

Students fly their flags for United Nations Day



By Chris McGowan

U.N. Day at Pickering College is always a recognition of diversity and equality, and this year it was celebrated at the school on Friday, October 17.

United Nations Day is celebrated globally on October 24 and is the anniversary of the day when the United Nations General Assembly created the Charter of the U.N.

Pickering College has 400 students that come from 29 different countries throughout the world. Traditionally, Pickering College has a flag for each different country they have students from. These flags are displayed proudly in the main lobby of the school, but on U.N. Day, a student, or students carry the flag into the gymnasium in recognition to the country they come from.

The array of colours from the different flags is a sight to behold, while the song 'It's a Small World' is playing in the background. As the ceremony commenced, the flag-bearing students announced to the audience the year their country joined the U.N.

The entire school attended the event and even little Sr. Kindergarten student Sienna Sexsmith-Brosseau participated in carrying her Bermuda flag. Her mother Diane watched proudly from the audience and was very happy to have her daughter participate.

'It's phenomenal,' she said.

The event was organized by teacher Shelly Frank in addition to student leadership.

Grade 12 student Joe Li, has been in Canada for three years. He has attended Pickering for that time but originally came from China.

He has enjoyed going to school here and said with a smile on his face 'I have gotten lots of experience here at Pickering'.

Vanessa Chiu, who is from Hong Kong, has been here in Canada and Pickering for three years as well. 'It's kind of like a little United Nations here,' she said.

Josephine Kanan from Sierra Leone also participated, though she had just arrived in September to Canada and Pickering.

'This is very important to me,' said Kanan. 'I was told by my family that the U.N. helped so many people in Sierra Leone.'

She is looking forward to her studies at Pickering and seeing snow for the very first time.