Southridge Wednesday

A Weekly Publication of Southridge School

13-14 No. 24

# **Head of School**

#### Into the Woods

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Into the Woods*. Ms. Kelly and the Senior School deserve a huge round of applause for the incredible production of this year's musical. With a demanding score, a high level of technical precision and a storyline that took true talent to deliver, our students and teachers deserve high commendation for rising to the challenge and offering our community a fantastic journey . . . *Into the Woods*.

#### **Collaboration, Creativity and Design Thinking**

Collaboration and creativity are two important skills that our educational programs address. Often they are approached as separate entities but there is strong evidence to consider how they interact with one another. Creativity is too often relegated to the domain of the arts alone, but in reality there are numerous opportunities to open our students' minds to creative thinking in many other subject areas as well.

In the Junior School for example, MYP students take a course called technology and design. In it they are taught how to apply the design cycle to solve problems and to think in creative ways. When Mr. Anderson plans the projects his students will tackle, he most often establishes them in ways that allow the boys and girls in his classes to collaborate with one another. Collaboration is an important step in the design cycle because it helps to surface creative ideas while taking into consideration a diverse set of perspectives.

In the Senior School the problems and projects set by teachers within the SSEP allow students to think in creative ways as well. Although design thinking is not a specific course taught in the SSEP, the processes involved in thinking through projects such as the catapult in physics and the crystal growing challenge in chemistry require students to collaborate with one another to help surface different ideas and innovative solutions to problems.

Throughout our educational program at Southridge, students engage in these kinds of collaborative, experiential learning opportunities because we want them to work with one another to help stimulate creativity and foster their innovative confidence. When our students discover something new for themselves, even if it is not truly ground-breaking or pioneering, they begin to think like innovators. And when they understand that innovators think creatively across the curriculum - from science to physical education to English and the humanities - they have a better chance to shift their thinking to be more design-oriented.

According to many economists, design-oriented thinking will play a significant role in the evolving world economy where skilled jobs are predicted to continue to go to the "lowest bidder", regardless of geographical location. The innovative forces needed to drive the world in the future, however, will be more available to those individuals who have the predisposition and creative confidence to embrace uncertainty and find comfort in ambivalence knowing that a creative solution is often just a step or two away.

Have a wonderful week!

Mr. Drew Stephens Head of School

March 5, 2014

Important Dates				
Event	Date	Time	Location	
Jr School Exhibition Presentation				
for Grade 4 Parents	Wednesday, March 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 – 7:30 pm	Junior School Great Hall	

Important Dates				
Event	Date	Time	Location	
Junior School House Captain				
Theme Day	Friday, March 7 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Junior School	
Mini Me to We Day	Friday, March 7 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 - 7:00 pm	Alan Brown Great Hall	
Junior School Grandparents Day				
Tea	Tuesday, March 11 <sup>th</sup>	12:30 - 1:30 pm	Junior School Great Hall	
PYP Matinee Performance	Tuesday, March 11 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 - 3:00 pm	Junior School Great Hall	
PYP Evening Concert	Wednesday, March 12 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 - 8:00 pm	Junior School Great Hall	
Casual Day	Friday, March 14 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Both Schools	
School Report Cards Home	Friday, March 14 <sup>th</sup>		Both Schools	
Kindergarten Transportation Bike	Friday, March 14 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Commons	
	Monday, March 18 <sup>th</sup> to			
Spring Break - No School	Friday, March 28th		Both Schools	
Late Start	Monday, March 31 <sup>st</sup>	10:25 am	Both Schools	

# Junior School News

I never perfected an invention that I did not think about in terms of the service it might give others... I find out what the world needs, then I proceed to invent. (Thomas Alva Edison, Inventor)

#### How to Launch Creativity

There has been a great deal of talk lately about the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills required so that our present generation of students will be able to contribute effectively once they graduate. Being able to think creatively is one of those skills that seems current, but as one can see from the above quote, creativity has been valued and appreciated for many generations. In fact, it is reaffirming to note that the mission statement of Southridge School, written over 19 years ago, states that we produce 'creative and independent thinkers' Simply put, creativity is valued and has withstood the test of time.

The real question comes in how to teach or foster creativity at Southridge School. Teaching through an inquiry methodology promotes an atmosphere for creative thought - one where questions are encouraged and strategies to question are actively taught. Additionally, having to contemplate a tangible action piece at the end of each unit in PYP prompts our students to creatively decide how they can make a difference.

This year in our exhibition in Grade 4, rather than an action piece at the end of their unit of study, we are implementing an aspect of design as their culminating activity. This encourages students to build and create something based upon their learnings. In MYP we have an entire course for all Grade 5-7 students entitled "technology and design". In this course, students learn the design cycle and are asked to follow a design protocol in creating many different items over the course of the year. Design is actively taught using the steps of investigate, design, plan, create and evaluate, as the design cycle. Mr. Anderson, as our MYP Technology and Design instructor, would be more than happy to discuss our program with you. In other MYP core subjects, creativity is nurtured through asking provocative questions and ensuring that all concepts are taught with a global perspective. In addition, the students are often asked for an action component which draws on a great deal of creative thought.

Throughout the implementation of our program we are always looking for ways to enhance and foster greater creativity. By attending professional development opportunities, investing time in reading educational journals and articles, and by networking with our colleagues in other settings, we seek to bring the best practices to our students here at Southridge. We do believe that we are working with a generation of young people who are, and will, make a tangible difference in this world. Fostering that creative spirit is one way we can help them grow to do so.

Have a great week.

Mrs. Laurel Middelaer Head of Junior School/Deputy Head

# Grandparents Day on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014

At Southridge School we realize the importance of our grandparents and appreciate their influence on our students and families. To honour their importance, we are hosting a Grandparents Tea before the afternoon PYP musical performance on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 12:30 pm. Upon arrival, our grandparents will be greeted by Grade 4 students, guided to select seats for the performance, and then escorted upstairs to our library for tea and goodies before the performance. The performance will commence at 1:30 pm. We hope that our special grandparents will attend and enjoy the creativity and talent of our PYP students. The evening performance of our PYP play will be on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 6:30 pm. We look forward to this celebration of talent.

#### Spring Break Term Two Report Cards

For those anticipating the spring break, the last day of school is Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, returning to school on Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014, with a late start on that morning.

Report cards will be sent home with all students on the last day of classes, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Report cards will not be given out before that date as we have editing and final checks that must be conducted in that last week and it has never been our practice to distribute these early. Additionally, all parents of Grade 4 and 7 students will receive the FSA booklets as well as the FSA marks. These will be mailed directly to your home so please watch for them over the March break.

#### Gift Baskets for the Country Fair

Gift basket collection for the Junior School will start on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. A flyer outlining the items for each grade to bring in is attached to this Southridge Wednesday. The flyer will also be posted outside each classroom door, and will also be sent out via the class moms. Boxes for the collection of items will be placed outside classroom doors on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and will remain there until Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support!

Gift Basket Committee

#### Sex Talk. No Sweat. - A Workshop for Parents

Not all parents are comfortable talking to their children about sex, but all parents can learn to be comfortable. During this open and informational session, parents will come to terms with sexual health, and understand how it fits into the lives of their children at this stage of life. Attendees will discover how to easily overcome embarrassment when talking about sexual health, learn words and concepts that are easy to use, and leave well equipped to clearly answer the questions children ask. The workshop is light hearted, but delivers straight and current facts on how parents and children can work together to promote good sexual decisions for a lifetime.

Who: All parents of Kindergarten to Grade 7 students

Where: Southridge Junior School Great Hall

When: Parents: Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00 - 7:30 pm Students: In class on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

Mrs. Rowena Raber PYP Division Leader

# Writing Competition Winning Results

Provincial results have just been released for both the BC Commonwealth Society and the Royal Canadian Legion writing competitions. The MYP English Department would like to congratulate those Junior School students who were recognized at this competitive level.

In the Royal Canadian Legion Writing competition, I am pleased to announce that the following two students have received recognition at the provincial level:

Grade 6 student, Serina St. James; 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner for the Junior Essay Grade 4-6 level Grade 7 student, Malcolm Beaton; 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner for the Intermediate Poem Grade 7-9 level

In the BC Royal Commonwealth Society essay competition, Southridge has placed in the largest number of provincial winning categories in our history. I am pleased to announce the following winners:

<u>Class D ages 11 and under:</u> Grade 5 student, Alyssa Wellar; Honourable Mention <u>Class C Ages 12-13 category</u> Grade 6 student, Kate Maguire; Honourable Mention Grade 7 student, Kyla Edelmeier; 3<sup>rd</sup> place Grade 7 student, Jaden Sanghe; 1<sup>st</sup> place

Congratulations to our provincial level winning writers!

Ms. Sue McNeil MYP Division Leader

#### PYP Musical, Rainbird!

It is hard to believe but it is less than a week until the PYP students present this year's musical production, *Rainbird!* This play, written by former Southridge teacher Ms. Brenda Greenwood, will involve all students from Kindergarten through Grade 4. It includes wonderful music, memorable characters, amazing costumes, and beautiful sets!

There will be two performances of *Rainbird* and we look forward to seeing you at one of them. Please join us for the Grandparents' Day matinee performance on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm, or for the evening show on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Both performances take place in the Junior School Great Hall and no tickets are required. If you are a grandparent and are joining us for the Grandparents' Day performance, please come early (12:30) and join us for tea before the show.

If you have any questions, please feel free to see either me or Donna. We look forward to seeing you there!

Ms. Donna Winterburn and Dr. Kevin Bespflug Junior School Music

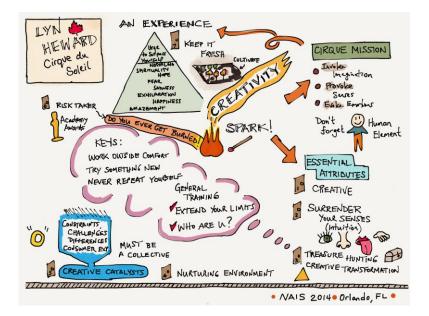
#### **Senior School News**

#### A Creative Learning Week!

Last week I was fortunate to attend the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. It is a very well attended conference - more than 3,500 people - and always has a key theme that runs throughout the conference. This year the theme was "Dare to Explore and Discover". There are always a number of inspiring and engaging key note speakers, hundreds of workshops and the chance to network with other educators from all over Canada and the United States. I wanted to share a couple of key learnings that I took away from the conference in a unique way.

Over the past few weeks, prior to the conference, I was introduced to the concept of Sketchnoting. This specific term is fairly new but what it describes is not. In fact some may actually know it as doodling! Put simply, it is taking notes from a speech, meeting, or lesson by way of sketching words, symbols and drawings to capture the main themes. Unlike taking lines and lines of detailed notes and then returning to the notes synthesize them into concepts, this practice enables the note taker to do both of these things as they take the notes. On a purely personal level, and with my particular challenge of a hearing impairment, sketchnoting seemed to present an amazing solution to the trouble I sometime have with getting down details and listening at the same time.

So, I dedicated myself to note taking during the conference in this form-in a digital form. It was very successful and I wanted to share one page of notes taken from an engaging speaker. Lyn Heward is the current Director of Creation at Montreal's Cirque du Soleil. She has written a book titled: *Spark: Igniting the Creative Fire That Lives Within Us All.* During her key note address I took the sketchnotes below:



I will explain a few points to help make sense of this drawing because the notes were taken to help remind me of the main points of her talk. Some of the points might not make complete sense to everyone.

From the centre image of the sparking fire of creativity leads to the arrow explaining the mission of this amazing company: Invoke (Imagination), Provoke (Senses) and Evoke (Emotions), while always maintaining the human element of a performance. From here you will notice the essential attributes of this creativity, which Ms. Heward termed "the 7 doors of creativity". This is why I have a sketch of a door with a number in front of each key point. There was a story or description that went along with each and I have added these nearby. If you want to hear more about these I will be happy to share! I was able to take away many of her points and connect them to the idea of schools and how we can develop creativity in our students. As you will know, creativity is a key aspect of our Senior School Educational Program (SSEP).

In addition, the ability to reflect and synthesize ideas from texts, speakers and fellow students is a key skill that will enable students to succeed. One way for those more inclined to a visual representation might see merit in this type of sketchnoting. Ironically, there is a creative aspect in the choices that one can make in symbolizing the ideas through words and images.

Again, I would welcome the opportunity to share more about the conference, creativity specifically or the idea of sketchnoting. As I stated in the title, it has been a real creative learning week for me!

As our March break comes nearer, I hope you have a creative week as well.

Mr. Doug Palm Head of Senior School

#### Student Exchange

Every year approximately fifteen of our students take part in a student exchange with one of our partner schools in Scotland, India, Quebec, Spain, or Australia. These are tremendous opportunities for learning about a different culture, developing independence, and above all, experiencing significant personal growth. One of our most popular exchanges is to the Central Coast Grammar School near Sydney, Australia, partly because they seem very similar to us philosophically as a lighthearted place of serious purpose.

This January and February, five of our students: Jason Coil, Spencer Millard, Davis Lougheed, Julia Bicknell, and Nicole Moretto, participated in this exchange. As they begin to return to our community, so do reports of the outstanding impression they have made representing Southridge around the world. For example, Julia and Nicole wowed this much larger school by standing up in front of their 2000+ students and singing solos during one of their full-school assemblies. As well, featured here, Julia used her artistic talents to create a painting featuring both our national flags and school crests, to commemorate her visit.

At times, we get used to how talented our students are when we see them daily, but whenever they represent us abroad, they truly shine, making us proud and reminding us of how special they really all are.

Mr. Daryl Weaver Director of Experiential Education Assistant Head of Senior School

#### In Praise of Into the Woods

Last Friday evening I had the great pleasure of attending the Southridge production *of Into the Woods* and I just wanted to comment on the incredible feat of our students and faculty in delivering such complex musical material over the course of five truly outstanding performances. The whole community has been enthralled and amazed by these seemingly simple and well known tales. The production ran so seamlessly from one tale to another, animated by a cast so assured in their lines, notes and actions that we were transported into the rather dark heart of this deep wood, and confronted by serious moral truths and questions. Life, it seems, is not a fairy tale.

But oh the joy in the music! I was in awe of the pace and intricacies of the rhythmic timing, the clever lyrics, and the facility of the cast in sounding all the right notes in their solos and in the dynamic choral numbers. We were treated to some poignant, nuanced acting, characters so changed in their wonderful costumes that we totally believed in them. From the expressive "milky white" to the terrifying, knife wielding grandmother, to our handsome, roguish princes, voracious wolf, and wicked witch these performers mesmerized their audiences. Cinderella danced in dazzling white and the ugly sisters, beautiful actually in their colourful gowns and tall wigs, were deliciously haughty and selfish. Abby Wells and Bryan Redies as the hapless, childless couple underpinned the entire show with their mature, emotionally resonant characterizations.

Equally amazing was the unbelievable technical trickery of some 300 lighting and sound cues, masterfully programmed and orchestrated by Avery Laird and Malcolm Nguyen, who were both absolutely integral to the stunning success of this production. Nick Tennant was the back stage hero and our in-house artistic talent in the persons of Ms. Baransky-Job and Mr. Khera brought their expertise to the creation of Rapuzel's tower and the central fireplace that brought authenticity to the home of the Baker and his wife. Mr. Barnim and Mr. Sterelyukhin are considering a change of career, but I am currently resisting approaches from Broadway agents. They, too, were an invaluable addition to the ensemble.

There is no question that Ms. Kelly set the bar immeasurably high, but to a person the entire cast leapt over it and exceeded all expectation. As I wrote in an earlier email of congratulation, I have taught in many schools in the UK & Canada and I have not seen a high school production that reached this level of professionalism in performance. It was simply the best I have seen. Many, many congratulations to all faculty and students, who gave of their time and energy to bring this ambitious production to fruition.

Finally a heartfelt 'thank you' to the indomitable Ms. Kelly for giving us a show to be proud of and a stunning example of what a committed team with inspiring leadership can do. As Mr. Kevin Bespflug remarked to me a couple of days ago, "It was a marvel!" Marvellous indeed to see this group work together to pull off such a spectacularly difficult musical; leaving me with the lyrical but relentless melody of "Agony", running like an unbroken soundtrack in my head. Thanks guys!

Jan Holt Senior School Academic Program Director

#### **Concert Band 8-Bandfest Pick-up Reminder to Parents**

We are so excited about our trip with the Grade 8s today. All of the information, including hotel and teacher contact information, is on Schoology for your reference.

Please remember that the students will be delivered to Southridge School on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm and will need to be picked up accordingly.

The Music Department

#### **Senior School Captain Election**

In just under 2 weeks the Senior School will choose their Head Boy and Head Girl (School Captains) for the next school year. The campaign has begun and you can now see the candidate's bios/campaign blurbs on the Southridge website in the Board of Stewards section. On March 10<sup>th</sup> we will hold our annual School Captain Forum in which you will be able to see the candidates speak in front of the entire Senior School. The following day, at the very beginning of Speech Day, we will hold the election. The candidates are:

Head Boy:

- Sam Chan
- Jake Girling
- Jacob Strecker

Head Girl:

- Iksha Kumar
- Allisen To
- Nicole Ure

Monday March 10<sup>th</sup> will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual School Captain Forum (Extended Assembly) and Tuesday March 11<sup>th</sup> will be the School Captain Election (just prior to Speech Day in the morning). Good luck to all of the candidates.

Mr. James Knihniski Board of Stewards Coordinator

#### SafeTeen: Powerful Alternatives to Violence

SafeTeen is a prevention program, which gives youth skills to deal with verbal violence, emotional violence, sexual violence and threats of physical violence. SafeTeen is about teaching teens to stand up for themselves and what they believe in, without violence. SafeTeen offers powerful alternatives to violence.

SafeTeen is based on a unique assertiveness model that youth readily embrace. Utilizing a dynamic and experiential teaching style, SafeTeen addresses adolescents on their own level, working with issues that are relevant to their everyday lives. With the SafeTeen skills, teens can connect with the power and wisdom within and speak from an authentic place of strength. They can hold their power and speak their truth.

The Safeteen presentation schedule will be as follows:

- Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup>: Grade 9s in the afternoon (girls to the Senior School library, boys to the Junior School library)
- Thursday March 6<sup>th</sup>: Grade 10s in the morning after long advisory (girls to the Senior School library, boys to the Junior School library)
- Thursday March 6<sup>th</sup>: Grade 11s in the afternoon (girls to the Senior School library, boys to the Junior School library)

Ms. Natasha Bains Senior School Counsellor

#### Upcoming Mini We Day

On Friday March 7<sup>th</sup> a Mini We Day will be held at Southridge from 5:00-7:00 pm. Mini We Day is an event where speakers come in from the community and engage with the audience about social issues and how we can help solve these issues. There will also be guest appearances from UBC Slam poetry, the Grade 10 jazz band, and student performances such as a hip hop dance segment. The tickets are by a minimum \$1.00 donation and you can buy your tickets from outside the Cafeteria at lunch or contact Amrit Athwal at <u>amathwal@southridge.bc.ca</u> for more ticket information. Thanks,

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### Speech Day

I will never forget my first Speech Day, almost ten years ago. On that day, the Great Hall didn't look so great. 100 students were missing.

Thankfully, times have changed and Speech Day has become one of the most anticipated events in the Southridge calendar. This year, it will take place on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The success of this special day lies entirely with our students. As they challenge each other to take risks and push past the boundaries of comfort and predictability to create inspired and original performances, they create memorable moments that delight, amuse and, sometimes even, move their audiences.

If you would like to know more about Speech Day, you can follow this link to see a short film that Mr. Seib made about Speech Day last year:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlLgEdw864w&feature=c4-overview&list=UUxasOrA1wBakvhEGwINIb-g

You may also enjoy listening to an inspiring slam poem by Taylor Mali about the importance of speaking with conviction. It was shown in assembly a few weeks ago:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8PoIixzsKo

Ms. Gail Robinson English Curriculum Leader

#### Reach for the Top

The intermediate Reach for the Top team (Grade 8-10) have had fun on Wednesday afternoons in preparation for their upcoming competition. This Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014, they will be representing Southridge at the Provincial tournament being held at York House in Vancouver. We have a lot of new players this year and it should be great fun. Please join me in wishing them good luck.

#### Grade 8:

- Kaj Grant-Matheson,
- Angela Cheng,
- Evan Plett,
- Ryan Kniel,
- Sophia Zu,
- Ekalan Hou,
- Rachel Tong,
- Molly Maguire,
- Jennifer Zhang

Grade 10:

Kai Lung

#### Uniform Guidelines Reminder for Senior School Students and Parents

Please re-acquaint yourselves with our uniform requirements:

- Belts must be worn. If you don't have one, the uniform shop does. Please buy one.
- Ties must be worn with top buttons done up. If you feel choked by your shirt collar, buy a new shirt. The uniform shop has plenty.
- Kilts must not be mini-skirts. Wear them properly. Do not roll. If it is too short, buy a new one-the uniform shop has a wide variety of sizes.
- Socks for girls in the winter are black knee highs or full black tights.
- Socks for boys are grey.
- White socks are for PE only.
- Hoodies are not part of the uniform. Do not wear them at lunch, in the halls during the day, or in class.
- We have school sweaters, school fleece jackets and school blazers for warmth if you are cold inside the school.

Once again all these items are available in the handy-dandy uniform shop.

These uniform requirements are the responsibility of all students when you decide to be at Southridge. If you do not want to be hounded about your uniform, please wear it properly. We will ask you to visit the uniform shop if you are in need of a replacement or a new item for your uniform. Thank you.

Mr. Paul Doig Upper Division Coordinator

# Casual Day in the Senior School on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Support of the Country Fair!

In the Senior School, each student is asked to bring in \$5.00 on March 14<sup>th</sup> for casual day. We purchase gift basket items with the money collected. We appreciate your support! Thank you!

Country Fair Committee

# News for Both Schools

#### Country Fair Volunteer Shifts Go LIVE on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014

As you all know, the Country Fair requires the support of all our parents. There are 900 volunteer shifts for pre-fair and fair day available! Starting on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, these shifts will all be available for online sign-up! It's first-come, first-serve - so if you want that afternoon shift in Recycled Treasures, be sure to sign up right away!

#### Sign-up at:

https://registration.campbrain.com/Portal/Login.aspx?H=SouthridgeVolunteer&G=1013.

Not sure what you want to do or maybe you don't have a preference? Sign up for a "Wherever I'm Needed" shift and we'll assign you a great position.

Having trouble signing up? Contact Lisa Boudot at 604-542-2303 or <a href="https://www.boudot.eta.com">boudot@southridge.bc.ca</a>.

#### Summer Camp Registration is Open!

Summer camp registration has begun. Check out the great camps we are offering this year. Lots to choose from for ages 4-17. Click below to view the available camps.

http://www.southridge.bc.ca/summer\_camps/index.aspx

Mrs. Debbie MacDougall Director of Marketing

#### Southridge Speaker Series-Dr. Alex Russell

Dr. Alex Russell, author of *Drop the Worry Ball: How to Parent in the Age of Entitlement* is coming to Southridge on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Junior School Great Hall. Tickets are \$10.00 each. This event is open to the broader community as well so please feel free to invite your friends. Click below for tickets https://www.netdirectories.com/~srs/oler2.cgi?1104

Dr. Russell was interviewed by MACLEAN'S magazine for a featured story titled-*The New Worry Epidemic*. Click here to read the article.

http://www2.macleans.ca/2014/02/05/the-new-worry-epidemic/

#### Travelling to Kenya or Ecuador this Spring, or just Travelling?

Are you aware that the Uniform Shop carries the Microsuede (very quick drying) towels that are recommended on the packing list for your child's trip? They fold up very small but are 24" X 48" \$25.00

Don't forget our hours of operation are Monday to Thursday: 7:45 – 9:00 mornings 2:00 – 4:00 afternoons

Southridge School Uniform Shop 604-542-2337

# **Country Fair Gift Baskets**

The March 14th casual day is dedicated to the collection of NEW items for Gift Baskets for Country Fair. The collection boxes are outside each classroom from March 7th to March 14th. Please have your child/children bring in their NEW items between March 7th and March 14th. If each student brings in a new item, Gift Baskets will be a great success for Country Fair.

The categories for each grade are:

Kindergarten & Grade 1: Children's Toys and Games (lego, craft kits, crayola sets, hair accessories, activity sets, bratz dolls, baby dolls, books, and any other popular children's toys)

Grades 2 & 3: Kitchen and Gourmet Items (oven mitts, tea towels, cloth napkins, cook books, fancy spices, oil and vinegar sets, garlic presses, cheese harps, coffee, tea, ice cream scoops, salt and pepper grinders, gift certificates)

Grades 4 & 5: Summer Fun and Garden (beach towels, children's sprinklers, sun screen, garden planters, garden gloves, seeds, watering cans, garden tools, gift certificates)

**Grades 6 & 7: Mother's Day** (bath products, spa items, candles, perfume, lotions, fancy soaps, bubble bath, scarves, picture frames, gift certificates)

Thank you for your support! Gift Baskets Committee