

Check out all these great events planned for students:

End of Term Extravaganza!

Join fellow students for a well-deserved evening out. Good food, good company, live jazz, fun, relaxation, and door prizes.....

Choose **December 8th** or **December 15th**.

There's a great menu planned which includes a vegetarian as well as chicken or meat entrées. Check out the menu on the posters in the cafeteria and around the campus.

Please reserve your spot in advance at Student Services by Dec 5. Suggested payment is \$5 or a donation of a non-perishable food item for the student emergency cupboard. We want as many of you to attend as possible, so please don't let the cost limit you - sign up anyway! Students can apply to volunteer with decorating or assisting at the event for a discount.

Make A Splash

Calling all swimmers and swimmers in progress... Swim Nights at the Aquannis Pool at Cowichan Centre on Sunday, Dec 11 & Sunday, Dec 18, 7-8 pm. This event is open to the Malaspina University-College community and admission is **free!** by showing your current student card. Immediate family or one or two friends can accompany you too. A lifeguard will be on duty.



Skating Party For All Ages!

See you at "the Stick" - Cowichan Centre Arena for a **Skating Party** on Thurs, Dec 22, 6:30-8 pm. Free admission, hot drinks & skate rentals for Malaspina University-College community. So that we can provide a treat for everyone attending, please register at Student Services.

Rock Out With...Rock & Glow Bowling!

Another fun student event - FREE with your student card!! Join us at Duncan Lanes, 2701 James Street on December 9 and December 16 from 9:30-10:30 pm. Make sure to get your pass at Student Services first.



Free Family Christmas Dinner

Having trouble making ends meet this Christmas? If so, Malaspina Students' Union Local 61 and Financial Aid invite you to a free family Christmas dinner on Dec 13 at the Nanaimo Campus. A van is arranged to leave Cowichan Campus at 4:30 pm and will return at 8:30 pm.

Register at Student Services as Santa will show up with presents for the kids.



Bring your kids, your parent, your spouse or partner! Bring a friend, come alone, come with classmates or a class group! Just BE THERE!

Dates and Deadlines

- Dec 5: Term 2 registration begins for returning CAP (upgrading) students
- Dec 12: Term 2 registration begins for new CAP (upgrading) students
- Jan 3: First day of spring term classes for CAP (upgrading) and University Programs
- Jan 16: Last day to add or drop University Program courses before spring semester tuition calculated
- Feb 1: University Programs tuition due for spring term

Emergency Closure

How will you know if the campus is closed if there is a heavy snowfall? Listen to the local radio station! Also, there will be a recorded message if you call the campus at 746-3500. For information about the Nanaimo campus, call 250-753-3245 or listen to

SUN FM 89.7 (this is a Duncan radio station that carries updates for the Nanaimo campus).

Cash for Books!

Text Book Buy Back, 9 am to 3 pm, at Cowichan Bookstore on:

- ✓ Monday, Dec 19
- ✓ Tuesday, Jan 3

More info at the Bookstore or call 746-3516.

Annual Christmas Tree Draw

Come to the Library and enter the draw for a Christmas tree decorated with edible goodies. This annual Library tradition is not a fund-raiser, so there is no cost attached. The tree will be on display starting Dec 5 and the draw will be held on Dec 13, but you can put your name and phone number in the draw box starting today!

Interested in Becoming an RCMP Officer?

Come to an info session at the Nanaimo Campus:

- Jan 17, 6:30 pm, Building 355, Room 203
- Mar 7, 6:30 pm Building 200, Room 203

Doors open at 6 pm. No need to pre-register.

Students Needed!

The First Nations Home Support Resident Care Attendant program starts in January and still has seats available. Students will gain the skills to work with and support the needs of First Nations people in a variety of healthcare settings. If you are interested, stop by Contract Services in the foyer of Building 602 for an information package or to set up an appointment for an interview.

Do You Need English 12?

For the first time, Malaspina is offering English 12 online. Can't fit in daily classes? Work better on your own? Tired of other people's smelly socks? You can do English 12 in your own home – just you and your computer! Check it out at: <http://oahu.ol.mala.bc.ca/OLLC/index.php?course=29>

What Kind of Dad Are You?

The Faculty of Social Sciences, the Faculty of Health and Human Services, and the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre, are pleased to sponsor an interactive presentation with Gardner Wiseheart, entitled "Dads Make a Difference" on Sunday Dec 4, from 1-3 pm at the Nanaimo campus - Building 355, Room 203. Mr. Wiseheart is the founder of "Maps for Dads" and "Healthy Families", two of the twelve programs recognised in the US by the Social Policy Action Network as being the most effective. There is no charge for attending the presentation, which is open to students, faculty, staff and the public. For more info, please call the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre at 716-1551.

Are You Unclassified?

If you applied for University Program courses after March 31, 2005, you are not a "regular" student but an "unclassified" one. There are other circumstances in which you might be unclassified too, such as having started University courses without a Grade 12 diploma when you are under 21. Check your status in your student record at https://www.mala.bc.ca/www/reg/sturecord_jsok.htm.

If you are unclassified you need to reapply to Malaspina before the end of February or March, 2006, depending on your program, in order to register for September 2006. More confused than ever? Drop by Student Services or call 746-3509 to make an appointment to talk with an Education Counsellor. We are open daily from 8:30-4 and Tuesday evenings until 7 pm.

New Funding Source

Are you a student on Income Assistance or Disability Benefits? If so, the Ministry of Employment & Income Assistance just announced that they have training funding available for adult upgrading classes or employment readiness classes (such as Foodsafe, Flagging, etc.) You should ask

for help with fees, books and travel costs. The Ministry of Employment & Income Assistance office is located at 205 Boundary Road. Clients can drop-in to see if they qualify or can call for an appointment at 746-2831.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Forum

There will be a Community Forum on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) on Dec 16. The speakers will be Drs. Sterling and Clarren and the event is being held off campus at the Oceanfront Grand Resort in Cowichan Bay.

There are two sessions, morning and afternoon. There is no charge for the event; however, registration is required, and individuals may register in one or both sessions. For more info, drop by Community Programming in Building 602 or call 746-3519.

Counsellors' Corner

Thanks for the holidays! Many of you (all?) are heaving a great sigh of relief now that the term is nearly over. I can assure you that the staff and faculty are also heaving sighs. Not that we don't love you all, but the slowdown and quiet time over the Christmas break is very welcome.

CBC radio recently featured a ramble about whether it is politically correct to use the term "Christmas". Perhaps, it was suggested, we should refer to "holidays" or the "season", etc. I think it is less important to try and be "correct" than to think about the attitude that we bring to this holiday period.

No matter what our spiritual beliefs, and many at our campus are not Christian, we might all benefit from contemplating thankfulness this holiday. Rex Murphy, also of CBC fame, said recently that people born in North America have "won the lottery". They, for the most part, live without extremes of war, famine or disease. While many individuals struggle with immense personal challenges, nevertheless as a society we are more affluent and peaceful than most. Our personal freedoms, while curtailed and under threat, are still more than most of our fellow humans, in other areas of the world, experience.

To add to this, as students you have this time set aside in your lives to study and learn; to think about what life means and what you want your life to mean; to find your dreams and to set out to achieve them. Such pursuits bring both joy and pain. But what a life gift to be here, expanding your knowledge and understanding. Often people look back on their university years as the most stimulating of their lives.

Join me in giving thanks for all we have been given. And take a moment to send thoughts of loving kindness to those who are suffering. Perhaps take one action to help someone in need. That will be a holiday well spent – no matter what we call it.

Gillian Reece



Happy Holiday from all of us in Student Services!