



The Midpointe

News and opinion for Southpointe Academy families

September 17, 2009

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KEEP YOUR HATTIE ON

John Hattie is one of the most prominent contributors to the discussion of what things affect children's learning most positively. He is a Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. This year he has published the results of fifteen years' work in his book 'Visible Learning'. He and his team have analyzed over 50,000 research papers on the learning of school-age children to discover the degree of benefit (or otherwise) of most processes and innovations in schools. He has concluded that an effect size 0.40 on his scale is the level where 'the effects enhance achievement in such a way that we can notice real-world differences, and this should be a benchmark of such real-world change'.

There are three effects of over 0.40 that result from the home: these are socio-economic status (0.57), home environment (0.57), and parent involvement in learning (0.51).

The socio-economic status of the home has its effect through the funding of the school, rather than by other means. We see every year in the notorious Fraser Institute Rankings how schools with parents in the higher socio-economic strata are at the top, whereas those with parents in the lower strata are at the bottom. Having parents in the higher strata means that schools are better funded and so better resourced. Hattie finds this effect is more pronounced in the elementary years than later.

The home environment matters, too. Here we are speaking less of comfort and possessions, and more of the socio-psychological environment (kindness, love, psychological safety, harmony) and the degree of intellectual stimulation provided. Interestingly, the 'most consistent and highly correlated factors with achievement were maternal involvement, variety, and play materials'.

Parent involvement in learning has the positive effect measured when certain factors are emphasized. When others are emphasized, the effect can be negative. What Hattie calls 'the surveillance approach' has negative effects, particularly on adolescent students. Such things as monitoring their homework, their TV, watching time and their time with friends are unwise! On the other hand, actively engaging with students in their learning, having high expectations of them and high aspirations for them while providing copious amounts of encouragement are the ways to create the positive effects that make a significant difference. In short, it is the 'beliefs and expectations of the adults in the home that contributes (sic) most to achievement.

Hattie conducted 138 meta-analyses and ranked the effects of each. Home environment ranked 31, socio-economic status ranked 32, and parent involvement ranked 45.

You may be interested to know that the #1 effect was the self-reporting of grades by students (1.44) and that class size was #106 (0.21)

The book is 'Visible Learning' by John Hattie and it is published by Routledge.

Graham Baldwin

FALL GALA 2009

Come one, come all
to the

GALA PLANNING MEETING
Monday, September 21, 2009
7:00 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

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

We welcome you to join our volunteer team at the Southpointe Academy Library. The Library is seeking parent/grandparent volunteers to assist in the Library. The opportunities are endless – from assisting with classroom visits to cataloguing and library maintenance to helping with the Scholastic Book Fair. When you help in the Library, you know that you are making a difference in your child's education.

Please contact Jessica Levitt, our Librarian, if you would like more information or would like to sign up to help out. Mrs. Levitt can be reached by either calling the school at 604-948-8826 ext. 116, or email at library@spacademy.ca.

Volunteer Meeting, Thursday, September 24th, 8:30am in the Library.

TRANSPORTATION

If anyone is interested in carpooling from Surrey, please contact the Front Office.

We are interested in knowing who is still in need of transportation for the Surrey bus and are compiling a list. Please email your name and street location in Surrey by next Wednesday, September 23rd, to anne.ohalloran@spacademy.ca.

Pinwheels for Peace Foundation Years - Art

The Foundation Art program is embarking on an international art project called "Pinwheels for Peace" for International Day of Peace on Monday, September 21st, 2009. The students are making pinwheels this week to express their thoughts about war and peace, tolerance and living in harmony with others.

Violence has become commonplace and accepted as part of our society. It is our hope that through the "Pinwheels for Peace" project, we can help our students make a public visual statement about their feelings on war, peace, tolerance, cooperation, harmony and unity and let people know what the next generation is thinking. Peace doesn't have to be associated with war; it can be related to violence and intolerance in our daily lives. Peace is what you feel in your heart.

Please look for the Southpointe Pinwheels in front of the school on Monday, September 21st.

If you would like more information on the project, please contact Sandy Kwok-Swan at 604-948-8826 ext. 154.

You can also go to www.pinwheelsforpeace.com.

Southpointe Academy

Sports

FALL SPORTS SEASON

(September - November 2009)

[Elementary Boys Soccer Team](#)

Coaches: Mr. Lupton and Mr. Ross

Grade 5 - 7

Practice Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Participating in the ISEA League

[High School Boys Soccer Team](#)

Coach: Mr. Levitt

Grade 8 - 12

Practice Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays at Imperial Village, 3:30 - 5:00.

Participating in GVISAA League

[Girls Volleyball](#)

Coaches: Mr. Griffioen, Ms. Santry, Ms. Huber

We will meet every Tuesday and Thursday until mid-November for games or practices. Practices will run from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. All the girls will practice (Grade 6-12) at the same time, although we will often split the gym in half for the Senior team and the Bantam team.

The Senior Girls team will play in the GVISAA league and participating in a few weekend tournaments (tryouts are open to everyone in Grade 8 - 12). The Bantam team (Grade 6 - 8) will be having exhibition games and preparing for the Toronto Volleyball Tournament on November 21.

[Elementary Cross Country Team](#)

Coach: TBA

Grade 3 - 7 (Coed)

Practice Times - Monday and Wednesday, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Participating in ISEA & Club Meets

* More information to follow soon...

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

September 17 – October 1

September 17 Thursday	7pm Pot Luck Dinner. Gunn House. Grade 2 & 3 Parents
September 18 Friday	3:00pm Project Discover Grade 9's return to Southpointe
September 21 Monday	8:15am Church. Full School Assembly. #1 Uniform required.
September 22 Tuesday	Morning – Immunizations Grade 6 Afternoon – Immunizations Grade 9 7pm Pot Luck Dinner. Gunn House. Grade Kindergarten & 1 Parents
September 24 Thursday	8:30am Library. Library Volunteers Meeting. 12:00 – 1:00pm Gunn House. FYP & MYP Honour Roll lunch with the Headmaster. 12:30 – 1:15pm Grad Centre. GYP University of BC visit. 5:30 – 6:30pm Grad Centre. Project Discover Gr. 7 Parent Information Briefing. 7pm Gunn House. GYP Honour Roll, Scholar's Dinner with the Headmaster.
September 25 Friday	Photo Day. Library. #1 Uniform required
September 29 Tuesday	7pm Pot Luck Dinner. Gunn House. Grade 4 & 5 Parents
October 1 Thursday	12:30 – 1:15pm Grad Centre. GYP Quest University visit. 7pm Pot Luck Dinner. Gunn House. Grade 6 & 7 Parents
EDUCAFE	3.00pm to 3.30pm –Mr. Baldwin is there daily to answer your questions, make appointments etc.