on tests. Also, the people who multitasked in the same study showed a 10 point fall in their IQ.

Let's face it, multitasking is almost required in today's fast paced world, but studying is not one of those things. Studying is like driving a car; you need to be focused on what you are doing at all times. You cannot let anything distract you, not even a text message. Yet, it seems more and more young people are killed or killing others due to texting while driving. CBSnews.com reported that last year over 6,000 deaths were caused by people who texted while they drove. Now, granted, failing an exam is lot different than getting killed in a car accident, but the point still stands: Multitasking doesn't work. So if multitasking does not work, what are some good study tips? First off, clear away all distracting objects from the desk or table. Sec-

ondly, make sure you eat healthy snacks while studying. They will help you concentrate better. Thirdly, write down the most important facts on cue cards and memorize them. Fourthly, take short breaks about ten-fifteen minutes long. That way, your brain can absorb the information more easily. Lastly, make sure to get a good night's sleep the night before the exam. These kinds of



Distractions are everywhere when trying to study.

Courtesy of Google

study tips are good, but everyone has different methods of studying. It is important to find a method that suits you. People who use studying methods do better on tests than

ones that do not, so it is important to find a strategy soon. After all, one does not want to fail a provincial because of too many distractions.



WikiLeaks

Freedom of speech or reckless?

Brayden Fengler - Staff Reporter

WikiLeaks - most of the world wasn't even aware of its existence until a couple of months ago. In fact, lots of people are still confused on what exactly it is and where it came from. WikiLeaks is a nonprofit internet organization launched in October of 2007. Its sole purpose is to publish secret, previously undisclosed documents about corporations or governments submitted by anonymous sources within these corporations or governments. The purpose of this website is not for employees within big companies to leak miscellaneous documents about their place of work just because they can. WikiLeaks exists for a much more important reason, to expose big companies and governments when they are doing something wrong and are trying to hide it. WikiLeaks acts as a public "whistle blower" to keep corporations and governments inline when they step out of it. For example, if a man named "Bob" works for a company, and he is aware of a wrong doing inside the



Courtesy of Google

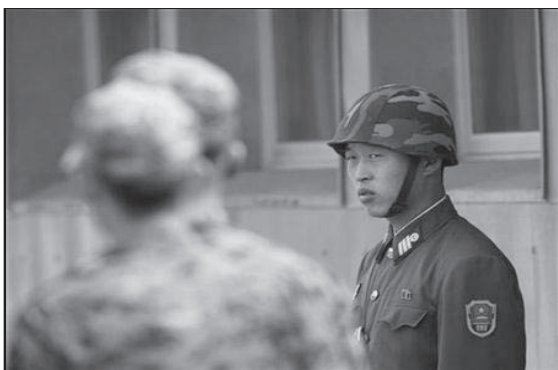
company that is being kept a secret, such as unfair work conditions or an illegal side business, he can anonymously post documents proving these unacceptable actions of the company to WikiLeaks, and if WikiLeaks thinks the

documentation is legitimate and a serious enough issue, they will publish the documents to their site and the company will be exposed. Furthermore, the reason WikiLeaks has been in the news recently is because they have

been leaking top secret documents coming from inside the never seen before depths of the United States government. The documents that have been leaked are mostly involving wars and other events having to do

with the United States military, many of them which have no significant outcome. As of right now there are 466,743 documents that have been leaked involving the Iraq and Afghanistan wars alone. There are also documents about the United State's human recourses and foreign relations organizations. Some of these documents date back to the 1966 and are over 45 years old. The US government is outraged by this and is pointing the finger at WikiLeaks's founder and editor-in-chief Julian Assange. This is a very debatable topic and there are strong arguments to back up each side. One can argue that Assange is illegally invading the US government's security and can even go as far to call him a terrorist as many American politicians already have. WikiLeaks also has a strong ground to stand on; they can protest freedom of speech and because they do not reside within the United States cannot be punished under US law. Many feel that Assange is simply the messenger by leaking these documents, and that perhaps it's the people in the government that have something to hide that are in the wrong.

"Brink of war" possible in Korea



Photos taken during the Shelling Attack near the Korean Peninsula.



Photos courtesy of Google

Sara Wahedi - Staff Reporter

North and South Korea have been at war for 50 years, and an attack that took place this past November on the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong is continuing to ignite tensions between the two countries. "The situation on the Korean peninsula is inching closer to the brink of war," said South Korea's Minister of Defense in regards to the situation. The two countries have been at war since 1953 and December's attack

marks the first offensive action by either country since the two signed a ceasefire rather than a peace treaty. The United States has firmly positioned itself to support the South Korean government in any attack that North Korea may instigate, while both Russia and China remain close allies to Kim-Jong Il's one party government. Within the hour long battle, four South Koreans - two marines and two civilians - were killed in the siege

after North Korea provoked an artillery attack on Yeonpyeong. Subsequently, countries such as Canada and the United States are urging China to exercise the influence that it has on North Korea - after the watering down of the issue of nuclear weapons came into view at the United Nations Security Council meeting last May, in which China held its position firmly that North Korea was not at fault for enriching Uranium. It can be

argued that instead of talking sense to North Korea, China has heightened tensions by objecting that part of the exercises were planned for the Yellow Sea international waters, where American ships have often sailed, that are claimed by Beijing. The war began on June 25, 1950, after North Korean troops, backed by China and the Soviet Union, crossed into the south. The Security Council then decided to form a United Nations Command

under US military leadership to blunt the spread of communism as the Cold War settled in between East and West. The Korean situation seems to be intensifying to unprecedented levels; the UN Security Council will continue talks and a successful proposition may never come into life. As long as there is the presence of powerful countries on both sides of the spectrum, there will be no possible ratification to the situation which may lead to the Third World War.



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Remembering 2010: A Year Full of Memories

Jordan Barone -
staff reporter

On the world stage, 2010 was a year of tragedy, gold medals and happiness, and inside Riverside it was a good year there were sports teams finishing in high places, notable accomplishments by students and the loss of a principal. Some of the stories that caught our attention in 2010 were sports stories. February 12th, 2010

was the first day of the winter Olympics. It was the warmest winter ever and organizers had to truck in snow; some renamed it the "Spring Olympics." Canadians everywhere were very excited when the athletes won 14 gold medals; however, most memorable for Canadians everywhere has to be when both the men's and women's hockey team won gold. On June 11th, 2010 the 19th FIFA

World Cup of soccer kicked off in South Africa. After a month long tournament that ended July 11th, 2010, Spain won in an unforgettable match against the Netherlands.

Although 2010 was a happy year, there were some tragic memories. January 12th, 2010 a horrible earthquake struck Haiti. This earthquake left many people homeless and many people were badly injured or killed. Groups such as the Red Cross, are still trying to help with the re-building of a fragile Haiti. Another bad news story that had everyone thinking was the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. An oil Rig owned by BP exploded, spilling millions of oil into the gulf for months. A bad news good news story of 2010 was the Chilean mine disaster. 33 miners were trapped 700 metres underground for a record 69 days until they were rescued in front of the world.



Vancouver's 2010 Winter Olympics.

Courtesy of Google

2010 was also a year of good and sad memories for the school. The girls and boys volleyball teams had a very successful season and placed very high, the highest ever in the Provincials, 2nd and 3rd respectively. On a sadder note, the school lost Mr. Robinson to Richmond.

Riverside Secondary had its first year with digital immersion and it

was a great success. Also one of Riverside Secondary's students, Eden Nzeyimana won the national history contest out of all of Canada and she even did it in French.

Overall 2010 was a good year for Riverside and an exciting year around the world. Let's hope 2011 is a year full of good memories and not as many tragedies.



The tragic earthquake in Haiti in 2010.

Courtesy of Google

How to manage your money and safety in 2011

Daniel Jung - staff reporter

2010 was, in part, a year of recovery. After coming out of the worst part of the economic recession, people struggled to regain control of their finances. 2011 will most likely be another year of recovery. But what does this mean for young people? Teenagers will have to learn to do more with less. Even though you may want to buy the nicest and/or more expensive things, you should

always remember that many of these items are luxuries. Maybe this means you buy Converse instead of Nikes, American Eagle jeans instead of Lucky Brand jeans, or Hollister instead of the nearly identical but double-the-price Abercrombie & Fitch (you get the point.) With the economy in such a fragile state, a conscious effort must be made on our part to monitor how much we spend. If you don't think you have the money to buy something, don't

buy it! Be careful with getting caught up in credit cards, as they definitely make it much harder to resist the temptation to buy things. Credit cards fool many people into thinking they have money that they don't really have. Just remember that you are still young and have the rest of your life to buy things you want.

Another key issue in 2011 will be internet safety. Experts predict that at least one of the big social networking sites (Facebook, Myspace, Twitter etc.) will experience a major breach of security this year due to the amount of information being transmitted via the internet. Facebook, while claiming to keep your information private and secure, may not be doing all that well. Just by doing a simple Google



Money: easy to spend, hard to save.

Courtesy of Google

search of your name, you instantly come up with search results about you and your activity on the website, and this can be easily found by anyone. You've probably heard it a hundred times, but really watch what you put on the internet because once it's there, there's absolutely no way to take

it off. (Moral of the story: really take a look at your security settings!) 2011 will be a year in which we re-evaluate ourselves and what we own. With all that's on the horizon, let's do all we can to prepare ourselves for what will certainly be a memorable and safe year!



Tighten your Facebook security, a breach is likely. Courtesy of Google



Down By The Riverside

What are your aspirations for 2011?



Teacher-
Mrs. Bates

"To be a more responsible person but do it while I'm having fun. So responsibility and fun - I'm looking for some balance."



Grade 9-
Matt Campfield

"To pass all my classes, especially English 9."



Grade 11-
Hailey Curtis

"To get my N and to be a good math tutor."



Grade 11-
Chad Sigsworth

"Be a better person especially to my friends."



Grade 10-
Leena Jokinen

"To work on my drama skills and to make this year a happy year."



POTSHOTS

present...

TOUGH TALK FOR A TOUGH WORLD



Reilly Gagno and Christy Kim

The fight against Bieber Fever!

It seems like all the rage around Justin Bieber in the past nine months is just because people think he's cute, sings well, and has good hair. The funny thing is that he almost went to jail for allegedly punching an 11 year boy because he was calling him names while he was playing laser tag (what a great role model right!). Have you ever noticed that Justin Bieber keeps making songs about Love and commitment, but in every music video he has a different girl every time? Seems like he's become such an icon that every time someone has long hair they somehow relate you to Justin Bieber. What is with his hair anyway? It looks like he got caught in wind storm. To be honest, he should have learned to get of stage when he got a water bottle thrown at him.

We want a snow day!

Do you remember the times when it snowed and we all prayed for school to close? With desperate hopes, we watch and listen to the morning news. When you don't see your school's name on the list of closed schools; you get disappointed. Poco is located on higher grounds and there are many families living on both high and low ground which makes it hard to come to school by driving when it snows. If your school is open on a snow day and you can't come because of Mother Nature, you're still going to be marked as absent. Also, most private schools in Vancouver close almost every time it snows. On snowy days, exceptions should be made with attendance for students who can't make their way down to school. It is unfair!

Gang violence can extend to girls

Miriam Weber - staff reporter



Brianna Kinnear, girlfriend of a gang member, killed in Coquitlam in 2009. Courtesy Google

When one thinks of a gang, a person would probably imagine some big, tough men with guns; however more and more females have been getting involved with gangs; some by being a male gang member's girlfriend and some by their own involvement in crime and gang activities. "The girl behind the gangster is now the girl behind the trigger," said Kent Kimes in an article on the changing roles of women in gangs. Either way, it is dangerous. When people think of teens, images of sports, schools, dating and parties come to mind. People normally don't imagine guns, violence and death; however it seems that gang activity among young girls is on the rise. And certainly some girls are finding themselves the unintended victims through association with gang members as did Brianna Kinnear of Coquitlam who was killed in 2009.

In girl gangs, just like any other type of gang, they are usually put through tests to see if they are worthy enough to be part of the gang. These activities range from, sexual deeds, robbery, fighting another gang member and sometimes even murder. Female gang members have become more violent and dangerous according to the National Association of Social Workers. Some of the reasons girls join gangs is to feel like they belong to something. Girls who have been victimized at home or have social problems at school usually join to feel like they belong to something. They feel as if it is an escape from their everyday lives. Just like males, females join gangs to feel like they have power and control. Some girls start joining gangs as early as 12 years of age. These are girls who have most likely been misguided and possibly mistreated by family and friends. Gang violence shatters lives. When one is in a gang he or she needs to swear on a blood oath that he/ she won't ever disobey the rules. Once a person gets into that kind of a lifestyle, it's very difficult to escape. Parents and teachers should do all that they can to demystify what kids see as a glamorous and exciting lifestyle.

Teens dodging balls for a good cause

Jesse Frempong - staff reporter

The first annual 'Dodge for a Cause' dodge ball tournament was held on Friday the 7th of January from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Riverside's leadership group 'Rapid Change' put on the event hoping to raise money to build a school in Sierra Leone.

The tournament featured nine teams, all of which had great spirit and were loud and proud. The gym was filled with energy from start to finish, and everyone left with a smile on their face. Some teams were there to win and some were there because they had nothing better to do. But they were all there to have fun, and , most of all, they were all there to raise money for Sierra Leone. Students from all schools were welcome at the tournament, but it was about ninety percent Riverside students involved. The tournament raised over \$700 and the group would like to host a second annual tournament next year. The 'Scorpions' led by Clayton McNeil, won the tournament, going undefeated all night.

Rapid Change has had some very successful fund-raisers in the past for the school in Sierra Leone; however, none as fun and action packed as this one.



The Cobras, winning team for Dodge for a Cause. Courtesy of Emily Chan

Poco volunteering ops for teenagers

Courtney Gemmell -staff reporter

If you are a grade 12 student, chances are you are looking for a way to get your volunteer hours for Grad Transitions. And chances are, you do not want to have to travel far to get those hours in. But have you ever thought



Volunteer to teach kids how to skate.

Courtesy of Google

about looking for opportunities right here in Port Coquitlam? You could volunteer by helping kids to skate or helping to coach in-line hockey at the Wilson Center. Also at the Wilson Center, you could help with chaperoning the rec dances or public skating. If you like the arts you could volunteer at the Evergreen Cultural Center by helping as a theater assistant or by painting banners for the city. If you like swimming, you could volunteer at Hyde Creek Recreation Center by helping the staff with the special events the center has. You could help by spending time with the elderly either cooking, spending time with them, or watching the blood pressure monitors for them. Finally, if you want to help youth, you can volunteer with a emergency preparedness group that teaches children the basic skills they need to know in an emergency. Or if you have a spare, you can try volunteering at a local elementary school to help with reading, or preping materials. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, go to www.portcoquitlam.ca.

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Friday, January 21, 2010 - Vol 4 No 5

Black Swan - The top psychological thriller of 2011

Jennifer Lee
staff reporter

Black Swan is a psychological thriller about Nina (Natalie Portman) whose life is ballet. When her New York dance company is casting for a new Swan Queen for the production of *Swan Lake*, Nina is chosen. She feels threatened when a new dancer, Lily (Mila Kunis) joins the dance company and is chosen as Nina's understudy for the lead role. Because Nina has dedicated her whole self to dance, she has stunted her growth in ways where even at an older age, she lacks social skills, is naive, which leads to her fearing a lot of things. In *Swan Lake*, there are two main roles that Nina is to dance; the white swan, and the black swan. The white swan is the innocent, elegant half, and the black swan is the mischievous and lustful half. Nina acce the role of dancing the white



Natalie Portman playing the roles of the different swans in *Black Swan*.

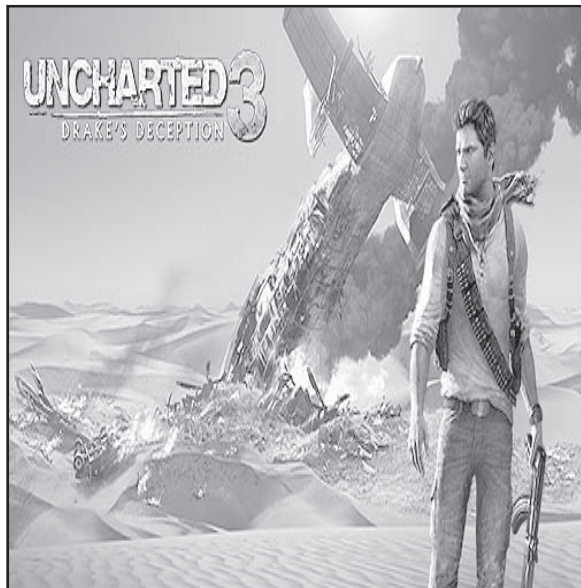
Courtesy of Google

swan perfectly, but struggles when she is made to dance the black swan. While finding it in herself to dance the black swan, she gets in touch with a darker side of herself. This and her obsession with perfection drives her to hallucinate and go mad. Unlike many movie trailers, the trailer for this movie does not reveal a whole lot about the plot, which keeps people guessing. Walking into the theatre, you wouldn't know what to think, and surprisingly walking out, you feel the same way as you did walking in. Because of the main character's hallucinations, you will have a difficult time telling apart what is real and what is not, which is the best part of the movie. This was a great movie, I can say without a doubt it will be one of the best of 2011. If you are up for a scare, you will enjoy this movie. It will make you jump, squeal, or grimace; you name it.

Video Game Awards create buzz with gamers



Uncharted 3 video game



Courtesy of Google

Kirk Iverson - staff reporter

2011 is shaping up to be a fantastic year for the game community, and is also a great time to reflect on the industry's growth. Just recently the 7th Annual Video Game Awards took place in Los Angeles California, and despite general negative reviews of the award show portion the presentation was praised for its

incredible announcements and trailers. The developers of acclaimed video games series such as the Elder Scrolls(Oblivion), Mass Effect, SSX and many more released breathtaking HD teaser trailers for their newest additions of their games.

Other triple A titles such as Uncharted 3, Portal 2 and the reboot of the famous Mortal Kombat series, released new

trailers to much praise. However these titles announcements and trailers are not the only games to be excited about this year. New Zelda, Ratchet and Clank, Diablo and Gears of War games are planned for release this year.

It's hard to believe, but the video game industry is nearing the movie industry in terms of revenue and sales. But despite an older audience generally dismissing

them as mere toys and games, the revenue in games in North America surpasses movie revenue. For instance in 2008, the video game industry produced 22 billion dollars in revenue in the United States alone, whereas the movie industry produced a mere 9 billion. That's more than double what movie ticket sales produced, and considering video games' smaller audience that feat is incredible. Yes games are more expensive but they bring much more content to the table than a movie. For instance, games can range from 4-30 hours of story compared to the average movie's 2 hours.

With casual gaming becoming more popular, seen recently with new products such as Kinect or Playstation Move(both of which make controls simpler through use of motion opposed to buttons), games are becoming much easier to pick up and play for younger and older audiences. Considering these recent changes in making controls simpler, it's safe to assume that the industry can only continue to grow.

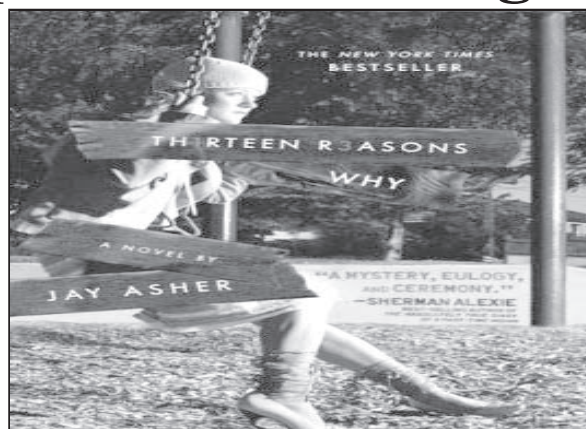
Thirteen Reasons Why has a powerful message

Livia Turnall - staff reporter

When Clay Jensen receives a package of thirteen tapes with no return address, he wonders who would send something like this. Giving the tapes a listen, Clay discovers that the voice speaking to him is Hannah Baker, a girl who just recently killed herself. Seemingly delivering a message from beyond the grave, Hannah tells Clay that thirteen people are responsible for her suicide, and Clay is one of them. The people responsible must listen to all the tapes in order to know the real story behind her death. When that is done, they must send the tapes

with no return address to the next person mentioned after their name or risk making these tapes known to the public. There's also a map-given to Clay just before he received the tapes-that marks the various locations in Hannah's life. While listening to the tapes and visiting the locations on the map, Clay's perceptions of his school and the people inside change forever. There's not a whole lot to say about *Thirteen Reasons Why* without spoiling the plot. It's a suspenseful story, written by someone who knows his target audience and what makes them tick. The dual narrative between Clay and Hannah is written well,

although there are some places where it distracts the reader from the plot. Character-wise, the characters are not really complex or for that matter, memorable. They feel more like they belong in an after-school special. However, unlike an after-school special, this book manages to deliver its message



Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher Courtesy of Google

without being too preachy. *Thirteen Reasons Why* is a book that every teen should read.

Check out the new Youtube Stars

Cristina Garofalo
staff reporter

We have all heard about the stars that have risen from their own Youtube videos. But there are many very talented singers on Youtube who aren't as well known as others. One girl, who has been singing on Youtube for a while, is *Miaarose*. Her very own song already has 4 902 491 hits. Check her out at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tfq7WfbrpuE>. Another singer that is a little bit more popular is *Savannah Outen*. She is already on iTunes, and has 58 songs on Youtube. Savannah has a duet with a much more well-known singer, *Boyce Avenue*. One of Savannah most viewed video is "Just the Way You Are," by Bruno Mars. The link for that song is <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aG1EOQCvjbw>. It already has 1 496 748 views and 10 561 likes! There is one girl though, with an amazing voice, in the hallways of our school. With her talented friend Gabi playing the guitar by her side, Alexis Kim has just started to post her own videos on Youtube. Their most viewed song is "Forget You," by Cee Lo. The link for that is <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9xHizFPuY>. They have only had their videos posted for a couple of weeks and already have over 400 views! Good job girls!



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Spacek triplets triumph on and off the court

Jennifer Lee - staff reporter

Being a triplet means a number of different things. Think of it if it were you: all three of you, look very alike, you get a lot of attention because of it, and you are never alone even when you want to be. Michelle Spacek, Denise Spacek and Nicolle Spacek are triplet sisters from Riverside Secondary School. Each and every one of them are unique individuals with separate interests, and separate lives, but there is one thing they have in common, and that is their great ability to play the sport of basketball. The Spacek triplets started playing basketball at a very young age. Basketball has been their favorite hobby and sport, and they have grown to be a family within the lower mainland basketball players. The extraordinary thing that grabs people's attention is that all three

sisters are extraordinary players. They plan on attending a post-secondary institution in the states on a basketball scholarship. The three sisters have made several accomplishments even this early in their basketball careers, such as making the British Columbia provincial basketball team, and getting All Stars. They have travelled to Las Vegas, Phoenix, Spokane, and Kamloops to play basketball.



The Spacek Triplets.

Courtesy of N.Spacek

Being triplets, Michelle, Denise, and Nicolle are very competitive. "If one of us is having a very good game or practice and one of us isn't, it can get frustrating, but we're always

happy for each other regardless," said Nicolle Spacek. You can spot these three incredible sisters on the basketball court, giving it their all and playing with passion.

Rapids play hard in memory of Emily



Senior Rapids basketball playing at the Emily Inglis Tournament.

K.Shong/Eddy

Mitchell Stewart - staff reporter

Riverside hosted the sixth annual 'A Tournament for Emily' girls' basketball tournament on the

December 17th weekend. The tournament was started for a girl named Emily, who was diagnosed with cancer at the age of twelve.

All profits to B.C. Children's Hospital to help with the research of cancer treatment in children. The tournament has raised over \$25,000 since its establishment in 2006, and it is the first chance for young athletes to be able to make a difference in other children's lives just by playing the game that they love.

The tournament has grown significantly over its six year existence. This year's tournament featured eighteen teams including

Western Canada Secondary, who made the trip from Calgary. Some games were at fellow Port Coquitlam schools, Terry Fox Secondary and Arch Bishop Carney. The importance of the tournament is more for the raising of money and much less for these teams to win. In fact, the tournament is just split into groups and each team plays four round-robin games: there is no winner.

The Rapids rolled in the tournament going 4-0 against some of the best teams in the province. They stunned W.J. Mouat 72-70 with a last second defensive stop and they beat Western Canada Secondary 79-72. They stomped the number five ranked team in the province, Kitsilano, 74-65. R'side's performance looks promising for another great season!

Riverside wrestling is ready to roll

Jesse Frempong - staff reporter

The wrestling team at Riverside Secondary has been around since the opening of Riverside back in 1997, and the team has never looked stronger than this year. Led by senior students Gordie Frank, and Matt Harrison, who have been wrestling since their middle school years, the team has been able to improve on all aspects of the sport. This year Riverside had a batch of five new grade nine wrestlers coming from Citadel, and Pitt River Middle.

David Kamaro has been proudly coaching the wrestling team since 2001 with assistant coaches Brian Harrison, and Nikki Mathews. David and the other coaches get four months each season to teach the young wrestlers the fundamentals and advanced techniques of wrestling. Wrestling is more of an individual sport, but the coaches like them to



Riverside wrestlers practicing for a match.

J.Frempong/Eddy

encourage the wrestlers to think of themselves as a team.

The team is a month away from the Fraser Valley tournament, which they have been preparing for over two months. The top five wrestlers in their weight class move on to Provincials after the Fraser Valleys.

To join the wrestling team there are no requirements and the team is actually looking for more

students to join and learn about the sport. And both boys and girls are welcome! "I started wrestling because it's a good workout, and it's simply a lot of fun for me," said Gordie Frank.

Practicing three times a week from 5pm to 7pm, the team gets a great amount of exercise as well as preparation for their next upcoming matches and tournaments.

Canucks Update



Mitchell Stewart - staff reporter

It is only mid-season but a lot of people are already asking if this could be the year that the Canucks go all the way. However, the Canucks seem to always play their best hockey mid-season and perhaps that has been their downfall. If they keep playing the way they are and play their best hockey during the playoffs, they may just go all the way this year.

Despite the recent three losses - one a heart-breaker in OT against Colorado - they are still in first place in the Northwest Standings with 65 points. The Canucks have had plenty of offense and the defense has been very solid as well, but the best part of the season, so far, has been the fact that it hasn't mattered who has been in net as Roberto Luongo and Cory Schneider have shared time between the pipes through the three weeks. Which makes one wonder if there is a goalie controversy coming on in Vancouver. Go Canucks Go!!!



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