



The Midpointe

News and opinion for Southpointe Academy families

October 1, 2009

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HELPING OR ENABLING?

In these days when parents are actively, and rightly, involved in all aspects of their children's lives, schools are inundated with requests for better communication and more information. When however, that information duplicates what has been given directly to the students, we run the risk of enabling traits we all wish to eliminate. Parents often ask, for example, for details of homework to be sent to them so they can make sure their child does it. No-one believes this is unnecessary for very young children, but there comes a point at which such a thing becomes little more than mollycoddling, enabling students to take no responsibility for their own organization, planning and lives in general. Further, the fact that today's technology makes certain things easier than before is no reason that they should be done!

Most parents and schools believe in the importance of children learning to be responsible. The question is when should students stand on their own two feet? Is grade 8 too soon? How about grade 6? Should University professors be subjected to parental intervention regarding, for example, marks, as, believe it or not, they frequently are? To this, there is no perfect answer, but in general, FYP students need parent help more frequently, so their parents need to know in more detail from us about what is happening and what our expectations of them; MYP students by Grade 8 should be taking total responsibility for knowing their work and what is expected of them –parents need not receive daily assignments, updates, homework details etc. In the GYP, even more responsibility should be devolved directly to the students, so that they are well-prepared for life after school. The students should be learning how to advocate for themselves in school in matters both academic

Schools have, for a variety of reasons, but mainly to avoid the hassle of doing otherwise, given ground in so many areas that some too many students, once graduated, are at a complete loss as to how to exist without mom and dad's constant bailing them out of problems they may face.

Schools should, we believe, graduate students who are ready to be independent and take their place in the world, not those who have been denied the opportunity to be ready by adults –whether parents or teachers—who have enabled their dependence rather than their independence.

Graham Baldwin

H1N1 UPDATE

Seasonal Flu and H1N1 Flu Vaccines

On Tuesday, September 28th, the BC Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport and the BC Centre for Disease Control announced changes to the typical delivery of **free** influenza vaccinations.

- On October 13th, the seasonal flu vaccine will be available free of charge to people 65 and older, and residents in long-term care homes ONLY.
- On October 13th, a pneumococcal vaccine will be available free of charge to high-risk individuals (seniors and those with chronic medical conditions) to prevent influenza-related pneumonia
- In November, the H1N1 vaccine will be available free of charge to everyone who needs and wants it
- In early 2010, the seasonal flu vaccine will be offered free of charge to everyone under the age of 65 who is considered high risk or high transmission (those with certain medical conditions, expectant mothers, care-givers, or those who have frequent contact with high-risk individuals). This is in accordance with usual vaccination guidelines.

There is emerging evidence of a potential association between prior seasonal influenza vaccination and the risk of acquiring the H1N1 flu virus. This means that it is recommended that people DO NOT get a seasonal flu vaccination until after receiving the H1N1 vaccine. If you are not eligible for a free seasonal flu shot, you may be able to purchase a seasonal flu shot early next year from some public health units, doctors' offices and clinics as well as some private vendors.

Monica Tice
First Aid Responder & Project Discover Coordinator

Children Helping Children through Education We Day 2009

"The greatest challenge facing our time is not weapons of mass destruction or terrorism or ethnic cleansing ... it is that we are raising a generation of passive bystanders."

4. *the Dalai Lama (as quoted in The World Needs Your Kid by Craig Kielburger)*

Southpointe Academy had the great privilege of sending a group of student leaders to this week's "We Day" at GM Place. The Dalai Lama was truly mesmerizing and surprisingly humorous, Jane Goodall's greeting in "chimpanzee" was remarkable, and Mia Farrow's recount of the conditions in war-torn Darfur was unbelievable.

But at an event intended to motivate and energize the 16,000 assembled teenagers, I found the lesser-known Craig Kielburger to be the most inspirational.

At the age of 12, Craig discovered a passion for helping children around world. Upon reading a newspaper article in the Toronto Star about a Pakistani boy murdered in a child labour camp, Craig enlisted the help of 12 friends from his Grade Seven class and founded an organization called Free the Children. That winter, he traveled to Asia to witness the effects of child labour. In the years that followed, Craig debated Canada's stance on child labour with then Prime Minister Jean Chretien, learned of service from Mother Teresa, and has developed friendships with the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. To date, the Free the Children organization has built more than 500 schools and initiated an

"adopt-a-village" project in 45 developing countries based on their four sustainable strategies: providing education, health care, alternative income, and fresh water.

With his brother Marc, Craig Kielburger has also founded the "Me to We" program: a new kind of social enterprise for students who want to help change the world with their daily choices. One aspect of the Me to We campaign is the 10 by 10 Challenge:

"Donate \$10 to help develop 10 communities overseas. Spread awareness by telling at least 10 friends about what you're up to. Tell us how you are creating a better world by sharing your own 10 commitments to change. 10 minutes, 10 days, 10 social issues, \$10, 10 friends at a time – the world will be changed in 2010. It is our turn and it starts with you. All it takes is 10."

We Day may have come and gone, but it has left an impression on the 14 students that attended. Their job now is to educate their peers throughout our school and find where their passions lie. Do not be surprised if you hear your child talking about social injustice, international compassion, or having the courage to change.

But be forewarned, your child may not grow up to be a "passive bystander".

Mr. Griffioen

If you would like to learn more about Free the Children or Me to We, you might begin by looking at these resources:

[The World Needs Your Kid](#), by Craig Kielburger, Marc Kielburger, and Shelley Page (one copy available in our library)

[Free the Children](#), by Craig Kielburger (one copy available in our library)

www.metowe.com

www.freethechildren.com



Impressions from Kelsey Leung, one of our Prefect Delegates;

".....it was the Dalai Lama whom I thought gave the most helpful advice to our students.

"You cannot learn if you just read and copy the textbook. You must read – then investigate."

Perhaps instead of believing everything we read and copying answers, Southpointe students should be questioning the material. Investigate. Go beyond reading that one Wikipedia article and ask your parents advice on that particular subject. Maybe, just maybe, we could ALL (even myself...) get off Facebook chat for an hour and instead volunteer for your community. Even if it is just you, every individual matters."

PINK DAY 2009 – BREAST CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

“Breast Cancer Awareness Week” starts on Monday October 5th and ends on Friday October 9th with a “Pink Day”. On Monday October 5, we will have a guest speaker at our morning assembly. Parents are more than welcome to attend. The assembly starts at 8:20 am. On “Pink Day”, students may wear a pink t-shirt and donate three dollars. Students can also purchase a pink t-shirt for \$7 afterschool, next week in the foyer. Parents can make a donation if they like. Donations can be given to the front office anytime next week. All proceeds go to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

With the generous support of Southpointe Academy students and parents, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation will be able to improve and save thousands of lives of Canadians that are either at the risk of Breast Cancer or are currently battling the disease. Let’s show our support! Thank you all for your support in advance.

Submitted by Inderpreet Gill – Prefect of Service

BAND NEWS

Dear Southpointe Academy Parents of Grades 5-12 Instrumental Music Students;

I would like to take the time to introduce myself and let you know what we will be doing in grades 5-12 band class. I am a music specialist with more than 16 years experience of teaching instrumental music, concert band, jazz band, orchestra and music classes in the private and public school system. In addition to teaching, I play brass and woodwinds instruments with different groups in Canada and USA.

In grade 5-12 band classes this year we will be learning music through performance in band.

Playing music instruments helps to develop some very key skills, such as creativity, teamwork, hand-eye coordination, and breath control among others. Here’s a list of key outcomes of instrumental music:

1. Students will gain knowledge of terminology and symbols through the music presented in class.
2. Students will understand the following theoretical concepts: note names, rhythm, melody, and dynamics.
3. Students will continue to develop ear training skills using *interval identification*, by tuning one’s own instrument without assistance, and by identifying major and minor *triads*.
4. Musicality will be developed in terms of *dynamic contrast*, balance, blend, shaping of phrase and characteristic tone quality.

Home practice:

To make our Instrumental Music program successful, all students are required to practice 90 minutes per week. Practice time should be recorded for Grade 5-7 students in their Essential Elements Books; for Grade 8-12 students, in practice records form. All documents should be initialed by the parent or guardian.

Jazz band:

The Jazz Band Class will be open to students from grade 7 to grade 12 by teacher invitation only. This year we don't have a needed number of students for Junior and Senior Ensembles. All students attending will join rehearsals on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Friday rehearsal will be dedicated for the seventh and eighth grade students only. All rehearsals will begin at 7:05am. Students should be in the Music Auditorium by 7:00am.

I would appreciate hearing from you if you have any questions.
I can be reached on the phone 604-948-8826 ext 153 or via email
boris.pekarsky@spacademy.ca

Best Regards,

Boris Pekarsky

LIBRARY NEWS

The library volunteers have already made an incredible impression on the state of the library. The shelves are tidy and the books are organized and easy to find. If you would like to volunteer your time, there are still some shifts available. Please see Mrs. Levitt in the library to sign up.

Donations are always welcome. If we already have a copy of a particular book we like to pass it on to the teachers. They are always keen to receive donated books for their classroom libraries.

Study Club is operating in the library every day after school. Either Mrs. Levitt, or Jessica Carvajal, the newly appointed library prefect, are available for academic support until 5:00 p.m. every day.

MYP Student Council



We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow (wo)men.
~Herman Melville

Is it possible to generate more spirit in the MYP? Of course.

As the Olympic motto in Latin is, "Citius, Altius, Fortius", meaning "Swifter, Higher, Stronger", the MYP believe we can always work together to promote increased energy, spirit and connection with all its members.

So...this year we are creating a student council, whose responsibility will be to generate such spirit in the MYP alongside Ms. Huber's guidance. In the next few days, students in each of the homerooms will engage in a process to select two enthusiastic, committed individuals who will be representatives on the student council. I look forward to working closely with these 12 students. The results will be astonishing!

We will leave you in suspense as you anxiously wait to read the names of the representatives in the next issue of Midpointe!



THE DATE HAS CHANGED...



The Diamond Gala

**SAVE THE DATE
SAT. JAN. 30, 2010**

6:00pm Cocktails
7:00pm Dinner
Coast Tsawwassen Inn
Dinner and Dance

Ticket sales info coming soon!

GALA 2010

Come one, come all
to the

DIAMOND GALA PLANNING MEETING
Wednesday, October 7, 2009
7:30 p.m. Library

What is the Gala?

A night of fun, food, friendraising and fundraising! A chance to meet
mingle, dine and dance. The Gala is the biggest fundraiser for our
school and planning it is great fun.

Contact: Jodi Butchart jodi.butchart@dccnet.com

SPORTS CALENDAR October 1 – October 8

October 1 Thursday	3:30 – 5:00pm Grades 5 – 7 Boys Soccer at Quilchena Park (just off of 33 rd between Valley Drive & Pine Crescent – 1 block east of Arbutus.)
October 3 Saturday	9am – Senior Girls Volleyball Team Tournament at Carver Christian High School 10am – Grades 3 – 7 Cross Country Team Meet at Crescent Park (South Surrey)
October 5 Monday	4pm – Senior Boys Soccer Team vs. Waldorf School at Association Park (Ladner)
October 6 Tuesday	3:30pm – Senior Girls Volleyball Team vs. Waldorf School and Deer Lake Academy (Burnaby)
October 7 Wednesday	4pm – Senior Boys Soccer Team vs. Fraser Academy at Association Park (Ladner)

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

October 1 – October 15

October 1 Thursday	12:30 – 1:15pm Grad Centre. GYP Quest University visit. 7pm Pot Luck Dinner. Gunn House. Grade 6 & 7 Parents
October 5 – 9 Monday – Friday	Project Discover Week – Grade 8
October 6 Tuesday	7pm Pot Luck Dinner. Gunn House. Grade 8 & 9 Parents
October 7 Wednesday	7:30pm Library. Gala Planning Meeting
October 8 Thursday	12:30 – 1:15pm Grad Centre. GYP Farleigh Dickinson University visit. 7pm Pot Luck Dinner. Gunn House. Grade 10 & 11 Parents
October 9 Friday	Theme “Pink Day” for Breast Cancer 3pm Project Discover Returns
October 12 Monday	School Closed for Thanksgiving
October 13 - 16 Tuesday – Friday	Project Discover Week – Grade 7
October 13 Tuesday	7pm Parent Academy. Grad Centre.
October 14 Wednesday	Mandatory PSAT’s – Grade 11 12:30 – 1:15pm Grad Centre. GYP Simon Fraser University visit.
October 15 Friday	3pm Project Discover Returns
EDUCAFE Monday - Friday	3.00pm to 3.30pm –Mr. Baldwin is there daily to answer your questions, make appointments and share a cup of tea with you.