



OCTOBER 2 - 6, 2023

Monday Oct 2	Tuesday Oct 3	Wednesday Oct 4	Thursday Oct 5	Friday Oct 6
<i>Statutory Holiday in Lieu of The National Day For Truth and Reconciliation</i>	Day 2	Day 1 Collaboration Day Classes Start at 9:55am	Day 2 World Teacher Day	Day 1
School Closed				
<i>Oct 1 National Seniors' Day</i>				

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Saturday, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day). September 30 honours the children lost and the survivors of residential schools, their families, and communities. We encourage the McNair community to reflect and find meaningful ways to recognize and raise awareness of the very tragic legacy of residential schools in Canada.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zuRQmwaREY> Chief Robert Joseph shares his experience as a residential school survivor and the importance of truth and reconciliation in Canada.

Flex Time Sign-Up

Please strongly encourage your child to sign up for Flex. It is expected that students sign up in advance, set a goal, and are present in class getting support from a teacher. Flex time is not to be used as social time.

World Teacher Day (Oct 5)

World Teachers' Day is held annually on October 5 to celebrate all teachers around the globe. The McNair staff is very privileged to have the opportunity to support your children as they learn and grow in this crucial stage of their lives. On October 5th, we take the opportunity to say thank you to our teachers for the work they do to support our students.

National Seniors' Day (Oct 1)

An occasion for Canadians to celebrate the contributions of seniors in our homes, communities, and workplaces.

Collaboration Day Bell Schedule

<i>Wed, Oct 4</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>
Collab	8:30am	9:50am
Block A	9:55am	10:55am
Block B	11:00am	12:00pm
Break	12:00pm	12:15pm
Block C	12:20pm	1:20pm
Lunch	1:20pm	1:55pm
Block D	2:00pm	3:00pm

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Oct 7-8 *Simchat Torah (Judaism)*
- Oct 9 *Thanksgiving (School Closed)***
- Oct 10 *World Mental Health Day*
- Oct 11 *International Day of the Girl*
- Oct 15-24 *Navaratri (Hinduism)*
- Oct 17 *Learning Updates Emailed Home*
- Oct 18 *Post-Secondary Institutions Fair (10:30-12) Persons Day*
- Oct 19 *Virtual PAC Meeting at 7PM – details to follow*
- Oct 19-22 *Leadership Conference*
- Oct 19 *Spirit Day*
- Oct 20 *Pro-D Day (School Closed)***
- Oct 24 *Dussehra (Hinduism) Youth Climate Action Day*
- Oct 25 *Photo Retake Day*

In October, We Recognize:

German Heritage Month: A time to recognize the contributions German Canadians and how their heritage has shaped Canada's current social and economic fabric.

Canadian Islamic History Month: A time when all Canadians can learn about the culture, contributions, and achievements of the Muslim community.

Community Inclusion Month: This month celebrates the valuable contributions that people with developmental disabilities make and recognizes the importance of communities where everyone is included.

Autism Awareness Month: An opportunity for Canadians to learn about autism and how we can support people living with autism, their families and their caregivers.

Latin American Heritage Month: A time to showcase the richness and vitality of Latin American cultures and heritage while reflecting on the contributions the Latin American community have made to Canadian culture.

Women's History Month: In 1992, the Government of Canada designated October as Women's History Month, marking the beginning of an annual month-long celebration of the outstanding achievements of women throughout Canada's history.

Matthew McNair Secondary School

9500 No. 4 Road, Richmond, BC V7A 2Y9 Phone: 604-668-6575 Early Warning: 604-295-6427

Email: mcnair@sd38.bc.ca • Website: <https://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/>

Instagram: @mcnair_marlins_official

Dear Parents,

A very happy new school year to you all! We hope that all the families were able to have a relaxing and safe summer break. A warm welcome to everyone, especially to the families new to McNair! Once again, we invite you all to join the McNair Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) where you can voice what is important for your child and where we can together form a supportive learning community for our kids.

This year the PAC will hold virtual meetings every alternative month starting in Oct (date to be determined). The meeting link will be sent closer to the date.

URGENT NEED OF PAC EXECUTIVES FOR 2023-2024

We are urgently looking for parent volunteers to fill executive roles (Co-Chair/Vice-Chair, Secretary) for McNair PAC.

Role/Responsibilities:

The **co-chair/Vice-Chair** will help lead and host PAC meetings, be the key contact for the Richmond District Parent Advisory Committee (RDPA), and school administration, as well as voice any concerns from parents/students as needed. The **Secretary** will help record and share meeting minutes and post an agenda for period PAC meetings. If you are interested or want to nominate someone, please get in touch with us at mcnairsd38pac@gmail.com

We especially encourage Grade 8 parents to consider playing this important leadership role as this is a great way to make connections with school administration as well as other parents and contribute to building a safe and supportive learning environment.

Secondary School PAC also plays an important role in making decisions on the Gaming Grant allocations to support scholarships, clubs, and various extra-curricular activities at school. If we do not have PAC executives:

- Our PAC will be dissolved.
- We will not get any gaming grant money from the government used for our kid's extracurricular activities.
- We will not receive any funding from the District PAC when available.
- No possibility for dry after-grad events or fundraising for future Grade 12 students.

Decisions on how to support your child(ren)'s education should not be made by only a handful of parents. We hope to see many of you at the upcoming PAC meeting in Oct. Joining the PAC has been a fulfilling experience for current and past executives as we are able to contribute to our kids' school's overall experience.

ACTION ITEM FOR GRADE 12 PARENTS: ASSEMBLE A DRY AFTER GRAD COMMITTEE (DAG)

What is a Dry-after Grad? If you wonder, you are not alone. Many families ask this question every year. Therefore, we want to share information about this early on to raise awareness about this event that requires significant efforts from parent volunteers (especially Grade 12).

Dry Grad is an all-night supervised celebration for Grade 12 students after their graduation dinner party in a safe, fun environment. The purpose of "Dry Grad" is to provide ALL Grad students an opportunity to celebrate together one last time as a class in a supervised and completely safe alcohol and drug-free environment before they move to their post-secondary pursuits. The Dry Grad is **organized and planned by a volunteer parents' committee** and is **not funded by the school**. **Fundraising by parent volunteers** is the only source of funds for the grads to have an event like this and it requires significant funding (~\$15-\$20K). Therefore, we urge Grade 12 parents to start planning early to fundraise and build a Dry Grad Committee. **This event can only happen with committed parent participation, either by leading/supporting the fundraisers, donations and your time for the party.**

For more details on what is a dry-grad event and what preparation required, please read

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/managing-your-health/lifestartsnow_drygrad_web.pdf

We ask all Grade 12 parents (and any other parents interested in helping) to organize a meeting after the Oct PAC meeting to form Dry After Grad Committee (DAG Committee) and start planning in time.

FACEBOOK PAGE

We invite you all to join the Facebook page for McNair PAC to engage in conversations with other parents, give suggestions, ask questions or simply network with other parents of McNair students.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/231812398863620>

For any questions about PAC Executive positions or any other questions related to PAC, please contact mcnairsd38pac@gmail.com

Sincerely,

McNair PAC Executive Board