

McNally Newsletter



April 2010 Volume 3

Edmonton Public Schools -- **Bright Futures Begin Here** --

School Board Trustee George Rice

Assistant Superintendent Bruce Coggles

Principal's Message

"These relationships between teachers, students, and subject matter are the stuff of schooling."

McLaughlin (1993)

Dear Parents,

The staff and students at McNally have started the year with a renewed focus on teaching and learning. In that regard, we are posting Student Achievement Update # 2 on SchoolZone for each of our students on April 6th. I would encourage all parents to review the achievement update carefully. We will host Parent-Teacher interviews on April 8th from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. The format of our parent meetings will be the same as semester one. Parents and students are welcome to come to the main gym during the times listed above, where each of our teachers will be available to meet and discuss teaching and learning in the classroom. Working together, we can ensure the success of all students at McNally School.

Regular attendance and punctuality are critical to the success of our students at McNally. Please continue to assist your children to arrive at school with enough time to be seated and engaged in our self starter at the beginning of the day and after lunch. On the topic of arrival to school, please observe the signage around our building when dropping off or picking up your children. In the interest of student safety, I will be asking the Edmonton Police Service to increase traffic and pedestrian enforcement

around our school. Your cooperation will help us maintain a safe environment for our students.

Our Drama and Music departments have just concluded "Fiddler on the Roof." What a fantastic performance by students and staff! I understand the dinner theatre performance on Friday night was ha huge success. Thanks to Mrs. Massey and our foods students for their hard work. Thanks to Mr. Missal for his hard work in preparing the music and our musicians for a very challenging performance. Special thanks to Mr. Mills for all of his efforts at McNally over the years. He has raised the bar for drama at McNally School, and is preparing to pass the torch to Ms. Murphy next year. What a wonderful experience these hard working folks have provided for the students of McNally School...BRAVO!!

I encourage all parents to attend our Parent Council meeting on April 19th at 7:00pm in room 124. Parent Council will host our School Resource Officer, Constable Mishio, who will deliver a session on internet awareness for students and parents. Please consider joining us! Coffee and refreshments will be provided.

Our school website can be viewed at www.mcnallyhigh.com As many of you already know, our school also offers on-line access to an abundance of information about your child's classes (and school) through a program called SchoolZone. If your interested in finding out more about this product (at no cost to parents), please call the school at 469-0442.

We thank you for your ongoing support of school initiatives in so many different areas. Nihil Sed Optimum...Nothing but the Best!

Sincerely,

Darrel Robertson, MBA
Principal

Spring Semester Information

Semester Two Achievement Updates – will be posted on SchoolZone – **Tue. April 6**

Parent-Teacher Interviews – Thursday, April 8 – 5:30 – 8:30. Students are encouraged to attend with parents.

TIGER GROUPS – 8:30 – 9:30 – Monday, April 12 – regular classes remainder of the day (modified morning schedule)

- Grade 10 & 11 students will receive PASSPORTS for next year's registration.
- Grade 12 students – important GRAD assembly starting at 8:45 am.

Registration for Next School Year – 2010-2011

Grade 10 & 11 students – Thurs., April 15 & Fri., April 16 - Signed Passport Required
Look for more detailed registration information item on SchoolZone – 2010-2011
Registration Information.

School Council Meeting – Monday, April 19 @ 7pm

We will be discussing our Annual School Council Scholarship.

GRAD INFORMATION 2009 - 2010

Eligibility: In order to participate in the Convocation Ceremonies, the student:

- **Must be registered as a Grade 12 student at McNally (enrolled in 30 credits)**
- **Must have a 90% attendance rate**
- **Must have 80 credits by the end of January**
- **Must have paid all fees including the grad fee**

Should a student fail/drop a course during the school year, and no longer meet criterion above, the student's name will be removed from the eligibility list.

GRAD COUNCIL NEWS

Congratulations to the following Grade 12 students who are **2009-2010 Grad Council Executive**

President – Cindy Kwok
Vice President – Larissa Lisowski
Treasurer – Kristin De Marco
Secretary – Jessica Mead

We also have over 30 Grade 12 students who make up the rest of this year's Grad Council. We meet every Friday at lunch.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, April 12 – GRAD Information Assembly (8:45 am) Students will receive information about purchasing tickets, process for getting grad gowns and caps as well as be able to ask questions.

Thursday, May 27 – Convocation – Jubilee Auditorium 6:30 to 9:00 pm

Friday, May 28 – Banquet & Dance – Shaw Convention Centre – 6:00 to 12:00 pm

Students pay a GRAD fee of \$80 which helps defray the cost of gown rental, facility rental and the photographer for both the convocation and banquet. Tickets are required for the Convocation Ceremonies held at the Jubilee Auditorium. Each graduate is eligible to pick up 4 FREE tickets for the family. (grads DO NOT NEED TICKETS FOR CONVOCATION). Additional tickets may be available after all grads have had the opportunity to claim their 4 tickets.

Tickets for the Grad Banquet and Dance all cost \$65.00. Tickets will be available for purchase online using a credit card. More information will be available at the assembly.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Mrs. Annie Foster, Assistant Principal.

SCHOOL COUNCIL Information

The 2009-2010 School Council (parent council) has been meeting monthly since Monday, September 21, 2009. Thanks to the many parents who continue to attend these meetings and information sessions. Although we have not done any fundraising we do ask families to contribute \$5.00 to assist School Council in supporting a number of worthwhile activities.

Thanks to School Council for paying for the buses that took our students to McCauley School for our Christmas Hamper Project in December. School Council serves up a Staff Appreciation Luncheon for all Staff the afternoon of Parent Teacher Interviews in April. Thanks again!

School Council offers two \$500 Scholarships for Post Secondary Education to Grade 12 students each year; these are presented at our annual Awards evening in June.

We welcome all parents to attend our next meeting on Monday, April 19 when we will be asking for volunteers to sit on our Scholarship Committee.

School Council topics this year have included:

- September 21 – Introductory & Planning Meeting
- October 19 – School Council AGM, SchoolZone information and assistance
- November 16 – Post Secondary Information Session
- Feb 8 – Presentation by the SRO Constable Mishio
- March 15 – Budget Planning
- April 19 – School Council Scholarship
- May 17 – Looking to next year.

The Learning Resources Centre

Mrs. Karen Douziech our Teacher Librarian and English Department Head, along with Mrs. Colleen Berg our Library Technician have worked hard at transforming our Library into a state-of-the-art Learning Resources Centre. Students have access to many resources as well as qualified assistance to tackle any research project or task. We also have a wealth of wonderful fiction and non-fiction resources and books for students. Mrs. Douziech and Mrs. Berg were also pivotal in the High School E-Library Initiative and work diligently to ensure that students know how to access the variety of resources available. Lots of new information and resources regarding the High School Electronic Library (E-Library) as well as all the resources available can be found on SchoolZone under the RESOURCES TAB, including the user-id and passwords for the E-library.

JUNE 2010 - Exam Schedule

Due to the changes to the Diploma Exam writing schedule made by Alberta Education in the late fall, our exam schedule published in students' agendas is not correct. **All students can now access their correct, personalized exam schedule through SchoolZone.** The overall exam schedule will be posted shortly on SchoolZone and our website.

Just a reminder – Diploma Exams CANNOT BE RESCHEDULED. Students can apply to write or re-write exams the following semester or in late August.

Students need to re-write the entire exam if they miss Part A only.

Students re-writing Diplomas must fill out a form; these are available from Student Services. The form must be signed by an Assistant Principal and accompanied by \$26.75 and mailed/delivered directly to Alberta Education in order for your marks to be released.

Monday, June 14 – AM

9:00 to 11:30 - English 30-1 & 30-2 Part A Diploma Exam

ALL Grade 10 & 11 students currently taking English (SEM 1 & full year courses) will write their PART A exam

Regular Classes in PM – DAY B

Tuesday, June 15 – AM

9:00 to 11:30 - Social Studies 30-1 & 30-2 Part A Diploma Exam

ALL Grade 10 & 11 students currently taking Social Studies (SEM 1 & full year courses) will write their PART A exam as well.

Regular Class in PM – DAY B

Wednesday, June 16--LAST DAY OF CLASSES

- Exams will run Thursday, June 17 through Tuesday, June 29.
- Missed exams & Conflict exams will occur Tuesday, June 29 ONLY.
- Semester Two & Final Report Cards will be released on SchoolZone by 4:00 pm Wednesday, June 30
- **DIPLOMA EXAM SCHEDULE** – please check SchoolZone for your child’s individual final exam schedule.

Thursday, June 17

9:00 – 11:00 – Chemistry 30

Friday, June 18

9:00 – 11:00 - Math 30 Applied AND Math 30 Pure

Monday, June 21

No Diploma Exams – BUT OTHER GRADE 10 & 11 EXAMS

Tuesday, June 22

9:00 – 11:00 – Biology 30

Wednesday, June 23

9:00 – 11:30 – English 30-1 & 30-2 – Part B

Thursday, June 24

9:00 – 11:00 – Social Studies 30-1 & 30-2 – Part B

Friday, June 25

9:00 – 11:00 – Physics 30

1:00 – 3:00 – Science 30

AWARDS – JUNE 2010

Athletic Banquet – June 9

Annual Awards Ceremony – Tuesday, June 15

On Friday, June 11, McNally is proud to host this year’s Aboriginal Grad for all students in Edmonton Public Schools with Aboriginal Heritage. Please contact Sheri Long, Assistant Principal for more information or if you are interested in being involved as a volunteer .

McNally's 2010 Bike-A-Thon event raised \$45,000!

By: Rachel Johnson, March 16, 2010



Guest Lori-Anne Muenzer, a Canadian gold medal cyclist (centre of picture dressed in black) is standing at attention while the opening ceremonies of McNally's Annual Bike-A-Thon event is being announced to begin.

Last week McNally students and staff biked to raise money for cancer research for 24 straight hours with support from organizations such as Cops for Cancer and Olympic gold medalist Lori-Anne Muenzer. This Bike-A-Thon event, where teams of 6-10 people stationary biked for this time period, was held in McNally High School's large gym from Thursday March 11 until Friday March 12.

This is the fifth year that McNally School has been a part of this fundraiser which was brought to the staff's and student union's attention. The Bike-A-Thon and other similar fundraisers have raised a grand total over the past five years of just under \$250,000 at McNally, and will continue to increase as the years go by.

All riders had made a minimum donation of \$100 to participate in this event, most coming from cancer stricken families. When asked why they were participating in this event the common

answer was to raise money for cancer research due to in some way being touched by it.

"Well my friend's dad had been diagnosed with cancer this past September, and didn't quite make it. That's why I'm riding here today." participant Braden Anderson stated. The person he was referring to unfortunately had not been able to fend the cancer off, resulting in the loss of a father, friend and husband.

Another talked about her neighbor who currently has cancer and is seeking treatment. This same participant also saw her grandparents pass away to this awful disease. "It was quite devastating when it happened, but it's also made me realize that I can make a difference by raising money for other families hoping for a miracle." stated Ally Gwartney, a grade 10 participant.

One team I visited happened to have a mattress strewn across its area with blankets, pillows, snacks and drinks scattered everywhere. Hardly coherent students were lying amongst those things attempting to stay conscious for the remaining hours.

Whether the riders were able to stay awake throughout the entire 24 hours, the fundraiser was a huge success. Although the event ended not too long ago students and staff are looking forward to next year to beat their previously set record for amount of money raised in a single fundraiser at McNally High School.

Tiger Spirit Bike-a-thon: March 11 and 12

Congratulations to all the participants and supporters of McNally's 5th Annual Tiger Spirit Bike-a-thon. This amazing 24 hour event raised over **\$45 000 for the Canadian Cancer Society**. Since 1999, through fundraising efforts including Head Shaves, Athletic Events, Grad Pancake Breakfasts and Bike-a-thons, McNally's students and their families, staff members and the community have now raised **an unbelievable total of \$242 000** for the Cancer Society's research, education and patient programs. **The 2010 Bike-a-thon has continued with McNally's tradition of "Nothing But the Best". With Tiger Spirit on our side.....cancer can be beaten!** Congratulations and THANK YOU!!!!

The Bike-a-thon Committee would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support:

- Edmonton Eskimos
- Salon on 6th
- Lori-Ann Muenzer
- Booster Juice
- Pizza Hut
- World Health Club
- Walmart
- Canadian Road Race
- Shoppers Drug Mart on Wayne Gretsky Drive
- Edmonton Police Association
- Signature Orthodontics
- City of Edmonton
- Vertically Inclined
- Pepsi
- Sobey's



McNally Curling

2009/10 was a season of ups and downs for the McNally Curling teams. The regular season is a time for learning the game and honing skills and McNally earned a winning record despite having several rookies in their line ups. They then took a month off before setting their sites on the city playdowns which began in February. The McNally Senior Boys team started strongly with a win but then lost their next two games to be eliminated. The junior team had the exact opposite result. They lost their first game and then followed it up with two wins that were highlighted by a triple take out thrown by Riley Webster to win game two. Unfortunately a 2-1 record was not enough to advance them but the fact that this team consisted of all grade 10s and 2 pure rookies, the future looks bright! Coaches Mr. Couprie and Mrs. Hampel sincerely enjoyed the year and would like to thank all the following curlers for their spirit.

Senior Mens Curling Team:

Kurtis Wong
Eddie Sauers
Chris Wong
Shawn Vickery

Junior Mens Curling Team:

Riley Webster
Kyle Sawyer
Connor Hood

Regular Season Curlers:

AJ Balash
Darcy Baudais

McNally's Tigers Badminton

The team is up and swinging. Congratulations to the following team members who were successful in tryouts and are now competing for McNally:

Kayla Taylor, Chloe Ruey, Ben Becker, Wesley Vuong, Kevin Tong, Serena Tan, Julia Mah, Helena Lee, Andree Mackay, Robert Chui, Tonny Wu, Vincent Hsie

Student Teachers Cameron Black and Kyle Jorgensen are coaching. Good luck to all players as they start their competitive season the week before Spring Break!

Counsellor's Corner

News Item – NAIT visited McNally with the following programs represented on Wednesday, March 17th from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon. All students had the opportunity to visit the displays and speak to the representatives.

1. General NAIT Information Booth

2. Business Degree (BBA) and Diploma Programs
3. Bachelor of Technology (B Tech) Degree
4. Biological Sciences Technology (Environmental, Lab & Research and Natural Resources options)
5. Geomatics (Surveying) Technology
6. Civil Engineering Technology
7. Engineering Design and Drafting Technology
8. Instrumentation Engineering Technology
9. Mechanical Engineering Technology
10. Nanotechnology (pending)
11. Chemical Engineering Technology

Post-Secondary Notes

Many of our grade 12 students have already applied or have begun the application process to post-secondary institutions. For some, this is a straight forward filling out of the forms and sending them to the appropriate institutions. For others, the process involves career searches, portfolios, possible auditions, interviews and other hurdles. Application opening times are as follows:

University of Alberta

Application deadlines are: May 1 – Engineering, Science, Arts, Agriculture - Life and Environmental Sciences, Native Studies, Faculte St. Jean

Grant MacEwan Community College

- Applications opened October 1 – students are encouraged to apply A.S.A.P.

Concordia University College of Alberta

- Apply anytime

Northern Alberta Institute of Technology

- Applications opened Oct. 15 – students encouraged to apply A.S.A.P.
- Application deadline – March 31, 2010 for oversubscribed programs.

R.A.P. and Apprenticeship information available in Student Services

Other Alberta and Canadian Post-secondary Institutions

-See Mr. Williams and do it now.

Centre High Registration: Centre High will be visiting McNally in mid-April for students wanting to complete their high school diploma or upgrade next year.

Scholarship Information

Please visit these **Edmonton Post-Secondary Institution websites** for awards information, applying on line, and program information.

www.ualberta.ca

www.nait.ca

www.macewan.ca

www.concordia.ab.ca

www.king'su.ab.ca

www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca

Are you in grade 12 and still uncertain about your future? That's OK – it's normal. See Mr. Williams for information on interest tests, vocational websites, occupational information, high school completion/upgrading and more. Find the pieces you need to solve your AFTER HIGH SCHOOL puzzle. It's time to start planning for your future.

Remember for all students:

www.careercruising.com

- in name box put mcnally
- in password box put tigers
- then go to portfolio
- type in your first name and last initial
- create your own password
- the portfolio is now yours and will be saved

Other career related websites:

www.youth.gc.ca

www.nextgen.org/

www.careercc.org/canadapropects/

www.alis.gov.ab.ca

Grade 10 and 11 Information

Student Success Services will be visiting grade 10 and 11 classes during early April to give students the information needed to make good choices in their course selection for next year. Course enrolment for 2010-2011 takes place April 15th. Remember that your courses and marks in grade 10 and 11 determine your future choices.

Study Guides and Strategies – www.studygs.net

This is the best internet site found that includes everything you need to know how to be a successful student learner. Major topics include Preparation, Learning, Studying, Classroom Preparation, Learning with Others, Online Learning & Communicating, Reading Skills, Preparing for Tests, Taking Tests, Writing Basics, Writing Types, Research, Project Management, Math, and Science and Technology.

If you have any questions or concerns that the **Student Services Office** can help you with please call the school at 469-0442.

Counsellor – Chris Williams
Administrative Assistant – Chantel Mitchell
R.A.P. & Work Experience – Senny Leong
Special Needs – Kim Marcinek

“Tell It To The Principal”

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Each year, as part of our process of setting priorities for the next school year, I welcome your perspective regarding the programs, activities and policies of McNally School. Please consider the following questions and e-mail your responses to darrel.robertson@epsb.ca . You can also print this page, write your responses on the space provided and have your child return this form to the office. Thank you!

AREAS OF STRENGTH: What programs, activities or policies at McNally School should be retained as items that contribute to a positive learning environment?

AREAS OF GROWTH: What programs, activities or policies at McNally School should be added or changed to improve our educational service to students?

GENERAL COMMENTS: (Anything on your mind.)

Please return this page to the school office as soon as possible.