

Southridge Wednesday

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February 18th, 2015

Head of School

Strategic Plan Update - Enhancing Our Programs

Over the next few weeks I will be communicating updates in the *Southridge Wednesday* regarding the progress we have made in achieving the priorities of our strategic plan.

Our first strategic priority is concerned with refining our programs. To that extent we have worked with our Senior School teachers to establish department visions for the continued implementation of the Senior School Educational Program (the SSEP) with a focus on student-centred, discussion based, collaborative learning environments. In addition, we have begun to further develop a specific professional-development program concentrating on facilitating student-centred classrooms and the development of an even more pronounced engaged student population.

Our PYP teachers have been preparing their self-study for the upcoming IB evaluation, and, in the process, have identified areas for continued growth and development that will help make our program even stronger. Our MYP and SSEP teachers have embarked on a comprehensive student assessment practice self-evaluation with the goal of developing a more robust repertoire of techniques and approaches they can use to determine and communicate how well our students are learning. This was kicked-off on Friday at our professional development session with well-known assessment specialist Damian Cooper.

Throughout the fall and into January, our administrative team has also refined how we transition our MYP students into the SSEP. Supplemental to completing a thorough inventory of the practices we currently employ, Mr. Dods, Ms. Middelaer, Mr. Palm, Mr. Weaver and Ms. Holt have all given careful thought and consideration to the structure of the Grade 7 visit to the Senior School in January and the parent information session that follows. We have also worked with the academic and student service leadership groups to establish a well-articulated, full-school program perspective, thereby helping our students see and feel the connections between the Junior and Senior Schools in these important areas of student life.

In association with our technology program and our efforts to ensure our students are safe, Southridge recently launched an anonymous on-line reporting tool called PSST, which stands for Promoting a Safe Southridge Today. Research and user feedback is also being conducted on tablet technology in preparation for the first year of our Technology 2.0 roll-out that is planned for September 2015.

Student wellness is also a focus of the current strategic plan, and we have taken important measures to support our students as they strive to manage the demands of their busy lives. Along with the PSST mentioned above, some of our teachers have also been involved with threat assessment training, ERASE Bullying training, student shadowing case studies and mental health first aid training to ensure that we are in a better position to recognize and respond to students who are in distress. Coincidentally, the Canadian Accredited Independent Schools organization (CAIS) has also identified student wellness as an area of investigation, and we have benefited from resources and professional development opportunities they have provided its members.

Finally, our rugby program has received attention throughout the fall in preparation for the upcoming season. Concentrating on player safety, rugby culture, skill development and game knowledge, Mr. Gallant, Mr. Porpaczy, Mr. Johnstone and Ms. Middelaer have developed a clear plan forward to help ensure we have a solid foundation for this important part of our athletics program into the future.

Have a wonderful week!

Mr. Drew Stephens
Head of School

Important Dates			
Event	Date	Time	Location
Guest Speaker - Vanessa Lapointe <i>Aggression Might Be Healthy & Normal for Your Growing Teen: Understanding Adolescent Development and How to Best Support It.</i>	Wednesday, Feb 18 th	7:00 p.m.	Junior School Great Hall
Junior School Student-led Conferences	Thursday, Feb 19 th	Noon Dismissal	Junior School
Senior Theatre Production - <i>12 Angry Jurors</i>	Thursday, Feb 19 th to Saturday, Feb 21 st		Alan Brown Great Hall
Casual Day	Friday, Feb 27 th	All Day	Both Schools
<i>The Wizard of Oz: The MYP Musical</i>	Tuesday, Mar 17 th Wednesday, Mar 18 th	1:20 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Junior School Great Hall
March Break - No School	Saturday, Mar 21 st to Sunday, Apr 5 th	All Day	Both Schools
Easter Monday - No School	Monday, Apr 6 th	All Day	Both Schools
Late Start	Tuesday, Apr 7 th	10:25 a.m.	Both Schools
April Break - No School	Monday, Apr 27 th	All Day	Both Schools

Junior School News

Parking Lot Safety

Last week Mr. Palm wrote an article about parking lot safety and this week I echo the same message as I enclose some [footage](#) of our Junior School parking lot. You will notice as you observe the footage that our pedestrian traffic occurs throughout the parking lot and is not confined to the designated cross walk. This proves to be quite problematic as cars driving through the drop-off area have to navigate through people emerging between parked cars and crossing through moving traffic. We cannot express enough the importance of crossing only at the cross walks, especially with our youngest students.

Mr. Palm and I strive to have presence during pick-up to keep an extra watchful eye; however, it is up to you as parents to ensure that your child is with you when crossing and that you do so only in designated areas.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mrs. Laurel Middelaer
Assistant Head/Head of Junior School

Student Led Conferences: Thursday, February 19th, 2015 (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 19th, 2015 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 also be aware that there will be a 12:00 noon dismissal on that day to accommodate the conferences.

The Wizard of Oz: The MYP Musical!

If you've been in the Junior School recently, you've probably heard some familiar songs or seen the set panels in the upstairs hallway. That's because all MYP students are busy working on preparing for our March production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Please mark your calendars now for either the 1:20 p.m. matinee performance as part of Grandparents' Day on Tuesday, March 17th, or the 6:30 p.m. evening performance on Wednesday, March 18th. Like the Christmas concert, tickets are not necessary. The students are working very hard in rehearsals and are looking forward to having full houses for both performances, so we hope that you are able to join us!

You can also help us out as we gather our props for the show. Thank you to everyone who has already emailed with their offer of props! Our list is getting smaller, but we are still looking for a few items. If you have any of the following items that you would be willing to loan us, please send a quick email to Dr. Bspflug (kbspflug@southridge.bc.ca). Here is what we are looking for:

- A crystal ball (perhaps a giant snow globe?)
- 2 wooden fruit boxes
- An old bicycle

- 2 oars
- A metal bucket
- A heart-shaped clock
- A medal that can be pinned on

MYP Musical Team

Casual Day and Country Fair Gift Baskets

The February 27th casual day in the Junior School is dedicated to the collection of \$10.00 per student, or one new item per student for gift baskets for the Country Fair.

The new items are to have a minimum value of \$10.00. The categories for each grade can be found by [Clicking Here](#). The \$10.00 donation will be given to the student's teacher, and the new items will be placed in the collection boxes which are outside each classroom from February 23rd to February 27th.

Please have your child bring in their \$10.00 donation or their new items between February 23rd and February 27th.

If each student brings in a \$10.00 donation or a new item, the gift baskets will be a great success at the Country Fair.

Ms. Carol Davis and Ms. Teri Lydiard
Gift Basket Committee

Senior School News

The Major Production - More Reasons to Attend!

As you are no doubt aware, the major production of "12 Angry Jurors" begins tomorrow. With the Alan Brown Great Hall being the stage, everyone at the school has seen the slow transformation of the space in preparation for this highly anticipated annual event. From the stage being set as we returned from the Christmas break to the set pieces, lights and sound slowly taking shape, and finally last week, the curtains going up to complete the space! Throughout this time, the cast and crew have been continually rehearsing - initially in the drama area and then moving to the jury table on the stage. I enjoy seeing the progression of all the preparations leading up to the performances. Hopefully you have also taken advantage of the numerous 'blog' entries in the Wednesday from different members of the cast about their thoughts and commentary.

I am very much looking forward to seeing the show (the final evening is on Saturday) because I am excited to support and watch the students' hard work and commitment come together. There are some other reasons as well, especially the specific play that was chosen. It happens to be amongst my favourites! Growing up, my family members were big Henry Fonda fans and I recall my grandparents watching the TV movie with me in which he stars as Juror No. 8. If you haven't had a chance to see this, I highly recommend spending a few hours to do so - it is one of his best performances in my humble opinion.

I was reintroduced to this play when I was in university through the fraternity of which I was a member. The general office of this US-based fraternity offered a leadership course for members of each of the chapter's executives and we travelled to Columbus, Ohio for three days for this opportunity. One of the activities was to use this particular play as a study in leadership, group dynamics and consensus building. If you are not familiar with the story of the play, it begins with the jury just beginning deliberations to decide if a man should be sentenced to murder - no easy decision.

The members of the jury are made up of many different characters and personalities. In fact, each of the twelve individuals encompasses the entire spectrum of personality-types. A few descriptions directly from the plays notes specific jurors, including "a humourless man who is intolerant of opinions other than his own and accustomed to forcing his wishes and views upon others" and "a quiet, thoughtful, gentle man...who sees all sides of every question and constantly seeks the truth."

To understand the process that they go through to reach a consensus is to see how each of the individuals use their strengths and grapple with the specific shortcomings of their personality. As you watch the play, you get to see how leadership is held and passed between individuals and how it influences the jury's final decision. It is a difficult play to perform because there is only one location - the jury room - and all the jurors are on-stage for most of the show. So even when a few of them are involved in the dialogue, each cast member has the responsibility to ensure that their own behavior helps to enhance this interaction through non-verbal communication. No one is ever allowed down time or the ability to leave the spotlight.

Mr. Pope and the cast and crew have spent many long weeks preparing for this production and I want to thank them for giving such a committed and dedicated effort.

So, I encourage you to grab a ticket to one of the four shows and I will see you there on Saturday night.

Have a great week!

Mr. Doug Palm
Head of Senior School

Math Challengers Competition: Southridge Going to the Provincials!

On Saturday, February 14th, Mr. Weaver and I accompanied two Grade 8 teams and one Grade 9 team to UBC to participate in the wildly popular Math Challengers Competition (Lower Mainland Regionals).

Each team has 5 members. Altogether there were about 500 Grade 8 & 9 contestants from the lower mainland representing about 40 schools, both public and private. The competition had two individual rounds and one team round and ended with an exciting “Face-off” round among the top 10 individuals.

All of our teams tried hard and had a great time. The Grade 8 Team 1 won 3rd place in their pool and brought home a trophy. They will advance to the Provincials at SFU in early March.

Please join me in congratulating the following five Grade 8 students for their excellent achievements: Kieran Weaver, Frank Lin, Vivian Wu, Irena Yan and Julie Kim.

Ms. Elma Lai
Mathematics Teacher

Annual ISABC Visual Art Exhibition at Saint Georges

Southridge School’s senior visual art department is yet again highlighting our students’ artistic talents at the annual Senior School Independent School Association Visual Art Exhibition. Saint Georges is hosting the art work of over twenty four schools from the Island and the Lower Mainland. Artists Taylor Sidhu (Grade 10), Michelle Lu (Grade 11), Aleksandra Golos (Grade 12) and 2014 alumni Mica Kantelia will have works in this show. All are invited to attend the opening reception or visit the works throughout the show’s duration.

- February 9th to 20th, 2015
- Opening reception February 10th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- St. George’s Senior Campus 4175 West 29th Ave

Ms. Susy Baranszky-Job
Fine Arts and Drama Curriculum Leader

Grade 8 Concert Band Trip to Bandfest at the University of Victoria

The Grade 8 Band will cross the water to Victoria in one week! Students are to arrive at Southridge on Wednesday, February 25th at regular drop-off, check in with their advisors and then head to the Junior School Great Hall to get ready for their clinic and concert. The concert will take place at 10:15a.m. and you are welcome to pop in and listen if you are in the area at that time.

We will return to Southridge at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 26th. Please [Click Here](#) for further reminders and packing instructions.

If you have any questions, please contact Jenna Parker at jparker@southridge.bc.ca.

Ms. Jenna Parker
Senior School Music Department

University Counselling Visits in California

There are over 1200 major colleges in the US and one of the roles of the University Counsellors at Southridge is to help students research and discern the right “fit” for their plans to study south of the border. A popular destination for our students each year is the Southern California colleges located in and around the Los Angeles area, as well as the large universities located in San Francisco. Perhaps it is the allure of the west coast as well as the mild, warm climate that has students researching their options in this state.

This year Mr. Weaver and Ms. Livingston made it a priority to reach out and visit the US colleges and universities that are of interest to our student community. During the fall, Mr. Weaver spent a few days in and around the east coast states and New England, visiting and talking with Admissions Officers and promoting Southridge School. Ms. Livingston recently returned from a week-long visit to 12 public and private California colleges. The visits incorporated campus tours,

information sessions and appointments with Admissions Officers that read Canadian applications as well as chats with Southridge Alumni who are currently completing their undergraduate programs.

Highlights from the recent California trip include the amazing grouping of five private institutions called the Claremont Colleges where one Admissions Officer gleefully exclaimed “Buy 1 College, Get 4 free”. The colleges (Claremont McKenna, Pitzer, Pomona, Scripps and Harvey Mudd) are in a quiet neighbourhood setting east of LA and offer the small community setting with a chance to be part of a large network of courses, sports, clubs and recreation. Being private, the price tag goes beyond \$65,000.00 per year but the amazing campuses offer a blend of community integration, global connections and research opportunities. US applicants are considered without taking into account financial need, which means there are aid packages available for those admitted who have need. Canadian applicants must include information about whether financial aid is required.

Other visits included Occidental, Caltech, UCLA and USC. In San Francisco, Ms. Livingston met with Admissions personnel and participated in tours of UC Berkeley, University of San Francisco and Stanford.

Further details about both the east and west coast visits by Mr. Weaver and Ms. Livingston will be discussed and displayed at our first University Counselling coffee morning this Friday, February 20 from 8:10 to 9:00 a.m. We will also answer any question you may have about how we help students research and discern the right “fit” and destinations for undergraduate studies in the US.

News for Both Schools

Guest Speaker - Vanessa Lapointe at Southridge Tonight!

Vanessa Lapointe is coming to Southridge tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the Junior School Great Hall to talk to parents. The lecture will be on *Aggression Might Be Healthy & Normal for Your Growing Teen: Understanding Adolescent Development and How to Best Support It*.

The adolescent brain is a brain that is growing and changing in remarkable ways that we have only recently started to understand. During this critical time of growth and development, parents often experience the adolescent brain as very challenging! As a result of the complex processes unfolding in your teenager’s growing brain, they are likely to present with more anxiety, more anger, more aggression, and generally just...more! We will focus on understanding the mysteries of the adolescent brain and how to work with that brain, rather than against it, in promoting maturation for our growing teens in the best possible way.

Ms. Natasha Bains
Senior School Counsellor

Country Fair Volunteer Shifts Go Live on Monday, February 23rd!!!

As you all know, the Country Fair requires the support of all our parents and there are 900 volunteer shifts for pre-fair and fair day available! Starting on Monday, February 23rd, these shifts will all be available for online sign-up. It’s first-come, first-served so if you want that afternoon shift in Recycled Treasures, be sure to sign up right away!

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

Watch this space for weekly Country Fair updates - May 2nd is just around the corner!

2015 Volunteer Committee

Start Collecting for the Country Fair!

Now that spring is just around the corner, it’s time to start setting aside your gently used toys, household items, clothes, furniture, etc. for our annual Country Fair! We advertise the Country Fair as a 450-family garage sale, so we need each family’s support to keep the crowds coming year after year!

Collection week starts on Saturday, April 25th, so plan to do some major housecleaning and help support Country Fair with your donations. [Click Here](#) for a list of items we will accept.

Due to the cost of picking up large items from individual homes or offices, we are no longer able to offer this service. Drop-off of large items will only be accepted on Thursday, April 30th.

It costs the school to dispose of damaged and unsellable items, so please be considerate when you drop off your donations.

Traffic Concerns

Last week the school received an email from a neighbour regarding traffic and safety. You can read the email below - it really is a message to all of our community.

Good morning,

My family and I live literally, right next door to your school. While I can certainly appreciate the fact of morning traffic with parents bringing their children to school, I do respectfully request that you remind your parents of the speed limit, and that there are plenty of other children walking. As you know, I am sure, there is an elementary school down the block as well, Sunnyside Elementary, which has approximately 400 students, and I'm sure your school has more than that. Nearly every morning I witness numerous vehicles speeding out of your school, going over the pedestrian crossing (well past the stop sign) and then speeding out. I completely understand the need to hurry, especially in the morning, I have three children myself and get it. But I do worry about all of the children who are walking and the drivers who are so involved in their own rush that I would hate for something to happen. So, really, all I'm asking is for a reminder to drivers that there are other children walking, and of the speed limit and to have patience.

Debbie MacDougall
Director of Community Relations