

## November 2007 Newsletter

### A Message from the Principal

Our school community is growing steadily and we now have over 650 students in grades 9, 10 and 11. Our teachers and student leaders have encouraged new students to become involved in as many different activities, events, clubs and committees as possible. We hope that you talk to your daughter/son about school events so that you help them make choices that will offer them a balanced high school experience.

Mid semester reports are also a time for students to reflect and discuss their strengths and needs with parents/guardians and teachers. The marks will help you to understand what next steps are necessary for

success and credit accumulation in every subject area. Our goal at SLSS is to help all students take an active role in all aspects of their education in order for them to be successful. Families play an important part in that process because you can offer them support, assistance and help them to make decisions that lead to positive results at school and beyond.

We have a great deal of support at our school to help students deal with academic issues, as well as social/emotional concerns. Please contact us if you need any assistance with your son/daughter and we will work together to achieve success.

### Global Webcast

From October 2-11, 2007 the Special Olympics Global Youth Summit was held in Shanghai, China. Students from more than 80 countries around the world took part in these world games. The Special Olympics vision is "to embrace the diversity of all individuals' abilities worldwide and celebrate all differences...to transcend the boundaries of geography, nationality, political philosophy, gender, age culture and religion."

The Global Youth Summit was an assembly bringing youth with and without intellectual abilities together for inspiring and educational discussions. Guest



speakers at the Youth Summit included Arnold Schwarzenegger, Hui Laingui and Eunice Shriver. The focus of the Youth Summit discussions was on breaking down barriers

for students with intellectual disabilities; creating a climate of acceptance and unity through discussion, sharing experiences and successful practices; and resolving challenges faced in many schools and communities.

On October 9, 2007 the students from Mrs. Kent's class, along with several students from Ms. Galloro's Leadership class, used technology to participate in a "Webinar" with the students who were in Shanghai, China. We were the only representatives from Canada and shared the podium with students from the United States and Australia. It was an incredible experience to join in live discussions with students from all over the world.



Our students spoke about many of our school-wide initiatives such as the "shout and strive" day at Camp Robin Hood, which reflect an inclusive atmosphere within our school. They proudly represented their school and were inspirational ambassadors for Canada. For more information on this event, check out the website: [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org)

## Dates Ahead

- Nov. 5 - School Council meeting
- Nov. 7 - Gr. 9 Take Your Kids to Work Day
- Nov. 7 - Gr. 10 Practice Literacy Test
- Nov. 8 - UoIT visit
- Nov. 8 - Parent Teacher Interviews
- Nov. 12 - P.A. Day (no classes)
- Nov. 13 - Full disclosure date (Grade 11)
- Nov. 14 - York University visit
- Nov. 15 - College/University Information Night at Alexander Mackenzie HS
- Nov. 30 - P.A. Day (no classes)
- Dec. 17 - Progress Reports issued
- Dec. 24-Jan. 4 - Winter Holiday
- Jan. 14 - School Council meeting
- Jan. 17 - Progress Reports issued
- Jan. 18-22 - Gr. 9 EQAO Mathematics Test
- Jan. 24-30 - Examinations all grades
- Jan. 31 - Examination return day
- Feb. 1 - P. A. Day (no classes)
- Feb. 8 - Semester 1 final Report Cards Issued
- Mar. 6 - Progress Reports issued
- Mar. 7-14 - March Break holiday
- Mar. 21 - Good Friday/Holy Friday holiday

## Take Our Kids to Work and High School

On Wednesday November 7, Grade 9 students will participate in Take Our Kids to Work Day. This is an excellent opportunity for students to make connections between what they are learning at school and the workplace. This experience will allow students to explore the many occupational choices available to them after high school.

On the same day, the Grade 8 students from Bakersfield, Carrville Mills, Forest Run, Mackenzie Glen and Thornhill Woods Public Schools will visit us for a presentation, lesson activities and a tour of the school. This experience is designed to help students get ready for the important choices they will make when entering secondary school.

### School Council

All parents are welcome to attend. The next meetings will be held on November 5 and January 14, 2008.

#### 2007-2008 Executive

Chair: Debra Frank-Derlick

Secretary: Myrna Benderoff

Treasurer :Glenn Babcock

Executive Members: Riza Axelrod, Lois Babcock,

Linda Behr, Lily Lukic, Alison Williams

Parent Members: Jigisha Randeria, Mahesh Randeria

## Guidance Services

The Guidance Department is excited to announce new additions to our team and the services we provide for our students!

### Grow with us!

Welcome to our new counsellor, Ms. Revzen-Ellis, whose background and expertise will greatly benefit all our students. On Tuesdays, Social Worker Sheri Rumak, of Jewish Family and Child, is available to meet with all students and families. Heather Allen, of the York Centre, will provide a variety of group workshops for students throughout the school year. As well, arrangements are being made to have an Israeli/Russian speaking settlement worker available to students and parents on a weekly basis.

### Plan for the Future!

Good decisions are made based on information. We are helping provide opportunities for students to gather accurate information about post secondary pathways. At lunch hour, we are hosting presentations by representatives from many college and universities. Our students are eager to be "in the know". Over 70 students attended the session given by the University of Toronto! To attend, students simply sign up in the Guidance Department and bring their lunch.

To bring you as much information as efficiently as possible, we offer you a **Post-secondary Pathways Evening on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**, from **7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** Stephen Lewis Secondary School, Alexander Mackenzie High School and Richmond Green Secondary School have joined together to bring representatives from over 40 apprenticeships, colleges and universities to Alexander Mackenzie High School. Students and parents are encouraged to come and become informed!

### Keep Current!

The resources have changed! During the first two weeks of November, all Grade 11 students will participate in post-secondary resources workshops so that they can research what they need to do to get where they want to go in the future.

### Scholarships!

Financing education is expensive. Thousands of dollars are available to students entering colleges and universities. We will be offering scholarship information workshops to make sure students can take advantage of the opportunities available to them. To attend, students simply sign up in the Guidance Department.

## 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.

A decision to cancel school bus transportation may be **system wide** (where all buses in York Region are cancelled) **or municipality specific** (where buses in one or more municipalities are cancelled).

- Even though transportation in your municipality is running, if your child attends school in a different York Region municipality where transportation is cancelled, your child will **not** be transported to/from school.
- Even though your child attends school in a different York Region municipality where transportation is running, if transportation in your municipality is cancelled, your child will **not** be transported to/from school.

**If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.**

Listen to any of the following stations for information:

590 AM	640 AM	680 AM	860 AM
1010 AM	1050 AM	1540 AM	1580 AM
102.1 FM	88.5 FM	89.9 FM	92.5 FM 93.1 FM
FM	94.1 FM	94.9 FM	95.9 FM 97.3 FM
FM	98.1 FM	99.1 FM	99.9 FM
101.1 FM	104.5 FM	100.7 FM	107.1 FM
CFTO	CITY TV	Global News	
AChannel	The Weather Network		

A bus cancellation message will also be available at [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) and by calling 1-877-330-3001.

The above procedure is not applicable to school charters for field trips or other activities. Please confirm the cancellation of these trips with the school.

## Pizza Lunch

SLSS celebrated its first week of school with a Pizza Lunch on Friday September 7. In addition to the great



food, students had the opportunity to get their faces painted, play soccer and basketball, and receive tattoos. Many just appreciated the chance to

enjoy the great weather and company that afternoon. Special thanks to Mr. Walter and Hospitality students for preparing the salads and fruit for the event.

## SHOUT AND STRIVE

On Tuesday September 25, we hosted our second annual Grade 9 Orientation at the Camp Robin Hood Leadership Centre. The theme for this year's orientation was SHOUT AND STRIVE: Students



Helping Others Understand Teamwork and SLSS Taking Real Initiative Very Enthusiastically. With the help of

student leaders from Student Council, Athletic Council, and the Grade 11 Leadership class, Grade 9 students participated in a variety of team building and leadership activities.

Congratulations to the purple team for demonstrating the best character and sportsmanship, the pink team for demonstrating the most spirit, and the orange team for the best cheer.

## Modern Languages

It has been a busy but exciting start to the school year in the Modern Languages Department! Our school welcomed three exchange students this fall: Edouard



Hua and Alice Cleyet from France, and Ana Nicolas Sandoval from Spain. They will be returning home in November, but will be joined in their home countries by three of our students in

February; Joshua Seaton, Ashley Hayward and Paz Levy.

The Grade 10 and 11 French students visited Glendon College at York University for a University presentation as well as a campus tour. These two classes are also looking forward to a visit from world renowned African drummer and singer Njacko Backo who will be speaking about his life experiences in the French speaking country of Cameroon, as well as teaching students some techniques on the drums!

The Grade 9s made Belgian Waffles (or gauffres, as they are known in the French speaking world) following their lessons on Belgium. They have also been busy sending and receiving messages from schools all over the world by participating in Learning Circles projects with the iEARN organization. They are looking forward to collaborating on international projects and sharing their results with other schools in their circles.

## Welcoming our New Students

All new students at SLSS, including those that arrived from different high schools and those that are new to the country, were formally welcomed to our school through a breakfast planned and organized by the Grade 11 Leadership class.

At the breakfast, students had the opportunity to communicate with other veteran SLSS students, meet new people, and participate in activities that hopefully instilled a sense of belonging for them at SLSS.

A Buddy Program was also introduced. Each new student was given the opportunity to pair up with a senior Grade 11 student who would act as a primary support person. Mentors will share their knowledge and experience by providing guidance to new students with first-time challenges encountered at SLSS.

Special thanks to Ms. Ferreira of the Family Studies department for providing the facilities to cook our pancakes that morning and to Double Choc Donut Bakery for providing the donuts, danishes, and croissants. We hope this event helped ease the transition for these new students to our 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](http://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 print copies are available in the main office.

## All Candidate’s Meeting

On Thursday September 27, the Grade 11 leadership class hosted our first All Candidates Meeting. Students invited these candidates from five different political parties to speak about their party platforms for the recent provincial election.:

- Rick Morelli, NDP, Vaughan riding
- Russell Korus, Green Party, Vaughan riding
- Mario Racco, Liberal Party, Thornhill riding

- Gayani Weerasinghe, PC Party, Vaughan riding
- Malcolm Kojokaro, independent, Thornhill riding

This meeting allowed students to interact with the candidates by asking questions that are relevant to their lives and those of their family and friends. Many topics were covered including transportation, youth violence,



the environment, and education.

This activity engaged our students in becoming active members of society by participating in

political discourse. An event like this is especially important since many of our students will be eligible to vote in the next provincial election.

The following week, the History Department registered our school to participate in a provincial wide “Student Vote”. This provided students across Ontario an opportunity to participate in the election process and provided some insight as to the direction and political interests of the youth in our province. We extend our deepest gratitude to all candidates for reaching out to the youth in their community.

## Student Council (SC) Update

Student Council members have had a fun and busy first semester.

On October 18, SLSSSC



hosted its first dance of the year: **Autumn Bash on Autumn Hill**. Entertainment was provided by MuchMusic accompanied by an amazing video display. Approximately 260 students attended.

We look forward to planning more events in the upcoming months.

Remember, if you have any suggestions, please see any one of the SC members!

