



# SPARTANS SPEAK

**We the Spartans at SDSS have chosen to speak up and out to our community.**  
 A Student body, led by a few teachers, have joined together to shed some light on all the exciting things happening right here in Stouffville.

Contributing Editors are: Jesse Miller, Kate Devine, Kattyn Taylor, Karima Betts, Alex Wright, Alice Donoghue, Caitlin Ebanks, Spencer Cawston, David Coskun, Lily Popper. Teacher Advisors are: Mrs. Schmidt and Mrs. DiPede

## Stouffville Students Give Christmas Cheer and Teddy Bears

This past holiday season patients at the Sick Kids Hospital received donations and teddy bears thanks to Stouffville students and a local charity. The "Bonnie and Friends Teddy Bear Affair", now in its fourth year, collected money and teddy bears to bring aid and cheer to patients at Sick Kids. Pioneered by Bonnie Schultz, the event helps the hospital towards providing new equipment and support services for diagnoses, treatment, and care of patients. In the words of Bonnie herself, "Giving makes people feel great, kids love teddy bears and mixed with a bit of friendship and Christmas, it couldn't miss." The bulk of donations are collected during the actual "Affair" a holiday gathering put on annually by Bonnie herself. However, this year donations also came from somewhere new.

Stouffville students are now giving forth money and bears to the charity, thanks to fellow student Kayla Lightfoot. A volunteer for Bonnie and Friends, Kayla has brought the event to the school, allowing S.D.S.S. to contribute. Students took the opportunity, as more than 40 ready-to-cheer teddy bears were donated.

Last September, Bonnie and Friends had their goal set at \$25,000 and five hundred teddy bears. Now, with donations from local citizens and S.D.S.S. students alike, the goal has been surpassed with \$52,000 in donations and more than one thousand bears. Obviously the charity has had huge success this year and it will certainly bring cheer and much needed aid to the patients at Sick Kids for Christmas.

- Alex Wright

## SDSS says ...

Question: What are you doing over the Winter Holidays?  
 Stouffville District Secondary School answers....

### Morry Berger:

"I'm snowboarding, hanging out with my friends and enjoying the break from school."



### Mike Pickering:

"For the holidays I'm going to Windsor to celebrate the holidays with my family."



### Tara Strudwick:

"I'm going to do a lot of shopping and snowboarding over the holidays as well as spending time celebrating Christmas with my family."



## SPARTAN ATHLETICS at its best

In the athletic department this month, S.D.S.S. is exceeding expectations both on and off the floor. Whether it be teams practicing hard with determination in the morning, exciting and fun intramurals at lunch, fundraising for upcoming tournaments and events or an exciting game to watch in the gym after school, there is always something going on in the S.D.S.S. athletics department. Thanks to the commitment of the Athletic Student Council and the outstanding coaches who volunteer their time, every student at S.D.S.S. has the opportunity to participate in the athletic area of high school life.

In November, both the Boys Volleyball and the Girls Basketball seasons came to an end. However, as some Spartan athletic seasons may be over, new teams are quickly underway. Both coaches of the Senior Boys Volleyball and the Senior Girls Basketball teams agree that their seasons went, "Over and beyond our expectations." Mrs. Macfarland, Senior Girls Basketball coach added that, "Having lost many key players from last year, I thought of this year as a year to re-build." While Mr. Jimmo, coach of the Senior Boys Volleyball team had high expectations of his team as early as try-outs, also agrees that he is extremely pleased with his team's "Hard work dedication and sports man-like attitude both in practices and at games."

Such positive attitudes come also from the exceptional standing of both teams. The Senior Girls Basketball team ended their season with an outstanding record of 15 wins and only 3 losses. To add to their success is also a York Region AA Championship. Likewise, The Senior Boys Volleyball final standings include, not only a very successful regular season, but also two gold medals and two silver medals from the four tournaments they entered.

"From the beginning I thought that, as a re-building team, OFSSA was probably not a realistic goal," Mrs. Macfarland noted. However, the girls worked hard and surprised everyone, giving the opposing team a very close match in the OFSAA qualifying game. Unfortunately, the girls came up just short of the win.

The Boys Volleyball team competed in the very competitive OFSAA tournament, losing only in the consolation finals to last year's OFSAA gold medal team. The team agrees that the highlight of the tournament was a very hard hitting victory over 'Eden,' where S.D.S.S.'s team captain from last year now plays.

S.D.S.S. students and coaches congratulate these teams on their hard work and successful seasons. Regardless, the cheering and support for our athletic teams is yet to be over. Girls Volleyball and Boys Basketball teams are already underway. As well, both the girls and boys hockey teams have been showing excellent results and demonstrate great potential. **Way to go Spartans!!**

- Kate Devine

## Stouffville Students Get Taste of Courtroom

On November 23rd and 24th 2005 several Stouffville students participated in a heated mock trial. The mock trial followed courtroom procedure and was presented to a panel of our judges, Justice White, Justice Marinis, Head-Librarian Justice DiPede, and Stouffville Principal Justice Smith. The top prosecution team from Ms White's grade 12-law class competed against the top defense team from Miss Marinis's grade 12-law class. Both sides conveyed articulate and thought provoking arguments, which made it quite difficult for the judges to reach a verdict. All grade 12-law students participated in this mock trial in their classroom, and were present on the 24th and 25th for the competition between both classes. The mock trial was effectively used to illustrate to students how the trial process works, as well as describe the roles of the defense, the crown, and witnesses. The court case used was R v Marcellus, the 2005 mock trial competition piece. Stouffville is currently on a waiting list for this year's mock trial competition, and is hoping to receive an opportunity to present their arguments and refute the arguments of their opponents. A trip to the Ontario Superior Court is pending, and will be enjoyed when the weather permits.

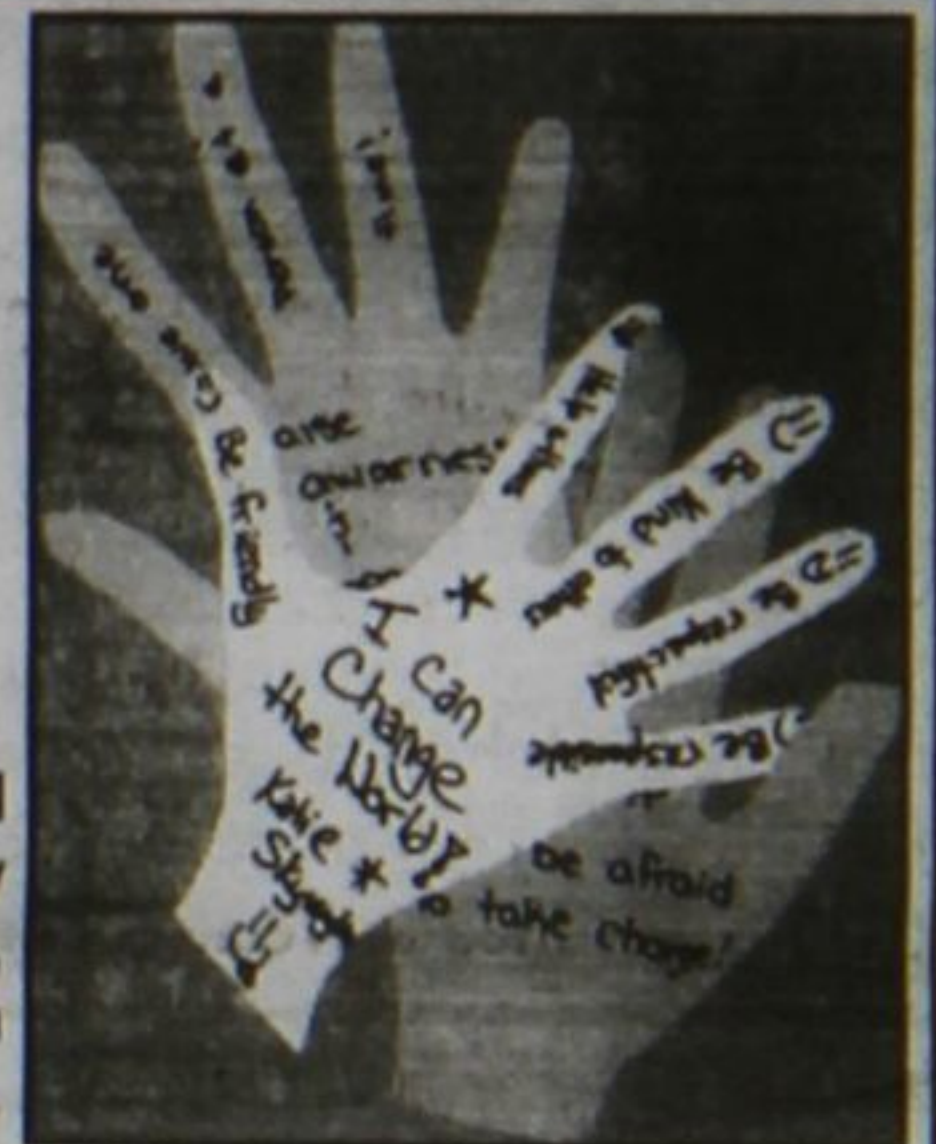
- Caitlin Ebanks

## S.D.S.S. Supporting AIDS Awareness D.C. Coskun

December 1 was World AIDS Day 2005. It is a day when we, as a society, view AIDS as a problem not just for those in Africa, but for those all around the world. It is a day to take action in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS and to raise awareness of it.

This year, the York Region District School Board and the York Region Committee in Support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation worked together to observe World AIDS Day with the underlying theme: "change the world one person at a time". At Stouffville District Secondary School, staff, teachers and students did their part in supporting AIDS awareness. Prior to and following December 1, announcements were made daily, informing students of the devastation and despair caused by the disease. Shocking and powerful, these daily messages inspired students to act and to speak out on how they could make a difference. Events held to support AIDS awareness were intended to build character in students and to educate them on major issues of our day. During the lunch period, individuals who wanted to speak their minds about how they could make a difference were able to do so by filling out a sheet in the shape of a hand. These hands with the students' messages were put on display so that everyone could watch the list of replies grow, and learn from what others had to say on the matter. Mrs. Frauts' World Issues Geography Class took part in World AIDS Day as well. They made beautiful works of African jewellery and spent lunch periods for four days selling these works. Raising six-hundred and seventy-two dollars, all the proceeds went towards helping the unfortunate victims of AIDS. This year's effort showed great success. Stouffville District Secondary School had a very enthusiastic show of participation from the students.

The initiative for taking part in World AIDS Day was supported and organized by Ms. Dimovski, along with the Student and Teacher Character Committee. Ms. Collins and her Lead students were very helpful throughout this endeavor along with Mrs. Frauts and her World Issues Class who sold hand made goods to raise awareness.



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