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SPARTANS SPEAK

Stouffville District Secondary School News & Views

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Crafts for a Cause: The Milk Bag Project

By Fatima Zafar

Crafts for a Cause is a student-run initiative consisting of seven SDSS students, who take fashion and crafting to a whole new level. These students create charity crafts to benefit the needy. This year the group has collected plastic milk bags from Stouffville District Secondary School, Oscar Peterson, Harry Bowes and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Station.

Students will cut these milk bags into strips, crochet the strips and ultimately create mats that will be used resourcefully. These mats will provide as protection for medicine to be transported to developing countries and later be used as sleeping mats for children and adults. About five hundred milk bags are required to make a child-sized mat and one thousand are required to make an adult-sized mat. These mats can be easily sanitized, as they are plastic, and they are very durable. Moreover, these mats can provide some

comfort to victims of abject poverty, in developing countries, where mattresses and beds are luxuries. The generosity of Stouffville has allowed the group to reach their goal of collecting two thousand bags, and now they are in the processes of sanitation and making the plastic yarn.


"This is a group of really enthusiastic girls. They are self-motivated, and they have the inner desire to help others. I am proud to know that SDSS and the rest of Stouffville contain such generous and willing citizens, who demonstrate such dedication and generosity towards such an important cause," said Mrs. Amelio, one of two teacher coordinators for this group. The other teacher coordinator is Mrs. Frauts. With the help of teachers, students and the community, Crafts for a Cause is making a difference in the world – one mat at a time.




These are the plastic milk bags graciously donated by the students of Stouffville District Secondary School and by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Station. About five hundred bags are needed to make a child-sized sleeping mat, and a thousand bags are needed to make an adult-sized sleeping mat.

SDSS SAYS...


Question: How was your transition from elementary school to high school?



KRYSTA MCCALLUM
"My transition to high school was good. I felt very comfortable in all of my classes with the work that was given. I felt good about being in the school. I think that my school last year could have prepared me a little bit more for this year because I didn't really know what to expect from the teachers and the classes. Other than that I didn't really have to adjust too much."



BRENDAN WILKINSON
"Overall it was good easier than expected, [I was] excited [as well as] nervous coming to a new environment!"



DAUNTE THOMPSON
"[There are a] lot more people [and] little work. [It is] a bit tougher [and] the library is bigger, but [it is] mostly the same!"

Ninth Grade Outlook: A Student Story

By Braelyn Rumble

Wow! I cannot believe that a year ago I was the big kid in the school hallways. In many ways, I was looked up to by the younger children at my public school. This was because last year, I was the elder, the eighth grader. Summer flew by and I didn't really know what to look forward to in September.

Just before starting my high school year, I thought of scenarios where something went completely and utterly wrong. My made-up nightmares consisted of forgetting where my locker and classrooms were and in doing so drawing unnecessary attention to myself which led to being humiliated in front of my classmates. Another daunting nightmare would be the old classic of coming to school with no pants on. As certain as I was that one of these would happen, none of them did, but that doesn't assure me that in four years (when I head off to university or college) that these visions will not repeat themselves. Instead, the opposite happened. When I needed directions to a classroom, a teacher would point me in the right direction. Once I got to school, I realized other grade nines were just as anxious as I was. Now, six months into the school year, my friends and I laugh about how nervous we felt and how the transition went smoother than we expected.

During the summer, I hadn't decided if I was excited about high school or apathetic about it. I had painted a picture in my mind of what high school looked like; I had gathered images and stories from movies. I thought of the cliché high school in the hit Mean Girls, where if you were not a football jock or a preppy cheerleader, you were considered a loser. It turned out to be nothing like this at SDSS. It seems to me that people are pretty down to earth when it comes to being themselves. Looking back, I've learned out of experience that high school is what you make it. If you want to make friends and strive to do well, you can and will. If you do your homework and listen, you will do well on tests and exams. If you have a positive attitude and outlook, high school will be one of your best memories in life.

York Region Police Presentation

By Garima Jindal

On December 13th, 2011 all the Health classes of grade nine watched an important and educational presentation held by the York Regional Police on sexting. Sexting is when people send inappropriate messages or pictures through their cell phones. In total, 30% of the teenage population engages in sexting, with the average teenager sending 3,339 texts every month.

There are many damaging consequences including name calling, humiliation, verbal harassment, cyberbullying, not to mention the regret and depression that are often associated with this practice. In addition to these consequences, most of these messages never go away, and nothing is truly anonymous, as the police

reminded the assembly. When pictures are sent from a cell phone or through the internet, it is there forever and for the whole world to see. Sexting could also implicate kids criminally and therefore cause legal problems. According to the presentation, the possession of pictures that encompass sexting attributes is as serious as the possession of drugs. Young people need to be informed and need to understand the severity of sexting and the effect it can have on their lives. There are also many future consequences including college/university admissions, employers, friends, significant others, and online predators. The average teenager sends 3,339 texts a month,

anything can happen in those. I believe that this was a very influential and informative presentation on sexting. Thank you to the York Regional Police for this beneficial knowledge. All attending students really appreciated the police's efforts to enlighten and guide young people in the right direction.



Talent Show!

By Nicole Thompson

It is no surprise that SDSS has an abundance of talented students and staff alike. The proof was at the Annual SDSS Talent Show, where dozens of acts entertained the student body in the true spirit of the holidays. The performances ranged from soloists to large groups, including guest appearances by the science and history departments. Musical talents dominated the performance. Two of Stouffville's best bands shared their own original songs as well as covers of some popular favourites. Singers from grade nine revealed their budding artistry, and a few well-known seniors from

previous years returned for their final performances. A few unique acts also made their way into the show including a slam poem and a lyrical dance. This year's talent show drew out the most auditions from the student body to date, and there's no doubt that next year will bring an even larger crowd.

This year's event was hosted by the 2011/2012 Student Council, led by Colton Carrick (president) and Olivia Roman (vice president). Both students and staff worked hard to make this event the success it was. They certainly set the bar high for next year's performers.



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