



The Midpointe

News and opinion for Southpointe Academy families

School Eve Edition

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WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

We are glad the year has at last begun and we welcome you all back from what we hope has been a delightful summer.

We are ready, but as we know from Robbie Burns, 'the best laid plans o' mice and men gang aft agley'. The beginning of a school year brings its challenges for us all –new friends, different teachers, changed minds about electives and so on; together, we sort it all out, and in no time at all, school life is beautiful.

I think 'together' is the operative word here, for this is how a school needs to work to be its best for its key stakeholders, the students. If we all work together and pull in the same direction, there is no limit to what we can achieve. This will be our message to our students at our Opening of Year Ceremony. It is at the church at 9am on Thursday morning and you are warmly invited to attend

H1N1

Since the last Midpointe, we have received new guidelines from the Ministry of Education and we shall be following them. We ask for your co-operation in this matter. In essence, the guidelines say:

- The experience in the southern hemisphere winter has been that H1N1 is generally no more virulent than any other flu.
- It does, however, affect young children and people with underlying problems, most.
- Pregnant women should also take particular care.
- Students who are exhibiting signs of flu should not be sent to school.
- If they exhibit signs at school, they should be isolated from other students and parents should be asked to come to collect them.
- Teachers with symptoms should not come to school.
- People should sneeze into their elbows (inner) not their hands.
- Hands should be washed frequently.
- Cleaning regimens should be upgraded.
- Schools should not be routinely closed.

For full details please see www.gov.bc.ca/h1n1, or www.gov.bc.ca/h1n1/backtoschool/.

We have upgraded our cleaning regimen, provided more hand-wash dispensers, and briefed all our staff.

WEBSITE AND GOOGLE

Soon, our new website will be published. We hope you will like it. When it goes online, we'll send you details of its main features. There will be no change of address.

We mentioned last time that we are going to change our mail to Google and use Google Apps for document storage. The plan is to make this change over the Thanksgiving weekend; we'll send more information in that week's Midpoint.

Meanwhile, Zimbra continues its excellent service and the School Calendar is now loaded for the next school year.

•HEALTH RECORDS

Please ensure that the Health Records of your children are updated as necessary before the year begins. The Health Forms are with the Registration Forms –thanks if you have sent them already.

•CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

Volunteers who work with children are required to have Criminal Record Checks. Our Point Roberts parents need Nexus border clearance.

The Canadian Criminal Record Checks need to be updated annually. The front office can provide details of the necessary procedures.

•TRIP PLANNING (2nd Notice)

We know you appreciate as much advance notice as possible of trips to be offered. We shall be offering the following trips next year (all prices approximate):

FRANCE Spring Break Grades 10-12 \$2500

EUROPA 2010 Spring Break Serious History Students Grade 12 \$2800

BAND/CHOIR \$1500

MYP VOLLEYBALL TEAM Toronto November 4 days \$1100

CHINA Late October Grade 11 \$1800

QUEBEC Intensive French Grade 5 \$tba

GREECE/GERMANY a Math Odyssey Grades 7-10 Spring Break \$2500

Teachers will be gauging interest in these trips early in the new year.

We also offer exchange programs with Spain, the UK, and New Zealand –students in Grades 10 and 11 are best suited to these opportunities. Reciprocal hosting is required.

INSTRUMENT RENTALS

These will be available in the Band Room between 3.30pm and 5.30pm on Wednesday, 16 September.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

We offer free after-school care for children in Grades K-3. It operates daily from 3.30pm to 5pm.

Children must be pre-registered to attend. To register, please call the Front Office BEFORE noon on the day in question. You may also register for more than one day at a time.

Children are taken to the after-school care by their homeroom teacher and collected from there by parents.

For the first two weeks of term, we shall be using the Grade 3 classroom in the main building.

Children who attend should bring an after-school snack with them.

SIGN-UPS

For students in the GYP particularly, there are many sign-ups in the first few days of the year. These are for athletic teams and Theatre Arts credits particularly. Details are always posted in the Morning Announcements. This year, each school day begins with homeroom for all students, so no-one will miss the announcements.

POT LUCK DINNERS

You will notice pot-luck dinners in the school calendar. These are held at Gunn House, which is at the entrance to Boundary Bay and provide parents with the opportunity to meet each other and school leaders. The dates are in the school calendar and we hope you will all take part. Please bring a dish to add to the convivial table.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

It is important that we continue to take great care when driving on and near the school grounds. Please follow the traffic management plan as follows:

Enter the school grounds only by the south entrance (the one nearest the hotel) off 56th Street and follow the directions of the staff on duty.

Please respect the neighbourhood and keep our students safe by not parking on verges, not blocking driveways, obeying parking signs and so on. Thanks.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

September 10 Thursday	9am Opening of Year Ceremony. Church Sanctuary
September 15 Tuesday	7pm Curriculum Night. Main School Building.
September 16 Wednesday	3.30pm Instrument Rental: Band Room
September 17 Thursday	7pm Pot Luck Dinner. Gunn House. Grade 2&3 parents
PROJECT DISCOVER	Grade 9 will be participating from Monday 14 September
EDUCAFE	Daily from 3.00pm to 3.30pm –Mr. Baldwin is there daily to answer your questions, make appointments etc.