



# The Marliner



For our Students and Parents  
February 2008



## McNair Secondary School

9500 No. 4 Rd., Richmond, B. C. V7A 2Y9  
Phone (604) 668-6575 Fax (604) 668-6585

**Email:** McNair@richmond.sd38.bc.ca

**Principal:** Ms. R. Sebellin

**PAC Chair:** Mrs. D. Hurtig

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

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

**Trustee:** Ms G. Tsang

### *PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE*

We are now three weeks into second semester. Students are settling into the new routines of their classes. We have had a very smooth transition and semester start up thanks to the hard work of our staff.

Report cards for Semester One were sent home on Friday, February 8th and we were once again, impressed with the results. Included in this newsletter is a list of students who have earned recognition for their outstanding achievement. There are 66 students who have earned a place on the Principal's Roll with an average mark of 90%, 253 students who gained Honour Roll status with an average mark of at least 80% and 371 students who achieved Super "G" status (good work habits in all classes). We would like to congratulate all the students who made Honour Roll standing.

Now is a great time to review the year thus far, to congratulate oneself for accomplishments, and to build on the good habits employed thus far. Most importantly, students should dedicate themselves to continuing with the habits, which have proven successful and challenge themselves to improve in those areas in which there is a need.

Congratulations to all of our students and staff for working hard through the last month of Semester One and in helping make Semester Two a smooth start up.

During the next few weeks we will be completing course planning and subject selection for September 2008. Parent participation in this process is very important. Your child will be asking for your signature on the course selection form before it is returned to their Counsellor. Final course selection for all grades will be completed prior to Spring Break.

**Parents are invited to attend the *Parent Information Evening*  
regarding course selection for students presently in Grades 8-11 on  
Thursday, February 21, 2008 at 7:30 pm in the McNair Library.**

Counsellors have begun the process of visiting classes to see students and discuss course programming for next year. Students will need to start thinking about the courses they would like to take next year and hopefully will engage their parents in a conversation and seek their guidance. Course selection is very important as we base our timetable and the number of sections scheduled on student requests. The number of requests determines the number of blocks we create in each subject. We carefully consider the course requests made by students before we begin to "build" a timetable that will attempt to provide all courses that our students need and want for the coming year. Once we build the timetable it can be difficult to accommodate requests to change courses.

Our expectation at McNair is that a student takes a full, but balanced program. Students in grade 8-11 are expected to take 8 courses. Students in grade 12 may wish to take a free block, but should also enroll in a full program whenever possible. A balanced program includes courses from traditional academic areas as well as a range of electives. It is important to note that many post-secondary programs and employers are looking for well-rounded individuals with good interpersonal and creative problem solving skills. These skills are often developed through elective courses and extra curricular activities.

Cont'd.

## ***PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE cont'd.***

I would like to thank the staff and parent volunteers who continue to give up their precious time to make good things happen for our students. Without the dedication from staff and the outstanding support from our parents and community, McNair could not be the great school that it is!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns in regards to what is happening for your student, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other staff directly involved with your child. In the meantime, we will continue our efforts to make a difference for each one of the students we work with.

### **Graduation Transitions Requirements:**

All Grade 12 students are required to meet their Graduation Transition requirements in order to earn their Dogwood (graduation certificate). These requirements are not done during class time. Some of our grade 12's have not yet demonstrated to Grad Transition leader, Mrs. Becerril that they have completed their requirements. This is indicated on their report cards. A letter and summary report (purple sheet) was attached to each student's report card. Student presentations, the final Grad Transition requirement, are scheduled for the week of April 28<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Important Dates***

#### **McNair School Calendar 2007-2008**

Fri. Feb. 8	<b>Semester One Report Cards Issued</b>
Fri. Feb 29	Pro- d Day ( no classes)
Mar 5.	Japanese students visit
Mar. 3 -5	McNair Production: The Diviners
Fri. Mar. 14	Last day before Spring break
Mar. 17-25	Spring Vacation (School Closed)
Wed. Mar. 26	School Reopens after Spring Break

### **Cell Phones**

We would like to remind students and parents of our cell phone policy. As a matter of courtesy, and respect for the learning environment, all cell phones must be turned off during instructional time. Please do not phone students during class time. Any emergency should be directed to the school office at (604) 668-6575.

### **Extended Absences**

At McNair, we expect that all students will be in regular attendance from February to the end of exams in June. Absence from school limits student achievement and progress. This may lead to course failure.

Taking students out of school for vacation or family visits is a parental decision, however, please be aware that teachers are not able to provide extra work, repeat instruction already given to the rest of the class, or engage in extra tutoring. Teaching is more than a set of assignments. Class time is important, and it is not possible for the teacher to make up for the time missed from classroom instruction or activities.

### **Matthew McNair Music Program**

Congratulations to the Jazz band on their excellent performances at Hamilton Elementary School and the Envisions Jazz festival. All groups will be visiting local elementary schools in the next two months to perform repertoire they have been developing in their respective ensembles.

We will be selling chocolates to fundraise, however, to follow the ministry's guideline on the sale of chocolates students must not sell to other students in the school. They are able to sell to family, friends, and adults in their neighbourhood.

The music program is gearing up for their spring tour in Oregon. To help cover the costs of the trip, the music program is organizing a raffle with excellent prizes. We have two hotel packages; one for Whistler and one for the lower mainland already secured. We are gathering the prizes for this fundraiser and will have tickets for sale at \$2.00 each in March. Please support the music program and purchase a ticket. We will be having the raffle draw at Legends pub during our annual pasta and caesar salad fundraiser evening in April.

The Clarinet performance at McRoberts this week by Françoise Houle was amazing and students in attendance were inspired by such an incredible performance. Thank you to Mr. Kay at McRoberts for organizing this event. The jazz band will be performing at the Gateway Theater on February 26 with all other high schools in Richmond for the annual Jazz Day and Night event. Thank you to Garth Bowen for organizing this event.

### **Basketball Play-off update: Our basketball teams are to be congratulated on a successful season!**

Grade 8 Boys - won the consolation tournament and finished 9th place.

Grade 8 Girls - finished 2nd in the Richmond Championships and play in the V&D district Championships Feb 25, 26 and 27 on the North Shore.

Grade 9 Boys & Girls - Richmond Championships from Feb. 18-21.

Junior Girls - Richmond Championships from Feb. 18-21.

Sr. Boys finished 5th in Richmond and will host the Lower Mainland Tournament Feb 19-21. First game is Feb 19 at 2:45pm.

Sr. Girls - Richmond Champs play in the Lower Mainland Tournament Feb 19-21 at Britannia.

Good luck to all teams!

### **Girls win the Richmond Cup!**



### **Field Trips**

Many of our staff put a great deal of time organizing field trips as enrichment activities in a variety of courses. These experiences build on the learning in the classroom and provide valuable educational opportunities. Some of our recent field trips include:

- Mini school grade 8 – 12 spent two days in ski and snowboard lessons at Whistler
- Jazz Band Performance at Hamilton Elementary
- Law 12 attended the Supreme Court in Vancouver
- PE students spent a day in ski lessons at Blackcomb Mountain
- Cafeteria 11 and 12 students visited the Culinary Arts Program at Vancouver Community College
- Fine Arts 8 visited the Artist For Kids Gallery in North Vancouver
- International students will be going tubing at Seymour Mountain

### **Grade 7 Parent Tours**

Ms. Scarr, will once again invite Grade 7 parents in to our school for “Coffee & Croissants”, questions, and a tour of our school. This will be an opportunity for those parents who missed our February 1<sup>st</sup> Grade 7 Information Evening, and for those who would like further information. We know that people who are in our building regularly see what a caring and safe atmosphere exists at McNair. Invitations to attend one of our tours will go through our feeder schools in early March.

### **Congratulations to McNair Scholarship Winners.**

In January we were notified by the Ministry Education re: McNair's Class of 2007 scholarship recipients. These students were recognized for excellence in achievement.

District Scholarships were awarded to:

Kaela Apps	Jalyn Cameron	Allen Marie Carbungco
Yiwei Hui	Joyce Kao	Jordan Kipnes
Jennifer Leung	Raza Malik	Ky Scott
Kelly Suto	Thomas Whalen	Mandy Yeung

Provincial Exam Scholarships were awarded to:

Shaylene Beaudry	Allen Marie Carbungco	Adam Chan
Chouson Chun	Dorita Lam	Jennifer Leung
Jia-Yi Li	Joshua Lo	Ada Mew
Alisha Parmar	Christine Wang	

### **Thank You Parents!!**

Thank you to those parents who have been assisting us by telephoning the school (668-6575) early morning to excuse students for illness or late arrival (appointments, etc.) This does reduce the calls necessary to check on students who have been marked absent by first block teachers. Student attendance and punctuality is closely connected to successful achievement in classes.

### **McNair Scholarship Donations**

Parents, would you consider expanding your interest in Matthew McNair Secondary School by becoming a scholarship donor? The McNair Scholarship Program is a school-based system of financial awards earned by your sons and daughters. The recipients of these awards vary in both their qualifications and in their post-secondary aspirations.

Your donation can be made by sponsoring a specific scholarship or by making a contribution to be combined with other donors. If you choose the former, you can specify the criteria and give a name for the award. The McNair Scholarship Committee will provide recognition of your donation through a tax receipt and a photograph of the recipient and presenter taken at the valedictory ceremony.

Over the years, McNair has had the privilege of receiving several scholarships; many donated in memory of past staff members. The funds from these have now been depleted causing the Scholarship Committee to actively seek support from parents and businesses in our community. For more information, please contact Mr. Pattern, Chairperson, Scholarship Committee. Cheques should be made payable to the McNair Scholarship Trust Fund.

### **Important Information Regarding Textbooks**

During the first week of the semester, your sons and daughters were issued textbooks by their teachers. It is the student's responsibility to take good care of all textbooks that he or she is issued. At the time the textbook is issued, the number and condition are recorded. At the end of the semester, students are expected to return the issued textbook in good condition. Textbooks are very expensive and parents should be aware that students will be required to pay for lost or damaged textbooks at the end of the year. It is important to emphasize that students are required to hand in the textbook that has the number that they were issued, not simply a textbook that they may have ended up with. We do not wish to unfairly charge someone for a missing textbook that they are unable to return because someone else has it. Students who have lost or damaged their textbooks will be given assessments, which must be paid by June to the Business Assistant- Ms. Goertz.

## **Lates**

### **Why should students be in class on time?**

The more time students spend working, the greater the learning and achievement. Teachers usually review the previous day's work and set the objectives of the day's lesson at the beginning of the class. Being late for class is disrespectful to others and to learning. Every time a student enters the classroom late, the concentration of other students and the teacher is interrupted.

How can parents help us decrease the number of lates? If you drive your child to school, arrange to arrive at school at least 10 minutes prior to the start of class. (The warning bell rings at 8:15 a.m. each day). Discuss and reinforce the need for promptness. If your child is late due to an appointment, please send a note to the school and remind your child to sign in at the office.

Research shows that student attendance and punctuality is closely connected to successful achievement in classes. Arriving late to school and class continues to be a concern for us at McNair.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Options Fair** H.J. Cambie Secondary School 4151 Jacombs Road, Richmond, BC

### **RICHMOND STUDENTS CAN EARN THEIR.... "Ticket To Success" WITH CAREER OPTIONS**

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Richmond District Career Options Fair will take place 3:00 – 8:00 pm on Thursday, February 28, 2008 at H.J. Cambie Secondary School. Three gymnasiums and a rotunda will exhibit a wide range of activities and displays, encompassing over 100 different career options. All parents and students are welcome and there is no charge to attend this event.

Last year, over 2,300 parents and students attended this event that featured a broad array of businesses, organizations and post-secondary institutions. This year's post-secondary representation includes BCIT, Capilano College, Douglas College, Kwantlen College, Langara College, Thompson Rivers University, UBC and VCC.

In addition to more than sixty organizations, businesses and professional associations, this event will profile Richmond School District's five school-based apprenticeship programs. The *Carpentry* students will be involved in a partial home construction on site, the *Plumbing* students will design and install piping and utilities, *Automotive* students will be doing tune-ups on a car, the *Hair Design* students will demonstrate various styling techniques, while the *Chef Training/Cooking* students will have live cooking demonstrations, as well as compete in various rounds of an Iron Chef Competition using a black box of mystery ingredients.

This exciting and worthwhile event will provide students with a great opportunity to earn their *Ticket To Success* and learn about a variety of career options.

*For more information, contact:*

Rick White  
Chairperson, Organizing Committee  
604-668-6430  
[rwhite@richmond.sd38.bc.ca](mailto:rwhite@richmond.sd38.bc.ca)

Nancy Toth  
Media Relations, Organizing Committee  
604-668-6163  
[ntoth@richmond.sd38.bc.ca](mailto:ntoth@richmond.sd38.bc.ca)









