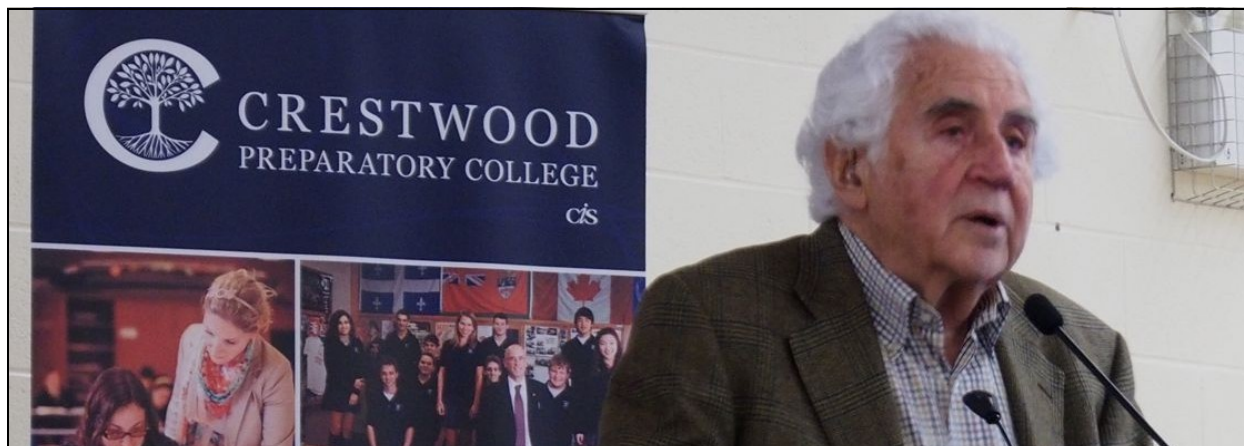


CRESTWORD



THE RIGHT TO A VOICE

BY: MEGHAN KATES, '16

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing," -Edmund Burk

On Tuesday, November 25, 2014, nearly four hundred students gathered together to ensure that evil cannot triumph. On this day, Crestwood hosted the Human Rights and Tolerance Symposium, an initiative that informs students about the atrocities in the world as well as what we can do to stop them. This year, the focus was on women's rights and the experience of women.

All students involved began in the gym, listening intently to the first speaker, Rosemary McCarney. She is the president and CEO of Plan Canada and a partner in the Because I am a Girl Campaign. She talked about the culture we have today where women are often forced to alter their behaviour so that they do not become targets. However, there are some remarkable women who have stood up for everything they believe in no matter the cost.

Malala Yousafzai is one of these remarkable women. She became a voice for children and girls, an advocate for their rights, especially to education. On October 9, 2012, she was shot for her views and left critically wounded. Ms. McCarney told us that she was afraid that the world would dismiss this act as yet another extremist attack. However, the miraculous survival of this young girl caused the world to take notice. Malala refused to stop her campaigning despite threats against her: "I raise my voice not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard."

This young woman has been heard by the world and hopefully given rise to everyone listening to others just like her. In the video "Dear Malala," this woman is called an inspiration, a friend and a hero by those who have never met her. Her impact has traveled the world and empowers girls to stand up for what is right. This impact has been recognized as she was awarded the Noble Peace Prize in 2014.

However, in order for someone to have an impact, his/her effects do not have to be felt around the world. I had the privilege to be able to hear Hedy Bohm speak. She is a Holocaust survivor from Romania who, although a quiet speaker, sends a powerful message. She told us that if there was one life lesson she would impart on us, it would be to believe in yourself and never allow anyone to let you feel less than human, less than yourself. Everyone is special and can make a difference in this world.

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THE RIGHT TO A VOICE, CONTINUED

When asked about her belief in God throughout her time spent in Auschwitz-Birkenau, she gave the honest response that sometimes she wondered about God's existence. If there was a God, how could he allow these things to happen? However, she admitted that the one thing she always clung to like a lifeline, keeping her afloat, was hope. These people may have been able to take away her human rights, her life, and her family, but her hope survived. Before she was taken by the Nazis, she was told by her parents that the rumours were too terrible to be true. How could a brutal mass murder take place in the "civilized" 20th century?

She became a part of those rumours, separated from her parents and forced to work in a German munitions factory. After her liberation on April 14, 1945, she did not speak about her story. She suffered from frequent nightmares and just tried not to think about everything she suffered through. However, over time, she realized the importance of sharing her experiences and the power that her story would have to elicit change.

"Horror in history does not happen over night," said Marina Nemat. Her powerful voice rang through the gym, reaching out to everyone who sat in the audience, listening to her amazing story. She was born in Iran at a time when it was not an Islamic Republic. Women and men went to school equally and teenagers danced on the beach without a care in the world. However, this peace was not to continue. Protest against the dictator who was in charge of their country grew and revolutions began. The Shah was eventually overthrown and a referendum was held. 98% of the people voted for an Islamic Republic that gave the promises of democracy and freedom. The old laws were gone and new laws were created. However, all too soon, people began to see the realities of this new regime. All the anger of the revolution did not suddenly disappear at the success. Teenagers talked about social justice as it was the cool thing to do at the time. Then, the executions began, with writers, journalists and thinkers being the first to go. Singing, dancing and anything fun was outlawed. Marina said that the only possible stupid question is how bad can things get?



Things got much worse as on January 15, 1982, when she was arrested for attending protest rallies. She talks about the feeling of shock as a gift from God. She was not afraid, not because she is brave, but because of this body armour of shock. It is a state of feeling nothing where you are protected from your emotions. Marina talked about the realities of the torture she experienced and why things like this occur. In her opinion, they

torture not to kill you, not to get information, but to kill the human soul. All the women in the prison where she was taken no longer talked about social justice.

They talked about what made them human. Good and evil no longer mattered as she was forced to marry her torturer. She lost her family, her religion, her name and her dignity as she was repeatedly raped at the age of 17. She found out that her torturer had been tortured. That left the question of who was the real enemy, to which Marina responds, the 'monster of violence'. She was adamant that sugar coating has no purpose. Marina concluded by telling us bluntly that if one person stands up, they will die. If one million people stand up, they will die; but if one hundred million people stand up, then maybe we have a chance.

Throughout the rest of the day, there were more speakers, more opportunities for learning and enough sadness and horror for people to begin to doubt where the good lies exactly. Hedy told us that every time she speaks about her story, she has to relive the experience again and again. However, she continues to do just that, facing her demons for the purpose of spreading her message.

It is possible to change the world, one person at a time. So we must strive not to be discouraged by the tragedies that are faced as we still have ways to succeed. We have to prevent history from repeating itself by not fearing or hating. Instead we must love and strive for tolerance. We need to ask questions of ourselves and others to find out what can be done. Throughout the years, there have been many specific issues targeted by human rights activists. We have to strive to found out about these issues and help in any way we can. We need to give everyone the right to a voice. If all of this seems impossible, then just remember Nelson Mandela's words, "It always seems impossible until it's done."

HELPING TO SAVE LIVES: AN INTERVIEW WITH ROSEMARY MCCARNEY

BY: TAYLOR FRANKFORT, '17

On the afternoon of the Human Rights and Tolerance Symposium, I had the privilege to interview Rosemary McCarney, a human rights activist. I was able to get up close and personal with her as she shared with me some of her experiences and opinions on current world situations.

Rosemary was an average student who grew up in Canada and went to law school. She was very successful and was able to get a job as a corporate lawyer on Wall Street in Manhattan, New York. She later decided that she wanted to devote her undivided attention to helping others. Additionally, she wanted to help in the battle for world-wide human rights and the right to a voice. Rosemary is now the President and CEO of the Canadian operations of Plan International.

She educated us about brave girls, like Malala, who actually make a difference in the world. "She showed girls everywhere how to heal, move on, and be fearless," Rosemary said. She also spoke about #bringbackourgirls, a movement was shared world wide via social media. In spite of this awareness of the issue, Rosemary told us that "We don't hashtag everyday violence. We do not realize that tons of cases like the #bringbackourgirls happens everyday, they just don't make the headlines."

She spoke about the many girls who don't have any rights and are tortured, raped, violated and ignored every single day. She spoke about the "Ring the Bell" campaign and we watched a video of some friends playing in a neighborhood who heard a woman being yelled at inside her house. The video showed that instead of ignoring what was going on, the boys rang the door bell to help stop the violence, hence the title "Ring the Bell." As Rosemary said, "Small actions make a big difference. Sometimes it's easier to blend in but staying silent is never the answer."

Not only did Rosemary speak about women's rights that are addressed in other parts of the world, but she also spoke about some of the issues here in Canada. "We normalized violence against woman. Girls, are you



ever walking at night and feel unsafe and in a hurry to get home?" Rosemary asked. Obviously, every girl in the audience most likely answered, yes. As girls, we all thought that this feeling of being unsafe at night was perfectly normal. Well, it's only normal to us because society has made this the norm. In a better world, where everyone is completely equal, this shouldn't happen.

28% of girls are raped in their undergraduate year of college. This is a startling statistic that should not be a fact. These are just a few examples that show that even in a country as free as Canada, woman may seem like they have the same rights as men, but in reality, our rights, freedoms and safety are extremely limited.

In our interview, Rosemary spoke to me about more specific issues and her personal experience as a human rights activist. Specifically, she told me about the trips that she took to Africa and why she keeps going back there. "Africa was the first place I went and I've been drawn to over and over again ever since." She told me some information about Africa that I had never heard before. For example, it is usually believed that Africa is an extremely poor and undeveloped continent as a whole. In reality, there are many countries in Africa that are more advanced in terms of technology than Canada and the United States.

Continued on page 6

THE ACORN

SHOWCASING THE TALENTS OF OUR GRADE 7 AND 8 WRITERS

LET'S TALK BUSINESS

BY: GEORGIA GARDNER, '19

Are you looking to enhance your business skills? If so, DECA is the perfect club for you! According to Ms. Dickinson, one of the DECA supervisors along with Ms. Lyons, DECA is an international association of high school and college students and teachers of various realms within business. The organization prepares leaders and entrepreneurs for careers and education in marketing, finance, hospitality, management, and other business areas.

For nine years, DECA has been enriching students' business skills, and teaching them how to behave and act in a business or professional setting. Students who participate in DECA are taught how to dress for success, how to act in front of others, and overall how to behave when they are put in real-life business situations. "It teaches you how to think and problem-solve on your feet," Ms. Dickinson remarks. DECA is not solely available for students who take business classes – it is open to anyone with an interest in business.

If you are a Grade 7 or 8 student with an eye for business, get involved and participate in the exciting world of business and finance. When asked why younger students should get involved, Ms. Dickinson answered, "It is an opportunity for students to get together with other business-minded students and share ideas, learn from case studies and from each other and hone their communication skills. The sooner you join DECA, the better off you will be as experience is definitely an advantage."

DECA is also available for those outside of private schools in Ontario, as well. "Over 10,000 students from 250 schools in Ontario participate in DECA. This does not include those participating in other countries such as the U.S., the District of Columbia, China, Germany, Guam, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Spain," Ms. Dickinson points out. "DECA meetings are held once a week, with any additional information posted through Edsby. Students are expected to do some independent research on their event between meetings. Leading up to the competition, students are required to complete a practice case presented in front of the advisors or executives prior to competition day." This exciting process sounds like the sport of the finance world.



Ms. Dickinson also walked me through the competition, and how the scores are set. "When you have signed up for DECA, the first task you will have complete is an online test. The online test is like structures like a normal test: there are 100 questions, and you have 75 minutes to complete them." The mark on your test goes towards your score at the regional competition, which is the next event for the DECA community. There will be meetings to prep students for their particular events leading up to this date. By the time regionals have arrived, you will already have selected an event that you want to do. There are individual events, group events, and written events.

At the competition itself, you will be given a business-case scenario. The students have ten minutes to prepare a solution to the real-life problem in the case. You then present your solution to a judge. There is an awards ceremony at the end of the day, where students who place in the top ten of their category are recognized. Students who make it through the regionals competition can compete in provincials, and then potentially even internationals (which is held in Orlando, Florida!)

DECA is a chance for students to prepare for the finance world through competition, spirit, and teamwork!

THE ACORN

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM WONDER

BY: PEARL CHEN, '20
"When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind." -Mr. Browne's September precept

Wonder, a wonderful book about a beautiful child named August, describes the lives of teenagers perfectly. It is written in different perspectives. In all chapters, whether it is from a student who goes to Beecher Prep or not, there is August.

Although August looks different from the outside, he is like every other kid on the inside, or perhaps he is even better – he is the one who owns the biggest prize in the entire school in his first year at school, he is the one who is hated by every single student at the beginning but then became one of the most popular kids at school, and, most of all, he is the one who finally learns to accept himself as he is and real-



ized that appearance is unimportant at the end.

However, it was a hard process. His friend, Jack, was bullied for being friends with August, and he himself was bullied as well. Fortunately, it did not seem to last long. After people started getting tired of the 'war', they started standing up for Jack and August. At the end, all of the students in his grade did not think he is strange anymore. Instead, they all thought he was funny, nice, and smart.

It is important to have people standing up for the ones being bullied and not stand by, and, as Mr. Tushman said at the award ceremony, "If every single person in this room made it a rule that whenever you are whenever you can, you will try to act a little

kinder than is necessary – the world really would be a better place."

Artwork also by Pearl Chen.

RUN, RUN, RUN!

BY: JONAH EICHLER, '20
On Saturday, October 19, 2014, Ms. Mylvaganam – otherwise known as Ms. M – ran the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon. She ran this marathon because it was something that she really wanted to cross off of her bucket list.

She trained very hard for this marathon and got help training from her cousin, so they decided to train together. She did this because her real goal is to train for a triathlon.



MS. MYLVAGANAM IS PICTURED HERE AFTER COMPLETING THE MARATHON

"I figure that a marathon was a good place to start," she said, so she ran the marathon first. In total she had to run 42.2 kilometers and did so in 3 hours and 55 minutes! She thought that, with the help of her cousin, she could try her best.

She finished it very fast for someone who has never ran a marathon before. Now she is preparing to run a triathlon. Since she worked so hard to complete the marathon, she can't stop now! We wish Ms. M the best of luck in training and completing her next race!

BY: JESSIE COOKE, '16

500+ Facebook friends.
1,000+ Twitter followers.
Surrounded by people,
but you are alone.

196 countries in the world,
including Taiwan.
Surrounded by people,
but they are alone.

2.79 million people in Toronto.
5.5 million in the GTA.
Surrounded by people,
but I am alone.

7.125 billion people in the world,
and growing by the minute.
Surrounded by people,
but we are
alone.

POEMS OF LONELINESS

UNTITLED

BY: BLAIRE NORTON, '15

White knuckles and blue fingernails
Pale faces and thin hair
All signs that you were brave
Enough to dance with the devil

Yet the devil is holding you
Tight in his grip
And you don't have the strength
To fight back

HELPING TO SAVE LIVES, CONTINUED

Rosemary also talked about a more current epidemic, that according to her, is very over exaggerated: Ebola. North America was falsely informed that Ebola essentially took over West Africa, but according to the Rosemary, that is completely not true. Only three out of the sixteen countries in West Africa were infected; however, that did not stop the United States from grounding all flights coming in and out of all of West Africa. This apparently set back West Africa's economy by ten years and had a very negative impact on its countries.

Rosemary has reached many of her goals throughout her career in human rights. However, her biggest accomplishment was getting Prime Minister Stephen Harper to have Canada's main focus become Maternal New Born Health. She had the Canadian government invest billions of dollars into this issue and she literally saved thousands of lives. "Saving lives and creating a place where children won't just survive, but thrive", Rosemary said.

Rosemary has had an impact on millions of lives around the world and made a huge impact on mine. She taught me about how giving

back to your world and community is the best thing you can do in life and that the smallest actions can make the biggest differences.

She has accomplished so much and for her, it was never about the amount of money she made, it was about the amount of lives she saved, and that is priceless.



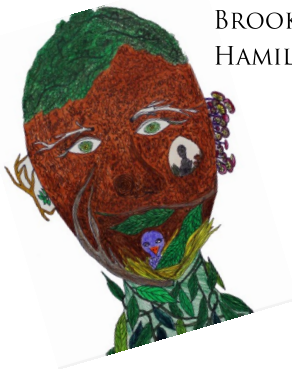
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Issue 3

Grade 12 visual art students are working with complex and contemporary units of study this year. They began their studies with an exploration of artistic conventions.

Using this as a framework students investigated the Surrealist movement taking inspiration from artists including Salvador Dali, Rene Magritte, Giuseppe Arcimboldo and Joos.

After mastering proper human facial proportions students were challenged to use the Surrealist style in order to create an anthropomorphic drawing.

These unique compositions combined a variety of theme based images to give human form to non-human things in order to create a visually bizarre and complex drawing.

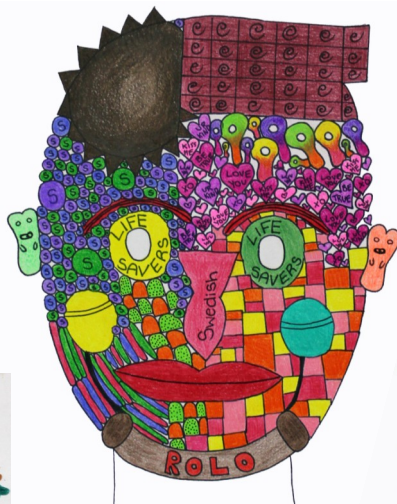


BROOKLNN
HAMILTON



ASYA HOCOAGLU

SIDRA FISCH



AMY CHO

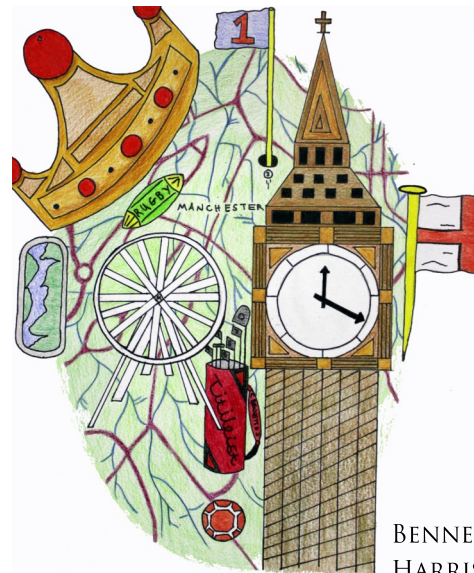


DAVID HAGON

ECHO HUANG



BENJI GERTIN



BENNETT
HARRIS

STUDENT WORK: GRADE 12 ARTWORK

THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF A TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS FAN

BY: JOHN MAINPRIZE, '17

As we all are aware, the Toronto Maple Leafs' season has already had many ups and downs after only two months.

From the standpoint of a fan and follower of the sport, I feel like the Leafs relying solely on their most known superstar, Phil Kessel. The coach should be looking for solid play and intensity throughout the whole roster, which we have seen in some games this season.

When we actually do win not only do our top players play to the best of their ability, but our bottom two lines as well. Sometimes, we see Phil Kessel, arguably the best player on the team, ending a winning game with no points. However, a player that is suspected to be an energy player often comes away with a couple of points. This proves the point that if the teams line up is solid and hardworking, we will be successful.

Sitting in 7th place in the Eastern Conference, the Leafs have secured a playoff spot, even though that means nothing at the moment with still more than half the



season remaining. As we can all remember, the last time the Maple Leafs were in the playoffs it was a complete heartbreak for us fans. Game 7 was up by a couple of goals with only a few minutes left in the third period and we gave up the lead and lost in overtime.

As a fan, I believe that the Leafs will make the playoffs this year. The reason I think this is because last season, David Clarkson was our main signing over the summer; however, he didn't perform up to expectations. This year, on the other hand, Clarkson has been performing much better.

With this in mind, hopefully this will be the year that we are victorious! We can only keep our fingers crossed, and hope for the best.

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