



Southlands School Newsletter

April 11, 2017 – Volume 5



Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians of the Southlands School Community,

Students and staff members returned rested and rejuvenated from our Spring Break and District Closure weeks. This wonderful energy has provided a “spring” in our learning steps as this final school term begins.

We were delighted to welcome so many families to our Parent/Teacher/Student conferences. Student learning was celebrated and goals for third term learning were identified. Many thanks to all concerned.

We are reminded of all of the hard work our staff, students, and parents have done to make this year such a success to date!

Ways to Support Your Child at School

It is hard to believe that we now have only three months remaining in the 2016-2017 school year! As we plan ahead, we also ask ourselves “what can we do to make this time positive and educationally enriching for our children?”

Here are a few thoughts:

Talk with your child about what they learned at school each day.

Encourage your child to read everyday by reading independently and/or with you.

You can also tell stories you know or heard about your heritage, experiences, etc. Don't forget to discuss what they read/heard too!

Ensure that your child has a consistent, quiet place to complete his/her homework. This helps reinforce the importance of positive study habits.

Encourage your child to tell an adult at school immediately if they are being bullied.

Provide healthy snacks and lunches as well as ensure they are getting adequate sleep each night. This helps nourish a child's thinking and growth.

Keep a balance of activities for school and home by including play with friends, sports, activities, reading, learning, time with family, etc.

Be connected with your child's teacher, particularly if there is something that will impact his/her success at school or learning.

Special thanks to all who help make Southlands such an extraordinary school in which to learn and work. Particular applause goes to our dedicated staff members and many of our parents who work constantly behind the scenes to provide the very best education and school environment possible!

Volunteer Appreciation Invitation

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to our wonderful PAC and parent volunteers who support so many important opportunities for our students: Choir, Recorder and Flute Groups, Early Literacy Initiatives, Fund Raising, Grade 7 Graduation, Traffic Safety, our wonderful Garden and Music Programmes, Coaching Teams, Driving for Field Trips, Hot Lunch Programs, and so many more delight-filled events during the year! All volunteers are invited to attend our Volunteer Appreciation event on Friday May 12th from 8:20am—9:00am. The event will be followed by an assembly to which all volunteers are invited.

Emergency Drills

At Southlands we practice safety drills throughout the year to help our students know what to do in an emergency. Thursday May 4 is our annual VSB district-wide Emergency Earthquake drill, the BigOne@2:00.



Our PYP attitude this month is **creativity**. Learners

who display creativity “strive to be creative and imaginative in their thinking and in their approach to problems and dilemmas”. (IBO.org) When we think about how quickly technology is changing and what our students will need to be successful in the modern workplace and in society, creativity and flexibility often top the list.

Two attributes of the learner profile that connect to creativity are *thinker* and *communicator*. We need to start thinking of creativity as the offspring of effective communication and imaginative thinking, not a mystical talent or ‘gift’. There are many ways you can help foster creativity in your child:

- Allow them time to daydream.
- Teach them mindfulness practices.
- Encourage them to observe the people and the world around them.
- Encourage them to seek out new experiences and to follow their passions.
- Discuss ways you and your child have coped with problems.
- Allow them to take risks and to fail.
- Ask and discuss big questions.
- Provide opportunities for self-expression.
- Encourage them to take the perspective of others.
- Help them to make connections between what they know and what they wonder.

**“creativity is
intelligence
having FUN”**

- ALBERT EINSTEIN

“Care for self, Care for others, Care for this place.”

PYP Evaluation Visit

On March 30 and 31, we welcomed two visitors from IB who were here to verify our Self Study documents. The visitors were very complimentary about the level of engagement of our staff and our keen adoption of the programme. At this time, we have no “matters to be addressed”, which means there is nothing we need to change or correct immediately. Unofficially, we have been given a list of recommendations, which are items we have the next five years to address. There was nothing on this list that we hadn't identified as part of our self-study, which means we had done a thorough job of assessing ourselves.

Areas we need to address include updating our report cards to better reflect the requirements of the programme, improving our students' access to technology, and making the grade seven Exhibition project a bigger part of the whole school culture. The final report is due September 2017.

Another way to get involved in your child's learning:

At the beginning of January, you should have received a letter explaining our plan to send home a **unit overview** of each unit of inquiry. Please **post** this overview in a prominent place in your home and refer to it for the duration of the unit. We hope you will **record** your child's questions, connections, and action and **return** the overview to school at the end of the unit. This will help your child's teacher have a more complete picture of your child's learning.

Tell me more about PYP:

Action is one of the five **essential elements** of the PYP and it is “an expectation in the PYP that successful inquiry leads to responsible, thoughtful and appropriate action.” (*IBO.org*) Action is what students do to connect and extend their learning in the classroom, on the playground, at home, or in the larger community. By taking action, “students are able to grow both personally and socially, developing skills such as cooperation, problem solving, conflict resolution, and creative and critical thinking” (Making the PYP Happen).

Action is **voluntary, student-initiated** activities that stem from a **genuine concern** and a desire to make a **positive difference**. Action might take the form of sharing new knowledge with others in order to increase their awareness of important issues, or it might be a project in response to the needs of a particular community, either locally or globally. If we want children to make a difference in the world, we need to help them personalize the action they take, and understand that it is not just a mandate from their teachers and parents, but a life long mindset. Taking action can happen at any age if we as parents, educators, and the community, support children.

By taking Action, students develop and demonstrate the PYP **Learner Profile** traits and PYP **Attitudes**, which are integral to becoming an internationally

minded learner.

Students who engage in action are encouraged to follow the IB Action Cycle whereby they carefully **reflect** on ways they can make positive changes in their classrooms, communities, and world, **choose** the form(s) of action they wish to take (e.g. activism, awareness, aid); **act** to bring change; and then **reflect** on their actions' effectiveness.

Exhibition

Our grade seven students have begun their Exhibition projects, and are inquiring into various aspects of the theme How the World Works. As part of the IB Primary Years Programme, students who are in their final year of the PYP carry out a major project called Exhibition. The Exhibition provides students with an opportunity to reflect on their learning and address a real world issue. Through the Exhibition, students engage in in-depth, collaborative inquiry, demonstrate independence and responsibility, and explore multiple perspectives. The Exhibition gives the students an opportunity to take action, and to celebrate their learning. The students will spend April and part of May working on their projects. You will receive an invitation to attend the Exhibition celebration closer to the date.

If you have expertise in any of the following areas, or know of someone who does, please contact Mr. Lee or Ms. Wood at the school. We are always looking for people who can share their knowledge with our students.

- **Renewable Energy**
- **Plate Tectonics**
- **Simple Machines** (including their application in current technology)
- **Transportation** (including advances in technology and pollution)
- **Human Health** (including obesity and concerns with processed foods)
- **Weather** (including extreme weather, acid

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 13	Hot Dog Lunch Lunch Flute & Recorder
April 14	Easter Friday—School Closed
April 17	Easter Monday—School Closed
April 18	Point Grey Articulation at Southlands Guitar Class 8 am
April 19	Senior Choir 8 am / Junior Choir Lunch Assembly 9:30am
April 20th/21	Gardening Workshops
April 25	Guitar Class 8 am Subway Lunch
April 26	Senior Choir 8 am / Junior Choir Lunch Talent Show—1:15 pm—Gym
April 27	Salmon Release Divs. 7 and 8
April 28	African Dance and Drum Workshop Hot Dog Lunch

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