

# RF Hall News

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## PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT  
OF YOUR PEACE,  
WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET  
ME SOW LOVE;  
WHERE THERE IS INJURY,  
PARDON;  
WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH;  
WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE;  
WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS,  
LIGHT;  
WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY;

O DIVINE MASTER, GRANT THAT  
I MAY NOT SO MUCH SEEK TO BE  
CONSOLED AS TO CONSOLE;  
TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS TO  
UNDERSTAND;  
TO BE LOVED AS TO LOVE.

FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE  
RECEIVE;  
IT IS IN PARDONING THAT WE  
ARE PARDONED;  
AND IT IS IN DYING THAT WE  
ARE BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE.

### **Administration: Robert F. Hall**

*Trustee:* **F. DiCosola**

*Family Superintendent:*  
**Paul McMorro**

*Principal:* **E. McMahon**

*Vice Principals:*

**F. Campese**

**L. Gallant**

**C. Letters**

**M. Terra**

*Parent Council Chair:*

**M. Deckert**

*Chaplain:* **B. Holtcamp**

## From the Principal's Desk

AS I PREPARE THIS SUBMISSION, at the start of my fifth year here at Robert F. Hall, I am amazed at what our community has accomplished with our Thanksgiving Food Drive. We have collected over 9,000 items for the Food Banks in the Hall Community. Congratulations to all of our students and staff !!

We have enjoyed a terrific start here at Robert F. Hall this semester. We welcome many new staff members to our community as well as Mr. Chris Letters and Ms. Frances Campese who have joined us as new Vice Principals here in our school.

As in past years, one of the events which marked the start of the school year were our Opening Masses. Thank you to the many groups who make these masses such a success for our community. Our masses featured all of the parish priests from the R. F. Hall communities. Thank you Frs. Bob Glynn, Paul Dobson and Larry Leger, it was our pleasure to have you here at our school.

Each and every night you will find over 200 students working after hours in a wide variety of activities. Students are involved in Drama, Music, various committees and a wide range of sporting activities for both males and females. Thank you to the many staff who make these extra curricular activities possible for our students. We are very proud of our committees, clubs and teams which are already up and running here at Hall.

It's a very busy place both during and after school hours.

In closing, we look forward to seeing everyone at our many community activities throughout the school year, the first of which will be our Parent Teacher Interviews November 19th. Please enjoy this Newsletter, I would like to thank Mr. Peter Hocevar and his editors for the great work he has done in producing our Newsletter, I would like to wish everyone a great year, we look forward to working with all of you throughout the school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me here at the school. Have a great 2009 – 2010 !

God Bless,

Ed McMahon.



# Literacy at Hall

**R**obert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School has an active Literacy Committee to enhance learning and Literacy for all. Our goal is to ensure that students have the skills they need to be successful not only on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) but also to experience success in literacy for life.

In preparing for the OSSLT, Hall provides the opportunity for students to participate in a cross-curricular Literacy Framework through all of their regular classes. The Literacy committee supports teachers and all grade nine and ten students with weekly activities that mirror those found on the OSSLT. This framework will include a formative assessment piece to assist students to improve their reading and writing skills and as a guideline for developing future Literacy activities.

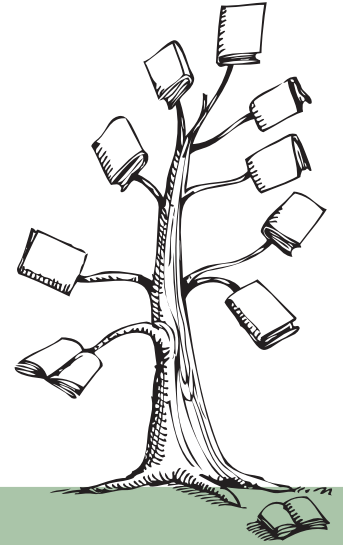
Students can prepare for the literacy test by taking advantage of the variety of materials available on the Robert F. Hall web site at [www.dpcdsb.org/RFHALL/Library](http://www.dpcdsb.org/RFHALL/Library) and by participating in the Literacy Framework activities in class.

Parents can visit the school on Parent-Teacher interview night which is November 19, 2009 where we will have a parent presentation on Literacy as well as access to a variety of print resources.

Our EQAO Literacy Liaison is Ms. Maria Terra, vice

*Helpful resources can also be found on the EQAO web site at:*

*<http://www.eqao.com/Parents/parent.aspx?status=logout&Lang=E>*



## Student Council

*By Skylarr Pinsent*

ON BEHALF OF THE 2009-2010 STUDENT COUNCIL, welcome back to a new school year! Once again, the Robert Hall Student Council is coming together to improve school life for the students by creating new and inventive ideas for so many exciting activities. One such activity was our annual Terry Fox Run and barbeque through which we raised \$15,000 for cancer research. Thank you to all of the students and teachers who participated in this event. Your efforts not only showed your school spirit but your compassion as well.

This year's overnight Student Council retreat was a great success. The council members used the time to discuss various options for improving our school atmosphere. Council was also able to develop in their roles as leaders and discuss many ways to make this school year about the entire student body.

This time of year is a busy one for the council. We have been involved in Halloween activities which included decorating the school, entertaining the St. Cornelius grades JK to 3 with trick or treating through our halls, and our fabulous costume contest.

With a few new decisions still to be made this year, Student Council is set to take the students of Robert F. Hall in an exciting direction. With our biggest council ever, new co-prime ministers Jennifer McCall and Adam Casole-Buchanan, and teacher advisors Mr. Reist, Mrs. Courtney and Mr. Lee we are certain to have a spirit-filled year at Hall.



# Awards Night

On Thursday, October 15, 2009, over 200 students and approximately 650 of their invited guests attended a celebration to honour their achievements in the 2008/2009 year. The ceremony took place in the school gymnasium where students took center stage to receive their awards. The first award of the evening to be recognized was the Honour Roll Certificate, given to students in Grades 9, 10, and 11 who had achieved an average of 80% or higher in their eight courses last year. This presentation was followed by the Subject Awards which honoured the highest overall standing achieved in individual courses last year. Finally, the evening concluded with several specialty awards which included the School Spirit Awards for Grades 9, 10, and 11, the School Council Award, the Educational Resource Worker Award, and the Highest Overall Average Awards. As well, the school band performed several pieces, and there was a reception prepared by our Hospitality and Baking students following the ceremony. The Robert F. Hall community is extremely proud of its award recipients and the positive contribution they make to the school.

## Specialty Award Recipients:

*School Spirit Grade 9* - Brandon Slade

*School Spirit Grade 10* - Robyn McCann

*School Spirit Grade 11* - Adam Casole-Buchanan

*School Council Award* - Cosmina Nistor

*ERW Award* - Jacqueline Cairney

*Highest Average Grade 9* - Daniel Cardoza, 94.5%

*Highest Average Grade 10* - Seville Scarcello, 96%

*Highest Average Grade 11* - Michele Molino, 95%

**Congratulations to all award recipients, and we continue to encourage all students to strive for excellence in their studies.**



## Student Success Initiative @ Hall (SSI)

In today's complex society, there are many ways in which families and individuals need support. On a school level there are many supports for busy families and their children. Students' first point of contact is the classroom teacher. The classroom teacher is the initial support. But at time the student needs support beyond the classroom teachers' time, resources or expertise. The objective of this newsletter is to offer parents/legal guardians and students some names and possible supports.

Life as a student is very complex and at time fraught with difficult issues. Here at Hall we are available to support your daughters/sons in their efforts to achieve their very best.

Supports take a very wide form. Within the school there are Guidance Counselors, the school Psychologist (Ms. Patterson), Social Worker (Ms. Resney), Child and Youth Worker (Mr. Berthiaume), Vice Principals (Ms. Terra), Mr. Letters, Ms. Campese, and Ms. Gallant), the Student Success Teacher (Mr. Horton), The Academic Resource Department. All these support staff work with at-risk students, those students who may not graduate on time for any reason. These reasons might include: stress, anxiety, absenteeism, health concerns, inappropriate academic placement, drugs/alcohol, family situations .....

The aforementioned supports are included under a newer initiative called Student Success initiative (SSI). The SSI is a wide ranging support system that includes all loving caring adults within a school. The SSI includes a Student Success Team that meets on a regular basis to discuss possible supports for at-risk students. Under the SSI there is the Student Success teacher. This teacher's job is to work with at risk students one on one. A large component of this position is credit recovery. Students who have failed a course might be eligible for this support. In lieu of summer school or night school, a student may opt to explore doing credit recovery with the SST. The student is given an opportunity to develop the skill sets that were not developed the first time through the course. Credit recovery is offered above and beyond a full course load. The student has to intermittently meet with the SST during lunch, before or after school.

The following scenarios are just an overview of some of the situations a parent/legal guardian or student may need to contact a member of the school support team.

1. **The student is credit deficient and thus may not graduate on time.**
2. **Student is being bullied.**
3. **Student feels extreme anxiety or stress over school.**
4. **Student is in need of Credit Recovery.**
5. **Stress over the Literacy test.**
6. **Student might be involved in drugs/alcohol.**
7. **Student is experiencing difficulties at home.**

Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School works with parents/guardians to ensure student academic achievement, a positive high school experience and overall student success. Our excellent teachers and support staff assist in nurturing our students to achieve their highest potential.

# Guidance

The university and college application process is already underway. During the month of October, counsellors have been busy preparing and encouraging Grade 12 students to make informed choices about their post-secondary future. Guidance counsellors had the opportunity to visit all grade 12 homeroom classes and provide students with information pertaining to the college and university application process.

College bound students can now access the college application website at [www.ontariocolleges.ca](http://www.ontariocolleges.ca). University students will be able to start the application process once their personal identification numbers (PIN) arrive in Guidance during the month of November.

Guidance encourages all graduating students to apply to either college or university prior to Christmas Holidays to avoid any last minute challenges or “hiccups” with the application process.

**The deadline for college application is February 1, 2010, and for university is January 13, 2010.**

On Monday October 5th, Hall hosted a College Fair and on Wed Oct 21st a University Fair. Over 30 post-secondary schools were represented at these two events.

College and University liaisons were impressed with our students’ enthusiasm and interest in their programs. Students

had the opportunity to speak to reps regarding programs and admission requirements. Students wishing to apply to programs in the United States are encouraged to attend R. F. Hall’s **American University Fair on November 11th.**

Mid-term report cards will be distributed on **Tuesday November 17th.** Parents/guardians will have the opportunity to meet with teachers between 5 – 7:30 pm in the school gymnasium on **Thursday November 19th.** If you are unable to attend, parents are encouraged to contact teachers regarding their child’s progress by calling the school.

On November 4th, our grade 9 students have had the opportunity to participate in “Take Our Kids to Work Day”. This has always been an invaluable and worthwhile experience for our students. It helps them not only to start thinking about their future plans, but also to appreciate a little more the everyday busy schedule of a working parent.

Grade 9 students will be experiencing their first set of Final Exams this January. Becoming prepared for these exams, however, starts long before January. All students are encouraged to make good study notes and seek help from their course teachers. Good Luck during this time of preparation.

During the month of January, our counsellors will be visiting Grade 8 feeder schools. Students will receive registration information and course option forms. We will also be inviting parents whose children attend our Caledon and Orangeville schools to attend our Grade 8 Parent Information Night on January 20th, 2010 between 7-9 pm.

A friendly reminder to all students: **you need to be working on your 40 hours of community service.** This is part of your diploma requirement and every year we get students who are in their graduating year who have not yet completed these hours. Students find it stressful working on regular course work, applying to university/college and at the same time trying to complete community service hours. Time has a way of disappearing on us so start those volunteer hours now.

Finally, students are reminded to visit the Guidance dropdown of the R.F.Hall website at [www.dpcdsb.org/RFHAL/Guidance/](http://www.dpcdsb.org/RFHAL/Guidance/) where they will find the 2009-2010 course calendar, diploma requirements, post-secondary links, as well as other helpful resources.

## Drama - HALL DRAMA FIRST OUT THE GATE!

*HALL DRAMA SPRINTED INTO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR* with a flurry of activities and trips. Within the first week of school, its first production, *THE DUCHESS, THE DAME, AND THE DUMB DORA* was holding auditions. Well into rehearsals, the play will be performed in early December for the International Thespian Festival. Hall Drama’s award-winning improv team, *THE HITMEN*, also started auditions and practicing. The *HITMEN* hope to maintain the first place status in the regional competitions of the Canadian Improv Games.

In October, Hall Drama brought students to a performance of the *ALTAR BOYZ* at the Rose Theatre in Brampton and on an over-night trip to the Stratford Festival where they saw *CYRANO* and *A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM*. Hall Drama has planned and organized a trip to London and Paris for this year’s March Break. And is organizing a trip to Chicago for late April. Still to come, a collective is being produced for the Sears Drama Festival in February. And Hall Drama’s Theatre Company class will be performing its original children’s play to over 20 elementary schools in May and June. All in all, an ordinary start for an extraordinary drama department.



# The Writer's Group

## R F Hall's Newest Club

This cluster of fledgling authors meets every Wednesday after school to test drive poetry and fiction manuscripts. With eight members we have a strong base on which to grow and are looking for a new name. So far "The Inklings" (inspired by C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkein) is a contender. We are always hoping for new members: someday RF Hall will produce a Giller Prize winner!

## Retro Bill Show @ Robert F Hall!

On Oct. 7, *Retro Bill* performed in our gymnasium. He was sponsored and supported by OPP and the DARE program. All grade nines and tens were in the audience. The Retro Bill Show is in its 10th year of live performances. The topic of the presentation is safety, self-esteem and character development. The audience was intently conscious of Retro Bill's antics, humor and message.



# Library Resource Center

THE ROBERT F. HALL LIBRARY IS THE RESULT of a cooperative effort between the Caledon Public Library System and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. Our students are fortunate to have a wealth of school library resources and public library resources available to them in one location.

By providing reference support to the Catholic curriculum, developing students' information and research skills, and promoting students' interest in reading, the Robert F. Hall Library is committed to assisting students to achieve success in school and become lifelong learners.

Already this year, we have met with all Grade nine students for a **Library orientation session**. This session included a tour of the facility, a library card application and details of upcoming library programs. All grade nines have also received a copy of the valuable resource *Research Success @Your Library* which will assist them in becoming organized researchers, critical thinkers, and effective communicators. This document can also be found on our web site at: <http://w3.dpcdsb.org/RFHAL/Library> (password **rfhall**).

Parents and students should visit this same web site for access to our library catalog, useful Literacy tips, reading suggestions and links to many fantastic educational web sites and online databases.

Avid readers are encouraged to visit the Library to learn about the Robert F. Hall **student book club**. Students who join the **White Pine Book Club** this year will be invited to attend various Book Club activities. The club starts in November.

*The worth of a book is to be measured by what you can carry away from it. ~James Bryce*



# Construction Technology

OUR CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY CLASS has just about completed building a 16' x 24' modular garage outside in our tech compound. When complete, it will then be craned onto a flatbed trailer and moved to its final destination at the customer's site. This garage project is the first step in our plan to move on towards building a complete modular three bedroom home. Ideally, the modular home will then be sold to a low income member of our school community, not for profit.

We have also built a 10' x 10' greenhouse. This is complete with potting benches and lexan panels. This building is currently inside the Construction tech shop. When sold, it will be dismantled and reassembled at the customer's property. All the parts and contents will easily fit in a cube van for transport.

If you are interested in purchasing any of these student build projects please contact Mr. Rodrigues in the Construction Technology room.



## Yearbook

THIS YEAR'S YEARBOOK CLASS is very excited to immerse themselves in RF Hall's social and athletic endeavors as thoroughly as possible. It's a hardworking, talented team of individuals who are devoted to covering as many events as the school will offer. Keep an eye out for these friendly neighbourhood creepers with cameras because they're coming to a hallway near you!



# Cooperative Education

**C**ooperative Education at Robert F. Hall is focused on the workplace and it enables our students to learn from their daily routines encountered at work. In general the students have the opportunity to make connections between school and work and to “try out”, a career of interest before finalizing plans for post secondary education, college, training schools or employment. There are three programs for experiential learning, the first is a four credit programme, the second is the EAGLE programme earning 2 coop credits plus 2 additional compulsory credits, and the third is the Alternative Coop which is based on continuous intake of students and may earn 1 to 2 credits.

We have now placed over 60 students in the workforce in a wide variety of occupations ranging from teaching assistants, culinary cuisine, hairstyling and aesthetics, veterinarian assistants graphic arts, funeral home director, electricians, cabinet making, heating and air, physiotherapists, tool and die, automotive mechanics and auto body repair.

The Eagle candidates travelled to Sunnybrook Hospital as part of their Health and Safety awareness component of study. Here they witnessed first hand Canada's largest trauma unit where they treat over 1200 injured patients requiring immediate and often life-saving care. The four credit students received their First aid and CPR certificates by attending two full days of practical information offered by Lifesaver 101.

Our placement supervisors have been motivating our students to improve their self-esteem. They are preparing them for the practical challenges they can expect to face upon entering the workforce. The response from our students is that the authentic workplace experience is being re-enforced with their full-time participation and challenges they face at work, with the employer and other employees.

Coop is faced with the challenge of preparing our students to be productive employees who can communicate effectively, work well with others as part of a team, and identify and solve problems. The partnership between our school, the coop teacher, placement supervisors and parents is paving the way for the development of the above skills and the success for the experiential learner.

If you would like more information on the programmes, or would like to take on coop students please call 905-584-1670 ext 32255.



## Sports

# Field Hockey

## Robert Hall has great start to Season

**EXPERIENCE EXCELLENCE:** A motto held close to the hearts of 22 girls ranging from grades 9 to 12. Every year, the varsity girls' field hockey team strives to better themselves as athletes and friends, and this year is no different. With the 2009 season underway, the girls are undefeated in regular season play having tied their first 2 games, and finished 4th out of 20 teams in the A.K. Pro tournament held in Ottawa.

Team members include: Brianna Bell, Nicole Bell, Cassie Briscoe, Chelsea Briscoe, Cassie Cambell, Casie DeBoer, Jen Doyle, Jessical DuLisse, Kristie Eberhardt, Mary Feeley, Natalie Lukovic, Karla Martinez, Laura McLean, Montana Merante, Cosmina Nistor, Samantha Patterson, Allison Pitre, Catherine Pollard, Kristina Priebe, Nicole Stokes, Samantha Tanner, & Nicole Vaughan. Coaches: Mr. DiVenosa, Miss. Lopes, & Mrs. Belvedere



# 2009

## Hospitality

THE HOSPITALITY STUDENTS are busy again with the start up of the new school year. They have been challenged with several large catering tasks including preparing food for about 700 people on Awards night. It is wonderful to witness the students working in a different setting with mostly hands on learning experiences. They really enjoy preparing the food but also get a real sense of pride in seeing their work being enjoyed by their teachers and parents.

We are thankful for the support we receive from so many, including our administration, custodial staff and our secretarial staff.



### Robert F. Hall - Parent

### Interview is Nov. 19

All parents are strongly encouraged to attend Parent Interview night in our school gymnasium on Nov. 19 from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm.