



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:

Winter holidays are now upon us and we will soon be welcoming in a new year. Report Cards went home in the middle of last month, and students are getting ready for the final push of semester One. Shortly after returning from the holidays, students will be immersed in preparing for year-end projects, tests and Provincial and Final exams in the final three weeks of class before Semester One ends.

December is always a fun-filled and busy month, and this year was no exception. Our Winter Sports teams are up and running, and we had a very spirited Pep Rally and Home Opener for Basketball season on **December 6th**. The Grad Winter Formal on **November 25th** was a huge success and the Mini School potluck on **December 7th** raised over **\$1800.00** for Canuck Place, our biggest fund-raising effort ever!

Auditions have concluded for the Spring Production of **The Lion King**. Rehearsals for the play will continue after the holidays. The school is also raising money and awareness for several causes including: the Richmond Food Bank, The Singing Frogs Christmas Shoebox campaign, the Downtown Eastside, and for our Courtyard Beautification Project. **McNair truly does CARE.**

The last day of school is **Friday, December 16th**, and Student Council planned a hearty **Santa's Breakfast**, with proceeds going to our own SEVA Breakfast Club and the Courtyard Beautification Committee. We hope to see you all there! The holidays will run from **December 17th through January 2nd**, and the school will reopen on **Tuesday, January 3rd**. We hope that all families take the opportunity to reconnect with each other, share some time together and relax and get ready for the challenges that will come in the new year.

January will be hectic as courses wind up and we begin planning for the 2017-18 school year. Parents are invited to an **Open House and Parent Program Planning night** (for all grades) on **Thursday, January 26th** where we showcase many of the great things that happen in McNair classrooms, and talk about what courses students will need to consider taking next year. The Provincial Exam schedule starts on **January 24th** (English 12 will be at 9:00 AM in the small gym on January 24th and Communications 12 will be at 9:00 AM in the small gym on January 25th). All students should be speaking with their teachers and preparing for school and Provincial exams right away. With fewer exams in the Provincial Exam schedule, students will be expected to be in class all the way until Thursday, January 26th participating in year-end projects and exams, plus a wide variety of learning opportunities. More information about the exam schedule can be found at: <https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams>

PAC will be meeting again in the new year and would like to welcome all interested parents to attend on **Tuesday, January 10th at 7 PM**. The **Dry Grad Committee** will also be meeting to plan for the big Grad party in June, so please look for information from them about how you can get involved.

More than anything, the entire McNair community would like to extend the warmest holiday wishes to you and your family. Enjoy a great break and we look forward to seeing you in the new year!

--Mr. Jason Leslie

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Merry Christmas to everyone!!!



Breakfast with Santa and Hoe Down:

The last day of school is a fun-filled extravaganza! On **December 16th**, the Marlinaires and Student Council will host the annual **Santa's Breakfast**. All students are welcome to attend, and for just **\$4**, you will be served a breakfast of sausages, pancakes, juice and a mandarin orange. All proceeds will go to the SEVA Breakfast Club. Breakfast will go from **7:45-9:00 AM**. At lunchtime, the PE department will host the annual **Hoe-Down**. All students are welcome to attend, watch, and participate in a variety of dances from **12:30-1:45 PM**. Don't miss out!

Open House and Program Planning Information Night:

January 26th, 2017, Matthew McNair Secondary will be hosting its second annual **Program Planning evening and Open House**. From 6:00-7:00 PM, Grade 7 parents are welcome to attend an information session in the McNair Theatre to learn about what high-school life will be like for our newest Marlinaires. From 7:00-8:00 PM, our students and staff will be situated all around the school showcasing many of the great things our students and staff are teaching, learning and engaged in. This evening is open to all of our incoming Grade 7's as well as our current students and parents, and also serves as our Meet the Teacher Night for semester 2 classes. From 8:00-9:00 PM, Grade 8-11 students and parents are to report to the McNair Theatre to get Program Planning information for all students who will be returning to McNair in September 2017. This event was hugely successful last year and is a great showcase for all of the fantastic things happening in and around this excellent school. We look forward to seeing all of our current and future parents at this evening on **Thursday, January 26th**.

On-Line Safety:

Teenagers live in an incredibly connected, digital world that is changing every day. Communication happens faster now than ever before through all kinds of platforms (Texting, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, SnapChat, and many others). Students are reminded to always be thoughtful online. Parents are encouraged to learn about social media and reinforce with their children that their digital footprint can be traced to them and will stay with them forever. Be sure to demonstrate the same care, kindness and respect online that you do in person. Always think before you text or post-is this something I would be okay with my parents seeing? If not, then don't send!

Subscribe to the McNair Secondary School Website:

The school website has been completely updated this year and contains a wealth of information about McNair Secondary School, including our School and Athletics calendars. All McNair families are encouraged to bookmark <http://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca> and add it to their *Favourites* folder and check the website weekly. We have also added a new feature this year and you have the option of subscribing to our website. If you subscribe, you will receive an email when anything new is added to the main page or when a monthly school newsletter is published. Check it out today!

Follow McNair Secondary School on Twitter:

Please stay connected to our school and join the over 475 students, parents, alumni and community members who are already following McNair on Twitter! This is a great way to get short reminders and updates of all that is happening at McNair Secondary. Twitter is easy to use from your smart phone or computer and is a very popular social media platform used by millions of businesses, universities, news agencies and community organizations in Richmond, Canada and throughout the world. Follow us: @McNairMarlins



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Happy Holidays:

December 17th to January 2nd is the **Winter Holiday**. These two weeks are a wonderful time for families and friends to reconnect with one another, catch up on some rest and make some wonderful memories together. On behalf of all the staff at McNair, we wish you and yours all the best this holiday season. Please celebrate the holiday season safely and with care.

PAC Meetings:

The McNair PAC executive invites you to attend PAC meetings held on the second Tuesday of the month in the conference room. These meetings provide an overview of what is happening at school and an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. At our last PAC meeting (November 10th) decisions regarding Gaming Money requests were made and staff around the school were given money in order to supplement programs. Our next meeting is scheduled for **January 10th at 7 PM.**

End of Semester One:

With the reduction to the Provincial Exam schedule (only exams still on the schedule are English 12 and Communications 12), there is no need to dismiss students from classes at the end of the Semester. As a result, **Semester One classes will run all the way until Thursday, January 26th.** There will be one **Non-Instructional Day (Friday, January 27th)**, when we get organized for the start of second semester. The **first day of Semester 2 will be Monday, January 30th.** All students will be expected in class right up until January 26th, participating in class final exams, project presentations and possible fieldtrips and other engaging learning activities. We may alter our bell schedule slightly (double-blocks to allow for longer periods for final exams and fieldtrips), but will advise students and parents of any changes after the Winter Holidays. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Thank you.

Whistler Ski Trip:

The annual ski trip to **Whistler Mountain** has been cancelled due to insufficient number of attendees. Students are encouraged to pick up their payments from Ms. Margaret Yee, our Business Administrator.

English Department:

The Marlinaires continue to volunteer and fundraise for various charities and organizations this holiday season. Under Kiereth Atariwala and Jeff Wang's leadership, the Marlinaires volunteered with the SEVA Club for a free cookie giveaway on November 17th; donated, with Student Council's help, 977 non-perishable items to the *Richmond Food Bank Society* on November 23rd; and participated in a three-day bake sale from November 28th-30th for *Doctors Without Borders*. In December, Marlinaires, with the help of staff and volunteers, collected and produced 38 holiday shoeboxes for students at *Singing Frogs Aboriginal Head Start* in Vancouver and partnered with *Ignite the Warmth* to collect blankets to donate to the homeless in the Downtown Eastside.

Marlinaires wishes to thank all students, staff, and parents/guardians for your generous support in all our campaigns. 2017 is a promising year as the Marlinaires unveils *WE* campaigns like *WE Are Silent* and *WE Bake for Change*. Stay tuned for future updates!

Kenneth Lui

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Music Program



The Winter Concert has been postponed until Tuesday, January 17th in the McNair Theatre at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$5 and all are invited.

Congratulations to the McNair Jazz combo for their excellent performance on November 25th for Richmond Tourism Christmas Party. The combo played for the entire evening and received many accolades for their performance.

The McNair jazz Band played at Winter Wonderland Christmas Tree light festival on Saturday, December 10th and at the Towers Baptist Church on Sunday December 11th for the congregational Christmas dinner. Both performances were great fun and an excellent opportunity to showcase the talented musicians in the McNair Music Program.

The Jazz Band Jazz Combo and the choir performed at the McNair Breakfast with Santa and had a lot of fun on the last day before winter break.

The Jazz Band and Jazz Combo will be entering the Envisions festival on February 18th and performing at the Richmond District Jazz Nite on February 21st.

McNair Dry Grad 2017

Calling all Grade 12 parents:

Dry Grad is an all-night, parent sponsored event that will begin immediately after the graduation dinner dance ceremony. To ensure this night is special, grads enjoy a variety of fun activities, entertainment, music, food and prizes. The grads are provided with a drug and alcohol free environment so they can go home safe and sober.

This event is completely parent-driven, which means the more parent volunteers the better!

Upcoming planning meetings: Thurs Dec 15, 2016 at 7 pm and Thurs Jan 26, 2017 at 7 pm in the school conference room (right next to office).



Drama



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BREAKFAST WITH SANTA:

Breakfast with Santa:

Friday December 16th from 7:45am-9am

The Breakfast with Santa is an annual tradition at McNair. It is a fundraising event that brings together our students and staff to celebrate the holidays. This year the students have decided that they want to give back to their school community so the profits will be donated equally to the CBC and the SEVA club. Thank you to the following companies for sponsoring our event this year: Richmond Centre, Safeway, Save on Foods and Price Smart.

**MCNAIR SECONDARY SCHOOL DATES:**

(Please check the calendar on the school website regularly)

Dec 17-Jan 2	School closed for Winter Holidays
January 3	School re-open
January 4	Collaboration Day-late start (9:45am)
January 10	PAC Meeting (7:00pm)
January 23-26	Students in session for final exams, presentations and activities
January 26	Open House and Parent Program Planning
January 24-25	Provincial Exams
January 27	Semester Turn Around Day (no school)
January 30	First Day of Semester 2

Athletics:

The Winter sport season is now fully underway and all of our teams are representing themselves and the school very well. Mr. Liao and Madame Liu are coaching our Table Tennis team, and they are having a great deal of fun so far. The Cheerleading team is practicing hard under the leadership of Ms. Makasi and performed well at the Pep Rally on December 6th. They will also be representing the school in various competitions in upcoming months.

For the first time in school history, we are fielding basketball teams in all 8 divisions and all of them should be very competitive. The Grade 8 Girls are being coached by Kirsten Abo and Manreet Buttar and are being sponsored by Mrs. Luk. The Grade 9 Girls are coached by Ms. Challand and are off to a strong start. The Grade 10 girls are coached by Mr. Vint and the Senior Girls should be very competitive in Richmond, as they are coached by Gurdy Jagde and Mr. Leslie.

The Grade 8 Boys are being coached by Mr. Corcoran and should be quite strong. The Grade 9 Boys will be coached by Mr. Jaswal and look to be greatly improved from last year. The Grade 10 boys are coached by Mr. Holmes and should be very strong this year, and our Senior Boys are a Provincial Championship contender, coached by Mr. Sangra and Jessy Dhillon. That team has already had several great games, playing in various tournaments and left for some games in Hawaii in the last week of classes.

If you are interested in scorekeeping or refereeing, please see Mr. Dhaliwal.

We want to wish all of our athletic teams good luck this season. Be sure to come out and cheer on your Marlins!

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Career

Newsletter December 2016

Check out the website: SD38careercentre.weebly.com.

All new information is posted on the Home – New Info page. The calendar is a very important tool on this website as dates from the “Home - New Info” section are recorded here. The other sections will help students in their search for career direction, how to navigate their way through the post-secondary application process in a timely fashion and also how to find scholarships.

Visit Ms Hudson’s Facebook page as well for updates: www.facebook.com/MsHudsonCareerCentreNews

Drop in to see Ms Hudson, Career Advisor, in the Career Centre Mon – Fri from 11:15 to 3:15

EducationPlannerBC

EducationPlannerBC is new and is a comprehensive post-secondary British Columbia resource for students. The site highlights education and career options in all aspects of:

- Planning
- Searching
- Applying

Visit: <https://www.educationplannerbc.ca/>

University Application Deadlines

DEC 1 (Early Admission) JAN 15 (regular admission) - University of British Columbia

JAN 15 – Emily Carr University

FEB 1 to MAR 1 – University of Northern BC (depending on Program)

FEB 28 - Simon Fraser University

FEB 28 - University of Victoria

MAR 31 – Capilano University

MAY 31 – Thompson Rivers University

Other Deadlines

Jan 9/17 In-School Deadline BC Excellence Scholarship

This scholarship requires a nomination. Students should speak to their counselor to be nominated. One nomination per school. *Completed school nomination forms must be mailed to Ministry of Education in Victoria by Feb 15, 2017.

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/provincial-scholarships/bc-excellence-scholarships>

JAN 15/17 UBC International Major Entrance Scholarship UBC Outstanding International Student Award

Visit website for details: <http://you.ubc.ca/financial-planning/scholarships-awards-international-students/>

Feb 1/17 Terry Fox Humanitarian Award Program Application Deadline

Visit: <http://terryfoxawards.ca/applicant-information/>

Feb 1/17 Emily Carr Portfolio deadline

Feb 1/17 Future Aces Foundation’s National Citizenship Scholarship

Visit: <http://futureaces.org/what-we-do/3-2-scholarships/>

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Career (continued)**University of Regina Guarantee**

Students will be eligible to return for one year of undergraduate courses **FREE OF CHARGE** (tuition and course fees) if they complete all elements of the UR Guarantee Program (<http://www.uregina.ca/urguarantee/>) and do not secure career-related employment within six months of graduation.

Steps Students Should Take Regarding Their Post-Secondary Applications January – February

- Post-Secondary (PSI) Choices Form Online - Students should have filled out this form found on the following website: <https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student>
- Students should be completing their application packages to BC universities
- Students should have completed their application packages to out-of-province universities
- Register to write the TOEFL/IELTS and/or the LPI, if you are required to do so.
- Self reporting portals begin to open at universities:
 - SFU – Jan 4/17
 - UVIC – Feb 15/17
 - UBC – Feb 22/17

Upcoming Events

Jan 23, 2017 Langara Social Service Worker Information Session

Visit: <http://langara.ca/programs-and-courses/programs/social-service/information-sessions.html>

Please check sd38careercentre.weebly.com for more upcoming events.

FEB 09/16 The SD38 District Career Programs Education in Action Series

The Career Programs office is offering an opportunity for grades 8-11 students to spend a morning in the Professional Cook or Plumbing ACE IT programs. Students will work alongside current ACE IT students and instructors and experience first-hand what it would be like to take a college training program while in high school!

Space is limited and priority will be given to those in grades 10 and 11. A workshop will be held on February 9, 2017.

For details and to register visit: <http://careerprograms.sd38.bc.ca/students>

JAN 25/17 and FEB 22/17 Dental hygiene Info Sessions at Vancouver Community College

From 5-6:00pm Room 501 at the downtown campus

Prospective attendees must sign up:

<http://www.vcc.ca/applying/apply-now/info-sessionstours/dental-hygiene/>

FEB 18/17 Explore UVic

The University of Victoria is holding an Open House on Saturday, February 18, 2017 from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM on their campus. Reserve your spot:

<https://my.uvic.ca/Ellucian.ERecruiting.Web.External/Pages/EventDetails.aspx?id=5408fedc-9c86-c611-9414-0050568518f9>

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