

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 Dubenofsky, Mackenzie Gott, Gina Guzzo, Dana Kenedy, Corey Knecht, Caitlin Leger and Kristina Nagel • Teacher Advisors are: Mrs. Schmidt and Mrs. Dipede



This is no Fool's Gold: The comedy troupe, Fool's Gold, performed an awesome show in front of the grade 9 and grade 10 drama classes. Fool's Gold is a comedy troupe that performs Comedia Dell'arte; a form of slapstick comedy. The performance took place on Monday, November 13th and the Students enjoyed it very much.
By: Eric Cassey

"NO FLAW FOR MR. SHAW" REVIEW:

Upon arrival at Niagara on the Lake, Mrs. Amelio's grade twelve Writers Craft Class found themselves faced with not only wondrous sights, but most importantly a marvelous production of Arm's and the Man. We had been given the honour of attending the Shaw festival early in October. This delightful play offered humour, romance, and of course, beautiful stage sets.

Taking place in the late 1800s, Arm's and the Man describes the events of a lone war-ravaged Swiss soldier, who seeks refuge in a very wealthy Bulgarian household. The soldier is introduced to a rather spoiled young woman, and the epic tale of love begins. With perplexing relationships and much deceit, it is

easy to say that this play is simply unforgettable. The powerful story-line grabbed hold of the audiences undivided attention, and the magnificent drama ensured that everyone was amazed with the effort and sheer devotion put into this productive masterpiece.

By the end of the play everyone was led to realize that "no two love affairs are the same... what is right for one is wrong for the other," as stated by Shaw himself. This particular message truly bled through to the hearts of everyone present, as the roar of thunderous applause and laughter throughout showed praise for the works of Shaw. The play is highly recommended to anyone who has an open mind to the world apart from modern living.

Becoming Artists

Looking for something fun to do this holiday season? Why not come down to the Latcham Gallery and see the artwork made by S.D.S.S. students? Mrs. Chartrand's grade twelve Visual Arts class has been given the opportunity to organize a showcase of their work. The show is called "Images 2006: Becoming". The reception will be on December 14th, from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm and the show will run until January 7th. The students themselves will be planning nearly every aspect of the show, from the arrangement and hanging of the artwork to providing refreshments and speaking at the reception. Several of the graduating students are also helping to run a free family day on December 16th. On this day parents can view the artwork while their children do a craft activity related to the show. Also, there will be children's workshops from January 2nd to 6th. Come down; be inspired, be provoked, and see what their work has become! Everyone is welcome!

By Rachel Dubenofsky



The Thriving Character of Stouffville's Youth

"Would you like some help with that?" How often in one day are you asked that question? Rarely, I would hazard to guess; because in today's society of greed and self preservation, helping others just does not seem all that important. Yet on October 26th, twelve students of SDSS demonstrated kindness and generosity towards the customers of No Frills and Shopper's Drug Mart. Character Day which was also Senior Citizens Day took place between 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the morning of the 26th; students assisted customers by offering to carry their parcels, collect carts, or bag groceries, all of which were greatly appreciated.

These twelve students ranging from grades nine to twelve represented the influential Character Matters group, which operates within SDSS. According to an exuberant supervising teacher/librarian, Mrs. Dipede, "[Character Matters Day allows SDSS students to] promote good character, conduct good deeds and give back to the community." Specifically for the participants, this opportunity also allowed them to prove that SDSS does, in fact care. On expressing her thoughts on the programme, volunteer Kelsey Bolender said, "I think this is a great opportunity which will help break the teenage stereotype"- a problem that evidently plagues all youth.

The highlights of the day included a graciously received box of chocolates from one special customer which just goes to show that character does have a place in our community; an appearance by Rogers Channel Ten; and a visit complete with pictures from the Stouffville Tribune. As a result the community of Stouffville can rest assured that the students of SDSS care and appreciate the support and generosity provided by the town.



In conclusion, on behalf of the participants of Character Matters Day, I would like to thank Hamed Faizi, the Area Manager for Pizza Pizza who donated two boxes of the Italian pie to feed our valiant volunteers. Lastly, as a student of SDSS, I would also like to congratulate the volunteers and their successors on their achievement in organizing this event. In addition, I would like to extend my thanks to the participants for taking the time from their busy and hectic lives to do something few others will in reaching out to strangers. Special thanks to the following volunteers: Kelsey Bolender, Rachel Dubenofsky, Daney Ek, Gina Guzzo, Kristie Hembruff, Devon Johnson, Corey Knecht, Brittany MacKenzie, Solange Prokop, Gio Sereboro, Caitlin Wells, and the Character Matters teachers. By: MacKenzie Gott

Stouffville's The Glass Menagerie Keeps Audience Captive

The grade 11 English students arrived at the Avon theatre for a Thursday matinee on October 12th to see the production of Tennessee Williams' acclaimed drama, The Glass Menagerie. The performance, which closed October 22nd, was an enriching experience for the students who had studied the play in their English classes.

Once the theme music sounded, students anticipated how the production would compare with the original script. The set, visible upon entrance, was decorated for the time period. Students were relieved to see the 1930's American apartment decorated corresponding to the detail of the written play, as many students had taken part in viewing other productions with appalling modern twists.

The play, which dealt with relationships and memory, was largely centred on Tom, his mother Amanda, and his sister Laura. The cast was well chosen, each actor portraying their character with the extreme personality intended. Specifically, the play featured Seana McKenna as Amanda Wingfield, Steven Sutcliffe as Tom Wingfield, Sara Topham as Laura Wingfield and Matthew MacFadzean as Jim O'Connor (the Gentleman Caller).

The production was an exciting event for the students. Like many great plays, The Glass Menagerie was deceptively simple on the surface, but within it was ironically complex and life-challenging.

Written by Solange Prokop

Hamlet

Viewing a live-action play further enhances your comprehension of the original written play; if it is a good adaptation, that is. The grade twelve English students at SDSS had the opportunity to view an interpretation of Shakespeare's Hamlet at the Hart House Theatre at the University of Toronto. Even though Shakespearean plots are quite difficult to follow at times, this production was not at all tricky to understand.

Hamlet is considered to be one of the most difficult Shakespearean characters to perform on stage or on screen; yet Jeremy Hutton pulled it off effortlessly as though his sole purpose was to play Hamlet. Apart from playing Hamlet, Hutton was also responsible for the choreography; the famous sword fight at the end was like watching a scene from Pirates of the Caribbean!

I, for one, am glad we had the chance to see a production with such a stellar cast and director. Our enjoyment was intertwined with a heightened comprehension of the entire play, which will definitely help the grade twelve English students excel in the upcoming Hamlet unit. By: Dana Kenedy

SDSS says ...

What do you like most about the winter holidays?



Emily Manninen:
"I love it when it's a white Christmas. It really means a lot to me."



Karli Montesano:
"I enjoy getting together with the whole family and continuing Christmas traditions."

By: Daniel Prokop

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