



The Midpointe

News and opinion for Southpointe Academy families

April 22, 2010

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A MOMENT FOR THE AGES

It was quiet when I arrived. Quiet and still. There was Kevin, our architect, doing a final 'tech check', and over there was Richard, our Chairman, silently rehearsing his speech. But mostly it was quiet and still. It was 6.40pm. Would anyone come? Many had promised, but things happen, and when you're nervous you fear the worst. I didn't expect to be nervous, but just being in the Council Chamber transported me back to another time, another school, another chamber and a baying hostile crowd that made me feel that trying to build a school was akin to building a prison-and one for the worst offenders. Would this be like that? I wondered.

6.45pm –a few seats occupied now, but all friends. Where were the enemies? Mustering elsewhere to arrive on the dot of 7pm and catch us off guard? 6.50 now and a steady stream of people. I tried to look confident but scanned every person. All friends so far.

6.55 and all seats taken. Three people I did not know. Who were they? Why were they here? Had they scoured the by-laws and Municipal Act and found an impediment to our plans? Were they just waiting to pounce?

6.59 pm -standing room only now and the room full –except for three –of supporters – parents, grandparents, students, teachers, support staff –a great turnout.

But what of the Council? One of them had come through the Chamber earlier and greeted me warmly enough. But was she sincere? Was it a front to mask her impending 'nay'? And what of the others? What were they planning in the back room? Was it thumbs up or thumbs down?

7pm –on the button, the Councillors entered. Search their faces for clues. None. The Sphinx could have done no better. The Mayor read the rules. The hearing began. We were second on the agenda. The first item was over quickly. I have no recollection of it. Something minor perhaps –like dumping nuclear waste in Burns Bog or banning the sale of beer after 3pm. I have no idea; my mind had not been there.

7.10pm. We're on. Kevin, the aforementioned architect, outlined our plan and explained why we needed a height variance for our building: calm, precise, confident, brief. Next our traffic consultant extolling the virtues and benefits of our proposed site over our current one. Not difficult you may think, but it needed doing well and he did it well. Council faces still implacable!

7.25pm. Richard, our Board Chair steps to the microphone. Is he feeling like me I wonder? He has, unseen, devoted countless hours to this cause and saved us a fortune by doing all the legal work pro bono. It all hangs on this night. In a calm voice, a touch wavy for the first sentence –the merest hint of his awareness of the importance of his words- he relates the importance of our school to the community. Payroll, number of employees, constitution, local businesses that benefit from us, number of families, of children, of our now ten –year place in the fabric of Tsawwassen, of our right to be. This is a masterful speech –sincere, factual, powerful, respectful, brief and perfectly judged.

Was that a flicker of approbation from the Mayor or just my imagination? I look closer, but the Sphinx look is still the choice for the Councillors.

7.35pm. Kevin (Brennan not architect) speaks for the parents. Short, heartfelt and compelling. He says something that makes the audience laugh. The Councillors laugh too. Good sign surely.

7.38pm. Reva speaks for the teachers and staff. There are thirty of us there willing her on. She speaks of her journey to Southpointe, of its importance to her and her family, of its acceptance of individual needs and its value as a choice; she speaks of teachers who have moved to Delta with their young families because of the school; she tells the Council that Southpointe is why she lives here and without it the community would be much diminished. There is strength in her measured, assured delivery.

Five pitches, five home runs. And that's it. Or is it? Suddenly, up springs Mason to tell the Councillors that he does not want to have to carry on having his playground in a parking lot. Everyone smiles –including the assembled Sphinxes! Of course, there's the 'cute' factor, but Mason means it and he is right on.

7.50pm. The Mayor asks if there is anyone else who wishes to speak in favour of the proposal. We have all been represented expertly and recognized as supporters, so no one rises. Wait! Someone does. One of the unknown three –an earnest lady with notes. What will she say?

She likes the proposal –but is it green? And will it take care that sidewalks are suitable for disabled people? Should there be a relocation of a transit stop, perhaps? And what of walking and cycling to school? She is re-assured by the planner and the architect that consideration has been given to all these matters and she need have no concerns. Re-iterating her admiration for the design and the enhancement to Tsawwassen, she sits down.

Now, does anyone wish to speak against the proposal? No-one moves. The Mayor asks again –why does she do that? Is she disappointed? Trying to encourage opposition? Still no one moves. She asks again. We wait a few seconds–the longest seconds any of us has experienced. Silence; stillness.

8.10pm. The Public Hearing is over. The Mayor asks the Council if they want to vote on the issues before them or defer. Defer? What is this? The rules –now I remember the rules from the beginning of the meeting. We were told that after the Public Hearing the council had options. They could call for more information, defer their decision or make their decision. I felt nervous again. Surely they would not defer? Why would they? A compelling case and no opposition. I am shaken out of these thoughts by a vote. Whatever item one was–I still do not know– is passed.

Now for us. The motion to approve our plans is proposed and seconded. The silent room is more silent now. The Mayor calls the vote –all in favour? The Sphinxes take on human form, raise their hands as one and beam at us all. Passed. Unanimously. Applause–spontaneous, prolonged. Had we all been feeling the same? Evidently.

I feel like a huge burden I didn't know I was carrying has been lifted from me. I feel emotion welling inside me. The odd tear forms. I try to hide it as people leave. There are congratulations, hugs, delight, joy all round. I shake Richard's hand. There are no words from either of us. He calls later to describe how he was feeling and explain why he couldn't speak.

He needn't have. I knew why.

Graham Baldwin

SCHOOL NEWS

PARENT REMINDERS:

- A reminder that there is a list of qualified and experienced Southpointe students available for babysitting.

Please see Mrs. Levitt in the library if you would like a copy of this list.

- TOP TEN SCHOOLWEAR is now accepting appointments for new blazer sizing in preparation for next September's school year.

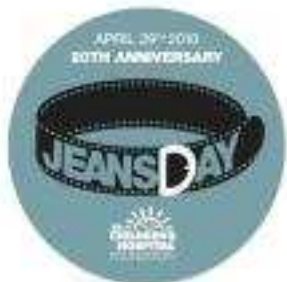
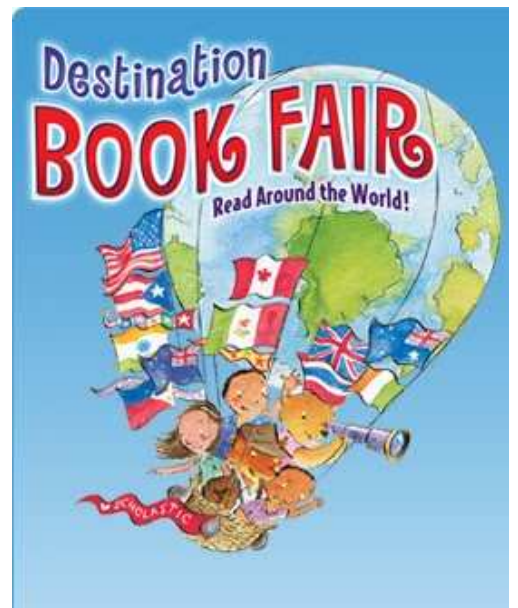
LIBRARY NEWS

We need your help!

The **Scholastic Book Fair** will be in the library next week on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. (April 28th - 30th)

Volunteers are needed to help out with crowd control, cashier duties, set-up and take-down. There is a sign-up sheet on the library door, or you may email Mrs. Levitt (library@spacademy.ca).

Mrs. Jessica Levitt



JEANS DAY!

Jeans Day will be held on Thursday April 29th. This year marks the 20th anniversary of "Jeans Day". Homeroom teachers will have buttons for the students to purchase next week. Buttons this year will be \$5 and all the proceeds will go to BC Children's Hospital. If parents wish to purchase buttons from the school, they may. At the end of the event, we will be selling all the posters and extra "Jeans Day" cards to raise money

for BC Children's Hospital.

Thank you so much for all your support. Please come to school on Thursday wearing jeans to show your support for BC Children's Hospital.

Inderpreet Gill
Prefect of Service

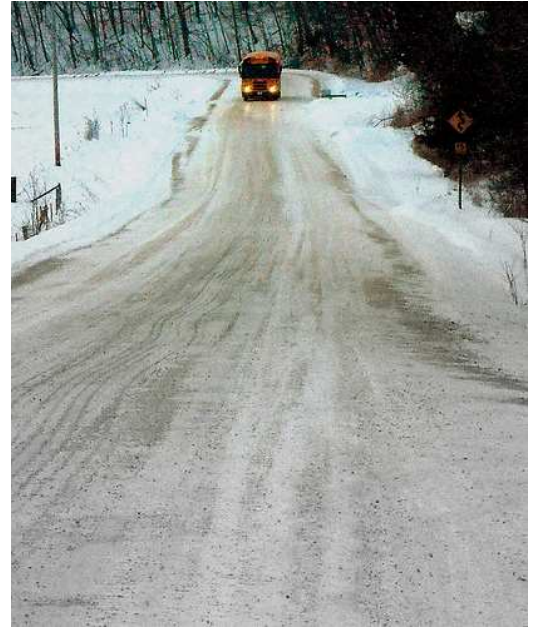
BAND TRIP TO KELOWNA.....

On a chilly April 8th, the Southpointe Academy Senior Jazz Band embarked on a trek from Tsawwassen to the BC interior for the local jazz festival. In our mini school bus we hurried along until we reached the Coquihalla. Here we experienced difficulties as a snow storm caught us by surprise. Unfortunately, despite Mr. McCall's savvy driving skills, we were stuck on the highway for several hours! We took it as an opportunity to bond, playing games such as telephone, and amusing ourselves watching "New Moon" on Morgan's portable DVD player.

Finally, spirits high, we got a tow and alternate bus and arrived in Kelowna. The total trip was approximately eight hours in length. We played our hearts out and attained a silver standing in a highly stressful environment.

The rest of the trip was spent in a more relaxed manner as we spent our time sightseeing, attending music clinics and bowling. I think we can all say this was an unforgettable and memorable trip.

Submitted by Yasmin Gill



GYP NEWS

UNIVERSITY NEWS!

Update on University acceptances.

Congratulations to the following students!

Alex Semple was accepted into the Faculty of Engineering at U of Vic and was awarded a \$1000 scholarship.

Jessical Carvajal was awarded a \$24,000 scholarship from SFU. Jessica was also accepted to the UBC Commerce Program.

Alexander Fetherstonhaugh was not only admitted to Waterloo and UBC, he was admitted to the prestigious Science One program at UBC, (where only 80 applicants from around the world are accepted) with a \$5,000 UBC Major Entrance Scholarship RENEWABLE OVER 4 YEARS, UP TO \$40,000 and a \$2,500 UBC President's Entrance Scholarship, FOR HIS FIRST YEAR.

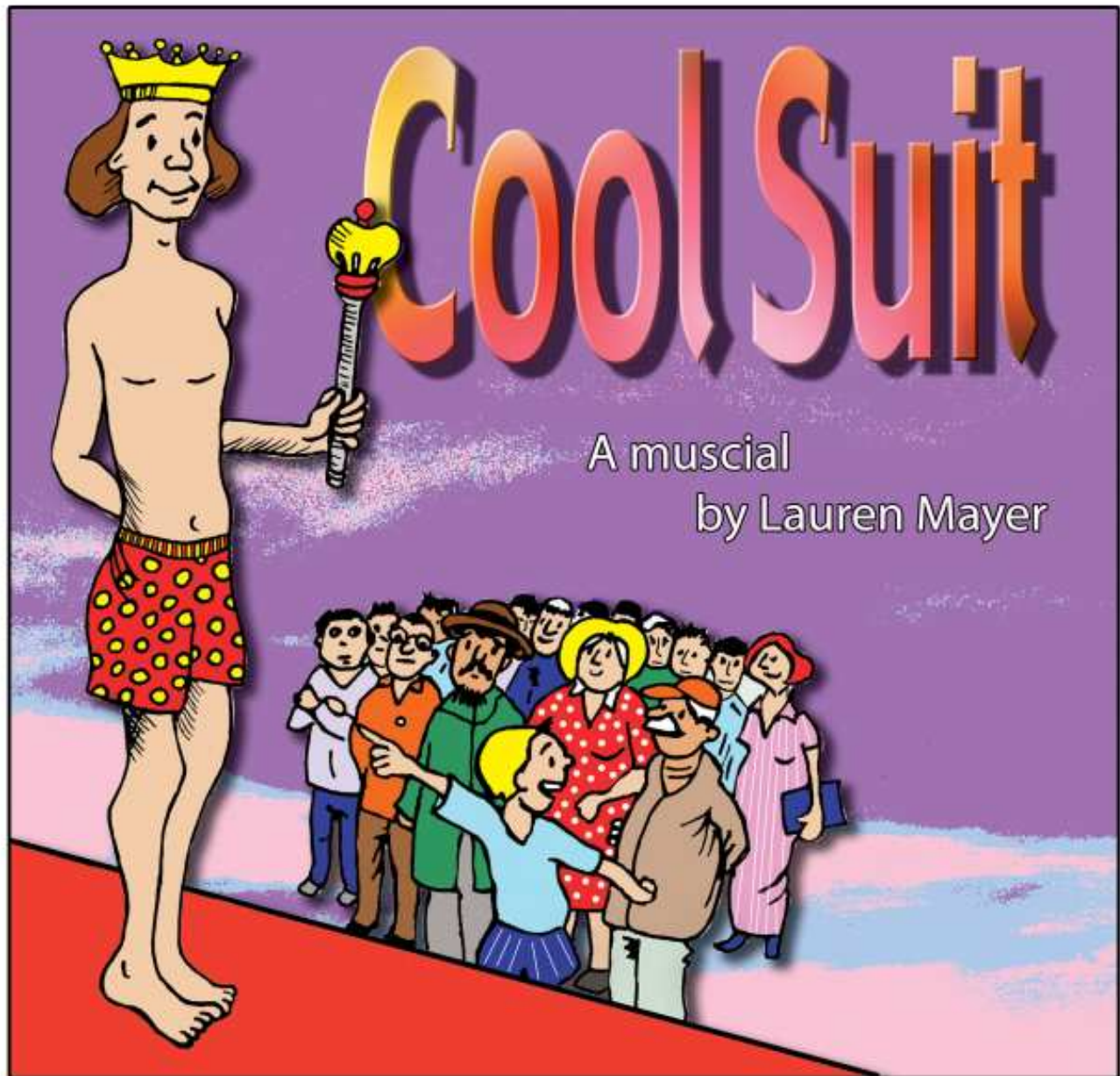
Taylor Lowe was accepted to the Faculty of Arts at U of Vic and received a \$1000 scholarship.

Sophie Xu was accepted to SFU.

Submitted by Susan Kirkwood



SOUTHPOINTE ACADEMY PRESENTS



A musical
by Lauren Mayer

**You thought you knew the story of the Emperor's new clothes?
Wait until you see this!**

TSAWWASSEN ARTS CENTRE

April 21, 22, 23 at 7:00 PM

Tickets: \$10 - Adults \$5 - 12 and Under

Presented by special arrangement with Contemporary Drama Services

MYP NEWS

PROJECT DISCOVER - GRADE 6:

CAMP ELPHINSTONE

(Journal entries from the students of English 6AH and 6KF)



From the journal of Mandeep Aujla:

Each year at Southpointe Academy, from grades four and up, you get to go on a fun, adventurous trip! This year, the grade sixes went to Camp Elphinstone, located on Gambier Island. It was very exciting and, at the same time, very, very tiring. When it comes to outdoor education, I cannot wait! On the first day, we took a ferry to the Sunshine Coast, and then had to canoe to the camp. The "islanders" who were there took all our electronics, such as watches, cameras and cell phones. They put them in an "island time box", and told us we would get them back at the end of the trip.

One thing that was awesome there was the food! We had shepherd's pie, chicken, make-your-own burritos and many more delicious foods, with extra dishes on the side. Just writing this is making me hungry! After dinner, we had yummy desserts, and, at the end of each meal, we were actually allowed to lick our plates! We also had this food waste challenge, where all the food that was not eaten was put in this bucket. There were a lot of rules for this challenge but we ended up winning.

Each day we hiked for hours, which was exhausting. Every meal, we made sure we had lots of food, so we would have energy to do the big hikes. At the end of each day, we had camp fires and that, for me, was one of the best parts. We did fun challenges that had to be "grandma appropriate", and we learned many songs, like *My Aunt Olva Had Chickens*. Sleeping outside and in the canoes was a lot of fun, even when some people were afraid of spiders and rats! On the last day, we explored a beach, hiked some more and had a picnic lunch. Once again, we canoed back to our camp and walked to the ferry terminal. Overall, Project Discover this year was a great experience. If you are adventurous and love to hike, then I recommend you "give it a go"! Even if you're not, you never know. You might end up having a good time like I did!

From the journal of Anna Cran:

It's about 11:00 am, and I'm climbing into a canoe with buckets of food at the cold, wet, bottom. As the person in front of me rows, he bruises my hands with his oar, and splashes cold water onto my already cold, windblown hands. When we finally see Gambier Island, someone in the back yells "land ho!". Our canoe slides onto the tan, swirled sand.

The teachers, counselors, and students sit down to a decent, cold lunch of a tuna sandwich and apple. Then, we set off again through mud, water, dirt, and ropes, up steep hills, and over hollow stumps, and fallen trees, to the top of the mountain. A few times, we stop to put water into tired bodies, desperate to go back to camp.

When we finally get to the top, I start to feel...relaxed. My tense muscles start to loosen up and relax. I sit down on a mossy rock and look straight up; I feel like I am flying, flying with the birds, flying my cares and troubles away. Suddenly, the long trek seems worth it. I take a swig from my silver water bottle and lie on my back, to let my flying experience sink in. The moss feels like freshly cut grass in a field. I am flying on the ground. I sit back up again at the edge of a rock. I look down, and I swear I can see Mother Nature, with her rippling, wrinkled face that is the water. Her crown made of trees, her pet seagulls, her sun star

charm bracelet and her sunbeam necklace that turns into a star and moon blanket in the night.

I saw Earth.

I saw Home.

From the Journal of Tanraj Saran:

It all started at seven o' clock in the morning. After we had packed our bags into the Southpointe bus, we headed off to the Horseshoe Bay Ferry Terminal. Then we boarded BC Ferries and headed off to camp. After an hour, we arrived and were greeted by an "Islander". We put our "Big Bags" in a trailer-type thing and walked to the beach. As I was walking, I heard a debate about who is better, Superman or Wolverine. Superman won and Mr. Tuke was not pleased with that. When we arrived at the beach, after walking on Kung Fu slippery logs, we gathered and discussed canoe safety, put on our life jackets and jumped into our canoes. We pushed off the beach and headed off to the camps campus.

When we arrived, we walked up to campus, gathered in a circle, and listened to instructions. Then we got our bags and walked into our cabins to choose our bunks. I bunked with Charlie. After that we discussed circle making and Island time. Right after that, we had lunch, some GAP and were separated into two groups (Salmon and Owl). I was put into the Owl group. We were told our numbers and headed off on a hike. After the hike we had GAP and then dinner. After dinner, we went inside a cabin to sit and watch the campfire. We went to go to bed after the campfire. Apparently, a mouse got into our cabin. Two of the boys were "freaked out" by the mouse, and ended up sharing bunks in order to get to sleep. We woke up to the sound of Owl singing our morning options, then we chose our morning option, got some hot chocolate and our second day started.

Submitted by Tamsin McKenzie – Grade 7 Teacher

REFLECTIONS ON MYP ALTERNATE PROGRAMMING WEEK

(a selection of journal excerpts from the students in English 7TM and 7JL)

Discover Our City- by Aliyyah Jafri

Recently, 30 ambitious students and 3 brave teachers ventured out to the most beautiful modern hidden wonders that Vancouver has to offer. We experienced the eclectic and lively culture of Commercial Drive, the breathtaking views and trails of the North Shore, the vibrant art and food of Granville Island, and the inspirational sights and places on the UBC campus. We also can't forget the thrill some of us had when using public transit! Out of all these interesting destinations, the one I found most insightful would definitely be our trip to Granville Island on Thursday. Just the process of getting to our destination was a blast! We took 3 modes of transit to get to Granville Island: 1. Bus 2. Sky Train and, last but not least, 3. Sea Bus. After we docked at Granville Island, we were split up into different groups with a sponsor teacher. We then dipped into the various Art Galleries that Granville Island has to offer. Our sponsor teachers took a leap of faith with us and allowed us to explore the unique and colorful Granville Island market in small groups, armed with a set meeting place and time. After exploring the unique shops in the market, learning about some of the most expensive and beautiful art on Granville Island, and trying out the deadly see-saws in the playground, we were all exhausted and ready to start our long journey back home. Discover our City was an eye-opening experience and helped me gain a tremendous amount of insight into the true art, culture and sights of Vancouver!

Equestrian- by Carli McMillan

For AP week, I chose the equestrian option. My favourite part was riding the horses. We learned that there are 4 different types of movements a horse can do; they can walk, trot, canter, and gallop. I got to walk, trot and canter! I also liked grooming the horses. We groomed the horses before we tacked them up because, if they are dirty, it can get itchy when they have someone on their backs. The hardest part of tacking up was trying to get the bit in the horse's mouth. The reins are connected to the bit and that is how you steer your horse. Melissa and I got a horse that would not accept his bit unless the trainer put it in his mouth! During the week, we had a few challenges, like Melissa falling off the horse, but we didn't let that stop us. Overall, we had a great experience and would love to do it again!

Discover Our City- by Declan Hodgins

I don't think any of us will ever forget that first memorable day, our visit to Commercial Drive. First, we took the 601 bus route to Bridgeport Station. Then, we took the Canada Line to Waterfront Station. I was amazed by its size and complexity. After finding the right platform, we boarded the Expo/Millennium Line to the Commercial/Broadway Station. We then went to JJ Bean Coffee House. After enjoying a warm and yummy drink, we moved on to go bowling at a place that has been open since 1949! It was really cool and had two levels: one with cosmic bowling (which we did), and one with regular. As Ms. Common explained, this bowling place, as well as many other shops on Commercial, is a small, family owned business. After the bowling, we walked down the street and looked at the sights. There were beautiful spray-painted murals and interesting people, including a homeless man with a bird on his head. There were also many assorted shops, noticeably restaurants, and I didn't recognize any chains. When we finally got to our destination, we were starving. It was a small, Cuban restaurant called Havana. In there, guests are allowed to carve on the walls! After a satisfying and filling lunch, we went to a shop called 10 000 Villages. It supports fair trade, and there are many items from all over the world. My favorites were puzzle boxes that are a puzzle to open. Once opened, they become storage containers. Then, we went to another shop with seemingly nothing you need and everything you don't need. Finally, we took public transit back to Southpointe and, with all of us exhausted, we went home for the night.

Woodworking- by Puneet Parihar

Last week was A.P. Week. It was joyful on one hand but, on the other hand, it was frightening. Woodworking was the course I chose to do. It was joyful because I got to make projects that I could take home and keep forever, but it was frightening because the thought of cutting my finger off was in my head for every second of every day. Luckily, our great instructor had prepared the materials ahead so I didn't have to do anything beyond my ability. My personal favourite, of the three projects we did, was the tool box. This was my favourite because it was more challenging than making a bird house, and it ended up becoming a shelf! The best place we visited was The West Bay Ship (Canada's finest yacht making company) because we got to go inside a luxurious yacht. I couldn't even pay for the \$20,000 door, let alone buy the \$4 million yacht! Another reason I enjoyed going there was because we got to see how they made the things that go inside the yacht. Some other places we visited were Peter & Yivane's Woodworking Shop, McDonalds, Home Depot, and a steel fabrication plant. Overall, I had a great time in Woodworking and was proud of my completed projects!

Submitted by Tamsin McKenzie – Grade 7 Teacher

Thank you to all MYP Student Council parents and students for selflessly making wonderful bake sale treats for the whole school to enjoy!

The MYP Student Council would like to thank all of the FYP, MYP, and GYP students for a tremendous turnout and their support of the Bake Sale on Tuesday, April 20th. The students were so enthusiastic, lining up during break time to devour copious amounts of sweets. Children were lined up out the door waiting to purchase their favourite snack. We were sold out by recess and had to purchase additional treats! What a turnout!

With everyone's collective effort we have raised an additional \$350.00 towards our donation to a school in Haiti. Thank you for your ongoing support!



Spring Feeeva (Fever) MYP DANCE!!!



WHEN: FRIDAY, APRIL 30TH, 2010
TIME: 4:30 P.M.-8:00 P.M.
WHERE: TSAWWASSEN ARTS CENTER
COST: \$6.00 / TICKET

* MYP STUDENT COUNCIL WILL BE SELLING TICKETS AT LUNCH TIME DURING NEXT WEEK (MONDAY, APRIL 19TH-FRIDAY, APRIL 23RD) ONLY!!! BE SURE TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKET... *Appropriate clothing only, as this is a school sanctioned event!

FYP NEWS

A DAY AT THE AQUARIUM

Recently, the Grade 2 Classes went on a Field Trip to the Aquarium for a workshop called Salmon Tales. They got to participate in activities on the salmon life cycle and survival rate, their habitat, and the anatomy of a salmon - of course, many were not so thrilled to see (and smell) all the parts inside of a salmon. The following are pictures of some of the students wandering around the exhibits, watching the 4D show, and even dozing on the bus on the way back after a long day!





Grade Four Field Trip: Vancouver Maritime Museum



The Vancouver Maritime Museum was the site of the Grade Four students' latest field trip on April 14, 2010. Currently, in Social Studies classes, our focus of study has shifted from First Nations to the Explorers, and our field trip integrated perfectly with our lessons in the classroom.

As the Grade Four teacher, I was very impressed and proud of the students ability to respond to questions, to make meaningful observations, and to inquire and reflect about what it may have been like to live as an explorer, a master mariner, or as a sailor or crew member on one of Cabot's or Vancouver's ships. Students were asked to pick something that sparked their interest and share their ideas about it in a paragraph. Here is some of their work.

Ryan Vaughn-Jones

Spruce Beer

On my field trip, I tested and learned about spruce beer. When we sat in a circle, all of the boys were very eager to try spruce beer that explorers drank 200 years ago. On the other hand, the girls, including Ms. Santry and Ms. Coomber absolutely hated it. One student loved it so much, he wanted seconds! My opinion about spruce beer's taste, is that it is good at first, but the after taste: TERRIBLE! Unfortunately, I spilled it on my pants. Luckily it doesn't stain..... I think! Overall, I believe that the field trip was awesome and amazing and I learned a lot about the history of the technology that the explorers used to navigate the West Coast of B.C. Even the spruce beer could be considered a technology, because its Vitamin C was like a tool that kept the sailors from getting scurvy.

Rohet Bains

Sailor Pukes Out Bad Food

Can you imagine eating in a place where there was no light? Where the food was dried and tasteless? I'm sure nowadays, everybody enjoys food that is full of flavor and basically melts in your mouth. Unfortunately, the sailors of Captain Vancouver's era had to eat stale and extremely hard biscuits. They had to dip the biscuits in water in order to soften them up. Instead of getting to eat a juicy sirloin steak, sailors had to eat dry, crunchy and salted fish. The conditions were tough and food was even tougher!

Rajan Sohi
Hard As Rock

We went to the Maritime Museum the best part of the trip was learning about the biscuits that the sailors had to eat. All the biscuits had bugs called weevils that crawled through them. Did you know that this food was hard as a rock? I don't think I will ever eat a biscuit the same way ever again!

Conner Bavaro
Explorers' Technology

Yesterday, I learned about a sextant. Did you know that a sextant is used to measure angles? Today, people have sophisticated technology like GPS. The interesting part is that the explorers were really close, if not exact in their mapping and charting of the coast line of Vancouver's Lower Mainland and there wasn't one battery or computer being used 200 years ago!



Henry McPhie
Clever, Charting Captain Cook

On Wednesday, April 14, 2010, we went to the Vancouver Maritime Museum and I learned about Captain James Cook. He mapped almost the whole coastline until he got to a place that he called the "Icy Sea" where he was trying to find the Northwest Passage. The Icy Sea was the Arctic Sea and his ships were unable to travel. There was ice everywhere! He sailed back down the West Coast and went to Hawaii. You may have been to Hawaii, but Cook's experience was very different from yours. The Hawaiians thought he was bad and speared him. I think he was a great explorer and he accomplished many things. Did you know that Captain Vancouver was Cook's First Mate? Vancouver completed a lot of Cook's charting of the coastline around the Lower Mainland and that's why our city bears his name.



Submitted by Erin Santry – Grade 4 Teacher

SPORTS NEWS

SOCCER RESULTS

Last Tuesday, the Senior Girls Soccer Team beat BC Christian Academy 3-0.

Our very own, Morgan Platt, scored all three goals!
Way to go, Morgan!

Submitted by Jason Levitt

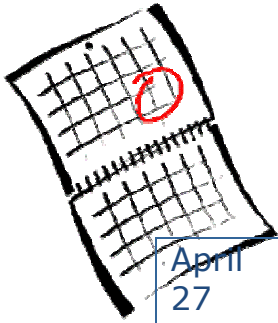


FLOOR HOCKEY!



We are pleased to announce that our Sr. Boys Floor Hockey Program will start with tryouts next week. Our Volunteer Coach will be Mr. Jack O'Halloran and Dr. Kwan has also agreed to assist.

Sign-up sheet will be posted upstairs, on the Athletics Board outside Mr. McCall's office.



SPORTS CALENDAR

April 22 – May 6

April 27 Tuesday	3:30pm – Sr. Girls Soccer Game, vs. Carver @ Holly Turf, Ladner
May 3 – 5 Mon.-Wed.	Playoffs

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

April 22 – May 6

April 22 & 23 Thurs.-Fri.	7:00pm – TSA Arts Centre, GYP Musical “Cool Suit”
April 23 Friday	Grade 8 Project Discover Forms due!
April 26 Monday	Full School Assembly - #1 Uniform required 3:30pm – 4:30pm - Ms. Santry’s Grade 4 Classroom, Room #115, Grade 4 Project Discover - Parent Briefing
April 27 – 30 Tues. – Fri.	Grade 9 Project Discover – Group #1
April 28 - 30 Wed. - Fri.	Scholastic Book Fair – all day , in the Library
April 28 Wednesday	12:30pm – 2:45pm – Kindergarten & Grade 1 Field Trip to the Richmond Art Gallery
April 29 Thursday	“Jeans Day” 8:15am – 3:15pm - Kindergarten Field Trip to the Vancouver Aquarium 7:00pm – 10:30pm – GYP Dance at the Tsa. Arts Centre
April 30 Friday	4:30pm – 8:00pm – MYP Dance at the Tsa. Arts Centre
May 4 – 7 Tues. – Fri.	Grade 9 Project Discover – Group #2
May 6 Thursday	3:30pm – 6:00pm – FYP, MYP & GYP Student-Led Parent/Teacher Conferences