



WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16, 2009

Shawnigan Parent News



Photos: Gr. 9 Round Table Chapel Presentation. For more photos and stories, go to <http://www.shawnigan.ca/now>

Grade Nine Round Table – Jennifer Hutchins

We hosted our first event on Monday, November 16, 2009—a BBQ for the whole Grade 9 class. Mr. Williams and Mrs. Hutchins helped cook in the rain. It was great fun on that dreary, wet night! A cozy fire in the Rugby Pavilion and some good conversation brought the grade together. The Grade 9s had fun planning their first event. The biggest obstacle was trying to find a date that worked in Shawnigan's busy schedule.

Now the Grade 9 Roundtable is coordinating their first service project—a gift drive for teenagers of the families who use the Shawnigan/Cobble Hill/Mill Bay Food Bank. Five members of the Round Table presented in chapel on November 17. Mrs. Hutchins began by speaking about poverty in BC, and then about the 240 families who use the Food Bank in own community. Liam B., Ian K., Rosa V., and Kevin M. each read a first-person narrative from the perspective of the teenagers in those needy families. This was a powerful start to our gift drive and we hope that donations of teen gifts come pouring in.

Carrying the Torch! – Caryl Worden

In the early morning of his 17th birthday, Nader M. stood on a cold, damp Qualicum Beach street ready to take part in the event of a lifetime—carrying the Olympic Torch.

“I ran at seven in the morning, and it was cloudy,” said the Grade 11 student, adding that his 300 metre-run, is all a bit foggy. “I just remember so many people waving at me as I jogged along, and I was waving back at them.”

The most exciting part of the experience was that Nader passed the torch to his younger brother, Alex, who took it for the next leg. “We did a high five, and then he just started running,” Nader laughs. Even though it took only two minutes to complete his part, Nader was surprised that he hurt a bit afterwards. “The torch weighs about 3.5 pounds, I think, and holding it high up, the first half was fine, but by the end, I could feel it in my shoulder.”

The boys' father was also part of the relay further north on the Island. His company is an Olympic sponsor and built the Millenium Water project, home of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Village. He says they were honoured to be offered spots in the torch bearer relay. “The boys were thrilled. I can't imagine they will ever forget this most wonderful day, representing not only Canada, but BC and Shawnigan students. It is indeed the ultimate Olympic Souvenir.”

Graduated Licensing Program – Sharlene Quinn

Cowichan School of Motoring will again provide the opportunity for interested students to participate in their comprehensive driver's training program (Graduated Licensing Program) for a cost of \$987.55. This ICBC approved course will reduce the “Novice” stage of the licensing process to 18 months from 24 and will be offered at Shawnigan in January 2010. The course features two important components: “defensive driving” classroom theory (18 hours) and “defensive driving” behind the wheel experience (15 hours). The theory classes will take place on campus and students will be picked up at the School for their driving lessons. This program is geared toward those students who already have their BC Learner's license but still require significant preparation prior to taking their ICBC Road Test.

If you are interested in having your child apply for this course, please read the “Student Agreement” by clicking on the link below:

<http://shawnigan.ca/files/documents/pdf/parent-news/CSM.pdf>

Complete the required information and return it to the Transporta-

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

tion Department. Email: transportation@shawnigan.ca or Fax: (250) 743-6261

The Cowichan School of Motoring would be happy to offer alternate driver's training if the GLP does not suit your son or daughter's needs. Please contact them directly to discuss other options at csm1977@shaw.ca or phone (250) 748-1241.

Intranet Creator Receives Industry Honour – Caryl Worden

When anyone in the School community signs on to the Intranet to check schedules, read the announcements or find out what's for lunch, they can thank Harley Acheson, part of the School's IT team. His work for the School was also recognized by his peers last week, when he was chosen as a finalist in the 2009 Science, Technology & Innovation Awards given out by the Mid-Island Science Technology & Innovation Council (MISTIC)

The awards were handed out at a gala dinner event at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre. “Luckily my category was first, so I could get it over with as quickly as possible as I was quite nervous,” said Harley who was nominated in the Technology Leadership category. “Although I did not win, I was presented with a nice plaque and a cool engraved glass award.”

Harley is responsible for all the custom programming at Shawnigan which includes software he has written that allows staff and students to connect to network servers, install shared printers, and connect to the School while off campus. One program allows teachers to view and control student computers in the classroom, while another allows internal instant messaging. In the last couple of years, Harley has also taken an interest in 3D modelling and has been successful in placing some models of Shawnigan buildings on the official Google Earth 3D building layer.

However, Harley's most prominent product is the Shawnigan Intranet, a completely dynamic system used by the entire school community every day for online lessons, notices, file publishing, or for homework submissions. It currently comprises more than 120,000 files and, during the last school year alone, was viewed more than 6.5 million times.

“Although I was being recognized for my work, much of the credit should really go to Shawnigan,” Harley says. “They have always been willing to back me up whenever I've wanted to build something new, no matter how odd it sounded at the time. It is nice to work somewhere that understands that in order to remain state-of-the-art you need to encourage experimentation and invention very early on.”

Looking to stay in Shawnigan?

The Wood family is offering a reduced rate to Shawnigan families who wish to stay in their Woodview Bed & Breakfast only minutes from the School campus. www.woodviewbedandbreakfast.com