



WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22, 2010

Shawnigan Parent News



Photo: Cowichan Music Festival! For more photos and stories, go to <http://www.shawnigan.ca/now>

Continuing Enrollment – David Robertson, Headmaster

As is customary around this time of year, the Admissions Office will soon be sending out requests to our families to confirm their plans for the next academic year. On one hand, we can usually be confident enough based on past experience to make our plans, do our budgets and go about our business, but, on the other hand, it is tremendously helpful if we know as soon as we can how many places we have available for new applicants. Interest in the School has never been higher and that is a great testimony to the efforts of so many people, but that does bring with it some challenges on the enrollment side. As you can imagine, in a place where we are passionate about helping young people to grow and be successful, it is always one of our great disappointments when we have to turn away someone for whom the School would be ideal. The sooner we know, therefore, which of our current students we will be continuing to work with, the better. Of course, the idealistic side of me assumes that everyone would see Shawnigan as a commitment through to graduation, but I am well aware of the number of factors that prevent it all from being that simple!

For years now, our attrition rates have been among the lowest in the country and we are justifiably proud of that, but that does not mean that there are aspects of the “Shawnigan Experience” that cannot be improved. It has always been very important to us to have each and every one of our students feel that they count here and that this is not only the best school for them, but also the right school. Let us know how we are doing at any time and please help the Admissions office as they request the necessary paperwork that informs our planning. March 13 will be our desired continuing enrollment deadline!

My warmest regards as always, David Robertson, Headmaster

EDGE 2010 Thailand Project – Peter Yates

A Shawnigan EDGE team is preparing to depart for Baan Nato to once again collaborate with Chiangrai College of Agriculture and Technology on a construction project. Last year our EDGE team helped to build a hut (adobe walls and thatched roof) that now serves as accommodation for teachers who visit the remote rural campus two days a week. This year we will help to build a similar structure, this one to provide accommodation for several hilltribe students whose home villages are too distant for a daily commute. It seems fitting that we are helping to make possible a boarding school education, albeit a very different experience to that of Shawnigan!

Baan Nato is located in the northern tip of Thailand, just a few kilometres from the Myanmar border. There are six hilltribe cultures within a relatively short radius, making it a place of rich and fascinating diversity—especially because each hilltribe has its own first language and distinctive culture. The Karen people hail from Burma, the Hmong originated in Mongolia, the Akha and the Lisu came from Tibet, and the Lahu and the Yao have their roots in China. All of the hilltribes are relative newcomers, most having moved to Thailand within the past 200 years. Being isolated by their rural locations and their cultural differences, they are hampered by poverty and a lack of education.

CRCAT’s Baan Nato campus brings education and agricultural training to hilltribe students. It is a privilege for Shawnigan students to work alongside the hilltribe peoples in a shared endeavour, to appreciate by experience something of what life is like for the less-privileged 98% of the world’s population, and to witness firsthand how happiness can exist in the complete absence of material wealth.

There are twelve grade 11 students and three staff on this year’s EDGE Thailand team. Currently they are spearheading several

Upcoming Events:

- March 6-7** Leave Weekend
- March 7-9** Grade 11 Bamfield trip
- March 11-13** *Kiss Me Kate*, School Musical at the Cowichan Theatre, Duncan - for tickets, call Theatre Box Office, **250-748-7529**
- March 13** Continuing Enrollment deadline (Forms will be sent to you by email)
- March 16** Shawnigan Parents Association general meeting - 7:30pm
- March 19** March Break begins
- April 5** March Break ends - see the Internet Travel page for more information:
www.shawnigan.ca/now/travel-information

fundraising initiatives to cover the cost of building supplies. The team departs on March 12, and returns to Canada on April 3.

Shawnigan Musical – *Kiss Me, Kate*

Excitement is mounting as the Shawnigan Lake School Musical is only three weeks away. Following on last year’s success of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (voted Best High School Musical 2009 in the Cowichan Valley), Shawnigan is pleased to present Cole Porter’s *Kiss Me, Kate*.

A thoroughly entertaining show, both musically and comically, this musical is a must-see for young and old alike. We look forward to hosting family and friends at the Cowichan Theatre, March 11th-13th at 7:30pm. For tickets, call the Theatre Box Office – (250) 748-7529 or online – <http://cvrd.bc.ca/index.aspx?nid=802>

Summer Squash Camps at Shawnigan

This summer, we will be holding two Squash Camps at the School (**July 18-23** and **July 25-30**). Mike Johnson, the camp director, brings 35 years’ experience of coaching at the top club and international level, including three world champions. He will be backed by four other award-winning player-coaches. All accommodations and meals will be provided at the School. The program features two 3-hour training sessions daily, video analysis, nutrition expertise, a T-shirt and evening entertainment. The camps are suitable for experienced juniors (age 13-18) and are limited to 20 participants each. The cost is \$1,100 (CDN). For more information, contact Mike Johnson: mjohnson@shawnigan.ca

18th Annual Shawnigan Golf Classic

Parents, please join us for the 18th Annual Shawnigan Golf Classic on Thursday, June 3, 2010, at the University Golf Club, Vancouver. Join a Parent Foursome or bring a Family Foursome. The Shawnigan Golf Classic is the major alumni event on the Lower Mainland and we therefore want non-golfers to consider this as an invitation to join us for dinner (\$25). Cocktails commence at 5:30pm and dinner is at 6:30pm. There is plenty of time to socialize, excellent prizes and David Robertson will present the Headmaster’s “State of the School” Address. The cost for golf and dinner is \$150. Tee-signs can be purchased for \$200.

Register by calling: **(250) 743-6202** or by email: rborsato@shawnigan.ca or sign up on-line at: www.shawnigan.ca/alumni/golf