



October was Busy but Productive! October, 2009

From the Principal's Desk

Fall has arrived and we are well into first semester. It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving has come and gone and Christmas holidays are quickly approaching. Our students have been involved in a variety of activities both academic and athletic. Please read the section titled "Workshops and Events" so see what we've been up to.

On October 02, staff participated in the first Professional Activity day of the year. A summary of the day is highlighted in the column "Improving Student Success".

Early Amalgamation continues to be a topic of discussion. A series of discussions, presentations and meetings involving a variety of user groups in the school community have and will continue to take place over the next few months. Details can be found in the column "Amalgamation Update".

I remain off on medical leave, with hopes of returning in the near future. In the meantime, Mr. Joey Turco continues his role as Acting-Principal with the assistance of Mr. Grant Kahtava as Acting Vice-Principal. I extend my sincere thanks to both of them and the entire staff at Sir James Dunn for their professionalism and continued dedication to student success.

Workshops and Events

- Sept. 21, Grade 10 students participated in a presentation on Diversity. The presenter, Jeremy Dias, is a former Sir James Dunn Student. Jeremy started a scholarship fund to recognize students who have taken an initiative to address discrimination in their school or community.
- Sept. 29, Fifty students from SJD along with students from all of the local Secondary schools participated in a presentation hosted by Algoma Family Services. The event, titled Youth Engagement Initiative, was held at the Kiwanis Community Theatre Centre.
- Mr. Klooster's Family Studies class hosted this years Alzheimer's "Coffee Break". Students prepared and sold baking and coffee to staff and fellow students. All proceeds were donated to the local Alzheimer's Association.
- MADD—Once again students attended the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers presentation. Students were commended for their excellent behaviour and participation

Month at a Glance

Nov. 4

Grad Parent Info Night @ 7:00 in the Theatre

Nov. 6

Term 1 ends. P.A.R.T.Y. presentation cancelled to be re-scheduled.

Nov. 7

NOSSA Football Semi Finals, SJD @ North Bay

Nov. 9

Term 2 begins

Nov. 11

Remembrance Day Service

Nov. 12

Progress Reports issued.
Eagles Hockey, 9th Annual Teachers vs. SJD Hockey team

Nov. 14

NOSSA finals Football
Night of 1000 Dinners 5:30pm

Nov. 16

OUAC Seminars (Nov. 16-20)

Nov. 20

Deadline for submissions of the school colours and mascot/team name for Superior Heights Collegiate

Nov. 23

Eagles Hockey - Bell Sensplex Hockey Tournament Ottawa
OCAS Seminars (Nov. 23-27)

Nov. 26

Grade 8 Parent Night, 6:30 p.m. in the Theatre

Nov. 27

P.A. Day



SJD Athletics

Football—Both the Senior and Junior Football teams continue to have a successful season. The Seniors will be away at NOSSA the first weekend of November.

Basketball—Girls teams continue their regular season until Nov. 5. Quarter finals are scheduled for Nov. 10th.

Cross Country—The city meet was held Oct. 21. SJD will be sending a few teams to NOSSA

Hockey and wrestling are holding practices.

Improving Student Success

October 2 staff participated in a variety of Professional Activities. We began with a review of the Algoma District School Board Improvement Plan and followed with the SJD School Improvement Plan.

We focused on the school's results on the 2008 Ontario Secondary School Literacy test and the grade 9 EQAO math test.

With respect to the EQAO math test all subjects have been asked to identify the math skills necessary to be successful in that program. Similar to literacy numeracy will be addressed across the curriculum.

Special attention will be given to the applied level program to assist students in improving their results and overall success.

Workshops and Events Cont'd

- at the assembly.
- Ontario Paraplegic Association hosted a morning workshop for three of our Phys. Ed. Classes. Students had the opportunity to participate in 4 activities: wheel chair basketball, bocce, roller sledge hockey and curling. There was no cost involved and all equipment was provided by Parasport. The purpose was to spark interest in inclusive sports (sports where students with and without disabilities can play together). Once again our students were commended for their behaviour, participation and sportsmanship.
- Oct. 14, selected senior level classes attended a presentation by Abousfian Abdelrazik. Mr. Abdelrazik is touring Quebec and Eastern Canada after recently returning from six years of forced exile in Sudan.
- SJD Student Council entered a team in "Run for the Cure". The team raised \$820.00 and won the school challenge award. Congratulations!
- The first "Eagles Family Spirit Bash" was held Oct. 16 prior to the football game. Students and families could purchase an M & M's hamburger or sausage and a beverage. Parents of the football team also sold Eagles hoodies. Student Council set up for fun games and prizes. We plan to have a few more "Spirit Bashes" throughout the year. Thanks are extended to Paul Antonello, Susan Milne and SJD Student Council.
- Academic Awards Assembly was held Oct. 22. Superintendent Reece congratulated students on behalf of the Board. Guest speaker Dr. Celia Ross, president of Algoma University, reminded students to "keep their brains stimulated". She suggested it will help with longevity. The assembly was followed by a reception prepared by Ms. Hugill and her students. Thanks go out to Ms. Leahy, Mr. Fryia, the staff in Student Services and Ms. Hugill and her class.

SJD School Council

The second school council meeting was held on Oct. 19. It was a joint meeting with the Bawating council. A presentation regarding early amalgamation of the two schools was given by Superintendent Asima Vezina and Director Mario Turco. See the column, *Amalgamation Update*, for details.

The SJD School Council meets the third Monday of every month, with the exception of December. We are welcoming new members and looking forward to electing a new executive. The next meeting is scheduled for the 16th of November at 5:00. We are planning an appetizer "pot luck" with the Bawating



Suffolk Delegation

A delegation of educators from Suffolk England visited SJD Oct. 29. The focus of their visit was "Transition" and student success. They were impressed with the programs we provide and the atmosphere in the school. Thanks are extended to the Student Success Team.

H1N1 Directive



The Algoma District School Board in consultation with the Algoma Health Unit and the Ministry of Health recognize the importance of having strategies in place to prevent the spread of respiratory disease in the school setting.

We are working together to reinforce existing infection prevention and control practices such as hand hygiene, staying home when ill, cough/sneeze etiquette and keeping the school environment as clean as possible.

The influenza season tends to intensify as people spend more time indoors but there are some key prevention activities that will mitigate the spread of respiratory viruses like influenza:

- Washing hands well and often with soap and water (or using alcohol-based hand rubs)
- Coughing and sneezing into your sleeve or arm
- Avoiding the sharing of personal items
- Avoiding frequent contact with eyes, mouth and nose
- Minimizing social contact with others while symptomatic
- Stay home/self isolate until feeling well again
- Receive H1N1 vaccination, especially “at risk” individuals

An H1N1 vaccination clinic is scheduled at SJD on Nov. 18 from 11:00 to 3:00 for students and staff. Students will receive a consent form to take home for signature. The general public can access the clinic from 3:00 until 9:00 p.m. They should call the Algoma Health unit in advance to schedule an appointment.

We are making every effort to communicate this information to the SJD school community via posters, announcements, staff, synervice, web links and our newsletter.

Further resources and current updates on H1N1 can be found at www.algomapublichealth.com and the Board website www.adsb.on.ca

Amalgamation Up-Date

The question of amalgamating the two secondary schools a year earlier has been a focus for the last month. The Board, and the two school communities have come to recognize the challenges of operating as two separate facilities until the new school is completed. The main issues are: 1) the delay of demolition to the former Bawating building would prevent completion of the parking facilities and fields/grounds for another year, 2) declining enrollment in both schools continues to create challenges in course offerings and timetabling, 3) extracurricular programs such as athletic teams are seriously affected by reduced enrollment. Early amalgamation would provide additional academic and athletic program access to all students.

A series of presentations to a variety of user groups and the processing of feedback from these groups has taken place. Presentations began with the teaching staff at both schools. Collectively they were 85% in favour of early amalgamation. This was followed by independent and combined presentations to both school councils. The various union groups and staff were also consulted on early amalgamation. Finally the student groups at both schools and their parents have had an opportunity to attend presentations. All groups appear to agree that early amalgamation is in the best interest for all. Emotions centre around “identity” predominantly with the grade 11 cohort. The proposed plan would be to combine both groups at the SJD location under the new school name, Superior Heights Collegiate. This would provide the opportunity for both students and staff to develop a new unified identity.

A committee has been formed to propose the school colours and mascot/team name for Superior Heights. Entry forms can be picked up at Bawating and SJD or completed on line at www.newschools.adsb.on.ca. All entries must be submitted by November 20.

Project ABCD Feeder School Presentation

Project ABCD (Action for Building a Community that is Drug Free) was developed with a variety of partners including Sault Ste. Marie Police Services, the RCMP, Anishnabek Police Services, Batchewana Police Service, and our local Catholic and French school boards.

On Nov. 9, 213 students from four of our feeder schools will attend an ABCD presentation at SJD. 123 students from Rosedale will attend a similar presentation on Nov. 19.

Focusing on Education, Intervention and Treatment, and Deterrent and Enforcement, Project ABCD will address the issue of deterring drugs from coming onto school property and to develop programs that will benefit students.

Tip for the Month

Are you in grade 9 or 10 and having difficulty in math? Access “Homework Help”. Ask your math teacher or inquire at Student Services.