

McNair Secondary December 2017 Newsletter

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

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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 November 27th. The **Mini School potluck** on **December 5th** raised over **\$1800.00** for **Canuck Place**, another very successful event! The school is also raising money and awareness for several causes including: the **Richmond Food Bank**, **The Singing Frogs Christmas Shoebox campaign** and **blankets for the Downtown Eastside**. *McNair truly does CARE.*

The last day of school was **Friday, December 22nd**, and Student Council planned a hearty **Santa's Breakfast**, with proceeds going to our own **SEVA Breakfast Club** and the **Courtyard Beautification Committee**. The holidays will run from **December 18th through January 7th**, and the **school will reopen on Monday, January 8th**. 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 2018-19 school year. Parents are invited to an **Open House and Parent Program Planning night** (for all grades) on **Thursday, January 25th** 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 includes **English 12 at 9:00 AM** in the **small gym on January 25th** and **Communications 12 at 9:00 AM in the small gym on January 26th**. All students should be speaking with their teachers and preparing for school and Provincial exams right away. With only two exams in the Provincial Exam schedule, students will be expected to be in class all the way until **Friday, January 26th** participating in yearend 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>

Semester Two will begin on **January 31st**, and McNair will be introducing **Flex Time** on **Thursdays** to give students an opportunity to take ownership of their learning and see the teacher of their choice to get some extra assistance.

PAC will be meeting again in the new year and would like to welcome all interested parents to attend on **Tuesday, January 9th 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!

Have a safe and happy holidays!!! - Mr. Jason Leslie

Winter Music Concert:

On **Tuesday, December 7th**, the McNair Music program hosted its annual **Winter Music Concert**. A sold-out theatre was full of parents and students who enjoyed a very talented group of musicians perform several Christmas Classics. Beginner, Intermediate and Senior Concert Bands played as well as the Strings, Choir and several performances by the McNair Jazz Band and Jazz ensemble. It was a magnificent show that helped people get into the holiday spirit!



Grad Events:

Grade 12 Winter Formal

Quilchena Golf and Country Club, Richmond

Friday, January 26/18

Tickets on sale in December!

This is the second big grad event for the year! It includes dinner, desserts, beverages and lots of music and dancing! Please Note: This event is not included in your grad fees.

McNair Grad portraits were taken from **December 10-14th** in the Artona trailer that was parked in the McNair lot. Hopefully, all our Grads were able to make an appointment to get their photos done. If they missed it, students will have to make arrangements to go to Artona studios in Vancouver to get their photo taken so they can appear in the Grad Composite.

The **McNair Dry Grad Committee** just hosted an on-line auction that raised over **\$1800.00** for the Dry After Grad Party. Families were able to bid on over 65 items that were listed on-line, and prizes were distributed at the school on December 13-15. If you won something, but have not picked it up yet, please contact **McNair Dry Grad-Lisa Craker**.

Pancakes on the first day back:

On **Monday, January 8th**, the **SEVA Club**, in combination with **Platinum Pro-Claim Restoration Company** will be providing a **“Welcome Back, Happy New Year” Breakfast**. A group of volunteers from this neighbourhood company as well as some of our Senior Student Leaders will be preparing a breakfast of pancakes, sausages and oranges for all students as they arrive for the first day of school in 2018. Be sure to get to

school early on this day and stop by the SEVA Club room (Fishbowl #2) on your way to class!



Flex Time in Semester Two:

In Second Semester, McNair will be introducing **Flex Time**. **Every Thursday, students will have a block of 40 minutes to see the teacher of their choice and get some assistance or do some catch up work.** This opportunity is designed to give students some ownership of their learning and get help in courses they may be struggling with. It allows students who have busy lives outside of school hours (work and/or extra-curricular commitments) or who take the bus back to Hamilton to see teachers who can help them feel more confident and ready for upcoming exams and assignments. This instructional time is not to be used for hallway wandering or wasting of time. **ALL students are supposed to be in a learning space, working with classmates and/or teachers in pursuing their education.** Attendance will be taken, and McNair will be testing it this year to see if it helps students become more successful. If not used properly, we will not continue with it next year. For more information, please see our website. If you have any questions about the program, please contact the school.

<http://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/news/2017/12/14/flex-time>



Hoe Down and Breakfast with Santa:

Friday, December 22nd was the last day of classes for McNair students, and as we do every year, Student Council hosted a fantastic **Breakfast with Santa**. Tickets were \$5 and everyone enjoyed pancakes, sausages and an orange and drink. A good time was had by all and proceeds (still being calculated) were to be given to the **McNair SEVA club** as well as the **Courtyard Beautification Committee**. **Thanks to Mrs. Blair and Student Council for hosting.**

The last day is also time for the annual **Hoe-Down** at lunchtime. This vibrant McNair tradition brings all of our students together for some square and line-dancing in the Large gym. Mr. Nakatani, Mr. Dhaliwal and Mr. Sangra coordinate a fun-filled afternoon where everyone dances non-stop for a full 60 minutes with prizes being given to the groups who dance the best. A great time was had by all and it was nice to see so many students having so much fun with each other!



Open House and Program Planning:

Thursday, January 25th, 2018, Matthew McNair Secondary will be hosting its third annual **Program Planning evening and Open House**. From **6:00-7:00 PM**, **Grade 7 parents** are invited to attend an information session in the McNair Theatre to learn about what high-school life will be like for our newest Marlins. 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 2018**. This event has been hugely successful in the last two years 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 25th**.



End of Semester One:

Semester One will come to a close only three weeks after we return from Winter Holidays. It is sure to be a busy time for all our students. Classes will run all the way until **Friday, January 26th**. **English 12** students will be excused from class on **Thursday, January 25th to write the English 12 Provincial exam at 9:00 AM** in the small gym. **Communications 12** students will be excused from class on **Friday, January 26th to write the Provincial exam at 9:00 AM** in the small gym. All other students will be expected to be in class all the way until **Friday, January 26th**. There will be **no classes on Monday, January 29th or Tuesday, January 30th**, as we prepared to get Semester 2 started. **Semester Two will begin on Wednesday, January 31st**.

Athletics:

The McNair **Basketball season** is now in full swing, and all 7 of our teams are off to strong starts. The Bantam Girls, Juvenile Girls and Senior Girls have all played several games, with the Senior Girls sitting in first place in the Richmond league at 3-0 (7-3 overall), having won their own tournament back in November. All four of the Boys teams have opened with good starts, and the Junior and Senior Boys teams have had excellent victories in their own tournament (Senior Boys) and a strong second place finish for the Junior Boys at a tournament in Vancouver. The Senior Boys are currently participating in a tournament in California. Good luck, boys! It promises to be an exciting finish to the season for all our teams, so be sure to come out to watch the action and support our athletes in the new year!

Similarly, the **Table Tennis** team will be starting league play in the New Year, and our Senior Boys team looks to be very competitive. Good luck to Mr. Liao and all our Table Tennis players!



McNair Helps out:

Mr. Sangra's Law 12 class joined with the charitable group *Ignite the Warmth* and raised funds and collect blankets, gloves, toques for residents of the downtown eastside. The class went downtown on **Sunday, Dec 17**, to distribute the gift packages to the residents. Special Thanks and congratulations go out to Mr. Sangra and all the students for their efforts.



Flu Season:

The Flu season is upon us and it is important for everyone to take care of themselves. The illness is caused by the highly contagious influenza virus that can spread rapidly among people. Viruses can live for up to 48 hours on surfaces like doorknobs, phones and computer keyboards. It can take up to a week for flu symptoms to appear and in that time, you can infect others. To reduce the risk of the disease spreading, always cough or sneeze into your sleeve, and wash your hands often with hot water and soap. Staying home when you are sick with flu symptoms and getting yourself vaccinated also helps protect those around you. If you have concerns, call the **HealthLinkBC** line at 8-1-1, or call a Public Health Nurse at 604-233-3150. <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/facts-about-influenza>



McNair Support for Families in Need:

McNair Secondary has a strong tradition of helping others, and this year around the holidays, we were involved in giving again. The **Student Council, Mini-School and Marlinaires** groups hosted annual fundraisers that raised money and awareness for those who are less fortunate. The **Mini-School** group hosted a very successful **Pot-Luck dinner** for parents on **December 5th**, and funds raised through silent auctions and raffles were donated to **Canuck Place**. We raised over **\$1500 this year** at the event. The **Marlinaires** once again led the **Holiday Shoebox project** where they collected items like toiletries, gloves, toques and scarves in a shoebox that is given to an Elementary school in the Downtown East Side. They filled **50 boxes** for young people in need this year. **Student Council** once again hosted a **canned food drive** that benefited the **Richmond Food Bank**. We donated over 1000 items as well as money for those in need.

McNair also promotes the efforts of the **Richmond Gives Richmond Cares** organization who hopes to brighten the holidays for families in need. Eligible applicants will receive food and gift support to make the holiday season more positive for all members of a family. You can also recommend a family who may be in need or get involved by volunteering or donating. Please contact **604-279-7020** or email info@rcrg.org or visit the website <https://www.rcrg.org>



Snow:

We saw some snowflakes in the early part of November, and that could be the sign for more snow to come in the weeks and months ahead. Parents are reminded that McNair Secondary School **WILL BE OPEN** unless the School District decides to officially close all school due to the roads being unsafe. If it is snowing, please do not phone the school. Listen to the radio and check the school district website for updates at

<https://www.sd38.bc.ca/Pages/default.aspx>



Important Dates:

January 8	School starts after holiday
January 9	PAC meeting-RCMP Special Presentation 7:00 PM Library
January 10	Collaboration Day-Late start 9:45 AM
January 25	Open House and Program Planning Evening
January 25	English 12 Provincial Exam 9:00 AM Small Gym
January 26	Communications 12 Provincial Exam 9:00 AM
January 26	Last Day of Semester One
January 29	Semester Turn Around Day (no classes)
January 30	Professional Development Day (no school)
January 31	First Day of Semester Two

PAC and Dry Grad 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 **January 9th, at 7:00 p.m.** We are inviting our **RCMP School Liaison Officer (Cst Eric Chan)** to speak with our parents about the *Dangers of Social Media*. This meeting is open to all parents, and the topic is sure to generate lots of questions. We hope to see many of you there!

The **Dry After Grad** is a party for Grade 12 students, to be hosted by Parents after the **Dinner/Dance on June 26th**. This great event requires a large amount of fundraising and planning by the parents. The committee will be meeting again in early January. If you are interested in helping, please stay informed. We will be sending out messages to inform parents of the next meeting date. **McNair Dry Grad just completed an "On-Line Auction". There were lots of prizes up for bidding (over 60 items), and families had an opportunity to bid on these great items. Over \$1800.00 was raised for the Dry After Grad party!**



Learning Centre Help:

McNair is continuing with its **Learning Resource Centre** model. 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.

Stay Connected to McNair Secondary:

Please stay connected to our school and join the over **600** 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 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!



Have a safe and happy holiday! We will see you in the new year! School starts again on Monday, January 8th, 2018!

