



# A.R. MacNeill Secondary School

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Principal: Ms. C. Sakata, Vice Principal: Mr. M. Charlton & Mrs. L. Collins

Trustee: Ms. G. Tsang

PAC: Ms. K. Read

## Parent Newsletter – January 2011



### Message from the Principal:

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful Winter Break. Students and staff at MacNeill are right into the routine of school and writing 2011 correctly already. Students are engaged with their learning in classrooms and participating in the many athletic and club activities offered by the staff at MacNeill. Sports fans can catch a lot of basketball games with boys and girls basketball teams at all levels. Our grade 12s are busy preparing for exams and applying for various post-secondary learning opportunities and also scholarships. Our counsellors, resource team and administrators are already preparing for next school year. There is information about program planning and timelines included in this newsletter.

### MacNEILL STAFF

We would also like to inform parents of MacNeill staff changes. Before the Winter Break, we did have to say good-bye to several staff. **Mrs. Margaret Campbell**, noon hour supervisor, moved on to an educational assistant position at Cook School. **Mr. Jason Whalley**, educational assistant, had a temporary position at MacNeill that ended at the Break. **Mr. Vic Pantelao**, career advisor, is now on an educational leave and not returning until April. In Mr. Pantelao's place, we welcome **Ms. Marika Mayer**, as career advisor, who we share with Cambie School. On a congratulatory note, **Mrs. Dauvery MacDonald**, has been appointed secondary vice-principal and will be moving on to Burnett Secondary School on January 24. Mrs. MacDonald has been at MacNeill since the second year of its opening and she has made many contributions in her work with students and staff. The MacNeill School community will miss Mrs. MacDonald but wish her all the best at her new school and in her new role as vice principal. **Mr. Mike McBurney** will be replacing Mrs. MacDonald as senior level English teacher. At the end of the month we will also be saying good-bye to **Ms. Laura Mikulec**, who has worked with intermediate students in Humanities and P.E. and with senior girls in the girls fitness course. We thank Ms. Mikulec for her dedication to her students and all the extra-curricular coaching she has offered. **Mrs. Andrea Peach** will be returning from maternity leave to resume her classes being taught by Ms. Mikulec.

The MacNeill School community regrettably must acknowledge the passing of **Mr. Greg Fraser**, one of the founding teachers of A.R. MacNeill School. Mr. Fraser taught at MacNeill until the spring of 2009 when the progression of ALS prevented him doing so. Mr. Fraser was an inspiring, caring and dedicated teacher with a love for science and the environment. At MacNeill he will be noted for his involvement in creating the gardens around MacNeill and also in the neighbouring Garden City park. Many MacNeill students and staff worked with Mr. Fraser and he will be truly missed.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY - FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2011 NO SCHOOL FOR MacNEILL STUDENTS

January 14 is not a common ProD day across Richmond. All secondary schools in Richmond have the same Day 1 and Day 2 dates. To get MacNeill back on the same days, you will note that there are two consecutive Day 2s. In April there are two consecutive Day 1s, as the common ProD day for the District is April 15. In the Student Agenda, there is an error, January 26, should read Day 1.

### MacNEILL DRY GRAD COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING DRY GRAD PARENT MEETING, JANUARY 19, 2011

Our grade 12 students are working very hard to complete their requirements for graduation, at the same time working on plans after graduation. Life Touch provided grad photo sittings in December. The photo re-take day on January 21st. The Winter Formal on January 28 at Mayfair Lakes will be a wonderful break for our grade 12 students. The Dry Grad Parent Committee is very busy organizing and coordinating the event that will be held on June 29 at the school. Holding such an event is very expensive and there is much energy organizing fundraising events. Please support our graduating class by supporting the following:

- Cineplex and Famous Players movie tickets. Tickets are \$9.00 (approximate retail value \$13.00). Order forms are available in the school office.
- Cruise Raffles can still be purchased for the draw on April 3.
- Pub Nite at Sportstown on February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Pizza for lunch on Fridays in the Lounge starting again on January 21<sup>st</sup>

For grade 12 parents and grade 11 parents who would like to begin to think about next year's Dry Grad, the next Parent Dry Grad meeting is on Wednesday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

### MacNEILL PAC MEETING Thursday, January 27, 2011, 7:00 p.m. Library

All parents are welcome to attend the January PAC meeting. The meeting will open with a presentation and discussion about the program planning and school organization for 2011-2012 school year. This is not a program planning information meeting for parents, but rather an overview of how courses are offered and the process for course organization at MacNeill. Parents are encouraged to ask questions and join in the discussion.

### MacNEILL DRAMA

Watch for upcoming ticket sales in the near future for A. R. MacNeill's production of Roald Dahl's humorous and quirky play, "The Twits". Centered around a loathsome and cruel couple, a family of monkeys and bird that's unlike any you've seen before, this play will most definitely turn your world upside down :-). Show dates will be March 15th, 16th, and 17th.

### MacNEILL DANCE TEAM

Please congratulate the MacNeill junior and senior dance teams for a wonderfully competitive performance at the HSBC Dance and Cheer competition where they placed 2nd and 5th. They work hard and their dedication is paying off. We still have lots of work to do and are looking forward to our next series of competitions: Jan. 21st - Strictly Dance, Feb. 25 - Footloose, and Feb. 26 - High School High. Please ask your favorite dancer for ticket prices, event locations and times. Come and show your support!

## CAREER CENTRE NEWS

Visit the Career Centre website for complete details: <http://public.sd38.bc.ca/~ccnews/>

### UBC STUDENT RECRUITMENT & ADVISING OFFICE:

Tel: 604.822.9836

[you.ubc.ca](http://you.ubc.ca) - Admission requirements, financial support, events and visits in your region, how to apply and how to register for a campus tour.

[www.facebook.com/youbc](http://www.facebook.com/youbc) - Join an online community of prospective students and connect with current UBC students

[www.twitter.com/youbc](http://www.twitter.com/youbc) - follow UBC and stay up to date on UBC news and happenings

### SFU BURNABY REGISTRAR and INFORMATION SERVICES

Maggie Benston Centre

Tel: 778.782.3397

9 am–6 pm, Monday–Thursday

10 am–4:30 pm, Friday

#### Kwantlen University Cloverdale Campus

5500-180th Street, Surrey, B. C.

Faculty of Trades & Technology Open House,

4 pm - 6:30 pm February 7, 2011

You are invited to visit the Cloverdale Campus to tour the shops and speak with instructors one-on-one about the content of the programs and ask questions about work in the trades and technologies. Visit [www.kwantlen.ca/trades](http://www.kwantlen.ca/trades)

#### BCIT Campus Tours

Tours of the Burnaby campus for individuals and groups will be offered regularly throughout the year. Tours are lead by Student Ambassadors who will take visitors to a variety of pre-determined campus destinations. These tours are offered 2-3 times per week. Register online at: [www.bcit.ca/tours](http://www.bcit.ca/tours) or by calling (604) 432-8583.

#### Grade 12 students...Applying to an Ontario University? Apply Early!

If you are applying for admission to an Ontario university, it is recommended that BC students apply by January 12th (this is also the deadline for Ontario students applying into their own province). Apply on-line at: [www.ouac.on.ca/105](http://www.ouac.on.ca/105) to the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC). Rank your university choices.

For more Ontario post-secondary institution information (including program information), visit the Electronic Info (eINFO) website. [www.electronicinfo.ca/en/index.php?j=1&flash=1](http://www.electronicinfo.ca/en/index.php?j=1&flash=1)

### JANUARY 2011 SCHOLARSHIP INFO

MacLean's Magazine Scholarship- an opportunity to win \$20,000. Visit <http://site.macleans.ca/scholarship/index.aspx> for details.

**JAN 05/10** -Triumph Fellowship Award in-school deadline - The Triumph Fellowship includes an award of \$3,000 and a six-week summer research position at TRIUMF, Canada's National Laboratory for Particle and Nuclear Physics. <http://www.bcic.ca>

**JAN 7/11** - House of Commons Page Program - Grade 12 students interested in Government have an opportunity to work as Pages in the House of Commons as they study their first year university studies at a university in the Capital Region. <http://www.parl.gc.ca>

**JAN 13/11** - The Certified Management Accountants (CMA) Society of British Columbia is proud to invite Grade 11 and Grade 12 students to participate in its Fifth Annual CMA Scholarship Competition. In teams of three, students are encouraged to showcase their brilliant strategic business skills and compete among high school students across BC for a \$2000 team scholarship, Management Award, and provincial recognition. [www.cmabc.com](http://www.cmabc.com)

**JAN 31/10** - Future Aces Foundation Scholarship deadline - \$1,000 will be offered to students who exhibit exemplary citizenship qualities and who plan to pursue a post-secondary education or training. Further info: [www.futureaces.org/about\\_our\\_scholarships.php](http://www.futureaces.org/about_our_scholarships.php)

**JAN 31/11** - David Lam/Teal Foundation Award deadline - \$2,500 will be awarded to two graduating students who have shown consistent improvement in academic competence with school/community involvement or service to others. [www.bctéal.org](http://www.bctéal.org)

**JAN 31/11** - 2011 Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program deadline -20 scholarships of \$5,000 each will be awarded across Canada to students that have demonstrated outstanding environmental commitment, community service, leadership, and have maintained a high level of academic achievement during the course of their study. [www.earthday.ca/scholarshphp](http://www.earthday.ca/scholarshphp)

**JAN 31/11 (4:30 pm)** - D. B. Perks & Associates Life Saving Society Scholarship deadline -The Lifesaving Society offers four (4) scholarships valued at \$500 each year. The award is to support and assist Lifesaving Society trained lifeguards and instructors pursuing post secondary education in BC & Yukon. <http://www.lifesaving.bc.ca/>

Richmond School District International Student Program is looking for Homestay Families to open their homes to International Students. Host parents will supply the student with three (3) meals per day and a reasonable use of the house and facilities. The school district will collect and pay to the host family, the first and last month's homestay fee of \$900. All other monthly fees (\$900.00) will be paid to the host family by the student or the student's representative for each month in which the student is present in the home and attending school. If you have any questions or interests in opening your home to an International student please contact:

Heather Larson, Homestay Coordinator  
Richmond School Board  
604-295-4303 (cell) 778-835-3822  
[hlarson@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:hlarson@sd38.bc.ca)



**Important dates for the 2011/2012 School Year**  
**Timeline for Program Planning 2011**

January 17	<b>Registration Opens for 2011 – 2012 for New Catchment Students</b>
Jan. 18 & 20	<b>Gr. 7 Program Planning</b> ( <i>Counsellors visit feeder elementary schools</i> ).
January 24	<b>Transfer Applications Accepted</b> (at requested school) after 8:00 am.
Jan. 31 – Feb. 4	<b>Grade 8 Program Planning</b> ( <i>Counsellors visit Grade 8 Advisory classes, Schedule TBA</i> ).
February 1	<b>Program Planning Night for Current Grade 7 Parents @ 6:30 pm</b>
February 4	<b>Gr. 7 Course Selection Sheets Due</b> ( <i>MacNeill will pick up forms Feb. 7-10</i> ).
Feb. 7 – 10	<b>Grade 10 Program Planning</b> ( <i>Counsellors visit Grade 10 Advisory classes, Schedule TBA</i> ).
Feb. 14 – 18	<b>Grade 11 Program Planning</b> ( <i>Counsellors visit Grade 11 Advisory classes, Schedule TBA</i> ).
February 16	<b>Program Planning Night for Current Grade 8 – 11 Parents @ 6:45 pm</b>
Feb. 21 – 25	<b>Grade 9 Program Planning</b> ( <i>Counsellors visit Grade 9 Advisory classes, Schedule TBA</i> ).
March 1	<b>Course Selection Sheets are due to the Counselling Centre.</b>
March 1	<b>Transfer Applications are due</b> (to requested school).
March 8 – 10	<b>Students enter course selections into BCeSIS.</b> ( <i>Schedule TBA</i> ).
April 7	<b>Program Planning Evening for Transfer/New Students @ 7 pm</b>

**District Timelines**

The Board has established the following timelines to accommodate the student registration, enrollment and placement of students in district schools. These dates will be communicated by schools to parents by the end of the first week after school commences in January.

**January 17, 2011**

The first date by which newly arrived catchment students may register for the coming school year.

**January 24, 2011**

The first date by which transfer applications will be received at schools for the coming school year.

**February**

The month during which elementary schools survey attending students to determine the number of returning students for the coming school year and secondary schools commence the program planning process for incoming grade 8s and returning students.

**February 4, 2011**

Deadline for application for K & grade 1 French Immersion, grade 6 Late Immersion, K-7 Montessori. Access to French and Montessori program will be through a district-wide draw process.

**March 1, 2011**

The deadline by which a student must submit a transfer application to attend a non catchment school in order to be eligible for enrollment in that school or district program.

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 18, 2011**

The date which schools will mail letters to transfer applicants who applied by March 1st, advising them of the status of their application at the requested school for the coming school year.

**April**

School staffing process confirmed with schools by the district based on returning students and approved transfers.

**April 6, 2011**

The deadline for parent appeals regarding transfer application decisions for applications made by the district deadline of March 1st.

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 March 1st.

**May 27, 2011**

The date by which stakeholder groups and parents are advised of student placement practices for the coming school year.

**June 15, 2011**

Deadline by which newly arrived catchment students may be registered and guaranteed a space in the catchment school for the next school year. Catchment students who register after this date will be placed at a nearby school if space and facilities are not available at the catchment school.

**June 25, 2011**

The date by which schools will mail letters to transfer applicants who applied during the period March 2nd to June 15th, advising them of the status of their application at the requested school for the coming school year.

**First Wednesday after School Opening - 12:00 p.m., Sept. 7th, 2011**

The date by which a student is removed from a school register if not in attendance on that day and no prior communication has been received by the school from the parent or legal guardian.

**PARENT CONVERSATION CIRCLE**

**家長免費英語會話班**

Free English Learning Sessions for MacNeill Parents

**Time:** Wednesday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30 每星期三上午九時至十時半

**Place:** Room C240 (second floor) at MacNeill 中學二樓C240室

**Date:** Starting Wednesday, February 2 for 10 sessions 二月二日開始(共十課)

This is a **free program**, with no cost to parents. Parents will practice their English language skills while participating in a series of discussions about our school and community. Registration is limited.

這是一個免費會話班。讓家長在學校與其他家長練習英語，並認識多少加拿大文化。會話班人數有限

。查詢請聯絡學校安頓服務員。

For enquiries, please contact school Settlement Workers .

Grace Li at 778-835-1231 or Iris Lim 778-835-0951

## PROGRAM PLANNING EVENINGS FOR PARENTS

**February 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.**

**February 16, 2011 at 6:45 p.m.**

**April 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.**

Parents are invited to one of three program planning information meetings for next school year. The meeting on Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. is intended for our incoming grade 8 from our catchment area schools (Anderson, Cook, DeBeck, Talmey and Tomsett). On February 1st, there will be tours of MacNeill School starting from 6:30 p.m. to introduce parents new to the school. The program planning meeting for parents of our returning students (current MacNeill grade 8 through 11 students) will be on Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m. Tours of the school have not been organized as it is assumed parents are already familiar with the school. Students requesting transfers to MacNeill School will be notified of their status on March 18. To accommodate new students to MacNeill there is a program planning meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Optional tours of the school are planned for April 7 starting at 6:30 p.m. The format for the evenings will be a brief introduction to the school, an overview of the courses offered next year and grade group break out session with school counsellors who will provide more specific information and answer questions.

Currently, and during February, our counsellors, Ms. Kwon, Mrs. Pasin and Mr. Hirayama are visiting classrooms to present program planning information to our students and to help them make their course selections for next year. We would like you to have the same information. This year the Program Planning booklet will be on-line. Please look for the Program Planning booklet which will be put on-line on the school web site in February.

The course selection your child makes during this program planning process in February is important in the development of your child's high school program and it is the basis of our school timetable and staffing for next year. We ask that you help us by working with your child in careful selection of courses as we will not be able to make timetable changes in September.

## MacNEILL INCENTIVE OUTDOOR ACADEMY

Notice of Application Deadline and  
Grade 7 Parent Information Evenings

This specialty program emphasizes outdoor physical education in grades 8-10 at MacNeill High School. The program has an experiential focus that encourages competent, confident and caring people with strong leadership skills developed through extensive outdoor physical education such as sailing, kayaking, hiking, skiing and snowboarding. The key to our success is the small friendly atmosphere - 90 students are taught by only 4 teachers.

Presentations to parents of interested grade 7 students will occur on:

Wed Jan 12 at 7:00  
pm in Room 260  
MacNeill

Tues Feb 1 at 7:30  
pm in Room 260  
MacNeill

Or Wed Feb 15 at  
6:30pm in Room 260  
MacNeill

Transfer applications will be accepted starting Jan 24<sup>th</sup>, 8:00AM at the MacNeill office. Applications for the Incentive Academy are available at the MacNeill office or on-line at the Incentive website. Applications to the Incentive Academy close **on Friday Feb 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.**

**Website:**

[www.incentivemacneill.ca](http://www.incentivemacneill.ca)



### Dates to Remember

Jan 14 ProD Day – no school

Jan 27 PAC Meeting – 7 p.m.

Jan 28 Grad Winter Formal ( evening )

Feb. 1 Program Planning Info Meeting for Grade 7 Parents @ 6:30 p.m.

Feb 3 Interim Reports sent home with students

Feb. 11 District ProD Day – no school

Mar 9 PAC Meeting – 7 p.m.

Mar 16 Term 2 Report Cards

*MacNeill's annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa was a great success! As a result, Students' Council was able to donate \$200 to the local food bank. In addition, MacNeill students also donated more than 1000 non-perishable items to the local food bank! Way to go Ravens! Thank you students and staff for all your help and support*