



# ROCKRIDGE SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Jeannette Laursoo, Principal

John Crowley, Vice Principal

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## SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

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## Principal's Message

Rockridge has been alive with activity this past winter, as students showcased their work and talents in a variety of areas.

On March 2<sup>nd</sup> Rockridge held its fifth annual MYP Personal Project Exhibition. Grade 10 students once again impressed parents, fellow students, and staff with the quality and scope of their personal projects. The Personal Project tasks students with exploring an inquiry question relating to something that they are highly interested in, and then investigating it in more depth. The effort and thought that students put into their projects were evident as they enthusiastically shared the results of their explorations with our community. Congratulations to our Grade 10 students.

Audiences were touched by "Long Shot: The Brian Upson Story", a heart-felt film and amazing tribute, created by the Advanced Film classes. Congratulations, also, to Theatre Company on their outstanding performance of Monte Cristo at the Kay Meek Theatre from April 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>.

Rockridge's annual Public Speaking Competition, "Rock Talks", was once again a highlight for students as they prepared a humorous, dramatic, or serious speech, which they then performed for their classmates and peers. The students whose speeches were chosen went on to perform at the grade rounds, and then the final school round competitions, which took place before the entire student body. Congratulations to all of our students for taking on this opportunity to share something that they were passionate about speaking on.

We are proud of all of our students who participated in Rockridge's athletic teams this Winter as they had a successful season. Standout performances by the Junior Girls Basketball Team and the Ski and Snowboard team were a highlight. There is something for everyone in our Spring athletic program offerings with track and field, golf, mountain biking, badminton, ultimate frisbee and junior and senior rugby all under way. We are grateful to each of our teacher and community coaches for dedicating their time and efforts to making these teams happen.



There are many Rockridge students participating in upcoming trips that are offered this term. In our first week back after Spring Break, Mr. Harding and Ms. Ferrajohn took Biology 11 and Pre-AP Biology 11 students on a field excursion to the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre on Vancouver Island to enhance their curricular understanding of biodiversity, ecology, marine species and interactions through experiential and lab-based activities.

From April 6<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> a number of Grade 10 – 12 Social Studies and History students participated in a trip to observe the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in the Netherlands, France and England. This trip provided students a unique opportunity for experiential curricular learning.

From April 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> another cross curricular field excursion to Orlando, Florida took place. Students experienced a variety of science/business-themed educational programs that tied in space science, zoology, physics, marine science, technology, leadership, marketing and finance. Thanks to Rockridge staff and our parent community for supporting these trips, which provide such incredible growth opportunities for our students.

As we head into our final term there is much more to look forward to including the Junior and Senior Concert Band and Choir trip to Whistler April 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, Grade 8 Outdoor School May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, the Rockridge Spring Soiree on May 13<sup>th</sup>, and for our graduating class the main events of Grad Banquet and Commencement.

*Jeannette Laursoo*

## SCHOOL EVENTS

### Career Expo



Rockridge held the 3rd annual Career Expo and had over 200 students attend to listen to various professionals speak about their education, path and careers. Below is Grade 12 student Morgan C's experience:

The Career Expo was a very eye-opening and insightful experience, getting to hear from people of different career paths- how they got there and what their job looks like on a regular basis. Each presentation was unique, in the sense that the presenters all spoke about different aspects of their career, but one thing they all did was explain what they did to end up where they are now. I think the presenters giving a brief overview of their background is extremely helpful, especially for those in grade 11 who are figuring out what courses they want to take and potential universities they want to apply to, as it gives people an idea of what they need to do in order to pursue those careers. There were definitely some presentations that were more engaging than others, of course those that included pictures and videos of what they do, but also those that truly displayed a love for their career. The interior designer was probably my favourite presenter, as she was super passionate about what she does and it was reflected through everything she said/showed. Obviously the Career Expo is great for students who already know what they want to do because they can get advice from professionals in the field. I also believe this can be an extremely beneficial event for those that don't know what they want to pursue in the future, since they are given the opportunity to explore several different careers. This gives them a better idea of what attracts (or absolutely does not attract) them and what they can see themselves succeeding in. Overall, the Career Expo is extremely rewarding and I would encourage all students to attend.

## Public Speaking Competition—ROCK TALKS!



*Pictured, from left to right, are the school champions: Jacqui M. (Grade 8), Emma M. (Grade 12), Matt F.V. (Grade 9), and David S. (Grade 11).*

This year marked the fifth anniversary of the Rock Talks Public Speaking Competition! To celebrate and shake things up, the English department introduced a different style of speaking at each grade. The grade 8's memorized and delivered an interpretive reading of a passage of their choosing, while the grade 9's had the option of sharing a personal narrative or producing a creative dramatic monologue. The grade 11's put their research skills and knowledge of rhetoric to good use by preparing persuasive speeches, and our grads were tasked with inspiring us with an Ignite Talk. Congratulations to all students on another fantastic year of speeches.

## International Lunch

Thank you to all the parents, students and staff who helped make our international lunch on March 3rd a great success. We so appreciate all the lovely food you contributed from all corners of the world! Our volunteers made it the success that it was by devoting their time to set up, serving and clean up. A special thank you goes out to Ms. Skehill and her Foods classes for the Thai curry, spaghetti and desserts. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to The Harvest Project. Thank you from the Kanata Club and teacher sponsors Mrs. Trousdell and Mrs. Coulthard! Stay tuned for our next international lunch in March 2018.



A big thank you to Audrey Du for teaching Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Coulthard and Mrs. Skehill's classes how to make Chinese Dumplings for Asian New Year.





## Junior and Senior Improv Teams

Congratulations to the Rockridge Junior and Senior Improv teams and their coaches for a fantastic season.

**Junior Improv:** Coached by senior team members Olivia K., Max W., and Laurence B.F., the Junior team placed 5th out of 26 Lower Mainland teams, bringing energy and a lot of Rockridge style to the stage at The Waterfront Theatre.

Junior team members include Fallon O., Oscar M., Simon M., Sam N., Chloe D., Kelk J., Bebel G.N., and Kieran R.M.

**Senior Improv:** Coached by Rockridge graduate Connor M., the Senior team exploded onto the Waterfront Theatre stage. They were in their element and their love for performing was evident as they competed before a full house audience at Waterfront Theatre.

Senior team members are Olivia K., Quillan O., Laurence B.F., Max W., Luke M., Cam H., Duncan H., Mac P. and David F.





## Theatre Company's Presentation of *MONTE CRISTO*



This year's production was a musical called MONTE CRISTO. I loved this play the first time I read it. In September, I could imagine our students in the parts right away. It felt like it had the right combination of solid characterization, improvisation, dramatic story telling and flat-out fun musical numbers to be a fit for the students in the cast. For the crew, it allowed us to really dive in to 18<sup>th</sup> century French costuming. Four students designed and sewed some of our costumes and props. It also gave us an opportunity to work with lighting, set, sound and cinematography in new ways. We made some live props this year too which was a lot of fun backstage.

The students in TC this year risked a lot. In early April they got on stage to sing a solo, make a quick costume change and fight with swords and garden tools. They made sharp lighting cues, put a set piece or prop in the right place at the right time and danced! In between juggling their course work, part-time jobs, family life and answering every group chat comment, they created an exciting production. Thank you to all the TC students who said "yes" to this show this year. They have embodied our hopes for them to take creative risks in their learning. Thanks to the parents of our TC students who drove us to inspiring field trips (La La Land!), served us lunches in tech week, communicated with us all and encouraged a love and practice of making theatre. All the best to our TC grads; some of whom have done four productions with us over their time at Rockridge. Until next year, TC, "Kings to you"!



# FIELD EXCURSIONS

## Bamfield Sciences Centre

Twenty-four Biology 11/11AP students participated in a dynamic, interactive and profound field experience on the west coast of Vancouver Island from March 27-31. Areas of study included oceanography, inter-tidal ecology, biodiversity of marine life, reproductive strategies of marine invertebrates, seaweed classification and conservation case studies, to name just a few. As expected, we experienced all types of weather from cold, heavy rain on the boat tours, to sunny, dry days - welcome weather for the big hike. Their teachers, Mr. Harding, Ms. Ferrajohn and Ms. Vissers (SFU) would like to thank the staff at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Center for all of their scholarly instruction and enthusiastic engagement. Also, we would like to thank this year's Biology students who were the most phenomenal ambassadors for our school: bright, curious and respectful. These Grade 11s made this trip a keystone experience!

*Mr. Harding*





## Orlando Science and Business Trip 2017

Thirty grade 11 and 12 students and 4 Science and Business teachers travelled to Orlando in April 2017. During the trip we took part in education programs at Kennedy Space Centre, all 4 Disney Parks and both Universal Studios Parks. We learned about space travel, the properties of motion, leadership skills, marketing and sales and zoo keeping. The students were amazing – super engaged and attentive. We look forward to returning to Orlando in 2019.





## Vimy Ridge

This April, Rockridge students, staff, and parents joined tens of thousands of other Canadian citizens and students to take part in the 100 year anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in the First World War. Prime Minister Trudeau and French President Francois Hollande were just a few of the notable dignitaries to commemorate the battle in which more than 3500 Canadian soldiers lost their lives, and where many Canadian historians believe the nation earned its independence.

Besides Vimy Ridge, Rockridge also toured historical sites and museums in Amsterdam, Paris, and London. Highlights included the actual house of Anne Frank, the trenches and cemeteries at Passchendaele, the beach of Dieppe, the catacombs of Paris, and the neighbourhoods of London.







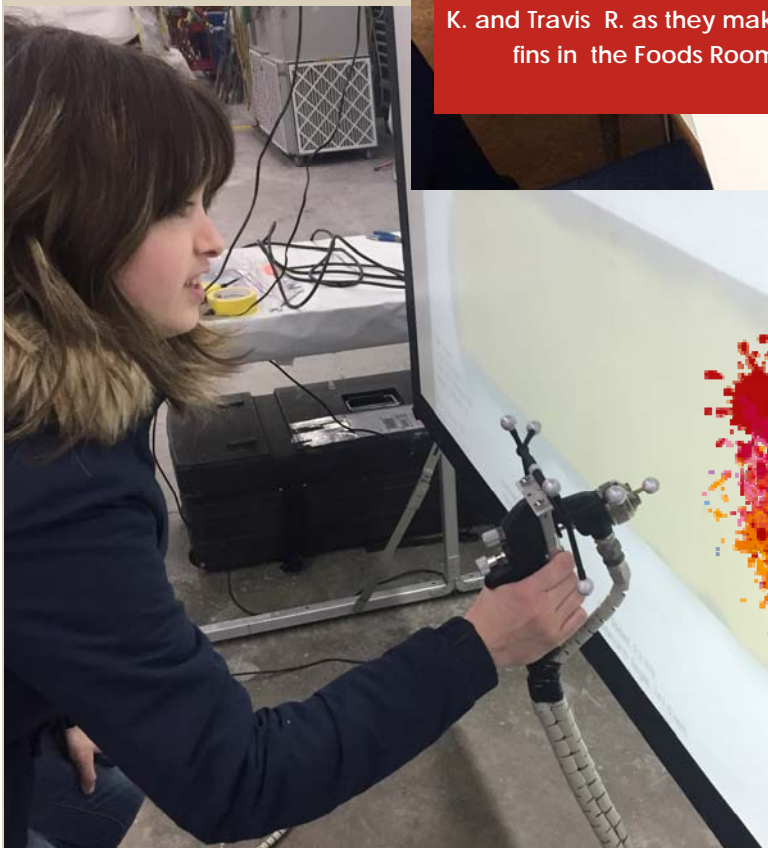


# LSP STUDENTS OUT AND ABOUT

## FOODS CLASS AND VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Mrs. Worbets (Green) assists Rishab K. and Travis R. as they make muffins in the Foods Room.



Katya H. practiced her spray-painting skills on a simulator while visiting VCC.





## BRIDGE BUILDING WITH AP PHYSICS AND TUBING AT CYPRESS



The LSP Life-skills Program teamed up with two AP Physics 11 students and Mr. Lawson to build bridges!



LSP Life-Skills Program joined WVSS at Cypress Tube Park! Students loved meeting new friends and spinning down the hills together!



Rishab K. and Brandon P. hanging out together enjoying their lunch break at Grouse Mountain after a fun day of snowshoeing.



## Grade 8 Outdoor School

### Grade 8 Outdoor School

May 3-5, 2017

At Camp Summit in Squamish

<http://www.campsummit.ca/>

### Interdisciplinary Unit between PE and Science

#### Statement of Inquiry:

- The natural environment challenges the human body to adapt in ways that minimize consequences to individuals.

For more info visit:

<http://mrstowers.weebly.com/>

If you have any questions email:

Jennifer Towers (MYP Coordinator)

[jtowers@wvschools.ca](mailto:jtowers@wvschools.ca)

or John Crowley (Vice Principal)

[jcrowley@wvschools.ca](mailto:jcrowley@wvschools.ca)





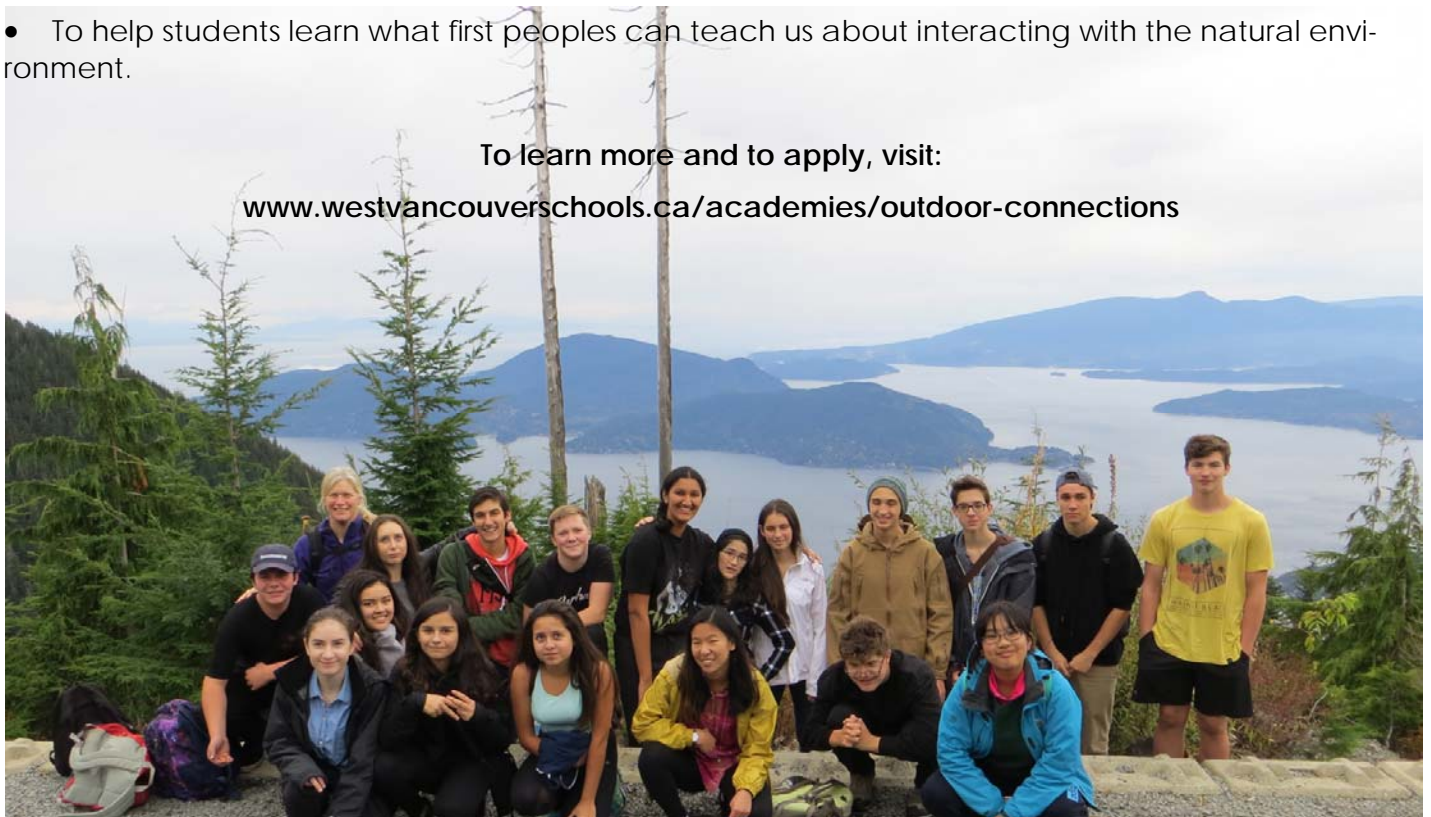
## Outdoor Connections Premier Academy

New for the 2017-2018 school year, the Premier Outdoor Connections Academy is a choice program to be run out of Rockridge Secondary, offered to students who are in Grade 10 and registered full-time at one of our three District Secondary schools. This program offers students the opportunity to participate in a nature-based learning environment while receiving all academic requirements for graduation. Students registered in the Outdoor Connections Academy will receive the following courses: Physical and Health Education 10, BAA Outdoor Connections 11, Photography 11, Science 10 and English Language Arts 10. Scheduling of these courses will be on Day 1 but configuration and delivery will be fluid, based on the program's planned activities. There will be many day trips during school hours and 3-5 multi-day trips scheduled over the course of the year. The goals of the program are as follows:


- To provide students with the knowledge and skills to pursue lifelong adventures in a safe, respectful and responsible manner.
- To explore how the natural and historical environment influences us individually, nationally, globally, as well as how we, in return, impact the environment.
- To gain overall confidence and to remain active and learning in the outdoors throughout students' lives.
- To encourage students to become environmental stewards.
- Through inquiry, interdisciplinary learning and experiential activities students will make strong curricular connections.
- To help students learn what first peoples can teach us about interacting with the natural environment.

To learn more and to apply, visit:

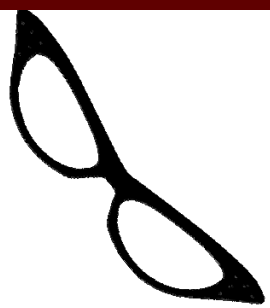
[www.westvancouver.schools.ca/academies/outdoor-connections](http://www.westvancouver.schools.ca/academies/outdoor-connections)



# SPRING SOIREE



## ROCKRIDGE SPRING SOIREE Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> AT THE PINNACLE HOTEL



### Dinner Dancing Silent Auction

Ticket Prices have been held at their original price of \$100 so don't wait any longer and get your tickets now! Purchased tickets may be picked up in the school office in an envelope marked with your name.

Laura McLaren [lamclaren@shaw.ca](mailto:lamclaren@shaw.ca) 604-842-6820

Cathy LaCute [clacute@shaw.ca](mailto:clacute@shaw.ca)

Online purchase at [https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=J8FCM9YNQ7KL6](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=J8FCM9YNQ7KL6)

Or by Etransfer

[ropac@wvschools.ca](mailto:ropac@wvschools.ca)

A **HUGE** Thank You to Eric and Tracy Christiansen for their generous sponsorship of the Welcome Reception

There is still time for you to get involved!

Do you own a business? Are you in the service industry? Are you an artist? We are still accepting items for the Silent Auction, or you may consider making a cash donation towards Sponsorship.

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful event!

Please contact co-chairs

Linda Heintzman [linda@pathgroup.ca](mailto:linda@pathgroup.ca)

Nicola Bailey [nicola@baileygroup.ca](mailto:nicola@baileygroup.ca)





## Spring Soiree Continued

### Here are just a few of the fabulous items up for bid at the Soiree:

- ◆ Enjoy a meal at the Village Taphouse then stroll over to Ambleside for the best Rock party in town: “Rock Ambleside Park” for 4!
- ◆ For all you fitness buffs enjoy bidding on fitness packages to Ride Indoor Cycling, Lagree West Pilates Studio, The Bar Method, Innovative Fitness, B- Fit Fitness, 30-Minute Hit, Oxygen Yoga and many more!
- ◆ Calling all Whitecaps Fans – enjoy watching a game in your own private suite!
- ◆ Not into soccer? Enjoy watching a hockey game at Rogers Arena in row 1 club seats, parking included and if you’re lucky, go home with signed hockey sticks and jerseys from your favourite Canucks!
- ◆ For all you thrill seekers: get an adrenalin rush with a Whistler Bungee Jump. Less of a thrill seeker? Then catch a ride on the Sea-to-Sky Gondola and enjoy the Winemakers dinner for 2 at the top!
- ◆ Grab your clubs and get outdoors to Big Sky Golf and Country Club or Squamish Valley Golf and Country Club, cart included!
- ◆ To all the book club groups, read the amazing second instalment of Cea Sunrise Person’s memoir Nearly Normal and enjoy a book club visit by Cea herself!

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS—MAY 2017

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS—MAY 2017

Rockridge Secondary School will be offering the following AP Exams for students to write in May, if they have completed the courses listed below:

Date	Subject	Time	Location
Mon., May 1st	AP Chemistry	8:00 am	Rockridge Library
	AP Psychology	12:00 pm	Rockridge Library
Tue., May 2nd	AP Physics 1	12:00 pm	Sentinel Field House
Wed., May 3rd	AP English Literature	8:00 am	Sentinel Field House
	AP Physics 2	12:00 pm	Sentinel Field House
Thu., May 4th	AP Art Portfolios Due	12:00 pm	Rockridge
Fri., May 5th	AP Computer Science Principles	12:00 pm	Rockridge Library
Mon., May 8th	AP Biology	8:00 am	Sentinel Field House
Tue., May 9th	AP Calculus AB	8:00 am	Rockridge Library
	AP Calculus BC	8:00 am	Rockridge Library
Wed., May 10th	AP English Language and Composition	8:00 am	Sentinel Field House
Thu., May 11th	AP Statistics	12:00 pm	Sentinel Field House
May 12th	AP European History	12:00 pm	Rockridge Library

### END OF SCHOOL YEAR—JUNE 2017

Please note that the last day of classes will be Thursday, June 22nd. The English 12 Provincial Exam will be written on Friday, June 23rd. For grade 8—11 students Friday, June 23rd and Monday, June 26th are allocated to final course work and graduation requirement completion. If students have received an "I" or "In Progress" Report, they have the opportunity to complete this course work. Student attendance is optional. Tuesday, June 27th and Wednesday, June 28th are days in which students can take advantage of "Optional Instructional Opportunities". This includes various enrichment activities, which we are offering to students.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### May, 2017

May 1-12	AP Exams
May 3—5	Grade 8 Outdoor School
May 13	RSPAC Spring Soiree (Pinnacle Hotel, NV)
May 19	Professional Development Day School Not in Session
May 22	Victoria Day Holiday School Not in Session
May 24	RSPAC General Meeting

### June, 2017

June 1	Sweet Sounds of Spring Concert—6:30 pm
June 9	Grad Banquet—Bayshore
June 20	Commencement Ceremony The Orpheum—7:00 pm
June 22	Last Day of Regular Classes
June 23	English 12 Provincial Exam
June 23, 26	Final Coursework and Grad requirement completion
June 27, 28	Optional instructional opportunities