

Newsletter

November, 2006

A Message from the Principal

It's hard to believe that you will be reading this newsletter half way through our first semester. We have started so many exciting projects and have students involved in a variety of interesting activities in a very short time. Teams, clubs and sports are all a vital part of school life and we encourage you to speak to your daughter/son about getting involved in at least one school activity.

Academics form the foundation of school life and we believe it is vital to keep parents/guardians informed about a student's progress. The interim and mid semester reports that you have received will help you and your son/daughter track marks, attendance and identify next steps for improvement or enrichment. It is very important for you to ask questions and request further information and clarification about these report marks. Our goal is to help students to achieve success in every course, and we have a variety of supports in place for those students who require assistance. We will also include you in our action plans for improvement.



Stephen Lewis visits!

In the above picture students thank Stephen Lewis for his inspiring words at his first visit to our school on September 15, 2006. Mr. Lewis told the students "...what makes me feel privileged to be here is that I know that amongst all of you the opportunity exists to change the world both individually and collectively..."

We are trying to build an inviting school community for you and your family and have some events planned to help you get more involved as well. We want to provide information and assistance to our families in supporting students in studying for exams, course selection and pathway planning for the future. You will receive more information about these events in the future by: broadcast telephone message, e-mail, letters home and our front lawn sign.

Please continue to stay involved in your daughter/son's education throughout high school. We need to work together to support student achievement. Feel free to contact teachers or the administration for information or to answer questions. We look forward to our continued relationship with our school community.

SCHOOL COUNCIL Tuesday, November 28

Everyone is welcome. Please join us for our next meeting in the library at 7:00 p.m.

The executive members for this year are:

Co Chairs: Debra Frank-Derlick, Alison Williams
Secretary: Myrna Benderoff
Treasurer: Lois Babcock

Report Cards

The mid-semester report card that you received will give you an indication of your son or daughter's progress and any areas of concern that need to be addressed. Please read the reports carefully and do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Now is the time for your son or daughter to get the extra help that they may need to meet their goals of academic success for the end of the semester.

Our support teachers, guidance and administration will be using these results and meeting with students who are in difficulty to determine the actions that are needed to help students have a successful balance of the semester.

Guidance Services

I am excited to announce that many students are actively taking advantage of the resources available to them through the Guidance Department!

Information!

The Guidance Office is a hub of information relevant to student life. Students scan notices about employment opportunities, educational opportunities, services available to students and their families in the community, health issues, scholarships, and community involvement opportunities. Second semester night school registration will soon be available.

Community Involvement!

40 hours of Community Involvement is a requirement of attaining a graduation diploma. Through a class visit, students have been helped to understand the purpose and the benefit of volunteering for those less fortunate than they are, as well as how to select suitable projects.

Scholarships!

The scholarship process has started! Students have been made aware that they need to begin **now** to make outstanding volunteer efforts that not only will make a difference in the community but **may earn them thousands of dollars in scholarships** when they apply to programs in their last year of high school.

Career Centre!

The Career Centre is up and running! Stocked with resources about apprenticeships, universities, colleges, post secondary training and the world of work, it is designed to help students explore and plan their pathways to future opportunities.

Peer Tutoring!

Our students are a great resource! Tapping into the wealth of talent and ability demonstrated by our students, competent students are tutoring those who need help in subjects that they find challenging. **The service is free and the volunteers are earning community involvement hours!** Students come to the Guidance Office and are matched with a volunteer tutor that has been recommended by a teacher.

Support!

Students are accessing the academic, career and personal counselling available to them in the Guidance Department. Counselling is available at lunch, before and after school and by appointment throughout the day. A social worker is available for personal, group and family counselling on Thursdays. Interviews are currently being held for a Girls' Group beginning in December.

Family Studies

The Grade 9 HIF 101 class has been involved in a variety of fun activities over last couple of months. On Friday October 11, 2006 the grade nines went on their first field trip which involved a walking tour of downtown Toronto. The class stopped at various downtown locations such as the Covenant House and the Kensington Market. On behalf of Stephen Lewis S.S, the HIF 101 class collected and donated a variety of items to the Covenant House, which is one of Toronto's largest youth shelters.

Throughout many Family Studies courses, students have the opportunity to obtain cooking and sewing skills. This semester's HIF 101 class has completed their first sewing project- a pair of PYJAMA PANTS! As you can tell from the pictures below...the pyjama pants turned out great!



Bad Weather

During the winter months, bad weather may force the disruption of bus transportation and regular school operations. This decision is made as early in the day as possible. Listen to any of the following stations for information:

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|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| AM640 640 AM | CHAY 93.1 FM | NEWS 680 AM |
| CHIN 1540 AM | CJEZ 97.3 FM | CJBC 860 AM |
| CHUM 104.5 FM | CHFI 98.1 FM | CFRB 1010 AM |
| CKDX 88.5 FM | CKFM 99.9 FM | CHUM 1050 AM |
| CBC 99.1 FM | CHIN 100.7 FM | JACK 92.5 FM |
| Q107 107.1 FM | Z103.5 FM | CJCL 590 AM |
| CJKX 89.9 FM | 95.9 FM | |

CFTO CITY TV Global News A Channel
The Weather Channel

The message: “**Buses are Cancelled**”, means that schools remain open for students but transportation services provided by the York Region District School Board are cancelled for the area(s) affected. If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will NOT run in the afternoon.

Dates Ahead

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Nov. 16 | Parent-Teacher Interviews |
| Dec. 1 | P.A. Day (no classes) |
| Dec. 15 | Interim Report forms issued |
| Dec. 25-Jan. 5 | Winter Holidays |
| Jan. 20-24 | Gr. 9 EQAO Mathematics Test |
| Jan. 25 | Gr. 8 Parents' Night |
| Jan. 25-31 | Semester 1 Examinations |
| Feb. 1 | Exam return day |
| Feb. 2 | P.A. Day (no classes) |
| Feb. 9 | Semester 1 final Report Cards Issued |
| Feb. 13 | Course Request & Calendar Distributed |
| Feb. 26 | Course Request Sheets due |
| Mar. 2 | Interim Report Forms issued |
| Mar. 9-16 | March Break holiday |
| Mar. 29 | Gr. 10 EQAO Literacy Test |
| Apr. 6 | Good Friday holiday |
| Apr. 9 | Easter Monday holiday |
| Apr. 18 | Mid Semester 2 Report Cards Issued |
| Apr. 24 | Parent Teacher Interviews |
| May 9 | SLSS Official Opening |
| May 18 | Interim Report Forms issued |
| May 21 | Victoria Day holiday |
| June 5-21 | Gr. 9 EQAO Mathematics Test |
| June 13 | Interim Report Forms issued |
| June 20-26 | Semester 2 Examinations |
| June 27 | Examination return day |
| June 28 & 29 | P.A. Days (no classes) |
| July 6 | Semester 2 final Report Cards available |

Visual Arts

The Art Department has kept very busy throughout September start-up: making banners, setting up display cases, and taking photos for the yearbook. We are also currently in the midst of a school logo design contest, and the Grade 10s will be off to the Art Gallery of



Ontario in late November. Upcoming events and happenings for the art department will

be the formation of the Art and Drama Council, the creation of a school community artwork display in preparation for our official S.L.S.S. opening in May, and the opening of a school supply store for students in collaboration with the business department.



Get Involved!

Here are just a few of the activities at our school:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Ambassadors Club | Math Help |
| Athletic Council | Newspaper Club |
| Badminton | Peer Tutors |
| Basketball | Photography Club |
| Bully Prevention Team | Reading Club |
| Character Council | Robotics Team |
| Chess Club | Ski & Snowboard Club |
| Choir | Soccer |
| Concert Band | Student Council |
| Cross-Country | Visual Arts Council |
| Drama Council | Volleyball |
| Karate | Weight Room |
| Look Good Feel Good | Yearbook |

Take Our Kids to Work and High School

On Wednesday November 1st Grade 9 students participated in Take Our Kids to Work Day. This was an excellent opportunity for students to make connections between what they are learning at school and the workplace. This experience allowed students to explore the many occupational choices available to them after high school.

On the same day, the Grade 7 and 8 students from Bakersfield, Forest Run and Thornhill Woods Public School visited SLSS. They received an orientation, tour of the school and snacks prepared by our Grade 10 Hospitality students. Grade 8 students also participated in a Grade 9 classroom setting. This experience helps students get ready for the important choices they will make when entering secondary school.

Drugs and Kids

The York Region District School Board is committed to providing a safe and supportive school environment for all students. As part of its role in promoting student success and a positive school climate a pamphlet for parents/guardians entitled "Drugs and Kids: What Parents Need to Know" has been developed

This pamphlet is designed to make parents aware of our related curriculum, to suggest prevention and intervention strategies and to offer assistance in accessing community resources and support. It may be especially useful for those with children in Grades 7-12.

To view the pamphlet online please go to: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Under Quick Links on the right-hand side of the page, click on "Drugs and Kids: What Parents Need to Know." For those without internet access, a limited number of hard copies are available in the main office.

Science

Ms. Galloro, Mr. Morris and Mr. Heijmans would like to welcome all the students and their parents/guardians to the Stephen Lewis School community. We hope your experience in the school and specifically in science will be enjoyable. If you have any questions regarding the science program please contact us.

Grade 9

All grade 9 science students have received an introduction to core chemistry concepts while applying what they learned through interesting hands-on lab activities. For example, the students were able to observe how firework displays produce different colours using simple chemicals in the laboratory. The unit tests for the grade 9 chemistry unit were completed during the week of October 23rd. and a laboratory summative evaluation using inquiry skills in chemistry was completed the week of October 30th.

Starting on October 26th Grade 9 students began their investigations into biological reproduction. They will explore plant and animal reproduction on a cellular level as well as an organism level. Students will carry out independent research on many important societal issues including topics such as gene therapy, genetically engineered foods, cloning and reproductive technologies.

Technological Studies

The **Health and Personal Services** program, and the "Look Good, Feel Good" Club's philosophy is to build self esteem and encourage students to feel good about themselves. Feeling good on the inside is an image reflected on a person's outer appearance and disposition.

This club is where students can build new friendships and learn topics that address their special needs. Some of the topics that the students were interested in include: nail care, nutrition, cosmetics, and skin care and hairstyling techniques. In October students learned how to look after their hands and nails. Seeing their smiling faces afterwards--that's what it's all about! Look Good, Feel Good! Next month's highlight is information on nutrition from a special guest Dr. Maria Cuoco, a chiropractor and nutritionist to speak on health and nutrition. The "Look Good, Feel Good" club takes place during lunch every Friday.

In the **Hospitality and Tourism** course, students are learning a very important life skill... cooking! The students have learned how to make soup stocks, salads, pizzas, meat dishes, wraps, pastas, sauces and cookies. Students will explore ethnic dishes, seafood and comfort foods. These skills, along with safe knife handling skills and food product knowledge, will give the students an

Grade 10

The grade 10 science course also began with chemistry. Students have developed their skills in the language of chemistry learning chemical names, formulas and chemical equations. Ask your child to identify chemical ingredients on different household products. They have also explored a variety of chemical reactions in great detail, including those taking place in common consumer products such as hot packs and cold packs. These students are well prepared for future studies in chemistry. The unit test for the grade 10 chemistry unit was completed on October 26th and the laboratory summative evaluation using inquiry skills in chemistry took place during the week of October 30th.

Grade 10 students began their studies on environmental issues related to ecological sustainability on October 30th. The high profile that global warming, waste disposal and recycling are currently receiving in the news will provide a great venue for discussion. On November 7th they visited the Kortright Conservation Centre in Vaughan to examine the diversity of living things including a study of natural habitats. We hope that all students will develop a responsibility to the sustainability of our environment

edge in a career in the food service industry. Hopefully, the students will continue to take the grade eleven Hospitality and Tourism course and move onto culinary colleges and a career in hospitality.

The **Integrated Technology** program is in full swing. The students started the year with a unit on measurement and bridge building. Students had to build the strongest bridge possible with only 1000 popsicle sticks, a bottle of wood glue and dental floss. Students learned about compression, tension and trusses. The winning bridge held over 200 lbs! Students are currently working on their CO2 Dragsters and we plan on racing the cars in early November.

The **Communication Technology** course is into the television production component of the course. Students have completed filming their Architecture Projects and are ready to edit. As well, students have started filming their television commercials. The highlight of the semester was the trip to Chum City, which included a tour of the CityTV newsroom and MuchMusic. The students met some on-air personalities (such as Matt and Tim Deegan) and had the opportunity to ask some insightful questions, and build connections with people in the industry.