

Spartans Speak

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

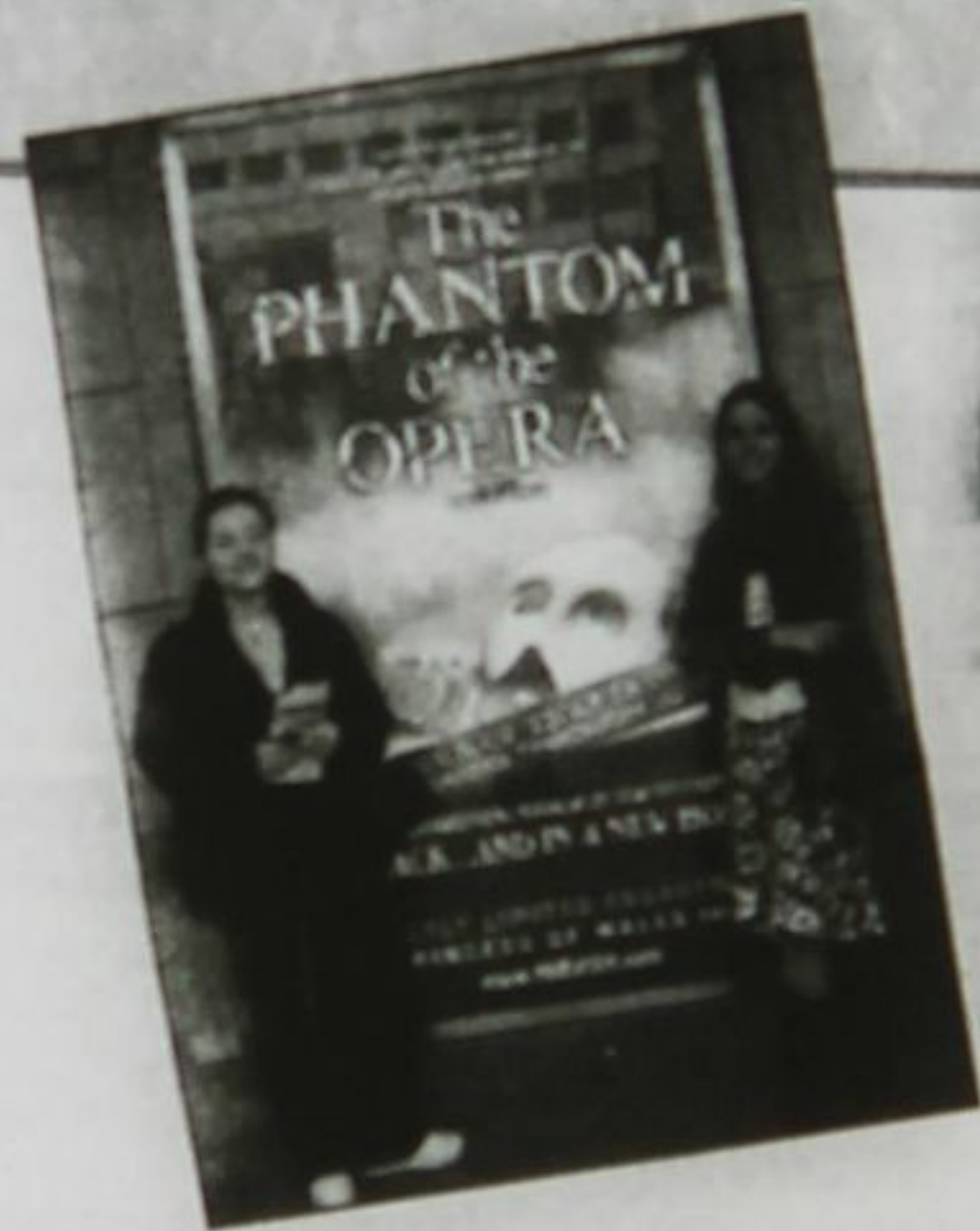
A Student body, led by a few teachers, have joined together to shed some light on all the exciting things happening right here in Stouffville. Contributing Authors are: Alice Donoghue, Rachel Dubenofsky, Mackenzie Gott, Gina Guzzo, Dana Kenedy, Corey Knecht, Caitlin Leger, Kristina Nagel, Daniel Prokop,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



The Phantom of the Opera

Students who studied grade 11 French last semester were thrilled with the opportunity to see a matinee performance of *The Phantom of the Opera* at The Princess of Wales Theatre early last month. The production, which opened in Toronto late February, coincided with the students' French studies the prior year. That is, the excursion was relevant because the class studied the novel *Le Fantôme de L'Opéra* by Gaston Leroux, the obvious basis for Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical.

The original novel is best suited to the genre of horror whereas Webber's adaptation exemplifies the romantic aspects of the plot. This allows one to sympathise with the Phantom, who is characterized in both the production and in the original as a horribly deformed musical genius who haunts the Paris Opera House. The well-known plot, beautiful costumes, great sets, and familiar melodies made the long-awaited performance quite enjoyable for all. Although students were scattered across the theatre in possibly the worst existing seats, the performance was one that rose above what many had ever viewed before. The full house matinee perhaps confirms why the show has returned to Toronto for a second time in its history, much to the students' delight. by Solange and Daniel Prokop



Double Gold Medals for S.D.S.S. Hockey Teams

The boys' and girls' hockey teams of S.D.S.S. have recently made history by winning two OFSAA hockey championships. At the end of March, the girls' hockey team beat Bishop Tonnos from Ancaster, with a final score of 5-1, locking their spot as Ontario champions for the second consecutive year. If that triumph was not enough to boost the pride of Stouffville, a few days later the boys' hockey team won their OFSAA title against previous Ontario champions Bishop Macdonell. Captain Brendan Wise made an overtime goal in the 5-4 victory game, resulting in gold medals for the team. This incredible accomplishment is unparalleled by any other in history; SDSS is the first high school to win both boys and girls OFSAA hockey championships in the same year.

The honour and satisfaction from these wins has been shared with the high school and the town too, which was evident at a huge celebration held in the high school gym the Friday following the teams' success. However, the twin titles are not the only real achievement being celebrated, but also the integrity and sportsmanship of all members of the teams. On and off the ice, the students displayed character, discipline, and respect, and their behaviour was commended by every school they competed against. Team Captains Brendan Wise and Hayley Hughes demonstrated splendid leadership upon guiding their teams to the gold medals. This remarkable event will become a staple in Stouffville history, and will never be forgotten by the students and community.

by Daniel Prokop



A Fond, Fun Farewell at Stouffville District Secondary School

Before SDSS closes its doors one final time and the students must say goodbye forever, there is one more chance for the last hurrah. One June 1st, 'Stouffvillepalooza', will give both current and previous students the chance to revisit this school, their peers and have a good party.

There will be a fun day for SDSS's present students spanning from the afternoon until the end of the day which will include sumo wrestling, a dump tank and lots of snacks, just to name a few things. Later that evening, alumni will be invited to take part in a barbeque dinner which will be served from 5:00-8:00 PM and a dance taking place between 6:00-11:00 PM. There will be more details about the cost of tickets and other events in the near future.

SDSS has played a major part in the lives of many of Stouffville's citizens and will be sorely missed as a high school by all. 'Stouffvillepalooza' will be an excellent opportunity to bid farewell to this community fixture, where so much growth and memories have been made over the years.



A New Legacy... Behind a Grocery Store?

Unless you've been living under a rock, you've probably noticed a bit of talk regarding the fact that SDSS will be moving behind the Sobey's on Main Street. Despite the obvious downsides - a much farther walk for those of us east of the tracks, no more walking down Edward St. for a quick slice of pizza - the new school's location will have its upsides too. Can you see East Side Mario's? Yum.

A plus side to this new school will be all the sustainability features we've been hearing about all year; you know, global warming, water conservation, etc. With this new building we will see all these initiatives put into action. No doubt all the other kids in York Region will complain, "I wish MY school was as sustainable as SDSS."

Then there's all the cool stuff the new building is going to have. All the classrooms have been designed by the department heads, which is a first in York Region. Thanks to their wonderful ideas, there will be something for everyone; for the scientists: high tech science labs. Apparently Science teachers in other school districts want to come work in Stouffville now, all because of Dr. Cherkas' hard work on the layout for the science labs. For the bibliophiles there will be oodles of bookshelves filled with all the books you could want. There's going to be an enormous library, almost three times the size of the one we have now, with a fireplace and about thirty computers. Speaking of computers, the techies are getting a state of the art computer lab. Next year the grade 12 English students might not even have to write their exams by hand! All you talented actors will be excited to hear that there will be a stage, opening on one side into the Drama room and on the other side into the cafeteria. The cafeteria itself will be much bigger. No more lineups that extend into the hallway, or a crowded "servery" where you can barely open the fridge doors.

As you can see Stouffville, there's no need to fear change. The new school being built is going to be superb. We may be losing proximity to the "downtown core" but we're gaining a one of a kind building. And don't worry, you can't get lost in the new school, it's rectangular! by Rachel Dubenofsky

MACK AND MABEL - Theater Review

Good luck was all that came of Friday April 13th, as the grade 9, 11, and 12 SDSS drama students ventured to Niagara on the Lake to once again attend the Shaw Festival. The students were treated to a delightful production of *Mack and Mabel*, (directed by Molly Smith) a musical centered around a silent filmmaker in the roaring twenties dealing with the competition of "talkie" films and other love related rivalries. Despite the monotonous two and a half hour bus ride, the actual play took the audience away with memorable and catchy songs.

Mack, the American silent filmmaker is at a loss when his leading lady is just not good enough, until by pure fate, he finds Mabel, his new star to shine. When all is going well the two fall in love and, most assuredly, complications arise within varying opportunities. Many see great potential for Mabel, and suggest she break free from Mack's tiresome and tyrannically demanding ways. But Mack is truly a persistent man, urging that his films must "make the world laugh," despite what the ever changing values of the world portray.

Mack and Mabel offers a compelling love story, with clever twists, and witty dialogue to satisfy not only the crowd, but myself (and pessimistic as usual). The set design was just spectacular thanks to William Schmuck and his crew. Lighting was phenomenal, and the black and white montages were awe inspiring. This musical production alone has reilluminated my love of theater and can most certainly brighten anyone's dreary day. Simply and utterly compelling. written by: James Wood

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