



SPARTANS SPEAK



SDSS 2007 Awards Assembly - by Jessica Ingold

Hard work and discipline really do pay off, but you don't need to tell that to the students of Stouffville District Secondary School. On October 17, Stouffville's students took the fourth period to celebrate their academic achievements at the annual Awards Assembly.

Parents were invited to attend the ceremony and watch proudly as their children received Honour Roll and Individual Department Awards. The first of the many exciting events was a singing of the national anthem, performed by SDSS's own vocal ensemble, directed by Ms. Miriam Sellick-Smith. Proceeding that were opening remarks from the principal, Ms. Arlene Smith, and School Council Chair, Mr. John Relph. The school was then presented with a Rotary Club Gift by Ms. Sandy Stronach, in honour of another successful Terry Fox Run. What a proud moment for all those who attended the ceremony.

Then came the moment everyone had anxiously awaited: the Department Awards. Certificates were presented to the top students from each grade that received the highest grade in each of the many courses offered at the school: The Arts, Humanities, English, Science, Business & Computers, Family Studies and Languages. There's no denying that Stouffville High School has a bright group of students.

The Margie Griffith Award, in honour of a former SDSS student, was presented to the grade nine student described as being "genuinely likeable", and who has made the world around them a better place by enhancing the lives of others. Congratulations to Rory Wicks, this year's Margie Griffith Award recipient. Following this were the Sustain ability Leadership Award, presented to Stephanie Jupp and James Beare, and the YRDSB Student Proficiency Awards, presented to the two top students from each grade level. This year's Student Proficiency award recipients were: Grade 9: Wesley Graham, Dylan Bartlette, Sarah Law ; Grade 10: Allana Kerr, Clair Evers ; Grade 11: Jeremy Reesor, Natalie Geiger. What an accomplishment! Congratulations!

The SDSS Awards Assembly concluded with the Honours Awards: students who received an overall average of 80% or higher during the 2006 - 2007 school year. Students were complimented with having achieved something else: the lines of students were the longest the school had seen in a while. When all was said and done, the students and their families dispersed proudly, conversing with others or enjoying the refreshments. What an amazing way to end the day.

This event would not have been possible without the effort of the staff and student volunteers who planned the event from start to finish and ensured all went smoothly. And of course, congratulations to all of this year's Awards Recipients, and good luck on a successful and rewarding 2007 - 2008 school year.



Spartans Soccer and Rugby Take on the Challenge - by Aleena Dipede

At the old SDSS, the Spartans had the privilege to face high school soccer and rugby teams from England and now once again the new SDSS faces England.

Mr. R. Edmondson coaches the girl's soccer team at SDSS which consists of students from grades nine to twelve. The girls played against the junior girls soccer team from Blessed Edward Catholic School who traveled all the way from Worchester, England. SDSS came out of the game with a 3-0 win. Jaime Sparks scored two goals, and Lija Schneider scored the third.

The SDSS boys' rugby team faced Blessed Edward Catholic School as well. They played right after the girls' victory on October 23rd. SDSS lost, but faced the English team whole heartedly. The final score of the game was 37-12 for Brecon.

Afterwards, SDSS hosted a dinner after the games played on October 23rd. SDSS's Hospitality class run by Mr. B. Edmondson made dinner for: the SDSS soccer girls; the SDSS rugby boys; the Blessed Edwards boys' soccer team; and the boys' rugby team.

Our senior SDSS boys' rugby team took on another international challenge, playing a team from Whales. Brecon High School won against the SDSS boys. The final score of this game was 22-12.

Regardless of the scores everybody left the field feeling good about themselves and the sportsmanship displayed that day and night. This experience was a wonderful opportunity for SDSS students and the students from England.



Worchester, England & Stouffville, Canada

SDSS SAYS

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

Jessica Ingold - "My plans are to horseback ride, eat turkey and hang out with my family."



Vanessa Spataro - "Over the holidays I am going to snowboard, play hockey, and celebrate the New Year with my family."



Luke Cameron - "Over the holidays I am going to sleep in, spend time with my family and open present on Christmas morning."



By Jessica Tapiero & Vanessa Spataro

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

In October, students from our school participated in a cultural exchange with Middlefield Collegiate Institute in Markham. During the trip to Middlefield, SDSS students got the opportunity to learn about the different cultures within the community. They visited cultural workshops on Chinese, Sri Lankan, Indian, and West Indies throughout the morning, and had the chance to try on clothes related to them such as saris and Caribana outfits.



Afterwards, they were off to enjoy an exotic lunch and participate in activities such as basketball, cultural games and learning how to c-walk in the afternoon. Many of the students brought back souvenirs in the form of amazing henna tattoos hand drawn by the Middleton students.

When Middleton visited us here in Stouffville, we showed them what it was like to go to school at SDSS. They learned how to square dance and play rugby as well as a walking tour to see the old high school and other significant parts of Stouffville. They also made some wonderful print art with the help of the art teachers and looked at different types of music as well. All the students made a dish of their choice to serve at lunch and everyone enjoyed it.

It was a fun day for everyone and they all made new friends. It was an experience that I'm sure nobody will forget.

by Laura Harris



Introducing: The Laughing Olive! - by Corey Knecht

A laughing olive? Preposterous! Who ever heard of a such a ridiculous thing existing? We certainly have, here at SDSS! The Laughing Olive is an actual restaurant within our school, serviceable to both the staff and the students every Tuesday and Thursday during the lunch hour. For just \$5, you can enjoy something like beef or veggie filled enchilada with rice and a slice of strawberry cheesecake! The Laughing Olive is a wonderful experience, featuring lamp-lighting, ambient music and of course, excellent food!

Mr. Edmondson's hospitality classes act like a small business within the school, with grade 10 class operating the takeout service for staff and parents and the grade 11's and 12's running the bistro. Each student has a real job that would be required for such a business to operate and they are rotated amongst the students so that they can see what skills are required for each one and gain experience in them.

The entire class operates like a business, and as a result, the students learn more about family values and the importance of "slow food" (vs. fast food), as well as a basic business understanding and experience at a multitude of jobs. Both services are run entirely by the classes, and only supervised by Mr. Edmondson. The Olive frequently sells out, selling between 30 and 35 meals a day, and the take-out service also does quite well. One staff member commented to Mr. Edmondson on what an excellent job he had done and his response was "I didn't cook it, I'm just cleaning up your dishes"! When you come to either of these services, the meal that you receive has been made entirely by the students, so come on down and see for yourself what everyone is raving about!



Hallowe'en for Hunger - by Tyler Morehouse

Hallowe'en for Hunger; a school based charity function, was started by Marc and Craig Kielburger; owners of the non-profit charity organization Free the Children. The main goal is to collect canned items for donation to local food drives by trick-or-treating for non-perishable food. Although the function is only run through the LEAD program at SDSS, the initiative was open to any students wishing to help out in their community and gain some community hours.

I felt well received by the neighbourhood I visited. Nearly all the residents were eager to supply us with canned goods once we told them it was what we were after rather than candy. I assumed I would have been turned down at most of the houses visited, but the actual experience was quite contrary to my belief. Combined, a friend and I were able to load a couple of bags to the point of overflowing. It was much more than I expected.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who were so kind as to donate their time to this cause: Ms. Collins for allowing this opportunity to be possible, all LEAD participants, and others who graciously volunteered their time, and of course, the fine residents of Stouffville and York Region for their support of Hallowe'en for Hunger.

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WE THE SPARTANS AT SDSS HAVE CHOSEN TO SHARE WITH OUR COMMUNITY.

A Student body, led by two teachers to shed some light on all the exciting things happening right here in Stouffville. • Student Editor: Dana Kenedy • Contributing Authors are: Kelsey Bolender, Amanda Deacon, Aleena Dipede, Gina Guzzo, Laura Harries, Jessica Ingold, Dana Kenedy, Corey Knecht, Solange Prokop, Kristina Nagel, Lisa Shmakova, Vanessa Spataro, Jessica Tapiero & Jenn Traynor • Teacher Advisors are: Mrs. Dipede and Mrs. Schmidt