



The Marliner



For our students and parents
January 2008



McNair Secondary School

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Principal: Ms. R. Sebellin

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WebSite: <http://public.sd38.bc.ca:8004/~McNairWeb>

Vice-Principals: Mr. L. Bodin & Ms. M. Scarr

Trustee: Ms G. Tsang

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Preparation for exams and new courses in Semester Two are underway as we organize for the transition to second semester. This is the final newsletter before the end of the semester, and many of our students are already studying and reviewing for their in-class and provincial exams. With less than a week remaining before we move into the final exam mode, all students need to focus on their studies and to seek help when necessary to address the completion of work still outstanding.

The last day of Semester One is Friday, January 25, 2008. Please be sure that your sons and daughters carefully check their exam schedules (also included in the newsletter). Students must be in the exam room 20 minutes in advance, with appropriate identification. There is no flexibility in the times and requirements for these exams as they are established by the Ministry of Education, so pay close attention to specific exam rules.

Just as the first semester ends, we are already actively planning for September 2008. In February counsellors will begin the course programming process. Students in consultation with their parents, should be selecting courses carefully, for staffing and the school's timetable will be based on their course requests. We hope you will mark your calendar and join us for the **Grade 8 Program Planning Night Thursday, February 21st at 7:00 p.m.**

Congratulations to all our basketball teams! The basketball season is well underway in league play and many tournaments are planned at all levels. We have a dedicated group of teachers, coaches, and parent volunteers who give many hours and support our Marlins in so many ways. We are proud of all our athletes, coaches and volunteers at McNair!

Look for Semester One report cards to be coming home with students on **Friday, February 8, 2008**. As always, please call if you have any questions or concerns.

McNair Drama Production

Mark your calendars! This year's drama production is "**The Diviners**" running March 3rd through 7th. Tickets go on sale the last week in February. Seats are limited so don't be disappointed.

Graduation Transitions Required for This Year's Grade 12s

A reminder to all grade 12s and their parents: New graduation requirements are in place for our current Grade 12s. Grad Transitions worth 4 required credits for graduation is on grade 12 report cards though it does not meet as a regular class. Instead student completion of Grad Transitions components are recorded as they are completed. At McNair these requirements were introduced and explained in Senior Planning class last year. They have been reviewed at two assemblies this past fall and a status report was attached to the TVR grad requirement check in November. A second status report will be sent home with semester one reports cards in early February. To graduate students must have completed:

- at least 80 hours of moderate to vigorous physical activity beyond the completion of PE 10
- a personal healthy living plan
- 30 hours work / volunteer experience and community service activity
- knowledge of employability and life skills and the benefits of community service
- a comprehensive transition plan
- presentation of transition plan and student achievements addressing the attributes of an educated citizen

Presentations will take place this spring.

Students will have an RM (Requirements met) recorded on their transcripts. Questions regarding Grad Transitions may be directed to Ms. R. Becerril or your child's counsellor.



McNair Stars

McNair stars recognize positive student contributions within the class, school and community. In the past, McNair Stars were awarded to students for social responsibility, excellence in academics, positive representative of student body, athletics and fine arts. All Stars are posted on the Star Board in the main entrance across from the teacher's staff room.

Andrew Kwan, Jonathan Tsai, Paul Leung, Ryan Kong, Kenneth Shen, Alyssia Brigola, Samantha Wong, Jason Theophilus, Michael Luk, Kristy Anne Leung, Isabel Wong, Calvin Shen, Elizabeth Hu, Siya Mishra, Kevin Chan, Peter Hsieh, Jackie Prior and Salimah Valiani.



Lates

Regular attendance is a key to success in school. Punctuality is also important. Students who arrive late to class disrupt the learning environment for others and miss important information and instruction. Individual teachers set expectations and consequences regarding arriving late to class. "On time" is one of the criteria in our school work habits rubric. Students who do not arrive in class on time on a consistent basis do not earn a "G" for work habits. Parents who drive their children to school can greatly assist by dropping students off before the warning bell, which rings at 8:15 a.m.

Parking Lot Safety

Concerns have been raised about traffic jams and safety issues related to students being dropped off in the parking lot in the morning. When entering our parking lot off Albion Road, all drivers are asked to proceed directly to the front door off # 4 Rd., or to the east door beside Room 128. Please do not stop in front of the west door off Albion or in the Handicapped Parking spots. Please note the west door off Albion Road is locked in the morning. Thanks you for your assistance in keeping our parking lot and side streets safe.

StudyBuzz

StudyBuzz, the provincial exam prep site to help students improve achievement, is now available **free** to all BC students. Edvantage Press and Etraffic Solutions, the creators of StudyBuzz, would like to remind you that BC students have free access through LearnNowBC. BC students have already taken over 28 000 StudyBuzz tests in the past year.

How do students access StudyBuzz?

Students log in with their PEN numbers at the LearnNowBC site, www.learnnowbc.gov.bc.ca. This gives them free use of StudyBuzz, Live Tutoring, Live Classes and Charged Up for Math & Science. An online tutorial is available through www.edvantagepress.com/studybuzz/tutorial.html.

Four steps to StudyBuzz:

1. Students log in, choose their course and do a series of online assessments.
2. Students immediately receive a personalized study guide, summarizing their strengths and weaknesses. The study guides provide solutions to questions and reasons why incorrect answers are wrong.
3. Students focus their study time on their areas of weakness.
4. Students can retake the tests to see if they still have areas of weakness in their provincial exam prep.

How do teachers access StudyBuzz?

Teachers access StudyBuzz through the Educator's link at LearnNowBC, www.learnnowbc.gov.bc.ca. Click on the "sign up" link in the black menu bar (about 5 cm from top right). Beginning on Monday, December 10, you will be able to access StudyBuzz from your RichNet email address without an access code. If for some reason you need to use a different email address, please contact the Office of the Superintendent to request the district's restricted access code.

What courses are available?

We now have 17 StudyBuzz courses available including Science 10; Essentials of Math 10; Principles of Math 10, 11 and 12; Applications of Math 12; Biology 11 & 12; Physics 11 & 12; Chemistry 11 & 12; Earth Science 11 & Geology 12; Geography 12; History 12; & Social Studies 11.

RICHMOND DISTRICT 5th ANNUAL CAREER OPTIONS FAIR

Cambie Secondary School

Thursday, February 28, 2008 3:00 - 8:00 pm

This interesting and worthwhile event will provide students with a great opportunity to learn about current career options available now and in the future.

- All Richmond students and parents are welcome to attend.
- Students who attend are eligible to win one of many lucky door prizes.
- 50+ post-secondary institutions, businesses and organizations will share their knowledge of career opportunities and training requirements.
- 120+ Careers will be presented in 3 Gymnasiums and the Central Rotunda.
- Richmond Apprenticeship students will share their experiences and the benefits of exploring career options and possibilities while still in school.
- * Richmond Apprenticeship students will be on hand to describe and demonstrate each of the five district apprenticeship programs.
- Pupils and parents can browse exhibitor tables/booths and try interesting work-related activities from 3:00 - 8:00 pm.
- Many exhibits include demonstrations and are interactive in nature so students can test and measure their skills with tools used in many trades.

Check out the Richmond District Website and follow the links for further information at www.sd38.bc.ca

Feel free to contact Rick White [604-668-6430] or Nancy Toth [604-668-6163] for more details.

Provincial Exams: January 2008

Provincial exams **must** be written in English 10, Math 10, Science 10, and Social Studies 11. These exams comprise 20% of the final mark for each of these courses.

At the Grade 12 level provincial exams are worth 40% of the final mark. Language Arts (English 12 or Communications 12) is the only grade 12 level exam required for graduation. This means students may earn full credit for all other Grade 12 subjects without writing the related exam. **HOWEVER**, it must be noted that some post secondary institutions **DO** require provincial exams to be written if the course is to be used for entrance requirements. Students and parents are advised to check individual post secondary entrance requirements before considering opting out of writing provincial exams at the grade 12 level. Most scholarships will also be based on marks achieved after writing provincial exams. Students should direct questions to their counsellor.

January 08 exam schedule is as follows:

English 12	Monday January 28	9:00 am
Essentials of Math 10	Monday January 28	1:00 pm
Math 10	Monday January 28	1:00 pm
English 10	Tuesday January 29	9:00 am
Communications 12	Tuesday January 29	9:00 am
French 12	Tuesday January 29	9:00 am
Social Studies 11	Tuesday January 29	1:00 pm
History 12	Tuesday January 29	1:00 pm
Science 10	Wednesday January 30	9:00 am
Math 12	Wednesday January 30	1:00 pm
Biology 12	Thursday January 31	9:00 am
Physics 12	Thursday January 31	1:00 pm
Geography 12	Friday February 1	9:00 am
Chemistry 12	Friday February 1	1:00 pm



Note: Students may rewrite a provincial exam once within the twelve-month period following the completion of the course. The ministry uses the best exam mark.

McNair Final Exams – Semester One

Final exams in some courses will be held during the last weeks of semester one. The exceptions, where students will be writing an exam that is longer in length, will be held during exam week. Please check the list below carefully for dates and times. Exam schedules with room numbers are posted in classrooms.

Monday January 28

Science 8	9:00 am start	1.5 hour exam
Physics 11	9:00 am start	2.0 hour exam

Tuesday January 29

Math 9	12:30 start	2.0 hour exam
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Wednesday January 30

Math 11	9:00 am start	2.5 hour exam
Science 9	9:00 am start	2 hour exam

Thursday January 31

Biology 11	9:00 am start	2 hour exam
Math 8	9:00 am start	2 hour exam
Social Studies 10	12:30 pm start	2 hour exam

Friday February 1

Chemistry 11	9:00 am start	2 hour exam
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The following students were honoured for their outstanding achievements at the Richmond Board of Education Special Recognition Reception on Wednesday, January 16, 2008.

Royal Conservatory of Music/Banff Centre Scholarship Winner:

Kenny Wong for winning a full scholarship to the Royal Conservatory of Music/Banff Centre. Kenny Wong is a unique dynamic person with exceptional musical skills. He plays the violin, French horn, string bass and sings. He is a powerful leader and is always willing to share his knowledge with others. He is academically in the top of his year and is committed to excellence in all pursuits. He is involved in a plethora of community musical events and one of the primary organizers of Rich City Idol.

Rich City Idol

McNair students **Leanne Chew, Edmond Leung, Herman Wong** for their organization of Rich City Idol and former student, **Natasha Jung** for her role as Executive Producer.

Leanne Chew is an outstanding student committed to a high level of excellence in every endeavour. President of McNair Student Council, primary organizer of Rich City Idol, an excellent musician (baritone, trombone, flute), on the school Cheerleading Team, and the Principal's Roll for academic achievement. A community minded person with exceptional organizational skills and strength of character respected by anyone that works with her.

Herman Wong works quietly and efficiently, setting a standard of excellence in a variety of roles supporting school and community events. Vice President of McNair Student Council, a member of Grad Council, primary organizer of Rich City Idol, a brilliant musician (alto sax and cello), and on the Principal's Roll for academic achievement. Extremely well organized, Herman is a natural leader who demonstrates caring and involvement.

Edmond Leung is a strong musician, with a dynamic, unique character. He worked hard as an organizer for Rich City Idol contributing generously his time to the event. He has strong academic skills and shows potential in this area.

B. C. Track and Field Championship Winners

Heather Warwick successfully defended her title as BC Champion in the 1500m Race Walk in the girls division. Heather ranked first in both Juvenile and Junior Women in Canada in the following events: 1500m, 3000m 5000m and 10,000m, achieving a new Personal Best in each of these events in 2007. Heather is a BC Team member representing the Province at the Western Canada Games in Alberta, placing 1st in the Women's 5k Race Walk event. She has also been named the Juvenile Women Athlete of the Year for Kajaks Track & Field Club. Heather plans to pursue a career in Nursing.

Evan Dunfee won the 1500m Race Walk, the only distance offered at the high school level. Evan won the B. C. High School 1500m Race Walk title setting new B. C. and Canadian Juvenile, and B. C. and Canadian High School records. As a member of the Canadian Youth Track and Field Team he was selected as the B. C. Juvenile Athlete of the year by B. C. Athletics. He plans to attend UBC to attain a degree in Human Kinetics and is looking forward to competing as a member of the UBC Track and Field program.

STUDENT TRANSFERS AND REGISTRATION: 2008-2009

Dear Parents,

Please be advised that under district Regulation 501.8-R, the Board of Education (Richmond) has established the following timelines to accommodate student registration, enrollment and placement in district schools for the 2008-2009 school year:

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| January 15, 8:00 a.m. | The first date by which transfer applications [SA 23 for Richmond residents and SA 73 for Non-Richmond residents] will be received at schools for the coming school year and the first date by which newly arrived catchment students may register for the coming school year. This includes French Immersion and Montessori. Schools may distribute transfer forms prior to that date, but may only receive them beginning at 8:00 a.m. on January 15th. |
| February 15 | Deadline for applications into a Kindergarten or Grade 1 French Immersion, Grade 6 Late French Immersion or K-4 Montessori program. |
| February 19 | Draws to take place for Early/Late French Immersion and Montessori and letters mailed to parents advising them of the status of their application(s). |
| February 29 | Deadline for parents to confirm acceptance of the placement assigned through the district-wide draw process for Early/Late French Immersion and Montessori. |
| February 29 | The deadline by which a transfer application must be submitted to attend a non catchment school or a district program. |
| February 29, 4 p.m. | The date by which the parent or legal guardian of an enrolled PLACED student is to advise the current school of their school of choice for the coming school year. |
| March 14 | The date by which schools will mail letters to transfer applicants who applied by February 29, advising them of the status of their application at the requested school for the coming school year. |
| April 4 | The deadline for parent appeals regarding transfer application decisions for applications made by the district deadline of February 29. |
| April 4 | The date by which an approved transfer student's name will be removed from the register of the catchment school or their previous school of attendance if the student applied by the deadline of February 29. If a parent wishes to withdraw a transfer application for their child who has been approved by the requested school, they must advise the school of the withdrawal in writing. |
| June 13 | The deadline by which newly arrived catchment students may be registered and guaranteed a space in the English catchment school for the next school year. Catchment students who register after this date will be placed at a nearby school if space and resources are not available at the English catchment school. |
| June 30 | The date by which schools will mail letters to transfer applicants who applied during the period February 29 to June 13th, advising them of the status of their application at the requested school for the coming school year. |
| First Wednesday | The date by which a student is removed from the school register if not in attendance at School by 12:00 noon on that day and no prior communication has been received by the Opening school from the parent or legal guardian. |

