

Change for the Brain

On the morning of January 12, 2011, Andre Ward, a then grade 11 student, suffered from a ruptured Arteriovenous Malformation (causing bleeding in the brain) en route to school. As the news was relayed to us, his fellow classmates, teachers, and friends fervently prayed to the Great Physician for his healing and comfort for all who knew Andre, especially his parents. As usual, God listened, and Andre was able to return to school months later. After undergoing successful surgeries at the Hospital for Sick Children and Toronto Western Hospital, he went on for rehabilitation at the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, where he still continues today.

In November, the Tomorrow's Leaders Association (student leadership group) wanted to raise awareness about brain injuries and show their appreciation to Bloorview for all the work they have done and still do for Andre and other children like him. On Andre's 17th birthday, to show support of the cause, students donated \$2 or more to wear his favorite colour, black. With great help from Mrs. Burgin-Hall, the elementary school division principal, Mr. Thomas, the high school division principal, teachers, staff and the entire student body was able to raise \$805. This donation was presented to Bloorview during an assembly on December 9th. During the assembly, the Bloorview representative, informed us of the eye-opening facts about brain injuries and how the CAA population can help in its prevention. In addition, Mr. Ainsley Ward, Andre's father, thanked the students and faculty of their heartfelt love, support, and prayers. This donation will go towards helping children and their families who have suffered from the effects of brain injuries, like the Ward family.

The lesson we learned from this experience is extremely important to all of us: there is POWER in love, patience and prayer.

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