



# *L.A. Matheson Secondary*

## *Newsletter*

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2011

### Principal's Message

The school year is well on its way and, even though it has been a different start this year, students at LA Matheson continue to work and learn intensely. They are achieving curricular goals, acquiring knowledge and skills, and making plans for their futures. Parents, of course, are interested in their child's progress and while report cards were mailed home on November 24, most report cards will not have sufficient information to help parents determine their child's progress. For most students, grades 8-11, the only information on this report card will be attendance. However, teachers are giving feedback and achievement information directly to students. However, parents are still encouraged to contact the teachers directly, either by telephone or email, to ask about the child's achievement. During the current job action parents of our grade 12 students will notice that teachers were able to assign grades for students requesting marks for graduation, scholarship applications or university/college registration. Grade 12 students who did not receive their marks on their report cards should fill in the "Request for Grade 12 Marks" sheet accompanying their report cards and turn them in to the office by Friday, December 2. We will be more than happy to re-print new report cards for grade 12 students with their marks.

As we head into the winter season I want to congratulate our fall teams and athletes for all that was done on the court and field of play. Matheson athletes did tremendously well and represented our school with dignity and class! A great big 'thank you' to all of our coaches; their effort, patience and guidance is much appreciated by our entire school community. Again, I am truly amazed at how much our coaches give of themselves on a daily basis for the good of our student athletes. Our boys' soccer program continues to excel as all of our teams played well into the playoff rounds. Our volleyball teams also did extremely well, culminating with our senior girls reaching the Fraser Valley final! We also had Matheson representation at this year's provincial cross country finals in Kelowna! Overall, a great start in athletics to what promises to be a special year at Matheson. Thank you again to our coaches: Ms. McEvoy for cross country, Mr. Beach, Mr. Judson and Mr. Orso for boys' soccer, and Mr. Sutter, Ms. Kenkel, Ms. Halls, Ms. Peckham, Ms. Storey-Gray, Ben Gray and Mr. Ripoli for volleyball. As we transition into our winter season, parents are reminded that they are encouraged and more than welcome to attend all of our basketball games this year. First game kicks off on Tuesday, November 29 with an exciting pep rally followed by a senior boys' basketball game.

As a first year principal at LA Matheson I must say how extremely amazed I am at the number of events happening in our building! There is a 'buzz' in the air that's hard to comprehend, unless you simply spend time at our school. The norm for our students, with teacher support and direction, is that they are always on the move, whether decorating for Diwali, Halloween or Christmas, or planning a dance, organizing a pep rally, orchestrating a haunted house or arranging a talent show. Our staff and students continue to work hard in order to make LA Matheson a truly special place.

On November 10, LA Matheson hosted two extraordinary Remembrance Day ceremonies for staff, students, families, and special guests. The ceremonies included a PowerPoint presentation of a reflective piece accompanied by the school band, a powerful video created by a number of our senior students, along with prose, poetry and drama pieces performed by various students. Overall, these two powerful multi-media ceremonies allowed our students the time to reflect on and appreciate the meaning of Remembrance Day. Our special guests commented on the respectful demeanour of our students, the beauty of the ceremony, and the overwhelming support that they felt. Thank you and congratulations to the teacher organized committee for this event: Mr. Hubbick, Mr. Keller, Ms. Kowalski, Ms. Ohana and Mr. Valera.

Lastly, I would also like to welcome the following new staff members to our school: Ms. Hayer, teaching English and Social Studies, Mr. J. Kaufman, teaching Social Studies, and Ms. K. Peterson, teaching BASES, ELL and Science. Welcome all to our school!

Thank you for all your support of our school and students,

*Paulo Sarmiento*



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 2 - 9**  
Food Drive

**December 6**  
Band Concert

**December 9**  
Grad Transitions for first semester due

**December 11 - 14**  
Grad Photos at Artona Studio

**December 16**  
Last day of classes before Winter Break  
Pancake Breakfast

**December 19 - January 2**  
Winter Break (school closed)

**January 3**  
School Reopens

**January 9 - 13**  
Course Selection - Grade 10  
Planning Classes

**January 19**  
PAC Meeting ~ 7 pm

**January 20**  
Last day of classes for grades 10 - 12

**January 23 - 27**  
Provincial Exams

**January 25**  
Last day of classes for grades 8 - 9

**January 30**  
Semester 2 begins

L.A. Matheson Secondary  
9484 - 122 Street  
Surrey, B.C. V3V 4M1

Hours: 7:30 am to 3:30 pm

Telephone: 604-588-3418

Web Page: <http://www.sd36.bc.ca/lamath/>

Fax: 604-588-7245

## BAND DEPARTMENT NEWS



Winter Festive  
Band Concert  
DECEMBER 6, 2011  
7 PM  
SMALL GYM  
DOORS WILL OPEN AT 6:40 PM  
\*ADMISSION BY DONATION\*\*  
Donations will be accepted at the door.

## DRAMA DEPARTMENT NEWS

The L.A. Matheson  
Theatre Company presents...

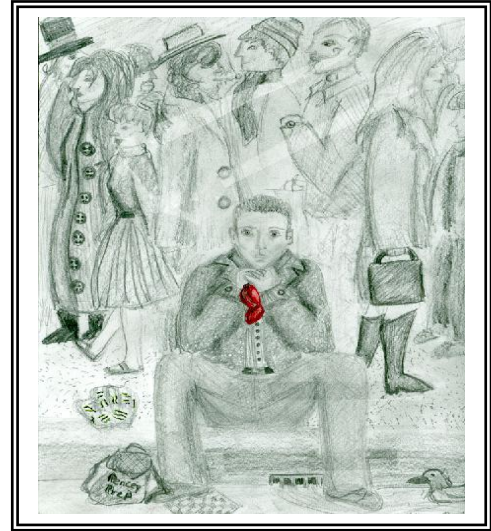
**"I Hate Christmas"**

December 6 - 9  
at 7pm

Tickets are \$5.00 each



## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



Artwork by: Maia Balewicz

### LONELINESS

*Inspired by the novel "The Catcher in the Rye"*

A cold gust of wind rattled the broken windows in the old cabin. A man wearing tattered clothes was sitting on the porch. His glazed eyes fixed on the shattered glasses.

It reminded him of the stars, hundreds of them, glimmering in the vast sky. Every second, pulsating, as if they were sending a message. However, most people do not seem to notice their presence. Their majestic glory always overshadowed by the artificial beauty of the world. He was just like a star – a forgotten splendour in the buzzing action of society.

Slowly, he got up from his seat taking his battered cane that rested on the armchair. He was getting very old. Every day, he felt as if his body was deteriorating, blending with the billions of dust particles in the earth – a speck of dust riding with the flow of the wind, encircling the world for eternity.

He put a shaky leg on one of the crooked stairs, his hand tightly grasping the bent railing. He slowly raised his head looking at the pitch-black sky. It was midnight and all the glistening stars were out. Perhaps, he might actually become a star. If he had a choice, he would choose to be one. A forgotten splendour.

Written by: Pauline Liquido, English 12  
Teacher: Ms. Jones

## HUMANITIES & SOCIALS

Mr. Carr and Mr. Ripoli, student teacher, are very proud of their hard working Humanities 8 and Socials Studies 9 classes; great attitude and effort is being shown by all. Keep up the good work!

## MATHESON ATHLETICS

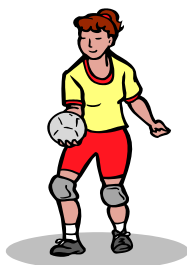
The fall athletic season is coming to the end and basketball is starting up. Cross Country, Swimming, Boys Soccer and Volleyball dominated the scene from September to November.

Kirsten Dillon represented our school in Kelowna at the Cross Country Provincials. Andrew Takahashi, Nina Takahashi, and Hiroshi Nakasone, all junior students, swam at the Swimming Provincials in Richmond. All four individuals performed well.



In soccer, we fielded three teams for the second consecutive year. All three teams: Grade 8/9, Juniors and Seniors qualified for the Fraser Valley Championships. Our Grade 8/9 Boys team finished fourth in the Valley for the second straight year.

Volleyball saw six teams hit the court. Both our Grade 8 and Junior Boys qualified for the Surreys but were eliminated after the first day. Our Senior Girls Volleyball team, playing in Tier 2, qualified for the Fraser Valley Championships for the second straight year. Seeded as number 12 in the 12-team championship they defeated G.W. Graham from Chilliwack in the first round followed by Burnsvie in the second round. In the semi-finals, the team pulled out an amazing five set victory over the defending Tier 2 Champions, Panorama Ridge, to qualify for the championship game. In the finals, they finished in second place! Way to go Mustangs.



Basketball is starting up. We will field six teams. Tuesday, November 29 featured our second annual Pep Rally and our Boys Home Opener. Our grade 8 and juniors played Fleetwood Park and our seniors played Earl Marriott. It was a festive day to start the basketball season.

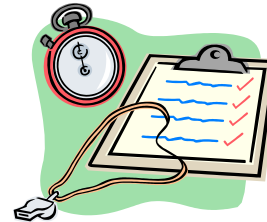


Stay up to date with our athletic program by checking our athletics website:

<http://mathesonathletics.blogspot.com>

Mr. S. Mah  
Athletic Director

### *FALL AND WINTER COACHING STAFF*



Cross Country – Ms. McEvoy  
Grade 8/9 Boys Soccer – Mr. Beach  
Junior Boys Soccer – Mr. Judson  
Senior Boys Soccer – Mr. Orso  
Grade 8 Girls Volleyball – Mr. Sutter  
Junior Girls Volleyball – Ms. Kenkel  
Senior Girls Volleyball – Ms. Halls  
Grade 8 Boys Volleyball – Ms. Peckham  
Junior Boys Volleyball – Ms. Storey-Gray and Ben Gray  
Senior Boys Volleyball – Mr. Ripoli  
Grade 8 Girls Basketball – Ms. Peckham  
Junior Girls Basketball – Jamie Ziegler, Sarah Kazakoff, Sim Sunner, Aaron Ram and Ms. Kenkel  
Senior Girls Basketball – Mr. Beach and Ms. Compton  
Grade 8 Boys Basketball – Mr. Judson  
Junior Boys Basketball – Mr. Mah and Ryan Braich  
Senior Boys Basketball – Mr. Mah

# Multicultural Club News

L.A Matheson's Multicultural Club has been around for almost 10 years and has been working hard to promote cultural harmony, celebrate diversity and create mutual understanding amongst our school community. This club was started by Cyndy Miller and continued on by various staff members namely Sumandeep Chandra, Avneet Gill, Gurpreet Bains, Aneeta Chand, Bal Deepak, Rosy Khaira, Lorraine Norris, Ami Kambo and Annie Ohana. Members of the club have been working tirelessly to raise funds for BC Children's Hospital Foundation and for sponsoring education of Kenyan students through an organization called ACCESS.

This year the Multicultural Club reached a milestone by raising a cumulative total of \$30,000 for BC Children's Hospital Foundation. This money was raised by organizing an annual multicultural night called "Diggin The Roots" where students showcase multicultural performances and a fashion show. Multicultural Club would like to thank all past and present students, administrators, parents and staff who have helped facilitate this fundraiser over the years. Our school has been invited to the Millenium Walk at BC Children's Hospital where our efforts will be formally recognized. This is a proud moment for our Mustangs. Keep up the good work!

Some of our annual events are Multicultural Week, Eid, Day of the Dead, Diwali, Winter Fusion Festival, Chinese New Year, Teacher Lip Sync, Black History day, Vaisakhi and Diggin the Roots. The Multicultural Club welcomes new members throughout the year and is looking for sponsor teachers and parents. Please contact the sponsor teachers, Ms. Ohana or Ms. Kambo, for more information.

Sincerely,

Ms. G. Bains



# Punjabi 11 News



Punjabi 11 classes organized a Diwali celebration on October 26 for the entire school. Students brought in donations and handed out free Samosas and Jalebis to students and staff. Free Mehndi applications were made available to the students. Students dressed up in colourful attire and came out during lunch to celebrate the “Festival of Lights”. Brochures about the history of Diwali were also distributed. Divas were lit and dance performances entertained the audience. Special thanks to Deep Kamal Matharu and Nisha Mali for the dance performances, as well as Ryan Shastri and Sukhvir Gill for the wonderful music!

Mrs. Bains would like to thank both of her Punjabi classes for a job well done.

