



WEEK OF JANUARY 25, 2010

Shawnigan Parent News



Photo: Some of our Grade 8 Gold Medal Poets! For more photos and stories, go to <http://www.shawnigan.ca/now>

Grad Parent Handbook

There is an exciting addition to the Shawnigan Lake School Parents page on our intranet. The Shawnigan Parents Association has posted the "Grad Parent Handbook," written by Tracy Boulter. This is a great addition to the information already compiled for parent use on our site. What follows is the introduction:

Graduation is the moment parents and students have been waiting for. It is a celebration of the hard work and sacrifice both have made to successfully complete their Shawnigan experience. Pride, relief, joy, satisfaction, delight are deeply felt on this grand occasion. Parents experiencing grad for the first time often have many questions and aren't sure what to expect. This Handbook, written by an experienced grad mom, is the result of gathered advice and opinions from many grad parents. It is hoped that the Handbook will help you navigate the grad experience so that by the end of Closing Day you won't say, "I wish I had known. . ."

To read the entire Grad Parent Handbook, please click on the following link:

<http://academic.shawnigan.ca/Parents/index.wiki>

Chapel Words – Jim Holland, Chaplain

. . . A recent study at Cornell University showed that parents do often feel closer to one child than the others.

My sisters always tell me that I was my mother's favorite, but unlike any of them I left home to go to boarding school at 14 and I think they mistook the fact that my mother missed me with being her favorite. . . . [Click here to read the full address.](#)

Champion Skier Heads to Arctic Games

While athletes across the world focus on the upcoming Winter Olympics in February, Grade 11 student Natalie B. is looking toward March, when she will compete in the Slalom and Super G events at the Arctic Winter games. The Fort McMurray teen will be one of three skiers in her age category on the Northern Alberta Team at the games being held in Grande Prairie, Alberta from March 5 – March 12.

Natalie has been skiing since the age of three and racing since the age of seven. "My family is very supportive of my racing," she says. While at school in Fort McMurray, she skied every Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the winter months. "We got out of school early on Friday afternoons and carried on up to the hill where there was night skiing." Her coach for the last three years has been Marty Lumby, who flies up from Calgary every weekend to train his team on the hill.

Since she has been at Shawnigan, Natalie has missed some training, of course, but she is confident that she can do well at the upcoming Arctic Winter Games. "I was glad to be able to go to Mount Washington last weekend for some practice, and I will be doing some training at Ski Week as well as competing in the races there." She's aiming to win a medal for Renfrew House.

Another aspect of the Arctic games that Natalie is looking forward to is the cultural one. "All the Teams are given kits with their team names on all of the items. We all trade as many things as we can with the other teams so that we end up with items with the emblems of Alaska, Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and even Russia! We are all staying in gymnasiums and sleeping on the floor, so that should be fun."

Upcoming Events:

- Feb. 4-6** Drama Production, *Dark of the Moon*
7:30pm, \$5.00 at the door
- Feb. 7-12** Ski Week
- Feb. 12-21** Mid-Term Break - for travel details go to:
www.shawnigan.ca/now/travel-information

Two years ago, Natalie competed in the Alberta Winter Games and is looking forward to this next level of challenge. "I have never competed against skiers from the Territories. I have only raced skiers from BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan." When asked about her most memorable race, Natalie recalled the Giant Slalom during 2007 in Lake Louise when she, "came over a hill and opened up and . . . yard sale! That's when you lose all your equipment," Natalie explains. "I had to pick everything up and climb up the hill and go through the gate again!"

She enjoys the challenge of hard work and training and says that her passion for the sport comes from the desire to do better with each new race. "There is a super adrenaline rush at every start gate, and I want to beat my competitors and my team mates and I am always hoping for a new, personal best." But she thinks that this will be her last year of competitive ski racing. "I'm at the age where I would either join the Alberta team and compete nationally, or retire and ski for fun and recreation," she says. "I want to focus now on rowing."

Competing at the National High School Rowing Championships in St. Catharines last May was a highlight of her Grade 10 year at Shawnigan. "I came in 5th place with my 8+ and 6th place with my lightweight 4+. Rowing is definitely becoming a passion for me." The passion is compulsory, since Natalie's coach this year is Head of Rowing, Danielle Beare: "She works us really hard and has high expectations. I really want to get to St. Catharines again this spring, but the competition for the Shawnigan Sr. Women's 8 is fierce and I will have to work very hard to make it a possibility."

Admissions in Mexico City – February 6-8, 2010

Shawnigan's Admissions Department will be visiting Mexico City in early February to host an information session, testing and interviews with interested future students and their families. Director of Enrollment and Marketing, Chad Holtum will visit Mexico City on February 6-8th and is excited to meet with all interested families.

Please encourage any parents you know in the Mexico City area who may be interested in the School to join us on February 6th for an opportunity to learn how their child might benefit from a Shawnigan education.

Date:	Saturday, February 6th
Location:	Camino Real Polanco Mexico, Mariano Escobedo 700, Col. Anzures, México D.F. 11590
Entrance Testing:	10:00am - 11:30am
Interviews:	Individually scheduled 1pm-5pm
Presentation:	An Admissions presentation about Shawnigan will be held at 7pm

Please contact Shannon Peck in the Shawnigan Admissions office (speck@shawnigan.ca) for further information and details.