



# The Midpointe

News and opinion for Southpointe Academy families

## December 9, 2010

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## THE REAL RESULTS FROM OUR CANTEEN FOR KENYA

Exams started today in the Graduation Years Program. The Christmas concert will be held next week, on Thursday night. Mr. Baldwin was walking around yesterday in a Santa hat. Where has the term gone? Is it Christmas already?

In a teacher's world, life is measured in school terms. Life gets busy around report card time, sports seasons equate to many long days, and a fresh start awaits us every September. Dates and events from my history are defined by what grade I was teaching at the time. "We started teaching at Southpointe in 2002, and I didn't start teaching Kindergarten until my third year, so I must have purchased my car in 2005." It may sound like a strange line of reasoning, but it's a fact of life for a teacher.

Another fact of life is that the first term, from September to December, is the longest one. Couple that with the fact that it is getting darker outside, and the rains never seem to cease, and inevitably there tends to be a feeling that life is dragging.

But not this year! Everyone I've talked with has unanimously agreed that this term has not slowed from the frantic pace that we began with in September. You only have to take a glance backwards on our school calendar to realize that Southpointe Academy has accomplished an amazing amount in the past 3 months! But what really strikes me is not the number of things that have been done, but the tone and ethos that has been created. Is it just me, or does anyone else notice a change in our students?

Yesterday's Canteen for Kenya was one event that really hit this home for me. The Southpointe Academy community raised \$2288.80 to make a difference in the lives of 25 students from Shepherd Academy in Kenya! A teacher's salary is only \$3500.00. Not only that, the Christmas tree in the front lobby was hardly large enough to welcome all the non-perishable food that was brought in for the Delta Food Bank.



And students were smiling. They were happy. They were polite and courteous. They demonstrated their spirit of giving. They returned several times, carefully planning out how to spend their \$5 dollars over 3 recesses with 2 friends (a Singapore Math bar diagram would have helped!) At the end of the day, we didn't find hallways littered with paper napkins and empty juice boxes. Instead, we found a library full of very content students studying, laughing, caring, and helping each other.



It is an amazing thing to embrace the spirit of Christmas by helping others. The results speak for themselves. However, it is often the subtle, unexpected outcomes that have the largest impact in our lives. I'm planning on traveling to Kenya in the new year to deliver the profits of our canteen day. I'm sure I'll come back with some amazing stories of transformation from Shepherd Academy. But as you walk the hallways this week, notice that some changes have already taken place around the school. We all know that at this time of year miracles happen. I believe that the heart of Southpointe Academy may have grown three sizes this term!

*BGff*

Mr. Bruce Griffioen  
Team Leader of Curriculum and Assessment



## **NEW BUILDING WEEKLY UPDATE**



**Welcome to our weekly update regarding our new building site!**

Next week on our new site, some of the activity we will see will include:

- Trucks delivering clean crush base and removing unsuitable soil
- deliveries and installation of reinforcing steel, plus concrete pouring and placement.
- They will continue with the wall and pedestal forming, anchor bolts and wall concrete.

It's all happening at a furious pace and we will keep you posted!



## SCHOOL NEWS



### THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SCHOOL SPONSORS FOR 2010-2011

**SILVER SPONSOR (\$5000 - \$7499)**  
**COASTAL FORD SALES – THE JACKSON & CARSON  
FAMILIES**

**BRONZE SPONSOR (\$2500 - \$4999)**  
**DAVID & GINNY STRANG**  
**DONALD & CONNIE CARSON**



**LOOK OUT FOR THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A SCHOOL  
SPONSOR IN FUTURE MIDPOINTE'S  
OR  
CONTACT SHAHIN VIRJI  
[SHAHIN.VIRJI@SPACADEMY.CA](mailto:SHAHIN.VIRJI@SPACADEMY.CA)**

## LIBRARY NEWS

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. Southpointe Academy's top spellers in grades four through eight will compete in the **School Spelling Bee** at South Delta Baptist Church.

This event starts at 9:00 a.m. sharp!

We look forward to seeing you there.

Submitted by Mrs. Levitt

POSTMEDIA/  
**Canspell**  
2011 national  
spelling bee

**WORD of the DAY**

**alterity**  
\**awl-TAIR-uh-tee**\ (noun)

**DEFINITION: otherness; the quality or state of being radically alien to the conscious self or a particular cultural orientation**

The novel focuses on the alterity experienced by teens, exploring how they both value and fear it.

From Merriam-Webster Online at [www.Merriam-Webster.com](http://www.Merriam-Webster.com)

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT



We look forward to seeing each and every one of our Students and Parents at the Christmas Concert next **Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>** at **Fraserview Church in Richmond**. The concert begins at 6:30pm with an informal gathering in the Foyer with music provided by our Jr. Band and hot apple cider with delicious cookies served to our Guests. We will then proceed into the Auditorium where we will be highly entertained by all the students in from Kindergarten to Grade 12!

"Don't tell anyone, but there is a rumour out there that even Santa & Mrs. Clause may appear!"

There are maps available at the Front Office for the Fraserview Church and also at google maps. Look for parking attendants there on the evening to guide you in!

## TRAFFIC UPDATE

Thank you for the very courteous safe driving this morning!

Here are a few reminders and tips for us in the final week of school.

### OFF SITE:

- We have provided more curb space on the school side of 55A Street for drop-off/pick-up.
- Do not park, stop or drop-off on the far side of 55A Street (house side).
- Please understand that we will continue to yield to all street and pedestrian traffic on 18<sup>th</sup> Street. From time to time this will cause a minor wait on the school grounds.
- In the morning, please exit the school site once you have dropped your child/ren off, as the back lane is used by the students immediately after 8:10am. It is dangerous for Parents backing out of their parking stalls, when the students are in the back lane area.
- Please continue to drive at a controlled speed on the School Property and our neighbourhood.



# GYP NEWS

## **IMPORTANT BUS NEWS FROM THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

**\* Commencing on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, GYP students (that are regular bus riders) may take an earlier bus home on days when they do not have an afternoon exam.**



## **EARLY BUS PROCEDURES**

1. Riders - GYP students only
2. Students may inform the exam invigilator at the start of the morning exam or sign-up on the clipboard at Reception. The deadline each day is 11:30 am.
3. Students must remember to sign off the 3:35 bus when signing up for the early bus.
4. Students must be in the front foyer or Educafe no later than 12:00 pm (the driver will not wait or look for late students).
5. There will be no home drop-offs with the Early Bus.
6. Confirmed stops effective Thursday, December 9, 2010:
  - 12:15 pm - Richmond Christian School parking lot
  - 12:30 pm - 128 St. & Hwy 10
  - 12:45 pm - 128 St. & 72 Ave. (Kwantlen College parking lot)
  - 12:55 pm - 152 St. & 72 Ave.
  - 1:10 pm - 170 St. & 64 Ave.
  - 1:20 pm - South Surrey Rona parking lot

The Early bus may arrive up to 10 minutes early or 10 minutes late at each stop (depending on traffic, the number of riders, and stops needed each day), so we would appreciate it if all parents can be at the stops on time. If parents are not there, the driver must leave the students at the stop and continue on his/her route in order to keep to the schedule and limit the time each child is on the bus.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Scott Ukranitz (Transportation Manager)

## **GYP PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

Reports will be emailed to your zimbra account by Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> evening. On the following day, Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> there will be a drop-by opportunity to visit with the GYP Teachers should you have any concerns. This Parent-Teacher conference will run from 3:30pm – 7:00pm.

# GYP INTERNAL EXAMS DECEMBER 2010

**\*UPDATED VERSION, DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>\***

<b>DATE &amp; TIME</b>	<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>	<b>Grade 11</b>	<b>Grade 12</b>
Thursday, Dec. 9 <b>8:30 AM</b>	MATH	FRENCH SPANISH	BIOLOGY	PHYSICS WRITING 12
<b>12:30 PM</b>	P.E.	MEDIA ARTS ARCHITECTURE DRAMA	MEDIA ARTS ARCHITECTURE DRAMA	MEDIA ARTS ARCHITECTURE DRAMA
Friday, Dec. 10 <b>8:30 AM</b>	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	SOCIALS	FRENCH
<b>12:30 PM</b>		BUSINESS ED.	BUSINESS ED	BUSINESS ED.
Monday, Dec. 13 <b>8:30 AM</b>	SOCIALS	MATH	FRENCH SPANISH	ENGLISH AP ENGLISH
<b>12:30 PM</b>	BAND	ART		BIOLOGY ART
Tuesday, Dec. 14 <b>8:30 AM</b>	SCIENCE	SOCIALS	ENGLISH	CHEMISTRY
<b>12:30 PM</b>	ART	PUBLISHING	PUBLISHING PHYSICS	PUBLISHING
Wednesday, Dec. 15 <b>8:30 AM</b>	FRENCH SPANISH	P.E.	CHEMISTRY	HISTORY AP HISTORY
<b>12:30 PM</b>			ART	ART AP CHEMISTRY
Thursday, Dec. 16 <b>8:30 AM</b>	IT DRAMA	SCIENCE	MATH	MATH AP CALCULUS

\*Please Note: All subjects are being examined this year and all Exams will be written in GYP classrooms.

## MYP NEWS

**MYP Student Council and Friends  
wish our Chinese visitors a safe trip  
home!**



**The group enjoys the snowy mountaintop at Grouse. We  
all take a moment to watch a movie presentation about  
the beauty of British Columbia.**



**We test our skills and strength on the frozen pond. For some it is their first time learning to ice skate! Oh what fun, dashing through the snow!**



**Most decide they've been GOOD all year. Surely Santa will have a sympathetic ear...**



**To all of the teachers and students, thank you!**

# MYP HOLIDAY SNACK BAR!

COME SUPPORT YOUR MYP STUDENT COUNCIL... PURCHASE SOME HOT CHOCOLATE WITH WHIP, A CANDY CANE, AND A COOKIE FOR ONLY \$2.00!

WHEN: DECEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> during lunch time (12:50-1:15 p.m.)

WHERE: Studio Blue Room, North Building

Let's get into the holiday spirit, stay warm, and enjoy some snacks during break time!



## MYP Parent Teacher Interviews:

**Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
3:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Sign up sheets will be posted on the outside door of each MYP Homeroom this Friday. Please sign up for a 10-minute time slot, prior to Wednesday, if you wish to meet with your child's teachers.**

# TOMORROW'S SCHOOL TODAY!

Dear Parents, Students, and Teachers of Southpointe Academy,

As part of their study of human impacts on Ecosystems, the Grade 7 students have decided on a series of actions they can take to reduce their impact on the environment. After studying the effects of plastic water bottles on the world's marine environment, the students came up with the idea to sell their own Southpointe Aluminum Water Bottles. Aluminum is safe, clean and reusable, making it a perfect choice to promote sustainable water use. The bottles will also be BPA free, and have a Southpointe logo, designed by the Grade 7's. All proceeds will be donated to our new sister school, Shepherd Academy, in Kenya.



## Why should you buy a Southpointe Water Bottle?

In Canada, bottled water consumption has doubled in the last 10 years, with annual sales totalling \$652.7 million. It is estimated that the total amount of oil used in the manufacture and shipping of these bottles is equal to a quarter of the volume of the bottle itself. Tap water is put through more stringent testing than bottled water, so is likely cleaner, and tastes exactly the same. By buying this water bottle, you are promoting a more sustainable world, giving students in Kenya a new teacher, and owning a fantastic looking container that you can reuse for years! At **\$10 each** they are also cheaper than in most stores.

## Isn't Aluminum linked to Alzheimer's Disease?

According to the Alzheimer's Society of Canada ([www.alzheimer.ca](http://www.alzheimer.ca)) there is no verifiable link between Aluminum and Alzheimer's disease.

## How will I be able to distinguish my water bottle from everyone else's?

The Grade 7's discussed adding accessorizing nametags to the water bottles to help distinguish one from the other, but the consensus reached was that this utilized more plastic and sent the wrong message about the product. The class suggests that when you receive your bottle, you personalize it with stickers or write your name on the bottom in Sharpie. It does come with a carabiner clip on the lid, so you are welcome to clip your own accessory or keychain on as well.

If you have any other questions, please contact Ms. Ferreira, or talk to any of the students in 7-LF.

Sincerely,

The Grade 7 Class of 2010/11

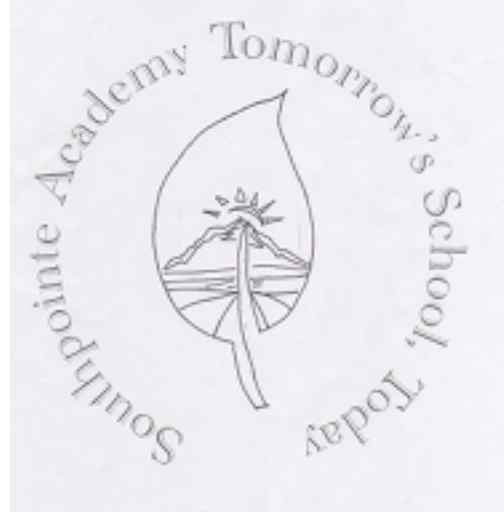


# Southpointe Aluminum Water Bottles Order Form

Thank you for supporting sustainability and students in Kenya by purchasing your Southpointe Water Bottle. Please fill in the information below and return this form and payment to your child's homeroom teacher by **Wednesday, December 15, 2010**. The bottles will be in school colours with the following logo printed on them.



+



Name:

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Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity:

---

Total Money Enclosed (\$10.00 Each): \_\_\_\_\_

## FYP NEWS

### FYP BAKE SALE & PIZZA SALE

On Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> the Foundation Years Program hosted their first bake sale. The night before, I lay awake worrying that we might not have enough baked goods to run a sale. How wrong could I be! The next morning I quickly realized that we were deluged with a tidal wave of wonderful treats. We were overwhelmed with the generosity of our families. We had so much food I thought we might have to run bake sales for a week. The Grade Five students took charge and carefully served and sold the goodies all day long.

The next day the Grade Fives were once again leading us through a Pizza Day. Both of these events were a wonderful success, far better than we could ever have dreamt. By the time every nickel, penny and dime had been counted and rolled, the bake sale and Pizza lunch had raised a whopping \$1840.

The FYP department would like to thank all those who helped us achieve this amazing result. Thanks to everyone who baked, bought and ate! A special thank you goes out to **Mrs. Rannie Grewal** who helped sell the baked goods from 8am until 3:30pm.

Thank you, Thank you , Thank you!

The Foundation Years Food Department.



# COSTUMES FOR THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, our Christmas concert will take place. The Foundation Years students will be singing and acting on the stage that night and they are eager to show you their skills!



I would like to ask you to have your children wear the following clothes for the concert. Please **DO NOT FEEL THAT YOU MUST BUY ANYTHING NEW** for this event.

**Kindergarten** students are playing children! Please have them come in their own clothes in Christmas type colours. (Red, white, green, gold, silver, blue etc..)



**Grade One** students are reindeer. You will not need to provide any antlers as we have these for them. They should also wear wintry pants and shirts (not skirts or dresses) colours should be Christmas colours like Kindergarten.



**Grade Two** students are Snowflakes. They should wear dark colours, like dark blue, denim, black, dark grey. Their school track suits would also do if you cannot find anything else.

**Grade Three** students are Fir Trees. They should wear any shade of green, brown, tan, black, etc....even a darkish blue.



**Grade Four** students. Ask your child what they are! If they are a child, follow Kindergarten instructions, if they are a reindeer, follow Grade One instructions. If your child is a Snowflake, please follow Grade Two and if they are a fir tree, please follow Grade Three. If your child is a Star Fairy, they should wear something dressy. For the boys – neat pants, white shirts, tie or bow tie or vest (whatever looks slightly dressy). If your child is a girl they may wear a dress or skirt or leggings/pants, something that might be worn to a party.

**Grade Five** students are Elves. We have elf hats and the students should wear red, green or white, wintry style tops and pants.

Submitted by Kate Quenville



# SPORTS INFORMATION

## SWIM TEAM NEWS

Although we are still awaiting results from the St. George's Swim meet, we can't let another week go by without congratulating the Southpointe Academy Swimmers on their excellent performances. After only two practices our swimmers raced competitively and did a fine job representing our school.

Congratulations to **Meaghan MacKenzie, Kenny Ross, Jodhveer Gill, Jack Neilson, Riley Gookstetter, Hillyard Carson, Frank Carson, Michael Hampton, Jim Marsden, Saei Khamseh, Thorsten Schaub, and Tai-Long Singh.**

Special **CONGRATULATIONS to Tai-Long** for his **first place** finish in the Grade Five Boy division!

**Isabella Neilson** couldn't swim because of an injury, but she cheered on her teammates and helped them get to their events on time. Thanks too to **Cai-Hong** for her help coaching!

### **Attention all Swimmers!**

In the new year we will swim Monday mornings instead of Tuesdays. We will have access to more lanes in the pool on Mondays.

So....New Year... Swimming is on Monday and Thursday mornings.

NO SWIM PRACTICE THURSDAY DECEMBER 16.

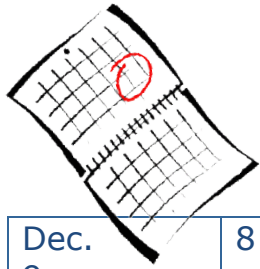
Submitted by Joan Clarke

## SPORTS CALENDAR

*January 4 – January 6*



Jan. 4 Tuesday	Sr./Jr. Boys Basketball Practice (TBA)
Jan. 5 Wednesday	Sr./Jr. Boys Basketball Practice (TBA)
Jan. 6 Thursday	Sr.Boys Basketball vs. Pender Harbour (TBA)



## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

***December 9 – December 21***

Dec. 9 Thursday	8:30am – GYP Exams begin and continue until Dec. 16.
Dec. 10 Friday	8:15am – 3:15pm – Kindergarten Field Trip to Grouse Mountain
Dec. 14 Tuesday	4:30pm – Report Cards emailed home
Dec. 15 Wednesday	3:30pm – 7:00pm – Parent-Teacher Meetings for MYP & GYP
Dec. 16 Thursday	6:30pm <b>Full School Christmas Concert</b> held at Fraserview Heights Church in Richmond.
Dec. 17 Friday	<b>No School – First Day of Christmas Break</b> <b>A safe &amp; joy-filled Holiday to All</b>  School will be open until 12:00pm
Dec. 20 Monday	9:00am – 3:00pm – School Front Office open
Dec. 21 Tuesday	9:00am – 3:00pm – School Front Office open
Dec. 22 – Jan. 3	School Closed for Christmas
Dec. 25 Saturday	<b>"MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!"</b> 
Jan. 4 - 7 Tuesday – Friday	9:00am – 3:00pm – School Front Office open