

Southridge Wednesday

14-15

A Weekly Publication of Southridge School

November 26th, 2014

No. 13

Head of School

Classic Rock and the Future of Education

Last week I attended a Fleetwood Mac concert at Roger's Arena. I've always liked Fleetwood Mac music, and the fact that the band was at its peak in the late '70s and early '80s resonates really well with me - I like classic things flavoured with a good dose of tradition but modernized in a thoughtful and authentic way. Plus, original band member Christine McVie was reunited with her group after many years, making the experience that much richer for everyone.

There's something special about being at a classic rock concert. When the music plays and the rhythms literally pump through my body, the musical experience is much fuller. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy listening to digital music recordings on my iPhone and online just as much as the next person, but the experience has its limitations despite the conveniences it brings. To be sure, 24/7 access to the riffs of Lindsey Buckingham and the witchy voice of Stevie Nicks whenever it is convenient, and according to my own personal schedule, is awesome; but that kind of online engagement in music is not at all like being at a live concert.

At a concert, the music surrounds me and I am treated to different interpretations of familiar songs. I am also immersed and engaged in the full experience with others, benefitting from the energy of the crowd - something unavailable to me when I listen to my iPhone by myself. What's more, I get to see the musicians interact with and play-off of one another. Not surprisingly, there is a definite human element to concerts that continues to draw people to them by the thousands year after year even though the "same" music is available at a fraction of the cost in a more convenient and highly personalized digital way.

I woke up the day after the Fleetwood Mac concert thinking about education. Is the future of education digital and online, as some "experts" say, without the need for classrooms and bricks and mortar schools? *Really?* While there is no doubt a place for education in the digital realm - just as there is a place for musical recordings in the digital world - there will always be the need for the full educational experience that happens in the classroom. There is little debate that Southridge is clearly committed to the digital world, and it has embraced the use of educational technology whole-heartedly (all for very good reason); however, our school also recognizes that the class(ic) educational experience modernized in a thoughtful and authentic way is where complete engagement in the learning process happens.

Just as my Fleetwood Mac classic rock concert experience was heightened by the excellent and creative use of digital video, computerized lighting systems and technologically advanced wireless (and POWERFUL) sound systems, so, too, is our students' classroom experience heightened by the use of digital video, computerized learning systems and technologically advanced (and POWERFUL) teaching systems.

In other words, at Southridge the human imperative of the classroom is embellished by the thoughtful and purposeful integration of educational technology. Although our teachers use technology for convenience and personalization to a certain degree, they use it to a greater extent for enrichment and full engagement, allowing the human element of the classroom to become even more pronounced. I guess learning at Southridge is kind of like being at a Fleetwood Mac concert every day - only better.

Have a wonderful week!

Mr. Drew Stephens
Head of School

Important Dates			
Event	Date	Time	Location
Casual Day	Friday, November 28 th	All Day	Both Schools
Senior School Concert: An Evening in December	Tuesday, December 9 th Wednesday, December 10 th	7:00 p.m.	Alan Brown Great Hall
Junior School Christmas Concert	Tuesday, December 16 th Wednesday, December 17 th	1:30 - 3:00 p.m. 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Junior Great Hall
Prospective Parent Night	Thursday, December 4 th	7:00 - 8:30 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	Monday, January 12 th	10:25 a.m.	Both Schools

Junior School News

Cheering for the Home Team

These past weeks have been great weeks for sports fans - both at Southridge and in the professional sports realm. For the first time, our Senior Boys soccer team moved up a competitive level from single 'A' to double 'AA' and advanced to place their best-ever 5th place finish at Provincials. Many of these young men played on our soccer teams in Grade 5, 6 and 7 so it was wonderful to see their growth in skill and team work. This fantastic provincial final game ended in a shoot-out. According to head coach, Gordon Smith *"the last few minutes of the game that were the real 'triple decker stress sandwich' as Chris Lauzon had to come up with 2 monster saves just to get us to the shoot-out. Nice to see the boys slot all 5 for sure."* At Southridge, in our math classes and other core subjects, we cheered vicariously for this team - I am so disappointed to have missed being there - there is nothing like cheering for your team. Well done boys - you have made the home crowd/school very proud.

With the CFL Grey Cup being played here in Vancouver this weekend, we do not have a home team to cheer for, but being a native Calgarian, I feel I can cheer for my home team, even though I have been a neglectful fan for years. Somewhere deep down, there is an allegiance to the home team, albeit the fact that I have betrayed the CFL and become an NFL fiend. Still, there is connection to the home town, and this home town team allegiance runs deep.

This is one profound reason why we encourage participation in teams and clubs at Southridge School. Although we are a school and our academic program is the core of the school, Southridge is so much more. Being involved in art club, robotics, basketball, rugby, chess club, speech, whatever the club may be, builds a connection to your school. The chords and fibres of this connection are woven without our recognition. New relationships with teachers and peers are formed outside the academic classroom and this builds our community and commitment to our school. Even being at the Southridge Gala and sharing a laugh or a dance with other parents helps build connection and commitment. Southridge becomes our 'home' team - and it is reassuring to have that 'home' connection.

Please encourage your children to be involved in school for this very reason of connection - we also appreciate all the volunteer parents we have in the library, serving our hot lunches, and on our playgrounds, as we feel more connected to you. Developing the bonds to the home team is valuable and a great investment for your child, and we become stronger as a school because of it. Thank you for realizing the importance of this.

Have a great week, and GO STAMPS GO!

Mrs. Laurel Middelaer
Assistant Head/Head of Junior School

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.

PYP Feast - Joy Friday, December 19th

Theme: Joy (note we have gone conceptual, it is a global concept)

Dress up: What kinds of clothes demonstrate joyfulness to you? Bright party clothes? Comfort?

Purpose: To promote the PYP community by coming together to celebrate. Promote relationships between grades. Provide leadership for Grade 4 students and to have fun!

We will begin with singing carols in the Junior School Great Hall and move to our multi-age groups to play games and make crafts. The actual eating or '*feasting*' begins at 11:30 a.m.

The signup sheets for volunteering will be posted by Tuesday, December 2nd outside of your child's classroom door. You may also be contacted via your classroom representative. We will need help with set-up, clean-up and food preparation. Jasmine Sandhu and Sabrina Pawa, are our parent volunteer co-coordinator for the feast. Thanks once again for all your support.

What do you need to do as a parent?

- Sign-up on the list outside of your child's classroom to bring food or to help with set-up and clean-up
- Help your child dress in 'theme wear' (remember its JOY so choose something that makes you feel joyful!)
- Any questions, email Jasmine Sandhu: jasmine_sandhu@live.com or Sabrina Pawa at sabrina_bagri@hotmail.com

Ms. Rowena Raber
Grade 4/PYP Division Leader

Parent Help Needed - Looming Hats for the Homeless

We are in need of parent helpers to assist with the initiative to make hats for the homeless. Over 50 students are coming out on Day 3 and 5 lunch hours (to the Junior Great Hall) to loom away and create wonderful hats for this project. To complete the project it takes two hours. All instruction will be provided! You can also take items home to complete hats on your own. Email Shaida at snanji@rsgrp.ca for more details.

Ms. Shaida Nanji
Parent

Annual Christmas Hampers

As the holiday season approaches we empathize with those less fortunate than we are and help them to enjoy a more comfortable time. Through a local organization, Options, we have been linked to many needy people in the Surrey area. To start, this Casual Day on Friday, November 28th, we will support mentally-challenged single clients from Options, who, because of their single status, are not eligible for Christmas Bureau or other sponsoring opportunities. Please send \$5.00 with your child this Friday for this part of the overall project.

As well, we are sponsoring sixteen families. Each class, from Kindergarten to Grade 7, will adopt one family and fill a Christmas hamper with non-perishable food items, toiletries, and cleaning supplies. Today your child will bring home an individualized letter requesting specific donations that should be brought in over the next two weeks until Friday, December 12th, to your child's classroom. You may also then check with your child's teacher for more information about the family he or she is sponsoring. If you have any strong boxes that may be useful, please offer them to your child's teacher(s) or me, as we always seem to need more. The hampers will then be picked up and delivered by the case workers during the week before the break. Thank you so much for your generosity and support. Giving to others is a rewarding and important experience for children, as they learn to be caring and respectful community members

Ms. Jo-Ann Murchie
Grade 2 & 4 Teacher

Senior School News

A Week Away Learning

While I have stated in this very space that I learn a great deal in the role that I have at Southridge, there are times when the pace during the year causes my focus to move away in this regard. That is why I found it so very valuable this past week when I had two wonderful opportunities for intentional, focused learning. I wanted to describe these in a bit more detail.

The first opportunity was through a two-day visit to The Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, New York. Dobbs Ferry is located about 35 minutes north of New York City along the Hudson River. As a trivial note, just north of this location is Sleepy Hollow - as in the "Legend of Sleepy Hollow"! The Masters School is 137 years old and has a wonderful 96 acre campus with impressive facilities. They have also been using a student-centred, discussion-based collaborative learning approach (Harkness) across all disciplines for the past 20 years. I was intrigued to be able to immerse myself into their culture for a few days to learn more about their school. It was a very valuable experience for me as I observed classes and school community meetings and saw many different subject areas being taught. In addition, I spoke with teachers, administrators and students from 'freshman' (Grade 9) to 'seniors' (Grade 12) about their reflections on how this type of learning has impacted them as people and students so positively. I had expected that with my visit the learning would only be one-way - that is that I would gain from the Masters School. However, as I shared many insights I was seeing there and also what we are doing at Southridge, the learning was reciprocated. They found it was helpful to see the school in the words of their Head of Senior School "with a fresh set of eyes."

The second opportunity was a CAIS Senior School Leaders Conference that took place in Toronto from Wednesday evening until Saturday morning. There were a number of excellent speakers presenting on the themes of collaborative leadership, experiential learning and student wellness and this allowed me to learn new insights into these important educational subjects. However, for me personally, the richest learning opportunities came with the ability to dialogue, and share ideas and experiences with close to 60 similar leaders in CAIS Schools across the country. Schools were represented from Halifax to Victoria, boarding or day type and also a wide range with regard to student population size. Finally, the history of each school represented allowed another way to learn how this had impacted their development. As you can probably tell, this made for very engaging conversations and sharing of successes and setbacks in our experiences. In some cases, I renewed old friendships and caught up with how people were doing, but equally important, I forged new networking opportunities through learning from a new colleague.

In both cases, after reflecting on these opportunities, I came away with a renewed appreciation of how powerful learning can be to engage and invigorate oneself. It helps to encourage us to commit to further learning and specifically for me, to ensure that each student is also finding this hopefulness through their own success.

I would be happy to talk further about these two experiences. Please feel free to ask me about them if you wish. I hope you have a great week!

Mr. Doug Palm
Head of Senior School

The Culture Club - Loon

A week ago today, a group of aspiring cultural connoisseurs attended a performance of *Loon* at The Cultch. *Loon* is a particular performance of interest to the Culture Club, because of how unique it is. *Loon* is a solo performance, performed by a sole, masked actress. The performance has a particular emphasis on the mask, as the character and the plot revolve heavily on the way the mask looks. Almost everything about the character comes down to how the mask turns out.

We were able to stay after the performance to chat with the actress and the writer of the play so they could give us some insight into how they began writing this particular play and the process they used to write it. The play was incredible. The actress was able to convey the entire storyline to the audience in an understandable way, without the use of dialogue. This performance was both humorous and serious; it really portrayed how the character was actually feeling. It portrayed the life of an older man, in his sixties or so. He was afraid to leave his apartment until his one true love convinced him otherwise.

Attending this play was a great experience, as the Culture Club had never attended an event like this one. I would recommend to anyone that they attend a performance of *Loon*. If you have any questions about Culture Club, or you are interested in attending one of our outings, feel free to talk to myself or Ms. Robinson.

Jake Strecker
Student Head of Culture Club

Semiahmoo House Society

Semiahmoo House Society, a non-profit organization located in Surrey/White Rock, exists to provide support and quality services for people with developmental disabilities in our community. They aim to ensure that everyone has the right to make their own choices, lead meaningful lives and pursue their passions. Mr. Tennant, the Executive Director of Semiahmoo House Society, recently delivered a presentation to Southridge Senior School students about this organization and the movement of inclusion on November 6th. [Click](#) this link for the Inclusion BC video.

As a follow-up to Mr. Tennant's presentation, an orientation at Semiahmoo House Society will take place in the next few weeks if enough student interest is generated. Attending this orientation is highly recommended for students who want to learn more about the foundation, the challenges facing individuals with developmental disabilities, and the movement of inclusion.

Students interested in attending the orientation can send me an email at jsidhu@southridge.bc.ca. Thank you!

Jessy Sidhu
Grade 11 Student

Senior School Christmas Concert: An Evening in December

The 2014 Senior School Concert, *An Evening in December*, is rapidly approaching. Familiar holiday tunes can be heard resounding through the school and the ensembles are really beginning to make music out of the notes on the page. The concerts will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 9th and 10th in the Alan Brown Great Hall. Join us for an evening of live music, featuring our concert and jazz bands, choir and selected soloists.

All of the students involved in the music program are expected to attend the concerts on both evenings. Please reschedule lessons and practices as needed. If you suspect an unavoidable conflict, please email me at jparker@southridge.bc.ca as soon as possible so that we can try to work out a solution. Each musician plays an important role in the concerts, and we can only give our best performance if every student is in attendance.

Please note:

Technical Rehearsal for all jazz studies classes, choir and solo performers is Friday, December 5th, 2014 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Dress rehearsal for all participants is Monday, December 8th, 2014 from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. See you in December!

The Music Department

Christmas Hamper Projects and Gift Cards

The grads are happy to be assisting the Christmas Hamper Projects by selling gift cards! Don't forget to order your cards for friends and family and consider ordering some for your child's hampers! Orders are due on Monday, December 1st and can be picked up by Friday, December 12th so that they can make it into your Hampers on time!

Thank you for all of your support!

Grad Committee

Grad Fashion Show & Dance

This Friday, November 28th, the Grad Committee is holding its fashion show in conjunction with the Snowball Semi-formal dance. We want to make sure everyone in the school community knows that the Fashion Show is open for parents and students to come and watch. If you pre-purchase your ticket, the fashion show ticket price is \$5.00 and if you purchase your fashion show ticket at the door the price is \$10.00.

The fashion show starts at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior School gym and there will be raffle prizes from our sponsors. We have some amazing prize packages including a \$75.00 gift basket from Ocean Park Flowers filled with chocolates, flowers and a gift card that can be used for a corsage or boutonniere for grad, a \$200.00 gift package from Red Gown Photography for a session, a free tuxedo rental from Moores and many more!! Please come and support the grads and in an amazing night. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Grad Committee

Gift Card Reminder

This is a reminder that all gift card purchases are due on Monday, December 1st. Please bring in your order forms to the Senior School reception along with your cheque. All gift cards will be ready for pick up on Wednesday, December 12th. Thank you!

Grad Committee

News for Both Schools

Advancement Update - Gala 2014 Results!

Thank you again to all our generous families and friends who contributed to The Great Gatsby Gala 2014! What an amazing event!

We had 347 guests in attendance - a significant increase from previous years - and good representation from both schools and each class. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket and helped us to celebrate our 20th Anniversary that night!

The live and silent auctions raised more than \$120,000.00 and sponsors generously donated \$55,000.00! When we create a budget for the gala, we always work to ensure that ticket revenue covers the cost of the event. In this way, everyone who purchased items and/or sponsored knows that their support goes directly back to the school in support of prioritized projects and items.

Thank you to Mr. Billy Vandekerkhove who made the largest donation in Southridge's history that night - a gift of \$200,000.00! What an amazing demonstration of support for our school! Watch for an additional article in an upcoming *Wednesday* for more information about this generous gift and the impact it will have on our school!

Thank you also to all the auction donors! The names of our families and local businesses that contributed to the gala by donating an auction item will be listed in a 'Thank You' ad in the Peace Arch News this week, but what is more significant to them is when they are thanked in person for their support of the school. So the next time you are at one of these businesses, be sure to thank them for their support!

By all accounts, the **2014 Great Gatsby Gala** was a huge success! As you may know, gala proceeds support important capital items at the school like athletics equipment and uniforms, library acquisitions, lab equipment, art supplies, building improvements and upgrades. In fact, each year, 50% of the total gala revenue is allocated to these important capital items.

The remaining 50% of the gala profits are earmarked for special projects, items and initiatives that are identified through a comprehensive budget process. This year these include:

- A new grounds management and field marking gator for our Facilities team
- New flooring in the Junior School
- New and additional weight room equipment in the Senior School
- A wireless intercom system for our Senior and Junior School tech teams for events and productions

Thanks to the support and generosity of our community, we raised approximately **\$383,000.00** that night! **What an amazing way to celebrate our 20th year! Thank you all!**

Ms. Christiane Hodson
Director of Advancement

Prospective Parent Night is Coming Up!

We would like to remind everyone of our upcoming annual Prospective Parent Night on Thursday, December 4th. Once again we will open our doors to potential Southridge families and students, giving them an opportunity to explore our facility, hear about our mission and vision and get a feel for what being a part of Southridge is all about. Presentations begin at 7:00 p.m., followed by student-led tours of the schools. We encourage you to take a moment to personally invite anyone you know who has expressed interest in our school. Thank you for helping us spread the word!

The Admissions Department

You May Need to Update Your Web Browser to Stay Connected

We just received this notice from Finalsite, the company that provides our website software:

“You may have read about a recent web-based security threat commonly referred to as POODLE. This vulnerability can allow attackers to exploit outdated web browsers that do not use the latest SSL protocols. Although we don’t feel that this currently poses a direct risk to the Finalsite platform, we take the security of our services and your data very seriously. So out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to disable the deprecated SSLv3 protocol that some of these older browsers still utilize. This action is scheduled to take place on **Monday, December 1, 2014 at 11 am EST.**”

You may be concerned about what this means for users of older browsers. Once Finalsite disables the SSLv3 protocol, certain browsers such as Internet Explorer 6 running on Windows XP will no longer support HTTPS requests used for secure transactions like logins or payments. The very small percentage of users impacted by this (around 0.01% by our metrics) are encouraged to upgrade to the latest available version of their browser. In the specific case of IE6 on Windows XP (both of which are no longer even supported by Microsoft), upgrading to IE8 should resolve the issue. In fact, making sure your browser is updated to the latest version is a recommended best practice for everyone.”

Please check your website browser to ensure that it is the latest version. You will need the latest version of your web browser to ensure that you can continue to log onto the Parents’ Portal.

Alan McInnes
Manager
Web and AV Services

New Phone Chargers!

New to the Uniform Shop is the Southridge portable phone chargers! They come with a smart chip which recognizes when your phone is fully charged so it will not over charge. It comes with a digital read out of the remaining charge. They are available in blue or black.

The Uniform Shop

Thank You for All of the Purdy’s Orders!

Thank you to all of the families that purchased Purdy’s Chocolates this year, the grad committee is thrilled at how well received our fundraiser was. The orders have been placed and you will be able to pick up your orders on Monday, December 15th from the Senior School cafeteria at 3:00 p.m. Thank you for supporting the grad committee!!

Cafeteria Menu for the Week of December 1st - December 5th

Monday: Penne with Vegetables in a Pesto Cream Sauce served with Garlic Bread

Tuesday - Chicken Quesadilla served with Caesar Salad

Wednesday - Chicken Souvlaki served with Rice, Greek Salad, Pita with Tzatziki

Thursday - Beef Fajita Wrap served with Mexican Rice

Friday - Gourmet Burger with Bacon, Cheese served with Spicy Curly Fries

Chef Tip of the Day - Storing Spices

Store spices in a cool, dark place, not above your stove. Humidity, light and heat will cause herbs and spices to lose their flavor.

Cafeteria Reminder

A reminder to parents to make cheques payable to “Compass Group “and add the student number of your child on the cheque.

A reminder to students who leave belongings in the cafeteria; we have lost and found area in the cafeteria. All unclaimed items will be placed in the Senior School’s main Lost and Found at the end of each week.

Southridge Gets a New Postal Code

Canada Post has informed us that we have a new postal code, as of Monday, October 20th! We are now **V3Z 0C8.**

Community Relations