

Fall 2012

Kells Academy Newsletter

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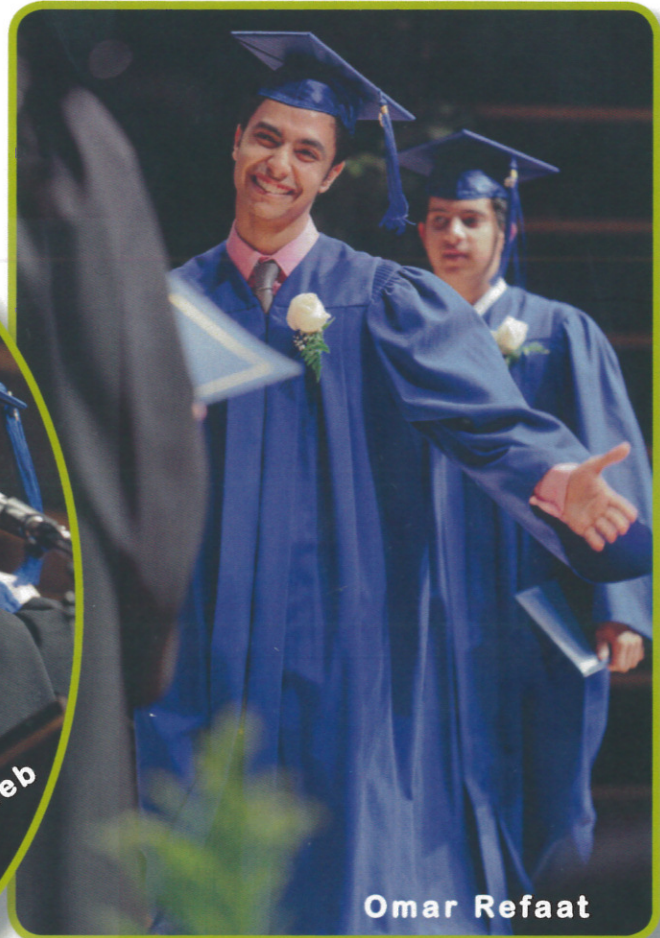
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Convocation Day

Class of 2012



Sanad Abu Ragheb



Omar Refaat

The graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2012 were held at the Oscar Peterson Hall of Concordia University on 1 June 2012.

The 570-seat hall was filled to capacity with family and friends of the graduating class who had come to watch these students receive their hard-earned diplomas and celebrate with them as they transitioned to the next stage of their lives.

The ceremonies started with Mr. Aitken, welcoming all the student families and complimenting the graduating students on an exceptional year. He also made reference to the productive and rewarding close relationships that the students had with the staff and their peers this year. It was an extraordinary year, at the same time being a member of the Olympic team. The students were absolutely captivated by her candour and her identifiable experiences.

(continues on page 2)

He then went on to introduce the guest speaker for the afternoon, Ms. Wynter Lamarre, a former Canadian Olympian, who was able to relate to the students, her experiences as a student and Ms. Campbell, our History teacher at Kells, recounted stories that brought back memories to the students as they walked across the stage to receive their Diplomas from Ms. Woods. Our goal at Kells is three-pronged. We take pride in the fact that our graduating students leave the Academy with the all scholastic skills necessary to pursue a successful College/University education. We foster social skills that we hope will stand them in good stead as they transition into young adulthood. Finally, we take pride is ensuring that our graduates leave the school with a fierce sense of independence and the confidence to handle new challenges and experiences as they arise – both in their personal and professional lives. To hear about long list of accomplishments and achievements of the graduating students made us feel that our goals had been successfully met by this graduating class of 2012!



Wynter Lamarre



Alice Lemay

Our valedictorian, Alice Lemay, talked about how, despite the ups and downs inevitable in a high school atmosphere, it was evident that a strong and lasting bond was formed amongst the graduates. Her speech brought out an array of emotions in her peers during her speech and final goodbye.

We congratulate and wish our 2012 graduates all the very best as they open a new chapter in their lives and continue on the road ahead. Keep in touch, tell us about your achievements and extraordinary experiences – and do come and visit us sometimes!

Awards Recipients

Valedictorian	Alice Lemay
Governor General's Award	Raquel Griesand
Lieutenant Governor's Award	Alice Lemay and Andrew Morris
Simpson Senior Shield	Sanad Abu Raghebá
Outstanding School Spirit	Liam Lazare
Most Improved Student	Jordan Roberts



Subject Prizes

French

Physics

Math CST Option

Math Science Option

Business & Civil Law

Psychology

Media Studies

Visual Arts

Music

Sports Plus

Phys. Ed.

English as a Second Language

Chemistry

French Enriched

Contemporary World History

Ayah Yahya Abdullah

Sami Alkadri

Gabrielle VanRootselaaar-Mador

Raquel Griesang

Alice Lemay

Andrew Morris and Omar Refaat

Zachary Shoumatoff

Wendy Chang

Amy Nguyen

Liam Lazare and Sanad Abu-Ragheb

Wessam Halek and Sara Maude Demers

Raquel Griesang

Raquel Griesang and Sung Jin Cho

Sara-Maude Demers

Sung Jin Cho

2012 Graduates

ABDULLAH, AYAH YAHYA
ABU-RAGHEB, SANAD
AL-JABRI, FAISAL HASAN
ALKADRI, SAMI
BATIONO, RUDY MARCEL
BENOTMANE, MAISSAA
BUI-MITCHELL, PHILIP
BUSTAMANTE PAZ, PAOLA
CHANG, WEN
CHO, SUNGJIN
DANSEREAU, GABRIEL
DEMERS, SARA-MAUDE
DI PASQUALE, GABRIELE
D'ULISSE, DOMENIC
EL NAGGAR, YASSIN
ELSHAFIE, YOUSEF
ERASO HERNANDEZ, RICARDO
FELDZAMEN, GABRIEL
GAGNON, IVANKA
GRIESANG, RAQUEL
GUTIERREZ, MARIA JOSE
HABASHY, MOHAMED
HALLAK, WISSAM
KANG, HO YUN (LEO)
KHALIL, MAHMOUD
KOKETSO, RETSHEPILE



Liam Lazare

LAZARE, LIAM
LEE, JAE HAN (JAMES)
LEMAY, ALICE
LI, XIAOYI
LOMBARDI, STEVEN
MAISONNEUVE, COURTNEY
MATTA, PAUL
MODAFFERI, BIANCA
MORRIS, ANDREW
NESSIM YACCOUB, NADINE
NGUYEN, THUY (AMY)
RAFFOUL, NICHOLAS
REFAAT, OMAR
RIBKOFF, RAPHAEL
RINALDI, FEDERICA
ROBERTS, JORDAN
ROY MACDONALD, MAXIME (MAX)
SHOUMATOFF, ZACHARY
SRI-EARD, TAWICHATIKUL
SUH, SANGWON
SULTAN, FADEL
TRAN, NHAT QUANG
VANROOTSELAAR-MADOR, GABRIELLE
VU, LE MINH
YOSHIMURA, MIKA
YU, BAOQI

Prom Night

21 June 2012



Prom Night - the expectations, the planning, the thrill - surely has to be one of the highlights of School life! As the 2011-2012 year drew to a close, the excitement was palpable among the senior students at Kells Academy. Prom Night would mark the culmination of their high school careers - an event that took months to plan and perfect.

The graduating Grade 11 students and their dates - all looking glamorous in their beautiful gowns and suits - arrived in cars and limousines at the Hilton Bonaventure Hotel in downtown Montreal. The landscaped private garden with its pond and ducks was the venue for the cocktail party where the young men and women mingled with parents, family members and faculty to celebrate the special occasion.

The scene shifted to the Ballroom where the students and their dates enjoyed a 4-course meal as organizers launched the first event of the night - the award of student prizes. The winners had been chosen by their peers and the prizes awarded not for academic excellence or prowess on the sports field but for categories such as kindness, dancing ability and, of course, the best smile!



Highlight for graduating students



The highlight of the evening was the competition for the title of Prom Royalty. The after-dinner contest that was open to all was (after difficult deliberations by the judges) narrowed down to 4 young ladies and 4 young men. The suspense and excitement mounted among the finalists and finally Paul Matta and Sara-Maude Demers were announced as winners of the coveted title. They led the opening dance and were soon joined on the floor by their friends ---and a few teachers! (Photo)

This fun-filled event was probably the last time that our 2011-2012 graduates would be together in one room and was a great way to end a great year! The beautiful evening ended all too soon as faculty and students said their final goodbyes.

Congratulations and best wishes to the graduating Class of 2012. You will be missed!



Overnight Wilderness Adventure

Grade 9 trip to Mont Tremblant

15-16 May 2012

The Kells philosophy of a healthy mind in a healthy body was reinforced at this overnight wilderness camp for the Grade 9 students organized by Mr. Robertson. The intention was to introduce the students to three different activities – canoeing/kayaking, archery and survival skills. Not only did they learn the basic skills, but also had the opportunity to enjoy practicing them with the camp counselors.

The fresh and balmy May weather contributed to the excitement and put the students in the right frame of mind for outdoor adventure as they set off for the Base de Pleine Air camp in Mont Tremblant.

On arrival at the camp and following a hearty lunch, the group spent a happy hour learning the basics of canoeing and kayaking. They then had the opportunity to take a mini water-tour of the lake and manoeuvre through the tunnels with the help of experienced camp counselors. Hand-eye coordination and finger dexterity was put to the test

as the students grappled with the intricacies of using a bow and arrows. As confidence built, they were able to test their skills at increasing distances by using small or large bows. By the end of the afternoon there was no uncertainty that there were some great archers among the 9th graders!

What would a wilderness trip be without a bonfire? As the sun was setting, Ezra Friedman put his fire-making skills to the test and helped the counselors build a roaring fire. The evening was spent chilling with friends, roasting marshmallows and telling stories.

The next morning was spent on survival activities. Groups of students followed counselors into the woods where they were given a series of clues and a GPS-equipped compass. Competition was fierce as the students raced around trying to find the hidden objects among the trees. The finale of the trip was to build shelters using only the materials found in the forest. The students returned home tired

but excited after the 2 day trip and full of stories to tell their families. A resounding success thanks to the efforts of Ms. Campbell, Ms. Derby and Mr. Robertson.



A fun way to learn History

Grade 10 trip to Quebec City

24-25 May 2012

Forty six 10th graders from Kells boarded a bus on the morning of 24th May for an overnight trip to the provincial capital.

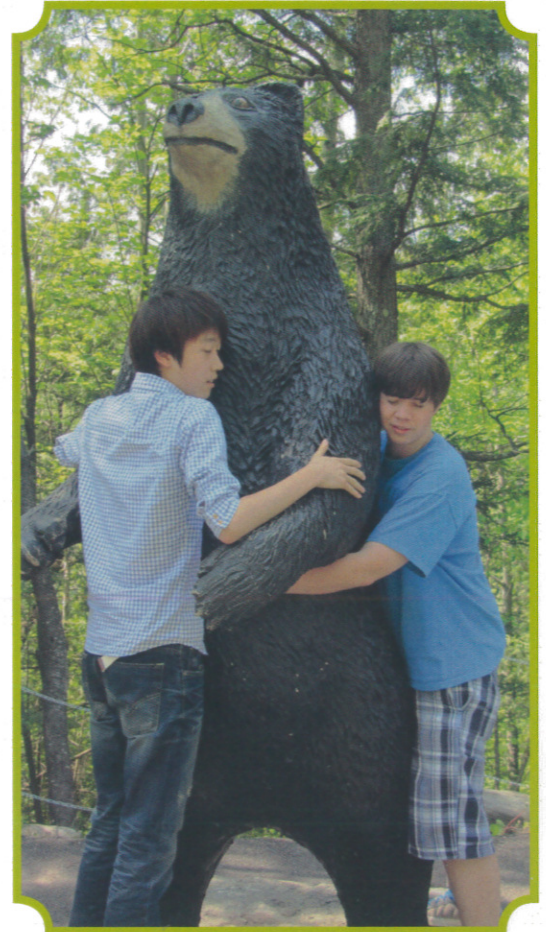
A gorgeous sunny day had all the students prepped up for a nature hike around St. Anne's gorge – their first stop. The Canyon's suspension bridges provided picturesque views of the waterfall and the surrounding area. The cable car ride up the Montmorency Falls further added to the excitement of the morning.

A delicious dinner at the Aux Anciens Canadiens refuelled the students for a walking tour of the historical Old City. The Musee du Fort was the stop for a history lesson and a quiz on New France. The winners of the prizes clearly demonstrated that they had paid attention to their history teachers Ms.

Campbell and Mr. Leoncavallo. An interactive scavenger hunt had the students exploring the Plains of Abraham, the Chateau Frontenac and the alleys of the old city. Some even darted into the stores for a bit of hurried shopping and ice cream before bed.

The following day was a lesson into the workings of the Assemble Nationale. Not only did the students visit and get a glimpse into the working of our provincial government, but they also had the opportunity to tour the Library and explore sculptures of historical figures that they had read about in their history books.

The happy, smiling faces of the students when they arrived back at the school was proof enough that History can be a lot of fun. Thanks to all the teachers for organizing the trip!



Honor Roll Dinner

High achievers honored-30 May2012

Scholastic excellence was celebrated at Kells Academy when 35 high school students who maintained an average grade of 85% or higher during the 2011-2012 school year were honored on May 30, 2012. The school cafeteria was transformed into a banquet hall for a special dinner as proud parents and the teaching staff gathered to celebrate the academic excellence of these high achieving students.

A delicious three course dinner prepared by Saporito Catering was followed by dessert and coffee as Dr. Jean-Philip Lumb from the Chemistry Department of McGill University addressed the guests about the crucial role of chemistry in our lives. While the world is already dependent on its all-pervasive presence in our lives – from the production of cosmetics to water – its role in developing and designing a sustainable future for our planet is even more important.

The evening closed on a high note as close to one hundred guests applauded the honor-roll students as they received their Certificates of Excellence from Mr. Aitken and also a special gift from Ms. Irene Woods, the Director of the School.

Congratulations to all the achievers and we hope to have an even larger number of students on the honor-roll in the 2012-2013 school year!



Beloved Ms. Rosich Semi Retires

Kells Academy has enjoyed the presence of the beloved teacher and excellent resource teacher, Ms. Rosich, since the fall of 1990. She came to Kells from Edmonton and started working in the capacity of resource teacher offering remedial and enriched courses to students in small groups and individually. Her positive influence on the lives of students became immediately apparent and the following year she began teaching English L.A. and Social Studies. Her pleasant voice and demeanour, as well as her skill as a resource-room specialist, enchanted the students with whom she worked.

In June 2003, Mrs. Woods proudly presented Ms. Rosich with the Excellence in Teaching Award for outstanding contribution to student life. In her speech, Mrs. Woods stated that Ms. Rosich exemplified everything that Kells Academy stood for. Years after students had left school, they described Ms. Rosich as a mentor who had influenced their lives and was often the turning point in their lives. She was able to help many of them to overcome considerable learning difficulties and also honed the skills of those who were intellectually curious but disorganized. However, what students most appreciated about this beloved teacher was her willingness to be an advocate for them. She created a safe place for everyone in her classroom

a place where students shared stories, confidences, and made friends. She always had the time to listen and she shared her enthusiasm and appreciation for literature, history, music and life with them. Ms. Rosich, who was often described as every student's surrogate mother, saw the gifts and talents in her students, and had the capacity to bring out the best in them.

As of June this year Ms. Rosich, after 22 years at Kells, decided to step down from her teaching position in order to be involved with Kells in the role of a consultant or to work on specific projects. She told us that while she is not ready for full retirement the school holds a big place in her heart and she would like to continue to be a part of the Kells community. We look forward to continuing to benefit from Ms. Rosich's experience and ideas for many years to come.



Information Centre for the Information Age: A new Library at Kells Academy High School

Kells High School is revamping the entire high school library. Elaina Della Porta, librarian, is happy to be part of this project. A graduate of the McGill School of Information Studies Masters Programme, she also has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from McGill and a bachelor's degree in History from Concordia. Possessing a background in public, museum, and school libraries, Elaina is passionate about literacy and "information literacy" (a fancy term for being able to find the exact information one is looking for) and hopes to share this passion with the students and staff of Kells Academy.

Although she has many ideas and plans for this library, her chief objective is to teach students how to execute effective research for their homework assignments. Children live in an age where information overload is a daily reality. She plans to teach them research skills that will enable them to quickly and easily find the exact information they need in their

high school classes, future academic careers, and day-to-day lives. Another goal for this library will be to foster the love of reading; the more children read, the better they do in school.

The new library will be a comfortable and inviting study space that will house both print and electronic materials. To supplement the Kells Library collection, the students have all signed up to be members of the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, where they will have access to a wealth of online-databases and educational materials. There will also be a library webpage to give the students information and links to the resources they need. Outside the library, Ms. Della Porta plans to hold workshops for students to teach them information literacy (e.g., citation, database searching, etc.).

She is very much looking forward to working with Kells Academy to provide the students with not only a library, but also an information centre.

Art: A Conversation with Media



Ricardo Eraso

The final art project of the Grade 11 Art class took an interdisciplinary approach, in which media studies and visual art were fused together to generate ideas for their paintings. We turned the tables on the media and instead of being bombarded by their images and not having a platform to respond, we turned the tables by dissecting selected images from magazines and responding in a visual way. Each student chose one image which held a personal message for them and re-worked it to create a visual response. For example, one student chose a picture of a very thin model and modified it by exposing her skeletal frame. She was clearly making a visual commentary about how media depicts women and creates unrealistic beauty ideals! The ideas and illustrations that resulted from this Grade 11 project were so outstanding that we turned them into paintings. The artworks are now being displayed in our hallway for all to enjoy and admire

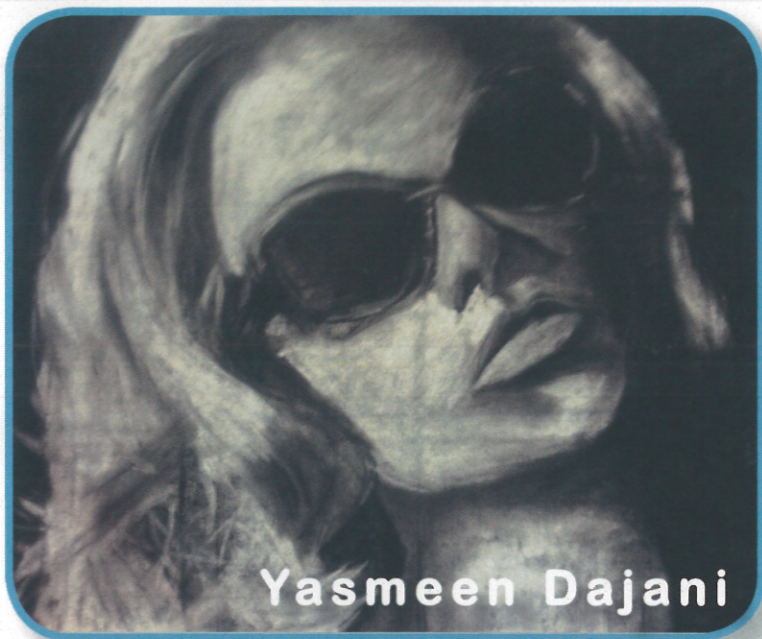
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Gabrielle Van Rootselaar



Raphael Ribkoff



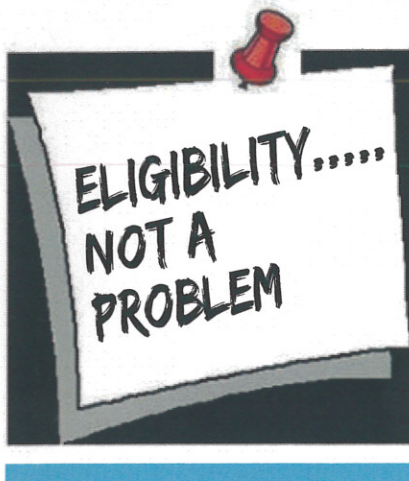
Yasmeen Dajani



Maria Gutierrez



Wendy Chang



In this issue we would like to briefly describe the advantages of a high school education at Kells Academy and its importance in helping your child get admission to an English University in Quebec.

Two of the finest English Universities in Canada – Concordia University and McGill University – are located in Montreal. Admissions are highly competitive as it is open to students worldwide – especially for admissions to the professional degrees. Due to the language laws in Quebec, students can only attend an English school where the language of instruction is English, if they have an English eligibility certificate (i.e. their parents attended English school before 1976).

Being a private school, Kells does not get any funding from the government of Quebec and therefore can accept students who want to study in English but cannot due to the Province's eligibility requirements. About fifty percent of our students are typically from overseas. They come to Kells to get their high school education in English and that makes much easier for them to get admission one of our top-notch English Universities in Montreal. It is strongly recommended that parents start the admission process for Kells Academy in January 2013. Once the application package is complete and submitted to the school, an appointment for an interview will be arranged by the Admissions office. Placement testing and a class visit will also be scheduled for your child. Tours of the school are given throughout the year, by appointment. Feel free to call us to arrange a visit.

Websites to Explore

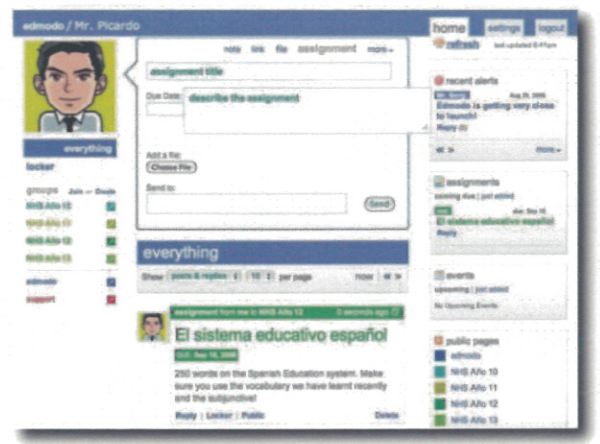


<http://pbskids.org/itsmylife>

The teacher, for example, can share files, links, assignments, and grades as well as issue alerts and updates, dialogue with students on a Facebook-like wall, survey the students, and map out the class syllabus on a public calendar. The student, on the other hand, can contact the teacher directly, message other students, interact in the public discussion spaces, and even access Edmodo from their mobile phones via their mobile-optimized page to check assignments and more. Explore!

In each issue of the newsletter, we will suggest a website or two that both parents and students can explore.

The first one that we like has been developed by the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). It deals with life and the problems that we face everyday. It covers six topics – Friends, Family, School, Body, Emotions and Money – and contains articles, stories, quizzes and videos. It is an interactive site for the students and can be a great parental resource as well. Another interesting site that you may want to explore is The slogan of this site is “Safe Social Networking for Schools” and its user interface has been described as similar to Facebook. It is a teaching tool modelled after social networks and designed for teacher/student interaction with a focus on communication, polling, assignment sharing and more.



<http://www.edmodo.com/>

CLASSE NATURE À MONT-TREMBLANT

Les Secondaires 1 et 2 de KELLS : À nous la liberté !

Brrrr ! Nous avons eu froid ! Mais nous avons surtout eu beaucoup beaucoup de fun ! Et le fun a commencé depuis le voyage en bus. Après une dixième vérification et un dixième appel... c'est parti ! À l'arrière, ça chahute et ça grignote. À l'avant, Mr Chung et Mr Nahas découvrent de véritables talents de chanteuses chez les filles ! Quant à Mme Ghanem, elle arpente le couloir sans arrêt pour s'assurer que tout va bien. On arrive ! Les animateurs de la Base de PleinAir du Mont-Tremblant se souviendront longtemps des élèves de Kells Academy ! Pendant deux jours, les 11 et 12 octobre 2012, ça courait, ça criait, ça riait, ça se bousculait dans les chambres, dans les couloirs et dans la cafétéria du Centre. 45 diabolins en tout s'en sont donné à cœur joie, accompagnés par 4 de leurs enseignants (Mme Ghanem, Mr Chung, Mr Nahas et Melle Sikias) et encadrés par 4 jeunes moniteurs bien sympathiques surnommés Chatouille, Prez, Goliwok et Azimut : Rabaska sur une eau gelée (If you're happy and you know it, paddle paddle !), geocaching, tir à l'arc, ballon et autres jeux à l'extérieur et à l'intérieur...Le temps est trop vite passé ! En soirée, la pluie de plus en plus forte ne nous a pas empêchés de nous réunir autour d'un feu de camp-marshmallows avant de courir nous abriter pour une veillée improvisée, en pyjamas, autour de la cheminée. Là, bien au chaud, nous avons chantonné avec Monsieur Nahas et sa guitare, avant d'écouter les histoires terrifiantes de ce cher (Deer) Teho.

Toujours affamés, les heures de repas étaient toujours les bienvenues... Les cuisinières assourdies par le vacarme de la cafétéria n'ont toutefois jamais perdu le sourire et servaient généreusement et patiemment le groupe surexcité. Mais avant de quitter la salle à manger, il faut nettoyer les tables. Une grande première pour la plupart des jeunes qui n'ont pas toujours fait le travail à la perfection... Sans doute le manque d'expérience... Pour la nuit, les chambres à lits superposés ont fait la joie de tous. Au rez-de-chaussée, le pavillon des filles (Les Cèdres) n'a retrouvé le silence qu'à une heure bien avancée de la nuit. Pareil pour les garçons qui créchaient à l'étage, dans l'aile des Pins. Le lendemain matin, une fine pluie de flocons annonçait une journée froide. Retour donc aux chambres, après un bon petit-déjeuner, pour enfiler des vêtements chauds avant de se séparer (en groupes) pour les activités du matin. Au programme, entre autres : Survie en forêt (orientation à la boussole et construction d'un abri) et escalade aux arbres. Retour pour manger et boucler les bagages. Mille vérifications, le temps de retrouver les propriétaires de chaque manteau, chaque couverture, chaque objet traînant par-ci, par-là... Enfin, adieu aux moniteurs et... tout le monde dans le bus ! Une belle escapade « Nature » dans les Laurentides, sans iPads et sans téléphones cellulaires !! Oui, c'est possible ! Foi de Secondaires 1 et 2 de Kells Academy !





CLASSE ROUGE

When the leaves started changing colours our grade 11 graduating class started getting excited as one of the highlights of their final year approached: Classe Rouge. The annual overnight trip is a great bonding experience for the grads as they get to escape the city and enjoy the changing of the season up at Mont Tremblant. This year's group disembarked their bus and dove right into activities such as canoeing, shelter-making, geo-cache, archery and rock climbing. There was an activity to suit every student as well as activities that pushed students to try things they never thought

they could do! At night, before the traditional bonfire and roasting of marshmallows, students played Capture the Flag where they had to rely on their teammates in order to survive! The next day, students boarded the bus home exhausted from their adventure, activities, chatting with their friends late into the night and even playing a good-spirited prank or two! Special thanks to the chaperones Mr. Jankowski, Mr. Cairns, Mr. Chung, Ms. Derby and Ms. Campbell for supervising what they have called the BEST Classe Rouge ever!

Where are they now ---Alumni news

Class of 2007

Junghyun Seo: Graduated from Marianopolis in the Pure & Applied Sciences. Currently studying Electrical Engineering at Concordia University but wants to transfer credits to the University of Toronto and relocate to where his family lives.

Class of 2010

Aziz, Haya: Graduated from Marianopolis in the Health Sciences and accepted into Medicine at McGill University. Will be commencing her medical studies in the Fall of 2012.

Falet, Jean-Pierre: Graduated from Marianopolis Health Sciences and accepted to study Medicine at McGill University in the Fall semester.

Azzi, Michelle: Recently graduated from Marianopolis College in the Health Sciences, and preparing to join McGill University in the fall – though still undecided between studying for a Bachelor's in Engineering, Physiology or Psychology . Also is planning to write a book!

Tran, Ngoc Ahn Minh: Will be joining the Bachelor of Engineering Program at McGill University after finishing at Marianopolis. Wants to specialize in Electrical Engineering.

Zein, Nour: Recently graduated from Marianopolis in Health Science. Admitted to McGill University but yet undecided between Physiology and Dietetics.

Class of 2011

Diaz, Angela : Is currently attending Marianopolis College and is working in the Student Services Department. Angela plans to visit Kells on a regular basis and encourages all her classmates to do the same.

Class of 2012

Koketso, Tshepi: Is currently attending Marianopolis College Social Sciences - Psychology Program.

Nguyen, Amy: Is currently attending Marianopolis College Social Sciences - Psychology Program.

To all past graduates: Please send us news about your personal and professional accomplishments with your email address and phone numbers (optional) so that we can stay connected. It is a great networking opportunity! Here is news about some past students – where they are and what they are doing. Thank you for sharing!

**Jean-Pierre Falet
and Haya Aziz**

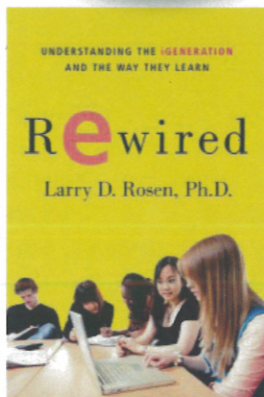


Save the date: Meet Dr. Larry Rosen, International Psychology Technology Expert



Dr. Rosen is Professor and Past Chair of Psychology at California State University. A research psychologist, computer educator and keynote speaker, he is recognized as an international expert in the "Psychology of Technology" and has pub-

To find out how technology has changed the lives of today's young people who study while listening to mp3 players, texting and chatting online with friends, and reading and posting Facebook messages, come see Dr. Rosen. You will learn how this multitasking generation responds to traditional textbooks and lectures..



November 28 and 29, 2012
to reserve your tickets please contact
Kells Academy at 514-485-8565
or at kadmin@kells.ca