



# HEADLINES

December 15, 2010

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## A Holiday thank-you Card

There is no job that is more angst-ridden than being a parent. No matter how many years you practice at it, you never, ever reach "perfect".

Many years ago, one of my older sons declared in the middle of Grade 12 that "school is irrelevant" and stopped attending. No amount of begging, lecturing or threatening would make him budge and if it hadn't been for a cadre of teachers who were determined to make sure that he didn't throw everything away in the last weeks of high school, the end of this story might be quite different.

As it was, he graduated, and then took two years off to work as a short-order cook. More angst! Eventually however, as most boys do, he met a girl. She was interested in school, and driven to succeed. Fast forward fifteen years, and they are both university professors in Winnipeg with two lovely daughters and very successful and satisfying personal and professional lives.

And his father? I still remain full of angst—transferred quite seamlessly to my two young sons (how will I ever get Morgan to catch up on his spelling? Or to get Quinn to stop wearing sandals before he catches pneumonia?) and to my grandchildren who are too far away for me to micro-manage the way I want to. That is the nature of parenthood. We want the best for our children and woe be to anything or anyone that gets in the way of it. Sometimes however, we get so focused on the perceived barriers to our children's future successes, that we forget to sit back and appreciate those circumstances and people who are not holding them back, but propelling them forward. As our children get older, and our direct influence wanes, those factors (the values, work ethic, and strength of character that we have tried to instill in them), and those people (their teachers, coaches, friends, and extended family members) play a greater and greater role in the path that they choose to follow.

As the term draws to a close, and we look forward to celebrating a holiday season that is

more about family than about turkeys and presents, it is a great time to be thankful for all of those people who are helping our children along the way. No doubt, if we could be in a hundred places at once, we would try to do it all ourselves, but sometimes we just have to let go, hope for the best, and trust that the foundation that we have built for our children will carry them through just fine.

So, from me, this is a letter of thanks to my children's teachers, past and present, to their friends (and friends' parents) and to the host of cousins, Aunts and Uncles, and Grandparents who have been such an important part of their lives.

You don't relieve my angst, but somehow you make it all come together for my kids.

Have a wonderful holiday!

### Quick Notes

- Thanks to all of the parents and teachers who came out to our first MYP Curriculum information night. The next evening is scheduled for January 27th.
- For those parents who are still having challenges logging in on the Portal, please contact Stacey-Lee Williams and she will walk you through the process, or feel free to drop in and we will set you up from here.
- Thank you to our Class Moms and to the PTA for organizing the Thankful lunches and Staff Holiday Treat day. As always, your time and effort are greatly appreciated.
- Congratulations to our M4 and M5 students who attended the Student Diversity Leadership Conference two weeks ago. You were great ambassadors of Somersfield and we are very proud of you!



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Community Mural Painting

December 17th

#### Parent/Alumni/Student/Teacher Football

December 17th

#### End of Term

December 17th

#### Start of Term

January 5th

#### Personal Project Fair

January 28th

#### Somersfield 6-9 Opera

February 11th