



# The Marliner



April 2008

## McNair Secondary School

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**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***

It's hard to believe it is the end of April and into the final term for the year. The end of the school year is just around the corner. The remaining months are much about preparation. Our counsellors have been chasing the final few students who have not submitted their course selection forms. Our thanks to students and parents for your careful thought and consideration in selecting courses for next year. Students are reminded that we will now build and staff next year's timetable based on this information. Students in Grade 12 are preparing for provincial exams, completing final assignments, getting ready for graduation, and making plans for next year. For students in Grade 8-11, it means finishing up the school year in a positive way. Regular attendance and completion of assignments is extremely important, as is preparation for year-end exams, including provincial examinations for students in English 10, Science 10, Mathematics 10, and Social Studies 11. Final exams will soon be upon us and I ask parents to assist their child in planning and implementing a study plan.

Our spring sports are now in full swing. Thanks to our athletic director, Mr. Aman Dhaliwal, and coaches who have organized a variety of opportunities for students involved in athletics.

### **Parent Teacher Conferences**

**Wednesday, April 23rd 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, April 24th 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

School will be dismissed at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, April 23, 2008 and on Thursday, April 24, 2008 to accommodate the Parent-Teacher Interviews. This opportunity to work together in support of your son's/daughter's success is very important. We appreciate your support and know that a strong partnership between home and school is valuable. Building a strong rapport with your child's teacher is one of the best ways to support your child's education. There are many ways to open the lines of communication. The parent-teacher conference is just one method and your attendance shows your child that the family and teacher are working together. Here are some ideas that you may like to consider:

#### **Before the meeting:**

- Tell your child that the purpose of the conference is to help, not to check up on him or her.
- Think about what you hope to learn.
- Think about what you expect to hear.
- Write down some information you want to take away from the conference.
- Speak to your child and discuss what they like about the class and anything they may be having difficulty understanding.
- Think of some questions you might like to ask.

#### **After the meeting:**

- Evaluate the conference. Do you know how to help your child?
- Were a good relationship and a measure of trust established?
- Talk to your child about the meeting. Be positive; focus on strengths and talk about areas for improvement.
- Talk about a plan for the future.
- Keep in touch with the teacher, checking on progress through phone calls or notes.

### **Inclusion Survey: How Are We Doing?**

The Richmond School District is interested in the experiences of students, parents and staff regarding inclusion. They invite and encourage participation in an inquiry conducted by the District Class Composition Committee to see what is working well and where we might make adjustments to the ways in which we go about inclusion.

Any member of the community can respond to a survey on the District website ([www.sd38.bc.ca](http://www.sd38.bc.ca)). Parents, as important partners in the education of your children, your perspectives are invaluable. Therefore we strongly encourage you to complete the survey. The deadline is April 30th.

## **McNair takes Gold at Sea to Sky International Competition**

By Leanne Chew, Grade 12 student

The Matthew McNair cheerleaders have done it again! The Marlins placed first last weekend in the Small Senior Coed Division at the two-day International Sea to Sky Cheerleading Championships at Canada Place. McNair was the only high school representing Richmond.

After competing at three other cheerleading championships in Division B over the past four months, the team has finally ended their second-place streak. The 24 female and 3 male athletes worked extremely hard in the two weeks between the Feel the Power competition on February 16 and the Sea to Sky competition on March 1 and 2. The team was required to revamp and upgrade their entire routine to match the more advanced skill level expected of the division they were to participate in at the recent competition.

The cheerleaders entered the competition with no anticipation of winning; they simply decided that they would participate in Sea to Sky for the experience and enjoyment of it. Ultimately, the vibrant energy radiated by the cheerleaders contributed to their total score that topped the other teams in their division. They were also scored based on the technique of their stunting, jumping, tumbling, cheering and dancing skills. After a stellar showcase of their talent on Saturday, the team pulled off a near-perfect performance on Sunday as well, and went home with the 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy—a huge and unexpected achievement.

Sandra and Stacie Gin formed the McNair cheerleading team in 2005, when Ms. Gin first became an English teacher at the school. Now in its third successful year, the two former B.C. Lions cheerleaders have devoted much of their time to the Marlins. They organize practices and fundraisers, as well as mentor and teach the students the cheerleading skills that they themselves have acquired through years of experience. Unfortunately, both sisters have decided to retire from the sport (or “hang up their bows,” in cheer terms) to focus more on coaching of the team. This is their final year of cheering on the Total Spirit Magic Team that recently competed at the USA Nationals in Las Vegas.

The McNair students have truly shown what they are made of, and are tremendously grateful for the dedication of their coaches. They have been continuously pushed to work their hardest, but have also grown as a team, managing to have fun with this arduous sport at the same time. Twelve members of the squad will be graduating this June, and could not have asked for a better ending than last weekend. However, this will open up new opportunities for the younger members of the team, and for new students who decide to try out in the following months. Sea to Sky was an amazing way for the Marlins to end their season. They went, they fought, and they won.



### Math Contests

The following students ranked in the top 25% of all students in Canada writing the following Math contests. The contest winner for each grade is the first name in capitals.

Fermat Exam (Grade 11):

ZACK WANG, Karen Ko, Billy Wu, Samantha Wong, Eric Novak, Ryan Uyeno

Cayley Exam (Grade 10):

JIMMY LOU , Ben Dodman, Jane Zhang, Amina Dewji, Ava Li, Oscar Fang, Dylan Symons, Steven Liu, Lenox Chew.

Pascal Exam (Grade 9):

DEVIN WANG, Josef Murillo, Elizabeth Hu, Scott McGowan, Calvin Shen, Jimmy Yang, Owen Lu, Ivy Lai, Anna Tam, Ben Liu, Akaash Bali, Ken Cho.

Congratulations on this awesome achievement!

### Dear Grade 12's

Your Grad Baby pictures are so cute but I am tired of looking at them. Please pick-up your Grade 12 baby pictures from me, Gary Chan, Room 101 ASAP. Also, I have many precious photos from last year that need to go home.

Thank you,

Gary Chan (Matthew McNair Secondary)

gchan@richmond.sd38.bc.ca

### Grade 7 Elementary Basketball Tournament

The Grade 7 Basketball Tournament was once again a huge success. We had 6 girls teams and 10 boys teams from our elementary feeder schools Kidd, Woodward, Hamilton, Lee and Kingswood. A special thanks to Inderdeep Dhaliwal and Monique Sundaran for organizing all the aspects of this tournament. Also, a special thanks to all the volunteer referees and scorekeepers who helped out with the tournament. Here are the award winners and the future basketball stars of McNair.

#### **McNair Elementary Basketball Classic 2008 Award Winners**

##### **Girls**

**Hot Shot Winner:** Sarah Olson

##### **All Stars:**

Woodward: Melissa Cauiglia

Kidd: Neera Dhingra

Hamilton: Allison Lee

Lee: Alyssa Dennis

Kingswood: Lisa Gamblen

Hamilton (Gr. 6): Jasmine Mazhaiya

Kidd (Gr. 6) Emily Seidel

**MVP:** Sarah Olson (Kingswood)

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Kingswood

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Woodward

##### **Boys**

**Hot Shot Winner:** Raileigh McDonnel (Hamilton)

##### **All Stars:**

Kidd: Gurjiner Jagdee

Lee: Tyson Dodick

Hamilton Blue: Terrence Lal

Hamilton Red: Carter Popoff

Woodward: Brandon Rossi

Kingswood: Jaspal Sidhu

Kidd (Gr. 6): Arshvir Saran

Kingswood (Gr. 6): Gurjuvan Grewal

Hamilton (Gr. 6): Kevin Coates

Lee (Gr. 6): Sheldon Joosten

**MVP:** Anthony Ast

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Kidd

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Lee

**Spirit Award:** Hamilton

**Poster Award:** Kingswood

**Sportsmanship Award:** Walter Lee

## **Grade 12 Information**

### **Graduation Transitions Requirements**

A reminder to all Grade 12s: Grad Transitions requirements must be met in order to graduate in June. 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 / community service activity
- knowledge of employability, 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 in an exit interview

Presentations will take place the week of April 28<sup>th</sup>. A GT status report was distributed on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

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

### **Boat Cruise April 18th**

The Grad Boat Cruise is set for Friday, April 18th aboard the Pride of Vancouver. The ship sets sail from the Plaza of Nations Marina (next to the Plaza of Nations on the south side of BC Place Stadium). Boarding time is scheduled for 6:30 pm - don't be late as the cruise leaves at 7:00 pm sharp! The cruise winds up at 11 pm and includes a buffet dinner, unlimited soft drinks, and dancing. The boat cruise is a school event and all expectations for school sponsored activities normally held by the Richmond School District apply.

### **May 23rd Dinner Dance**

#### **Mark Your Calendars for a Photo Opportunity**

This year's Grade 12 Dinner Dance takes place on Friday May 23rd at the Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre. The Dinner Dance is a school event and as such the school Code of Conduct applies. Students will arrive at 6:00 and the dance winds up at 12:00. Dinner starts promptly at 7:00. Parents are invited to drop into the dinner dance between 6:00 and 6:45 to take photos with their sons and daughters and their friends.

### **McNair's Inaugural Dry Grad**

McNair's first Dry Grad event will be held directly after the dinner dance on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The date is quickly approaching. There are still a number of students that took tickets to sell but have not returned the money~ If you have tickets to sell, you are responsible for returning the money. A lot of money has already been spent for events and prizes, so the funds need to be in as soon as possible.

Ms. Jardine is still looking for parent and student volunteers. Please call 604-306-0632 or email [info@cherellejardine.com](mailto:info@cherellejardine.com) for more information.~ Students wishing to bring guests will be able to purchase tickets in April for \$40.00. Guest applications for the Dry Grad must be turned in to the office for approval by Friday May 9<sup>th</sup>. Students that didn't get tickets to sell but want to come to the Dry After Grad can purchase tickets for \$100.00.

Weekly prizes will be drawn until the week of May 23rd.

### **Inside Track**

Inside Track is McNair's tutoring program. Open Monday to Friday from 7:45 – 8:15 a.m. and 2:45 – 3:30 p.m. Inside Track is staffed by our Educational Assistants. Extra help in all subjects is available with special emphasis on Grade 8–10 curriculum. Students may be referred by parents, classroom teachers, counsellors or administration, or they may drop in on their own. Assistance may take the form of catching up after an absence, reviewing concepts, tutoring in an area proving difficult, or help with a particular project. Grade 8s may also attend for assistance in organizing their secondary school timetables.

