

WHY I LOVE CHURCHILL!

I came to Canada on September 8, 2011 and I didn't know much English. I left my family and friends in my country, Iran. I went to Churchill High School and a new chapter of my life started. I was welcomed in Mrs. Stoneham's room and I was also invited to play for Churchill's football team. I was so excited because before that, I always felt like I was useless in sports. I started going to the football practices and the coaches were so friendly towards me, and I saw most of the players were also immigrants like me, and I felt comfortable in the team. First year in Churchill, I didn't do much Churchill related, because I tried to learn about Churchill first and then after knowing, then I started to help Churchill, but I was still playing for Churchill's football and rugby teams and I found out a lot of what I could do in first year.



Second Year

During the summer of 2012, my feelings about Churchill changed a lot. It is hard to explain my feelings, but I can say I was so proud about being from Churchill and wearing the Bulldog logo with pride. When I go outside of Churchill wearing my Bulldog logo, I try to control myself and not disrupt others because when I'm wearing Churchill clothes, I am representing my school with pride.

Churchill has a very special place in my heart. I love Churchill because I think of all the students and staff as my family in Canada. In my country, they always had the saying, "school is our second home", but here, Churchill is my first home, and I will stay with them and help them until they tell me to go away. Churchill did a lot of things for me and they supported me and everybody's ideas, and they give the students the opportunity to express their ideas and unique personalities. I remember when I told Ms. Wong (Churchill's Principal) about Teacher Appreciation Day and she never said, "No," and she supported the idea and said, "Let's do it." I appreciated that and I should say thank you to Mr. Zagari, Ms. Carol Gossel, Ms. Sherry Kenyon and Mrs. Annie Drummond from the office. I will say that if they did not support me, I would

not have been able to make Churchill's Student Announcements every day. I think the staff as my best friends. Churchill High School has many great teachers. They are so calm and respectful. When you don't understand something, they will put time from their break or after school to help you understand. Churchill has a woodshop and a graphics room. Mr. Saul Correia is the Woods teacher. I was never in his class but when I had a spare, I went to his classes and he taught me how I can make something with wood. Mr. Mike Harris is the graphics teacher, and he is a great teacher. When I told him I wanted to make a flag for Churchill, he made time to help me make a very awesome Churchill flag.



Mrs. Bray is the Foods teacher and she taught me how to cook. I live by myself, so it was very helpful. I love Churchill because of their students. All of them were like my brothers and sisters. They were really nice to me that was a strong reason that I felt like Churchill is my home. Everyone should know Churchill is a small school but a very STRONG small school. Churchill has lots of great athletes; I learned from them that we should play hard and win as a team. In the year of 2012-2013, our football team beat Oak Park which was an incredible accomplishment because we have not won in 5 years. Also our Rugby team got a city Champions, our Curling team won the city championship and our track and field team won a lot of medals.



I would say if Churchill's students and staffs didn't support us we couldn't have these result. When one of Churchill's teams had a game I was there to cheer them on and support them because if they got better results, it is like my family got better result and it made me very happy.

Participation In Groups

Churchill High School has a lot of groups that you can involve yourself with, and I was in some of them.

Peace Learner Group: It was one of my favorite groups because I learned about what is happening around the world and how I can help people in other countries. Churchill's Peace Learner leaders Mr. Dave Law, Mrs. Barbara Ediger and Mrs. Tanis Westdal work in bringing together a diverse group of students from different backgrounds. I was so impressed to see how the students were united together to take the steps needed for human rights and helping people in Africa. They had a lot of fundraisers to make money for the people in Africa. I would say the Churchill staff is amazing and they donated a lot of money to support Churchill's Peace Learner Group.



Leadership Group: I was also one of the members of Churchill's Leadership Group, every Friday, slot B, we went to the Riverview Elementary School to play games like a Dodgeball, Tug of War and many more during their recess. I learned two great things from this group: 1) I learned how I can be a good leader, not only for kids but to everyone around my life. 2) I learned to respect other people and control my behavior when I'm with kids because they think of us as role models who they look up to. I would like to say thank you to all the teachers for making this group successful. It helped people like me learn a lot of things. Thank you to Mr. Alan North and Mrs. Tanis Westdal.

Robotics: I wasn't in this group but I heard good things about what they do and followed them because I was really interested about Churchill's Robotic Club. It is my pleasure to say thank you to Mr. John Karpiak for making Robotics a success at Churchill High School.

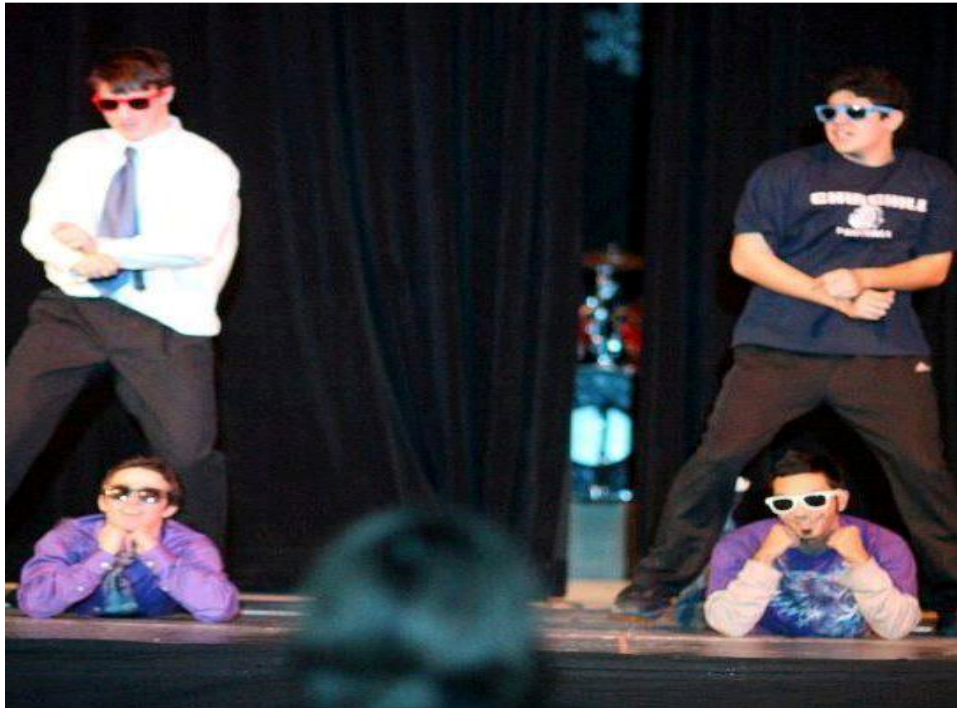
Churchill's Events We have a lot of amazing events in Churchill and I would like to say, thank you to our Phys .Ed Teachers Mr. Brian Loeppky , Mr. Colin Shaw and Mr. Sylvestre for their huge support. If they did not support me, there was no way I could make Churchill's **Teaches Appreciation Day** and **Pep Rally for spring seasons sport teams**. These three people do their best for students because they show us the right way to stay healthy.

Gym Riot is an interesting competition;. In the gym riot, they divide 492 students and put them in different groups, and then they have challenges with the groups to see who wins the most competitions. It was my honor to be the captain of the blue team, and I learned it is hard to be a leader of the team, because all your team mates will follow and look up to you. I learned if you want to get better results and teamwork in the competition, I had to show friendship and care for my teammates. It was my first experience to be to leader to younger kids and teammates, and I learned a lot of things from them. Many kids in Churchill have different abilities, and when we get together and put all this abilities together we can get better results in everything.



Mini Olympics is similar to Gym Riot and both Churchill High School and Collège Churchill get together to create teams based on different countries. The students work together and compete against other countries.

Talent Show: It was my pleasure to be the MC of 2012's Churchill's Talent Show. It is incredible to see Churchill, the smallest school in Winnipeg with 492 students with such a large amount of talented students.



Band and Choir Groups: I know Churchill is a small school, but we have a strong band and choir group. Last year they went to Minneapolis and they received nine awards. I would like to say thank you to Mr. Chris Rempel and Mr. Trevor Uruski for putting a lot of work, and developing the students of Churchill.



Anti-Bullying: Churchill had a Pink Day to recognize Anti-Bullying. All the students wore a pink shirt. When I was in Churchill, I have never seen any Bullying, but if someone gets bullied, some other people and Churchill's teachers and students will stop the bullying, and discourage it throughout the whole year.



Grad 7 & 8 Winter Camp: That was a great experience for me, I was a volunteer for 2012-2013's winter camp, and I improved my skills and I also learned how to cope with the cold.



Churchill High School also has more events like **Pajamas day**, **Cultural day**, **Halloween Party**, **Valentine Dance** and more

All of the reasons above are from my experiences and education throughout my journey in Churchill High School.

Finally, I miss my family and I would like to say to every single person in Churchill that each and every one of you has a place in my heart.

I LOVE CHURCHILL FOREVER!!!

SHAHAB VALIPOUR ☺ (FOR SURE, FOR SURE)

