



WEEK OF MAY 31, 2010

# Shawnigan Parent News



Photo: Rowers Ready for St. Catharines! For more photos go to <http://www.shawnigan.ca/now>

## SAT Testing at Shawnigan – Beth Hall

On Saturday, approximately 30 students from Shawnigan have registered to write the SAT here on campus. This is a common standardized test for students who are interested in applying to U.S. universities. Test dates for the SAT are set by the Collegeboard and are available in October, November, December, January, May and June. Most students opt to write this test more than once in the hope of improving their scores.

## Celebration of the Fine Arts – June 9

Next Wednesday, we will have the opportunity to celebrate the Fine Art achievements of the year beginning with the presentation of Colours and Awards in the Chapel at 8:00am, before academic classes.

From 3:15pm onward, there will be a static display showcasing the work of our visual artists. Parents and friends of the School, as well as the entire School population are invited to come to the Hobbies Building where cookies and juice will be available during the showcase afternoon. Bands and Speech Arts will perform on the lawn in front of the Hobbies Building. Weather permitting, inter-house sidewalk chalk art will also be developing during the Festival of the Arts.

A BBQ will be served from 5:00-6:00pm and, at 8:30pm, there will be a concert of performing artists in Marion Hall. Please come if you are in the area. It is a great day and highlights many of our students who may not receive the kind of kudos those in the higher profile extra-curricular activities receive.

## Staff Profile – Claire Wilkie

Claire's first degree is in science with a major in Chemistry and Astrophysics. Before earning her teaching certificate from the University of Victoria, she worked as an organic chemist in Calgary and in the Okanagan Valley. Claire felt that it was important to gain industry experience before moving into the classroom so that she could give her lessons real-world significance.

Beginning her teaching career at Shawnigan in September has been a great challenge and pleasure for Claire. "Teaching at Shawnigan is everything I hoped it would be. My favourite place in the world is standing in front of the classroom with all those faces looking back at me—it really is all I dreamed it would be." Claire is teaching junior science and math as well as working with students in the Learning Centre. In the "L.C." she works with students individually reviewing material and consolidating classroom learning. Claire also plays an active role in developing new technological opportunities at the School as a member of the "Tech Committee."

Claire was born in Derbyshire, the Peak District, in England and her family immigrated to Canada five years later. Because Claire's younger sister has struggled with various disabilities, Claire took on the role of "teacher" very early in her life and always knew that was what she wanted to do professionally. This familial role of teacher and advisor has readied Claire for the expectations in her residential assignment as well.

"Working in Strathcona House and getting to know the girls was the best surprise of my Shawnigan job so far." Claire says that she enjoys helping the students with prep, but also takes great pleasure in just sitting and chatting with the girls and getting to know them. "I'm a good listener," she says.

Claire's enthusiasm for photography and soccer have also been of great benefit to the School. Many of her photos have appeared on the website and she was able to act as chaperone for the girls'

## Upcoming Events:

- June 4-6** Double Over-night Leave Weekend
- June 5** SAT at Shawnigan
- June 9** Celebration of the Arts - 3:15pm - 5:30pm with Fine Arts concert at 8:30pm (parents welcome to both events).
- June 12** Magnolia Chorale - a musical presentation in our Chapel 7:30pm
- June 12** House Outings

For more information about travel for breaks, please go to: <http://www.shawnigan.ca/now/travel-information>

soccer team when they traveled (as well as cheering wildly from the sidelines!).

Claire and her husband, Andrew, live in Langford, near Victoria where Andrew works in software development. The couple has two dogs and two cats, "They are our children!" laughs Claire.

## Getting Ready for St. Catharines – Zach W. (Lonsdale's)

The CSSRA regatta in St. Catharines is one of the largest school rowing regattas in North America. It is known as Nationals but it's actually international. For example, last year, a boat from Cuba raced against not only a Shawnigan boat, but a New York crew, a Vancouver College crew and even a Brentwood boat. This year, four teams have been chosen to head off to the event. The Senior Boys A team and Senior Girls A team are the seniors going. The juniors that are getting sent are the Junior Girls A team and my team, the Junior Boys A team. My team consists of 1 girl and 9 boys (including myself). The coxies going are Lauren J. and myself, Zach W. We will be racing two different boats at St. Catharines which means twice the work for the boys racing in both of them. Typically, we decide on going if we do well at the Shawnigan regatta, but our race was cancelled so we didn't know if we would be sent. Eventually Mr. Coy, our rowing coach, decided that he thought we were good enough for the heat of the competition and that's when the intense training starts and the intense cardio workout that the boys had been going through previously was over. Now our 6:45am Wednesdays were over and they started at 5:30am. To a coxie like myself, Lauren J., Sarah A. or Tala B., it can get boring waiting for the team to finish an erg or waiting for them to finish a run, but we all stick to it because we know that if they can erg that 2 kilometers two times faster, that means they can move a boat two times farther and that looks good for us. Everyone thinks that coxing is easy but the Canadian Olympic team cox told us in a speech that he gave this weekend that coxing a boat can be as easy or as hard as you want it to be. Brian Price, the Canadian Cox, delivered his speech during a rowing camp. This camp took place during the May long weekend and lasted from early Sunday to Monday. The rowers stayed in both Lonsdale's and Strathcona School House. On Sunday all teams had two rows. By Monday the boys had been well rested and were ready for a workout, but not for what the coaches had planned. We got up at 8:00am to train in the 8+ and had to come back by 11 o'clock for a practice with the four-man boat and then had to wait at the docks until two in the afternoon for a 2-hour row. By this time, the boys were too tired to move, but they did it anyway 'cause that's what makes a good crew!