



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2009

Shawnigan Parent News



Photo: Great Eight Expedition. For more photos and stories, go to <http://www.shawnigan.ca/now>

Opening Week – as it Happens!

Although we have barely begun the year, students will be kept very busy during the first few weeks of School. The staff at Shawnigan have prepared a full program of introductions and orientation, both for new and for returning students.

Tuesday, September 8

Once parents left, students enjoyed a barbecue and then attended an assembly in the chapel where Mr. Robertson (Headmaster), Mrs. Kingstone (Deputy Head) and Ali H. (Head of School) officially welcomed them as a group to Shawnigan. Students then joined in on the “Fun and Games” night put on by student leaders in the gym and later spent time in their Houses getting to know their House Directors and attending House meetings. See the fun and games at <http://www.shawnigan.ca/now>

Wednesday, September 9

Wake-up call on Wednesday was at 8:00am and new students were introduced to House Inspections a half-hour later—a gentle nudge in the direction of the #1 inspections that happen weekly in the boarding houses. Following a hot breakfast in Marion Hall, students assembled in different locations on campus to ready themselves for timetable orientation. They were given introductions to academics, sports, fine arts, and School life at Shawnigan. After lunch, students gathered in the Chapel to meet with our Chaplain, Jim Holland.

The afternoon offered a more relaxing routine while returning students arrived on campus. (We were so happy to see them back!)

Thursday, September 10

After an early breakfast and Assembly in the Chapel, students attended their first day of classes (except for the grade eights who left at 9:00am for their “Expedition”). Grades 9 - 12 will go to every class in their timetable to find out a) where the class is; b) who will be teaching the class; and c) what the class expectations are.

Friday, September 11

We follow “Day 1” in the Gold Book! Finally, prepared with all the information we can give, students will now embark on their 2009-2010 academic year—there may even be prep assigned! In the evening, the grade 12 class meets with our Deputy Head, Mrs. Kingstone, to discuss the coming term and their responsibilities as School leaders, as well as to formulate goals for their final year at Shawnigan.

Saturday & Sunday, September 12-13

Saturday breakfast will be followed by the first #1 inspection. The Chapel bell rings at 11:15 and, after lunch, sports will begin.

Sunday brunch will be served to students from 10:00 – 11:30 am. At noon, all students will converge on the sports fields in their House Colours—a spectacular sight! After numerous rallying cries, chanting, and singing, students will get down to the business of athletic competition in our annual Inter-House Track & Field day. This is just one in a series of events meant to foster House and School spirit in our community-building program at Shawnigan. If you are in the area, please join us on the sports fields.

Student Profile – Ali H., Head of School

Ali hails from Hong Kong. How did she find Shawnigan from so far away? “My family always liked Canada and the Kongs, who are friends of ours, suggested that we look at Shawnigan for high school. We came for a visit and loved it. My sister, Kristina, started in grade eight and I arrived a few years later to begin grade eight.”

Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 10** Grade 8 Expedition
- Sept. 13** Inter-House Track & Field Meet
- Parents are welcome to attend (12:00pm)
- Sept. 21** School Photo Day
- Sept. 26** Black and Gold meets Red Serge (Family fundraising dinner for Tour de Rock - For tickets and more info., call Noralie Hooper 250.743.6235 or nhooper@shawnigan.ca)

Ali says it wasn't a painless beginning. “I found it hard to say goodbye and I was quite anxious during the plane ride, but I did have my sister there and once at the School, there was so much happening and so many events in the first few weeks that I was eased into it.”

A member of Kaye's House, Ali loves her House Director, Erica Dalrymple (affectionately known as Mrs. D). “Mrs. D. is very supportive and cares for everyone in the House individually. She is very approachable and understanding. If any one of us has a problem, she finds a solution.”

Friendships are the outstanding feature of Shawnigan, says Ali. “Because of Shawnigan, I have friends all over the world and friendships that will last for the rest of my life.” Ali has also benefited from the rowing program, giving her athletic confidence and the opportunity to travel and to compete, most recently at St. Catharines where her team won gold. One of the other highlights of her grade 11 year was being cast in the Shawnigan drama, *Arcadia*.

Academics make up the better part of her Shawnigan experience and though she doesn't see herself as a scholar of note, she is continually challenged by her academics and continues to do well in her favourite subject—mathematics.

When asked what she will bring to Shawnigan as Head of School, Ali is quick to list her strengths. “I have been a member of the Round-Table Leadership since grade eight and I think I am seen as someone who is responsible—someone who is approachable and who will take action and make changes. I like being a leader. I love organizing events and I am driven and determined. I have a positive attitude.

“I am sometimes seen as ‘quiet,’ which surprises me because, really, I am an extrovert and a people-person. My greatest hope for this year is to heighten school spirit. I don't want us to be embarrassed about the pride we feel in our school; I want to bring up the expression of Shawnigan spirit a few notches. I think school spirit makes us a tighter community and I think we need to believe in ourselves.”

Another of Ali's initiatives is to assure that new students feel good about their choice to come to Shawnigan. “I want them to know that this is a good place and a kind of home. I know they will be nervous and I want to reassure them that they will have no regrets.”

Ali has been in touch by email over the summer with last year's Head of School, Alex Macintosh. “I have been asking lots of questions and mulling over his answers and insights. Alex learned so much in the last year and has so much passion for the School. We have an amazing group of Prefects this year, too. We are all friendly and creative and able to follow through with ideas. I think this is going to be a great year, I honestly do!”