



WEEK OF JANUARY 4, 2010

# Shawnigan Parent News



Photos: Dean's Dinner! For more photos and stories, go to <http://www.shawnigan.ca/now>

## Starting with Passion — David Robertson, Headmaster

On Tuesday morning in the chapel, after welcoming some new members of our school community, I explained why I felt that passion was an essential feature of any successful organization or enterprise. With passion comes energy which elevates us all above the humdrum or the indifferent. It is invariably closely followed by its partner, enthusiasm, and both can be contagious in the most desirable of ways. This morning as I considered listing some of the outstanding examples of passion in the people we have working and studying here, I had to scrap the idea as the list would have been huge. That's the secret of Shawnigan and, of course, the fun job is to control and manage all that passion! Quoting Eli Wiesel, I reiterated the avoidance of apathy:

“The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.”

It's hard to talk about passion without mentioning the risk of failure and how to deal with that. History is replete with notables from Abraham Lincoln to the Beatles or Thomas Edison to Michael Jordan, who all encountered crushing disappointment and thwarted hopes to go on to greatness. Somewhat fittingly, in our present context, the defeats can be seen as rain and none other than Dolly Parton captured it well when she reputedly said, “The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.”

So, passionately clear on what is needed for the new term, we sang a few verses of the Ripley's hymn so that Mr. Samuel could hear it at his house along the road—pausing before the last verse to inject some real passion and, in the process, to rouse even the sleepest of souls and send them on their way!

## Shawnigan Parents' Association – Trish Letient, President

The next general meeting of the Shawnigan Parents' Association will be on Tuesday, January 19 at 7:30pm in the Upper Dining Hall. Our Head Nurse and Student Health Coordinator, Heather Craib, will give a presentation on student health care and student health education. Come prepared for some interactive discussion!

Join us, find out what's ahead for the Association, get informed about student health, and then stay for refreshments and conversation.

## Eastern University Tour (February 7-12) – John Sarsfield

In just over a month's time, Mrs. Hall and I will be accompanying six Shawnigan students on a tour of Ontario universities, as well as McGill University in Montreal. As the majority of Shawnigan's students ride the buses to Manning Park for Ski Week, we'll be winging our way to London, Ont., to visit the University of Western Ontario, and then on to U of T, (and perhaps Ryerson), Queen's, McGill (and perhaps Concordia).

Our last trip east was two years ago, and upon our return, it was clear to us that the students who were with us were able to form some realistic expectations about several universities, the cities which housed them, and the weather they could expect in chilly February. The trip clearly had a bearing on the choices they ultimately made, or didn't make, regarding university.

Interesting for many of our students, so used to travelling any middling distance by airplane, was the trip across the province by train. It just so happens that the segments are an easy two hours, approximately, and we found it very convenient, especially as

## Upcoming Events:

- Jan. 16-17** Leave Weekend
- Jan. 24** Mt. Washington Ski Trip
- Feb. 4-6** Drama Production, *Dark of the Moon*
- Feb. 7-12** Ski Week
- Feb. 12-21** Mid-Term Break

Ontario was in the grip of cold and blizzard weather. It was no time before we were in Montreal, visiting McGill, and returning home from Montreal.

Equally important for us was the opportunity to have a casual dinner with our recent grads in each of our stops. It is always interesting to find out what was an easy transition to university and what was not: hopefully, those reflections will make us all more aware of what we can do better to aid our students in their transition to university life. In addition, the students always appear grateful that we would take the time to visit with them, and this, we think, helps to keep them engaged with their school.

## Rowing News – Danielle Beare, Head of Rowing

The Shawnigan Lake Rowing team is fortunate and very excited to have Olympic gold medalist, Kyle Hamilton, and bronze medalist, Jon Beare, coach the Senior Boys Program this year. The team is gearing up for their competitive season that officially begins with an indoor regatta the weekend of January 6 - 7. At present, the daylight hours only allow for just under an hour of water time when the coaches work on developing skills and, in many cases, teach the novice athletes how to row. The remainder of the practice time is spent on land, running, lifting weights and working out on the ergometers. The first on-water regatta is run by Shawnigan Lake School: The Hungerford Cup and Head of the Lake Regatta is held the weekend of February 27 - 28. We always look forward to this regatta as it gives the coaches a good starting point for the season; as well, it usually means that spring is on the way!

## Call for Parent Volunteers

Over the past few years, Mr. Perry has been fortunate to receive help from parent volunteers in building and painting sets for the School Musical. This year's presentation is “Kiss Me, Kate” and we are once again asking parents to assist the Director in set construction. Because the musical is scheduled nearly four weeks earlier than usual and opens before Spring Break, we have much less time than in other years to put this demanding set together. Painters and builders will be needed from February 8 until the 18<sup>th</sup> to work at the School in the Studio Theatre. Even if you can only volunteer for one day, we will use your set building skills or teach you some new ones! Please email Gregg Perry if you are able to volunteer some time for our Musical: [gperry@shawnigan.ca](mailto:gperry@shawnigan.ca)

## Ski Trip to Mt. Washington

Mr. Mayes and members of the Grade 11 Round Table group will be taking interested students on a ski trip to Mt. Washington on Sunday, January 24. He expects that 50 or so students will sign up for this day trip. Parents must confirm their child's spot, by emailing Mr. Mayes by **January 9** at [nmayes@shawnigan.ca](mailto:nmayes@shawnigan.ca) giving permission to charge them for the trip.

(Approximate costs - Bus: \$25 Lift Ticket: \$42 Rental Gear: \$35)