

In Loving Memory of Alvie Khandaker,

From the moment he left this earth, everything changed. As I walked into what use to be Markham District High School, I could feel the difference. In my mind, things that mattered didn't anymore, memories that we had together had disappeared, and every sense of reality had crumbled in my hands. I could not believe one of my best friends was gone forever.

Alvie was someone to all of us. He had many friends, and all who knew him; knew he was an amazing person. He was one of the most intelligent students I have the pleasure to know, and I am forever grateful that I got to know him. He was in, at least one of my classes every year since grade 9. We had become close friends in grade 10, while we were in Ms. Kiran's University Math class. We had competitions on every assessment as to who would get the higher grade. Alvie would always bet me by 1 or 2 marks. However, there was one time where he mistakenly forgotten to do something on his math quiz, and I had perfect while he had lost one mark. That was one memory with a lot of others that I would treasure for the rest of my life. Everyday since Alvie passed away I have found something that has reminded me of him. As I know how it is to lose a loved one, it is even harder to lose someone as extraordinary as Alvie. I will always and forever remember Alvie as one of my best friends, who I enjoyed the company of and who were always there for me when I needed someone. Not all of us can uphold such an academic standard like he did, and be so involved in extra curricular things such as Mumba and holding unto a part-time job. In honor of Alvie's memory I will use hard work, and try to be even a



fraction of what he was. With this award, I will also try to demonstrate the qualities that Alvie had and try to represent him.

I am a person who strives and works hard at everything in order to obtain what I want. I am interested in sports such as basketball and volleyball as well as many others. I enjoy reading, going on walks, as well as hanging out with my friends and family.

At Markham District High School, I have been involved in peer tutoring, where I have been tutoring grade 9 students in English, Science, and Geography. I have also been involved in peer mentors, where I have been helping grade 9 students with their transition into high school. I have also been involved in my community, as I have helped at Scarborough Retirement Centre and Livingston Lodge Retirement Home. I have been a volunteer at the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life at the Birchmount Stadium. I will always work hard to achieve the very best that I can and know that Alvie will be proud of me, if he was here. I have worked very hard in order to get into McMaster University and I have achieved one of my goal. I will be attending McMaster University in Hamilton next year in order to obtain an undergrad degree in Psychology. With this undergrad degree, I will be able to apply and forward my education at the Osgoode Hall of Law where I will work hard to become a family lawyer, where I can help people; which is one of my other goals. Mr. and Mrs. Khandaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for having an amazing son; and for giving me and the other students at Markham District High School the honor of knowing your son. As his remembrance lies in our hearts, he will eternally be with us.

Leanna Dass