

# 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 Authors are: Eric Cassey, Rebecca Cassey, Alice Donoghue, Rachel Dubenolsky, Mackenzie Gott, Gina Guzzo, Dana Kenedy, Corey Knecht, Caitlin Leger and Kristina Nagel • Teacher Advisors are: Mrs. Schmidt and Mrs. Dipede

## SDSS says ...

What activity or event are you looking forward to the most this school year?

**Alice Donoghue:**  
I'm looking forward to semi-formal, because anyone can go and it's really exciting. It's a great time to hang out with friends.



**Kelsey Bolender:**  
I can't wait to go and see the Phantom of the Opera with my French class. It's one of my favourite plays.



**Daniel Prokop:**  
I'm looking forward to graduating and moving on to bigger and greater things.



SDSS Written by: Gina Guzzo

## Fight for a Cure

Although Terry Fox died in 1981, his legacy still lives on 25 years later. To date, over \$400 million has been raised worldwide. The run is held in more than 50 countries every year. Last year, over 3 million students at 9000 schools participated in the Terry Fox Run.



On Friday, September 29th 2006, SDSS held its 2nd annual Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research. A variety of students in different grades and with different activity levels all got together to support Terry Fox's dream. Whether they ran, jogged or walked, they all had one thing in common; the hope for a cancer-free future.

Last year our school raised over \$1200. In this year's 5km run with many students away for sports events or class trips, there were 130-140 students who got involved and raised over \$1550 in donations. After the run, participants received a free barbecue lunch, free drinks and freezies, and free deodorant courtesy of the school administration and the Athletic Council. Students also received Terry Fox temporary tattoos and bookmarks. Although the best thing the participants got out of the experience was the knowledge that they were contributing to a great cause and were helping to make a difference in the world.

There were five students who went above and beyond to collect donations. Rachel McMurphy raised \$150, Julie Conklin raised \$125, and Simon Kennedy, Deanna Williams, and myself all raised \$100. I am very proud of our school's accomplishments and the students' initiative. Those of us who took part in the run this year will hopefully do it again next year and encourage others to do so as well.

As a true believer in the cause, I would like to thank all the students who participated in raising donations for the Terry Fox Foundation. I would also like to thank Ms. MacFarlane and the Athletic Council for organizing such a successful event and to the citizens of Stouffville who donated to the cause. Every donation brings us one step closer to finding a cure for cancer.  
By: Kristina Nagel

## Learning for a Sustainable Future

Teri Burgess is one of the newest editions to the SDSS staff. Teri was a former math and science teacher with the York Region District School Board and was sent to Stouffville to work on the latest program which focuses on environmental and health initiatives. Learning for a Sustainable Future, or LSF, is one of the programs designed to make this happen. LSF is a non-profit national group and is working with the school board to help make SDSS a more sustainable school. SDSS was chosen for this program to be the model school to show how the plan is working and will hopefully result in the sustainability of schools across the country. LSF involves being sustainable in three major areas: social, economical, and environmental. The major areas designed to be safe and healthy for humans, animals, plants, and the environment, in our current time and in the future; and from our community to the ocean. LSF is also integrating with another program called Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). This program is focused on educating people on how to make decisions that ensure our environment will be safe. ESD will use strategies like teaching the skills people can take with them, focusing on things that are close to them and seem more urgent; using a hands-on attitude. These programs are not here to tell people what to do, but are designed to teach the knowledge and the skills for making sustainable decisions.

Teri is working at the school to be a consultant who can help and inform staff and students of these initiatives. She will be working with Ms. Onisto on these two projects for a number of years. As the new SDSS building is being made, the LSF group will be making sure the building design conforms to the sustainable school guidelines. Things like, having a stricter recycling program; and buying gym uniforms made locally and naturally are some of the changes that will be implemented. To confirm that this plan is working properly surveys and regular school check-ups will be carried out.

The idea of a sustainable school is to create a healthier environment for the community. As a model school, SDSS will allow visitors to come in and tour the school to how the LSF program is working. We hope this will encourage more schools to become sustainable and look forward to our new and sustainable school.

Written by: Gina Guzzo and Kristina Nagel

## And the Award Goes to...

On Wednesday, October 18th SDSS held an honorarium for all the students who were in Grades 9-11 last year and had received honours or department awards. They were invited to attend this year's awards assembly in celebration of their efforts. The parents of these students were also invited to share in their achievements and take many memorable pictures.

As the assembly commenced, the SDSS Senior Band, conducted by the always kind and generous Mr. McConnachie, performed wonderfully. After this Mr. Relph, the representative of the Stouffville School Council spoke about how this council helps teachers, parents and the community to help the students achieve success. Following this presentation, the department awards were given out to the students who were the most hardworking and most successful among their classmates. The head of guidance, Ms. Sherman, then presented the Marjorie Griffiths Award which recognizes a Grade 9 student who makes the school and the community a better place. This year the Grade 9 students voted Candice McKean as the recipient of this award. As a short intermission, the SDSS Choir sang beautifully. Subsequently the princi-

pal, Ms. Smith, presented the Y.R.D.S.B. Student Proficiency Awards. These awards were given to the top two students in each grade level. The Grade 9 recipients were Allana Kerr and Clair Evers; the Grade 10 recipients were Solange Prokop and Liza Shmakova; and for Grade 11 the recipients were Warren Dodd and Michelle Kerr. The final awards were presented to those students who made the Honour Roll. In order to receive this recognition they had to achieve an eighty or above percent average.

To conclude this celebration, refreshments were served to the students, parents and teachers. SDSS would like to congratulate all the students on their outstanding academic accomplishments and remind them that they are the ones who make our school what it is today, a model of learning excellence.

Written by: Liza Shmakova



## "ETHICS IN ACTION"

July 11-13, 2006 marked The 2006 Annual Youth Leadership Summit "Ethics in Action". Ms. K. Dimovski, head of the "Character Matters" committee, along with four student members representing S.D.S.S., attended the above conference in Salt Lake City, Utah...and what an experience it was! Utah is truly a beautiful area and makes for a fantastic, tourist attraction! Home of an amazing sandstone desert, the infamous "Grand Canyon" and the "Great Salt Lake", truly some of the most fantastic sites you can find in North America. In Salt Lake City, there are plenty of places to try an authentic Mormon dish the way it would've been prepared almost 200 years ago by Brigham Young's personal chefs! In the early 19th century, Brigham Young and a group of followers traveled more than 200 miles with hand carts to colonize the area, which is much more difficult than it sounds (especially if you know about the Utah terrain!). This leadership conference took place during the summer holidays, at which time a group of students voluntarily flew to Utah for five days to attend the character conference. This conference was organized and operated by a group

known as "Community of Caring", which featured many highly respected motivational speakers, each addressing a different region of character and leadership. This invaluable information and insight has trained us well and will be used and shared here at S.D.S.S., at Denison High as well as all other participating schools in North America. We will be implementing the same character strategies and techniques learned here. Some of the speakers included: Dr. I



Chasnoff (informed us about fetal alcohol syndrome and other similar neural deficiencies); Mr. A Griffin, (life skills and democratic values); Horse Whisperer L. Caldwell (Demonstrated trust and respect and how to earn it); Ms. M. Roybal (gave invaluable insight about conflict resolution and mediation) and "Wonderdog" and his band (performed, supporting character enrichment in general).

There were many more speakers over the three-day period and they were extremely impacting and insightful, making this endeavour like no other character enrichment. The effort put forth was outstanding and the knowledge that was shared will not be wasted.  
By Corey Knecht

**Retraction: Oops!** Back to school and back to details! Last month we posted our rough draft of the article, The New Vice Principal rather than the final copy. Thus, meaning is in the details and hence the corrections: **2nd paragraph:** I believe in student leadership through athletics, student council, peer tutoring, peer mentoring and peer mediation to build leadership competencies among students. **Edited version:** I believe student participation through athletics, student council, peer tutoring, peer mentoring and peer mediation are ways to build leadership competencies among students. **3rd paragraph:** I believe that all career destinations are valuable choices and all should provide opportunities when students are young. **Edited version:** I believe that all career destinations are valuable choices and we should provide these opportunities when students are young. **4th paragraph:** Most specifically, I bring my training and conflict resolution and bullying prevention. **Edited version:** Most specifically, I bring my training in conflict resolution and bullying prevention.