

Southridge Wednesday

14-15

A Weekly Publication of Southridge School

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Head of School

Campus Master Plan Open House - You're Invited

The third priority of our strategic plan is to develop a long term vision for our campus. This involves taking action to develop a campus master plan that will be reflective of future program developments while inspiring the mission and vision of our school. We know that our campus plays a critical role in providing our students, faculty and families with facilities that support our excellent educational programs while also housing our heartfelt memories and securing our enduring traditions.

Beginning over a year ago, phase one of our Campus Master Plan Committee's efforts was devoted to hiring an architectural firm to work collaboratively with our community in developing a vision for our campus. Since May, phase two of our Campus Master Plan Committee has focused 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, phase two of our committee's work 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 as part of phase three of the Campus Master Plan Committee's work.

To that end, our school has scheduled four open houses for mid-January 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. Please mark your calendars now. 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 any of 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 the scheduled times. We have planned three of our open house sessions to align with drop-off and pick-up; however, for those people unable to make it to the school at those times, we have also reserved an early evening opportunity to accommodate busy schedules.

Tuesday, January 20 th	2:30 to 5:00 p.m.	Alan Brown Great Hall
Wednesday, January 21 st	5:00 to 8:30 p.m.	Alan Brown Great Hall
Thursday, January 22 nd	7:45 to 9:00 a.m.	Junior School Great Hall
Thursday, January 22 nd	2:30 to 4:30 p.m.	Alan Brown Great Hall

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

Holiday Wishes

On behalf of the Southridge community of teachers and staff, I would like to extend all the very best to our parents and students for a peaceful and restful holiday season. I hope the break from our school routine provides an opportunity to spend fun and relaxing time with family and friends. For those of you who plan to travel, I hope your journeys are safe and trouble free. All the best to everyone in 2015!

Have a wonderful holiday!

Mr. Drew Stephens
Head of School

Important Dates			
Event	Date	Time	Location
Junior School Christmas Concert	Wednesday, December 17 th	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Junior Great Hall
Casual Day	Friday, December 19 th	All Day	Both Schools
Early Dismissal	Friday, December 19 th	12:00 p.m.	Both Schools
Classes Resume - Late Start	Monday, January 12 th	10:25 a.m.	Both Schools

Junior School News

The Gift of Time

At this time of year, with the hustle and bustle and commitments that we all have, we ask that you choose to really be 'present' for the activities with your children. There is nothing more important to your child than your presence - knowing that you as parents are completely engaged. As a parent myself, sometimes I know that I am only half-listening to my family as I cook dinner, or glance at my cell phone as they tell me about their day. Sometimes we can be present but our minds can be going through the list of things we must complete, or sorting through a problem that we are trying to solve, or doing the count-down of how many minutes we have to get out the door before soccer, hockey or swimming practice. Our kids are wiser than we know and they can detect true presence as opposed to just 'being there'. As they hit adolescence, they become more vocal about this, letting you acutely know they are aware of your wandering mind or distractedness. But they deserve the complete 'us' when we are with them.

During this time of year I often think of my grandparents and how blessed I was to have their presence. Over a cup of tea their eyes would light up with joy as I would retell simple accounts of my day - I recall them just listening - I recall them being completely present. What a strengthening of self-esteem to know that you are worthy of someone's complete presence. And our kids are worth it. I invite you to take that deliberate second or two to decide to be present - when you are watching the Christmas concert, when you attend the PYP feast, when you pick them up to rush to various activities, when you bake cookies, try to make that conscious shift to 'be there'. We see the result in strong self-esteem and a sense of true confidence in your children. Our kids are a gift and our complete presence is truly the best gift we can give back to them.

Enjoy the holidays and build family memories.

Mrs. Laurel Middelaer
Assistant Head/Head of Junior School

Dismissal for Christmas Holidays and Return for Monday, January 12th, 2015 - Late Start

On Friday, December 19th, 2014, all students are dismissed at 12:00 p.m. At this time all students will receive their report card. Our Christmas break is three weeks this year. Please ensure your calendar is clearly marked for a return date of Monday, January 12th, 2015 (Day 2). Please also note that we have a late start that day and students need to arrive between 10:10 and 10:20 a.m. for a start time of 10:25 a.m. Please do not bring students any earlier as the faculty will be in meetings and unavailable to supervise.

MYP Breakfast

The MYP Breakfast for Grades 5-7 is happening this Friday, December 19th. Please remember to send your child to school HUNGRY, as they will be eating a huge breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Students are allowed to wear either their pajamas or winter wonderland wear (hats, toques, festive sweaters, etc.). The schedule for the morning is as follows:

8:00 - 8:30	Students with homeroom teacher
8:30 - 9:15	Breakfast in Great Hall
9:15 - 10:00	Holiday sing-a-long in Great Hall
10:00 - 10:25	Recess
10:30 - 11:30	Vancouver theatre sports presentation in Great Hall
11:30 - 12:00	Back with homeroom to receive report cards
12:00	Dismissal

Ms. Susan McNeil
Grade 7/MYP Division Leader

Photos Can Now Be Shared! Welcome to Vidigami!

We've found a solution to a problem we have had for years; how to share school photos with our families and how can families contribute to the school photo archive?

Southridge has partnered with Vidigami to provide our school community with a secure and private website to store and share Southridge school memories. From now on, this is where Southridge will be storing and sharing all of our photos.

You now have a place to share the many photos you capture on field trips, sporting events and performances for both your child and the families of all the students who are part of your child's class. Vidigami is also a place where school captured photos can be shared with our families. Once photos are collected in Vidigami, the system intelligently uses its facial recognition to help you tag students thereby organizing all those photos by student – just for you.

You will receive an email invitation from Vidigami today to allow you to set up your account. Please follow the steps in the email and enjoy the world of photographs that await you. To provide you some incentive, I have uploaded all 905 of the photos I took at yesterday's Junior Winter Concert for you to enjoy and download. You will need to set up your account first, but here is the [Link](#) to the album.

We've started sharing our photos on Vidigami – please join us by sharing your photos. The more you share, the more others will share and the greater the experience for everyone. Just drag and drop photos from your desktop or upload directly from your iPad or iPhone via the Vidigami mobile app. An android app is coming in 2015.

If you have any questions about Vidigami (how to use it, or about the program), please contact me at amcinnes@southridge.bc.ca

Alan McInnes
Manager
Web and AV Services

Happy Holiday Hampers

Your empathy and commitment toward children and their families this holiday season is such a positive example for our impressionable students. As a Junior School community, we have helped a total of seventeen families with your many non-perishable items, gifts and gift cards. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are very appreciated by all of the OPTIONS staff members, and even more by the recipients of these community programs, as you truly make a difference in their lives this holiday season. Our teachers also appreciated the time many parents put into organizing the hampers and working with the children to choose, purchase, and wrap items for others. Learning to see others' perspectives and feeling appreciative of our own circumstances are valuable experiences for everyone. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

Ms. Jo-Ann Murchie
Grade 2 and 4 Teacher

Successful Support of the Surrey Urban Mission

It has been a very busy time of enthusiastic sandwich-making for the Surrey Urban Mission. Students from Kindergarten through Grade 7 have prepared 70 sandwiches per week with generous donations from Cobs Bread, Junior School parents, and student fundraising efforts. Last week two Grade 6 students generously baked homemade cookies for everyone to decorate for the clients. The looming club also donated many handmade hats for the men and women who visit the mission. Several students and parents delivered the hats for distribution and enjoyed interactions with the staff and clients there.

Thank you to all the parents who shop, collect, deliver, support students, and actively participate themselves. These tangible acts prove what a difference respectful and caring young people can make in the lives of others. In community, we are all one.

Ms. Jo-Ann Murchie
Grade 2 and 4 Teacher

Senior School News

Report Card Response and Self-Care

Last Friday the Term 1 report cards were distributed to students as they departed for the weekend. I always find this day to hold a great deal of tension for me. As I read each and every report, I have quite a clear understanding of how each student

has done over the term. I strive to get to know each Senior School student as a person in my daily interactions with them and for some this has occurred over many years. Given this familiarity, I have an inclination of how a student is going to act when they receive the report. I know they will be very happy if there are indications of success and signs that they have been able to overcome some initial difficulty from the midterm report. Perhaps more difficult, I know there will also be some sad or disappointed faces when they “see” those areas that they are still working to improve. With these particular students I wish I could be beside each one as they open the report to say that they are intelligent and wonderful and we will do our best to support them in their quest to continue to improve!

This brings me to the first part of the title of my Wednesday article “report card response”. You see, it isn’t my response I am referring to; it is the students’ response. Receiving feedback can be an amazingly uplifting experience when it is positive and affirms hard work and challenge. It can literally ‘energize’ an individual to stay focused on their goal and to realize that someone has noticed their efforts. However, receiving constructive feedback about a subject that seems to be overwhelming can be really hard to take and can lead to less motivation to improve. I am not suggesting that it isn’t important to receive this type of feedback; in fact I am saying the exact opposite! But it is the student’s response or action to this feedback that can be the deciding factor to improve. Initially, we often want to avoid the information or try and find reasons that it is out of our control. This is perfectly normal and understandable, but once this feeling has passed, it is really important to face the feedback head on and devise a plan of action to work at changing the outcome for next time. I encourage students to talk to their teachers to set up some goals and strategies to overcome their current challenges - tutorials together, smaller but more consistent reviews, asking for feedback prior to a test, or perhaps to increase their organization so that they can be as efficient as possible with their finite time to prepare are just a few ideas. Each of these “action” items will give direction to focus their energy in their striving to meet their personal goals.

The second half of my title “self-care” might seem like it contradicts the above paragraphs because we often explain school as busy, intense and demanding. While this is certainly true, the only way that we can thrive in this type of environment is to ensure we allow for times that are not busy. So, while I encourage students to set goals for their studies, during the break there must also be intentions for “self-care” time. This means a balance in physical and mental health. Self-care can occur through many activities both active and relaxing, such as running, working out, yoga, or other sports-related activities. It can also include meditation, breathing exercises, longer hours of sleep, reading, spending time with friends talking and connecting or just doing something that is different from the usual routine. It’s like recharging a battery; you can’t use it while you recharge it. So you need to allow for ‘down time’ and this is how self-care works. I have found the more intentional I am with including an element of self-care into my regular routine, the more energy I have - both physically and mentally - to thrive when I need it. I can’t stress enough (pun intended!) how important it is for students (everyone, really!) to give time to this vital aspect in maintaining health.

To each of you, best wishes during the holidays. I hope you enjoy time with friends and loved ones, along with time to recharge - however that may look for you.

I look forward to seeing you back in January!

Mr. Doug Palm
Head of Senior School

A Wonderful Start to the Holiday Season

I would like to congratulate all of the Senior School music students and the senior tech team for putting on a great show last week. *The Evening in December* concerts showcase the growth and development of individual students and, most importantly, the ensembles. Playing music together is such a rewarding experience and getting to share the music with an audience makes it that much more powerful. Thank-you to all of the parents for your attendance and support, to the faculty and staff for your many contributions to the preparation and execution of the concerts, and to the students for sharing your music with us. Happy holidays!

The Music Department

Directing School Productions

When directing, I really want students to learn something from the production; not only some type of theatre skill but something to do with the topic of the play. I really enjoy plays that can explore an issue or a piece of history. It is great if the audience learns something, but my goal is that the cast will learn something from it. Through *12 Angry Jurors* I am hoping the cast will have a chance to explore the jury process, the issue of the death penalty, the process of taking responsibility for serious decisions and being able to stand alone for what you believe.

Check out the video that we have posted, in it I discuss further why I chose 12 Angry Jurors, plus check out the other videos in January of Spencer Reichert, the Drama Steward, and other cast members as they discuss their reaction to the show.

Tickets will go on sale when we return in January. Look here to the website for further information then.

Mr. Glen Pope
Drama Teacher

Grad Photo Sessions

On Friday, January 30th and Saturday, January 31st Artona Studios has reserved time for Southridge to have grad photos taken. Please visit the Artona [website](#) to book your grad photo session and to review some helpful tips for preparing for your portrait session.

If you are not able to make either of these reserved dates or have questions not covered on the website, please call Artona studios directly at 604-872-7272. Artona Studios is located at 353 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V5Y 1M2.

Ms. Lisa Byrom
Assistant to Head of Senior School

Tiles for Semiahmoo House

[Semiahmoo House Society](#) (SHS) is a non-profit organization that serves White Rock and Surrey and exists to provide support and quality services for people with developmental disabilities and their families. They aim to ensure that everyone has the right to make their own choices, lead meaningful lives and pursue their passions. SHS is currently in need of brightly coloured indoor tiles for their latest creative endeavor; the tiles will be used to create a mosaic that decorates three floors of staircase with a design that celebrates growth, community and inclusion. This will be created and eventually installed at their Treehouse administrative facility on 24th street in South Surrey.

Senior School art students, Sarah Sutanto, Aleksandra Golos and Jessy Sidhu, along with the guidance of Ms. Baranszky-Job, are working with members and managers of SHS by helping collect tiles, design the mosaic and create this mosaic with the aim of eventually aiding them in the installation this mosaic. This will be ongoing project and that will bring Southridge art students and members of Semiahmoo House even more together in a creative and meaningful project that truly celebrates an inclusive community. Please contact Ms. Baranszky-Job to arrange a drop off at sbaranszky-job@southridge.bc.ca or 604-542-2317. Thank you.

Jessy Sidhu
Semiahmoo House Steward/Southridge Student

Student Exchange Update: Spots Still Available

While most of our longer Australian exchanges are now full, we do have a few spots still available to other destinations for shorter periods of time:

1. Scotland: Stewart's Melville College in Edinburgh - for boys currently in Grades 9 or 10; visiting there in August 2015; hosting here in September 2015 for 4 weeks each.
2. Spain: El Limonar International School in Murcia - for boys currently in Grades 9, 10, or 11; visiting there in March/April 2015; hosting here in May 2015 for 3 weeks each.
3. Quebec: College-Francois-de-Laval in Quebec City - for boys or girls currently in Grades 9 or 10; visiting there in February 2016; hosting here in September 2016 for 4 weeks each.

Student exchanges are powerful learning experiences for our students in which they gain invaluable global perspectives, independence and skills that will serve them well at university and beyond in life. They also make deep personal connections with another soul and family on the other side of the world that often continues well past the duration of the exchange. Contact Mr. Weaver at dweaver@southridge.bc.ca or 604-542-1796 if you are interested or would like further information.

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

News for Both Schools

Annual Fundraising Campaign for Southridge

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation to Southridge this year! Did you know that each year our annual fundraising campaign supports many of the items that your children and our teachers use every day? In fact, without the ongoing support of our parent community, we wouldn't be able to purchase all the items our teachers request for their classrooms each year.

Through the Annual Giving Campaign, we ask that each of our families who have not yet made a donation this year, to consider giving to an area at the school that means the most to you.

Athletics - We need to purchase a **new high jump mat** for our Junior School track athletes. Earmark your donation to athletics so we can make this purchase before the season starts!

Arts - Our Senior School music teachers have asked for a **set of tubular bells!** Direct your donation to arts and next year's 'Evening in December' will include the sounds of this beautiful instrument!

Of course, you can also support **service**, our endowment funds for **student bursaries**, or direct your gift towards the school's **greatest needs** - technology, facility upgrades and classroom supplies!

[Donate](#) today. Thank you in advance for your support!

Ms. Christiane Hodson
Director of Advancement

End of Year Donations and School Closure

Southridge will be closed from Thursday, December 25th and will reopen on Monday, January 5th at 8:00 a.m.

All donations that are mailed and postmarked on or before Wednesday, December 31st, 2014, will receive a charitable donation receipt for 2014. Or, alternatively, if a donation is made [online](#) on or before Wednesday, December 31st, 2014, it will also be eligible for a 2014 tax receipt. Thank you!