



*A.R. MacNeill Secondary School
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Parent Newsletter – February 2012*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Students and staff are busy and involved in all manner of curricular and extra-curricular activities. You can read about these activities in this newsletter. Our counsellors, Mrs. Pasin, Mrs. Cantwell and Mr. Hirayama are organizing and planning for next school year with program planning activities in our feeder elementary schools and at our school. Students will be asked to share the course selection process and decisions with their parents. There is information to parents about MacNeill program planning and courses in the handbook which can be accessed on-line through the school web-site. Parents will have an opportunity to learn more about courses at MacNeill at the Program Planning meeting on February 15, as well as at the PAC meeting on February 21.

MACNEILL INCENTIVE OUTDOOR ACADEMY - PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

Monday, February 13, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. - MacNeill School in Room 260

This is the third information meeting for parents and students to learn about the Incentive Outdoor Academy. Each year 30 grade 8 students are accepted into the program which continues for three years. After this meeting on Monday, February 13, parents and students are invited to attend the Incentive Academy Science Fair, which is being held the same evening from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Incentive Academy classrooms.

Application forms for the Incentive Outdoor Academy are available in the school office or at the parent meeting on February 15th. Completed applications are to be submitted to the MacNeill School office on or before Wednesday, February 29th, 2012.

PROGRAM PLANNING EVENING: FOR GRADE 8 – 11 PARENTS

Wednesday, February 15, 2011 - 6:45 p.m. at MacNeill School

Parents of students who are currently at MacNeill in grade 8, 9, 10 and 11 are invited to meet with administrators, Ms. Sakata, Mrs. Collins and Mr. Laing, who will be addressing program planning, course selection and the graduation program. For additional information on dates, timelines and events please see the January 2012 newsletter.

MACNEILL PAC MEETING

Tuesday, February 21, 2012 - 7:00 P.M. in the School Library

At each MacNeill PAC meeting, there is a parent information portion of the meeting preceding the PAC business. At the next PAC meeting school administration, **Mr. Laing, Mrs. Collins and Ms. Sakata will talk about the Graduation program course options for students at MacNeill.** They will talk about the differences in the Math, English and Science courses at MacNeill offered at the grade 10, 11 and 12 levels, as well as the Advance Placement courses.

HELP DRY GRAD 2012 – SUPPORT THEIR FUNDRAISERS

Next Dry Grad Parent Meeting – Thursday, February 16, 7:00 P.M.

The **2012 Dry Grad committee** continues to be very busy with plans for the Dry Grad event on June 28th for our 2012 graduates. We have booked in many fun activities for the graduates to have during the dry grad and are excited with some of the ideas that are now coming to life. We are hoping to that you might be able to support some of our upcoming fundraisers.

1) Meat and Gourmet Food Sales - Order forms are available on the school web site for various meat and gourmet foods including chicken, appetizers and steaks. Consider stocking up while at the same time helping out our graduates. All orders are due back into the school by February 22nd.

2) Gift Cards - Gift cards are once again available for sale. Not only do they make excellent gifts, but they are an easy way to help support the 2012 grads. 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. Order forms are available on the school web site. All orders are due back into the school by February 22nd.

3) 2012 Grad Clothing - Grad Hoodies and other items will be available for sale. Order forms are available on the school web site as well as sizing information. All order forms are due back to the school by February 22nd.

4) Movie Passes - Movie Passes continue to be on sale for \$10. These passes are good for a regular adult admission. If you would like to purchase some passes, please e-mail Jamieson_L@sd36.bc.ca and we will arrange to have those available.

5) Bottle Recycling - Just a reminder that if you have some bottles lying around your home, that you might 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.

6) Boston Pizza Fundraiser - Are you eating out at Boston Pizza any time soon? If you are, look for the MacNeill Dry Grad Box near the front counter. By simply placing your receipt into the MacNeill Box, Boston Pizza will donate 10% of your bill to our Dry Grad event. What an easy way to help support our graduates. Boxes are located at the Ironwood, Ackroyd and Queensborough locations.

The 2012 Dry Grad Committee welcomes all grad 12 parents to join and be part of the planning. **Our next meeting is Thursday, February 16th 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

IT'S PORTFOLIO PREPARATION TIME AT MACNEILL!

By now, Grade 10 students have been given the criteria and forms necessary for the successful completion of their portfolio. Grade 10 students will present their portfolio to their Advisory teacher; the date/deadline for Grade10 presentations is **May 17th**. Students have been given a '*Parent's Information Guide*' to bring home with details of the portfolio criteria and presentation.

Similarly, Grade 12 students have also been given the criteria and forms necessary for the successful completion of their Graduation Transitions presentation. Grade 12 Graduation Transitions presentations are already underway here at MacNeill (so that they don't interfere with students' preparation for Provincial Exams), though students have until June to present to their Advisory teacher. The successful completion of the Grade 12 Graduation Portfolio presentation accounts for 4 credits towards graduation.

Grade 8, 9 and 11 students will also begin working on portfolio preparation in the spring. These students will present to their Advisory teacher on **June 14th-15th**. In addition to presenting to their Advisory teacher, Grade 8 and 9 students are also required to present their portfolio to a parent/guardian.

If you have any questions, please see/contact Mrs. Cholevas. (ncholevas@sd38.bc.ca)

Term 2 DPA forms are now due in the office for **all Grade 11 and 12 students**. Need a form? Extras are available in the office or in Mrs. Cholevas' room (217).

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

In January, Student Council organized a Spirit Week. Thank-you to all those who showed school spirit and wore their PJs and ties / bowties! We also had an epic "Battle of the Grades" to wrap up the week with students wearing their grade colours!

Also, from now until February 14th, Student Council is participating in the "Get Naked" clothing drive challenge. We're hoping to be the school with the most items of clothing donated in the Lower Mainland, so please bring your old clothes, hats, jackets, scarves, jeans, etc. to help support a good cause!

In February, we'll also be hosting a dance and MacNeill Idol. A huge thank-you to all those who came out for auditions. We had over 30 people sign up. Your talent and effort inspire us. The decision was tough, but the 6 finalists selected are Lexys Bandayrel, Celeste Chamberlain, Ariel Diaz, Briana Buencamino, Nathan Gan, and Laura Chu. These six finalists will be performing at MacNeill Idol during lunch on February 10th. The winner of MacNeill Idol will advance to RichCity Idol.

MACNEILL'S ANIMAL RESCUE CLUB

MacNeill's Animal Rescue Club has brought a number of Animal Rights groups to our school to discuss their programs. Yvette Labatte from the "Turtle Gardens" dog rescue visited and provided interesting information to the students. PADS (Pacific Assistance Dogs Society) came to MacNeill with a couple of furry friends and explained how rescue dogs are trained and how they can assist handicapped individuals. SARS (the Small Animal Rescue Society) and VOKRA (the Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association) will hopefully visit our school and explain their mandate in assisting animals. Since one of the objectives of our club is to educate club members about various animal rescue organizations and jobs that they do in assisting animals, we are continually looking for groups to come in and share with our students. One of the other goals of our group is to raise money in support of these groups and their animals. To this end, MacNeill's Animal Rescue Club has generously donated money and supplies to many organizations both local and outside of the Lower Mainland. We are constantly looking for fundraising ideas in an effort to help. Many of our students both volunteer at and visit local shelters, where they are making a positive difference.

IS MACNEILL GOING DOWNHILL!?!

You bet – Just ask the Ski and Snowboard Club!

While many of us Lulu Islanders have been idly enduring a wet winter at sea level, the MacNeill Ski and Snowboard Club has been riding high through the snowy slopes of the North Shore Mountains. With nearly 5 meters of snow so far this season, our nights at Cypress are getting better and better. To date we've had four visits to the home of Canada's first Olympic gold medal and I'm sure that our Ski/Snowboard Club members will be returning once club days come to an end. This has been a fantastic experience with so many lasting memories. Who can forget the beautiful clear vista of Vancouver city lights on our first night, the lightning quick snow from our second visit or the six inches of fresh powder on our last trip to Cypress. As a teacher, I

can tell you that the ski and snowboard instructors at Cypress are top-notch – informative, charismatic, effective and fun! There are instructors suited to every ability level of skier/snowboarder and I can tell you nobody knows the secret spots on Cypress better than the instructors do. I have been a rider for over twenty years and I can assure you that initiation in skiing/snowboarding can provide a lifetime of enjoyment. I've had a blast with all of you so far! There have been so many lasting memories and, I'm sure, more to come with spring skiing just around the corner. As a final shout-out to Ski/Snowboard Club members, and even non-members looking to participate, there may be an opportunity to shred the 'steep and deep' up in Whistler or at Big White this spring. Put the word out and, should there be enough interest, a meeting will be held in late February to 'potentially' extend the Ski/Snowboard Club into March for one final outing! I look forward to seeing you all there. Keep rippin' MacNeill!

Mr. McDowell – Ski Club Coordinator

Mrs. Moorhead – Ski Club Coordinator

Mr. Laing – Ski Club Coordinator

NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Fall Season: Great seasons were completed by the Volleyball, Cross Country, and Swim teams as Raven athletes competed hard and showed great promise for the future in all these sports for MacNeill. Way to go RAVENS!!!!!!

Winter Season:

Basketball: We currently have 6 basketball teams in action:

Grade 8 boys and girls

Grade 10 boys

Grade 9 boys and girls

Senior Girls

All of the teams have qualified for the playoffs; 8's and 9's playoffs run from Feb 6-9, while junior and senior team play on Feb 13-16. Grade 8 girls playoffs are at McNair Secondary, grade 8 boys playoffs are at Palmer Secondary, grade 9 girls playoffs are at McMath Secondary, grade 9 boys playoffs are at Burnett Secondary, junior boys playoffs will be home at MacNeill and senior girls playoffs will be at McRoberts.

The athletes and the school would love to see as many parents at the games as possible. Game times will be available shortly please refer to the RSSAA Esportsdesk website to find them. GOOD LUCK RAVENS!!!!

http://www.esportsdesk.com/leagues/pick_league.cfm?clientID=7&leagueID=0

Table Tennis:

Table Tennis has begun playing games and we look forward to a great showing from our student athletes as we have two teams competing in the league. GOOD LUCK RAVENS!!

Spring Season: Upcoming Sports:

Track and Field, Girls Soccer, Ultimate and Badminton are all coming soon. Please refer to the TV screens in the lounge and listen for upcoming announcements to find out practice/try out times. GO RAVENS GO!!!!!!

AMICA GOING STRONG

Things are going great with MacNeill's multicultural friendship club. We started off the year with some Halloween spooktacular baked goods including witches fingers and eyeball cupcakes. The money raised helped fund the 3rd Annual Holiday Gift Exchange, where Amica provided cookies and hot chocolate to help promote good holiday cheer. The club also had a great time helping MacNeill celebrate Lunar New Year with an event in the lounge with lucky red envelopes filled with chocolate coins (and some *real* money, too!). MacNeill students also competed for prizes in games, like seeing who was able to pick up the most marbles with chopsticks. Currently, the club is helping organize the Diversity Talent Show at MacNeill. Amica is still planning on having its 6th Annual International Potluck in the spring. Amica is open to everyone and meets every Friday at lunch in Ms. Carpenter's room, 221.

DIVERSITY AT MACNEILL

MacNeill is a school filled with talented people, and some of them have had a chance to showcase their talent at the Culture Club: Diversity Talent Show. The purpose of this event is for individuals or groups to communicate a message of diversity, harmony and inclusion through acting, singing or dance. Musical and dance groups had a chance to perform in front of celebrity judges in this Richmond Multicultural Community Services-sponsored event on February 1st. Students who qualify will go on to compete against other Richmond youth in the exciting final performance at the Gateway Theatre on Thursday, March 8th.

NEWS FROM DRAM AND DANCE

DANCE: High School High is at River Rock Theatre on Feb. 19th and Footloose is at Palmer Secondary on February 24th. These two dance competitions are fast approaching and tickets are limited. Tickets for Footloose are \$10.00 and can be purchased from Palmer Secondary School; they are selling quickly and will sell out before the event. High School High tickets can be ordered through Ms. Mullens. Ticket prices increase at the door so be sure to buy yours in advance! Keep posted for more competitions after the spring break.

DRAMA: Did you know cooking could be murder? Get excited folks for MacNeill theatre's annual production! Last year you saw the zany antics of *The Twits*...this year, join us for a totally new experience. Buckle up for some deadly home-style cookin', enhanced by a little dramatic flavoring. ***Cooking Can Be Murder*** by Eddie McPherson is sure to satisfy. Ticket prices are \$8.00 for evening performances (7:00pm), March 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th and \$6.00 for matinees (10:00 am), March 6th & 7th. Look for upcoming ticket sales this month in the lounge at lunch times.

30 HOUR FAMINE

Can you imagine a hand outstretched across the world to a child in need? With World Vision and the 30 Hour Famine you could help be a lifeline for someone. According to the World Health Organization, every 5 seconds a child under the age of 5 dies of malnutrition or unsanitary conditions. That is someone's son, daughter, brother or sister that they will never see again. The numbers add up, that's 700 kids every hour, 16,000 every day and 6 million a year. We have the power to stop this cycle by raising awareness! This is the generation that can evoke a positive domino effect.

MacNeill holds an annual event where students raise money and awareness for those in developing countries. After the fundraising is said and done, the fun begins for the participants. Students become "Hungry for Change" by fasting for 30 hours. The fun carries on into the night as students may come to a supervised sleepover in the school gymnasium. Games and entertainment such as RockBand continue throughout the night until the 30 hours have been completed! The empty stomachs will be filled with a delicious breakfast which has been donated by various food companies. This event is a great way for students of all ages to bond with their fellow schoolmates because there's nothing like playing Call of Duty or watching a movie until the early hours of the morning with your buddies! This will be a night to remember. **The 30 Hour Famine will be held on April 27, 2012.**

For more information, you can contact **Fiona Huang and Charlotte Chin** by sending an email to fiona_huang1@hotmail.com, talk to the teacher sponsor, **Mr. Henders**, or check for updates on the facebook group: 2011-12 30hr Famine, A.R. MacNeill. Meetings will be held at lunch in Mr. Henders room on Tuesdays.

30 - The number of hours it takes to make a difference

1 - The number of students it takes to create a change.

Come be a part of the 30 Hour Famine 2012!

MACNEILL RAVEN'S SUN RUN TEAM

Any students/parents interested in joining our fun run/walk team please contact **Mr. Nelstrop** in room 224 by Feb 7 2012. Cost to enter the event is \$20 for students, \$30 for adults.

RICHMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATION WEEK - FEBRUARY 20-26, 2012

In celebration of Education Week, MacNeill students will be performing and art work will be on display at Aberdeen Centre. The Jazz Band will perform on Wednesday, February 22 and our dancers and students will lead the Hip Hop Jam on Sunday, February 26. Details and information about these and other Richmond Education Week events will be published later this week in local newspapers and on the School District website.

RICHMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC MEETINGS LONG RANGE FACILITIES PLANNING

The Board of Education (Richmond) and Colliers International has undertaken the process of a Long Range Facilities plan for the Richmond school district. We will be holding two public meetings to discuss this plan with the community on:

**Wednesday, February 15 7:00-9:00pm at Cambie Secondary School, 4151 Jacombs Road
and**

Tuesday, February 21, 7:00-9:00pm at Steveston-London Secondary School, 6600 Williams Road

A copy of the [Long Range Facilities Plan](#) can be found on the District's website at www.sd38.bc.ca
Queries can be directed to Mark De Mello, Secretary Treasurer, at 604-668-6012 or Clive Mason, Manager of Facilities, at 604-668-6127.

PARENTS AS CAREER COACHES

When: 2 Mondays, February 27 and March 5, 2012 from 6:30 – 9:30pm

Where: Palmer Secondary School

Registration is FREE and space is limited to 40 participants

Registration is required by Feb. 17

Workshop is for Parents Only - Refreshments will be served

Overview

“Parents as Career Coaches” is a program that helps parents become more effective career development allies for their children. They are introduced to the concept of coaching; an appropriate role they can assume when guiding and supporting their children’s career journeys. Parents are given practical tools and strategies to help them become better career coaches for their youth.

Registration/Questions:

To register or find out more, please contact: **Byron Stevens**, President **RDPA** at byronst@shaw.ca

MACNEILL CAREER CENTRE INFORMATION

***Important website for scholarships, post-secondary information sessions, and application information**
<http://public.sd38.bc.ca/~ccnews>

Reminders to Grade 12 Students:

- 1) Pay attention to application and document deadlines. For most BC Universities the application deadline February 28/12. **Exception - January 31/12 for UBC most programs.**
- 2) Arrange to take the **TOEFL** www.ets.org or the **LPI** <http://www.lpitest.ca/> if you are required to do so. Contact the individual post-secondary websites for requirements and exemptions..
- 3) Make sure you have completed your **Post-Secondary Institute (PSI) Choices Forms** available online at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/welcome. By completing this form, you are giving the Ministry of Education permission to release your marks to the colleges/universities to which you have applied. Your marks will be sent electronically in early May and again in early July. If the post-secondary program/institution requires transcripts at an earlier time (such as BCIT), you must contact your school's office to purchase these.
- 4) Self-report grades to **SFU** and **UVic** through to April, 2012. Students applying to Universities /colleges that do not have a self-reporting system, should send in 1st and 2nd term hard copy transcripts, as per that post-secondary Institute's instructions.
- 5) Continue to apply for **Scholarships** posted on the Career Centre Board, or on the website:
<http://public.sd38.bc.ca/~ccnews>

Attention Grade 10/11 Students:

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

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS (information for students going into Grade 11 and 12)

Start Post-Secondary Apprenticeship training while still in high school & earn high school and post-secondary credits at the same time! See your counsellor if you would like to apply for an apprenticeship (ACE IT) program. For more information visit: www.itabc.ca and www.sd38careerprograms.ca

SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

- AUTO SERVICE TECH 1
- PROFESSIONAL COOK 1
- HAIR DESIGN
- PLUMBING

POST-SECONDARY APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

- AUTO COLLISION REPAIR
- AUTO REFINISHING PREP TECHNICIAN
- BAKING & PASTRY ARTS
- CARPENTRY (FRAMING AND FORMING)
- HORTICULTURE
- MASONRY
- METAL FABRICATION
- MILLWRIGHT (INDUSTRIAL MECHANIC)

- MOTORCYCLE TECHNICIAN
- PAINTING & DECORATING
- PARTS AND WAREHOUSING
- WELDING

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP (SSA)

Are you already employed in an apprenticeship trade? You are eligible for Secondary School Apprenticeship (SSA) if you are over 15 and under 19 years old and are employed with a certified trade person who is willing to sponsor you. Earn while you learn! You could receive a \$1000 scholarship. Visit www.itabc.ca to view over 130 trades approved by the Industry Training Authority (ITA). See your counsellor or Career Advisor for details.

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

Simon Fraser SUPERTOOURS

Supertours are free half day events that provide students with the opportunity to get a feel for the SFU campus, receive information regarding admissions, the campus buildings, and the specific programs and faculties. To register and for information about the Burnaby Supertour on February 18, 2012, visit:
<http://students.sfu.ca/tour/book-a-burnaby-tour.html#burnabysupertour>

Grade 12 students that are taking a distance/distributed learning course with the Vancouver Learning Network (VLN), note:

- If an Interim mark for the purpose of applying to a BC/Ontario Post-Secondary Institution (PSI) is required, at least 50% of the VLN course must be completed by April 6, 2012. These students must also have written and passed the midterm exam.
- VLN will be forwarding all Interim marks directly to the Ministry of Education in mid-April
- RE: PSI outside of BC/Ontario, students may request a paper Interim letter anytime by filling out a Document Request form (students must have at least 50% of the course completed).

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Students interested in outdoor experiences, helping others and personal challenges, check out the link to the Duke Of Edinburgh Award. <http://www.dukeofed.org/about-the-award>

Expand your resume and impress college and university application committees.

If you are interested/curious, come and speak with Mr. Nelstrop in room 224 by February 10 2012.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, February 13	MacNeill Incentive Outdoor Academy Information Evening at 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 14	Grad Photo Re-Take Day
Wednesday, February 15	Grade 8-11 Program Planning Parent Evening at 6:45pm
Thursday, February 16	Dry Grad Parent Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Friday, February 17	Professional Development Day – no school for students
Tuesday, February 21	Collaboration Time – School begins for Student at 9:45 a.m.
Tuesday, February 21	PAC Meeting – 7 p.m., Library
Sunday, February 26	Hip Hop Jam Performance at Aberdeen Mall
Wednesday, February 29	MacNeill Incentive Outdoor Academy Applications due
Wednesday, February 29	Anti-Bullying (Pink Shirt) Day
Thursday, March 1	Last day to submit Transfer Applications to Richmond schools
Wednesday, March 7	Regular Day. Dismissal at 2:59pm
Friday, March 9	Alternate Day. Early Dismissal at 2:00pm
March 12 – March 23	Spring Break –schools closed
Monday, March 26	School re-opens
Tuesday, March 27	Collaboration Time – School begins for Student at 9:45 a.m.
Friday, April 6	Good Friday –school closed
Monday, April 9	Easter Monday –school closed