



The Midpointe

News and opinion for Southpointe Academy families

New Year's Edition January 7, 2010

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WELCOME BACK

We look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday next, January 11. The Christmas break is always a quiet time for school-related activity, so little has happened, but there are one or two things worthy of mention.

FACULTY

We shall be welcoming two new members of Faculty on Monday.

Kari Cook joins us to teach 2JD in tandem with Julia Dandyk who will be leaving soon on her maternity leave. Kari was introduced in a previous Midpointe.

Alysha Kothlow BA, BEd joins the ILC team to ensure a smooth transition when Mrs. Lupton begins her maternity leave in March. Alysha will also direct the MYP musical, lead the Duke of Edinburgh Award program and coach in the Athletic Program. A graduate of Simon Fraser University, she comes to us from an International School background, having taught the International Baccalureate Program in both China (Dalian Maple Leaf School) and Switzerland (Zurich International School). Alysha has NCCP coaching certification and Sport Specific Technical Certification in rowing.

NEW BUILDING PROJECT

The Church requested a delay in our completion date, so it was advanced to January 15. As I write, this gives us 8 more days to reach our target of \$7.5 million in pledges. Currently we are at \$5,969,002 with 58 families still to respond. May I urge those families to delay no longer.



Someone phoned with a good suggestion yesterday concerning **grandparents**. His point was that some grandparents may well view our interest rate as attractive in the current climate but may be wondering about how repayment would work for them. Well, if their investment was independent of our \$25000 per family requirement, they would certainly not be bound to wait for repayment until their grandchildren graduated or left. We would be happy to discuss an investment term that worked for both parties. Certainly 3% beats current GIC's! Please contact the school if you wish to partnership!

NEW WEB SITE

Over the coming weekend, we shall be launching our new web-site. As with all such ventures, there may well be glitches – if you notice any, please let us know. We have designed the site to be expandable, so if there are more features you would like to see, please let us know that, too.

The Calendar on the site will be updated weekly over the weekends. Please continue to refer to Midpointe, however, for an up-to-date view of the following two weeks.

MARKETING AND ENROLMENT

We would like to increase our enrolment. We know there is no better marketing force than our current parent body, so we would welcome your recommending us to your friends and neighbours. I am more than willing to come to homes to share information about Southpointe with small (or large) groups of interested parents. If you would like to arrange and host such a gathering, please let me know. We can also host gatherings at the school, of course, and arrange individual tours for interested parents.

In addition, I welcome any of your suggestions to help us make Southpointe Academy more prominent in the minds of school-seekers, particularly in the following areas:

Delta, Richmond, Surrey, South Surrey/White Rock, South Vancouver and Point Roberts.

HOMework

As last term went on, we received an increasing number of complaints, mainly from the MYP area, about the amount of homework being required. We shall be emphasizing our policy regarding homework with both students and faculty as the new term begins. The policy is in the Parent Handbook should you wish to review it.

STUDY CLUB

Study Club, for Grades 4 -12, operates in the Library daily between 3.30pm and 5.00pm. Students in the library between these times must be working.

Tutoring is available BY REQUEST. Students/Parents wishing to arrange tutoring should contact JESSICA CARVAJAL, the library prefect, or MRS. LEVITT, the librarian. Jessica can arrange tutoring in all subjects.

I-PHONES ETC.

Our policy is clear. Cell phones, i-pods etc. are NOT ALLOWED inside the school buildings except for the purpose of being placed in, or taken from, lockers. We are all aware of the distractions and abuses that can occur when such things are misused.

BUS BEHAVIOUR

Please remind your children that we expect impeccable behaviour on our buses. This means that there is:

- No standing while the bus is in motion
- No moving from any assigned seat
- No part of any passenger out of the window
- No throwing things about
- No rudeness towards other road users.

Students who do not behave impeccably will not be able to travel on our buses for any purpose. This is a safety issue; there are no compromises.

OLYMPIC GAMES

Just a reminder that during the Olympic Games, we are not in school on two Friday's – the 19th and 26th of February.

Now I feel a bit like Geoffrey Chaucer, author of 'The Canterbury Tales', who would write

'Ther is namoor to say'

and then continue for another thousand or so lines!

I hope you all had a terrific time over the break and I look forward to a productive, lively and positive term.

Graham Baldwin

Don't miss the most anticipated
Event of the Year!

Southpointe Academy's

Diamond Gala

Celebrating 10 Years

Last Chance.....
Gala Tickets on sale,
January 13, 14 & 15 in the Edu-Cafe

SOUTHPOINTE ACADEMY
DIAMOND GALA
AUCTION WISH LIST

Consider "*re-gifting*" as a novel way to contribute to our gala this year....

Did someone give you a gift card to a store you don't enjoy shopping at?
Or did you receive an i-tunes gift card and you already have enough music
in your life?

Did you receive DVDs that you already own? ...or, jewelry that doesn't
match your eyes?

Were you given Olympics tickets but you'd rather watch from the comfort
of your easy chair back home? ...or concert tickets to a band you just can't
stand? ...or single malt scotch and you only like ginger-ale?

Our gala team would be only too happy to help you out with this dilemma.
Just complete the attached donation form and deliver it to the front office
the first week back at school.

Please ensure that all auction donation forms are turned in by Friday,
January 15, 2010.

Thank you again for your support of our gala.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS SO FAR,



DIAMOND GALA JANUARY 30, 2010



Donald & Connie Carson

P. Nagra

Coast Tsawwassen Inn

Albany Books

Wayne Kaulbach – Skylight Images

The Stubens Family

Nicole Koller

Murray Poje

The Wizinsky Family

Anway Construction

Lauri Chevel

Ms. Springett & Mrs. Johnston

Pebble Creek

Dr. K. Bahi

The Gookstetter Family

Tazim Ahaned

Mr. Lupton & Mr. Ross

Monika Blichar, Irene Slater, Joan Clarke, & Susan Kirkwood

**THESE ARE ONLY SOME OF THE AMAZING
AUCTION ITEMS:**

1 Week in Cancun, Mexico “all inclusive”

Old Fashioned Birthday Party at Gunn House

Movie night with Ms. Springett & Mrs. Johnson

Beautiful solid wood TV stand

Paraffin home spa kit

Pair of Canucks hockey tickets

Oral and Facial rejuvenation package

Ocean Adventure gift certificate

Gateway Theatre gift certificate

Chocolate basket

Sumptuous Catered Dinner Party for 8, at Gunn House, prepared by the
Coast Tsa. Hotel Chef

Southpointe Academy's Diamond Gala
Saturday, January 30, 2010
Donor Form

Business or Individual's name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Description of item(s) or service(s) to be donated:

Value of Item: _____

For donated services please enclose a letter or certificate detailing the services offered.

Tax Receipts: Donations over \$50 are eligible for a charitable tax receipt. Revenue Canada requires that the value of the item be substantiated with a receipt so please attach an official sales receipt to the donated Item. If you are donating a service and would like a tax receipt, please include a "donation-in-kind" invoice.

Drop Off: Items may be dropped off with this form to the Admissions Office prior to Friday, January 15, 2010, labelled "**Gala Donation**". We will be printing a catalogue of items with all donors recognized. Thank you for your continued support of Southpointe Academy.

Questions: If you have any questions regarding donations please contact **Andrie Dayle at adayle@telus.net or 604-948-0355.**

China 2009

We entered as tourists...

It all started a year ago, the idea was planted in our minds and curiosity filled our bodies. It was a winter assembly when the students presented their China video for the entire school to see. I along with my fellow grade 10 classmates watched with wonder as a new world and adventure was presented before us. We saw a variety of amazing events and the wonder grew. Throughout the year we asked our grade 11 peers about the China trip and got nothing but positive remarks, and throughout the year the year our urge to experience this remarkable trip grew. Well, luckily for us Southpointe Academy offers the chance for an expedition of learning, life, and development in China to the grade 11 class each year. This year was our turn.

China was an experience like no other, the people, the culture, and the history is almost too much. China has been around for a VERY long time. For instance, while in China we ate at a Peking duck restaurant which had been situated in that location for longer than our home country Canada has been around!



China set the bar high right off the bat, the Beijing airport is where we landed after an exhaustive flight. I have been to airports all around the world in most continents but I can tell you that there is none other like the Beijing airport, not only was it gigantic but the detail in everything was incredible. We visited landmarks which are engraved in the face of history. The Great Wall of China was one of our destinations; the wall was a life changing experience. After a solid hike we found ourselves quite high up, from here our eyes truly opened, we took in the site, the wall has huge; it stretched as far as the eye could see twisting and turning like a majestic snake. Once on the wall there is no question as to why it is one of the 7 world wonders. As well as the wall we got to experience the Forbidden City. It was so amazing to see the palace which the emperors of China resided in. One part of the city that I will never forget is the stairs. For each building there were three sets of stairs to enter up to it, two were for the people and the center set of stairs were for the emperor. This exclusive set of stairs was fenced off, I remember

thinking about how amazing it is that these stairs will never again be used but rather preserved for millions to view.

Along with classic China we got to see and enter some of the architectural advancements that China is now famous for; these included the Birds Nest and Water Cube Olympic stadiums. The Birds Nest was the center piece of attention during the 2008 Beijing Olympics. It's twisted and intertwined metal beams were a true marvel. Once inside the experience continued, the sheer size of the stadium was incredible, I could imagine the top tier athletes of the world marching through, the crowd ecstatic, and the world's eyes watching.

Our first impressions of China were mind blowing, no one really knew what the communist country would be like, and Beijing as the capital set the standard for china high. The people were friendly, the sites were rich, and the country ran like a well oiled machine.



Our next stop was Changsha. Upon our arrival in Changsha we were greeted with smiling faces and outstretched hands, the home stay families met us and took us away to their respective homes. This was a turning point in the trip; this was the defining moment when our tightly packed group would split up and head into our own adventures. We would now change from tourists to one with the Chinese people. Our first day at school was an experience not to be missed, the students at the High School Attached to Hunan Normal University were extremely excited to meet us and treated us like rock stars, and there wasn't a moment on the school grounds when the students did not ask for autographs or pictures. The students and the staff were available for all of our needs and made sure that everything went smoothly. Not only was the school itself located half way around the world, but it fit the part too.



Compared to Southpointe this school was gigantic, it had multiple facilities and fields, but it also had thousands of students. Despite the size difference the school life was more or less the same, the students had their clubs and were always friendly with each other and the teachers were integrated into the student life. None of us expected the students to be so outgoing in order to please us and we truly were pleased because they all extended their hands of friendship.

Luckily for us the home stay part of the trip was no different, while back in Canada the only aspect of the trip that brought any worrisome thoughts was the home stay exchange. Questions raced through my mind: what would they be like, what kind crazy food would they feed me, what would we do? Rest assured they did not feed me any life threatening food; in fact the food was delicious! The people were interesting and friendly, and we were always occupied with fun activities. By the end of the trip I reflected back on the trip much like an elderly person reflects back on their life. I realised that out of all the amazing aspects of the trip, the home stay was the most enlightening. I came to see that I could never again live as one with the Chinese inside one of their families. It is amazing to live in a foreign household because you then see that despite the cultural differences, and despite being around the world, humans are humans and the Chinese families are not that dissimilar than our own families. They share the same interests and they care for others just as we do.



China was an amazing trip; one which I wish could have lasted much longer!

... and left as one of them.

Submitted by Ammen Bains





Chairman Mao's impressive statue in the Centre of Shaoshan, his childhood home town.



Southpointe at the local school in Shaoshan.



Yuelu Academy in Changsha



Wow! Who knew that Mr. Ross has a twin????
.....And in the Museum dedicated to Chairman Mao none the less!



The Great Wall in glorious sunshine!

In the above picture, Southpointe students pose for the art class, at the High School attached to the Hunan Normal University.

Below picture shows the art work of Chinese students based on the above picture.

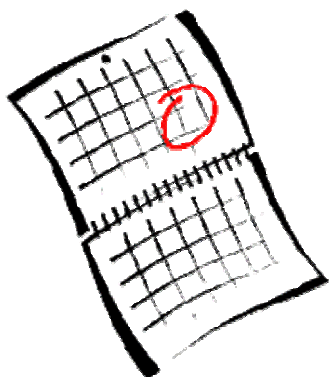


SPORTS CALENDAR



January 11 – January 21

January 12 Tuesday	4:00pm start - Sr. Girls Basketball game vs. St. John's at the Church Gym
January 13 Wednesday	3:45pm - Sr. Boys Basketball game vs. Fraser Academy at the Church Gym
January 19 Tuesday	5:30pm - Sr. Girls Basketball game vs. Bodwell in North Vancouver
January 20 Wednesday	3:45pm - Sr. Boys Basketball game vs. Deer Lake at the Church Gym



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 11 – January 21

January 11 Monday	First day back to school for Faculty and Students 8:30am – All school Assembly
January 19 Tuesday	7:00pm – MYP "Night of the Notables" at South Delta Baptist Church
January 21 & 22 Thursday & Friday	GYP Play at the Tsawwassen Arts Centre
EDUCAFE Monday – Friday	3.00pm to 3.30pm – There is always a hot pot of tea waiting to be shared! Why not drop by and meet Mr. Baldwin?