



FALL/WINTER 2021

*Hello Southridge Alumni,*

*What a year it has been! With all of us continuing to find our “new” normal during the ongoing pandemic, it has been so heartwarming to see and hear stories of our alumni and where they are at. We know times have not been easy for everyone, and catching up with our alumni and hearing how they are continuing to make a difference in the world right now is something we as an association are really proud of! It inspires us to keep connecting with you, as we know each and every one of you has a great story to tell.*

*In regards to the Alumni Association as a whole, we first-off want to say a big thank you for your patience and continued support. The Board has worked really hard this year to further our goal of alumni engagement, focusing on our volunteer program as well as plan for the return of in-person events. We had an alumna, Cindy Shu '20, working hard over the summer to connect with you, and we appreciate everyone who was able to update their information so that we are able to stay connected.*

*As far as social events go, the past couple years have been a bit tricky, but we are SO happy to start planning our first in person event this Christmas, so please be on the lookout for more information!*



*In closing, we just want to say thank you again to all our alumni. We love hearing what you are up to in the world, and we can't wait to catch up with you sooner rather than later!*

Tayla Westgard  
Alumni Association Board Chair

*Great schools* are measured  
not by the accomplishments of  
their students, but by the  
*lives* led by their alumni.

Drew Stephens, Head of School

# "IN CONVERSATION"

featuring

MR. DREW STEPHENS



SOUTHRIDGE HEAD OF SCHOOL

FIND OUT  
WHAT'S  
NEW!

ASK  
QUESTIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25  
7-8 PM



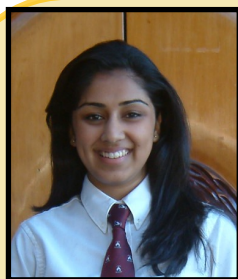
REGISTRATION IS  
REQUIRED TO RECEIVE  
THE MEETING LINK



To RSVP, please [CLICK HERE](#) to register - we look forward to connecting with you!

## Where are They Now?

## School Captains 2005



### Supreet Maan

Job: Family Physician

Location: Surrey, BC

Married (2017) with one son  
(10 months)

**What did you study in post-secondary?** I studied general science at UBC and graduated from the UBC School of Medicine in 2014.

**What is your current occupation?** I currently work as a Family Physician with outpatient services and hospital privileges at Peace Arch Hospital.

**What is your proudest professional accomplishment?** Rather than one big moment I'd say it's the day to day interactions with patients where I feel like I've made a difference in someone's life, even if it's in a small way.

**What is one silver lining you've discovered during COVID?** Rather than mourn not being able to socialize in large gatherings, it's forced me to focus on the few connections that I was able to maintain safely and I cherish how close we've become and the bond we've built out of this situation.

**What advice do you have for young alumni?** Don't be disheartened if it feels like things aren't going your way. Over time I've learned that with patience and consistency, showing up every day to put in the hard work, you'll eventually realize your goals. So keep at it.



Summer 2021—Supreet, son Aarav, and husband Rob



### Kolby Solinsky

Job: Marketing Director

Location: Cloverdale, BC

Married (2016) with a son (2.5 years)  
and a daughter on the way

**What did you study in post-secondary?** I went to study at Western University and received a BA in Political Science & Masters in Arts Journalism.

**What is your current occupation?** After working for many years in local media, I joined our family business which provides leadership and experience in all aspects of lottery fundraising for clients such as BC Children's and VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation.

**What is your proudest personal accomplishment?**

Experiencing fatherhood has been the most impactful role I've ever experienced. Becoming a Dad has made me feel more fulfilled than any other role I've experienced.

**What is the most challenging part of being a new parent?**

Dinner— I love food, but having a kid limits the variety of food we cook! We tend to eat the same foods and his tastes change and then we go to the simple foods like Kraft Dinner—LOL! Also, potty training—there is poop everywhere!

**What part of your Southridge experience has the biggest impact on your life today?** I'm so proud to report that the majority of my social connections are still from Southridge. I truly value the intimate connections I made in high school.



Summer 2021—Kolby, son Kaden, and wife Courtney

*Save the Date*

SOUTHRIDGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Let's celebrate the holiday  
season together!

WEDNESDAY DEC. 22 • 6-9 PM  
SOUTHRIDGE SCHOOL  
ALAN BROWN GREAT HALL

To RSVP, please [CLICK HERE](#) to register - we look forward to connecting with you!



## Alumni Insights

### When you run out, they run in

That's right; we're talking about the brave people who answer the call and respond to emergencies as firefighters. Chelsea Andreou, Class of 2013, is one of those special people who runs into the fire when others are running out. Chelsea is proud to represent this unique group who dedicate their lives to responding in times of crisis.

After leaving Southridge, Chelsea attended the University of Guelph, hoping to become a veterinarian and played varsity field hockey. Unfortunately, Chelsea broke her foot at the end of her first year, and it turns out that experience would change her whole post-secondary career focus.

"After the door closed for varsity field hockey, it opened for me to join the University of Guelph First Response Team. It was on this team where my passion for public service and response work was ignited. Using teamwork, we would respond to a variety of on campus emergencies before 9-1-1 would arrive," explains Chelsea. "I learned that I was very drawn to teamwork and being directly involved in my community, which pushed me towards seeking a career in the first response field."



After this discovery, Chelsea went to Flemming College in Peterborough to complete her firefighting training. "Southridge taught me about the importance of volunteering, so being volunteer-orientated came naturally. I volunteered for the Township of Hamilton fire department doing door to door smoke campaigns with their public education officer.



Chelsea is currently working as a paid on call firefighter in Ontario, and has supplemented that position by also working as a ski patroller, confined space rescuer, and wildland firefighter. In fact, Chelsea worked in northern Ontario during one of Canada's worst forest fire seasons this year as a fire ranger!

"This was a very extreme year for forest fires. It was exhausting. We would get flown out to the fires via helicopter and work on extinguishing them with the resources we had. We would camp on site typically until the job was done. Sometimes seeing the fires can be humbling, but each fire has a new learning opportunity to offer," says Chelsea.

*"Life is supposed to be a journey, so for me, keeping my mind open is how I've been able to discover what I'm passionate about."*

Another part of her Southridge experience that impacted her choice to pursue this as a full-time career was that, while in school, her teachers taught her to try hard and that those efforts would achieve her desired results. "Firefighting is still a largely male dominated industry. That being said, change is starting to happen and fire departments are looking for capable people of all sizes and backgrounds to diversify, and ultimately, strengthen the force. If you're a smaller person like me who is interested in this career, just know it is possible to achieve!"

In reflecting on her time at Southridge, Chelsea appreciates how many opportunities it provided to help her become a well-rounded individual. She fondly remembers the outdoor education opportunities, playing on sports teams like field hockey and swimming, participating in the debate team and Reach for the Top, school plays and jazz band. "Southridge opened my mind and gave me the confidence and ability to learn more about my strengths," she reflects.

Chelsea is most proud of contributing to a community positively and being there for someone on their worst day. "Having the opportunity to support them during that experience makes this career so rewarding for me. I believe when someone calls 9-1-1, they're expecting someone who cares and will help, and I remember that every time I get called out. "Being someone trustworthy that a vulnerable member of society can count on is the best part of the job," she explains.



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*"Life is supposed to be a journey, so for me, keeping my mind open is how I've been able to discover what I'm passionate about. Southridge equips you to follow your passion, to be adventurous, and to seek out the possibilities that lay within you."*





# SOUTHRIDGE BURSARIES:

## *The Gift* OF A LIFE-CHANGING *Experience*

**“It’s strange how you can be unaware of how certain experiences will change the course of your life and impact the decisions you make both personally and professionally – for me, attending Southridge was one of those experiences.” – Brin O’Hare, Class of 2007**



Brin O’Hare joined the Southridge community in the fall of 2002 as a Grade 8 student with the support of a financial bursary offered to her by the founding Head of School, Mr. Alan Brown. For the O’Hare family, the desire to attend Southridge was more than just an academic decision. They were excited at the prospect of service opportunities and community initiatives that they felt could benefit their young daughter.

“I was always very aware of the financial aid I received, and it motivated me to embrace all that Southridge had to offer. From enriched programs in the Senior

School to countless volunteer initiatives, I always felt privileged to have received such a generous opportunity,” explains Brin.

Brin is particularly proud of receiving a Southridge bursary because it taught her how to make the most out of each opportunity and encouraged her to prove that she could be successful regardless of any challenges that would arise.

During her time at Southridge, she discovered her passion for philanthropy, which translated into a career at the Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation.

“Southridge taught me that the collective contribution is what makes a difference, something that continues to inspire the work I do today as a development officer.”

For Brin’s parents, receiving this support that allowed her to study at Southridge was a life-changing experience. One that prepared her for the successful transition into post-secondary and provided opportunities that would not have been possible without the support of bursary donors.

“Our family will be forever grateful to the donors who choose to give without knowing the student that their generosity impacts.”

As someone who has benefitted from financial support, Brin wants everyone to know that investing in youth and giving future children the opportunity to attend Southridge will have a lasting impact on the community.

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**Attending Southridge remains a point of pride for my family, and I’m very grateful to those who committed to making education a priority. I hope my story inspires others and results in other alumni and alumni families to give generously to support future students in their desire to attend Southridge.**

## Alumni Making A Difference

Jaspreet 'Jas' Gill '02 is a proud Southridge alumnus, so it was not a surprise when he embraced the opportunity to re-join the Southridge community as a parent when his daughter started Kindergarten in 2016. For Jas and his wife Anneka, the sense of community, focus on character development, and outstanding education opportunities were all reasons they returned as parents. They were eager to embrace the opportunity to reconnect with the place that provided such a strong foundation during his youth.

With two children attending Southridge (Amriya in Grade 5 and Naihal in Grade 2), both Jas and Anneka are fully immersed in the community and love giving back to Southridge. "For me, the spirit of Southridge is still very much the same," describes Jas. "The warmth of the community and connection to parents, students, and staff feels the same as it did when I was here as a student – for our family that brings comfort and a feeling of home."



As a second generation Southridge family, the Gills feel a strong sense of pride knowing that their past was part of the creation of the school, and their involvement today is institutionalizing what Southridge is and investing in developing a bright path for the future. Both Anneka and Jas are not only outstanding volunteers, but generous donors to Southridge as well. "If you believe in Southridge, then you should also believe that you help the community," says Jas. They feel that their gift to the Alumni Financial Assistance Fund is crucial to continuing the vision for Southridge.

"We view it as an opportunity to give someone the potential to discover their gifts and showcase their skills in a place that will nurture those talents," explains Anneka. "Giving is a continuation of the Southridge principles, and as a family who believes wholeheartedly in the benefits of Southridge, there is no better thing to do than help provide the opportunity to someone else."

The Gill family is happy to contribute what they can to ensure that Southridge continues to prosper because they want to see future students benefit from the opportunities given to them and their children. "We've gone through it and benefited, and we want to share that with others," says Jas. "I hope other alumni consider giving to students whose lives will be forever changed for having attended our school."

STUDENT SUPPORT  
SERVICE *Giving Back* SOUTHRIDGE  
Alumni THANKFUL  
COMMUNITY **GIVING**  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
*Contribution* GENEROSITY  
ALUMNI GIVING

To help support the dreams of future Southridge students, please consider making a gift to the

[\*\*Donate Now\*\*](#)





FALL/WINTER 2021

## Serving our Alumni

At Southridge, we value our connection with alumni. No matter where you live, we are committed to providing opportunities for alumni to keep connected to the Southridge community and to each other.

We encourage you to stay connected and to update your information regularly so we can send you exciting information about upcoming events, alumni programs (ie. the ASK Program) and other ways to support the Southridge community.

By keeping in touch with us, you will...

- Receive a University Care Package from Southridge (applicable to recent grads)
- Connect with Southridge and the Alumni community
- Receive the [Spirit Magazine](#), twice per year – with interesting stories, photos, alumni profiles, and more
- Expand your network for professional growth and development.
- Continue your involvement in the well-being and future of Southridge

## Stay Connected!

As a member of the Southridge Alumni Association, you have access to events, activities, and networking opportunities that you do not want to miss. To receive invites, newsletters, and other communications, please ensure your contact information is up to date.

To Update Your Record, please [CLICK HERE](#)

## Follow Us Online!

