Six Awesome Things the MSU Does With $26

If you are a first year student, six weeks ago you were stepping on to this campus about to start your McMaster adventure. With MacPass in hand, you attended events, picked up some McMaster swag and met some new people. For many of our upper year students, you may have been prepping or preparing for another year. We hope you all had a memorable week and a great start to the year!

Now, throughout the summer, we worked hard to plan and prepare for the best experience possible. In order to do that, each year since 2012, Level I students are levied $110 for the Orientation fee. This fee is distributed amongst various campus partners including the MSU, the Student Success Centre, faculty societies, as well as Residence Life / Society of off-Campus Students (SOSC). All of these groups provide some level of programming during Welcome Week. Of the $110 Orientation fee, the MSU receives $26 dollars per student, which we direct solely towards programming and events for Welcome Week. MAConnector, Airbands, Faculty Fusion, Clubsfest, Sidewalk Sale, Shinerama, Charity Casino and two massive outdoor concerts are great examples of how the MSU spent our $26 portion of your $110.

We do all of this with less than 25% of the Orientation fee levy. If you think about it, attending a DJ Tommy Trash concert, as more than 5000 first year students did for free during Welcome Week, would have cost much more than $26! In addition to the two concerts, the Airbands competition brought in over a thousand first years and reps to Faculty Hollow to see faculties and residences put on some amazing performances. As well, this year’s PJ Parade was bigger and better than ever, gaining positive reviews from both students and community members. All of these events serve as important parts of the annual MSU Faculty and Residence cups, and are brought to you by MSU Campus Events and its subsidiary audio/visual service AVtek. Each Welcome Week partner (outlined in the graphic below) is responsible for providing a list of expenses outlining their respective use of the Orientation fee. Orientation fee spending audits are due from all partners on October 15th.

We hope you had an amazing time during Welcome Week, and that the 2013-2014 school year is off to a fantastic start! The MSU will continue to work hard to give first year students the best experience possible during Welcome Week. If you feel like reliving the memories, make sure to check out our Facebook page (fb.com/MSUMcMaster) for photos from all of these events. If you’re interested in getting involved next year, the planning for Welcome Week 2014 has already begun!