



WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2009

Shawnigan Parent News



Photo: SnowFest! For more photos and stories, go to <http://www.shawnigan.ca/now>

How to Ask a Date to Snowfest (Formal Winter Dance)

The tradition of the special invitation, or “ask” in Shawnigan lingo, was in evidence over the past few weeks at Shawnigan. ▶ Two grade 12 girls hid themselves in giant Christmas stockings in Marion Hall and, just before grace, revealed themselves and began serenading two boys they wanted to “ask.” ▶ Antoine had Mason’s (the local store) put up a sign on their store-front that read, “Martina, will you go to Snowfest with me?” ▶ Dylan used buoys to spell out his “ask” on the lake so that when Lisa’s rowing shell sailed past she would get his message. ▶ Cameron talked a fellow student into playing a violin in the Kaye gardens so that he could properly serenade Malia. He presented her with a bouquet of flowers along with his “ask.”

The two winning asks (who were presented with gift certificates to Steeples restaurant) were: ▶ Sean, who must have been thinking ahead, ordering fortune cookies for the whole school printed with a single, special message: “Lotte, will you go to Snowfest with me?” ▶ And Drew, who left 3 presents for Samantha under Kaye’s House tree. The last present had a note attached asking her to go to the Rugby Pavilion. As Samantha made her way up the road, she heard music coming from the Pavilion and then saw the “ask” spelled out in twinkle lights on the hillside. *Beautiful!*

News From the Guidance Office – Beth Hall

With the last of the fall university liaison visits behind us, we are busy in the Guidance Office helping students work on their applications. The Canadian University Event in late November marked the end of the planning phase and the beginning of the application phase for most of our students. We were happy to host this event for the third year in a row and welcomed almost 40 universities from Victoria to St. John’s, Newfoundland. This gave our students in grades 11 and 12 the opportunity to do a little comparison shopping and chat with admission personnel about academic requirements, deadlines, scholarships, programs of study, and residences.

Now the applications to Canadian institutions are in full swing. Although most deadlines are not until February or March, we encourage the students to complete as much as they can before the holiday, so that we are not in a rush when they return. Many applications are simply a matter of filling in an on-line form and paying the fee; others require additional information that takes a little more time to complete. We try to give all the students the help that they need to manage this process efficiently and thoroughly. We have computers in the Guidance Office where students can work under close supervision, and we can check what they’ve done before they press the “submit” button. It’s an exciting moment for many of them, when they realize that they have actually sent an application off that will determine what they will be doing next September!

In some cases, students will hear about admission decisions to Canadian universities as early as this month. A few institutions will grant conditional admission based on Grade 11 marks, but the common time to submit grades is not until February and March. The timing for offers of admission varies from school to school and from program to program, so it is difficult to give an expected time line. Suffice to say that we work closely with the students to make sure their choices are realistic and always contain at least one choice we are confident they will be admitted to.

For U.S. applications, students who were applying under an early decision plan had their applications completed at the beginning of November. If they are successful, they will be informed in mid-December. Most other deadlines fall in January, which means that everything should be submitted before we leave for the break.

Upcoming Events:

- Dec. 18** Christmas Break begins at 9:00am
- Jan. 3** Christmas Break ends. Students must return to School by 8:00pm. Buses will meet the 5:00pm sailings from the mainland.
- Jan. 16-17** Leave Weekend

Though some students like to wait to the last minute, we encourage everyone to finish the work early, so they can relax and not think about it while they are home over Christmas.

After a bit of a slow start, the number of applications to United Kingdom universities is ahead of application numbers for last year. There are 15 applications in process as of this writing. Students continue to apply widely to universities in the UK, including, of course, many of the top universities in the world. At present, we have two students who have been invited to interview at Oxford University, no mean feat in itself! As well, we have had students accepted to Cardiff University Law School, St. Andrew’s University, and Imperial College, London, the United Kingdom’s MIT. We are confident many of our other applicants will be successful, as well.

If you have any questions about applications or the admission process to universities, please don’t hesitate to contact us. While your children are home for the Christmas holiday, ask them about their plans and encourage them to see us when they return so that we can finish final details in a timely fashion.

Happy Holidays! – the Guidance team.

Grad Celebration at Whistler, May 21, 2010

Once again, the May celebration will be at the lovely Chateau Whistler. Information and reservation forms have been sent to Grad parents by e-mail, or may be printed/downloaded from the intranet –

– <http://academic.shawnigan.ca/Parents/Grad/>

If you have any questions, please contact Rosemary Dolman at red@shawnigan.ca

More R.A.G.s (Random Acts of Green) – Scott Noble

1. Groves House girls are providing Damaris in the commissary with those “garbage” self-addressed envelopes (the ones that always show up in our magazines and junk mail!). In return they will receive their leave \$ sealed in these instead! (2 points)
2. Copeman’s lads completed a major green/landscape project on the slope in front of the House. (5 points)
3. Strathcona girls are committed to having a very green House Christmas. From the tree and it’s ornaments to Secret Santa presents (minimal packaging, and partially made by the giver, wrapped in recycled paper–like old science tests!), they are working all the R’s -reduce, reuse, refuse, recycle- into the holiday spirit! (5 points)
4. Renfrew South has made a number of handbags out of old t-shirts to be used by their girls around campus and down to the store. Green and fashionable! (3 points)
5. Kaye’s girls are also wrapping their Secret Santa presents in re-used paper. In addition, they are thinking of our feathered friends and putting up a suet bird feeder to help them through the cold-snap! (2 points)