



WEEK OF MARCH 8, 2010

# Shawnigan Parent News



Photo: Six members of the Grade 8 Literary Circle. For more photos and stories, go to <http://www.shawnigan.ca/now>

## Grade 8 Literary Circle – Cari Bell

Every Day 6, nine Grade 8 students, supported by Mrs. Stroebel and Mrs. Bell, meet for lunch to discuss all things READING! These nine students were identified by their English teachers early in the year as being either strong readers and/or young people who thoroughly enjoy reading. As a group, we have explored the genre of Holocaust literature as an extension of our English 8 studies. Then, as a polar opposite, we have dabbled in the genre of humour, inspired by humorist writer, Susan Juby's, recent visit to our School. The students in this group share their varied opinions on the books they read, and articulate these ideas in the spirit of critical discussion. They rejoice in having read many of the same books over the years and in comparing notes on some shared favorites. Furthermore, they respect those opinions that differ with their own. Mrs. Bell places a box filled with "surprises" at the centre of the lit circle, where someone is invited to explore its contents should the initial conversation start to fizzle. The group has only defaulted to the box once so far, which goes to show there's rarely a dull moment when this lively, engaged and engaging group gets together!

## News From University Guidance – Beth Hall

This is an exciting time of the year for many of our Grade 12 students as university acceptances are starting to arrive on a daily basis. Although many universities or programs have a notification date later in the spring, some lucky students are happy to know already that they are heading off to the schools of their choice in September. At this point, our graduating class has submitted over 500 applications to 145 institutions worldwide. While most of our students will go on to post-secondary study in Canada, 22 students have applied to U.S. colleges, and 17 students have sent applications to the UK and other international locations. Current offers of admission have arrived from McGill, Toronto, Queen's, Alberta, Calgary, Victoria, Simon Fraser, St. Andrew's, Imperial College, University College London, Berkeley, and others.

Many U.S. colleges share a common notification date of April 1st, so students will need to wait until after Spring Break to hear from most universities south of the border. Acceptance to Canadian institutions varies widely according to the university and the program of study, and students who have not heard back by now should not despair. Admission decisions carry on until late in May.

The "Guidance Team" welcomes any questions from parents at any time. We know this can be a stressful time for families as they wait to make their firm plans for the coming year. We rely on the students to keep us informed of their application status, as the universities will correspond only with them. Urge your children to see us often if they have any concerns at all.

## Rugby Squads On Tour – Ryan Panton

To most of Shawnigan's students, the upcoming Spring Break means a return home for two weeks of rest and relaxation. The young men and women who make up Shawnigan's rugby program, however, will soon be boarding planes bound for the United Kingdom and South America on tours designed to hone their skills in preparation for a busy spring term.

The Girls' 1st XV and Junior Boys will depart Shawnigan the day before break begins on twelve-day tours of Wales and England. The girls have five matches scheduled, including fixtures against some of the strongest school-age teams in the United Kingdom. The boys, meanwhile, will field two squads that will play four games apiece. While in the UK the teams will also be afforded time to take in the sights and sounds of the British Isles, including a once-in-a-

## Upcoming Events:

- 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
- 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](http://www.shawnigan.ca/now/travel-information)
- April 24-25** Leave Weekend
- June 5-6** Leave Weekend

lifetime opportunity to watch a Six Nations test match between Wales and Italy with 70,000 screaming fans at Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. The girls will also get the chance to visit Stonehenge on their travels, while the boys will take in the musical "We Will Rock You" in London's West End at the end of their trip.

While rugby tours to the UK are nothing new for Shawnigan, the Senior Boys will be making history as the School's first touring team to visit Argentina. Coach Tim Murdy and his charges will face four tough challenges in a country quickly emerging as a global powerhouse. Argentine rugby is noted for its fast pace and punishing tackles, and the boys must quickly adapt to this bruising style of play if they are to find success in their foray to the Southern Hemisphere. When not testing their mettle against top class opponents, the boys will have the chance to experience the unique culture and hospitality of their cheerful and friendly (off the rugby pitch, at least) hosts. Some of the world's most beautiful beaches await the tourists during their two-week journey.

It should be noted that while these trips provide a great chance to experience new cultures and expand global horizons, the tours themselves are critical to the success of the teams once they return to Shawnigan. In fact, the Senior Boys' 2009 AAA Provincial Championship campaign kicked off with a UK tour that the team continued to build upon throughout their hugely successful domestic season. With any luck, these trips will provide a springboard to success in 2010 as well!

## Artist In Residence Program – Don Rolston

Now that the Oscars are over, students may be interested in experiencing the art of film making. This year, as part of our artist in residence program, we have an interesting opportunity to work with a film producer/director from Los Angeles. Keith Lawrence has produced over 150 documentaries and 3 feature films and is the creator of the Mary Pickford Institute for film education. He is coming to the School and will work with about 30 students, from all grades, who are interested in making a short (3-5 min) film. The goal is to have six groups of five students. This will take place on Sunday, April 11 (12:00pm-5:00pm) Monday, April 12 (3:00pm-6:00pm), Tuesday, April 13 (3:00pm-6:00pm) and Wednesday, April 14 (3:00pm-6:00pm). Keith Lawrence became interested in Shawnigan when he visited the School to make a promo video for the Shawnigan CVC Fine Arts Scholarship in memory of Caroline V. Coldicutt. Dutifully impressed by the students and the School, Keith asked if he could come back and work with some of our students.