



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.

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Empowered Student Partnership

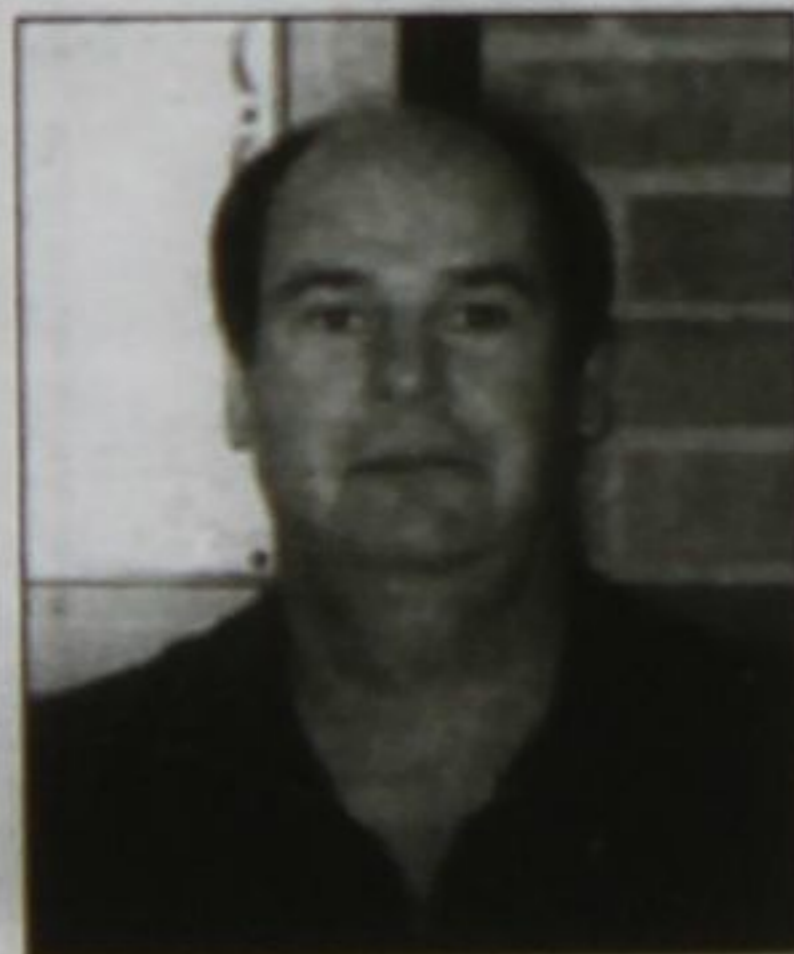
EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT! There's a new group on the block, and it's called ESP. ESP has started at S.D.S.S., created to try and reverse a problem that has been with schools for generations of teens. ESP stands for "Empowered Student Partnerships" and is a committee comprised of students with staff advisors who work together to promote safe school environments.

Members of the local police force are also members of our ESP group and help to improve school safety. ESP originally started in the Toronto School Board and great accomplishments have been achieved. Since then, Helen Fox, Superintendent of Secondary Schools implemented the program into the York Region District School Board. In other schools where ESP's methods have been implemented, violence, gang activity, bullying, vandalism and drug use have all subsided significantly and in some cases, they have disappeared completely! ESP's main goal is to make the entire school community feel safer and to have fun while making that happen.

The important thing to remember is that ESP is not about seeking out and arresting individuals. ESP tries to change the culture of the school; showing teens that what they are doing is harmful to others and having them see and choose better alternatives.

ESP uses a variety of strategies to diminish unsafe behaviour, but here's how it works in our school. First a survey is conducted involving every student in the school, subsequently, the ESP committee determines what the most serious and frequent problems are and the committee begins to plan how they will approach each issue. Vice Principal R. Wilshire commented, "I believe every student has the right to feel safe at school and we must do everything in our power to ensure that this happens so that they are able to learn to their full potential. I think the ESP committee will make a huge contribution because this will be comprised of a group of students who are visible, energetic and committed to promoting the values that are so important in providing a safe and supportive school." Throughout the year, ESP will be planning fun activities for students to participate in and showing the dangers and damages of the problems at hand. Stay tuned for some exciting updates!

by Corey Knecht



Mr. R. Wilshire, VP

BACK TO BASICS

Where has the summer gone? It seems only yesterday that the last school year came to a close, but here we are again, revisiting the halls of SDSS for some. Of course, the newest generation of students are discovering the world of high school for the first time. The grade tens have already established a sense of themselves and can enjoy the high school experience more fully. The grade elevens are now senior students and are starting to think about their future and their various opportunities. Finally, the grade twelves. Although it's their final year, there are still many months to add to great memories to an already impressive list. Also, they'll be the last class to graduate from the original building. No matter that age, however, one thing remains constant here in this high school community - we may be many, but our words, actions and efforts affect us as one. Life is a team sport and we play fair at SDSS. We are "All Stars" because of the basics:

- S - Success.** Our successes are great and our determination fierce.
 - T - Time.** It passes so fast that we barely notice how many memories, accomplishments and friends we have gained.
 - A - Attention.** We prioritize and schedule, giving attention to the biggest commitments first.
 - R - Respect.** By respecting other people, nature and property, we are doing our part to make the world a better place.
- The school year has just begun, and so have our lives. Our experiences at SDSS will help to build our characters and shape our lives. Go for the gold! by Alice Donoghue

SDSS says ...

Question:

What is your opinion of high school from a Grade 9's point of view?

Peter Wideman:

It's been fun because there are more classes that we haven't had.



Rebecca Jeschke:

I like high school better than elementary because there is a lot more freedom.



Reese Garth:

I like it because it is a better change from elementary school.



SDSS says by Rebecca and Eric Cassey

Camp Robin Hood

We all remember the feeling. Nervous jitters and butterflies, the result of beginning a new chapter of our education career. Grade nine can be very scary: new faces, a new environment, a whole new lifestyle. Because it can be so difficult to adjust, SDSS offers the perfect solution for the grade nine students to make new friends. Camp Robin Hood is the ideal opportunity for not only our new students, but new students across York Region School Board. The objective of the camp is to meet new people, find new friends, and build bonds that will grow throughout high school.

On September 21st, SDSS's grade nine students, along with twenty-six grade eleven and twelve student mentors, ventured out to Camp Robin Hood for an exciting day filled with challenge and fun. We participated in a variety of activities testing our skills with group work, communication, and especially trust. With games such as "The Low Wall", where students helped each other over a wooden wall and "Gilligan's Island", where the grade nines swung from a rope from one island of wood to another, the new students had a lot of fun. It was inspiring to see how everyone got involved and interacted with their fellow classmates. By the end of the day, all of our new students had met new people, from all age groups. New friendships were definitely established, and everyone left Camp Robin Hood with smiles on their faces as a result of a spectacular day.

by Caitlin Leger

Ms. Madigan, the new Vice Principal

What immediately comes to mind when you think of a Vice Principal of a high school? Fearing, imposing and utterly terrifying like Professor Snape, right? Throw out that stereotype because Stouffville High's new Vice Principal is nothing of the sort! The new V.P. as you will soon notice in the following interview is welcoming, friendly and optimistic about the future of S.D.S.S.

The first question for Ms. Madigan, the new V.P. was about what drew her to Stouffville. She replied quite enthusiastically, "I am familiar with living and working in rural communities. Everyone knows one another and is there to support each other in good times and in bad." Is anyone else singing the Cheers theme song?

Naturally the parents out there are begging to ask the new V.P. about her initiatives and visions for the future of S.D.S.S., in anticipation of this, the interview took place. The new VP responded with obtainable and logical ambitions for the future.

"[My visions are] student centred. I will do whatever is needed to help students experience success at school. I believe that all career destinations are valuable choices and all should provide opportunities when students are young, so it is not such a huge decision in grade eleven. Our school has undertaken a curriculum focus of learning for a sustainable future. Sustainability is a primary concern for everyone, an endeavour we plan to move forward with to ensure that our planet is left in good shape for future generations."

Now for the question everyone was eagerly anticipating: just what exactly can this new V.P. bring to the table? The answer: an honest and truthful one that applies on every level to Stouffville High. Ms. Madigan says, "I enjoy helping young people learn and

improve their lives both behaviourally and academically. Most specifically I bring my training and conflict resolution and bullying prevention. I believe in student leadership through athletics, Student Council, peer tutoring, peer mentoring and peer mediation to build leadership among students."

Possibly, one of the most important questions on our roster was how she plans to tackle the challenges faced at S.D.S.S. and how she hopes to improve our school. Her response was a logical yet simple one, "It is important to me to be proactive and anticipate challenges before they arise." In what was one of her, if not the, strongest quotations she states, "Since we all live with the solutions then we might as well decide together what they are." Ms. Madigan most definitely has a clear grasp on her responsibilities and knows how to proceed positively into the future.

Not only have we all taken an instant liking to her, but she has also taken an immediate fondness to the school. As she says amicably, "I haven't been here for that long, but during the small duration, I love it," she says with a big grin on her face. "We have a great student body at S.D.S.S., and the staff are phenomenal."

To conclude, Ms. Madigan says enthusiastically, "I'm here to serve the staff. I'm here to serve the students. I'm here to serve the parents." You can almost see the twinkle in her eyes. To have a V.P. with such spirit and optimistic views present at our school is certainly a promising asset to S.D.S.S. and to everyone involved. by Dana Kenedy and MacKenzie Gott



Ms. Madigan, VP

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