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FLOWERS: Grade 9 ADHS students pose as "Beautiful Flowers" for student mentors.-Matthew Reid photo.

New high school program to assist 110 new grade niners

By Matthew Reid

Minor niners have again flooded the halls of Acton District High School. The Guidance department, headed by David McConnell, has initiated a new program to help fresh grade 9 students make an easier transition from grade 8 into high school life.

The new program ran from 8:45 am until 12:47 pm on Tuesday morning, the first day of school. Only grade 9 students were scheduled to be at school in the morning. Grades 10 through 12 arrived and joined the grade 9s for a shortened school day around 12:45 pm.

Monitored by teachers and staff, senior student mentors led the grade 9s through a series of fun activities designed to get the kids involved with other grade 9 students. The initiative is also designed to get the students familiarized with the layout of the school.

"The students have visited the school before, but this is basically an activity period for them," says Acton High Principal, Bert O'Hearn. "This helps because if a student struggles through grade nine, it makes it very difficult to recover."

The students were broken up into six groups of approximately 18 students before heading out to their individual activities. The morning was filled with entertainment such as camp games, a short performance by the Improv Comedy Club, Ultimate Frisbee games, bracelet making and wrapped up with a BBQ.

Each group of students was given a disposable camera to document their morning adventures. These pictures will be held onto along with a banner signed by all the students.

This banner and the pictures will be presented upon their graduation in 2011.

One hundred and ten new grade 9 students are currently heading to class this year at

ADHS, but there are most likely more to come.

"We just don't know how many we have until we are a few weeks in," O'Hearn said.



FRIBEE FUN: Students break into a sweat playing Ultimate Frisbee on the first day of Grade 9.-Matthew Reid photo



BUS STOP: Students get off the bus for the first time this year at Robert Little School. - Matthew Reid photo