

McNair Secondary

August 2018

Newsletter

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August 2018

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

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Principal's Message:

Welcome Back!

September 4th is fast approaching and it is time to think about going back to school! I hope this newsletter finds you still enjoying the fantastic weather this summer (though the smoke is a little concerning).

Though there is still some holiday time left it is not too soon to begin thinking about the possibilities offered with the fresh start we are provided every September. Each student has the opportunity to decide, on their own, individual goals for this school year. Whether your child wishes to improve academic achievement, become a member of a sports team, get involved in service activities or clubs, or explore post-secondary options, McNair has many opportunities to offer. Our goal is for each child to achieve his or her full potential.

Inside this newsletter you will find information about school start up and the schedule for the first day of school. Our first PAC meeting will take place on September 11th at 7:00 p.m. and all parents are welcome to attend. In the spirit of protecting our environment and saving on paper, our regular newsletters will be posted on our website: <https://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca>. We will also email newsletters to you but please ensure your current email address is filled in on your child's **verification/medical form**, which will be sent home with students on the first day of school.

As parents, you play a key role in your child's education and it is not too early to begin conversations around the importance of good work habits, regular study time, and establishing personal bests as this year's goal.

The school is clean and looks great and we are excited to get things started again. Enjoy the last days of summer – on behalf of the entire McNair staff we look forward to working with you and your children in the 2018-2019 school year.

--Mr. Jason Leslie
Principal

New Student Orientation:

As indicated in the Welcome Back letter that was emailed home, McNair will be hosting a couple of Orientations for students new to McNair. All **Grade 8's** are welcome to visit the school on **Thursday, August 30th at 11:30 in the cafeteria**. Any **other students** new to McNair (transferred from other schools) will have an orientation on **Thursday at 1:00 PM in the library**. We want to make your adjustment to your new surroundings as comfortable as possible, so we hope you are able to make these Orientations.

New School Year packages email:

To Help all of you get the year off to an organized start, we have sent home electronically:

- Retreat information letter (Grade 8)-coming soon!

- Information about setting up KEV School Cash online payment accounts
- A Welcome Back letter
- Media Release form-to be submitted to HR teachers by Friday, September 7th
- A description of the first days of school

Course changes:

Please be aware that the Timetable (as it is every year), is incredibly tight. We go to great lengths to ensure that students get what they asked for in the Spring (when the Timetable is built-based upon what students told us they wanted to take). If a student changes their mind or did not take a course in the summer that they had originally planned to, it can be very difficult to make changes to schedules. When students get their Timetables on September 4th, they will be given instructions about how to make Course Correction Requests. These Corrections are only to be completed if a student has an incorrect course, is programmed into the wrong grade level, or has a gap in their schedule. Counsellors will be working feverishly to make as many corrections as they can, but not everything will be possible, and we ask that all families remain patient and follow the schedule they were given until they have been advised of a change.

First Day of School-Tuesday, September 4th:

- 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **Grade 8** students report to the Large Gym for Welcome Back Assembly and to meet homeroom teachers and mentors. In homeroom, students will receive their schedule, locker info and student verification/medical form and will be able to pay fee statements. Students are recommended to use the theft-resistant lock provided by the school.
- 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **Grade 9 - 10** students will start in the Large gym for a Welcome Back Assembly and then will be directed to their homeroom classes to receive their schedules, lockers, verification/medical forms and pay fee statements. Students are reminded to bring their lockers from last year. If you cannot locate yours, you may purchase a new one for \$10.00 from the Business Assistant.
- 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. **Grade 11 - 12** students will start with a Welcome Back Assembly in the Large Gym and then be directed to their homeroom classes to receive their schedules, lockers, fee statements and verification/medical forms. Students are reminded to bring their lockers from last year. If you cannot locate yours, you may purchase a new one for \$10.00 from the Business Assistant.

Most importantly, do not share your combination with anyone else. The lock you will be provided with is yours to keep. There is a charge of \$10.00 for the lock, but you will not have to return it to us.

Marlinaires, Mentors and teachers will be available in the halls to assist students new to the school. Homeroom lists will be published and placed on the window at the front of the school at the end of the day on August 31st. Students will be able to find their homeroom by looking through the list to find their name (listed alphabetically by last name), then cross-referencing their Homeroom, ie: 9A, 9B, 9C, etc., with the room number list next to the student name list. New students should bring our school map with them this week. All students will report to the large gym on the first day (September 4th).

Homerooms September 5th – 7th

We will have a brief **homeroom class each morning** for the **first week** of classes to provide students with relevant information and obtain accurate attendance figures. Each homeroom teacher will also review the school expectations and procedures, distribute agendas, and answer ongoing questions students may have.

It is very important that you attend this homeroom class each day. If you do not attend homeroom during the early days of the school year, your home will be phoned. If we are

unable to contact you, we will assume you are attending another school and you will be withdrawn from McNair.

Fee Statements:

We will **NOT** be sending home Fee statements any longer. All families were sent information on August 24th about setting up accounts for the new **KEV Cash Online system**. Once those accounts have been created and students have been attached to the accounts, parents will get notification of outstanding fees. We should have many of the standard fees (Basic Fee-\$28, Optional Grad Fees, Grade 8 Retreat fee, optional Locker fee, Yearbook fee etc) uploaded into the system by Monday, August 27th, and parents should be able to start paying immediately. We are still working on having Credit Card availability, but the district has not finalized this yet. Once Credit Card payment becomes an option, you will be informed. **Please be sure to set up your account and attach your child(ren) so you are aware of upcoming fees.**

Meet the Teacher:

You will be able to meet your son or daughter's teachers on the evening of **Thursday, September 20th**. The evening begins with a Welcome in the gym at 7:00 p.m. followed by an opportunity to meet your child's teachers in their classrooms. More information regarding this evening will be sent home in September.

Work Habits:

Attitudes toward learning, cooperation, attendance, punctuality, and the ability to work well with others are very important aspects of effective learning. At McNair, we value work habits. Student work habits are reported on all interim reports:

- G** - Work habits are **good**.
- S** - Work habits are **satisfactory**.
- N** - Work habits **need to improve**.

Student Information Verification/Medical Forms and Media Release Forms:

Students received their Media Release forms via an email. Please ensure it is printed off, signed and returned to Homeroom teachers by Friday, September 7th so your child's photograph can be displayed in the Yearbook etc. We will also be sending home a Student Information Verification/Medical Form with your child on Tuesday, September 4th. Please ensure that the Student Information Verification Form is filled out with current, accurate, information. Please be sure to include the name and number of an alternate contact who speaks English. **Please make any changes directly onto the form and return to your child's Homeroom teacher as soon as possible or by September 7th. Please be sure to include an accurate email address.**

Protect Personal Belongings

The best defense against acts of theft is to not bring valuable items to school. Protect your belongings and do not leave money or other valuables in an unattended bag, locker or changing room. Students should **LEAVE VALUABLES AT HOME!**

Academic Honesty

We believe that every student has the responsibility to participate actively in their own learning. When faced with problems to solve or assignments to complete, it is the thinking and the effort a student puts into researching, reading, writing and re-writing that allows one to truly learn.

Similarly, submitting the work of another student, tutor, parent, friend, etc. as your own work (even though it has been properly footnoted and referenced) is plagiarism and not acceptable at school. This applies equally to written work and projects (ie: Web design, tech projects, art work, and photos). Tutors should not write, re-write or significantly edit large sections of work for a student.

It is the student's responsibility to avoid deliberate or accidental plagiarism and to verify and account for all of their own work and learning.

Newsletters

"The Marliner" newsletters are posted on our web page and emailed home monthly:

<https://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca>

Be sure to keep up with the news at McNair.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC):

Our Parent Advisory group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The first meeting of the 2018 - 2019 year is at **7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 11th**. Come join us as we get acquainted, learn about the school and set our goals for this year.

New Members Welcome!

Late Return:

Please be reminded that if you will **NOT** be returning to McNair for the 2018-19 school year, please let our school office know of your departure. Also, if you will be returning, but will **arrive later than the first day of school (September 4th)**, but **ON or BEFORE September 12th**, you **MUST** let the office know and complete a **NOTICE OF LATE RETURN** form. This form is available at the school office and must be completed or you risk losing your space in the school. This is important to ensure we have a timetable for your child in September. Thank you for your cooperation in helping create a smooth start to the school year for all of our McNair families.

Grade 8 Retreat:

Plans are almost complete for the annual **Grade 8 Retreat**, scheduled for **September 20-21, 2018**. This fun way to connect with all the new people in the **Grad class of 2023** will include food trucks, a trip to **Apex Trampoline Park** and a **sleep-over at the school** when we explore, play games and get to socialize with new friends. This event is attended by almost every Grade 8 student and is a great way to kick off the year. Be sure to sign up for it. **Information, permission forms and cost breakdown will be sent in an email letter in early September**. Let's try to have 100% turn-out and get the year off to a great start!

Lockers and Agendas:

All students will be issued a **locker** by their Homeroom teacher on the first day of school. You are welcome to bring in your own lock, but you will need to record your combination with your Homeroom teacher. If you do not have a lock, we are selling them. Grade 8s can buy them from their Homeroom teacher for **\$10** each, and anyone else who needs one can purchase a lock from our Business Assistant (Mrs. Yee) for \$10. Always use your locker to keep from carrying books that are too heavy, and also be sure to keep it clean. To ensure the safety of your belongings, always use your locker for anything valuable (do not bring money or electronics to the Gym Change rooms), and do not share your locker combination with **ANYONE!**

Agendas are also being provided this year. Hard-copies will be available for students who need them (including all **Grade 8s**), but we have created an **APP** for students (and parents) to use on their phones and other devices. We will review how to use and download the APP during the Grade Assemblies on September 4th, but we want to encourage everyone (including parents) to use the App to help you stay organized and informed!

School supplies:

We recommend that students wait until they have met with each of their teachers before purchasing too many school supplies or equipment. Students should, however, bring a **pen, a binder and some paper** for the first few days of school. The information will come to you quickly, so you will need to stay organized.

School and Grad Photos:

McNair is having its school photographs on **Wednesday, September 26th**. This photo will be used on student Go-Cards and parents will have the option to purchase packages of the photos. Information on the packages will come from *Artona*. Photo retake day will be on **Thursday, October 18th**, for anyone unhappy with their photo or for those who were absent on the first day.

Formal Graduation Photos will also be taken by *Artona* and they will be bringing a trailer to the school parking lot **December 10-15**. Graduates will have to make an appointment, dress the part and be ready to take the photo that parents will want to buy and is used on the **Graduation Composite**. For more information, please go to the *Artona* website at: <https://artona.com>

Early Warning Phone Line:

McNair appreciates all communication from home about students and families. In order to keep us aware of students who will be absent from school, we ask that parents use the **EARLY WARNING LINE** at **(604)295-6427**. This number is accessible 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Please report your child's absence by calling McNair on this number. Thank you in advance.

Collaboration Days and Flex Time:

McNair is the first school in Richmond to embrace **FLEX TIME**. This block of 40 minutes of instructional time gives control back to the students and they get to select which class and what teacher they want to see. This past year, we offered **FLEX TIME** on Thursdays, and it was so popular and well-utilized by students that we have decided to increase it to twice a week, every **Tuesday and Thursday**, starting **Tuesday, September 11**. **FLEX TIME** is accounted for (attendance will be taken and students will have to sign up on-line in advance for the teacher they wish to see), and occurs from **9:33-10:13** (after Period 1) every Tuesday and Thursday. Be sure to take advantage of this very valuable learning time. It helps to keep marks high and homework low when used properly!

McNair also has **Collaboration time**, which is where students get to sleep in while teachers meet and plan new activities and lesson ideas for their classes. **Collaboration time** is not new to McNair (we have been doing it for 4 years), and happens the **first Wednesday of each month** (starting **October 3rd**). **Collaboration Time** runs from **8:20-9:45** and classes will start at 9:50 on these days. Students coming in from Hamilton will be advised of alternate bus times. End of day dismissal on all of these days is unchanged at 2:50 PM(see below for exact time).

Bell Schedules:

McNair is a semester school, with 4 classes per day and most students (except Grade 8s) will have those 4 classes every day until the end of January, when they will get 4 new classes. We have three different schedules, but the order of the blocks is always the same. See below for the three different schedules: Regular, Flex Days and Collaboration Days.

Regular Day	Flex Day (Tues/Thus)	Collab Day (1st Wed)
Period A 8:20-9:34	Period A 8:20-9:28	Collab Time 8:20-9:45
Silent Reading 9:39-9:57	Flex Time 9:33-10:13	Period A 9:50-10:50
Period B 9:57-11:15	Period B 10:18-11:26	Period B 10:55-11:55
Break 11:15-11:32	Break 11:26-11:44	Break 11:55-12:10
Period C 11:37-12:51	Period C 11:49-12:57	Period C 12:15-1:15
Lunch 12:51-1:31	Lunch 12:57-1:37	Lunch 1:15-1:45
Period D 1:36-2:50	Period D 1:42-2:50	Period D 1:50-2:50

2018-19 School Calendar:

Calendar for 2018-2019:

MATTHEW MCNAIR SECONDARY SCHOOL 2018/2019 SCHOOL CALENDAR	
New Student Orientation	Wednesday August 29
Schools Open-HRs and Assemblies	Tuesday September 4
First Day of Semester 1 Classes	Wednesday September 5
Grade 8 Retreat	September 20 to September 21
Meet the Teacher Night (Semester 1)	Thursday September 20
Non-Instructional Day	Friday September 21
School Photos	Wednesday September 26
Terry Fox Run	Thursday, September 27
Collaboration Day	Wednesday October 3
Thanksgiving Day	Monday October 8
School Photo Retakes	Thursday October 18
Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)	Friday October 19
Non-Instructional Day	Friday, November 2
Daylight Savings ends	Sunday, November 4
Collaboration Day	Wednesday November 7
Take Your Kids to Work Day (Gr. 9s)	Wednesday November 7
Remembrance Day Assembly	Friday November 9
Remembrance Day	Saturday November 11-- No school-Monday November 12
Report Cards issued	Thursday, November 15
Parent Teacher Conferences (2 – 4 pm)	Wednesday November 21
Parent Teacher Conferences (2 – 4 pm & 6 – 8 pm)	Thursday November 22
Non-Instructional Day	Friday November 23
Collaboration Day	Wednesday December 5
Graduation Portrait Sessions	December 10 to December 15
Last day before holidays-Breakfast with Santa	Friday, December 21
Winter Vacation Period	December 24 to January 4
Schools Reopen after Winter Vacation	Monday January 7
Collaboration Day	Wednesday January 9
Provincial Exams	January 21-25
Open House and Program Planning Information Night	Thursday, January 24
Semester Turn-Around Day	Monday, January 28
Non-Instructional Day	Tuesday, January 29
First Day of Semester 2	Wednesday January 30
Lunar New Year-Year of the Pig	Tuesday, February 5
Collaboration Day	Wednesday February 6
Report Cards Issued (Semester 1 – Final)	Thursday February 7
Non-Instructional Day	Friday February 15
BC Family Day	Monday February 18
Pink Shirt Day-Anti-Bullying	Wednesday, February 27
Collaboration Day	Wednesday March 6
Spring Vacation Period	March 18 to March 29
Collaboration Day	Wednesday April 3
Report Cards Issued (Semester 2: Term 1)	Thursday April 18
Good Friday	Friday April 19
Easter Monday	Monday April 22
Parent Teacher Conferences (2 – 4 pm)	Wednesday April 24
Parent Teacher Conferences (2 – 4 pm & 6 – 8 pm)	Thursday April 25
Collaboration Day	Wednesday May 1
Daylight Savings begins	Sunday, May 10
Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)	Friday May 17
Victoria Day	Monday May 20
Collaboration Day	Wednesday June 5
Valedictory	Friday, June 7
Provincial Exams	June 21-26
Last Day of Semester 2	Thursday June 27
Final Report Cards Issued	Thursday June 27
Schools Close	Friday June 28

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!!!

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. Please be sure to communicate with your child about how they are feeling and if you need some help, please contact our Counsellors. Being a teenager has never been filled with more pressure and we need to be aware of the signals if our kids are struggling..



Important Dates:

Sept 3	<i>Labour Day</i>	Sept 4	First Day of school-HRs and Assemblies
Sept 5-7	HR First all week	Sept 5	First Day of regular class
Sept 6-8	Mini to Strathcona	Sept 11	First Flex Day (every Tues and Thurs)
Sept 20-21	Grade 8 Retreat	Sept 20	Meet the Teacher Night
Sept 21	Pro-D Day (no school)	Sept 26	School Photos
Sept 27	Terry Fox Run	Sept 27	Grad Boat Cruise

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:

McNair has long had a very proud tradition of Athletics and next year promises to be another strong season full of opportunities for young student-athletes. Being connected to school teams is a great way to meet new friends and enjoy fabulous coaching and have lots of fun competing against other school from around Richmond. Be sure to listen to the announcements so you are aware of

upcoming practices and try-outs. The fall season gets started right away, and we will be offering teams in the following sports:

- Senior Boys Soccer
- Junior Girls Volleyball
- Grade 8 Girls Volleyball
- Senior Girls Volleyball
- Grade 9 Girls Volleyball
- Swimming

And depending on interest and coaching support there may be more. Be sure to stay informed and make connections to the teams you are interested in participating on!



Attendance/Early Dismissal:

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 students in Grades 8-11. If a student misses a later class, you MAY get a call from a classroom teacher, administrator or Counsellor to find out why he/she was absent. Recorded messages are also sent home at the end of the day, alerting parents to any class missed by their child via the Synvoice system. Regular attendance is necessary for successful learning.

If students need to leave the school during the day, please send them to the office with a note, signed by a parent, indicating when they should be dismissed. **Students MUST sign out at the office before he/she leaves, either with a note or phone call from a parent.**

Calendar:

All families will be receiving a **Wall Calendar** on the first day of class. The calendar has lots of information about events in the school (Report Cards, Semester change-over, Exams, Grad events and holidays). Please be sure to use this tool, along with the **Student Agenda (now in an electronic APP)** in order to stay informed and connected to the events in the school.

Pick up/Drop off:

Help us make McNair a safe school and a good neighbor by doing what you can to ease the traffic congestion in the area. Number 4 Road can be very busy and we encourage parents and all other drivers not to enter the parking lot from the North side of the building. We also encourage students to walk or bike to school. If you **MUST** pick up or drop off, please do so before 8:00 AM and do not stop in the parking lot, rather proceed to the drop off area in front of the school.

Smoking:

Smoking is a serious health hazard and student and adults are **NOT PERMITTED** to smoke anywhere on school property. We encourage healthy habits at McNair and will actively dissuade students found smoking in areas where they are not permitted.

Cellphones/Devices:

Cellphones and other electronic devices are not to be used, seen or heard during class time, unless permission has been granted by the classroom teacher. These can be very valuable learning tools, but they need to be used appropriately, and must not become a distraction. We ask that parents **DO NOT** call or text your child while they are in class. In case of emergency, please call the school office at (604)668-6575 and we will contact your child for you.

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 <https://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!

