



The Midpointe

News and opinion for Southpointe Academy families

September 23, 2010

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ZIMBRA

Most of us think of ZIMBRA as our e-mail system. Currently, that is correct, but it is only the first step. From the beginning, it has been our intention, once everyone is using the e-mail, to expand the use of ZIMBRA, initially to a series of helpful activity calendars (Arts, Athletic Events etc) and the main school calendar. This will enable everyone to see detailed information of all school activities on a calendar that is updated and amended regularly. Unfortunately for this good intention, we still do not have sufficiently favourable conditions to expand the use of ZIMBRA for the following reasons:

- a) Many parents automatically forward their ZIMBRA spacademy mail to other e-mail addresses. This means they do not visit the ZIMBRA site and so would not access the calendars.
- b) We still have some parents who have never signed in on their spacademy mail and so miss the weekly Midpointe and other important information.

Nevertheless, we wish to move on, so we shall be taking the following steps:

- a) We shall call everyone with a never- or- rarely- used ZIMBRA account to see how we can help them.
- b) We shall make the ZIMBRA school calendar available to all from next Thursday.

WEBSITE

Our website will be updated weekly on Thursday's. Please have a look for interesting updates.

The website calendar, being public, is currently used to give prospective parents an idea of the sorts of things that we do. We do not, however, for safety and privacy reasons, publish all the things that can be found on the ZIMBRA school calendar.

We hope, in future, to make our website the key communication tool of our school, but we currently simply do not have the budget to develop a site with the level of sophistication we ultimately need.

ISLANDS

The Prefects conceived and ran a spirited assembly on Tuesday to revive the Islands and introduce the mascots. We all had fun and felt the spirit. It was excellent to see our key student leaders, led by Head Prefect Vishav Gill, create such joy in our students. The Islands are re-created and will be the means of achieving several of our aims this year.

PARENT ACADEMY

Tonight, we hold our first Parent Academy of the year. At 7pm in Room 209, Mrs. Kirkwood will introduce her audience to **Naviance**, a remarkable database that enables detailed research of hundreds of universities and colleges. The meeting is open to all parents interested in the university application process.

GRADE 6 POT LUCK

This week we enjoyed being part of the Grade 6 Pot Luck dinner. There was a most convivial atmosphere accompanied by a wonderful variety of fine food.

Pot Luck dinners, now in their third year of operation, are very successful in creating community. Nothing is asked of anyone present –it is a gathering of those with a single common interest –children in school, and a chance to meet and relax with `classmates`.

If you have not enjoyed your Pot Luck yet, please put it in your diary and resolve to attend.

TERRY FOX RUN

The students have decided the charities we shall be supporting this year and the first is the Terry Fox Foundation. We shall be running for Terry as he ran for us and the students will be asking for your support. I hope you feel able to encourage them in their efforts and thank you in advance for doing so.

Have a great weekend,

Graham Baldwin



SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Southpointe Family,

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home and a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow. Be grateful for what you have, who you have in your life and for who you are."

I have no words to express my deepest gratitude for all that you all have done for us, for being there for us, for caring and making our grief so much easier to bear. Southpointe has become our family. Everyday I feel warmth and compassion, not only from the parents, but from all the faculty, staff members and students. Thank you for making our house a home, our meals feasts (all the cooked meals and gift cards that we have received) and for becoming such intense close friends to us. We shall always be indebted to you for this, but shall always cherish the way it makes us feel.

Thank you all so much.

Carola Schaub & Family.

PREFECT INFORMATION:

The decisions have been made and here are the new Grade Reps who will be assisting the Prefects throughout the year:

Grade 9 - **Kathleen Jackson and Morgan Leung**

Grade 10 - **Ziyaan Harji and Jaskamal Gill**

Grade 11 - **Navi Bopari and Susie Yoo**

Congratulations!

TERRY FOX RUN IS BACK!

It's time, once again, for Southpointe's annual hosting of the Terry Fox Run, supporting cancer research.

Last time, we raised \$10,000, making us the third highest fundraising school per capita in the Province. **WAY TO GO SOUTHPOINTE!** If you recall, many of our wonderful teachers pledged to do various things if we met our goal. Some had their hair dyed, others had their heads' shaved and some even wore the Southpointe student uniform to school for a week.

This year, we're going to exceed our expectations and fly higher. Our goal this year is to raise our fundraising efforts over \$10,000. With the help of everyone, we can make this year very successful. Determination is a key. Pledge sheets should have been sent out to each of the students in their homeroom class. Remember, money can be raised through various ways. Please get in the pledge sheets along with the money, by Sept. 30th, to your homeroom teachers.

WHAT? Terry Fox Run
WHEN? Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010
WHERE? South Delta Baptist Church
TIME: 1:10 to 3:00



The time table for that day will be the same as usual; however there will be no classes after lunch and the rest of the day will be devoted to the Terry Fox Run. At 1pm the students are asked to meet in their homerooms for attendance and the teachers will take them to the church.

The running course is as follows:

FYP - one half of the parking lot

MYP - other half of the parking lot

GYP - around the lacrosse box

There will be water stations set up. **All students are to come to school dressed in their proper Southpointe PE uniform** and ready to run.

Thank you for your support
Southpointe Service Prefects

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC STUDENTS

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

I would like to take a moment to introduce to you important information about our instrumental music program. Playing musical instruments is fun and also helps to develop some very key life skills such as creativity, teamwork, hand-eye coordination and confidence.

To make our Instrumental Music Program successful, all students are required to practice their instruments at home. FYP & MYP students are required to practice 90 minutes per week. GYP students are required to practice 60 minutes per week. Practice time should be recorded for Grade 5-7 students in their Essential Elements Books and for Grade 8-12 students in their practice records form. All documents should be initialed by the parent or guardian every week.

I would appreciate hearing from you if you have any questions.

I can be reached at 604-948-8826, ext: 153 or via email boris.pekarsky@spacademy.ca

Best Regards, Boris Pekarsky

CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK

Parents who are interested in going on Field Trips are required to complete a criminal records check, yearly. Please let your Homeroom Teacher know that you are interested in participating in Field Trips and they will have the Front Office print a letter for you to take to your local Police/RCMP Department. The letter will be available at the Front Office for pick-up the next day. Once you receive the criminal records check, usually by mail, just drop it by the Front Office. **If you will be assisting in driving students on any of the Field Trips, you will also require a driver's abstract which you can obtain from ICBC and then drop the Front Office a copy. (Please ensure you have coverage of \$4 Million passenger liability.)**

IMPORTANT TRAFFIC UPDATE:

Student Drop-off/Pick-up:

Please only drop-off or pick-up from the back lane of the school. This is the area opposite the entrance to the courtyard.

Premature stopping causes a line-up to turn which then backs up 56th Street creating huge danger for all of you and the general public on 56th Avenue.

Many thanks, Community through Cooperation.....Mrs. Common

GYP NEWS

What is and Independent Study?

Several of the Grade 11 students have been given the opportunity to pursue and Independent Study this year. An Independent Study (or IDS) is a Ministry approved course that is defined as follows:

an opportunity for students to pursue areas of personal interest or to individually investigate course topics. Components of an independent study program include:

- *identifying and developing a focus,*
- *developing skills in creative and critical thinking,*
- *using problem solving and decision making strategies,*
- *learning research skills,*
- *developing project management strategies,*
- *keeping learning logs,*
- *evaluating the process and product,*
- *sharing the product with an intended audience from beyond the classroom, and*
- *keeping a portfolio of results.*

Independent studies help the student move from being teacher-directed to student-directed. With teacher support and coaching the student learns how to decide on a focus, how to develop a plan of action and follow it through, and how to monitor the process. Students take part in developing criteria for evaluation and begin to work with the teacher as a partner.

Source: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/specialed/gifted/strategies.htm>

IDS students have a scheduled block where they can work on their study. They work under the supervision of a teacher, but it is up to them to develop their plan and assessment (with the guidance of their supervising teacher). This allows them to explore areas of interest that they may not have a chance to explore in regular classes and gives them credit for it.

Some of the Exciting IDS projects Happening Right Now:

- Several students are working in the Grade 8 PE class and in the Kindergarten class. They have been planning lessons, teaching and working with groups of students and learning a lot about group management! Their ultimate goal is to plan and implement a larger activity for their classes.
- One student is researching the effect of the flooding in Pakistan and what types of relief are being offered. She is doing this in order to learn more about the event so she can organize and implement a fundraising event.
- One student is exploring his love of music and is working on creating song mashups and remixes using various different computer programs.
- Several students are conducting research projects into topic such as: Child Psychology, the effects of smoking on young adults, current politic history and the reasons why students choose to study abroad and the effects on their personal well-being.
- One student is using her IDS as and an opportunity to explore the career of an Orthodontist in order to decide whether this is a career path she wants to take. She will be doing research and then making connections with Orthodontists to complete job shadows.
- Several students are working as lab assistants in the Science Lab and are conducting research on how to run efficient lab environments.

Independent Study provides the students with valuable real world skills. They learn to follow their passions, to plan, organize and to assess their own progress and I am sure there will be some excellent final products!

Submitted by Pam McMartin

MYP NEWS



...a revolution in second language instruction

Welcome to the MYP AIM Programme

It is finally here! A new program to the Southpointe MYP that continues to promote the skills acquired in the FYP French program. AIM stands for the Accelerative Integrated Method for teaching/learning French.

The program allows students to visualize and embed vocabulary in their minds kinesthetically while promoting the ability to communicate in structured, as well as spontaneous situations. Students speak exclusively in French and the partner/group work provides opportunities for them to progress to spontaneous fluency as they apply the vocabulary and concepts learned during whole class activities. So far, the students seem very excited about this new method and have acquired a substantial amount of vocabulary and gestures to begin the foundation for subsequent oral and written communication.

Ask your child to recite the entry routine, or perhaps ask permission to use the washroom, and what we say when someone speaks English in class!

The enthusiasm for the program has been positive. Below are some comments from some Grade Six and Seven students when asked how they liked the class:

Rajan (7TS): *Actually it's very good because the gestures help me remember the words. My mom keeps yelling at me because she doesn't understand me when I speak!*

Brenna and Jody (7TS, 7LF): *It is a lot easier because the gestures help and we speak French more often. I think we will be able to speak a lot of French by June.*

Max (7LF): *I like it much better. It is more active and we get to do more.*

Vinnie (6AH) *It is not as hard as my brother says. It is beginning to make more sense to me. I now understand some sentences.*

Mandeep and friends (7TS and 7LF): *I think the sign language makes me remember much better (and all her friends agreed that it helped them acquire the vocabulary).*

So there you have it! With positive comments such as these, the students are bound to be successful in learning French. However, little do they know that there is also a large written aspect to the program that has not yet been introduced.....! Stay tuned for an update later in the fall.

Submitted by: Madame Fraser, MYP French Teacher

FYP NEWS

Time to Relax!

It's that time of year. We head home after a busy day of work and we are greeted by a list of things we have to do and accomplish before we can even contemplate falling into bed. It is exhausting, frustrating and never ending. We long for the day when we can come home and have nothing to do. Well, at least nothing planned or organized to do. As adults, we always have a list of things that we would like to do, "if only we had the time!"



I certainly know that I treasure the evenings when I have nothing planned. I see it as my time to rejuvenate, "veg out", and mentally relax, readying myself for the onslaught of the next day. In fact, I am convinced that I do better at work the next day after I have had an evening such as this.

Despite the fact that many of us feel this way as adults, we do not seem to transfer this knowledge, to the way we design our children's lives. When you ask students what they are doing after school there is usually a long list of classes and practices, sometimes each child may have several on a given day. Now I am not saying that the children don't enjoy some of them or even ask for them. Indeed, often parents will say that their child has insisted on taking trumpet classes straight after their Irish dancing lesson, which follows their Mandarin class! There are times that as adults have to step in, when we see over indulgence in our children's lives. Whether it be in the candy room, or over excessive aggression on the playground, or over eating at the PNE, we need to intervene. So why do we not step in when we see over programming?

Yes, we need to become educated, well rounded individuals who have experienced a vast variety of exploits available to us by the time we are 50. But do we need to have experienced the majority of them before the age of 10? We need to encourage our youngsters to explore the world, interact with others and observe. This can be done in a variety of ways, not just through organized programs and classes. It seems to me sometimes that playing by oneself is a dying art. We need to encourage our children (in fact, teach them) how to entertain themselves without our aid. Yes, they need group activities, yes, they blossom playing with friends, but sometimes, just like us, they need to enjoy the pleasure of unstructured time.

We wonder why our children are often tired, fractious and unable to concentrate. We question why they fight us about going to bed, doing homework or getting packed up for the next day. At the same time, ask a parent about their work day and they will often acknowledge that they are having trouble concentrating on their work, anxious to get the day over, desperate for the weekend. If asked why, they will often say that they were too busy the night before and haven't had time to relax and rejuvenate for the next day. Why can we understand what is wrong with ourselves, but not accept that our children feel the same way?



Submitted by FYP Team Leader, Mrs. Quenville

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

FALL SPORTS SEASON

(September - November 2010)

Elementary Boys Soccer Team

Coaches: Mr. Lupton and Mr. Ross

Grades: 5 - 7

Practice Times: varies each week (see schedule), 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Participating in the ISEA League (game days vary)

High School Boys Soccer Team

Coach: Mr. Levitt and Mr. Lum

Grades: 8 - 12

Practice Times: Tuesday and Wednesday or Thursday (depending on game days)

3:30 - 5:00 pm

Participating in GVISAA League (most games on Monday or Wednesday) and some weekend tournaments

Elementary Girls Volleyball

Coach: Ms. Huber

Grades: 5 - 7

Practice Times: Tuesday (and a few Mondays and Wednesdays), 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Exhibition schedule against ISA and other Independent Schools (most games on Wednesdays)

High School Girls Volleyball Team

Coaches: Mr. Griffioen and Ms. Santry

Grades: 8 -12

Practice Times: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday (when no games are scheduled)

Participating in GVISAA league (most games on Tuesday or Thursday) and some weekend tournaments

Cross Country Team (Elementary & High School)

Coach: Mr. Simpson and Ms. Locke

Grades: 3 - 12 (Coed)

Practice Times: Tuesday (7 - 8 am), Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Participating in ISA & GVISAA Meets (weekdays) and club meets (Saturdays)



CROSS COUNTRY

FYP and MYP

Congratulations, to the 8 runners who competed at the Pinetree Classic Cross Country meet in Mundy Park this past weekend. Despite cloudy, rainy and muddy conditions all athletes showed true Southpointe spirit and determination. **Jim Marsden, Chris Pope, Meaghan & Rob Roy MacKenzie, Brent Morrison, Hillyard Carson, Chloe Cuthbert and Chris Pake**, ran their best for our team.

A big thank you to the parents that came out to support our team!

Full results of the meet will be available as soon as they are uploaded by the Pheonix running club. (The club is experiencing technical difficulties uploading the results and thank you for your patience).

A reminder, that practices are on Tuesdays (7:05am to 7:50am before school and/or 3:30 to 4:30 after school). Thursday practices are on 3:30pm to 4:30pm. Students choosing to run the Tuesday practices can decide which time suits their schedules. Mr. Simpson will lead the morning practice and Mrs. Locke will lead the afterschool practices.

Many more races to come!!! Stay tuned, a full week of cardiovascular fitness approaches! Next week, Southpointe students will experience numerous running events that are taking place at the school, local community and the lower mainland. The Terry Fox run will take place Thursday, September 30th, followed by the Boundary Bay Cross Country meet on Friday, October 1st, (BBQ after the race, to replace all those calories burned during the race) The Festival of Cross Country at Crescent Park in South Surrey/White Rock will take place on Saturday, October 2nd.

For those students (FYP, MYP, and GYP) students interested in representing the school at the Crescent Park Festival of Cross Country Meet in South Surrey, please see Mr. Simpson or Mrs. Locke in the P.E office room 128. The registration deadline for race is this **Friday, September 24th**.

Thank you, Mr. Simpson and Mrs. Locke





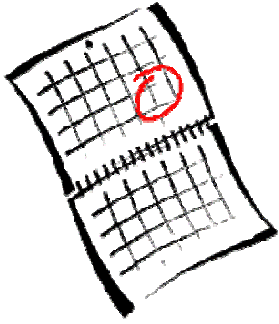
SPORTS CALENDAR



September 23 – October 7

Sept. 23 Thursday	4:30pm – Sr. Girls Volleyball – Southpointe vs. Deer Lake 5:30pm – Sr. Girls Volleyball – Southpointe vs. Carver, both games at Carver Christian High School
Sept. 27 Monday	3:30pm – Senior Boys Soccer – Fraser Academy vs. Southpointe at Holly Turf
Sept. 28 Tuesday	3:30pm – Elementary Boys Soccer – St. John’s vs. Southpointe 4:15pm – Elementary Boys Soccer – West Point Grey vs. Southpointe, both games in Ladner
Sept. 30 Thursday	4:30pm – Sr. Girls Volleyball – Southpointe vs. Regent, at Regent Christian Academy
Oct. 1 Friday	ISA Junior Boys Soccer - Victoria, BC Grades 2 – 7 Boundary Bay Cross-Country Meet
Oct. 2 Saturday	The Festival of Cross Country at Crescent Park in South Surrey/White Rock All Day Sr. Girls Volleyball Tournament at Carver Christian School
Oct. 6 Wednesday	Elementary Girls Volleyball – York House vs. Southpointe, held at the Church. 3:45pm – Senior Boys Soccer – Deer Lake vs. Southpointe at Holly Turf
Oct. 7 Thursday	3:30pm - Elementary Boys Soccer – Southridge vs Southpointe, at the Church





CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

September 23 – October 7

Sept. 23 Thursday	7:00pm – Parent Academy “Universities” A presentation/Mini-Workshop designed for Grade 11 & 12 Parents, upstairs in Room #209, at the school for all Parents interested in the University Application process.
Sept. 27 – Oct. 1 Monday – Friday	“3 week Call Home” – Teachers call home with an update on the students progress.
Sept. 28 Tuesday	GYP Alternative Program Day 7:00pm – Kindergarten & Grade 1 Pot Luck Dinner, for all parents, held at Gunn House.
Sept. 30 Thursday	1:10pm – 3:00pm – Terry Fox Run at the South Delta Baptist Church. 7:00pm – Grade 2 & Grade 3 Pot Luck Dinner, for all parents, held at Gunn House.
Oct. 1 Friday	ISA Junior Boys Soccer - Victoria, BC Grades 2 – 7 Boundary Bay Cross-Country Meet
Oct. 5 Tuesday	9:00am Gr. 6 Girls & Boys/Gr. 7 Girls Immunizations 7:00pm – Grade 10 Pot Luck Dinner, for all parents, held at Gunn House.
Oct. 6 Wednesday	7:00pm – Grade 8 Pot Luck Dinner, for all parents, held at Gunn House.
Oct. 7 Thursday	7:00pm – Grade 4 & Grade 5 Pot Luck Dinner, for all parents, held at Gunn House.