



ST THERESA OF LISIEUX CHS

The Little Flower

FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2024-25



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As we conclude the Fall/Winter 2024 semester, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the remarkable achievements of our school community. This semester has been a testament to the dedication, hard work, and spirit of our students, staff, and families!

Our academic programs continue to excel, with students achieving outstanding results across various subjects. The commitment to academic excellence is evident in the numerous awards and recognitions our students continue to attain. Our teachers and support staff have gone above and beyond to provide engaging and challenging learning experiences, fostering a love for knowledge and critical thinking and cultivating a culture of care and compassion in our classrooms, offices and hallways.

Our school community has shown incredible generosity through various charity events. The Annual Terry Fox Walk, Food Drive, Toy Drive, and Operation St. Nick were all successful in raising funds and support for those in need. Of particular note, the Business Luncheon welcomed the Director of Education, Parent Council members, and keynote speaker, Mayor of Richmond Hill David West and raised \$5,612 for Crohn's and Colitis Canada.

Within our great hall, our clubs and councils have been tirelessly organizing events, raising funds, and boosting school spirit. They ensure a vibrant atmosphere and are at the heart of the daily pulse of our school. Their efforts have created a dynamic and inclusive environment where every student feels engaged and valued. Thank you to all the teacher advisors who support and inspire our students to continuously pursue their passions!

Our competitive teams are diligently preparing to showcase their skills as future leaders in politics, business, law, and entrepreneurship. Their dedication and hard work are paving the way for their success in these fields. Notably, our Model UN delegates made an impressive debut by bringing home nine awards from their first conference, a testament to their exceptional talent and preparation. Their success would not be possible without the time and commitment of their teacher advisors.

In the realm of athletics, our teams have demonstrated exceptional skill and sportsmanship. We celebrated victories in several YRAA championships, including Jr. Girls Basketball, Grade 10 Boys Cross Country, Varsity Boys Swimming, and Jr. Boys Rugby. Additionally, our athletes have continued to impress in various other sports, showcasing their dedication and perseverance. A big thank you to our coaches who are always our student athletes' biggest fans!

The arts have flourished this semester with outstanding performances and events. Our music program presented "Snowy Symphonies," and our drama students performed "Humbug High: A Contemporary Christmas Carol." Both events were well-attended and showcased the incredible talents of our students, bringing our community together to celebrate the Christmas season and showcase their creativity and hard work. A round of applause also goes out to the teachers who are there to guide and cheer on our students as they hone their craft!

We ended off the semester with our Grade 12 Business Luncheon. His Worship David West, Mayor of Richmond Hill, and Director of Education for the YCDSB John De Faveri, both were in attendance and had valuable insights to share. The event demonstrated the students' commitment to community service and supported a worthy cause in the process. Our students showcased their leadership skills and hosted an event that was incredibly organized and enjoyable for all. Their months of collaboration in preparation for the event paid off. Congratulations to all students and their teacher, Mr. Deocampo, for organizing such a successful event!

As we look forward to Semester 2, there is much to be excited about. A group of charitable students will have the incredible opportunity to participate in a service trip to Costa Rica, where they will engage in meaningful charitable work and immerse themselves in a new culture. This experience will not only allow them to make a positive impact on the local community but also provide valuable learning opportunities that will broaden their perspectives and foster a deeper understanding of global citizenship. There is also so much more to look forward to as the days lengthen and winter turns to Spring. Mostly, I am sure that our faith community will continue to thrive and the Catholic virtues which characterize our students will be on display for all to witness-especially those of our Grade 12 students who will be entering their last semester as STL students.

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone in our school community for their unwavering support and dedication. Together, we have created a nurturing and dynamic environment where every student can thrive. Let us continue to work together, inspired by our successes, as we embark on the next chapter of our journey.

With gratitude and optimism,

P. Parente, Principal



'Do even the small things with extraordinary love' - St. Theresa of Lisieux

STL ARTS

Embraces the Power of Artistic Expression

Visual Arts! Music! Drama! No matter what artform STL Arts students participated in, their artistic expression was nurtured throughout our first semester of 2024.

Our Music program was busy at work with many opportunities for growth, development and performance. This semester we warmly welcomed Mr. DiGirolamo to our department, bringing his years of expertise in not only teaching but as a talented musician. Students have been nothing but welcoming and have relished in his expertise and his musicianship.

Our STL Vocal Ensemble shined brightly at various STL events including our opening and Christmas liturgies, Remembrance Day assemblies and various other musical endeavors in and around STL.

Both our Instrumental and Vocal students wowed the STL community and got everyone into the Christmas spirit with their remarkable work in visiting 6 feeder schools on tour, as well as our "Snowy Symphonies" concert on the evening of December 5th, 2024. Playing a mix of Christmas classics and unexpectedly Christmasy pieces, the STL Music program was truly exceptional that night. We would like to thank Ms. Buffa and Mr. DiGirolamo for their outstanding efforts in planning and executing the evening. Their hard work and dedication is so far reaching and is greatly appreciated by all.



SING LIKE NO ONE IS WATCHING



LET THE MUSIC PLAY



WE'VE GOT THE RHYTHM



TAKE A BOW

STL's Drama Program has had an exciting Semester One with much to be proud of! Our Grade 10 and Grade 11 Drama students took part in 4 back-to-back performances of "Remembering Through Prayer and Reflection". Our Grade 10 students performed several heartfelt and meaningful tableaux to accompany original monologues written and performed by our Grade 11s. The monologues were written in the voice of real Canadian soldiers who our students researched, all in the hopes of further understanding the sacrifices made by so many for our freedoms.

Our Grade 12 Drama Production students blew the roof off of our theater with their INCREDIBLE performance of Lindsay Price's "Humbug High: A Contemporary Christmas Carol". The story centers around Ebbie Scrooge, a cold-hearted hall monitor with no room in her heart for Christmas. Guided by the ghost of the recently departed Lunch Lady Madge and three Ghosts of Christmas, Ebbie takes a journey through her past, present, and future. Along the way, her classmates—Leland, Suzanne, Cindy, Benita, Jonathan, and Grace—help her thaw her frozen heart and discover the true joy of Christmas.

We could not be prouder of this incredibly dynamic bunch. BRAVO!!



A MOMENT OF REVERENCE

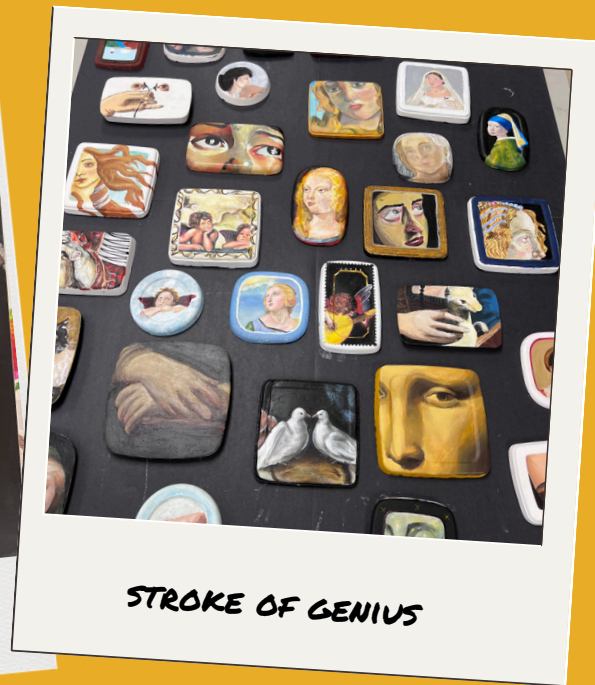


THE STARS OF THE SHOW



A ROUND OF APPLAUSE PLEASE!

STL's Visual Arts students have been working around the clock refining their visual arts skills in a wide range of mediums. Students have worked in paper mache sculpture, printmaking, quilling and painting, among others. Our Grade 12s have also consistently pushed themselves this semester in medium-pusing works that have been nothing short of thought provoking and exceptional.



We are truly thankful for the talent that our STL staff members and students possess in order to bring these important and rejuvenating initiatives to life. From learning new skills to sharing in new experiences with peers, and beyond, STL Arts has had a busy and successful first semester.

BUSINESS MARKET FAIR

The grade 10 business classes held an amazing 2 days of selling yummy and innovative foods. Ranging from snacks and desserts to meals and drinks the students really showed off their skills. A lot of time and energy was put into making their products sell and showcasing their learning from the Grade 10 Launching and Leading a Business course. Students were able to put concepts learned in class into action. Money raised is going to a variety of Canadian charities of the students' choosing. A portion of the funds will also be donated to the Costa Rica Service trip that some of our STL students are embarking on. We are so proud of all the Grade 10 Business Students. BRAVO!



BUSINESS LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

Grade 12 Business Leadership students put on a wonderful luncheon on Friday, January 10th. They transformed the gymnasium into a New Year's themed event space, with handmade decor and props. Teachers and administration were able to enjoy a delicious lunch served by the students. The business leadership classes were also able to welcome two wonderful guest speakers, David West, Mayor of Richmond Hill, and John De Faveri, Director of Education of the York Catholic District School Board.

Proceeds of \$5612 raised from ticket sales and the December fundraiser went to Crohn's and Colitis Canada. Congratulations to all the grade 12 business leadership students and to Mr. Deocampo. This amazing opportunity allowed the students to put into practice all of the leadership qualities and practices that they have learned throughout the semester.



DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES



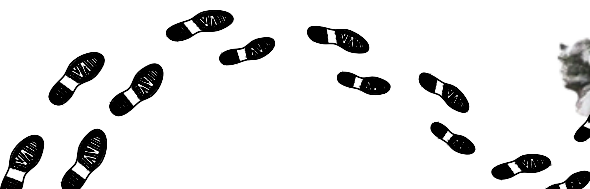
BONHOMME CARNAVAL

This February, the **French Culture Club** will celebrate the iconic Bonhomme Carnaval with two exciting events taking place from February 11 to 13. They will be hosting an engaging bonhomme Scavenger Hunt and a delectable Bake Sale.

From February 11-13, Bonhomme, the beloved mascot of Quebec's Winter Carnival will be hidden somewhere within the school. Students will have an opportunity each day to find him with clues through the daily announcements and on STL's Instagram account. Each day will feature a new challenge, where students can submit their photos through a Google Form for a chance to win prizes.

On February 12, the French Club will also be running a bake sale in the main hall during all three lunches. French treats such as mini chocolatines and croissants with chocolate drizzling will be sold. Furthermore, students will have the opportunity to interact with Bonhomme accompanied by live music.

Come celebrate STL's very own Bonhomme Carnaval with the French Culture Club this February by participating in the hunt, enjoying French pastries, and meeting Bonhomme!



This semester, our Library Learning Commons has been a hub of vibrant activity and growth. From expanding our collection to hosting a series of engaging events, we've strived to offer enriching experiences for our students and staff alike.

Key Highlight Include:

- National Truth & Reconciliation docuseries
- Staff Lunch & Learn on Canva basics and Magic tools
- The Bookmark book club discussions focusing on favourite genres, trending reads, characters we love-to-hate as well as favourite books turned movie.
- Mental Health breaks via puzzles, colouring and crafts
- Supporting student-led Initiative such as CubCon, Therapy dog visit & Mental Health Tea Days

We continue our commitment to offering valuable resources, prioritizing mental health, and maintaining a safe, welcoming environment for all. Our focus remains on fostering collaboration and support among colleagues, ensuring our learning community thrives.

Join us as we celebrate these achievements and look forward to more exciting opportunities ahead!



Mental Health

PARENT / CAREGIVER RESOURCE HUB

School Mental Health Ontario has released a series of new/updated resources designed for parents and caregivers. This work is part of a collaborative project with the Coalition for Child and Youth Mental Health and Children's Mental Health Ontario's Family Care Centre designed to enhance parent/caregiver mental health literacy. These are the first of many resources in development including a Parent/Caregiver Mental Health Literacy Toolkit being launched this year. These first broad resources were developed to assist parents/caregivers to feel more confident in navigating and supporting their child's mental health and well-being.

They include:

- Helping Your Child Manage Digital Technology (available in multiple languages)
- Noticing Mental Health Concerns for Your Child (available in multiple languages)
- Noticing mental health concerns for your child-worksheet (available in multiple languages)
- Prepare, Prevent Respond - A suicide prevention guide for parents and caregivers

Check out the new parent/caregiver resource hub on the [SMHO WEBSITE](#) which features many new resources and supports and is continuously adding information throughout the school year.



Student

GOVERNMENT



HIGHLIGHTS



ATHLETIC



STRONGER
TOGETHER



CHAPLAINCY



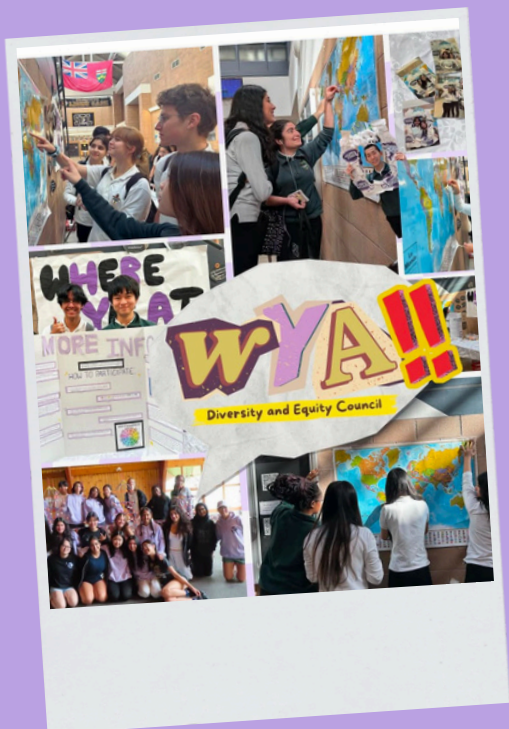
blessed



enjoy
the
Process



DIVERSITY & EQUITY



BETTER
TOGETHER

Lead by
example

ENVIRONMENTAL

GO GREEN



INTRAMURAL

GO TEAM!



TERRY FOX GAMES ACTIVITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none">PUSH-UPSKEEP-UPSCORNHOLE100M SPRINTRELAY	ALL GRADES! SEPTEMBER 26 PERIOD 2 BACK FIELD 9 TRACK SPRINT WEAR 9 ATHLETIC PANTS	SENIOR DODGEBALL DROP-IN 	VARSITY BASKETBALL DROP-IN
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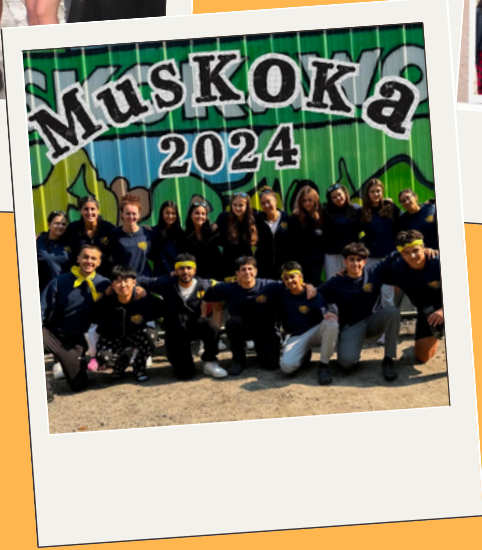


SOCIAL JUSTICE

Thank you!



SPIRIT



Yeah!





Student Council has already had an exciting and eventful first half of the year! We kicked things off with our annual SPC card sale, helping students save on everyday purchases. October brought the Halloween spirit with our brand-new Speed Challenge, which included a creative pumpkin decorating contest between the grades and a lively mummy-wrapping competition. To end the year on a sweet and festive note, we organized Christmas Candy Cane Grams, spreading holiday cheer throughout the school.

Looking ahead, Student Council is excited to bring even more amazing events. Stay tuned, Lions!





Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love.

- St Theresa of Lisieux