



SOUTHRIDGE

Wednesday

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## Weekly Voice

### Visible Learning

Why do we give students grades? The answer to that question has an endless array of possibilities including: so students and parents know how a given student did in a course; a means of moving on to the next level of a course; to provide the student with a mark with which they can use to apply to a post-secondary institution; a reward; an incentive; a final evaluation of progress and learning; because The Ministry of Education requires that we do this. Many of these reasons are an endpoint, a “final grade” that attempts to place a value on everything a student has done over the course of a year that says: “here is where student X is at the end of course Y,” but doesn’t say much about how to get on to the next destination - Z. Despite our purest intentions, assessment is an inexact science at best.

Earlier this month I had the privilege of attending a conference in San Diego with a number of Southridge teachers that was led by educational researcher John Hattie. Dr. Hattie has spent the last two decades of his career as Laureate Professor at the University of Melbourne collecting meta-analyses aimed at evaluating the relative impact of various educational interventions. After studying countless reforms and changes to education and curriculum, Hattie is convinced that assessment has the potential to be very problematic. His concern lies in the notion that too many students (as well as teachers and parents for that matter) see assessment as an ending. Unfortunately, when we view student assessment as the end of the line, we lose opportunities for true learning and progress.

According to Hattie, the grade is where it all *starts*. Assessment must point to where we go next, how we move forward, and how kids can actually learn from teacher feedback. Hattie wrote in his book *Visible Learning*, “Motivation is highest when students are competent, have sufficient autonomy, set worthwhile goals, get feedback, and are affirmed by others. Student *demotivation* is caused by public humiliation, devastating test results, or conflicts with teachers or peers. For many, demotivation has more impact than motivation. Such demotivation can directly affect commitment to the goals of learning, turn off the wish for and power of feedback, and decrease involvement. It can take less effort by a teacher to demotivate students compared to the often greater effort required to motivate them, to turn students on to *learning*.”

In a lunch meeting with John Hattie and a number of school administrators while I was at the San Diego conference, a principal from a school in the US made the comment that

when she has dinner with her own school-aged kids, she often asks what they had learned in school that day. Hattie's response was rather surprising. He said, "You are asking the wrong question. We ask students what they have learned as if learning is a thing, an object that they get in a neat little package when they go to school. This 'learning' is often nothing more than the simple recall of facts. No wonder the common response from teens to the question, 'so what did you learn today?' is, '*nothing.*' (Hattie continued...) what I asked my own kids when we were sitting around the dinner table was '*what kind of feedback did you get from your teachers today?*' If the answer to that was '*none*', I was usually at the school talking to teachers about how they were challenging my kids to be better writers, mathematicians, artists, athletes, and scientists. Feedback and what students do with that feedback is the key to education - the key to learning."

Educational researcher and speaker Peter DeWitt wrote this about how gaining understanding is not always a straight path with a clear and easy road map to follow. "Growth is an endlessly iterative process. When we learn something new, we don't go from "wrong" to "right," rather, we go from wrong to slightly less wrong. And when we learn something additional, we go from slightly less wrong to slightly less wrong than that, and then even to less wrong than that, and so on. We are always in the process of approaching truth and perfection without actually ever reaching truth or perfection." When we give a grade of 96% or 98% to students, are we saying to them that they are near perfection, and have very little left to learn? I certainly hope not. It is essential that students see themselves as lifelong learners who never reach the end of understanding, but are constantly learning, exploring, and getting better.

In his book *Visible Learning: Feedback*, John Hattie states that students must understand three things: 1) what is the learning standard? (the learning goal or object); 2) his/her current performance in comparison to that standard; 3) what action does the student need to take to close the gap? Simply stated: Where am I going? Where am I now? How do I get there? Assessment and feedback in school often focuses on the second question ("where am I now?") without nearly enough attention being paid to the third question: "how do I get there?"

As a faculty, we are looking at ways to improve our feedback to students, and we spent our professional development day on February 15 looking at ways we can more effectively provide feedback to our students on their learning journey for the ultimate purpose of maximizing their learning. Stay tuned!

Have a great week!

Brad Smith  
Senior School Principal

## Important Dates

| Event  | Date                                       | Time     | Location                 |
|--|--|----------|--------------------------|
| Senior Play – FAME                           | Wednesday, February 27                     | 7:00 pm  | Coast Capital Theatre    |
| Grade 8 Bandfest                             | Thursday, February 28 –<br>Friday, March 1 |          | Trip to Victoria         |
| Senior Play – FAME                           | Thursday, February 28                      | 7:00 pm  | Coast Capital Theatre    |
| Senior Play – FAME                           | Friday, March 1                            | 7:00 pm  | Coast Capital Theatre    |
| Junior School Term 2<br>AR Deadline          | Friday, March 1                            |          | Junior School            |
| Senior School Term 3<br>Begins               | Monday, March 4                            |          | Senior School            |
| Junior School Term 3<br>AR Begins            | Monday, March 4                            |          | Junior School            |
| Full School Assembly                         | Tuesday, March 5                           | 9:40 am  | Both Schools             |
| Junior School Weekly<br>Assembly – Cancelled | Wednesday, March 6                         |          | Junior School            |
| Senior School Captains’<br>Forum             | Monday, March 11                           | 8:30 am  | Alan Brown Great Hall    |
| MYP Musical Matinee                          | Tuesday, March 12                          | 1:00 pm  | Junior School Great Hall |
| MYP Musical Evening                          | Wednesday, March 13                        | 6:30 pm  | Junior School Great Hall |
| Casual Day                                   | Friday, March 15                           | All Day  | Both Schools             |
| Spring Break                                 | Monday, March 18 –<br>Friday, March 29     |          | Both Schools             |
| Late Start                                   | Monday, April 1                            | 10:20 am | Both Schools             |
| Good Friday Holiday                          | Friday, April 19                           | All Day  | Both Schools             |
| Easter Monday Holiday                        | Monday, April 22                           | All Day  | Both Schools             |
| Summer Uniform Begins                        | Tuesday, April 23                          |          | Both Schools             |

## Junior School News

### Junior School House Captain Theme Day – Friday, March 1

On Friday, March 1, Kindergarten through Grade 7 students are invited to leave their uniforms at home and dress like a famous character or person. If you have a superhero inside of you, a yearning to be Drake or an Einstein, Friday is the day that you can express this. The cost is \$2 to participate, and all proceeds go to the Grade 7 Legacy Fund supporting local, provincial, national, and international service projects.

Ms. McNeil  
MYP Division Leader

### “Step in Time” to see Mary Poppins Junior!

If you’ve been in the Junior School recently, you’ve probably heard some familiar, toe-tapping tunes. That’s because all Grade 5, 6, and 7 students are busy working on preparing for our supercalifragilisticexpialidocious production of the musical “Mary Poppins Junior”.

An extra-special thank you to Ms. Janzen, Ms. Redies, and the MYP Art Club for their work on the beautiful sets that will bring Cherry Tree Lane in London to life! Thank you also to our amazing costume team, led by Haisha Shahalimi, Sabrina Pawa, and Dana Watson, for the many hours they are spending on the awesome costumes!

Please mark your calendars for the 1:00 pm matinee performance on Tuesday, March 12 and/or the 6:30 pm evening performance on Wednesday, March 13. Tickets are not necessary, so please just show up with your families and friends. The students are working very hard in rehearsals and are looking forward to having full houses for both performances; the more, the merrier!

We hope that you are able to join us for our “sweeter than a spoonful of sugar” production!

Dr. Bospflug, Mrs. Winterburn, Madame Sullivan, and Mrs. de Hoog  
The MYP Musical Team



## **Pink Shirt Day: February 27, 2019**

Today is pink shirt day and it was great seeing so many students in pink today supporting this important initiative. Let's strive to make an impact through expressing kindness to ourselves and each other every day so that Southridge truly is a community where everyone feels safe, connected, and cared for.



## Grade 6 Girls Basketball

The Gr.6 girls basketball team had a very busy season filled with lots of grit, resiliency, and perseverance. The girls showed great growth throughout the season and elevated their skills each and every game. It was wonderful to watch their teamwork and camaraderie develop as the season progressed. The basketball season ended last Wednesday under the bright lights of the Richmond Olympic Oval. It all came together as the girls had some great scoring opportunities and showed tough rebounding skills under the basket. Way to end the season on a high!





## Grade 7 Boys Basketball

On Friday, February 22, the Southridge U13 CAIS Boys Basketball team wrapped up their season with a great silver medal at the ISEA Championships hosted by St. George's. In a wild tournament that included a 30-29 last second win over Collingwood School in the ISEA Semi-Final, the Storm walked away proud of their accomplishments.

Overall, it was a great season for the boys. Starting off back in November, the team gathered to make their own mark in the history of U13 CAIS Boys basketball here at Southridge. Early in the season, we played host for the Storm Invitational Basketball Tournament, which was a great early season test for the team coming in 4<sup>th</sup>. Some successful league games followed as the team headed into the winter break. Many of the boys were able to come in to practice over the winter break, showing their commitment to developing themselves as players.

After the break, the month of January included a tournament in Chilliwack and a trip to Strathcona-Tweedsmuir School in Okotoks, Alberta. The CAIS Tournament was a great experience for the boys both on and off the court, and they represented the school well! A 9<sup>th</sup> out of 18<sup>th</sup> finish was a respectable end to a highly competitive tournament which was seen in our 4 point loss to the eventual bronze medal winning team from Upper Canada College (Toronto, ON). Eight games in three days was an exhausting but exciting trip for the team!

At its end, the team wrapped up the season at the ISEA Championships, taking home the silver in a finals loss to the host, St. George's. The team should be proud of their accomplishments, but more importantly proud of the growth they displayed throughout the year. Our focus as a team was to emphasize the process in all that we did and understand how each step fits into the larger picture of their development as students and players. The boys made some strides in the right direction and are excited for the next phase of Southridge basketball to come.



Congratulations on a great season!

## Artist Trading Cards

Our Junior School students excel in Art due in part to the enthusiastic passion of Ms. Redies and Ms. Janzen. However, there are always some Grade 6's that can never get enough art, so they gather in Mr. Swan's office to do Artist Trading Cards every Friday at lunch. The long-term plan is to do a trading event with Southpointe's ATC group where they can share their art cards with each other. The concept of ATC originated in Switzerland in 1997 ([https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artist\\_trading\\_cards](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artist_trading_cards))





## Senior School News

### Summer Session Math Opportunity - Foundations of Math 10

A number of students have expressed interest in attending a summer session to complete the requirements for FMP 10, which would, if successful, allow them to move into Pre-Calculus 11 in the 2019-20 school year. Students who are contemplating this degree of acceleration are advised that they should have an "A" in their current Math program or have the recommendation of their teacher. The course would also be open to students who have completed FMP 10 but who might wish to improve their understanding of the course content and potentially upgrade their marks.

This course will be delivered through a combination of at home preparation, video lessons, tutorials, and on-campus classes. Students can expect to complete 10-12 hours of work at home per week. Students must be available to be in full attendance each day of the course and any student with more than two absences might be required to withdraw.

If you are interested in this opportunity, we would need the registration form, together with a cheque for the full cost of the program, by Tuesday, March 5, 2019. The course will need a minimum of 9 students in order to run.

#### **Dates and cost:**

Tuesday, July 2 – Friday, August 2

Monday through Friday: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Cost: \$1,300

A flyer with full details of this opportunity will be posted on Grade 9 Schoology and copies are available at the front desk.

Thank you for your interest.

Kierstan McCaw  
Vice-Principal, Learning

### Calendar Alert: Grade 10 Numeracy Exam

All Grade 10 students will write the Grade 10 Numeracy Exam on Friday June 21 at 9:00 am. The Grade 10 Numeracy Exam is a BC graduation requirement. Please record this important date in your calendar.

## Southridge Senior School Presents...Fame!

We are looking so forward to welcoming everyone to the Coast Capital Playhouse this week for the Senior School's production of Fame. The three shows taking place tonight, Thursday, and Friday are completely sold out!

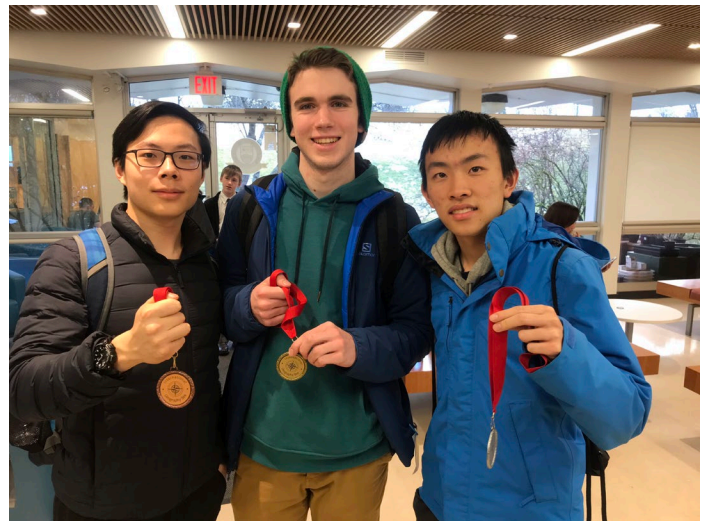
If you have tickets and can't go anymore, there are people who want them, so please drop them off at Senior School Reception.

Break a leg to the cast and crew of Fame, which opens tonight!

## Annual International History Bee & Bowl Regional Championships

On Saturday, a number of students from Grades 10, 11, and 12 competed in the annual International History Bee and Bowl Regional Championships at West Point Grey Academy. The Bee and Bowl is a global trivia and geography competition consisting of team and individual matches, where students face off against other schools from across the Lower Mainland.

This year, the Junior Varsity team consisting of Sam Pfortmueller, Jayden Hayer, Keith Christofferson, and Laurier Lalonde, captured 2nd place in their division, with Keith also winning the individual History Bee.



The Senior team, consisting of Declan Byrne, Tony Hu, Jeff Li, Frank Lin, and Armaan Randhawa placed high in the Senior Semi-finals, ultimately being defeated by a strong U-Hill team. Special congratulations go out to Declan, Frank, and Jeff, who swept the podium in the Geography exam, with Declan scoring 97 out of 100 possible points.



## Quebec Carnaval

On February 13, the languages department embarked on their first ever tour to the Quebec Carnaval. Madame Beer, myself, and 17 enthusiastic students enjoyed the trip. We started off in Quebec City, where we were joined by a group of six students from Labrador. Then together, we explored the Carnaval, Ice Hotel, Valcartier for tubing, and an adventure at the Huron-Wendat village with snowshoeing and legends. We then transferred over to Montreal where we toured the Museum of Archaeology and History, Notre-Dame Basilica, and of course a tour of Old Montreal.

The students were excellent ambassadors of our school and were brave when faced with a wind chill of -24 degrees Celsius! The trip was a huge success and we hope to do it again sometime soon. Our next languages tour will be to a European destination in the summer of 2020, so stay tuned for details!

Madame Lew



## **Dominica 2020 Science Research Expedition**

We have begun planning for a two-week expedition to Dominica June 27 – July 12, 2020 to help with biodiversity surveys run by Operation Wallacea. The trip is open to students in Grades 10, 11, and 12 (in the 2019/2020 school year). If you are interested in applying for this trip, please complete the google form *Student Application for Learning Abroad Programs* linked here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFpqq8FrV6i9GSIQVfGXvzN-4m85PK6CX8r6ejSq3YvtxrA/viewform?fbzx=2812809798540712562>

Dominica is one of the most unspoilt islands of the Caribbean – its steep forested cliffs rise straight out of the sea, and the deep forest canyons and waterfalls have made mechanical clearance on the island impossible. Operation Wallacea is working with the Forestry Department to enhance their datasets on the forest dynamics and faunal communities, and students have the opportunity to help with this research.

In their first week, the students will be based in a rainforest research centre, sleeping in dormitories or tents. They will assist with various surveys, such as bird surveys (both early morning mist nets trapping and standard point counts), forest structure, herpetofauna surveys (including documenting the spread of an invasive anolis lizard), freshwater ecological surveys, bat surveys, and invertebrate surveys. During this week, they will also complete a course on Caribbean Island Ecology and have the chance to either take part in a half day canyoning activity or go on a day excursion to visit some of Dominica's stunning volcanic sites and learn about some of the island's exciting geothermal activity.

For the second week, the group will travel to Fort Shirley in the Cabrits National Park, where students who wish to learn how to dive to a PADI Open Water level can complete their diving qualification. Those who wish to snorkel, or who are already dive qualified will complete a Caribbean reef ecology and survey methods course. Students will also be taking part in sea mammal research using the knowledge and skills that they have gained.

It is also possible to complete an Independent Research Project while on expedition, and the expedition covers key aspects of biology, geography, and environmental science syllabuses.

The expedition will cost approximately \$5,450 inclusive of include food and accommodation while on the expedition, comprehensive medical insurance, training and participation in the research program, and dive/snorkel equipment rental. It will also include the cost of international flights, internal transfers, and hotel stays. It will not include transport to and from the airport in Vancouver, incidental expenses such as souvenirs, and meals on the international flights or at the airports.



If you missed the parent information night and would like more details about this trip, please contact **Ms. Szymczak!**



## University Counselling – Upcoming Events

### ***Study and Go Abroad Fair***

The Study and Go Abroad Fair is taking place on Thursday, February 28 at the Vancouver Convention Centre East (<https://www.studyandgoabroad.com/vancouver/>)

This fair is open until 6pm and showcases university and college programs and travel options.

### ***Information Session for Students: Preparing for applying to the United Kingdom and Ireland***

On Wednesday, March 6 at lunch, Grade 10 and 11 students are invited to have lunch with the grads who applied to the United Kingdom and Ireland over the past year. The Grads will be offering advice and tips about how to research and prepare for post-secondary options available in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as Ireland.

## ***Guest Speaker: Peter Van Buskirk***



The University Counselling Centre is pleased to announce that Mr. Peter Van Buskirk is returning to Southridge to share his knowledge and expertise about the US college admission process.

Date: Thursday, April 25

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Junior School Great Hall

An industry analyst, thought leader, and student advocate, Peter cuts insightfully through conventional rhetoric and hyperbole to promote a healthy, student-centered, college-going process for families of all backgrounds.

His experiences as a recruiter and evaluator of talent, admission strategist, director of athletics, and executive officer in the office of the provost position him uniquely to share a truly holistic perspective on college planning with families. Now, an author, in-demand motivational speaker and workshop leader, Peter founded Best College Fit as a means of bringing transparency to the college admission process and helping students position themselves to achieve their educational goals. He has presented his creative programming to more than 2,000 audiences worldwide.

Peter spent more than 25 years in selective college admission including twelve as Dean of Admission at Franklin & Marshall College before joining Peterson's where he served as Vice President for College Planning Solutions. He attended Harvard's Management Development Program and is a 40-year member of the National Association of College Admission Counseling. <https://www.bestcollegefit.com/>



## Both Schools

### Brand New Volunteer Positions – Used Uniforms!

**Clothes don't grow, but kids sure do!** We are looking for 2-4 parents (ideally 2 Junior School and 2 Senior School) to organize, manage, and run the Used Uniform program at Southridge. Some retail experience would be an asset.

If you are interested, please email [volunteer@southridge.bc.ca](mailto:volunteer@southridge.bc.ca).

Thank you!

The Volunteer Committee

### Nominate a Remarkable Alumni Today!

Next year, Southridge will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As part of this exciting milestone, there will be many events and initiatives planned in the 2019/2020 school year for our entire school community (full details to come closer to the end of the school year).

One of the initiatives we have launched to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> is recognizing the remarkable achievements of our alumni. From their contributions as volunteers and community leaders, to their academic and professional successes, our alumni are making a difference in the world. To acknowledge their achievements, we are running the *25 Remarkable Alumni* campaign.

**We are currently calling for nominations, of which 25 alumni will be selected and recognized at a special anniversary event during the 2019-2020 school year.**

Individuals who received their Grade 12 diploma from Southridge School are eligible for nomination.

In evaluating nominations, a selection committee will be guided by the following considerations:

- Does the nominee live the values of Southridge School, demonstrated by their personal integrity and moral character?
- Has the nominee contributed to the greater good through extraordinary service to society?
- Has the nominee attained a high level of leadership, creativity, distinction, and/or achievement in the arts, athletics, academics, business, teaching, research, sciences, or in any other field or discipline?

**Alumni, alumni families, faculty, and community members are invited to nominate Southridge graduates. If you know a grad who is making a difference in the world through extraordinary leadership, community service, academic accomplishment or achievement in the arts or athletics, then nominate them today!**

Nominations may be submitted by any individual, independently or on behalf of a group or institution. The deadline for submissions is **May 31, 2019**.

Recipients and their nominator(s) will be notified by **July 30, 2019** and will be recognized at a special commemorative event to be held in February 2020 at Southridge School.

To submit a nomination or to read more about criteria and instructions, please visit [www.southridge.bc.ca/alumni/25](http://www.southridge.bc.ca/alumni/25) or email [remarkable@southridge.bc.ca](mailto:remarkable@southridge.bc.ca).

If you have any questions, contact Jasmine Boyes ([jboyes@southridge.bc.ca](mailto:jboyes@southridge.bc.ca)) or Christiane Hodson ([chodson@southridge.bc.ca](mailto:chodson@southridge.bc.ca)).

## Changes to Southridge Café Student Accounts

We are so happy that our students and staff are enjoying the excellent fresh food that is now being served in our Café. Starting March 1, students will no longer be able to make a purchase on account in the Café if there is no money deposited on their accounts, so please make arrangements to deposit money into the Café account via MyKidsSpending. Any negative balances that are not topped up by the end of February will be transferred to the student's tuition account.

To deposit funds into the student accounts, log onto the My Kids Spending account and make a deposit via credit card or electronic bank transfer. Credit card payments have a service fee, but e-transfers do not. Alternatively, drop off a cheque or cash at Senior School reception, payable to Southridge School, ensuring the cheque or cash envelope includes the student's name, ID, and 'For Café' clearly marked.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Phala Tan  
Business Services Manager