

November Student Trustee Report

Vithushan Jeyakumaran

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

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

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

As Louis Aragon once said, “our imagination is worth more than we imagine.” This quote is relevant to every single one of us, and today, I will be discussing this in the context of our young learners.

Ariya and I have represented the Board at the York Region Presidents’ Council (YRPC) meetings on countless occasions, and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the incredible student-run initiatives that have occurred, will occur, or are already occurring.

As far as I’m aware, every secondary school in the York Region District School Board has some sort of student council. And sometimes, we, the community, take these councils for granted. These student-led groups run events like dances, spirit days and talent shows and these experiences could easily impact the educational experience of the students for the better. Some schools have taken the opportunity to improve student life to the next level...

Thornhill Secondary School’s council decided to get involved on a municipal level. Every year, the Town of Thornhill hosts a festival, and one of the main attractions is a parade. Thornhill Secondary School rented a float, and participated graciously.

Some schools, like Thornhill Secondary and Westmount Collegiate Institute, have also organized their own leadership conference, open to any student who attends the host school. These conferences have proven to be fun, educational, and to some, even life-changing experiences.

Most notably, Langstaff Secondary School decided to run a board-wide initiative. Langstaff’s student council is in the process of organizing an event called “Walk to Sick Kids.” Initially, it was meant to be an intraschool fundraiser and a walk to the Sick Kids Hospital in downtown Toronto. However, mention of it at a YRPC meeting sparked more ideas, and currently, many other schools have accepted to join in on the Walk.

Unfortunately, I was not able to mention the great initiatives run by every other school in the Board, or else I'd be addressing you all here today for hours, if not days. But this influx of awareness of student initiative has inspired me. Some say that the students are our future, our tomorrow. I, on the other hand, disagree. I believe that students are our today. And I'm proud to say that our very own York Region District School Board is, and will always continue to be, a testament to this proclamation!

Thank you."