

October Student Trustee Report

Ariya Hagh

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

At this time, Student Trustee A. Hagh made the following remarks.

“Good evening Madame Chair, Mr. Director, Trustees, Staff, Ladies, and Gentlemen:

Winston Churchill once stated that “success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss in enthusiasm.” Indeed, this manner of “bulldog tenacity” has often been linked to great victory and triumph. However, as we pass further into the depths of this new school year, it can be observed that simple resolve and determination are at times not sufficient in managing the many demands of an arduous schedule of school work and extracurricular involvement. This often leads to stress in numerous students, who at times are simply overwhelmed by the large quantity of tasks and assignments.

Naturally, this form of anxiety is rather common, and to some extent expected of students, who may not have previously experienced the responsibilities of approaching adulthood. Furthermore, it can be argued that the strain placed on students is in some ways beneficial to their overall development, as they are given a more clear view of life beyond the protected haven of childhood. This is a noteworthy demonstration of Nietzsche’s expression “That which does not kill us makes us stronger”. However, how does one ascertain the “correct” level of pressure on young scholars? Could it be possible that, at certain times, the responsibilities awarded to students are too vast, and can therefore lead to unnecessary levels of anxiety and stress?

I was struck by this issue upon discovering that a psychiatrist was to visit the grade nine and ten students at my school in order to discuss possible ways of alleviating unnecessary pressure. Naturally, this incident might be attributed to the presence of the rather demanding International Baccalaureate program at my school, but the problem still remains. Despite the immense potential of young scholars today, it may be stated that the current levels of strain placed upon students is at times higher than the levels expected. In such cases, simple tenacity will not be able to resolve the issues present.

As we live in an ever-changing world marked by innovation and technological progress, the expectations held for each upcoming generation must be anticipated to rise. Indeed, without such a move, society itself would not progress. However, perhaps it is prudent to keep account of the costs of such progress, lest they pose a threat to one of society’s greatest assets. With this in mind, we can hope for a brighter future.

Thank you.”