

# McNair Secondary September 2017 Newsletter

Volume 1 | Issue 1  
September 2017

*Home of the Marlins and a great place to learn... since 1974.*

---

Principal-Mr. J. Leslie  
Vice Principals-Mr. M. Jaswal  
& Mrs. D. Ten-Pow  
Trustee-Mrs. S. Nixon  
PAC Chair-Mrs. K. Chana  
Address: 9500 No 4 Rd,  
Richmond, BC, V7A 2Y9  
Phone: (604)668-6575  
Early Warning: (604)295-6497  
Twitter: @McNairMarlins  
Website:  
<http://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca>

---

## Principal's Message:

We are now one month into the 2017-18 school year and we are off to a great start! We hope all students are now feeling comfortable with their timetables and courses and are excited about how the school year is shaping up. The first month of school is always a blur and this year was no different. Students and staff quickly got involved in several excellent events, and among the highlights were: The Mini-School Strathcona trip, the Grade 8 Retreat to Science World and The Olympic Oval, a very successful Meet the Teacher night, an inspiring Terry Fox Run, and our first Grad event of the year, a boat cruise on September 28<sup>th</sup>. We have also enjoyed a host of great learning activities in and outside of our classrooms. Each of these events was enjoyed by those who attended or participated, and are a sign of great things to come this year!

Students at McNair continue to impress with their selfless acts of kindness and caring and they should all be commended for being so respectful of the school and one another. Similarly, our staff have enjoyed a very good start and are setting a great example for our students to follow.

We want to encourage all parents to stay involved in your child's education and to connect with the teachers at McNair. We welcome your input and feedback and want to continue to make connections with you to better support your child.

We are off to a great start, Marlins. Let's keep it up and have a great October!

*-Mr. Jason Leslie*

## Welcome to McNair:

We are very fortunate to have a friendly, caring and talented staff at McNair, all of whom work exceedingly hard to help your children meet with success. Every year, however, there are changes to the staff at a high-school and this year we would like to welcome the following people to McNair:

Christina Wilkinson	Clerical	Christine Campbell	EA
Angel Ao	Languages	Sarah Brown	IA
Gary Chan	Science/Res	Lindsay Gingrich	Languages
Julie Holden	Music	Anna Kelly	Languages
Brandon Lee	Sci/SS	Lisa Lo	Science

Hannah Liu  
Derek Wong

Art/ELL  
Tech

Stephen Ng

PE/SS/Eng

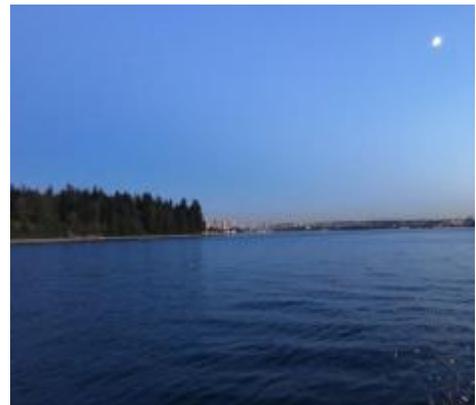
## Important Dates:

October 4	Collaboration Day (9:45 AM start)
October 5	World Teacher Day
October 9	Thanksgiving (school closed)
October 10	PAC Meeting (7 PM)
October 12	University 101 workshop for students (3:00 PM library)
October 10-13	Interim Reports sent home
October 18	Photo Retake Day
October 18	WE Day Vancouver
October 18	Grade 12 Parent Information Night (7 PM Library)
October 19	UBC Information Meeting (3:00 PM Library)
October 20	Professional Development Day (no classes)
October 27-29	Squamish Music Retreat
October 31	Halloween

## Grade 12 News:

Grade 12 is a big year, and it is vitally important that graduates stay organized and ready for all that is on the horizon. We had an assembly last Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, and gave students a handout that explains many of the things they will need to be aware of in the coming months. It is important as parents that you help your child stay organized, and help them record important dates like application and scholarship deadlines, as well as social events. It is very easy for Grads to start feeling overwhelmed by the pressures of their last year in high school, so do everything in your power to help them keep balanced. Encourage studying, but also time for family and friends, work and sports, proper eating and exercise.

Already this year, we have enjoyed the Grad Boat Cruise. We enjoyed a three-hour tour around Vancouver Harbour on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Over 140 students had a great time and were very well behaved and represented themselves and the school properly. Thanks to all the staff and students who made the event happen. We look forward to the next event, which will be some kind of Winter Formal, likely to occur in January. More information will come soon.



## Grade 8 Retreat:

On September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, McNair's new Leadership 11/12 students welcomed the Grads of 2022, the newest Marlins to our school. We had set up a fun couple of days where students coming from several different Elementary schools got to interact with each other and get to know one another better. The two-day outing included a trip to Science World on September 19<sup>th</sup> and then a morning at the Richmond Olympic Oval followed by a pizza lunch and some team building games back at McNair on September 20<sup>th</sup>. A great time was had by all, as the Leadership students did a good job in coordinating our Grade 8s' and our newest Marlins started to become the Grad class of 2022! Way to go, Marlins!



## Meet the Teacher:

On Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, McNair opened its doors to our Parents for the first time this year. A very good turn-out started in the gym at 6:45 with an opening address and welcoming from the Principal. Parents then followed their child's timetable for the next hour and got a chance to meet with each of their child's teachers and hear a little bit about what they will be learning this year. Well over 400 parents showed up and seemed to enjoy the opportunity to come into the school and speak with our staff. We encourage all of our parents to remain involved in their child's education. While teenagers are starting to look for independence, they still need their parents to ask about how things are going at school. The students whose parents stay involved are the ones who tend to have the most success. We look forward to seeing you at McNair!

## 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. Our next PAC meeting is scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

### Learning Centre Help:

McNair is continuing with its new model for our Learning Resource Centre. Students are now welcome to attend the Resource centre on a drop-in basis, provided they have permission from their classroom teacher. Any student who is in need of some extra assistance in a subject area may come to the Resource Centre to get assistance from the teachers in the room. Similarly, we have also created an opportunity for students to access this assistance at lunch and after school. Mr. McLellan is a Math/Science specialist, is available to help students during our lunch hour and until about 3:45 afterschool. If your child can benefit from this extra assistance, please remind them to advocate for themselves and take advantage of this tremendous support. It is open to all students and if you want to know if your child is utilizing it, we have a check in and check out system that tracks who is accessing the system.

### Athletics:

The *McNair Marlins* have been a respected name in high school sports for many years. In all Richmond schools there are three seasons of play - fall, winter and spring and different sports are offered in different seasons. All McNair students are encouraged to try out for a team, volunteer as a manager or scorekeeper or come out to a few games and cheer on their fellow Marlins! Thank you to all of our student-athletes, volunteer staff and outside coaches and team sponsors for representing our school with skill, sportsmanship and class. Students are encouraged to read the Athletic bulletin board near the gym, listen to announcements, and keep an eye on the televisions for try-out and game times. For more information or to find out how you can support McNair athletics, please contact our Athletic Director Mr. Dhaliwal. The following McNair teams are offered in the RSSAA fall leagues - *Go Marlins!*

Gr 8 Girls Volleyball-Ikaria John

Gr 9 Girls Volleyball-Mrs. Watts

Grade 10 Girls Volleyball-Mrs. Watson

Senior Girls Volleyball-Jackson Liu and Mr. M. Jaswal

Senior Boys Soccer-Ms. M. Zanikos



## Mini School:

The McNair Mini-School program enjoyed their annual retreat to Strathcona from September 7-11. All 145 students went on the trip, and experienced a wide-variety outdoor education opportunities. The trip and the program are all about “pushing the envelope” and our students did an excellent job of stepping outside their comfort zones. These experiences will create memories and skills that are sure to last a lifetime. Thanks to all the teachers and staff at Strathcona for all they did and the time they gave to make this great trip happen! If you have a chance, please be sure to visit the Mini-School blog to see photos and stay up to date with upcoming events.

<https://mcnairminischool.wordpress.com/>



## World Teacher Day:

The United Nations celebrates World Teachers’ Day on **October 5** each year. At McNair Secondary, we recognize that our staff members are dedicated and caring people and our teachers are especially thoughtful and skilled professionals. Through their daily work of teaching, leading, mentoring, supporting, encouraging and inspiring, our staff make a tremendous contribution to the growth and development of all McNair students. We encourage students and parents to take a moment to say **thank you** to teachers and educators who have and are making a positive difference in your life!



## 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 all grades. 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 Synervoice 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.

## Safety Reminders:

The City of Richmond is a safe community and our school has a well-established ethos of kindness, care and respect; however, the safety of all who work and learn at McNair Secondary School is very important to us and we ask parents to spend some time discussing the following reminders with their teens. Do not give out personal information over the Internet and be cautious online - many people are not who they claim to be. Be thoughtful about your digital footprint and never text, post, “like” or comment on any message or photo that is offensive, hurtful or harmful – once on social media, it can never be retrieved. Teens should always communicate with their parents about where they are going, whom they will be with and what time they are expected. Whenever possible, teens should walk or travel with friends or in a group. Be cautious around strange vehicles, groups or adults you do not know. Always phone for a ride if you will be studying or working later than expected. If you have concerns or spot suspicious people or vehicles, especially when travelling to and from school, talk to your parents and report it to the office. Be wise and be safe.

Similarly, please be sure to drive carefully when dropping off or picking up your child at school. Number 4 Road can be very busy and dangerous when students are getting on or off the buses at the front of the building. Parents need to make arrangements to pick up their child nearby the school, rather than at the front doors. They can walk—even in the rain! Thank you for your cooperation in driving with care and ensuring that staff and students are safe when travelling to and from school each day.

Lastly, it is important to remember to leave your valuables (money, wallets, computers, phones etc) at home or locked up safely in your locker. Please do not leave them unattended anywhere in the school, especially in the gym change rooms.. **LEAVE YOUR VALUABLE AT HOME!!!**

## Stay Connected to McNair Secondary:

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 medial platform used by millions of businesses, universities, news agencies and community organizations in Richmond, Canada and throughout the world. Follow us: @McNairMarlins.

Similarly, the school website is a great place to get information about our school. 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!

## Terry Fox Run:

On Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, the McNair Athletic Council, under the guidance of Mr. Sangra, led our entire student body through the Terry Fox Run. This annual run, initiated back in 1986 by a true Canadian hero, was designed to raise money and awareness to fight cancer. Terry Fox had a goal of raising one dollar for each Canadian (at the time approximately \$24 Million dollars). To date, the Terry Fox Foundation has raised over \$800 Million dollars, and we continue to add to that total at McNair. All 800+ students participated on a run that took us on a 2 KM run through our neighborhood community and we accepted donations from generous students for over two weeks. It was a beautiful day, and everyone behaved accordingly and supported a very worthwhile cause. Way to go, Marlins and thank you to Mr. Sangra and the Athletic Council!



## Counselling News:

**Thursday, Oct. 12**

*'University 101 Workshop for Students'*

3pm

McNair Library

**Wednesday, Oct 18**

*'Grade 12 Parent Night'*

7pm

McNair Library

***A Presentation for Grade 12 Parents of Students 2017/2018. This presentation will include Graduation and Post-Secondary information (application procedures and general information), Scholarship information, graduation events and valuable resources. All are welcome!!***

**December 1st:** UBC Early Admission deadline

Applications for these schools begin **Sept. 1st:**

UBC, UVic, Capilano, Emily Carr (Sept 15th)

Applications for these schools begin **Oct. 1st**:  
SFU, Langara, Douglas College

Applications for these schools begin **Nov. 1st**:  
Kwantlen, BCIT

**\*\*If you want to write the SAT**, see here for registration deadlines and test dates: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines>

## Career Information:

Check out [SD38careercentre.weebly.com](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/MsHudsonCareerCentreNews)

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

### **EducationPlannerBC**

EducationPlannerBC 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/>

### **Students should use the Apply section of the Education Planner when applying.**

The application process is less time consuming when you use EducationPlannerBC. Create one account and apply to multiple BC post-secondary institutions. After completing the first application, then select the next institution and your personal information, contact information and academic history will automatically be filled in.

### **University/College Visits to McNair**

- Wednesday Oct 11 - University of Western at lunch in the Library
- Tuesday Oct 17 – KPU at lunch in the Library
- Thursday Oct 19 – UBC at 3pm in the Library
- Tuesday Nov 7 Post Secondary Institution visit (PSI) 10 – 11:30 in the main hall
- Tuesday Nov 14 – SFU at 3pm in the Library
- Tuesday Nov 21 – University of Alberta at 3pm in the Library

### **When Do University/College Applications Open?**

Colleges accept applications on a first-come first-served basis. Universities operate on an application deadline basis.

Sept 1 – Vancouver Community College

Sept 15 – Emily Carr University

Oct 1 – Douglas College

Oct 1 – Langara College

Nov 1 - Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Nov 15 – BCIT (students should check each program as dates vary)

### University Application Deadlines

Jan 15 - University of British Columbia  
 Feb 1 to Mar 1 – University of Northern BC (depending on Program)  
 Feb 28 - Simon Fraser University  
 Feb 28 - University of Victoria  
 Jan 15 – Emily Carr University  
 Mar 31 – Capilano University  
 May 31 – Thompson Rivers University

### Online Application for Admission to BC Colleges and Universities

**Students may apply directly to a specific institution or use the Apply section in EducationPlannerBC. Many schools will take students directly to Education Planner when applying. Education Planner saves some time, as, after completing the first application, students select the next institution and the personal/contact information and academic history will automatically be filled in.** <https://www.educationplannerbc.ca/>

Online Application for Admission to Alberta Colleges and Universities

- Use the Alberta Post-Secondary Application Service: <https://applyalberta.ca>

Online Application for Admission to Ontario Universities

- Use the Ontario Application Service: <http://www.ouac.on.ca/ouac-105/>
- All other Post-Secondary Institutions: Check their websites for instructions

### PSI Instructions

This allows students to choose the institutions where they want their transcripts sent to automatically. A new process has been developed this year. As soon as details become available, students will be advised.

### Upcoming Events and Deadlines

This is not an exhaustive list. Visit [SD38careercentre.weebly.com](http://SD38careercentre.weebly.com) and use the calendar to find upcoming events and deadlines.

Oct 6/17 Loran Scholars Foundation Scholarship (In School Deadline for Sponsorship)

30Oct 2017 Langara School of Management Information Session - Room 122A @ 7:00 pm

11Oct 2017 (deadline to apply) The University of Toronto National Book Award

Visit: <http://future.utoronto.ca/content/national-book-award> ([map](#))

12Oct 2017 Carnegie Mellon University (USA) Information Session in Metro Vancouver  
<http://admission.enrollment.cmu.edu/pages/information-sessions-in-a-city-near-you>

14 Oct 2017 Bishops U Open House (Quebec)

Visit: <http://www.ubishops.ca/future-current-students/campus-tours-events/bu-open-houses-and-events/>

17 Oct 2017An Introduction to the Ivy League + Stanford Information Session

At St. George's Senior School, 4175 W 29th Ave, Vancouver, BC V6S 1V1, Canada

18 Oct 2017Experience VCC Event- Broadway Campus

At Vancouver Community College - Broadway Campus, 1155 E Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5T 4V5, Canada

21 Oct 2017 TRU Fall Open House

Visit <http://www.tru.ca/openhouse.html>

21 Oct 2017 University of Alberta Open House

Visit: <http://www.admissions.ualberta.ca/recruitment-events/Open-House.aspx> ([map](#))

23 Oct 2017 EducationUSA Information Session @ JN Burnett – in the multi purpose hall

25 Oct 2017 Horatio Alger Canadian Scholarship Program deadline

Visit: <https://www.horatioalger.ca/en/scholarships>

28 Oct 2017 University of Ottawa ~ Fall Open House 2017

Visit: <https://www.uottawa.ca/undergraduate-admissions/admission-events/open-house>

4 Nov 2017 U of Toronto National Scholarship Deadline

Visit: <http://www.future.utoronto.ca/content/national-scholarship-program>