



MATTHEW MCNAIR SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

HOME OF THE MARLINS - ESTABLISHED IN 1974

Principal:	Mr. J. Leslie	Address:	9500 No 4 Road, Richmond, BC, V7A 2Y9
Vice Principals:	Mr. M. Jaswal & Ms. D. Ten-Pow	Phone:	604-668-6575 Fax: 604-668-6585
PAC:	Mr. B. Aujla	Early Warning:	604-295-6497
Trustee Liaison:	Mr. K. Hamaguchi	Twitter:	@McNairMarlins
		Website:	http://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca

Principal's message:

Welcome Back!

September 6th is fast approaching and it is time to think about going back to school! I hope this newsletter finds you still enjoying the fantastic weather this summer.

Though there is still some holiday time left it is not too soon to begin thinking about the possibilities offered with the fresh start we are provided every September. Each student has the opportunity to decide, on their own, individual goals for this school year. Whether your child wishes to improve academic achievement, become a member of a sports team, get involved in service activities or clubs, or explore post-secondary options, McNair has many opportunities to offer. Our goal is for each child to achieve his or her full potential.

Inside this newsletter you will find information about school start up and the schedule for the first day of school. Our first PAC meeting will take place on September 13th at 7:00 p.m. and all parents are welcome to attend. In the spirit of protecting our environment and saving on paper our regular newsletters will be posted on our website: www.matthewmcnair.ca. We will also email newsletters to you if you ensure your current email address is filled in on your child's verification/medical form, which will come home on the first day of school.

As parents you play a key role in your child's education and it is not too early to begin conversations around the importance of good work habits, regular study time, and establishing personal bests as this year's goal.

Enjoy the last days of summer - on behalf of the entire McNair staff we look forward to working with you and your children in the 2016-2017 school year.

-Mr. Jason Leslie
Principal

New Student Orientation, Tour & Welcoming For Grade 9-12



The *Marlinaires* (Students for Social Responsibility, Leadership and Citizenship) will be hosting an orientation on **Thursday, September 1st at 11:00 a.m.** for students new to McNair this coming year. The Orientation will be held in the Library. All new grade 9 to 12 students are encouraged to

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Course Changes

Please be advised, *most courses are now very full*. Therefore, other than timetable corrections, there will be **no more course changes**.

**New School Year Package Mail-Out**

To Help all of you get the year off to an organized start, we've provided:

- School photo information
- A school map and bell schedule (Grade 8)
- Retreat information letter (Grade 8)
- Student invoice for fees owing

Important Note**Schedule for the FIRST DAY of SCHOOL - Tuesday, September 6, 2016**

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **Grade 8** students report to the Large Gym for Welcome Back Assembly and to meet homeroom teachers and mentors. In homeroom, students will receive their schedule, locker info and student verification/medical form and will be able to pay fee statements. Students are recommended to use the theft-resistant lock provided by the school.

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **Grade 9 - 10** students will start in the Large gym for a Welcome Back Assembly and then will be directed to their homeroom classes to receive their schedules, lockers, verification/medical forms and pay fee statements. Students are reminded to bring their lockers from last year. If you cannot locate yours, you may purchase a new one for \$10.00 from the Business Assistant.

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. **Grade 11 - 12** students will start with a Welcome Back Assembly in the Large Gym and then be directed to their homeroom classes to receive their schedules, lockers, fee statements and verification/medical forms. Students are reminded to bring their lockers from last year. If you cannot locate yours, you may purchase a new one for \$10.00 from the Business Assistant.

Most importantly, do not share your combination with anyone else. The lock you will be provided with is yours to keep. There is a charge of \$10.00 for the lock, but you will not have to return it to us.

Marlinaires, Mentors and teachers will be available in the halls to assist students new to the school. Homeroom lists will be published and placed on the window at the front of the school at the end of the day on September 2nd. Students will be able to find their homeroom by looking through the list to find their name (listed alphabetically by last name), then cross-referencing their Homeroom, ie: 9A, 9B, 9C, etc., with the room number list next to the student name list. New students should bring our school map with them this week. All students will report to the large gym on the first day (September 6th).

Homerooms September 7th - 9th

We will have a brief **homeroom class each morning** for the **first week of classes** to provide students with relevant information and obtain accurate attendance figures. Each homeroom teacher will also review the school expectations and procedures, distribute agendas, and answer ongoing questions students may have.

It is very important that you attend this homeroom class each day. If you do not attend homeroom during the early days of the school year, your home will be phoned. If we are unable to contact you, we will assume you are attending another school and you will be withdrawn from McNair.

Fee Statements

We hope to have individual fee statements mailed to families with the other documents in our summer mail out. These fees will include the general \$28.00 fee which all Richmond secondary students pay to cover the cost of agendas, communication, Grade 8 Retreat and student council activities. Optional fees such as yearbook, grad events, charge for locks, etc. will also be indicated. **Please bring your school fees to homeroom the first week of school. Please make sure student numbers are written on cheques. If you wish to pay before school starts, you can report to the Business Assistant office starting Monday, August 29th. Payment must be by cash of cheque only.**

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Important Note (Cont'd)**Student Course Schedules - Please Note:**

Schedules will be distributed September 6th. If you are currently registered, but not planning to attend this year, please phone us at (604) 668-6575 as soon as possible. Counsellors will be available in the school August 29th to September 2nd **for new students only, by appointment**, between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Mini School Students

Strathcona organizational meeting is on Tuesday, September 6th. **All Grades meet @ 11:45 am in the large Gym.**

Parents of Grade 8 Students

If you are the parent of a new Grade 8 Marlin please expect a welcome phone call from a McNair mentor the last week of summer holidays. Your child will have an opportunity to ask any questions they may have about school start up. We will also be offering a Grade 8 welcoming assembly on **Wednesday, August 31st at 11:30 in the large gym.** We encourage all Grade 8's to attend this meeting.

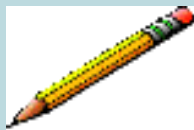
Grade 8 Retreat

We are looking forward to our two day Grade 8 retreat **Tuesday, September 20th and Wednesday, September 21st.** On the first day, Grade 8 classes will be taking a bus to **Grouse Mountain** to experience the *Eye of the Needle, the Feasthouse presentation and a guided Eco-Walk.* The second day will include a trip to the **Richmond Olympic Oval** for some team building games and a tour of the **Vancouver International Airport.** The cost is \$50 per student and includes bus transportation, activities and a t-shirt. The themes are: meeting new classmates, social responsibility, and teambuilding. It promises to be fun, so be sure to get signed up! **Please be sure to send along a bag lunch for your child!**

FOR ALL STUDENTS:**A Word About What To Bring To School**

On **Tuesday, September 6th**, please bring the following items with you to homeroom:

- A pen, pencil and paper
- New students please bring map



On **Wednesday, September 7th**, the first day of regular classes, you will also need:

- **Your agenda**
- binder and loose-leaf paper for each of your 4 classes
- PE strip if you are taking Physical Education Semester I

As this is a regular school day, the warning bell will ring at the usual time of 8:15 and homeroom will start at 8:20 AM.

Attendance - Regular attendance is a key to success in school!

The work rate in a semester school is rapid, so missing class time puts students behind very quickly. If students must miss time for any reason, a phone call must be made to the school office by a parent/guardian the morning of an absence, or a written explanation is required, signed by a parent or guardian. **Skipping class is not acceptable.**

**EARLY WARNING PHONE LINE**

(604) 295-6427

McNair has an **early warning phone line** which is accessible 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Please report all absences by calling McNair, using this phone number. to report your child's absence or if he/she will be late.

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Important Note (Cont'd)**Meet the Teacher**

You will be able to meet your son or daughter's teachers on the evening of **Thursday, September 22nd**. The evening begins with a welcome in the gym at 7:00 p.m. followed by an opportunity to meet your child's teachers in their classrooms. More information regarding this evening will be sent home in September.

Work Habits

Attitudes toward learning, cooperation, attendance, punctuality, and the ability to work well with others are very important aspects of effective learning. At McNair, we value work habits. Student work habits are reported on all report cards:

- G** - Work habits are **good**.
S - Work habits are **satisfactory**.
N - Work habits **need to improve**.

**Student Information Verification/Medical Forms**

Students will receive their Student Information Verification/Medical Form on **September 8th**, during their homeroom class. Please ensure that the Student Information Verification Form is filled out with current, accurate, information. Please be sure to include the name and number of an alternate contact who speaks English. **Please make any changes directly onto the form and return to the office as soon as possible or by September 9th. Please include an accurate email address.**

Protect Personal Belongings

The best defense against acts of theft is to not bring valuable items to school. Protect your belongings and do not leave money or other valuables in an unattended bag, locker or changing room. Students should **LEAVE VALUABLES AT HOME!**

Academic Honesty

We believe that every student has the responsibility to participate actively in their own learning. When faced with problems to solve or assignments to complete, it is the thinking and the effort a student puts into researching, reading, writing and re-writing that allows one to truly learn.

Similarly, submitting the work of another student, tutor, parent, friend, etc. as your own work (even though it has been properly footnoted and referenced) is plagiarism and not acceptable at school. This applies equally to written work and projects (ie: Web design, tech projects, art work, and photos). Tutors should not write, re-write or significantly edit large sections of work for a student. It is the student's responsibility to avoid deliberate or accidental plagiarism and to verify and account for all of their own work and learning.

Newsletters

"The Marliner" newsletters are posted on our web page monthly:

www.matthewmcnair.ca Keep up with the news at McNair.

**Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**

Our Parent Advisory group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The first meeting of the 2016 - 2017 year is at **7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 13th**. Come join us as we get acquainted, enjoy refreshments and set our goals for this year.

New Members Welcome!

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Important Note (Cont'd)**Class Attendance**

Attendance is taken in each class during the day. If a student is absent first period and the school has not been notified, the school **will** phone home for Grades 8 to 11. If a student is missing from a later class but was at school earlier in the day, you may be telephoned by an administrator, teacher, or counsellor. Also, a recorded voice message is sent home at the end of the school day through our Synvoice System. Regular attendance is necessary for successful learning, which is the primary goal we share with our students and their families, regardless of whether they are in Grade 8 or Grade 12.

Early Dismissal

If students need to leave the school during the day, please send them with a dated note, signed by a parent, indicating when we should dismiss them. **Students should bring the note to the office before school starts, or at break.** **The student must sign-out at the office before he/she leaves, either with a note or parental permission.**

Calendar

A school calendar for parents' use indicating important dates for the school year will be mailed home in late August. Each student will be issued an agenda book with the same information on the first day of school. Please make use of these helpful tools.

Student Agenda

Students will receive a McNair agenda book during homeroom in the first week of school. These organizers outline school policies and are very effective tools to help students keep track of homework, assignments, and important dates. Please ask your child to show you his/her agenda and note the information it contains. **As parents, you can help your child by asking to see this agenda daily and by encouraging your child to make full use of it.**

Pick Up and Drop Off Of Students

Help us make McNair a safe school and a good neighbour by doing what you can to ease the problem of traffic congestion. Please **do not** enter the north side parking lot from No. 4 Road as this creates an unsafe situation for those exiting from the drop-off. Please respect Enter and Exit signs. We encourage students to walk or bike to school as much as possible as it greatly helps reduce traffic congestion around the school. **If you must drop off or pick up a student,** please do so before 8:00 a.m. and do not stop in the parking lot, but proceed to the drop-off area in front of the school.

Smoking

Smoking is a serious health hazard and students are not permitted to smoke **anywhere on school property.** As of September 2007, smoking is not permitted in or around schools in British Columbia.

Cell Phones/ Electronic Device

Cell phones or other electronic devices are not to be used, seen, or heard during class time, except with specific permission of teachers for educational activities. Please **do not** call your child on his/her cell phone during class time. In case of an emergency please call the school office at (604) 668-6575 and we will contact your child for you.



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Calendar for 2016-2017:

MATTHEW MCNAIR SECONDARY SCHOOL 2016/2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR	
New Student Orientation	Wednesday August 31
Schools Open	Tuesday September 6
First Day of Semester 1 Classes	Wednesday September 7
Grade 8 Retreat	September 19 to September 21
Meet the Teacher Night (Semester 1)	Thursday September 22
Non-Instructional Day	Friday September 23
School Photos	Wednesday September 28
Collaboration Day	Wednesday October 5
Breaking Down the Walls Presentation	October 5 to October 7
Thanksgiving Day	Monday October 10
Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)	Friday October 21
School Photo Retakes	Thursday October 27
Collaboration Day	Wednesday November 2
Take Your Kids to Work Day (Gr. 9s)	Wednesday November 2
Report Cards Issued (Semester 1: Term 1)	Thursday November 10
Remembrance Day Assembly	Thursday November 10
Remembrance Day	Friday November 11
Parent Teacher Conferences (2 – 4 pm)	Wednesday November 16
Parent Teacher Conferences (2 – 4 pm & 6 – 8 pm)	Thursday November 17
Non-Instructional Day	Monday November 28
Non-Instructional Day	Monday December 5
Collaboration Day	Wednesday December 7
Graduation Portrait Sessions	December 11 to December 15
Winter Vacation Period	December 19 to January 2
Schools Reopen after Winter Vacation	Monday January 3
Collaboration Day	Wednesday January 4
Provincial Exams	January 24 to January 27
First Day of Semester 2	Monday January 30
Collaboration Day	Wednesday February 1
Report Cards Issued (Semester 1 – Final)	Friday February 3
BC Family Day	Monday February 13
Non-Instructional Day	Friday February 24
Collaboration Day	Wednesday March 1
Spring Vacation Period	March 13 to March 24
Schools Reopen	Tuesday March 27
Collaboration Day	Wednesday April 5
Good Friday	Friday April 14
Easter Monday	Monday April 17
Report Cards Issued (Semester 2: Term 1)	Friday April 21
Parent Teacher Conferences (2 – 4 pm)	Wednesday April 26
Parent Teacher Conferences (2 – 4 pm & 6 – 8 pm)	Thursday April 27
Non-Instructional Day	Monday May 1
Collaboration Day	Wednesday May 3
Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)	Friday May 19
Victoria Day	Monday May 22
Valedictory	Friday, June 9
Provincial & In-School Exams	June 23 to June 28
Last Day of Semester 2	Thursday June 29
Final Report Cards Issued	Thursday June 29
Schools Close	Friday June 30

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School Information



Daily Schedule:

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Schedule

Office Operation Hours in a School Day	7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Number of days in Session:	194
Number of days of Instruction:	187
Minutes of Instruction per day:	309
Hours of Instruction in a School week:	25 hrs, 45 min.

Daily Bell Schedule:

	Time
Block A	8:20 – 9:34
Silent Reading	9:39 – 9:57
Block B	9:57 – 11:15
<i>Break</i>	<i>11:15 – 11:32</i>
Block C	11:37 – 12:51
<i>Lunch</i>	<i>12:51 – 1:31</i>
Block D	1:36 – 2:50

Have You Moved During the Summer?

If so, please advise Matthew McNair school office (604) 668-6575 of any changes to your address, phone numbers or parent email address.



Email: McNair@sd38.bc.ca

Website: www.matthewmcnair.ca

Please take advantage of the McNair Web Page by logging on to receive up-to-date information about school events, news items and other relevant McNair news.

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