



The Midpointe

News and opinion for Southpointe Academy Families

January 27, 2011

In this issue:

- New Building Site Update
- School News
- Multicultural Night "Save the Date"
- GYP News
- MYP News
- FYP News
- Sports Update & Calendar
- Upcoming Events Calendar

NEW BUILDING WEEKLY UPDATE



Welcome to our weekly update regarding our new building site!

Next week on our new site, we will see:

- Completed 2/3 of backfill inside building in preparation for slab.
- Work is proceeding on installation of underground plumbing and electrical conduits.
- Structural steel for phase 1 is delivered to site. Set up in progress for steel erection.

It's all upwards from now on, not uphill!



SCHOOL NEWS

MULTICULTURAL NIGHT SAVE THE DATE!



WHEN: MARCH 11, 2011

WHERE: VICEROY BANQUET HALL, SURREY

TIME: 6:00pm

WHY: TO HAVE A FANTASTIC EVENING OF DANCING, FEASTING AND SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL AND YOUR CHILDREN!

BRING YOUR FAMILY!

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

"WE NEED SPONSORS!"

CONTACT SHAHIN VIRJI @ shahin.virji@spacademy.ca FOR MORE INFORMATION.

"SPONSOR AN ACT!"

"SPONSOR THE SHOW!"

"LET'S CELEBRATE OUR DIVERSITY TOGETHER"

“Happy Chinese New Year, Southpointe Academy!”

According to tales and legends, the beginning of Chinese New Year started with the fight against a mythical beast called the Nien (Chinese: 年; pinyin: *nián*). Nien would come on the first day of New Year to devour livestock, crops, and even villagers, especially children. To protect themselves, the villagers would put food in front of their doors at the beginning of every year. It was believed that after the Nien ate the food they prepared, it wouldn't attack any more people. One time, people saw that the Nien was scared away by a little child wearing red. The villagers then understood that the Nien was afraid of the colour red. Hence, every time when the New Year was about to come, the villagers would hang red lanterns and red spring scrolls on windows and doors. People also used firecrackers to frighten away the Nien. From then on, Nien never came to the village again



This year is the year of the Rabbit on the Chinese calendar. To celebrate the Chinese New Year, or the Spring Festival, the Chinese students are organizing a party for the whole school in the library, on Thursday, February 3rd. Students can play many games, such as the Chinese checkers, calligraphy and riddle-guessing etc. Also there will be a martial arts demonstration by Robert and Elly will be playing Zheng, a traditional Chinese instrument, for you in the edu-cafe. During the entire week the school will be decorated with lots of Chinese ornaments, students and teachers can

learn about Chinese cultures and history as well. Particularly, don't forget, you will get the red envelope on that day.

So come and play some games in the library on February 3rd at lunch time to celebrate Chinese New Year!

Submitted by Kevin Shen



Island Donation Boxes

This year the Island Prefects have decided to adopt an endangered species for each island. **Pandas, for Pender, Arctic Foxes, for Mayne, Tigers, for Quadra, and Sharks, for Denman.** So far we have raised enough money to save **SEVEN** animals through the World Wildlife Fun! We aim to save more, so to help us along our way; we have set up "Island Donation Boxes" in the Front Office.

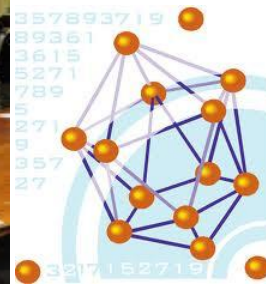
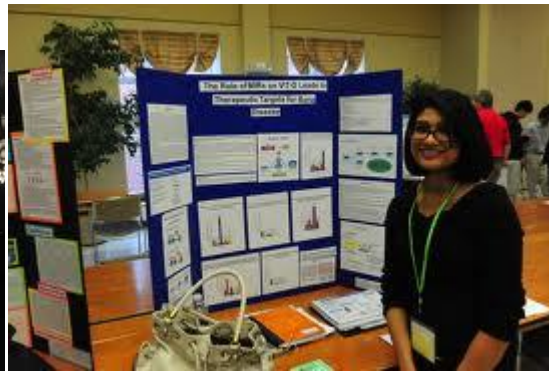
If parents or children have some spare change a good way to spend it is helping these endangered animals. Keep in mind the adoption of each animal does not mean it will come live at the school but instead the money will be put into helping the animal wherever it resides.

We look forward to seeing the enthusiastic support of the Southpointe community!

- Thank You from the Island Prefects!



SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR (March 2-3, 2011)



The **School Science Fair** is here!!!

Come to see and to appreciate the hard work of our budding scientists from Grades 6-9. They have been working on these projects for the last three months. The projects will be put up for display in front of the library on **March 2nd and 3rd, 2011.** The students have come up with innovative models and cool experiments. Come and enjoy!

The judging of the projects will be done on March 1st at 3:30 pm. The selected ones will be participating in the **South Fraser Regional Science Fair (April 7-8, 2011) at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey Campus.**

Google is doing a Science fair for the first time and the experiments are to be submitted online. For more details please go to www.google.com/sciencefair

This will give an excellent opportunity to our students' projects. If any one else is interested in the Google Science fair, please feel free to talk to me.

See you on March 2-3, 2011!!

Submitted by Mrs. Saini

A WINTER MIRACLE, A TRIP TO THE YUKON.

Reading last week's Midpointe, inspired me to write an article about our trip to the Yukon in December of last year...Sorry Mr. Griffioen, I am taking possession of your great idea of sharing your winter holiday with us.

The Yukon, Whitehorse, what a beautiful place! Why did we choose this icy cold, white wonderland? Well, we initially wanted to do an Alaskan Cruise to celebrate Alexander's graduation and Willy successfully completing his BSc and as you all know we could not celebrate Alex's achievements, so we at first thought not to pursue a winter holiday, but then reconsidered. As Alaskan cruises only take place in the summer and we were adamant, as South Africans, who are used to the heat, to experience the true meaning of cold, Whitehorse seemed to be the place for that.

We were booked on Sunday morning's flight, or so we thought, well we were at the airport a day early, this was taking Swiss punctuality a bit too far, I guess. Anyway, they managed to get us on the Sunday flight, after confirming with the travel agent. We had a good flight and were met at Whitehorse airport, the temperature a cool -26 degrees C, and taken to our hotel. The condensation in the van created icicles on the windows inside of it. We had never experienced such cold...

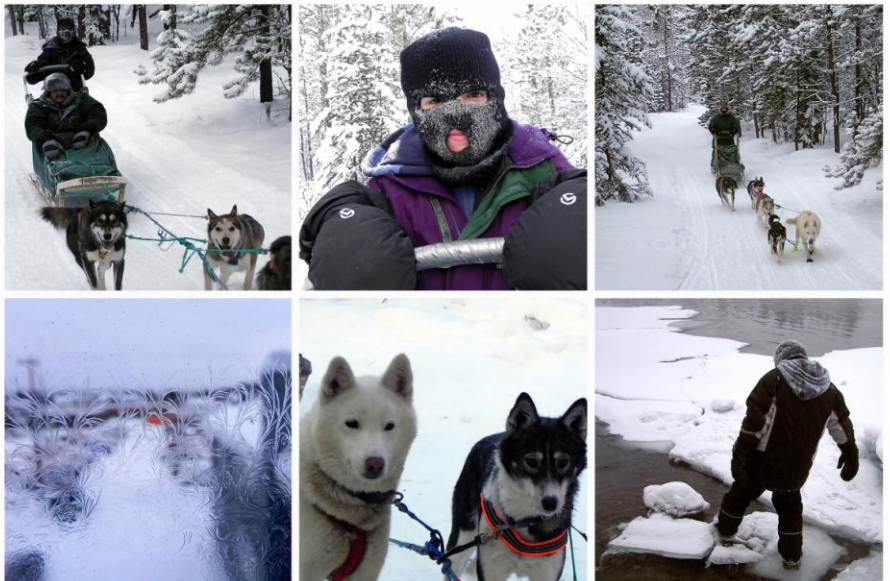
The next day we bravely took a stroll through Whitehorse, our faces numbed by the cold, we headed to Mark's Work Warehouse for balaclavas, what a difference! We were now ready to go dogsledding and do outdoor stuff. The dogsledding was the most wonderful experience ever. To be transported through this most beautiful winter wonderland by such well-trained, exceptionally obedient and caring animals, was an adventure which one usually just sees in movies. Well, this was for real and there was more to come.

Every night we headed about 35 kilometers out of town to watch the Northern Lights. Unfortunately, we never got to see these miracles of nature because the weather conditions were not favourable and on the only clear night, the moon decided to light up our lives. It was still incredible to have the moon shine down on us, creating an atmosphere of icy cold stillness, a place where we could just be in awe, recollect our thoughts and be thankful for having one another to share this with.

Whitehorse offers a wide variety of food, but unfortunately most of the restaurants have a pub and they do not allow children, even the hotel's dining room changes into a pub at 10:30 in the morning, so you can well imagine what the favourite pastime in Whitehorse is...We, however, still found a few very recommendable restaurants and got to taste authentic foods.

To sum up, this was a holiday to remember, an adventure I can only recommend, as we do not often get the chance to experience all the beauties that nature has to offer and I think being brought so closely to those untouched phenomenon, places a different perspective on life and the importance thereof.

Submitted by Mrs. Schaub



MYP NEWS

MYP Alternate Program Day

An Alternate Program Day has been designed for Monday, January 31st. Students and teachers will have the opportunity to escape the confines of the classroom walls to experience curriculum in another setting for the day. There are many benefits noted when the daily schedule of classes are altered for a single day; for instance, there are positive changes seen in student attitudes, an increased understanding of other people in other settings, developed maturity, risk-taking, and decision-making skills, are only a few. In April, MYP students will also have the opportunity to choose a 4-day workshop that suits their interests and passion for learning during MYP Alternate Program Week.

On January 31st, all MYP students will venture on a school bus to downtown Vancouver where they will have the opportunity to ice skate at Robson Square. Without question, this ice skating rink is one of the most popular venues of the 2010 Games. The Robson Square Ice Rink helped welcome the world to Vancouver while hosting international skating stars such as Elvis Stojko, Jeremy Buttle and Catrina Le May Doan.

In December 2010, British Columbia's favourite outdoor ice rink opened again for three months of skating and public events. Our MYP has decided to be part of the fun! We will leave the school on this day, after homeroom, and return at approximately 2 p.m. at which time the students will experience a one-hour Health and Career workshop before the end of the day.

Helmet fitting, helmets, and skates will be provided; however, if your child has their own equipment please have them bring their skates and helmets to school on this day. In addition, students will eat their lunch downtown, so a bagged, non-microwavable lunch is required, and of course, supplemented with healthy snacks!



Due to the activities in which students will partake, I ask that they come to school in **regular blue jeans, warm socks, their Southpointe Cardigan or Sweater on top of layered, warm shirts. They will also need an appropriate jacket, gloves, and scarves should the cold weather remain in the forecast.**

We look forward to a great day out in our beautiful city.

Submitted by Ms. Huber
MYP Team Leader



MYP Independent Reading - Grade 7 Book Bags!

Independent reading is an important part of the every day routine for Southpointe students. To celebrate our shared love for and commitment to reading, students in Grade Six, Seven, and Eight English have been busy creating various projects and presentations to share their independent reading novels with others. In this way, students were able to share their treasured books with others, and receive peer-to-peer suggestions from their classmates.



The challenge for Grade Seven specifically was to create a 'Book Bag' filled with items that stood as metaphors or representations of the themes, characters or conflicts of their novel. These were presented formally to their classmates, and served as an opportunity for students to collaborate and share their ideas.



Submitted by Ms. Kothlow

SPORTS INFORMATION

Victoria Swim Jamboree

I have to say, I was a bit nervous before Monday's swim trip to Victoria. I had trouble deciding over the weekend if I was nervous because the kids on the trip wouldn't be my grade three class or if it was because it would be my first swim meet as a coach.



Swimmers in grades 3 to 5 traveled on the 7am ferry to the commonwealth pool just outside Victoria. Some were experienced competitive swimmers and some had never swum in a meet before. Personally, I've been to more meets than I'd ever be able to figure out. I was a competitive swimmer from the age of 7 through my college years. But I haven't coached. So I think I went into

the meet with the same sort of wonder as my first-time competitors.

That wonder remained all day. The kids enjoyed the ferry ride and were exceptionally well-behaved Southpointe representatives, and that ferry was full of ISEA schools. It

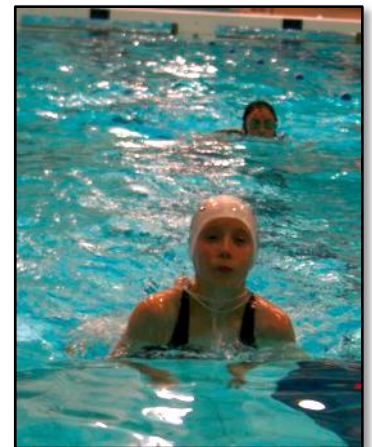


gave us a very good idea of how big the meet was going to be. Once at the pool, we found a place to sit together and absorb the sheer size of the pool and number of swimmers gathered to swim that day.

A jamboree is a special type of meet. The kids are not pre-entered and seated in specific events. Rather, the starter calls all swimmers of a given age group together and then points into the huddled mass and says, "You! Lane 1. You, lane 2." And so on. There were no officials walking the edge of the pool ready to disqualify rogue swimmers who finished their backstroke with a front crawl or breaststroke with a flutter kick. Yet, at the same time, despite the casual support of the adults, swimmers awaited their lane assignment with shaking knees and tightly fisted hands. They still hopped out of their lane with, "Did I win? Did I get first or second??"



It was the perfect way to introduce new racers to competitive swimming and allow old racers a day of fun. For me, as their coach, it was a wonderful treat to





see all the kids in a new and special way. Swimmers were thrilled to try new things and enjoy fun relays like "Over and Under" (a relay that entailed diving over and under the lane lines to get to the other side of the pool).

15 Southpointe students competed in Victoria. They each swam a 25m free, 25m back and 25m breast and competed in up to 3 fun relays. It was very impressive indeed to see kids who had never attempted a stroke before throw themselves into a race in front of a pool packed with people. I was giving quick

instruction on how to do breaststroke to one swimmer just before his race.

"What do I do with my arms?" He asked and I showed him how to scoop out a big bowl.



"Okay. What do I do with my legs?" And we practiced a breaststroke kick the best that we could on a bench two minutes before he hopped into the water to give it a try. And he did a wonderful job! He did breaststroke for 25 meters in front of a couple hundred people and came out of the water smiling. Is there anything cooler?? And he wasn't



the only one to be such an inspirational risk-taker at this meet.

Way to go Southpointe swimmers! Who won the meet? They were all winners, but, of course, that's unofficial!

Thank you parent helpers and coach **Kathleen Fraser** for a wonderful day!!

Submitted by Mrs. Slinn



BASKETBALL UPDATE

Congratulations, to the Grade 6 & 7 boys Basketball team! Yesterday, Team 1 played their second game of the season. The team showed great intensity during the first few quarters to win handily against Collingwood Elementary, winning by a score of 40-18! A big thanks to the Senior Students, Parents, and Teachers who came out to show their support for the team.

Next few games will take place on February 2nd, at WPGA.

Submitted by Mr. Simpson



SUN RUN NEWS

Still interested in joining Southpointe's Sun Run Team? Our first practice begins today afterschool, at 3:30p.m to 4:15p.m, outside the P.E office. There is a Learn to Walk 10km, Learn to Run 10km, and a Learn to Run 10km Faster group.

Submitted by Mr. Simpson

ATTENTION FYP STUDENTS!

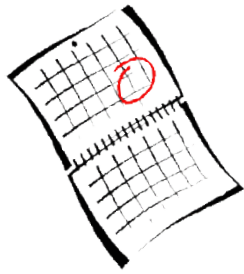


Would you like to skip across Canada or perhaps just skip from one of the many beautiful Canadian cities to another? Well here is your chance! On Fridays during lunch recess, Mrs. Locke will be leading a group of enthusiastic students as they jump rope continuously for ten minutes. At the end of the jump session, each student will record the number of skips they complete and ultimately track their progress as

they travel across Canada. One skip equals one kilometer. Not only is this a great way to improve your skipping skills, but also to improve your physical fitness. Perfect training for the upcoming track and field season! If you are interested in joining our Skip Across Canada Team, please come and sign up in the courtyard on Friday, January 28th, during lunch recess.

Any questions see Mrs. Locke!

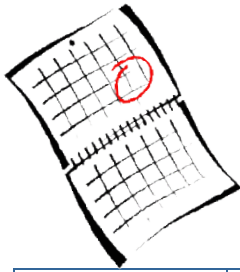




SPORTS CALENDAR

January 27 – February 10

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Jan. 28 Friday | 3:00pm – Sr. Girls Basketball vs. BCCA at the Church 4:45pm – Sr. Boys Basketball vs. BCCA at the Church |
| Jan. 31 Monday | 4:00pm - Jr. Boys Basketball & 5:30pm - Sr. Boys Basketball @ Regent Christian School in Surrey. |
| Feb. 1 Tuesday | 3:30pm start – Elementary Boys Basketball @ WPGA in Vancouver – (2 games) |
| Feb. 2 Wednesday | 3:00pm - Jr. Boys Basketball vs. Carver at the Church 4:30pm - Sr. Girls Basketball vs. Carver at the Church |
| Feb. 8 Tuesday | 4:00pm - Sr. Girls Basketball vs TLA at the Church |
| Feb. 9 Wednesday | 4:00pm – Sr. Boys Basketball vs. FVAA at the Church |
| Feb. 10 Thursday | 3:45pm - Elementary Boys Basketball vs. Southridge at the Church |



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 27 – February 10

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Jan. 31 Monday | 3 - Week Calls to home this week. MYP Alternative Program Day 10:00am – 12:00pm - Grade 3JS Field Trip to KinVillage Kitchen for a cooking lesson. |
| Feb. 1 Tuesday | 10:00am – 12:20pm - Grade 3KC Field Trip to Que Pasa Restaurant & Factory in Richmond, for a cooking lesson. |
| Feb. 2 Wednesday | 8:10am – Artona Group Presentation to the Grads 9:00am – 3:00pm – Grade 4 Field Trip to UBC Museum of Anthropology. |
| Feb. 3 Thursday | CHINESE NEW YEAR! 12:45pm – 3:15pm – Kindergarten Field Trip to Delta Museum in Ladner. |
| Feb. 8 Tuesday | Grade 1 Field Trip to the Vancouver Maritime Museum. |
| Feb. 9 Wednesday | Grade 9 Students leave for New Zealand |