

# Spartan Speaks - Stouffville District Secondary School

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Nov 29, 2019

## Message from Our Trustee

One of our top priorities as a school board is creating an environment that enables our students to focus on learning and be successful. That means creating environments where students are safe and feel safe, where all of our students know that they are welcome and supported, and where they see their identities reflected, valued and celebrated.

### Championing Equity and Inclusivity

Championing Equity and Inclusivity is one of the priorities outlined in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). We are fortunate to live in one of the most diverse regions of Canada, and welcome students, staff and families with a broad range of identities and experiences. There has been much work underway at the Board in the past few months to ensure we are providing all of our students with a safe, equitable and inclusive learning environment, including:

Providing [Board-wide training](#) for over 12,000 school staff on anti-Black racism.

- Bringing together over 250 students and staff at our annual [SpeakOut conference](#) for the 2SLGBTQ+ community.
- Acknowledging [Treaties Recognition Week](#), and learning about the importance of treaties and treaty relationships in Canada from First Nations community members.
- Hosting a labour market information night for parents to learn about current and future career opportunities and employment trends.
- Bringing together hundreds of members of the education community for three days of learning focused on Indigenous Education and Equity at our world-renowned [Quest conference](#).

This is in addition to the ongoing work taking place in our schools. It is also important that our families know and feel that they are a valued, respected and important part of our school community. We recently held regional school council forums that brought together school council members from across the region to learn and share together on important topics such as engaging families, vaping and more. It was wonderful to see so many family members there.

The Board of Trustees was also pleased to receive and commit to taking action on the recommendations in response to the Anti-Black Racism, Antisemitism, Classism and Islamophobia community consultations.

### Winter Months

With the winter weather already upon us, I also want to remind families that school transportation may be cancelled on [extreme cold or inclement weather days](#), and there may be rare occasions when emergency weather conditions result in school closures. To ensure families are aware, last month, we tested a new system to send text messages to families in emergency situations only. Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will also be available on Board and school websites, Board social media channels and local media.

Many of our students and families will be celebrating days of significance and holidays in the coming weeks and months, and I wish you all the very best for the season. I hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming students back in January.

Elizabeth Terrell-Tracey  
Trustee, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville

## **Bus or School Cancellations**

With winter weather already here, we want to share some important reminders for families.

When an **inclement weather** or **extreme cold** or day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) are cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. If you drive your child to school, or your child takes alternate transportation, you must make arrangements for your child to get home at the end of the day. Please call the school if your child will not be attending school on those days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on these days.

There may be rare instances when **emergency winter events** occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure.

Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media, [Board](#) and school website and on [twitter @YRDSB](#).

Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather and emergency weather days are outlined in the Board's [Severe Weather policy](#), which has been recently updated and is available for public comment. Seeking feedback from staff and community members, including parents/guardians, is an important part of the review process. All [policies available for comment](#) are sent to school council chairs and are posted on the Board website, along with information about how to provide feedback.

## **Loitering in Bathrooms**

We are regularly finding groups of students in our washrooms for extended periods of time. To support the safety of students desiring to access washrooms we are reminding all students that there is to be **no loitering** in the washrooms. Staff are monitoring washrooms and will be entering the washrooms to ensure that loitering is not occurring. Progressive discipline will be used with students who are found loitering in the washrooms in an effort to support a safe & inclusive learning environment at Stouffville.

## **Congratulations Andrew & Preet!**

The Technology Department is very proud to congratulate:

Andrew H. for competing in, and winning the York Region Automotive Skills Challenge held Tuesday, November 26 at Markham District High School. In addition to Andrew finishing in first place, congratulations as well to Preet S. who finished in third place among twenty competitors from all over York Region. Your fellow Stouffville Spartans have now earned an opportunity to compete in the Ontario Skills Championship to be held in May.

Next, they are preparing to compete in the Toronto Auto Show Skills competition in February.

The students also won very valuable prizes from Snap-On tools.

The York Skills Automotive trophy will be on display in our school until next year's competition.

## **Gingerbread House Contest**

That's right SDSS! The cafeteria is having a gingerbread house contest, running from today to December 13<sup>th</sup>. Get creative and bring yours into the cafeteria for display. Winner wins a pizza party for 15 friends! If you have any questions, please see Meredith in the caf!

## **News from the Music Department**



On Friday last week our music department participated in the Stouffville Family of Schools Scholarship Concert. It was a lovely evening of music making and wonderful to hear students from grades 1-12 singing and playing instruments together.

Congratulations go out to Bethany Y. who was the recipient of the annual scholarship. She played a beautiful solo on the clarinet and impressed everyone in the audience. Well done Bethany.

We would like to extend our thanks to the organizers of the concert for all their hard work and support of music programs in Stouffville.

### **WINTER CONCERT**

Our annual Sounds of the Season concert will be taking place on Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 beginning at 7:00pm. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

## **Congratulations Ryan!**



Congratulations to Ryan B. who competed in the Australian Nationals with his power hockey team in November, 2019.

Two teams were sent down to represent Canada. Ryan's team came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and received team medals and a team trophy! Dedicating his time and effort to this team paid off in this win for him. Ryan's fondest memory of this event was the great time he had playing with his friends and the beautiful mountainous landscape of the host country.

SDSS is very proud of Ryan's accomplishments and representation of a true Spartan and a Canadian athlete.

## **Drama Performance**

The grade 11 and 12 drama class will be presenting the play called "Maybe Baby, It's You" by Charlie Shanian and Shari Simpson. This play is about kinds of romantic relationships. There will be a buy-in only day show for grade 10-12's on December 10<sup>th</sup> during periods 3 and 4. Tickets will be available on SchoolCashOnline. There will also be an evening show on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm for \$5 and everyone is welcome to attend and support the drama students.

## **Students' Mental Health Matters at SDSS!!**

The Mental Health Professional Learning Team would like all student to complete a survey to help us determine the types of support and/or activities that would best support student mental health. Please encourage your son/daughter to complete the survey which can be found in their gapps email or in the announcement section of their Teachassist accounts. Thank you!

## **Grade 8 Open House**



On November 28<sup>th</sup> SDSS welcomed grade 8 students and their families for an information night. Our guidance department discussed all the different courses offered and our Co-Op program opportunities. Sports teams, clubs and councils were also there with insight on different activities students can join. Student speakers and the student council president were the highlight of the evening, providing insight into life as a Spartans. Guidance and school administration were very grateful for their participation in this event. It was a fantastic evening.

**Please check out the following web sites for current Board and school information:**

- 1) York Region District School Board - [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)
- 2) Stouffville District Secondary School - <http://www.stouffvilledistrict.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/>

## **SDSS Upcoming Events – Dec 2019**

<b>MONDAY 2</b>	<b>TUESDAY 3</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 4</b>	<b>THURSDAY 5</b>	<b>FRIDAY 6</b>
	Cardboard Boat Competition	Senior Girls Volleyball @SDSS @ 2:45pm vs Richmond Green vs Jean Vanier	Physics@Mac Physics Contest  Music Winter Concert 7:00pm-8:00pm	
<b>MONDAY 9</b>	<b>TUESDAY 10</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 11</b>	<b>THURSDAY 12</b>	<b>FRIDAY 13</b>
	Drama Rehearsal 4:00pm	Drama Performance 7:00pm  Senior Girls Volleyball @ Bur Oak SS @ 3:00pm vs Bur Oak vs Bill Hogarth		

## **Follow us on Twitter & Instagram**

We are excited to announce that the SDSS twitter & Instagram accounts have regular updates about school information, initiatives and it's a fantastic way to learn about the amazing things happening at SDSS!



@StouffvilleDSS



@stouffvilledss

LATCHAM ART CENTRE presents: IMAGES 2019/20

O R G A N I Z E D  
**CHAOS**

Sana Ahmed	Sarah Fedash	Ivy Hills	Vanessa Jonoski
Mika Lavictoire	Avery Lawrance	Tara Mansfield	Jonathon Marsh
Dalia Rahhal	Malakhi Robinson-Pompey	Viasagan Sivaloganathan	
Felicity Soliman	Luka Sonevski	Kyela Williams	Shona Williams

**Artwork from the Graduating Class of Stouffville District Secondary School**

**December 12, 2019 - January 4, 2020**

Opening reception: Thursday, December 12, 7 - 9pm. ALL WELCOME.

*Please note: The Centre will be closed for holidays Dec 23 - Dec 26th, and January 1st.*

This year's IMAGES exhibition is generously sponsored by:

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