



# **A.R. MacNeill Secondary School**

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



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

Assistant Superintendent: **Ms. W. Lim**

Trustee: **Dr. Eric Yung**

PAC: **Ms. Alice Wong** – [Wongsl\\_1683@ymail.com](mailto:Wongsl_1683@ymail.com)

**Parent Newsletter – January 2012**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful Winter Break. The new calendar year brings along excitement and energy to get back into learning and all the activities of school. Our grade 12s will be very busy completing all the requirements for high school graduation, as well as applying for various post-secondary opportunities and for scholarships. At this time we would like to also acknowledge some MacNeill staff changes. Before the Winter Break, we had to say goodbye to **Mr. Mike McBurney**, who was our librarian and taught senior English classes. In the New Year we welcome back **Mrs. Wendy Phillips**, our librarian, who has returned from her leave this fall. **Mrs. Roopy Virk-Sanghera**, educational assistant, gave birth to son, Jayden, in November and we welcome **Mrs. Kathleen Riley** who will be with us until Mrs. Virk's return next school year. We would also like to express our thanks to **Trustee Grace Tsang**, our trustee liaison this past year, as she moves on to another set of schools and we wish Mrs. Tsang well in her appointment as the Board of Education vice-chair. MacNeill's new trustee liaison is **Dr. Eric Yung**, newly elected in November. Many may be familiar with Dr. Yung as he has been president of the Richmond District Parent Association for a number of years.

Though September 2012 seems a long way away, MacNeill and the school district, have already begun preparation and organization for the new school year. You will find information about program planning and timelines included in this newsletter.

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## **MACNEILL PAC MEETING**

**Thursday, January 12, 2012**

**7:00 p.m. in the 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. This will be followed by the PAC business at 7:30 p.m.

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## **GRADE 9 IMMUNIZATIONS – A REMINDER**

**Thursday, January 19, 2012**

Part two of the three part series of booster immunizations by the Coastal Health will be at MacNeill for our grade 9 students on January 19. The final Immunization day at MacNeill will be on May 10.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY - Monday, January 23, 2012**  
**NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

January 23 is a ProD day for all schools in the Richmond School District. MacNeill staff will be involved in school-wide instructional practice sessions in the morning and then branch off to small group sessions in the afternoon. At the recent ProD Day in November, MacNeill staff worked on school-wide Advisory and POWER sessions in the morning small group sessions in the afternoon at MacNeill or at other schools in the district offering workshops. A number of the afternoon sessions on the January 23 ProD day, will be extended to the next morning when MacNeill will have the fourth Collaboration Time session for this school year.

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**GUNG HEI FAT CHOI**  
**JANUARY 23, 2012**

A Happy New Year to many of our Asian families who celebrate the new lunar year – “The Year of the Dragon”. Our Pro D Day and Collaboration Time this year conveniently allows families celebrating the New Year to be together as school is not in session for students.

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**COLLABORATION TIME DAY – TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2012**

Our next Collaboration Day is January 24, 2012. Here are a few important reminders of what this means for students:

- The school day for students begins at 9:45 a.m.
- Any students arriving before 9:30am are asked to enter through the main entrance doors at the front of the school (other exterior doors will be locked until 9:30am)
- Students wishing to come to school early to study must arrive before 9:00am and may study quietly in the lounge (students will not have access to their lockers).
- Any students arriving after 9:00am will be asked to wait in the small gym until 9:30am when students will be dismissed to go to their lockers and to first period.

During Collaboration Time all MacNeill staff are involved in small group professional development activities that focus on instruction for student engagement in learning and student success. This time provides an opportunity for staff in various curricular areas such as P.E., ESL, Humanities to get together, as well as, work together on topics such as modifying and adapting curriculum and learning about new programs together.

Thanks for your help in supporting our staff collaboration day!

**MACNEILL IN VANCOUVER SUN RUN 2012**

MacNeill will participate in the Vancouver Sun Run again this year (Sunday, April 15, 2012) if we have enough interest. Students, teachers and parents interested in joining the Raven's Sun Run team please contact Mr. Nelstrop before the end of January. The cost is \$20 for students and \$30 for adults

**GRAD AND DRY GRAD 2012**

Our grade 12 students are working very hard to complete their requirements for graduation, at the same time working on plans after graduation. In December, Mountain West Studios provided the formal photo sittings for our grads. **Photo retake day will be on February 14.** The **Winter Formal on January 27 at Mayfair Lakes** will be a wonderful break for our grade 12 students. Grade 12s were provided information about the Winter Formal in Advisories this week and reminded that the deadline for payment if attending the Winter Formal is Friday, January 13.

**The Dry Grad Parent Committee** is very busy organizing and coordinating the event that will be held following the Dinner Dance on June 28 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 \$10.00
- Meat Draw on February 19<sup>th</sup> at Pioneer Pub.
- Pizza for lunch on Fridays in the Lounge
- Bottle Depot at Ironwood – Please quote the account number **1168** MacNeill Dry Grad
- Boston Pizza

**Boston Pizza at Ironwood** and **Ackroyd** in Richmond and **Queensborough** in New Westminster are offering a Grad Fundraiser for MacNeill Secondary. All three Boston Pizza's will be supporting generously "Dry Grad 2012" when you dine with them. After finishing your meal sign the back of the receipt "**MacNeill Dry Grad 2012**" and tell your server you would like it put in the Dry Grad box. At the end of May 2012 Boston Pizza will tally the "food" portion of your bill and donate 10% to MacNeill Dry Grad. If this program works and they receive a lot of receipts with MacNeill Dry Grad 2012 on them they are willing to continue the program for future Dry Grad classes. Be sure to check at the Boston Pizza you are dining at to find out what their policy is.

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.**

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## CAREER CENTRE NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2012

Career Centre - New This Week: <http://public.sd38.bc.ca/~ccnews>

Reminder to Gr. 12 Students:

### **Grade 12 students should be finalizing their Post-Secondary applications**

Make sure your applications to BC universities are received by the stated deadlines:

Capilano:	Mid March
Emily Carr:	Jan.15 (Portfolio Feb. 1)
SFU:	Feb28
UBC:	Jan.31
UVic:	Feb.28

Although some universities may accept applications past the deadline, it is to the student's advantage to apply by the early deadline.

### **Document Deadlines:**

Many universities & colleges require additional information such as transcripts or supplemental applications or profiles, this is called a "document deadline". This is separate from the application deadline and varies depending on the institution.

### **Applying to an Ontario University? Apply Early!**

-It is *recommended* that BC students apply by Early January

-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.

-It is also recommended that you submit official hardcopies of your grades to your choice post secondary institutions in Ontario.

**Electronic Post Secondary Institutions (PSI) Selection Form is now open.** The Ministry assists each graduating student planning to pursue post-secondary education by sending a copy of his/her transcript data to post-secondary institutions indicated on the PSI Choices Form. Students need to authorize the Ministry to transfer these marks and this is done by filling in the PSI choices form on-line at the Student Secure Website: [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/logon](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/logon) Students can either create an account using their Personal Education Number or log in to an existing account.

**Register to write the TOEFL or/andthe LPI**, if you are required to do so. Contact the Career/Counselling Centre or individual post-secondary websites for requirements and exemptions.

### **Scholarships**

There are many new scholarships available on the career centre news website. Please check out the link and begin applying: <http://public.sd38.bc.ca/~ccnews>

Remember some may require reference letters and essays, so plan ahead!

### **Apprenticeship (Ace-It) is *Your Ticket to Success!***

Students currently in grade 10 and 11 can apply to earn credits for Apprenticeship (Ace-It) in the Trades **and** High School Completion at the same. The application deadline for Ace-It is fast approaching (all students interested in School Based Programs apply in their grade 11 year, with the exception of Hair Design - grade 10).

The Richmond School District and public post-secondary institutions have created a partnership designed to maximize student achievement in trades and technology programs. Apprenticeship students earn both a secondary graduation certificate and a Level One Technical Training Certificate in a specific trade from the Industry Training Authority of BC. Some programs are school based while others require students to attend a college for a portion of their school year. Interested students please see their counsellor or visit the 'Career Programs' website for more detail: [www.sd38careerprograms.ca](http://www.sd38careerprograms.ca)

In addition, a yellow 'Apprenticeship Programs' information pamphlet is available in the Career Centre.

**Marika Mayer**

**Career Information Advisor (mmayer@sd38.bc.ca)**

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## **PROGRAM PLANNING EVENINGS FOR PARENTS**

**January 31, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**

**February 15, 2012 at 6:45 p.m.**

**April 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**

Parents are invited to one of three program planning information meetings for next school year. The meeting on Tuesday, January 31 at 7:00 p.m. is intended for our incoming grade 8's from our catchment area schools (Anderson, Cook, Talmey, Tomsett and DeBeck). On January 31, 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 by letter mailed on March 9. To accommodate new students to MacNeill there is a program planning meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. Optional tours of the school are planned for April 11 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.

This month and during February, our counsellors, Mrs. Pasin, Mrs. Cantwell 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 on-line on the school web site later in January.

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 - Grade 7 Parent Information Evenings

This specialty program emphasizes academics and 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 11 at 7:00 pm** in Room 260 MacNeill

**Tues Jan 31 at 7:45 pm** in Room 260 MacNeill (this follows the MacNeill Grade 7 Parent meeting at 7:00 pm which parents are encouraged to attend)

Or **Mon Feb 13 at 6:30pm** in Room 260 MacNeill

Transfer applications will be accepted starting Jan 23<sup>rd</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 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.

Website: [www.incentive-macneill.ca](http://www.incentive-macneill.ca)

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## IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR MACNEILL

January 11	Incentive Outdoor Academy presentation for Grade 7 Parents – 7:00pm
January 16	<b>Registration Opens for 2011 – 2012 for New Catchment Students</b>
January 23	<b>Transfer Applications Accepted</b> (at requested school).
January 31	<b>Program Planning Night for Grade 7 Parents @ 7:00pm</b> (tours of MacNeill School at 6:30pm)
February 7-8	Incentive Outdoor Academy Meeting for new parents to follow at 7:45pm <b>Grade 8-11 Program Planning</b> – Counsellors will present program planning information to students – by grade.
February 13	Incentive Outdoor Academy Meeting for new parents 7:00pm (for parents unable to make the previous meetings).
February 15	<b>Program Planning Night for Current Grade 8 – 11</b> <b>Information night for parents @ 6:45 pm</b> ( <i>students are welcome to attend</i> ).
February 22	<b>Course Selection Sheets are due to the Counselling Centre.</b>
March 1	<b>Transfer Applications are due</b> (to requested school).
February 29, March 2	<b>Students enter course selections into BCeSIS.</b>
April 11	<b>Program Planning Evening for Transfer/New Students @ 7:00 pm</b>

## RICHMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT TIMELINES 2012-13

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 16, 2012

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

### January 23, 2012

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 3, 2012**

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, 2012**

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 9, 2012**

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, 2012**

The deadline for parent appeals regarding transfer application decisions for applications made by the district deadline of March 1<sup>st</sup>. 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, 2012**

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

**June 15, 2012**

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, 2012**

The date by which schools will mail letters to transfer applicants who applied during the period March 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 5th, 2012**

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.

**Dates to Remember**

Wednesday, January 11	Incentive Outdoor Academy Info Meeting – 7 p.m. Room 260
Thursday, January 12	PAC Meeting – 7 p.m., Library
Monday, January 16	First date newly arrived catchment students can register for the coming school year
Thursday, January 19	Grade 9 Immunizations
Thursday, January 19	Dry Grad Parent Meeting – 7 p.m., Library
Monday, January 23	Professional Development Day
Monday, January 23	First date transfer applications will be received at schools for the coming school year
Tuesday, January 24	Collaboration Time – <b>School begins for Student at 9:45 a.m.</b>
Friday, January 27	Grad Winter Formal – 7 p.m. Mayfair Lakes
Tuesday, January 31	Grade 7 Program Planning - 7 p.m. – Lounge
Tuesday, January 31	Incentive Outdoor Academy Info Evening – 7:45 p.m., Room 260
Tuesday, February 14	Grad Photo Re-take Day
Friday, February 17	Professional Development Day – no school for students