

McNair Secondary December 2018 Newsletter

December 2018

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

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Principal's Message:

Winter holidays are now upon us and we will soon be welcoming in a new year. Report Cards went home in the middle of last month, and students are getting ready for the final push of semester One. Shortly after returning from the holidays, students will be immersed in preparing for year-end projects, tests and Provincial and Final exams in the final three weeks of class before Semester One ends.

December is always a fun-filled and busy month, and this year was no exception. Our Winter Sports teams are up and running, and we had a very spirited Pep Rally and Home Opener for Basketball season on November 26th. The **Mini School potluck on December 4th** raised over **\$1800.00** for **Canuck Place**, another very successful event! The school has also raised money and awareness for several causes including: the **Richmond Food Bank**, **The Singing Frogs Christmas Shoebox campaign** and **blankets for the Downtown Eastside**. *McNair truly does CARE.*

The last day of school was **Friday, December 21st**, and Student Council hosted a hearty **Santa's Breakfast**, with proceeds going to our own **SEVA Breakfast Club** and the **Courtyard Beautification Committee**. The holidays will run from **December 22nd through January 6th**, and the **school will reopen on Monday, January 7th**. We hope that all families take the opportunity to reconnect with each other, share some time together and relax and get ready for the challenges that will come in the new year.

January will be hectic as courses wind up and we begin planning for the 2019-20 school year. Parents are invited to an **Open House and Parent Program Planning night** (for all grades) on **Thursday, January 24th** where we showcase many of the great things that happen in McNair classrooms, and talk about what courses students will need to consider taking next year. The Provincial Exam schedule includes **English 12 at 9:00 AM** in the **small gym on January 24th** and **Communications 12 at 9:00 AM in the small gym on January 25th**. All students should be speaking with their teachers and preparing for school and Provincial exams right away. With only two exams in the Provincial Exam schedule, students will be expected to be in class all the way until **Friday, January 25th** participating in yearend projects and exams, plus a wide variety of learning opportunities. More information about the exam schedule can be found at:

<https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams>

Semester Two will begin on **January 30th**, and shortly after starting, we will begin the planning and preparation for the following school year.

PAC will be meeting again in the new year and would like to welcome all interested

parents to attend on **Tuesday, January 8th at 7 PM**. The Dry Grad Committee will also be meeting to plan for the big Grad party in June, so please look for information from them about how you can get involved.

More than anything, the entire McNair community would like to extend the warmest holiday wishes to you and your family. Enjoy a great break and we look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Have a safe and happy holidays!!! - Mr. Jason Leslie

Important Dates:

Dec 24-Jan 4	Winter Vacation
Dec 24	Christmas Eve
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Dec 26	Kwanzaa / Boxing Day
Jan 1	New Year's Day
Jan 3	Mawlid Al Nabi
Jan 7	School Reopens
Jan 8	PAC Meeting (7:00 PM)
Jan 9	Collaboration Day (9:45 AM start)
Jan 21-25	Provincial Exams
Jan 24	McNair Open House & Program Planning Night
Jan 28	Pro-D Day (no classes)
Jan 29	End of Semester 1
Jan 30	Semester 2 Begins

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>

Marlinares:

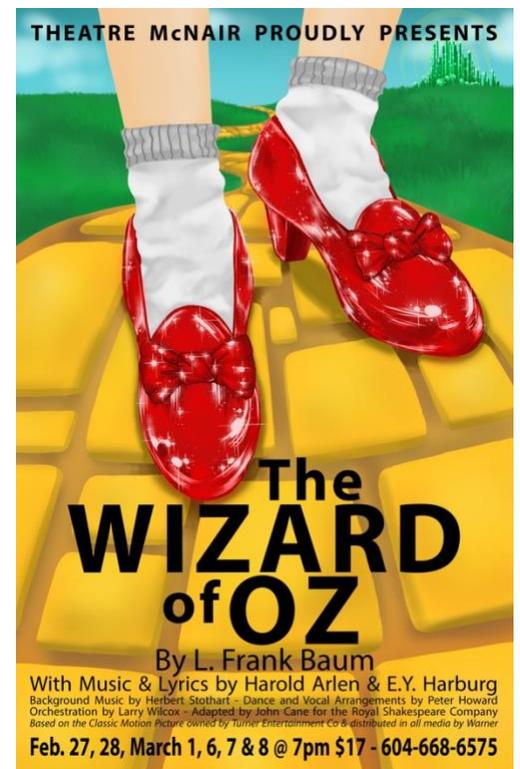
Marlinares and staff members jointly created 40 shoebox packages to donate to students at Singing Frogs Aboriginal Head Start (AHS), a pre-school for Aboriginal youth in Vancouver's east side. An annual tradition, this donation project was first conceived by a former educational assistant at McNair, Ms. Michelle Mitchell, who believed giving back to our community was of paramount importance. Since 2012, Marlinares have partnered with Singing Frogs AHS yearly to provide for all enrolling students a care



package of personal hygiene items, school supplies, and winter gear. Thank you to those who brought in empty shoeboxes, to staff and students who created a shoebox (or two!), and to everyone whose involvement made this project such a success. Until next year!

Drama/Theatre:

The cast list for **The Wizard of Oz** was posted on Friday November 30th. Congratulations to the 56 students who were cast in the production! Rehearsals have now been underway since Dec 4th and will continue right up until we break for the Holidays. Under the guidance of Mrs. Watts, both Stasgecraft classes have been working full out on the production since the middle of November. They are using their remarkable talents to transform the McNair theatre into Kansas and the magical land of Oz - not to mention the 150 costumes that Mr. Soriano is helping to guide the students to build. We are very lucky on this production to have the talents of former students and parents. Mrs. Tammy Letts is working miracles creating the principal costumes. McNair alumnus Max Blanche will be coming in to work his special magic filming a number of scenes that will be used in the show. Also working on the show are alumni Winnie Wong (Musical Director)



and Jessica Oostergo (Set Designer). Things are popping in the theatre ~ to say the least. Tickets for the Wizard of Oz will go on sale the first week of February and are sure to go fast. **Information on ticket sales will go out in the January newsletter.**

The cast and crew of The Wizard of Oz, along with Mrs. Theresa Watts and Mr. Marco Soriano, as well as all the drama students wish you and your families a wonderful Holiday Season ~ after all, there is no place like home.

Winter Music Concert:

The McNair Music Department has had a busy month of December with multiple performances. Our Winter Concert on December 6th featured all six of our performing groups as well as small ensemble and combo groups. It was a wonderful night of winter music as well as many other genres. Recently as well the choir performed as special guests with the Richmond Community Band, the Jazz Band performed for Tourism Richmond's Winter Party as well as Choir and Jazz both being part of Santa's Breakfast.



Athletics:



The McNair **Basketball season** is now in full swing, and all 7 of our teams are off to good starts. The Bantam Girls, Juvenile Girls and Senior Girls have all played a few games, with the Bantam Girls sitting in first place in the Richmond league, undefeated at 5-0! All four of the Boys teams have opened with good starts and they are looking toward excellent second halves of the season. The Senior Boys are currently participating in a tournament in Hawaii. Good luck, boys and be sure to enjoy the sunshine and warm temperatures! It promises to be an exciting finish to the season for all our teams, so be sure to come out to watch the action and support our athletes in the new year! If you are interested in helping score keep or referee, please see Mr. Dhaliwal.

Similarly, the **Table Tennis** team will be starting league play in the New Year, and our Senior Boys team looks to be very competitive. Good luck to Mr. Liao and all our Table Tennis players!

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 **Jan 8th 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!

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 (terrygrieve6@gmail.com)** or **Kathy Chana (kathychanax4@gmail.com)** and listen for updates on when the first planning meeting will be.

End of Semester One:

Semester One will come to a close only three weeks after we return from Winter Holidays. It is sure to be a busy time for all our students. Classes will run all the way until **Friday, January 25th**. **English 12** students will be excused from class on **Thursday, January 24th** to write the **English 12 Provincial exam at 9:00 AM** in the small gym. **Communications 12** students will be excused from class on **Friday, January 25th** to write the **Provincial exam at 9:00 AM** in the small gym. All **Grade 11** students will write the **Graduation Numeracy Assessment** on **January 23rd, 24th, or 25th** (a schedule will be posted in the new year). **Grade 12 students** will also have their **Graduation Transitions interviews** sometime that week (please check the posted schedule in the New Year). All other students will be expected to be in class all the way until **Friday, January 25th**. There will be **no classes on Monday, January 28th** or **Tuesday, January 29th**, as we prepare to get Semester 2 started. **Semester Two will begin on Wednesday, January 30th**.

Grad Events:

Grade 12 Winter Formal

Quilchena Golf and Country Club, Richmond

Friday, February 8th, 2019

Tickets on sale in December!

This is the second big grad event for the year! It includes dinner, desserts, beverages and lots of music and dancing! Please Note: This event is not included in your grad fees.

McNair Grad portraits were taken from **December 10-14th** in the Artona trailer that was parked in the McNair lot. Hopefully, all our Grads were able to make an appointment to get their photos done. If they missed it, students will have to make arrangements to go to Artona studios in Vancouver to get their photo taken so they can appear in the Grad Composite.

Hoe Down and Breakfast with Santa:

Friday, December 21st was the last day of classes for McNair students, and as we do every year, Student Council hosted a fantastic **Breakfast with Santa**. Tickets were \$5 and everyone enjoyed pancakes, sausages, an orange and a drink. A good time was had by all and proceeds (still being calculated) were to be given to the **McNair SEVA club** as well as the **Courtyard Beautification Committee**. **Thanks to Mrs. Blair and Student Council for hosting.**

The last day is also time for the annual **Hoe-Down** at lunchtime. This vibrant McNair tradition brings all of our students together for some square and line-dancing in the Large gym. Mr. Dhaliwal, Mr. Young and Mr. Sangra coordinate a fun-filled afternoon where everyone dances non-stop for a full 60 minutes with prizes being given to the groups who dance the best. A great time was had by all and it was nice to see so many students having so much fun with each other!



Open House and Program Planning Information Night:

Thursday, January 24th, 2019, Matthew McNair Secondary will be hosting its fourth annual **Program Planning evening and Open House**. From **6:00-7:00 PM**, **Grade 7 parents** are invited to attend an information session in the McNair Theatre to learn about what high-school life will be like for our newest Marlins. From **7:00-8:00 PM**, **our students and staff will be situated all around the school showcasing many of the great things our students and staff are teaching, learning and engaged in**. This evening is open to all of our incoming Grade 7's as well as our current students and parents, and also serves as our Meet the Teacher Night for semester 2 classes. From **8:00-9:00 PM**, **Grade 8-11 students and parents are to report to the McNair Theatre to get Program Planning information for all students who will be returning to McNair in September 2019**. This event has been hugely successful in the last two years and is a great showcase for all of the fantastic things happening in and around this excellent school. We look forward to seeing all of our current and future parents at this evening on **Thursday, January 24th**.



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>

McNair Support for Families in Need:

McNair Secondary has a strong tradition of helping others, and this year around the holidays, we were involved in giving again. The **Student Council**, **Mini-School** and **Marlinaires** groups hosted



annual fundraisers that raised money and awareness for those who are less fortunate. The **Mini-School** group hosted a very successful **Pot-Luck dinner** for parents on **December 5th**, and funds raised through silent auctions and raffles were donated to **Canuck Place**. We raised over **\$1500 this year** at the event. The **Marlinaires** once again led the **Holiday Shoebox project** where they collected items like toiletries, gloves, toques and scarves in a shoebox that is given to an Elementary school in the Downtown East Side. They filled **50 boxes** for young people in need this year. **Student Council** once again hosted a **canned food drive** that benefited the **Richmond Food Bank**. We donated over 1000 items as well as money for those in need. McNair also promotes 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>

Career Planning:

Visit the following for university/college/scholarship updates:

- SD38careercentre.weebly.com
- 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

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

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

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

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

All Other Institutions: Varies – check their website

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).

Interesting Programs

Bachelor of Emergency & Security Management Studies at the Justice Institute of BC

For details about the program, and how to apply, visit:

<http://www.jibc.ca/programs-courses/schools-departments/school-public->

[safety/emergency-management-division/academic-programs/bachelor-emergency-security-management/bachelor-emergency-security-management-studies-campus](#)

UBC's Sciences Po Dual Degree Program

Jan 8/19 - Deadline to apply to UBC's Sciences Po Dual Degree Program - This program is a great fit for students who are interested in politics, international relations, and global issues. Many Dual Degree students aspire to study law or to work in public policy, government, diplomacy, or humanitarian and international organizations. Applying to the UBC Sciences Po Dual Degree program involves a two-step application process: first, students apply for a UBC BA and then submit a supplemental application. Successful students will be shortlisted for an interview. More info at <http://sciencespo.ubc.ca>

Arts One, Coordinated Arts, Science One, Coordinated Science Programs at UBC Arts One Program

Arts One is one of the smallest programs at UBC, and students invariably establish close relationships that enhance learning, and last long past the first-year experience. Students enjoy continuous, unfiltered access to their professors (there are no Teaching Assistants).

For further info, visit:

<https://artsone.arts.ubc.ca/about-arts-one/why-choose-arts-one/>

Coordinated Arts Program

UBC's Coordinated Arts Program is a dynamic multidisciplinary first year program that eases students' transition to university while introducing them to exciting topics and concepts within the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Creative and Performing Arts. For more info, visit:

<https://cap.arts.ubc.ca/welcome-to-ubcs-co-ordinated-arts-program/>

Science One Program

Science One is an immersive, 27 credit program (plus 2 credits for co-requisite Biology 140) that spans two terms. There are 75 students and 8 instructors in Science One. All classes are in one classroom. For more info, visit:

<https://scienceone.ubc.ca/why-science-one>

Coordinated Science Program

CSP is an alternative to standard first year science, suitable for students who have broad scientific interests and want to explore the sciences in a community of like-minded students. In addition to science lecture courses limited to CSP students, CSP includes a workshop course with 28 students per section. This course enables CSP students to work in small groups that facilitate development of friendships and supportive academic learning groups. For more info visit:

<https://csp.science.ubc.ca>

Upcoming Events

JAN 10/19 - Corpus Christi College Preview Night

JAN 10/19 - Langara Nursing Information Session

Some Upcoming Scholarships (Visit sd38carecentre.weebly.com/other-scholarships.html for more)

Cmolik Foundation Scholarship

In-school deadline to apply: Jan 23, 2019

Visit: <https://www.thecmolikfoundation.com/scholarships/>

Terry Fox Humanitarian Award Application

Deadline to apply: Feb 1, 2019

For award criteria visit: terryfoxawards.ca

The British Columbia School Superintendents Association (BCSSA) Scholarship

Deadline to apply: Feb 8, 2019

For details, please visit <https://bcssa.org/2018/10/23/2019-student-scholarships/>

BC Excellence Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship

Deadline to apply: Feb 15, 2019

See website for complete criteria and instructions:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/scholarships/provincial-scholarships/pathway-to-teacher-education-scholarship>

Other BC Excellence Scholarships

Deadline to apply: Feb 15, 2019

See website for complete criteria and instructions:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/scholarships/provincial-scholarships/bc-excellence-scholarships>

Beedie Luminaries Scholarship (New this year)

Deadline to apply: Feb 15, 2019

Complete details and the application link available at:

<https://beedieluminaries.ca/program/>

***Have a safe and happy holiday! We will see you in
the new year! School starts again on Monday,
January 7th, 2019!***

