

McNair Secondary November 2018 Newsletter

November 2018

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

Principal-Mr. J. Leslie
Vice Principals-Mr. T. Irani
& Mrs. D. Ten-Pow
Trustee-Mrs. D. Sargeant
PAC Chair-Mrs. K. Chana
Address: 9500 No 4 Rd,
Richmond, BC, V7A 2Y9
Phone: (604)668-6575
Early Warning: (604)295-6497
Twitter: @McNairMarlins
Website:
<http://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca>

Principal's Message:

November was another fantastic month at Matthew McNair Secondary School. Highlighted by the efforts of our Senior Boys Soccer team and Senior Girls Volleyball teams, who enjoyed excellent seasons as well as the spectacular efforts by our Leadership and Music students who put together a moving and **important Remembrance Day ceremony on November 9th**. Other events of note included our Mid-Term Report Cards being sent home and the great attendance we had at our **Parent Teacher Conferences on November 21st and 22nd**. Our Basketball teams are now in full swing, highlighted by the **Pep Rally and Home Openers for the Senior Boys team on November 26th**, as part of our **Senior Boys Team hosting the Big Ticket tournament on November 26-28th**. A great week of basketball action with spirited and well-behaved crowds!

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

Holidays are coming! Only three weeks left! - Mr. Jason Leslie

Important Dates:

Dec 2-10	Hanukkah
Dec 5	Collaboration Day (9:45 AM start)
Dec 6	Winter Concert
Dec 8	Bodhi Day
Dec 10	Human Rights Day
Dec 10-14	Grad Portraits
Dec 11	PAC Meeting (7:00 PM)
Dec 12	Grade 9 Immunization
Dec 21	Santa Claus Hoe-Down Breakfast
Dec 24-Jan 4	Winter Vacation
Dec 24	Christmas Eve
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Dec 26	Kwanzaa

Jan 1	New Year's Day
Jan 3	Mawlid Al Nabi
Jan 7	School Reopens

Remembrance Day Ceremony:

On **Friday, November 9th**, McNair performed its annual **Remembrance Day ceremony**. The tradition of the performances and behavior at this very special ceremony is extremely strong and this year's performance was no exception. Created and performed by the **Leadership 11/12 class**, under the guidance of **Mrs. Blair**, and accented by the outstanding musical performances of the **McNair Music program** under the direction of **Ms. Holden**, the ceremony was moving and inspiring and performers paid tribute to the veterans and sacrifices of the past and then asked the audience the questions about where we are now and what we can do to make things better. A truly powerful ceremony that was enjoyed and respected by all who observed it. **LEST WE FORGET.**



Take Our Kids to Work:

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



Report Cards/Parent Portal:

Mid-Term Report Cards were published to the MyEdBC Parent Portal on **Thursday, November 15th**, and our students had a very successful first term. Marks throughout the school were strong, and our staff were pleased with the efforts being made by our students. **Parent-Teacher**



Conferences took place on **November 21st and 22nd**, and we had a very good turn-out of parents. We all know that parents who stay involved in their children's education have students who do well in school. We encourage you to stay involved with your child's educational program. **If you haven't yet logged in and created a Parent Account on the MyEdBC Parent Portal, please be sure to do so ASAP. Instructions for this are available on the McNair website at: <https://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/parents/myed-parent-login>**

Snow:

As the days continue to get shorter and colder, we need to be prepared for the possibility that **snow may come to Richmond in the weeks and months ahead**. Parents are reminded that McNair Secondary School **WILL BE OPEN** unless the School District decides to officially close all schools due to the roads being unsafe. If it is snowing, please do not phone the school. Listen to the radio and check the school district website for updates at <https://www.sd38.bc.ca/Pages/default.aspx>



Richmond Families in Need:

McNair Secondary has a strong tradition of helping others, and this year around the holidays, we will be involved in giving again. The **Student Council, Mini-School and Marlinaires** groups have annual fundraisers that raise money and awareness for those who are less fortunate. The **Mini-School** group will host a **Pot-Luck dinner** for parents in **December (TBA)**, and funds raised through silent auctions and raffles will be donated to **Canuck Place**. We have traditionally raised over **\$1000 each year** at this event. The **Marlinaires** always do a **Holiday Shoebox project** where they get people to donate items like toiletries, gloves, toques and scarves in a shoebox that is given to an Elementary school in the Downtown East Side. They hope to generate at least **50 boxes** for young people in need this year. **Student Council** will once again do a **canned food drive** that benefits the **Richmond Food Bank**. You can make your donations through your B block classes. We also promote the efforts of the **Richmond Gives Richmond Cares** organization who hopes to brighten the holidays for families in need. Eligible applicants will receive food and gift support to make the holiday season more positive for all members of a family. You can also recommend a family who may be in need or get involved by volunteering or donating. Please contact **604-279-7020** or email info@rcrg.org or visit the website <https://www.rcrg.org>



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>

Marlinares:

Marlinares and Student Council joined forces this Hallowe'en and collected a total of **870 non-perishable items** for the **Richmond Food Bank Society**. This would not have been possible without your help. From staff who brought in bags of food to students who brought in collections, McNair is a vibrant, caring community that demonstrates this quality every single day.



Special thanks go to **Natasha Blair** and **Student Council** for the in-school collection. A huge thank you to the students in **Berlin Capalad's** English 10 Mini class who helped carry the donations to the food bank truck outside!



WE Day participants were giving back with **WE Bake for Change**, our bake sale to raise money for those in need. An assortment of very affordable cookies, muffins, and cupcakes were sold on **November 26th** at break and lunch with all proceeds forwarded to the WE Charity.



WE On Thursday, November 22nd, 28 students from the various clubs and councils in the school attended WE Day Vancouver at Rogers Arena. Selected for their service to the school and our community, these students represented the best from Student Council, Marlinares, Eco-Marlins, McNair Tutors, Animal Rescue Club, and First Responders. Students learned about the power of community and how service to others can be a lifelong passion. On Monday, November 26th, WE Day participants gave back to the WE Charity with WE Bake for Change, a bake sale fundraiser that collected \$218.30. Way to go!



Drama/Theatre:

November in the Theatre has been all about **The Wizard of Oz**. Auditions have been going on since the beginning of the month. Mrs. Watts has seen about 100 students and will be posting the final cast list on Friday Nov 30th. Rehearsals begin the very first week of December and continue until performances which will begin at the end of February. The **Stagecraft 11/12** classes have begun the build for the show and will produce all the sets, props and about **150 costumes!!**



Meanwhile, **Mr. Soriano's Drama 10** class just finished their clown unit with a lunch hour performance through the halls of the school. Lots of fun was had as this class was encouraged to "**clown around!**"

Music:

McNair Music just completed its **20th annual Fall Retreat** in the middle of November. It was an educational and fun weekend at **Zajac Ranch** where students worked with specialists in their own musical area as well as with guest conductors. On **November 23rd** the McNair Choir was a special guest of the **Richmond Community band** for their Winter Concert where they sang their own set and participated in the sing along for a large crowd at the event.



Upcoming, the **Jazz Band** is performing both at **Towers Church's Christmas Event** and **Tourism Richmond's Winter** event on the **2nd and 13th of December**, respectively. Our **winter concert** for our whole program is **December 6th** at 7pm in the Theatre. **Tickets are \$5** and attendees are encouraged to bring a snack to share at intermission.

Athletics:



The **McNair Marlins** athletics teams are now into the Winter Sport season. Highlighted by teams in Basketball and Table Tennis, McNair promises to once again be very competitive. Our Senior Boys and Girls teams will be viable competitors in Richmond League play, while several other teams promise to be very talented. Special thanks go out to all the scorekeepers, managers, players and coaches and sponsors who help make the teams so successful. A special **thank you** to the Fall and Winter season sponsors and coaches, who have been/are:

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 (Mrs. Watson)
Sr. Girls Volleyball	Brandon Lee, Edward Liao
Sr. Boys Soccer	Maria Zankos, 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

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

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.

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 **Dec 11th at 7:00 p.m.** This meeting is open to all parents. We hope to see many of you there! The PAC group is also looking for interested parents to help serve on the **Dry After Grad** committee. The planning for this significant and huge event is important, so if you have an interest and ability to help, please join!

**ERASE Bullying:**

Voting for the 2019 ERASE bullying poster design contest is now open! You can vote for your favourite entry until 5pm on Mon. Dec 10. The design that receives the most votes will then be the winner with the design showcased across Richmond in February. Vote Now! <https://bit.ly/2qWHahg>

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>

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.

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: lhudson@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.

Grade 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 2019.

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

This service allows a student to apply to several institutions using a common form. Students will be asked to create an account using their Personal Education Number and pay an application fee for each school applied to.

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

It is recommended that BC students apply by mid November. Rank your university choices. **It is also recommended that you submit official hardcopies of your grades to your choice post-secondary institutions in Ontario if required.**

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

All Other Institutions: Varies – please check their website.

Student Transcripts Service (STS)

Students need their PEN number to register.

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

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

***Note:** Some Post-Secondary institutions may require your grade information earlier than available through this process. Ensure you are familiar with each institution’s requirements regarding grade submission. If required, order an official hardcopy transcript from the main office (\$5.00 per transcript).

IMPORTANT: Students applying to UBC for early admission and scholarship consideration are to provide UBC with their PEN number and must order a transcript via the Student Transcript Service (STS) by December 1. Students have until January 31 (in all other cases) to fill in the STS. When ordering your transcript, select “send my transcript now and allow this Post-Secondary Institution to request transcript updates” and choose the default date (one year from the date of your order) so that UBC can receive your interim and final grades continuously. For details: https://you.ubc.ca/applying-ubc/how-to-apply/how-to-submit-documents/#from_a_high_school_in_canada_or_a_canadian_high_school_in_another_country

Questions/concerns regarding ordering your official documents. Email: studenttranscripts@gov.bc.ca be sure to include your name, birth date, Personal Education Number (PEN).

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.

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

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/>

Upcoming Events

JAN 10/19 - Corpus Christi College Preview Night

JAN 10/19 - Langara Nursing Information Session

Upcoming Scholarships

DEC 15/18 Burger King Scholars Program Deadline

<https://bkmclamorefoundation.org/who-we-are/programs/burger-king-scholars-program/>

DEC 15/18 - University of Calgary Prestige Awards Deadline to Apply

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/finances/awards>

Specific award details and the application process visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/finances/awards/prestige>

DEC 17/18 Schulich Leader Scholarships In-school nomination deadline. (*In-school sponsored deadlines may vary by school. Students must check with their school's scholarship committee for that school's posted deadline*). For more details

visit, <http://www.schulichleaders.com/frequently-asked-questions>

Questions regarding the nomination process at your school, see your Career Advisor or School Scholarship Representative.

DEC 21/18 French for the Future National Essay Contest Deadline

<https://www.french-future.org/programs/essay-contest/>

(For more, visit sd38careercentre.weebly.com)