



The Midpointe

News and opinion for Southpointe Academy Families

January 6, 2011

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

How many times in the last few days have we been wished 'Happy New Year'? Many, I suspect. And, I also suspect that, even if only for few minutes, many of us have spent a few reflective moments gauging where we are on our life's path and pondering where 2011 may take us. Did we go further I wonder and try to determine what would make this new year happy?

In my teaching career I have always found it difficult to convince young people of what psychiatrists know to be true: that happiness is a way of travelling, not a destination. So many young people are programmed by us adults to believe that happiness is just an i-phone/i-pad/pair of new Nike's etc. away. We bombard them with marketing and are in turn bombarded by them as they seek to own the goods they believe they need to be happy.

What is it we really need, however? Perhaps a look at what some famous people have thought will help here.

Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.

~Buddha

The greatest degree of inner tranquility comes from the development of love and compassion. The more we care for the happiness of others, the greater is our own sense of well-being.

~ Tenzin Gyatso, 14th Dalai Lama

Hope is itself a species of happiness, and perhaps, the chief happiness which this world affords.

~Samuel Johnson

The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up.

~Mark Twain

Indeed, man wishes to be happy even when he so lives as to make happiness impossible.

~St. Augustine

It does not take long in a dictionary of quotations to find a theme –the theme of 'others'. It seems that lives of great people teach us that the path of happiness is paved with care for others –with selflessness rather than self-centredness.

When our students sign the Code of Conduct, they promise to act in ways that will make our school a 'place of happy excellence'. That acting in those ways, will also make them happy, is a wonderful thing.

A very Happy New Year to you all.

PROGRAM UPDATES

I would like to update you on some matters affecting the near future:

MYP Math

As many of you are aware, Mrs. Sirotic is but a short hop away from completing her Doctorate in Mathematics Education. We have been the beneficiaries of her profound expertise for several years and now we are going to co-operate with her as she works on her final project.

All our math teachers will be working with Mrs. Sirotic on 'Lesson Study'. This will mean that all teachers will develop their expertise in math teaching. To facilitate this, Mrs. Sirotic, while retaining the direction of all her classes and monitoring all they do, will teach for only three days of the week between now and early May. When she cannot personally teach her classes, they will be taught, under her direction, by a teacher from the Pacific Institute of Mathematical Sciences at the University of BC.

Global Program

Our Global Program is growing.

To ensure that we can offer all our students the China experience when they are in Grade 11, we have recently concluded an agreement with the Liaoning Province Shiyan High School in Shenyang which will provide opportunities for student exchange visits, faculty professional development activities, and student joint service projects.

We are also actively investigating a service project in Kenya that would see us supporting a school for orphaned children. Naturally, such a plan needs very careful investigation to determine its feasibility but we hope to enable our students and teachers to play an active role in the education and development of very needy children.

For the Grade 9's -22 of them -New Zealand beckons in February as they undertake a joint Global/Project Discover program based at Oxford Area School in Canterbury on the South Island.

Language Programme

We hope our new partnership with the Lycee Saint Exupery in Lyon will boost the language skills of our Grade 10 students. This just-concluded agreement will enable our Grade 10 students of French to travel to Lyon in March (not Spring Break) for both language immersion in French homes and a cultural visit to Paris.

Our Grade 10 Spanish students will have similar opportunities in April at our partner school in Valladolid, with a cultural visit to Madrid.

AP Surge

Students who are taking Advanced Placement courses in Grade 12 will find their timetables adjusted occasionally between now and May to enable them to concentrate more on these courses in preparation for the May examinations.

FSA's

Students who are in Grades 4 and 7 will be writing the Foundation Skills Assessment in Language Arts and Math during this term. To ensure that they are familiar with the format of these assessments, they will be given plenty of practice in advance.

FYP Swimming

This matter has certainly not been forgotten. We are currently developing a Water-Safety curriculum for grades K-5. We expect it to be completed by mid-term with a view to some implementation in the final term.

Appointments

Now that Michele has moved to pastures new, please call Anne O'Halloran to arrange meetings with me. Thank-you.

ENROLMENT FOR 2011/12

2011/12 will be a memorable year for us all as we move into our new school. The success of this project and of our school relies on the support of all our families. As promised at all our funding meetings, the Board of Governors has determined that enrolment for 2011/12 will be offered only to those families who are participating in the funding of the new school either by the purchase of bonds or by equivalent donations.

As the enrolment for next year is so important, we shall be beginning the process of re-enrolment earlier than in the past and ask for your understanding and co-operation in meeting deadlines. Thanks.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

Now we have 'come of age' as it were, membership of some important associations is available to us. These associations are beneficial to our students, faculty and staff for a number of reasons: they operate sports leagues, cultural festivals, professional development groups, information exchanges and so on.

We have currently applied for membership of the Independent Schools' Association of BC and the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools. Inspection visits by representatives of these organisations will be on Tuesday 11 January (ISABC) and January 27 (PNAIS). If you happen to be in the school and meet them, please give them a warm welcome.

So, we are ready to start our new term, a short but brisk one. We look forward to seeing our students again on Monday (#1 Uniform please) and wish for them all a happy and productive term.

Graham Baldwin

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 continues.
- deliveries and installation of reinforcing steel.
- Concrete placement for last major footing pour.
- They will continue with the wall and pedestal forming, anchor bolts and wall concrete.
- Wall forming, re-steel and concrete placement.
- Dewatering of excavations.

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

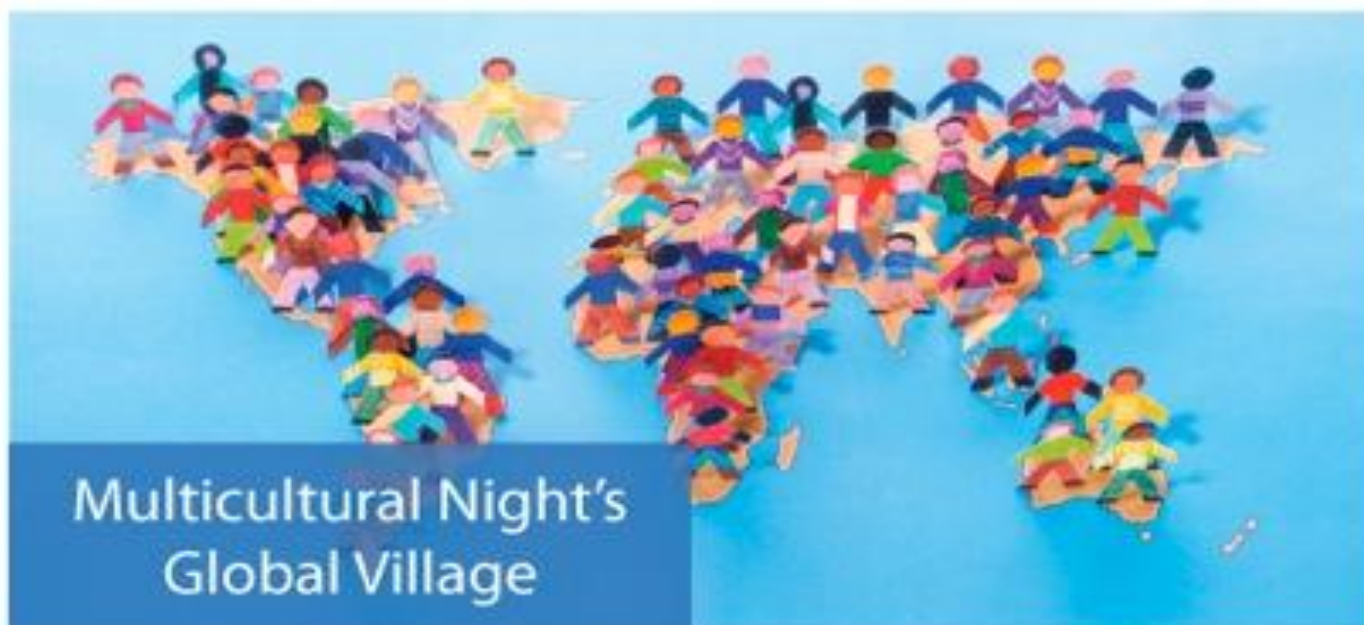


**LOOK OUT FOR THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A SCHOOL
SPONSOR IN FUTURE MIDPOINTE'S
OR
CONTACT SHAHIN VIRJI
SHAHIN.VIRJI@SPACADEMY.CA**

SCHOOL BUS

The school bus returns to regular scheduling, beginning Monday, January 10th, 2011

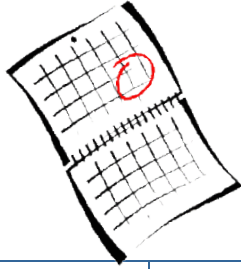




Next Meeting January 12th, 2011
Time: 3:30 in the Zone (upstairs)

Please join our great group and be a part of the fun.
Many opportunities to volunteer and share in the
cultural experience!!

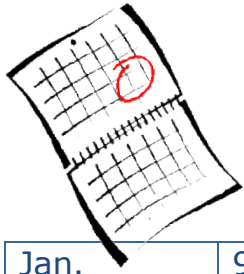
Look out for new sponsorship opportunities!



SPORTS CALENDAR

January 6 – January 20

Jan. 6 Thursday	5:00pm - Sr.Boys Basketball vs. Pender Harbour at the Church
Jan. 10 Monday	6:25am – Swim practices resume at Winskill
Jan. 12 Wed.	3:45pm – Jr. Boys Basketball vs. Stratford Hall, Vancouver
Jan. 13 Thursday	3:30pm – Sr. Girls Basketball vs. Meadowridge School, Maple Ridge
Jan. 14 Friday	Sr. Boys Basketball Tournament at Bodwell School, North Vancouver. Game #1 – 2:00pm vs. GNS
Jan. 15 Saturday	Sr. Boys Basketball Tournament at Bodwell School, North Vancouver.
Jan. 17 Monday	4:00pm – Sr. Girls Basketball vs. Carver Christian School in Burnaby. 5:45pm – Sr. Boys Basketball vs Carver Christian School in Burnaby.
Jan. 18 Tuesday	3:45pm – Elementary Boys Basketball vs. St. George’s School in Vancouver.
Jan. 19 Wednesday	4:00pm – Jr. Boys Basketball vs. Deer Lake at the Church



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 6 – January 20

Jan. 6 Thursday	9:00am – 3:00pm – School Front Office open
Jan. 7 Friday	9:00am – 12:00pm - School Front Office open
Jan. 10 Monday	8:05am – Winter Term begins. #1 Uniform required
Jan. 12 Wednesday	3:30pm – Multicultural Planning Meeting upstairs in “The Zone”
Jan. 13 Thursday	9:00am – 12:00pm – Spelling Bee for Grades 4 – 8 at the Church
Jan. 18 Tuesday	MYP Dance at the Tsawwassen Arts Centre
Jan. 19 Wednesday	GYP Dance at the Tsawwassen Arts Centre
Jan. 20 Thursday	7:00pm – Parent Academy – “The Importance of Reading” upstairs in Room #209