

# December 9 – December 13, 2024

Monday Dec 9	Tuesday Dec 10	Wednesday Dec 11	Thursday Dec 12	Friday Dec 13																																																																																																									
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<p><b>Grad Council's Candy Cane Cuties Sales</b> Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup></p>		<p><b>Ed Fac Meeting</b> (at lunch)</p>	<p><b>Lockdown Drill</b> (Lunch-1:35pm)</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Spirit Week December 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup></p> </div>																																																																																																									

**Marlin Strong: Every student, every day, whatever it takes!**  
*"There is no separation of mind and emotions; emotions, thinking, and learning are all linked."* Eric Jensen.

Typically, the last couple of weeks of the school year before winter break are filled with fun and excitement. This winter, we will try to infuse our school with joy and happiness because learning involves emotion.

We know that learning is optimized in safe, caring, inclusive environments that offer challenges and opportunities for growth. The brain's neural pathways grow stronger when the learner experiences increasing levels of intrinsic motivation. Actively participating in the school's culture builds this motivation.

Emotions impact brain responses and memory formation; we tend to remember emotionally charged events better than boring ones. We are excited that this school year, we have the opportunity to celebrate Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali, and other occasions in our own special ways at McNair.

It is incumbent upon all adults to find a way to celebrate because it is important for young people and their continued development to be physically, emotionally, socially, and academically engaged: enjoying school, community, and family life. **At McNair, we "Champion students and their learning."**

**Marlin Year-End Extravaganza hosted by Student Council**  
 Student Council will provide a pancake breakfast on Friday, December 20, 2024 @8:30am in the Large Gym. All Students are welcome and there is no charge for the pancakes and treats prepared by students and staff. Please join the fun! There will be games, cookie decorating, and prizes. Happy Holidays!

**Spirit Week – December 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>**  
 There is an exciting week ahead at McNair Secondary School, last week of school for 2024 will be Spirit Week organized by Student Council. We encourage everyone to dig through their closets and come up with something to wear for spirit week. Demonstrate your school spirit and help build the positive atmosphere that will lead to, not only a happier school, but also a more productive learning environment.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Plushie Day	Twin Day	Dress for Winter Day	Denim Day	Cozy PJ Day

**Candy Cane Cuties**  
 Stuco is selling candy canes for \$1 to celebrate the holidays. Students may purchase a candy cane and include a personalized message for their friends and / or teachers. The last day to purchase is December 17<sup>th</sup>. The Candy Canes will be distributed on December 19<sup>th</sup>.

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Dec 16 SCC Meeting (at lunch)
- Dec 16 At-Risk Learning Completion Plans Due (3:00pm)
- Dec 18 At-Risk Learning Completion Plans Emailed Home
- Dec 18 Mini School Meeting (at lunch)
- Dec 18 Staff Winter Luncheon
- Dec 19 Locker Clean Up
- Dec 20 Last Day of Classes before Break
- Dec 20 Santa/Winter Breakfast all students and staff welcome
- Dec 20 Turn off/unplug electronics before break
- Dec 23 Winter Break
- Jan 6 First Day of Classes after Break
- Jan 6 Staff Meeting (after school)
- Jan 8 Collaboration Day (Classes begin at 9:55am)
- Jan 9 SBT Meeting (at lunch)
- Jan 15 Ed Fac Meeting (at lunch)
- Jan 16 Grad Assessment – Literacy 10
- Jan 19 Grad Photos by Appointment (January 19 to 24)
- Jan 20 SCC Meeting (at Lunch)
- Jan 22 Mini School Meeting (at Lunch)
- Jan 23 Last Day of Semester 1 Classes
- Jan 23 Suggested Marks Cut-off Semester 1 Classes
- Jan 24 Pro-D Day (School closed to students)
- Jan 27 Learning Completion Day (No Classes)
- Jan 28 First Day of Semester 2 Classes
- Jan 31 Semester 1 Final Summary of Learning Due

## Students with Emerging or Insufficient Evidence

Final evaluations of student learning for Semester 1 will occur in late January 2025. On December 18, 2024, a small number of our students will receive an "At-Risk Learning Completion Plan" because they are not yet meeting expectation in their courses and are at risk of not completing the Learning Standards by the end of the semester. These plans will detail the learning that must be demonstrated to successfully meet the Learning Standards for the course and thus successfully complete it. These reports will be emailed home on December 18<sup>th</sup> with the expectation that students will engage in the necessary steps to improve their standing.

## Staff: Helping a Student Who Is Struggling Academically:

1. Get the student's parents involved early. Call home if a student is not succeeding and make another call home when the student shows improvement. *Challenge: send a personal email home for each struggling student.*
  2. Try to meet "one on one" with each student who is struggling in your class to develop a learning plan.
  3. Provide opportunities for students to self-reflect on their experiences in class. Ask them, "What can they do to improve?"
  4. Ask both students and parents how you can help.
  5. Look for underlying problems (such as learning gaps or misunderstandings) in the student's learning.
- Follow up with other teachers, counsellors, and administrators to gain a better understanding of each struggling student.