



February 2008

St. Stephen's Secondary School

The Royals' Review

Believe. Love. Act.

"Love One Another As I Have Loved You"

John 13:34

PRINCIPAL
Sheeran Rush-Jeanes

VICE-PRINCIPALS
Marie-Claude Charette
Stephen Smith

PARISH PRIESTS
Fr. Garry Leahy
Fr. Peter Seabrooke
Fr. Joe Devereaux

CATHOLIC SCHOOL
COUNCIL CO-CHAIRS
Laura Pomfret
Susan Drever

SUPERINTENDENT
Ron McNamara

TRUSTEES
Granville Anderson
Maureen Day

Principal's Message

February 4, 2008 marked the beginning of our second semester. Students and staff worked hard to wrap up first semester as they dealt with final exams and culminating activities. The fruits of their labour are now reflected in the first semester final report cards that accompany this newsletter. I want to commend all the students who worked to their full potential on a daily basis, those who sought extra help when it was needed and those who took advantage of the opportunities available through our Student Success initiatives. Now it is time to begin the process again with new courses, new teachers and a solid resolve to get the job done.

February is also the month we celebrate the virtue of compassion and there could be no better way to begin our Lenten journey than to incorporate and practice this virtue in our daily encounters with others. This will be our focus at St. Stephen's in the days ahead.

Best wishes for a successful second semester.

S. Rush-Jeanes

A Thought for February

Be kind and merciful

Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier.

Be the living expression of God's kindness -

Kindness in your face; kindness in your eyes;

Kindness in your smile; kindness in your warm greetings.

We are the light of God's kindness to those who are in need.

To the poor, to all who suffer and are lonely,

Give always a happy smile.

Give people not only your care but also your heart.



EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS AT
ST. STEPHEN'S SECONDARY SCHOOL
300 Scugog Street • Bowmanville • Ontario • L1C 3K2
TEL (905) 623-3990 • FAX (905) 623-9991
Website: <http://schools.pvnccdsb.on.ca/ssss/>
Busing: <http://www.stsco.ca/>



Grade 10 Literacy Test Preparation

Feb. 8 - Feb. 22

Grade 10 sessions in the library during period 5: test taking tips and sample questions and tests.



Feb. 25 - Practice test during period 5 for students writing for the first time.

Mar. 18 - Library session for students previously writing the test.

Mar. 26 - Information assembly.

Mar. 27 - Students write the OSSLT in classrooms..

Check the following:

St. Stephen's Library wiki OSSLT Test page at <http://ssslibrary.pbwiki.com>
Tips for success in preparation and writing the test.
Links to sample tests and activities.



News from the Library

Think Literacy

Literacy Celebration Tuesday, March 4, 2008: Author Ted Staunton will make two presentations in the library to grade 9 and 10 students. Staunton is from Port Hope and is the author of children's picture books, young adult novels, and a non-fiction book on Confederation. He is a trained teacher and experienced in speaking to children and youth in schools.

White Pine is a reading program that encourages students to engage in voluntary reading. Studies show that reading widely and often improves literacy skills. The library sponsors this program as another tool to help engage students in the activity of reading. This year's program will include a Jeopardy contest among the six PVNC Secondary Schools at St. Stephen's on April 10.



OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) formal preparation begins with sessions in the library for grade 10 students beginning Feb. 8. These sessions include tips for success, sample questions, and references to websites with sample tests and activities. A mock test is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 25 during period 5. Please encourage your students to take this activity seriously as good practice for the test. The test will be marked and students will be given feedback prior to the actual test of Mar. 27.

Please note that students with IEPs will be writing with appropriate accommodations in the library or resource areas, unless parents request other arrangements or the student is listed as gifted.

Students who were unsuccessful in passing the OSSLT will be contacted individually. Some students will be advised to enrol in the Ontario Literacy Course. Students rewriting the test will be offered two periods of small group tutoring. Parents are invited to view the *OSSLT Tips for Success* page on the school library wiki. You can access the wiki from the library home page at <http://destiny.pvnccdsb.on.ca> [do not enter "www"] and click on the St. Stephen's link. Or, go directly to <http://ssslibrary.pbwiki.com> and locate the Grade 10 Literacy Test page. This page includes links to sample tests and activities.

The Envirothon

The Envirothon would like to welcome all new and returning members for a semester full of exciting events. We meet every other Wednesday in Room 237. Please see Ms. Murray, Ms. Driscoll, Mr. Clark, Mr. Welch or Ms. McKinlay if you have any questions. This semester we will finish working on our EcoSchools certification, train for the Envirothon competition by doing some work outdoors & indoors. If you want to learn more about the environment, come join us on Wednesdays!!

School Council Corner

Your Council Executive:

Susan Drever - Co-Chairperson
 Laura Pomfret - Co-Chairperson
 Diane Renault - Secretary
 Anita Fegan - Treasurer

Parent Reps:

Wendy Skan
 Valerie McCormick
 Bridget McMenamin

Teacher Rep:

Monica Hurley

Student Reps:

Brad Fegan & Lyndsey Smith

Parish Rep:

Christine Buhagiar

Meeting Dates:

Mar. 4th/ Apr. 8th/ May 6th/June 3rd.

St. Stephen's Catholic School Council would like to invite you to join us for our meetings which are held the first Tuesday of the month starting at 7:00 p.m. The focus of our meetings is not fundraising but on the education and well-being of our children...everyone is welcome!

Again! Our next council meeting is March 4th, 2008 at 7:00 PM. Please come out and share your thoughts/concerns regarding your child's education. Be sure to read Safe School Polices on the Boards website. Don't forget to mention our school #70 next time you are shopping at M & M's.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR MEETING !



Winter Bussing

As winter is upon us we wish to present a clear summary of bussing services and school operations during inclement weather. Bus operations and the decision to cancel the operation of bus routes is solely in the hands of the bus operators who must judge the safety of road conditions. These conditions may vary from place to place.

• Clarington bus cancellations will be announced on the following radio stations:

CKDO 1580 AM

CKGE (The Rock) 94.9 FM

CJKX 96.9 FM

• Schools remain open on snow days

• Classes run as close to possible on snow days

• The cancellation of buses does not mean school is cancelled

• Bus runs which are cancelled in the morning will not run in the afternoon.

Cancellations can be checked at

www.stsco.ca

Just click on the bus !



Special Education Department News

This year, the staff from the REACH program's, Centre for Students with Disabilities, at Durham College will not be visiting St. Stephen's Secondary. They no longer provide school information sessions. Instead, they have asked that parents and students schedule individual appointments with their advisors at Durham College. This way, parents and students will receive student-specific information based on your son/daughter's unique learning needs.

If you have any questions with regards to students with individual education plans and post-secondary education, please do not hesitate to contact me.

K. Young

Curriculum Chair of Special Education

Learning & Discussion Events

FALL & WINTER Series

March 3, 2008

Big Dreams... Small Steps

Family Night-families will share their inspirational stories & struggles of how they are currently making arrangements for their son & daughter's future.

The above events will be held at Durham Family Respite, The Gathering Place in Oshawa at 6:30 pm. Please call to register: 905 436-2500 ext. 2304 or email us jpartidge@dafrs.com

Hosted by:

Durham Family Network

Community Living Oshawa Clarington

Community Living Durham North

Kerry's Place Autism Services

Durham Association for Family Respite Serves

Chaplaincy

Greetings for Semester 2

Since I was away from St. Stephen's semester 1, I am easing my way back into life here at this most dynamic school. Staff and students have given me a very sincere welcome back and I return with renewed commitment and energy to serve this community. As I mentioned in my opening morning prayer of semester 2, Jesus indeed wishes us "to have life and have it abundantly". This is my wish for all of us associated with St. Stephen's.

Baseball Registration

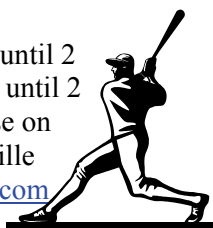
Sunday Feb. 17 from 10 until 2

Sunday Mar. 2 and 16 from 10 until 2

Sunday April 6 and 20 from 10 until 2

All at Memorial Park Clubhouse on Liberty Street South Bowmanville

Website: www.BNBAbaseball.com



Winners of the Remembrance Day Poster Competition !!

Coral Stock-Ritchie and Alison Brent holding their winning posters

In a previous newsletter, it was announced that students of the grade 9 art class created posters commemorating Remembrance Day. The top 10 student works received honour-



able mentions and prizes furnished by the art department. The top two posters, by **Alison Brent** and **Coral Stock-Ritchie** were forwarded to the Clarington Legion Branch 178. In December, **Coral** was contacted by the legion and told that her submission had won **1st prize** for the Branch division and is currently under consideration for the next level! Congratulations **Coral** and to all students who submitted work!

EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITY - Open Studio is a well-known arts focused group and it runs each Wednesday, after school in the Art Room until late buses. Many Art programs at college and university are looking for entrance portfolios, so consider attending for this specific purpose. Students with a special talent or interest are also welcome to attend!

UPCOMING EVENTS - The annual **Art from the High Schools** exhibition at the Visual Arts Centre of Clarington in Bowmanville. Student work will be displayed from mid February until mid March, with an opening reception from 2pm - 4pm at the gallery on February 10th for students whose work is included and their family and friends.

A NOTE ABOUT ARTWORK PRODUCED IN CLASS - Student work will be displayed throughout the year within the school. Any outside display of artwork must be agreed to by the student and possibly that student's parent. Students will always have their original artwork returned and notice will be given via homeroom announcements when it is suitable. If a student does not pick up their work within a reasonable amount of time, that work could become discarded. Questions about this policy can be directed to the arts department by calling 905 623 3990 X238. -Ms. Allyson Demoe, Visual Arts teacher.



Parent info session

In the loop, a special event designed to educate families about the benefits of a college education.

Please join us for a campus tour and an important information session regarding: admissions, fees, financial aid (OSAP, scholarships and bursaries), career services, athletics, disabilities and other student services.

who: parents, family, and friends of college bound students in grade 9, 10 or 11

date: February 20, 2008

start time: 7 p.m.

location: Oshawa Campus
2000 Simcoe Street North
Gordon Willey building, Room I110

parking: Commencement Lot

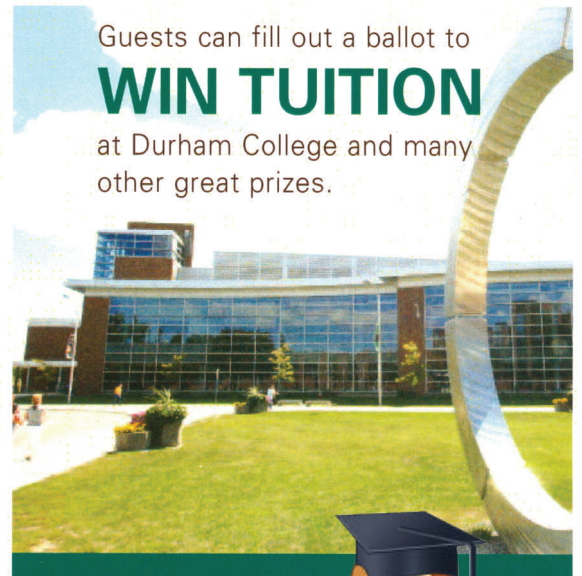
rsvp by: February 14, 2008

https://myplace.durhamcollege.ca
905.721.3033

Guests can fill out a ballot to

WIN TUITION

at Durham College and many other great prizes.



Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington
Catholic District School Board

Theatre Production in May!

Theatre Production In May! By John Sheridan

Mark the dates of May 1st, 2nd, 8th, & 9th on your calendars right away! These are the dates of St. Stephen's 31st theatrical production; **Don't Be Afraid Of The Dark** by Tim Kelly. Campy as all get out, this hilarious horror spoof is the perfect vehicle for this year's talented comic actors.

The famous horror playwright Sebastian Sly has passed away and has time was come for the reading of his will. Many guests arrive to his stately manor known as The Shadows which is located next to an asylum for the criminally insane. The manor is run by the butler, Mr. Skull (Michael Jordan) and the housekeeper, Mrs Bones (Jennifer Hunt). Along with Skull & Bones there resides an eccentric actress, Mrs. Cringe (Kristin Boyd) and a passive/aggressive secretary, Miss Winkler (Jamie Noble). Two distant relatives have been included in the will, Zip Whittle (Carl Kocur) and Lilac Cooper (Marsha Cryderman), but even they are not certain why. (They arrive like the innocent Brad and Janet to the mad house of Dr. Frankenfurter.) The will is about to be read by the attorney Gloria Parr (Emilie Shrider) when, to make matters even more chaotic, Sebastian's arch nemesis, play critic Sylvia Frye (Sarah Reis) shows up. Proud to be a thorn in everyones' side, she describes herself as "the woman you love to hate"! Oh! Did I mention that there is an escaped murdering lunatic known as the Creeper (Nickolas Sperti) running around freely?

Along with the above mentioned students, Andrew Pomfret, Brandon Graveley, and Joanna Bastas round out our cast.

Ticket prices have not been set just yet but we hope to keep them around the \$7.00 adult, \$5.00 student prices of the past. They will go on sale to the general public as of April 5th but advance sales to cast and crew will begin April 1st; remember, the tickets are sold on a first come, best seat available, basis.

We hope to see you there!

The Ski Club



The ski club is off to a great start!

Mrs. Young and Mrs. Fitze will be visiting the Oshawa Ski Club with St. Stephen's students on the following dates after school: **February 6, 13, 20, and 27**. Parents are reminded to pick their son/daughter up promptly at **8:45pm**. Thank you!



Yearbooks are on Sale!

Attention Parents and Students: Yearbooks are on Sale! Yearbooks are now on sale for a cost of \$40. Students and parents are encouraged to order early to ensure they receive this fantastic keepsake. Those wishing to purchase a yearbook now can do so by contacting Mr. Walchuk (Yearbook Supervisor) and watching for upcoming sales promotions at school.

Attendance Desk

- * All students are expected to attend school regularly.
- * Students returning from an absence must present a note signed by a parent/guardian, containing the following information:
 - a) Date of Absence
 - b) Student's Name
 - c) Specific Reason for Absence
- * The note must be presented on the day the student returns to school.
- * Students 18 years of age or over, at the beginning of the semester, may submit their own notes.

*** Or please call the school !**



905 623 3990 ext 228

Sports and St. Stephen's "On a Royal Mission!"



As Boys' Hockey and Basketball and Girls' Volleyball and Curling prepare for LOSSA "AA" playoffs, our Spring season sports get ready to bloom as well. Students should look for sign-up lists for Track and Field, Badminton, Boys' Varsity Lacrosse, Girls' Varsity Lacrosse, Baseball(Hardball), Girls' Junior and Senior Soccer, Golf, and advance sign-up for Jr. and Sr. Football. Wow, what a selection! You would be hard pressed to find all these amazing options anywhere else. Spots are available for many of these positions and in many cases, we train you to be successful-no experience required. Just a willingness to train, commit and compete.

Update !

Our Girls' volleyball team is in first place in regular season play. Good Luck on February 20th in our gym for LOSSA Girls! Mr. Morrison is very happy with the Curling group this winter.

Our Sr. Boys' Hockey team with a recent 7-4 win over Dennis O'Connor, is primed for a "AA" playoff spot, and very determined to get to the finals this year. The Jr. Boys' Hockey Squad have a great opportunity to win this year as they prepare for "AA" playoffs against Pereyma and Dennis O'Connor. Our Varsity Girls' Hockey team battle hard each week and continue to improve . Our boys' Basketball teams look for playoff success as well in 2008.

A reminder goes out to all interested new and returning Jr. and Sr. Boys' looking to play Football for St. Stephen's in September to get their forms and money/cheques to Mr. Danylyshen ASAP, as we prepare to pay off the remaining uniform costs and start a new Senior program at the school. Grade 8 boys new to St. Stephen's, are also encouraged to call Mr. Leonard, Mr. Carmichael or Mr. O'Connor for more information.

R. Leonard- Curriculum Chair- Phys. Ed.

With Gratitude...



December 20, 2007 our school community hosted a retirement celebration for Mrs. Christine Buhagiar a member our office staff. She served our school community with great dedication for the past 17 years. We thank her for all of her work on our behalf and wish her all the best in her retirement.

Farewells & Welcomes

We bid farewell this semester to educational assistant, Mrs. Wendy Skan who has taken a position at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School, to Mrs. Andrea Murray from our Social Science/Religion department who is on maternity leave, and to Mr. Chuck Clark from our Science department who is on leave for two months.

We also say goodbye to our lunchroom supervisor and custodian, Mr. Vern Murphy who has taken a position at Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School.

This semester we welcome educational assistant Mrs. Lorie Bradshaw. Replacing Mrs. Murray is Mrs. Andrena Finn. Mrs. Teresa Coppens will take over Mr. Clark's classes.

We welcome all of these new faces to St. Stephen's and send our good wishes with our departing staff.

From the Offices of the Vice - Principals:

SAFETY DRILLS:

We are pleased to report that the first semester's safety drills were successfully executed. Fire drills were held on September 18, October 11 and November 6. Lockdown practices were held October 16 and November 28 and an Evacuation practice was held November 16.

The Durham Regional Police Liaison Officer asks that we advise parents and students ***that in the event of a lockdown no one should enter the building.*** Exterior doors may not be locked but clues as to the security of entering are: empty hallways, darkened office, an eerie silence, all interior doors are closed and locked. If you are arriving to school and notice these indicators it is recommended that you return to your vehicle immediately and not proceed further into the school.

THEFT AND USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES:



All students are provided a locker and lock upon their enrolment at St. Stephen's. It is vital that any valuables be safeguarded to prevent theft of personal items. Cell phones, MP3s, iPods, digital cameras, jewellery, should never be left in school bags, change rooms, or brought to class. Students are instructed not to share the combination to their lock with anyone. Any electronic device which is observed in the classroom may be confiscated by the teacher. ***St. Stephen's can not guarantee the security of these items and encourages students to leave personal electronic devices at home.***



UNIFORM (OUR SCHOOL TEAM!)

A reminder to our community as we begin second semester that our uniform is clearly outlined in the student agenda books. McCarthy's is our supplier and all clothing bears the school logo or crest. Non-uniform outerwear must be removed and placed in lockers upon arrival at school. Students are required to wear black, closed in shoes to complement the uniform and must not have any headwear (hats, hoods, scarves, bandanas). Hats must be out of sight at all times.

BUSSING:

It is important for all students and parents to be aware of the following information:

- Students may only ride a bus to which they are assigned by The Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario. ***Bus operators, drivers and school personnel do not have the authority to permit bus switching for any reason.***

ATTENDANCE:

Vice-Principals will be working closely with the attendance office to promote punctuality and regular attendance for all students. Individual success is impacted when students are chronically late or absent. Students must be present in order to gain the greatest benefit from teacher instruction. In addition, the learning environment of others must be respected and the disturbance caused by late arrivals does not demonstrate respect for others. Weekly reports will be created and ***students exhibiting patterns of chronic tardiness will not be eligible to receive admit slips and will be held in the office when they sign in late,*** without a legitimate reason. If attendance patterns indicate a persisting problem that detentions and office intervention have not resolved, students may be removed from extra-curricular activities. Parents must communicate with the school to advise of any absence for their children under the age of 18. An adult student may report their own legitimate absence.

SAFE SCHOOLS

In June 2007, the provincial government pass bill 212, the Education Amendment Act, (Progressive Discipline and School Safety). Its provisions take effect on February 1, 2008. The Board updated its Safe Schools policies to reflect this new legislation. "To help students achieve to the best of their ability, we must work together to ensure that students feel safe, respected, nurtured, welcomed and included," says Christine Dunn, Board Chairperson. "we're committed to providing safe and nurturing environments that support learning and working for all."

The policies are based on the provincial Education Act and the Ontario Code of Conduct. They set clear standards of behaviour for students, staff, parents, volunteers and any other individuals involved in public education.

The new policies can be found on the school board website for your information.

From Guidance

College for Students with Special Needs

Both Sir Sanford Fleming College in Peterborough and Durham College in Oshawa offer programs for Ontario Secondary School Graduates with credits with a workplace designation. Both colleges are holding regional fairs in February called "Building Connections - Supporting Students with Special Needs" and we urge students and their parents to attend these sessions on their own since the colleges are no longer coming out to secondary schools to present their programs. Additionally, the colleges are available for students with special needs and their parents to book individual appointments with the colleges to see the facilities and to discuss the supports which can be put in place for them and the programs to which they may be admitted. This assures you of individualized attention rather than a general presentation.

Mathematics Advice

Failures in math have been noted in cases where students had not achieved the recommended 70% in the pre-requisite course. Following the pre-requisite guidelines can help students avoid a negative experience in math.

We Hoped You Wouldn't Notice!

I once heard of a student who had chosen to take a course even though he had failed the pre requisite. Not surprisingly, he was struggling with the course. When the guidance teacher called home with his concern the parent said, "We knew our son didn't have the pre requisite. We hoped you wouldn't notice." I don't think I need to explain the problem with this. If you know that your son or daughter is in a class without benefit of the prerequisite having been successfully completed, don't wait for us to call with the bad news. Call us and get the situation rectified.

Page 2 - Why It's Important

Twice a year at the end of each semester students and parents receive a final report card which informs them of the results from the semester just completed. Accompanying this is "Page 2" which keeps you informed of the credits required for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, the credits already earned and the credits yet to be earned. This document should be read carefully so that, in selecting courses for subsequent semesters, both student and parent will be aware of where a student stands relative to completing diploma requirements.