



## ALUMNI UPDATE – RYAN GIULIANY

### Graduated:

2000: Selkirk Montessori School (Grade 7)  
2005: Esquimalt High School, Challenge Program (With honours, Grade 12)  
2010: University of British Columbia (Combined Honours Computer Science and Microbiology and Immunology)

### Current:

Master of Science in Bioinformatics  
Department at University of British Columbia.

### Recent achievements/current project:

I've spent three summers working with Drs. Sohrab Shah, David Huntsman and Sam Aparicio (and many others) at the BC Cancer Agency and BC Cancer Research Center in Vancouver to analyze the nucleotide sequences of breast and ovarian tumours for potential causative mutations, treatable targets or diagnostic biomarkers. My work has contributed to three major publications in top rank journals such as *New England Journal of Medicine* and *Nature*, as well as some more focused computational biology technique manuscripts.

Starting September 2010, I began my Master of Science in the Bioinformatics Department at the University of British Columbia to continue my work with computational biology and cancer research. Following my Masters degree I will likely pursue a Ph.D in the same field.

### What Selkirk Montessori did for me:

Selkirk offered a uniquely flexible atmosphere in combination with supportive teachers to create an environment where I could explore my interests and really excel. I still recall that when I was at Selkirk I was doing math a grade higher than the rest of my work. At that time Selkirk only taught students up to grade 7, but when I was in grade 7 I needed to be learning Math 8. What to do?

Selkirk created a Math 8 curriculum for me on the spot and I had a teacher (Jhoanna, thank you!) working with me one-on-one for the whole year. When I went to take the Math 8 final at Esquimalt High School, to prove that I'd mastered the necessary material and could move on to Math 9, I got over 95% on the exam. I think this kind of personalized teaching and attention is what can set Selkirk Montessori apart.

Also, I can't stress enough how amazing the teachers and staff are at Selkirk. Everyone cares so much about the students, and this is clear in the way they work. Everyone works so hard to make sure that you understand what is being taught, and also how to grow as a person.

The people at Selkirk do more than teach the subjects, they teach you how to learn...a skill that is too often overlooked in our world. This atmosphere was such an effective learning environment that by the time I moved on to high school, I had all the skills I needed to learn and grow.

Special thanks to Gigi, Jhoanna and Penny, who I visit whenever I can.