

TCDSB 8th Annual International Languages Symposium

Over 900 students from our TCDSB Saturday language classes from across our board participated in the 8th Annual Languages Symposium on April the 4th at Don Bosco Catholic Secondary School.

The Symposium is a joint venture between the Continuing Education Department and the Advisory Committee on Race and Ethnic Relations Multiculturalism. The goals are to create cultural harmony, break down any barriers that are present within our board and to come together to celebrate community. It is also an opportunity to showcase the various cultures represented by the Board's Saturday International Language Credit Program that is offered through the Continuing Education Department.

Among the special guests who attended were: Our keynote speaker Mr. Chris D'souza, Faculty of Ed, Lecturer, York U.; Ms. Loretta Notten, Superintendent of Ed; Ms. Josie Di Giovanni, Superintendent of Ed; Mr. Alex Mazzucco, Coordinator, Cont. Ed.; Ms. Carla Marchetti, Coordinator, International Languages, Elementary; and various Principals and V. Principals from our Board.

The Symposium opened with the "Liturgy of the Word" performed by grade nine students from Dante Alighieri Academy, which was choreographed by Ms. Jessica De Angelis. There was also a dance performance by the group Illz Skillz from Dante Academy.

Our keynote speaker, Mr. Chris D'souza, spoke about his life experiences and growing up in Toronto. He challenged the youth to dare to dream, believe in themselves and to never give up. He truly captivated the young audience with personal stories about his family, school, work, and hobbies.

The Student Ambassador Awards were given to a senior student from each of the 32 school sites. The award went to the student who best represented his/her community with excellent marks and who reflected leadership in their respective schools. Congratulations to all the winners.

Students and guests were entertained with dance performances by the Italians, Hungarians, Armenians, Vietnamese, Tamils, and Egyptians.

After the performances, everyone was welcomed to view booths from 18 countries, and mingle in the "Global Village". This was quite an opportunity for all delegates to see the numerous displays of artefacts from the various countries. Students were dressed in their national colours and samples of foods from the many countries were savoured by everyone. The music and dancing from various groups made this an experience that students and parents will never forget.

The gymnasium was truly transformed into a "Global Village".

Many thanks to the all staff, students, and volunteers for their commitment and hard work that made this Symposium such a success.



Delegates at the Global Village



**Ms. L. Notten and Ms. J. Di Giovanni
presenting Ambassador Awards**



Mr. Chris D'souza, keynote speaker



VIP's and Ambassador Winners