



MAGEE SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Magee News
23 October 2020

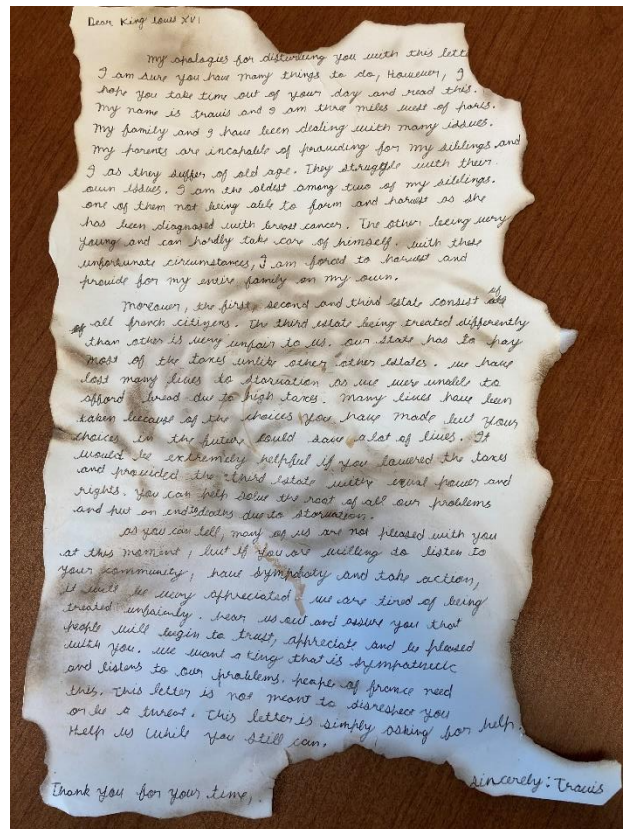
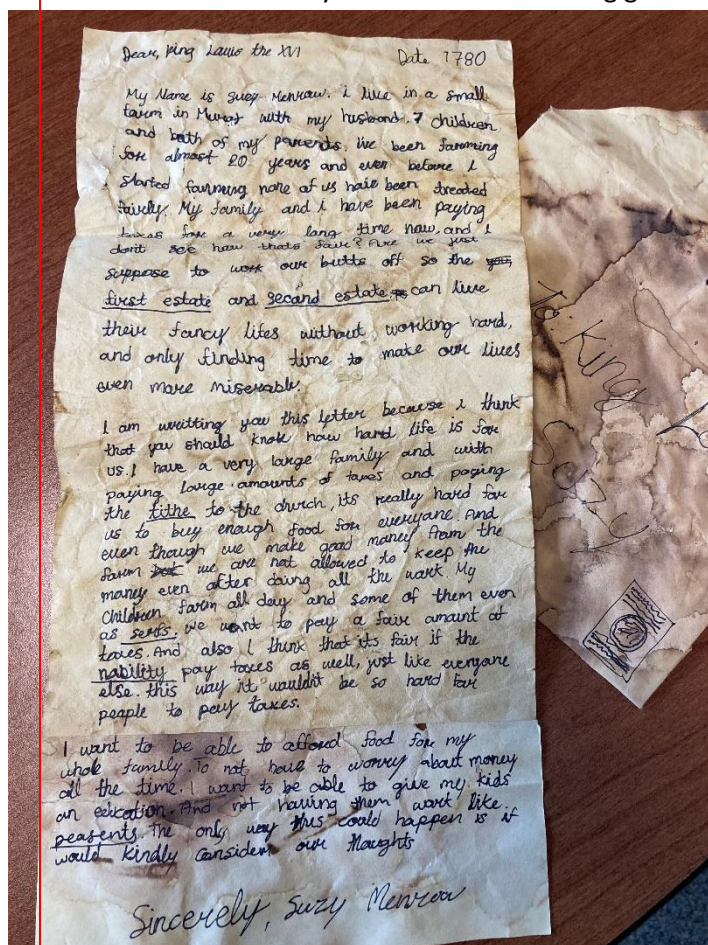
1. School updates.

At the PAC General Meeting on 6 October I reported that in a normal year we would be having grade 8 one act plays,

concerts,
Halloweek
events,
fieldtrips,
guest
speakers
and sporting
events. With
Covid, for

understandable reasons, these are all on hold. However teachers and students do stop by and share their work ... and I'd like to share some with you and introduce some of our teachers (since we cannot have the traditional meet the teacher evening!).

First up, let me introduce **Mr. Brownrigg**, a socials teacher at Magee of long standing. Mr. Brownrigg focusses on Law 12 and junior and intermediate socials. He and his student teacher, **Ms. Romy Jhutti**, brought down some samples of their Socials 9 unit on the French Revolution- at left and above letters written from 'commoners' to Louis XVI. Suzy's letter (left) included a postmarked envelope (other students also tied their letters and presented them in scroll formats along with ribbon and wax seals!!) and young Travis distinguished his work (above) by excellent content, several burn



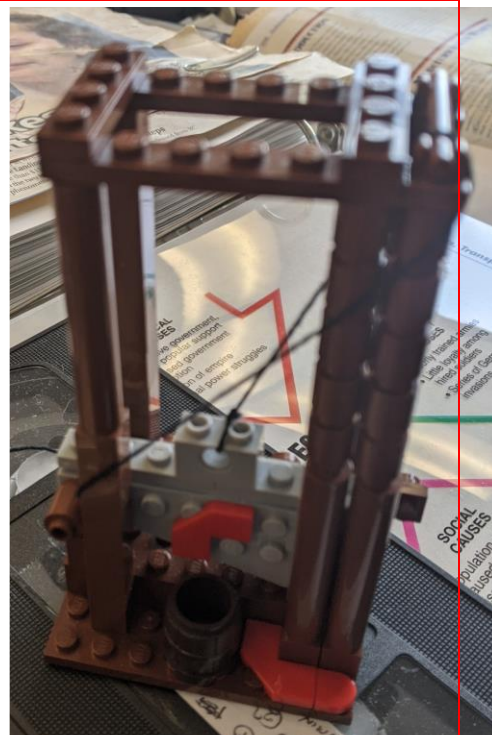
Excellence: Our tradition

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marks from the family stove and almost burning his whole assignment!! The guillotine assignment produced some imaginative work including this working Lego guillotine! Following the new assessment frameworks students are involved in guided self-assessment alongside teacher assessment. What we observe is that generally students are harder on themselves and are excessively critical in terms of their self-assessments, and when we focus on core competencies (thinking/personal and social/communication) rather than on content recall, student stress and anxiety (both hinderances to learning) is reduced. (Information on Core Competencies can be found [here](#).)

Mrs. Printz and Ms. Bourque teach visual arts- Mrs. Printz to seniors (including AP and Pre-AP Art), and Ms. Bourque to grade 8s. Mrs. Printz recently put our on display still-life's done by her Pre-AP grade 10/11 students- chosen very much at random I want to share with you some of the remarkable work that is being achieved by your students in spite of the Covid learning accommodations. Left and below are two "Still-life with

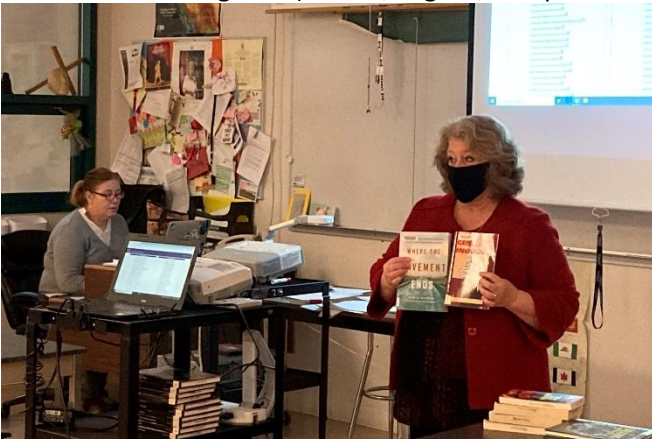
fruit" interpretations. Instructions for the assignment included use of different pieces of torn paper, and use of different media- ink, charcoal, pencil crayon, pastel, etc.



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Mrs. Pearson (below right) is our school librarian and the staff representative on your PAC. Along with Mrs. Forgeron (Socials/English/Comparative Civilizations/Library and school-based Curriculum resource teacher) Mrs. Pearson has adapted the library to the Covid environment. For example, the library's



hexagonal desks are divided in two- a morning and an afternoon cohort side ensuring no cross contamination; students sign in for contact tracing; and sanitize hands on arrival and departure. And, rather than having classes coming into the library,

Mrs. Pearson delivers instruction in teacher's classes (in the photo you can see **Mrs. Chalmers** (Social Justice 12; Socials; English) quietly working away while Mrs. Pearson presents to the Social Justice 12 class). Like with all quarterly classes, the same content is delivered to the morning and afternoon cohorts- in Mrs. Pearson's lesson students are introduced to online library access, referencing and elements of style, and project and assignment support and databases. On the right, in her element **Mrs. Forgeron** shows off award winning Indigenous fiction- Cherie Dimaline's *The Marrow Thieves*.



Part of the ethos of being a teacher is being vulnerable and wearing your heart on your shoulder ... and having a really big heart, too! The English Department's **Mr. Lee** noticed that our students would not be having a Halloween week or traditional parade of lost souls so

challenged his grade 8's to a dress up Thursdays. Here is Mr. Lee at his/our first dress up Thursday- I believe this was a cowboy/cowgirl theme. Last Thursday's theme (Fantasy Character) Mr. Lee had little white wings and some kind of a Wedding dress... and several of his students and even some of us teachers were starting to join in on the fun.

2. Student Covid workload.

Student workload in the Covid hybrid-quarter system was raised at our school's Department Head's meeting on Thursday. Department Heads commented how much work students were doing and how tenaciously they were addressing their contact and non-contact

classes. Phrases like: "The kids are doing fantastically"; "with so much work in such a short time the kids are super impressive" "they are incredibly resilient and are really just getting on with it as if it's normal" were used. However, with quarter one interims and midterm reports occurring students might be tempted to drop a course, hoping to redo the course in quarter three or four.

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On the whole we would discourage this for several reasons- the third or fourth quarter course might be full; we are not able, at this point, to be restructuring student timetables because this impacts on course loads, class sizes and class composition across the school; and we need to hold space for students who will be returning to Magee on completion of online courses that they are currently taking. Naturally, we do evaluate the merits of each student request and we examine a variety of contextual factors when determining programs and supports for students- however the initially expedient option (to drop a course and take it later) might not be best in terms of a students overall and longer term development as a learner. If needed, **our counsellors are always available** (within reason!!) to give advice and support- please do not hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Lercher (llercher@vsb.bc.ca Grade 11; Grade 8 alpha Gar-Lak); Mrs. Miladinovic (pmiladinov@vsb.bc.ca Grade 10; Grade 8 alpha Lan-S; ELL and International students); Mrs. Nordman (lnordman@vsb.bc.ca Grade 9; Grade 8 alpha T-Z; Sparts students) and Mr. Kanavos (gkanavos@vsb.bc.ca Grade 12; Grade 8 alpha A-Gao; Leaders students).

3. Grade 12 news ... Grad 2021 update ...

Year end Graduation consists of two events: our formal Graduation and the Dry Grad celebration. The **formal Graduation** is organised by Mrs. Lercher and Mrs. Miladinovic, with support by a student club, the students Grad Committee. Organized separately by parent volunteers is the **Dry Graduation event**. Traditionally, at Magee, the event is held on the school site with administration oversight and is funded from your Memories/Dry Graduation \$100 contribution. The event generally involves a meal and DJ/dancing along with additional activity over the evening. In some years additional fundraisers were held by the parent organizers.

An event called "Prom" or sometimes "Magee Prom" is separate from the school ... 'Prom' is a private event generally organized by one or more students. The school does not sanction the event and we request that Magee's name is not used in any "Prom" media. There is no school supervision at this event and no school coordinated security.

With Covid's uncertainties we do not know at this point what Grad and Dry Grad will look like, however we have begun initial planning. If you missed the grade 12 parent Dry Grad volunteer signup it's not too late to join! If you are interested in volunteering please fill in the survey at [this link](#) and we will hold our inaugural 2021 Dry Grad planning meeting later this month or early in November. Closing date for survey and sign up is Monday 26th October at 11:30pm! And thanks so much to the 22 parents who have already signed up and joined the committee or made themselves available to assist with Dry Grad- currently scheduled for Friday 11 June (evening to morning) or Saturday 12 June (evening).

NOVEMBER EVENTS:

Nov.10 – Remembrance Day assemblies: AM and PM blocks.

Nov.11 – Remembrance Day- Public Holiday

Nov.25 – Hold and Secure Drill @ 1:40pm

Nov.27 – ProD Day: Indigenous focus

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