

# Everyone's Best Builds Success

# Annual Report

# to Families

June 2005

The purpose of the report is to provide our parents and community with an overview of how we are educating your children during the 2004/2005 school year. Many changes have been implemented in the past few years, and they are now beginning to bear fruit. Many of our graduating students have received local scholarships, and it is expected that they will have a strong showing in the provincial exams as well. Our Fine Arts and Athletic departments have added an atmosphere of excitement to the school. They have provided numerous opportunities for our students to expand their expertise in the areas of music, art, drama and athletics. We believe that our school has a great deal to offer to all our students.

Along with strong academic and athletic programs and a caring attitude at Mission Secondary, it is the tradition of multi-culturalism and diversity that makes our school so unique. On any given day you will see students working together on projects, studying together, playing on the same team or just socializing on the school grounds. It is very evident that the students respect and understand cultural diversity.

For the second straight year, we are pleased to report that we have over 170

students in our graduating class. Only two years ago, the graduating classes consisted of just 125 students. We are very proud of the numerous initiatives and programs that we have implemented during the past few years to help improve the success rates at every grade level. Students and staff are passionate about their efforts and successes at Mission Secondary.

## School Growth Plan – Student Achievement Goals

During the 2004/2005 school year, the School Planning Council selected two goals for the next school year.

The first goal is to increase student success rates by improving individual student work habits in all course areas and improving reading comprehension in the content areas.

The second goal is to continue to improve student social responsibility by improving student attendance and punctuality across all grades through the school code of conduct and by increasing the number of students involved in socially responsible leadership activities and extra curricular activities.

In order to achieve our first goal, we will be focusing mainly on issues surrounding work habits. Even though our data suggests that improvement has been made in reaching our second goal, we need to continue addressing attendance issues. Over the next year the staff will develop strategies to achieve both these goals.



*Mr. Greenshields introduces his peer mediators to the rest of the student body.*

Ecole Mission Secondary

## Applied Skills Department

On June 2, 2005, the Home Economics Department presented "Showcase 2005 - Treasures of Egypt". Approximately 75 students modeled creations that they constructed through the year. A special Prom presentation featured many of Mission Secondary's grads modeling their prom dresses. Several senior boys acted as escorts for the girls. Approximately 125 people attended the show.

In early April, 15 senior Textile Studies students traveled to Vancouver to attend Kwantlen College's fashion show. This show highlights the Fashion Design program at the college, and serves as a great inspiration for our students. This year a side trip included a tour of the Blanche Macdonald School of Fashion Design.

Several of our students received recognition for their talents in the area of Applied Skills. They are:

- Richard Nash, a graduating student, who received two prestigious awards this year. He received the British Columbia Arts Student Award and the Mission School District Award.
- Brian Lumsden, who received



*Anju proudly displays the mosaic she created in her art class.*

the Ron Gotzke Memorial Scholarship

•Farah Williams, who received the Cafeteria Service Award for her extra efforts in the Cafeteria Program.

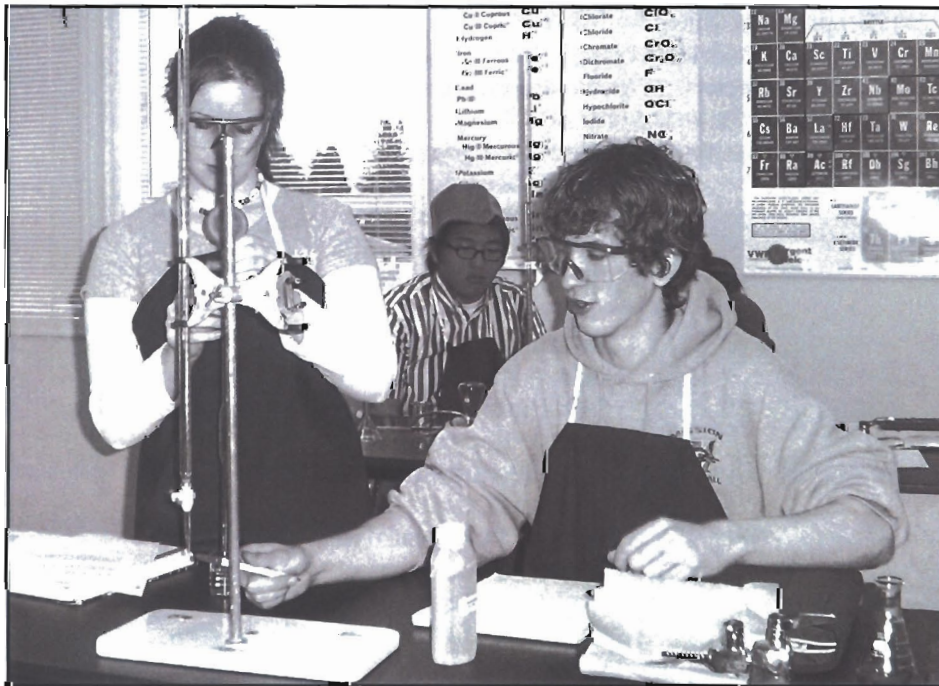
## Athletics Department

Athletics continues to be very important to the students and staff of Mission Secondary. The school continues to add teams to an already busy slate of programs. We

have expanded our number of student participants to over 300 students. Most of our teams were competitive and successful during the season. In the fall we had three Girls' Volleyball Teams, a Cross Country Team, a Swimming Team and three Football Teams. Our Grade 8 Volleyball Team, coached by Mr. Itkonen and Ms. Chezzi, won the Abbotsford/Mission Zone. Swimmer Jennifer Giles finished third in the Provincials in the Breast Stroke. Although we did not have an official Wrestling Team, we had two wrestlers compete in the winter months. We also had eight Basketball Teams (four boys and four girls) and a Ski/Snowboard Team. Our Girls Ski Team placed first in the Valley and qualified for the Provincials, and Mr. Jakobs' Grade 8 Boys Basketball Team placed 6th in the Valleys. During the Spring, we finished the year off with three Girls' Soccer Teams, three Badminton Teams, a Track and Field Team and a Mountain Biking Team. The Badminton Team won the Abbotsford/Mission Zone and the Junior Girls' Soccer Team remained undefeated for most of the season. All in all, athletics have been very busy and very rewarding at MSS this year.

## AVID: Advancement Via Individual Determination

Mission Secondary School is very fortunate to have been chosen as an AVID site for the upcoming year. AVID is a highly acclaimed learning program that was developed in San Diego by an English teacher some 20 years ago. Starting in the fall we will have our first group of AVID students enrolled in the program. The AVID course supports students in achieving success in rigorous high school courses and prepares them for university and college. Since being selected as an AVID site last May, our school/district has sent teachers and staff to San Diego for training during the summer; sent staff to training workshops here in B.C.; engaged in considerable reading, thinking, meeting,



*Nathan and Chelsea are working together on a chemistry lab.*

planning, and discussing of AVID strategies, implementation and research; and selected students to participate in the research project.

We are pleased to have Ms Wieczorek as our first AVID classroom teacher, along with Ms Shaw as our AVID counselor. Students and staff are excited about this unique opportunity and its potential to help students achieve high standards in rigorous curriculum, as well as, build confidence, foster relationships and inspire an appreciation for life-long learning.

### Breakfast Club

During our second year of operation, we expanded our service to three days a week this year: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Chelsea Thornton, Fiona Livingstone, Alanna Livingstone, Kayla Johannessen, and Renee Reeve were our most dedicated servers, keeping busy as we had between 120 and 150 customers each morning. Students were presented with a choice of juice boxes, yogurt tubes, and toast with jam and peanut butter. Gracious donations from a number of groups in the community helped us cover the nearly \$3000 cost of providing this much needed and appreciated service to MSS students.

### Counseling Department

The 2004-2005 school year has been a busy one for counseling services at MSS. Our department personnel worked to serve the needs of our students in a variety of areas: educational, personal, and career. In the latter, we are pleased to work closely with our School Career Advisor.

This year began the first of a three year implementation process, introducing a "new" graduation program in British Columbia. Our current grade 11's and 12's will graduate with a minimum of 52 credits, while the current grade 10 students will be required to earn a minimum of 80 credits (grade 10-12) to satisfy graduation requirements.



*The Grade 8 girls basketball team continues the tradition of excellence.*

Our Counseling department works closely with students, parents/guardians, teachers and administration as we continually strive to fulfill our department and school goals.

### English Department

This was a good year for the department. Results from January's Provincial exams were the best in a number of years. In each of the subjects that were written, (English 12, English Literature 12, Communications 12 and English 10) MSS students were above the district average. In Literature 12, they were also above the provincial average. Two students, Kim Larson and Melissa Carter, scored over 95% and 92% respectively on the Literature 12 Provincial. As well, every student in grade 12 who wrote in January ended up with a passing grade when school and exam marks were combined. We also had more AP writers than ever before, as 10 students sat and wrote the May exam.

### Fine Arts – Art

Mission Secondary's hallways and display cases were lit up this year with eye catching creations crafted by the students of Ms. Pederson's and Mrs. Draper's art

classes. Throughout the year, student self portraits and portraits of famous celebrities adorned the hallways as students hurried to their classes. As well, numerous clay sculptures took up residence in our display cases. Other notable projects such as the mosaic murals, the painted ceiling tiles and the three dimensional poster boards added a great deal of colour and life to the halls of MSS.

The public also had the opportunity to enjoy these creations during the "in school art walk" hosted by the Fine Arts Department in May. As you walk along the streets of Mission this summer, remember to look up and see the the Mission Secondary students' banners flying high. Twenty-seven of the 40 banners that were chosen by the city's juried Banner Festival were from our Mission Secondary students. It has been another excellent year in the Fine Arts Department.

### Fine Arts – Drama

Mission Secondary's theatre department has enjoyed an exceptionally productive year in 2004-2005. Our grade 8-12 students have had much performance exposure beginning with the grade 10 production of "Bury the Dead" put on for school and community

alike on Remembrance Day. Further productions included the grade 9 class performances of "Fairy Tales For Children" put on for elementary schools in the district.

A major production of Tennessee William's "Spring Storm" performed by the Theatre Production class (grades 8-12) went up just before winter break. This was our choice from the modern genre this year. So well received was this particular production that virtually every night was performed to a full house.

Auditions for the annual Shakespearean production, "The Merry Wives of Windsor", took place on February 8th, and we did the read through on the 10th, marking the beginning of the rehearsal process for this massive production which accommodated over 53 actors and crew. The production took place May 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14 at our own studio theatre and on June 4th for two performances at Fraser River Heritage Park on the river. This year we were honoured

by a visit from Mr. Christopher Gaze, the granddaddy of Shakespearean theatre in B.C. and the mastermind behind Vancouver's "Bard on the Beach", for our opening night performance.

Other productions included a Spring Festival of Monologues which was put on by the Grade 9 students for our school audience on May 11th. Each student performed his or her own monologues in front of their parents, teachers and peers. The well received Directors' Festival closed the end of the season. Grade 11 and 12 actors performed under student direction in a choice of their own work for both school and community audiences. The

autonomy and learning that this project breeds is immeasurable and always pleases the crowd.

### Fine Arts – Music

This year has been a busy one for Mr. Kellas and the MSS Music Department. We have worked very hard to improve our music reading skills, our performing skills, and our instrumental and vocal sounds. In the fall the band program participated in a music workshop and camp-out which included clinics by professional musicians. In the Spring over 45 music



*This year's MVP recipients from the Grade 8, Junior and Senior Football teams display their hardware.*

students attended a performance by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. The band program also got a makeover this year as new uniforms were purchased to wear during performances.

Our Grade 8/9 Band is making great musical progress, and the members of this class will soon be joining the Concert and Jazz bands. The elementary students who belong to the MSS Elementary Jump Start Band are also sounding strong and will be contributing to our high school groups next year.

The MSS Concert Choir has been improving steadily all year. They have performed in the

community, in the Mission Candlelight Parade, at two formal concerts, and for the school. They have been singing traditional choral music, African songs, gospel songs, jazz tunes, and pop music.

The MSS Concert Band has been extremely busy this year. Most notably, the concert band earned a bronze medal standing at the Chilliwack Lions' Music Festival this year. They have played two formal concerts, provided the music for our float in the Mission Candlelight Parade, participated in the Remembrance Day Ceremony,

entertained at one of the school's football games, played at five elementary schools, and performed at the commencement ceremonies.

The MSS Jazz Band has had just as hectic a schedule over the past year. The Jazz band also earned a bronze medal at the Chilliwack Lions' Music Festival, played three formal concerts at MSS, entertained at the elementary feeder schools, performed at the MSS Grad Fashion Show, and

participated in the Envision Twilight Concert Series in June.

The MSS music program has been dedicated to continuing the tradition of musical excellence at our school. We wish our graduating musicians well in their future endeavors, and our returning students look forward to learning and performing in the 2005-2006 school year.

### French Immersion Department

The students in the French Immersion Program had a very successful academic year. Approximately 65% of the students

made the Honor/Effort Roll and 10% made the Principal's Honour Roll. Many of them got high marks on their grade 12 Science and Social Studies Provincial exams. This is a reflection of the excellent preparation they received in their Junior years in the immersion program.

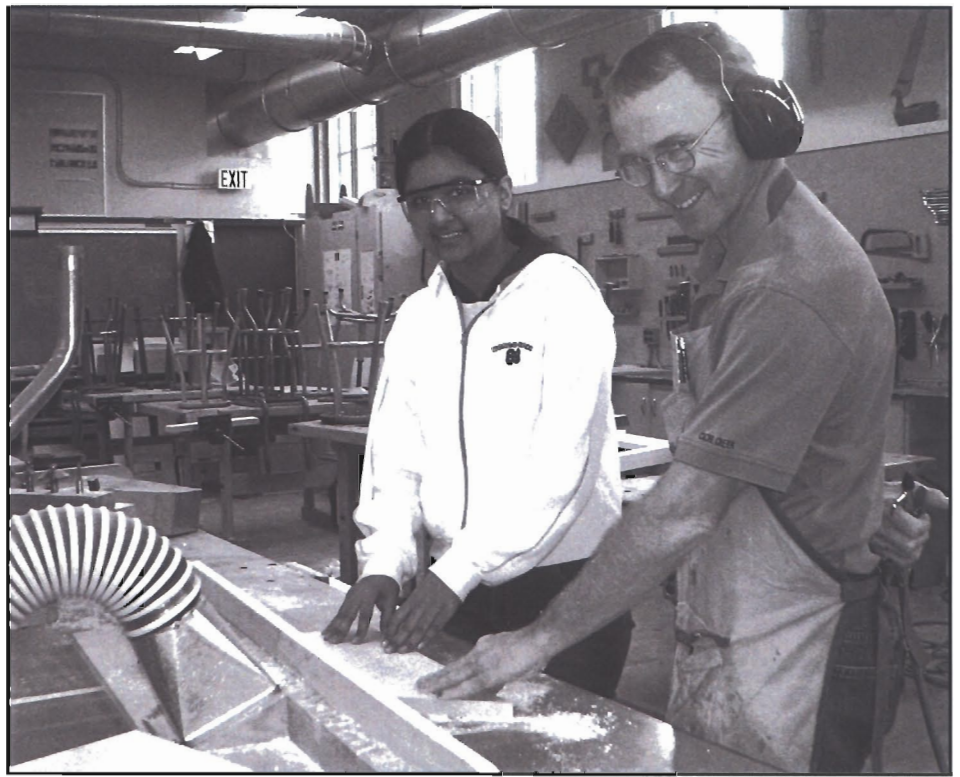
Other events that highlighted the year were the hosting of the Mission District's concours d'Art Oratorie, a field trip to a francophone movie and the grade 7 orientation by our current grade 8 students.

### Journalism/Yearbook

2005 was a successful year for Journalism students at M.S.S. With the unique choice to be either credit or non-credit participants, students of all grades had the opportunity to be involved in this year's Journalism class. Non-credit students volunteered to take pictures, learned the initial digital skills required, and coordinated students and events within their particular grade so that the yearbook would be a well-rounded representation of all grades and most events. Two students from grades 8 through 10 were chosen as apprentices, volunteering while training for next year's credit option. Senior students taking Journalism for credit not only created digital layouts but also wrote articles for the local paper, thus keeping our community up-to-date on the never-ending programs at M.S.S. The Journalism class culminated with a stellar yearbook which sold in record numbers. Thanks Journalism students! Your efforts and skills are appreciated and will be valued assets in your future.

### Languages Department

The Languages Department continues to provide our students with two options, the well established French program and the new and expanding Spanish program. The Spanish 12 class was offered again this year and this attests to the students' interest and



*Mr. Schell demonstrates safe woodworking practices to an eager student.*

dedication in this language since Spanish 12 is not required for university or college entrance.

The incoming grade 8 classes made an impressive mark this year. The vast majority of our freshmen have a good attitude toward learning languages and display an appreciation of other cultures.

The most exciting initiative to take place this year is the preparation of a field trip to London and France. Ms. Laurendeau and Mr. Livingstone are organizing this expedition and so far 30 students have expressed an interest in participating. This ground breaking trip should take place during the 2006 Spring Break.



*Steady hands help Navi and Chris dissect their specimen.*

### Library

The library at Mission Secondary is located exactly where it should be, in the heart of the school. A bustling facility, our library hums with activity all day long. All students come to the library for units in a variety of subject areas such as world religions, world disasters, poetry and teen issues, which have been planned by their subject teacher and the teacher librarian. In addition to information on their research topic, students are instructed in a variety of information gathering skills. A large up-to-date fiction section supports the highly successful English and Social Studies silent reading programs. Our students are avid readers. We circulate an average of 1000 books a month, a figure that has doubled since this program began. Our students not only read more, they discuss literature, share books, and have grown immensely in their approach to literature appreciation.

We have a library collection of print and audio-visual material totaling 20,000 items. The students



*Mrs. MacDonald and her students help prepare lunch in the cafeteria.*

are also able to access the Internet in the library.

The school library manifesto published in 2000 by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions describes the school library as follows:

“The school library provides information and ideas that are fundamental to functioning successfully in today’s society, which is increasingly information and knowledge-based. The school library equips students with lifelong learning skills and develops the imagination, enabling them to live as responsible citizens.”

At Mission Secondary School, all staff and students are working to achieve this ideal. It is a joyful place to be.

### Mathematics Department

The goals of the Mathematics Department include ensuring students are sufficiently numerate to function responsibly as citizens, as well as, encouraging all students to continue in the highest level of mathematics possible. Our aim is to help students achieve their full potential in mathematics and ensure that math is not a barrier to their post-secondary aspirations.

One important initiative the Math department staff continues to

pursue is the use of Performance Based Standards of Numeracy as assessment for learning. The performance tests and activities are used as learning tools. This year Mrs. Schmor worked with a group of very helpful parents to field test some problems. Students had to solve a problem at school and then communicate the concepts of the problem, the solution strategy, and the final result to their family. The goal of the project was two-fold. First, we want our students to be able to communicate their mathematical ideas. Second, we want to encourage more mathematical conversation beyond the math classroom.

Several other important

initiatives also continued over the past year, including Ms. Wilson and Ms. Grewal’s social responsibility data analysis unit, “Problem of the Month”, national and local math competitions, Calculus12 and a very successful implementation of Applications of Mathematics 12. Our results on provincial assessments continue to hold strong as we are consistently at or above provincial average in Math 10 and Math 12. Several of our students are one or two grade levels ahead in mathematics as they strive to complete the university level math course, calculus, before graduation.

### Multi-Cultural Committee

The Multicultural Committee represents the cultural diversities at Mission Secondary School. The committee helps to promote a racism-free school, where diversities are accepted and embraced. The committee has organized a variety of events such as Diwali, the Korean and Chinese New Year, St. Patrick’s Day and fundraisers for Tsunami Relief. The committee has also hosted the Hands Against Racism week. These events are intended to bring both a learning experience for student as well as an opportunity for students to experience aspects of different cultures.

The committee believes that the lack of understanding of different cultures brings a slew of racist comments and actions. With events such as Hands Against



*Mrs. Shaw enjoys working with her Aboriginal students.*

Racism, the multicultural committee can educate people on how to be more open minded and accepting of all cultures. Also, some representatives of the Multicultural Committee put on presentations about the committee and its importance to grade 7 students who visited our school. The committee has also ordered T-shirts to represent and promote Multiculturalism in our school society. The committee has been a vital part of Mission Secondary School because it advertises the spectrum of cultures that are in our society, so no single individual feels discriminated against or unaccepted.

### Scholarships

The Scholarship Team is mostly made up of grade 12 students that are taking three or more provincially examinable courses and have a B average. The intent of the team is to build peer support and to teach the needed skills for them to obtain provincial scholarships.

Every year the scholarship team involves the students in many events to help them succeed in writing their exams. This year the team went on a retreat to Stillwood Camp in December. There they learned team building, time management and test taking skills, as well as how to beat stress. They also just had a chance to relax and have fun. As well, the team toured SFU to learn what university life is like.

Our students have done exceptionally well this year in winning scholarships. To date our students have won over \$55,500 to help them with their post-secondary education. This total does not include any provincial scholarships they may win in July.

### Science Department

It's been an exciting year in the Science Department of Mission Secondary. The most exciting news to come is that we are offering a new course next year! After many long hours of preparation,



*Diwali is celebrated annually at MSS.*

Limnology/Fly-fishing is ready to go and will be starting next September. Mr. Grochowich has created this course to give students a better understanding of fresh water biology and to share his love of fishing.

In Chemistry news, the traditions continue. Mr. Kliever is still teaching with us and the results in his courses are as high as ever. A team of students was sent to the Chemistry Skills competition and, although they didn't place, they found the experience to be both interesting and educational.

In Physics news, enrollment is up. For the fifth straight year enrollment in Physics has increased. Physics 11 has doubled in enrollment over last year, while the Physics 12 course is holding steady with 67% of last year's Physics 11 students moving on to the grade 12 course. For the sixth time in seven years, we sent a team to the Physics Olympics at UBC. The team placed twenty-second out of approximately seventy teams from around British Columbia. The team, comprised of six grade 12 students and three grade 11 students, placed fourth in one of the six events.

In Biology news, we welcomed Mr. Cocksedge to the department to teach Biology 12. The students responded well to this addition and are working hard. In general science, students are working hard to prepare for the Science 10

provincial exam. Students are also enrolled in the online learning course where they can take courses that wouldn't normally fit in their timetables. As well, Mr. Cuddeford is working with those students in the combined Science 8/9 to get students through two years in one.

### Social Studies Department

This year our Social Studies Department welcomed two new teachers, Mr. Cyr and Ms. Wieczorek. Mr. Cyr is relatively new to the teaching profession and he brought a youthful enthusiasm to the department, whereas Ms. Wieczorek, a more experienced teacher, brought new ideas in teaching reading in the content areas.

There have been many highlight during the year. Our students were able to learn outside the classroom when they made visits to the Holocaust Centre, the Provincial Courts, and the Mission Tree Farm and Forestry site. Our grade 8's produced a number of outstanding castle and religion projects that were displayed in the library. One grade 11 student, Laura Young, participated in the Government Forum Exchange Program and made a week-long visit to our nation's capital.

AP Art History was a new course offered this year, and it proved to be very successful and popular with the students. The department also worked



*The Drama Classes perform "Bury the Dead" for Remembrance Day.*

collaboratively to develop a cross department Social Studies 10 exam.

### Special Education Department

The Special Education Department has a comprehensive course selection to meet the needs of students who require an individualized program. Our staff supports students who attend regular, adapted and modified courses in order to graduate. Many of our students receive a Dogwood Certificate, while others will graduate with a High School Learning Certificate.

Our department includes a Learning Centre that allows students to receive extra help on classroom work and build strategies. The department also offers adapted courses. We have fully adapted programs in Math, Science, Socials and English for grades 8–12 where students meet the required outcomes. Our resource room offers programs to designated, mildly intellectual disabled students, where the focus is on a modified curriculum and life skills activities. We also have a compliment of Educational Assistants who offer one-to-one assistance to students in various academic and elective classes.

Our staff offers teacher in-service to develop stronger skills that enable our colleagues to better meet the individual requirements of those special needs students who are enrolled in regular classes. The Special Education staff also works with the counseling and

administrative departments in order to identify and assist students who may need the service of our department in order to succeed.

### Parent Involvement

Mission Secondary School is fortunate to have a very supportive parent group. The school's Parent Advisory Council makes a huge contribution every year. During the 2004/2005 school year, the PAC supported a range of student learning activities, including Dry Grad, the Breakfast Club, the Scholarship Team, Honour Roll Assemblies, School Dances, and school team uniforms.

One other group of parents did a unbelievable job with this year's graduating class. They organized the dry grad which had over 200 people attending. It was an event that had to be seen to be believed. We, as a school, cannot thank them enough for all their hard work. It was a fantastic night for our students.

It is a known fact that behind every successful student, there are excellent teachers and supportive parents. Mission Secondary will always continue to encourage parent to participate in and to provide input into the educational process.

### Support Staff

The support staff at Mission Secondary School continues to make a huge contribution to the success of the school. In all school events, the support staff takes an active role. They help organize

clubs and activities and they often attend school activities outside their regular hours. Often overlooked in the smooth daily operation of the school, these dedicated employees make huge contributions to the success of our students, teachers, and administrators.

### Maintaining the Course

It was great to receive the positive feedback from the media in regards to our ranking, but we know that the best is yet to come. The staff at Mission Secondary School is committed to the goals selected by the School Planning Council and will continue to work with all partner groups to achieve them. Growth at Mission Secondary School is a continuous process and a group effort. With assistance from our partner groups, our staff looks forward to meeting the challenges to come.

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