

## **North Toronto Collegiate Institute School Council Meeting: January 22nd, 2008**

**Welcome** by Eric Miglin: Chair

### **Student Council Report** Lyndsey Gott: (President)

- **Charity Week:** Pathways to Education is the chosen charity for this year's Charity Week. This is a charity started up in 2000, that is based out of Regent Park, with a mission to ensure disadvantaged youth attend high school. There are many great activities happening including NT Idol, Scavenger Hunt, Washroom Survivor, Most Extreme Challenge and also a Fashion Show (late February). After two days, \$2300 has already been raised!
- **Silent Auction:** Mark your calendars for March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. because NT will host a Silent Auction with proceeds to Pathways to Education. Be there!
- **Winter Formal:** The Council is hoping to have a Formal open to all students on April 4<sup>th</sup>. It would be a dance with more formal dress and a meal would be served. This will be at the end of Spring Fling week.
- **Spring Fling Week:** This week will take place in early April and lots of fun activities are being planned. There may be events with fund-raising towards NT's Equity Council.
- **Honduras Trip:** NT students who went to Honduras have returned! The students indicated it was an absolutely incredible trip and the trip has had a huge impact on the students.
- **If you have any questions or comments for the Student Council, speak up.** The Student Council is interested in keeping the lines of communication open.

### **Music is for Everyone: The power and Importance of Music in Education and our Lives** **(Ivars Taurins, NTCI 1975 Grad):**

- **North Toronto's Influence:** NT has had a huge influence on Ivars Taurins' career – he does not believe it could have happened without the experiences at NT.
- **Directing Youth Choir:** Ivars chose a classical repertoire, although very challenging. The students rose to the challenge. It was an emotional experience for students and audience alike.
- **Music's potential** is often ignored and music is taken for granted, thought of simply as entertainment. Music's potential is much more than that – it can stimulate our brains, it has the power to transform lives. We treat the arts and culture like we treat the environment – we are only now realizing that we have to actively take care of them. A visionary once said that a child given the opportunity for music and to carry an instrument, will not carry a gun.
- **Venezuela:** A radical social project is happening in Venezuela, where children are given an instrument, tuition etc. in return for playing in performance ensembles. Children rise out of poverty to practice 4 hours per day, 6 days per week in 90 schools across the country. The government funds the schools to the tune of \$29 million a year, in a country where the average annual income is less than \$3500! In Venezuela, by feeding people's souls, they are finding a way for people to feed themselves. Ivars shared some remarkable stories of children from very poor families who have begun new lives and risen above poverty as a result of this program.
- **Music positive's effects:** Music requires discipline and learning music instills habits that last a lifetime. As a person learns music, their cognitive abilities are stretched. There are so many positive benefits. The Arts link cognitive growth to social and emotional development.

### **Minutes of November 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

- A motion to move to approve the Minutes of the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting (with amendments to the spelling of two names) was made by Svea Einola and seconded by Sheila Sharp.

### **Appointment of New Co-Chairs:**

- Eric Miglin will step down as Chair of the School Council. Michele Temple and Jane Lewis will be appointed Interim Co-Chairs. A motion to move to approve the appointments of Michele and Jane was made by Svea Einola and seconded by Sheila Sharp.
- We owe a great debt of gratitude to Eric Miglin for his incredible dedication to the Council over many years. Eric has kindly agreed to stay on throughout the remainder of the year to provide help and mentorship to Michele and Jane.

### **Principal's Update (Joel Gorenkoff):**

- Character Development: The TDSB is going to be introducing a character development program. Parents have a chance to vote on which attributes should be developed, so mark your vote!
- Construction: The construction is going well and is on schedule.
- Black History Month: Lawrence Hill and Richard Poplak, both respected authors, will come in to talk to the students. In honour of Black History Month, the students will be building a quilt, including symbols of the underground-railroad. These quilt pieces will be accompanied by motivational stories of slavery and freedom.
- Grade 8 Students Visit: Seven hundred Grade 8 students came to visit. There is a lot of interest in our great school!

### **Vice-Principal's Update (Mary Laszlo):**

- Report Cards: Report Cards will be coming out on February 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Course Selection Sheets: The course selection sheets will be coming out at the end of January. Guidance will be going to each Home Form and explaining to students how to select and what to consider. The middle of February will be our 'bubble day' when students make their choices. There will be an Options Night on January 30<sup>th</sup> for parents. This is a very informative night.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

<b>North Toronto Collegiate Parent Council Funds: 2007-2008</b>		<i>2006-2007 comparison</i>
<i>Balance fwd July 31, 2007</i>	<b>\$6,924.01</b>	<b>\$8,533.53</b>
<i>plus:</i>		
<i>parent fees</i>	<b>\$16,950.00</b>	<b>\$19,025.00</b>
<i>receipt: synervoice grant</i>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<i>net interest income</i>	<b>\$116.87</b>	
	<b>\$116.87</b>	<b>\$265.15</b>
<i>total cash available</i>	<b>\$23,990.88</b>	<b>\$29,823.68</b>
<i>less cash spent or committed:</i>		
<i>commencement</i>	<b>\$2,635.63</b>	<b>\$2,129.72</b>
<i>Teacher appreciation</i>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$174.18</b>
<i>Parent council ad</i>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
<i>NTCI Leadership Program</i>	<b>\$75.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<i>math dep't (graphing calculators)</i>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,051.77</b>
<i>web site</i>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<i>robotics club</i>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<i>classics club</i>	<b>\$600.00</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>
<i>Media studies</i>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<i>music dep't (vocal retreat)</i>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$395.00</b>
<i>YMCA - substance abuse</i>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<i>athletics dep't (boys &amp; girls)</i>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$750.00</b>
<i>Library / IT assistance</i>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,892.00</b>

<i>school field trips</i>	<i>\$2,000.00</i>	<i>\$4,000.00</i>	
<i>Drama department</i>	<i>\$400.00</i>	<i>\$350.00</i>	
<i>NTCI uniforms</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$1,500.00</i>	
<i>Global Education Program</i>	<i>\$1,000.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
<i>School paper, Graffiti (computer)</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$693.00</i>	
<i>School paper, Graffiti (operating)</i>	<i>\$800.00</i>	<i>\$600.00</i>	
<i>English dep't (mentoring)</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$400.00</i>	
<i>English dep't</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$600.00</i>	
<i>visual arts dep't</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>	
<i>30 hour famine fund raiser</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$550.00</i>	
<i>media course - computer</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$1,914.00</i>	
<i>ski club</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$550.00</i>	
<i>field hockey</i>	<i>\$800.00</i>	<i>\$800.00</i>	
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<b>TOTAL SPENT OR COMMITTED TO DATE</b>	<b><u>\$10,210.63</u></b>	<b><u>\$22,899.67</u></b>	
<b>Cash available January 18, 2008</b>	<b><u>\$13,780.25</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,924.01</u></b>	<i>July 31,</i> <i>2007</i>
<b>Cash TD account</b>	<b><u>\$884.58</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,270.21</u></b>	
<b>Cash investment account at ING</b>	<b><u>\$12,895.67</u></b>	<b><u>\$5,653.80</u></b>	
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	<b><u>\$13,780.25</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,924.01</u></b>	

We discussed and agreed to fund the financial requests as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Approvers</b>
Mood Disorders Association: Peer Support for Students Living with Mood Disorders	\$500	Motion to move by Simon Berkowitz , seconded by Sheila Sharp.
Black History Month Awareness: Author Lawrence Hill	\$350	Motion to move by Simon Berkowitz, seconded by Ted Sharp
Vocal Retreat	\$750	Motion to move by Simon Berkowitz, seconded by Nancy Worthen

### **Schedule for Remaining 07/08 School Year Meetings**

- Next meetings: February 20<sup>th</sup>, April 16<sup>th</sup>, May 28<sup>th</sup>. Please note that these are all Wednesdays.

### **Meeting Adjournment:**

Motion to move to adjourn the meeting by Eric Miglin and seconded by Michele Temple.