

Teen Outlook

Musical tour of The Big Apple by GDHS students

Herald Special
 March 22, 13 students from GDHS and 20 community members returned from their exciting trip to Egypt. Organized by Mr. Hewer, business manager at GDHS, the participants visited Cairo, Luxor and Aswan, for ten unforgettable days.

"It was absolutely gorgeous!" exclaimed Kathryn Buchan. "It was nothing like I expected. If I had the chance I would go again."

As well as touring the Egyptian Museum, visiting the great Sphinx and Pyramids of Giza, the group had the opportunity to ride a camel and travel down the Nile in a felucca. They also visited the tomb of Tutankhamen and watched belly dancers and snake charmers.

"It was beautiful and really unusual. There is no way to describe it," said Jennifer Fancy. "Everyone was really friendly and there was no theft. It was a lot of fun except the food was disgusting so no one ate anything."

We are happy to hear the students had such a good time and are glad they returned safely.

The music department at GDHS has undergone major changes, under the direction of its two dedicated teachers, Mrs. Blake and Mrs. Kirkup-Ortolan. As well as teaching classes at GDHS they devote much of their spare time to organizing and supervising many extra-curricular activities, such as bands, choirs, and trips. To help subsidize these activities, they also organize their own fundraising for the music department.

GDHS has five different bands and instrumental groups which students may choose to join. The Youth Band consists of 60 first year players. They had the opportunity to compete against many Toronto schools in the Kiwanis Music Festival where they won third place for their performance. Forty-five students play in the Wind Ensemble, and they received a mark of 81 in the festival.

The Stage Band is group of select musicians who play a variety of jazz and pop music. The band is comprised of a rhythm section, saxophones, trumpets and trombones. Some songs they are currently working on are, Stompin at the Savoy, Five Foot Two Eyes of Blue and Here's that Rainy Day. The music department also offers a brass quintet and clarinet quartet for students to play in.

The Jazz Choir is comprised of 16 selected students who were required to audition for the group. They perform vocal jazz music all on microphones and are accompanied by a three-piece rhythm section consisting of keyboards, drums and bass. Their repertoire includes songs such as Satin Doll, When I Fall In Love, and Blue Skies. The Concert Choir is a group of 30 interested students who perform a variety of

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GDHS report

By JOANNA McTAGGART

music and took second place at the Kiwanis Music Festival. Each group practices once a week with extra rehearsals when they are needed.

"The more you practice the better you become," said Mrs. Blake. "The more we can teach the students and the more inspiration, motivation, spirit of commitment and enjoyment we can foster in them, the happier

we are and the more successful we feel we are. Both of us are dedicated to music education and feel it is a very important part of young people's lives. We live, eat and breathe music."

Mrs. Blake and Mrs. Kirkup-Ortolan are both very excited about the new music complex being built. In the future they hope to be able to offer an electronic keyboard course, a level two guitar course, and a course in music theatre.

April 29 to May 2, 42 students will be participating in a musical, cultural excursion to New York City. They will be viewing a Broadway show, visiting Radio City Music Hall and having a tour of Carnegie Hall. They will also be visiting museums, art galleries and the Lincoln Centre of the Performing Arts.

May 6 at the cultural centre, a

fashion show for the Festival of the Arts will be held in honor of the GDHS Centennial Celebration. It will involve historical costumes, student made designs and some local shops will be represented. Models are still needed, as well as volunteers to help with make-up, dressing and sets. If you would like to offer your assistance, contact Mrs. Wilson at GDHS. Also for the

Festival of the Arts, there will be a musical presentation May 8. Tickets can be obtained at the door or from GDHS.

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