



MAGEE SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Magee News
6 March, 2020

1. School Updates

An agenda item on our last Department Head's meeting was a check-in regarding **Flextime**: Mr. Egilsson, Miss. Wood and I were interested in hearing from our colleagues their experiences of Flextime. Uniformly, we feel that Flextime is exceeding our expectations- we really did not expect to have so many positive outcomes. However, one concern related to the grades eight and nine students: Department Heads, reflecting teacher feedback, notice that younger students are not using the Flextime as much as seniors, even if they have important projects and assignments coming up. If you have feedback for us regarding flextime please don't hesitate to email your thoughts and observations to me at aschofield@vsb.bc.ca.

Next week, March 9 to 13, and the first week after Spring Break, March 30 to April 3, we will be having an "on-time" blitz, reminding students that school starts at 8:40, and that morning flextime on Thursdays and Fridays does not necessarily mean that you can arrive at school at 9:20 (this was identified as an issue in our Department heads meeting). For the first whole week of April (6th to 9th) we will be noting down student names and having students make back their missed time through an after-school study hall (no longer 'detention'!!).

As post-secondary institutions start to send out their acceptances, we find that our Grade 12 students occasionally start to lose focus and commitment as their minds begin to transition to life outside of school. This period of transition can bring its own stresses, worries, sometimes disappointments. In my own kids' experience, March and April saw increased lates and absenteeism. If you see increased anxiety, or if you are concerned about grad plans and the transition please don't hesitate to contact us at school- Mrs. Miladinovic as grade 12 counsellor, or me as grade 12 administrator (Cell: 778 228 8783; aschofield@vsb.bc.ca).

2. SpArts & Yearbook

If your child is part of Magee's SpArts program, please send a picture of them engaged in their SpArts activity for inclusion into this year's Yearbook. Firm deadline is Monday March 9, 2020! Please email photos to: mgeeyrbk@vsb.bc.ca

3. VSB Facilities: Join the conversation!

Why are we having this conversation now?

The Province is providing money to upgrade or build seismically safe schools for every student in Vancouver and

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across BC. If we act now, we can combine VSB money with the provincial funds, which would allow us to build more modern learning spaces for the future, as well as making sure the facilities are seismically safe. Additionally, many VSB facilities are more than 70 years old, which means that many of them are due for upgrades and repairs. Defining a vision for the future of our school sites now means we can complete those upgrades efficiently and with long-term use in mind.

What are modern learning spaces?

Modern learning spaces are spaces that provide students with the best possible environment for learning today, and into the future. These modern learning spaces could:

- Have furniture that is flexible to accommodate different learning styles,
- Improve collaborative learning opportunities through group activities,
- Enhance learning from the land through teaching Indigenous ways of knowing the land, sea and air, and gardening and food production classes,
- Provide access to current and rapidly changing technology,
- Help students learn creativity, self-expression and critical thinking through the arts
- Create more culturally responsive learning environments that reflect Indigenous and multicultural values,
- Have modern learning commons, that house books, technology, activity zones, breakout spaces and quiet areas, and
- Have sustainable spaces that offer healthy learning and working spaces that are cost-effective to maintain.

How much will it cost to build/upgrade these spaces?

While the provincial funding covers seismic safety, it may not cover all the costs associated with building the modern, flexible spaces we'd like to create at VSB. If we combine VSB money with the provincial funds, this could allow us to build more modern learning spaces for the future. To do so, we'll have to raise money - and we'd like to understand your thoughts about how we could do that.

When will you decide what will happen to each facility?

Right now we're engaging the public to ask how we can best use VSB buildings across the city for the learning needs of students today and in the future. We have not made any decisions about changes at this time.

How can I have my voice heard?

VSB will host two phases of engagement – one online and one through in-person events. Our online engagement launched on February 19 and is open until March 11, 2020. **Please go to <https://build2learn.ethelo.net/> to provide your feedback.**

4. PAC Meetings

Our next PAC meeting is on Tuesday, **14 April**. The meeting starts at 7:00 (6:30 for light snacks) in our second-floor library.

For District Parent Council (DPAC) events please see: <http://vancouverdpac.org/>

5. For grade 12 parents ... Dry Grad fundraising!

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Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade 12 Students,

The Dry Grad Committee is hard at work planning what we hope will be an unforgettable celebration for the 2020 graduating class. In lieu of traditional fundraising endeavors such as dinners, car washes, sales of flowers or chocolates, etc., we are conducting one major fundraising initiative – a Direct Donation Campaign. Funds raised through this Campaign will go towards enhancing the evening's food, fun & festivities.

Donations may be made via cash, or cheque made out to Magee Secondary School. Please ensure you write "Dry Grad Donation" on your cheque and/or on your donation envelope. Your donations will be gratefully accepted in the school office and receipts for income tax purposes issued at a later date.

Contributions will also be accepted via School Cash Online using this link specific to Magee Secondary School:

<https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/1869/196/false/true?fundDestination=S-Magee>

You will have to log in to your child's School Cash Online account. Friends and relatives who would like to donate may also use this link to register and make a donation. In the section "Message to School Board", please type in DRY GRAD DONATION in the Message Box. (Otherwise your donation will be put towards the school's general funds.)

All online donations will automatically generate an official receipt for income tax purposes in the name of the person or business whose information is entered online at the time of donation. To assist us with planning and budgeting for Dry Grad, we would very much appreciate receiving your donation **no later than Friday, March 13th**.

Regardless of method of donation, all Direct Donation Campaign donors' names will be featured on our Donor Recognition Board, available for viewing at the school during grad weekend.

If you have any questions, please email magedrygrad2020@gmail.com. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

Warmly,

The 2020 Dry Grad Committee

6. School Events.

MARCH EVENTS:

Mar. 9 – A Little Night Music
Mar. 12 – Report Cards posted to Portal
Mar. 16/27 – Spring Break
Mar. 30 – Term 3 Starts

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APRIL EVENTS:

Apr. 7 – Euclid Math. Contest
- Choir/Strings Concert. 7:00pm
Apr. 8 – Spring Team photos
Apr. 10 – Good Friday
Apr. 13 – Easter Monday
Apr. 14/20 Numeracy/Literacy Exams. Gr 10
Apr. 29/30 - Mainstage

Upcoming School Events **please also bookmark ...**
<http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/magee/Pages/calendar.aspx>

Standing Links.

[Teacher emails](#) ... if you need to set up a meeting!

VSB Webpage: Please click [here](#)
Magee School Webpage: Please click [here](#)
Magee PAC: Please click [here](#)
Magee Fundraising: Please click [here](#)
Magee Music Society: Please click [here](#)

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