

Principal's Message

Report Cards

With term 1 now over, grade 12 students were issued their report cards on Monday, December 12 and students in grades 9 to 11 were issued their report cards on Wednesday,



December 14. By now you have noticed that the report cards do not contain any marks, work habits or comments. This is due to the job action by teachers which began prior to the opening of school in September. Since that time, teachers have been in Phase 1 of a legal strike and the Labour Relations Board has identified a number of duties that teachers do not have to complete while on strike which includes the preparation and distribution of report cards.

Although the term 1 report cards do not contain any marks, work habits or comments, teachers have continued throughout the fall term to assess and evaluate student progress and have been communicating directly with students and parents. Term 1 report cards list all of the courses that a student is taking with the name of the teacher and provide a summary of the student's attendance. Parents/guardians who would like more information about their child's progress should contact the teacher directly by phone or email. The email addresses for most teachers is the first name initial of the teacher followed by the teacher's last name

@vsb.bc.ca. A few teachers have a variation of the above and if you find that the above method does not work, please contact the school office to obtain the correct email address for the teacher.

However, please try the first name initial of the teacher and the teacher's last name @vsb.bc.ca prior to calling the school.

For grade 12 students, a process has been put in place for students to obtain their term 1 marks that are required for scholarship or post-secondary applications. Attached to each grade 12 report card is a letter from the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Cardwell, that outlines the process for obtaining the required marks. Grade 12 students were also advised of this process during a short assembly just prior to the distribution of their report cards on Monday, December 12.

Changes in Staff

Since our last newsletter in August, we have had a few changes in staff. In the August newsletter, I announced that Mr. Walter Mustapich had been assigned to Magee as Vice Principal replacing Mr. Taylor who had been transferred to David Thompson Secondary. In early August, Mr. Mustapich resigned from the Vancouver Board of Education to take an administrative position in North Vancouver which is closer to where he lives. Following Mr. Mustapich's resignation, Mr. Nick Akrap was appointed Vice Principal at Magee. Mr. Akrap's previous assignment was at Templeton Secondary where he

taught Film Studies and Video Production. He also has considerable administrative experience as both a Vice Principal and Principal at various summer school locations in the Vancouver school district.

Also joining the Magee staff this past fall is Mr. D. Goodman who is teaching in the Mathematics and Special Education Departments and Mr. A. Plattner who is teaching in the Science Department.

Student Scholarship

I am pleased to report that eleven students from our 2011 graduating class earned \$1,000 Provincial Scholarships last year. Additionally, fifteen students received \$1,000 District Scholarships for their outstanding achievement in four areas: Fine Arts, Applied Skills, Second Language Studies and Physical Activity. The names of our Provincial and District Scholarship recipients are published in this newsletter. Congratulations to our 2011 recipients for continuing Magee's fine tradition of academic excellence!



Farewell to Magee

After 36 years with the Vancouver Board of Education, I have decided to retire at the end of December. Since September 2005, I have served as both Vice Principal and Principal of Magee. My years at Magee have truly been the highlight of my career.



I have enjoyed coming to work each and every day to work with an amazing staff who gives so much to students to ensure that they have a positive experience at the school. The Magee parent community is so supportive of the school and the students are extremely hard working, kind and caring.

Although leaving Magee is not easy, I am looking forward to retirement and the opportunity to have more time to spend with family and friends, to travel and to pursue my hobbies and interests. It has been a privilege to serve as both Vice Principal and Principal of Magee. Upon leaving the school this December, I will be taking with me many wonderful memories of my time at Magee.

I am pleased to announce that Ms. Marea Jensen has been appointed Principal of Magee effective January 01. Ms. Jensen is currently the Principal of Sir Charles Tupper Secondary and is looking forward to coming to Magee.

To all staff, students, parents and members of the Magee Community:

Have a wonderful holiday and best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous 2012!



R. George, Principal

Message from the Vice Principals...

As the holiday season draws near, it is a wonderful time to celebrate our accomplishments, to reflect on the challenges that we have faced and overcome, and to set goals for the remaining months of the school year.

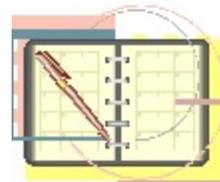
Magee is an exceptional school filled with exceptional people. It is not difficult to see on a daily basis, the passion, quality and dedication that are demonstrated by both teachers and students. Even in this time of job action, which has proven difficult at times, our staff and students have persevered to deliver and receive an outstanding educational experience both within and outside the traditional classroom walls. Excellence is around every corner in Magee; you just need to come in and take a look to experience it for yourself.

Before you enter the school, you can see our new school garden and shed that was built by the Magee Environment Club! A very special thank you to Mr. Wallace Lee, a Magee parent, who donated his time, and expertise, to help with many projects involved with the school garden. If you take a stroll through the Fine Arts wing, you will witness the evolution of great artists. Whether it's painting, singing, acting or playing a musical instrument, you'll be left in awe at the quality of student work in production, and on display. On the field and in the court, all of our teams worked extremely hard and demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship, and our senior boy's soccer team won their second consecutive city championship this past fall. The

Winter Season at Magee is filled with musical concerts, theatrical performances, fundraising initiatives, athletic events and many other wonderful opportunities and activities. We hope that you encourage your child(ren) to get involved, to showcase their talents, and to contribute to worthy causes.

The Winter Season also marks the end of first term and the distribution of report cards. This is an opportune time to sit with your child(ren) and to reflect on their educational achievements over the past four months, and to have them set new goals for the remainder of the school year. Discuss with them the reasons for their goals, and what steps they will be taking to achieve them, and how they will evaluate their progress in achieving the personal and educational goals that they have set.

Our Magee agenda book is an excellent tool to help students with their goals. The agenda also



contains our Code of Conduct, which outlines the expected behavior of students that contributes to a safe, productive and respectful learning environment – a hallmark of Magee. Our staff provides a quality education to our students in the classroom, and they enjoy offering experiences outside the classroom; in return, it is expected that students attend all their classes, arrive on time and have a strong work ethic. For students who are struggling, extra help is available at the school to assist your child. Please encourage your child to take advantage of the extra help that teachers offer to students having difficulties with the course content.

January will bring a fresh start for all of us, including our Principal, Mr. George, who will be leaving Magee at the end of December. We would like to thank him for his 36 years of service to education, and wish him all the best in his retirement as he begins to pursue his other passions. We welcome Ms. Jensen to her new beginning as Principal of Magee Secondary School.

Have a safe holiday season, filled with love and laughter! See you all in January!



*Mr. N. Akrap, Vice Principal
Ms. R. Samra-Gynane, Vice Principal*

Season's Greeting to all from your PAC Executives!

The start of this 2011/2012 school year has been a little different from previous years because of the current job action by the teacher's union. Even though we have had to re-arrange some of our events, we hope that everyone has felt welcomed and included in the Magee community.

To all who came out to PAC meetings this fall, thank you for your support! If you have yet to come out to a meeting, why not consider doing so after the New Year? On February 21, 2012 your PAC Executive has invited Alexandra Wilson to present about VSB services for parents and youth education in the area of substance use prevention. This meeting promises to be of value and interest to all!

As a parent of a Magee student, you are automatically a member of Magee PAC. We encourage you to become a more active participant in PAC activities. Becoming an active member in PAC has many benefits. Not only does PAC fund parent education sessions, but we also help teachers to purchase equipment for non-school funded programs, bestow academic scholarships, support Magee clubs, host teacher appreciation events, have meaningful discussions with the administration and staff, and we have the opportunity to become involved with decisions that directly affect our children.

This year sees the fulfilment of a multi-year project to renew equipment in all five Magee computer labs. PAC has worked with parents and Mr. George to help raise the necessary funds to complete this worthy project. Thank you to everyone who donated to this project over the years!

Our principal, Mr. Randy George was instrumental in the successful completion of the computer lab upgrades. Sadly, Mr. George is retiring at the end of December and Magee PAC Executive members will keenly miss him. We have counted on his unflinching availability to us as well as his willingness to share his knowledge and provide us with guidance and advice. His contribution has been invaluable to us. We wish him the very best for a long and happy retirement!

Have a wonderful Holiday Season and make plans to come out to PAC events in the New Year!

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

The Magee Music Society

Christmas time is here and the Music Society just finished up the annual Poinsettia Sale fundraiser in late November. It was truly a festive atmosphere seeing the rotunda brimming with a sea of beautiful flowers. Huge thanks to all our parent volunteers who were as busy as elves unloading and sorting hundreds of plants. Although there will not be a major trip this year, but rather ones closer to home, we are looking ahead to 2013 when the intended destination will be glorious Spain! Be sure to encourage your children to take advantage of all the travel credit initiatives offered by the Society - every little bit helps and adds up to savings for you!



We would like to bid farewell to Mrs. Leslie Satterfield, who worked tirelessly as our Chair for four years. She did a tremendous job and it will be difficult to fill her shoes, but we will do our best to carry on the standard of excellence that she set. All the very best to you Mrs. Satterfield! Of course you may still see her from time to time as many of our parent alumnis just can't seem to stay away from Magee and continue to help whenever possible. That is the spirit of volunteerism, parents and students alike that sets Magee apart from other schools.

Coming up very soon is our annual Market Fair, held **Friday February 10th!** This is your opportunity to get involved and a great way to meet other parents and volunteers. Being



connected to the school as a volunteer offers you wonderful opportunities of seeing your child working as a leader or being an important member of a team within the school setting. The Market Fair is a school-wide event similar to a night-market, organized by students and parents for the entire community to enjoy. There will be lots of music featuring the Magee jazz bands, wares, foods, a silent auction, entertainment and more! We look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any items you would like to donate to the Market Fair Silent Auction, or to the Used Books, CDs, DVDs/Xbox/video sale, we would be very grateful if you could set them aside over the holidays, and bring them into the office at your convenience. Also, if anyone is interested in booking a vendor table, please contact May Ng in the Magee Office.

This fall season has certainly been a whirlwind of musical activity for our Music Department. The Chamber Choir and Wind Ensemble enjoyed their Whistler Retreat in October where they really bonded as friends and musicians. The Ryerson Fine Arts Concert in November was particularly memorable and everyone enjoyed the lovely performances of the Choirs, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble and Strings. Ryerson church is simply a beautiful venue and we would like to thank our friends there who not only graciously welcome our music groups to perform, but also donate all proceeds to Magee music scholarships. There were also numerous band and choral festivals this season and it is always such a pleasure to see the pride on the faces of our Magee

parents. We feel so fortunate to have our two wonderful music directors, Mr. Haas and Mr. Quan. Thank you for teaching our children so well!

We would also like to thank our principal, Mr. Randy George, for his support of the music department and the Music Society over the years. He is retiring this month and we will truly miss him. Enjoy your retirement, Mr. George!

We wish you all the best over the holidays and in the New Year!

*Mrs. Marian Ma and Mrs. Rita Kadota
Co-Chairs, Magee Music Society*

Music Department

Magee Wind Ensemble



The Magee Wind Ensemble has had a wonderful term through its involvement with a Vancouver Symphony

educational program called VSO Connects. This program brings the top symphony players to secondary schools to give instrumental masterclasses and to talk to students on such subjects such as practice routines and concert preparation. The wind ensemble attended a rehearsal of the VSO in October and then was given free tickets to attend the concert the next evening. The highlight of this wonderful program culminated in a special visit from Vancouver Symphony conductor Bramwell Tovey. Maestro Tovey visited Magee to conduct a very inspiring wind ensemble rehearsal

on a famous opera overture by Rossini called, "An Italian in Algiers". In addition to this visit, former VSO assistant conductor Ken Hseih also worked with the wind ensemble to prepare them for their Christmas concert. The result of these special visits has been that the wind ensemble has developed into a very strong and confident group. Their many fine performances this term (five in total!) have demonstrated incredible musical leadership at events such as the Vancouver School Board band festival held at Magee.



Congratulations to this outstanding ensemble!!

*C. Haas,
Fine Arts Department Head*

Choral News...

What a wonderful start to the year it has been! Filled with some already amazing concerts, all the groups have been working so hard and it is really beginning to show.



Our Ryerson Fall Concert was very well attended, full seating with barely an inch to spare. Wonderful performances by the Chamber and Concert Choirs and the Symphonic band and Wind Ensemble. However, the highlight of the evening was the String Orchestra, who's piece entitled "Bayou Self" brought the house down! Excellent job everyone and we would like to sincerely thank everyone who came out to support our program and allow us to share our beautiful music with you.

Our November kicked off with our Junior Concert band festival, which took place at Prince of Wales Secondary, at which our Grade 9

band performed admirably. We were extremely proud of their professionalism on, and especially off, the stage. You acted with maturity, and represented the Magee Music Department well.

Following that, on November 10th, the Magee Music Dept. presented three very moving Remembrance Day Memorial Services in our auditorium. There were tears and there was hope, but most importantly, there was remembrance and honour displayed for those who gave their lives so that we can be free. It was a reminder of how lucky we are and of the sacrifice and horror that war is. Those who attended left the assembly changed people.

At the Senior Concert Band Festival, hosted by Magee, we warmly welcomed Mr Brent Ghigliione and Mr. Peter Stigings to adjudicate all of our wonderful Senior level bands in the district. Our Wind Ensemble blew everyone away by their incredible musicality and level of material. Way to go!



On Tuesday November 22nd, the Chamber Choir went to Killarney Secondary to perform at the VSB District Choral Festival. It is always a wonderful event at which schools from across the district get together and share music with each other. It is an opportunity not only to showcase our group, but more importantly, to listen and learn about the other choirs and their amazing directors.

Following that, we hosted Maple Grove and McKechnie Elementary School concert bands along with our Grade 8 & 9 bands in our

auditorium for a short concert to bring our schools together and have our feeder school bands take in the sights and sounds of high school. It is an important building block in our musical community.

Then the Countdown to Christmas Rush began! Beginning with our ever popular "Senior's Tea", which in its 2nd year of revival, was a fantastic event for the Seniors in our community. At this event we have Senior Citizens bussed, carpooled, and taxied into our Atrium for Tea, cookies, cakes, and other goodies all accompanied to the melodious sounds of the String Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Senior Jazz band, and Chamber Choir. Any and all seniors are welcome - you do not have to be in the Magee "catchment area", so if you didn't get in this year, there's always next year!

Next up the Chamber Choir performed in two wonderful concerts - the first of which is the incredible concert that we have every year with the Vancouver Welsh Mens Choir at Shaughnessy United Church. This always sold out event is one that we look forward to every year and every year, and as every year, it did not fail to be anything less than absolutely magical for all involved. The following day, Sunday Dec 11th, we woke up early and sung for the service at St. Stephen's United Church. We have always had a wonderful relationship with St. Stephen's and love reaching out and sharing music in our community.

The next evening, the Wind Ensemble played a beautiful concert with Peter Stigings' Little Night Music Orchestra in the Magee Auditorium. This is the first

of three concerts throughout the year that we share with the LNMO. The spring concert in March will feature the Chamber Choir and the June Concert will feature the String Orchestra.

Then we had our two amazing Winter Concerts where we showcased all of our performing groups on two nights. With the first term under our belts, it promises to be an extraordinary year to come. There will be many surprises and wonderful musical magic to be made. We thank you for your loving support for the program and we hope to see you at one or more of our upcoming events!

And if we don't get a chance to speak to you in person, have a safe and wonderful holiday season filled with warm memories and lots of smiles!



G. Quan
Artistic Director of Choirs and
Orchestra

Queen Alexandra Club

This year the Queen Alex Club is being led by a group of passionate and dedicated grade 10 students who served as interns in their respective positions last year! As last year's council members will be graduating in June we hope to follow in their footsteps and continue to grow our partnership with Queen Alexandra. The club is currently 50 members strong and meets every Monday at lunch in room 214.

In October, club members took part in the Halloween for Hunger canned food drive by collecting non-perishable goods from the Magee neighbourhood. In total, 29 boxes of

food were collected and delivered to Queen Alex by 11 students.

Just in time for the holiday season, the Queen Alex Club and others in the Magee community provided toques and mitts for all of the kindergarten and Grade 1 students along with classroom books and treats for the other 6 divisions at Queen Alex . On December 14th students from the Queen Alex Club will deliver the toques and mitts, spend time doing Christmas crafts with our pen pals, sing Christmas carols, and share a turkey lunch.



QA Club members also began to correspond with their Grade 3/4 pen pals. Journals are exchanged every 3 - 6 weeks and we hope to meet our little buddies for lunch at Magee shortly after the holidays.



The Queen Alex Club is looking forward to the new year, with exciting events lined up-- carnival games and raffle at the Magee Market Fair and the Walking Start For the Arts Walkathon. We encourage Magee students to support this partnership, and to help spread the joy of learning with the families and kids at Queen Alex.

Thanks for your support!

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

June 2011 District Scholarships Recipients

*Ciric, Tara Gao, Cocoa
Hase, Carly Ho, Cecilia
Huang, John Kuligowski-Chan, Lisa
Lim, Christopher Luk, Ashley
Pazandeh, Kamyar Schmidt, Michael
Shahinian, Goharik Shimojima, Takatoshi
Trummer, Layla Varshneya, Neha
Wertman, Bradley*

July 2011 Ministry Scholarships Recipients

*Chan, Sun Hie Chung, Jui Feng
Fernando, Medagamage Huang, Ke Chiang
Huang, John Kulligowski-Chan, Lisa
Hughes, Thomas Leung, Gabriel
Park, Chang Sun Trummer, Layla
Varshney, Samarth Wong, Andrew
Yau, Amy*

SWIS Program

The SWIS Program provides information and referral services to school programs, community, social and government services. It links families and services together. Settlement Worker also assists in filling out forms, accompanying clients and advocating for them where as needed. SWIS Program co-sponsors the Magee Newcomers Club for students which takes place during lunch on Mondays in room 336. Magee Settlement Worker is available in room 214 on Mondays and Wednesdays. Services can be provided in Chinese: Cantonese and Mandarin; English or French. Service in other languages can be arranged. Scheduled appointment can be made. Please contact Elisabeth Chan, CIRS at echan@vsb.bc.ca or voice mail to 604-713-6000 #2485.

VSB SWIS

Program: <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/settlement-workers-schools-swis>

2011-2012 PAC EXECUTIVE

CO - CHAIRS:
BARBARA HOLLEY
KATE MITCHELL

VICE CHAIR:
GRACE CHAN

SECRETARY: KATE MITCHELL
TREASURER: VIVIAN TIAN

2012 DATES

JAN 03 School Re-opens (Tuesday)
 09 Music Society Meeting 7:00 pm
 11 Collaborative Time
 11 Ski and Snowboard Club Trip
 11 Gr. 7 Parent / ESL Info Night 7 pm
 23 **PROFESSIONAL DAY**

FEB 02 Parent/Teacher Conferences
 3 & 6 **DISTRICT CLOSURE DAYS**
 07 American Math Contest (10A/12A)
 08 Collaborative Day / Players 7:00 pm
 10 Market Fair (5:30- 9:30 pm)
 14 Strings Valentine Ball 7:00 pm
 15 Ski and Snowboard Club Trip
 15 Course Planning Night 7:00 pm
 17 **PROFESSIONAL DAY**
 21 PAC Meeting 7:00 pm
 22 American Math Contests-10B/12B
 23 Pascal / Cayley / Fermat Contests

MAR 01 Massed Band Concert 7:00 pm
 05 A Little Night Music & Choir 7:30 pm
 08 Choir Concert with VSB School Guests
 7:00 pm
 08 Ski and Snowboard Club Trip
 09 End of Term II
 12-16 **DISTRICT CLOSURE DAYS**
 19-23 **SPRING BREAK**
 26 School Re-opens

APR 02 Music Society Meeting 7:00 pm
 05 Report Cards Issued
 6 / 9 **GOOD FRIDAY/ EASTER MONDAY**
 11 Collaborative Time, 9:45 start
 11 Euclid Contest
 12 Immunization Clinic
 18 Art Show 6:00-8:00 pm
 19-23 Rocky Mt. Music Festival (Banff)
 20 **PROFESSIONAL DAY**

MAY 2-4 Mainstage Musical
 03 Big One at 2:00 pm
 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&31 Spring Music Concerts 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

Principal

Mr. R. George (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. Mike Lombardi (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