

McNair Secondary

September 2018

Newsletter

Volume 1 | Issue 1
September 2018

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

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Principal's Message:

We are now one month into the 2018-19 school year and we are off to a great start! We hope all students are now feeling comfortable with their timetables and courses and are excited about how the school year is shaping up. The first month of school is always a blur and this year was no different. Students and staff quickly got involved in several excellent events, and among the highlights were: The **Mini-School Strathcona trip**, the **Grade 8 Retreat Sleepover** and trip to Apex Trampoline Park, a very successful **Meet the Teacher night**, an inspiring **Terry Fox Run**, and our first Grad event of the year, a **Boat Cruise on September 27th**. We have also enjoyed a host of great learning activities in and outside of our classrooms. Each of these events was enjoyed by those who attended or participated, and are a sign of great things to come this year!

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

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

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

-Mr. Jason Leslie

Welcome to McNair:

We are very fortunate to have a friendly, caring and talented staff at McNair, all of whom work exceedingly hard to help your children meet with success. Every year, however, there are changes to the staff at a high-school and while we have already mentioned many additions to the McNair staff in the last Newsletter, we would also like to mention the following late additions to the McNair Staff:

- **Amy Kim** **French**
- **Joel Jih** **Info Tech/Accounting**
- **Leo Chan** **Math/Resource**
- **Sarah Saunders** **Culinary Arts**
- **Jessy Dhillon** **Youth Support Worker**

Important Dates:

Oct 3	Collaboration Day (9:45 AM start)
Oct 5	World Teacher Day
Oct 8	Thanksgiving Day (school closed)
Oct 9	PAC Meeting (7:00 PM)
Oct 11	Interim Reports Sent Home
Oct 18	Photo Retake Day
Oct 19	Professional Development Day (no classes)
Oct 18-21	Leadership Conference
Oct 20	BC Elections
Oct 25	Grade 12 Parent Information Night (7 PM Library)
Oct 31	Halloween

Flex Time:

Every Tuesday and 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. We also ask that students inform teachers of where they plan to attend in advance of classes. All students must sign up via the link found online at: <https://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/news/2018/09/28/flex-time-signup> 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>



Core Competencies:

As they did each of the last two years, 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.



Interim Reports:



Parents are reminded that all McNair students will bring home their Interim Report Card from Semester One on **Thursday, October 11th**. 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/>

Meet the Teacher:

McNair had another very successful **Meet the Teacher** evening on **Thursday, September 20th**. Well over 350 parents came to speak with their child's teachers and manage to put a face to the name of who is working with your children. We encourage all parents to stay involved with their children's education. Those who do stay engaged usually have children who do better in school. Stay involved by asking questions about school, and attend school activities (sporting events, Parent Meetings and extra-curricular performances and contests). At the **Meet the Teacher** event in September, we had all of our **Marlinaires** showing parents around the school while the Leadership students were working with the Grade 8 students at the **Grade 8 Retreat**. Below is a picture of this year's volunteers for **Meet the Teacher** evening.



Marlinaires:

McNair's social responsibility club, meets **every Wednesday** at lunch in room 136.

Students learn about world issues and find out ways to help, donating their time and energy toward social change. The first major campaign for October, **WE Scare Hunger**, will highlight hunger and poverty with students going door-to-door for non-perishable food donations to the **Richmond Food Bank Society**.



McNair Tutors:

McNair Tutors return every Monday at **lunch** and **after school** (3:00-4:00 PM) in **room 136** to offer students help in their academic subjects. Volunteer students—headed by **Cheyenne Tu**, **Amy Wong**, and **Anna Li**—run the free program, which is open to students of all grades. For students who require a more customized schedule or for parents who have further questions, please e-mail mcnairtutors@gmail.com for more information.

Drama/Theatre:

The Theatre Department hit the ground running this September. We have a huge year ahead of us and lots to get ready for. Unfortunately, the much needed and promised stage floor replacement did not happen over the summer. Instead the district patched up a few spots of the floor.

The Stagecraft 12 students began the month with an exciting project. They were asked to decorate corporate ducks for a charity duck race to benefit The Royal Marine Search and Rescue Station 8 for Delta. The students did an amazing job “*duckorating*” 6 corporate ducks. In reality they were big yellow plastic ducks that we decorated to match the corporate logos. The ducks raced on the Fraser River on Sunday Sept 16th.



The Theatre is now in the process of getting ready for 2 big events. October will see our *annual Haunted House*. This is put on by the Stagecraft 11/12 classes and the Acting 12 class.

At the same time, we are in the beginning stages of prepping for our big musical production of *The Wizard of Oz*. This production will be directed by Mrs. Theresa Watts with Mr. Marco Soriano looking after much of the costuming as well as organizing the matinees. We are happy to announce that we will be partnering with Thomas Kidd Elementary and Kingswood Elementary schools. Students from these schools will be cast as the Munchkins in our *Wizard of Oz* production! The rest of the casting for the musical will happen in November. Production dates are set for the last week of Feb and the first week of March. We hope you will join us on “*The Yellow Brick Road*.”



Music/Band:

The McNair Music Department is off to an exciting start, welcoming our new members and continuing to work with our students from previous years. We have a big year ahead of us with our fall retreat **November 16th and 17th**, concerts, Junior/Intermediate tour and our senior tour. We have a variety of fundraisers set up currently (prepaid cards and chocolate bar sales) as well as our Cookie dough, poinsettias and Purdy’s all before Christmas. All important dates are available in the calendar on our site or the calendar section of the music category of the school app.



It is important that all music students and parents visit our site at mcnairmusic.ca and read our handbook (course outline) and complete the form.

Also, it’s not too late to join one of our ensembles! If students are interested in band, strings or choir, all are welcome to come and be part of our program. From the inexperienced to the most experienced, we have a place for you in our program if you want to make music!

Athletics:



The **McNair Fall Athletic season** is now underway. We have fielded teams in all levels of **Girls Volleyball (Grade 8, Grade 9, Grade 10, Junior and Senior)**, as well as **Senior Boys Soccer**, and **Junior Rugby**. We would like to thank **Mr. Dhaliwal** for his work as **Athletic Director** getting all of these teams started, and to all of our **coaches and sponsors (including several staff and students)** for all their time and dedication. It promises to be an exciting season, and so far, each of the teams wearing Marlin colours have been representing themselves and our school very well! **Good luck, Marlins!** Also, keep listening to daily announcements for updates on the **Winter Season** sports team try-outs-the winter season includes **Boys and Girls Basketball and Table-Tennis**. Also, **if interested in being a scorekeeper or referee for any of these competitions, please see Mr. Dhaliwal.**

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 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 **Oct 9th at 7:00 p.m.** This meeting is open to all parents. We hope to see many of you there!



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 in the library. We also have the previously mentioned **Free Tutoring Service** available for students who might benefit. If interested, please go to **room 136** after school on Mondays. If your child can benefit from this extra assistance, please remind them to advocate for themselves and take advantage of these tremendous supports. Both are open to all students.

Grade 8 Retreat:

On **September 20 and 21**, McNair's **Leadership 11/12** students welcomed the **Grads of 2023**, the newest Marlins, to our school. We set up a fun couple of days where students coming from several different Elementary schools got to interact with each other and get to know one another better. The two-day outing included a trip to **Apex Trampoline Park** on **Friday, September 21st** (during the Pro-D day) and on **Thursday, September 20th** we had team-building games and a **sleepover at the school** (the first time we have done this at McNair). A great time was had by all, as the Leadership students did a good job in coordinating our Grade 8's and our newest Marlins started to become the Grad class of 2023! **Way to go, Marlins and thank you to our Leadership class!**



Grade 12 News and Boat Cruise:

Grade 12 is a big year, and it is vitally important that graduates stay organized and ready for all that is on the horizon. We had an assembly last **Wednesday, September 26th**, and gave students a handout that explains many of the things they will need to be aware of in the coming months. It is important as parents that you help your child stay organized, and help them record important dates like application and scholarship deadlines, as well as social events. It is very easy for Grads to start feeling overwhelmed by the pressures of their last year in high school, so do everything in your power to help them keep balanced. Encourage studying, but also time for family and friends, work and sports, proper eating and exercise.

Already this year, we have enjoyed the **Grad Boat Cruise**. We enjoyed a three-hour tour around Vancouver Harbour on **Thursday, September 27th**. Over 130 students had a great time and were very well behaved and represented themselves and the school properly. Thanks to all the staff and students who made the event happen. We look forward to the next event, which will be some kind of **Winter Formal**, likely to occur in January or February. More information will come soon.



Mini School:

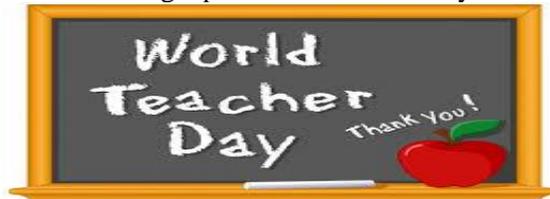
The **McNair Mini-School** program enjoyed their annual retreat to **Strathcona** from **September 6-10**. All 145 students went on the trip, and experienced a wide-variety outdoor education opportunities. The trip and the program are all about “pushing the envelope” and our students did an excellent job of stepping outside their comfort zones. These experiences will create memories and skills that are sure to last a lifetime. Thanks to all the teachers and staff at Strathcona for all they did and the time they gave to make this great trip happen! If you have a chance, please be sure to visit the Mini-School blog to see photos and stay up to date with upcoming events.

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



World Teacher Day:

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



Terry Fox Run:

On Thursday, September 27th, the **McNair Athletic Council**, under the guidance of **Mr. Sangra**, led our entire student body through the **Terry Fox Run**. This annual run, initiated back in 1986 by a true Canadian hero, was designed to raise money and awareness to fight cancer. Terry Fox had a goal of raising one dollar for each Canadian (at the time approximately \$24 Million dollars). To date, the Terry Fox Foundation has raised over **\$800 Million dollars**, and we continue to add to that total at McNair. All 800+ students participated on a run that took us on a 2 KM run through our neighborhood community and we accepted donations from generous students for over two weeks, **raising over \$500!** It was a beautiful day, and everyone behaved accordingly and supported a very worthwhile cause. **Way to go, Marlins and thank you to Mr. Sangra and the Athletic Council!**

Learn more about **Terry Fox** and how you can contribute at: <http://www.terryfox.org>



Career Planning:

Visit the following for university/college/scholarship updates:

- SD38careercentre.weebly.com
- www.facebook.com/MsHudsonCareerCentreNews

Drop in to see Ms Hudson, the Career Advisor, in the Career Centre M – F from 11:15 to 3:15.

Parents – if you wish to receive the emails sent to students, email the career advisor: ludson@sd38.bc.ca to be added to the list.

Applying to BC Colleges and Universities

Students planning on attending College in September 2019 - can apply to Langara, Douglas and Kwantlen on October 1.

BCIT accepts applications for most programs on Nov.1 and VCC is on-going throughout the year. Since colleges operate on a 1st come 1st serve basis it is recommended that students submit their application early.

Attending a University in September 2019?

Universities open their application portals in Sept./Oct. and continue accepting applications until a specific deadline. Universities base admission decisions on certain criteria, not necessarily how early a student applies.

Online Application for Admission To BC Colleges and Universities:

Students may apply either directly to a specific institution or use EducationPlannerBC: <https://apply.educationplannerbc.ca>

This service allows students to apply for admission to most public post-secondary institutions in British Columbia. Fill in the EducationPlannerBC Common Form once, then they can apply to any institution they choose.

Application for Admission to Alberta Universities: <https://applyalberta.ca/>

Application for Admission to Ontario Universities: <http://www.ouac.on.ca/ouac-105/>

All other Post-Secondary Institutions: Check their websites for instructions.

Student Transcript Services

This service is provided so that students can have their grades sent directly to the schools where they are interested in attending. The following website is where students set this up. Instructions are available in the career centre.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/transcripts-and-certificates>

Post-Secondary Visits to McNair Fall 2018

1. Tues Oct 2 – UBC - Library from 3-4pm
2. Wed Oct 3 – Canadian Universities Event - McMath Secondary from 6:30-8pm
3. Tues Oct 9 – KPU – Library at lunch
4. Wed Oct 10 – SFU – Library at lunch
5. Thurs Oct 11 – Emily Carr – Library at lunch

6. Tues Oct 16 – SFU Criminology - at lunch, location TBD
7. Wed Oct 17 - Post-Secondary Institutions of BC - 10-11:30am in main hallway
 - UVIC in Library 10:15-10:45
 - Douglas in Library 10:55-11:30
8. Thurs Oct 18 – UBC Sauder – Library at lunch
9. Tues Nov 6 – McGill – McMath from 7-8:30pm
10. Tues Nov 13 – Western University - in the hallway from 11:15-11:30 am
11. Tues Nov 27 – University of Alberta - in the hallway from 11:15-11:30am

Other Upcoming Events

- Note this is not a complete list of everything that is upcoming. Please check sd38careercentre.weebly.com for more information

OCT 19/18 - KPU Open House (Richmond)

OCT 21/18 - 'Study and Go Abroad Fair' in Vancouver

OCT 24/18 - Experience VCC

NOV 6/18 - McGill University ~ Information Session for Richmond students (held at McMath Secondary)!

NOV 14/18 - BCIT Big Info Evening Event

NOV 20/18 - KPU Tech Open House

NOV 28/18 - Explore Capilano 2018