



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2009

Shawnigan Parent News



Photos: Cops for Cancer. For more photos and stories, go to <http://www.shawnigan.ca/now>

Parent Open House – Jo-Anne Kingstone, Deputy Head

Please make plans to attend Shawnigan's Parent Open House on **November 4th and 5th**. This is an opportunity for all Shawnigan parents to come to campus at the same time. There will be lots to do; parents may choose to meet individually with teachers, visit their son or daughter's House, find out about the college and university application process, attend a chapel service, tour the campus, and attend the Shawnigan Parent Association (SPA) annual general meeting and social. Information regarding scheduling individual teacher meetings will be sent out following the Thanksgiving break. If you have any questions prior to that time, please contact Jo-Anne Kingstone at 250-743-6263 or jokingstone@sls.bc.ca.

International Week – November 22-28

Every three years, Shawnigan takes a special week to celebrate the over 28 countries and cultures our students hail from. On Tuesday, Mrs. Ferris will tell students what to expect during International Week and about the need to start preparing now!

Students will be divided up into dozens of country groups where they will prepare cultural music, dancing, culinary specialties and costuming specific to their country of origin. They will lead workshops or seminars on their particular cultural talent or interest and there will be a sharing of cultural games and activities. Students will be called upon to speak, read or pray in our multi-faith chapel service and will pull out all the stops for our exciting stage show at the conclusion of International Week

We need parents to get involved. During the Thanksgiving break, and over the next month, discuss with your child the ethnicity and cultural themes of your family. Share memories, recipes, decorations, music and customs with them so that they can bring the wealth of your heritage to the larger community of Shawnigan.

Mr. Robertson puts it this way: "We all come from somewhere. It is a perfect thing for a Canadian School like Shawnigan to explore the cultures that make up our identity."

Jenny Ferris – Staff Profile

"What I like most about Shawnigan is that every part of this organization has passionate people working within it. It is the passion of the staff that drives the School and makes it a place of excellence."
– Jenny Ferris

Who better to make this determination than Shawnigan English teacher, Jenny Ferris? Jenny's excellence runs the gamut from teaching art, sculpture, theatre, piano, outdoor education and English to sea kayak guiding, First Nations sensitivity training and acting as a facilitator for "Theatre for Living." Her impressive works of sculpture now reside across the globe, from Japan, to the US, Ireland, and South Africa as do the lessons she has instilled in students who have been fortunate enough to land in her classes over the course of a career at nation-rich independent schools.

Jenny's enthusiasm for Shawnigan keeps her on the move and puts her passions to great use. She loves the outdoors program and is looking forward to this weekend's sea kayak trip to Valdes Island. She is also the producer of this year's International Week. She has been planning the event since early last year and has cajoled and encouraged staff and student participation (several times in aboriginal song and even drumming!).

Although born in Haddon, a tiny hamlet northeast of London, in a 400 year-old manse beside a Norman church, Jenny spent her early teens in South Africa. She says her ideas about the world were

Upcoming Events:

- Oct. 9-13** Thanksgiving Break (see travel info. below). Students must be back by 8:00pm on Tuesday
- Oct. 15 & 17** *The Last Five Years*, Musical production - Call Lisa in the General Office to reserve tickets. **250-743-5516**
- Oct. 17** Founder's Day and Shawnigan Lake School AGM
- Oct. 19** School Photo Day

shaped by a culture steeped in apartheid. When she moved to New Zealand at sixteen, she saw the real colours of the world and a rich, multi-cultural scene opened her eyes and heart. Since then, she has campaigned for anti-racism and equality of all peoples. Jenny's classrooms have always been a place for her to plant seeds of humanity, but she doesn't stop there. Most recently, she worked on the board for the Intercultural Society, was a volunteer for the Indigenous Games on the Green Team, and was a facilitator of workshops, ensuring that the community treated one another, as well as games' participants, with respect and cultural dignity.

Her love of life extends well beyond the personal relationships she creates, for Jenny revels in the natural environment. "I love any activity in or on the water!" Jenny and her husband, Charles, spent time sailing through the Broughton Archipelago and the Queen Charlotte Strait this summer, and have recently purchased a Pearson 30-ft. sail boat to find yet more adventures. Jenny's daughter, Julie, has inherited her mother's love of nature and is currently at UBC studying environmental research. Jenny's son, Sean, lives nearby in Victoria, with his wife and Jenny's two grandchildren.

Chapel Words

On Tuesday, Mrs. Kingstone addressed the students in Chapel:

I'd like to talk to you this morning about someone who is near and dear to my heart: Michael Jackson. Now before you start to pass judgement or make some assumptions, let me explain.

In June of this year, Michael Jackson died and in the midst of all that had to be said about him—about his childhood, his talent, his relationships, his face, his children, his strangeness—I was reminded that in 1973 when Michael Jackson first became a hit on the music scene, I was in love with him. It was long before I met Mr. Kingstone. And I was 12.

I was in love with him in the way you fall in love when you are 12 and you are reading about someone in *Tiger Beat* magazine. Or listening to them sing songs like "ABC" or "I'll Be There." Or watching them dance like no boy in your grade 7 class could even dream of dancing. More than anything, I wanted to win **the contest**. I wanted to win a date with Michael Jackson. I don't think I ever even entered the contest, but I would regularly imagine what that date would be like—I was a fairly serious, plain, vaguely plump girl. But I was sure that Michael Jackson would prefer an evening with me rather than one of those pretty, fatuous, skinny girls you would regularly see in pictures with celebrities. On the basis of what, I don't know, but I was still sure we could become great friends.

To read the complete address, click on the following link:

2009-09-29 chapel.pdf