

McNair Secondary

January 2018

Newsletter

Volume 5 | Issue 5
January 2018

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

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Principal's Message:

Happy New Year!!! 2017 is now in the history books and 2018 is off to a fantastic start!

Our students completed first semester on January 26th and on January 31st, Semester Two begins. Students wrote their Provincial and Final exams on January 25-26th, and with less Provincial Exams we stayed in classes and students were given more time to present their learning and write final assessments all the way until January 26th. Students and staff are now getting ready for a fresh start in Semester Two. We are at the mid-way point of the year, so be sure to take advantage of the new opportunities, and bring lots of energy and excitement to your new classes, starting January 31st!

The school also enjoyed a very successful **Open House** on **January 25th**. Parents from all across Richmond came to McNair to see what we offer our students. Our staff and students did a marvelous job of showcasing all the great things that happen in this building, and parents were very impressed by what they saw. We have an excellent school at McNair, and we were very proud to put on display the many talents of our entire school community.

We also started our **Grad Transition Interviews** with Grade 12s, and thus far have enjoyed the process very much. Our students spoke about all the things they have learned while at McNair and talked about the friendships fostered and the great memories they have made here. If you have not yet had your interview, please see one of the Counsellors or Administrators to take care of this Graduation Requirement! The Grade 12s also enjoyed a very nice Winter Formal at **Quilchena Golf Course** on **January 26th**!

We are also entering the time of year where students need to make plans for the future. Grade 12's will be making plans for post-secondary (school opportunities, travel, work and so many other things await our graduates), and Grade 8-11 students will be asked to start making choices about course selections for September 2018. Counsellors will be coming into your classes over the next few weeks to share some information with you about course planning, and will then ask you to enter your choices into the computer system. Please remember to make your choices carefully. We build our timetable based upon what you tell us you want to take in the Spring. Making changes to your timetable will be more difficult if you change your mind, so think carefully and discuss your choices with your parents.

More than anything, congratulations on a very successful first semester, and we hope you bring lots of energy and excitement to your second semester studies. Time will go very quickly, and for Grade 12's you are entering a fun-filled and pressure-packed time in your high school career. Be sure to maintain a healthy balance, study hard, eat well, exercise and get lots of rest. The time will fly by, so stay organized and make the memories that will last a lifetime! --**Mr. Jason Leslie**

Important Dates:

Jan 31	First Day of Semester 2
Feb 2	Transfer Application Deadline
Feb 7	Collaboration Day (late start 9:50am)/Ian Tyson Guest Speaker!
Feb 8	Report Card – Semester 1 sent home/First Day of FLEX TIME!
Feb 12	BC Family Day (no school)
Feb 13	PAC Meeting (7:00pm)
Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Feb 15	Immunization Clinic – Gr. 9/Canadian Flag Day!
Feb 16	Mini School Application Deadline/Elementary School breakfast
Feb 23	Pro-D Day (no school)
Feb 28	PINK SHIRT DAY!!!
Mar 5-9	Spring Production - Il Campiello (or The Nasty Neighbours)
Mar 12-13	Elementary School Basketball Tournament

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>



Open House and Program Planning:

Thursday, January 25th, 2018, Matthew McNair Secondary hosted its third annual **Program Planning evening and Open House**. From **6:00-7:00 PM, Grade 7 parents** attended 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 were situated all around the school showcasing many of the great things our students and staff are teaching, learning and engaged in.** From **8:00-9:00 PM, Grade 8-11 students and parents reported to the McNair Theatre to get Program Planning information for all students who will be returning to McNair in September 2018.** We also had a **Mini-School Information session from 8:00-9:00 in the Library.** This event was hugely successful and a great showcase for all of the fantastic things happening in and around this excellent school. We hope you enjoyed the showcase and we look forward to working with you next year!



End of Semester One:

Semester One came to a close on Jan 30th. McNair Secondary took Monday, January 29th and Tuesday, January 30th as Semester Turn-Around Day and a Professional Development Day. The first semester at McNair was a very successful one, and our students accomplished some great things. We look forward to more of the same in Semester Two. **Semester Two began on Wednesday, January 31st.**

Program Planning:



Matthew McNair counsellors will visit Grades 8-11 classes in B block over the next few weeks so all students can get Programming Information where they will receive a personalized course selection form, learn about options for courses, changing graduation requirements and post-secondary prerequisites and prepare them for choosing their courses for next year. Our timetable and staffing for 2018-2019 is determined based on student enrollment and course requests, so students must select carefully, taking into consideration their summer school and online learning plans. It is difficult to make course changes later in the process. Grades 8-11 students will have an opportunity to check and confirm that their course selections are accurate later in the spring. Students and parents are encouraged to read the online course descriptions, discuss options with their classmates and current teachers and choose courses thoughtfully. Please read the 2018-2019 McNair course descriptions online at: <http://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/school-information/program-planning-2018-2019> and be sure to get your completed course selection form signed by parents submitted to your Counsellor when your class is brought into the computer lab to enter your courses. If you have any questions about the course selection process, contact your counsellor.

Transfers:



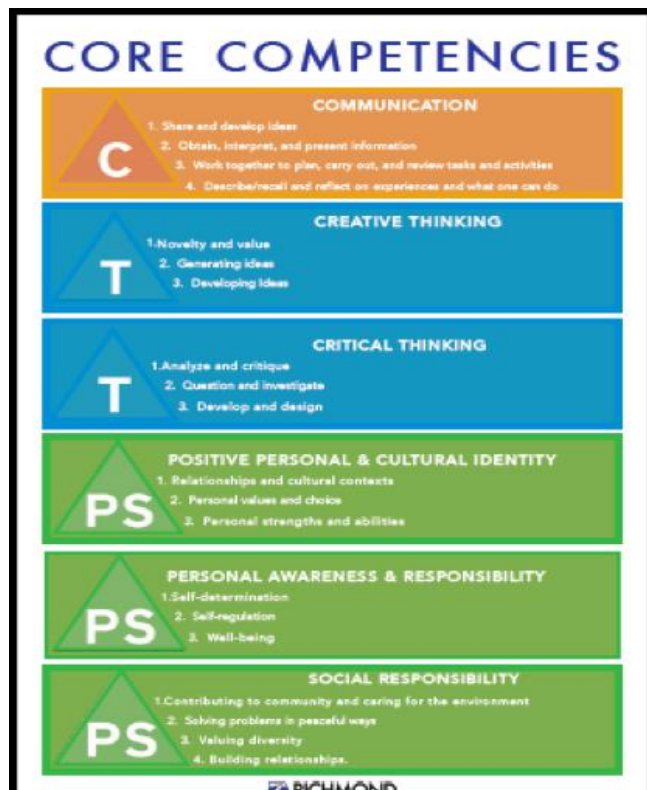
Richmond students wishing to transfer to a non- catchment school must apply by filling out an RSB-SA23 Transfer Application form. Non-Richmond residents must complete an SA-73 TA form and both forms are available in every school office in Richmond. The form must be initialed by the catchment school, and then submitted to the requested school beginning **Thursday, January 11, 2018**. The final deadline for school transfer applications to be submitted to the office of the “requested school” is 4 p.m. on **Friday, February 2, 2018**. Please note that out-of-catchment students applying for the IB program must also complete the school transfer form. Applications received at the requested school by February 2 may be approved to attend, based on the criteria established by the Richmond School District (published on the form). Parents/legal guardians will be informed of the status of the transfer application at a date to be determined by the district. If parents wish to appeal a transfer denial, they can do so in writing. All transfer appeals must be submitted to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools. Transfer students wishing to play athletics must also complete the RSB Eligibility Form and attach it to their Transfer form. It is important to note that students who reside in Richmond and are currently attending Richmond Secondary School on a previous transfer do not need to reapply each year. **For more information on school transfers, contact the Richmond School District.**

Winter Formal:

The Grad class of 2018 (the forty-fourth in the proud history of Matthew McNair) had their annual **Winter Formal** on **Friday, January 26th** at **Quilchena Golf and Country Club**. The food was excellent, and the evening a good time for the 100+ graduates who attended. Eating and Dancing went from 6:30-10:30 PM, and the kids looked great and had a very memorable evening. The next big event on the Grad class calendar is the **Valedictory on Friday, June 8th**. Way to go, Grads of 2018!

Core Competencies:

As they did last year, all students in British Columbia will complete a self-assessment of a group of core competencies. These are a set of intellectual, emotional, social and personal proficiencies that every student will need to develop. They include: **Communication Skills, Critical Thinking Skills, and Personal/Social Responsibility Skills**. Teachers will highlight and teach these competencies in all classes during the year, and they will complete a self-assessment of growth in these areas that will be included with the June Report Card. For detailed information, check out <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/competencies> and have a look at the poster below for a simple overview.



Yearbook:

Every year we publish a beautiful 200+ page yearbook and this keepsake includes all students' names and photos as well as all of the teams, clubs and special Marlins events from the school year. For 2017-2018, more than 600 students have already purchased their yearbook and these will be distributed on June 22nd. As we need to commit to the publishing company months in advance, the **final day** to purchase a yearbook will be **Tuesday, April 3**. If you want a yearbook and have not yet purchased one, please see

Ms. Yee in the Business Assistant office to get yours before April 3 – don't miss out! The yearbook cost is \$40.

Let's Talk (Jan 31st):



January 31st is the annual “**Let’s Talk Day**” across the country. It is important for families and teens to spend time reflecting on what it means to be “healthy”. Many will identify eating well, getting enough sleep and exercising regularly as keys to ‘being healthy’ yet mental and emotional health may be taken for granted, or not talked about because of the stigma that can be attached to mental health issues. The truth is, many people wrestle with stress, anxiety, negative thoughts, feeling low or depressed at times in their lives and it is okay to talk about it. More importantly, we need to be ready to listen carefully to our family members and friends. McNair students need to know that our counsellors are always available and parents can get help from their family doctor or a wide range of excellent online resources. <http://letstalk.bell.ca/en/>
<http://healthyschoolsbc.ca/program/442/mindcheckca>

Parent Survey:

Every year the Ministry of Education asks parents of students in Grades 4-7-10-12 to complete an online survey about what they think about their child’s learning at school. Parents of RHS students in Grade 10 and Grade 12 are asked to click on the link below and complete the survey. The survey takes less than 10-minutes to complete and is available in 18 languages. Once you log on, go to **DIRECT ACCESS** in the bottom right corner, choose **SD38 RICHMOND** for District and **MCNAIR SECONDARY** for school, choose your language (English is the default language) and answer the questions. Thank you! <https://www.awinfosys.com/SurveyFull1/central/main/accessParentAuto.asp>

Report Cards:



Parents are reminded that all McNair students will bring home their Final Report Card from Semester One on **Thursday, February 8th**. Parents are asked to read and discuss the information on the Report with their child. If they have more questions, parents can phone the school or email teachers directly – all contact information is available on the school website. <http://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/>

Marlinares:

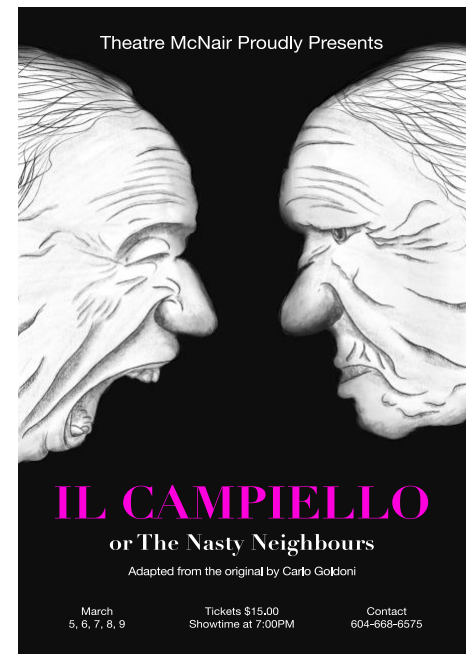
With the help of students and staff, Marlinares donated 40 shoeboxes in December to *Singing Frogs Aboriginal Head Start*, a pre-school in Vancouver. In January, McNair's social responsibility club continues with the *Random Acts of Kindness* campaign, where 150+ students seen performing an act of



kindness are given vouchers redeemable for free ice-cream in the last week of semester one. The Marlinares' ongoing campaign, beginning now and ending on Tuesday, June 5th, is an effort to collect used shoes to donate to *Shoe Bank Canada*. Shoes that are normally disposed because of wear and tear are also accepted, as their materials will be recycled, while usable shoes will be donated to those in need. Support the shoe drive by bringing your donation to the collection box in front of the office!

Drama/Theatre:

Rehearsals for Theatre McNair's Spring production of *Il Campiello (or the Nasty Neighbours)* are well underway! The fast paced, raucous comedy, *Il Campiello* transports us to 1950's Italy and tells a story of matrimonial scheming, gossip, and games enlivening the daily activity of a bustling but poor Venetian square. When a rich, mysterious gentleman arrives, madness ensues and pandemonium reigns. The Stagecraft 11/12 students, under the direction of Mrs. Theresa Watts, and inspired by the design by McNair alumnus Erin Kleuthe-Tasaka, have built one of the most elaborate and impressive sets in the history of our theatre department. The show will run at 7:00pm **Monday March 5th through Friday March 9th** and tickets will be \$15.00. Don't miss this hilarious romp!

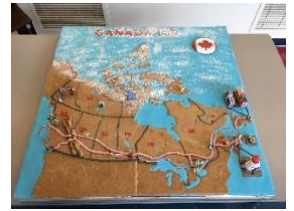


Culinary Arts:

On Thursday, December 14, McNair's Culinary Arts Program sent four teams of students to Enver Creek Secondary School to participate in the 2017 Surrey School District Gingerbread Competition, which was open to all high school students enrolled in a culinary arts program in BC. Students were required to build structures using sheets of baked gingerbread and everything except the bases had to be made of edible materials.

Our students worked tirelessly since the beginning of November planning, cutting, baking, and decorating their creations. After much blood, and tears (well, maybe not blood but definitely lots of hard work) and many late afternoons/evenings, our girls put the finishing touches on their projects on the evening of the 13th, faced off against nineteen other teams the next morning, and brought home top honours.

- Devin Magcalas & Elly Williams achieved **silver status** for their Mandala Winter Wonderland project.
- Maliha Khaku, Nimra Askari & Simran Bapla achieved gold status and won in the **Best Theme** category for their Nursery Rhyme themed project.
- Cheyenne Tu achieved gold status and won in the **Most Creative** category for her Celebrate Canada 150 project.
- Alison Cheng & AJ Rocha achieved gold status and won in two categories: **Most Unique & Best Overall** for their Thousand Sunny Days Pirate Ship.
- People who achieved gold in one of the 9 categories won a Tim Hortons gift card, so everyone in Maliha's group; Cheyenne; Alison and AJ each received one. For the best overall project, Alison and AJ each won a 6-piece knife set that included four knives, a honing steel, and a knife block.



Congratulations to all the participants! We are so proud of your creativity, hard work, and perseverance.

Music/Band:

McNair's Music Department is busy preparing for our upcoming festivals with many of our ensembles. On Saturday, **February 17th** the Jazz Band and Jazz Combo will be performing at the Bell Centre in Surrey for the Envisions Jazz Festival. We are proud to have three students participating in the 'Rep Bands' made up of students from all over the lower mainland. Raphael Agustin, Clayton Lobo and Francis Naluz will be representing McNair in these ensembles. On February 28th and March 1st the Junior and Intermediate Concert Bands will be heading to Victoria to perform in BandFest. They will take the stage at UVic's Farquhar Auditorium and perform for adjudicators. While there, we will also be attending a concert of the Victoria High School Rhythm and Blues Band and working with Lansdowne Middle School. Choir, Strings and Senior Band will participating in the Kiwanis Festival later in the year.



Athletics:

The McNair **Basketball season** are closing in on the playoffs, and all 6 of our teams are in good position. The Bantam Girls, Juvenile Girls and Senior Girls have all played several games, with the Senior Girls sitting in second place in the Richmond league at 6-1 having won their own tournament back in November and placed very well in a tournament in Kelowna. All four of the Boys teams are in good positions, and promise to be competitive in the playoffs. 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. Good luck, Marlins! The Basketball teams are coached by:

Grade 8 Girls-Binwant Atwal and Ikaria John
Grade 9 Girls-Kirsten Abo and Helan Aly



Senior Girls-Jason Leslie and Denise Busayong
 Grade 8 Boys-Ranj Sangra and Garret Holmes
 Grade 9 Boys-Rob Vint
 Grade 10 Boys-Michael Jaswal
 Senior Boys-Ranj Sangra and Jessy Dhillon

Similarly, the **Table Tennis** team has started league play, and our Senior Boys team has been very competitive. Good luck to Mr. Liao and all our Table Tennis players!

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>

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 **February 13th, at 7:00 p.m.** This meeting is open to all parents. 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.

Career Planning:

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.

Gr 12s

Graduating students should be in the process of submitting their post-secondary applications. BC students applying to out-of-province universities should be familiar with admission requirements, important deadlines, how to apply and submit applications before Jan 2018.

B.C. Institutions: Students may apply directly to the institution or use EducationPlannerBC <https://apply.educationplannerbc.ca>

Ontario Institutions: BC students must apply on-line through the Ontario Universities Application Website: <http://www.ouac.on.ca/ouac-105/>

Alberta Institutions: Use the on-line application service <https://applyalberta.ca/>

All Other Institutions: Varies –check their website

NEW! Student Transcripts Service (STS). Please note that the PSI "Choices" form is no longer available and is replaced by the Students Transcripts Service (STS). Students need their PEN number to register.

Grade 12 students should have set up their BCeID account and set up their accounts in order to have transcripts sent electronically to the colleges/universities they wish to apply to. If students are unsure how to do this, they can visit Ms Hudson.

***Note:** Some Post Secondary institutions may require student grade information earlier than available through this process. Students should be familiar with each institution’s requirements regarding grade submission. If required, an official hardcopy transcript from the main office can be ordered. (\$5.00 per transcript).

Document Deadlines

Many universities & colleges require additional information such as transcripts or supplemental applications or profiles - this is called a “document deadline”. This is separate from the application deadline and varies depending on the institution.

Students should register to write the TOEFL/IELTS and/or the LPI if required to do so. Contact the Career Centre or the individual post-secondary institutions you are applying to for requirements and exemptions.

Scholarships

Grade 12 students should be applying for scholarships. Several have been posted recently on the Weebly new page section. This is not an exhaustive list – more are located on the scholarship section of the Weebly website. Sd38careercentre.weebly.com

Some websites will match a student with a variety of awards in their database. Register online for this option at

https://yconic.com/?redirect_from=studentawards

<http://www.scholarshipscanada.com/>

Reminders to Grade 11 Students:

If you are planning to attend a USA post-secondary institution after graduation, it is a good idea to register for and to write your SAT admission exam during your Grade 11 year! This allows enough time to have your SAT scores ready for your Fall application. See the College Board website for registration details: <http://student.collegeboard.org/>

Skilled Trade Exploration Program (STEP) - SPRING 2018

Students in grade 11 or 12 can apply to work for an entire week with the Richmond School District carpenters, plumbers, electricians, landscapers or H-VAC technicians. (STEP Program. Applications for this exciting work experience program are available from your Career Information Advisor or counsellor. Deadline to submit your COMPLETE application is Wednesday, February 7th.

Students in Grades 8-12

FEB 21/18 Youth Train in Trades Workshops (Plumbing or Professional Cook)

Register by Feb 14.

The Career Programs Office is offering the 'Education on Action' series in 2017/18. Experience a morning in the SD38 'Youth Train in Trades' Professional Cook Program or the Plumbing Program. Acquire practical hands-on skills. These workshops are open to Grade 8 - 12 students. Limited seats available. To register for one of the workshops, contact Ms. Mah at: sumah@sd38.bc.ca or 604-668-6000 ext 3766.

Study and Go Abroad Fair Spring 2018 Vancouver

Don't miss Canada's largest international university and student travel expo!

Free seminars starting at 12 noon.

Feb 25, 2018 from 1-5pm

Event Location: East Ballroom at Convention Level

Vancouver Convention Centre

999 Canada Place, Vancouver, BC

Other Events:

FEB 10/18: KPU Graphic Design for Marketing Early Application Interview and Portfolio Reviews

FEB 17/18: ExploreUVic (on Vancouver Island)

FEB 17/18: Quest University Open House Preview Event

FEB 19/18: Langara Social Service Worker Information Session

FEB 20/18: Veterinary Technology Information Session(s) at Douglas College

FEB 21/18: Langara Journalism Information Session

FEB 22/18: Langara Education Assistant Information Session

FEB 23/18: Discovery Day - KPU Langley

FEB 24/18: KPU 'Surrey' Open House

FEB 28/18 BCIT BIG Info Session Event 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm

MAR 1/18: Explore Capilano Information Night

MAR 8/18: Langara Bachelor of Science in Nursing Information Session

MAR 19/18: Langara Social Service Worker Information Session