

FLETCH & SONS SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

Run by Award Winning Stouffville Teacher/Coach Jim Fletcher

GOLF CAMPS (Camps 1 and 4) \$175 per camp
TIMBER CREEK GOLF

Camp 1: July 3-6 • 9am-noon • Ages 7-15
Camp 4: August 7-10 • 9am-noon • Ages 7-14

CAMP 2 • BASKETBALL & HOCKEY \$150
AT SDSS • July 9-13 • 9am-2pm • Ages 9-14

CAMP 3 • BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, \$90
SOCCER, FOOTBALL, HOCKEY, LACROSSE
AT SDSS • July 16-21 • 9am-12pm • Ages 6-13

please email fletchy@sympatico.ca
or phone 905-985-3489

**CATCH ALL THE
MADNESS**

Fresh from basketball clinic
with Dream Team member and
2 time NCAA CHAMP, Duke legend
CHRISTIAN LAETTNER

By Kinjal Dagli Shah

Libby Echlin had heard about Stouffville from her roommate during her university days, but visited only this summer.

"I got a chance to teach a preschool class called Monkeynastix in Stouffville and I took it up. I'd heard from other instructors that they really liked teaching the class in this town. Now I know why," said the 27 year old.

The kindergarten teacher had expected a small town but she was surprised at what she saw. "It was even smaller than I expected. But I drove around and found it is much bigger than it seems at first," she said, adding, "The downtown area is really cute. I drove around a lot to explore all that the town has offer."

But the real gems, said Libby, were the children she taught. "I taught three different classes of kids ranging from a year to six years in age. They were great classes and what impressed me most was the involvement of the parents. I've taught classes where parents just come along and watch but Stouffville was

An Exercise In Fun

different. The parents would interact every step of the way and that was in turn very motivating for me," she said.

Libby underwent a week and a half of training, putting in six hours every day



Instructor Libby Echlin takes a break during a pre-school class at the Stouffville Arena.

to learn the moves, exercises and dances that are part of the program. "The aim is to encourage an active lifestyle among children, but in a fun way so that they don't think of it as exercise. The

main goal, though, is to have fun," she explained.

Fun is what all the children had, along with their parents. "I'm leaving with a great impression of the town and its families. It seems to be an extremely community-oriented town. Everybody in the class seemed to know someone from somewhere else. It just seems like a nice place to live," said Libby, who is getting married at the end of June and moving to Windsor with her husband.

"My husband got into law school there so we will be relocating. But I will miss Stouffville and how gratifying the experience was." What Libby will miss most, however, is the effect the class had on the children.

"Over nine weeks, I found that the kids really wanted to explore and it had a huge positive impact on their development. This was a class I took up on the insistence of my friend, who owns the franchise. It was my first experience with the class as well as Stouffville and it was my good fortune to have enjoyed both."

Write to Kinjal at kinjal.dagli@gmail.com

Comparitive Cultures

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE



By Kinjal Dagli-Shah

I remember being upset in Grade 8 when my dad didn't allow me to opt to learn French as a foreign language in school. His primary objection was that in order to learn French, I'd have to drop Gujarati, my mother tongue, as a subject.

This was at a time when a newly liberalized India was hungry for Western influences, chief among them being the English language. The importance of native languages was on the decline in upper middle class households and a mastery of the English language translated into certain professional success. I was an eager teenager caught in this new wave. Already in an English medium school, I was naturally drawn to French. Parisian cafes and French hairdos were on my mind when I came home with the application sheet.

But my father was unmoved. His reason was simple - "You have your entire life to learn other languages. But if you don't know your own language, you've lost a big part of your culture because you will have nothing to pass on."

That was when I was fourteen. A decade later, while studying in the US, I wrote letters to my parents in Gujarati with a sense of pride. Another few years hence, I am grateful to my father for being firm. I speak to my toddler mostly in Gujarati, in the hope that she will remember it when English takes over.

On my recent trip to India, I had trouble finding children's story books in Gujarati. The bookseller told me they weren't being printed any more because nobody was buy-

ing them. Everybody is too busy learning English because clearly, it is the language that will take them places. I grabbed the remaining few copies he had. They cost me roughly two dollars. But I know they are priceless in a country where culture is more than where you come from.

I was impressed when I learnt that Tamil and Mandarin will be offered to elementary school children in Stouffville starting in September. Run by the York Region District School Board and funded by the Ministry of Education and Training, the program needs just 25 students willing to learn a particular language in order to offer it.

I know at least 10 Gujarati kids just in the neighbourhood so I was surprised that Gujarati didn't make it onto the list. When I called the International Languages program coordinator, she explained that the decisions are based on demographics, and that by the time Ayaana, my 16-month-old, is in school, it will probably be one of the languages offered. But she also told me that if I collect 25 names of students who wish to learn Gujarati, with the parents' signatures, they can arrange to teach the language.

So this is a shout-out to every Gujarati in Stouffville. Email me if you're interested in helping your child learn her language and we can get the ball rolling.

Write to Kinjal at kinjal.dagli@gmail.com
Kinjal Dagli-Shah runs the Reading and Creative Writing workshop for children and youth. The summer session begins July 10. Email or call on 905-591-1797 for enquiries.

Over 200,000 Quality Parts Available

Tools & Light Equipment

Paint & Body Supplies

WE KEEP YOUR CAR YOUNG A LONG TIME

HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
27 WINONA DR., STOUFFVILLE
905 • 640 • 3030
www.NAPAonlineCanada.com

Expect the Unexpected

A True Story - "A few weeks ago a car swerved into my lane while I was driving home from dinner with my parents. Lucky for us, I was well prepared. Young Drivers of Canada, you saved our lives!"

Other drivers make mistakes. Knowing how to drive safely means having the skills to react to the unexpected. We teach these life-saving skills everyday. Trust Young Drivers of Canada to prepare you for the road ahead.

Stouffville • 905-640-1229

NEXT COURSES:

July 4
Wed to Sat (4 days) 9am to 3pm

August 28
Tues to Fri (4 days)
9am to 3pm



YOUNG DRIVERS

Visit www.yd.com today

Email: stouffville@youngdrivers.com