



A.R. MacNeill Secondary School

6611 No. 4 Road, Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2T2



Phone (604) 668-6212 Fax (604) 668-6202 Early Warning (604) 668-6278

E mail: macneill@sd38.bc.ca Web site: <http://public.sd38.bc.ca:8004/~MacNeillWeb/>

Principal: Ms. C. Sakata, Vice Principals: Mr. R. Laing and Mrs. L. Collins

Assistant Superintendent: Ms. W. Lim

Trustee: Mrs. Grace Tsang

PAC: Ms. Alice Wong

Parent Newsletter – November 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The school year is flying by and already we have to “fall” back one hour this weekend signifying the end of “daylight savings time”. Throughout the fall our POWERful MacNeill Ravens were very busy with their learning in their classrooms and becoming involved in the range of extra-curricular opportunities in the school. MacNeill athletic teams are in action, some sports coming to the end of their season (track and field, volleyball, etc.) and others soon to start up (basketball). The parent-school connection is an important one as we work together to support student learning and create an encouraging learning environment for all. We thank you for supporting your child at home by being encouraging and helping them to be organized and keep on top of school work and other school commitments. Tomorrow, Wednesday, November 2, is Take Our Kids to Work day for grade 9 students. This is a great opportunity for grade 9 students to gain a first-hand sense of the world of work.

The home-school connection is important. Please check our website regularly for notices and newsletters. We will alert you when a newsletter is posted through a synvoice phone message or e-mail message. Another great way to keep current about some of the happenings of the school is to check our vice principal, Mr. Laing’s *blog* which he is maintaining and writing his impressions about MacNeill’s occurrences when he has time in the evenings or weekends. **You can access Mr. Laing’s *blog* by clicking on the link on our school web-site home page.** Mr. Laing is also working on a new look for our school web-site, which could be up and running in the next few months.

Don’t forget to “fall” back an hour this weekend!

TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK DAY – NOVEMBER 2, 2011

TOKW day is Wednesday, November 2, 2011. For the last 10 years the Richmond School District, along with school districts across Canada, participates in The Learning Partnership initiative. Students from Grade 9 have the opportunity to spend a day at work with you, another family member, or a family friend. The intention is to give students a chance to see what workers actually do on the job site. There will be no classes scheduled for Grade 9’s that day, so students will not be missing school work by participating in this opportunity. Last week students took home permission forms to participate in this event. Thank you for having your child return these completed forms to the school.

DRY GRAD PARENT MEETING

Thursday, November 3, 2011

7:00 pm. – Library

Parents reading this newsletter might wonder – **what is Dry Grad?** For the information of all parents and for future Dry Grad volunteer parents: Dry Grad is an alcohol free graduation event for the graduating class of 2012. This event is organized by a volunteer parent group to provide a safe evening of entertainment, activities, music, prizes, and food. In order to put on this event, volunteers are needed. Dry Grads have proven to be a successful way to provide both a memorable and fun experience for grads while providing parents the comfort of knowing their children are in a safe environment. This is an event that caters to all kids no matter what their interests may be.

To ensure a successful event the 2012 Dry Grad committee is already hard at work making plans and getting ready for the dry grad for our 2012 graduates on June 28th. As in past years, the Dry Grad will be held at the school after the formal dinner and dance (Stanley Park Pavilion). In order to make Dry Grad 2011 a success, we are asking MacNeill

parents and families to consider supporting some of the fundraising events. All fundraising has been carefully planned to meet the seasonal needs of families. They are easy and require fairly little effort on your part.

Here is a look of some of the current fundraising events:

1) Gift Cards - Looking for some simple gifts this year? Why not think about gift cards. MacNeill Dry Grad is able to purchase gift cards from a variety of different stores and merchants to help both families with their gift shopping and our fundraising efforts. For every gift card we sell, the Dry Grad will receive a small percentage of funds for dry grad. Even if you don't need to buy gifts, you might consider some of the gift cards for gas stations and grocery stores. By simply planning ahead for your purchases, you are helping our graduates have a wonderful dry grad event. Gift cards are available all year long with orders due the first Tuesday of each month. Order forms can be picked up at the school office or downloaded from the school website home page. Orders due November 23.

2) Movie Passes - Are you thinking of heading to a movie sometime soon? If you are, make sure you think about purchasing a movie pass from the Dry Grad Committee. Passes are \$10 and are good for a regular adult admission. Passes are on sale on Fridays during our Pizza Sales or are available by contacting Jamieson_L@sd36.bc.ca

3) Cookie Dough/Pies/Poinsettia Orders - Thinking about getting ready for Christmas? Why not make baking this festive season easy for yourself by ordering some cookie dough or pies. These delicious items have been heralded as being an inexpensive way to make the holiday season brighter...and while you are at it, make your home look a little festive with a wonderful potted poinsettia. These poinsettias come in three beautiful colours and are sure to make any room look merry and bright. Order forms can be picked up at the school office or downloaded from the school website home page. Orders are due on November 23 and pick up date is December 6.

4) Bottle Recycling - Do you have too many bottles hanging around? Why not consider donating them to the MacNeill Dry Grad. All you have to do is take your bottles to the Ironwood Recycling Depot, 11020 Horseshoe Way (just off #5 Road), and tell them you would like to donate the money to MacNeill 2012 Dry Grad. Our recycling fund number at the depot is #1168. Every small bit goes a long way.

The 2012 Dry Grad Committee welcomes all grad 12 parents to join and be part of the planning. Our next meeting is Thursday, November 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the school library. If you have any questions about any part of the dry grad, please e-mail Jamieson_L@sd36.bc.ca

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS – FALL BACK - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 AT 2:00 A.M.

Don't forget to change the time - one hour BACK!

DAILY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (DPA)

Students that maintain an active, healthy lifestyle are happier, healthier and are better prepared for learning. Therefore, the BC Ministry of Education requires all students to participate in Daily Physical Activity for in an effort to develop good habits around healthy living and wellness. Completion of DPA is a graduation requirement.

Students in grade 8-12 need to participate in a minimum of 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per week. All students in Grade 8-10 enroll in a Physical Education class, and therefore meet the requirements of this program through their PE class. These students do not need to report or track their DPA. Students in Grades 11 & 12 need to track their DPA and need to complete and submit a form as evidence of meeting the DPA requirements. The school provides many opportunities for healthy exercise, however, it is the students' responsibility to complete and track their DPA, and it is the parents' responsibility to verify that this requirement has been met.

All Grade 11-12 students will receive this form in their advisory class on November 1st, and should complete the form, have it signed by a parent/guardian, and return the form to the MacNeill office by November 18th. The form will also be available on the school website for students to download. Students who do not return this form signed by a parent/guardian will receive an incomplete on their report card.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES-REPORT CARDS

Though we did not have Parent-Teacher Conferences in October, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher should you have questions regarding their learning and progress in a course. It is best to call the school and leave a message for your child's teacher. Negotiations between the Government and the teachers union continue to move slowly, and teachers remain in phase one of job action. What this means to students is that teaching is occurring as normal, as is assessment and any voluntary extra-curricular opportunities that have been available in the past (such as sports teams etc.). Report cards will be issued to all students as normal on December 7, but will only include course name, teacher name and absences. Grade 12 students will be able to pick up a different document indicating marks in all classes required for graduation, scholarship or post-secondary applications. We will inform grade 12 students when and how to pick those up at a later date. If you have questions about how your son/daughter is doing at school, please speak with them and/or contact the teacher. As we get more information about the negotiations or changes to job action and what that will mean to students and parents, we will communicate that to you. Thank you for your patience and support.

PARKING LOT SAFETY

As you may have noticed, the MacNeill parking lot is very busy at the start and end of each school day. We need your help to ensure that all staff and students are safe when being dropped off or picked up. Please drive slowly inside the MacNeill parking lot, and be extra cautious looking for pedestrians and other vehicles.

Here are a few guidelines to help reduce the traffic congestion:

1. Any students that live close enough to walk/ride to school are encouraged to do so (walking to school counts as DPA)
2. Parents may drop off students on Granville Ave. and they can walk into the school. Vehicles that enter the parking lot are asked to drop off/pick up students in the designated locations only.
3. Consider dropping off your child between 8:00-8:15am when the parking lot is empty. Consider picking up your child after 3:15pm once the traffic congestion is reduced.
4. At no time should vehicles stop or park in our drop off area in the front of the school. If you have to wait for your child, please proceed to a parking stall.
5. When exiting onto Granville Avenue, please turn Right only. This will allow vehicles to exit the property in a more efficient and safe manner.

Thank you in advance for your help ensure that all our students and staff remain safe at MacNeill.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY - Thursday, November 10, 2011 – 10:40 am – School Gym

The tradition in all public schools in Canada is to acknowledge Remembrance Day on November 11 every year. At MacNeill, this will be on Thursday, November 10. Due to our large student population, there will be two assemblies. They will be held on Thursday morning with one beginning at 9:35 am and a second at 10:40 am. **Parents are welcome to attend. We ask parents to attend the 10:40 assembly.**

REMEMBRANCE DAY – Friday, November 11, 2011 SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED

MACNEILL PAC (Parent Advisory Council)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 15, 7:00 p.m.

SCHOOL PLANNING COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The PAC meeting on October 12 began with a presentation about the POWER, positive behavior support system, by Ms. Catriona Misfeldt and Ms. Nici Beninger. They provided us with the background of the support system and the positive effect it has had at MacNeill. POWER is now in the third year since being implemented in September 2009. You can learn more about POWER from your child as it is much discussed in their Advisory class and school wide.

PAC business followed the POWER presentation. New faces on the PAC Executive include Taslim Haq and Nusrat Haq, who have stepped up as Secretary, and Ayanthi Samarashinghe who will be co-treasurer with Tracy Sherlock. Gaming funds and distribution of the funds was discussed and it was decided to approve the disbursement of \$20,723.15 which included items approved last year and carried over and recurring requests such as: Activity Day, Library resources, POWER subsidy, Dry Grad, scholarships and support for extra-curricular activities. The recurring items were much discussed and parents made decisions based on those items that supported the greatest number and all grades of students. We thank the MacNeill PAC for their thoughtful, equitable and careful decisions in the disbursement of the Gaming funds.

At the November PAC meeting, elections for all three parent positions on the School Planning Council (SPC) will be held. Currently there are five parents who have indicated interest serving on the SPC for this school year. The SPC meets approximately 6 times from January to June to facilitate and develop the Annual Performance Goals for the school. If you have any questions regarding the SPC, please speak with **Ms. Sakata** at the school.

GRAD FASHION SHOW (NOV. 23) – RESCHEDULED - THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2012

SENIORS' CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Thursday, December 1st, 2011

10:00 am. in the MacNeill Lounge

MacNeill Secondary is hosting a Christmas brunch for grandparents of our students and any seniors in Richmond who would like to attend. The breakfast will be held on Thursday, December 1st at 10:00 a.m.

There is no cost for this event, but any interested seniors can call the school at (604-668-6212) to reserve their seat beginning November 14th.

RICHMOND CHRISTMAS FUND

The Richmond Christmas Fund will be doing SAME DAY FAMILY REGISTRATION and TOY PICK UP at the Richmond Caring Place, 340 – 7000 Minoru Blvd., Richmond. For more information call 604-279-7035 or email christmasfund@volunteerrichmond.ca.

Registration Dates & Times

Nov. 28 – 9am – 12:30pm

Dec 3 – 9am – 12:30pm

Dec 9 – 9am – 12:30pm

Nov 29 – 2pm – 6pm

Dec 6 – 2pm – 6pm

Dec 10 – 9am – 12:30pm

Dec 2 – 9am – 12:30pm

Dec 8 – 9am – 12:30pm

Dec 12 – 9am – 12:30pm

OLD BLOWDRYERS WANTED



The Art department is accepting donations of old, but functional blow dryers. Not all "speeds" have to work. We need the dryers for quick dries for paint.

ANIMAL RESCUE CLUB

MacNeill's Animal Rescue is off to a great start. This year's club has grown from the 30 members of last year's club to over 60 members this year. Club members continue to raise money by selling pizzas and chocolate almonds. All funds will be used to assist Animal Rescue organizations in their struggle to look after the abandoned and abused animals in our community. It is a shame that wonderful animals are subjected to these types of cruel acts but is refreshing to know that a group of concerned young people, such as members of the MacNeill Animal Rescue Club, have taken an interest in their care. Our club's goal is to assist rescue organizations while at the same time educating our students about animal care. People who care for the welfare of animals are also likely to care for the less fortunate people in our communities. Mr. Irani and Mr. Hirayama, the sponsors of the club, are very proud of each club member and look forward to working with them in assisting animals in need.

STUDENT INVOICE FEES

Just a friendly reminder that student invoice fees were mailed home a few weeks ago, your prompt payment is greatly appreciated.

CAREER CENTRE NEWS – NOVEMBER 2011

CAREER CENTRE WEBSITE

<http://public.sd38.bc.ca/~ccnews>

The Career Centre website is applicable to Grade 10, 11 and 12 students. Information on career and post-secondary such as program information sessions, entrance tests, campus tours, scholarships, exchange programs, and post-secondary applications. Visit 'New This Week' section for the latest news. Please note - post-secondary and scholarship information is constantly changing therefore we recommend that students check these websites on a regular basis.

CAREER CRUISING WEBSITE <http://www.careercruising.com>

Visit Career Cruising website to take an 'interest test' (Matchmaker section). Career Cruising provides detailed information on a variety of occupations and will link these occupations to training or educational facilities in Canada and the USA. See your Career Advisor for the username and password.

POST-SECONDARY PLANNING educationplanner.bc.ca

TO APPLY TO BC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Students planning on attending College in Sept. 2012 can apply to **Langara on Oct. 1, Douglas on Oct. 15 and Kwantlen on Nov. 1st.** BCIT is accepting applications for most programs now. Check each program for requirements.

Online Application for Admission to BC Colleges and Universities:

Students may apply either directly to a specific institution or use BC's on-line Post-Secondary Application Service (ApplyBC). This service allows students to apply for admission to any public post-secondary institution in British Columbia. Fill in the ApplyBC Common Form once, and then apply to any institution you choose. You may also log back into your account, which contains your ApplyBC form. On-Line form at: <https://applybc.ca>

UBC is now accepting applications and have indicated they now require **all** students to prepare a **Personal Profile** on-line, which will help determine eligibility for their programs. At this point they require students to enter the Gr. 11 and Gr 12 courses completed to this point, and students will receive instructions to follow about self-reporting.

Upcoming Post-Secondary Information Sessions:

Nov. 1/11 UBC Engineering and Science Mini Fair 5-9 pm RSVP: <http://www.engineering.ubc.ca/connects>

Nov 2/11 -BCIT Big Info Session, at 3700 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, 5pm - 8pm. Come meet the faculty and students and find out about the many programs BCIT has to offer, all in one place at one time. Location is Building SE2 and SE6, Great Hall & Town Square Rooms A/B/C/D. To register visit: <http://www.bcit.ca/infosessions/register/2298>.

Nov. 22/11 MacNeill Post Secondary Institutes Mini Fair
8:40 - 9:56 in the rotunda for Grade 11 and 12's.

Nov. 26/11 UBC Engineering Open House 9-4 pm Register: <http://www.surveyfeedback.ca/surveys/wsb.dll/s/1gf58>

Dec 3/11(11am - 3pm) - Emily Carr Portfolio Day - **No** appointment necessary. Bring out finished pieces of work and come yourself, not with friends and family, and have your work reviewed. Address 1399 Johnston Street, Vancouver, BC. www.portfolioday.net. For more information contact 604-844-3897, www.ecuad.ca

December 9, 2011 (Application Deadline) RCMP Youth Academy 2012

The Richmond School District is now accepting applications for the RCMP Youth Academy 2012. This is an exciting and very demanding learning experience for students. This program is designed for the participation of both male and female high school students aged 16 to 18 (16 as of Dec. 31/11) who indicate an interest in a career in law enforcement/public safety/emergency services. This year's academy will be held from Tuesday April 3 to Friday, April 11, 2012 at the Stillwood Camp, Cultus Lake. See Career Centre for info.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE:

Wednesday, November 2	Grade 9 Take Our Kids To Work
Thursday, November 3	Dry Grad Parent Meeting
Thursday, November 10	MacNeill Remembrance Day Ceremony
Friday, November 11	Remembrance Day – No School
Tuesday, November 15	MacNeill PAC Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Library
Tuesday, November 22	Post-Secondary Fair – 9:00 a.m. – Lounge
Tuesday, November 29	Collaboration Time – school starts at 9:45 a.m.
Thursday, December 1	Senior's Brunch – 10:00 a.m. - Lounge