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DIRECTOR'S MEMO #19

2005 01 24

STUDENT SENATE CAN DRIVE

Every year students across the city and county meet the call of those in need during the holiday season. This year was no exception. Collectively, the students of the GECD SB gathered over 194,000 canned goods for the less fortunate in our community.

Amazing contributions were received from schools across our system. From Riverside Secondary School who collected 30,918 cans to Leamington Secondary with 26,095, students worked incredibly hard notifying their communities of their upcoming efforts with flyers, gathering the goods, and finally distributing them to various organizations such as the Goodfellows and the Salvation Army. Even the elementary schools came out strong. A. V. Graham toppled numbers set by many of the secondary schools with 21,501 cans. Many schools set their own personal records such as Sandwich with 12,306 canned goods, Belle River High with 10,000 and Harrow Senior Public with 4,632. Everyone involved in each individual school was extremely proud of their efforts. This is yet another great example of our young citizens coming out and lending a much-needed hand.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

The Student Senate has initiated a "Student of the Month" award to recognize students for contributions seen as a "cut above". Student Trustees Brittanie Wall and Miron Vranjes receive nominations from their fellow Student Senators and announce the award at the first Public Board meeting of each month.

The **Student of the Month for the month of December** is an amazing Amherst Bulldog, **Eric Janssen**. Eric graduated with the second highest mark in his grade as well as the award for the top mark in Law. He not only excels in academics, he is a highly recognized local and international athlete as well. He made the Newman Conference All Star Team after a stellar performance as offensive guard and defensive linebacker during his 2003 season of football where the Bulldogs won the championships. His other athletic passion is bowling. After winning all Ontario bowling in 2003, he progressed to the World Finals in Florida. He is also an executive member of the Amherst Athletic Student Union and an active Student Council Member as Minister of External Affairs.

Despite Eric's many talents, it was his outstanding leadership that made him stand out for this award. In the summer the teacher representative for GAHS Student Council lost a family member in a motorcycle accident. Janssen wanted to do anything possible to help this family through their difficult time. He led Amherst's student council in organizing an entire charity dinner for the family. His influence in his school helped sell over two hundred tickets for the dinner. Altogether, including ticket sales and raffle money, \$2,300 was raised.

Like all of our Students of the Month, Eric Janssen is humble and credits his generous unselfish efforts to the hard work of many Amherst student council members. A big thanks also goes out to Rosa's Restaurant for donating all of the delicious food. Next year, Eric will be attending the University of Western Ontario. In time, he hopes to complete a Law degree. CONGRATULATIONS, ERIC!

Jeremy Fisco, January 2005 Student of the Month, is a Grade 12 student attending Herman. On the honour roll for this year, Jeremy is an exceptional student. However, his reputation as a truly world-class Cross Country runner has earned him the title of Student of the Month and the respect and admiration of both his peers and the Board.

Jeremy began his running career in Grade 9, under the guidance of Mr. Scarrow, the Herman track coach. As he improved, Jeremy became determined to seek out the limit of his abilities. That limit, as his record indicates, has not been reached even today. He began this year with a WECSSAA championship. Jeremy then proceeded to win SWOSSAA and OFSAA, finishing first in a pool of 240 of the best runners in Ontario. Finally, Jeremy was the 5th-place Canadian finisher at the Canadian Championships in Toronto. This has qualified him for the 2005 IAAF World Championships in St. Galmier, France on March 19-20.

Without a doubt, this dedicated individual deserves even more recognition than can be offered. His perseverance, hard work, and focus have made him a shining example of the "best". **WELL DONE, JEREMY!**