

McMATH WILDCATS

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PARENT NEWSLETTER

February, 2012

Mr. N. Kamide
Principal

Ms. A. Gillrie-Carre
Vice Principal

Mr. M. Charlton
Vice Principal

Ms. N. Brennan
Area Superintendent

Ms. R. Belleza
Trustee Liaison

Mr. Stephen Morris
PAC Chair

Early Warning
604-718-4004

McMath Website
<http://public.sd38.bc.ca>
/~McMathWeb/

Dear Parents / Guardians:

Although we are already a month in, a belated happy New Year! Hopefully 2012 will bring you and your family all the happiness and success you deserve.

February is an important time in the school year. During this time, we are making advanced preparations for the upcoming academic year. The Program Planning/Open House/Fine Arts Night for students in grade 8 – 12 will take place on Thursday, February 16th. Though the Open House and the Fine Arts Night may be impacted by job action, at this time, the current plan is to move ahead with this event (though it will be smaller than in years past).

Like last year, we have invited our incoming grade seven students and parents to participate in this night (rather than hosting a separate night). This, we feel, will allow parents a chance to more formally connect with other parents with students already attending our school as well as participating in the Open House activities.

Program planning is an important time. Selecting the “right” courses requires a student to think about interests, possible interests, as well as post-secondary pursuits. Questions should be asked and answers must be found. Encourage your son or daughter to talk with their counsellor, teachers, and/or our Career Information Advisor, Ms. Bernard if there are questions.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely,

Neil Kamide
Principal

Staffing Updates

Though only joining us in September, **Ms. S. Crossley** will be leaving us (temporarily) as she is going on maternity leave. We sincerely wish her all the very best preparing for the new additions to her family. In her place, **Mr. G. Winkleman** will be joining the McMath Technology Education Department for the remainder of the school year.

Pick up and Drop Offs

Just a quick reminder to parents that as the weather gets colder, the automobile line-ups on Garry Street get longer. Please try to find alternatives to the pick-up and drop-off lane. Or, if possible, please drop off your son or daughter a little bit earlier or pick up a little bit later to avoid the congestion.



McMath Toy Drive in time for Valentines Day



The C.A.R.E. Club (Cancer Awareness Reaching Everyone) and Bazinga are collecting new toys for Children's Hospital until February 3rd. If you have new toys (not stuffed animals), the

children at the hospital would be very happy to receive them. Please drop them in the boxes at the main office or take them to Mr. Sharma for a chance to enter a draw for a prize. We will be taking the toys to the hospital in time for Valentine's Day. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Ritchie or Mr. Sharma at the school. Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday	February 16th	Parent/Student Evening (Current Grade 7-11's)
Thursday	February 16th	Open House / Fine Arts Night
Friday	February 17th	District-Wide Pro-D Day – School is closed
Wednesday	February 22nd	Collaboration Day – Classes start at 9:40am
Thursday	February 23rd	Pascal, Cayley and Fermat Math Contests (Grades 9-11)
Tuesday	February 28th	Mid-Year Music Concert (6:30-8:00pm)

The McMath PAC is eager to start the second half of the school year. We welcome all parents to attend our meetings held the second Tuesday of every month. In one hour or so you will hear the latest news regarding what is happening at McMath and a few tidbits regarding current educational and political gossip.

At our first meeting of 2012 this month we were provided with an update regarding the teacher collaboration project and its ongoing assessment. The teachers and students appear to be supportive and the PAC would appreciate hearing what parents think of collaboration. Your opinion can be forwarded to the PAC mailbox at the McMath office

Graduation Essentials....Counselling & Career Centre News

University of Saskatchewan Visits McMath

The University of Saskatchewan will have an information table set up outside the main office at McMath on Wednesday, February 15th during lunch. Please drop by with your questions.

LPI at McMath

In addition to the scheduled sittings for the Language Proficiency Index Test throughout Metro Vancouver, grade 11 and 12 students may register for the LPI test held at McMath on Thursday, April 19th, 2012. The LPI is a test of written language skills that many BC Post-Secondary institutions use for placement in a first year English course. Students should see their counsellor or Ms. Bernard in the Career Centre for details. www.lpitest.ca ...see Secondary School Sittings.

Kwantlen Open House 2012

Kwantlen is opening its doors to prospective students and parents from all across Metro Vancouver to tell them about the many programs, services and learning options that are offered. They will have faculty, students, and alumni from all over the institution to talk with, campus tours to go on, prizes, and more. The event will take place at the Surrey Campus on Saturday March 31, 2012 from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Online registration will be available in February. <http://kwantlen.ca/openhouse.html>

BCIT Open House 2012

BCIT's Open House is a two-day event that gives you the opportunity to learn about BCIT programs, view student created displays, meet BCIT students, test-drive applied hands-on learning and win prizes. Open House 2012 is scheduled for Friday, April 13 (9:00 am to 4:00 pm) and Saturday, April 14, 2012 (9:00 am to 3:00 pm) at the Burnaby Campus. <http://www.bcit.ca/openhouse/>

Simon Fraser University SUPERTOURLS

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).

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 Ms. Bernard in the Career Centre for details.

Career Centre Website

For post-secondary, career and scholarship information, visit the Richmond School District 'Career Centre' website at: <http://public.sd38.bc.ca/~ccnews> See the Newsletter (New This Week) section for the latest additions (updated daily). The site provides students with information on program information sessions, entrance tests, campus tours, scholarships, and post-secondary applications. *Note that post-secondary and scholarship information is constantly changing therefore we recommend that students check this website and post-secondary institution websites on a regular basis.

www.careercruising.com

Visit the 'Career Cruising' website for details on careers and post-secondary education, try a Career Matchmaker session and discover the universities/colleges (Canada & US) that offer programs for specific career paths. See Ms. Bernard in at the Career Centre for the Password and Username. The Career Centre at R.A. McMath Secondary is open Mon. 9am - 1pm, Tues. - Thurs. 9am - 1:30pm.



Important Reminder to all 2012 Graduates and Parents

The Dry Grad committee is busy planning a wonderful evening of celebration for the graduates of 2012! – If you or your student has not confirmed attendance with a Dry Grad cheque submission then you need to do so as soon as possible. Our second deadline for Dry Grad cheques will be the end of February. Please drop off your cheque in the white Dry Grad basket in the office and or feel free to contact our committee at mcmathdag@gmail.com. Our goal is to have all of McMath's 2012 Graduates attend this school/ parent event following the dinner and dance on June 17. If there are any financial worries, please contact the above e-mail.

The Donation and Prizes committee is in **URGENT** need of contacts for businesses that could donate items or money to our Dry Grad evening. If you have any ideas, or contacts please contact our Dry Grad e-mail at mcmathdag@gmail.com Don't forget the McMath Dry Grad

bottle account at the Trites bottle depot in Steveston. Donate your bottles to our Dry Grad to help in our fundraising.

Stay tuned for further updates in our Parent Bulletin that will be sent out in February for Grade 12 parents.



The PAC social committee organizes teacher appreciation luncheons. The next one is scheduled for May. The committee will need new parents for the 2012-2013 school year. If you are interested in participating in the social committee please forward your name to the PAC mailbox.

There is free tutoring support at Steveston Community Centre on Wednesdays after school. Interested students should see their counsellor as soon as possible. Tutoring begins January 25 and space is limited.



McMath Multicultural Club is pleased to announce that Bunkaza Theatre Company is visiting us to present "One Thousand Cranes" during the second block on Thursday, Feb 9th (10:00am - 11:00 am). The Bunkaza is a professional Japanese theatre company with a 70-year record of excellence, so this is a rare opportunity for us. Thanks to the PAC fund, we are able to invite them to McMath. This story is an award-winning play by Colin Thomas and weaves together two stories, "In the first, which is based on the true story of Sadako Sasaki, a young girl discovers that she has radiation-induced leukemia nine years after the bombing of Hiroshima. The second story is about Buddy, a Canadian boy who is afraid of nuclear war and thinks there's nothing he can do to stop it..." The play will be presented in Japanese and English. Admission is free. Please contact me if you are interested.

Michi Tsurumi

Multicultural Club Sponsor Teacher