

Southridge Wednesday

13-14

A Weekly Publication of Southridge School

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No. 21

Head of School

Does Character Count?

I was reading an interesting article in the most recent edition of Independent School magazine, which is a quarterly publication of the National Association of Independent Schools (from the US). In it, psychologist Stephens Wallace asked the question, “Does the pursuit of character really count among young people today?”

Personally, I have seen countless examples that it does but I have also seen evidence that it does not. The problem young people sometimes run into is when they feel that “rules” do not apply to them individually when the rules interfere with their own ambition. I have seen students so focused on achieving a certain grade, getting into a specific university or gaining admission to a particular post-secondary program that they sidestep what they “know” is right to increase their chances of how they define success. Blind ambition in youth; not only can it interfere with a healthy childhood by causing undue stress and anxiety (and depression, in some cases), but it can also pose real challenges to their moral development.

For those parents in our community who took the time last May to attend Paul Tough’s presentation at Southridge, you would know that it is not so much test scores that determine success. Rather, it’s the very thing that blind ambition often obscures and relegates to a passing consideration that correlates well with success - character. Traits like perseverance, grit, optimism and self-control all influence achievement in significant ways. (Parents may want to read Paul Tough’s book, *How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity and the Hidden Power of Character*).

Developing character, arguably, is more art than science. I think Michel de Montaigne said it very well in his 16th century essay *On Educating Children* when he quoted Cicero, “The fullest art of all - that of living good lives - they acquired more from life than from books.” It seems that character education has been around for a very long time. More recent research has identified that children and adolescents need significant adults in their lives other than their parents when it comes to understanding how to live a good life. Teachers and coaches are very often the “significant other” in the lives of our students at Southridge. In fact, we recognize that the role of a teacher at Southridge goes well beyond delivering the curriculum. Teachers at Southridge are mentors.

The role of mentor can be daunting. Young people describe mentors as trustworthy, caring, understanding, respectful, helpful, dependable, fun, compassionate and responsible. Enacting these traits can be overwhelming - especially when combined with the endless demands on teachers’ time and energy. In her insightful essay on *The Power of Presence*, however, author/psychologist Debbie Hall reflects on the Woody Allen’s observation that 80% of life is just showing up. Rather than enacting a mentoring role she reflects, “Presence is a noun, not a verb: it is a state of being not doing. States of being are not highly valued in a culture which places a high priority on doing. Yet, true presence or ‘being with’ another person carries with it a silent power - to bear witness to a passage, to help carry an emotional burden or to begin a healing process.” I would also add role modeling a good life to the silent power of presence.

What is so special about Southridge? What is the added value of a Southridge education? I would argue that the added value is much, much more than achieving good grades. The added value of Southridge lies in the intentional mentoring role our teachers play in the lives of our students to not only support and guide them in their academic development but, perhaps more importantly, to support and guide them in their development of character so they can experience the greatest art of all - living a good life.

To paraphrase Michel de Montaigne (1580), “a Southridge student should be able to do anything but want to only to do what is good.” Does character count? Absolutely!

Have a wonderful week!

Mr. Drew Stephens
Head of School

Important Dates			
Event	Date	Time	Location
Kindergarten - No School	Friday, February 14 th	All Day	Junior School
Junior School Student Led Conferences	Thursday, February 20 th	1:00 - 8:00 pm	Junior School Classrooms
Full School Assembly	Friday, February 21 st	9:40 - 10:30 am	Senior School Gym
Girl Rising Film	Saturday, February 22 nd	2:00	Junior School Great Hall
Pink Shirt Day	Wednesday, February 26 th	All Day	Both Schools
Senior School Play	Wednesday, February 26 th to Sunday, March 1 st	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Alan Brown Great Hall
Spring Break - No School	Monday, March 18 th to Friday, March 28 th		Both Schools
Late Start	Monday, March 31 st	10:25 am	Both Schools

Junior School News

Head of Junior School

FSA (Foundation Skills Assessment) - A Hot Topic, To Be Sure

This coming February 27th and 28th we are hosting about 65 ISABC teachers in our Junior School to collaboratively mark the FSA booklets. Marking as a team of teachers provides standardization and affords the opportunity for professional dialogue. It also ensures validity in the marking process. Southridge has participated in collaborative marking for the past six years, and this is our third year hosting the teachers. We believe in providing our students the fairest evaluation possible, and this does come through a standardized process. Many of our own faculty will be taking leadership roles in the marking, including Steve Anderson, Rowena Raber, Sue McNeil, Alison Graham, Alexis Mauricio, Paul Best, and Jackie Birch. We thank them for their commitment to the best practices of assessment for our students.

There is never a perfect system of student evaluation, and Southridge School endorses a holistic approach to student assessment. Within this context, FSA testing does provide our school with feedback on an individual student's performance on a specific day, on a specific set of tasks. We do believe that these tests are in line with the Ministry of Education's learner outcomes and therefore, welcome the feedback. However, we do not use the data towards student evaluation or their report card mark. We choose to use the information in a diagnostic manner, whereby we can make adjustments or enhance our program or a child's individual program appropriately. FSA results should never be used in a comparative manner, and the rank ordering of FSA results has proven to be source of misunderstanding.

The intent of the FSA results at Southridge School will always be to improve in our delivery of program. At Southridge School we offer an enhanced program that addresses critical thinking, inquiry and concept driven lessons. The FSA mark reflects a student's performance in relation to Ministry standards in reading, writing and numeracy. Southridge School standards may be somewhat higher and more rigorous, but the FSA provides a benchmark for our assessment, which we value and endorse. While the Fraser Institute has granted our Junior School a perfect score of 10 for our 7th year in a row, rating us a number one school in this province, we are mindful that Southridge is about much more than just the academic strand, and certainly more than just reading, writing and numeracy. That is why we strive to provide a well-balanced program including athletics, arts and service, all delivered in a very positive school climate. Our strength at Southridge is the delivery of a strong program, while at the same time strengthening our school community with a realization that everyone is a contributor. We want our students to have a strong foundation, but more so, we want our students to use these skills to make a positive difference in the world. We want to prepare our students completely, so that they have an

inclination to act, and are equipped in all ways to do so. While we are proud of our students' performance on FSA, that is only one small source of our pride. More so, we are fiercely proud of the character of these young people that we have the privilege of working with each and every day.

Have a great, albeit short week.

Mrs. Middelaer
Deputy Head and Head of Junior School

Kindergarten Parents: No School on February 14th, 2014

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

Student Led Conferences: Noon Dismissal Thursday, February 20th, 2014

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 20th, 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. Mr. Anderson will be sending out the Pick-A-Time information today.

Booking Process for Student Led Conferences

As we continue to embrace technology and streamline our practices for efficiency and ease, you are now able to book your Portfolio Conferences online. The system is activated and ready for you to book appointments with your children's homeroom and specialty teachers today, February 12th. We are utilizing a program called **Pick A Time** and through this we are able to offer parents the selection of available conference times online. Our Portfolio Conferences for the Junior School begin on Monday, February 17 and continue to Thursday, February 20. On Thursday the majority of teachers are available from 1:00- 8:00 p.m.

To book your appointment you need to log into the school website in the Parent Portal. Once in the Parent Portal a title named, "Book Your Junior Student Led Conference" will be at the top of all news items. Click on the link below which says, "Click here to book your to book your Junior Student Led Conference. It will open another page with a "Parent-Teacher Conferences" link. Once you click this link again it will take you into the page to book your appointment. Click on the date that works best for you and book your conference. Click on the square of the interview time that you would like. Once you book your child's time, this will show up on the teacher's schedule. You can go back anytime and change the time of the appointment or just reconfirm your schedule.

To book optional specialty teachers there is a dropdown tab once you click on the, "Book Your Junior Student Led Conference" tab. From this tab you can select the teacher you wish to see.

If you have any difficulty booking these times, please contact Steve Anderson at sanderson@southridge.bc.ca. Thank you for embracing technology with us.

Steve Anderson
Junior School Education Technology Co-ordinator

Full School Assembly - Friday, February 21st, 2014 from 9:40 to 10:30 am

Please join us on Friday, February 21st in our Senior School gym as we meet as a full school to celebrate the arts, athletics, and service through our full school assembly.

Senior School News

Head of Senior School

February Blahs...Redefined!

As I write this submission there is steady rain falling outside my window. The grey west coast clouds seem to envelope the sky giving a sense that it is somehow smaller and more confining. I am trying to resist the feeling that is sometimes associated with this time of year in the Northern hemisphere - the February blahs. Interestingly, when I lived in Winnipeg, the sun shone brilliantly for much of the winter, but the cold temperatures and never disappearing snow caused that locale's malaise during February. You got a sense that winter would never end...

In my experience, a school doesn't always seem able to escape this feeling during this time of year, as well. However, I am certain that the break we enjoyed this past weekend helped a little to lessen "the blues" of the season. Personally, the Sochi Winter Olympics have made me completely forget this feeling as I watch the Canadian athletes perform and give their best for their country. What an amazing start they have produced! At the time of writing this, Canada has 9 medals and so many other athletes have 'personal best' times and placing. I feel so proud to see the dedication and commitment that these incredible people have given to enjoy their success.

This had me pondering a possible way to overcome this time of the year with less daylight and not always the most desirable weather patterns. If we take the example from the Olympic athletes that the success they are enjoying right now has come from a dedication and commitment to a single goal. I have no doubt that each of them have had their own share of "February blahs" in their quest to be Olympians - injury setbacks, disappointing results, isolation from being the only one with their specific goal. If they succumbed to these, many would never reach this lofty goal.

Another way to look at this idea is the old saying that a summer body is created during the cold winter months. A New Year's resolution has to make it through February to be fully realized in the coming year! During the student led conferences last week, I know that many of the students shared their goals with their Advisor and parents. It was wonderful to hear all of the positive feedback and see the smiles that this day provided! It is not coincidental that we chose this time of year to do this, however. It allows others to know these benchmarks and support each student to remain dedicated to achieving them. Over the final weeks of this term, I encourage parents to ask their children how the goals are progressing and in what ways can they help them towards success.

Soon enough, and especially in this part of Canada, those telltale signs of spring will emerge - the crocuses breaking through the soil and buds on the trees quickly turning to fragrant blossoms of colour! The days will start to become longer and bring the warmer temperatures and the loss of long sleeves. In the meantime - work to remain on target for success.

And keep cheering those athletes in red and white that continue to make us all proud! Can't wait to get to the meaningful hockey games and the drama that they will no doubt bring with them!

Happy February and Go Canada Go!

Mr. Doug Palm
Head of Senior School

Student Led Conferences

I would like to thank parents for taking the time to support the senior school's Student Led Conferences on Tuesday February 4. Advisors have shared many stories of progress as the students' overall preparation and delivery was a high level. A number of years ago the Southridge Senior School decided to replace winter mid-term reports with this alternate form of assessment. Recently the trend has been for some Canadian universities to move away from a solely "grade based" assessment of a student's application to a broader assessment of applicants which sometimes includes a reflective portion. The ability to explain one's learning and accomplishments in an interview format is a key skill for university and scholarship applications as well as in the job market. Most importantly, the Student Led Conferences help to deepen the partnership between Southridge families and the school through the advisory system. Thank you again for your participation.

Sincerely

Norman Dods

Annual 2014 ISABC Student Art Exhibit

This year the art exhibit is at York House from February 12th to February 24th with an opening on February 12th. Please consider attending this opening and adding this to your artist's CV and blog (if you have one).

Thank you for participating and congratulations - you are all very talented!

Tony Ma - Grade 10
Acrylic on Canvas
"Hey Look, It's a Pretty Star"

Jeanne Balloffet - Grade 11
Oil on Canvas
"Tofino"

Jessie Eriksen - Grade 12
Mixed Media on Cradle Board
"Deforestation"

Stephanie Sung - Grade 12
Mixed Media on Canvas
"Abstraction #1"

Laura Hansen - Grade 12
Acrylic, tar gel, on cradle board
"3 Crows"

Sarah Grimm - Grade 12
Oil on Canvas
"Aquitaine"

Jullia Ayre - Grade 12
Acrylic on cradle board
"Look at Me"

Ms. Susy Baranszky-Job

Olympic Team Canada Crosby Jersey

On Wednesday, February 12th the grads will be announcing their Olympic Team Canada Crosby Jersey Raffle. We have two team Canada jersey's to win (one home and one away). The winners will be drawn in the morning assembly on February 17th. Winners of the Jerseys will be allowed to wear the jersey for the remainder of the Olympics!! Tickets will be on sale in the Senior School on Wednesday, February 12th - Friday, February 14th. \$3.00 per ticket or \$5.00 for two tickets. All proceeds go towards the grads fundraising for their dinner/dance!!

Ms. Heather Mosher

Peru: Biodiversity Studies in the Amazon Rainforest: June 26 - July 11, 2015

Registration has begun! To secure your spot, bring a \$1000 deposit cheque to Ms. Szymczak soon - only 16 spots available. Registration deadline is Feb 28th, 2014. Participants will have the unique experience of joining a network of university academics, assisting in conducting biodiversity surveys in a remote part of the Amazon Rainforest.

Their involvement will help carry on the amazing field work started by Wallace and Darwin, while being part of a socially and environmentally responsible programme! [Click Here](#) to learn more about how the biodiversity studies aid in conservation by setting a value on the forests beyond their carbon value.

Peru 2015 is an awesome opportunity to be active in making a difference, gain knowledge of tropical wildlife and how conservation can be linked to sustainable development in the tropics, and beyond! [Click Here](#) to learn more about what we would be doing on this expedition.

For an informational brochure with flight itinerary, price and other details, please see Ms. Szymczak.

Ms. Szymczak

Students Celebrate Heritage Week

Next week Southridge is celebrating Heritage Week with completely student led events! On Monday grade 8s are dressing up as Canadian Historical figures. Student who guess the most students correctly win a prize! Other events include learning how to knit like a pioneer, sending Marconi-O-Grams, and 3-on-3 James Naismith Basketball on Friday. Check out the attached poster for all the week's events! Get your heritage on!

Ms Alexandra

Snowshoeing On Hollyburn Mountain

The Outdoor Ed team is kicking February off with another successful trip! A week ago today, Mr. Sterelyukhin and Ms. Berkeley led the group of nineteen snowshoers on an expedition to the top of Hollyburn Mountain. Although it was a crisp minus 11°, it was a perfect day for the hike as there were no clouds and it was sunny throughout the day. The hike was perfect for students of all abilities as there were optional steeper parts for those inclined to tackle them. About halfway up anyone who wanted to, had the option to settle down and have lunch while the rest of the group continued up to the peak. This last push was a bit steeper than the rest of the trail, but it was well worth the extra work! The view from the top was surreal. As there were no clouds, you could see for miles!

Due to the success of this trip we, as the outdoor ed team, are hoping to pursue more winter related outdoor ed activities in upcoming years. But for the time being, this is the end of the winter trips this year. However, cross country skiing is still running every Friday and we would be delighted for anyone interested to join the team! Anyone interested in joining cross country should talk to myself or Mr. Sterelyukhin. Make sure to check out the Wednesday every week in order to stay updated on upcoming outdoor ed trips.

Jake Strecker
Outdoor Education Steward

News for Both Schools

Reminder: Re-enrolment forms and deposits are due this Friday

If you have paid your re-enrolment on-line, please remember to send in your signed forms.

Caroline Preddy
Accounting

Anxiety 101: Helping Parents Make Sense of Anxiety

Below is an excerpt for a presentation by Vanessa Lapointe that will occur on Wednesday, February 19th, 2014 at 7:00 pm for parents of students in Grades 7 to 12 on anxiety.

“About 42,000 children in BC are currently diagnosable with an anxiety disorder. Why? The answers are found in taking the knowledge provided by contemporary neuroscience and combining this with an understanding of how social-emotional development progresses for our children. We will explore in detail where anxiety comes from, what it looks like, and when you might become concerned about anxiety for your child. Finally, we will consider caring approaches to supporting children of all ages struggling with anxiety. Our goal will be to arrive at an understanding of the ultimate answer for finding a way through. An answer that is perhaps the most simple, readily available and affordable answer imaginable...”

Dr. Vanessa Lapointe is a registered psychologist who has been supporting families and children for 15 years. She presently works in private practice and has previous experience in a variety of settings, including the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development and the school system. Dr. Lapointe is a regularly invited professor and educator. She is also actively involved in the provincial community with various initiatives and projects promoting emotional health and development. Dr. Lapointe is known for being a dynamic speaker who brings a sense of nurturing understanding and humanity to all of her workshops. She enjoys presenting to a wide range of professionals and parents throughout Canada. As a mother to two growing children, Vanessa strives not only professionally, but also personally, to view the world through the child's eyes.

Natasha Bains

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, 2014. 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 22nd, 2014 at 2:00 pm

Where: Southridge Junior School

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

Sanya Grove
Girl Rising Committee

The Changing Face of Education: Dr. David Helfand

We are pleased to be able to host Dr. David Helfand, president of Quest University and professor of astrophysics at Columbia University, at Southridge, on Wednesday, March 5th, 2014 at 7:00 pm. Dr. Helfand will be discussing how education is responding to the rapid changes in modern society to help best prepare our students for the future. If you are interested in learning why these changes are necessary, and how it will affect your child and their educational and career opportunities, please join us for this lecture and discussion. Dr. Helfand has been recognized with many teaching awards while at Columbia, and is renowned as a dynamic and engaging speaker.

There is no need to pre-book your spot, but please mark your calendars now so as not to miss this great opportunity. For more information, contact Daryl Weaver, dweaver@southridge.bc.ca or 604 542 1796.

Please [Click Here](#) to get a sense of Dr Helfand's beliefs about education.

Daryl Weaver
Director of Experiential Education
Assistant Head of Senior School

Into the Woods – Senior Play

Coming this month, 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

Southridge Speaker Series – Dr. Alex Russell

Southridge is pleased to host author, **Dr. Alex Russell** on **April 16th at 7:00 p.m.** in the Junior School Great Hall. Dr. Russell is a clinical psychologist and author of the book, ***Drop the Worry Ball: How to Parent in the Age of Entitlement.*** Dr. Russell will speak to parents about the common challenges children and youth face, including dealing with troublesome behaviours, supporting children at school and controlling or monitoring children’s access to computers, cell phones and other forms of digital technology. He believes that parents need to view failing as a way to build resilience – whether it’s a test, a course, or a tryout for a team as a normal part of growing up.

Dr. Russell provides assessments and psychotherapy to children and adults, in addition to consulting with schools, teachers and psychologists. He is intimately familiar with the culture of schools and the relationship that parents, teachers and counsellors share with regard to the children we are raising. He is a popular speaker to parents’ groups and educators, and has been an online mediator of a TV Ontario website focused on parenting and child development. He is a research affiliate with the Hincks-Dellcrest Institute where his activities include the development of an early intervention family therapy program serving families with children at risk, articles on children’s emotional development, and serving on the editorial board of *Ideas: Emotional Well-Being in Child Care*, a nationally circulated journal for early childhood educators. A father of two teenagers, he is an active parent in his community and an avid hockey player and coach.

This event is open to the public and the tickets are \$10.

Grad Bottle Drive

The grads will be holding another bottle drive on February 12th through February 14th from 7:30 - 8:00 am in front of the Senior School. We appreciate everyone’s support over the year to help support the grads. Thanks!

Heather Mosher

HERITAGE WEEK FEB 17-21

Week's Events:

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<i>All Day Contest with prizes!</i>		Guess that Grade 8 (Canadian Historical Figures) Winner gets a Tim Horton's Gift Certificate eh?		Guess that Grade 9! (World Historical Figure) Winner gets a Starbucks Card.		
<i>Lunch Movies</i>		RM 200: The Patriot Library: Forest Gump	RM 200: The Patriot Library: Forest Gump	RM 200: The Patriot Library: Forest Gump		
<i>Lunch Activities</i>	Send a <u>Marconi-O-Gram</u> Delivered in advisory	Send <u>Marconi-O-Gram</u> Delivered in advisory	Send a <u>Marconi-O-Gram</u> Delivered in advisory	<u>Heritage Bake Sale!</u> Grade 10s will give you a baked good if you answer a historical question correctly! <u>Pioneer Crafts:</u> Learn to knit or crochet in room 200! Bring a ball of yarn and knitting needles or a crochet tool of any size.	Gym: 3 on 3 <u>Basketball</u> (yeah James Naismith)	
Prizes for the student who guesses the most historical figures correctly!						



WE NEED YOU to get your heritage on, eh?