

McNair Secondary January 2019 Newsletter

January 2019

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:

Happy New Year!!! 2018 is now in the history books and 2019 is off to a fantastic start! Our students completed first semester on January 25th and on January 30th, Semester Two began. Students wrote their Provincial and Final exams on January 24-25th, and with less Provincial Exams we stayed in classes and students were given more time to present their learning and write final assessments all the way until January 25th. Students and staff are now getting ready for a fresh start in Semester Two. We are at the mid-way point of the year, so be sure to take advantage of the new opportunities, and bring lots of energy and excitement to your new classes, starting January 30th!

The school also enjoyed a very successful **Open House** on **January 24th**. Parents from all across Richmond came to McNair to see what we offer our students. Our staff and students did a marvelous job of showcasing all the great things that happen in this building, and parents were very impressed by what they saw. We have an excellent school at McNair, and we were very proud to put on display the many talents of our entire school community.

We also started our **Grad Transition Interviews** with Grade 12s, and thus far have enjoyed the process very much. Our students spoke about all the things they have learned while at McNair and talked about the friendships fostered and the great memories they have made here. If you have not yet had your interview, please see one of the Counsellors or Administrators to take care of this Graduation Requirement! The Grade 12s will also enjoy the upcoming Winter Formal at **Quilchena Golf Course** on **February 8th**!

We are also entering the time of year where students need to make plans for the future. Grade 12's will be making plans for post-secondary (school opportunities, travel, work and so many other things await our graduates), and Grade 8-11 students will be asked to start making choices about course selections for September 2019. Counsellors will be coming into your classes over the next few weeks to share some information with you about course planning, and will then ask you to enter your choices into the computer system. Please remember to make your choices carefully. We build our timetable based upon what you tell us you want to take in the Spring. Making changes to your timetable will be more difficult if you change your mind, so think carefully and discuss your choices with your parents.

More than anything, congratulations on a very successful first semester, and we hope you bring lots of energy and excitement to your second semester studies. Time will go very quickly, and for Grade 12's you are entering a fun-filled and pressure-packed time in your high school career. Be sure to maintain a healthy balance, study hard, eat well, exercise and get lots of rest. The time will fly by, so stay organized and make the memories that will last a lifetime! --**Mr. Jason Leslie**

Important Dates:

Jan 30	Semester 2 Begins
Feb 5	Lunar New Year (Year of the Pig)
Feb 6	Collaboration Day (9:45 AM start)
Feb 6	Mini School Parent Info Session (7:00 PM)
Feb 7	Report Cards published on Parent Portal
Feb 8	Grad Winter Formal (Quilchena 7:00 PM)
Feb 12	PAC Meeting (7:00 PM)
Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Feb 15	Pro-D Day (school closed)
Feb 15	Mini School Application Due Date (3:00 PM)
Feb 18	BC Family Day (school closed)
Feb 26	Pink Day (Anti-Bullying)
Feb 26	Math Contests
Feb 27-Mar 8	Theatre Production: The Wizard of Oz

Report Cards/Parent Portal:

Final Report Cards for Semester 1 will be published to the MyEdBC Parent Portal on **Thursday, February 7th**, and our students had another very successful first term. Marks throughout the school were strong, and our staff were pleased with the efforts being made by our students. **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/news/2019/01/21/myed-parent-login-info>**



End of Semester One:

Semester One came to a close on **Jan 29th**. McNair Secondary took **Monday, January 28th** and **Tuesday, January 29th** as a Professional Development Day and Semester Turn-Around Day. The first semester at McNair was a very successful one, and our students accomplished some great things. We look forward to more of the same in Semester Two. **Semester Two began on Wednesday, January 30st**.

Program Planning:



Matthew McNair counsellors will visit Grades 8-11 classes in B block over the next few weeks so all students can get Programming Information where they will receive a personalized course selection form, learn about options for courses, changing graduation requirements and post-secondary prerequisites and prepare them for choosing their courses for next year. Our timetable and staffing for 2019-2020 is determined based on student enrollment and course requests, so students must select carefully, taking into consideration their summer school and online learning plans. It is difficult to make course changes later in the process. Grades 8-11 students will have an opportunity to check and confirm that their course selections are accurate later in the spring. Students and parents are encouraged to read the online course descriptions, discuss options with their classmates and current teachers and choose courses thoughtfully. Please read the 2019-2020 McNair course descriptions online at: <https://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/sites/mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/files/attachments/Sun%2C%202019-01-27%2019%3A55/Program%20Book%202019-20%20.pdf> and be sure to get your completed course selection form signed by parents submitted to your Counsellor when your class is brought into the computer lab and library to enter your courses. If you have any questions about the course selection process, contact your counsellor.

Transfers:



Richmond students wishing to transfer to a non- catchment school must apply by filling out an RSB-SA23 Transfer Application form. Non-Richmond residents must complete an SA-73 TA form and both forms are available in every school office in Richmond. The form must be initialed by the catchment school, and then submitted to the requested school beginning **Monday, February 11, 2018**. The final deadline for school transfer applications to be submitted to the office of the “requested school” is 4 p.m. on **Thursday, February 28, 2018**. Please note that out-of-catchment students applying for the IB program must also complete the school transfer form. Applications received at the requested school by February 28 may be approved to attend, based on the criteria established by the Richmond School District (published on the form). Parents/legal guardians will be informed of the status of the transfer application at a date to be determined by the district. If parents wish to appeal a transfer denial, they can do so in writing. All transfer appeals must be submitted to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools. Transfer students wishing to play athletics must also complete the RSB Eligibility Form and attach it to their Transfer form. It is important to note that students who reside in Richmond and are currently attending Richmond Secondary School on a previous transfer do not need to reapply each year. **For more information on school transfers, contact the Richmond School District.**

Grad Events:

Grade 12 Winter Formal – Winter Wonderland

Quilchena Golf and Country Club, Richmond

Friday, February 8th, 2019

6:30 PM – 10:30 PM

Tickets on sale in Fishbowls at lunch \$75

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.*



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.

Open House and Program Planning Information

Night:

Thursday, January 24th, 2019, Matthew McNair Secondary hosted its annual **Program Planning evening and Open House**. From **6:00-7:00 PM**, **Grade 7 parents** attended 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** were situated all around the school showcasing many of the great things our students and staff are teaching, learning and engaged in. From **8:00-9:00 PM**, **Grade 8-11 students and parents reported to the McNair Theatre and got Program Planning information for all students who will be returning to McNair in September 2019**. This event has been hugely successful in each of the past three years and is a great showcase for all of the fantastic things happening in and around this excellent school. We hope you were able to attend the event and were impressed by what you saw on **Thursday, January 24th**. If you have any question, comments or concerns, please share them with us by contacting the school by email or phone call to (604)668-6575.



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** wrote 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 practice/preparation opportunities for how to take the exams prior to their exam sitting in June. For more information about the **BC Ministry of Graduation Education Numeracy Assessments**, please see: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial-assessment/graduation/numeracy>. If you are in Grade 11 and did not write the exam in January, please see Mr. Irani or Mrs. Ten-Pow to get scheduled to write the exam in June.

Music:

McNair Music is gearing up for a busy spring season. On **February 23rd**, the jazz band will be participating in the **Surrey Jazz Festival** at the Bell Centre. All of our ensembles will be participating in festivals in the spring around the lower mainland. We are also busy preparing for our Junior and Intermediate band tour to **Cantado Festival in Whistler** from **April 26-28**.



Yearbooks:

Every year we publish a beautiful 200+ page yearbook and this keepsake includes all students' names and photos as well as all of the teams, clubs and special Marlins events from the school year. For 2018-2019, more than 500 students have already purchased their yearbook and these will be distributed on June 21st. As we need to commit to the publishing company months in advance, the **final day** to purchase a yearbook will be **Friday, March 15th**. If you want a yearbook and have not yet purchased one, please see Ms. Yee in the Business Assistant office to get yours before **March 15** – don't miss out! The yearbook cost is **\$40**.

Let's Talk:

January 30th was the annual "Let's Talk Day" across the country. It is important for families and teens to spend time reflecting on what it means to be "healthy". Many will identify eating well, getting enough sleep and exercising regularly as keys to 'being healthy' yet mental and emotional health may be taken for granted, or not talked about because of the stigma that can be attached to mental health issues. The truth is, many people wrestle with stress, anxiety, negative thoughts, feeling low or depressed at times in their lives and it is okay to talk about it. More importantly, we need to be ready to listen carefully to our family members and friends. McNair students need to know that our counsellors are always available and parents can get help from their family doctor or a wide range of excellent online resources. <http://letstalk.bell.ca/en/>
<http://healthyschoolsbc.ca/program/442/mindcheckca>

Culinary Arts:

On **Friday, December 7, 2018**, McNair's Culinary Arts Program sent Grade 12 students **Alison Cheng** and **Cheyenne Tu** to Enver Creek Secondary School to participate in the 2018 Surrey School District Gingerbread Competition, which was open to all high school students enrolled in a culinary arts program in BC. Students were required to build structures using sheets of baked gingerbread and everything except the bases had to be made of edible materials.



Alison and Cheyenne worked tirelessly since the beginning of November planning, cutting, baking, and decorating their creations. After many hours spent in the cafeteria kitchen and much hard work, the girls put the finishing touches on their projects on the evening of the 6th and faced off against



other teams the next morning, bringing home the **Best Overall** award with their Star Wars-themed Hoth Galaxy Park.

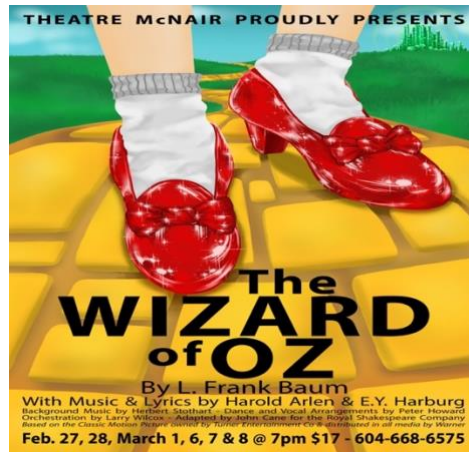


When asked about the gingerbread building experience, the girls explained that they had wanted to challenge themselves since it was their second year of being in this competition. Last year, Cheyenne had won in the **Most Creative** category for her Celebrate Canada 150 project. Alison had worked with her partner AJ Rocha and had won in two categories: **Most Unique & Best Overall** for their Thousand Sunny Days Pirate Ship. This year's project definitely was a challenge then because they had to use math and physics to build the structures for the moving ferris wheel. They also had to make their own molds in order to achieve the perfect shape to build their Millennium Falcon.

Congratulations, Alison and Cheyenne, on the fabulous work! We are so proud of you.

Drama/Theatre:

It is hard to believe that we are now only weeks away from our production of **The Wizard of Oz**.



The cast and crew have been working long hours to get the show ready. Rehearsals are every day after school and will soon also be on the weekends. The theatre is buzzing ~ to say the least. Show dates for **The Wizard of Oz** are **Wed February 27 – Fri March 1**, and the following week **Wed March 6 – Friday March 8**. Tickets go on sale the second week of February and are expected to go fast. Please come and join us along “the Yellow Brick Road.”

On top of all the activity around our production of **The Wizard of Oz**, the theatre department is also wrapping up another great term. The Acting 12 students are performing their finals which are called Body Masks. These are one man/one woman autobiographical performances. The two Stagecraft 11/12 students are frantically trying to finish all the costumes and sets for the **Wizard of Oz**. The Drama 9 students are performing their final projects and the Drama 10 students are also performing their finals. The 3rd group of Grade 8 students has just completed their rotation in Drama 8 and we are getting ready for another big semester in the theatre.

Athletics:



The McNair **Basketball** season are closing in on the playoffs, and all 7 of our teams are in good position. The Bantam Girls, Juvenile Girls and Senior Girls have all played several games, with the Bantam Girls sitting in second place in the Richmond league at 8-1 and they will be hosting the play-offs at McNair next week! Good luck girls!

All four of the Boys teams are in good positions, and promise to be competitive in the playoffs. It should 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. Good luck, Marlins! The Basketball teams are coached by:

- Grade 8 Girls-Catherine Bateman
- Grade 9 Girls-Edward Liao
- Senior Girls-Denise Busayong
- Grade 8 Boys-Jas Dhari and Brandon Lee
- Grade 9 Boys- Ranj Sangra and Garret Holmes
- Grade 10 Boys-Derek Wong and Rob Vnt
- Senior Boys-Ranj Sangra and Jessy Dhillon

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 **Feb 12th 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!



SD38 News:

Celebrating our SD38 Aboriginal education Enhancement Agreement

BANNOCK AND JAM:
A celebration of our Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement in action in School District No. 38 (Richmond)



Our District's second Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement was signed in February, 2017. We would like to share the Agreement with our community, and show you what it looks like in our classrooms and schools across the district. Please join us for bannock and jam, student displays, slahal demonstrations, pow wow dancing, and a drumming ceremony.

Time: 7 -8 pm

When: Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Where: Richmond Secondary School Theatre, 7171 Minoru Blvd, Richmond, BC

RSVP: Sonja Bone (sbone@sd38.bc.ca, 604-668-6000 ext. 1179)

Terry Point (tpoint@sd38.bc.ca, 604-668-6000 ext. 3482)

Monique Giard (mgiard@sd38.bc.ca, 604-668-6000 ext. 6182)

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

Grade 12s

Graduating students should have submitted or be close to submitting their post-secondary applications to BC schools.

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/>

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

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

All Other Institutions: Varies – check their websites

Application Deadlines for BC

DEC 1/18 – UBC Early admission deadline and Centennial Scholars Deadline

JAN 15/19 - UBC Final application deadline

JAN 15/19 - Emily Carr applications + documents deadline

JAN 31/19 - SFU Final application deadline

FEB 28/19 – UVic Final application deadline

Document Deadlines:

Many universities & colleges require additional information such as transcripts or supplemental applications or profiles. Students should know when these documents are due at the schools where they have applied.

Students Transcripts Service (STS). Students need their PEN number to register.

The Ministry of Education's *Student Transcripts Service (STS)*, is 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 grade information earlier than available through this process. Students should be 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 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 transcripts, 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
If applying to SFU, students must complete the Student Transcript Service (STS) form by February 28.

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

Reminders to Grade 11 Students:

If planning to attend a USA post-secondary institution after graduation, it is a good idea to register for and to write the SAT admission exam during the Grade 11 year! This allows enough time to have SAT scores ready for Fall applications. See the College Board website for registration details: <http://student.collegeboard.org/>

Skilled Trade Exploration Program - SPRING 2019

This is for students who are currently in grades 11 and 12. For an application, see Ms Hudson. Apply to work for an entire week with the Richmond School District carpenters, plumbers, electricians or H-VAC technicians. Deadline to submit COMPLETE applications is Thursday, January 31st.

2019-2020 Richmond School District Youth Train in Trades Program

Application Deadlines

First Deadline: February 28/19 (application for Baking must meet this deadline)

Second Deadline: April 5/19

The Career Programs Office offers students in Richmond School District with opportunities to explore a variety of career options while still in high school. Whether students decide to pursue college, university or work after high school, these options open doors and allow students to:

- move ahead in a chosen career path
- acquire skills relevant to today's labour market needs
- have flexibility and choice with respect to how, when and where learning takes place.

Students are invited to explore the Careers Program website to learn more about the various career development resources available to help determine "Your Future without Limits"! <http://careerprograms.sd38.bc.ca/>. For more details, see Ms Hudson.

Other Event Dates

FEB 9/19 - Capilano University Film + Animation Open House

FEB 9/19 - KPU Open House (Surrey)

FEB 20/19 – Big Info Night at BCIT

FEB 28/19 - Study and Go Abroad Fair at the Vancouver Convention Centre

Some Upcoming Scholarships

(for a more comprehensive list of scholarships, visit <http://sd38careercentre.weebly.com/other-scholarships.html>)

- **JAN 31/19** - Western University National Scholarship Program In-School Deadline for Nomination Consideration
National Scholarships are designed to recognize all-round excellence. They are awarded on the basis of outstanding academic performance to candidates who demonstrate ability for creative and innovative thought and a passion for the pursuit of learning. National Scholarships also recognize exceptional achievement in extracurricular activities such as the arts and athletics. A special emphasis is placed on a candidate's commitment to community service through ongoing contributions to school and community life.
For complete details visit:
http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances/scholarships_awards/national_scholarship_program.html
- **FEB 15/19** - BC Excellence Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship Deadline - awarded to 20 outstanding high school graduates who have demonstrated a commitment and aptitude for a career path in K-12 teaching. Winners receive a \$5000 scholarship voucher to redeem when they are registered and attending an approved K-12 teacher education program at one of BC's nine Faculties of Education.

Completed applications must be submitted to the Ministry no later than February 15, 2019.

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

- **Feb 15/19** - Beedie Luminaries Scholarship Deadline (New this year) - Beedie Luminaries is a social-profit enterprise designed to help remove barriers to education and provide support for promising students who are facing financial adversity. Students who are smart, but constrained by circumstance. There are 50 scholarships in 2019 (pilot year). \$40,000 per student for a 4-year undergraduate degree and \$15,000 per student for a 2-year college or trade-school diploma. Also includes “Stay on Track” student support, annual student team-building retreat, access to mentors and summer paid internship opportunities.

Complete details and the application link available at:
<https://beedieluminaries.ca/program/>
- **FEB 8/19** - The British Columbia School Superintendents Association (BCSSA) Scholarship Application Deadline

The BCSSA will award six scholarships to students planning to pursue post-secondary studies. Applicants must be in grade 12 in BC. One finalist chosen from each of the six BCSSA provincial chapters to receive a \$1000 scholarship.

For details visit <https://bcssa.org/2018/10/23/2019-student-scholarships/>
- **FEB 15/19** - BC Excellence Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship Deadline - awarded to 20 outstanding high school graduates who have demonstrated a commitment and aptitude for a career path in K-12 teaching. Winners receive a \$5000 scholarship voucher to redeem when they are registered and attending an approved K-12 teacher education program at one of BC’s nine Faculties of Education.

See website for complete instructions: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/scholarships/provincial-scholarships/pathway-to-teacher-education-scholarship>
- **MAR 11/19** - Richmond Community Foundation Scholarships

Scholarships are available to Richmond students who are entering a post-secondary institution directly after high school, as well as those who have taken a year off before beginning their post-secondary studies. If you have questions about your eligibility, please call 604-270-4483 or e-mail info@richmondfoundation.org.

There is no requirement for a specific grade average for any scholarship and students who are pursuing trade and diploma courses are encouraged to apply in addition to those undertaking degree studies. The criteria for all the above scholarships include the following:

 - A permanent Richmond resident
 - Canadian citizen or landed immigrant
 - Graduating, or have graduated within the past two years, from a secondary school in Richmond
 - Applying to an accredited post-secondary school
 - A demonstrated commitment to the community of Richmond

Notwithstanding the above, consideration will be given to those that demonstrate financial need.

For more info:
https://www.rcrg.org/GrantsScholarships/ScholarshipDetails/high_school_scholarships