In June 2009, PSD was given a unique fund raising opportunity by long-time supporters, James and Frances Maguire. Through The Maguire Foundation, a leadership gift in the amount of $1 million was made for the purpose of building a new Student-Community Learning Center on PSD’s current campus. This expansion project at a total cost of $2.6 million is critical to making PSD a School of the 21st century. The grant is a challenge and matches dollar for dollar all gifts received by June 30, 2011.

PSD’s Maguire Center will provide a new dining hall for students in grades 1—12, a wireless internet café to enhance the School’s communication and technology capabilities, a state-of-the art Life Sciences laboratory, performing arts and community meeting space areas, and a teaching vegetable garden and kitchen. The latter will be the only full kitchen on campus for use at special events as well as to provide culinary arts classes for high school students. Critically needed office and meeting space for the Admissions and Counseling departments of the School are also planned. Sustainable design and historical appropriateness are key elements of this 5000 square foot facility, which will also meet all acoustic requirements for individuals with hearing loss.

Cont’d. page 6
Greetings and a Happy New Year to all! As you may know, PSD is the third oldest school for educating deaf children in the country and was founded in 1820, over 190 years ago. How does such a venerable institution keep evolving so that it keeps up to date with today’s world? What we do is honor the past while we adjust to the future.

With this in mind in this column I will discuss two major events currently happening at PSD: the upcoming Martin Luther King community service projects which our students are conducting and the Maguire Challenge campaign which will bring antiquated parts of our facility in line with 21st-century education and learning.

Let’s start with one of America’s icons, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King may no longer be with us but his legacy and, more importantly, his dream live on. That “dream” has rallied Americans all over to come together to contribute individually in big and small ways to make a difference in their own communities. PSD teachers and students work throughout the year participating in activities that enable them to give back to their community. In high school our students are working to collect used and new children’s clothes, toys, books, shoes, school supplies, car seats, strollers, and baby items to donate to another organization, Cradles to Crayons, which will distribute these items among those that need them most. In the Early Childhood Center, one class will be collecting crayons that have either been broken or reduced to stumps, and melt them down to make a new batch of crayons. Not only are these donations a way to share, but they are also an excellent way to recycle. Another student group will be cooking up biscuits for their canine friends along with collecting blankets and towels for animal shelters. There are photographs of students, teachers, and parents doing all this very gratifying community work in this issue.

Speaking of giving back to the community, there is one very important friend of PSD who is doing just that. His name is James Maguire. When he was starting his insurance business a number of years ago one of the first niche groups of customers he serviced was the Deaf Community, who had been unable to buy insurance in the past. Mr. Maguire became a very successful businessman but has always kept deaf and hard of hearing people close to his heart. With his very generous One Million Dollar Challenge to match up to $1 million of funds raised, he is helping PSD to modernize and expand our old cafeteria and classroom spaces, create a state-of-the-art bioscience laboratory, and design and equip a beautiful full kitchen, wireless internet café, and audiological sound booth appropriate for our students with cochlear implants and varying degrees of hearing loss. With many PSD buildings historically certified, what better way to bring them up to date for the students of today than with the new Maguire Student-Community Learning Center? Mr. Maguire recently authored a book, Just Show Up Every Day, which is chock full of timeless advice for individuals and organizations to become and stay successful.

So many people in our school and associated with our school contribute to the wonderful, ongoing legacy of PSD. We look at yesterday to stay motivated for today and this is what keeps PSD relevant and thriving.

“Dr. King may no longer be with us but his legacy and, more importantly, his dream live on. That ‘dream’ has rallied Americans all over to come together to contribute individually in big and small ways to make a difference in their own communities.”
As you may know, PSD’s Center for Community and Professional Services has undergone some changes recently. CCPS Director Gail Bober has moved to the other side of the street and now serves as PSD’s Director of Admissions, Evaluations and Related Services (AERS) for our 225 deaf and hard of hearing students. Bob Shilling succeeds Gail as CCPS Community Services Manager, along with his able staff which includes two Job Developers, a Job Readiness Coach, a Social Worker, a part-time literacy teacher, and a secretary/interpreter. Additionally the CCPS building is now full to capacity with the second floor rented out to Green Tree School, and office space on both first and third floors rented to MCC (Maternal Childcare Consortium) and DSC (Deaf Services Center).

CCPS continues to offer its cornerstone programs of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Job Center, which is busier than ever, as well as the final year of a United Way funded Deaf Adult Literacy Program. HIV-AIDS prevention education is coordinated in conjunction with Planned Parenthood, and Parent Support Groups and Deaf Awareness programs including campus tours, an outside speakers bureau, and performances by renowned deaf entertainers all continue.

During the past year the CCPS Job Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has received a greatly increased number of referrals from Pennsylvania OVR (the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation). As of October 2010, the Job Center had placed 7 clients during the previous two months in jobs as bank fraud investigators, bus monitors, packers, stockers, childcare aides, and environmental services. There are currently over 30 active clients working with CCPS still looking for work in the Philadelphia, Montgomery, Bucks and Delaware county areas and an additional 7 clients on a waiting list.

The CCPS Deaf Adult Literacy Program has downsized due to funding to offer just one evening class of 12 students this year. Twice a week these deaf or hard of hearing individuals come to CCPS for a two-plus hour session to hone their reading, writing and communication skills.

In other CCPS programs—There have been 2 public tours this year, with 10-15 people visiting PSD each time. There are 2 Parent Support groups which meet twice monthly: one for Hearing parents of Deaf Children which has 20 members, and another for Deaf Parents of Hearing Children with 6 members. HIV/AIDS prevention education funded through the AIDS Activities Office of the City of Philadelphia is ongoing and this year 34 youth have been assisted through the Health Resource Center at PSD, with community outreach providing AIDS information to about 100 Deaf individuals in the community.

Did You Know ..? Since part of CCPS’ mission is to educate members of the Hearing Community about Deafness and Deaf Culture, here are a few facts of interest:

- Dummy Hoy was a famous deaf baseball player who is credited with inventing the hand signals umpires still use today. His fans are working hard to have him voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.
- The kitchen is the favorite place for Deaf people to host their parties. Why? Its openness and brightness.
- PSD was at one time called PIDD (the Pennsylvania Institute for the Deaf and Dumb). The name was changed in 1928.
- Deaf and hard of hearing people prefer round tables and low centerpieces whenever they meet for meetings, dinner, at restaurants, etc. Why? So they can easily see each other for signed communication.
- Sign Language is not a universal language; gesture is. ASL is the fourth most widely used language in the world.
MLK Day of Community Service
January 14, 2011

(Clockwise from upper left): First graders made a sign for the Philadelphia Fire Department and brought the firemen cards and cookies as a part of their Martin Luther King, Jr.’s service. A kick-off assembly crowd in the gym was attended by all PSD students to get them energized to learn about the day’s festivities! Director of School-wide Programs Marsha Miceli gave peace signs while discussing Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy and why it is important to give back to the community. Eighth grade girls performed the song Imagine by John Lennon signing beautifully and in sync with the music. High school students collected blankets and made delicious dog biscuits from oatmeal and peanut butter for distribution to the local SPCA. The students were hands-on with all of their duties and enjoyed giving back to their community.
In and Around PSD

(1st row left to right:)
Hearing students at nearby elementary school learn American Sign Language from PSD students.
‘Lovely ladies’ posing in the library while getting some work done. A high school class uses computers for math studies.

(2nd row left to right:)
Intense focus on getting that clay to mold! MLK community service project to melt and mold old or broken crayons to make brand new ones!

(3rd row left to right:)
High school girls getting together for some smiles in the cafeteria before continuing their lunch. The boys taking in the beautiful snowy scenery outside on PSD’s campus.

(4th row left to right:)
BOO! A scary vampire and co-actor take a break for lunch. High schoolers enjoying a chat during lunch. Elementary student Justin Gabor rapping to one of the Other Justin’s (Justin Bieber’s) songs, “Baby, baby, baby ooooooh!”
PSD is currently in the 25th week of the design phase for the Maguire Center. UCI Architects, Inc. have held regular meetings with members of the School’s Building and Grounds Committee of the Board of Trustees as well as with key staff to discuss floor plans as well as lighting and acoustic needs specific for children with hearing loss and children with cochlear implants. The UCI team have also met with members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission and the PHMC (Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission) to secure the necessary permits for the Maguire Center, since PSD’s campus and most of its buildings are historically certified. The permitting process for the building renovation and addition are under way and a Construction Manager will be chosen shortly.

Many “green” elements have been included in the building’s design. Existing flagstone from the Main Building will be reused, rainwater runoff will water the vegetable garden, recycled material for carpeting will help with noise absorption, and skylights will make full use of natural lighting.

But how is the fund raising going? According to PSD Head of School, Dr. Larry S. Taub, “We are pleased and proud to say that we have over $762,000 in gifts and pledges toward the $1 Million Maguire Challenge. Our Board of Trustees have personally given over $290,000 toward the project total of $2.6 million and each of our constituent groups—parents, alumni, staff and students—are involved and being incredibly generous, especially in this current economy.”

PSD high school students are so excited about the Maguire Center that they scripted and filmed their own video which is closed captioned and uploaded on PSD’s website.

Looking ahead, groundbreaking ceremonies are tentatively scheduled for June 15th, with the Maguire Center ready to open for the September 2012 school year.

There is still time to help! Online contributions are possible via www.psd.org. You can give to the Power of One—

$1/week x 52 weeks x 2 years = $104 and secure a personal name plate/plates in PSD’s new building.

THANK YOU!
Meet Sara Wummer  
*Interviewed by Bob Shilling*

Sara is deaf, and has been working at The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf for 23 years. She graduated from the old PSD in 1982. Sara returned back to PSD without an application or interview and was hired, starting out as a bus monitor/classroom aide in 1987. She is currently a Behavior Specialist for PSD. Her favorite teacher during her PSD days was Nancy Tomar, a deaf P.E. teacher. Her best memory of PSD was when PSD’s girls’ basketball team beat the Model Secondary School for the Deaf for the first time in history. I asked her a few questions pertaining to PSD and her own hobbies.

PSD: How do you view PSD?  
Sara: PSD is a true survivor! PSD has been through rough times and has still survived throughout them.

PSD: Why do you like working at PSD?  
Sara: There is open communication and no language barriers at all. Sign language is the language that PSD uses at all times.

PSD: What do you like to do during your free time? Any hobbies or interests?  
Sara: I enjoy going to the beach, taking pictures, doing photography. I also enjoy playing softball, flag football, and swimming.

Meet Jordan Sanjaya  
*Interviewed by Sarah Taub*

Let’s meet Jordan Sanjaya, an 18 year old junior here at PSD. Jordan is a student who not only attends PSD; he also mainstreams at Germantown Friends School for a couple of his courses. Jordan is a friendly student who enjoys many hobbies and aspires to continue his education after PSD.

PSD: So I hear you mainstream at Germantown Friends School. Do you like to mainstream there? How is it interacting with Germantown Friends School students?  
Jordan: It is more challenging and it keeps me motivated. When I work with hearing students in the classes I take, I feel it will improve my future.

PSD: What classes do you take at GFS?  
Jordan: Math and science.

PSD: Do you have any favorite subjects? Why?  
Jordan: Math and science. I like to figure out problems in math. Science is fun because I get to study real life problems and figure them out too.

PSD: How are your classes here at PSD?  
Jordan: English is good here and I also like social studies. But classes at PSD are different and I enjoy the challenge at GFS.

PSD: What do you look forward to every day here at PSD?  
Jordan: I look forward to spending time socializing with my friends.

PSD: What is your most memorable moment at PSD so far?  
Jordan: First, I made great friends here, so I’d have to go with friends. Then, I enjoy helping kids that can’t write as well as I do and helping them solve math problems too.

PSD: Do you have any plans for after graduation? What would they be?  
Jordan: After graduation I plan to go to college. I am interested in Rochester Institute of Technology for math and science. I’m excited for the new experience.

PSD: So, do you feel ready to start your new chapter away at college?  
Jordan: Yes, definitely!

Jordan also expressed that he has many hobbies but he is really interested in graphic design and photography. He loves to read and reads a lot. Currently, Jordan is reading the novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, by Khalid Hosseini.
PSD started the 2010-2011 School Year with two new Directors. **GAIL BOBER**, who has worked at PSD for over 25 years and most recently as Director of CCPS, succeeds Jack Voss who retired last June. Gail’s new title is Director of AERS (Admissions, Evaluations, and Related Services). **WALTER MAMROSCH**, who was formerly Business Manager at neighboring Green Tree School, succeeds Frank Franus who also retired last June. At PSD Walt is Director of Financial and Administrative Services. Welcome and congratulations!

**MELISSA DRAGANAC-HAWK** recently was a 2011 Award Winner of the Gallaudet University Alumni Association (GUAA) Outstanding Young Alumnus Award. The award is granted to a young alumnus or alumna of Gallaudet University of the past 15 years who has performed some impressive service to the University and/or the Deaf Community, or who has brought recognition to Gallaudet through some notable achievement in his/her personal or professional life. Melissa was the EmCee for the National Association for the Deaf Opening Ceremony at the Biennial Conference in Philadelphia last July. She is employed as ASL Specialist at PSD.

America’s one and only Deaf illusionist/magician, Sam Sandler, thrilled PSD students and their friends at a recent performance at the school. Lights, lasers, and sound are all part of the glitzy show which can be booked for other schools or groups. Information available at www.samsandler.com.