

CARDINAL NEWS



Telephone: (709) 229-3381(3382), Facsimile: (709) 229-3362
Web Site <http://roncallihigh.ca/> email: roncallicentralhigh@nlschools.ca

Ms. Joy Ricketts, Principal

Ms. Shikara Travis, Assistant Principal

Ms. Michelle Walsh, Guidance

Hello Cardinals,

It was a pleasure to see so many families of Roncalli students at our parent-guardian conferences. Thank you for coming, and continuing to work together with us to create the best possible learning environment for our students.

A reminder that our official Facebook page is run by our fabulous school council. The link is here [RCHS \(Avondale\) School Council Parent Page](#).



Student Support Services

Reading of Print Accommodation: Enhancing Student Independence

To support student independence in learning, we are implementing assistive technology for students who require the Reading of Print accommodation. This promotes student independence and helps with the transition to post secondary.

Moving forward, students will be provided with electronic or audio versions of assessments. Using headphones connected to their Chromebooks, students will be able to listen to the text being read aloud. This technology allows them to pause, replay, and control the pace of the assessment, enabling them to work at a speed that best supports their understanding and learning. This will also enable more students to remain in class with their subject teacher so they are able to answer content-based questions.

What to Ensure for Students Using This Accommodation:

- **Chromebooks:** Students must bring their Chromebooks for assessments.
- **Charged Devices:** Chromebooks should be fully charged before assessments.
- **Headphones:** Students should have a pair of headphones they can connect to their chromebook.

This approach empowers students to take greater control over their assessment experience, fostering independence and confidence in their learning journey.

50/50 Tickets

A **huge** thank you to those families who have taken 50/50 tickets. We ask that if you have not taken any tickets, please consider taking at least one book to help us to reach our payout goal of \$15,000! We still have **105** books of tickets here in the office for distribution.

- If you have your tickets sold, could you please return them by Monday, December 1st.
- If you would like **more** tickets, **we will be distributing them until Monday, December 8th.**

All tickets regardless sold or unsold, must be returned by Wednesday, December 10th.

This is our ONLY fundraiser of the year and the **draw date is December 12th!**

To request tickets, please email BettyAnn Costello at bettyanncostello@nlschools.ca Thank you in advance for your support!

Please note, when returning tickets we ask that you **keep all books intact** as it is easier to record them here at the office.

Mental Health and Addictions Presentations: Junior High

Melissa Cormier from Eastern Health- Mental Health and Addictions delivered presentations to our junior high students this month. Our Grade 7 and 8 students participated in a session about Mental Health and our Grade 9s attended a session on Substance Abuse. These sessions occurred on November 12th and November 28th.



Parenting In The Online World: Webinar

Here is a sample text that schools could share:

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection (C3P) is offering virtual webinars for parents and caregivers on Parenting in the Online World. This session will **teach families about online risks and trends concerning children and youth**. During these sessions, C3P will provide insights into concerning trends seen through operations of Cybertip.ca – Canada’s tipline to report the online sexual exploitation of children, and provide considerations and resources for talking with children and youth about online safety. The next session is **January 20, 2026**.

You can register for one of the virtual sessions being offered to parents and caregivers here: https://protectkidsonline.ca/app/en/parenting_in_the_online_world_webinars

Lincoln’s Annual Centre Ice Toy Drive

Please see the attached flyer for this community initiative for the holiday season.

[Flyer - Lincoln's Toy Drive](#)

If you’re a parent or guardian who could use help for the holidays, you may fill out the following form:

<https://forms.gle/fBdkbTSbmcqu2BQn7>

“Cardinal of the Month” and “The Wall of Awesome”

Congratulations to October Cardinal of the Month Recipients **Ava Spurrell** and **Jack Crann!**

The Wall of Awesome features pictures of students’ accomplishments **both inside and**

outside of the school, which focus on our school development framework. Students, parents and teachers are encouraged to **submit photos** each month to display on our *Wall of Awesome!* Recitals, shows, achievements great or small –please email photos to susanrbutler@nlschools.ca

Student Opportunities

- 1) **Tutoring for Tuition:** Roncalli Central High has been granted 300 total hours for free tutoring this year. If you are in grades 10-12 and are interested in becoming a tutor for this program (it pays \$16/hour in tuition vouchers) please contact Ms. Walsh.

 Need a Tutor?

Email Ms. Walsh to have your name added to the tutoring waitlist. Please include:

- The course you need help with
 - The day(s) you're available to stay after school
 - Note: You must have a ride arranged for pickup by 4:00 p.m. at the latest. If you're unable to stay after school, lunch-hour tutoring is also available – you can eat your lunch beforehand or during your session.
- 2) Ongoing **Scholarship Information** is available on the Google Classroom shared with all senior students.
 - 3) **Doorways Counselling:** As part of the Comprehensive School Health Plan, RCHS has access to a registered social worker counsellor from Eastern Health on a biweekly basis. Chelsea Mullaley will be here on **Friday, December 5th** and every second Friday after. In order to secure a session with her, please email or see Ms. Walsh.
 - 4) **STEMforGIRLS Opportunity at Roncalli!** Roncalli Central High is excited to announce that the **STEMforGIRLS program** will be coming to our school! Delivered by the **Women in Resource Development Corporation (WRDC)**, this hands-on program gives girls the chance to explore careers in **Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and Skilled Trades** through fun, interactive activities and discussions with inspiring women in STEM.

There will be **two sessions** (one for **Junior High** and one for **Senior High**) – each approximately **2 hours** with **a maximum of 20 participants each**.

All interested girls are encouraged to **sign up with Ms. Walsh** to reserve a spot and fill out the required forms/consent from MUN.

 **Date:** December 9th (periods 1,2 for juniors and 3,4 for seniors)

- 5) **Seeking Indigenous and non-Indigenous students for Youth-to-Youth Reconciliation Experience (Ages 15-17)**

[Honouring Indigenous Peoples \(HIP\)](#) is seeking to identify and invite Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth to participate in an innovative program.

The National Youth-to-Youth Reconciliation Experience is aimed at empowering the next generation of leaders by bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth, and inspiring them to take action towards peace and creating sustainable environmental change.

This is the fourth time they are offering this transformative experience. Last year, fifty young people from across Canada gathered in Nova Scotia to share Indigenous land-based knowledge. Here is a [video](#) about this experience.

This year, they are recruiting a new cohort of fifty students for the 2026 HIP Reconciliation Experience taking place at **Six Nations of the Grand River, Ontario from March 22 - 28**. The experience is entirely free and open to students ages 15 to 17. **The deadline to apply is Dec. 15, 2025.**

Please find attached an overview with information about the program, how to apply, a video as well as a poster with QR code for the application website.

[2025 curriculum - HIP \(Honouring Indigenous Peoples\)](#)

6) French For The Future 2025 National Essay Contest

The application process for the French for the Future Essay contest is now open. It is for a chance to win one of the scholarships totaling \$388,000. The scholarships are offered by 15 partner institutions across the country to encourage young people to pursue

post-secondary studies partially or entirely in French. **The deadline to apply is Dec 19, 2025.** See the web site [French for the Future National Essay Contest](#) for more details.

7) Trail of the Caribou Pilgrimage 2026

Please see this attachment for an exciting opportunity:

 [2026 TOTC Newsletter.pdf](#)

It's Cold Outside - Need a Coat?



Our Thrift Store has warm coats, hoodies and other items available for any student who is looking. It is always open and students may go in and take what they need at any time. It is located on the end of the third floor near the elevator.

RCHS Music Program

The RCHS Christmas Showcase will be on Wednesday, December 10th, at 7:00 (doors open at 6:30). There will be performances by music students, the drama troupe, and some student artwork will be on display as well. Any student interested in performing is asked to see Mr. Moran in the music room.

New members are always welcome to the music program. Check the lunchtime schedule below and see if there's a group you would like to join!

We are also seeking instrument donations for the music program. If you have any kind of instrument that could use a new home, please email Mr. Moran @ jamiemoran@nlschools.ca

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14
	TRAD BAND	GUITAR		CHOIR	ROCK BAND	A/V CLUB		TRAD BAND	GUITAR		CHOIR	ROCK BAND	A/V CLUB
		BASS							BASS				
		AND							AND				
		UKULELE							UKULELE				
		CLUB							CLUB				

Youth Arts Center

We are seeking donations for our Youth Arts Center/ Library. Items include:

- Board games
- Gently used furniture/seating
- Playing Cards
- Books

- Legos and lego boards

For more information please contact Ms. Susan Butler @ susanbutler@nlesd.ca

Mid-Year and Final Examinations

Mid-year examinations will take place **January 26th–January 30th**. Our structure will be consistent with last year. The option of mid-year re-writes in June has been removed from the Assessment and Evaluation Policy. Teachers will continue to collaborate and work with students to demonstrate knowledge of curriculum indicators. Teachers, in consultation with students, will determine opportunities for mark improvement or replacement throughout the school year.

Mid-course (assessing the first half of the course) and end-of-course examinations (assessing the second half of the course) will be administered for Grades 7-9 as follows:

- Grade 7: Mathematics (10% value)
- Grade 8: Mathematics and Science (10% value each)
- Grade 9: Mathematics, Science and English Language Arts (10% value each)

Examinations will be no longer than one hour in length. Those who receive the accommodation of extra time will be given an additional 30 minutes if required.

In grades 7-12, mid-course (assessing the first half of the course) and end-of-course (assessing the second half of the course) examinations will be administered in Grades 10-12 academic and advanced-level courses as per course descriptors, valued at 10% each. Examinations will be one hour in length.

Please note that the Department of Education is not moving ahead with provincial assessments in high school this school year as originally planned. The new date for this implementation is now set for 2026-2027 school year.

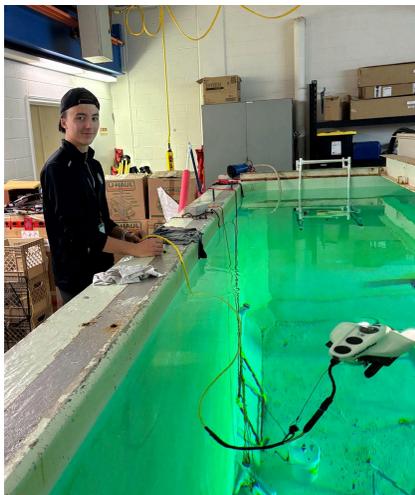
Important Upcoming Events/Reminders

- **December 5th:** Doorways Counsellor at Roncalli
- **December 9th:** STEM for girls at Roncalli
- **December 9th:** ICS Christmas Concert at Roncalli
- **December 10th:** Roncalli's Christmas Showcase
- **December 18th:** Student and Staff Christmas Dinner
- **December 18th:** Snow Ball
- **Christmas Spirit Week** - More information to follow from school leadership.
- **December 19th:** Last day for students prior to Christmas break - students will have an early dismissal on this day. More information to follow.
- **January 5th:** School re-opens for students and staff

Field Trip Recaps

Marine Institute Field Trip

On November 6th, some of our grade 11 students attended the Marine Institute's "100 Years of Careers" event. Students explored hands-on activities such as ROV piloting, Ship Design and chemistry experiments, in addition to connecting with industry professionals. The event also marked Memorial University's 100th anniversary, honouring its founding in 1925 as a living memorial and celebrating a proud legacy of marine education and discovery.



Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas

Around 180 Cardinals boarded the buses and headed to town to see *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* at the ACC on Thursday. The students really enjoyed the day out and we got many glowing reviews about student behaviour from teachers. Big thanks to Ms. McPeake for organizing this event for the WHOLE SCHOOL!

NLSchools Personal Electronic Device Policy

Phones are not permitted to be visible during instructional hours. This includes classrooms and hallways. Cell phones/ear buds are only permitted to be used by students during recess and lunch or if a student has a medical exemption. We are sincerely grateful to parents/guardians for their continued support with this.

School Messenger

A reminder to use the School Messenger app for ALL absences. At 3:00 pm, the app updates attendance and all present codes entered by teachers during the day override the absence, and your excused absence code will go into the period your child was marked absent by the teacher.

Allergy Alert!

Please note that the following items are not permitted within the school: Shellfish, eggs, scents, latex and all nuts and nut products. We will update this list as allergy information is provided to the school by parents/guardians.

Video Surveillance

A friendly reminder to our school community that security cameras are in use both inside and outside of our building 24 hours a day.

Unscheduled School Closure

School closures and delays will be sent out by both phone and email through school messenger. We kindly ask that parents/guardians ensure all contact information for your child is up to date. This includes both telephone numbers and email addresses. If your information has changed, please contact our school's secretary at roncallcentralhigh@nlschools.ca

Emails:

Please allow up to 24 hours for email responses from staff. Parents are reminded to check their spam/junk mail. Please remember that staff are not required to check or respond to emails outside of working hours.

REMINDER - Energy Drinks

Energy drinks are not permitted to be consumed in school. We have noticed increased incidences of students bringing and consuming energy drinks in our building. Energy drinks contain dangerous amounts of caffeine that present a danger to our students. Please read more here: [Energy Drink Dangers](#)

Time Out Of Class

We are continuing to use our "time out of class" tracker for our students. We are noticing some improvement in this, and we thank you for the supportive messages we've received on this initiative. We will continue to have discussions and contact home when students are missing excessive amounts of class time.

Important Dates 2025-2026

- Last Day before Christmas Break, December 19th
- Return from Break, January 5th
- Mid-Terms, January 26-30th
- Term 2 ends February 1st.
- PD February 2nd no school for students
- Term Two Reports Released, February 5th
- Parent Teacher Interviews, February 12th (school will dismiss at 12:10)
- District Holiday, February 23rd no school for students
- PD March 13th (school will dismiss at 12:10)
- District Holiday, March 16th no school for students
- Easter Break April 3-12th
- Term 3 Ends, April 19th
- PD April 20th no school for students
- Term 3 Reports Released, April 23rd (no teacher interviews)
- Family Night for Feeder Schools, April 30th (6-7:15)
- Night of the Arts, May 14th

- PD May 15th no school for students
- Victoria Holiday, May 18th no school for students
- Prom, May 28th
- Last Day to Evaluate before Exams, June 5th
- Final Exams Begin, June 12th
- Exams End June 18th
- PD June 19th no school for students
- Last Day of School for Students June 25th

Professional Learning Days for Staff

The department of education requires all schools to partake in professional development throughout the school year. Below is a list of dates which are planned for Roncalli. **Please note, that these dates are subject to change**, in the event that a date needs to be changed, we will communicate that information to families.