

# SEPTEMBER 18 - 22, 2023

| Monday<br>Sep 18                         | Tuesday<br>Sep 19                                      | Wednesday<br>Sep 20                 | Thursday<br>Sep 21  | Friday<br>Sep 22                                   |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Day 1</b><br>Regular Flex Time Begins | <b>Day 2</b><br><br><i>Ganesh Chaturthi (Hinduism)</i> | <b>Day 1</b><br>Grade 8 Connections | <b>Day 2</b><br>Grade 8 Connections (Blocks A&B)<br>Terry Fox Run<br><br>Meet the Teacher Night | <b>Pro-D Day</b><br><b>No Classes for Students</b> |

*Sep 17-23: Gender Equity Week*

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

### **Regular Flex Time Begins Monday**

Flex time is a “golden opportunity” for students to learn about and work on a topic of their choice. School staff are available in classrooms and students are expected to [go online to sign up](#) for the class of their choosing prior to the start of each Flex Time. Sign up will be available throughout the year for the current and next weeks.

### **Home-School Communication**

Strong communication between the school and parents is essential to providing a quality education to our students. Meet the Teacher Night is one important way that we build this communication. We also encourage parents to contact us with questions or concerns as they arise. Staff email addresses can be found on our school website by visiting *Our Staff* under the *School Information* menu.

### **Meet the Teacher Night (Sep 21)**

All parents and caregivers are invited to attend Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday. We will begin at **6:30pm** with opening remarks in the gym, followed by a brief opportunity to visit each of your child’s semester 1 teachers. Teachers will provide an overview of course content and expectations. More information, including a detailed schedule, will be email home prior to this event. We look forward to seeing everyone on Thursday!

### **Grade 8 Connections (Sep 20-21)**

Detailed information has been sent home to grade 8 families and is posted on the website. Please return the signed field trip form to the office by Tuesday.

### **Terry Fox Run (Sep 21)**

The entire McNair community will participate in the annual Terry Fox Run on Thursday. Students are reminded to bring a donation to support cancer research.

### **McNair Parent Advisory Council**

Please see the important message from the McNair PAC on the next page.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Sep 23    | <i>International Day of Sign Languages</i>                  |
| Sep 24    | <i>Kol Nidrei (Judaism)</i>                                 |
| Sep 24-30 | <i>Int’l Week of the Dead People<br/>Gender Equity Week</i> |
| Sep 25    | <i>Yom Kippur (Judaism)</i>                                 |
| Sep 26    | <i>Mawlid-al-Nabi (Islam)</i>                               |
| Sep 27    | School Photos   |
| Sep 28    | Grad Boat Cruise  |
| Sep 29    | <i>Sukkot (Judaism – Sep 29-Oct 6)</i>                      |
|           | Orange Shirt Day  |
| Sep 30    | <b><i>National Day for Truth and Reconciliation</i></b>     |
| Oct 2     | <b><i>School Closed in lieu of Sept. 30</i></b>             |

### **Alternate Bell Schedule – Terry Fox**

|                       | <i>Start</i>   | <i>End</i>    |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Block A</b>        | 8:30am         | 9:40am        |
| <b>Block B</b>        | 9:45am         | 10:55am       |
| Break                 | 10:55am        | 11:10am       |
| <b>Block C</b>        | 11:15am        | 12:25pm       |
| <b>TERRY FOX RUN*</b> | <b>12:25pm</b> | <b>1:00pm</b> |
| Lunch                 | 1:00pm         | 1:45pm        |
| <b>Block D</b>        | 1:50pm         | 3:00pm        |

\*Students will be called by grade to start the run

### **Gender Equity Week (Sep 17-23)**

[Gender Equality Week](#) is an opportunity to:

- raise awareness of the contributions women and gender diverse communities have made to Canada’s growth, development, character, and identity,
- celebrate the significant achievements and accomplishments that we have made in advancing gender equality, and
- reconfirm our commitment to address persistent gender equality gaps in our country.

### **Ganesh Chaturthi (Sep 19 – Hinduism)**

Ganesh Chaturthi, also called Vinayaka Chaturthi, is a 10-day festival marking the birth of the elephant-headed deity Ganesha, the god of prosperity and wisdom.

## **Matthew McNair Secondary School**

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THE MCNAIR WAAG

Dear Parents,

A very happy new school year to you all! We hope that all the families were able to have a relaxing and safe summer break. A warm welcome to everyone, especially to the families new to McNair! Once again, we invite you all to join the McNair Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) where you can voice what is important for your child and where we can together form a supportive learning community for our kids.

This year the PAC will hold virtual meetings every alternative month starting in Oct (date to be determined). The meeting link will be sent closer to the date.

### **URGENT NEED OF PAC EXECUTIVES FOR 2023-2024**

We are urgently looking for parent volunteers to fill executive roles (Co-Chair/Vice-Chair, Secretary) for McNair PAC.

#### Role/Responsibilities:

The **co-chair/Vice-Chair** will help lead and host PAC meetings, be the key contact for the Richmond District Parent Advisory Committee (RDPA), and school administration, as well as voice any concerns from parents/students as needed. The **Secretary** will help record and share meeting minutes and post an agenda for period PAC meetings. If you are interested or want to nominate someone, please get in touch with us at [mcnairsd38pac@gmail.com](mailto:mcnairsd38pac@gmail.com)

We especially encourage Grade 8 parents to consider playing this important leadership role as this is a great way to make connections with school administration as well as other parents and contribute to building a safe and supportive learning environment.

Secondary School PAC also plays an important role in making decisions on the Gaming Grant allocations to support scholarships, clubs, and various extra-curricular activities at school. If we do not have PAC executives:

- Our PAC will be dissolved.
- We will not get any gaming grant money from the government used for our kid's extracurricular activities.
- We will not receive any funding from the District PAC when available.
- No possibility for dry after-grad events or fundraising for future Grade 12 students.

Decisions on how to support your child(ren)'s education should not be made by only a handful of parents. We hope to see many of you at the upcoming PAC meeting in Oct. Joining the PAC has been a fulfilling experience for current and past executives as we are able to contribute to our kids' school's overall experience.

### **ACTION ITEM FOR GRADE 12 PARENTS: ASSEMBLE A DRY AFTER GRAD COMMITTEE (DAG)**

What is a Dry-after Grad? If you wonder, you are not alone. Many families ask this question every year. Therefore, we want to share information about this early on to raise awareness about this event that requires significant efforts from parent volunteers (especially Grade 12).

Dry Grad is an all-night supervised celebration for Grade 12 students after their graduation dinner party in a safe, fun environment. The purpose of "Dry Grad" is to provide ALL Grad students an opportunity to celebrate together one last time as a class in a supervised and completely safe alcohol and drug-free environment before they move to their post-secondary pursuits. The Dry Grad is **organized and planned by a volunteer parents' committee** and is **not funded by the school**. **Fundraising by parent volunteers** is the only source of funds for the grads to have an event like this and it requires significant funding (~\$15-\$20K). Therefore, we urge Grade 12 parents to start planning early to fundraise and build a Dry Grad Committee. **This event can only happen with committed parent participation, either by leading/supporting the fundraisers, donations and your time for the party.**

*For more details on what is a dry-grad event and what preparation required, please read*

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/managing-your-health/lifestartsnow\\_drygrad\\_web.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/managing-your-health/lifestartsnow_drygrad_web.pdf)

We ask all Grade 12 parents (and any other parents interested in helping) to organize a meeting after the Oct PAC meeting to form Dry After Grad Committee (DAG Committee) and start planning in time.

### **FACEBOOK PAGE**

We invite you all to join the Facebook page for McNair PAC to engage in conversations with other parents, give suggestions, ask questions or simply network with other parents of McNair students.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/231812398863620>

For any questions about PAC Executive positions or any other questions related to PAC, please contact

[mcnairsd38pac@gmail.com](mailto:mcnairsd38pac@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

**McNair PAC Executive Board**