

Social Action

The Heart of Ajax: Equity, Diversity and Character ...

About the program ...

The Heart of Ajax 2009 event celebrated and recognized diversity, equity and character education practices in Ajax schools. All schools were invited to send four student representatives from Grades 4-10 and one teacher to speak about the special initiatives in their schools. Information was displayed on backboards and each school created *diversity dolls* or *character kids* reflecting the heritage of their students. These were a focal point of the event and are prominently displayed in schools across Ajax. Students and teachers were able to see a wide variety of initiatives in place which support character education, diversity and equity. Participants left the event with a greater understanding of initiatives which could be put in place at their schools and a greater appreciation and understanding of each other.



Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- Students were provided with leadership opportunities during the initial sharing of the initiatives and the carousel portion of the event.
- Students and teachers brought diversity and character initiatives they had heard at the event back to their schools, discussed them with their leadership groups and implemented them to reflect the needs and perspectives of their individual school communities.
- Some schools participated in collaborative fundraising efforts for both local and international causes that they learned about at the event.
- Each school submitted a follow-up write-up of their initiatives, which were then compiled as a full resource, formatted on a disc and shared with all Ajax elementary and secondary schools. Each school could then easily access the initiative ideas and readily implement similar initiatives.

Participating Ajax Elementary Schools ...

Alexander G. Bell P.S.	Applecroft P.S.	Bolton C. Falby P.S.
Cadarakque P.S.	Carruthers Creek P.S.	Dr. Roberta Bondar P.S.
Duffin's Bay P.S.	Eagle Ridge P.S.	Lakeside P.S.
Lester B. Pearson P.S.	Lincoln Alexander P.S.	Lincoln Avenue P.S.
Lord Elgin P.S.	Nottingham P.S.	Roland Michener P.S.
Romeo Dallaire P.S.	Southwood Park P.S.	Terry Fox P.S.
Vimy Ridge P.S.	Westney Heights P.S.	Central Maintenance

Participating Ajax Secondary Schools ...

Ajax H.S.	J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate	Pickering H.S.
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To find out more, contact ...

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