



Stephen Lewis Secondary School

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C. Diamond
Principal

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Vice-Principal

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Trustee

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Superintendent of Schools

Newsletter

September 12 2006

A Message from the Principal

I am so pleased to be writing to you from our beautiful, new building, Stephen Lewis Secondary School. Our opening went very smoothly for both staff and students and we had a very successful first week. We began with a homeroom period to prepare students for our school using the information in their agenda books. The focus was on creating a respectful learning environment with clear expectations for everyone in our school community. Students discussed mascot and school colour choices in their period 5 class and then voted for their preferences. The day ended with an assembly to introduce all staff to our student body and to announce the results of the student vote for mascot and school colours. We will be known as the Stephen Lewis Sharks and our colours are royal blue, black and silver

Classes began the first week with course summaries and diagnostic tests in many subject areas. We will be monitoring students' academic progress and attendance on a regular basis. Information about any concerns will be shared with parents/guardians, and we appreciate having you contact us with your concerns and questions.

We are starting our staff committees to address literacy, character education and student success. Sports, clubs and activities have already begun! We enjoyed the warm weather last Friday during our barbeque/activity lunch hour. Our next goal is to begin our Student Council and School Council for parents/guardians. Nomination forms for students and parents interested in serving on these councils will be available shortly.

Mr. Shigeishi and I would like to thank all of the staff as well as the parents/guardians who have helped us get started by completing forms, attending meetings and ensuring that students have what they need for a successful start. Please

continue to assist us by discussing with your son/daughter the importance of regular and punctual attendance to all classes. Encourage students to keep track of homework in their agenda books, along with all other appointments. Most importantly, please stay involved - request assistance, ask questions, share information, volunteer in our school. Attend our school events if possible and read/listen to our communication about the school. We will use the school sign, e-mail, paper copies, our website and the telephone broadcast message system to keep you informed. We need you on our team to support student achievement.

School Council Elections

We will hold our first School Council Election on **Tuesday, September 26, 2006 in the school library at 7:00 p.m.** If you are interested in a self-nomination form for a position on the council please contact the school or pick up a nomination form in the office. If you are interested in assisting with the election planning process please contact Susie Bianchi, School Office Supervisor.

Parent/guardian members must have a child enrolled in the school. A board employee who works at the school his or her child attends is not eligible to serve as a parent/guardian member on the council. A board employee who works at the school his or her child attends may, however, be elected as either the teaching or non-teaching staff representative. Board employees who do not work at the school their children attend may be elected as parent members as long as they notify the other parents of their Board employment prior to the election.

Please submit nomination forms to the school office on or before September 25 at 4:00 p.m.

Orientation Day – September 26

The transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9, as well as to a new school is an exciting time for all of us. Meeting new teachers, getting used to a new environment and making new friends are some of the challenges that our students face. The first month of school is a hectic one at best, but understandably more for all of us in this new community.

To ease the transition to life at Stephen Lewis Secondary School and to help establish a sense of community amongst our students, we have arranged for an orientation experience at Camp Robin Hood in Markham. The program will include a variety of cooperative and team-building activities that do not require previous experience or skill. Students will work together to enhance their sense of pride and connection to Stephen Lewis Secondary School and assist them in making new friends.

The date is Tuesday, September 26, rain or shine. We will leave the school at 8:30 am and return at 2:30 pm. Lunch will be provided at the camp. Please indicate on the attached permission form whether your child has any dietary or other allergies.

Students will be outside for most of the day, so it is important that they wear and bring appropriate clothing

- long pants and a sweatshirt; (dress in layers);
- running shoes or hiking shoes, not open-toed sandals, crocs or flip flops;
- bring rain gear in case it rains, and
- wear a hat and sunscreen

More information will be distributed as the day draws nearer. We are excited to offer this program and look forward to seeing everyone there!

Safe and Supportive Schools

We are reviewing the Safe and Supportive Schools policy with all classes. Parents/guardians are asked take a few minutes to review pages 17 and 18 of the York Region District School Board portion of the agenda book, and ensure that page 23 is returned to your son/daughter's home room teacher.

Picture Day – September 19

Our photographer will be in the school on September 19 to:

- Take pictures of all students for the yearbook
- Take pictures for those students and their families who would like colour photographs. Review the enclosed colour photograph information package for details
- Create the photo identification cards for those students who did not attend on registration day.

It is important that all students have their photos taken on this date.

Curriculum Night – September 21

Parents/guardians are invited to the school on September 21 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. to hear about our school programs and meet our teaching staff. Interviews are NOT possible on this evening, it is an opportunity to tour our school and receive an overview of the subject areas in which your son/daughter is enrolled.

Our Teams are up and running!

Our boys' soccer and volleyball teams, girls' basketball team and our cross-country teams are all up and running! More activities and clubs are starting this week.

Dates Ahead

Sept. 19	Picture Day
Sept. 21	Curriculum Night
Sept. 22	P.A. Day (no classes)
Sept. 26	Camp Robin Hood-all students
Sept. 26	School Council meeting 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 6	Interim report forms issued
Oct. 9	Thanksgiving Day holiday
Nov. 1	Gr. 9 "Take Your Kids to Work Day"
Nov. 10	Mid-Semester 1 Report Cards Issued
Nov. 16	Parent-Teacher Interviews
Dec. 1	Professional Training Day (no classes)
Dec. 15	Interim Report forms issued
Dec. 25-Jan. 5	Winter Holidays
Jan. 10-24	Gr. 9 EQAO Mathematics Test
Jan. 25	Gr. 8 Parents' Night
Jan. 25-31	Examinations all grades
Feb 1	Examination return day
Feb. 2	P. A. Day (no classes)