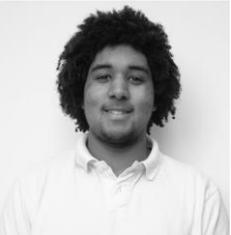




**Blake Perryman**, Scarborough, ON

Blake Perryman is in grade 10 at Winston Churchill C.I. in Scarborough. He chose to attend Churchill for the Leonard Braithwaite Program, the only Afro-centric high school program in North America. Blake was born in Canada, but has strong ties to his Trinidadian heritage, as both his parents were born in Trinidad. Blake first joined DAREarts in grade 7 when recommended to the program by his teacher; he was very happy for the opportunity to experience an arts program outside of Scarborough with children from other schools. It was at DAREarts that Blake first performed a rap that he wrote on stage for others to enjoy. **"I learned discipline and the importance of art to express yourself," Blake says. "DAREarts helped me gain confidence and leadership skills. As a DAREarts Grad I enjoy volunteering for and being part of such an inspiring program."**



**Dante Royale Scholar**, Toronto, ON

Dante Royale Scholar is a grade 11 student at Central Technical School in downtown Toronto. His goals are to go to Ryerson University for Hospitality and Tourism management, and he would like to follow that up with attending the University of Toronto for law studies. After his graduation as a DAREarts delegate, Dante put his lessons of leadership to good use, volunteering many hours at DAREarts programs. He is always eager to help, and enjoys setting a good example for those younger than him. For that reason, when Cirque du Soleil asked DAREarts to choose a DAREarts youth to carry the Pan Am torch for the opening in July, DAREarts chose Dante. **"DAREarts has helped me with every challenge life has thrown at me, whether it be in the classroom, on the ice, on the field or even when I'm just not in a good mood."**



**Judith Beaver**, Webequie, ON

Judith Beaver lives in the remote northern fly-in-only community of Webequie First Nation, and is a grade 9 student of Simon Jacob Memorial Education Centre. She is the second oldest of seven children. Judith is very proud of her home in Webequie. She has been in DAREarts leadership programs for a couple of years there. Her passion is her life goal: to raise funds to provide her community with an arena. She plans to facilitate this through organizing a walk-a-thon from Pickle Lake to Ottawa, and is determined to give back to her community in this way. **"DAREarts helped teach me that doing a lot of fun things will always keep your mind off bad things that are running through your head," Judith says. "I didn't know how to cope with what was bothering me, but now I know, because DAREarts helped me with it."**



**Michelle Khela**, Scarborough, ON

Michelle Khela is a grade 12 student at the South East Year Round Alternative Centre (SEYRAC) in Scarborough. She was born in Canada, but comes from an Indian heritage and follows the Sikh religion. Before she left home, she attended DAREarts' program in northwest Etobicoke. Her main goal is to attend school for auto mechanics, and be able to open a garage to run her own business. Michelle has spent a great deal of time volunteering with DAREarts, and has served as an inspiration to the younger children on the value of tenacity and strong beliefs in spite of life hardships. **"DAREarts has shown me that when you feel like you can't do something, keep on trying," Michelle says. "DAREarts has shown me what could happen if you don't give up."**



**Kohilan Mohanarajan**, Scarborough, ON

Kohilan Mohanarajan is a grade 11 student at Leaside Secondary School in Scarborough. Both of Kohilan's parents immigrated to Canada from Sri Lanka. Kohilan speaks English, Tamil and French fluently, and plans to visit his roots in Sri Lanka this summer. He hopes that one day he can publish his own book, write for a movie or television show, or design and develop a video game. He is part of an award-winning robot-making team at school and, in fact, is giving up a world competition to accept his leadership award! He has been part of DAREarts since Gr. 4. **Kohilan says, "When I was younger, I was much more antisocial, and I always felt out of place wherever I went that led to me being picked on by others. "DAREarts has helped me with my ability to interact with others, and helped me become who I am today."**

**DAREarts - Discipline, Action, Responsibility, Excellence**

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