

Southridge Wednesday

14-15

A Weekly Publication of Southridge School

January 21st, 2015

No. 18

Head of School

The Character of Southridge

At one of our Senior School assemblies just before the break, the routine series of student announcements took on a special feeling. The week before, one of our stewards stood up to present her announcement about an upcoming school event. The student, who is typically poised, graceful and extremely well prepared in her delivery, lost her train of thought and was unable to recover. She admitted publically, while glancing at her teacher sponsor, that she was simply too nervous to carry on. Her admission of vulnerability was humanizing. We all felt for her.

The very next week, the same person stood up to give her announcement - showing her resolve and courage. I could tell right away that the energy in the room was supportive and caring. To a person, every one of us - teachers and students alike - was silently rooting for her. When she finished what she needed to say - in verse, no less, and with excellent diction and phrasing - the assembly erupted spontaneously in encouraging, compassionate and appreciative applause.

Personally, I found the moment to be quite revealing of the character of Southridge. It confirmed for me that Southridge is a place where we can make mistakes in an environment that is supportive and empathetic. It also highlighted that Southridge is a place where we can feel comfortable to admit when we are nervous without ridicule and rejection. And perhaps most importantly, the moment demonstrated how our Senior School Code of Ethics is not just a bunch of words we pay lip service to; at Southridge words like respect, compassion, responsibility, integrity, honesty and perseverance mean something to our community.

When these kinds of situations happen, I can't help but feel proud and thankful. I feel proud of our students for the sincere demonstration of their character and, by extension, the character of our community. And I am thankful for being a part of a school community where the students, on their own accord, genuinely and authentically care for and support one another. Southridge truly is a good place.

Have a wonderful week!

Mr. Drew Stephens
Head of School

Important Dates			
Event	Date	Time	Location
Parent Open House Drop-in for Campus Master Plan	Wednesday, Jan 21 st	5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Alan Brown Great Hall
	Thursday, Jan 22 nd	7:45 - 9:00 a.m.	Junior Great Hall
	Thursday, Jan 22 nd	2:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Alan Brown Great Hall
Grade 7 Parent Information Session	Thursday, Jan 22 nd	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Alan Brown Great Hall
Jump Rope for Heart	Friday, Jan 30 th		Junior School
Casual Day	Friday, Jan 30 th	All Day	Both Schools
Senior School Student-led Conferences	Wednesday, Feb 4 th	12:40 - 8:00 p.m.	Senior School
Pro-D Day	Friday, Feb 6 th	All Day	Both Schools
BC Family Day	Monday, Feb 9 th	All Day	Both Schools
Half-term Holiday	Tuesday, Feb 10 th	All Day	Both Schools
Junior School Student-led Conferences	Thursday, Feb 19 th	Noon Dismissal	Junior School
Kindergarten Parents - No school	Friday, Feb 13 th	All Day	Junior School - Kindergarten only

Junior School News

CAIS Basketball Tournament - A Focus on Character On and Off the Court

Every February, fifteen CAIS schools send a U-13 boy's basketball team to one of our CAIS schools for a three day basketball tournament. For several months, Mr. Gallant and Mr. Anderson have been working diligently with coaching, and planning for a great tournament and overall experience for these boys.

Although the tournament is about basketball, it is also about character, on and off the court. At the closing ceremonies, one boy from each team will be selected for the Jeff Trickett Memorial Award. Jeff Trickett was a student at Strathcona Tweedsmuir School who played in the U-13 tournament when it was hosted by Holy Trinity School in 2000. Tragically he was killed in an avalanche while on a school outing in 2007. The award was established by Neil Morgan (Holy Trinity School) in 2007 and is presented annually by the Strathcona-Tweedsmuir School.

The criteria for the award are: *An inspirational boy of strong character, a team player: on and off of the court.* Please join me in wishing our boys well as they will participate in some fine basketball and in demonstrating great character, on and off the court. Have a great tournament, boys!

Have a great week.

Mrs. Laurel Middelaer
Assistant Head/Head of Junior School

Grade 7 Parent Information Session - Thursday, January 22nd, 2015

On Thursday, January 22nd, there is a Grade 7 parent night in the Alan Brown Great Hall from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to meet some of the Senior School team, receive information about life in the Senior School, and to hear how we prepare the students for this important transition. See you there!

FSA Test Dates

This is a reminder to parents for the upcoming important dates for our FSA (Foundations Skills Assessment) testing. Grade 4 students will write during the month of February; Mrs. Raber and Mr. Harder will send home a complete schedule to parents. Due to the CAIS basketball tournament, Grade 7 students have their testing scheduled shortly before and during the following few weeks of February. Our Grade 7 teachers will send home the schedule shortly. If you have any comments or concerns, please contact me directly at the Junior School office.

Pro-D Day - Friday, February 6th, 2015, BC Family Day - Monday, February 9th, 2105, Half Term Holiday, Tuesday, February 10th, 2015

As a faculty, we greatly value time together for professional collaboration and growth. On Friday, February 6th, 2015 we will have a professional development day so there will be no school for the students. February 6th is a collaborative Pro-D day with all the ISABC (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.

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.

Kindergarten Parents - No school on February 13th, 2015

Just a reminder to our kindergarten parents that there will be no school for their children on Friday, February 13th, 2015 due to entrance testing for prospective kindergarten students. Thank you for making alternate arrangements for your children on that day.

American Girl Raffle Results

Thank you for all of your donations. I'm sure the event made a lot of girls happy. The raffle and popcorn sale raised \$1,205.95 for *Because I am a Girl*. The winner of the doll and tea with Ms. Middelaer was Kingsley Radu in Grade 1.

Finn Toporowski - Grade 4PH

Grades 6 and 7 Dance

This Friday, January 23rd from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. there is a dance for Grades 6 and 7 in the Junior School gym. Admission is \$7.00 and there will also be snacks and drinks for sale.

Ms. Susan McNeil
MYP Division Leader

Grade 7 FSA Testing

[Click Here](#) for the schedule for the upcoming Grade 7 FSA (Foundation Skills Assessment) tests. Parents, please ensure that you do not schedule any other appointments for your child on these days that would conflict with the test schedule.

The marks from the actual FSA tests are not part of the student's Southridge mark. These marks are not percentage marks; they are scales from 1-4 used to indicate if the child is above, below, minimally meeting, or meeting provincial grade expectations. The practice activities they do in class leading up to the tests are graded and weighted the same as any other in-class assignment. Students are not expected to study for these tests; the practice activities prepare them for the various formats used, and the tests are intended to measure the skills they have acquired in the intermediate years.

The FSA's are marked by a committee that includes both Southridge teachers and teachers from other private schools. The results and the tests are then sent home to the parents by the end of March.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these tests, please contact myself or Ms. Graham.

Ms. Susan McNeil
MYP Division Leader

Jump Rope for Heart Friday, January 30th

Thank you for your involvement in our current school-wide fundraiser for local health initiatives. For example, the Heart and Stroke Foundation tries to encourage healthy lifestyles with the Heart Smart Kids program. It brings innovation in rapid stroke diagnosis and appropriate treatment to local hospitals with the Telestroke program. As well, the foundation helped to make BC the first Canadian province to restrict trans-fat in all prepared and served food. Patient Family Resource Centres provide informative materials about heart conditions and stroke to patients. Our donations do a lot!

Please remember to return the pledge envelopes to the homeroom teachers by Friday, January 30th. Thank you!

Mrs. Jo-Ann Murchie
Grade 2 and 4 Teacher

Senior School News

My Fitbit

During the summer, while I was visiting my brother and his family in Ontario, I was introduced to the Fitbit. Both my brother and sister-in-law had purchased these devices and enthusiastically explained how much they were enjoying using them. For those of you that don't know about these devices, the Fitbit is a computer chip that is worn as a bracelet. It has the ability to count your steps along with gauging heart rate, distance travelled and calories burned. Additionally, it can be worn at night and show how restful or restless your sleep is on a daily basis. As I listened and learned about this device I was quite intrigued - I am always striving to live a healthy lifestyle! Having been a teacher for more than twenty years, I had always felt I walk many steps each day. Now I could actually find out if this was true. I was sold and my wife and I eagerly purchased our Fitbit devices and began monitoring our steps.

To explain a little further about how the device is set up there is some additional information that needs to be provided; some things that I don't always want to share. These included current weight amongst them. However, in the spirit of how this would help me stay committed to fitness and healthy living, I submitted this to the device.

I have now worn this device every single day for the past six months and upon reflection, it has provided a great deal of feedback to me - some very predictive and expected and other data quite surprising.

Initially, there was my usual enthusiasm of all things tech - a new and interesting device that I wanted to explore, try-out and consistently include in my day. Given that my wife, brother and sister-in-law were also wearing them, we would compare, support and compete as to who had the most steps each day. It made walking be a little bit more fun and engaging and for me. This is my ticket to staying invested and interested in a project.

The data that I received from my Fitbit that were predictive was that I did walk quite far each day and that I was active in this regard. I knew that my sleeping patterns were not always restful and this also was confirmed to me. It was encouraging to know that my impressions were correct.

There were other ‘bits’ of information that I received from wearing this band that came as quite a surprise. For example, if you had told me that it takes close to 50 steps to reach the washroom in the night and back to bed, I wouldn’t have believed you. I actually retraced my steps initially, because I thought the device wasn’t working properly! The real surprises that I gained came in the form of reports that are sent via email to you. These take all of your steps and give you weekly reports of how you are doing - how many steps you took each day or how well you slept in the week. When you add up the steps you get a pretty incredible realization that you’ve accomplished some positive healthy living. In fact, they celebrate “badges” that you’ve earned - 100 km, 500 km and even 1000 km walked. Just the other day I was informed that I earned my Italy badge...explaining that I had walked a distance equal to the length of the country! I realized that these celebrations and pieces of feedback help me to feel I have made a real accomplishment and cause me to re-commit to walking more. It really does help me to stay focused.

So why have I shared this with you; for two main reasons. First, I wanted to share that the more intentional we are with our actions and habits, the more we can help to reach those goals we wish to accomplish. The Fitbit helps me to look at my life through a healthy living lens and allows me to gauge how I am doing by providing me real feedback to be able to respond if I slip off my target.

Secondly, I think that the description of how the Fitbit provides feedback and helps is a wonderful analogy to learning and the importance of feedback. A school year can be long and challenging with respect to what a student is required to do. However, focusing on each small step can be easier than looking at the entire challenge. As we progress through different projects, units, assignments and events, we provide feedback to have students understand how they are doing. This feedback helps to provide the teacher with a gauge of where his or her students are in their learning and allows them to modify their plans moving forward. It also gives the student knowledge where their learning is currently and whether they need to modify any preparation or routines they have set up to learn. Finally, it allows everyone to celebrate what they have accomplished thus far in a school year or a school career. This provides hope and incentive to commit to continue.

Having consistent routines and being organized in learning is a little like having the Fitbit. It ensures that our focus is on those key areas that will provide feedback for us and keep us engaged in learning. As we are still early in Term 2, I encourage students to revisit these routines to ensure that they are helping to focus on those areas where they wish to improve. In terms of the feedback, as a faculty, we will continue to find clear ways to show students how they are progressing.

Have a great week!

Mr. Doug Palm
Head of Senior School

Student Led Conferences Wednesday, February 4th from 12:40 - 8:00 p.m.

Student-led conferences continue to be a valued part of Southridge’s approach to education. These 20 minute presentations take place between the advisor, advisee and parents. They allow the student to celebrate his or her accomplishments, reflect on past experiences and set goals for the future. This is also an excellent opportunity for our senior grades as many universities are moving toward a broad-based admission model which places less emphasis on grades and more focus on a student’s ability to answer similar kinds of reflective questions.

This year the conferences will take place on Wednesday February 4th, 2014 from 12:40 - 8:00 p.m. Families sign up for their conference via the Parent Portal on the Southridge School website. Please use the *Senior School Student-led Conferences* link on the top, right side of the page. After logging in, you will be asked for the student number and birthdate. After confirming this information you will see the available time slots. If unable to make any of the time slots, please contact your advisor directly. We look forward to seeing you!

- [Student Led Conference Guidelines](#)
- [Student Led Conference Reflective Questions](#)

Mr. Norman Dods &
Ms. Nolan Wood

Fine Arts and Drama Tour Information Night: New York, New York, October 2015

There will be an information meeting for parents and students who are interested in the Fine Arts and Drama 2015 tour on Tuesday, January 27th at 6:00 p.m. in the media arts room. Parent consent letters will be distributed and first deposits will be accepted. This tour is for next year's Grade 10, 11 and 12 media, visual art and drama students.

Ms. Baranszky-Job, Ms. Higgins
Mr. Pope & Mr. Westendorf

University Counselling Invites Senior School Parents to Coffee Mornings

Ms. Livingston and Mr. Weaver would like to welcome you to the University Counselling Centre for coffee/tea and conversation on selected topics on the following mornings:

- Friday, February 20th from 8:10 to 9:00 a.m.
 - *Topic: What We Do to Help Students Prepare for US University Admission*
- Wednesday, February 25th from 8:10 to 9:00 a.m.
 - *Topic: Trends and Changes in the Canadian University Admission Process*
 - Preparation for essays, resumes, interviews, and videos
- Friday, March 6th from 8:10 to 9:00 a.m.
 - *Topic: Studying abroad - researching professional schools*
 - Researching options for direct entry medicine, dentistry or law

Please RSVP to let us know which session(s) you will be attending to either Ms. Livingston ylivingston@southridge.bc.ca or Mr. Weaver dweaver@southridge.bc.ca.

Ms. Yvette Livingston & Mr. Daryl Weaver
University Counsellors

12 Angry Men (1957) Review

With the school's annual theatre production of *12 Angry Jurors* arriving next month, it wouldn't be a bad idea to catch up on information surrounding the original *12 Angry Men* and the history behind the story. After all, this classic court drama is more than half a century old, with adaptations presented everywhere from the silver screen to your local high school. Interestingly enough, *12 Angry Men* was first developed for television and then made into a Hollywood film; cases like these are very rare these days.

In this article, I'll be reviewing and analyzing the Sidney Lumet-directed film starring Henry Fonda. Back in 2007 (its 50 year anniversary), this specific film was selected for preservation by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant." In my opinion, this was an easy decision. *12 Angry Men* is a masterpiece of a drama, one that is consistently compelling and understands how to keep its audience enamoured. It realistically depicts tension and conflict between jurors, and successfully displays the challenges of trying to value a human life. Cinematographer Boris Kaufman's different close-ups and usage of depth-of-field give an uneasy feeling of claustrophobia, which is appropriate considering that the actors are stuck in court for the whole duration of the film. The acting is superb, and each character is distinct without having to play too much on stereotypes. Notably, aside from the opening, the movie exclusively uses one set. This shows how the acting and cinematography make up for the apparent lack of production value and special effects.

The movie differs from Southridge's production in a couple ways. First is the time period in which *12 Angry Men* is set. Whereas the film and teleplay are set in the 1950's (the time period of their production), the Southridge version is set in the 1970's. This changes the costumes and some of the language used by the characters. Second, and perhaps the most obvious, is the casting of women in lead roles along with men. As a result of this, some jurors' personalities are slightly tweaked.

Overall, the 1957 film production of *12 Angry Men* is one that is timeless and most definitely worth seeing in 2015. If you crave a dramatic masterpiece, then simply head to YouTube and watch the movie for free. If you don't feel like spoiling the story and would rather wait for a live adaption, come see Southridge's production of *12 Angry Jurors* in February. I hope to see you there!

Elijah Hewer - Grade 11

Grade 8 Girls Having a Great Season!

After coming back from the break, the Grade 8 girls' basketball team has been very busy with league games and a tournament. Their first game last week against Lord Tweedsmuir was close, but unfortunately resulted in a loss for the girls with a score of 42-31.

Over the weekend, they were in a tournament at Fleetwood Park Secondary. Friday evening they played against CG Howe, and had a good start to their tournament, winning 35-22. The next game, against the home team, Fleetwood Park Secondary School, the girls won handily 53-21 getting them into the finals. After a long, tiring game against a very strong Walnut Grove team, the girls sadly lost 63-29 but still finished second in tournament, which was very exciting. They girls have a home game on Thursday, January 29th at 3:30 p.m. against EMS so come out and support them before the season is over!

McKenna Gill

News for Both Schools

Reminder – Campus Master Plan Open House

This is a follow-up reminder that Southridge is hosting a series of Campus Master Plan Open Houses this week and we are hoping that you will have the time to attend one of them.

Since May 2014, our Campus Master Plan Committee has focussed on working with our architects, the faculty and our staff to understand our campus's capacities, our educational program's curriculum scope and particular activities that have grown to exceed original allowances or expectations. In addition, our committee has considered future program options and offerings, provided for emerging learning models and student engagement initiatives, and investigated enhanced school life opportunities. The output of this exploration and analysis is now ready to be shared with our entire community.

To that end, our school has scheduled open houses to assist the committee in assimilating our internal community's perspectives into the school's planning efforts. All current parents of Southridge as well as our alumni and our alumni parents are invited to join our committee and architects at one of the sessions listed below. Each session is anticipated to last between 2 and 3 hours, but your attendance for the duration of the blocked period of time is not necessary. Simply drop in at any time and stay for as long as you would like. Even though there will not be a formal talk given at our open houses, there will be plenty of opportunity for participants to see, discuss and give feedback about the progress we have made so far.

Open houses are an important part of our campus master plan development process, and we hope you will be able to visit the school at one of three remaining times below:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| • Wednesday January 21 | 5:00 to 8:30 pm | Alan Brown Great Hall |
| • Thursday January 22 | 7:45 to 9:00 am | Junior School Great Hall |
| • Thursday January 22 | 2:30 to 4:30 pm | Junior School Great Hall |

We hope you will be able to join us at one of our open house events.

Southridge Speaker Series Presents Dr. Madeline Levine

Southridge School is pleased to host author, Dr. Madeline Levine Ph.D. on Thursday, April 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the Junior School Great Hall. This event is open to the public and tickets are \$10.00 each. [Click Here](#) for tickets.

Mrs. Debbie MacDougall
Director, Community Relations

Country Fair Chairs Needed

This year we are looking for co-chairs for the baking table at the Country Fair. Training will be provided. Please contact the volunteer committee at volunteer@southridge.bc.ca if you are interested in this position.

Volunteer Committee

Uniform Shop News

The Uniform Shop has a few remaining Varsity jackets available. Made with Melton Wool which is durable and helps keep you warm in the cold; soft warm quilted lining, inside pockets, sleeves with ribbed cuffs, athletic stripes, and a snap front and slant pockets in the front. Accessorize with our new Beanie hat and scarf to keep you extra warm.

Uniform Shop