



SPARTANS SPEAK

We the Spartans at SDSS have chosen to speak up and out to our community.

This news page is the first of what is yet to come! 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, Melissa Mellor, Kaitlyn Taylor, Karima Betts, Alex Wright, Alice Donoghue, Caitlin Ebanks, Spencer Cawston, David Coskun, Lily Popper. Teacher advisors are: Mrs. Schmidt and Mrs. Dipede

Personal Response: Sunnybrook Hospital

On Friday, October 28, I went on a field trip along with the rest of Mrs. MacFarlane's grade twelve Exercise Science class and it turned out to be a life-altering event. We arrived at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre early that morning, unsure of what to expect from the PARTY program. The PARTY program stands for the Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth.

Soon after our arrival, we received intriguing presentations about the goals of the PARTY program and also from a police woman and a paramedic. These presentations provoked us to reflect on our own lives, eventually causing us to realize how fortunate we are to have survived the risks we may have taken. We were visited by a patient who had recently been in a serious motorcycle accident and he was able to give us some perspective on which risks are safe enough to take.

We received a few other presentations, such as a presentation on the spinal cord, much of which we were already familiar with from our lessons in class. We also watched a surgery that had been filmed in the Trauma Room at Sunnybrook. We then visited the Trauma Room and learned about the roles of each person in the trauma room during surgery. We were also taught something about the equipment in the room. Next, we walked through the Intensive Care Unit and saw many bedridden patients in isolated rooms.

This opportunity to visit Sunnybrook will affect the way we make future decisions in life. It has caused us to think twice about the risks we are willing to take. Overall, this was a learning experience that could benefit anyone, and will be difficult to forget.

by Lily Popper

Stouffville Students Learn to "Be the Change"

It is easy today to get lost in modern comforts and forget that there are people in the world not as fortunate as we are. Luckily for SDSS students the "Be the Change" tour visited to help remind students of the injustices in the world and let them know that they can help.

The tour is a partnership of "Free the Children" and "Leaders Today" and Stouffville is just the latest stop in their tour across North America, enlightening and inspiring students as they go. Topics covered range from child labor to child soldiers. The group used multi-media presentations and touching stories that helped students feel the effects of these injustices.

However, the presentation did not only focus on the problem, it emphasized the solution. This solution was made clear: Kids can help, we can make a difference. Students must be the change they want to see in the world. The audience was shown the histories of "Free the Children" and of "Leaders Today" both of which are charity organizations started by children, for children. The far-reaching effects of both these organizations were outlined and students were told that they too could make a difference. Direction on who they could contact to make a difference was given and encouraged.

The presentation ended off with a lively song and dance that helped energize the students. Through this interactive experience the students shed their previous inhibitions and prepared themselves to "Be the Change".

For more information on these organizations visit these sites: <http://www.leaderstoday.com> <http://www.freethechildren.com>

by Alex Wright

SDSS Leadership Steps Up and Makes A Difference!



Halloween for Hunger; SDSS Students display their bounty

On Halloween Night October 31st, 2005, students from the SDSS Leadership Club joined together and went trick or treating around the neighborhood. This wasn't like the other Trick or Treaters out on a Halloween night, these kids were out collecting canned goods for the food bank instead of candy for their bellies. The Leadership team was able to collect a full pick up truck load of food that was being sent out to the Canadian food bank. The group was influenced by a guest speaker who came to the school to talk to the group about what they can do to make a difference in our world. "The kids came up with this all by themselves" said Mrs. Collins, a teacher at SDSS and also the group supervisor. The group will be continuing throughout the year donating their time to needs around our school and community truly making a difference.

by Jesse Miller

SDSS says ...

What do you think of the new school being built? Stouffville District Secondary School answers....

David Coskun:
The new school is good for the students, but I speak for grads when I say that we'll be a bit envious that we couldn't use it.



Ashley Smith:
It will give students a chance to explore various areas of learning by integrating new equipment and surroundings.



Ryan Sweeney:
I think it's a good idea because the old one is falling apart & new homes are 75% more efficient than old ones.



IMAGES 2005



Artwork by Kayla McDowell. For more work by SDSS students visit the Latcham Gallery December 17th

The Visual Arts in SDSS

Greetings Stouffville, what an excellent autumn we have been having this year; much warmer than most. In fact, these are the perfect conditions for the preparation of a very important event taking place on December the seventeenth. The Stouffville District Secondary School grade twelve visual arts students are holding their very own art show at our Latcham Gallery, called Images 2005. This event has become a yearly ritual for the art students in our school. Stouffville District Secondary School is very fortunate to have this opportunity. SDSS is the only school in York region which has the forum to display and present a class exhibition at a public art gallery. The exhibition is sponsored by the community and the prominent sponsors are: Giles Chevrolet; and the Stouffville Lions Club. The students work in partnership with the Gallery to set up the exhibit. Maura Broadhurst, the curator, guides the student-artists on the tasks to be done and on how to do them. However, it is the students who do all the work and preparation for the show. Aside from doing the magnificent works of art, they also do various tasks such as: creating and sending invitations, providing an opening reception and public speaking during the show. Perhaps the most interesting and challenging responsibility, though, is that the artists also arrange the set up of the show. This setup includes: the arrangement of lighting; the positions of the various pieces; the planning of the decorations; the selection of music; and even the placement and choice of wall-dividers. The preparation of this show is intense and meticulous, but the collectivity works diligently and energetically to put on a professional and unique show.

The pieces going into Images 2005 are diverse and have powerful messages. Implications of world and personal issues are expressed, as well as themes such as nature, sports and culture. All of these incredible topics and motifs are expressed solely through the works of art created by the students. The styles of pieces range from prints, to drawings, to vivid collages, all of which incorporate all media. This public art event is a great change of pace for the SDSS students, as well as the teachers and the community. The process is exciting and the show is spectacular! All are welcome to attend on the opening night of December seventeenth.

-D.C. Coskun-

Awards Assembly 2005

On Thursday, November 3rd, SDSS students celebrated their academic achievements of the 2004/05 school year at the Honours/Awards assembly. Over 140 honours certificates were given out to students who completed grade 9, 10, and 11 with a minimum average of 80%. Also, many departments gave awards to the top students in their departments. Three special awards were presented to students; the Y.R.D.S.B. Proficiency Awards went to the top two academic students of each grade, the Graduate of 1972 Presidents of Students' Council Awards went to the current student co-presidents who are Melissa Mellor-Hill and Kate Devine, and the Margie Griffiths Award went to the grade 9 student, Christopher Boake, who demonstrated outgoing and friendly characteristics.

The celebration of achievements continued Thursday night when students, teachers, and families gathered for commencement. Over 150 students received diplomas, 53 of whom were recognized as Ontario Scholars. Forty-five specific awards were also given out to graduating students for achievements in many different areas. Congratulations to all students for your achievements. Thanks to all involved for another successful ceremony.

by Kaitlyn Taylor

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