

SPARTANS SPEAK

SDSS FEATURES ~ UNIQUE STUDENTS

It is now that the grade twelve's at Stouffville District Secondary School start to look forward to a summer filled with possibilities and a new educational experience on the horizon. It is certain that all of this year's graduates will have at least one good memory from S.D.S.S to take with them on their new adventures. For some it will be prom, others will fondly remember their time on sports teams, and many will enjoy the memory of this year's school play. Many people's memories will in one way or another involve one of the many great organizations that run at SDSS all year long. There are dozens of grade twelve's that lend their time and energy to making these organizations successful. Two of this year's students that stand out among others are Jaime Sparks and James Beare. I was fortunate enough to get a little of their time to ask them a few questions.

Q: What types of organizations are you involved with?

Jaime: This year I have played on the volleyball, basketball, hockey and soccer teams. I am also a co-president of the athletic council.

James: I am a part of the Diversity Council at our school as well as the Sustainability Group. I'm one of the Student Leadership Council co-facilitators, and I was part of the planning committee for the Cultural Exchange. I play on the high school, Markham, and provincial rugby teams and I participated in the school play. I'm part of ESP, and the Prom Committee.

Q: What are you most proud of?

Jaime: This year the thing I am most proud of is my marks. I have been able to maintain my average despite missing a lot of classes for sporting events. I am also really proud of all the leadership positions that I have been put in by my coaches on my sports teams.

Q: Why do you do all those extracurricular activities?

Jaime: I love participating on all of the sports teams and clubs. I feel that the more you participate in school the more you will get out of your high school experience. Some of my best memories from high school are when I am out on the court, field or rink with the girls on my team.

James: I do all this stuff because I believe what you put into life is what you get out of it. I do a lot of work and I get paid back with knowledge and enjoyment.

Q: What are your plans for the fall?

Jaime: Next fall I will be attending Queens University for the Nursing Program.

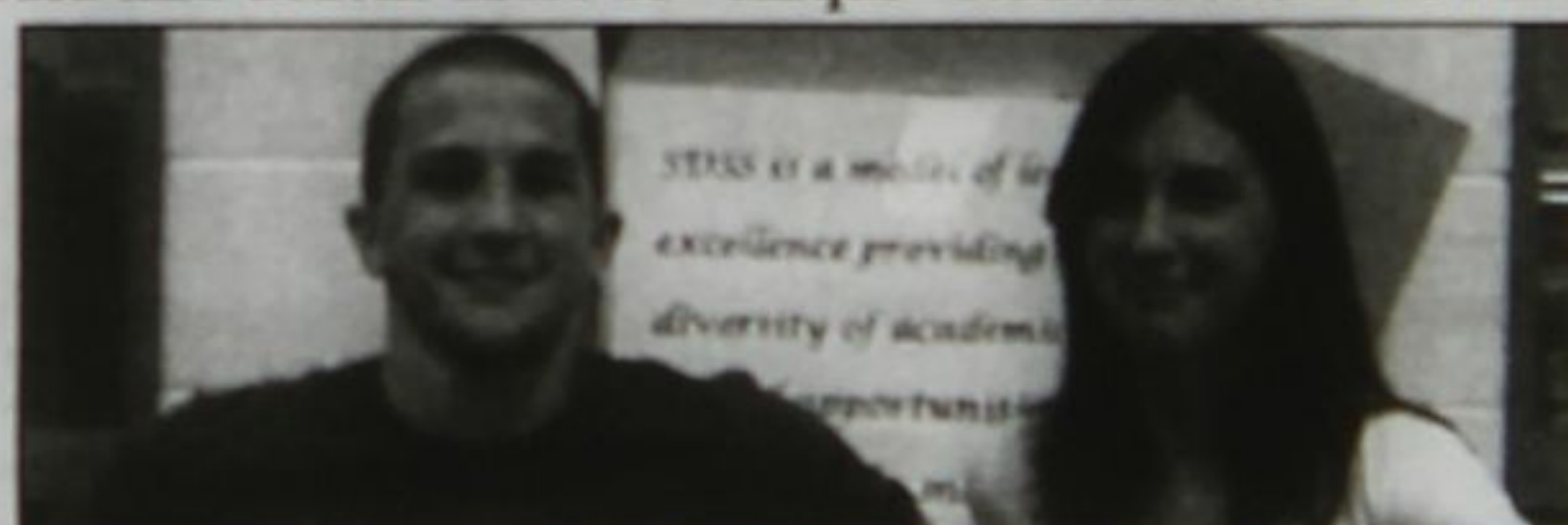
James: In the fall I'm going to Waterloo for mathematical physics.

Q: What's the hardest aspect of being such an active student in school?

Jaime: The hardest aspect of being an active student is that you miss a lot of school. It is however a lot easier as all the teachers at SDSS try their best and support active students.

James: The hardest thing about being so active in the school is having to say "no" to things I want to be involved in because I'm too busy. You have to really prioritize so that everything gets done that you want to do.

What makes these accomplishments of theirs even more impressive is that James, 17, and Jaime, 18, are so young. It's inspiring to note that adolescents, commonly grouped into the troubled teen's category, can make such a difference and put so much effort into doing so. One thing for sure is that Jaime and James are what some adults might call "unique". In no way would I ever deny that but if the people in the community who stereotypically believe in the bad rep that teenagers get would look a little closer at our school I'm sure they would find dozens more of "unique" students to add to Mr. Beare and Miss. Sparks. **by Amanda Deacon**



Feelin' Blue? We're Feelin' Green!

Needless to say, the health of the global environment is a huge problem worldwide. In a world of "E" (electronic), we tend to forget about the "Eco" side of things. Be that as it may, a number of students and staff here at SDSS have stepped up to the plate making the issues and bad habits aware to us, and now more than ever before we are exercising the three R's: reduce, reuse, recycle. We have even gone so far as to create a fourth R: rethink! Staff and students have come up with fantastic and simple ideas to reduce waste, conserve electricity and make our school a nicer place to be in. Examples of such changes include keeping lights off where it is safe and appropriate to do so, GOOS (Good On One Side) paper boxes, laminated announcement sheets (written on with marker and wiped off; this alone saves a minimum of 900 sheets of paper per year) and our recycling of ink cartridges and cell phones. As a result, we were chosen by the York Region Environmental Awards and Recognition Program to receive an award, as well as having a tree planted on board property in the school's honour! The award was presented on April 24, our school represented by the following staff and students: Avian Tang, Derek Rowland, James Beare, Elizabeth Shields, Lauren Elliot, Mrs. Frauts, Mrs. Bush, Mrs. Creasor and John Relp. Congratulations are in order for everyone who has changed his/her habits in the school; a continuing job well done Stouffville!

by Corey Knecht



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SDSS SAYS

Question: What is the most enjoyable part of the prom experience?

By Lisa Shmakova

Kristina: "I like that its the one night of the year I can just relax and know that I don't have to worry about my schoolwork. I enjoy spending the day making myself look good for prom and then having an awesome night. Just thinking about prom fills me with excitement because I love to pamper myself and I always have fun when I'm with my friends. I definitely can't wait till the actual day seeing as I've been looking forward to it for a while now."



Solange: "I'm looking forward to it finally being the day of prom because there has been constant hype about the event since ticket sales, actually, even since the beginning of the year. I'm going to do my shopping last-minute and have fun worrying about it the entire time. Even if I go in rags its going to be a spectacular night out with all my friends!"



John: "I would have to say that the most enjoyable part of prom is the build-up and suspense, that is something else entirely. Purchasing a suit was quite interesting as well, with the shoes and accompanying apparel. I plan on partaking in socially responsible activities both before and after prom with friends. I am also looking forward to the food, which I hear is very good. (But I think of food 75% of the day, so that could just be me)."



Music Concert 2008



On Wednesday, May 7th, 2008 the Grade Nine Band, the Senior Band, the Spartan Sound and some outstanding individual soloists brought a musical close to the school year. It was a very successful last concert of the year, and for the students in grade twelve, it was their last. It was also one last "good old SDSS" concert for Mr. McConnachie, as he announced his retirement. Mr. McConnachie had a tearful, gift-filled farewell. He received a hilarious photo of himself with grade twelve signatures and wishes of luck, and some shampoo for "long hair" from the students in grade twelve. From everyone in the bands, a goalie stick was given to him to "fight off the nimrods". He was a great music teacher and he served SDSS for the last ten years and has been an inspiration to the band. He is going on to Boston University next September to complete his doctorate. We wish Mr. McConnachie the best of luck and he will be greatly missed by everyone. **by Kristina Nagel and Lisa Shmakova**

TUNING IN AND TUNING OUT

Isn't it interesting in today's society that people time and time again are consistently listening to music? Sure this has always taken place, and probably will always take place considering music is an integral part of society. However, this time it's not the type of genre of music that's intriguing, but the form. Unlike previous C.D players and bulky tape decks Apple has released its new product for all music fanatics.

On October 23rd 2001 the ipod was put on the market. Within months the ipod's ratings went through the roof; everybody will soon have one. Now, seven years later, Apple is still creating different versions of the ipod and increasingly advertising ipod paraphernalia. What I found fascinating was that at least ¼ of the people at Stouffville High own and listen to an ipod. Now as harmless as this may seem I think that this recently patented device from Apple has taken off more than anyone intended.

I noticed walking down the street one day that a few teens and a couple of runners were listening to their ipods. I was surprised after saying 'hello' to both collective parties that neither uttered a reply, or gave a glance of attention for that matter. So then it suddenly hit me... Why is it so necessary to listen to music wherever you go? Can't one enjoy the outdoors, or just simply think without being entertained? We're ignoring nature and our surroundings. Teachers also find it disrespectful dealing with students that tune them out. So my question is; is it ignorance that people are creating? Is the over 10 hours of music playback too distracting for students? Inevitably that's for the individual to decide but in Apple's defence I recently found a great feature the ipod has to offer. Podcasts.

If you have never listened to a podcast then you need to. Podcasts are a broadcast-like blurb or segment created either by a company or an individual person. They are usually about half an hour long and deal with anything from political matters to types of catch phrases. In the long run considering these things I think that Apple's ipod is a remarkable invention for children and adults to listen to; to a certain extent. My final tip of advice for ipod listeners is to download some podcasts, most of which are free, or next time when you go running leave the music on the couch. **by John Sampson**

We The Spartans At SDSS Have Chosen To Share With Our Community.

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