



WEEK OF OCTOBER 12, 2009

Shawnigan Parent News



Photos: Number One Uniforms by Stephen Lane. For more photos and stories, go to <http://www.shawnigan.ca/now>

It Is All About Effort! – Maureen Connolly

The faculty will meet next Wednesday, as they do every six weeks, to discuss their advisees' academic progress. In these regular meetings, each student's name is brought forth for comment so that all staff members have a chance to give input when needed. Next week's meeting will be the first opportunity for advisors to get a clear indication of how their advisees are faring in the classroom.

Most parents are familiar with the academic grading system, but it is the "Effort" grade assigned to their child at Shawnigan that can be puzzling. A large degree of importance is placed on effort at the School. We believe that students should realize that only with due diligence will they accomplish real learning.

Effort grades are assigned in every class from 1 to 5 as follows:

"1" – The student consistently endeavours to make the most of his or her ability. Homework is always completed thoroughly and punctually, reflecting superior effort. Dedication and focus are always demonstrated in the classroom. Some special initiative is usually shown.

"2" – The student makes a very fine effort overall, but it lacks the intensity of a "1." Homework is completed punctually, reflecting genuine effort. Dedication and focus in the classroom are demonstrated consistently. Some special initiative may be shown.

"3" – The student's preparation and focus are satisfactory. Occasionally, homework may reflect a lack of thoroughness. However, the student rectifies this situation promptly.

"4" – The student's efforts are unsatisfactory and quite inconsistent. Too often, homework is prepared inadequately. On the rare occasion, it may have been barely attempted! In class, there may be a pattern of inattention or lack of focus. Despite his or her difficulties, the student rarely takes the initiative to arrange for help.

"5" – The student's efforts are neglectful. Homework is frequently of a poor standard and focus in class is often lacking. Overall, performance is well below ability and very little effort at all on the part of the student is being offered.

Please note that teachers rarely give "1"s on the first assessment. In my experience, having had my own children at the School for nine years, a "1" is cause for much celebration! A "2" deserves a firm pat on the back and congratulations, and a "3" gets a "Good for you, keep up the good work and ask your teacher what you can do to improve your effort rating." If your child is experiencing any kind of trouble, remind them to ask their teacher(s) for a tutorial. There is a tutorial period built into the daily schedule and often an effort grade can be increased simply by attending these tutorial periods and, we expect, improved grades will follow.

Dean's Dinner

In order to make the Dean's Dinner list, students must meet a very high effort grade standard. The clear message is that effort deserves reward. Generally, great marks are a reward in themselves, but as students come in all shapes and sizes, so does their academic achievement. We want to be sure to emphasize that diligence is the key to improving marks and understanding class material. So, students who are invited to Dean's may be "A" students, or "B" students, or even students struggling to achieve a "C" grade, but they will have all shown a clear and concise effort across the board in all their classes, sports and fine art.

Upcoming Events:

- 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
- Nov. 4-5** Parents Open House - Information coming to you soon!

Shawnigan Vernacular (for new parents in particular!)

"What did you say?! You got a WHAT? You are going WHERE?" Please find below a list of "Shawniganisms" you might have already heard, or will hear and might be confused by.

Colours: Awards available to grade 10's and 12's only; they are given out for excellence in the House, academics, athletics, and fine arts.

Commissary: The School's store, which provides everything from uniform to notebooks, toothbrushes to ice cream, as well as the students' allowance. It is located in the Ritz.

B's: A punishment for minor offences. One B means one hour of manual labour; students can be given BB or BBB as well.

Duty: Every week, students are allotted a duty within the House, such as taking out the recycling or tidying the kitchen. They are also responsible for one day of table duty, when they must clear the table of the food and plates after each meal.

Gated: A punishment from within the House. The student must stay in his or her House during free time.

Hills: A consequence from within the House, usually for being late for sign-in. The student(s) must run up and down a hill or staircase for a designated period of time.

Leave: Certain weekends are designated "Leave Weekends," which means that students may go home for one night.

Prep: Mandatory homework time, taking place every weeknight between 7:00 – 9:00pm.

Ritz: The student centre, located in the Main Building; it provides comfortable seating areas, computers and snacks for the students during their free time.

Sign-in: In order to ensure the presence of the students on campus, sign-ins are taken three times a day by a grade 12 or a member of staff from each boarding house.

Tinkle Time: Each week day, during morning break, the staff gather for a short meeting. It is so named because a bell is rung (or "tinkled") to commence the meeting.

Wilberforce: The most severe consequence, before expulsion. Students are required to run laps around the pond in the Kaye Gardens before and after a time of manual labour each day that they are on the force.