

June 2009 Student Trustee Report

V. 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 would like to talk to you about the York Region Presidents’ Council (YRPC) Annual Leadership Conference. This year, more than 120 delegates attended “Shine ’09”, an extended weekend of leadership training at a camp in Orillia.

During the weekend, age did not exist; people were not allowed to disclose any information about age or grade until the end of the conference. Also, the people you were grouped with had to be people you have never met prior to the conference. The combination of these two rules created a truly judgment-free environment where students were encouraged to open up and be themselves. Finally, each group was given two “skill builders” who were qualified individuals responsible for leading the group through ten rigorous, yet exciting sessions about different aspects of leadership. I had the opportunity to be a “skill builder” at the conference, as well as an executive representative of the YRPC.

When students left the conference, they had changed, becoming phenomenal leaders and truly caring individuals. Character is now merely subconscious to these people.

The greatest part about the conference was that it is not only a thing that students take part in, hoping to boost their résumés. There was a certain policy; “Conference is not just a weekend, it’s a lifestyle.” And I can assure you, these individuals are living it.

I also had the opportunity to host the Student Success Banquet, where I did see a few familiar “conference” faces. All in all, though, the twenty students who were profiled were remarkable individuals, and their contributions astounding. Just hearing about the things our students have done can motivate people.

Finally, as this is one of my last meetings, I would like to take this opportunity to echo some of the things Ariya said last month. The year flew by, and now it is the summer. High school students are just finishing their exams, while the elementary school students are closing up their learning for the year. And everybody here is just about ready to pull out the suntan lotion and relax at the beach.

This year has been a phenomenal experience for me. I have learned quite a bit and met some very wonderful people. I would like to thank everybody here for guiding me through the year. Words cannot express how much easier you have made my experience.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”