



# A.R. MacNeill Secondary School

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



Trustee: Mrs. G. Tsang Assistant Superintendent: Mr. S. Robinson

PAC: Ms. K. Read

## Parent Newsletter – April 2011

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We are now in the final term of this school year. Students are not only busy with their studies but are involved in many events around the school and community. Grade 12 students are involved with many graduation activities and planning and applying for post-secondary life. Thank you for talking to your child about their progress in Term Two and following up with teachers during the Parent Teacher Conferences. We hope you returned the Richmond School District Two Week Spring Break Surveys to the school last week. These Spring Break surveys were printed on green and sent home with students when they returned to school after the Break. The earthquake and tidal wave disaster in Japan prompted much student relief response activity at MacNeill before spring break raising over \$1,000 in only a few days. The student relief response activity continues even now. Included in this newsletter is information about these and other activities and events in the remainder of this month and into May.

### START-TIME & COLLABORATION TIME PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Library

#### Completed Start Time Change/Collaboration Yellow Tear-Off Form

Submit to your child's Advisory teacher by Thursday, April 21, 2011

Information about the change in the start and end time of the school day and the proposed Collaboration Time starting in September 2011, printed on yellow paper, was sent home to all students currently in grades 8 through 11. Two parent information meetings have already been held on April 7 and 12. The third meeting will be on Tuesday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m. There will also be a brief presentation at the next MacNeill PAC meeting on Thursday, April 28. The purpose of these meetings is not only for information but also for parents to ask questions and express concerns. **Parents are also welcome to ask questions or express concerns in writing or by calling the school to speak with any of the administrators, Ms. Sakata, Mr. Charlton or Mrs. Collins.**

### GRADE 10 & 12 PARENT SATISFACTION SURVEYS MINISTRY EXTENSION UNTIL APRIL 25!

Information and log-in code for parents were sent home with students when the grade 10 and 12 students completed the student Satisfaction Survey. **If you are a parent of a grade 10 or 12 student and have not completed a Survey, we encourage you to do so.** The on-line Parent Satisfaction Surveys are available to be taken in 14 languages. The Provincial Satisfaction Survey gathers information from parents and students on topics related to school environment, safety and achievement. Your input through the Satisfaction Survey is very important and useful to us. The tear off form at the bottom of the Satisfaction Survey notice will be used for a draw of three pairs of cinema tickets and Starbucks gift card. The draw will be held on Friday, April 29.

### MACNEILL PAC MEETING - THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011, 7:00 P.M. in the Library

The first part of the PAC meeting on April 28 will include a brief presentation about the Collaboration Time at MacNeill starting in September 2011. Ms. Sakata, principal, will also talk about school organization for the 2011-2012 school year. Included in the regular PAC meeting, parents will vote on some MacNeill PAC Constitution and By-Law amendments and changes. In the March newsletter the following motion was published, "to advance the AGM from October to May, so as to enable the new MacNeill PAC executive to be elected by the time the next school year starts." The vote for approval of this motion will be held at the MacNeill PAC meeting on April 28.

At the May PAC meeting and in subsequent meetings, parents will be voting on several motions to amend or to update the PAC Constitution and or By-laws. This is necessitated to reflect the changes that A.R. MacNeill Secondary has undergone since opening in September 2003. MacNeill no longer is a "schools-within-schools" and the "district" Incentive School is now the MacNeill Incentive Outdoor Academy with speciality academy status. At the May PAC meeting motions will be made to reflect changes the following:

1. Section 6.4: The Annual General Meeting is proposed to be conducted in May instead of October.
2. Section 6.3: The schedule of PAC meeting meetings for the following year will be presented at the May AGM instead of September.
3. Section 7.3: This section was introduced with an expiry date that has passed and shall be deleted.

### PIE DAY – JAPAN TSUNAMI RELIEF – March 14

On March 14 the MacNeill Students' Council hosted our first annual Pie Day. Pies were auctioned off to the highest bidder and Mr. Henders, Mr. Klose, Mr. McBurney, Mr. Irani, Mr. B. Chiang, Mr. Sandhu and Ms. Padmanabhan all took a pie in the face! Several brave students also got a whip cream facial on this day. More than \$300 was raised for the Japan Tsunami Relief in less than half an hour! Thank you to Students' Council, student volunteers and teachers for making this possible. Thank you to Ms. Karamessinis for sponsoring and helping to organize this lunch hour fundraiser!

### AMICA TSUNAMI RELIEF

Amica, MacNeill's Multicultural Friendship Club, raised over \$700 in the week following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan to help in the Japan Relief Fund. Students were especially eager to help when they realized two club members were directly affected by the tragedy. Amica made classroom to classroom visits with donation boxes, and MacNeill students gave very generously, with some students putting in as much as twenty dollars at a time. One student even donated a fifty dollar bill! This amazing fundraiser was capped off with the folding of over 1000 colourful paper cranes in a traditional Japanese prayer. Amica meets every Friday in room 221, and all students are welcome!

## MACNEILL ANIMAL RESCUE CLUB MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

MacNeill's Animal Rescue Club with its 30 members continues to support the Animal Shelters through B.C. by providing much needed sponsorship and funding. Their latest sponsorship of a two year black lab named "Lacey" who required a procedure turned out very well, allowing her to be adoptable and able to find a "forever home". This costly procedure was funded by our club which continues to raise money in support of these types of efforts. Turtle Gardens dog rescue, Vokra (Vancouver Orphaned Kitten Rescue Assoc.), RAPS (Richmond Animal Protection Society) and the Cat Sanctuary have benefitted through our clubs involvement. The members of the club have learned of the need for responsible pet ownership and the wonderful work being done by a many volunteers in support of these animals. They realize that these wonderful animals have nothing but love to give people and it is us, by our behavior and involvement, who determine what type of lives that they will live. The Club supports the spaying and neutering programs being promoted by responsible organizations and hopes to continue, in their small way, to make a difference in the lives of animals. Our MacNeill students support the Animal Rescue Club by purchasing pizza and other snacks sold weekly in the Lounge during the lunch hour.

## MUSIC NOTES: MUSIC MONDAY – MAY 2 MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS AT THE GATEWAY, MAY 11 AT 7:00 P.M.

Music Monday will be held on May 2 this year. This is a day where all music departments in the country play the same song at the same time (1 pm Eastern Time - 10 am Our Time) to show their solidarity in supporting music in our schools. Our own music students will be performing an impromptu concert during the break in the lounge that day - a cast of hundreds.

Music In Our Schools Concert - Gateway Theatre, May 11 at 7 pm. Tickets are \$5 if purchased from your son or daughter before the performance. We are very fortunate to once again have access to the Gateway theatre for this event. Joining us will be elementary students from Anderson, Tomsett, Talmey, and General Currie schools. This concert will take the place of the originally scheduled May 25 Spring Concert at our school, which is now cancelled.

## MACNEILL INCENTIVE STUDENTS AT THE REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

The Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair offers students in grades 7 to 12 the opportunity to create original scientific research or innovative projects which are then displayed at various levels of competition – school, district, regional, national and international levels. This year our Incentive students have participated with distinction. In fact Yichen Zhang, grade 10, won the Gold Medal in his category and will be progressing to the Nationals in Toronto later this school year.

Gr 9 Honourable Mention in Life science category: Jane Cai for: "Can you remember? Battle of the Cerebral Hemispheres."

Gr 10 Honourable Mention in Life sciences: Eleanor Tsang for: "Naturceutical? Pharmaceutical Antibiotics vs. Natural Antibiotics' Effectiveness over E. Coli"

\*\* Gr 10 Gold Medal to Yichen Zhang in Life Sciences including an expense paid trip to the National Science Fair in Toronto May 14-20 for: "Supergrass II: The Cytotoxicity of Lemongrass Essential Oils on Colorectal Cancer Cells"

Incentive at MacNeill continues a long standing tradition of excellence!

## MacNEILL DRY GRAD 2011

The Dry Grad Parent Committee continues to work very hard to make Dry Grad 2011 at great evening for our grade 12 students. The Dry Grad Parent Committee continues to

seek your support in helping with the organization and planning for the Dry Grad on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Grade 11 students will be taking home a notice about specific ways grade 11 students and their parents can help. Grade 12 parents will receive information about Dry Grad activities and also about graduation events and what student and parents can expect.

We are still hoping to sell more raffle tickets - **Cruise raffle tickets selling at \$20.00 each PRIZE: \$1000.00 cruise voucher from "Capital World Tour"** Draw Date: May 13, 2011. Cruise raffle can be purchased from Dry Grad Committee, grade 12 students and also at the school office.

## HELP FUND OUR GRADS FUTURE SUCCESS! – CONTINUING TO SEEK SUPPORTERS!

I June this year we will see the fourth class of MacNeill grade 12s walk across the platform on June 16 at their Valedictory Ceremony. Businesses, community organizations, and individuals contribute to the MacNeill Scholarship fund. As we are the newest high school in Richmond, The MacNeill Scholarship staff committee continues their endeavours to increase the scholarship fund. If you would like to donate money to help MacNeill's scholarship fund, you will receive a tax receipt (for donations over \$20.00), as well as recognition printed in the Valedictory program.

For further information, please contact: Ms. Wendy Phillips, librarian and chair of the MacNeill Scholarship Committee.

## SWIS TEA & TALK-May 9, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

Parent Information Session 家長講座

Date: Monday, May 9 五月九日星期三

Time: 9:00-10:30a.m. 上午九時至十時三十分

Place: Conference Room at the office 校務處會議室

Topic 主題:

1. Mrs. Sakata, our principal: talk on next year's MacNeill

Start Time Change and Collaboration Time

(校長講解學校明年更改上課時間事宜)

2. Our Settlement Workers in Schools: Talk on summer

schools/program information

(學校移民安頓員講解暑期課程和活動)

For enquiries (查詢), please contact: Grace Li (778-835-1231)

or Iris Lim (778-835-0951) (可講普通話及廣東話)

## “DATES TO REMEMBER”:

April 19	School Start/End Time & Collaboration Time – Parent Meeting 7:00 p.m. MacNeill Secondary
April 22	Good Friday – School Closed
April 25	Easter Monday – School Closed
April 28	Grade 9 Immunizations
April 28	School Completion and Beyond Conference – Student Leadership
May 6	Activity Day
May 9	SWIS Tea and Talk – 9:00 a.m. MacNeill Secondary
May 11	Spring Music Concert, Gateway Theatre at 7:00 pm.
May 13	Term 3 Interim Reports sent home
May 17	PAC Meeting AGM – 7:00 p.m. MacNeill Library
May 19	Grade 10 Portfolio Presentations
May 20	ProD – No School for Students
May 23	Victoria Day – School Closed
May 31	RTA Annual General Meeting – Early Dismissal at 2:00 p.m.