

CRESTWORD

WILL WE FALL, OR WILL WE STAND?

BY: SYDNEY SWARTZ, '16
AND MEGHAN KATES, '16

October 22, 2014: a day that will not soon leave the minds of all Canadians. It was the day when Canada was attacked at its very core. Until now, the threat has only been a dark shadow looming over the horizon, with everyone idly wondering when it will break. However, as shots rang out in our nation's capital, the sound seemed to echo all over the country and the world. The shadow had finally descended; but, hopefully it brings with it a surge of action and a collaboration of our nation. As Stephen Harper said, "This will lead us to strengthen our resolve and redouble our effort ... and keep Canada safe here at home."



The news was spread across the globe in an instant. Shots fired... man down... gunman at loose. The reality of the situation, and what was truth or fiction, was still to be determined. In this age of technology, the global network of communication allows news to be spread — as media outlets are fond of saying

— in an instant. When news is first reported, the facts are not all clear. Tensions run high and misinformation spreads quickly. Was there one soldier shot, or was it two security personnel? Were there more casualties within the alleged shooting in the Rideau Mall? These questions, on everyone's mind, were only answered once the seeds of panic had been weeded out of the truth. This chaos and misinformation only further fuelled the panic felt across the country, and by extension across the globe. Once the truth had come out, and the panic had subsided to a steady lull, the reality of the situation was realized.

Flags still fly at half-mast as the country mourns the loss of two sol-

diers in just two days. However, it was not in peace missions in Afghanistan or in the midst of a war overseas that these men lost their lives. Instead, they were killed by an attack here at home. Just outside of St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, the first soldier was run down by a car one Monday morning. The

man who made this attack has been identified as Martin Couture Rouleau and the Prime Minister's office has identified him as being "radicalized." Identified as a possible terrorist attack, this event had raised alarm bells across the country. However, these dire warnings were clearly not heeded as just days later, Canada found itself struck at its heart, in the Parliament building itself. Another soldier was dead and the country began to listen to the alarms.

Has this been the first brush with terrorism and horror that Canada has experienced? No. For a country often described as being innocent in nature, our nation has felt the waves of terror within its borders before. In October of 1970, the October Crisis shook Canada unlike anything before. The nationalistic organization known as the Front De Liberation de Québec (FLQ) jeopardized the country's safety, sparking the government to administer the "War Measures Act."

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A LOOK BACK IN TIME

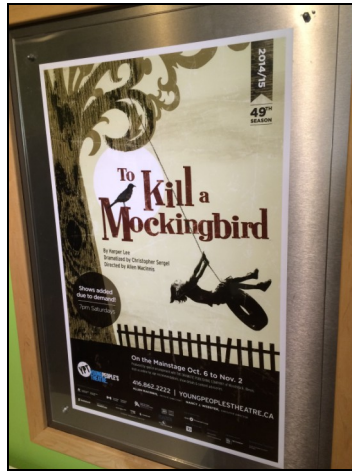
BY: JAHNAI BROWN, '18

Imagine being judged by the colour of your skin or gender. This is exactly how some individuals were treated in the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

On Thursday, October 23rd, the grade nine students departed Crestwood to watch a production of *To Kill A Mockingbird* at Young People's Theatre in downtown Toronto. The grade nines are in the midst of studying the novel, and were excited to see the story come to life. Students started to file into the auditorium, eager for the play to begin. During the production, students were able to experience and witness how individuals were not treated with equal rights in the past.

To Kill A Mockingbird is a classic novel written by Harper Lee. This novel is set in the fictional town of Maycomb, Alabama, when poverty and racism are very common.

In the beginning of the play, Scout (the narrator of the story) starts off as an immature child that is unaware of all the prejudice that is going on around her. As the play goes on, Scout starts to gain more knowledge and lose her innocence. Both the actors and production portrayed an amazing adaptation of the novel.



To Kill A Mockingbird is an important book to read as it teaches a variety of valuable lessons that students can take away and use in their everyday lives. Some lessons that can be taken away from the novel are to not kill a mockingbird and that you cannot judge a person unless you put yourself in their shoes. To not kill a mockingbird is a metaphor that refers to the innocent people that are torn down by the evil in the world and society. The lesson of not judging a person unless you walk in their shoes was taught to Scout by her father, Atticus. This lesson was taught mostly to change Scout's view on Boo Radley because she thought of him as a malevolent phantom – but, in reality, he really was a kindhearted man.

The title in itself is significant since the mockingbird is beautiful in appearance and in song. To kill an innocent mockingbird for no reason would be a crime, just as the murder of Tom Robinson was also a crime. For this reason, Tom Robinson could be seen as a mockingbird. Once beautiful and precious, he was still killed simply due to the colour of his skin.

This novel, while being quite old, is still relevant to what we see today and can teach us all a lesson or two. So, if you haven't read it yet – or if you just haven't read it recently – pick up a copy.

THE SPIRIT POINT ADVENTURE

BY: HUNTER PENNOCK, '18

Earlier this school year, our Grade 9 class visited Spirit Point to embark on a three-day overnight trip.

Leaving early, the students and teachers set off for an adventure to make new friends, and enjoy the outdoors. Over the course of three days, we participated in different activities and trust exercises to bring everyone together. We went rock climbing, hiking, camping, canoeing, and so much more, making many new memories.

Some students, had never been camping before. Each night, we made our own tents, own food, and had to keep a fire going to keep us warm. We also participated in trust games, where we had to trust a partner in order to win, or accomplish the task at hand. For example,

when we went rock climbing, every student had to take a risk and climb the wall knowing that they were being supported and spotted by their classmates. For some that took a lot of courage.

Another fun activity we did was when we went canoeing. Of course, a few people took an un-expected swim when doing this, but it was still fun! Most of all, the students enjoyed spending time with their teachers, and new, or old, friends.

By going to Spirit Point not only did we learn about nature, and friends they learned how to put faith and trust into their classmates, and teachers. Heading home, not only did students have new memories to share, we had made a great start, to a great new year!

WILL WE FALL, OR WILL WE STAND?, CONTINUED

From mailbox and public bombings, to the kidnapping and assassination of government officials, the fear of internal terrorism was felt across the country.

Canada has also experienced the terrible deeds of those acting individually as well. Almost two decades following the October Crisis, the École Polytechnique shooting, aptly known as the Montreal Massacre, once again changed the history of Canada. The act of a single gunman ended the lives of 14 women, and caused the injury of 14 others. From this act of terror came stricter gun laws and different police procedures. Canada is no stranger to acts of violence within our borders, but what do these issues mean for Canada in the future?

Terrorism by its very definition is the use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims. For so long we have thought ourselves safe from the radicalized terror of ISIS and other individuals who would seek to harm us. After all, Canada is often seen as a friendly nation where everyone is always polite and peaceful. However, this illusion of an idyllic society has been violently shattered by the events of the past weeks. The man who killed Corporal Cirillo at the War Memorial and then proceeded to wreak havoc on Parliament Hill was a Canadian himself. We must take measures to protect ourselves from threats both at home and abroad. Safety is something we have always taken for granted. Now, its time for a wake up call. We must stand together with the other nations of the world and stop being naïve about the possibility of a threat. Lest we forget the two soldiers whose lives have been lost as well as all others who have died to protect Canada.

However, the attack on human lives is not simply by other humans themselves, but also through the invasion of deadly disease. The Ebola virus has steadily spread throughout the globe, starting first in Africa, and slowly unfurling across the world. It is only a matter of time before this life-threatening virus inhabits Canada. Many Canadians are the first to say that the disease is only running rampant through Africa due to the lack of healthcare and sanitation. While these may be contributing factors to the overall distribution of the disease within the continent, the fear surrounding the world is felt all over so-called developed nations as well. The disease does not become infectious in nature until the onset of symptoms. These often present themselves in the same way of many less serious conditions, allowing those infected to travel unbeknownst,

further spreading the disease. Already the United States and Spain have had medical personnel infected by Ebola. While it may be under control at the moment, is a country such as Canada, with the majority of its population in densely habited locations truly safe?

2003 was a time of panic and hysteria across Canada, and especially in Toronto. This was when SARS was identified and quarantines were put in place. Hundreds of people fell ill, thousands were quarantined and at least 43 deaths occurred in the city. This wide-scale hysteria ensured that the city of Toronto in particular put measures into place to deal with this kind of illness if it were to happen again. However, this virus (with an almost 10% fatality rate) cannot be compared to the severity of Ebola. Although not airborne, Ebola is still easily transmitted, especially in developing countries. Canadian officials ensure that they are prepared in case the worst happens, but no one suspects that it will. The comparison between the diseases stops there. Although Canada claims to be able to handle cases, as exhibited by the SARS outbreak, the potential scale of Ebola is enough to make most people apprehensive. Will our trained health professionals and our sanitization resources be enough? The National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg has been pioneering a potential vaccine to combat the infection. While still in its developing stages, the drug has moved onto the stage of human trial with tests being conducted throughout the world. This important breakthrough still may not be enough if the disease makes its way through our borders.

It is obvious that Canada needs to heed the warnings given and take a look at the evidence. Not only are we threatened by the violence of people, but by the filtering of people in and out of our country. The spread of viruses such as Ebola comes with the spread of people and it will not just be limited to the so called developing nations of the world. The United States, our closest partner and most popular travel destination, has already been infected, even if it is for the moment on a small scale. We need to arm ourselves against all possible attacks, foreign and domestic, human and disease, for we are not prepared. There is still time to change this. We must listen to the alarms and stand together as a unified nation and a unified world. We need the kind of solidarity shown when the leaders of the major political parties embraced in the middle of the House of Commons. As said many years ago by the Greek storyteller Aesop, "United we stand, divided we fall."

Let us all stand together.

WE SCARE HUNGER:

YARRD AND ME TO WE INTRODUCE ANOTHER INNOVATIVE INITIATIVE

BY: DANIELLE GIONNAS, '15 AND SARAH MAINPRIZE, '15

This year at Crestwood, two of our social justice clubs, YARRD (Youth Against Racial and Religious Discrimination) and Me to We, have decided to join forces. It was realized this year that both of these clubs have similar goals and achievements. For this reason, Mr. Masters, Mr. Jull and Ms. Williams brought their respective clubs together.

With over 40 members, YARRD/Me to We has been taking part in some fantastic activities this year. For example, on October 2nd, several members attended We Day at the Air Canada Centre. There, Crestwood students learned more about Free the Children and their world wide initiatives, as well as how they could get involved and make a change in their own communities. YARRD/Me to We is also planning many more activities, such as the Human Right's Summit. This will take place on November 25th, involving many schools across the city, as well as numerous inspirational speakers. Crestwood students that are involved through YARRD/Me to We will see many different perspectives on social justice from around the world. There is also the highly anticipated trip to Nicaragua, which will be held over the March Break. On this eight-day trip, students will have the opportunity to help build a school, while receiving forty volunteer hours, and making a lasting change on a community in need.

However, more recently, YARRD/Me to We has been involved in Free the Children's We Scare Hunger Campaign. We Scare Hunger is a program that was developed by Free the Children, and has been brought to the attention of Crestwood students by this club. We Scare Hunger is working to support local food banks by getting schools involved to food items. The drive brings our attention to facts such as that 14% of food banks ran out of food in 2012, and one in five

parents skip meals to make sure that their children have food.

In the support of this campaign, Crestwood has united as one to stand up against hunger. Community involvement is an integral part of the Crestwood community, and Crestwood became involved to donate nonperishable food items to the North York Harvest Food Bank. Through the homeroom competition, Crestwood worked to support the less fortunate. The homeroom which donated the most cans of food won a grub day, and most importantly, to help out and make a difference in our community.

Congratulations to Mrs. Pagano's homeroom class, who brought in **over 500 items** to donate to North York Harvest Food Bank. A special mention also goes out to Ms. Cooper's homeroom class who was less than 100 items shy of Mrs. Pagano's total.

We Scare Hunger is one of the many examples of an effective initiative that YARRD/Me to We has brought to Crestwood. We Scare Hunger not only gets Crestwood students involved in our community, but it allows us to acknowledge the realities of others who are less fortunate, and shows us the positive impact of our involvement in a worthy cause.



THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM

BY: LOREN LETTIERI, '16

Earlier this school year, I was able to visit the Ontario University Fair at the Toronto Convention Centre for the first time. Thousands of students and parents were gathered to speak with representatives from all of the 21 Ontario universities. Each university included a large booth with several staff members who were available to answer any specific questions anyone wished to ask. Also, you were able to collect their large brochures that included information regarding the university including programs, residence, costs, sports and clubs, and more.

This fair gave me the opportunity to visit the booth for the University of Guelph. At first, it was very overwhelming due to the amount of people clustered in one area, but in the end it was all worth it. I met a veterinarian who graduated from the University of Guelph, and she was able to give me positive feedback about the university in general. She also spoke to me about the application process and her overall experience. She was kind enough to explain how important it is to keep your options open, and really think about your next steps.

Collecting all this positive feedback and information really helped me think things through properly. I was able to discover that in the "veterinarian world," you are able to specialize with large or small animals.

Personally, I was not expecting the university fair to be this helpful because we were not actually on the university grounds. Being at the actual university gives you a strong sense of what life is like there, how the food is, how big it is, what the community is like. However, at the university fair, staff members and graduates also



give you a great taste of what it's really like. Another awesome bonus from the fair was the individual university seminars offered from 11:00am-1:00am. For students who are not able to visit the university, the seminars can be very helpful, but visiting them was highly recommended!

Not only was the university fair beneficial for myself, it was also extremely beneficial for my parents. My mom and dad were so shocked that they were actually looking at universities for my brother and I, because as my father said, "Time goes by so fast." When we visited the booths, they were both very pleased with the conversations they had, and they were also able to gather pertinent information.

Visiting the Ontario University Fair for the first time was a very useful experience, even though I won't be applying to universities until this time next year. The research process takes time, and should begin early. Help ease the stress of postsecondary planning by reviewing options, and looking ahead during the course selection process.



THE ACORN

SHOWCASING THE TALENTS OF OUR GRADE 7 AND 8 WRITERS

IN SUPPORT OF UNIFORMS

BY: GEORGIA GARDNER, '19

Uniforms eliminate confusion and complications over fashion dilemmas and wardrobe malfunctions. However, have we ever really thought about how our uniforms end up in our closets? I spoke with the Head Supplier Dave Cunningham, who answered all of my questions!

It turns out, that we receive our uniforms from three Canadian manufactures, one company in the United States, and even receive three imports from China! Cunningham also designed our uniforms with Crestwood's ideas of colour and style in mind. He said, "Our current uniform system within the school is very convenient."

He mentioned that his favorite part about his job is interacting with Crestwood's students. Before he can bring the uniforms into the school, he must check to see how many students will be attending Crestwood, and how many boys and girls there will be. Cunningham's job also involves visiting the manufacturing companies, in order to make sure that our uniforms are good quality. Cunningham runs a family business, and they have supplied Crestwood's uniforms for 14 years. It is only fair that we acknowledge the hard work that over 50 Crestwood workers put into making our uniforms looking sharp and ready for school! The next time you put on a Crestwood uniform, think about how many hard-working people have worked to give it to you!

SPORTS AT SCHOOL

BY: MAX DOLMAN, '19

Sports are a very important part of school and day-to-day life. Without sports, schools cannot grow and the students cannot flourish. Here are two main reasons why schools should have sports. The first reason is that sports help an individual's mind grow. The second reason is if there were no sports at school, school would not be fun. Sports are also for those people that just want to try something new.

In a school, you have games, sports, work and discipline, but you still need time to go out there and relax your brain from the stress of a hard day's work. There needs to be a balance between work and sports. Work keeps your mind strong and healthy while sports make your body strong and healthy. Work is a good thing to have—just not too much, or there may be a problem. For example, you may get stressed out or overworked.

That is why you need breaks and sports are the perfect break to keep you at the peak of your academic career. This is why I think sports are important and there should be more of them at school.

U14 SOCCER TEAM

BY: AMIR RAFATI, '20 PETER KEANE, '20 AND ZACK MORRIS, '20

Crestwood's U14 Boys Soccer Team has been practicing hard; however, luck turned against them during their first game. Michael Di Battista scored an early goal to put Crestwood ahead, but a bad and unlucky second half cost them a 4-1 loss to Bayview Glen.

In their second game of the season, for the first ten minutes, Crestwood had a poor start and Trinity College was on the board early. An unlucky offside call turned down Trinity's chance to take the lead. Although the team had a nice attempt to tie the match, they could not put it away. The U14 Crestwood Boys Soccer Team practiced hard to face Trinity College, hoping to get their first win. Let us hope that next time they will get their first of many.





Halloween at Crestwood!



BY: SIENA DICUIA, '16

Camp Edgewood is a camp which allows you to get in touch with nature, your community, and your inner self. A group of Crestword students — myself included — were fortunate enough to have participated in this creative writing workshop, in such a peaceful destination.

The workshop took place outside on the camp's beautiful grounds in the brisk, fresh air, which definitely kept us energized throughout the day. Once the eight of us arrived at the campground, our day began as quickly as it ended. Students from other schools started to arrive, and we were teamed up, and then set to go on our "Hundred Story Wood" adventure.

The format of the day consisted of four different groups, which you stayed with all day. After spending approximately one hour with each author, we moved around so that by the end of the day, we worked with all four authors. This event was structured so that there were two sessions in the morning, and two in the afternoon. Each session involved one of the authors giving us constructive feedback, tools to enhance our writing skills, or activities to further our knowledge in literature.

It was an experience of a lifetime to have four authors—Angie Abdou, Tanis Rideout, Evan Munday, and Carrie Snyder, all of whom have published pieces or written novels—critique our work, and provide advice.



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One activity that really sparked my interest was one in which we were asked to write down a story from our past that we tend to share with people. Then we were told to take one of the characters and make them into a monster of some sort. We were taught that doing this allows the character to take on a different shape and varies their perspective. It also allows you to be more creative with your writing.

When the day had come to a close, we all sat next to the fire, and were given the opportunity to share our pieces amongst each other. It gave us all a chance to be bold, courageous, and to step out of our comfort zones.

Two important things that I learned that day were that critiquing is necessary and beneficial to helping you become a great writer, and that it's okay to step outside of your writing genre and to try new things. You'll never know if you don't try!

On a final note, I must say that it was a great and memorable experience. Except, of course, for the 6:00 a.m. wake-up call; that was definitely not the highlight of the day. But it sure was all worth it in the end.

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The Crestword?**
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and send your articles
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