

# OCTOBER 16 - 20, 2023

Monday Oct 16	Tuesday Oct 17	Wednesday Oct 18	Thursday Oct 19	Friday Oct 20
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Provincial Pro-D Day (School Closed)</b>
Grade 12 Parent Info Session on <a href="#">Teams</a> (6:30pm)	Learning Updates (Interim Reports) Emailed Home	Post-Secondary Institution Fair (10:30am - 12:00pm)	Career Programs Assembly (Flex)	<i>Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikhism)</i>
<i>Navaratri (Hinduism Oct 15-24)</i>		<i>Persons Day</i>	<i>Spirit Day</i>	
Leadership Conference (Oct 19-22)				

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

### Grade 12 Parent Information Session (Oct 16)

All grade 12 parents are encouraged to join the McNair counselling and administration teams as we provide important updates on graduation requirements, post-secondary opportunities, and grad events. [Click here](#) to join the meeting on Teams.

### Informal Learning Updates (Oct 17)

Parents and students will receive learning updates by email on **Tuesday afternoon, Oct 17<sup>th</sup>**. These reports contain important information on learning progress and work habits. They are a good early indication of how your child is doing in their classes. Parents are asked to review their child's learning update carefully and take the opportunity to discuss it with your child. Please see below for some suggestions on how to approach this.

### Reviewing Learning Updates with Students

Learning updates are an opportunity for students and parents to reflect on growth since the start of the year. All students, with the assistance of teachers/parents are asked to reflect on:

- What did I work hard at that I am proud of so far?
- How did I use my strengths and push myself to grow?
- What are my stretches and how am I going to continue to improve in these areas?

### Post-Secondary Institutions Fair (Oct 18)

A number of post-secondary institutions will be at McNair for the post-secondary fair. All grade 11 and 12 students will be invited to speak with the post-secondary reps to learn about their program offerings.

### Career Programs Assembly (Oct 19)

Teachers from the District Career Programs Office will be at McNair to present information about the skilled trade programs offered by the Richmond School District. Please see the [Career Programs website](#) for more information.

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Oct 24 *Dussehra (Hinduism)*  
*Youth Climate Action Day*
- Oct 25 Photo Retake Day
- Oct 26 Literacy 12 Prep Session (Flex)  
PAC Meeting (7:00pm)
- Oct 27-29 Loon Lake Music Trip
- Oct 30 Haunted House
- Oct 31 *Halloween*
- Nov 1 Collaboration Day  
Gr 9 Take Our Kids to Work Day  
*Musqueam Day*
- Nov 3 Grade 12 Literacy Assessment
- Nov 7 *National Inuit Day*
- Nov 8 *Indigenous Veterans Day*
- Nov 10 Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Nov 11 *Remembrance Day*
- Nov 13 **Statutory Holiday (School Closed)**

### Navaratri (Hinduism Oct 15-24)

A festival that spans over nine nights (and ten days) and is celebrated every year in the autumn season.

### Persons Day (Oct 18)

This day marks the historic decision in 1929 to include women in the legal definition of "persons" was handed down by Canada's highest court of appeal.

### Spirit Day (Oct 19)

A day when people are encouraged to wear purple to create awareness for the bullying and harassment that the 2SLGBTQ+ community faces.

### Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth (Oct 20)

The anniversary of the day in 1604 when the Granth Sahib, the sacred text of Sikhism, was formally adopted at the site in Amritsar that became the Golden Temple.

## Matthew McNair Secondary School

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# THE MCNAIR WAAG

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](mailto: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](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](mailto:mcnairsd38pac@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

**McNair PAC Executive Board**