



Kasey Guo, grade 11, works the forge in his Design and Fabrication 12 class

MAGEE SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Magee News
29 January 2021

1. School updates.

Last week you received a communication from the Vancouver School Board regarding changes to the quarter system that are being implemented across all secondary schools in Vancouver. For Quarter 3, beginning February 4:

1. All grade 8 students will attend their remote class in person, twice per week- at Magee, on Tuesdays and Thursdays- during our LRT time (from 10:30 am for morning cohort students; from approximately 12:15 for the afternoon cohort)(pm teachers will set and confirm the start time).

- Wherever possible we are ensuring that student periods are aligned with AM and PM blocks: we are wanting to avoid having students, say with a morning contact class having to wait at school from 10:25 through to 12:15 for a possible PM (former remote) class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All schools will go to a one-week rotation of remote and in-person classes. Our rotation is available on our webpage [here](#) ... or if you need a copy of the schedule is available on request at our front office.

2. All students will have three interactive learning opportunities per week for remote classes. Amongst others, these could include In-person learning; and/or Synchronous lessons where student and staff schedules allow; and/or Recorded lesson for students to access; and/or Moderated group discussion or Scheduled small group tutorials.

3. One of the three interactive learning opportunities must involve social interaction between students.

4. Schools will continue to identify and implement plans for students who require additional academic and social and emotional support.

5. Schools will continue to provide school-wide opportunities for more in-person learning.

6. Health and safety precautions continue to be in place.

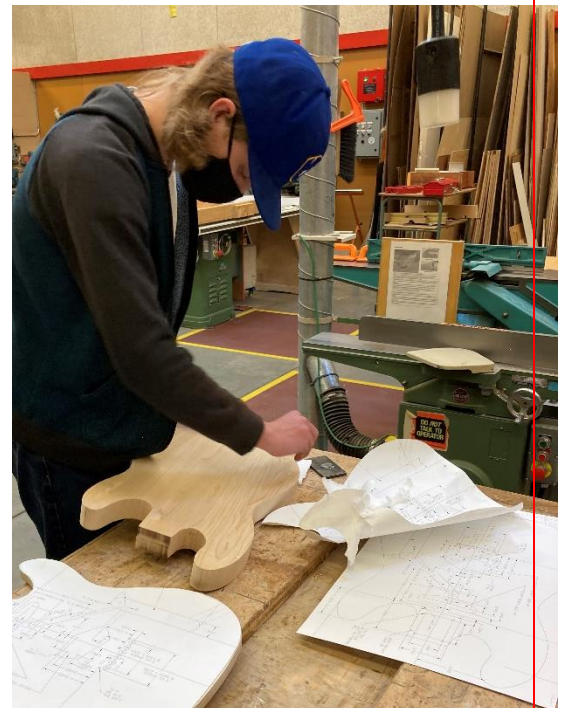
Excellence: A tradition

In planning these changes, the VSB worked with the Medical Health Officer at VCH to ensure health and safety for students and staff. Across the board we are focusing on grade 8's because we understand this to be a critical transition year. In addition, the changes were based on evidence collected from students, parents, staff, and academic and attendance data.

For example, District staff looked at Q1 academic achievement data. Overall, we saw an increase in students' achievement in both literacy and numeracy in grades 10 and 12. However, there is a decrease in the number of students in grade 8 achieving an 'A' letter grade (although but the same number of students pass when compared to a three year average between 2017 and 2020). This information helped to inform the decision to provide more in person learning for grade 8 students.

Finally, to mitigate increased COVID-19 exposure risks due to these changes all health and safety measures prescribed by the Provincial Health Office are in place, including:

1. Hand-washing or sanitizing stations are available; our facilities crew ensure that sanitizers are constantly refilled. Sanitizers are available in every class and students, in my observation, students are very happy to sanitize seating areas/keyboards and sporting equipment after use when requested.
2. There are frequent reminders about maintaining physical distance, hand hygiene, and sanitizing our spaces; at Magee we don't need reminders about mask use because we have virtually 100% compliance!
3. Access to schools is limited to staff and students. Parents can always request an appointment through the school office!
4. Our students wear masks in high traffic areas, like hallways, and any time they are outside of the classroom or learning group and they cannot physically distance from others. In-class mask use is also virtually at 100%

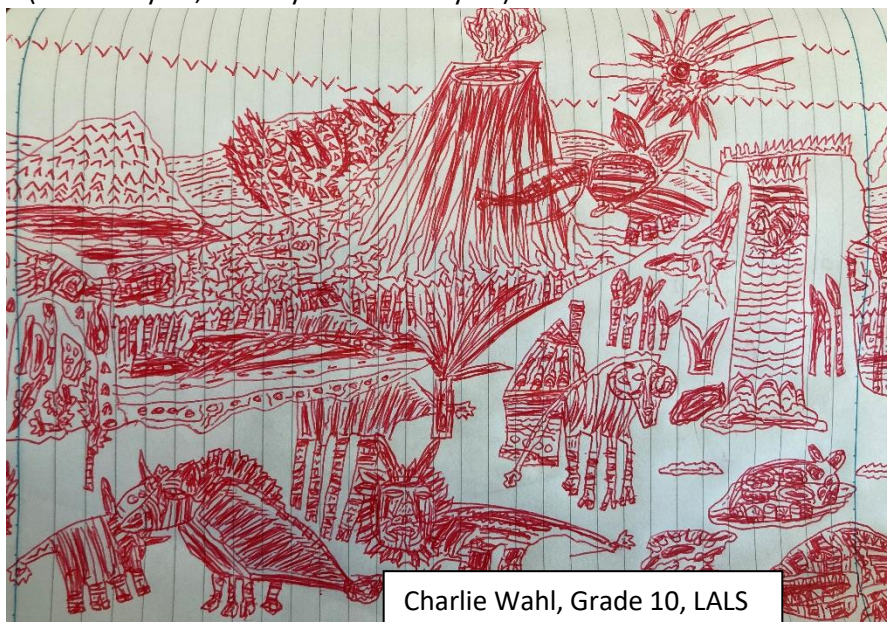


Dustin Wolodoko, Grade 9, Working on his electric guitar in his shop class.

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, along with other secondary schools in the district, we conducted the graduation requirement Literacy and Numeracy Provincial Assessments. Students on the new 2018 Graduation Program complete three provincial assessments (Numeracy 10, Literacy 10 & Literacy 12) that demonstrate student numeracy and literacy skills. Please visit the Ministry of Education website for more detailed information on the assessment available [here](#).

Scoring for this assessment is based on a four point scale representing four proficiency categories: Emerging (1), Developing (2), Proficient (3) and Extending (4). Students may write an assessment up to three times should they wish to improve their proficiency score. The best proficiency score is on their final transcript.

Few parents know about the existence of a district specialty program up on the third floor. Catering to a niche cohort of students,



Charlie Wahl, Grade 10, LALS

district Learning Assistance and Lifeskills (LALS) programs include small group skills support and in-class integration. Overseen by a specialist teacher, at Magee, Mr. Mike Collier, our LALS students are privileged to have additional support from three dedicated and amazing support workers- Beverley Tingle, Brian Wilson, and Michael Edwards. Last week, one of the LALS students, **Mr. Charlie Wahl** (grade 10), stopped by to show me his sketchbook which was brimming with red ink and pencil drawings, many with a South American theme. Commented Charlie: "I've

always had an interest in South America ... there's something about the place and the history and their art- like the Aztecs, for example". I caught up with the LALS team outside the foods classroom where Mr. Wilson (still wearing his apron) had been 1:1 supporting LALS integrated students. Grade 8 **Mr. Josh Mah**, feeling part of the team, joined the photo (from Left to right): **Mr. Michael Edwards, Mrs. Bev Tingle, and Mr. Mike Collier.**



English/Socials/Library/School based Curriculum resource teacher **Mrs. Jann-Marie Forgeron** was pumped about her **grade 9 English** class' remote learning book talks project. Mrs. Forgeron sent me these samples of student work with the following backgrounder:

"Here are some photos of the fabulous projects the grade 9s completed and presented on Monday January 25th. Over their 2-week LRT time, they met in groups over teams to discuss their chosen novels. Their assignment was to present a book talk of 5 minutes on their chosen novel, touching on themes/lessons, characters, powerful passages and personal reflections. They also had to field questions and comments from the class at the end of their presentations.

Students decorated paper bags with important symbols, colors, passages to illustrate their knowledge and to help them



present. Inside of the bag they placed 3-5 items that represented some aspect of the novel, presented those items throughout their talk to illustrate their points. Projects will remain on display in the library for Quarter 3.

Novel choices were made from a combined collection of library materials and English department literature circle sets. The work was outstanding and everyone should be proud of the engagement they showed,

even over the 2 week teams meetings. Rarely did anyone miss the opportunity to meet their peers and discuss their chosen novel.

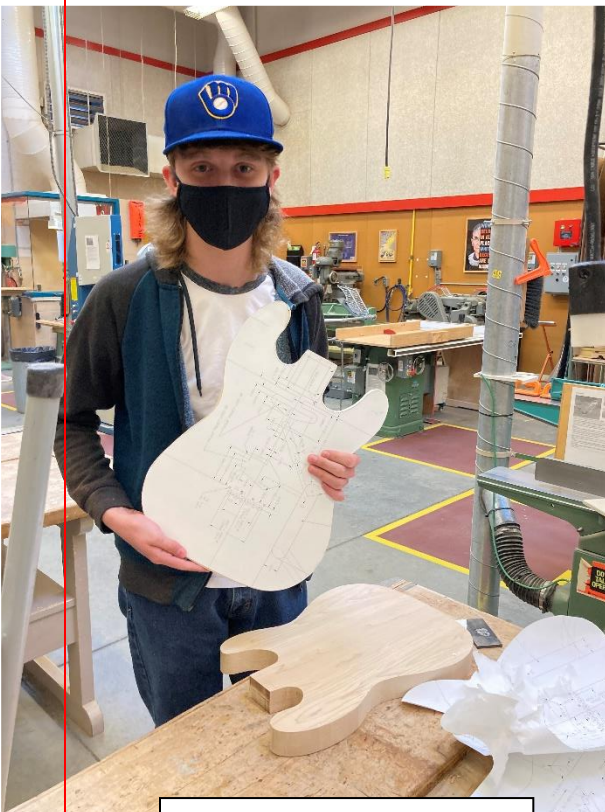
Bravo 9th graders!"

2. PAC Update.

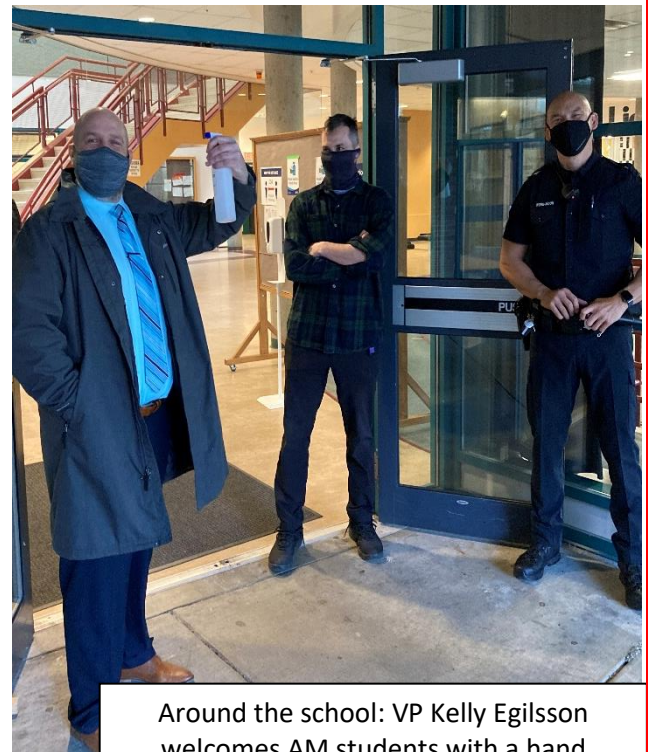
Our next **PAC general meeting** is on **9 February** at 7:00pm. Zoom details will be forwarded closer to the day; on the agenda is a guest speaker from **UBC Admissions** to give an overview of why UBC is not only a great university but also is a great place for your child's post-secondary experience.

3. Counselling information ...

With our kids spending more time on social media – much of that occurring at home or on their own, this can sometimes lead to interesting conversations at the dinner table. To support those conversations please have a look at the [SaferSchools Together "Parent Guide"](#) to digital media.



Dustin's guitar in progress!



Around the school: VP Kelly Egilsson welcomes AM students with a hand sanitization while counselor Mr. Kanavos and VPD School liaison officer Constable. Ben Wong-Moon offer their support!

FEBRUARY EVENTS:

Feb. 03 - Q2 Ends
Feb. 04 - Q3 Starts
Feb. 09 - PAC General meeting, 7:00pm
Feb. 12 - District Pro-D Day
Feb. 23 - Gr.9-12 Math Competition
Feb. 24 - Pink Shirt Day

STANDING LINKS:

VSF Webpage: Please click [here](#)
Magee School Webpage: Please click [here](#)
Magee on twitter: <https://twitter.com/MageeLion>
Magee PAC: Please click [here](#)
Magee Fundraising: Please click [here](#)
Magee Music society: Please click [here](#)