

THE TCASD TIMES

Our mission is to develop a peace full, cultural oriented and educated community, who think globally acts responsible and contribute to the societies in which we live in..



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About Us

The Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham, TCASD for short, is a non-profit organization founded in 2008. The organization is aimed at providing our youth and young children with opportunities to engage in activities that will enlighten them on their culture and prospective futures. The organization promotes cultural awareness, excellence in academics, and community involvement. We pride ourselves on forming a steady foundation to allow or children and youth to become great leaders in tomorrow's society.

Giving Back Never Felt Better

The society of Durham does so much for everyone, TCASD is giving back to thank them and the public in general.

"Contributing to the community is valuable; it is also a big part of building a vibrant and diverse

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community."

-Raveena Rajasingam (President)



Announcement

Congratulations to the City of Pickering for celebrating Bicentennial. TCASD proudly joins City of Pickering in celebrating the milestone by devoting many of our events to Bicentennial.



A Cultural Mosaic in Durham

TCASD constantly strives to bring cultural awareness within its own members as well as in the community.

Believe in You

The Believe in You annual cultural program is a chance for the youth and children of the Tamil community here in Durham to showcase their amazing talents and skills. The show being entirely run by youth, allows them complete freedom in running with their imaginations.

This year's turnout at the program was a clear indication of the great support the community is able to bring to our children and youth. Over 500 people attended the show to support over 120 participants. There were many highlights of the show, but one especially significant moment was the appearance of guest speaker Shelly-Ann Brown, 2010 winter Olympic silver medalist in bobsleigh.

Performances consisted of a variety of dance styles. Everything from Congo to fusion dances. Another main highlight were two large dance productions that showcased an evolution of dance and music, as well as a medley of English and Tamil songs and dance styles.

The success of our show this year clearly is indicated by the returning crowds from our past two shows and growing number of audience members.

Navarathri Pooja

It is a Hindu annual tradition to dedicate 9 days of the year to 3 goddesses: the goddess of wealth, knowledge, and strength. The TCASD group develops knowledge and pride in our culture by holding a pooja each year for this event. Parents, seniors, youth, and children gather to show their devotion and love for these goddesses through

Thai Pongal

This thankful tradition is based off of the time old tale of farmers collecting rice stalks from crop fields. They would bring these stalks home, pound them to get the rice grains, and then boil the grains. The rising of the rice, and the subsequent overflow is known as "pongal". The pongal is then offered to the sun in thanks of a successful harvest.

This event is celebrated with lots of food, singing, and dancing to thank god for providing us with so much each year. It is yet another chance for everyone to gather and be thankful for everything that is afforded to them. This is another way in which TCASD displays the importance of our culture.

Christmas Party

This holiday is internationally known as a time to spend with family and give back to others. Like father Christmas, TCASD gives back to its member families by hosting this annual celebration. We provide the opportunity for families to get together, children to receive gifts from Santa, dance, play games, and have an all around good time. Is is a chance for our TCASD families to spend time with each other, but most importantly give back to themselves by relaxing and enjoying themselves.

The organization also notes it is a time to give back, and organized a toy drive this year, as well as food drives in the previous years. The generosity of our community is boundless.

TCASD also participates in many other activities such as:

prayers, manthras, and bhajans. We dedicate our fast to these goddesses and receive blessings. The celebration ends with a large group meal that has already been offered to the deities. TCASD widely emphasises religion and self-discipline about our culture through events like this.

- Carolling
- Annual Community Christmas Parade

Upcoming Events:

- Jan 30th- Literacy Day
- Feb 19th-Health Seminar
- March 5th- Summer job /Volunteer Seminar





Educating our Future Leaders

Without a doubt, without education society would be completely non-functional. TCASD prides itself on providing our youth and children with all the best opportunities to help them in discovering their passions.

Science Fair

TCASD encourages the youth and children in our community to make use of their wide knowledge in the fields of science. Each year, for the past 2 years, the children and youth have participated in creating science based projects. The projects this past year were extensively judged by guests Dr. Mannivanan and Mrs. Dolhatshahi. The intelligence and intellect displayed was simply spectacular. Each year the youth and children never fail to astound us with their high level of knowledge.

University Trip

Being apart of the TCASD organization has also given us many opportunities to get a glimpse of our futures. In the past year, the committee brought our entire youth group to the University of Western Ontario to tour the campus and learn about various programs offered there. For many of the youth, it gave them to chance to see what university life was like and even consider western in their future post-secondary educations.

The organizations is very committed to helping the youth discover their future, and has many other trips planned for the coming year. TCASD has most definitely played a large role in helping the youth set up their future and mature into well informed individuals.

Career/ Job Opportunity Fair

The organization has also enlightened our youth on possible career fields and provided them with volunteer and job opportunities. For

may choose to pursue. Excellent guest speakers were chosen to talk about areas such as medicine, law, computer programming, business, and accounting. They offered insight into these great fields and what the youth could expect upon joining that work force. For many youth is was a clear eye opener as to what they wanted to do with their futures.

In addition, volunteer and job opportunities were presented to the youth to allow them an outlet to make their mark in the community. Several volunteer positions were posted such as at the Pickering library, Pickering heritage center, and with the town of Ajax. The youth in policing program was also extended to our youth especially after having several youth participate in the program in the past 2 years. Job positions were also opened with the town of Ajax, and Ontario Power Generation. The youth were sure to take full advantage of these opportunities.

The great attention to academics within the organization is what has allowed the youth to make such progress and excel in their school work as well. The continued support of the executive committee is what allow the youth to be sure they are always making the right choice.

Awards Ceremony

The youths and adults of TCASD contribute and dedicate so much time and effort both to the organization and to the community as a whole. TCASD has always given importance to appreciate everyone for their efforts. The organization holds an annual awards ceremony to recognize and appreciate people's contributions. This event also helps youth discover what their talents are and realize where their strengths lie.

the past 2 years a career fair was held to inform the youth about different fields of study they



A Helping Hand In The Community

A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. -Margaret Mead



Adopting a Park

The Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham adopted Bonita Park about 3 years ago. The park, which is adjacent to Fairport Road and Dunbarton Creek is a nice family location that TCASD can be proud of taking care of. Each year the group sets up a park clean up and looks after it for the local community. The care for our communities local surroundings is an important value the TCASD members instill in not only each other, but their own children and youth. Keeping the environment clean and healthy is important, especially in the technological age we currently live in. It has also given everyone a deeper sense of appreciation about nature. The park will continue to be a source of pride and joy to all those that may visit it.



Canada Day Henna Tattoos

Every July 1st, experienced members of TCASD provide the community with free henna tattoos at rotary park. The amount of visitors that received a free tattoo is endless. This past July, over 200 tattoos were easily given out. The TCASD artists used their steady hands to draw intricate designs that represent true beauty in our culture. The booth is always a hit, and TCASD is always more than happy to give back to everyone in the community. We get to bring a taste of our culture to the celebration of the year, the celebration of our beautiful nation.



Lights of Hope-Charity Gala

On April 10th 2010, TCASD held its first charity Gala. The objective was to raise money for two hospitals: Rouge Valley Health Systems and Lakeridge Hospital. TCASD successfully raised \$5000 towards each hospital through an evening filled with performances, dinner, games, and fun. The organization's efforts resulted to a new Doppler machine in the maternity ward at Rouge Valley, and a room for cancer patients at Lakeridge Hospital. TCASD has expanded its goal for the near future and will be holding another Charity Gala this year.



Soup Kitchen

On Thursday, December 23rd, 2010, a few of TCASD's youth made a trip downtown to Good Shepherd Ministries on Queen Street East. There they volunteered



four hours of their time helping out the soup kitchen. Some youth spent time preparing sandwiches and serving them to the needy that came into the centre. Others worked to sort soaps and shampoos donated by hotels for anyone who would use the shower facilities. These small efforts certainly contributed towards the 100s of people that use soup kitchens like Good Shepherd each year. The devotion and caring personalities of the youth are forever reflected in efforts like this.