



St. Stephen's Secondary School

The Royals' Review

Believe. Love. Act:

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices"

Luke 1: 46-47

PRINCIPAL
Sheeran Rush-Jeanes

VICE-PRINCIPALS
Marie-Claude Charette
Laurie Corrigan

CHAPLAIN
Jan Ethier

GUIDANCE
Nancy Leask - Chair
Dan O'Connor

SPECIAL EDUCATION
Kelly Young - Chair

SECRETARIES

Main Office:
Joanne Laton
Linda Derby
Deann DeVilliers
Attendance:
Lisa Urban
Karen McKnight
Guidance:
Maria McDougall

LIBRARY
Joanne Spoelstra
Jennie Clarke

PARISH PRIESTS
Fr. Peter Seabrooke
Fr. Paul Massel
Fr. Placid Obiji

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL CHAIR
Susan Drever

SUPERINTENDENT
Ron McNamara

TRUSTEES
Granville Anderson
Maureen Day

Principal's Message

This year our second semester arrives in the midst of great anticipation and excitement as we prepare to celebrate on many fronts.

First and foremost, this newsletter and accompanying final reports for first semester celebrates the learning and achievement which has taken place in the last five months at St. Stephen's. Now the cycle begins again and we enter second semester with a sense of purpose and expectation. New beginnings mean all things are possible; especially if the lessons learned from first semester are applied to the second.

This month our school community celebrates the Catholic virtue of compassion. We recognize the need to model Jesus in reaching out to others with compassion in our daily interactions at home, school and the workplace. The recent tragic events in Haiti have served to mobilize us as

global citizens united in compassion for those who have suffered such horrific loss. St. Stephen's has rallied to this cause in its fundraising efforts.

Finally, our school community launches our new semester counting the days until we are able to move into our new addition and tech facility. Pending the approval of occupancy permits and equipment installation, we hope to start the move by the end of the month. Needless to say, packing up will require a great deal of work on the part of our staff, but it will truly be done with great excitement and gratitude. What ever comes our way, this semester is truly going to be one of celebration. We can't wait!

Best Wishes to each of you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

S. Rush-Jeanes

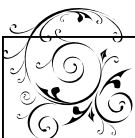


EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS AT ST. STEPHEN'S SECONDARY SCHOOL
300 Scugog Street • Bowmanville • Ontario • L1C 3K2
TEL (905) 623-3990 • FAX (905) 623-9991

Website: <http://www.sscss.ca/>

Busing: <http://www.stsco.ca/>





The staff at St. Stephen's proudly presents a monthly award to celebrate the positive engagement of our students.

The Royals of the Month is awarded to a student who is respectful of peers, staff, family, and community. The recipient of this award exemplifies Christian leadership and demonstrates pride and commitment to our community.

Congratulations to our recipients for the month of DECEMBER:

Junior Royals - Brian Geroux & Marc Charette
Senior Royals - Meaghan Dee & Chelsea-Ann Speriti



Congratulations to our recipients for the month of JANUARY:

Junior Royals - Maddelena Schmahl & Jonathan Legere
Senior Royals- Kathleen MacDonald & Brendon Prato



From the Offices of the Vice Principals

ATTENDANCE:

Vice-Principals work 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. If attendance patterns indicate a persisting problem that detentions and office intervention have not resolved, students may be denied or removed from co-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. *On special occasion days such as masses, assemblies or other activities, students are required to participate in these events and may not be "signed out" without a legitimate cause.*

St. Stephen's Catholic School Council Corner

For all those graduating this year or outgrown their uniforms, please consider donating them to the Council. All monies raised from the sale of the uniforms go directly back into the school to purchase equipment requested by the staff of St. Stephen to be used for the kids, graduation awards, and many other activities at the school.

The following are the dates of our future meetings which are held every second Tuesday of the Month: February 9, 2010; April 13, 2010, May 11, 2010 and June 8, 2010. All of our meetings are in the Conference Room at St. Stephen's Secondary School starting at 7:00 p.m.. Everyone is welcome, please come and join us. Please contact Anita Fegan at 905-623-9809 with regard to used uniforms as she has the list of sizes and items presently for sale. Please note that all Council Minutes are posted on the school council website together with a hard copy being left in the office for review by any parent.



UNIFORM (OUR SCHOOL TEAM!)

A reminder to our community as we begin second semester that our uniform requirements are clearly outlined in the student agenda books. Students are required to report to all classes in proper uniform and are to remain in uniform throughout the day. All students must wear a St. Stephen's golf/polo/button shirt as the base layer for the top. Young men must wear the school pants issued by McCarthy's whereas young ladies may choose between the school pants issued by McCarthy's or the school kilt with the required hosiery. 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 all black, closed in shoes to complement the uniform and must not have any headwear (hats, hoods, scarves, bandanas). Hats and bags must be stored in lockers during the school day. ***We are proud to belong to the Royals and we wear our uniform with pride!***

SAFETY DRILLS:

We are pleased to report that the first semester's safety drills were successfully executed. Fire drills were held on October 14 & 21, 2009 and January 11, 2010. A lockdown practice was held November 13, 2009.

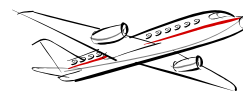
The Durham Regional Police Liaison Officer asks that we advise parents and students ***that in the event of a lockdown no one should enter the building.*** Exterior doors may not be locked but clues as to the security of entering are: empty hallways, darkened office, an eerie silence, all interior doors 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.

From Chaplaincy

In less than one month, five students and I will be heading to the Dominican Republic for a one week social justice exposure trip. We stay in a small town called Consuelo on the east side of the island. Many Haitians here have relatives in the ravaged earthquake area so I am sure we will hear stories of suffering and devastation. Last week here at St. Stephen's, we had a major fundraising effort to support the people of Haiti. Our ongoing prayers and financial contributions are needed as the people struggle to rebuild their lives. May we dedicate ourselves to the "long haul" in being responsive to their needs.

Donate online to Haiti Earth Quake Relief!

<http://www.redcross.ca/>



From the Resource Department

Important names and numbers:

*The Clarington Branch of the LDA:
-offers programs and services to students with learning disabilities.
You are encouraged to contact them to explore possible supports for your son or daughter.

Clarington Branch of the LDA: Dawn Koren, Program Facilitator, (905) 623-1852, ldaclar@bellnet.ca

*Ontario Disability Support Program:
– Income Support, Employment Support
<http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/index.aspx>

*The Passport Initiative:
– Ministry of Community and Social Services: the Government of Ontario has introduced two innovative programs to strengthen community supports for young adults with a developmental disability as they leave school. The Government wants to help people with a developmental disability to participate fully as citizens in Ontario communities.

<http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/developmental/index.aspx>

*Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities:
-The Assistance for children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD) program, formerly known as the Handicapped Children's Benefit (HCB), provides help to parents to assist with some of the extra costs of caring for a child who has a disability. The purpose of the benefit is to help children who have disabilities live as normal a life as possible at home and in the community.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services (905) 868-8900 or 1-877-669-6658

*Community Living Oshawa/Clarington:
www.communitylivingoc.ca or phone: (905) 576-3011

Important Reminders:

*all students with Individual Education Plans (excluding gifted) have the option of writing their tests and exams in the resource room, where they will receive up to a maximum of double time;

*all students with Individual Education Plans have the option of working in the resource room, after the lesson has been taught, in their subject classrooms;

*every Wednesday after school, in room 125, the resource department offers extra help sessions to students with Individual Education Plans;

*parents of students enrolled in a resource period are encouraged to contact their child's resource teacher regularly to monitor progress;

*grade 10 and 11 IPRCs will be taking place in semester two; you will receive notification of the IPRC meeting date by mail.

College Information:

I am often asked by the parents of students in the locally developed / workplace pathway what options are available at post-secondary. As a result, I have compiled a list of programs available for students, with the majority of credits at the Workplace level. The following programs are offered at Fleming College (please consult their course calendar for additional information):

- general arts and science (college transfer course);
- office administration (general)
- office administration (executive)
- internet applications and web development
- internet applications and web development fundamentals
- esthetician
- personal support worker
- blasting techniques
- construction skills
- electrical techniques
- heavy equipment operator
- kitchen assistant
- welding techniques

Other News:

*Students in the Learning for Living Program participated in an excursion to the *McMichael Canadian Art Gallery* in January;* Each year, Queen's University offers an opportunity for gifted secondary students to participate in a learning opportunity on their campus. This year, Queen's e=MC2 will take place May 9th – 14th for all secondary students. If your son/daughter is interested in participating, please adhere to the following guidelines:

Fri. Feb. 19th, 2010 - Let the SERT (Mrs. Narel) know if your child will be participating in the Queens EMC Program, and if they wish to ride the bus.

Fri. Feb. 19th, 2010

-At this time you can create a log-in at esu.queensu.ca (this should be done before the March 2nd Registration begins)

- Please do not send any payment at this time (online or to the school). We have secured some funding to help make this program more affordable to all. **The cost of the program is \$575.00, however, we are able to subsidize part of the cost. Therefore, once we know the total number of students registered we will inform all parents as to the total amount of the program this year (After March 10th). The subsidy should be roughly \$50 depending on the number of students attending. Following registration parents are to send a cheque to the board office and the board will send one full payment to Queen's University.**

The cost of transportation will be covered by the PVNCCDSB. Cheques may be post-dated March. 29th, 2010 and made payable to the PVNC Catholic District School Board) and returned to the SERT.

March. 2nd, 2010 - On-line registration begins - sign up right away (8 AM)!

Parent information Night –There will be a parent information night if parents would like to meet the chaperon(s), or have questions about the Queen's program on Monday, May 3rd at the Catholic Board Office at 7PM. You can also call or email Robert Lewis at 705-748-4861 (rlewis@pvnccdsb.on.ca) with any questions you may have.



A Message from Fr. Paul Massel- St. Joseph's Parish

Heaven's Doorway

What a marvelous weekend the Rite of Enrolment was January 16/17 at St. Joseph's Parish. Over 150 grade 2's and 7's stood at the front of the church, called out their names and the whole community stood and prayed for them. It was empowering for the young people preparing for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation and for the whole community who journey with them.

Our children do not grow up in a vacuum and neither do we whatever our age. Having a supportive community with God at the center is the makings of a wonderful life, rich in the spirit. And having a home, a parish and a school where God is a part is something we are blessed with in Ontario like few others.

Paul told us this past weekend we were all part of the Body of Christ. "If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If one member suffers, all suffer with it; if one member is honoured all rejoice together with it." In all our diversity as people, we are today one body, one spirit under God. What a celebration of unity! Now that is message that can lift us all up- to know we are all part of the one God- all creation sacred and holy. Seeing the world as sacrament - we all stand in heaven's doorway with an eye on both our fragile humanity and our eternal spirits.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, to bring good news to each other. And look around you! Today, in our children and in ourselves, our scriptures are fulfilled in our hearing! Blessings to everyone in 2010!

Good News from Peter Seabrooke - St. Francis Parish

Please check out the following activities in our parish for the month of February.

1) **Awakening Faith**-6 Tuesdays ,7-9 beginning Feb.9 for adults who feel the need to learn more about our religion or deal with specific concerns of a doctrinal or moral nature, no cost and no need to pre-register. Come for all 6 or only ones you're able to be here for.

2) **Jubilee Mass**-Feb.14,11:00 for married couples who are celebrating a special anniversary in 2010.Please notify the parish office so we can announce your presence.

~~3) **Feb.16 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** 4:30-7:30, Parish Hall - come and bring your appetite, sponsored by our Knights of Columbus.~~

4) **Feb.17 Ash Wednesday** the beginning of our Lenten journey-9:00 Special School Mass,7:00PM Mass in the church. Check out these and more great news on our parish website www.sfarcc.org, which also contains our weekly bulletin and links with St.Francis and St.Stephen's Catholic Secondary schools.



First Nation, Métis and Inuit News

January- Spirit Moon

The first moon of Creation is the Spirit Moon, and is manifested through the Northern Lights.

Grandfather Teachings: Humility

Reach out...Let peace and harmony unite all nations!

Did you know that...?

◆ Petroleum jelly was discovered by First nation. It is used to protect animal and human skin. It was also used to stimulate healing. This skin ointment is one of the most popular in the world today.

◆ Canada means village

www.itk.ca



First Nation, Métis and Inuit News

February - Bear Moon

The second moon of Creation is Bear Moon, when we honour the vision quest that began in the fall.

During this time, we discover how to see beyond reality and to communicate through energy rather than sound.

Grandfather Teachings: Love

Is a feeling that has no boundaries. Give it...Accept it...and feel its power.

Did you know that...?

◆ Mi'kmaq people of eastern Canada invented the toboggan.

◆ Soaking cedar leaves for 10 min. in hot boiling water will relieve you from coughing?



From the Music Department

As we move into Semester II, the **Concert Band** and **Music Council** continue to work hard to prepare for their upcoming performances.

Would you Like to Join?

We are accepting new members to the Concert Band in the month of February. Positions in the woodwind, brass, and percussion sections of the Concert Band are available to new members.

Band Tour of the Schools

On Friday, February 26th musicians will be travelling to our four Elementary 'feeder' schools to perform for the students, introducing the instruments and playing a variety of pieces from different genres.

Spring Concert Auditions

During the week of March 22nd-26th we will be auditioning for our annual Spring Concert. We are looking for vocalists, bands, and solo instrumental performances. Artistic performance acts are also welcome. It is a great opportunity for students to share their talent in front of an audience. The Spring Concert will be presented on Thursday, May 27th at 7pm. All are encouraged to mark this date on their calendar!



Isobel Watt, Music Council Photographer

St. Stephen's Athletics

The Boys' Basketball teams are preparing for AA Playoffs beginning Feb. 8th. Come see these hardworking teams in action as game times are still to be announced.

In Girls' Varsity Hockey, a 1-0 win against Courtice Secondary School has our team excited for playoffs beginning February 22nd,2010.

Boys' Hockey is very determined and strong heading to playoffs with our Seniors in 1st place and Juniors at better than .500 in their games.

Girls' Volleyball is also performing at a high level and extremely competitive this season. Playoffs are also in February.

Look for the sign -up sheets for try-outs for Badminton, Girls Soccer and Lacrosse, Boys' Lacrosse, Boys' Rugby, Track and Field, and Fitness Club.

Mr. Leonard



Important Dates

February 12, 2010	Second data transmission to OCAS
February 15, 2010	Family Day
February 16, 2010	Deadline for submission of Semester 1 final marks to OUAC
February 19, 2010	Grad Photos Retakes
February 26, 2010	Last day for Grade 12 to withdraw from a course Deadline to request a timetable change
March 15 – 19, 2010	March Break
March 25, 2010	Parents' Night
April 1, 2010	Holy Thursday
April 2, 2010	Good Friday
April 5, 2010	Easter Monday

St. Stephen's TOP Winter Season Athletics



Brittany St. James



Emily Conway



Joey MacDonald



Jaybe Mascarinas



**Top "Winter Season"
Athletes 2010**



Idahosa Yorke

Jr. Girls' - Brittany St. James scored a number of important goals for the Varsity Girls Hockey team and leads them into the playoff.

Sr. Girls' - Emily Conway has been instrumental in the success of the Sr. Girls' Volleyball team.

Jr. Boys' - Joey MacDonald is a Junior aged athlete goaltender for the Senior Boys' Hockey team as they prepare for LOSSA. He continues to excel.

Sr. Boys' - Jaybe Mascarinas continues to lead the Sr. Boys' Basketball team and is the top point getter for the club.

Coach's Choice Award - Idahosa Yorke

Idahosa is a highly skilled, hardworking athlete, presently a member of the Junior Boys Basketball team. He is also a member of the Jr. Boys' Football team.



Business/Computer/Technology

It's 4:45pm and I'm reflecting on what's been happening in the department since the beginning of the year. I can't believe it's already a new decade. Time is flying by as we await the opening of the new Tech Wing. The Construction and Manufacturing students are "pumped" about moving into their new digs. The new space will enhance both programs and will mean that our students will be exposed to more skills. Currently, we are meeting with community partners to set up a **Specialist High Skills Major** in manufacturing.

Communications Technology is pleased with the new Adobe Creative Suite CS4 software it received this year. Students have access to Photoshop, Premiere, Flash, After Effects and Illustrator to create engaging and relevant media. In addition, we are pleased to announce that the TV/Video broadcasting part of our program will be able to broadcast live and pre-recorded video feeds to a screen in the main foyer. Students will learn to manage content and test their skills with an audience. We hope the Gr. 12 Comm Tech class will develop episodes and content for a bi-weekly broadcast called "**The Roar**". The final phase of this project will involve the use of digital signage software which will enhance broadcasts.

Along with upgrades to Communications Technology we can include Rogers TV. If we're not watching Comm Tech student broadcasts then we can watch Rogers TV in the foyer.

Lately, we have downloaded royalty free broadcasts from **YouTube** supporting organizations like Development and Peace's efforts overseas.

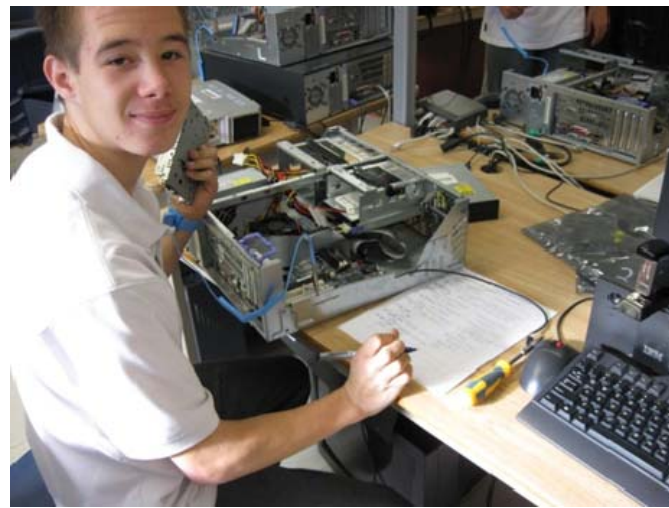


We watched CBC News coverage of the tragic events in Haiti. Our big screen in the foyer brings the outside world in and reminds us of the impact of contemporary media on society. Additional drops for Rogers were installed in the Library and students can view programs there under teacher supervision. It's great to know that we won't miss big news items like the Winter Olympics in Vancouver!

Computer Science students are busy learning Turing, Java, Game Maker and Alice. Students can download all our software and use it free at home. The Grade 12 Computer Science students learned to program Lego robots using Java and LeJOS.

The Grade 11 students are learning OOP concepts in Java. The Grade 10 students are programming Rock-Paper-Scissors game and using the computer to drive a Lego robot using the RCX brick.

Grade 10 students explore interfacing, PC hardware and electronics in the second half of the Computer Studies course.



We hope to continue our partnerships with Durham College and Fleming College and help students find appropriate pathways beyond secondary school.

We will be participating once again in the **Ontario Skills** competitions in Barrie and Waterloo for TV/Video, 2D Character Animation, Photography and Carpentry. Check out the school's website at www.sscss.ca for updates from the department and the Grand Opening of the new Tech Wing.



From the Guidance Department

The GUIDANCE HOME STRETCH

The second semester is now upon us and we are into the home stretch for students who plan to graduate this June. Many students who wish to graduate have not yet completed the diploma requirement of **40 hours of Community Involvement**. Failure to complete this will mean that we would not be able to grant the diploma to them in the June Graduation ceremony. It is critical that students, with the help of their parents, shoulder this responsibility.

The deadline to apply to **university** has come and gone (January 13, 2010) and now is the time for students to be the best they can be to provide the universities with marks that will secure them a place in their chosen university and program. The universities guarantee a response to all applicants by May 25, 2010 but all offers at that time will be conditional. The year must still be completed and final marks will be sent in early July before places at universities are secured. Students may breathe a sigh of relief once a conditional acceptance is received but know that they must not let up in their efforts until after the last assignment is submitted and the last exam is written.

The **college** application deadline was February 1, 2010 and, although colleges tend to send out offers of admission quite soon after the application deadline, be aware that all offers are conditional and will not be finalized until this academic year concludes. Entrance into college programs has become increasingly competitive over the years so students must not slip into complacency once an early offer arrives in the mail. College applicants must do the best they can in their studies right to the end of this year. After all, this will be good practice for the rigors they will encounter once they begin college in September.

Royal Gear Now Available!

St. Stephen's has a new school store. Stock includes:

- Stainless Steel Water Bottles \$10
- Stainless Steel Coffee Cups \$8
- Lanyards \$3
- Foam Fingers \$5
- Baseball Hats \$15
- Toques & Scarves \$20 each



Open on Fridays during lunches in the Student Council Office. Stop by and have a look!

Parents – we will have a table set up at Parents' night.

Student Council News

Semester 2 will be full of student council events. The council is busy planning Valentine's Day activities, a coffee house, a dance, Olympics Spirit Week, Fifa Spirit Week and lots more. Always listen to announcements so that you know what is going on!

Dress down days are an important fundraiser for student council and the charitable organizations that we support. The council has received many requests for funds from organizations within the school and also local and international charities. For dress down days in Semester 2 the council members will be selling tickets to students the week leading up to the dress down day. Students will need to show this ticket to their teachers as proof of payment. If students get the signatures of all four of their teachers and submit their ticket at the end of the day, it will be placed in a draw for prizes.

So far this year the council has supported: the Terry Fox Organization, Haiti Earthquake Relief and some of the school sports teams. We will continue to support worthwhile causes throughout Semester 2, starting with Free the Children's Adopt a Village program during Lent.



E-Team Update

St. Stephen's was certified as a Silver Level Ecoschool for the 2008-2009 school year. This year we are aiming for gold! To achieve this higher level, members of the E-Team will be launching ad campaigns to encourage conservation of energy and waste management. March will be Eco-Month at St. Stephen's. In the spring we will also be planting trees and doing other schoolyard greening projects. Any student interested in joining the E-Team can come to a meeting on Wednesdays after school; listen to the announcements.

Students from the Semester 1 Grade 11 Environmental Science class recently held an Eco-Fair in which they researched various green initiatives and presented their findings to their peers and staff members. These students also worked on other Ecoschools initiatives – completing eco-reviews, picking up litter in the schoolyard and creating energy and waste management action plans. Ms. Driscoll would like to thank them for all their hard work!



Drama News - from John Sheridan

The Technical Side To *Annie*

This year, our school is producing the musical *Annie*. With a production date of the first week in May many students are well underway learning lines, dance steps, and songs. Set construction is about to begin in early February and many students have shown an interest in building and painting our sets.

Here are two models of sets for *Annie*. When the play begins, we meet Little Orphan Annie in an orphanage along with all the other dear little orphans. Here is the set for the New York City orphanage, circa 1933.

Little Orphan Annie eventually meets a wealthy gentleman known as Daddy Warbucks. He brings her to his mansion to spend Christmas with him. This is the set design for the Warbuck's mansion. Notice the large stain glass window that is featured upstage. St. Stephen's own Mr. Oliver has agreed to help build/weld this stain glass window. It should be very impressive when it is completed.

A new set of microphones have been added to the theatre. They should be very helpful in aiding the actors with their ability to project to the audience.

If your son or daughter would like to help out with the set construction for our production of *Annie*, please have them contact Mr. Sheridan. Don't forget to keep the 5th, 6th, and 7th of May free as those are our production dates for this very exciting show!



The White Pine Reading Program



The **White Pine Reading Program** is an Ontario Library Association program for high school students that promotes reading as a lifelong activity. 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. Students read from a list of 10 young adult Canadian novels and participate in a variety of events. Links to this year's list of novels and a description of events can be located on the library wiki at:

<http://sssslibrary.pbworks.com/White+Pine+Reading+Program>

The official kick-off to our program is February 17, 2010 with promotion and book talks taking place in all grade 9 homerooms prior to the kickoff. To date, twenty-five students have already read one or more of the books. Students who read five or more of the novels are eligible to join in the provincial wide vote for their favourite author and participate in the awards ceremony in Toronto on May 12.



From Our Library - Joanne Spoelstra

Grade 10 Literacy Test (OSSLT) 2010 Calendar

Feb. 8 – Feb. 24	Information & Tips Preparation Sessions
March 1, period 2	Practice Test for Grade 10 students
March 9-12	Target date for return of the practice test
March 23 – Apr. 7	Help sessions in the library, Tuesdays – Thursdays 2:15 – 4:00
March 30 – Apr. 6	Two in-school sessions for students rewriting the test
April 7, period 1	Information assembly
April 8, periods 1 & 2	Test administration for Grade 10 students and students rewriting the test

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

“The purpose of the [Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test](#) (OSSLT) is to ensure that students have acquired the essential reading and writing skills that apply to all subject areas in the provincial curriculum up to the end of Grade 9. All students who are working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma are required to write the OSSLT in Grade 10. Students who have been unsuccessful on the OSSLT may be eligible to fulfill the requirement through the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC). Successful completion of the OSSLT or OSSLC is a graduation requirement” (see EQAO website at <http://www.eqao.com/>).

St. Stephen’s is committed to the principle that literacy skills are taught and acquired throughout the curriculum. The school literacy committee works with staff and students to support literacy integration.

St. Stephen’s works intentionally with grade 10 students to prepare them for writing the test on the morning of April 8, 2010. During the month of February all grade 10 students will participate in an information session in the library during their period 2 class. These sessions include information about the content of the test, tips for success, and practice questions. Parents and students can access previous test versions from the EQAO website.

All grade 10 students will write a practice test during period 2 on March 1, 2010. Students are encouraged to view this practice as an opportunity to become comfortable and knowledgeable about the test. Teachers will mark the tests and give students timely feedback so that they are aware of areas for improvement and further practice. After school practice sessions will be available for students who are identified as needing additional preparation (see calendar).

The special education department is actively involved in providing accommodations and supports for students with identifications and IEPs. These students will write the test in resource rooms or the library and be given additional time and supports to complete the test.

Students in the applied and locally developed pathway, as well as those students rewriting the test, will have accounts to the web-based program *Reading Ahead High School*. They will receive instruction and opportunity for practice in a number of in-school sessions and may also use their accounts anywhere they have access to the Internet.

Please note that students are required to achieve a score of 300 (70%) to successfully complete the test. Parents are encouraged to ensure that their son or daughter is in attendance on April 8. A good night’s sleep and breakfast will help keep students alert and focused during the test. It is our hope that our students feel prepared and comfortable with writing the test. We reassure them that a good effort is likely to produce success, as evidenced by the fact that 86% of grade 10 students who wrote the test last year completed it successfully.

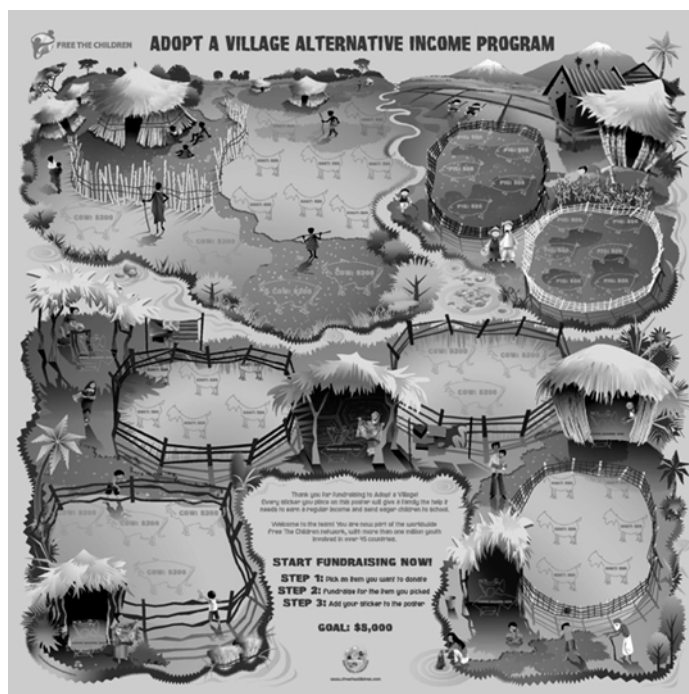
In addition to the EQAO website, you may also check out our “wiki” for more information at [http://ssslibrary.pbworks.com/Ontario-Secondary-School-Literacy-Test-\(OSSLT\)](http://ssslibrary.pbworks.com/Ontario-Secondary-School-Literacy-Test-(OSSLT)) or linked from the school website at <http://www.sscs.ca/>

The Adopt a Village

Adopt a Village – a Free the Children Initiative
The Free The Children team implements the Adopt a Village program in rural and marginalized areas in Kenya, China, India, Sierra Leone, Ecuador and Sri Lanka. Designed to meet the basic needs of developing communities and eliminate the obstacles preventing children from accessing education, Adopt a Village is made up of four pillars crucial to lifting communities from poverty: education, alternative income, health care, and water and sanitation.

Members of Student Council attended The Me TO We Day festivities in Toronto with Ms. Ethier and listened to a guest speaker from Free the Children at the annual Student Council Symposium and they have been moved to action. Working closely with Chaplaincy the students have chosen to launch an Alternative Income campaign during Lent. Members of the school community will hear more about this initiative at our Ash Wednesday services.

The Adopt a Village: Alternative Income campaign specifically targets marginalized women, providing them with productive resources such as milking/breeding animals, sewing machines for tailoring or business and financial literacy workshops. These resources enable women to generate a sustainable source of income to increase their savings and even start their own businesses.



FREE THE CHILDREN
children helping children through education

Art From The High Schools

The Visual Arts Center in Bowmanville opened its annual High School Art Exhibition on January 24th 2010. This exhibition runs from January 24th-February 28th. It features selected works by students from all Clarington high schools. This exhibition emphasizes the important role visual arts has in the classroom and is dedicated to the teachers making a difference.

The art department at St Stephen's Secondary has submitted a beautiful collection of student art work into the exhibition. This includes two and three dimensional work and some examples of fashion and textile design. Furthermore, our grade ten students have submitted a great collection on Canadian landscape paintings. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Visitor Info:

Hours of Operation
Tuesday-Saturday 11-5 pm
Thursday 11-8 pm
Sunday 1-4 pm during exhibitions.

Contact

Visual Arts Centre of Clarington
143 Simpson Ave. P.O.Box 52
Bowmanville, On
L1C 3K8.

Phone: (905) 623-5831
Email: (905) 623-5831
Fax: (905) 623-0276
<mailto:visual@vac.ca>

