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SPARTANS SPEAK

Stouffville District Secondary School News & Views

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SDSS World Travellers in France and Spain

By Maryam Zafar

SDSS is taking learning to the next level by providing students with practical, first-hand experience in this year's school trip to France and Spain. Students from SDSS's very own Modern Languages Department travelled to France and Spain from Wednesday, March 7th to Friday, March 16th, 2012. Although the trip only lasted for a bit more than a week, students were able to experience a lifetime opportunity. Across beautiful places and historic cities, students enjoyed a fresh taste of world culture. These students explored Paris, France; Provence, France; and Barcelona, Spain, each for three days, before bringing their stories back home.

Mr. Vroom was one of the teachers that accompanied the students on this expedition, and he recalls his experience in a positive light: "Loved the trip! Our students were a wonderful group to travel with: they were polite, fun, and really got along well with each other. All were eager to try many new things; we had the best weather; and they made the best of their shopping and cultural opportunities." Overall the trip has been named a huge success, and SDSS will continue to sponsor these opportunities year after year to show the world what Stouffville students are all about!

Road Trip to Chicago

By Emily Goodwin

Every year, the SDSS music department goes on tour, sometimes just across the border into the United States and other times, overseas to Europe. This year, the destination is Chicago, Michigan. The tour group participating consists of fifty dedicated music students from grades nine through twelve, with head of the music department, Mrs. Diane Marlatt being the backbone of this year's trip. For supervision purposes, we will be joined by three other teachers: Mr. David Marlatt and Mrs. Miriam Sellick-Smith, and Mr. Brian Shankman.

There is no doubt that this year's band's members are committed. Mondays are hard enough to get started, but these students arrive early every Monday morning for rehearsals, even before school starts. That is what these students do – all in the name of music.

The trip will take place mid-May, from the 9th to the 13th. The group will depart early in the morning via coach bus, and in ten to twelve hours, SDSS will share its musical spirit in Chicago! While in Chicago, students will be performing at schools, as well as at various outdoor venues. On top of that, students will be listening to professional jazz bands, visiting museums, and participating in either a football or baseball game.

This annual event is great for the students because it gives them a chance to experience stage performances in front of an audience that is not just their parents. It will invigorate students with a sense of what it is like to perform at many different venues in a short period of time. Not only will students and staff of SDSS's Music Department get a break from school, but this Chicago Music Trip will also be a great way to make up for all those early morning rehearsals.

Floor Hockey At Its Best

By Nicole Thompson

Wednesday, March 28th was an exciting day for staff and students at SDSS. Students from special education programs all over York Region journeyed to Stouffville for the traditional floor hockey tournament, organized each year by SDSS teacher, Ms Sharon MacFarlane. This event was a fun opportunity for students of all abilities to connect with each other and with students from other schools in a stress-free environment. Dozens of volunteers came forward to make this day possible, including members of the 2011-2012 Athletic Council and various physical education classes, who used their knowledge of the game and the equipment to referee the intramural games. Other volunteers were paired up with visiting teams as school ambassadors to act as a bridge between the students and the school. The results of this day were all you could ask for from an event like this. Every participant left the school with a big smile and overwhelming pride in what they had accomplished. The volunteers gained a special perspective, one unachievable from classes alone. Each volunteer gained first-hand experience as to the challenges and successes of this group of individuals and learned just how important they are to our community. But the best part of this annual event is that a year from now, a whole new set of students will get this same opportunity and will be deeply affected in the exact same way.

SDSS Says...

Question: Where would you want to travel?

Sam Brown - "California because it is sunny, and it is a nice drive from Canada to California."

Sam Holman - "I would like to visit Paris because I like speaking French, because it gives me experience, and [because] it is one of the most beautiful places to visit."

Jordan Matthews - "Europe because I like to look at the old architecture, and I like to pretend [that] I'm in Assassins Creed 2!"

By Shagun Jindal

A Preview of the SDSS Track and Field Team, 2012 Edition

By Emily Goodwin

The SDSS Track and Field Team is one of the many sports teams at the school. Some may believe that running, jumping, or throwing objects is easy, and requires little practise but that is not the case. Being on a track team demands dedication to practises where the students learn proper mechanics through drills that may seem silly on the onset, but help them in their events in ways they never could have imagined. The athletes participate in workouts, varying in intensity each day so as to not put a strain on them. The workouts vary depending on the event type, thus targeting specific areas. With practises Monday through Friday, track participants are working hard to be in perfect shape for competition. None of this could have been done without the dedication of head coach, Mr. Stephen Jimmo.

This year's fellow coaches are: Ms. Quinn, Mr. Atkins, Mr. Bacolla, and Mr. Lougheed. There has been a lot of help for the members of the rapidly expanding track team.

There are a variety of events offered at SDSS. Running events consist of everything from 100 metre-dash to 3000 metre. Throwing includes javelin, shot put, and discus. Triple, high, and running long jump are offered as well. Last, but not least, are the hurdlers, and there is renewed interest showed for this event by the grade nines. Relay teams are randomly formed at meets, and is done simply for the fun of it. The first meet took place on Thursday, April 19th. The YRAA Indoor Meet was hosted once again at the indoor track facility at York University, located in North York. Look for up-to-date details and standings of students in the local media.

Students VS Teachers Basketball Game

By Shagun Jindal

On March 22nd, 2012, the students-versus-teachers basketball game was played in the SDSS gym during fourth period. The game was played between the senior boys' basketball team and the teachers' team, led by Dr. Cherkas. The senior boys started off on a hot streak, being the first on the scoreboard, while the teachers struggled to score a basket until Mr. Hammond hit a shot. After the first quarter, the teachers jumped out to an early lead.

During the halftime break, the SDSS Dance Crew, led by Mr. Przemieniecki, put up an upbeat performance. Also during the break, the teachers pulled off an early April Fools' joke on the crowd. Dr. Cherkas ran towards the crowded stands with a bucket, as if it were full of water. Everyone was stunned, but students soon came to realize that the bucket was, in fact, empty.

After the break, both students and teachers performed very well and continued to score basket after basket. The fourth quarter saw great performances from both the teachers and the students. With one minute left, the teachers hit a crucial three pointer to pull off the win. It was a hard fought game between the two teams, but in the end, the teachers prevailed with a score of 42-39!

The Year in Review

By Dilpreet Moti

- Across
- The _____ is a time in March that students can chill a bit in.
 - The annual Halloween _____ Contest
 - The Eco Team is selling this to raise money for the Laughing Olive Bistro.
 - A financial guest speaker encouraged to "Invest your _____!"
 - Students from the school travelled to Europe to commemorate the 95th anniversary of this victorious battle in Canadian History.
 - A time at the end of the semester when students study really hard for this.
 - Over March Break, the _____ department took students to France and Spain.
 - The name of the school's cancer fundraiser is called _____.
 - Grade tens must pass this test as a graduation requirement.
 - This new option at the Laughing Olive Bistro allows student more flexibility.
 - A place grade nines and student mentors go to have a great time and to meet other people.
 - The theme of the 2012 door decorating contest

- DOWN
- The _____ Scrawl, Chicken Scratch Writing Contest at SDSS
 - Our school bands played well in the Ontario Band Association _____.
 - Math students can choose to participate in a math contest held by this university.
 - A popular sport many students participate in.
 - This comly day is a popular spirit day.
 - An annual dance competition in the springtime
 - SDSS's music department went to this city.
 - Our school donated filled shoeboxes and sent them around the world as part of _____ Christmas Child
 - A common grocery packaging item that can be used to weave mats.
 - A group of students who love to read and meet every Friday is part of what club?
 - Thumb bands sold by ESP educate students not to do this while driving.
 - An assembly in winter where students can showcase their _____.
 - This event helped to raise 'surprises' for the Sick Kids Hospital

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