



WEEK OF NOVEMBER 9, 2009

# Shawnigan Parent News



Photo: Shawnigan Choir on Remembrance Day. For more photos and stories, go to <http://www.shawnigan.ca/now>

## Random Acts of Green

Mr. Noble recently challenged the Houses to perform Random Acts of Green (RAGs) in order to earn extra House points in our on-going Inter-House recycling challenge. So far, the RAGs reported have been:

1. Ripley's community garbage clean-up from the School Gates up to the village—**5 points**
2. Two Strathcona girls cleaned up the Canada pitch after local Halloween parties—**1 point**
3. Renfrew South did a major cleaning of their brown box for Mr. Forster—**2 points**
4. Strathcona opted out of the use of paper napkins in Marion Hall by bringing their own cloth napkins.—**5 points**
5. Kayes, Dux and Lonsdales had small crews step up to help sort the multitude of bags and bins of compost/garbage/recycling left behind after the track meet. Kayes went the extra mile, so earned **5 points** while Lonsdale's and Duxbury earned **4 points each**.

## Staff Profile – Chad Holtum

Shawnigan Lake School has expanded its Admissions Department, welcoming Chad Holtum in the new position of Director of Enrolment and Marketing. Holtum moves from Queen Margaret's School (QMS) in Duncan where he was Deputy Head with responsibility for admissions, advancement, marketing and communications. In Holtum's tenure there, just shy of six years, the school realized a 50% increase in enrolment. Prior to that he was Vice Principal and Director of Admissions for two years at Lakeside Prep School in Shawnigan Lake, a small International Boarding school for grades 7-12.

Chad is an 'Island boy', having grown up in Ladysmith. Both his parents taught in the public system here and Holtum began his career in the Richmond school district. He has a B.Com. in Marketing and Finance from the University of Guelph, a B.Ed., Teaching Certificate (K-12) and an M.Ed. in Leadership and Administration all from UBC.

Before his teaching stint in Richmond, Chad was Project Manager for Youth at ICBC. He began the program on Vancouver Island and ended with a staff of 42 province-wide, conducting education programs aimed at youth to discourage dangerous driving, drinking and driving and auto crime. Over the four years, "we watched crime go down wherever teams were set up; it was a highly effective program," said Chad.

His new role at Shawnigan includes "reaffirming the branding of the school and positioning it in the right places for market diversification, both here in North America and around the world," he explained. "We're assuring that the school population is internationally and nationally diverse as well as continuing to attract top students." About 20 per cent of Shawnigan's current 445 students are international, not including those from the United States.

Within just a week of starting his new job, Chad was off on a three-week trip through Asia, introducing himself to Shawnigan's existing contacts, cultivating new relationships and identifying new markets. "For example we're going to Vietnam for the first time," Chad said "and this is just the beginning; we are looking at various new markets both here at home and around the world. It is an exciting time to be at Shawnigan and I am proud to be here."

## Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 22-27** International Week
- Dec. 5-6** Leave Weekend - 5pm ferries to the mainland and 7pm ferries back to Shawnigan.
- Dec. 12** Snow Fest (Formal Dance)
- Dec. 13** House Outings
- Dec. 17** Christmas Dinner and Carol Service
- Dec. 18** Christmas Break begins at 9:00am

## Opening Statement Grade 10 Model UN – Lisa-Jane D.

*At the opening ceremonies of the Grade 10 Model United Nations forum, Lisa Jane D., a grade 12 student, gave the opening statement in Chapel:*

Here you are—the few, the proud, the delegates. I know what you're thinking: "L. J., why are we doing this whole Model UN thing anyway? Why have I got to do a bunch of research? Who cares?" By the time this first SLSMUN is over, with any luck, you will care.

We live in a world that is, regrettably, fraught with problems. Global warming, deforestation, the rising cost of oil and natural gas, the depletion of resources that we thought could never be depleted, the loss of fresh water sources... The list goes on. In response to this never-ending tsunami of problems, most people do one of two things: sigh, and vow never to watch the news again; or roll up into a ball at night, weep, and rock back and forth, hoping that the apocalypse will wait at least one more day before sinking its teeth into humanity, ending civilization as we know it. You know, it's very easy to become apathetic or anxious when thinking about the entire human race and all its struggles.

However, as a Model UN delegate, you have a third option, beyond sighing or crying: you can do something. While global warming cannot be solved over this one-day school-run conference, over the course of today's committee sessions, you will learn about the environment, the Copenhagen 15 conference, diplomacy, and the building of consensus—regardless of how you spend your day, you will walk away this afternoon more informed than you are this morning.

Given the isolated nature of Shawnigan, many people find themselves at a loss about the workings of the world. We've all come from different backgrounds, and many here among us are from different countries, but we remain, as a group, relatively ignorant to our surroundings—it's human nature, after all. It's so tempting to get caught up in your own little bubble, of class and sport and the house and that ominous thing that people call "drama with friends." We're all caught up in the details of our own lives, and who can blame us? It's complicated being a modern adolescent, with so much demanded of us, and often, so little expected.

The general populous wants to believe that teenagers are narcissists, fixated on themselves, more concerned about the zit on your forehead than the genocide in Darfur. And, as a fellow teenager, I ask of you—prove them wrong.

Prove to the world that you're educated, and that you're proud to be. Prove to the world that you care about something bigger than Facebook, your last text message, or your grade-point-average. Show them you can hold your own in a conversation about international politics. Be interested. Be motivated. And, whenever you can, watch the news.