



The Midpointe

News and opinion for Southpointe Academy families

September 2, 2010

In this issue:

- Headlines
- School News
- IB Information
- Gala – Save the date!
- Upcoming Events Calendar

AND SO IT BEGINS ANEW

There they were this morning, the new Grade 1 students who had dropped in on me. Some sparkled, some stared, some shrank, red-eyed from the morning's tears of apprehension, and some shrewdly scoured the room, taking it all in. New students about to embark on the journey to their Ithaca, graduation, a time that seems so far ahead....and yet, yesterday, one of our Grad Class of 2010 stood where they stand now, disbelieving even now that she would not be back here next week, a little fearful herself of meeting the unfamiliar.

On the way here this morning, I was listening to the CBC. A psychologist was speaking about back-to-school anxiety. She listed the signs: disturbed, restless sleep, knotted tummy, fractious behaviour, strange mood swings, loss of appetite, preoccupied mental state. I was interested to learn that children feel this way –I thought it was just me!

On Monday night the new families came to Gunn House to meet each other and some of us, and to learn the wonders of Singapore Math from Mrs. Sirotic. It was energizing to feel their optimism for their children now that they were joining our school, and their own excitement at being part of us.

Also on Monday, the Faculty returned. Bronzed, healthy and happy, they bounded in to spend the week in preparation. Now, on Thursday afternoon, they look the same! There is an air of co-operation, of purpose, of confidence and of joy. They have re-energized our school and it is great to be among them.

Every year, this time is both the same and very different. What I am sure of is that you can pick up the scent of the year. If I am right, we are in for a truly spectacular one.

We are eager and ready: Tuesday cannot come quickly enough!

Graham Baldwin

TRAFFIC

The beginning of the school year often brings traffic problems. We have a site that requires the utmost attention and courtesy to ensure the safety of our children so we ask you to remember:

- When entering from 56th Street, please use ONLY the entrance nearest the hotel –the south entrance.
- Please obey all advice from traffic helpers.
- Please obey all traffic and parking signs in the neighbourhood. We have worked hard to establish good relations with our neighbours and ask you to respect their driveways, verges etc.

#1's FOR TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

Please remember- students need to be dressed in #1's on Tuesday for the Opening Ceremony and on Friday for photo day.

OPENING CEREMONY

Our annual Opening Ceremony will be at 9am on Tuesday next in the Sanctuary of the South Delta Baptist Church. Parents are warmly invited to attend. Elements of the ceremony are: the entry of the Graduation Class of 2011; the Honour Roll presentations; the induction of Prefects; the address of the Teacher of the Year; the introduction of new Faculty and Staff members; the address of the Head Prefect and the return of the Heart of the School. For new parents wanting an early experience of the special character of Southpointe Academy, this ceremony is a fine opportunity.

CREATING COMMUNITY

We try to provide many opportunities for parents to be part of our community. One of the ways that has been very much enjoyed in the past is the 'Pot Luck Dinner'. Held at Gunn House, these dinners comprise dishes brought by the participants and shared with all at the resulting eclectic buffet.

Mr. Baldwin gives a brief address on matters of particular relevance to the Grades present and then chats to parents informally, as do other members of our Leadership Team. The main purpose, however, is for the parents to chat to each other, forming or renewing friendships. Please save the date for your dinner(s):

GRADES	DATE
K AND 1	September 28
2 and 3	September 30
4 and 5	October 7
6	September 21
7	October 26
8	October 6
9	September 9
10	October 5
11	September 16
12	September 7

ANOTHER VITAL DATE

Please save **SEPTEMBER 14** for **THE NEW SCHOOL UPDATE** and **CURRICULUM NIGHT**

BUS INFORMATION

Bus service begins on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 7. Make sure that you have checked pick up and drop off locations and times for your route.

Please make sure that you have handed in your completed application forms and payment to the Front Office. Also note that this year, there is currently no pro-rated fares for any of the routes.

The Late Bus will start running on the first day of school leaving at 5:30pm. Single ride tickets will be made available at the Front Office, at the cost of \$5.00 per ticket.

The International Baccalaureate Program Comes to Southpointe Academy

Be prepared for some exciting changes in the Foundation Years Program when your child returns to school next Tuesday!

The Primary Years teachers have been hard at work preparing for the introduction of the IB program at Southpointe Academy. New displays are being prepared for the walls, new units are being planned, and a whole new vocabulary is being adopted.

The IB Programme is an internationally focused curriculum that promotes inquiry as the leading pedagogical approach. The school year is constructed around six themes of global significance that create a transdisciplinary framework to allow students to "step up" beyond the confines of learning within subject areas. The six themes are:

- Who we are
- Where we are in place and time
- How we express ourselves
- How the world works
- How we organize ourselves
- Sharing the planet

Of course, parents play a vital role in the IB programme and throughout the course of this year it will be our goal to include you in this exciting journey. Read the Midpointe each week to stay up to date with new developments, the dates of parent information sessions, and photos of IB in action!

If you would like to learn more about the International Baccalaureate Program, there is plenty of information at <http://www.ibo.org/>

Mr. Bruce Griffioen
Team Leader of Curriculum and Assessment
IB Primary Years Programme Coordinator

The IB Learner Profile:

"IB Learners strive to be inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective."



The Gala Committee is in “Full Swing!”

Join us for our first meeting. Do you have a special talent that could help the school? Let it “Shine” at this year’s Gala.

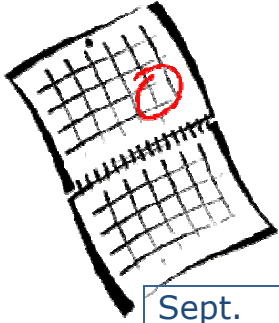
We need volunteers to help in all areas big and small.

Date: Monday, September 13

Time: 7:30pm

Location: School Library

Can’t make it for evening meetings? We’ll fill you in with the details. Email dafhodgins@dccnet.com or cindy@clickdesigns.ca.



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

September 2 – September 16

Sept. 3 Friday	Class Assignments will be emailed to Parents on their school zimbra account.
Sept. 7 Tuesday	8:05am – First Day of Fall Term 9:00am – Opening Ceremony at South Delta Baptist Church 6:30pm – 7:30pm, Room #209 – Project Discover Parent Briefing Meeting for all Grade 8 Parents. 7:00pm – Grad Class Parent & Student Pot Luck Dinner at Gunn House
Sept. 9 Thursday	7:00pm – Grade 9 Pot Luck Dinner, for all Gr. 9 parents, held at Gunn House.
Sept. 10 Friday	Artona Picture Day - #1 Uniform required
Sept. 13 Monday	7:30pm – Gala Planning Mtg in the School Library
Sept. 14 Tuesday	7:00pm – South Delta Baptist Church, Meeting for all Parents regarding New School, Curriculum and Teacher Introduction Night.
Sept. 16 Thursday	7:00pm – Grade 11 Pot Luck Dinner, for all Gr. 11 parents, held at Gunn House.