

Principal's Message

Hello, Magee Secondary School students, staff, and parents. As the school's new Principal it has been an absolute pleasure over the past three months to learn more about our remarkable high school. Inside this newsletter you will find all kinds of information updates on Term 2 school events, honours earned, and upcoming events. You'll also find a number of articles written by Magee students focussing on campus life.

Several of many highlights over the past three months include:

January ...

- Student Council began a six-week lunchtime indoor soccer intramurals program involving four teams and one hundred students.
- Our school hosted two successful Grade 7 Parent Information Sessions (one session for families transitioning within a regular program of studies, and a second for families transitioning within an English as a Second Language program of studies). These parent information sessions help to welcome either new or returning families to our school and provide a means for families to begin building relationships with school staff and our greater school community as their children transition from Grade 7 into Grade 8.



- A team of administrators and former graduates from Maple Grove, McKechnie, Osler, and David Lloyd George Elementary Schools spent time visiting Grade 7 classes at those four schools sharing information with Grade 7's on registering for Grade 8 at Magee as well as information on Spring articulation activities.
- Our "Kids Help Phone Club" held a very successful week long series of activities titled "So You Think You Can Teach." Congratulations to all club members on raising approximately \$1,300 to help support at-risk youth across the city.
- This year we have close to 100 International Students from around the world studying here at Magee. Late January, our international students came together to celebrate reaching the mid-year mark with their studies at a well-attended Chinese New Year themed lunch.
- Month's end saw ten Magee students participating in the district's "Let's Talk About Learning" forum featuring teams of students from each of the district's eighteen high schools. Students spent the day discussing how they learn best, the array of learning opportunities that exist across the district, and the opportunities they hope to see created in the years to come. As a follow-up to this very successful district forum, our school's team of ten students



will be planning a special Magee student Spring forum to continue on with the themes that emerged from the district forum.



February ...

- Junior theatre program students in "Players" held a very successful night showcasing their talents in four student written plays.
- February 10th saw our entire school transformed into Magee's 9th annual enormously successful "Market Fair" fundraiser. Magee theatre program students, band, choir, orchestra and strings students performed throughout the night to approximately 2,000 people in attendance celebrating Magee's tremendous Fine Arts programs. Thank you to all our Magee Music Society parent volunteers and Magee teachers who helped to make this special community event happen!
- Grad Committee students held a successful "Valentine's Day Grad Breakfast." Grade 12's had an opportunity to enjoy some down time together while participating in a number of fun game activities in the school's atrium.
- Our Grade 9 girls basketball team won each of their ten games this season and then went on to achieve a first place finish in the City Championships! Congratulations Magee Lions!
- Great thanks at the end of February to Magee alumni from the 1970 graduating class who donated approximately \$1,200 to



our Global Connections Club. During Spring Break Global Connections students and teachers travelled to Guatemala to participate in an international development project. These additional funds helped further outfit the school that the students built.

March ...

• Five Magee Idol finalists competed with one another to determine who will then go on to the District's Student Idol competition taking place later on in May.



• As Winter Season Athletic programs wrap-up, Magee had approximately 200 Grade 8 through 12 students participate in either Bantam, Juvenile, Junior, or Senior basketball team activities, or help out as scorekeepers and timekeepers. Students, you make us proud of your goal setting, team accomplishments, and leadership in the greater Vancouver community! Again, thank you to Magee parents and guardians who help support our school's athletic and arts programs.

Looking ahead to our final term we'll enjoy many more school highlights ... our Fine Arts department will celebrate student learning across all areas in the department with an Art Show, a Mainstage Theatre production of "Urinetown: The Musical", and Spring Music Concerts. Magee students will also have an opportunity to take part in a number of Earth Week celebrations at the

school during the week of April 16th – 19th all sponsored by the school's Environment Club.



While students have been busy with their Term 2 studies they have also been working closely with their counsellors and teachers to plan for their next year's timetable. Graduating students have been securing plans for July 2012 and a school team will soon begin formal meetings with staff from catchment elementary schools to learn more about next year's Grade 8 class.

Plans continue to take shape around the celebrations coming in May 2014 when Magee Secondary School celebrates its centennial. Stay tuned for further information in upcoming newsletters and on our school's website www.mageelions.ca.

Parents will find helpful information about any changes with next year's school calendar and school fee schedule posted by mid-May onto our school district's website at www.vsb.bc.ca

Finally, teams of teachers, parents and students soon will be reviewing progress with this year's School Growth Plan which places a strong emphasis on increasing student engagement, initiative and leadership within a culture of care and support. It is likely the school will continue to focus on these important goals in the coming year, broadening our awareness and practice of

strategies that best meet the needs of all of our learners. Attendance, ability and effort determine success.

Congratulations to all Magee students on your many accomplishments to date and best wishes as we see another school year through to its end.

*Yours truly,
M. Jensen, Principal*

PAC Message...

I expect many parents wonder just what a Parent Advisory Committee does in a high school. PAC's are pretty evident in elementary schools; they raise funds for school playgrounds, provide pizza lunches, ensure traffic safety by putting on safety vests and directing traffic etc. You meet them at the front of the school when you drop off your children. But many parents aren't as involved when their children get to high school; the last thing teenagers want is their parents hanging



out at their school! But PAC is just as relevant at high school. Being part of the PAC is one of the few ways you can stay connected with your teenager's life (whether they like it or not...usually they are totally cool about it by grade 11-12). The Magee PAC has a focus on parent education. This year we had two really well attended parent education sessions:

1. Jesse Miller from Mediated Reality talked about social media and teenagers

2. Alexandra Wilson from SACY talked about teens and teen development (specifically what is going on with the adolescent brain and issues of social and emotional development during the teen years).

We run a direct donation campaign every year. This year we were able to complete the project, inspired by our principal Mr. Randy George, to replace all the computers in the school with more up to date technology. This has been the focus of the PAC direct donation campaign over the last 5 years. Thank you to all the parents who donated funds!! Just outside the door of the business lab is a plaque that dedicates this lab to Mr. George. This was presented to Mr. George at his retirement party in December.

We celebrate our amazing teachers every year by treating them to breakfast in February and to lunch (scheduled in June). For the last few years this has been extremely well organized by Joanne Westcott, one of the PAC executive, aided by amazing donations of food and money from Magee parents.

Finally we welcomed our new principal, Marea Jensen, in January.

This is the last year Kate Mitchell and I will be part of the Magee PAC. We both 'graduate' in June with our last children in grade 12. It has been an amazing experience and we have really enjoyed having the opportunity to get close to the teaching staff and the administration at Magee and to

meet other great Magee parents. We would like to invite you to our annual general meeting in May when next year's PAC executive is elected and we would like to thank this year's PAC Executive: Vivian



Tian, Wally and Iris Lee, Mabel Sun, Grace Chan and Joanne Westcott.

*Barbara Holley and Kate Mitchell,
PAC Co-Chairs*

The Magee Music Society

Spring is upon us already as we update you on our recent and upcoming events. Our Market Fair was, once again, a huge success! We would particularly like to thank our new Market Fair head parent coordinators, Linda Sum and Joe Seraphim and all the parent heads, student heads and committees who met every Friday after school in the weeks leading up to the fair to offer ideas and to make sure everything was going as planned. We are also extremely grateful to the families who donated silent auction items, used books and CDs or baked goods, and to those who volunteered their valuable time on the night of the fair. We also received many generous monetary donations which were greatly appreciated and will certainly help in continuing to build the excellence of the Magee Music Program.

Special thanks to Mr. Haas who prepared the junior and senior jazz

bands for their performances during the Market Fair and to Mr. Quan for all his help leading up to and during the fair. Thanks so much to the Magee administration, teachers, student teachers, office staff, engineering staff and especially our accountant, May Ng for all their help and support.



The annual Massed Band concert on March 1st went very well as hundreds of junior band members from neighbouring schools joined the junior Magee bands in a very well attended concert. Everyone enjoyed refreshments and had a chance to mingle afterwards.

"A Little Night Music" celebrated their 40th anniversary and shared a lovely performance on March 8th with



the Magee choirs while a couple of small ensembles preceded the concert with some wonderful pieces. "A Little Night Music" will have one more performance this year on June 4th where they will be joined by the Magee String Orchestra, an evening which we are sure you will enjoy.

New this year, the Magee Music Society had a spring plant sale. Plant pick up is on May 10th and thank you for your support!

Upcoming events:

1. The senior music groups travelled on their Seattle/Portland tour, April 11 to 14.

2. The Symphonic Band participated at the Rocky Mountain Music Festival in Banff, April 19 to 23.
3. The Chamber Choir will be performing at St. Patrick's on May 17 at 7 pm.
4. Spring concerts will be coming up on May 29th & 30th. Be sure to come and enjoy these wonderful year-end concerts! You will truly appreciate all the hard work that the teachers and students have put into their music during the year.

*Marian Ma and Rita Kadota,
Music Society Co-chairs*

Music Department

The students have had a wonderful term in the music department preparing for their upcoming tours and experiencing some wonderful musicians at Magee. Some of the guest artists that performed at Magee this semester included: Oakland – a funk band of students from Vancouver Community College, the Foothills Brass Quintet from Calgary, AB and master classes by clarinetist Connie Gitlin and jazz trumpeter Gabriel Hasselbach. Four lucky grade 12 wind ensemble students visited the Orpheum theatre to sit on stage during a Vancouver Symphony rehearsal. Our junior and senior jazz bands both gave exciting performances at the Market Fair. Thanks to all the parents who helped make that evening such a successful community celebration. The 31st annual Massed Band Concert welcomed young musicians from Maple Grove, McKechnie and Osler to Magee on

March 1st under the baton of retired UBC professor Martin Berinbaum.

Spring is traditionally the time for tours and retreats. This year the Wind Ensemble, Chamber Choir and Senior Strings travelled to Seattle and Portland to perform with other high school ensembles and receive clinics from the teachers at the University of Washington. In addition, the 101 member tour group will attend a performance of the Seattle Symphony and the Cirque du Soleil. Our Symphonic Band journeyed to Kelowna and Banff to perform at the Rocky Mountain Music Festival, and the Grade 9 Band will travel to Whistler for a weekend retreat on May 4 – 6. A farewell concert for the two senior bands was held at Magee on Wednesday April 4 with special guest bands from Eric Hamber Secondary. We look forward to seeing you at our Spring Concerts on May 29 and 30.

*C. Haas,
Fine Arts Department Head*

Choral News...

Spring is finally upon us and we at the Magee Choral and Orchestra Department are wondering where the year has gone! After spring break, it's the countdown to grad and the end of the year!

We have had an amazing few months since Christmas break. The Chamber Choir has been the guest choir at a festival, where Mr. Quan was the Adjudicator; we had a retreat for the Orchestra with the fabulous Infinitus String Ensemble; the Orchestra was hired to play at

a "Celebration of Life;" we welcomed back our student teacher, Ms. Candace Fong, to continue her musical and professional journey; the entire music department had a highly successful Market Fair fundraiser that saw over 2000 people attend and the money raised will help pave the way for helping a lot of students through scholarships, bursaries, and subsidies for upcoming trips, including the proposed trip to Spain next year; we had a very successful Strings Valentine's Swing Ball; an unbelievable two day Chamber Choir retreat with Mr. Richard Nace; a fantastic Massed Band concert with our feeder Elementary School Bands; and a wonderful 40th Anniversary Concert with Maestro Peter Stigings and the Little Night Music Orchestra.



And with all of that, you might think that we would be tired and ready to pack it in, but you would be wrong my friend, for just after a short break, the senior ensembles (Chamber Choir, Wind Ensemble, Senior Orchestra) embarked on a four day performance tour to Seattle and Portland where we had six performances in 3 days! We are very excited to share music with some wonderful schools with enviable programs; schools such as Kamiak High School, Lake Washington High School, Puyallup High School, and Clackamas High School. As well, we performed at the Bastyr University Chapel, an incredible space that has been used for recording soundtracks for

movies, as well as in the St. James Cathedral in Downtown Seattle. We will be having workshops and exchanges with the groups at the University of Washington with such amazing clinicians as Dr. Geoffrey Boers, Dr. Jonathan Pasternack, and Dr. Tim Saltzman. It will be an amazing trip that will include such fun things as seeing a performance by the Seattle Symphony, a trip to the Experience Music Project Museum, and attending the fabulous Cirque Du Soleil performance of OVO.

Following that, the strings welcome the Mount Seymour String Quartet, who will put on a workshop with us, sponsored by the "Chamber Music in the Schools" organization (www.cmits.org), and then in the beginning of May, will join the Hamber String Orchestra as well as 3 elementary orchestras at the UBC Chan center for an evening concert.

The following week, the Chamber Choir will be performing with the Delta Police Pipe Band at the Delta Baptist Church and following that, on May 17th, we will be once again sharing the stage with our dear friend, Mr. Tony Araujo, and the St. Patrick's Chamber Choir at St. Pat's Church on Main and 12th at 7:30pm. We always look forward to this special sharing of music and the great relationship that we've built.

It has been an incredible year so far and will continue to grow and with every day and every performance, everyone learns more and more about themselves and about creating beauty and

excellence not only in their music, but more importantly, in their lives and the lives of others.

We hope to see you at one of the many concerts in the last few months of the year. Thank you for your love and continued support of the Magee Music Department.

G. Quan
Artistic Director of Choirs and Orchestra

Drama Department...

Players



The Players performed another evening of outstanding one-act plays in Term II. The plays are chosen, directed, acted, and produced by students. Ms. Dickson, the club sponsor, was very impressed with the high quality of work from this group of dedicated students. Four plays were performed: *Anna and August*, directed by Bradley Fung, Sarah Sum, and Matthew Wat; *Twitch* directed by Sydney Graham, Katerina Reljic, Meilany Malku and Marina Tischenko; *Bad Auditions by Bad Actors*, directed by Maia Beresford, Daelyn Lester-erafini, Sarah Rotenberg and Yoad Ben-Itzak; and *His Return*, directed by Jayne Isherwood, Sarah Morrison and Tina Tu. The evening of performances was well-received by the audience. The caliber of acting was superb, the crew was professional, and the direction was mature. We offer our thanks to the

volunteers who worked at the front of house, in the booth and backstage to ensure a successful night. Congratulations Players – a job well done!

THE MAINSTAGE MUSICAL

Mainstage presents the spring musical for 2012: ***Urinetown!*** Winner of three Tony Awards, three Outer Critic's Circle Awards, two Lucille Lortel Awards, and two Obie Awards, ***Urinetown*** is an earnest tale of love, greed, and revolution. The show is set in a town plagued by a 20-year drought, where water has become so scarce that private toilets have become unthinkable. At the mercy of a single dominating corporation who maintains a monopoly on the town's public amenities, the destitute citizens must pay towering taxes and fines to carry out their most private and basic of needs. Out of the mass of the pitiable, a hero rises to lead his fellow citizens against the tyrannical regime. Drawing from *West Side Story*, *Chicago*, and *Les Misérables* among others, the show irreverently pays witty homage to the great American musical theatre tradition. Hilariously funny and touchingly honest, ***Urinetown*** provides a fresh perspective of one of the greatest art forms.



URINETOWN, THE MUSICAL

May 2-4 & 9-11 7 PM

Students \$10

Adults \$15

Tickets available at the door or by calling Magee at 604-713-8200.

Student Council

Students' Council has been working vigorously this year and as a result has been extremely successful. Our priority is to raise school spirit and create memorable traditions and I believe we have met our goals. We have succeeded in numerous lunch time events including Sleigh Races, King of Hearts, Couples Trivia, etc. However, we have also given



back to community. We've raised \$550 in our "Boys 4 Bucks" event and have donated all the money to Covenant House. The student population has also been a part of our massive Anti-Bullying Day event where the whole school was decorated in Pink. Followed with an Anti-Bullying message board and High Jump competition symbolizing a leap over bullying. With many more brilliant ideas being processed, Students' Council has already begun planning for two major events. We intend to have a night time Talent Show in which everybody in the community is welcome. (Details should be on the Magee Website soon). Also the

annual year end carnival for students only is set in June and should be great fun for all students!

Queen Alexandra Club

Following our very successful visit to Queen Alex in December to deliver toques and mitts and share Christmas lunch with the students and staff, we moved right into planning and implementing the games area at Magee's annual Market Fair. This year was our most successful ever in terms of money raised! Proceeds from the games and raffle gave us almost \$2000 to assist with the new Arts and Drama program at Queen Alex. We would like to extend special thanks to the MANY teachers who volunteered to be "targets" in the Sponge Toss which is always our most popular game!

In February we hosted our first pen pal lunch of the year. Twenty-two little buddies (Grade 2/3) spent some time in the gym with Ms. Archbould, had lunch with their Queen Alex club pen pals and then spent a block with Ms. Smith and her senior art students. If giggles and chatter were any indication, the event was a huge success!

Our last big event for this year will be the Walking Start for the Arts Walkathon. This event will be held near the end of May. We hope we can count on your continued support so that we can assist Queen Alex with their new Art program and Grade 7 camp fees.

*Carol Lee and Alison Fong
Queen Alex Club Co-Chairs*

2011-2012 PAC EXECUTIVE

CO - CHAIRS:
BARBARA HOLLEY
KATE MITCHELL

VICE CHAIR:
GRACE CHAN

SECRETARY: KATE MITCHELL
TREASURER: VIVIAN TIAN

Guinness World Record to Be Set at Magee!

When he lifts his baton to conduct the Magee Jazz Band on Thursday May 31, legendary Vancouver band leader and Magee grad Dal Richards will set a Guinness World Record for longest lapsed time between performances by a high school band leader.

An official Guinness adjudicator will be present, and Guinness Board Chair, Jimmy Pattison, will make the official presentation to Dal. It will be almost 75 years to the day since Dal last led the band that he founded, at his Magee graduation in May of 1937, a musical tradition and heritage which continues to this day.

Dal Richards has had an amazing career, and his name has been synonymous with big band music and jazz in Vancouver since the late 1930's. Among his many accomplishments, he was the house band at the old Hotel Vancouver's Panorama Roof for over 25 years,

and has played at the PNE for 73 consecutive years. He led the original B.C. Lions' marching band, and wrote the Lions theme song "Roar You Lions, Roar". Over his long career, he has been instrumental in helping many young musicians and singers further their careers.

At an age when most of his contemporaries have long since retired or passed away, Dal maintains an active schedule, with over 100 musical and speaking engagements booked this year, and a weekly radio show on CISL 650. He has been awarded both the Order of British Columbia and the Order of Canada.

Dal has already agreed to be Honorary Patron for the May 2014 Magee Centennial Celebration, which is now being planned!

Keep your eye on the Magee website for the May 31st Magee Spring Concert. Tickets are \$10 each and are available for purchase from our office. You will

be delighted at the quality of the music, and at the opportunity to be a part of this historic evening.

*Bill Harvey,
2014 Centennial Committee*

VBE News...

The Vancouver School Board is embarking on an exciting new project to determine the future of our schools. The VBE has a wide-range of services, programs and educational resources available across our district. Now it's time to take stock of what we offer and determine what programs and opportunities should be prioritized now and into the future in order to create the best possible learning environment.

It's a big task and a major part of the process is our new website called Our Future. The site is located at:

<http://ourfuture.vsb.bc.ca> and has



three sections:
Your Schools, Your Community and Your Voice.

We have designed it to help you understand what we offer in neighborhoods and schools across the district. You'll discover a wide range of information about your schools, the programs they offer, their demographics, facility information, staffing levels, catchment statistics and other community resources.

Once you have explored the Our Future website, you'll be able to add your voice to the discussion of the future of our district at <http://ourfuture.vsb.bc.ca/voice.aspx>. The survey is short and won't take you more than 5 minutes to complete.

We are hoping that you will join us in this exciting consultation project. With your participation, this survey will help us guide the coming discussion around the district's future.

School Principal

Ms M. Jensen (604) 713-8200

Vice Principals

Ms R. Samra-Gynane (604) 713-8200

Mr. N. Akrap (604) 713-8200

Magee PAC Chairs

Mrs. Barbara Holley & Mrs. Kate Mitchell
pac.magee@gmail.com

Vancouver School Board Trustee

Mr. Allan Wong (604) 713-5000

Associate Superintendent

Ms Denise Johnson (604) 713-5097

Director of Instruction

District Parents' Representative

Sarina Auriel (604) 264-8487
auriel@telus.net

2012 DATES

- MAY** 2-4 Mainstage Musical
07 Music Society Meeting 7:00 pm
8-11 Mainstage Musical
09 Collaborative Time, 9:45 start
15 PAC Meeting 7:00 pm (AGM)
16 Gauss Contest
18 **DISTRICT CLOSURE DAY**
21 **VICTORIA DAY**
29&30 Spring Music Concerts 7:00 pm
31 Dal Richards and Magee Music

- Guinness Book of World Records Concert
7:00 pm
JUN 01 Music Dept Breakfast 8:00 am
04 ALNM & Magee Strings 7:30 pm
12 Grad Rehearsal 8:00 am
12 Awards Assembly
14 Graduation Ceremony 7:00 pm
15 Collaborative Time / End of Term III
28 Report Cards Issued: 9:00-10:00 am
29 Administrative Day

OUR FUTURE WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



The Vancouver School Board is embarking on an exciting new project to determine the future of our schools. We have a wide-range of services, programs and educational resources that we're reviewing.

To determine the opportunities our district will offer our students now and into the future **we need your voice!**

We want to create the best learning environment for all our students.

Join us and help shape the future of our schools.

GET INFORMED

We have developed a series of recommendations, which will shape the district's future. These recommendations, along with plenty of other information, are online at ourfuture.vsb.bc.ca. Visit the website, then...

GET INVOLVED

Join us at one of our three public consultations. We want to hear from you:

8:30 PM - May 8 at Eric Hamber Secondary Cafeteria

6:30 PM - May 9 at Kitsilano Secondary Cafeteria

6:30 PM - May 15 at Britannia Secondary Cafeteria

ภาษาจีนและภาษาเวียดนาม (ภาษาถิ่น)
现场有中文口译翻译服务
Thông dịch viên có mặt tại chỗ để hỗ trợ

Can't make it to a forum? Get engaged by going to Your Voice at ourfuture.vsb.bc.ca

magee mainstage
the 2012 musical



URINETOWN

may 2,3,4 and 9,10,11
curtain 7pm
tickets at the door each night, or
buy advance tickets at the school

magee secondary school, 604 713-8200, 6392 maple st., vancouver b.c.

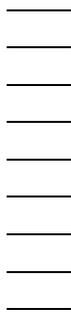
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Supports for Parents: Teenage years—and high school—are a whole new adventure. It’s a transition for everyone in the family. Figuring out new attitudes and finding new resources can be challenging. **SACY Parent & Family Engagement** offers informative workshops, supports family activities at school and can connect you to resources for all kinds of concerns. Visit our website, or email the parent engagement facilitator for Magee: Alexandra Wilson ajwilson@vsb.bc.ca.

vsb VANCOUVER BOARD OF EDUCATION Vancouver Coastal Health

www.vsb.bc.ca/sacy