



The Midpointe

News and opinion for Southpointe Academy families

May 20, 2010

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OUR TEACHERS

If we were to place end to end all the books and theses about how to effect improvement in schools, goodness only knows how many times around the world they would stretch. If, by some miraculous means we could read them all, distill the vital information from each of them and then summarize it, we would be left with the world's most valuable book on education. It would be a short book, just three words and, happily for all concerned, I have already written it! Despite the fact that I am probably about to forego the retirement millions that would accrue to me from the vast sales of this most learned work, because I like you, I am going to give you a big clue as to what the words are:

_ EACH_RS _AT_ER M_ST

It's true –in essence this is it and all about it. As I like to remind you from time to time, old Geoffrey Chaucer said it best: 'There is namore to say'. Just like old Geoffrey, though, I shall go on, though not for the few thousand lines he would inflict on his unsuspecting readers.

I meet our teachers every Monday morning, to brief the coming week and to be briefed about the activities of the weekend. I never fail to be humbled and gratified as I learn the extent to which our teachers are giving freely of their own time to help us build a great school. Take recent weekends past and future weekend, for example.

Last Saturday, all our FYP teachers gathered at school for a full-day of professional learning about the International Baccalaureate Program and there was the final performance of 'Music Man 2', a show that involved several teachers in its production and more still in the audience. On most Saturdays there are track meets where five or so teachers accompany our young athletes. Soon, there is a band trip to Seattle over a weekend; this weekend the Grad Ball, involving nearly twenty teachers, will consume Saturday night.

In addition, we have teachers giving up evenings, sleeping on floors and in tents to enable students to enjoy Project Discover, teachers arriving at 7am to teach Band and Choir so that students can participate without too much impact on their choice of subjects in timetabled time, teachers staying late to help students complete the year successfully and on and on.

Add to this all the 'usual' preparation, marking, three-week calling, case-conferencing and counseling and you know we have remarkable people here.

This often unseen and unremarked upon dedication is the very stuff of what makes great schools. The relationships fostered between teachers and students are key to student success and all relationships take effort. Our teachers put that effort in well beyond the call of duty.

They are, of course, professionals, and yet multi-degreed members of other professions wouldn't even get out of bed for what teachers are paid. So they are professionals with a strong sense of vocation, their riches coming not from salary but from the sense of involvement with something truly worthwhile.

Given the importance of teachers, you will not be surprised to learn that we take every opportunity to strengthen our faculty as announcements later in this Midpointe will show.

Why am I writing about this now? Because, as we approach year end, I just hope all parents and students, despite the busyness of life, will find the time let our teachers know they are appreciated.

NOTICE

To: The Southpointe Academy Community

I am pleased to announce the following new appointments for next year.

Mr. Greg Kean, MFA, currently Department Head - Acting for Film and Television, at the Vancouver Institute of Media Arts joins us full-time to teach Drama and Theatre Arts.

Greg Kean has been a professional actor since receiving his MFA in Acting from Cornell University in 1985. Greg's credits include Houston's Alley Theatre, The Los Angeles Theatre Centre, movies including "Summer Dreams, the Story of the Beach Boys" as Brian Wilson, "Air America" and "Saved!". On television Greg portrayed Clancy Lass on the series "Dead Like Me" and has guest starred on many shows including "Designing Women", "Da Vinci's Inquest", "Saved By The Bell", "Life Goes On", "Smallville" and "The Guard". Greg has also done many commercials, including spots for Avandia, Oldsmobile, Honda, Michelob, and T. Rowe Price.

Mrs. Rynne Woolford BA, MA, MSc, joins us to lead the Innovative Learning Centre (ILC)

Since graduating Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours in Psychology from the University of Victoria, Master of Arts in Developmental Psychology from the University of Western Ontario and winning the Maxwell Cameron Medal and Award at SFU in her PDP (Teacher Certification) Program, Mrs. Woolford has worked largely in the UK, where she also qualified Master of Science in Educational Psychology from the University of Essex. Latterly an Educational Psychologist for Cheshire County Council, Mrs. Woolford also has experience as a classroom teacher and special needs co-ordinator in Cambridge.

These appointments will make it possible for us to return Drama to the timetable and to introduce a Psychology elective for Grade 12.

IMPORTANT READING FOR ALL



Sunday 16 May 2010

To: All MYP Parents

Dear Parents,

EXAM WEEK

Last year we experienced significant disruption in the MYP during exam week, something we need to avoid this year. We wish to make clear, therefore, that exam days are fully scheduled and end at the usual dismissal time.

Our planned program, of examinations in the mornings, with physical activity and program completion in the afternoons, is purposeful and necessary. It will allow for teacher-led review of the next day's exams, and more time for those subjects that are important but not examinable. In Grade 8, it will also allow for successful completion of the French Program to ensure a good start in Grade 9.

Please, therefore, understand that it will not be permissible for MYP students to leave school before the regularly scheduled time.

May I also take this opportunity to remind you of our policies regarding cheating? Any student found cheating will not receive credit for any examination, will be deemed not to have completed that course and will, therefore, not be eligible for a final mark in that subject.

It is important to end a school year strongly, with purposeful activity guided by energized teachers. The alternative –just passing time –is both wasteful and risky; wasteful of the 'unforgiving minutes' of both children's and teachers' lives, and risky in that idle minds seek mischief and often find it!

We thank you in advance for your kind co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Baldwin

Sample MYP Exam Day Schedule:

8:05 - 8:30	Homeroom (attendance, announcements, exam preparation)
8:30 - 10:30	Exam (1 per day)
10:30- 11:00	Recess Break (or extra time to complete exam – if needed)
11:00 – 12:15	Gr. 6 & 7 – Band / Choir / P.E. classes (rotation throughout the week) Gr. 8 – P.E. / French / Review classes (all 3 of these will occur each day)
12:15 – 1:00	Lunch Break
1:00 – 2:10	Gr. 6 & 7 – Band / Choir / P.E. classes Gr. 8 – P.E. / French / Review classes
2:15 - 3:15	Gr. 6 & 7 – Review classes (preparing for next day's exam) Gr. 8 – P.E. / French / Review classes
3:15 – 3:20	Homeroom



To: All GYP Parents

Sunday 16 May 2010

Dear Parents,

EXAM WEEK and FINAL MARKS

As year-end examinations approach, I want to ensure that we are all on the same page about what happens during exam week and how the final marks are computed.

EXAM WEEK.

- ❖ On Thursday June 10 and subsequent days, GYP students need attend school only for examinations and scheduled tutorials. (They may, of course, attend full-time should they either wish or need to.)
- ❖ GYP morning exams are written in the South Delta Rec Centre, and afternoon exams in the main school building.
- ❖ #1 uniform is required for examinations.
- ❖ If students are attending school for reasons other than examinations, daily uniform is required. Students may not be on the premises in casual dress.
- ❖ We shall be operating a 'bare' exam room; this means that everything required for the examination will be provided and students will not be allowed to bring anything other than themselves into the exam room.
- ❖ Exams are either of 2 or 2.5 hours duration, with an extra hour allowed for any student who needs it.
- ❖ All Provincial Exams take place after the School Closing Ceremony; they are written in the school.

FINAL MARKS

- ❖ 1. To receive a school final mark, a student must be eligible to do so. To become eligible, a student must have completed all course work, including class attendance requirements, and have written the December and June examinations.
- ❖ 2. The school final mark is recommended by the teacher, subjected to a similar statistical analysis to that used by the Ministry, and awarded by the school. It is awarded based on the degree to which the student has demonstrated proficiency in the intended learning outcomes of the course. Progress in this proficiency has been reported to you at 3-weekly intervals throughout the year, and on the December and March reports. The final internal examination is the student's last opportunity to

demonstrate proficiency. If a student currently has an "I" for any course, time is very short now for putting that right and urgent steps need to be taken.

- ❖ 3. Where a course has a mandatory Provincial Exam (English 12, Social Studies 11, Science 10, English 10 and Math 10), The Provincial Exam counts as the June exam requirement and is blended with the final school mark (assessed using all elements except the June exam) to make the final provincial mark. In short, wherever there is a **mandatory** Provincial Exam, there is no final internal school exam.
- ❖ 4. A student who writes an optional Provincial Exam (Grade 12 only) has the final school mark (reached as in 2 above and counting 60%) and the Provincial Exam mark, (counting 40%) blended to make the final Provincial marks. In short, a student who writes an **optional** Provincial exam must also write the school June final exam.
- ❖ 5. For students who do not write optional Provincial Exams, the final school mark becomes the final Provincial mark.

CHEATING

It is a sad fact that students are sometimes tempted to cheat. Sometimes this results from a cynical attempt to 'beat the system', but more often from a fear that tests and examinations are more important than, in fact, they are. Students need to understand that exams are simply another opportunity for them to demonstrate the extent of their learning. Even if they know they have done insufficient learning, cheating is not the answer.

Our policy on cheating is as follows:

- ❖ If the cheating takes place on course work or in-class tests, all marks for that course are void and the final mark is 'F'.
- ❖ If cheating takes place on an examination, all examinations are deemed void. In this case, no course will be completed and all marks will be 'F'.
- ❖ In both cases, serious disciplinary action will also be taken.
- ❖ If the affected marks form part of a transcript already submitted to another institution –a university, for example –then that institution will be informed of the change in status and the reason for it.

We are sending this information now to try to ensure we have no difficulty. Integrity is one of our core values and cheating shows no integrity.

Students throughout the world feel pressure at exam time, especially in those countries, like China, where the exam counts for everything; this pressure can lead to desperation, which in turn leads to cheating –and worse. In our school, and in BC, the examinations are important, certainly, but they are not definitive. There is no need, therefore, for students to feel so desperate that they need to risk everything by cheating. Rather, they should work hard to prepare themselves as thoroughly as possible, for there are no short cuts to success.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Baldwin

A VERY SPECIAL WEEKEND

This is the weekend of the Graduation Ball. Saturday night will find our graduating class in the warm luxury of the Pan Pacific Hotel, enjoying the event they have been anticipating for many weeks now. The hopes and expectations of such a night are high, indeed, but we feel certain they will be met, and our grads will savour a reality that far surpasses the anticipation. Parents, Grandparents, brothers, sisters, friends, relatives, invited faculty present and faculty past will join the Graduating Class on their special night.

We all wish our Graduates a happy and memorable evening.

VALEDICTORIAN

While most Grade 12's can sit back and simply enjoy the events that attend graduation, the Valedictorian has no such luck for he has to deliver three speeches, one at the Grad Ball, one at the Closing Ceremony and one at Commencement. It is an honour to be elected Valedictorian, of course, but no easy task to fulfil the role.

We congratulate Scott Stanger on his election this year and wish him well as he speaks for his class on these important occasions.

Graham Baldwin

SCHOOL NEWS

SOUTHPOINTE'S AMAZING RACE



**Solve
the
Riddles
& Find
the
Clues!**



**Fabulous
Prizes!
including
"Best
Costume"**



**Steak &
Salmon
BBQ**



**Gather
up your
friends!**

**& Dinner at
Beach Grove Golf Course**

**Register your Team now
Limited Space available!**

Register in the Edu Café or call the Front Office

**Sign up as a Team
Or**

We can place you in a Team!

SOUTHPOINTE ACADEMY'S
AMAZING RACE

REGISTRATION FORM

Date: June 4th, 2010

Time: Registration at 4:30 pm

Race Starts: 5:00 pm

Location: Beach Grove Golf and Country Club

BBQ Dinner at Beach Grove Golf Club to Follow Race

Cost: \$70.00 per Person



Team Name _____

Team Member Name

Telephone

Cell

Email

Team Member Name	Telephone	Cell	Email

*NEED HELP JOINING A TEAM? - WE CAN HELP YOU!

DESSERT THEATRE TONIGHT!

See you there!

Tickets will be available at the door for \$10 per ticket.



LIBRARY NEWS

Overdue notices will come out at the end of the month. Use the upcoming long weekend to sort through your home library collection. Keep an eye out for any books that belong to the Southpointe Library and return them -no questions asked!

Submitted by Mrs. Levitt

GYP NEWS

GRADS GIVE BACK!

The Grads would like to thank all of the students who participated in the hot dog day the Grads organized on Earth Day. The Grads were able to raise a good sum for an environmental organization. This money came from the two dollars each student brought to participate in the hot dog lunch. Once the Grads deducted the cost of the hot dog supplies, they were left with \$500.00. After a Grade 12 class vote, it was decided that the money will be donated to the Reifel Bird Sanctuary and the cheque will be dropped off this weekend.

Once again, thanks for your support!

The Grads of 2010



GYP ART SHOW

Thursday May 27TH @ 6.30PM

Welcome one and all to the major art event of the year for students in grades 9 -12. It is time to enjoy and contemplate the accomplishments of each child in the GYP Art Program at Southpointe Academy. As in previous years, the excellent work from our Architectural and Media Arts Departments will be included in the exhibition.

You have already had a taste of things to come. We enjoyed the lively imagery and the fascinating inclusive art tent from our youngest students in the FYP program. The MYP students followed this, presenting us with a powerful comparison between skillful form and creative "stretch" – their show still adorns the walls of the school as I write. Thank you all for the interest that you showed in the achievements of our young artists in grades K – 8. I spoke with many of you, and I am encouraged by your kind words and compliments. I agree with you that our young people have produced an outstanding level of art for their age. Obviously quite a few of you spoke to the students about their work, because they were brimming over with pride when they related some of your comments to me. Thank you all – and yes, I too am more than proud of the level of enthusiasm and dedication that I have found in your children this year.

The GYP Show: Well, prepare for an unusual, informative evening full of suspense! There has always been some debate regarding the giving of awards in this show. I talked with parents and members of the faculty about this and they are largely in favour of reinstating the art awards. More importantly, I asked the students to think carefully about this matter, and after some debate, each GYP art student put his / her concerns in writing for me to consider. By far the majority of students wanted their show to be judged. However, I was quite sympathetic to the careful reflections that some students made regarding the negative aspects of judging. I shall respect the majority vote – so there *shall* be awards this year.

One group of awards will be the outcome of a vote from each student enrolled in the GYP Art Program. They will select first, second and third place for two categories – "Superior Level of Skill" and "Creative Initiative." Following this, a judge from Emily Carr will speak to us and announce her first, second and third place award.

There will be short speeches from a representative of each GYP grade so that by the time the event is over, you will no longer be filled with wonder about some rather strange work that you see attached to the walls of our school!

I sincerely hope that you will all be able to attend the exhibition. For parents with younger students in the school, it is a valuable opportunity to show these little ones what they may aspire to when they become part of the GYP Art Program.

The Art Program at Southpointe has a prestigious history of accomplishment. Our students have gone on to be accepted at well established post secondary art institutions. Last year, in fact, one of our students was awarded a scholarship to attend one of the top art institutions in the United States. So do come – we promise not to disappoint you!

Submitted by Moira Elliott



Photo: Iman Virji

SOUTHPOINTE
ACADEMY
GYP ART SHOW

OPENING RECEPTION
MAY 27TH
AT
SOUTHPOINTE ACADEMY
6:30 PM

MYP News



Kiwanis Fraser Valley International Music Festival commends Southpointe's Junior Band and awards a Silver standing!

As a witness to our Grade 5 and 6 band students' performance at the Kiwanis Festival on Tuesday, May 18th, it is necessary to extend a big thank you to Mr. Pekarsky who directed this wonderful band to a silver standing. Our Junior Band proved to be a disciplined, rhythmic group—the second largest group to perform at the festival. It is not an easy task to assemble 65 students in a band, let alone have students confident and capable of accomplishing great sound within their first year of learning a musical instrument. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students, who I must mention were the youngest of all participants entered in this festival, to observe other middle school-aged children perform with such enthusiasm and determination. What were the results you may ask? Our accomplished band and their fearless band director, Mr. Pekarsky, received 90% overall with an invitation to attend Music Fest Canada, the Nationals, in 2011!

Well done, everyone!

Submitted by Ms. Huber

Southpointe's Third Annual Math Wasp Contest

Countdown Round for Grade 6-9 Students

Thursday, May 27th, 2010

Top Ten mathematics students in each of the grades 6 through 9 will participate in this intense and engaging mathematical contest. Math Wasp is modeled after the popular ELMACON and Math Challengers contests, which are intended for students to experience mathematics as an exciting sport. In this contest, students engage in a series of duels, where mathematical problems are to be solved in the limited time given for each question. The winner moves on the next duel with the higher ranking student, until the final order of contestants is determined.

The audience is invited to try the questions too, from the comfort of their seats, so please bring a pencil and some paper, and play along. You will be delighted to see that you can solve a problem before the time is up! And, you may get ecstatic when you find yourself solving a problem that the two people in the "hot seat" could not! So, join in, and enjoy! Parents of the contestants are cordially invited to see their children perform in the arena of mathematical problem solving.

This event is supported by the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences, who we thank for providing the contest questions, buzzers, and prizes, and their mathematical expertise. We are delighted to be able to welcome Melania Alvarez Adem, PIMS Mathematics Education Coordinator, for volunteering her time to act as the judge for our 2010 Math Wasp Contest!

Schedule of the Math Wasp Countdown Events & Top Ten Participants by Grade

Grade 6 Math Wasp: Block 4 (11:35-12:35), Room 209 Main Building

1. Jody Mielcarski
2. Jeevan Saran
3. Brenna Krause
4. Sumeet Saini
5. Dalton Huey
6. Parteek Bal
7. Parkash Banwait
8. Maheep Nagra
9. Tanraj Saran
10. Mason Rai

Grade 7 Math Wasp: Block 5 (1:20-2:15), Studio Blue

1. Declan Hodgins
2. Ansh Upal
3. Katherine Williams
4. Melissa Lau
5. Vikram Verma
6. Taryn Jessop
7. Alicia Nagra
8. Balreet Dhatt
9. Carli McMillan
10. Pavel Dhah

Grade 8 Math Wasp: Block 4 (11:35-12:35), Studio Blue

1. Stephanie Lin
2. Angela Mason
3. Ethan Huey
4. Kelvin Nguyen
5. Morgan Leung
6. Joseph Purcell
7. Kierra Philbrook
8. Jaskirat Mann
9. Satnam Sunner
10. Jacques Schaub

Grade 9 Math Wasp: Block 2 (9:25-10:20), Room 209

1. Gurneet Dhatt
2. Carson Vander Noot
3. Mantej Sekhon
4. Joshua Williams
5. Justin Dhah
6. Ziyaan Harji
7. Wasif Husain
8. Anita Bal
9. Adam Husband
10. Simren Parihar

Submitted by Natasa Sirotic

MYP MUSIC MAN JUNIOR **PERFORMANCE SETS THE STAGE!**

With a sold out house on each of the three evenings, a vibrant show, and a thrilled audience, the MYP Music Man Junior performance came to a close on Saturday, May 15th, 2010. If you did not have the opportunity or time to see the show, you can read about it from the student accounts submitted in the Midpointe. Now for a Grade 6 student perspective:

The Music Man was playing on Thursday May 13th, Friday May 14th, and Saturday May 15th at the Tsawwassen Arts Center. The story was about Harold Hill, a con man coming to River City, Iowa to sell his 'band' to the people in the small city. The people are convinced by Harold. He falls in love with the city and the librarian and will not leave. Nobody but the librarian, Marian, knew he was a fake but she falls in love with him and doesn't tell the town. Everything is going fine in the town until Charlie Cowell spills the beans on everything and the town is outraged. Then, as Harold is captured he would be tarred and feathered but the city people free him by saying they are grateful for what he bought to the town. Everyone lives happily ever after.

My experience was awesome. It was fun to be part of the cast and perform. Fraser Dodwell was Harold Hill and Leah Bracken was Marian Paroo—they were leads in the musical. All and all, the musical was a huge success thanks to everyone who helped make it happen, and it was a fun activity to do!
-Aanikh Kler (6AH)

Anna Cran thought “it was a nice experience being up on stage in front of a bunch of people. She also enjoyed laughing at the guys in makeup, eating candies provided by Mrs. Johnson, and to top it off, the cast and crew after-party celebration.”



Submitted by Ms. Huber



Southpointe Academy
presents the musical

Dragon!

by Kane and Kane



Tuesday, June 1st, 2010

1:30 PM

South Delta Baptist Church

FYP NEWS

TOMATOSPHERE!

Have you ever seen an alien seed? Well, the Grade 5's have! After years of participating in the Tomatosphere Project with a variety of grade levels, I am still amazed at the interest children show in anything from space. This hands-on experiment is one of the most practical ways to link science to real life situations.

The Gr. 5's are planting and observing the seeds that have spent two whole months in the INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION in outer space far beyond the reaches of the common man. These seeds left earth in the hands of our **Canadian** astronaut Julie Payette on MISSION STS-127 aboard Space Shuttle Endeavour on July 15, 2009. Subjected to pressure, weightlessness, increased radiation during the flight, and a stay on the International Space Station, the seeds have experienced more adventure than most of us have ever dreamed!

Now, our budding junior scientists will observe the rate of germination and growth of these seeds along with the control group. These results will be reported to the Canadian Space Agency to help our astronauts have fresh tomatoes in space!

Today's students are the plant specialists, space scientists and Mars explorers of the future!

The technical support staff and even the astronauts for future space travel may be in our classroom today!

Submitted by Dr. Mangat



MS. MAH'S GRADE 2 CLASS!

THE CONTINUING ADVENTURES OF..

SOUTHPOINTE ACADEMY'S

ADVENTURES AT THE GR. 2S SALMON HATCHERY



SPORTS NEWS

TRACK AND FIELD RESULTS

Congratulations, to **Hameet Dhillon** in the 200 meters yesterday at the Fraser Valley Track and Field Championships. Hameet ran bravely to finish in 11th place overall. His time was a very impressive 24.90, only .06 seconds off of his time from the previous meet. Hameet ran against stiff competition and should be applauded for his efforts!

It is not over yet, stay tuned tomorrow, when Hameet attempts to qualify for the highly contested 400 meter race. The top runners in each heat and the next fastest times will qualify for the BC High School track and field championships at Swanguard on June 4th and 5th.

GOOD LUCK HAMEET!

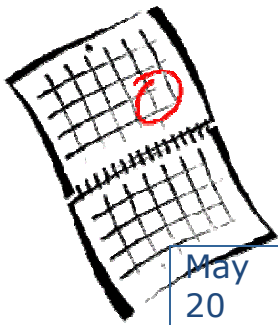
Submitted by Mr. Simpson



SPORTS CALENDAR

May 28 Friday	B.C. Elementary Track Meet – begins at 4:30pm
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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 20 – June 3

May 20 Thursday	7:00pm – 9:00pm - Dessert Theatre at the Tsawwassen Arts Centre
May 21 Friday	2:00pm – 3:00pm – Grad Class 2010 - Assembly at the Church “Last day for our New Zealand Exchange Students”
May 22 Saturday	2010 Grad Class Ball at the Pan Pacific Hotel, Vancouver
May 24 Monday	No School - Victoria Day Holiday
May 25 Tuesday	Tues. – Fri. - “Call Home Week” 8:30am onwards – Artona’s Picture Class Photo day - #1 Uniform required
May 26 Wednesday	All Day - Grade 5 Field Trip to Victoria
May 27 Thursday	Grades 6 – 9 “Math Wasp Contest” 9:00am – 2:30pm – Kindergarten Field Trip to Bloedel Conservatory 3:30 – FYP Trading Card Exhibition at the Tsawwassen Library 6:30 – GYP Art Show Opening Reception – Main School Building
May 28 Friday	Theme Day – “Start your Engines” Wear Black & White and bring a “Toonie”. Hot Dog Lunch for all!
June 1 Tuesday	1:30pm – 3:00pm FYP MUSICAL “DRAGON” at the Church
June 2 Wednesday	“SPORTS DAY” FOR PRE K – GRADE 8 at Winskill Park
June 4 Friday	“THE AMAZING RACE” 4:30pm Start
June 5 Saturday	Grade 7 & 8 Band to Seattle for the day.