

Southridge Wednesday

14-15

A Weekly Publication of Southridge School

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No. 15

Head of School

What's Left Behind

It is with sincere regret that I inform you of Debbie MacDougall's resignation from her position as Director of Community Relations. It is hard to believe that Mrs. MacDougall's devoted relationship with Southridge will be coming to a close. For those of you who are not aware, Mrs. MacDougall has been intimately associated with Southridge since before we first opened our doors back in September 1995. As a founding parent, long-serving Board member, Board Chair and, most recently, Director of Community Relations, she has influenced Southridge in countless ways over the past two decades.

As a matter of fact, without Mrs. MacDougall's unrelenting commitment and determination, the 10,000 signatures required for the rezoning petition that led to the eventual purchase of our property would never have been realized, and the Southridge we know so well today would not exist. In this and so many other ways, Debbie's behind the scenes, steadfast and purposeful leadership has most certainly helped shape our school community in ways few of us will ever fully realize.

Under Mrs. MacDougall's careful orchestration, for example, our summer at Southridge day-camp program has grown substantially every year since it began, with proceeds in excess of \$500,000.00 being directed to our endowment program. In addition, the development of our website, as well as the integration of a strong social media presence within our digital profile has been largely due to Mrs. MacDougall's thoughtful foresight. Not surprisingly, we receive many admissions and employment applications to Southridge because of our website, which is a clear representation of who we are as a community.

To be sure, who we are as a community is largely defined by our guiding principles, which were developed under Mrs. MacDougall's leadership as well. Before the notion of appreciative inquiry became widespread in strategic planning usage, Mrs. MacDougall integrated it into our culture at Southridge to help identify the positive characteristics of our community that played a critical role in our growth and success. Within our guiding principles rests the rich history of our early years that will undoubtedly provide precious touchstones for generations to come.

As we say good-bye to Mrs. MacDougall toward the end of our twentieth school year at Southridge, we can do so knowing what a fine role model she has been in making a difference. In my mind, Mrs. MacDougall's legacy at Southridge is our school's orientation toward the special sense of community that we all enjoy every day.

Omnis Anima Volet, Debbie.

Have a wonderful week!

Mr. Drew Stephens
Head of School

Important Dates			
Event	Date	Time	Location
Junior School Christmas Concert	Tuesday, December 16 th	1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Junior Great Hall
	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

Perseverance and Optimism - the Gritty Part of Character

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

Thomas Alva Edison, Inventor

Do you know that last year we had a 'grit' committee composed of students, faculty members and administration? The recent visit to Southridge last year by New York Times best-selling author, Paul Tough, *'How Children Succeed'*, had prompted great consideration as to how to build that 'gritty' bit of character. Paul Tough provides interesting commentary on attributes such as perseverance, curiosity, optimism, and self-control, and how these aspects of character are better indicators of success than talent or aptitude.

Southridge School has always had character development at the core of its mission statements. We believe that character is developed through academics, and the IB Learner Profile helps to provide definite structure to this in our Junior School. We also believe that involvement in sports, arts and service give many opportunity to test values and develop character. But growing character can be hard work, and it is often through challenges that we really grow. Not getting a key role in a play, not making first string on a team, not getting to do the service project you want, not getting a house captain role, not getting to play the instrument that we want to play are all examples of real life scenarios that may occur during your child's experience at Southridge. No one ever wants to disappoint a child, especially teachers and parents, but sometimes there are realities to life that we must face and grow from. However, the one aspect we can influence greatly is 'how' our child responds and how we respond. If the objective is character growth, then our response should be aligned with this. Life is not always fair, but it is always full of lessons to help us succeed towards growing to our personal best.

Have a great week.

Mrs. Laurel Middelaer
Assistant Head/Head of Junior School

Holiday Extensions

At this time of year we want to remind our families about our rationale regarding extensions to the holidays, as written in our Southridge Family Handbook.

Section 3.3

"Days in attendance have a direct effect on our government funding. The School does not encourage families to extend holidays beyond the designated dates. Three weeks at Christmas and two weeks at spring break, along with the ten weeks of summer allows a full fifteen weeks for family holidays. Adding additional days to these holidays is disruptive to the learning process for the students involved as well as those attending classes since cooperative learning through group work and projects is a regular feature of our instructional program.

Should families choose to disregard this advice, we require a letter for the student's file indicating the dates that students will be out of school. Our annual attendance is audited each year for the purpose of determining government grants. These letters should be directed to the Head of Senior School or Head of Junior School. Families who extend holidays should not expect teachers to plan ahead or make extra efforts or special arrangements to accommodate such absences. Depending on the extent of these absences, it is quite possible that students' marks may be affected."

Upcoming Christmas Concerts

Being mindful of the upcoming season and busy schedules, we would like to announce the dates of our Christmas concerts: Matinee performance on Tuesday, December 16th, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. and an evening performance on Wednesday, December 17th, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. We hope that our families will be able to attend one of these presentations.

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.

Hats for the Homeless

At yesterday's assembly we acknowledged the many students and parents who have been working over the last several weeks to make warm hats with large looms. Two boxes were overflowing with hats by the time everyone put in their contributions. This Friday all of the hats will be delivered and donated to the Surrey Urban Mission with a regular sandwich donation and some very special Christmas cookies made by student and parent volunteers.

Many thanks to the parent volunteers who committed to frequent sessions with the students and donated materials and supplies on a regular basis.

Ms. Jo-Ann Murchie
Grade 2 and 4 Teacher

Hot Lunch Committee Reminder

As per the schedule, there will be no hot lunch on Wednesday, December 17th. Hot lunch will resume in the New Year.

Hot Lunch Committee

Senior School News

Symbols of the Season

This past week I had two instances where symbols really helped draw me into the holiday season. The first symbol was how the music department transformed the Great Hall in preparation for the Winter Concert. The risers were set up and the band was able to practice in the configuration that they used for the performance. Additionally, there were other preparations and decorations that began to take shape: the tree (which the students decorated), and our Tech team reconfigured the lighting and sound for the concerts. Each of these changes took shape over a number of days, which allowed the excitement and enthusiasm to mount. Finally, the barriers from the music room were spread apart and each practice session was observable to anyone walking through the Great Hall. (A side note: Ms. MacKinnon gets to hear these from her receptionist desk!)

The second symbol began quietly and stayed out of the spotlight for a number of weeks. Students slowly brought in items each day and stored them in their Advisory rooms. Last Thursday, it literally "bounded down the stairs" to be in front of the fireplace. Obviously, I am speaking of our Hamper Project that occurs each year at this time. Each Advisory is connected with a young mother in need through our partnership with the Growing Together Program. The culmination of all of the hampers being wrapped and labelled is that they are brought down to stay in front of the fireplace for approximately a week before they are loaded onto a truck to distribute to the families. It is an overwhelming sight and a symbol of giving which the Senior School community collaborates to accomplish! Each year many staff and non-Advisors make a point of being in the Great Hall area on this Thursday morning to witness this event. Throughout the week, as our community and people visiting Southridge walk by these wrapped gifts, they are reminded of how we can help others.

Both symbols help me to reflect on the important message this season brings - that our focus should be on how we can help those that need support most. In essence, as we look outward we grow inward. And it is through this type of growth that we really define who we are as people and as a school.

I hope you have a great week!

Mr. Doug Palm
Head of Senior School

An Evening in December, Senior School Concert: Final Concert 7:00 p.m. Tonight!

One down and one to go! Thank-you to all the performers, technicians, parents and staff who contributed to last night's *An Evening in December* concert. It is exciting to watch the students grow throughout the term and this concert is a wonderful opportunity to showcase just that. If you missed the Tuesday night concert, please come and join us tonight. There is no cost to attend and no tickets are required.

Grade 8 Students and the Christmas Concert

If your child is involved in the Grade 8 Concert Band only, students will be finished this part in the concert by 7:45 p.m. Please arrange for pickup in front of the Junior School at that time. If you are attending the concert tonight, you may pick your child up in the Junior School Great Hall after the concert. See you tonight!

The Music Department

National Crystal Growing Competition

The National Crystal Growing Competition is a contest where students across the country compete by growing a large single crystal of a salt. This year the salt was copper (II) sulphate. Southridge students in Grade 11 chemistry all participated in the contest as part of their chemistry course.

There are two divisions: best quality crystal and best overall crystal (quality and size). A group from Ms. Berkeley's class consisting of Sarah Sutanto, Jared Thind and Michael Hammer grew a beautiful crystal that was sent to Science World to compete at the provincial level. Their crystal won 2nd place in the "Best Overall Division".

In addition, two outstanding crystals from Mr. DiPietro's class from Lenno Liu and a group comprising of Cory To and Tony Ma were sent to Science World. Tony Ma's and Cory To's crystal won 2nd place in the quality division. Lenno Liu's crystal won 1st place in the quality division. Lenno's crystal has been sent to Quebec to compete at the national level. Congratulations everyone! Thank you to all Grade 11 chemistry students who worked so hard to grow crystals.

Please stop by and see the display in the front hall of the Senior School.

Ms. Kierstan McCaw
Chemistry Curriculum Leader

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

Upcoming Drama Production: 12 Angry Jurors

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the community and to let everyone know that the major drama production this year is *12 Angry Jurors*. This is based off the well-known movie, *12 Angry Men*, done in the 1950s, which starred Henry Fonda. The show will open on Thursday, February 19th, 2015 and run into the weekend.

As for myself, I began my career in Alberta as a Drama and Social Studies teacher. From there I moved to the Langley Fine Arts School where I had the opportunity to teach everything from Grade 1 drama up to Grade 12. I spent my last eight years at Mulgrave School in West Vancouver and filled the role of Theater Teacher, as well as Head of Performing Arts for two years.

I hold a Master of Arts Degree in Theatre from Western Washington University where I focused on acting theory and directing. I have directed and produced many high school productions, from classics like *Trojan Women* and *Much Ado About Nothing* to modern day drama and comedies.

My goals when teaching Drama is to have students develop confidence when presenting, to develop strong communication skills and learn how to work together towards a common goal. In addition, I want them to understand and experience the different styles, traditions and skills that are a part of theatre. Students who get involved in the major production really get to experience these things at a serious level. As well, a great comradery typically forms that bonds them together as they work towards a common goal.

So far my transition into Southridge has been a great experience. I am excited to produce my first show here and I hope you have a chance to see it. Look here for more blog entries. Blogs will include cast members talking about the process and their experiences. There will be regular website additions on the Arts page each week and occasional ones on the main page. Also next week is an interview with me, Spencer Reichert, the Drama Steward, and some of the cast.

Mr. Glen Pope
Senior Drama Teacher

Safeteen Presentation

Safeteen is coming to Southridge to present workshops to our Grades 9, 10 and 11 students on Monday, December 15th and Tuesday, December 16th. The workshops will be as follows:

Grade 9:

Monday, December 15th at 8:30 - 11:40 a.m.

Senior School library (girls)

Junior School library(boys)

Grade 10:

Tuesday, December 16th at 8:15 - 11:40 a.m.

Senior School library (girls)

Junior School library (boys)

Grade 11:

Tuesday, December 16th at 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Senior School library (girls)

Junior School library (boys)

Staff are welcome to sit in the workshops for the students but if you are teaching a class at that time, it is not necessary to come and sit in. Please keep in mind that only female staff can be in the Senior School library and only male staff can be in the Junior School library. Thank you.

Ms. Natasha Bains
Senior School Counsellor

Southridge Art: Celebrate-A-Life Campaign

As the Holiday Season draws near, we are reminded of the values that characterize this special time: compassion, hope, peace, and celebration. Every December, the [White Rock/South Surrey Hospice Society](#) recognizes the impact they have on the bereaved through their “Celebrate-A-Life” campaign. Visitors to Semiahmoo Mall are encouraged to stop by the Celebrate-A-Life Tree, write the name of a lost loved one on a paper dove, hang it on the tree and make an optional donation to the Hospice Society. With a contribution of just \$20.00 or more, you will receive a beautiful, hand painted dove ornament of your choice, decorated by local artists... and Southridge students!

Art students in Grades 11 and 12 have been working diligently over the past two months on these little wooden baubles. Using professional-grade acrylic paint and high-quality finishes to complement their artistic skill, they depicted miniature patterns and scenes inspired by themes of remembrance, festivity, and hope. Whether flat or 3-D, painting the doves was a highly involved process: in addition to coming up with a design, students faced the challenge of successfully rendering it on such a small “canvas”. Speaking as the Art Steward, seeing the breathtaking results of their dedication to this project makes me so proud of Southridge’s Visual Arts department! While the doves have already been sent to the fundraising team, ready to bring joy into a new home, photos of the finished products will be on display at the Senior School’s annual “Evening in December” concert.

If you would like to pay tribute to a loved one and receive a beautiful wooden ornament painted by a Southridge Student, please visit the Celebrate-A-Life stand at Semiahmoo Mall. Doves painted by South Surrey and White Rock artists will be sold throughout the month, while Southridge doves will be on display Saturday, December 13th - they can be yours with a minimum cash donation of \$20.00.

Aleksandra Golos
Senior Art Steward

News for Both Schools

A 'SUPER' Thank You for a Momentous Gift!

On Saturday, November 15th, history was made at Southridge School. In our 20th anniversary year, at our 20th Great Gatsby Gala, Mr. William Vandekerkhove, a current Southridge parent, made the single largest donation in our School's history - a gift of \$200,000.00.

His generous donation will fund a number of items at the school, including a **new school bus**. Our current large diesel bus was already used when it was purchased a number of years ago and is no longer reliable. We knew we needed to purchase a new one; we just weren't sure where we were going to find the funds since it wasn't in the budget this year. This generous donation could not have come at a better time. The bus is used almost on a daily basis, transporting hundreds of our students for field trips and sporting events.

Mr. Vandekerkhove's donation will also be used towards **technology purchases**. As we continue to map out the next phase of education technology at Southridge and the 1:1 laptop program, selecting and purchasing new technology is both necessary and costly. His donation will allow us to roll out our Technology 2.0 program which includes the integration of tablet technology.

Depending on the costs associated with the above two projects, another project that may be made possible due to this generous donation is the construction of a door between the Junior School Great Hall and the hallway of the PYP classrooms. Installing this door will help with school security, assist with noise reduction in the hall, as well as provide a means of securing the school during external events, like guest speakers or meetings.

Mr. Vandekerkhove, Chairman, CEO and Owner of the Super Save Group of Companies, made this gift simply because he loves this school. He also hopes that his donation will inspire other parents to come forward in 'a big way'.

On behalf of the entire Southridge community, I want to express our sincerest gratitude to Mr. Vandekerkhove for his generosity, his leadership and his commitment to our school. The effects of his gift will be felt and known by all our students, teachers, staff and parent community for many, many years to come. Please know how grateful we all are for this momentous gift.

Ms. Christiane Hodson
Director of Advancement

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 online at southridge.bc.ca/givenow. Thank you, in advance for your support!

End of Year Donations and School Closure

This is a reminder that Southridge will be **closed** from December 25th to January 5th (inclusive). All donations that are mailed and postmarked on or before December 31st, 2014 will receive a charitable donation receipt for 2014. Or, alternatively, if a donation is made [online](#) on or before December 31st, 2014, it will also be eligible for a 2014 tax receipt. Thank you!

Uniform Shop News

Just in time for Christmas, colourful Christmas socks and hair accessories are now available in the Uniform Shop. The Southridge Varsity Jacket has arrived. We do have a few extra Varsity Jackets in selected sizes available.

Chef Tip of the Day

- For safety, put a wine cork on the tip of a knife before putting the knife in a drawer.
- Do not use oil in the water when boiling pasta: It will keep the sauce from sticking to the cooked pasta.
- Always use sharp knives. Not only is it safer but it will make your work much more efficient.

Menu for Week of December 15th to December 19th

Monday - Lasagna served with Caesar Salad and Garlic Bread

Tuesday - Butter Chicken served with Rice and Naan Bread

Wednesday - Mac & Cheese served with Garlic Bread

Thursday - BBQ Pulled Pork with Coleslaw and Curly Fries

Friday - No hot food available but cafeteria will be open

From me and the cafeteria staff, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe Happy New Year. Happy Holiday's everyone and we'll see you all next year.

Mr. Mike Leif
Chef and Manager