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SPARTANS SPEAK

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The Camp Robin Hood Adventure

JASLEEN SAINI

Transitioning from elementary school to high school is a big step in a teenager's life, as everyone says. It means that they now will have to leave behind all their stuffed teddy bears, load of candy and childhood traits and begin their true cycle of becoming an adult and being what they have been training for almost all their lives. SDSS gives its Grade nine students an awesome opportunity every year to enjoy the time we have left for playing around and letting go of our past. We got to go to the fun and bumble-bee filled Camp Robin Hood on the 23rd of September. It was a one day camp where we all got a chance to relax and have a good time with all our new and old friends. We were all put into separate groups with each group having

a different theme, along with two awesome mentors to guide us to our activities. All the activities included teamwork, cooperation, leadership and of course fun! Some of the activities included the Chocolate River, Golf Ball Tube Race and the High Ropes. We learned different strategies together in each activity and surprisingly most of the groups succeeded exceedingly, like the big blinded Connect 4 Game. Every game seemed different to the other and they were all scattered across the camp, giving us an opportunity to explore while on the way. The staff and mentors at the camp were very helpful and encouraged the grade nines, trying to never let any of us feel left out, discouraged or afraid of all the bees flying around. After some of the games, the

hungry groups got to eat fresh hotdogs and hamburgers with a choice of apples or chips and water, juice or pop. We all amazingly munched it down within minutes, ready for more. Along with all the activities and food, we got to make up our own group song/cheer. The winning group with the best cheer/performance won coupons for the famous Laughing Olive Bistro at our

school. All of us had amazing and hilarious cheers, maybe that's why some of us had sore throats at the end of the day! Overall, the camp was awesome. There are no other words to explain the experience. It was a joyful time where we laughed, played and smiled for the memorable high school years coming up ahead.



The Keys to Scholarship Success

KELSEY MCCALLUM

With October coming to an end and November rolling in, grade twelve students all over the country are starting to write essays, collect transcripts and obtain letters of reference; the dreaded application process has begun. To top off the stress—as if there wasn't enough already—students are beginning to realize just how much a post-secondary education is going to cost. There are so many different ways to fund a university or college education: from bursaries (non-repayable grants based on financial need) to student loans or part-time jobs, but an option not often considered is the wide world of scholarships. A scholarship is an award of monetary value usually offered by either a university or a business, and given to a recipient who best meets the criteria specified by the donor or founder. The variety between what each scholarship asks for is incredible; they are as unique as their recipients. However, many of the higher value awards all require one specific criterion: "They're looking for hard-core volunteer experiences that make a difference. Something unique that makes [a student] stand out from the rest," says Scott Artindale, a guidance counselor at SDSS. If students have the marks and the extra-curricular activities necessary, by all means they are encouraged to fill out an application form, but what about everyone else? With such a great diversity of scholarships out there, how can students even begin to search for ones that fit with their

own personal accomplishments? Mr. Artindale recommends researching online, as "the internet provides the most up-to-date sources." One of the most well-known websites is studentawards.com, which requires members to fill out a portfolio including their schools and programs of interest, as well as their hobbies and activities, intended career, and religion. The site then finds specific scholarships that match the information given in the portfolio, providing every member with a list of possible scholarships—including deadlines—that fit with their own personalities and accomplishments. Certain websites are also available which search for scholarships at specific universities or colleges, some in both Canada and the United States: electronicinfo.ca or schoolfinder.com being two of the most common online sources to visit. So how soon should students begin the lengthy process of researching for scholarships? "If they have the initiative, and the requirements, it's best to start in grades nine or ten," Mr. Artindale advises. "It's a ton of work; students have to begin early." But it is never too early, or too late, for students to think about how to finance their post-secondary education. Many of the scholarships are still available to enter, with final application dates not until November or December. As long as a student is willing to invest a significant amount of time and effort into the cause, chances are he or she will find at least one award to fit his or her own needs.

Discovering Ontario's Universities

BY CLAIRE MCCUNE



Senior students from all over Ontario flocked to Toronto to visit the Ontario University Fair at the Metro Convention Centre from September 24th-26th. The fair provided an opportunity for students to talk to representatives from all twenty-one of Ontario's universities. Among others, some of the universities at the fair included The University

of Western Ontario, McMaster, The University of Toronto, Wilfrid Laurier, Queen's, UOIT, Ryerson, and Carleton University. Each university had a section of the room with a large booth set up, and all of them provided school calendars and information for the 2011-2012 school year. Each university's booth was also separated into the different faculties and programs at that university, so students could get a chance to talk to representatives from that specific faculty and ask questions related to their program of interest. Many booths also had a section specifically related to admissions and scholarships. The universities

also provided free pamphlets on programs offered at their school and other promotional merchandise like pens, pencils and magnets. Among each university having its own booth, there were also conference rooms set up in the Convention Centre for universities to make live presentations about their school-campus life, programs, etc. The Ontario University Fair is an excellent way to get firsthand knowledge about what schools you want to pursue after high school. If you did not get a chance to go to the fair and you now of others who may be interested, it happens every year in September, be sure to check it out!

SPARTANS SPEAK

QUESTION: What university/colleges are you planning to apply to, and what career are you striving for?

SAM B. - "I would like to attend either Guelph, Western, McMaster, or U of T. Vet."

EMILY O. - "McMaster, Western, Dalhousie, and I'm planning to be a physiotherapist."

ERIC S. - "I'm aiming to go to U of T - engineering."

BY ELLIN PARK • PHOTOGRAPHY BY YIYU WANG

Money Over Grades: Should Students Work During The School Year?

ELLIN PARK

You've got a big test to study for, a project to finish, an essay to write, and some daily math problems to solve. As if that wasn't enough, you now have to work this week at your part-time job. The simple solution would be to quit, but that also means the money will stop rolling in and your growing savings will come to a halt. With post-secondary school application deadlines in view, grade twelve students are faced with the conflict of saving up for their futures and obtaining attractive marks. When asked about balancing a part-time job and school, one senior student replied, "It's challenging." Her challenge is working 20 hours a week between two different jobs. She spoke from experience when she said, "It helps you learn time management." While it's true that having a job can prepare you for life after high school by heightening your sense of responsibility, it comes

with a series of negative consequences. Having a part-time job takes up a lot of your spare time, leaving you with less time in your schedule for studying, socializing, hobbies, exercise, and sleep. It can be especially stressful for working students during peak times at school when projects, essays, tests, and exams are put on the agenda. My personal experience with having a part-time job has been good in that I have gained valuable insight on customer service and learned to depend more on myself for money, but it did come with additional stress. In my opinion, students should look at the long-term impact of working during the school year. The money may be tempting now, but if having a part-time job is negatively affecting your success at school, it's time to reconsider your priorities and re-evaluate your time management techniques.

Inspired and Inspiring

SHAGUN JINDAL

William Shakespeare once said that, "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." Terry Fox was not born great. The final thing he never longed for was to be a hero. He was unique, and Canada had never witnessed someone like Terry Fox before. It was thirty years ago, when Terry dipped his synthetic feet into the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, and now, Canadians have adopted Terry's mission of finding a cure for all cancers with an enthusiasm and passion that has done him proud. When Terry recognized that he would not be able to complete his Marathon, he instead bequeathed his mission to those very Canadians who kept him going day in

and day out. He knew before his death that there would be an annual Terry Fox Run in cities, towns, hamlets and villages across the country, and thus it was SDSS's turn to inspire Terry Fox. On Thursday, September 30th, eleven hundred of SDSS's students participated in the annual Terry Fox Run. It was an inspiring day for the event. Taylor Goodenough, a grade 11 student at SDSS said, "I think that it was great. It is nice to see that people care." It was good to see the students involved, and with their help the school collected a fair amount of money, to help those struggling with Cancer. Do not worry Terry the students of SDSS will keep your fight towards Cancer alive.



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