

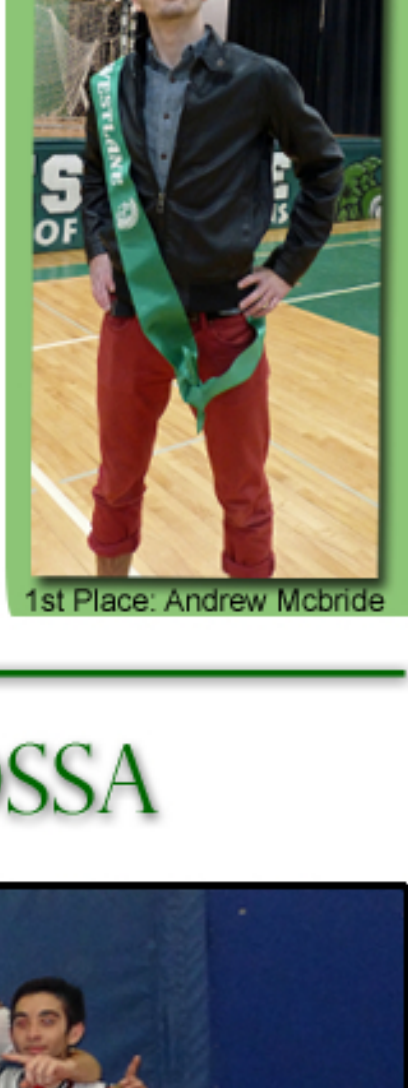
MR. SPARTAN

This year, students from Westlane competed in our annual Mr. Spartan event on April 17th. Contestants were Andrew McBride, Luke Rymarchuk, Aidan Anderson, Duan Archmid, Kevin Rodriguez, Jesse Gusek, Makendy Louisious.

Contestants were asked to show up with a special talent that they could impress a panel made up of teachers and students. In the end, the final 3 were voted on by a roaring 'buy out' crowd!

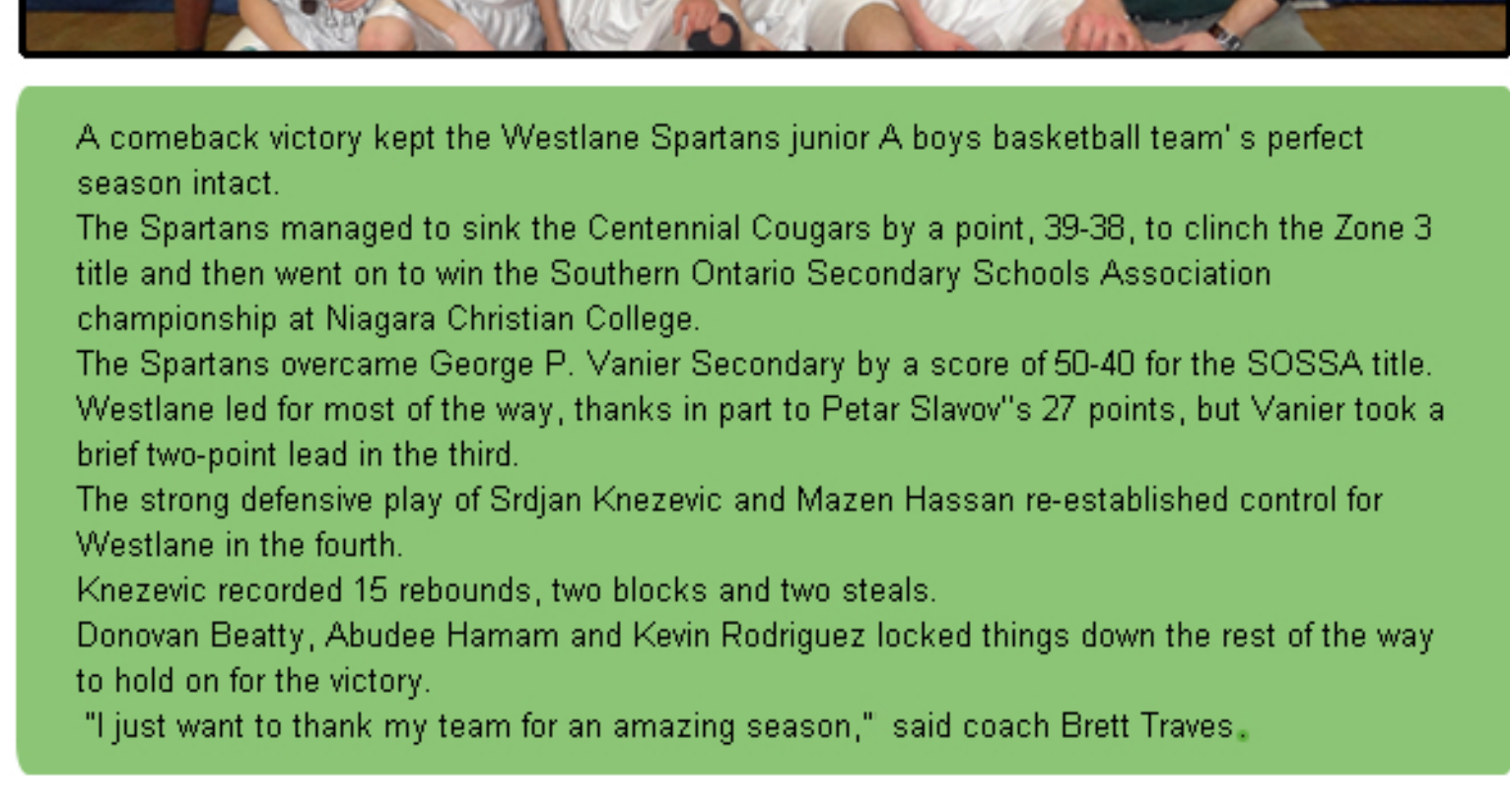
All of them displayed great effort, but the top 3 were Andrew McBride, Duan Archmid and Kevin Rodriguez.

1st Place: Andrew McBride
2nd Place: Duan Archmid
3rd Place: Kevin Rodriguez



1st Place: Andrew McBride

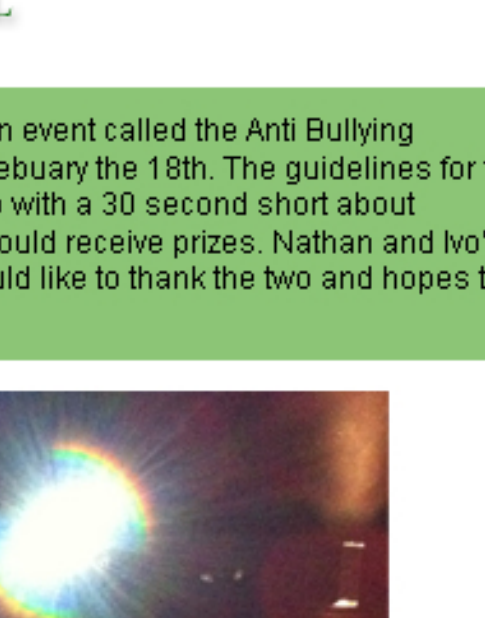
JR BASKETBALL WINS SOSSA



A comeback victory kept the Westlane Spartans junior A boys basketball team's perfect season intact. The Spartans managed to sink the Centennial Cougars by a point, 39-38, to clinch the Zone 3 title and then went on to win the Southern Ontario Secondary Schools Association championship at Niagara Christian College. The Spartans overcame George P. Vanier Secondary by a score of 50-40 for the SOSSA title. Westlane led for most of the way, thanks in part to Petar Slavov's 27 points, but Vanier took a brief two-point lead in the third. The strong defensive play of Srđjan Knezevic and Mazen Hassan re-established control for Westlane in the fourth. Knezevic recorded 15 rebounds, two blocks and two steals. Donovan Beatty, Abudee Hamam and Kevin Rodriguez locked things down the rest of the way to hold on for the victory. "I just want to thank my team for an amazing season," said coach Brett Traves.

VISUAL ARTS - THE 'TRANSFORMATION' CONTINUES

Westlane's new and spacious art room is still undergoing substantial modifications. For example, a clay program is soon to be underway. In addition, Art students are enthusiastically involved in many extracurricular projects. Firstly, Art Club students are completing eye-catching murals to be displayed within the school. April McRae completed an excellent mural for Mr. Zeffiro's classroom. Secondly, seven Spartans showcased their artistic talents at the DSBH's "Off the Wall" artshow for grade 9-11 students from February 11 - March 18. These young artists were Avrie Conej, Monika Likov, Caitlin Armstrong, Jesse Gusek, Christine Hopkins, Eve Nyambiya, and Karen Thal. Thirdly, several students are joining Stamford Secondary School on an arts-focussed trip to New York City at the end of April. Fourthly, Jessica Lammert, a grade 12 Spartan artist, is completing a mural for the beginning of May as part of a recognition ceremony of First Nations, Metis and Inuit. This large mural will be permanently placed in the courtyard and it will serve as a constant reminder to take care of Mother Earth as she provides all that necessary for our health, wealth and happiness. Fifthly, Westlane's annual "Spartan Art Show", Transformations, exhibiting works from all grades will take place in the Conference Centre from May 27- June 2. There will be an opening welcoming all to this show at lunch on Thursday, May 29. Lastly, five grads will be displaying their artwork in the annual DSBH Graduate Art Show at the board office from May 12 to June 2. This show is open to the public. These are the recent highlights of the abundant artistic endeavors happening at Westlane this year. We are eagerly looking forward to next year and more outstanding opportunities.



ANTI-BULLYING FILM FESTIVAL

Westlane's own Ivo Kirilov and Nathan Yeung entered themselves into an event called the Anti Bullying Filmfest. The event was located at Niagara Square Cinplex Odeon on February the 18th. The guidelines for the CHCH and Niagara Regional Police sponsored contest was to come up with a 30 second short about bullying to show awareness. There were 53 entries and only the top 3 would receive prizes. Nathan and Ivo's video was a great success but unfortunately didn't place. Mr Babony would like to thank the two and hopes to carry on ties with the event for next year.



TECH SKILLS BANQUET

On April 15th, at Club Italia, administrators teachers and student-finalists gathered for the Niagara Tech Skills Challenge Award banquet. Congratulations goes out to Kyle Wiley for placing second in the small engines challenge. Also, congrats goes to Hamza Qureshi and Arjun Singh for placing 2nd and 3rd for the web development challenge. Adnan Rizvi placed 1st in the website development challenge and 2nd in the graphic design challenge. Adnan will go on to compete at the Ontario Technical Skills Challenge, in Waterloo at Rim Park against other top competitors from across Ontario.

This year we saw an all time high for registrants for the Refrigeration Skills Competition. We had to turn down competitors as the maximum number of 12 was exceeded. The Gold Medalist was Demetri Polydorou, Silver Medalist Matt Smagata and Bronze Medalist Dejan Suzic. We had a guest judge, former Westlane Teacher, Jim Guloien. Demetri moves on to the Provincial Skills Challenge at RIM Park in Waterloo on May 6th, 2014. Congratulations to all that participated.

DSBN 5KM ROAD RACE AND 1KM RUN



On Sunday April 27 a Fundraiser was held for the Education Foundation of Niagara and Niagara Nutrition Partners. Over 400 participants actively partook in the Road Race. Westlane won the award for highest school participation with about 20 Westlane students and staff.

Top Finishers:

Jordan Fortin - 1st in Age Group (16-17)
Lukman Issa - 2nd in Age Group (16-17)
Donald Jones - 3rd in Age Group (16-17)

Jamil Frank - 1st in Age Group (17-18)
Dylan Staley - 2nd in Age Group (17-18)

Mr. Kennedy - 1st in Age Group, 2nd Overall

Way to show your Spartan Spirit, Westlane!!

MY MEXICO EXPERIENCE BY: LUKE RYMARCHUK

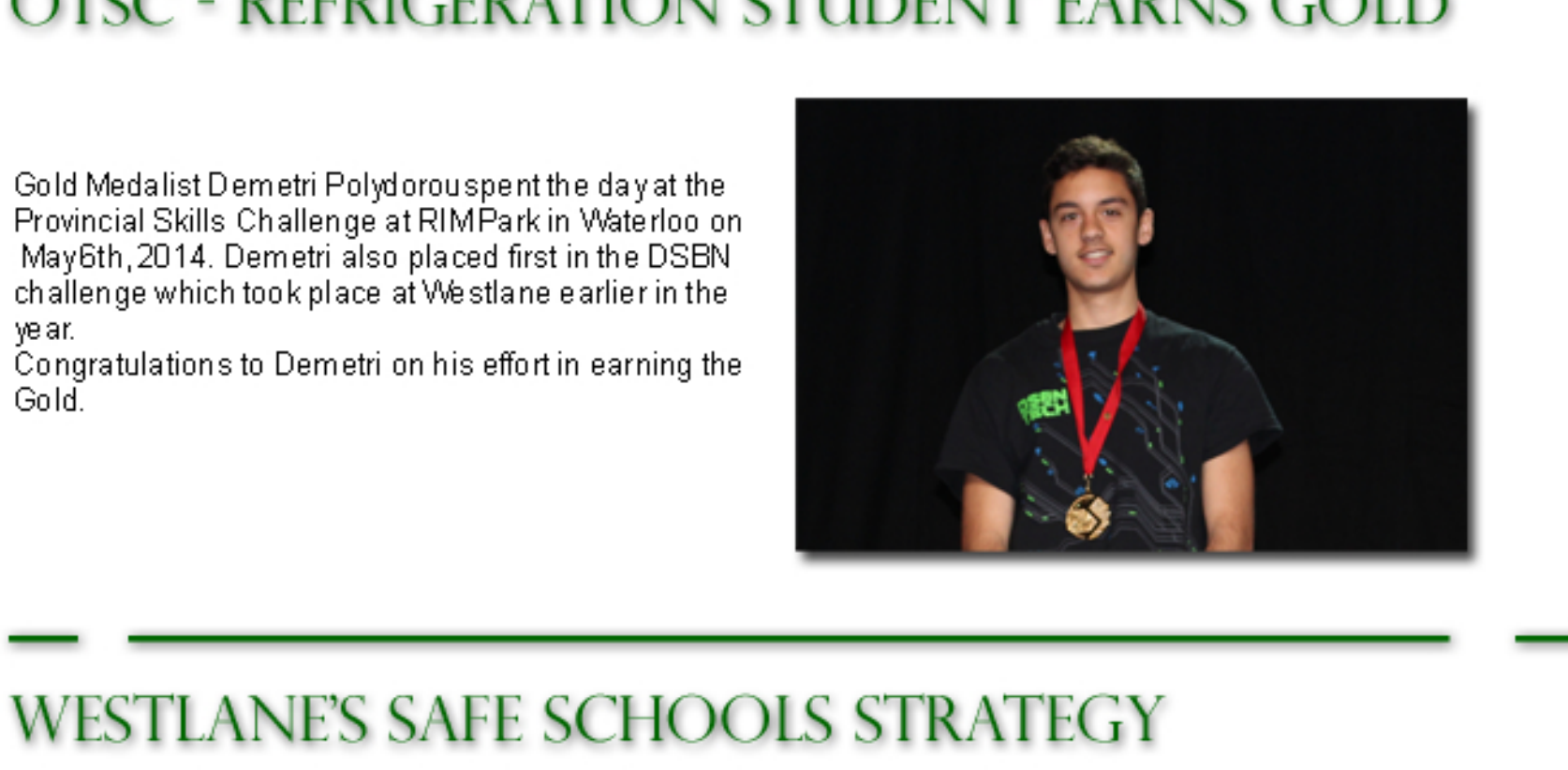


Over this past March break, I decided to go on my second Mexico Mission trip and build a house for a very poor, deserving family. I went on this trip along with Cam McQuade, Kristen Rymarchuk, and Kayleigh Sanders from Westlane, as well 11 other teenagers and 4 adult leaders from St. Andrews church. St. Andrews organizes this trip every other year with YUGO ministries. YUGO was started in 1996 and has built over 1200 houses for families in desperate need ever since.

The life changing experience Cam and I had 2 years ago building a house for a struggling family in Ensenada, Mexico made us certain we wanted to go again this year. Although the work is hard and demanding and our team does not always get along, I wouldn't spend my march break any other way. And that's what I did over this past March break as we (St. Andrews) and two other churches from Burlington and Waterloo built a total of 4 houses in 4 days for 4 families. Also on the last day we donated a ton of soccer equipment to a local soccer team in need. Our family was a single mother with three kids and was struggling to make ends meet, while basically living in a shack, with a roof that leaks. We built a 3 room one storey house, along with and outhouse, while giving them beds, a dining set, and a lot of toys, clothes, and candy for the kids. The house was very challenging to build as it was on a mountainside, making it difficult to carry all of the equipment up, while at the same time giving us very limited space.

Since it was our second time there, Cam and I were construction leaders, however the job is not to just build, it is to play with the many village kids that are constantly coming to watch the build, and connecting with the community. Kayleigh and Kristen were very helpful with the translating from us to kids and although we could not understand everything, they speak the international language of fun making the experience that much more rich and memorable. Once the build leader and his assistant finally guided us through the final steps of the build, the house was finished and the Family was ecstatic.

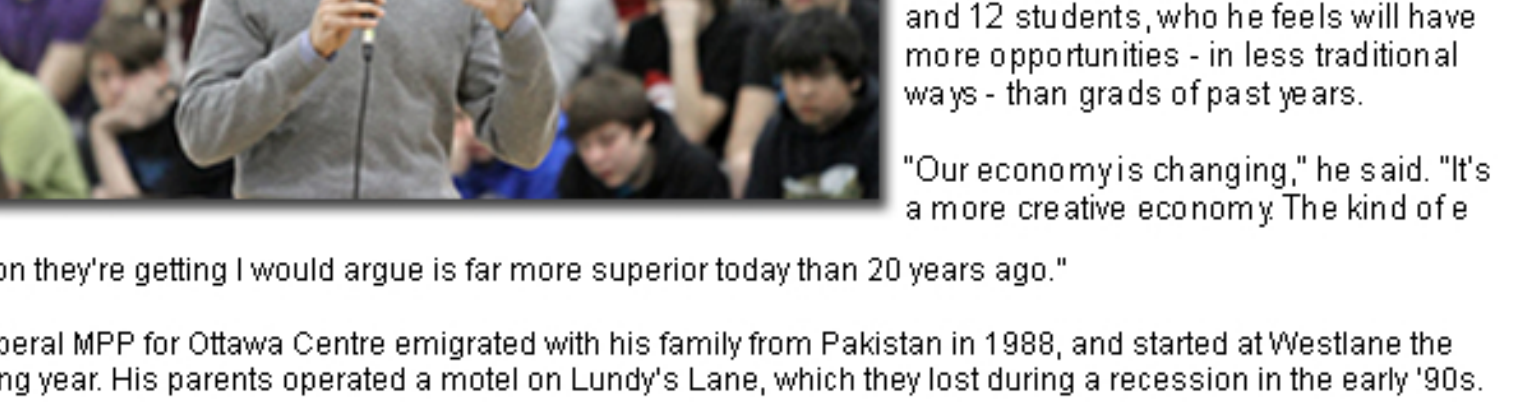
We all gathered around in a circle and each said something about our experience to the family through a translator, in the process passing the key to the house around one by one until it finally reached the family. Then they said how much what we had done meant to them and they opened the house and walked in along with most of the neighborhood. Then what happened next was the most memorable part and will stick with me forever. The three-year-old boy (Hector) that everyone loved walked in to his room, looked at his bed and all the toys and started bailing his eyes out and hugged one of our teens. And although he barely spoke a word the whole week he told his mom that room was to pretty and he kept on crying. Even though this house was not very big compared to our living standards it was twice as big as their current living conditions and it was a dream come true for them. We went on this trip to change the lives of a poor and broken family and bless them, but we were the ones who were blessed and changed. This trip was truly eye opening and humbling and will be something I'll never forget.



TAKE A DEEP BREATH...

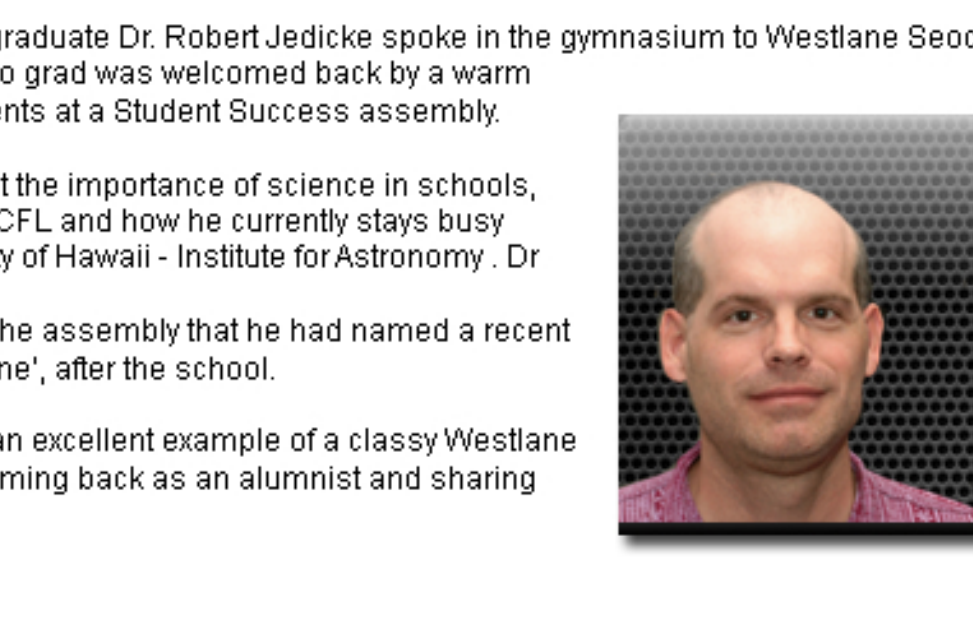
Westlane students helped to make your health a little bit better. On April 25th, Westlane's Canadian Geography class were pitching in at a local park, planting over twelve deciduous trees. Forestview Elementary school and Westlane Secondary School students teamed up with City Councillors and the Mayor of Niagara Falls to make the day a success at Deerfield park.

Westlane students toured the Niagara Recycling Plant on Kent Street in Niagara Falls. As part of Mr. Ainslie's Canadian Geography class, the students furthered their studies on the 'Impact' and 'Role' we as humans have on our 'Environment'. A special thanks to the volunteers and the program that enables our students to tour the facility. It was a learning experience filled with many excellent questions.



SWIMMING

On March 4th and 5th 2014, Westlane student Mony Tchervenelevok qualified for OFSAA championships and represented the school at the Wayne Gretzky Centre in Bramford. The events he had qualified for was the 100 meter Breaststroke and the 200 IM (Individual Medley).At the meet he came 20th in the 100m Br and 8th in 200m IM. Grade 10 student Mony Tchervenelevok made it to the all-Ontario's championships by becoming SOSSA champion in both the events he qualified for. He is also greatly thankful for science teacher, Michael Simon for traveling with him to Bramford for the competition. On the Tuesday he had to swim the 100 meter breaststroke and qualify for finals(top 8), unfortunately he did not do well and finished in 20th place. Determined to do well and make his school proud he waited anxiously for the second day, where he would be swimming one of his favourite events, the 200 meter IM. When the time came to race he was determined to swim fast! Finishing first in his heat and fourth overall he was entered for the evening finals in fourth meaning he could possibly win a medal. In the final race he still swam fast, however he finished 8th. Mony was quite pleased with his performance at OFSAA and eagerly waits for next year...



OTSC - REFRIGERATION STUDENT EARNS GOLD

Gold Medalist Demetri Polydorou spent the day at the Provincial Skills Challenge at RIM Park in Waterloo on May 6th, 2014. Demetri also placed first in the DSBH challenge which took place at Westlane earlier in the year. Congratulations to Demetri on his effort in earning the Gold.



WESTLANE'S SAFE SCHOOLS STRATEGY



Westlane staff and better place than it is already! We have started a "Safe Schools Team" comprised of 8 staff who work closely with the "What About Me" student action group, to address issues that affect our students. The first target was in response to two student voice surveys that identified a need for some anti-bullying training. Students have been participating in two practical workshops, one on "Conflict vs. Bullying," and the other on "Upstander vs. Bystander". The Safe Schools Team and What About Me club are working together to improve awareness campaigns and increase resources for students so they feel better equipped to deal with difficult situations as they arise, like they do at every school and every work site. There will also be staff and parent/community training coming up in the early fall to mirror the work being done currently with students.



SPARTAN ALUMNI

ONTARIO'S LABOUR MINISTER HEADS HOME TO WESTLANE

By John Law, Niagara Falls Review



The last time Ontario Minister of Labour Yasir Naqvi was at Westlane high school, he was a graduate facing an uncertain economy in the early '90s.

More than 20 years later, he returned Thursday to an even worse economic climate. But with a hint of hope for Grade 11 and 12 students, who he feels will have more opportunities - in less traditional ways - than grads of past years.

"Our economy is changing," he said. "It's a more creative economy. The kind of e

ducation they're getting I would argue is far more superior today than 20 years ago."

The Liberal MPP for Ottawa Centre emigrated with his family from Pakistan in 1988, and started at Westlane the following year. His parents operated a motel on Lundy's Lane, which they lost during a recession in the early '90s.

Naqvi went to McMaster after graduating, then to Ottawa to study law. He won his MPP seat in 2007, and last February was appointed by Premier Kathleen Wynne to the Minister of Labour post. As part of a Niagara Falls visit with local Liberal candidate Joyce Morocco, he spoke to students at his old high school and answered questions ranging from minimum wage to workplace safety to whether servers can keep their tips.

He realizes Niagara is struggling – the unemployment capital of Canada at 8.8% – but he has seen it all before.

"In the late '80s, early '90s it as a recessionary time as well," he said. "But Niagara Falls came roaring back, and I'm confident that as we are recovering through this devastating global recession, Niagara Falls will come back again."

As part of his "nostalgic" visit, Naqvi was given a personalized Westlane Spartan hoodie. He will also be the first inductee into the school's new Alumni Hall of Fame.

Vice-principal Paul Taylor feels it's important to bring back successful grads to inspire current students.

"It often gives some context as to why they're here," he said. "They've walked the same path as them."

Speaking in the gymnasium to students Naqvi said Westlane is where he first got involved with the Liberal party.

WESTLANE GRAD, DR. ROBERT JEDICKE SPEAKS

Last March, Westlane graduate Dr. Robert Jedicke spoke in the gymnasium to Westlane Secondary School. The University of Toronto grad was welcomed back by a warm greeting from our students at a Student Success assembly.

Dr. Jedicke talked about the importance of science in schools, being an athlete in the CFL and how he currently stays busy working at the University of Hawaii - Institute for Astronomy . Dr

Jedicke announced at the assembly that he had named a recent asteroid finding, "Westlane", after the school.

The presentation was an excellent example of a classy Westlane Secondary graduate coming back as an alumnist and sharing real life experiences.

Thank you Dr. Jedicke.

JON LAAKSO - WESTLANE ALUMNIST - PROFESSIONAL FILM MAKER

Jon Laakso is a Westlane graduate who spoke at an assembly in May in Westlane's gymnasium. Mr. Laakso talked about his current "Cannes film festival" short movie and life in general.

The Niagara Falls native (also a Brock grad from '06) was one of six filmmakers, part of a group called the Grand Sarachis, whose film Disconnect screened in the Best of the 48 Hour Film Project block of the Cannes Short Film Corner

Disconnect was written, cast, filmed, edited and scored in one weekend last November as part of the 48 Hour Film Festival. It was then screened at Filmapalooza, the signature film festival of the Toronto 48 Hour Film Project in Hollywood.

Based on the reception the film received in Tinseltown, it was shortlisted to be one of 15, 48 Hour Films to screen at Cannes. It competed against more than 3,500 cinematic feats from around the world for a coveted spot at Cannes, which runs until May 26 and brings together the A-List celebrities of world cinema.

Laakso and crew, which includes Laakso's high school friend Aaron Hayes and fellow Niagara Falls native Kevin Davidson, chronicled their film-making odyssey and will release a feature-length documentary about it next year.

The video can be seen at this address
<http://www.thegrandsarachis.com/>

---The Brock News.

THANK YOU TEACHERS WHO TOOK THE TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSY SCHEDULES TO ADD TO THE NEWSLETTER LAYOUT & DESIGN BY: ADNAN RIZVI AND MR. BABONY