



News and Information

January 22, 2010

High Performance Program Students to Carry Olympic Torch January 25



Kelowna, BC: On Monday, January 25, students in Okanagan Mission Secondary's High Performance Program will have the special honour of carrying the Olympic torch. The team will be cheered on by approximately 200 of their peers and staff from OKM when they start their run at 2:15 p.m. in Penticton.

"The High Performance athletes have been affected by the Olympic spirit," says Michael Ross, the teacher at OKM who manages the program. "They are learning that excellence means making tough decisions and sacrifices. They are balancing school work, serious training schedules and the expectations of being a torch bearer."

"In terms of the effects on the school community, at our Olympic Torch Team Celebration assembly, the audience heard first-hand about Olympic trials and triumphs from a Canadian Aerial Team freestyle skier Deidra Dionne. The ripple effects are hard to see at this point but the impact of this experience on the school community will be vast."

"One thing is for sure, OKM will be the only school in the Okanagan, and one of 16 other schools in the country, to have a used Olympic Torch grace its hallways for perpetuity. We have purchased our torch and it will stand in the school as a constant reminder of excellence for future generations of Huskies."

OKM is also building a rock Inukshuk to be placed at the finishing point of their relay experience.

Relay Details:

Starting point: The stage at the South Okanagan Events Centre (SOEC), Penticton, BC
Route: Off the stage and out the SOEC, through the parking lot, and along West Minister Avenue for one kilometer (50 meters per team member)
Finishing point: Intersection of Haynes Street and West Minister Avenue

Time:

12:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. VANOC Celebration at SOEC parking lot

2:15 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. OKM's Husky torch team will be running the torch

Attached: High Performance Team Introductions, prepared by Michael Ross.

For comments, please contact:

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2010 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY TEAM - DREAMS

Colin Burns, Alpine Skiing, Colin's dream is to be a cardiac surgeon.

Kayla Johnson, Alpine Skiing, Kayla's dream is to ski fast and make a difference.

Emerson Kirby, Alpine Skiing, Sail Racing. Emerson's dream is to sail for Canada at the international level.

Mark Manton, Alpine Skiing, Mark's dream is to ski for Canada in the 2018 Olympics.

Alexander Norman, Alpine Skiing, Alex's dream is to be on the Canadian Alpine Ski Team.

Devin Spence, Alpine Skiing, Devin's dream is to compete as a skier in the 2014 Olympics in Russia.

Aly Marson, Equestrian Riding, Aly's dream is to ride for Canada in 2018.

Morgan Jmaiff, Figure Skating, Morgan's dream is to skate at the 2014 Olympics for Canada.

Cambria Little, Figure Skating, Cambria's dream is to skate for Canada in the 2014 Olympics in Russia

Jaxon Jurome, Freestyle Skiing, Jaxon's dream is to become a professional Free Skier and win the X-Games.

Jesse Peacock, Freestyle Skiing, Jesse's dream is to win the X-Games.

Kelly Atamanchuk, Gymnastics, Kelly's dream is to compete in London at the Olympics in 2012

Jordon Krause, Hockey, Jordon's dream is to play for Team Canada.

John Saunders, Hockey, John's dream is to play in the NHL.

Anna Leitch, Soccer, Anna's dream is to attend the United World College school in Italy.

Chantel Bayliss, Swimming, Chantal's dream is to win a swimming scholarship to Goucher College in Baltimore

Sarah Mackay, Swimming, Sarah's dream is to swim for the National Team at UBC

Mitchell Segal, Swimming, Mitch's dream is to medal at Senior Nationals and study dentistry.

Meghan Lee, Coach of the Year, Meghan's dream is to take her girls to the Provincials.

Michael Ross, Torch Bearing, Michael's dream is to carry the Olympic flame.

2010 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY TEAM - BIOGRAPHIES

Colin Burns

Colin Burns has spent the last 7 years as a down hill ski racer with the Big White race team. Although he has recently retired from skiing, he will be tearing up the slopes on weekends when he is not playing soccer for the Whitecaps or Kelowna United. He maintains straight A's in school and enjoys playing bass with the OKM school band. Colin has volunteered for the BC Special Olympics, Gulu Walk, Social Justice committee and canvasses for the Heart and Stroke foundation. He is honoured to have an opportunity to take part in the Olympic torch relay and looks forward to being part of the OKM Olympic team. His academic goal is to attend an IB school, and enter the field of medicine.

Kayla Johnston

Kayla Johnston is a grade 10 student. She started skiing at the age of two and has been as a downhill racer ever since. She puts a lot of time towards OKM, such as student leadership and social justice. Outside of school she volunteered for the BC Special Olympics, the Okanagan International Marathon and other causes.

Emerson Kirby

Emerson Kirby is a like lightning on snow. His devilish style in Giant Slalom and his extra small speed suit keep the throngs of hill side spectators asking for more. As multi sport athlete, Emerson fiercely competes in Laser Radial sailing. His aim is to acquire a scholarship to elite University sailing team and/or be a member of Canada's Olympic sailing team. Emerson volunteers at the Special Olympics, providing Christmas hampers to families and at local soup kitchen. Emerson also enjoys rescuing small earthworms from the perils of pesticides in his backyard.

Mark Manton

Since he stepped onto skis for the first time in 1996 at age 2, Mark Manton has always dreamed of representing Canada in the Olympic Games. The opportunity to carry the Olympic Torch is the first step in realizing his dream. Following his Mom and Dad while skiing through the trees at Big White was an excellent prelude for what was to come, competitive racing in slalom, giant slalom, super G and downhill. Little did Mark know that his quest for speed would lead to his passion, chasing the Olympic Dream.

His intense desire to reach the Canadian Men's Olympic Ski Team is his ultimate goal. The average age for men to reach that team is 23, so Mark has two more Olympic Games in which to earn his spot. His goal is the 2018 Olympic Winter Games and it will require intense training, focus and commitment. Holding the Olympic Torch on January 25, 2010 will certainly provide Mark with a life long memory and dream of what it means to feel the Olympic Spirit

Devin Spence

As multi-sport athlete, Devin is a talented individual. Not only is he a starting Quarterback for the undefeated OKM Huskies football team as a grade 11 but he is also a nationally competitive alpine skier. Devin's attitude, toughness and ability to challenge fears will make him a success in which ever avenue he chooses.

Cambria Little

Cambria is an internationally competitive figure skater. Last season she received a gold medal at provincials and a silver medal performance at Nationals. This fall she competed for Canada in Dresdin Germany. Cambria's

academic goals are to become either a History or English Professor, or a journalist. As an elite competitive skater, she lends her experience and enthusiasm to helping young kids learn to skate, in the Can-Skate program at the Kelowna Skating Club.

Jaxon Jurome

He doesn't believe in global warming, he loves smoked apple-wood cheese. Jaxon Jurome, is a ski racer gone wild. He now competes as a freestyle skiing in big air competitions, slope style and moguls. His sights are locked on becoming the best he can be maintaining his 90% average. As a believer of the work hard play hard philosophy he continues to excel in school, hangliding and lawn bowling.

Jesse Peacock

Our next team member is sleek, sly and slender like stainless steel on the slopes. Jesse Peacock excels in Freestyle skiing events such as slope style especially rocking the rails in the park. Academically, Jesse's forte is pulling off come from behind victories in the eleventh hour. Every Christmas he volunteers at a local soup kitchen giving a warm hand to those in need. His future holds multiple fortunes in backcountry innushuk building and achieving the perfect balance of peanut butter and raspberry jelly in his sandwiches.

Kelly Atamanchuk

Kelly is an artistic gymnast excelling in the top tier of provincial competition. Her specialties are floor routines and vault. Her sports goal is to finish in the top ten at the Western nationals this season. Kelly manages to maintain a honor roll performance while training for 4-6 hours a day. Her future is bright and includes passions for fashion, design and food.

Jordan Krause

Jordan is a 15 year old hockey player, who is currently a rookie on the Thompson Okanagan Female Midget AAA Rockets. She trains 7-10 times a week, while maintaining a position on the Principals list at OKM. Jordan also enjoys being involved in school leadership activities, working part-time, and taking voice lessons. In the past four years, she has been a member of three gold medal provincial hockey teams, and one silver medal provincial hockey team. In 2008 and 2009, Jordan was the captain for Team Okanagan, winning gold both years at the U-16 BC Cup.

Jordan hopes to help take her team to Nationals this season, and earn a spot on the U-18 BC Team for the 2011 Canada Winter Games in Halifax, Nova Scotia. As far as post-secondary school, she hopes to obtain a Division 1 hockey scholarship to an American University.

Sarah MacKay

Sarah is a senior national level competitive swimmer. Her specialties are butterfly and freestyle. She is consistently finishing with top 10 results in Canada. She is focused on gaining acceptance to UBC's national swim team. Her academics are consistently in the mid 90's. Sarah volunteers twice a month with a rehab center and at the SPCA.

Chantel Bayliss

Chantel has qualified for the Western National swimming competition in backstroke. She is on track to qualify for senior nationals in the spring. She is also focused on winning a scholarship to Goucher College in Baltimore and studying Criminal Psychology and English and swimming on their Varsity team. Chantel volunteers coaching young Aqua Jets, is part of the Adopt-a-road team that cleans up a section of Benvolen road and helped out at the Kelowna Marathon.

Morgan Jmaiff

Morgan Jmaiff is a competitive figure skater. She was the 2007 Pre-Novice ladies National champion, and this season, she will be competing at the Junior level. She was also 2007 Provincial gold medalist and 2008 bronze medalist. She is currently striving to get an international assignment, and hopes to compete at Nationals this upcoming season at the Junior level. Morgan helps her community by teaching young skaters the essential basics of figure skating.

Mitchell Segal

Mitchell Segal is a competitive swimmer and has been with the Kelowna Aqua Jets Swim Club for more than five years. Mitchell has been swimming competitively since he was 6. His best strokes are butterfly and back-stroke. He loves swimming for a great source of exercise and to make great friends. Mitchell helps out his community by doing little things like adopting a road to clean up each year, donating his old toys and clothes, and helping younger swimmers with their strokes. He hopes to gain a scholarship for either his academics or swimming and eventually practice dentistry.