

AY JACKSON KEY CLUB UPDATES

THE CLOTHING DRIVE: By Negar Asli

The Clothing Drive has been collecting thousands of items for Syrian refugees. The goal of The Clothing Drive is to provide a warm and welcoming environment for the Syrian refugees giving them a place to come and choose clothing and other essential items they need. All the items are donated. The building that houses the clothing drive is also rent free.



In March, A.Y. Jackson's key club volunteered at The Clothing Drive. We helped sort and organize clothes as well as shoes.



It was a great experience since most of the club members hadn't volunteered at a clothing drive before. The organization showed how much you could accomplish with a little help from the community around you. As a club, we were happy that we got to help out. We helped community around us and it made us feel like we were part of something big.



AN ACCOUNT OF THE ACTUAL ADVENTURES AT DCON: By Annie Gua

It was with delight and excitement that the A. Y. Jackson Key Club members stepped off the bus in Kitchener on the first of April. The trip took over five hours with detours, but it was curious in mixing the Key Clubbers from A. Y., from Marc Garneau, and even a group from Sussex, New Brunswick.

After checking in, the Key Clubbers promptly joined the *Meet and Greet*. It was there that innovative ways to enjoy Skittles and Lifesavers, as competition props, were discovered. Throwing skills and luck were also put to the test with the challenge of throwing, and bouncing, a small plastic ball into a cup tray.

They *stood out* at dinner. Whereas everyone else wore casual or the convention t-shirt, the A. Y. Key Clubbers, as a group, wore black shirts with District insignias from The Hunger Games series in the front and page-size Key Club Tribute stickers in the back, and black pants. Admiring remarks about the club dress were forthcoming.



In the presence of numerous esteemed guests, including the mayors of both Waterloo and Kitchener, the A. Y. Jackson Key Club received *two* awards: the Strive for Five award, for increasing the number of its members by at least five as compared to last year; and the Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF award, which recognizes its participation in raising money for UNICEF at a time when one would usually ask for candy.

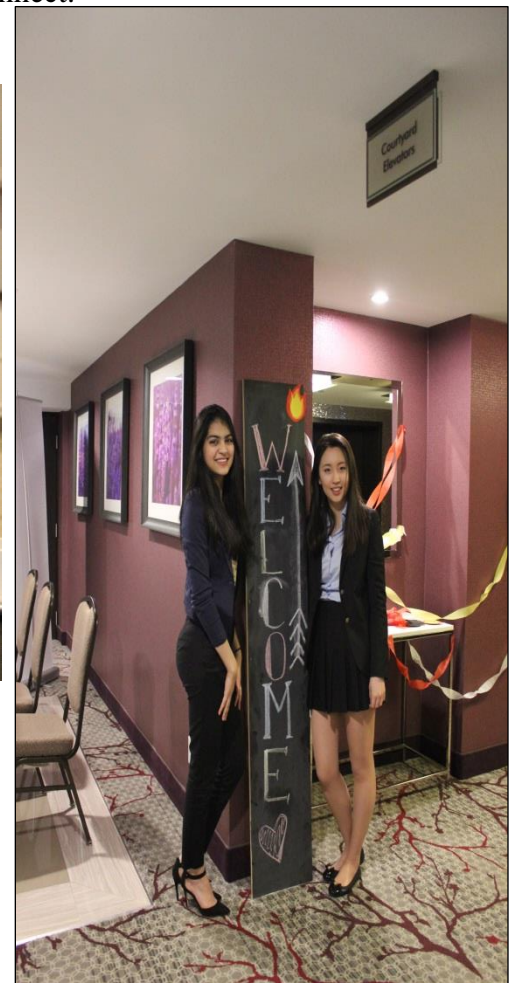
In the talent show that ensued, the grade twelve Key Clubbers from A. Y. provided the grand finale – an interactive karaoke! Although it fell short to some of the more brilliant singing, and dancing, acts, including one that warranted a standing ovation after about one line, it was most definitely enjoyed by all.



Saturday morning was filled to its brim with professionalism. In business dress, the A. Y. group attended a division caucus in which they listened to the speeches of two Key Clubbers running for District Office positions. The speakers were energetic and charismatic, both

having fascinated the audience with their humour and eagerness to connect.

This was followed by the workshops and volunteering.





At different designated time periods, the Key Clubbers from A. Y. volunteered for the Kids Against Hunger international charity.



The non-profit organization aims to feed nutritious meals to hungry children both far away and close to home. The Key Clubbers helped by filling, sealing and packing packets of casserole to be shipped.



When it was not their turn to volunteer, the students attended an assortment of workshops. *President and Vice-President Survival Guide, Club Secretary and Treasurer Training Party, Calling All Editors and Webmasters, and Survival Leadership* are but a few examples of the selection. Indeed, the creative names were barely the tips of the iceberg in how captivating the workshops were. To say the least, of course.



Soon after, the grade ten party explored Kitchener on a quest for food while the other involved themselves in the House of Delegates and the Oratorical contest. Despite the raging snowstorm, they found their way to a predetermined destination. However, it was only after eating that they dove headlong into luck – they just happened to stumble upon a ComiCon at the Kitchener City Hall!

Needless to say, it is the common high schooler's dream.

The Lieutenant Governor Appreciation Dinner could only be described as being in a class of its own. The Key Clubbers were *served*. There were rolls, a salad, and a main course, all topped off by a marvelous slice of cake.



The dinner was not complete without speakers and presentations. It was graced by a presentation from a war veteran, Collin Fitzgerald. His accounts of what he had seen when serving overseas, accompanied by photographs, were provoking of both curiosity and horror.

It wasn't long after that everyone discovered the A. Y. crew's persisting penchant for receiving awards – they had been given no less than *four* more during the ceremony after dinner. The A. Y. Jackson Key Club t-shirt, designed by Bianca and Sam, won first place in the Club T-shirt contest. The promotional video created by the grade tens likewise became the champion for the Club Video contest. Sahar achieved another first place win in designing the Service Board for our fundraising efforts for Sleeping Children Around the World. Close in pursuit was Negar for winning second place in the Oratorical Contest. We also felt Natalie's presence even though she was not there as her nomination for Best Kiwanis Advisor was selected.



After the award presentations, came Miracle Minute. Sixty precious seconds in which donations were collected for the ELIMINATE Project, a joint effort between Key Club International and UNICEF to eradicate maternal and neonatal tetanus from the *world*. The passion was definitely bolstered by the lieutenant governors, each hurrying to table after table to collect change.

Does that sound like a triumphant conclusion to the excitement? Unfortunately and fortunately, it wasn't – not when the Lieutenant Governors' Appreciation Dance had not yet come to pass. It was only after another two hours of enthusiastic and reluctant dancing that the evening came to a close. Some were exhausted, while others were finally excited.

The Governor's Farewell Brunch was all that remained of DCON by Sunday morning. Full of emotional addresses and unrestrainable tears, the Brunch exposed the remarkable sacrifices made by some of those who we regard as peers. It was the stunning finale to the act, the last stroke of color on the piece.

An act to be met with applause, a piece to be met with admiration.

- Eastern Canada DCON 2016



RACE ROSTER MARATHON: By Negar Asli



On Saturday April 9th, 2016, 25 Key Club students joined together to volunteer at the Race Roster Spring Run-Off.



The race inspires people to run for their own personal causes as well as to raise awareness of cancer. It was very cold when we arrived, but the staff members had hot chocolate and snacks waiting to warm us up.

Many schools were there to help in many different stations while we were assigned the water station.



After the runners would cross the finish line, they would pass our tables and grab a cup of water or gatorade that we prepared. Half of the students were in charge of pouring water or gatorade into cups, while the other half was in charge of placing the cups down. The day was very windy so we had to be careful if the wind blew away the cups before we could pour the water in it.



Some students were also pulled aside to help prevent the runners from crashing into each other by moving orange pylons to guide them.



After the runners rehydrated they would walk over to the next station to receive their medals. We cheered and congratulated them as they passed by. It was great to see everyone's hard work throughout the event and inspiring to see people of all ages participate. Although it was a cold day and everyone was shivering, it made us warm to know that we helped a great cause.



NEXT FOR KEY CLUB



Seton Woods 2016 The Urban Reforestation Project involving tree planning and extensive mulching of the 2200 trees planted on the site over the past 16 years. This will take place on **Saturday May 7, 2016 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**. This is in conjunction with The 132nd Toronto Scout Group, The 44th Toronto Scout Group and the Kiwanis Club of East York and Kiwanis Key Clubs of Toronto. It will be held at Taylor Creek Park.

For more information go to <http://132nd.com/setonwoods>



World Partnership Walk on Sunday May 29, 2016 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Metro Hall, David Pecaut Square. This is a community based fund raising and volunteer opportunity. For more information about this cause go to:

<https://www.worldpartnershipwalk.com/en/walk-cities/toronto>

So far we have raised approximately \$400.00 through our Mother's Day Mug sales and Henna applications. To support our team please donate at our team page. We are the AYJ JAGUARS.

http://fundraise.worldpartnershipwalk.com/site/TR/2016WPW/General?team_id=18182&pg=team&fr_id=1467

