



Stephen Lewis Secondary School

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C. Diamond
Principal

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Superintendent of Schools

April 2007 Newsletter

A Message from the Principal

There are only a few months left in our first year at Stephen Lewis Secondary School. We have a very busy spring coming up, although it seems much more like winter outside! The mid term report cards will give you and your son/daughter an indication of their progress this semester. There is still time left to work on skills, improve grades and meet with staff for assistance. We encourage all students to develop a plan of action in conjunction with their teachers and parents to work towards a successful outcome by June. Our Parent-Teacher Evening will take place on April 24 and parents/guardians are encouraged to meet with staff to become familiar with course requirements and student progress.

Our clubs, committees and sports teams are also all involved in a variety of activities, events and competitions. We hope that students who have not become involved in a co-curricular activity this year will sign up for something soon. The information is posted and announcements are read daily about upcoming events. Additional information is also posted on our school website www.stephenlewis.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Staff and students are all looking forward to our Wake-a-thon on Friday, April 27 to raise money and awareness for children and their families living with HIV/Aids in Africa. The money will be forwarded to the Stephen Lewis Foundation to help provide basic needs and education for children left orphaned by the ravages of Aids.

We are focused right now on our upcoming official school opening on Tuesday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m. Please join our celebration and support your school.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments that you would like to share with us, please contact us by phone or e-mail. We look forward to seeing you at our events in the coming months.

Parent-Teacher Interviews
Tuesday April 24
6:30–8:30 p.m.



Starting at 7:00 p.m.
April 27, 2007

This spring, Stephen Lewis Secondary School is on a mission to help children who are suffering from HIV/AIDS in Africa. In our "12 Hours for 12K Wake-a-thon" we hope to raise \$12,000 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The Stephen Lewis Foundation is a non-profit organization serving the sub-Saharan African community by providing care for women, orphans and AIDS-afflicted children who are struggling to survive. The World Health Organization estimates that 7,000 people lose their battle to HIV/AIDS each day. By the end of this year, more than 2 million people will die.

Our 12 hour event takes place on April 27. More than 100 students will be awake for 12 continuous hours and will participate in a variety of activities including intramural sports and games, dancing, board games and more.

If you wish to sponsor a student and donate to this fund raising event, please make your cheque payable to "Stephen Lewis Foundation" and bring it to the school by April 27. Receipts for donations of \$10.00 or more will be issued by the Stephen Lewis Foundation approximately 6-8 weeks after the event.

For more information about the Stephen Lewis Foundation, please refer to their website, <http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org>

Guidance Services

It is amazing to think that we are moving into the final stretch of the school year! So much has happened since we opened our doors in September of 2006, and there is still more to come!

Course Verification

Students will soon be receiving their course selection verification forms and are asked to carefully check the courses that they have requested. All are asked to take a good look at their choices along side the mid-semester report card and reflect on whether they have chosen well for next year.

Instructions for making changes will be provided on the verification forms. Students who do not require course changes should keep the verification forms for their own records.

Summer School

Any students thinking of putting energy into attaining high school credits during the summer should be aware that Summer School Course Registration is in progress. Details and application forms are available in the Guidance Office and must be submitted by May 16.

Reinforcement Summer School Courses are designed to “reinforce the learning” in a course for which students were not successful. Student who received a mark between 35 and 49 in a semester one course or are at risk of doing so in a semester two course, can sign up now for a two-week reinforcement course.

Acceleration summer school courses are full courses that are offered for 4 weeks. These are designed for students who want to take a new course, retake a course for in which their resulting mark was below 35 or retake a course that they have passed but wish to improve their skills or mark.

Summer Jobs

Students looking for summer jobs should check the Employment Opportunities Bulletin Board. Arrangements are in process for Resume Writing and Interview Tips workshops. Stay tuned to morning announcements for details that will soon be available in the Guidance Office.

Social and Emotional Wellness

We are continuing to partner with community agencies to build a team that meets the needs of our students. Referrals to all visiting counsellors are encouraged from students and families!

On Mondays we welcome the services of Tina Pearson, Adolescent Counsellor from York Central Hospital's Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Care Centre. She has been conducting class workshops on “Healthy Relationships,” which have been very well received by

our students, and is available to meet with students individually and in groups.

On Tuesdays, Maya Segal-Adam, School Settlement Worker, joins us to offer assistance to students born outside of Canada and their families.

On Thursdays, Ziva Shmorgun, Social Worker from Jewish Family and Child Service, facilitates a “Girls’ Group” and meets with students to assist with various issues.

Visual Arts

The pictures are examples of the first semester art students’ clay masks on display throughout the school. The masks were a fabulous end to a creative semester, and indicated how prepared these students have become for further art studies. Based on next year’s course selection results, it appears that many students have decided on an art education! The masks also inspired our new second semester art students to create, and take up where our fall students left off; eager to try it all out for themselves.

Currently, the art department has been busy with a number of ongoing projects related to our official school opening in May. Five of our Grade 10 students attended the Banner Event Workshop at Seneca College, hosted by the York Region Arts Council, to learn how to make a cloth banner that will represent our school for many years to come. We are one of 28 schools to participate in the event, which will culminate with a public show at the Region of York Administration Building in Newmarket from May 14-18, as well as at several local public libraries until June 8th.

We have also just developed a logo for the 2007 Wake-A-Thon, which will be used to promote this event; look for it on T-shirts and posters in the very near future. Currently in development is a logo design for our grand opening, to be printed on shirts, so that everyone will have a memento of our very busy but fun first year at Stephen Lewis Secondary School.



Dates Ahead

Apr. 24	Parent Teacher Interviews
Apr. 27	Fundraising overnight event
May 8	SLSS Official Opening
May 18	Progress Reports issued
May 21	Victoria Day holiday
May 27	School Council
June 13	Progress Reports issued
June 15-21	Gr. 9 EQAO Mathematics Test
June 20-26	Semester 2 Examinations
June 27	Exam feedback Day
June 28, 29	PA Days (no classes)
July 4	Report Cards available for pick-up

Special Olympics

The students in Room 105 participated in the York Region Special Olympics Bowling Tournament on April 2nd. All students bowled two games, and had the opportunity to meet and make many new friends. The Special Olympics oath was recited at the tournament's opening: "Let me win, but if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt!" Once again our students displayed exemplary sportsmanship and proudly represented our school. Two students, Madeleine Korpikoski and her partner Maggi Coady, have had the honour of being nominated for the 2007 Special Olympics Global Youth Summit to be hosted in China this October!

Science Olympics

On March 1 twelve of our students participated in the 2007 York Region Science Olympics hosted by Seneca @ York University. Our two teams competed at the Junior Level, completing tasks related to Grade 9 and Grade 10 Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

This year's theme was **Super Hero Boot Camp: Saving the World, One Atom at a Time**. As young super heroes they: managed to isolate DNA to escape Doc Oc; traveled around the world using their knowledge of chemistry to protect Superman from death, and escaped from "Shocker" by applying their static electricity expertise.

For our very first appearance at the Science Olympics, our students performed very well among the 40 participating teams. One of our teams placing 6th in the chemistry competition, 10th in the physics competition, and **8th place overall**.



Not only was our team outstanding in their academic performance, but their spirit, encouragement, team work, and leadership skills were second to none. An equally important part of the competition involved team

spirit: creating a flag, uniform, and team cheer that reflected the superhero theme and use of our school colours. After endless hours of designing, painting, and planning, our team was the hit of the event, receiving applause and cheers from other teams at the opening ceremonies. By the end of the day every school could be heard chanting the SLSS cheer themselves. We may have been the smallest school in numbers, but we were certainly the loudest in volume! As a result of all of this effort the team earned **1st place overall** in the spirit competition!

Grade 9 Science

We have finished the Chemistry unit with a unit test and culminating activity. We studied the vast array of consumer materials and substances available to us through chemistry. Our next unit will be the Biology of Reproduction on a cellular level, as well as in plants, animals and humans. Their culminating activity will involve a newsletter and opinion essay on topics related to reproductive technology or an area covered in class. Please review your child's progress as they research and prepare their report through the next month.

Grade 10 Science

Grade 10 science students are learning about the impact of climate change, urbanization and industrialization on various ecosystems. In this picture, a few of the Grade 10 students are standing proudly next to their most recent hands-on project. Using the life cycle of the fast growing plant *Brassica rapa*, they will study the impact of a variety of ecological factors on the cycling of matter through abiotic and biotic components of an ecosystem.



History

Canadian History

"Buy low, sell high"—but don't wait too long! Grade 10 students had a chance this month to relive the Stock Market Crash of 1929. Each student played the role of a different character and bought stocks, shopped the Eaton's Catalogues, and lived life on easy street during the 1920s. During the 1930s, each character shared their experiences of poverty with their Prime Minister and pleaded for his help. Though some ended up penniless, fun was shared by all.

Civics

Are they trial lawyers? Are they politicians? They're our Civics students! Through mock trials, election campaigns, current issues debates and global action plans, they have been enthusiastically working towards becoming informed and active citizens. There is a bright future ahead with these young people as our leaders.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF

Stephen Lewis Secondary School

Tuesday May 8, 2007
7:00 p.m.



We look forward to sharing our celebration with you.

Carol Diamond Ken Shigeishi
Principal Vice-Principal

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Please R.S.V.P. to Susie Bianchi
by April 25, 2007



Technological Studies

The Construction students are beginning to build benches which will be placed in the cafeteria. As well, they are working on building storage cabinets for the construction shop. Some students are designing and building a book cabinet for Mrs. Sperduti's class. The students are very excited about this project and can't wait to start building.

Technological Design students are working on solving technological problems. They are currently building small scale architectural models. For example, some students are working on a model for a community centre.

The Hospitality and Tourism class is busy as always. The students are currently cooking soups, sauces and preparing salads. Everyone is progressing well and having a great time. We will be catering the York Region Business Heads luncheon, as well as the Wake-a-thon and the Gala opening for our school. Time goes fast when you're having fun!

Integrated students just completed their CO₂ dragsters. Congratulations to the winners and great job done by all. As well, we are planning a field trip to The Seneca College Precision Machining School. Students who are interested in learning more about the machining and manufacturing program should contact Mr. Press.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The next meeting of the school council is May 27. Please join us in the library at 7:00 p.m.

**Official Opening of Stephen Lewis Secondary School
Tuesday, May 8, 2007**

Please return this form to the school by April 25, 2007

Print Student Name: _____

I will be attending the opening and request ____ tickets.
(maximum 3 per family)

Parent/Guardian Name