

McNair Secondary

August 2022

Newsletter

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Principal-Ms. D. Ten-Pow
Vice Principal-Ms. R. Lacoumentas
Vice Principal-Mr. I. Felgar
Trustee-Mr. Norman Goldstein
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>

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

Principal's Message:

Welcome Back!

September 6th is fast approaching and it is time to think about going back to school! I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the final days of summer break.

We will continue to face challenging times; it, therefore, remains important to think about the possibilities offered with the fresh start we are provided every September. Each student can set individual goals for this school year. Whether your child wishes to improve academic achievement, become a member of a sports team, get involved in service activities or clubs, or explore post-secondary options, McNair has many opportunities to offer. Our goal is for each child to achieve his or her full potential.

Inside this newsletter you will find information about school start up and the schedule for the first day of school. Our first PAC meeting will take place in September; specific details will be emailed and all parents are welcome to attend. Our regular newsletters will be posted on our website: <https://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca>. We will also email newsletters to you but please ensure your current email address is filled in on your child's **verification/medical form** that will be sent home.

As parents, you play a key role in your child's education and it is not too early to begin conversations around the importance of good work habits, regular study time, and establishing personal bests as this year's goal.

We have said **good-bye to a few staff members** who departed over the summer to new, exciting opportunities: **Mr. Irani, Mr. D. Wong, Ms. Tracey, Mr. Haensel and Ms. Hunt**. We **welcome Mr. Felgar** from Cambie as McNair's newest Vice-Principal. We also have **Mr. T. Yip and Mr. R. Wong** joining the McNair community. We will continue to update you with news including health and safety measures and information will be communicated directly to students at the Grade Assemblies.

The school is refreshed and looks great and we are excited to get things started again. Enjoy the last days of summer – on behalf of the entire McNair staff we look forward to working with you and your children in the 2022-2023 school year.

Ms. Debbie Ten-Pow
Principal

Important Dates

Sep 5	Labour Day (school closed)
Sep 6	School Open – Homeroom and Assemblies
Sep 7	Semester 1 begins
Sep 8-12	Strathcona Mini School Field Trip
Sep 14	Collaboration Day (Late Start 9:55am)
Sep 20	Terry Fox Run
Sep 21	Grad Boat Cruise
Sep 22	Meet the Teacher Night
Sep 23	Pro-D Day (school closed)

Sep 28	School Photo Day
Sep 29	Grade 8 Retreat
Sep 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (school closed)
Sep 30-Oct 2	Loon Lake Music Retreat

New School Year Start-Up:

To help all of you get the year off to an organized start, we have sent home the following electronically and on school website:

- Information about online payment accounts
- A Welcome Back letter
- Media Release form – to be submitted to Homeroom teachers by Friday, September 10th
- A walking fieldtrip form
- A description of the first days of school

Course Changes

Please be aware that the Timetable (as it is every year), is incredibly tight. We go to great lengths to ensure that students get what they asked for in the Spring (when the Timetable is built-based upon what students told us they wanted to take). If a student changes their mind or did not take a course in the summer that they had originally planned to, it can be very difficult to make changes to schedules. When students get their Timetables, they will be given instructions about how to make Course Correction Requests. These Corrections are only to be completed if a student has an incorrect course, is programmed into the wrong grade level, or has a gap in their schedules. Counsellors will be working feverishly to make as many corrections as they can, but not everything will be possible, and we ask that all families remain patient and follow the schedule they were given until they have been advised of a change.

First Day of School – Tuesday, September 6th

- 10:00 am to 11:00 am** **Grade 8 students report to the Large Gym** for Welcome Back Assembly and to meet homeroom teachers and mentors. In homeroom, students will receive their schedule, locker info and student verification/medical form and will be able to pay fee statements. Students are recommended to use the theft-resistant lock provided by the school.
- 11:30 am to 12:30 pm** **Grade 9-11 students report to the Large Gym** for Welcome Back Assembly in the Large Gym and then be directed to their homeroom classes to receive their schedules, lockers, fee statements and verification/medical forms. Students are reminded to bring their lockers from last year. If you cannot locate yours, you may purchase a new one for \$10.00 from the Business Assistant.
- 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm** **Grade 12 students report to the Large Gym** for Welcome Back Assembly in the Large Gym and then be directed to their homeroom classes to receive their schedules, lockers, fee statements and verification/medical forms. Students are reminded to bring their lockers from last year. If you cannot locate yours, you may purchase a new one for \$10.00 from the Business Assistant.
- 11:00am to 11:30am** **Mini School Assembly** - **Mini School students are also expected to attend their Grade Assembly at the appropriate time listed above.**

Most importantly, do not share your combination with anyone else. The lock you will be provided with is yours to keep. There is a charge of \$10.00 for the lock, but you will not have to return it to us.

Marlinaires, Mentors and teachers will be available in the halls to assist students new to the school. Homeroom lists will be published and placed on the window at the front of the school at the end of the day. Students will be able to find their homeroom by looking through the list to find their name (listed alphabetically by last name), then cross-referencing their Homeroom, ie: 9A, 9B, 9C, etc., with the room number list next to the student name list.

Homerooms - September 7th-9th

We will have a brief **homeroom class each morning** for the first week of classes to provide students with relevant information and obtain accurate attendance figures. Each homeroom teacher will also review the school expectations and procedures, distribute agendas, and answer ongoing questions students may have.

H O M E R O O M

It is very important that you attend this homeroom class each day. If you do not attend homeroom during the early days of the school year, your home will be phoned. If we are unable to contact you, we will assume you are attending another school and you will be withdrawn from McNair.

Fee Statements



We will **NOT** be mailing home fee statements as they will be accessible to families for viewing and paying online. If you have not already done so, please create an account (+ click on 'yes' to receive

notifications) and register your student(s) at <https://richmondsd38.schoolcashonline.com>

At this time, you will see a School Fee (\$28) and options to purchase workbooks or supplies for a few courses. Other Fees such as the Yearbook and Grad related fees will be added in the following months. You will receive notifications via School Cash once these fees have been assigned to students.

Meet the Teacher

You will be able to meet your son or daughter's teachers on the evening of **Thursday, September 22nd**. The evening begins with a Welcome in the gym at **7:00pm** followed by an opportunity to meet your child's teachers in their classrooms. More information regarding this evening will be sent home in September.



Work Habits

Attitudes toward learning, cooperation, attendance, punctuality, and the ability to work well with others are very important aspects of effective learning. At McNair, we value work habits. Student work habits are reported on all interim reports:

- G** - Work habits are **good**.
- S** - Work habits are **satisfactory**.
- N** - Work habits **need to improve**.

Forms to submit to school office

Students and parents received their **Media Release form and Walking Field Trip form via an email**. Please ensure it is printed off, signed and returned to Homeroom teachers by Friday, September 9th so your child's photograph can be displayed in the Yearbook etc.

We will also be sending home a **Student Information Verification/Medical Form** with your child on Tuesday, September 6th. Please ensure that the Student Information Verification Form is filled out with current, accurate, information. Please be sure to include the name and number of an alternate contact who speaks English. **Please make any changes directly onto the form and return to your child's Homeroom teacher by September 9th. Please be sure to include an accurate email address.**

Protect Personal belongings

The best defense against acts of theft is to not bring valuable items to school. Protect your belongings and do not leave money or other valuables in an unattended bag, locker or changing room. Students should **LEAVE VALUABLES AT HOME!**



Academic Honesty

We believe that every student has the responsibility to participate actively in their own learning. When faced with problems to solve or assignments to complete, it is the thinking and the effort a student puts into researching, reading, writing and re-writing that allows one to truly learn.

Similarly, submitting the work of another student, tutor, parent, friend, etc. as your own work (even though it has been properly footnoted and referenced) is plagiarism and not acceptable at school. This applies equally to written work and projects (ie: Web design, tech projects, art work, and photos). Tutors should not write, re-write or significantly edit large sections of work for a student. It is the student's responsibility to avoid deliberate or accidental plagiarism and to verify and account for all of their own work and learning.

Newsletters / WAAG

The **newsletters** are emailed home monthly and posted on our school website under Parents top tab: <https://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/news/newsletters>



The **Week-At-A-Glance (WAAG)** is emailed to students and parents weekly to provide reminders on upcoming events. It is also posted on school's website homepage.

Be sure to keep up with the news at McNair.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Our Parent Advisory group meets once each month. **The first meeting of the 2022-2023 year will be in September** and more details will be emailed to parents. Please stay tuned. Come join us as we get acquainted, learn about the school and set our goals for this year. ***New Members Welcome!***

Late Return

Please be reminded that if you will **NOT** be returning to McNair for the 2022-23 school year, please let our school office know of your departure. Also, if you will be returning, but will **arrive later than the first day of school (September 6th), but ON or BEFORE September 14th**, you **MUST** let the office know and complete a **NOTICE OF LATE RETURN** form (<https://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/news/2022/09/notice-late-return>). This form is also available at the school office and must be completed or you risk losing your space in the school. This is important to ensure we have a timetable for your child in September. Thank you for your cooperation in helping create a smooth start to the school year for all of our McNair families.

Grade 12 Boat Cruise

Tickets MUST be purchased online by September 6, 2022.

Date: **Wednesday, September 21st, 2022 (tentatively)**
 Time: 6:00pm Boarding > 6:30 – 9:30pm Sailing
 Address: Bayshore West Marina, 450 Denman Street, Vancouver
 Map: www.vancouvercharters.com

Dress: Smart casual (a sweater is a good idea to stay warm on deck)
 Cost: **\$110.00**

****** Please note that we will require a minimum of 125 guests attending in order for this event to move forward. It is very important that you pay On-Line before the deadline of September 6, 2022 ******

The Pride of Vancouver cruises around beautiful English Bay and a buffet dinner will be provided followed by lots of dancing with our DJ. Don't forget, there are beautiful views to take in!!

The cruise will **depart at 6:30pm sharp**. Please note that we cannot wait for latecomers. The boat returns at the **dock for 9:30pm**.

Students are responsible for transportation to and from the boat. Give yourself lots of time to get there as traffic downtown is busy in the evening. If you are driving, pay parking is available near the marina. Please make sure you have a safe plan to return home.

As this is a school function, all school rules apply. To make sure everyone is safe on board, students will be checked prior to boarding by the security staff of the charter boat company. Please do not bring any food or beverages nor any items that are not appropriate for a school function.

Grade 8 Retreat

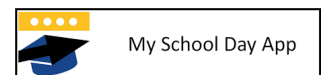
Grade 8 Retreat will be on **Thursday, September 29, 2022**. More details will be emailed to students and parents in mid-September.

Lockers and Agendas

All students will be issued a **locker** by their Homeroom teacher during first week of school. You are welcome to bring in your own lock, but you will need to record your combination with your Homeroom teacher. If you do not have a lock, we are selling them. **All students can order the lock online at SchoolCashOnline for \$10**. Always use your locker to keep from carrying books that are too heavy, and also be sure to keep it clean. To ensure the safety of your belongings, always use your locker for anything valuable (do not bring money or electronics to the Gym Change rooms), and **do not share your locker combination with ANYONE!**



Hard-copies Agendas will be available for students who need them (including all **Grade 8s**), but we have created an **app** called **MySchoolDay App** for students (and parents) to use on their phones and other devices. We will review how to use and download the app during the Grade Assemblies, but we want to encourage everyone (including parents) to use the app to help you stay organized and informed!



School Supplies

We recommend that students wait until they have met with each of their teachers before purchasing too many school supplies or equipment. Students should, however, bring **a pen, a binder and some paper** for the first few days of school. The information will come to you quickly, so you will need to stay organized. Some courses may use a workbook which will be confirmed by the teacher and can be purchased at SchoolCashOnline.

School and Grad Photos

McNair is having its school photographs on **Wednesday, September 28th**. This photo will be used on student Go-Cards and parents will have the option to purchase packages of the photos. Information on the packages will come from **Artona**. Photo retake day will be on **Wednesday, October 26th**, for anyone unhappy with their photo or for those who were absent on the first day.



Formal Graduation Photos will also be taken by *Artona* and they will be bringing a trailer to the school parking lot **November 27th – December 3rd**. Graduates will have to make an appointment, dress the part and be **ready to take the photo that parents will want to buy and is used on the Graduation Composite**. For more information, please go to the *Artona* website at: <https://artona.com>

Early Warning Phone Line

McNair appreciates all communication from home about students and families. In order to keep us aware of students who will be absent from school, we ask that parents use the **EARLY WARNING LINE** at **(604) 295-6427**. This number is accessible 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Please report your child's absence by calling McNair on this number. Thank you in advance.

Collaboration Days

Collaboration time is where students get to sleep in while teachers meet and plan new activities and lesson ideas for their classes. Collaboration time is not new to McNair (we have been doing it for 6 years), and happens the **first Wednesday of each month** (starting September 15th). Collaboration Time runs from 8:30-9:55 and classes will start at 10:00 on these days. Students coming in from Hamilton will be advised of alternate bus times. End of day dismissal on all of these days is unchanged at 3:00 PM (see below for exact time).

Bell Schedules

McNair is a semester school, with 4 classes per day and most students (except Grade 8s) will have those 4 classes every day until the end of January, when they will get 4 new classes in next semester. We have three different schedules, but the order of the blocks is always the same. Go to <https://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/school-information/mcnair-bell-schedule> for the **three different schedules: Regular, Collaboration Day, and Flex Time**.



Matthew McNair Secondary Calendar 2021-2022

September 2022

Mon	5	Labour Day
Tue	6	Schools Open Homerooms and Assemblies
Wed	7	First day of Semester 1 Classes
Thu	8-12	Strathcona Mini School Field Trip
Wed	14	COLLABORATION DAY (9:55am start)
Tue	20	Terry Fox Run
Thu	22	Meet the Teacher Night
Fri	23	Pro D (Non-Instructional day)
Wed	28	School Photos
Thu	29	Grade 8 Retreat
Fri	30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Loon Lake Music Retreat (Sept 30 - Oct 2)

October 2022

Wed	5	COLLABORATION DAY (9:55am start)
Mon	10	Thanksgiving (School Closed)
Thu	20	Leadership Conference
Fri	21	Province Wide Pro D (Non-Instructional Day)
Fri-Sun	21-23	Leadership Conference
Wed	26	School Photo Retakes
Fri	28	Haunted House
Mon-Fri	31-4	Grad Assessments (Oct 31 – Nov 4)

November 2022

Wed	2	COLLABORATION DAY (9:55am start) Take Your Kids to Work Day (Grade 9s)
Thu	10	Remembrance Day Assembly
Fri	11	Remembrance Day School Closed
Wed	16	Senior Math Contest
Thu	17	Reports Cards Issued (Semester 1: Term 1)
Wed	23	Parent Teacher Conferences (2pm - 4pm)
Thu	24	Parent Teacher Conferences (2pm - 4pm & 6pm - 8pm)
Fri	25	Pro D (Non-Instructional Day)
Sun	27-3	Grad Portrait Sessions (Nov 27 – Dec 3)
Mon	28	Home Opener/Pep Rally

December 2022

Wed	7	COLLABORATION DAY (9:55am start) Mini School Potluck (6:30-9:30pm)
Thu	8	Winter Concert
Fri	16	Breakfast with Santa
Mon	19	Winter Vacation (Dec 19 – Jan 2)

January 2023

Sun	1	New Year's Day
Mon	2	Winter Vacation
Tue	3	Schools Reopen after Winter Vacation
Wed	4	COLLABORATION DAY (9:55am start)
Mon	23-27	Grad Assessments
Thu	26	Open House/Showcase Night/Program Planning
Fri	27	Semester Turn Around Day (No School)
Mon	30	Pro D (Non-Instructional Day)
Tue	31	First Day of Semester 2

February 2023

Wed	1	COLLABORATION DAY (9:55am start)
Wed	8	Report Cards Issued (Semester 1 - Final)
Fri	17	District Wide Pro D (no school)
Mon	20	BC Family Day
Wed	22	Pascal/Cayley/Fermat Math Contests
Mon	27	Theatre Production (Feb 27 – March 3)

March 2023

Wed	1	COLLABORATION DAY (9:55am start)
Tue	7-8	Elementary Basketball Tournament
Wed	8	International Women's Day
Mon	13	Spring Break (March 13 – 24)
	13-22	Europe Trip
Mon	27	Schools Reopen

April 2023

Tue	4	Euclid Math Contest
Wed	5	COLLABORATION DAY (9:55am start)
Fri	7	Good Friday - No school
Mon	10	Easter Monday - No school
Tue	11	Soup Kitchen #1 (Mini 12s)
Thu	13	Report Cards Issued (Semester 2: Term 1)
Wed	19	Parent Teacher Conferences (2pm - 4pm)
Thu	20	Parent Teacher Conferences (2pm - 4pm & 6pm - 8pm)
Mon	24-28	Grad Assessments
	24-26	Timberline Ranch (Mini 9s)

May 2023

Wed	3	COLLABORATION DAY (9:55am start) AP English Lit & Composition Exam
Mon	8	AP Calculus Exam
Tue	9-12	Juan de Fuca Hike (Mini 11s)
Wed	17-25	Social Justice NYC Trip
Fri	19	District Wide Pro D Non-Instructional Day
Mon	22	Victoria Day
Fri	26	Buddha's Birthday (Buddhism)

June 2023

Mon	5	Athletic Banquet
Thu	8	Spring Concert
Fri	9	Valedictory
Fri	16	Mini Grad Farewell (all grades) Block D - Theatre
Mon	19-23	Grad Assessments
Mon	26-28	"I" Removal
Thu	29	Final Report Cards Issued
Fri	30	Administrative Day Schools Closed

Teen Mental Health

Anxiety, depression and other mental disorders can affect between 15% - 20% of adolescents at some point during their teen years. Good mental health is more than just a lack of mental illness, however, as life is full of ups and downs and having the knowledge and strategies to cope with stressors can be effective in preventing a mental disorder from occurring during adolescence or later in life. Please be sure to communicate with your child about how they are feeling and if you need some help, please contact our Counsellors. Being a teenager has never been filled with more pressure and we need to be aware of the signals if our kids are struggling.



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 during class time, 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 two days per week or until about 3:45 afterschool three days per week. If your child can benefit from this extra assistance, please remind them to advocate for themselves and take advantage of this tremendous support. It is open to all students and if you want to know if your child is utilizing it, we have a check in and check out system that tracks who is accessing the system. If interested, please check with Mr. McLellan to see which days he will be available at lunch, and which days after school.

Athletics

McNair has long had a very proud tradition of Athletics and next year promises to be another strong season full of opportunities for young student-athletes. Being connected to school teams is a great way to meet new friends and enjoy fabulous coaching and have lots of fun competing against other school from around Richmond. Be sure to listen to the announcements so you are aware of upcoming practices and try-outs. The fall season gets started right away, so be sure you listen to the announcements so you are aware of the upcoming practices and tryouts.



Attendance/Early Dismissal

Attendance is taken in each class during the day. If a student is absent first period and the school has not been notified, the school WILL phone students in Grades 8-12. If a student misses a later class, you MAY get a call from a classroom teacher, administrator or Counsellor to find out why he/she was absent. Recorded messages are also sent home at noon and at the end of the day, alerting parents to any class missed by their child via the school attendance system. Regular attendance is necessary for successful learning. If students need to leave the school during the day, please send them to the office with a note, signed by a parent, indicating when they should be dismissed. **Students MUST sign out at the office before he/she leaves, either with a note or phone call from a parent.**

Calendar

All students will be receiving a **Wall Calendar** on the first day of class. The calendar has lots of information about events in the school (Report Cards, Semester change-over, Exams, Grad events and holidays). Please be sure to use this tool, along with the **Student Agenda or MySchoolDay App** in order to stay informed and connected to the events in the school. Grade 8 and Resource students will be given a Paper version of the Student agenda if they want one.

Pick Up/Drop Off

Help us make McNair a safe school and a good neighbor by doing what you can to ease the traffic congestion in the area. Number 4 Road can be very busy and we encourage parents and all other drivers not to enter the parking lot from the North side of the building. We also encourage students to walk or bike to school. If you **MUST** pick up or drop off, please do so before 8:00 AM and do not stop in the parking lot, rather proceed to the drop off area in front of the school.

Vaping/Smoking

Smoking is a serious health hazard and student and adults are **NOT PERMITTED** to smoke anywhere on school property. We encourage healthy habits at McNair and will actively dissuade students found smoking in areas where they are not permitted.

Cellphones/Devices

Cellphones and other electronic devices are not to be used, seen or heard during class time, unless permission has been granted by the classroom teacher. These can be very valuable learning tools, but they need to be used appropriately, and must not become a distraction. **We ask that parents DO NOT call or text your child while they are in class.** In case of emergency, please call the school office at (604) 668-6575 and we will contact your child for you.

Stay Connected to McNair Secondary

Please stay connected to our school and join the over 700 students, parents, alumni and community members who are already following McNair on **Twitter!** This is a great way to get short reminders and updates of all that is happening at McNair Secondary. Twitter is easy to use from your smart phone or computer and is a very popular social medial platform used by millions of businesses, universities, news agencies and community organizations in Richmond, Canada and throughout the world. Follow us: **@McNairMarlins**.



Similarly, the **School Website** is a great place to get information about our school. All McNair families are encouraged to bookmark <https://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca> and check the website weekly. Please subscribe to our website to learn about any school updates, and you will receive an email when anything new is added to the main page or when a monthly school newsletter is published. Check it out today!