

Southridge Wednesday

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Head of School

Striving to Get Better

Southridge has often been described as a light-hearted place of serious purpose, and the phrase certainly summarizes an important cultural aspect of our school. Another element of our school's culture, though, is that we are innovative. You may already be aware that there are two perspectives on how a person or an organization can be innovative.

On the one hand, being innovative has a pioneering component to it. That is, it's about being on the leading edge and approaching situations in unconventional ways – going where others have never gone before. But being innovative can also be about improvement. From this vantage point, innovation looks much different because it is not concerned with the forefront of change. It is more concerned with making systems and operations more effective and more efficient.

Part of the culture of Southridge is that we are always striving to get better at what we do, which is to make a difference in the world. We've always been focused on getting better – right since the school first began almost two decades ago. In colloquial terms, the culture of an organization is defined by “the way we do things around here.” Well, if the way we do things at Southridge is to constantly get better, and if we get better by being more efficient and effective at what we do, then it is fair to say that Southridge's culture is partially defined by our innovative approach.

Case in point. For the past two days, Ms. Middelaer, Mr. Palm, our Junior School IB Coordinators and our Senior School Curriculum Leaders have all been involved in a training program designed to develop their mentoring skills. We know that one of the very best ways to get even better at Southridge is to constantly reflect on our teaching practices and the approaches we take to create safe classroom environments where students feel comfortable expressing divergent points of view, asking questions and taking risks. The training program was designed to help our leaders in curriculum get even better at three important parts of their jobs – asking the right questions at the right time to stimulate reflection about best teaching practices, encouraging action for our teachers to hone their teaching approaches and supporting teachers in their departments on their professional journeys to be the best they can be.

At the risk of playing dangerously with the legendary lexicon of our school community as it was defined by Alan Brown (our founding Head of School), dare I restate the descriptor of our culture as being a light-hearted innovative place of serious purpose? I'd better not, but let's not forget that Southridge is constantly striving to be even better.

Have a wonderful week!

Mr. Drew Stephens
Head of School

Important Dates			
Event	Date	Time	Location
Jr School Pumpkin Day	Tuesday, Oct 29	All Day	Jr School Foyer
Sr Midterm Report Cards Home	Wednesday, Oct 30		
Halloween	Thursday, Oct 31	All Day	Both Schools
Pro-D Day – No School	Friday, Nov 1	All Day	Both Schools
Half- Term Holiday – No School	Monday, Nov 4	All Day	Both Schools
Open House	Wednesday, Nov 6	6:00 – 8:30 PM	
Jr School Remembrance Day Assembly	Thursday, Nov 7	8:10 - 8:30 AM	Jr School Great Hall
Full School Remembrance Day Assembly	Friday, Nov 8	10:15 – 11:15 AM	Sr. School Gym
Remembrance Day – No School	Monday, Nov 11	All Day	Both Schools
Late Start	Tuesday, Nov 12	10:25 AM	Both Schools

Junior School News

Off to The Hague (Den Haag), Netherlands

Developing internationally minded or globally minded citizens is a goal of our programming at Southridge School, both through our IB program and our SSEP in our Senior school. Although we send our faculty to conferences and training all over the United States and Canada, we have yet to attend an international conference—until now. Mrs. Rowena Raber and I will travel on Tuesday to The Hague, Netherlands for the IB conference for Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. Attendees at this conference will include educators from many diverse countries whom are coming together to discuss our common passion—teaching and learning. Each attendee at this conference is looking for methods and best practices for enhancing the teaching and learning at their school in order to improve student performance and character development. We will hear from many experts in the field, including Dr. Andrew Hargreaves, Alan November, Howard Gardiner, Nick Tate and many others. Those that know Mrs. Raber well understand that she is a lifelong learner, and I could not have a better, more passionate travelling companion. We both look forward to sharing our learning upon our return, but also to engage in meaningful dialogue with our fellow educators from countries that we have never been to. We will miss three days at Southridge but will return full of pro-d and wonderful stories for Monday, albeit a wee bit jetlagged. Learning is exciting and we are most thankful to work at our school that is supportive of professional growth.

Have a great week everyone.

Ms. Laurel Middelaer
Head of Junior School

Hallowe'en Activities

On Thursday, October 31st, 2013 (Day 4) we will be hosting a Hallowe'en 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 1st, 2013 (the day after Hallowe'en), our faculty will be spending time on professional development and the students will enjoy an extended weekend. On Monday, November 4th, please enjoy the half term holiday as we extend the weekend for a family break. We look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday, November 5th, 2013. Please note that there is NO late start on that day, but a regular start of 8:05 a.m.

More Festive Halloween Activities: PUMPKIN DAY

Bring in your Halloween Spirit by decorating or carving a pumpkin and bringing it to school for house points. Pumpkin Day this year is on Tuesday, October 29th. Please bring in your pumpkin in the morning on this day. Primary pumpkins will be placed in the Great Hall and intermediates on the tables upstairs. Each pumpkin is worth 5 house points! Pumpkins

can be carved, decorated, be funny, scary, creative, etc... The house points will be announced in the Junior School Assembly. All pumpkins need to go home on Thursday, October 31st for Halloween night. Support your house team and bring in your pumpkin with your school spirit! Happy Halloween!

Mrs. Khangura

Senior School News

Mid-Term Reporting Time

It is mid-term report time....

Over the past 20 years I have been involved in education (and longer if you include the years I received a mid-term report myself), this time holds a mixture of emotions for me. As a student, on one hand, the excitement and anticipation of receiving some initial feedback from the classes you have been attending holds such optimism and on the other, the worry of being given news that might not be as good as you hoped and how to deal with that.

As a teacher, this time also comes with a bit of apprehension. You realize that it is important to pass along that important initial and official report; however, the number of assessments and time that has occurred with your students is limited. This reality brings with it an understanding that the report is a balance of these two conflicting aspects. We know that waiting until the end of November is much too long for an assessment although it would allow a greater understanding of a student's performance and achievement and thereby be more authentic.

On a personal note, the mid-term report also coincides with my birthday and I can attest to many a "fun" time as I brought home my own report literally on my birthday. (Note: it actually might have helped to buffer a few years less than decent standings in the odd course – think Grade 9 Geography...sorry Mr. Griffith!)

To help with these above conundrums, this year we have moved to a letter grade and effort mark rather than a specific percentage. This allows families to receive feedback that is timely in nature, but sets out a range in terms of initial achievement in the year due to the limited time and amount of assessment collected. We believe this is a viable solution to help provide this important feedback.

I should also stress that students should have a strong idea of their own progress in a particular course not only due to any summative type of assessment but also because of the many ways they can judge their understanding beyond this single method. These could include their engagement in class discussions, self-evaluations provided, and rubrics that clearly show where a student currently stands and what they can do to progress forward. Finally, one's effort grade is most often an excellent indicator of a person's success in a class; as this continues to increase, so to do the grades in many cases.

So, as your mid-reports reach you within the next week or so, I ask you to view them within the above context. To summarize: as an initial assessment of your child's progress but with an understanding that it is based on a smaller sample size of evaluation and performance.

As always, the mid-term report is meant to initiate communication between you, your child and the faculty. I encourage you to please contact a teacher to receive further details and to help plan any action that might be helpful to continue and increase their success. I am always available, as well, should you wish to connect.

Baby News - Welcome Beatrice Sally Scott

Ms. Kate Higgins and her husband Dave welcomed baby Beatrice Sally Scott into the world on the night of Tuesday, October 15th. She was 7lbs and healthy. The family is recovering well and enjoying getting to know each other. Congratulations!

Have a great week!

Mr. Doug Palm
Head of Senior School

Mid-term 1 Reporting: October 2013

Beginning this year our Mid-term 1 report cards will feature only letter grades and comments where applicable. We will not use percentages to indicate student progress at this time, but advisors will contact parents if the student's academic progress, attitude, social integration or well-being creates any cause for concern. A percentage mark will be recorded at the end of Term 1 when sufficient feedback has been given to students and their progress can be more effectively assessed from a variety of performance tasks and assignments. In this period we have also had our Leadership Experience Week (LEW) for Grades 10, 11 & 12 and Strathcona for our Grade 8 and 9 students which presented significant opportunities for experiential learning.

In assigning letter grades to students we are required to follow the BC Ministry of Education scale given below:

A	86 - 100 %
B	73 - 85%
C+	67 – 72%
C	60 – 66%
C-	50 – 59%
I	In Progress/Incomplete

(In Progress or Incomplete the student, for a variety of reasons, is not demonstrating minimally acceptable performance in relation to the learning outcomes.)

Comments will only be given for the following students at this time:

- ALL Grade 8 students
- ALL NEW students to Southridge
- Students with an "I" letter grade
- Students with a "2" or "1" effort grade.
- Students who have a C- letter grade.

Jan Holt
Director of Academics

Southridge Students at International Independent Schools' Public Speaking Championships

Last Thursday, October 17th, one hundred and fifty-five students, representing 47 schools and seven countries, met at Kingbridge Conference Centre in King City, Ontario for this year's International Independent Schools' Public Speaking Championships. Hosted by Country Day School, the competition was a resounding success.

The event began with a native smudge ceremony and a keynote address by a medical researcher. Although I have forgotten his name, I will never forget his real world application for the public speaking and debating skills that we had gathered to celebrate. He observed that in order to create change a leader must be able to convince an audience that creating change is worth taking risks.

As the competition got underway, Cassia Armstrong, Nicole Moretto and Christa Gavril represented Southridge in two rounds of competition. Paiden Bromfield, Nicole's Australian exchange, also travelled with us. She was a great ambassador for her country and our school.

By the end of the competition, Nicole Moretto was our highest ranked competitor, finishing in the top twenty in Dramatic Interpretation and Parliamentary Debate. Given the calibre of the students that we were competing against, Nicole is to be commended for this impressive achievement.

The event ended with an awards ceremony in which the Head of Country Day School commented on the importance of process rather than focusing on final outcomes. From this perspective, all of our students should be very proud of their achievements in overcoming personal challenges in order to engage their audiences in the pursuit of important ideas. They are also to be commended for making the most of an opportunity to develop a more global perspective by interacting with young people from different countries.

Congratulations to Cassia, Nicole, Christa and Paiden.

Next year the IISPC will be held at Renaissance College in Hong Kong.

Gail Robinson
English Curriculum Leader

Come and support our students at the Surrey International Film Festival Nov.1!

Three films by Southridge students have been selected for screening at the Surrey Arts Centre on Nov 1 as part of the Surrey Film Festival. The films are:

“Walking in Circles”

Cassia Armstrong (Gr.12)

Simarpreet Pattar (Gr.12)

“Inside the Lines”

Cassia Armstrong (Gr.12)

Amanda Burns (Alumni 2013)

Gennie Fraser (Alumni 2013)

“Before you Go”

James Adamson (Gr.11)

Coltin Porter (Gr.11)

Kyren Bueckert (Gr.11)

Nicole Ure (Gr.11)

The 2013 Surrey International Film Festival will be taking place at the Surrey Arts Centre November 1 -2. The **Surrey Arts Centre is located at: 13750 88 Avenue, Surrey, BC** (in Bear Creek Park). This event is completely free.

<http://surreyfilmfest.ca/2012-schedule/>

Chris Westendorf
Media Arts Faculty

News for Both Schools

Come celebrate our spirit of community - The ONE Gala 2013 is Saturday, November 16, 2013

Join us for The ONE Gala where we will celebrate our true spirit of contribution and service at Southridge School. This is sure to be an amazing evening filled with great friends, fabulous music, delicious food and fun times!

Last call for donation gifts! Deadline to donate is this Friday, October 25th. We are still looking for great items or services for our ‘Live’ or ‘Silent’ auction at this year’s Gala. Your contribution is what will help make this event a success, so please [click here](#) for a printable form. If have any questions, please contact Lisa Boudot lboudot@southridge.bc.ca or 604-542-2303.

All the single tickets, all the single tickets: There are many parents whose spouse happens to be away during the Gala time. Don’t fret as we are organizing single ticket tables so that you can still have an opportunity to attend this wonderful event with your school community!

Welcome all first-timers: For those who have never attended the Gala or may be new to the school, we will help coordinate a table for you with other parents in your Grade.

Help fill empty tummies and cupboards this holiday season: In the spirit of our community theme, we are asking all our guests to please bring a can of non-perishable food to The ONE Gala. We know that the holiday season is time of greatest need for our local food banks and collectively this one act will make a difference for those in need. Can't think of a more stylish accessory!

Buzz about the children's art: Last year we brought a lot of innovation and fun to the traditional children's art selection at the Gala. Again, there is certainly a lot of excitement about the creative kid's art and our children have been busy making pieces that are not only memorable, but they will tug on your heart strings as well! Our kids showcase what spirit of community means to them through one-of-a-kind creations that is sure to capture your heart at the Gala!

Registration for The ONE Gala is now available online! To purchase tickets and find out more about the event, please [click here](#).

The Advancement Team and
The ONE Gala, Co-chairs Karen Dosanjh & Krinder Rai

The Importance of Setting the Date and Time on Your Digital Camera

One fairly large aspect of my role as the Web and AV Services Manager is processing the wealth of photographs that we receive from various Southridge events and activities. I try, as much as possible, to gather photos from students, faculty and parents from events and activities where I am not able to attend to take photos such as field trips, outdoor education trips, away games for sports, etc.

In addition to sometimes not having enough information about the event or activity itself such as who participated and the story of what was happening, the single other challenge is knowing the date and time of the photos.

One huge benefit of digital photography is that we can now automatically tag each and every photo we take with the date and time. All we have to do is ensure that our camera's date and time is set correctly and yet, I am always surprised how many photos I receive where the date is obviously not correct.

It is easy to set the date and time on your camera by simply going into the menu, find the date and time setting and go through the steps to set the date and time correctly. Once you set it, it should hold the correct date and time. It certainly doesn't hurt to check it from time to time.

Remarkably, digital photography has allowed us to take pictures like never before as we are now free of the restrictions of film and processing costs. This freedom has allowed some of us to create a huge amount of photos and our children are now documented like never before.

I guarantee that you will never regret setting the date and time on your camera when it comes time to sort out your photos. If you are like many people, you may collect photos over time on your camera and then download them all at once. If it has been several months since you last downloaded your camera, it may be hard to remember when an event or activity happened. Having the correct date and time on the photo file will always be a welcome reference.

Alan McInnes
Manager
Web and AV Services

Southridge Café Menu for the Week of October 28th – 31st

Please see the attached menu for the week of October 28th to 31st.

Math Peer Tutoring



- Math Tutoring by donation every Saturday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am in our library
- Everyone (All Grades) welcome
- Refreshments provided
- Location: Southridge School
(2656 160th Street Surrey, BC)
- More information on [http://www.southridge.bc.ca/one-idea/senior-school/math for all/index.aspx](http://www.southridge.bc.ca/one-idea/senior-school/math%20for%20all/index.aspx)
- Email: msterelyukhin@southridge.bc.ca

Celebrate Autumn

WEEKLY MENU

October 28TH – October 31st

Monday

Chicken Pot Pie
Wedge Potatoes

Tuesday

Cabbage Roll, Perogies and Farmer Sausage

Wednesday

Ginger Beef Chowmein Stir-Fry

Thursday

Chicken and Veggie Enchaladas
Served with Rice

Featured Panni

Chicken Breast , Bacon, Chipolte Ranch,
Roma Tomato, melt with Cheddar Cheese