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St. Mary's student blazes through math, makeup, and bullying

Waterloo Region Record
By Jeff Outhit

KITCHENER — He's passionate about makeup and mathematics. And he's really good at both.

Kyne Santos, 18, turned his 98 per cent average into a prestigious scholarship worth \$60,000 to study math at the University of Waterloo.

"A lot of people think that math and science is hard, cold, calculating, just plugging in numbers and memorizing facts. But it's really about creativity," he said.

Santos likes to be just as creative in his appearance. He experiments with dramatic looks and posts online makeup videos that are partly confessional, partly practical.

"For me, makeup is all about the spectacle," he said. "I love being able to transform."

Santos attends St. Mary's High School in Kitchener. He's been awarded a Schulich Leader Scholarship, beating out 1,462 other top students across the nation. Each year, 50 promising students are awarded these scholarships to study science, technology, engineering or math at schools across Canada.

Last year, Santos competed against top high school math minds, tying for third in the international Fermat competition that drew 15,796 students.

He speaks warmly about attending a Catholic high school that nominated him for the scholarship.

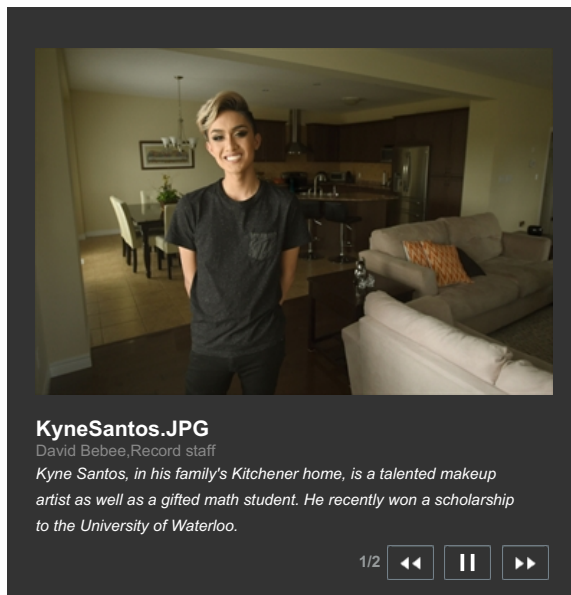
"You'd think that it's very conservative, very weird for me to be myself there, but it's actually really progressive," he said.

He uses perspective to blunt any bullying aimed his way.

"The people that say hurtful things to me, I recognize that they're just normal people," he said. "Sometimes they're just having a bad day. Sometimes they're just clouded in their own ignorance and hatred."

"I think that one day when they have happier lives they'll move on, and stop thinking about me, and stop worrying about what I'm doing. Wish for them the best in life, and I hope one day they can be happy."

Santos started wearing makeup in Grade 9 after overcoming his shame about his lifelong interest in beauty, fashion and "girlie stuff." Today he's moving toward more theatrical makeup involving face-painting, prosthetics, and costumes.



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Will he make his life about math or about makeup? Hard to say, but he can't see himself working nine to five in a cubicle.

"I only have one life to live," he said. "And so I want to take full advantage of the time that I have here, and make my life into a work of art."

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Jeff Outhit is a reporter, specializing in education, government, and data analysis. He can be reached at jouthit@therecord.com. Follow him on [Twitter](#) and The Record on [Facebook](#)

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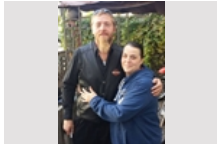
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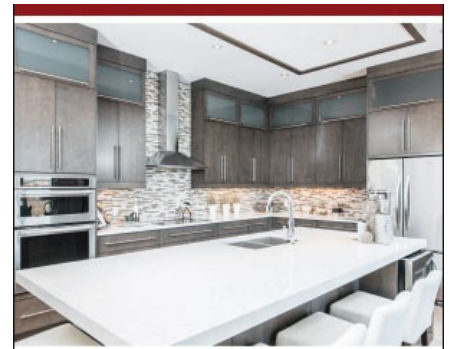
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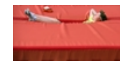
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