

Spartans Speak

We the Spartans at SDSS have chosen to speak up and out to our community.

A Student body, led by a few teachers, have joined together to shed some light on all the exciting things happening right here in Stouffville. Contributing Authors are: Eric Cassey, Rebecca Cassey, Alice Donoghue, Rachel Dubenofsky, Mackenzie Gott, Gina Guzzo, Dana Kenedy, Corey Knecht, Caitlin Leger, Kristina Nagel, Daniel Prokop, Solange Prokop, Lisa Shmakova and James Wood • Teacher Advisors are: Mrs. Schmidt and Mrs. Dipede

"Don't mock me!"

"Objection, your honour". Think, where have you heard that authoritative and politely obtrusive phrase before? I am going to have to guess or rather hope that it was not in reality. Although before your vivid and likely oh-so-angelic imaginations run away with you like the Romeo to your Juliet, the students of SDSS will unfortunately not be putting on the obviously off-off Broadway production of the riveting film A Few Good Men- clearly by your facial expression "you can't handle the truth!" However, on February 19th, 2007 seven grade twelve students including myself led by our determined law teacher, Ms. Eaton and equally fierce yet congenial legal advisor, Martin Dionne attended the fourth annual Judges' Cup. The competition that was orchestrated by the York Region Law Association was an opportunity for aspiring legal-eagles in high school to take part in a mock trial in front of a real judge in a real court room! How many of you can say you have had such a positive and inexpensive excursion to the court room? As an added bonus we were exposed to a semblance of the life led by lawyers during trial and it is truly exhilarating- in spite of the fact that Jack Nicholson was not present!

For the competition we were given a mock case that prior to being presented in the Newmarket Courthouse had to be held within a senior level law class in our slightly less formal but,

nonetheless professional library. After that much needed practice, we (the team) had to take on the roles of witnesses, defendants and lawyers in the case. The one trick to this seemingly simple task is that as witnesses and lawyers we had to be prepared to argue both crown and defence; only minutes before presenting the case did we find out whom we would be representing. I assure you that this added ingredient of unpredictability only added to the gut-wrenching excitement and adrenaline-pumping exhilaration of the high-spirited competition.

On the day of the event we dramatically and enthusiastically mooted not just once but, twice. This probably seems redundant to you but, it was a process of eliminating schools based on a point system that judged behaviour and general adherence to the tournament rules set forth by the Ontario Bar Association. In both trials we were fortunate enough to represent the Crown in the second degree murder case of R. v. Carson Beancounter. Despite the advantage we did not win but, regardless it was a fantastic and once in a life time experience to learn about Canadian law and the justice system without actually experiencing it.

On behalf of the Mock Trial Club, I would like to thank Ms. Eaton for her strength and devotion to the team that consisted of: Kristen Miller, David Tapiero, Ashley Mountford, Brien East, Todd McVicar, Ashley Smith and I (MacKenzie Gott). Finally in the spirit of true advocacy "the Crown rests your honour".

By: MacKenzie Gott

Stouffville Survivor

On March 7, Stouffville High held the finale of its highly popular "Stouffville Survivor" in its gymnasium. Over 200 spectators attended the event, lining up along the walls and stage of the gym, eager to see who the victorious team would be. Stouffville Survivor is an extracurricular competition of speed, smarts, and stamina, pitting teams of two students each against each other in grueling and often bizarre challenges. After each challenge, the team in last place is eliminated and the other teams advance to the next round. Through February and March, the teams were slowly reduced down to just five who competed in the Stouffville Survivor Finale.

The event was hosted by teacher Mr. Jimmo, who after giving a brief recap of what had happened in the season, introduced the challenges and got the competition started. One challenge required partners to feed each other spaghetti while blindfolded. Another task involved teams dropping chocolate fudge into their partner's mouth, trying to create the least mess possible. Crowd favourite's student Logan Artindale and teacher Mrs. Creasor were unexpectedly eliminated during a round where they had to search for puzzle pieces under a large parachute. Finally, two teams were left standing: Charlotte Sproxtan and Nathan James, and Craig McDowell and Nicole Carroll. The final challenge was an obstacle course, and upon completion, the teams had to unravel a flag from a pole in order to win. To make matters even harder, each partner was harnessed to the other, making cooperation a valuable aspect of this competition. It was a close finish, with both teams struggling to unravel the flags after they completed the course, but in the end, Charlotte and Nathan were able to untie the flags first and were announced the winners of the Stouffville Survivor 2007. The tribe has spoken!

By Daniel Prokop



Stouffville Singers Soar

The SDSS vocal team is showing their amazing talent to the world! In February alone they sang their hearts out under the leadership of Mrs. Sellick-Smith at two venues. Their first competition of the semester was the Kiwanis Festival on February 23rd, where they earned first place. The second trip was to The Ontario Vocal Festival on March 1st, where professionals gave the students advice on how they could improve their singing. There the students also had the opportunity to sing in a group of 300 singers. As one vocal student said, "It was so cool to hear what we sound like as a big choir considering that we are usually a small group." The SDSS Choir sings a variety of music genres, ranging from Billy Joel to a medley of songs from "The Sister Act". The vocal students enjoy these opportunities to show the result of their hard work and to learn from both professionals and their fellow choir singers. Congratulations on the win singers, everyone at SDSS is proud of you, and look forward to your many future successes. by: Rachel Dubenofsky

The Starbooks cafe

Bibliophiles are a rather difficult breed to come by in this fast-paced society of ours. Words convey our feelings, emotions, thoughts, and every single action in our busy lives. To live a life without words would not be living at all. Rather than see who can bench press the most, those who enjoy the pleasure of witnessing a story erupt before their eyes, are found in the school library during lunch, discussing those often taken for granted words by means of the Starbooks Café

The White Pine Organization is a region-wide group that selects ten Canadian written young adult novels in which students are to read, discuss, and reflect upon the themes and issues portrayed in the literature with their peers. Contemporary coming-of-age novels are constantly recurring; however, the novels do vary greatly in genre. There is always at least one good novel to appeal to the historical fans, the science fiction fans, the thriller fans, and all those

other reading fanatics. The 2007 roster of novels includes one from the legendary Margaret Atwood with her novel entitled, The Penelopiad - the retelling of the classical piece, The Odyssey, with a humorous twist.

As though reading is not enough of a treat for the students, members are able to take a field trip on May 9th to the Premiere Ballroom and Convention Center to attend the White Pine Conference where a guest author or two will speak about their novel, and writing in general.

The atmosphere is always an exhilarating one, for when else are students able to surround themselves by others who live for the written word?

By: Dana Kenedy



"SDSS Says"

"What are your plans for the March Break?"
A few SDSS students had a few interesting answers.

Alex Burrows

I'm looking forward to my trip to Collingwood with my friends and my girlfriend, because we will be snowboarding and taking part in socially responsible activities.



Matthew Price

This March break would allow me to buy some more hip threads, adding to my wardrobe. Holt Renfrew just released the new Burberry Men's spring/summer 07 collection giving me the opportunity to express my British upbringing and satisfy my burning passion for fashion.



Welcome Mr. Zoratto

Stouffville District Secondary School proudly welcomes Mr. Zoratto as its new vice-principal. He is delighted to say that he was welcomed by students in classrooms and in the hallways, where they would shake his hand and occasionally say a friendly greeting. He also points out that the staff has been and continues to be very helpful in assisting him with his job.

He is very excited about working with the students and staff, and assisting them in moving to the new school. Mr. Zoratto wants students and teachers to work hard and to enjoy themselves through working hard. Work, in his opinion, should be an intrinsic pleasure for everyone. He refers to himself as the facilitator of our ideas. He hopes to be helpful to all the students and staff with projects and future plans and to ensure that students have the best experience throughout their high school years. This would be accomplished with the availability of clubs, sports and other interactive activities that create memories and give further knowledge to the students who choose to partake in them.

Mr. Zoratto previously worked at Middlefield Collegiate Institute. When asked to compare the two schools he said that, "Both schools are very different. The cultures, for example, differ because most students here are comfortable with the English language; however, students at MCI mostly speak English as their second language (ESL programs). Also, there are about 850 students here and approximately 1600 at MCI which accounts for another major difference. Lastly, about fifty percent of the students who attend SDSS get bussed to school, but all the students at MCI walk or ride their bicycle in order to get there." We hope that Mr. Zoratto will continue to bring positive contributions to our school and help students continue and enjoy their journey through high school.

By Lisa Shmakova and Kristina Nagel



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