Sentinel Secondary School Fundraising Proposal for Academics, Arts & Athletics

2013 – 2014

Dear Parents and Alumni,

This year, we are celebrating 50 years of delivering exceptional education in the West Vancouver School District.

We want the next 50 years to be even better.

Building for the Future

Sentinel Secondary School is embarking on a fundraising campaign to benefit students in Grades 8-12. Funds raised will support and enhance the learning environment in our three core areas: academics, arts and athletics (referred to as the 3A's).

While our goals are ambitious, we know the results will have an impact on current and future students, and that you'll be proud to take part in this initiative as a member of our fundraising team.

Specific plans include upgrading the MAC lab, support for drama productions, reconfiguration of our weight room and enhancements to the Library. But with the support of the Sentinel community, we're sure we could accomplish much, much more.

Background

Sentinel Secondary is a comprehensive high school serving more than 1200 students in Grades 8 through 12. Our personalized learning is impressive: Sentinel offers a range of specialty programs, including Advanced Placement, French Immersion, Super Achievers and the Baseball, Hockey, Soccer, and Tennis Academies. Students choose Sentinel not only for a great academic environment but also for a remarkable arts and athletic experience. The range of options available in our school attracts students from all over the Lower Mainland.

Sentinel opened its doors in February of 1963 and the first graduating class was recognized two years later, in June 1965. While the school has implemented many enhancements and changes over the years, there remain opportunities for upgrading.

Our vision is to raise financial support for the 3A's through several enhancement projects, by:

- Creating a 'learning commons' in our Library to help make the area a more appealing place for students to study, collaborate and connect. It would also enhance the learning environment for teachers, parents & outside users. Implementing this project would require spatial redesign and furniture purchases.
- Restructuring our weight room facility to support the large increase in after-school fitness training groups, such as Sentinel's Weight Training Club, 'Game Ready Fitness' (which supports our athletes) and the resurrection of the Sentinel Football Program.

- Replacing student computers in our computer lab. The workstations in our MAC lab are obsolete and need to be replaced with newer technology to support our Graphics and Media Arts programs.
- Supporting the extra-curricular aspects of our Arts programs such as theatre productions, dance groups and art clubs.

Concept and Approach

With the support of the Sentinel Parent Advisory Council ("SPAC") we plan to organize a number of fundraisers and, in addition, solicit support from our tremendous Alumni.

In order to succeed, this project requires the leadership and support of the school community as a whole. The school administration and staff, Board of Education, students and community all support the project – we are looking to our parents and alumni to take this to the next level. This effort will be overseen and directed by a newly formed Fundraising Committee.

Benefits

Improvements are focused on enhancing the quality of the learning environment to help students focus on pursuing their academic and fitness goals, while fully exploring their personal interests. These enhancements will help promote a healthy lifestyle, build a sense of community and instill school pride.

The ideal development plan would incorporate the following:

- ✓ Purchase new furniture (stacking chairs, couches, cushions) and computers for the library
- ✓ Expand student study/learning areas
- ✓ Expand/renovate Weight Room Facility (including additional storage)
- ✓ Purchase of a new class set (30) of student MAC stations and one teacher's station
- ✓ Provide financial support for drama/musical productions, including annual royalty rights for the purchasing of scripts
- ✓ Provide dance studio audio and stereo equipment
- ✓ Other

These additions will have a direct impact on our entire student population:

- The school's photography and graphic arts courses enroll nearly 200 students in Grades 9 – 12.
- Sentinel's drama/theater/dance productions enlist the support of over 100 students in all grades.
- In addition to the variety of weight/fitness training opportunities students have, there are over 700 participants in our extra-curricular sport teams.
- All academic, elective, physical education and Sport Academy courses will be able to utilize the Library and Weight Room facilities

Sentinel students will enjoy the advantages of these upgrades many times over.

The Fundraising Committee will employ many channels to thank those who help raise the funds we need to implement our plans. Individuals and companies involved in this campaign will be recognized for their support throughout the year.

Timeline

We anticipate completing our campaign by September 2014, but will petition Alumni support until targets have been met. Our plans include major fundraising events in the fall of 2013 and spring of 2014.

Your role

As parents and former alumni, we know you chose Sentinel because we've built a reputation as the premier place to prepare for the future – in the community, at work and at play.

Join us to help build the next 50 years of excellence: Together, we can make this project a reality and be proud to leave a legacy for future generations.

If you have the interest, energy and desire to be a part of this renewal, please contact one of the undersigned or call 604-981-1130 for more information.

Yours truly,

The Fundraising Committee:

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Mike Finch
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Douglas Morison, Chair SPAC