

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As you can see, this month's newsletter is a little different than those you typically receive. I hope you'll enjoy reading Jeremy's story, appreciate his passion for Blyth TH, and support his efforts to give others the opportunity to be happy and successful. I wish all of you a restful holiday break, full of all the good things.

Ms. Foley

STUDENT PROFILE: JEREMY SOKOLOFF

My name is Jeremy Sokoloff and I am a Grade 12 student at the Blyth Thornhill campus. This is my first year with Blyth, and even though I have only been here for a short time, the school has had a major impact on my life, as it has on so many others. Until this year, I was a member of the public school system. I always excelled academically, and generally enjoyed learning and going to school every day. Last year I began to develop anxiety and depression. I felt that the teachers at my old school began to look at me and treat me differently because of this, and school became a very unwelcoming place for me. In a school with over 1,000 kids, it is impossible for everyone to get the help they need. My perception of myself greatly changed through this experience. Where I was once a straight A student, my grades were falling and my teachers were telling me to give up and drop to the applied level, which made me even less motivated to go to school and learn. When the year ended, I felt like I was caught in a downward spiral and I didn't think anything could change it. Luckily, I was wrong.

As soon as I began school at Blyth my life began to change. The staff here - from top to bottom - care about the students and want each and every one of us to succeed. Most importantly, they never judge us



and are always there to support us no matter what. The staff at Blyth understand that we all have our own reasons for attending, and they always see the best in every individual rather than the worst. The smaller classes allow students to focus on learning in a calmer environment, and it gives teachers the ability to connect personally to each student and tailor the learning to their individual preferences. Suddenly, school is now a welcoming place again!

Blyth changed my life, and I am happy again! Blyth has done so much for me that it got me thinking about other students who are currently battling anxiety and depression and are failing to get the support they need. Without Blyth I would not be where I am today. It makes me sad that others like me who need support to get their lives back on track can't afford to attend a school like Blyth.

This got me thinking about how to make a difference; I am happy to announce that I have started a charitable scholarship fund so that other students who suffer from anxiety and depression might have the opportunity to attend Blyth Thornhill. Hopefully with the help and support of the Blyth community we can come together and raise money to give more kids the chance to succeed and be happy! Watch for more info and learn how you can help in January!

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 22: Last Day of Classes – ½ Day

December 23 – January 7: Winter Break

January 8: Term 2 Classes Resume

January 12: Blyth Cross-Campus Model UN
at Blyth Lawrence Park

January 16-19: Recreation Leadership
Class 4-Day Excursion to Algonquin Park

January 23: End of Term Assembly

February 2 & 3: Term 2 Exams