


OCTOBER 9 - 13, 2023

Monday Oct 9	Tuesday Oct 10	Wednesday Oct 11	Thursday Oct 12	Friday Oct 13
<i>Thanksgiving</i> School Closed 	Day 2 <i>World Mental Health Day</i>	Day 1 <i>International Day of the Girl</i>	Day 2	Day 1
<i>October 7-8 Simchat Torah (Judaism)</i>				

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

This holiday has become a time for family gatherings to give thanks for well-being and all the good things shared. Enjoy the long weekend with your loved ones in gratitude!

Flex Time Sign Up

Students are continuing to build the routine of planning ahead and signing up in advance for daily Flex Time. This week, we are pleased to see a significant increase in the number of students who completed the daily signup process before the start of the school day. We are also very pleased with how students are using this time and find that there is a high level of engagement in learning during Flex. We would like to thank families for your efforts to encourage your children to plan ahead for Flex Time.

Take Our Kids to Work Day (Grade 9 – Nov 1)

Wednesday, November 1st is National Take Our Kids to Work Day. This day has been occurring across Canada since 1994 and is an opportunity for parents to take their Grade 9 child with them to see what the world of work looks like. This very popular and successful program is something we encourage all of our Grade 9 students to participate in. In order for your child to miss school and go to work with you or a family friend, please complete the a permission form and return to the main office at the school by Wednesday, October 25th.

E-Scooter Rules

Richmond RCMP partnered with ICBC and a local student to put this educational video ([click here](#)) together for community members.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Oct 15-24 Navaratri (Hinduism)*
- Oct 17 Learning Updates Emailed Home
- Oct 18 Post-Secondary Institutions Fair (10:30-12)
Persons Day
- Oct 19 Virtual PAC Meeting at 7PM
(details to follow)
- Oct 19-22 Leadership Conference
- Oct 19 Spirit Day*
- Oct 20 Pro-D Day (School Closed)**
- Oct 24 Dussehra (Hinduism)*
Youth Climate Action Day
- Oct 25 Photo Retake Day
- Oct 27-29 Loon Lake Music Trip
- Oct 30 Haunted House
- Oct 31 Halloween*

Simchat Torah (Judaism – Oct 7-8)

A celebratory Jewish holiday that marks the completion of the annual Torah reading cycle. Simchat Torah literally means "Rejoicing in the Law" in Hebrew.

World Mental Health Day (Oct 10)

A day that promotes mental health awareness and education, and advocates against social stigma relating to mental health.

International Day of the Girl (Oct 11)

A day to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.

Matthew McNair Secondary School

9500 No. 4 Road, Richmond, BC V7A 2Y9 Phone: 604-668-6575 Early Warning: 604-295-6427

Email: mcnair@sd38.bc.ca • Website: <https://mcnair.sd38.bc.ca/>

Instagram: @mcnair_marlins_official



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

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

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

Sincerely,

McNair PAC Executive Board