



# The Midpointe

News and opinion for Southpointe Academy families

## September 16, 2010

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## **NEW SCHOOL NEWS**

An audience of 180 gathered on Tuesday night to hear an update on our New School Project.

In essence, this is what they heard:

- We purchased the land on August 5<sup>th</sup>
- We shall begin work on the site on about October 4<sup>th</sup>
- The school will be ready for occupancy in December 2011
- \$6.9 million was pledged in Southpointe bonds.
- \$6.4 million of that has now been received.
- Parents who have not yet funded their bond purchases were urged to do so as soon as possible.
- Bank funding of \$10.5 million at an interest rate of 4.8% has been secured.
- We are now finalizing design and content elements.

## **THE HEART OF THE SCHOOL**

The heart of our school is our people, especially our student body. They deserve to be educated in a place that is, as you have heard me say many times, physically and psychologically safe. When that safety is attacked, we must take action. That is why, this week, two students have been dismissed from the school. They colluded in the theft of a teacher's cell phone and then lied about their involvement. They did this –the theft- on the same day they signed their agreement to live by our Code of Conduct.

I hope that all parents, if they have not already done so, will take the time to review the Behaviour Management section of the Parent handbook with their children, and note particularly that our school is open only to students of good character.

Actions that are egregious attacks on the very heart of our school will always warrant dismissal.

## **THE SCHOLARS DINE**

Mr. Baldwin was happy to host at Gunn House yesterday those students who achieved 'Honour Roll with Distinction' standing last year.

MYP students came for lunch and GYP students for dinner. All left with a book award to enjoy now and to remind them in future years of their academic success.

It was a pleasure to spend time in the company of such committed, hard-working and successful students who will, I hope, raise our level of both scholarship and discourse over the coming year.

We are grateful to Mrs. Common and her helpers for these delicious meals we enjoyed!

## TIMETABLE GYP

Tomorrow (Friday) is the last day for course changes for this year. We are still working to adjust the timetable so that it is more effective. We were hampered in its initial iteration by late enrolments, non-submission of several course selection sheets and the fact that our Grade 11 enrolment accelerated late, causing us to divide what was to have been one class into two. The students have been calm and understanding and we shall have a significantly better schedule for them next week.

## POT LUCK DINNERS

Tonight is the Pot Luck dinner for Grade 11 parents at Gunn House. These dinners are designed to bring parents together the better to understand their children's friends' families, to meet, informally, Mr. Baldwin and other senior staff of the school, and to learn of matters that are of particular importance to the Grade. We think these events play an important role in building our school community and we hope you will attend if you possibly can.

Start time is always 7pm and the evenings end by 9.30pm at the latest.

*Graham Baldwin*



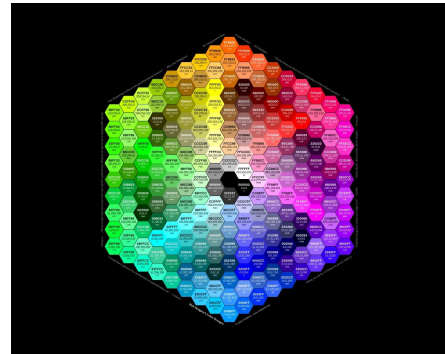
# SCHOOL NEWS

## ISLAND THEME DAY FOR ALL!

**Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010**

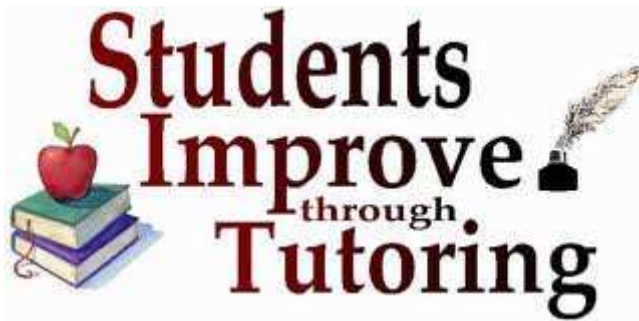
Know your island, wear your colours, show your spirit!

Mayne – White  
Pender – Green  
Denman – Blue  
Quadra - Yellow



This notice is brought to you by the prefects 2011, with thanks!

## TUTORS AVAILABLE!



Tutors are available in the library after school from 3:30-4:30 every Monday to Thursday. Students in grades 4 and up can come in for extra help from older peer tutors (usually grade 11 and 12s).

On request, a specific tutor can also be assigned to help a student one-on-one in a particular subject.

Parents can email Mrs. Levitt about any requests for a tutor for their child.

[Jessica.levitt@spacademy.ca](mailto:Jessica.levitt@spacademy.ca)

## CURRICULUM NIGHT OR FAMILY REUNION?

*It was a tough act to follow ... exciting announcements about the progress being made by the Board Members on our new school building ... but our teachers were up for the task and presented inspired plans of their own for building our school from within!*

Thank you to all parents who showed their commitment to our core value of *partnership* by visiting teachers and classes on Tuesday night. There was an excitement in the air as teachers fielded a vast array of questions ranging from AP courses, Jazz Band, and auditions for the upcoming GYP musical "Comedy of Errors" to the FYP the International Baccalaureate Program, field trips, and the Singapore Math program.

If you were unable to make this event, or left the school craving more information, all of our course syllabus documents are now available on our school website at [www.southpointeacademy.ca](http://www.southpointeacademy.ca) under the "Reference" tab and in the "Downloads" section. You can view a description of each course here, arranged by grade level in a downloadable PDF file.

I spent the evening wandering through the halls and engaging both parents and teachers in delightful conversation. I am now in my 9th year with Southpointe Academy, and I often marvel at the fact that those little children I once taught in Grade 1 now wander our upstairs corridor as mature Grade 9 students.

It is on evenings like curriculum night, when the whole school is gathered together in meaningful conversation, that my time here somehow feels less like a job and more like a family reunion. I had the pleasure of attending my own family reunion in Holland this past summer and the atmosphere there was very similar to the one I experienced on Tuesday night. Some people I saw were long time friends, others were a familiar, friendly face with a name that sometimes escapes me, and still others I was meeting for the first time. However, there is a common purpose that unites a family and allows all differences to be put aside.

Reflecting on it now, I realize that our "Southpointe family" has truly come a long way in the past 9 years, and I'm very proud to call Southpointe my "home".

I hope that you feel the same way!

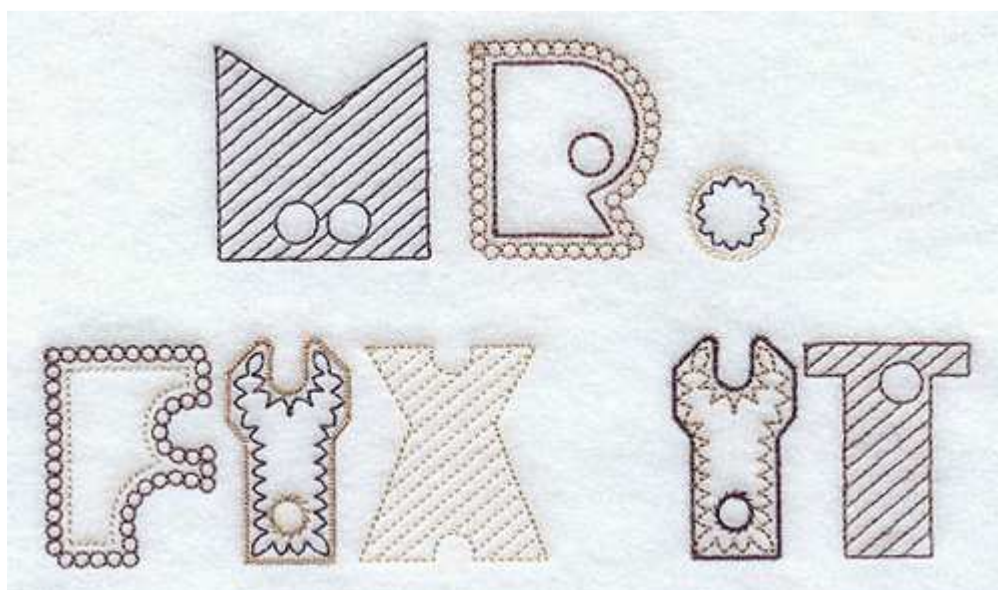
Bruce Griffioen  
Team Leader of Curriculum and Assessment

## **DEPERATELY SEEKING Mr./MS. FIXIT UPDATE!**

### **Social Studies 7 says "Thank You"**

Both classes of Social Studies 7 have their classroom map back. After putting out a request for help in fixing their spring-loaded multi-leveled map of ancient civilizations, Southpointe Parent, Maarten Meerman (of Grade 11 student Jana), volunteered his time and took the map home to his shop. It was returned to the MYP Social Studies classroom today in better-than-ever condition!

Many thanks to Mr. Meerman for his help; from the students of Socials 7.



# The IB Programme of Inquiry

The **six transdisciplinary themes** help teachers to develop a programme of inquiries: in-depth investigations into important ideas, identified by the teachers, and requiring a high level of involvement on the part of the students. These inquiries are substantial, in-depth and usually last for several weeks. The **transdisciplinary 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

Every grade completes a unit of inquiry for each theme. These units are carefully planned to provide consistency in learning both within a year and as students move up the grades.



## LIBRARY NEWS

The Birthday Book Club is back! You may have received a hard copy of the Birthday Book Club notice if you have a student in the Foundation Years Program. Here is an electronic version just in case.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Levitt in the library.



# GYP NEWS

## **The 2009/2010 Yearbook**

As the Publishing teacher, I have been fielding many questions about the yearbook, so I thought I would take the time to write a little about the process involved in creating the yearbook and why we do things the way we do.

The yearbook at Southpointe Academy is a huge undertaking and it is completed by the dedicated work of the Publishing 11 and 12 students. Students are able to take Publishing in their Grade 10, 11 and 12 years and can take it for all three years if they wish. I teach the Publishing class and Steve Hilton is our tech support for the class. While the Publishing students have their class time to create the yearbook, they spend countless hours outside of class (even for a few weeks in the summer!) taking photos, organizing and designing pages and editing their work. While many students initially take Publishing because of an interest in photography, or because working on a yearbook looks really good on university applications, it soon becomes a labour of love for them and in many cases an obsession! The yearbook is an excellent learning experience for students. They learn how to plan and implement a continued theme, how to take strong photos, how to work with deadlines and so many other valuable life skills.

I am often asked why students don't receive their yearbooks in June like many other schools do. This is not because the students are unorganized, or because we can't meet our deadlines, it is simply because we have chosen a Fall delivery date. The reasons for doing so are as follows:

- 1.) It allows us to create a much more intricate book. If you compare our yearbook to many others, you will see that it really is a work of art and the combined effort of many creative and talented minds. Considering the planning process often takes us months, we need all of the time we can get to work on the actual pages.
- 2.) We are a PreK-Gr. 12 school and we need to reflect that in our yearbook. If the yearbook was delivered in June, we would not be able to have any events past April in it. This means that many of the events (Sports Day, Track and Field, Golf, the Grad Events, The Amazing Race, Awards, The FYP play, etc) would not be represented in the yearbook. Because we believe these events to be important, we have decided to have a Fall delivery.

This year our yearbook will be delivered on or before Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>. We also ensure that the yearbooks reach the 2010 Grads.

The other question I frequently hear is why do I only receive one yearbook if I have multiple children in the school? In your tuition payments, each family pays for one yearbook per family. At the start of the year you will be given the option to order more (at \$50.00 per book). You also have the option of adding personalizations to your yearbook. In the next few weeks, forms will be sent out allowing you to order more yearbooks. You will only need to fill out and return this order form if you intend on buying additional yearbooks, or if you would like personalizations.

If you ever have any questions regarding the yearbook, please do not hesitate to contact me at [pamela.mcmartin@spacademy.ca](mailto:pamela.mcmartin@spacademy.ca)

Submitted by Pam McMartin

## UNIVERSITY INFORMATION



Grade 12 Students:

**MIT** presentation at York House, October 7, at 7:00 p.m. Students and parents are invited. If you are interested, please let me know by Friday, September 17, 2010

A representative from **Johns Hopkins University** will be at Crofton House on October 18 at 4:00 p.m. Parents and students are invited. If you are interested please let me know by this Friday, so that I can confirm numbers.

A representative from the **Royal Vet College** will be at York House on Monday, Sept. 27 from 6-7:30 p.m. Please confirm attendance by this Friday.

### University Visits scheduled:

Thursday, September 23 - 2:00pm to 7:00pm - International Fair at the Vancouver Convention Centre. **University reps from Australia, UK and the U.S.** will participate.

Tuesday, September 28 - all Grade 12's will bus to the CUE (Canadian Universities Event) at Southridge. **Representatives from most of the universities across Canada** will be there.

Wednesday, October 13 - 7:00pm South Delta Secondary School - **UBC** reps. Students and parents are invited.

Tuesday, October 26 - 12:30pm **Simon Fraser University**, room 209, upstairs at Southpointe Academy.

Tuesday, November 9 - 12:30pm **University of Victoria**, room 209, upstairs at Southpointe Academy.

Monday, November 15 - 10:15am **U of Toronto** - students must have permission from their teachers to attend.

Wednesday, November 17 - 12:30pm **Quest University**, room 209, upstairs at Southpointe Academy.

Tuesday, November 23 - 12:30pm **L'Attitude Canada**, for students who are interested in taking a GAP year - room 209, upstairs at Southpointe Academy.

Friday, November 26 - 12:30pm, **University of Western Ontario**, room #209, upstairs at Southpointe Academy.

Wednesday, December 8 - 7:00pm **SDSS**, all BC University reps will be present.

Thursday, December 9 - 12:30pm **Vancouver Island University**, room 209, upstairs at Southpointe Academy.

Submitted by S. Kirkwood, Guidance Counsellor

# MYP NEWS

## How did the school year start for you?

According to 'Health Tips' from doctors Mehmet Oz, and Michael Roizen, there is more to the start of school than the multi-coloured locker organizers and whining about the math homework. In the Middle years, we feel it is never too late to remind us all about healthy strategies we can instill in our students, your children:

- 1) Is your child just ignoring you? Well, our first answer would be, yes, they are adolescents this happens! Perhaps there might be other problems causing them to act this way. These doctors suggest one of the issues could be they can't hear or see you well. Did you know 2-5% of kids have amblyopia, a reversible form of vision loss that could become permanent unless it's treated?
- 2) Are they getting enough sleep? Well, for most of us adults this is never the case! Chances are now they are back to school this means earlier bedtimes and an early start to the day. Sleep is critical for optimal health and learning. If you are not already doing so, Dr. Oz and Roizen suggest limiting late-afternoon naps when children come home from school tired, and eliminate sugary evening snacks—difficult to do, I know!
- 3) Is breakfast on the menu at your home? Many students disregard the importance of eating a healthy breakfast. Feeding their brains is essential for good school performance. A tip for parents—keep cold (healthy) cereals, quick oatmeal, yogurt, cottage cheese and fruit on hand to make that meal go smoothly.
- 4) Lastly, be sure to weigh the backpack! Over-stuffed backpacks can cause children unwanted back and neck pain. Children should not be carting around items in their packs exceeding 10-15% of their body weight. For precautionary reasons it might be a good idea to place a small hand sanitizer in one of the small pockets!



In summary, the beginning of any school year brings with it a sense of excitement, a potential lack of sleep, and other interesting challenges; however, with careful attention to some of the suggestions from Dr. Oz and Roizen, we might all be able to incorporate a few of their helpful hints to encourage alert, well-rested students with active well-fed minds, and healthy backs to carry home all of their revision work students willingly attend to the minute they arrive home from school.

Thank you for partnership in your child's educational venture at Southpointe thus far!

Submitted by Ms. Huber  
MYP Team Leader



## FYP NEWS

International Day of Peace  
Tuesday, September 21st, 2010  
"Pinwheels for Peace"



Today's students are bombarded with television images, video games, and magazine articles/newspapers that highlight conflict and war. Violence has become commonplace and almost accepted as part of our society. And for some less fortunate students, it is a way of life.

The FYP Art students, have been asked the question, "What is Peace?" This began an in depth class discussion about Peace and why we have a day to celebrate it. I was very encouraged with the wonderful array of responses: quiet, getting along, living in harmony, no wars, etc... This led to a discussion on the personal attributes we would need in order to create Peace in our lives. In the IB program, the children are learning about the IB Attitudes which include appreciation, cooperation, tolerance, commitment, empathy, respect and more. Many of these attitudes came up in our discussion as key attributes that we need to live peacefully with one another. A student in the 1ES class said, "We need to be KIND and respectful." Sometimes the simplest truth is the most profound. As the songwriter Jewel sings, " In the end only kindness matters." If we could all live our lives in this manner...

The Project the students are working on...

In today's world, peace needs to become more than just a word. This project is about creating symbols to embody that which we long for. A pinwheel is a childhood symbol – it reminds us of a time when things were simple, joyful, and peaceful. It is our hope that through the Pinwheels for Peace project, we can help the students make a public visual statement about their feelings about war/ peace/ tolerance/ cooperation/ harmony/ unity and, in some way, awaken the public and let them know that the next generation has a voice. The voice of Peace.



On Tuesday morning after the assembly, the FYP students will be participating in a Walk of Silence around Southpointe with their Pinwheels celebrating "The International Day of Peace". The Pinwheels will be placed around the trees in front of the school following the Walk.

Submitted by: Sandy Kwok-Swan (FYP Art teacher)

# SOUTHPOINTE ACADEMY'S 11TH ANNUAL GALA



Tickets on Sale October 4-8, 2010

Cocktails, Dinner, Dancing  
Silent and Live Auctions

\$150 per ticket  
Reserve your table of 10

Now Accepting  
Auction Donations &  
Sponsorships

# SPORTS INFORMATION

## **ATTENTION: FYP, MYP & GYP STUDENTS**

Cross Country has already begun!

What is Cross Country?

Cross Country is consists of running up and down hills, around fields, trails and parks. It is a great aerobic exercise which will improve your fitness, whether it be for volleyball, basketball, and soccer.

Participating in Cross Country, will enable you to push yourself for a longer period of time for any sport.

The benefits of participating in Cross Country will include:

- increased cardiovascular endurance
- faster recovery
- a solid fitness foundation for most sports.

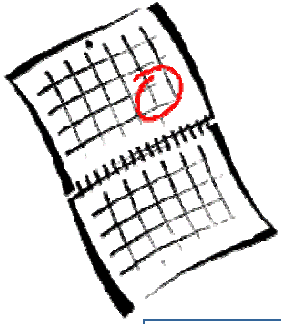
Our first Cross Country Race is only 3 days away! For those still interested in running through mud, grass, and trails, please come to the P.E office in room 128 to sign up.

Our first race begins September 18th from 11am to 12:00pm at Mundy Park in Coquitlam.

Our practices have already begun. Tuesdays practices start at 7:05am (until, 7:55am) meeting outside the P.E office room 128, and/OR an afternoon practice from 3:30pm to 4:30pm.

For more information, please see Mr. Simpson or Mrs. Locke in the P.E office.





## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

***September 16 – October 1***

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Sept.<br>16<br>Thursday                       | 7:00pm – Grade 11 Pot Luck Dinner, for all Gr. 11 parents, held at Gunn House.  |
| Sept.<br>20 – 24<br>Monday –<br>Friday        | Grade 8 Project Discover Week<br>Monday – at school<br>Tuesday to Friday - Alice Lake   |
| Sept.<br>21<br>Tuesday                        | <b>“ISLAND THEME DAY” PLEASE BRING A TOONIE!</b><br>8:20am – 9:20am, Full School Assembly to introduce Islands and promote the Terry Fox Run. At the school gymnasium. Please dress in casual clothes promoting your Island colour.<br><br>7:00pm – Grade 6 Pot Luck Dinner, for all Gr. 6 parents, held at Gunn House. |
| Sept.<br>23<br>Thursday                       | 7:00pm – Parent Academy “Universities” A presentation/Mini-Workshop designed for Grade 11 & 12 Parents, upstairs in Room #209, at the school.   |
| Sept.<br>27 –<br>Oct. 1<br>Monday –<br>Friday | “3 week Call Home” – Teachers call home with an update on the students progress.  |
| Sept.<br>28<br>Tuesday                        | Grade 12 students to Southridge School for University Fair.<br><br>GYP Alternative Program Day<br><br>7:00pm – Kindergarten & Grade 1 Pot Luck Dinner, for all parents, held at Gunn House.   |
| Sept.<br>30<br>Thursday                       | PM – Terry Fox Run<br><br>7:00pm – Grade 2 & Grade 3 Pot Luck Dinner, for all parents, held at Gunn House.  |
| Oct.<br>1<br>Friday                           | ISA Junior Boys Soccer - Victoria, BC<br><br>Grades 2 – 7 Boundary Bay Cross-Country Meet   |