

Different Together: St. Max's International Night celebrates diversity



By Sydney Goan

Just this past week, on Thursday June 1, St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School hosted the sixth annual "International Night." With over 300 guests in attendance, it was a night that was dedicated to celebrating and promoting the various ethnicities and cultures within the surrounding community.

For the past month, Grade 12 students from both the social science and hospitality classes have been preparing their time and effort to pull off this annual event.

With the help of SMK students, teachers and custodians, the once cafeteria had been transformed into a multinational square that featured music, artwork, traditional dishes and much more from each respective country. The various countries that were highlighted at this particular international night were: Syria, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Ireland, China, India, Mexico, Italy, Ethiopia and the Philippines.

The festive evening also featured musical and dance performances by students representing countries and their cultures, such as an Irish dance performance to represent Ireland. These upbeat jigs were performed by SMK student Anya Brown and her dancing partners, Kiera Kenny, Maria-Laura Loughran and Phoebe Corless all from the Irish Dance Studio in Newmarket.

This night not only showcased the community's many different cultures but in addition this year's International Night included an underlying message about the importance of diversity through celebrating the theme of being "Different Together."

Joy Sweets, a Grade 12 student, who had a vendor from the Ireland booth said, "International night brings countries and their differences together and I believe it is vital that our school can experience that."

Thank you to all who volunteered and contributed to organizing this event as it could not have gone on without the tireless effort, work and time that was put in to make sure that this night was one that could be remembered for years and years to come.