



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

Shawnigan Parent News



Photos: Tennis (photos by Stephen Lane). For more photos and stories, go to <http://www.shawnigan.ca/now>

Health Authority Looks to Shawnigan for Solutions

Principals from the Central Island were invited to participate in a conference call this past Tuesday to discuss H1N1 preparedness. The two Medical Health Officers for the Central Island region of the Vancouver Island Health Authority chaired the call: Dr. Lorna Medd and Dr. Fred Rockwell. Shawnigan was the only boarding school represented and both doctors called upon Mr. Robertson and Mrs. Craib to share information on the preparation and implementation of our pandemic plan. Dr. Medd stated that she wanted to applaud Shawnigan for its response to this outbreak and added that the School had obviously been proactive in preparing their community for such an event and very responsible in their approach. "This outbreak makes your school the 'test case' on containment and management of epidemic illness in a facility setting on Vancouver Island." Shawnigan was able to get on top of this outbreak and turn the numbers of new cases around in the space of three days. The Medical Health Officers were grateful that we were willing to share our experiences and practical solutions with the group.

Mr. Robertson reported to the group that Shawnigan relied, in this case, upon the three S's: Sanitation, Segregation and Social Responsibility. Before the school year began, Shawnigan had already focused on educating and arming cleaning staff with new regimes and safe, appropriate antiviral cleaning agents. When the first cases of flu were reported, cleaning efforts were intensified in the Houses and classroom buildings. As numbers of sick students increased, their meals were served either in their dormitory rooms or in the Upper Dining Hall, away from the general population. House Directors and teachers were asked to be vigilant in watching for signs of illness and nurses did not allow the sick back to classes until they had been re-assessed by medical staff. As well, Mr. Robertson made the decision to cancel school teams' participation in sporting events and fixtures both on and off campus in an effort to limit the spread of flu to the greater community.

The Health Authority expressed an interest in tracking our student numbers (not names) of flu incidents and are in contact with our medical staff daily to ensure the health of our population and to provide assistance if necessary. Dr. Medd also requested that she be part of our de-briefing when we deem the situation to be behind us since Shawnigan has modeled such timely and appropriate measures to control what the greater medical community has deemed a world-wide pandemic.

Shawnigan Sports – Mark Hall, Director of Sport

The sounds of whistles and shouts from the coaches resound across the playing fields as the field hockey, soccer, and junior rugby players prepare for their upcoming seasons. After a relaxing two month break from intense physical exertion, some of the kids are finding it tough getting back into the regiment of practice.

The field hockey program boasts a new young German coach who is taking the reins of this year's relatively inexperienced, but talented and enthusiastic top team. The numbers of players in the program are upwards of ninety so the future is looking very bright indeed.

Junior rugby players are working hard and are just now getting into the contact skills of the game. Scheduled jamborees and fixtures have been postponed due to the recent sickness; however, things are looking up and the teams will be doing battle against our foes from the other ISA Schools soon.

The soccer boys are putting in lots of hard work but unfortunately haven't been able to test their prowess at this point. Mr. Wilke is enjoying what he sees and I have no doubt we will see this year's group at the Provincials.

Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 25** Terry Fox Run - 3:00pm (on campus)
- Sept. 26** Black and Gold meets Red-Serge - **Postponed**
- Sept. 27** Round-the-Lake-Relay - **Postponed**
- Oct. 9-13** Thanksgiving Break (see travel info. below). Students must be back by 8:00pm on Tuesday

Also found up at the field at various times during the afternoon are the cross-country runners. If they are not stretching, they are involved in various forms of training up and down the hills of the campus. Mr. Kingstone, our resident tri-athlete, brings his experience to this group.

The fitness and conditioning group is utilizing our wonderful new sports complex with a 24-station cardio and strength fitness circuit and Damaris Barry is also working with this group in the dance studio on core strengthening and cardio fitness.

The squash players, both experienced and inexperienced, are making use of the four new squash courts under Mr. Johnson's coaching. Just outside the new sport complex are six tennis courts packed with action under another new, excellent coach, Mr. Chan. We are looking forward to successful results from the racquet sports.

The volleyball girls are hard at work under head coaches, Mrs. Pasquale and Ms. Borsato, along with Mr. Olson and Mrs. Snihur. There is no shortage of players and they are looking forward to the start of the competitive season.

Mrs. Beare and her team of able coaches are down at the crew house training a mixture of new and familiar rowers. The calm lake conditions and the warm sunny skies are making the rowing experience most enjoyable.

Mr. Yates has his outdoors group ready for their first trip on kayaks to Portland Island and later to another one of our beautiful Gulf Islands.

An exciting year is ahead in the world of Shawnigan athletics and we encourage you to follow our program as the seasons unfold.

Opening of Shawnigan's New Studio Theatre

The School celebrates the opening of our new Studio Theatre next month with the production of *The Last Five Years*, a one-act musical written by Tony Award-winning composer Jason Robert Brown.

The play explores the five-year relationship of a New York couple as the woman reflects backwards in time, while the man's story moves forward chronologically. The two characters only meet once, at their wedding in the middle of the show. "This is a modern play that deals with mature themes. It is somewhat edgy," says Director Gregg Perry. Students Jeff T. and Ciara S. have been rehearsing over the summer for this 90-minute play—without intermission—that features 14 musical numbers. "It is a tour de force for these two," says Mr. Perry.

The Studio Theatre is designed to hold the entire school community for assembly-style gatherings, but with modular risers and theatre chairs, it will comfortably seat 200-250 people depending on whether the production style is proscenium, thrust apron or in the round.

The Last Five Years will be on stage in our newly refurbished Studio Theatre on Thursday, October 15 (Preview Show \$5) and on Saturday, October 17 (\$20/\$10 students). Doors open at 7:00pm and tickets can be reserved by calling the General Office or purchased at the door.