



# Stephen Lewis Secondary School

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**C. Diamond**  
Principal

**K. Shigeishi**  
Vice-Principal

**J. Hertz**  
Trustee

**H. Fox**  
Superintendent of Schools

## February 2009 Newsletter

### A Message from the Principal

Our first semester has gone by very quickly. Staff and students have been involved in many activities and events that enrich the learning environment at S.L.S.S.

Academic achievement in all subject areas continues to be the main focus with high expectations for all students. We have many levels of support for students, both in the classroom and beyond, so that they will earn credits and be successful. Our staff continues to provide many opportunities for students to demonstrate the Ministry expectations for every course.

We are focused on literacy in every subject area, and especially for students who will write the Literacy Test on April 2. The course selection process has begun and students need to make their decisions very carefully, with input from teachers and parents. Realistic choices result in success and students need to understand the pathways open to them at all levels. Our information evening on February 10 will assist you with a better understanding of the choices and process.

We also are preparing for our first grade 12 graduation and hope that families and businesses

in the community will assist us in providing financial awards to our graduates. These awards may be in any cash amount (minimum of \$100) to honour students with high achievement and/or leadership and exceptional character. The funds may be directed to students in specific programs, eg. a student who will be attending a Business program at a College or University. They may also be awarded to students in general programs, such as: Social Sciences, Arts or Science. We will provide tax receipts and help you to decide on the criteria and type of award. Please contact me if you are able to contribute.

One of the areas that parents and families can support students in is monitoring their attendance and achievement. Discuss unauthorized absences and ask about assignments/tests so that you and your son/daughter can have on-going conversations about their progress or lack thereof. Post the progress report and report card dates so that you can ask for these results and contact the school directly if students do not bring home the information. Call us if you are concerned about attendance and wish to discuss this with an administrator or teacher. We believe it is important for us to work together to ensure student success.

### Course Selection Information Night

For students and their parents/guardians  
Tuesday, February 10, 2009

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Grade 8's and parents – Cafeteria

Grade 9-11's and parents – Library

### LIVING WITH TEENS

Parenting adolescents without losing your cool

A series of five workshops beginning Thursday  
February 12, 2009, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

To register or for more information, call Shawna Sidney at 416.638.7800, ext. 215 or register online at [www.jfandcs.com](http://www.jfandcs.com). The cost is \$100.00 for the series of workshops

## Important Dates Ahead

Feb. 9 -	School Council
Feb. 10 -	Course Information Night
Feb. 12 -	Semi-Formal
Feb. 12 -	Parenting workshops
Feb. 20 -	Honour Roll Breakfast
Mar. 16-20 -	March Break holiday
Apr. 2 -	EQAO Literacy Test
Apr. 10 -	Good Friday holiday
Apr. 13 -	Easter Monday holiday
Apr. 20 -	Mid Semester 2 Report Cards
Apr. 23 -	Parent-Teacher Interviews
May 15 -	Progress Reports issued
May 18 -	Victoria Day holiday
June 12 -	Progress Reports issued
June 12-15 -	Gr. 9 EQAO Mathematics Test
June 17-23-	Final Examinations
June 24 -	Examination return day
June 24 -	Graduation ceremony
June 25, 26 -	P.A. Days (no classes)

## No parking in the bus loop

Students who are physically challenged are having difficulty getting on their buses and mini buses at the end of the day because vehicles are blocking the school entrance. Please do not wait for your child in the bus loop.

## School Council

All parents are welcome to attend. The next meetings will be held on February 9, March 9, April 20, May 11, and June 8, 2009

### 2008-2009 Executive

Co-Chairs: Riza Axelrod, Alison Williams

Secretary: Linda Behr

Treasurer: Nicola McDonald

Parent Members: Myrna Benderoff, Debra Derlick,  
Lily Lukic, Lynn Avidan, Paul  
Fitzerman, Natalia Shibko, Nora  
Lipfeld, Terry Liu, Clare Chen, Marva  
Hinds

Teacher Representative: Mark Serapiglia

Support Staff Representative: Sam Spatero

## Student Records and e-mail addresses

In an on-going effort to keep our records up to date, please let us know if there are any changes to your address, contact numbers, emergency contact information or email by forwarding this information to: [stephen.lewis.ss@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:stephen.lewis.ss@yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

## Guidance Services

The excitement is mounting in the Guidance Department at SLSS! Many grade 12 students have applied to post secondary programs at university, college or apprenticeships! Some have already been offered admission and even scholarships! Plans are underway for our first graduation ceremony! Selection of class valedictorian has begun! We are looking forward to sharing this milestone with students and their families.

As soon as students are settled into their Semester Two classes, we delve right into choosing courses for next year. All returning students will participate in a course selection seminar where they will be given the information and materials they need to make informed decisions.

Course Request Forms, the Regional Course Directory and the SLSS 2009-2010 Course Offerings are available on-line at [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/ecalendars](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/ecalendars).

Choosing courses is a family affair! We invite you to attend our **Course Information Open House on Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** Come to learn about the decisions that must be made at every grade level along the path to graduation and discover valuable information to assist your son/daughter select courses to meet his/her individual needs.

Take advantage of the opportunity to tour the facilities and speak to teachers who will be available to answer questions about high school courses. All course request forms are due to Home Room Teachers no later than Tuesday February 24<sup>th</sup>. The choices students make now will determine what courses that will be offered at Stephen Lewis Secondary School next year!

If you have friends or family who are moving into our area and are interested in attending Stephen Lewis Secondary School, tell them to contact the office for registration information as soon as possible.

We are happy to announce that Daniela Aptowitz, a social worker from Jewish Family and Child, joins us in the Guidance Office on Monday mornings to help assist our students.

Parents, when you are in the school, check out the Parent Corner section of the Bulletin Board outside the Guidance Office. Here you will find information of specific interest to parents, such as the **Living with Teens Workshop** that is being offered at Stephen Lewis Secondary School for five Thursday evenings beginning February 12, 2009. For more information and to register contact Shawna Sidney at 416.638.7800 extension 215 or register online at [www.jfandcs.com](http://www.jfandcs.com). The cost is \$100.00 for the series.

## Visual Arts



The Art Department had a great first semester. The Grade 9s took a trip to the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg to view the Group of Seven

and First Nations artworks, while the Grade 10s and 11s saw the recently reopened Art Gallery of Ontario. Students were wowed by Frank Gehry's addition and the art collections housed within its massive, curving interior walls. We highly recommend that you go and see it!

## Student Success @ your library

The **Reading Mentor Program** was another great success during Semester 1. A collaborative partnership between Ms. Marinelli and Mrs. Kent set the ground work for the library to be the hub of learning. The success of the Reading Mentor Program was due in large measure to the dedication and positive attitude of



a group of Grade 12 students who volunteered to mentor Mrs. Kent's students. The library would like to acknowledge the commitment of the following students: Saidah Hack, Laleh Maroufi, Jasjeet Singh, Jasmine Filler, Yael Rosenblit, Jennifer Bazik, Valery Furukina, Jenny Seo, Tajmina Hassan.

## White Pine Reading Club

The White Pine Reading Club is back again this year. The White Pine Reading Program is part of the Forest of Reading Literacy initiative celebrating Canadian writers. It offers high school students the opportunity to read the best of Canada's recent young adult fiction titles and vote for their favourite books from a list of ten nominated titles. This club begins in February. Any student interested in participating should come to the library and speak with Ms. Marinelli. Students can also check out the White Pine book display in the library.

## Business Studies

The Business Studies Department was very busy and active during the first semester. The grade 12 Economics class was trying to solve the current economic downturn. The grade 12 International Business classes had an opportunity to visit Seneca College and partake in Seneca's International Entrepreneurship trade show held at Newnham Campus. SLSS students were treated to a campus tour and Q & A session allowing them to experience life after high school. Then they visited several booths where Seneca students were showing off their new international business ventures.

The students in grade 11 Marketing class were conducting taste tests, creating posters for school rules and convincing their teacher that their new product was good enough to invest in with their Marketing Plan presentation.

Students in the grade 11 Entrepreneurship class spent the semester planning their business ventures. Students conducted market research, developed marketing plans, manufactured home-made products, placed advertisements around the school, and raised over \$800 for various charities and community organizations.

Students in grade 10 Introduction to Business participated in a stock market simulation, planned a real-life budget, developed marketing materials for their own small business concepts, and developed a marketing plan for their own brand of popcorn.

## History

The History department has been successful in its implementation of many new courses. Aside from the new grade 12 courses that were offered (World History, Philosophy and Law), we also added World Religions to our grade 11 lineup. All courses ran successfully, and appear to be mainstays of the History department.

We also had other successes outside of the classroom in semester one. We successfully ran a Remembrance Day ceremony, and had several of our grade 12 students take part in the 'Charter Challenge.' Our students finished second out of sixty schools in all of Ontario! Congratulations to the students and to Ms. Plunkett. We are looking forward to another great semester to finish off another great school year of history.

## English

The English Department had a fantastic first semester! Through the work of dynamic and dedicated teachers and focused and driven students, we were able to accomplish so much.

This year the English department decided to focus on building the critical thinking capacity of our students. Trips, such as going to Stratford to see *Taming of the Shrew*, or going to the Toronto Reference library to work on Literary Criticism, then discussing or writing about the experience from a personal/social/historical perspective really worked to broaden our students' thinking and creativity. Students also created wonderful works of art, such as verbal-visual essays which showcased their understanding of literature using a less-traditional method. Teachers also worked with students to continue to build their literacy skills and spent a significant amount of "one-on-one" time building writing and grammar skills. We are excited to see what the second semester brings and we thank you for all of your support. Please continue to:

- ✓ Check agendas and moodles for homework and summative assignments
- ✓ Encourage your child to read for pleasure
- ✓ Read with your child and then have a conversation about the piece
- ✓ Keep in communication with the classroom teacher to check on progress and support your child's learning.
- ✓ Let us know when your child is going to be absent

## Athletics

The 2008/2009 sports calendar has been a busy one at Stephen Lewis Secondary School with a variety of athletic programs offered for both boys and girls. Our fall sports included boy's volleyball, boy's soccer, girl's basketball, cross country running, tennis, cricket and golf. All teams participated extremely hard and once again displayed why Stephen Lewis is a force to be reckoned with in York Region. Two individual achievements stood out this past fall as two Grade 10 girls went above and beyond in their respective sports. Alina Rogers won the OFSAA (Ontario Championship) B flight championship in women's golf while Angelica Sidorenko won York Region gold medal in women's tennis and will be trying to duplicate her gold at the upcoming OFSAA Championships in June.

We are currently wrapping up our winter season with SLSS competing in boy's basketball, girl's volleyball and alpine skiing. All teams are doing extremely well and are eagerly anticipating their respective playoff runs. GO SHARKS GO!

## Intramurals

Our intramural program has never been stronger with activities taking place in the gym every day at lunchtime. Any student can participate in the intramural program as long as they bring appropriate physical education attire. All intramural activities begin at 11:30am and finish at 12:00pm.

The sports schedule for the remainder of the school year is:

- Monday – Volleyball
- Tuesday – Badminton
- Wednesday – Archery
- Thursday – Indoor Soccer
- Friday – Basketball

We encourage all students to come out and play.

## Family Studies



The Family Studies Department had a very busy and successful semester. The Grade 9 Individual and Family Living class went apple picking and made delicious apple pies.

They also learned sewing skills and made a drawstring bag and silk pillow. The learning didn't stop there. They learned about communication, relationships and decision making. A couple of practical assignments included parenting their "baby egg" for one week and ensuring its safety. The Grade 11 Fashion class made their debut on the television show "Style by Jury". They also had professional stylist and makeup artist come in as guest speakers. They sewed their own pyjama pants and knitted scarfs. A Job Well Done!

The Grade 12 HHS4M (Individuals and Families in a Diverse Society) class rose to the challenge. They students completed a full social science research paper and also did some research on historical relationships. They conducted a wedding ceremony based on their historical research. The class also took on an important Social Justice Issue and held a Montreal Massacre Assembly on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. Social Issues were an important theme in this Grade 12 course where they prepared movies on topics such as divorce, abuse, and adoption.

Congratulations on a successful semester. We look forward to semester 2. Our new courses for 2009/2010 will be: Grade 12 HHG4M (Human Growth and Development) and Grade 12 HFA4M (Food and Nutrition Sciences).

## Mathematics

Exciting things are happening in the math department at Stephen Lewis S.S. Math contest mania has begun and students are starting to prepare for this big event occurring February 19, 2009. We have 35 students from grades 9 to 11 writing the Pascal, Cayley and Fermat Waterloo math contests. We want to wish the best of luck to all our contest participants. We look forward to following their future success in mathematics.

The 2008 Sun Life Financial Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge was written by 11 of our finest mathematics students. The following students took up the challenge; the top 5 students receiving certificates for their accomplishments. Congratulations to the following students: Wanling (Rosa) Liang, Inhyuk Park, Liat Kofler, Andy Liang, Peter Yu, Tonia Kwok, Marina Wang, Tai Ha Chang, Shiri Almog, Victor Shmerkovich, Alexandra Bogorodetski

We want to remind students that the math extra help room is available to any student who is seeking math assistance. Math help will take place in room 233 from Monday to Thursday during the lunch period. If any senior students, with a strong math background, would like to volunteer as a peer tutor in the math help room, please see Ms. Axmith in the math department, room 226, for more details. Students may earn community involvement hours for peer tutoring.

*Π* for now!

## Geography

The Geography Department has completed yet another successful semester! Grade 9 students in the Canadian Geography program were engaged in a variety of activities as they learned about Canada's unique diversity. A highlight of the semester was the urban geography trip to Downtown Toronto, which included a tour of Toronto's underground PATH system and a view of urban land use from the top of the CN Tower. To conclude the course, the students researched about current and pressing urban issues in York Region that have a direct impact on their lives such as waste management, energy conservation, and water consumption.

The students in the Grade 12 World Issues course focused on population, economic, and environmental current events. A highlight of this past semester included the Free The Children "Me To We" conference where we heard Craig Kielburger, Justin Trudeau and Mia Farrow speak about social justice. We also had the opportunity to partake in a Genocide education workshop with several other York Region schools. We learned more about what happened in

Rwanda to better understand the current situation in Darfur. The Geography Department is proud of our students' achievements and we look forward to another great semester.

## Special Services Department

Forty grade 8 students from **Forest Run P.S.**, **Bakersfield P.S.**, and **Thornhill Woods P.S.** came on January 8 for a taste of high school life. Introductory activities and an information session started early in the day after a frigid walk from these feeder schools. **Dinah Leezah Sloman** and **Linda Shkapin** read their winning speeches on the topic of Grade 9 Success. Every Grade 8 student was then placed in a period 2 classes and were able to see Visual Arts, English, Hospitality, Family Studies, Cosmetology, Geography, Technology, and Drama classes in action. During the lunch hour, these future students enjoyed pizza and then joined small tour-groups led by grade nine students. Our students had prepared brochures and Powerpoint presentations on the topic of Grade 9 Success; these presentations will be delivered later in the year to grade 8s in their home schools.

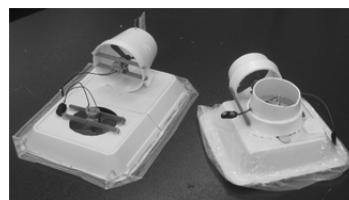
## Technological Studies

For the first time at Stephen Lewis Secondary School we are running a grade 11 Construction course. The highlight will be a project for Habitat for Humanity.

Five Communication Technology students attended the YRDSB Quest Conference and had the opportunity to film, edit and produce three videos about the conference, which were posted at [www.leadingedge.ca](http://www.leadingedge.ca). The students interviewed dignitaries, such as Janice Stein and Director of Education Bill Hogarth.

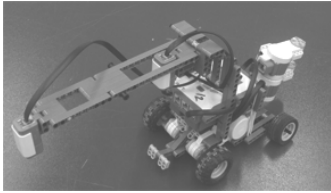
The Hospitality Technology program is expanding to include a grade 12 class. These students will be operating the dining room, organizing some student lunches and developing their skills and knowledge of food preparation. The grade 10's and 11's will be busy preparing snacks for after school along with the preparations for desserts for our first grade 12 graduation. All Hospitality students will be attending a field trip to Humber College to experience a high tech culinary college

The Grade 10 Tech design class this year enjoyed working on some excellent projects. They built their own LED flashlight to get started and learned 3-

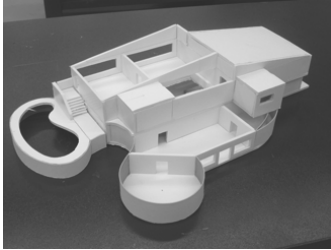


dimensional Computer Aided Design. This led to a succession of challenging projects from re-designing a home kitchen to designing and building their own working hovercraft.

## Computer Engineering



The Grade 11 Computer Engineers created LEGO robot projects and Tech Design designed their dream home.



## Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is here!!

The Specialist High Skills Major programs in Manufacturing and Hospitality Services have begun.

Students who participate in a Specialist High Skills Major enroll in specific courses, workplace experiences and sector certifications and receive a special “red seal” designation on their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Highlights of the program include:

- Open to any interested Gr. 11 or Gr. 12 student
- Earn sector recognized certification and training
- Experiential learning including co-op
- Connect to employers: these programs are based on consultation with experts in industry:
  - this is what our industry partners told us would benefit our students
  - plus students have an opportunity to network – to develop knowledge, skills, plus access resources, equipment, and expertise in a variety of venues

### *What's the best part?*

- Gain confidence and skills in an area of interest
- Helps students make informed career decisions
- Recognized by industry

### *Hospitality & Tourism*

- opportunities with colleges and companies
- jobs/apprenticeships on completion of program

### *Manufacturing*

Range of manufacturing processes including: blueprint reading, drafting, ACAD, engineering, robotics

- Engineering and manufacturing processes with a focus on robotics
- Program opportunities include our VEX and FIRST robotics teams
- Build capacity in team leadership and apply problem solving skills in a range of design, manufacturing, physics and programming based challenges

More information is available from Mrs. Ellis, Mr. Press, Mr. Walter, or Mr. Nemeth.

## Getting Ready for the Literacy Test

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, all of the Grade 10 students across the province will be engaged in writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

### What is the OSSLT?

The purpose of the OSSLT is to determine whether or not students have acquired the reading and writing skills that they are expected to have learned by the end of Grade 9, as outlined in The Ontario Curriculum. Students **MUST** pass the OSSLT to earn their secondary school diploma.

### We can help you prepare for the OSSLT

Students who want to boost their skill level can now access the After-School Literacy Program. The After-School Literacy Program is 10 sessions long. Each class is an hour and a half and runs outside of the regular school day. This program is **free of charge**. The only thing we ask is a commitment to attend. To register, simply fill out the application form and return it to Ms. Ellis in the Guidance office.

### How can a student prepare for the OSSLT?

In addition to the preparation activities which will take place in classes, the following websites provide excellent opportunities for a student to practice for the OSSLT. They focus on all aspects of the test and offer a variety of on-line lessons that can be accessed from home or school.

#### **EQAO website:**

<http://www.eqao.com> Click on student resources, then Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test.

#### **Ontario Educational Resource Bank:**

<http://resources.elearningontario.ca/>

User ID: YRDSBstudent

Password: oerbs

Click “I Accept”

Search for “OSSLT” Click on: After Hours Literacy Program Bank ID: ELO1083120

#### **Ask a Teacher**

<http://www.ilc.org> Click on Ask a teacher, then EQAO, then OSSLT, then test preparation.

#### **On-line Literacy help for the OSSLT**

<http://www.atherton.ca/literacy/>

## Elite Athletes

If your child is involved in high performance, competitive athletics (train nightly and are away at provincial and national competitions frequently), we would like to know so that we can keep teachers aware and offer support when needed. Please contact the office by February 13, 2009 if your child is a high performance athlete.