

Southridge Wednesday

13-14

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Head of School

The Arts and their Place in Education

Not so very long ago, there was a time when the arts were considered “soft” subjects – less important to getting a “good” education. The idea was that subjects like art, music and drama were important in helping to provide a well-rounded education, but they lacked the same value attributed to the academic disciplines such as reading, writing, math and science.

Well, have things ever changed. With the growing awareness of how the brain works and the demands facing our economy, creativity and problem solving are now recognized as critical skills for the 21st Century. Without question, the importance of the arts in education has been elevated for many reasons, not the least of which is that the arts provide experiential opportunities for students to pursue reasoning skills well beyond knowledge and comprehension. Time and time again, the arts have provided our students with multiple and diverse opportunities to apply their skills in unique situations, synthesize information and analyze and evaluate their performances, creations and products.

Without question, there is an aesthetic element to art education, and honouring the arts for their own sake as part of our cultural heritage has not lost any value, but it is now evident that the arts are part of, and not separate from, other educational disciplines. Visual art is connected to science, there is a strong relationship between music and math, and elements of the humanities are strongly supported by drama and other performing arts, like the speech arts.

I have always been proud of the arts program at Southridge, and I am thankful for the role they play in the holistic development of our students’ minds and skills. The place for the arts in education is right beside the other disciplines, not only because they are so much a part of them, but also because they develop important skills to help our students experience success after they leave Southridge. But perhaps most importantly, as Sir Ken Robinson puts it, the arts speak to parts of students’ being that are otherwise left untouched.

Have a wonderful week!

Mr. Drew Stephens
Head of School

Important Dates			
Event	Date	Time	Location
Grad Photos	Friday, Jan 31		
Casual Day	Friday, Jan 31	All Day	Both Schools
Jump Rope for Heart	Monday, Feb 3		Jr School Gym
Senior School Noon Dismissal	Tuesday, Feb 4	11:40 AM - 12:00 PM	
Grade 8-11 Student Led Conferences	Tuesday, Feb 4	1:00 - 8:00 PM	
Envision Jazzfest	Wednesday, Feb 5 & Thursday, Feb 6	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM	
Pro-D Day – No School	Friday, Feb 7	All Day	Both Schools
BC Family Day – No School	Monday, Feb 10	All Day	Both Schools
Half Term Holiday – No School	Tuesday, Feb 11	All Day	Both Schools
Kindergarten – No School	Friday, Feb 14	All Day	Jr School
Junior School Student Led Conferences	Thursday, Feb 20	1:00 – 8:00 PM	Jr School Classrooms

Important Dates			
Full School Assembly	Friday, Feb 21	9:40 – 10:30 AM	Sr School

Board of Governors

I thought it was about time I write something for the Wednesday to provide an update from the Board of Governors.

First, I am happy to report that at our last AGM in November, Wendy Lei was elected as a new Governor. I thank her and look forward to her valued contributions to the Board as we move forward. Also, in last week's Board meeting, Nick Nuraney was appointed our new Treasurer to fill the large shoes of our long standing Treasurer, David Alderdice, who stepped down recently for personal reasons. As many know, Mr. Alderdice was a driving force behind the creation of the school, a founding Board member, a Chair of the Board for several years, and has remained on the Board since its inception, the last several years as Treasurer. The school has accomplished great things under Dave's tutelage and his contribution to the achievements of Southridge will long be remembered and admired. He leaves the Board with all of us understanding the vital role we play in the long term success of the school and in the great importance of each and every decision we make. We sincerely thank Dave for his many years of tireless, and often thankless, involvement in Southridge and wish him well for the future. Now the challenge of essential financial oversight falls to Mr. Nuraney, as Treasurer, and from what I have seen over the past three years working with him, Nick is definitely up to the task.

Secondly, by now many of you will have received the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan document outlining the priorities and key initiatives of our new Strategic Plan, Working to Make Southridge Even Better. I hope you will take the time to review the document so you are aware of what will guide the school over the next few years. Our strategic priorities being programs, accessibility, campus planning, stewardship and a connected community resulted from countless hours of collaborative consultation between board members and school senior management and I would sincerely like to thank everyone involved for their commitment of time, energy and thought into the strategic planning process. From these priorities flow a multitude of key initiatives and action items that ensure we are following the strategic direction set in order to make Southridge an even better school.

Thirdly, and tied to the accessibility priority of our Strategic Plan, by now you are aware of our tuition levels for the next school year. In the independent school realm, a 2% year over year tuition increase is considered incredibly low due to the pressures of constantly increasing operating costs, faculty stepping up annually on their pay grid, and general contractual wage increases (keeping in mind our faculty is paid in direct proportion to the Surrey School District pay grid – hence when there is a contractual pay increase our faculty also gets the same percentage increase.) That being said, the Senior Management and the Board of Governors are acutely aware of our accessibility strategic priority and have, once again, maintained a very tight rein on the budget in order to achieve such a low increase. At the same time, there is a concerted effort to continue to pay down debt and to build endowments to ensure the long term sustainability and financial health of the school. I certainly applaud all involved in supporting this most important strategic priority.

Finally, in keeping with the school philosophy of superior professional development for faculty and staff, I would like to congratulate Mr. Stephens for being awarded a fully-funded fellowship to the Klingenstein Center for Independent School Leadership at Columbia University in New York. He is currently in The Big Apple for this prestigious two week program that is awarded to only twenty heads of school from around the world annually. Quoting from the letter sent to me from the Klingenstein Center, "The Center attracts and selects educators who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishment or potential for excellence and equips them with the knowledge, skill, and values necessary for informed and effective practice." I know Mr. Stephens will return with a wealth of knowledge from this opportunity and I believe Southridge will be the ultimate beneficiary.

Have a great week.

Doug Wilson
Chair, Board of Governors

Human Resources

University Counseling

We have recently heard news from Ms. Hilary Lehn, Director of University Counselling, that she has decided not to return to Southridge upon the completion of her leave scheduled for August 31st, 2014. Ms. Lehn joined our school back in 2002 and during her tenure, she played a key role and was critically influential in developing two significant programs at Southridge – our admissions program and our university counselling program.

In her role as Director of Admissions, Ms. Lehn ensured that admissions at Southridge was extremely well organized and executed in a very effective manner. During her time as Director of Admissions, Ms. Lehn also advised a number of students in their university application process. Here, too, her background and knowledge of the university application system (both Canadian and American) helped to shape our school in this important area leading to a change in her portfolio of responsibilities and she assumed the role of Director of University Counselling. It's a testament to Ms. Lehn and her many contributions to Southridge that the foundation she created in both admissions and university counselling is still very much a part of our programs today.

On behalf of all of us at Southridge, we would like to thank Ms. Lehn for everything that she has done for our school and we wish her all the best.

Junior School News

Head of Junior School

Representing Southridge- as hosts and team members

Today, the CAIS teams arrive to play in our tournament and we are not only representing Southridge in sport, but also as hosts welcoming others to our school and our city. When I see many of our sports teams leaving from our great hall, donned in their royal blue track suits with surname proudly worn on the back, and Southridge crest worn on the front, I am reminded of the responsibility each student has as a member of Southridge. We are fiercely proud of the values that make Southridge a great school. Each of our students is an ambassador for Southridge, and all that we have worked so hard to be as a school. I am proud when I see them excitedly depart, as I know they hold this responsibility dearly. They represent nineteen years of diligence, vision, passion and excellence and they do so with pride. I know that they will represent us well. We proudly welcome the following schools to our school, and anticipate some great basketball! Welcome to: Ashbury College (Ottawa), Collingwood (West Vancouver), Crescent School (Toronto), Hillfield Strathallan (Hamilton), Holy Trinity School (Richmond Hill), Kingsway College (Etobicoke), Lower Canada College (Montreal), St. Andrew's College (Aurora), St. George's A and B (Vancouver), and St. Johns Ravenscourt (Winnipeg), Strathcona-Tweedsmuir (Calgary), The Sterling Hall (Toronto), Upper Canada College (Toronto), and West Point Gray Academy (Vancouver). Go STORM!

Have a great week,

Mrs. Middelaer
Head of Junior School

Pro-D Day - Friday, February 7, 2014, BC Family Day - Monday, February 10, 2104, Half Term Holiday, Tuesday, February 11, 2014

As a faculty, we greatly value time together for professional collaboration and growth. On Friday, February 7, 2014 we will have a professional development day so there will be no school for the students. February 7 is a collaborative Pro-d day with all the ISA BC (Independent Schools Association of BC) schools, and we look forward to our time together. Thank

you for your support of our faculty's growth. The following Monday is BC's Family Day holiday and Tuesday will be our half term holiday, so please enjoy this extended weekend with your family.

Junior Student Led Conferences: Thursday, February 20, 2014 (noon dismissal)

Throughout the school term, students have been actively selecting their own pieces of work to secure in a portfolio. These pieces reflect many different subject disciplines and should demonstrate their own personal growth as a student. On Thursday, February 20, 2014 we will be holding student led conferences so that the students can share their portfolios with their parents. This opportunity is empowering for students as they can share their own journey as a learner and actively reflect on each piece. Please be aware also that there will be a **12:00 noon dismissal** on that day to accommodate the conferences.

Kindergarten Parents - No school on February 14, 2014

Just a reminder to our kindergarten parents that there will be no school for their children on Friday, February 14, 2014 due to entrance testing for prospective kindergarten students. Thank you for making alternate arrangements for your children on that day.

Casual Day Friday, January 31st

Thank you very much for your fund-raising efforts for Jump Rope for Heart. All donations are due this Friday, please. Also remember to send your children dressed in pink and/or red for the Casual Day. The actual event will take place on Monday, February 3rd during scheduled PE and DPA classes.

Mrs. Murchie
Junior School Service Coordinator

Notice from Fraser Health

Are your Child's Immunizations Up to Date for Kindergarten?

Vaccines are a healthy choice for your child. They provide immunity and prevent disease. Two vaccines are provided free for Kindergarten-age children:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (whooping cough), Polio (DTaP-IPV)
- Varicella (Chickenpox) *a second dose is new since January 2012

You will be receiving a letter from your local Public health Unit if your child has not received these vaccines or if the healthy unit does not have up to date information regarding the immunizations your child has received.

Please complete and return these forms to your local Public Health Unit or school (attention School Nurse) as soon as possible.

If your child is not up to date for immunizations please call your local Health Unit or Family Physician and arrange an appointment

Girl Rising – The Film, the Movement, the Future

‘Over 65 million girls around the world are denied an education and a right to a better future.’

A number of Southridge students have formed a Girl Rising Committee in the school and have been working hard for the past few weeks to raise awareness on girls' issues from around the world. Girl Rising is a documentary film which is being shown at Southridge School on February 22nd. The film journeys around the globe to witness the spirit and the power of education to change the world. It spotlights the stories of nine extraordinary girls from nine developing countries who share their journey of the unforgettable circumstances they went through, each struggling to achieve against nearly impossible odds. It captures their voices, their dreams, and their remarkable lives.

Join us for the viewing of the fascinating lives of these young girls:

When: Saturday February 22, 2014. 2:00 pm

Where: Southridge Junior School

To Save Your Seat: http://www.southridge.bc.ca/events/2014-02-22_Girl_Rising/index.aspx

Admission is by donation with all proceeds to “Because I'm A Girl”

Senior School News

Head of Senior School

Southridge on the National Stage

As many of you are aware, Southridge will be hosting the CAIS U13 National Basketball Tournament. The tournament begins on Thursday morning with the opening ceremonies taking place in the Senior School gym at 8:30 AM and continues until 5:00 PM, and the same again on Friday. Saturday morning will see more competition and the finals near midday.

So, why do I bring this up in the Senior School section, even though I know that Mrs. Middelaer has mentioned this many times in her own Wednesday submissions? Quite a few reasons actually!

Having this national tournament allows us to host many of our fellow schools in the CAIS association. They can see Southridge up close and enjoy our campus, community and hospitality. Many of these students and faculty may never get another chance to do so, and that's a special opportunity. I shared this fact with the students at our Monday assembly and have asked them to put on their best host "face". Please greet these guests and make them feel at home as much as possible.

Many of our Senior School families are billeting these students and that is a wonderful testament to our giving community. In fact, many of these students were on a CAIS team that was able to travel to another school and there is a sense of giving back. Often, the connections made at these tournaments through billeting and friendly competition lasts many years in the future.

On a personal note, when I was a Grade 7 student at Crescent School I was fortunate to have the opportunity to participate at a U13 tournament for soccer. We travelled by train to Montreal (Lower Canada College (LCC)). The host and I can still easily recall the experience and the enjoyment from this time together. I have even attached a photo of our team here – see if you can spot me!

I encourage you to come out and watch a game or two and experience this unique opportunity. If you can't make it out, please find the links on our website because we will be live streaming every game in both gyms!

Given the high volume of people that will be arriving and departing, I ask you to be patient and especially cognizant of the students that might be running about and not as aware of our daily traffic routines! The main times being pick up on Wednesday, January 29th and both morning drop-off and pick up on Thursday and Friday, January 30th & 31st.

Finally, a big shout out and congratulations to Mr. Porpaczy and Mr. Gallant and the CAIS organizing committee for all of their work in getting the tournament ready. It will be a wonderful event and one that will make Southridge shine on a national stage!

Have a great week!

Mr. Doug Palm
Head of Senior School

Senior Student Led Conferences - Info and Sign Up

Student led conferences are a valued part of Southridge's approach to education and provide an alternative means of assessment. These are 20 minute presentations that take place between the advisor, advisee and parents. They allow the student to celebrate his or her accomplishments, reflect on past experience and set goals for the future. In each grade, the students are asked to follow a particular theme and build on their goals and reflections. Please see the following link if you wish to see the themes and suggested guidelines for each grade. In order to encourage students improve the authenticity of their presentations and increase the sophistication of their reflective thinking we have created 10 optional questions for students in grade 10-12.

[Student Led Conference Guidelines](#)

[Student Led Conference Reflective Questions](#)

This year the conferences will be held on February 4, 2013 between 1:00PM-8:00PM. Please use the Student Led Conference link on the website to book a conference with your son or daughter's advisor. For further instructions on how to book an appointment please click on the link below. Advisors have been allotted time for dinner and in a few cases family and extracurricular commitments. These will show up as blank spaces on their schedule.

[Click here to sign up for a Student Led Conference time.](#)

Thank you for your time and support for the Southridge advisory program.

Norman Dods
Advisory Chair

Social Studies 8 World Religions Project

Just over two weeks ago I had the opportunity to accompany the Grade 8s on the field trip that forms an integral part of their World Religions project. This project is a wonderful example of how classroom learning is enriched and augmented by this really engaging and meaningful day. It was a beautiful, blue-skied winter morning and we set out early to ensure that we could fit in five diverse places of worship. We began with mass and a personal greeting to our students in the Good Shepherd Catholic Church, moved on to the Beth Tikvah Synagogue and an animated presenter speaking of the importance of the Torah, sat on the floor of the Jamea Mosque and learnt about Islam and its respect for all religions, and completed our fascinating morning at the Nanaksar Sikh Temple. We had to cover our heads and remove our shoes before entering this bright, glittering world. The generosity of spirit that characterized all the places we visited was abundantly clear here as we ate a delicious lunch of curried vegetables and drank the sweet, fragrant Chai tea that is a favourite of mine. I think the lunch was the definite highlight of the day and really allowed us to see this incredible community at work providing spiritual and physical sustenance to all who enter its doors.

Reenergized we completed our tour with a visit to the Buddhist temple, so beautiful in its red and golden colours, and watched as people lit the fragrant incense sticks in homage to the lavish figures of the Buddhas. It was a fascinating day which I, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Dods and Ms. Alexander enjoyed just as much as our students.

I was very proud of our students and their enthusiastic, curious and respectful behaviour throughout the day. If you have not seen it I would encourage you to view the excellent video that Mr. Seib created last year, which explains in detail how this project meets our stated objectives for our Senior School Educational Program; how our students critical reflection and understanding of their own religion, and those of other faiths, will allow them to become more globally attuned citizens. Take a look. It will be time well spent.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaLlh-G_qZE&feature=c4-overview-vl&list=PL2DAEA65973E9BCEC

Ms. Holt

Vancouver Youth Poetry Slam

On Monday evening the Spoken Word Club made its inaugural visit to The Vancouver Youth Poetry Slam at Café Deux Soleils in Vancouver. For our first visit, we were there to cheer for participants, enjoy the very cool vibe, and get inspired!

It was a fun evening where we appreciated the beauty of poetry to educate, entertain, and empower. We also enjoyed some tasty food, warm beverages, and learned a handy phrase for when timed speeches run over. Thank you to Peter Kwak and Jaren Wong for helping to organize our attendance at the slam. We hope to do it again next month and encourage any interested students to talk to Peter, Jaren, or Ms. Nolan Wood.

Ms. Nolan Wood

Peru Expedition, July 2015 - Rainforest Conservation Research & Outdoor Education

In July 2015 there will be an opportunity for Grade 10-12 Senior School students to travel up river in the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, one of the largest protected areas of Amazonian Rainforest in Peru, contributing to ongoing research in rainforest biodiversity and conservation. The science part of this trip takes place over two weeks, upon a large research boat with several decks containing bedrooms, bathrooms, lecture and dining hall. As the boat travels up river, students are

engaged in Amazonian Wildlife and Conservation courses. During the course students will also get the opportunity to visit a Cocama Indian community. Once moored, students will be engaged in biodiversity monitoring and data collection to contribute to long term sustainability studies. Students will have the opportunity to take part in the following projects: Primate, large mammal and game bird transects, macaw and wading bird surveys, river dolphin transects, fish surveys, and night time caiman surveys.

As a potential addition to this trip, we will spend a third week to hike the Inca trail and visit Machu Piccu. After leaving the Amazon, we will travel within Peru from Iquitos to Cusco, spend 2 days to acclimatize, and then follow a 3-4 day hike along the ancient Inca trail, visiting many ruins along the way, to end in the Lost City of the Inca's!

If you would like to hear more, please attend the upcoming parent information night in the Alderdice Library on Thursday, January 30th at 7:00 PM.

Anna Szymczak

Into the Woods

This coming February, Southridge Senior School Drama Department presents Into the Woods, the Tony Award winning musical by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine. It is a musical to entertain and delight audiences of all ages!

'ONCE UPON A TIME' in a magical kingdom, deep in the woods, timeless fairy tales were told. These stories were based on many of the Grimm Brothers' tales and were originally intended to enlighten us through moral lessons. Into the Woods creatively intertwines the adventures of many well-known fairy tale characters with the journey of a childless baker and his wife, who endeavor to lift their family curse. Along their path they encounter the familiar figures of Jack and the Beanstalk, Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel and her frightening mother, the witch, and a runaway father. Throughout their journeys the characters are reminded to, "Be careful what you wish for", for in seeking their hearts' desires they may affect the lives of others. The characters' innocent wishes provoke the audience to reflect on individual and community responsibility, and the role models that we provide for our children.

"Into the woods, but not too fast or what you wish, you lose at last.
Into the woods, but mind the past.
Into the woods, but mind the future."
~Sondheim~

Show times in the Alan Brown Great Hall are as follows:

- Wednesday, February, 26th at 7:00pm
- Thursday, February, 27th at 7:00pm
- Friday, February, 28th at 7:00pm
- Saturday, March 1st at 2:00pm
- Sunday, March 2nd at 2:00pm

Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased by using [this link](#).

For more information please call 604-535-5056 or email jkelly@southridge.bc.ca

Jennifer Kelly
Senior Drama Teacher

Grad Photobook Committee

There will be a meeting on February 13th from 4:30-6:00 to start the next stage in the photobooks for the graduating class. The meeting will take place in room 240. If you are interested in helping with this project and have not contacted Ms. Mosher (hmosher@southridge.bc.ca) or Mrs. Eriksen please email us to let us know your interest and if you will be able to attend the meeting.

Thank you

Ms. Mosher

Grad Artona Photos

Just a reminder that all grade 12's need to be signed up for grad photos through Artona (www.artonagroup.com) for this weekend's photo session. If they are unable to go this weekend, their appointments still need to be made this week so that their pictures are in the yearbook and grad composite photo. The grads MUST bring with them their white shirt and school tie (or board of steward tie if they are currently on the Board of Stewards). They can also bring an outfit for a casual/sport/formal photo as well.

Thanks!

Heather Mosher

News for Both Schools

Join the Southridge School Sun Run Team!

Now that the weather has taken a turn for the better and the days are getting longer, it is the perfect time to get running – especially with the Vancouver Sun Run just around the corner. This year's event will take place on Sunday, April 27th. We had a large school turn out last year and we are hoping for an even bigger one for 2014. Our rock star team will include participants from both the Junior and Senior Schools. All ages are welcome to take part in this fun and fit community event. Whether your goal is to run the full 10K race or the 2.5K Mini Sun Run, we would love to have you join us on the Southridge team.

Please note: This is not an official Southridge excursion, so families will need to arrange their own transportation and supervision.

Beat the rush and sign up by February 14th to enjoy an 'early bird' rate of \$20.00 per student and \$30.00 per adult! To register, go to:

1. www.vancouversunrun.com
2. At the top of the page select 'Register'
3. Click 'Register for a Team'.
4. Type "Southridge School" into the search bar
5. Click "Join Team".
6. On the next page you will be asked to type in our team access code which is "leteveryspiritsoar".
7. Next, fill out the registration information; choose between the 2.5K Mini Race or the full 10K
8. Proceed to the checkout.

The online registration has been updated this year and seems to be very user-friendly but please email me (mfretter@southridge.bc.ca) if you have any questions.

Good luck to everyone and happy running!

Megan Fretter & Dr. Kevin Bespflug

The Ride to Conquer Cancer – Serena, This One is for You!

The Friends of Southridge team 2014 launched its bracelet initiative in support of Serena at a Senior School assembly. Serena was present to receive her own bracelet. The bracelets are a tangible way to show Serena how much she means to us. The children of the team members, all dressed in red t-shirts, encouraged everyone to get a bracelet and to wear it until Serena is well.

The bracelets are red because it is Serena's favourite colour. Red is such a strong colour, so it is no surprise that it would also be Serena's favourite colour. The children also presented Serena with a card and a teddy bear. It was a touching moment and really reinforced the belief that we are truly one community.

The bracelets are available in both schools by donation, and it is hoped that every student and staff member in the Senior School will wear one. All the proceeds from the bracelets will go to support the Ride to Conquer Cancer. So please show your support.

“One act can change lives – what will you do for another?”

Anne Boyle
MYP French Teacher and Team Member

Loonies, Toonies, Nickels and Dimes!

There is such a buzz in the Junior School; it is obvious that something exciting is going to take place in the next couple of days. We are looking forward to the CAIS boys’ tournament which starts on Thursday, January 30th and will end on Saturday, February 1st. Go Storm Go!

During this time there will be a concession in each school, and all students will be able to buy goodies. All the profits from the concession will go towards the Ride to Conquer Cancer.

Cancer, unfortunately, as we all know, is not selective: man, woman, adult or child can be affected by this deadly disease. Fortunately, because of research, the outlook for cancer patients is much more positive than before. Research, however, is costly, and the net proceeds from the Ride to Conquer Cancer go to support: “Finding the right treatment for the right patient, at the right time.”

This year all the funds raised by the Friends of Southridge Cycling team will go to finding a cure for blood cancers, the type of cancer Serena has.

Anne Boyle
MYP French Teacher and Team Member

Grad Bottle Drive

The grads will be holding another bottle drive on February 12-14 from 7:30-8:00 in front of the senior school. We appreciate everyone’s support over the year to help support the grads.

Thanks!

Heather Mosher

Southridge Café Menu – No Menu Submitted This Week

There is a collection of personal water bottles, shoes, lunch boxes and knapsacks, some with names written clearly, some with food still in the bags that have been left in the cafeteria.

Please come by and check if any of these items are yours. These items will be moved to the general lost and found in the Senior School after Friday.

Mike Leif
Chef – Manager
Southridge Café