



Voice of the Vaughan Voyageurs

Issue 5

Week of May 25, 2004

Administration

Joseph Ravesi,
Principal

John Glezakos, *Vice-Principal, A – L*

Annette Oliver, *Vice-Principal, M – Z*

Trustee: Alan Shefman

School Council Chair:
Joe Jonsson

Highlights

- May 18 to June 15: After-school Literacy Club in preparation for the Literacy Test. **Last day for registration** is May 26th in Rooms 219 & 224.
- May 21: Brownridge P.S. Grade 8 visit
- May 25: Glen Shields P.S. Grade 8 visit
- May 25 & 27: Senior Girls' Basketball Tryout Clinic in large gym, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- May 26: Brownridge Public School Concert featuring VSS Concert Band at VSS, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- May 26: Student Council Elections
- May 27: Charlton P.S. Grade 8 visit
- May 28: Westminster P.S. Grade 8 visit
- May 29: Charity Car Wash at Canadian Tire on Dufferin St.
- May 31: Math Awards, Room 341, 12 – 1:30 p.m.
- June 1: *Vaughan-alon-aloo*, Period 5
- June 1: Music Barbeque and Music Banquet
- June 12 & 13: Girls' Basketball Camp at York U.

Current Events

Teaching Excellence

Ellen Green, our Assistant Head of English, was the recipient of one of the “Unsung Heroes of York” awards presented to her by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation, for her extraordinary efforts and selfless service to students and staff.

She is richly deserving of the award as she is recognized for her work directing students in many plays throughout the years. Both the school and the larger Vaughan community have benefited from her efforts in presenting shows such as Harvey, Into the Woods, Anything Goes, Little Shop of Horrors, and Brighton Beach. Congratulations, Ellen, and thank you!

Louise Kee, English Teacher

Academic Excellence

Diona Dollabaille and Kathryn Pearson are both recipients of awards from The Alliance of Educators for Black Students. Both students have achieved high academic standards and have made significant contributions to co-curricular activities at VSS. Congratulations to you both !

From Athletics

On Tuesday, May 19th, the Boys’ Baseball Team competed at the Sky Dome against Newmarket H.S. It was an all-around excellent experience for the team. Congratulations to all!

Vaughan’s Ultimate Team will be competing for the championship on Tuesday, May 25th at Milliken Mills H.S. Good luck to all!!!

From the Guidance Department

Graduation Requirements

Students should be advised that the Genocide course IDC4U1 does not qualify as a Canadian and World Studies course for either graduation requirements or university pre-requisites.

If students require a Canadian and World Studies for university they must take courses with codes beginning with “C” (example: CLN4U1).

Peer Mediation

On May 13 and 14, Westminster and Brownridge Public Schools each sent 15 students to VSS to be trained in the art of peer mediation. The two afternoon sessions were led by John Chiu, Murlene Fernandes, Alex Mogyoros and Elisa Pennate and the Guidance Department. The elementary school students participated in written activities, role plays and discussions about conflict resolution. John, Murlene, Alex and Elisa made excellent presentations. Thanks for all your hard work!!!

Volunteer Opportunities

Our students are having a charity car wash at Canadian Tire on Dufferin Street on May 29th between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Students are to sign up in Guidance to volunteer their time and they will receive community hours for doing so.

From the Math Department

Regional Math Champions

Math contest season has drawn to a close at Vaughan Secondary School and all that remains is for us to celebrate our successes at our annual Math Awards Pizza Lunch, to be held on Monday May 31st. And successes we have had!

Although final results are not yet available from the most recent contests – the Euclid, Fryer, Galois and Hypatia contests, which were written in mid-April – results from contests written earlier showed our students to be in good form. Individual successes include Oren Lahav (Grade 9), Maria Pyun (Grade 10) and Sohyoung Her (Grade 11) who each scored in the top 2% of Canadian participants in the Pascal, Cayley and Fermat contests, respectively, to name just a few.

Of particular note is our ranking first in York Region on the Canadian National Math League. As this contest is one in which all grade levels participate and team scores are most significant, our achievement can be taken as a source of pride for the entire school.

Dan Schnabel, Math Teacher

From the Moderns Department

During March Break 2004, two of our students went on a trip to France and Spain organized by our department. They had a wonderful time and enjoyed immersing themselves in the language and culture. We are planning another trip for March Break 2005 to France and Switzerland with Bayview Secondary School, Markham District High School and Birchmount Park Collegiate Institute (TDSB). This trip is open to all students in the Moderns department. Some of the highlights of this trip include: the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, a guided tour of Versailles, the Louvre museum, walking tour of Strasbourg, tour of Zurich, and tour of Lucerne. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school coordinator for the trip, Mme Papanikolaou, at 905-660-1397 ext. 136.

PLEASE NOTE: The York Region District School Board's approval for this trip is still pending.

From the Music Department

Springtime Serenade, An Evening of Music and Warmth

On Thursday May 13th, Vaughan Secondary School held its annual Springtime Serenade concert. With a variety of performances, the evening had something to offer for almost every taste. The audience was treated to musical numbers from the Concert Band, the Jazz Ensemble, the Concert Choir, the Wind Ensemble, gospel songs from the Vaughan Voices of Praise, a flute solo by Talia Kirschbaum and a clarinet solo by Elaine Lau. Emceed by the co-presidents of the Music Council, Angelina Chan and Mandy Meirovich, they also brought us a glimpse of life as a music student at Vaughan.

Always a good show, this year's concert was filled with extra warmth as this is the Music Department Head, Mark Tse's last year at Vaughan. Words of praise and musical tributes for Mark, all gave extra meaning to the evening. A further testament to Mark's popularity and impact was the exceptionally large number of VSS alumni in the audience this year.

Each year, Mark takes a moment between musical numbers to thank all the people who make the concert possible, including parents, teachers, administrators, other staff members, and the audience themselves. But it is all the musically talented people – unfortunately too many to mention individually - who performed for us and deserve the final word of thanks for a great evening.

Dan Schnabel, Math Teacher

Upcoming Events in the Month of June

After a very successful month of May, one can only assume that June will be just as good, if not better! The excitement is beginning to build as the end of the year draws to a close. Although there will not be as many events taking place in our last month of school, it is still going to be a blast!

The Springtime Serenade, which took place on May 13th, was a huge success. The tribute to our beloved Music Head, Mark Tse, went off without a hitch. Of course, there were many faces with tears to be seen along with heartfelt speeches and performances that touched everyone who attended.

Our upcoming events include the Music Banquet and our Music barbeque, which we will be hosting for Vaughan-alon-aloo. Both events shall take place on June 1st, 2004. The Music barbeque will be an all-day event, with members from the music council and students from the department helping out by selling refreshments and delicious snacks. This event will help raise money for next year's music council. The Music Banquet, which takes place that same evening, will be held at the Pickle Barrel on Leslie, south of Steeles, from 6:30 to 11:00.

As stated in our last newsletter, on behalf of the music department, music council and music teachers—thank you to all the parents who have helped out over the years, supported the department financially, or just urged your children to continue to stay in music—it has been greatly appreciated.

- Madison Bettl, Student

From the Science Department

The Science Department, for the seventh consecutive year, is proud to announce that this time around, four of our students: Andrew Chung, Bumkue Kang, Alexis Lee and Darryl Ngai were placed in the top ten Ontario students in the Provincial Chemistry Olympiad Finals that took place this past weekend at Uof T. Vaughan S.S. students comprise 40% of the top 10 competitors !!!

This competition included a final exam which was well beyond the Grade 12 Ministry guidelines! The top four qualified students from Ontario will participate in the National Chemistry Camp at Uof T from May 31st to June 5th. This is the final stage for the selection of 4 out of 15 finalists, who will go on to represent Canada in the Chemistry Olympiad this coming July in Germany.

Darryl Ngai was also one of the four Ontario students who was selected to join the National Chemistry Camp. Congratulations to all our participating students for this outstanding achievement, and good luck from all of us to Darryl!

Physics at Wonderland

On Friday May 7th 2004 our grade 12 physics students went on a field trip to Wonderland. This was Wonderland's annual Math and Physics Day. Special stations were set for students to obtain information about the rides, and they were allowed to take instruments on the rides to make measurements. Our students spent part of the day studying the physics involved with Drop Zone.



Wonderland also hosted a roller coaster competition on this day. Students entered their homemade coasters that meet the contest criteria.

This roller coaster was created by a group of our students.



From Student Council

Student Council elections took place on Wednesday, May 26th. Here are the successful candidates:

President:	Adam Sweet	OSSSA Rep:	Sonal Patel
Vice-President:	Alexandra Mogyoros	Club Liaison:	Tonya Potiyenko
Vice-President:	Shayna Zand	Grade 9 Rep:	(Elected in September)
Secretary:	Darshan Patel	Grade 10 Rep:	Elizabeth Tang
Treasurer:	Jonathan Zegman	Grade 11 Rep:	Anusha Retneswaran
Social Convenor:	Emily Liss	Grade 12 Rep:	Rahul Mohan

Congratulations to all who competed!! Job well done!! We are all looking forward to a successful new school year!

Vaughan's annual End-of-the-Year Carnival will be taking place on Tuesday, June 1st, 2004, during period 5. Celebrate the end of the year with games, such as Bouncy Boxing, H-Striker, the Dunk Tank, Water Tag, Volleyball and the Velcro Wall. You don't want to miss Vaughan-alon-aloo 2004!

Our Community Corner

Celebrate May, Asian Heritage Month

Click on [information](#) regarding exciting events celebrating Asian Heritage month in and around the G.T.A.

Juvenile Diabetes Walk, Sunday, June 13th

For additional information, click here. 

Character Matters e-Newsbrief

Once again, we welcome all parents to view past and current issues of a brand new e-brief published by Character Matters of the YRDSB on behalf of character educators across Ontario. At the site <http://yrhc.on.ca/charactermatters/attribute/>, you will also be able to subscribe to this bi-weekly publication. We encourage you to make a contributory story if you so wish. Please feel free to share this website with others.

Upcoming Events

May 26 – June 13:	Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics
May 27:	Prom
June 1:	Music Banquet
June 3:	Athletic Banquet
June 16 – 22:	Evaluation Days
June 23:	Exam Review Instructional Day
June 24, 25:	Professional Activity Days

Responsibility Quote:

“Take your life in your own hands, and what happens? A terrible thing: no one to blame. “
-Erica Jong

We encourage you to share this publication with other interested VSS parents. In order to subscribe, ask them to email us at vaughan.ss@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

For further information, visit our school website www.vaughanss.on.ca