



The Midpointe

News and opinion for Southpointe Academy families

Summer Edition 2009

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•PREPARING FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Far enough away to be brushed off with relative ease, yet near enough to bring that daily frisson of impending doom or delight, the new school year inexorably approaches. We here hope you are enjoying wonderful times en famille and we hope that our requests of you do not interrupt that. Nevertheless, there are things we need from you so that the year can start efficiently and safely.

If you are a new family, then completing the detailed Registration form is necessary; returning families need only notify us of changes. The same is true of the Health forms, but we ask all families to check carefully to ensure that the information we have on file is correct.

We are sending to your e-mail at the same time as this Midpointe, the Parent Handbook, the Behaviour Management Policy, the Registration Form, and a detailed schedule of the beginning of year program. Please find the time to read all these documents carefully.

We are preparing for a stellar year here and we look forward eagerly to September.

•OUR LATEST RESULTS

We congratulate our students and faculty on producing simply spectacular examination results this year. The latest have come in the mandatory Provincial examinations and are as follows:

GROUP	MATH (PRINCIPLES) 10 AVGE	SCIENCE 10 AVGE	ENGLISH 10 AVGE	SOCIALS 11 AVGE	ENGLISH 12 AVGE
PROVINCE	67.73	72.05	72.76	67.03	65.08
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	74.99	75.97	74.29	71.81	67.47
SOUTHPOINTE ACADEMY	83.24	87.51	84.54	77.13	75.62

When these are added to the already reported FSA and Advanced Placement results, there can be no doubt that our students are receiving a very significant academic edge by being with us.

•NEW FACULTY

We extend a warm welcome to new faculty members as follows:

Mr. Boris Pekarsky M.Mus: A consummate musician, Mr. Pekarsky brings over 20 years of experience to Southpointe. Before immigrating to Canada, Mr. Pekarsky played in the Symphony Orchestra of Latvia and taught Band and Orchestra in Kiev and Riga. Proficient himself on many instruments –he played several for me at his interview –he is highly skilled in the instruction of Concert, Jazz, Rock and Marching Bands, Orchestras and Chamber ensembles. Passionate about music, he comes with a mandate to develop our bands and introduce ensemble and orchestral playing.

Ms. Susan Bourbonnais B.Ed.: After 18 years experience, Ms. Bourbonnais joins us part-time to teach the FYP French and introduce the AIM program to our school. In addition to her teaching, Ms. Bourbonnais brings us coaching skills in Volleyball and Basketball.

Ms. Julia Lyndon B.Ed.: Ms. Lyndon is joining the faculty after a year in our Junior Kindergarten. She will be teaching Grade 3. Her previous experience includes 9 years of teaching Grade 3 where her students achieved very high standards.

Mrs. Joan Clarke B.A.,B.Ed.: Mrs. Clarke, who is joining us to teach Spanish, majored in Spanish at the University of Victoria and has been an educator for over 20 years. She replaces Ms. Page who is on maternity leave this year.

Ms. Tamsin Mackenzie B.Sc., B.Ed.: Ms. Mackenzie is well-known to many here already as she replaced Ms. Locke during last year. Now, she joins us in her own right to teach English in the MYP. In addition, she brings us many additional skills in coaching and the arts.

•SETTING UP E-MAIL

We are changing our e-mail provider to Google. When we do, you will need to reset your password. Nothing else will change. So, when you go to access your spacademy mail, instead of Zimbra appearing, a Google page will do so. Your e-address will be the same, but your password will be 12345678 until you change it.

•REGISTERING

Among the attachments we have sent with this Midpointe are Registration forms for the new year. Please make sure you complete them as necessary and return them. As you will see from the directions that precede the document, there is no need to repeat information we already have, but we do need all families to return the forms. Thanks.

•H1N1

We have been watching with interest the news and information from other jurisdictions in the world about the best way to combat H1N1. Our own Ministry of Education has withdrawn its previous advice and not yet replaced it. We assure you that we are keeping abreast of best practice and will implement whatever guidance we receive. We expect that some guidelines will be issued as the opening of schools becomes more imminent.

•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 –again, no duplication is needed.

•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.

•NEW SCHOOL NEWS

We have been working throughout the summer on the land purchasing, financing, design and programming elements of our planned new school. I must say that seems a very short sentence to describe the prodigious amount of work that has been accomplished. Once the new year begins, we shall be holding parent pot luck dinners to explain the project to everyone personally, to answer your questions and to seek your support. Please diarize the dates (they are in the calendar at the end of the Parent Handbook) –these meetings are vitally important. Thanks.

•TRIP PLANNING

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.

•CLASS SUPPLY LISTS

Our class lists for Kindergarten to Grade 8 are available through Smart Packs located in Burnaby. Their web site is www.teachingthings.com. Once on the site, simply go to "All Custom School Packages", then to British Columbia and scroll down through the schools to Southpointe Academy. These items can be purchased through Smart Packs, or you may purchase the supplies at any department/stationary store.

Now –back to your summer! Thanks for reading this and for your co-operation in doing the various things asked of you. We all look forward to seeing you in September.

Graham Baldwin