

McNair Secondary November 2017 Newsletter

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November 2017

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

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Principal's Message:

November was another fantastic month at Matthew McNair Secondary School. Highlighted by the efforts of our Senior Boys Soccer team and Senior Girls Volleyball teams, who enjoyed excellent seasons (the Girls Volleyball team qualified for Provincials), as well as the spectacular efforts by our Leadership and Music students who put together a moving and **important Remembrance Day ceremony on November 10th**. Other events of note included our Mid-Term Report Cards being sent home and the great attendance we had at our **Parent Teacher Conferences on November 15th and 16th**. Our Basketball teams are now in full swing, highlighted by the **Pep Rally and Home Openers for the Senior Boys and Girls on November 27th**, followed by our **Senior Teams co-hosting a tournament on November 30-December 2nd**. A great week of basketball action with spirited and well-behaved crowds!

As we head into December, the Basketball and Table Tennis seasons at McNair will be in full force. We encourage you to get involved and either play or come cheer on your peers. With only three weeks of school left until the Winter Holidays, it is very important that students stay organized and on top of all that comes with a very busy season. It is also important to remember that good health and habits will keep young people healthy in the upcoming cold and flu season. If your child is not well, keep them at home, and those who are feeling okay should be careful to stay healthy. Eat properly, get lots of sleep, exercise and wash your hands to prevent the spread of germs. It is very important for students to keep a healthy balance of schoolwork, family and friends time and do all that you can to remain in good health as the days get shorter and the temperature gets cooler.

Holidays are coming! - Mr. Jason Leslie

Report Cards and Parent-Teacher Conferences:

Mid-Term Report Cards were sent home on **Thursday, November 9th**, and our students had a very successful first term. Marks throughout the school were quite strong, and our staff were pleased with the efforts being made by our students. **Parent-Teacher Conferences** took place on **November 15th and 16th**, and we had a very good turn-out of parents. We all know that parents who stay involved in their children's education have students who do well in school. We encourage you to stay involved with your child's educational program.

Remembrance Day Ceremony:

On **Friday, November 10th**, McNair performed its annual Remembrance Day ceremony. The tradition of the performances and behavior at this very special ceremony is extremely strong and this year's performance was no exception. Created and performed by the Leadership 11/12 class, under the guidance of Mrs. Blair, and accented by the outstanding musical performances of the McNair Music program under the direction of Ms. Holden, the ceremony was moving and inspiring and performers paid tribute to the veterans and sacrifices of the past and then asked the audience the questions about where we are now and what we can do to make things better. A truly powerful ceremony that was enjoyed and respected by all who observed it. **LEST WE FORGET.**



Take Our Kids to Work:

On **Wednesday, November 1st** McNair's entire Grade 9 student body took part in the National Take Our Kids to Work Day. This opportunity was being sponsored by the Learning Partnership and has existed since 1994. Grade 9 Students all across Canada take the day away from school to learn more about the world of work and what their parents, relatives, friends of family do when "on the job". This real-life experience is very valuable to our 13 and 14 year-olds and we are glad they participate. We hope you learned something for your day with Mom or Dad at the workplace!



PSI Visit:

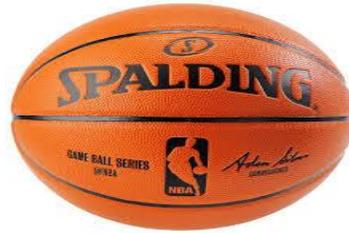
On Tuesday, November 7th, our Counsellors and Ms. Hudson organized a Post-Secondary Fair where students in Grade 11 and 12 got the chance to listen to some information sessions about many of the schools they are interested in for Post-Secondary studies. Over 25 different options were presented to students and many of them took home pamphlets and flyers from schools like Trinity Western, Douglas College, Langara, Capilano College, The Justice Institute of BC and UVic and many more. Hopefully, your child took advantage of this opportunity to learn more about schools that may interest them. If you have any other questions, please contact your child's Counsellor or set up an appointment with Ms. Hudson, our Career Information Advisor.

CSI Math Contests:

On **Wednesday, November 22nd**, McNair had **nine** of its strongest Math students write the **Canadian Intermediate and Senior Math contests** sponsored on by the **University of Waterloo**. Our students have long fared very well in these contests, and while we are still waiting for results, we are confident that our students did well and represented themselves and their school very well. Good luck to all those students who wrote the exam!

Basketball Season and Home Opener/Pep Rally:

The McNair Basketball season got off to a roaring start with a school-wide **Pep-Rally** on **Monday, November 27th** in block B. All students got excited about what it means to be a Marlin and people were energized for the big Basketball games that were to take place that evening. The **Senior Girls and Boys** had their **Home-Openers on Monday, November 27th**, and the raucous crowds were treated to some exciting basketball action. The Girls were defeated by a very strong New Westminster team, but the Boys beat a competitive Sullivan Heights group. The teams then co-hosted a Tournament on the weekend of **November 30-December 2nd**, and both the Girls and Boys won their draws, finishing undefeated in three games each. ***Congratulations Marlins!***



McNair Helps out:

The Law 12 class has joined with the charitable group Ignite the Warmth and are planning and meeting with local companies and businesses in attempt to raise funds and collect blankets, gloves, toques for residents of the downtown eastside. The class will be going on **Dec 17**, to the Downtown Eastside to distribute the gift packages to the residents. The class would gladly accept any donations of items or cash for distribution that day. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Sangra at the school or via email rsangra@sd38.bc.ca

Register your Bike:

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. We have also had a rash of bike thefts from our front bike racks at the school. We are working with the RCMP to identify the persons responsible (using our recently installed video surveillance cameras), but we are reminding student to **register their bicycle** with **Project 529**, a program run by the Vancouver City Police to track your bicycle. <https://project529.com/garage>

WHENEVER YOU CAN, PLEASE TRY TO LEAVE YOUR VALUABLE AT HOME!!!

December Events:

December is always a busy and exciting month, and this year's Winter Holiday calendar promises to be a full one. Some of the Highlights include:

- December 6th Collaboration day
- December 7th Winter Concert
- December 10-14 Grad Portraits
- December 22nd Santa's Breakfast and Hoe-Down
- December 23-January 7 Winter Holidays
- January 8th School Starts in new year

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>



Holiday Support for Families in Need:

McNair Secondary has a strong tradition of helping others, and this year around the holidays, we will be involved in giving again. The **Student Council, Mini-School and Marlinaires** groups have annual fundraisers that raise money and awareness for those who are less fortunate. The **Mini-School** group will host a **Pot-Luck dinner** for parents on **December 5th**, and funds raised through silent auctions and raffles will be donated to **Canuck Place**. We have traditionally raised over **\$1000 each year** at this event. The **Marlinaires** always do a **Holiday Shoebox project** where they get people to donate items like toiletries, gloves, toques and scarves in a shoebox that is given to an Elementary school in the Downtown East Side. They hope to generate at least **50 boxes** for young people in need this year. **Student Council** will once again do a **canned food drive** that benefits the **Richmond Food Bank**. You can make your donations through your B block classes. We also promote 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>



Teen Mental Health:

Anxiety, depression and other mental disorders can affect between 15% - 20% of adolescents at some point during their teen years. Good mental health is more than just a lack of mental illness, however, as life is full of ups and downs and having the knowledge and strategies to cope with stressors can be effective in preventing a mental disorder from occurring during adolescence or later in life. Gregg Loo, Clinical Supervisor of the Child and Adolescent Program (Richmond Child and Youth Mental Health) and Larry Antrim, Coordinator for Counselling with the Richmond School District will look at the topic of mental wellness, what is being done at the school and community levels and what parents can do to give their teens the opportunity to develop and maintain good mental health. This information session is open to parents from all secondary schools in Richmond and will be held on **Wednesday, December 13 at 7pm** in the **Richmond Secondary School theatre**.



Music Department:

The McNair Music department is performing its annual Winter Concert on Thursday, December 7th at 7 PM in the Theatre. Tickets are on sale now. Please see a member of one of our musicians or Ms. Holden to get yours. Our extremely talented music students will be sure to put on a show that will get you into the Christmas spirit, so don't miss out!



Important Dates:

Nov 30-Dec 2	Senior Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament
December 6	Collaboration day (9:45 Start time)
December 7	Winter Concert (7 PM)
Dec 10-14	Grad Portraits
Dec 19-23	Senior Boys BB team to California
December 22	Last day of classes
December 22	Santa's Breakfast
Dec 25-Jan 5	Winter Holidays
January 8	School starts after holiday

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 just had their second meeting on Wednesday, November 29th, and 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 is now preparing for the big year-end party for our Graduating students. As a fundraiser, the committee is running a "On-Line Auction". There are lots of prizes up for bidding (over 30 items), and we want all families to have an opportunity to bid on these great prizes.**



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.

Athletics:

The *McNair Marlins* athletics teams are now into the Winter Sport season. Highlighted by teams in Basketball and Table Tennis, McNair promises to once again be very competitive. Our Senior Boys and Girls teams will once again compete for the Richmond Championship, while several other teams promise to be very competitive. Special thanks go out to all the scorekeepers, managers, players and coaches and sponsors who help make the teams so successful. This year's teams are being sponsored and coached by the following people:

- Grade 8 Boys -Mr. Sangra and Mr. Holmes
- Grade 8 Girls -Helan Aly and Binwant Atwal
- Grade 9 Boys -Mr. Vint
- Grade 9 Girls -Kirsten Abo
- Grade 10 Boys -Mr. Jaswal
- Senior Girls -Mr. Leslie and Denise Busayong
- Senior Boys -Mr. Sangra
- Table Tennis -Mr. Liao

Be sure to come out and cheer your team on! *Go Marlins!*



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 media 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!



Counselling News:

SAVE THE DATE!!

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.

- **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

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 as well as how to find scholarships.

Visit Ms Hudson’s Facebook page for updates:

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

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

When applying at universities and colleges in BC, most schools will redirect students to Education Planner. The application process is less time consuming when using 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.

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

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

Student Transcripts Service (STS)

Please note that the PSI "Choices" form is no longer available and is replaced by the Student Transcripts Service (STS).

The Ministry of Education has just launched the *Student Transcripts Service* (STS), a new online application for students to view their marks, scholarships and transcripts, and send transcripts to post-secondary institutions and third parties.

To access the service, visit the Ministry of Education's *Order Transcripts and Certificates* website at www.StudentTranscripts.gov.bc.ca and follow the instructions found there.

1. Register for a BCeID (a BC Government account that provides you with access to B.C. Government online services)
2. Register for the Student Transcript Service using your BCeID
3. Log in to your Student Transcripts Service using your BCeID.

Students should set up their accounts sooner rather than later to have their marks sent automatically to the schools they wish to attend.

When hardcopy transcripts are required for post-secondary application for admission or scholarships, students must complete the "Transcript Request" form located in the main office of the school. Cost: \$5 per request.

Some Upcoming Events and Deadlines

This is not an exhaustive list. Visit SD38careercentre.weebly.com and use the calendar to find upcoming events and deadlines.

Some Scholarship Deadlines

Dec 4/17 11:59 PM EST House of Commons Page Program deadline to apply
<http://www.ourcommons.ca/About/PageProgram/Become-Page-e.html>

Dec 15/17 The BURGER KINGSM Scholars program
<https://bkmclamorefoundation.org/who-we-are/programs/burger-king-scholars-program/>

Dec 15/17 Schulich Leader Scholarships *in-school deadline for nomination consideration
<http://www.schulichleaders.com/who-eligible>
<http://www.schulichleaders.com/frequently-asked-questions>

Dec 15/17 The University of Calgary Prestige Awards deadline
<http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/finances/awards/entrance/high-school>

Dec 22/17 The Future National Essay Contest is Open to students in grades 10-12
<https://www.french-future.org/programs/essay-contest/>

Jan 15/18 SFU Entrance Scholarships Deadline to Apply
<http://www.sfu.ca/students/financialaid/entrance/highschool.html>

Jan 19/18 Cmolik Foundation Scholarship In-School Deadline
<http://www.thecmolikfoundation.com/scholarship-criteria-policies>

Upcoming Events Info Sessions at Langara

December 5/17 Design Formation Info Session
<https://langara.ca/programs-and-courses/programs/design-formation/information-sessions.html>

Dec 5/17; Jan 25/18; Feb 22/18 Education Assistant
<https://langara.ca/programs-and-courses/programs/education-assistant/information-session.html>

Jan 10/18 Journalism
<https://langara.ca/programs-and-courses/programs/journalism/information-sessions.html>

Jan 11, 2018 Bachelor of Science in Nursing
<https://langara.ca/programs-and-courses/programs/nursing/information-sessions.html>

Jan 15/18; Feb 19/18; Mar 19/18 Social Service Worker
<https://langara.ca/programs-and-courses/programs/social-service/information-sessions.html>

Other Events

DEC 6/17 Corpus Christi College Preview Night
 To RSVP for the event, please click the following link:
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/preview-nights-at-corpus-christi-college-tickets-38348585652>

Dec 17/17 Emily Carr Summer Institute for Teens Early Bird Registration
 For details, check <http://teens.ecuad.ca/summer/about/>
 To register, <http://teens.ecuad.ca/summer/about/how-to-register/>

Jan 20/18 KPU Graphic Design for Marketing Portfolio Workshop
<http://www.kpu.ca/design/gdma/features>