

# SEPTEMBER 25 - 29, 2023

| Monday<br>Sep 25                | Tuesday<br>Sep 26                 | Wednesday<br>Sep 27 | Thursday<br>Sep 28                                      | Friday<br>Sep 29  |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>Day 1</b>                    | <b>Day 2</b>                      | <b>Day 1</b>        | <b>Day 2</b>  | <b>Day 1</b>  |
|                                 |                                   | Photo Day           | Grad Boat Cruise<br>(Board at 6:00pm<br>Ends at 9:30pm) | <b>Orange Shirt Day</b>   |
| <i>Yom Kippur<br/>(Judaism)</i> | <i>Mawlid-al-Nabi<br/>(Islam)</i> |                     |   | <i>Sukkot<br/>(Judaism until Oct 6)</i>                                 |
|                                 |                                   |                     |   | <b>Saturday, Sep 30</b><br>National Day for Truth<br>and Reconciliation |

## International Week of Deaf People

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

#### Grad Boat Cruise (Sep 28)

The Pride of Vancouver Vessel cruises around beautiful English Bay. The vessel will depart at **6:30pm sharp**. Boarding begins at 6:00pm so be mindful of traffic; leave early! We look forward to taking in beautiful views with our Grads of 2024! Dinner and Dancing!

#### Photo Day (Sep 27)

We're looking forward to seeing your smiles this Wednesday! Students will be called down by alpha order beginning with our Access class at 8:30am followed by grade 8 and so on.

#### Orange Shirt Day (Sep 29)

Both the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day take place on September 30. But as September 30 falls on a Saturday, we are encouraging every member of the McNair Community to wear orange on September 29. Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led, grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and to promote the concept of "Every Child Matters". The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.

#### National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Sep 30)

Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

#### International Week of Deaf People

International Week of Deaf People is a celebration of Deaf culture first launched by the World Federation of the Deaf in 1958. It is recognized annually by communities all over the world during the last full week of September.

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Sep 30** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Oct 1-31** German Heritage Month
- Canadian Islamic History Month
- Community Inclusion Month
- Latin American Heritage Month
- Women's History Month
- Oct 2** School Closed in lieu of Sept. 30
- Oct 4** Collaboration Day
- Oct 7-8** Simchat Torah (Judaism)
- Oct 9** Thanksgiving (School Closed)
- Oct 10** World Mental Health Day
- Oct 11** International Day of the Girl
- Oct 17** Learning Updates Emailed Home
- Oct 18** Post-Secondary Institutions Fair (10:30-12)  
*Persons Day*
- Oct 19-21** Leadership Conference
- Oct 19** Spirit Day
- Oct 20** Pro-D Day (School Closed)

#### Yom Kippur (Judaism – Sep 25)

Also known as the Day of Atonement, this is the holiest day of the Jewish year. On this day, Jewish people fast for 25 hours, attend prayer services and seek forgiveness for their sins.

#### Mawlid-al-Nabi (Islam – Sep 26)

Mawlid-al-Nabi is the celebration of the day when the Islamic prophet Muhammad was born. Most Muslims celebrating the day will put up decorations in their homes and on the streets, and attend communal meals, as well as speeches in mosques recounting the life of the prophet.

#### Sukkot (Judaism – Sep 29-Oct 6)

Sukkot is one of the three pilgrimage holidays and celebrates the fall harvest season. Jewish people celebrate this holiday by building temporary huts outside to sit and eat meals in as well as attending prayer services.

### 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**