

## **September Student Trustee Report**

Vithushan Jeyakumaran

### **STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT**

At this time, Student Trustee V. Jeyakumaran made the following remarks.

*Good evening Madame Chair, Mr. Director, Trustees, Staff, Ladies, and Gentlemen. I will be discussing a few things, namely the first York Region Presidents' Council meeting and the BRIDGE program.*

*On Wednesday, the York Region Presidents' Council held its first meeting for the 2008/2009 school year. There were representatives from many schools, from Middlefield Collegiate in Markham to Aurora High in Aurora. Each of their respective student council representatives discussed their plans for making their schools a better place. Furthermore, anytime a council mentioned they were having difficulties with a particular event; the other representatives stepped up and lent a helping hand. Overall, not only was this a productive meeting for them, but it brought forth a sense of Board-wide unity.*

*During my address at the meeting, I brought forth the idea of the BRIDGE program. In case you don't know, it's a program that Ariya and I are trying to implement at several schools so that ESL students can more easily familiarize themselves with the Canadian high school environment, learn the language in a more social manner, and make new friends who will make their high school experience the greatest four years of their lives. Currently, Ariya and I are in the process of making a manual, and we will be distributing this manual to eager students and ESL teachers at high schools across the Board in hopes of creating a Board-wide movement to enhance the educational experience of ESL students.*

*Thank you.*