

July 09, 2010

Dear Shawnigan Lake School Families,

We hope this letter finds you enjoying the company of your sons and daughters after a busy and rewarding school year. Although it may be hard to believe, before breaking for the summer we are now preparing for the opening of the 2010--2011 school year. Even from early July, it looks to be another exciting and full year at Shawnigan starting with the leadership retreat, fall sports camps, interhouse track and field, a visit from the Tour de Rock Cops for Cancer, beginning rehearsals for the musical *Oliver!*, two new drama productions, and, of course, the myriad academic challenges that make up the depth and breadth of our programming. Since it has never been our practice to rest on our laurels, we hope to continue to define and re-define excellence for our school and our students through a varied and full educational experience.

Last summer we made the move to reduce our paper use by posting the summer package on both the Shawnigan web site and on our Intranet for you to view and download. This year, we will be doing the same. Much of what you will find there will not be a surprise to you; we trust the forms and guidelines will be clear and helpful. **There are a number of important forms that must be filled out and returned to us by August 1st.** Please be sure to pay particular attention to these. If you anticipate that an electronic version of the summer package will not be an option for you owing to internet capability, please contact the Main Office by email (lblumer@sls.bc.ca or rtaylor@sls.bc.ca) or telephone (250-743-5516) to let them know that you would still like to receive a paper copy of the summer package. Additionally, if you have any questions about the information posted or the required forms, please do not hesitate to contact us for explanation.

All of the required documents and forms can be found by clicking the following link:

<http://www.shawnigan.ca/summerpackage>

As you may know, students are issued a *Gold Book* at the beginning of the school year that is both a handbook of expectations and a daily planner. You will find portions of this text on the web site, particularly those sections that are of interest and importance to parents. Please review all of the policies outlined here so you are aware of the guidelines we have established for our students and their families. It is always best to help your children understand these guidelines prior to their arrival at school so those first few months go as smoothly as possible for them. We ask that you also review the posted calendar and transportation documents carefully so that when you are making holiday plans you stay well within our published holidays, avoiding lost class time for your children. In a rigorous program that includes academic, fine arts and athletic commitments, it is difficult for students to make up time lost in the classroom or on the playing fields. Note also the return times at the end of breaks. We cannot emphasize enough how important it is for us to work together so that no student is disadvantaged by unnecessary and unexcused absences.

The other document posted on our web site for your review is the Summer Reading List. Please refer to this document to find out what your son or daughter needs to be reading over the summer in preparation for the beginning of this coming school year. And feel free to pick up an extra copy for your own reading; the list, compiled by our academic departments, is varied and interesting.

We look forward to welcoming you all to campus in September, but in the meantime, our very best wishes to you all for a healthy, peaceful and fulfilling summer.

Warm regards,

Jo-Anne Kingstone
Deputy Head