

Southridge Wednesday

13-14
No. 06

A Weekly Publication of Southridge School

October 9, 2013

Head of School

Southridge Grit

I tend not to get too caught up in buzz words. And when it comes to education, getting caught up in buzz words and buzz changes can easily steer a school in all sort of unpredictable directions ultimately affecting its overall success. That is why I find it somewhat ironic that a big reason for the success of our school can best be described by the word “grit” . . . one of today’s educational buzz words.

Recent research in psychology has identified the influence of grit in determining success. By grit I mean the ability to focus on a specific goal and to stick with it for years despite distracting influences, tough times and failures. Tenacious, dogged perseverance in the face of adversity is grit. Grit is not another word for work ethic, and it is not just about commitment. Interestingly, grit is a better predictor of success than having a special talent or scoring high on a battery of aptitude tests, be they academic or otherwise.

Of course, to demonstrate grit, you first need to be clear on the goal or the purpose of what it is you should be concentrating on. When it comes to schools, there’s a plethora of programs and initiatives to get excited about and set your sights on. Unfortunately, schools (and the education system in general) are notorious for jumping from one initiative to the next without a clear goal or a well-defined purpose – despite the exceptionally hard work of talented teachers and caring administrators.

Southridge is different. The purpose of Southridge is crystal clear – to make a difference in the world. Making a difference has been our goal since day one. We have stuck with it for close to two decades – even when the lure of other “hooks to hang our hat on” may have seemed really attractive and other independent schools may have been going down a different pathway.

The secret to our success at Southridge isn’t to be found in a special talent or a measured aptitude that is necessarily higher or better than other schools. It is not defined by how we measure up. No, the secret to our success is in our character. Turns out, the buzz around grit actually helps us make a difference in the world.

Have a wonderful week!

Mr. Drew Stephens
Head of School

| Important Dates 2013-2014 | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Event | Date | Time | Location |
| Thanksgiving Holiday – No School | Monday, Oct 14 | All Day | Both Schools |
| Late Start | Tuesday, Oct 15 | 10:25 AM | Both Schools |
| Jr School Parent Teacher Interviews | Thursday, Oct 17 | 1:00 – 8:00 PM | Jr School Classrooms |
| Jr School House Captain Theme Day | Friday, Oct 18 | All Day | Jr School |
| WE Day | Friday, Oct 18 | All Day | Sr School |
| Casual Day | Friday, Oct 25 | All Day | Both Schools |
| Jr School Teach Your Parents Band Night | Tuesday, Oct 22 | 6:30 – 8:00 PM | Jr School Great Hall |
| Jr School Pumpkin Day | Tuesday, Oct 29 | All Day | Jr School Foyer |
| Sr Midterm Report Cards Home | Wednesday, Oct 30 | | |

| Important Dates 2013-2014 | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------|--------------|
| Event | Date | Time | Location |
| Halloween | Thursday, Oct 31 | All Day | Both Schools |

Junior School News

Ambassadors Demonstrate Connections...

This past Friday, Southridge was honoured to host 60 IB teachers from our province as they met as specialist teachers in the Primary Years Programme. While hosting a professional development opportunity of this magnitude is quite onerous, it was a delight to utilize our students as true ambassadors for our school. We were fortunate to have 14 Grade 7 students who served as tour guides to show the teachers around our school and explain our program. Candidly, I did work with these students, producing a small tour brochure for them explaining the history of the school, the number of library books we house, and small trivia details about the school. However what I expressed more to them was the importance of connecting their own experience at Southridge with our guests. I encouraged them to relay anecdotes about when they were in kindergarten, or music class, or a memory from an assembly, underscoring that an authentic memory is the best way to showcase our school. Ms. Ramji- Motani and I marveled as we could overhear our Grade 7s engaging with our guests; they were articulate, confident, dignified, and enthusiastic. However, what endeared us even more was listening to the heartfelt memories that these ambassadors openly shared about their school experience, and their strong connection to Southridge. It was humbling and an honour to overhear a word, here or there. The feedback from the teacher guests showed an overwhelming appreciation for the authentic honesty and positivity of our ambassadors. As a leadership team, we were proud, and realized that all the work we do is worth every minute, when our students can articulate the difference Southridge has made to them. Friday was a great day, and we have many more great days ahead. What a wonderful way to start our year.

Have a great week,

Mrs. Laurel Middelaer
Head of Junior School

Parent -Teacher Interviews- October 17th, 2013- Noon Dismissal

Parents please mark your calendars for the upcoming parent teacher interview day on Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013 from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Interviews will be 20 minutes in length and teachers look forward to discussing your child's progress thus far this term. We continue to be offering our interview schedule on 'Pick a Time'. Parents will be able to log into their parent portal and book their interview time. Mr. Anderson and Ms. Rickard are busy prepping this feature right now, and login will be available on Thursday morning after 8:30. Please proceed to the parent portal, log in, and click on the logo for 'Pick a Time'. Please contact Mr. Anderson at sanderson@southridge.bc.ca if you have any difficulty with the Pick-A-Time process.

Due to the length of the first term, MYP students (Grades 5-7) will be receiving an interim report card on **Friday October 11th, 2013**. On this report card, there will only be a letter mark and an effort mark. There will be no written comment, but this interim report will serve as a basis for discussion during the parent-teacher interview. Please note that there will be a **noon dismissal** on that day.

Halloween Activities

On Thursday, October 31st, 2013 (Day 4) we will be hosting a Halloween assembly for our entire junior school followed by a PYP parade of costumes to our senior school. This assembly is great fun, and we ask that students select costumes that are engaging and appropriate. We do not allow any weapons to come to school, even 'fake' weapons such as sickles, axes, and others that may accompany costumes.

Pro-D Day and Half Term Holiday

On Friday, November 1, 2013 (the day after Halloween), our faculty will be spending time on professional development and the students will enjoy an extended weekend. On Monday, November 4, please enjoy the half term holiday as we

extend the weekend for a family break. We look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday, November 5, 2013. Please note that there is NO late start on that day, but a regular start of 8:05 a.m.

Crazy Head-to-Toe Day

The Thanksgiving long weekend is a great time to start planning for an upcoming Junior School event. Friday, October 18th is Crazy Head-to-Toe Day; students from kindergarten to Grade 7 are encouraged to dress from top to bottom in their zaniest items and style their hair in a wild and crazy fashion. Participants are asked to bring a toonie for the Grade 7 Legacy Fund, a year-long project to raise funds in support of a local, provincial, or global cause.

Ms. McNeil

Study Skills Presentation for Grade 5's

On Thursday, October 10th from 8:30 - 10:10 AM the study skills expert, Terry Small, will be coming to Southridge to work with our Grade 5 students. Parents are welcome to sit on the balcony and eavesdrop on some of the great tips and tricks he teaches our Grade 5s to help them best utilize their brain power and time. Mr. Small will be returning in the spring to work with our Grade 6 and 7 students.

Senior School News

Reflections of LEW (Leadership Experience Week) for You!

This will be my third straight Wednesday submission about our SS Leadership Experience Week (LEW). I realize that this is somewhat unique, especially with a dynamic environment such as Southridge. However, I believe this week that we have created for our students is such a positive and beneficial experience that it demands such time.

Often, when we communicate activities, such as the beginning of a Provincial tournament or an event that is upcoming, we try to show the reasons and excitement for its inclusion in our program. My first Wednesday submission explained the 'why' of our LEW experience. However, we can forget to follow-up with this initial explanation and not include a 'during' or 'after' explanation. Hence, my Wednesday submission from-the-field tried to give a feel for what the week was like for our students in the moment.

As the title implies above, I wanted to give a final reflection upon the completion of this highly successful week. From my vantage point during the week, which mostly connected with our current Grad Class, there were so many positive aspects to the experience. First and foremost, the week away from classes allowed the students to speak with professionals in careers of interest, visit Universities to see what programs might interest them and finally, an opportunity to spend quality time together as a class deciding on how they wish to leave their legacy in June.

But it was so much more!

I was able to experience the kindness of this group as they supported each other in activities such as a high ropes course. Share a great deal of laughter with and hear aspirations of these intelligent youth and difference makers in their clear ability to communicate. In each new venue or location we visited, I watched their character and attitude impress and win over the people they were interacting with in a natural and positive manner!

Upon my return to school on Friday, I learned about similar stories that had occurred with our Grade 11's during their Restorative Action workshops, the Grade 10's and their myriad of service opportunities in which they immersed themselves and our Grade 8's and 9's taking advantage of all that Strathcona Park Lodge had to offer. I know that many faculty members came away from these experiences having gained new insights into the students they teach and like me, they were inspired! It was a pretty positive experience for most of our students.

In some cases though, and perhaps this was the case with a student under your roof, the experience had some rough edges to it. As I asked a few Grade 8 students on Monday how Strathcona was, their response was a bit more mild. While I always hope that each student's experience is wholly positive, this is not possible or realistic. However, sometimes these rough experiences are even more important learning experiences. As our long canoe trip participants can attest, they now have a shared experience of making it through some pretty impressive rain. And even a few days after they have finished some students were seeing this as learning what they are capable of accomplishing in tough conditions.

The well-known cognitive psychologist Eleanor Duckworth said that, “Learning is messy.” That the route towards a person’s understanding of an idea is not often uniform and organized. They sometimes will go backward before finding the way forward. I think our LEW experience allows students to be a little more ‘messy’ as they experience their learning by trying and perhaps taking a calculated risk while they are supported by those around them – peers and teachers alike. In a 2012 Commencement Speech to the Harvard Graduate School of Education Ms. Duckworth commented that, “I have found that helping people learn involves allowing time for messing about.” It is through this that students can think about what they know and what question they wish to ask next to help them make sense of new information.

Finally, I tried to ask students to take their experiences from this past week and continue to build the momentum that they had created in themselves. Just because the environment is not on a canoe trip or in service learning they can use the methods in which they learned in their English or math class. I did say; however, that it still will likely mean they need to work hard! I shared two quotations with the students to attempt to explain my thinking and I will do the same here. The first is from a favourite musician of mine, Dave Matthews about momentum and the second is about opportunity from one of the most famous inventors ever.

“If I find something I like, I’ll chase it and see what comes out the other side. Once a song gets momentum and gets away from you, that’s a good sign.” ~ Dave Matthews

*“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls looks like work”
~ Thomas A. Edison*

Have an excellent week!

Mr. Doug Palm
Head of Senior School

Reflections on Leadership Experience Week - Southridge Students Shine in Restorative Action Sessions

Our recent week of experiential learning opportunities across all grade levels was masterfully organized by Mr. Daryl Weaver and fully supported by our energetic and committed faculty. It really was a team effort from students, staff and parents alike and tapped into the rich layers of talent and expertise that we are fortunate to have in our community. The Career day, orchestrated so elegantly and efficiently by Ms. Livingston, was further testimony to the capacity within our school and the reach of our wider networks.

There are many stories emerging from the week: stories of ‘daring do’ on the high ropes course, of patience and diligent service to others in many community settings, of self-discovery and learning in new and challenging environments. So much to celebrate, but my reflections are on the three days I spent with Grade 11 students in their restorative action workshops.

The students were respectful, engaged, and active learners in all aspects of the three day course, which on the opening day involved a lot of sitting and listening, but when given the opportunity to get involved and lead they didn’t look back. I was struck by their level of sophisticated responses and questioning, and by their ability to lead the small group interactions as they practiced what they had learnt. Other teachers also noticed their comfort in speaking and directing these dialogues and I was really “blown away” by the consummate ease with which they engaged each other in thoughtful conversations to achieve mediated solutions. They were quick on the uptake, articulate and accomplished in leading the discourse, confident and compassionate in manner. Watching them work was, in a word, impressive.

On reflection I believe that the work we have been doing with the student-centred, discussion based learning approach is paying dividends. For me the restorative action workshop provided overwhelming evidence of our students’ increasing confidence and capacity to assume positions of responsibility, to think creatively, to reason quickly, and to communicate clearly and empathetically. It was a really rewarding, and humbling, experience to see these young people working together, demonstrating effective problem solving techniques and using such nuanced communication skills. Bravo a tutti!

Mrs. Jan Holt
Senior School Academic Program Director

South East Asia Tour - Last Notice

If you are still interested in having your child participate in the SE Asia tour this summer, please email Mr. Knihniski as soon as possible. We need to know if there still is enough interest in the tour to go ahead or else we will have to cancel the tour. Don't enrol directly for the tour just yet; please just email Mr. Knihniski by October 15th so that we can see that there is enough interest to move forward. Thank you.

Mr. Knihniski
jknihniski@southridge.bc.ca

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Last night, the Culture Club attended a performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at Studio 58, in Vancouver. Set in a Romanian village in 1900, this innovative production re-imagined Shakespeare's magical forest as a place where vampire fairies, zombies and witches cast multiple spells on the four lovers who wander into its embrace. One of the greatest strengths of this production was its focus on movement, as characters swung across the stage on ropes, climbed trees and hung upside down to deliver their monologues. Among many stand-out performances, Puck, Bottom and Lion were our favourites.

Gail Robinson
English Curriculum Leader

Thank You From the Grad Committee!!

We wanted to thank all the parents who have donated used clothing items for the Used Uniform Sales. We will continue to collect clothing for the next sale, which will not be until the week before the spring uniform. If you are donating clothing, please bring them to Ms. Mosher's office (Room 238B in the senior school). Thank you for all of your support!

Ms. Mosher & the Grad Committee

Grad Bottle Drives

The grad committee will be holding bottle drives after every long weekend (including half-term holidays). The first bottle drive will be October 15th - 17th. October 15th is a late start, please drop off your bottles off from 10:00-10:30 in front of the senior school. On October 16th and 17th please drop off your bottles from 7:30 to 8:00 in front of the senior school. We appreciate you saving your bottles for us over the year!!

Ms. Mosher & the Grad Committee

News for Both Schools

The ONE Gala 2013 – November 16th

This morning you will have received your official invitation to "The ONE Gala 2013", and we hope you are planning to join us for this annual fundraising event on November 16th. Our Co-chairs, Karen Dosanjh and Krinder Rai, along with a very dedicated team of volunteers, promise an amazing evening filled with great friends, delicious food, exciting live and silent auction items, fabulous music, and fun times!

Tickets are \$150.00 per person and to purchase them on-line please [click here](#)

There are a wide variety of opportunities available to support the Gala and we are now looking for assistance from our school families. We will be sharing updates and highlighting live and silent auction items on the website as we get closer to the event date and would appreciate receiving all item donations by October 18th. Please [click here](#) for more donation information.

Sponsorship also plays a major role in the financial success of the Gala and a variety of opportunities are still available. Please [click here](#) for more information and a printable version of the sponsorship form.

Our school was founded on a deep sense of community and our mission is to develop well-rounded graduates who are truly making a difference in the world. In addition to the evening's festivities, we will also be celebrating our spirit of community by honouring the outstanding commitment and support the Southridge community provides on a daily basis.

Whether you participate as a guest, a sponsor and/or a donor, The ONE Gala 2013 on November 16th promises to be a memorable evening not to be missed!

For Sale, For Rent, Wanted?

We are happy to announce the launch of the new Bulletin Board page in the Parents' Portal. The purpose is to provide the ability for parents, students, faculty and staff to post personal for sale, for rent or wanted items. Examples might include selling used household items, renting out an in-law suite, or condo in Whistler, or your son or daughter announcing baby-sitting services. We request that you refrain from advertising any businesses or business services, whether outside or home based. You will find a form on the Bulletin Board page in the Parents' Portal that you can fill out for submitting posts. You can email a photo to go with your post to amcinnnes@southridge.bc.ca We hope this new service will be a great benefit to our community.

Alan McInnes
Manager
Web and AV Services

Uniform Shop

Cool Fall Weather; enjoy wearing Kukri's shower proof soft shell jacket with hood, embroidered with the school's logo.

For all our alumni, the Uniform Shop carries a 5 X 7 silver picture frame embossed with 'Southridge Graduate' priced at \$12.00.

Don't forget our hours of operation are:

Monday to Thursday:

7:45 – 9:00 mornings

2:00 – 4:00 afternoons

Coming Soon to the Southridge Café – New and Revised!

Come and see our fresh, healthy variety of ethnic and West Coast choices for breakfast and hot lunches.

Breakfast wraps, breakfast sandwiches, fresh homemade scones, sausage rolls, salads - Greek, Potato, Caesar, Thai Noodle, Pasta, and fresh fruit salad, yogurt parfaits, whole fruit, samosa – chicken and vegetarian, fruit pies, sushi(California Roll), and a variety of cold sandwiches.

Mike Leif
Chef
Southridge Café

Celebrate Autumn

WEEKLY MENU

October 15TH – October 18TH

Monday

Closed For Thanksgiving

Tuesday

Chicken Souvlaki

Served Rice, Pita Bread & Tzatziki

Wednesday

Spaghetti & Meatballs

Served with Garlic Bread

Thursday

Perogies with farmer Sausage

Friday

Butter Chicken

Basmati Rice and Naan Bread

Featured Panni

Chicken , Bacon, Ranch, Roma Tomato, Bell
Peppers melt with Cheddar Cheese