

McNair Secondary

October 2018

Newsletter

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

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Vice Principals-Mr. T. Irani
& Mrs. D. Ten-Pow
Trustee-Mrs. S. Nixon
PAC Chair-Mrs. K. Chana
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Principal's Message:

As the half-way point of first semester approaches, the people who make up McNair seem comfortable, engaged and fully immersed in the learning activities that make the school such a great place to work and learn. In fact, just last week, in a conversation with a few different staff members, a comment was made that “*the school has a very positive ‘vibe’ right now*”, and it is true. Students are as friendly as ever, staff are enjoying working with each other and the students and the energy in the building is overwhelmingly positive.

Highlights from October included Interim Reports being sent home, a wonderful Thanksgiving long weekend, our world-famous Haunted House and the great efforts being displayed by our athletics teams.

November promises to be another great month as we have our **Mid-Semester Report Cards** coming home (**November 15th**), our spectacular **Remembrance Day ceremony** (**November 9th**) and **Parent Teacher Conferences** (**November 21 and 22**). Please be sure to book your appointments online at: <https://mcnair.schoolappointments.com>. We look forward to meeting with and making connections with all of the stakeholders in the McNair community.

- Mr. Jason Leslie

Important Dates:

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|--------|---|
| Nov 2 | Professional Development Day (no classes) |
| Nov 4 | Daylight Saving Ends |
| Nov 6 | McGill University Info Session at McMath (7:00 PM) |
| Nov 7 | Collaboration Day (9:45 AM start) |
| Nov 9 | Remembrance Day Ceremony |
| Nov 12 | Remembrance Day Holiday (school closed) |
| Nov 13 | PAC Meeting (7:00 PM) |
| Nov 14 | Gr. 9 Take Your Kids to Work |
| Nov 15 | Report Cards Published on Parent Portal |
| Nov 21 | Parent-Teacher Conference (2:00-4:00PM) |
| Nov 22 | Parent-Teacher Conference (2:00-4:00PM, 6:00-8:00PM) |
| Nov 22 | WE Day Vancouver |
| Nov 23 | Professional Development/Curriculum Implementation Day (no classes) |

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 next year. For more information, please see our website. If you have any questions about the program, please contact the school. <https://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.

Report Cards:



The First Cards for Semester One will be published to the Parent Portal on November 15th. All parents were sent instructions for how to access these online accounts, and we will no longer be printing Report Cards. If you are unable to access your account, please send an email to mcnair@sd38.bc.ca and describe the issue you are having. We will attempt to resolve the problem as quickly as possible so you are able to access your child's Student Records and Report cards online through the Portal. All families should be sent login information, including usernames and passwords. You should be able to access the Parent Portal through the link: <https://www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspn/logon.do>

Meet the Teachers:

Report Cards and Parent-Teacher Conferences: Mid-Term Report Cards for Semester 1: Parents will be able to access students reports cards on **Thursday, November 15th** on the **Parent MYED Portal**. Please be sure to login in to view your child's report card. **Parent-Teacher Conferences** will take place on **Wednesday, November 21st (2-4 PM)**, and **Thursday, November 22nd (2-4 PM & 6-8 PM)**. In order to make an appointment, starting November 1st, please go to the link below to register, and then select the teachers you would like to meet. We encourage all parents to take advantage of this opportunity to speak with your child's teachers. We all know that students whose parents stay involved

in their education do much better. We look forward to seeing many of you on November 21st and 22nd. **The booking deadline is Tuesday November 20th at 3pm.** To book appointments, please go to: <https://mcnair.schoolappointments.com>

Marlinares:

Headed by co-presidents **Isabella De Conti** and **Eilat Marom** and joined by vice-president **Thamali Samarasinghe**, the **Marlinares** is the school's social responsibility club. This year, the club will fundraise for the **WE Charity and Casa Guatemala**, a registered NGO that provides education and health care to Guatemalan children.



Marlinares members are going door-to-door this Hallowe'en for **WE Scare Hunger**, a campaign to raise awareness about food security and to give back to one's community. All non-perishable items collected will go 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:

October has the theatre in full production mode. The Stagecraft 11/12 students have been very busy preparing the theatre's much anticipated **Haunted House**. Two full classes of Stagecraft 11/12 students have designed 9 gruesome and frightening rooms, with the Acting 12 students as the performers throughout the house! The spooky space will be open to the school on **Tuesday Oct 30th**! Come in ~ if you dare! Admission is only \$2.



After the Haunted House the theatre jumps right into auditions for this year's massive production of **The Wizard of Oz**. Auditions are open to students in grades 9 – 12. This year there will be a separate special audition for interested grade 8 students as there are a few roles that are best suited for the younger grade. Students should stay tuned to the announcements and look for the sign-up sheets on the scene shop door. Mrs. Watts and Mr. Soriano have been busy in pre-production meetings since the summer with various. Professionals to help bring out version of the Wizard to life. We are very excited to take that trip down the Yellow Brick Road!



Music:

On **November 16th and 17th** our entire music program will be traveling to Zajac Ranch for our 20th annual retreat. Our students will be immersed in an intensive weekend of music education working with numerous professional musicians on both their own instrument or voice as well as in an ensemble context. We also have numerous fundraisers happening within the music department. Cookie dough will be delivered November 20th to the music room and must be picked up that day. **Poinsettia orders** are due on the **November 14th** and **Purdy's Christmas orders** are due on the **Nov 21st**. All money that students make goes directly into their account which they can then use to help pay for trips and festivals. Also, this money can go towards our McNair Music clothing, which is available to order until November 7th. All dates and information are available in our school app calendar channel as well as our website, mcnairmusic.ca.



Athletics:

The Athletic program is off to a good start at McNair, and the Volleyball, Soccer and Rugby teams are all nearing the playoffs. All of our Girls Volleyball teams have fared very well, and look to be forces to be reckoned with in the post-season. Good luck, girls!



The Gr 8/9 Rugby team is also competing hard and learning a tremendous amount under the watchful eyes of Mr. Banks and others. Continued good luck to the boys as they play a home game on Tuesday, October 30th.

The Senior Boys Soccer team has just finished winning the Richmond AA Championship by defeating McRoberts 2-0 in the final. The team now enters the Zone Championships next week as the #2 seed. Good luck, boys!

The Winter Season will be starting soon, so be sure to listen to the announcements for information about try-outs. All of our Basketball and Table Tennis teams will be very popular!

Fall Season

Gr. 8 Girls Volleyball	Laurel Vint / Tuzar Irani
Gr. 9 Girls Volleyball	Christina McDonald / Theresa Watts
Gr. 10 Girls Volleyball	Ikaria John / Victor Lee (Watson)
Sr. Girls Volleyball	Brandon Lee, Edward Liao
Sr. Boys Soccer	Maria Zanikos, Jas Dhari
Rugby 8/9	Chris Banks, Dave Wallace, Rob Young, Graham Haigh

Winter Season

Gr. 8 Boys Basketball	Jas Dhari & Brandon Lee
Gr. 8 Girls Basketball	Catherine Bateman
Gr. 9 Boys Basketball	Ranj Sangra & Garret Holmes
Gr. 9 Girls Basketball	Edward Liao / Ikaria John
Gr. 10 Boys Basketball	Rob Vint & Derek Wong
Sr. Girls Basketball	Denise Busayong
Sr. Boys Basketball	Ranj Sangra, Jessy Dhillon, Tyler Arce

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 has been rescheduled for **Nov 20th 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 approximately 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.

Halloween:

Halloween is coming up (**Wednesday, October 31st**). We encourage all of our students and families to dress up, get in the spirit and have some fun. As a reminder, if you wish to come to school in costume, please do so, but we ask that your costume does not include any replica weapons or anything that could be considered inappropriate in a school setting. We also encourage our students to be mindful of Richmond regulations regarding fireworks. Fireworks are not permissible in Richmond and if you are found in possession or lighting any in or around the school, we will be in contact with the RCMP. We want all of our students to enjoy a safe and happy Halloween, so please do your part!



Municipal Elections:

Richmond held its Municipal elections (McNair was a Voting station!) on **Saturday, October 20th**. There were some changes in several positions within the city, including changes to some of our School District Trustees and City Councillors. McNair's own **Mr. Michael Wolfe** won a seat as a City Councillor, so we are very excited for him. We are also very much looking forward to working with our newest Trustees and want to thank all of the members of our community who took it upon themselves to perform their very important civic duty in our democracy and **Vote!** Congratulations to all!

Grad Transitions:

Just a reminder to **all students** in both **Grade 11 and Grade 12**. We will be doing our **Graduation Transitions interviews** for both of these Grade groups this year. **Grade 12s** will be scheduled to conduct their interviews with Administrators and Counsellors during the **Semester One turn around (end of January)**. **Grade 11 students** will conduct their interviews at the **end of June**. The Graduation Transitions exit interviews are a Graduation requirement, and if any Grade 11 or 12 students do not complete these interviews this year, they will have to complete the much more intensive **Capstone Project presentation and Career Life Connections Grade 12 course** in the **2019-20 school year**. It is important to get this task completed this year. Please be aware of the schedule and do not miss your appointment.

Numeracy Exams:

Just a reminder to **all Grade 10 and 11 students** that you will have to write the **Graduation Numeracy Assessment** as part of your Graduation program this year. All **Grade 11 students** will write the exam at the **end of January**, while all **Grade 10 students** will write the exam **in June**. Every student will have to write this exam before Graduation, and they will be permitted to take the test up to three times, until they are happy with the result. The exam will be written online, and we will be giving students some preparation for how to take the exams prior to their exam sitting. For more information about the **BC Ministry of Graduation Education Numeracy Assessments**, please see: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial-assessment/graduation/numeracy>

Take Our Kids to Work:

Wednesday, November 14th is the Canada Wide day where **Grade 9 students** get to accompany a parent or family member to work and see what the world of work is like. This project, initiated by the **Learning Partnership** in 1994, is an excellent learning experience for some of our youngest students, and it is estimated that over 200,000 students participate in this project each year. We encourage all of our Grade 9 students to participate, and if you would like to learn more, please visit: <https://www.thelearningpartnership.ca/what-we-do/student-programs/take-our-kids-to-work> . If you are going to participate, please download and sign the forms on the third page of the link below and return the form to the main office at McNair. https://www.thelearningpartnership.ca/TLP/media/Documents/TOKW/TOKW-Family-Guide_WEB.pdf We hope you will participate!

Dry After Grad:

The McNair PAC is now looking to form a sub-committee to organize fundraise and plan the **Grade 12 Dry After Grad party**. This event is run by parents for Grade 12 students and provides the students a fun, engaging and safe place to go after the **Dinner/Dance on Monday, June 24th**. The students will all take the bus to the **Waterfront Hotel** in downtown Vancouver, then come back to the school around 11:30 PM. The Dry After Grad will run from **11:30-5:00 AM** in the school. Parents will be responsible for planning, fundraising, supervising and decorating the event. This is a massive task and the PAC needs some volunteers to make the workload manageable and help students have a great event. If you are interested in helping at this event, please contact **Terri Grieve or Kathy Chana** and listen for updates on when the first planning meeting will be.

Leadership Conference:

Just a quick word of congratulations to **Mrs. Blair and Ms. Gingrich** and the members of the **McNair Leadership class** who attended the **BC Student Leadership Conference** from **October 18-21 in Burnaby BC**. Our students came back with lots of great ideas for improving our school spirit and enthusiasm, and they learned about how to effectively lead our student body. Thanks to everyone for attending and we look forward to working with you to help make McNair an even better school community!

Post-Secondary Institutions visit McNair:

Thank you goes out to **Ms. Linda Hudson**, McNair's **Career Information Advisor**, who organized and planned our recent **Post-Secondary Institution Information day**. Agents from several Post-Secondary institutions all around BC and beyond, came to McNair and shared information about their programs, admissions, costs and dates for application. Our Grade 11 and 12 students were free to walk through the Cafeteria area and get information about schools like **Simon Fraser, Langara, Capilano, Thompson Rivers, Camosun, The Justice Institute, Emily Carr** and so many more. Hopefully, students got the information they were looking for and now feel even better about their Post-Secondary plans. If you have more questions, please be sure to see **Ms. Hudson** in the Counselling Center.

Upcoming Workshop:



RICHMOND
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38

PRESENTS

ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH

Richmond parents and our community are invited to a **free** discussion and presentation with internationally-renowned experts in adolescent mental health
Dr. Stan Kutcher and Dr. Yifeng Wei.



About Dr. Stan Kutcher:

Dr. Stan Kutcher is a professor at Dalhousie University, Sun Life Financial Chair in Adolescent Mental Health and former director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre in Mental Health Policy and Training at Dalhousie University and IWK Health Centre in Canada. He is an international leader in mental health research, advocacy, training and policy, and has been involved in mental health work in over 20 countries.

About Dr. Yifeng Wei:

Dr. Yifeng Wei has worked as a researcher and school mental health lead with the Sun Life Financial Chair in Adolescent Mental Health team since 2008. She has played a key role in national and international school mental health research and program developmental activities. Dr. Wei holds an Interdisciplinary PhD degree in school mental health with Dalhousie University.



SCHEDULE

November 5, 2018 | 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

English Session with Dr. Stan Kutcher at MacNeill Secondary Foyer

Mandarin Session with Dr. Yifeng Wei at MacNeill Secondary Library

www.sd38.bc.ca

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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.

POST-SECONDARY PLANNING

Education Planner: www.educationplanner.ca

EducationPlannerBC is an education planning tool that provides students with clear, reliable and detailed information on BC post-secondary education and applying. Log on and create an account

‘NEW’ **myBlueprint:** myBlueprint.ca/sd38

myBlueprint is a comprehensive education and career/life planning program with the tools students need to make the most informed decisions about their future. This is a mobile-friendly resource that supports teachers, empowers students, and engages parents with their child’s education in the context of career, and life planning.

To create an account:

1. Visit www.myBlueprint.ca/sd38
2. Click Sign Up
3. Select your school from the drop down menu and click Create Account.
4. When prompted to select your account type, click on Student, select your grade, and click Continue
5. Enter your Education Number (PEN number) and Personal Info, and click Continue
6. Enter the Account Info, and agree to the Terms of Use and Private policy. Click Continue.

For more information or assistance please see your Career Education Teacher

Applying to Colleges and Universities

BC College applications open as follows:

- Douglas - Oct 1
- Langara - Oct 1
- Kwantlen - Oct 1
- BCIT Nov 1 for most programs
- VCC - ongoing throughout the year

Since colleges operate on a first come first serve basis, it is recommended that students submit their application early.

University Application Deadlines

- Emily Carr Jan. 15 - Portfolio Feb. 1
- Capilano March 31 (Career & Limited Enrollment check website)
- SFU Jan 31 (Jan 15 for Major Entrance Scholarship)
- UBC Jan. 15 (Dec 1st for Scholarship Consideration)
- UVic Feb 28
- U of Toronto Nov 1
- Other Canadian Universities - Varies (Check websites - recommend applying before Jan)
- American Institutions - Varies (Check websites & apply early!)

Online Application Process for Admission to Colleges and Universities:

Students either apply directly to the school or use a Provincial post-secondary application service. (Note: Most institutions use an application service; otherwise, it will be clearly indicated on their website.) Students need their 9-digit P.E.N. number and a credit card.

-Apply to B.C. Institutions (colleges & university): <https://apply.educationplannerbc.ca/>

-Apply to Alberta Institutions (colleges & university): <https://www.applyalberta.ca/pub/>

-Apply to Ontario Universities: <http://www.ouac.on.ca/ouac-105/> (BC students must use this online application service to apply to ALL Ontario universities)

-Apply to Ontario Colleges: <http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/apply>

-All Other Institutions: Varies – please check their website

Post-Secondary Visits to McNair

Many schools have already visited McNair. Attendance has been excellent. A few remain as follows:

Nov 5 – McGill

Nov 6 – McGill at McMath from 7-8:30

Nov 8 – Vancouver Community College

Nov 13 – Western University

Nov 27 – University of Alberta

UP-COMING EVENTS:

- Nov 9 - KPU(Surrey) Discovery Day
- Nov 13 - Douglas College Nursing Info Session
- Nov 16 – TD Trust Community Scholarship Deadline
- Nov 18 – Vimy Pilgrimage Scholarship Deadline
- Nov 14 - BCIT Big Info Evening Event
- Nov 19 – SHAD Application Deadline
- Nov 20 – KPU Technology Campus Open House - Cloverdale
- Nov 23 – KPU(Richmond) Discovery Day
- Nov 25 – UofA Advising Session Vanc Public Library
- Nov 28 - Explore Capilano 2018