



École Secondaire Hugh McRoberts Secondary

NEWSLETTER

September, 2024

Principal: Ms. Aviva Vaughan Vice-Principals: Mr. Spencer Cook & Mr. Kevin Li

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UPCOMING DATES:

Sept 3: Homeroom Day
Sept 4: First Day of Classes
Sept 6: Forms Due
Sept 10: Photo Day
Sept 11: PAC Meeting 7pm
Sept 12 & 18: Gr 12 CLC Meeting
Sept 19: Gr 12 Info Meeting 6pm
Sept 19: Gr 8 Info Meeting 6:15pm
Sept 19: Meet the Teacher 7pm
Sept 20: Pro-D Day (School Closed)
Sept 25: Collaboration Time
Sept 25: Grade 8 Day
Sept 26: Grade 8 Grouse Field Trip
Sept 27: Orange Shirt Day
Sept 27: Grad Boat Cruise
Sept 30: National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (School Closed)

Principal's Message

We'd like to welcome back all our returning McRoberts families, and a very special welcome to our new incoming students. We are looking forward to an incredible 2024-2025 school year!

At McRoberts Secondary, we believe that every student deserves to feel valued, supported and inspired. That's why we are committed to fostering an environment where inclusion, belonging, academic success and health are at the heart of everything we do. Our goal is to celebrate diversity and ensure every student has the opportunity to shine, both inside and outside the classroom. This monthly newsletter is a way of keeping you informed and engaged with all the wonderful things happening at McRoberts. Here, you will find updates on important events, past and future activities, and helpful resources so that you are informed about what happens on a daily basis at our school.

We at McRoberts believe that a strong partnership between home and school is key to our students' success, and we hope this newsletter serves as a valuable connection. Thank you for being an essential part of the McRoberts family!

Ms. Vaughan

Introducing Our New Mural

You may have noticed a new, beautiful mural enhancing the face of our school. This mural is a result of a Community Mural Application that we submitted to the City of Richmond. Our artist's name is Anais Lera, and she did an incredible job! Before creating her design, she consulted with our students, staff and our parents via our PAC to hear what McRoberts Secondary means to them. Please see her *Artist's Statement* below:

Growing by Anais Lera

During my visits at McRobert school I saw a lot of kindness and dedication.

Adults, teachers, school staff and parents play a crucial role in nurturing students' growth by providing academic support, emotional guidance, and a safe learning environment. Their dedication ensures that students develop not only intellectually but also socially and emotionally, preparing them for future success.

With this design, I wanted to present the school as a garden, an ecosystem where adults are the gardeners, diligently looking after and cultivating students to help them blossom into their full potential.

The BC native flora symbolizes the students growing and blooming, while the hands, represent school staff, teachers and parents. The variety of the native flora symbolizes the cultural diversity and inclusion. The native flora includes:

- Pacific dogwood
- White Trilium (turns dark pink when aging)
- Douglas Aster
- Trout Lily

I have chosen them for their graphic interest, their variety and colors. I took the liberty of giving a little imaginary twist to some of the flowers while respecting their identifiable silhouette.

For a complete harmonized ecosystem with vegetal, mineral and animal, I have also included very graphic crystals, and a local species of starfish (oher star) supported by a pattern of ocean undulation.





First Week of Classes

Schedule for Tuesday, September 3

9:30 – 11:30: Grade 8 Assembly & Homeroom
 12:00 – 1:00PM: Grade 9 & 10 Assembly & Homeroom
 1:30 – 2:30PM: Grade 11 & 12 Assembly & Homeroom

First Week Schedule: Wednesday – Friday

8:30 Homeroom
 8:40 – 9:50 Block A
 9:55 – 11:15 Block B
 11:15 – 11:30 Break
 11:30 – 12:50 Block C
 12:50 – 1:35 Lunch
 1:40 – 3:00 Block D

NOTE: NO PLT for the first week.
 PLT begins the week of September 9 – 13.

Regular Bell Schedule

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
September 4 – January 24	January 29 – June 20
Rotation One: Sept. 4 - Nov. 8	Rotation One: Jan. 29 – Apr. 17
Rotation Two: Nov. 12 - Jan. 24	Rotation Two: Apr. 22 - June 20

ROTATION ONE

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
8:30-9:50 A	8:30-9:50 A	8:30-10:10 PLT	8:30-10:10 PLT	8:30-9:50 A
9:55-11:15 B	9:55-11:15 B	10:20-12:15 A	10:20-12:15 D	9:55-11:15 B
11:30-12:50 C	11:30-12:50 C	12:15-1:00 Lunch	12:15-1:00 Lunch	11:30-12:50 C
12:50-1:35 Lunch	12:50-1:35 Lunch	1:05-3:00 B	1:05-3:00 C	12:50-1:35 Lunch
1:40-3:00 D	1:40-3:00 D			1:40-3:00 D

Personal Learning Time & Collaboration Time

McRoberts is entering into the fourth year with Personal Learning Time (PLT) in our timetable structure. Personalized Learning Time (PLT) is an opportunity for students to work either independently or with staff support. Below are some of the principles of PLT.

- All students are encouraged to attend PLT.
- Teachers will be available for 100 minutes per week to support PLT.
- Teachers can make PLT mandatory for students who require extra support or time to meet their learning needs.
- Staff PLT/Prep time will be balanced so that half of all teachers are always available to support students on each day. Teacher availability is posted in each classroom.
- The District Policy on *Acceptable Use of Student Personal Digital Devices* is in effect during PLT.

More on PLT can be found in the **Personal Learning Time Section** of our website (under the "Information" top tab). [Click here](#) for the information that is shared with students and families on our website.

On 8 days this year, all McRoberts staff will engage in Collaboration Time in lieu of PLT. On these days staff collaborates on various planning and activities to improve learning experiences for our students. While teachers are not available for one-on-one assistance with students during Collaboration Time, students are welcome to work independently or with peers in the school. Collaboration Time occurs on: September 25, October 24, November 13, January 16, February 19, March 13, April 30 and May 22.

Attendance

Attendance is crucial to learning. That includes being on time for school, and attending classes regularly unless ill. The final bell for the start of classes is 8:30am. We encourage students to arrive well enough ahead of time so that they can get items as needed from their lockers, and get to class.

If students arrive late before 8:45am, they are to go directly to class and sign in late with their teacher. After 8:45am, students need to sign in at the office. *Regular lates or unexcused absences will be dealt with by the teacher and, if needed, by the administration.*

If a student will be absent, parents are asked to call the Early Warning Line at 604-668-6600 Ext 1.

Any student needing an early dismissal must either bring a note to the office or have a parent call in to the school. ***All students must sign out from the office with a note or phone call before leaving for an early dismissal.***

Please note that there is ongoing construction on Gilbert Rd, No. 2 Road and upcoming construction on Garden City.

Parents and students are reminded to leave extra time to arrive to school if their regular route to school is affected by known construction areas.

If you cannot attend school on the first day, September 3rd, please fill out a “Notice of Late Return” form, which can be found on our school website. ***We are unable to reserve a spot for any student not returning on or before September 15th.*** ***Students arriving after this date may need to be placed at another school when they return.***

Driving and Parking Reminders

We encourage our students to walk or bike to school if they can. If parents are dropping off or picking up students, we kindly remind you to observe parking signs at the front of our school. There are designated “no stopping” areas at the front of the school for safety and to limit congestion.

Students who bike to school should use a secure lock such as a U-Lock to lock their bikes to the racks at the front or the back of the school, to avoid bike theft.

Students who are parking at the school are reminded to park on the west end of the parking lot. New drivers are also reminded to observe “N” license driving laws.

Visitors

Visitors such as parents and legal guardians must enter through the main entrance and are reminded to sign in at the office. To request an appointment please call the office at 604-668-6600.

School Fees

All families should have set up an account for KEV Cash Online. Once you have an account, parents will be notified via email of upcoming fees. If you don’t already have an account, be sure to set it up today so that you are aware of upcoming fees. Instructions for setting up Cash Online were emailed to families in our Welcome email last week, can be found on our website.

Families who need support financially with fees or supplies should contact Ms. Vaughan. We treat all requests with dignity and respect.

PAC

Our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meets on the second Wednesday of the month. All parents are encouraged to join. This is a great way for parents to get involved in the school, learn more about how the school runs and what our students are learning, as well as supports that are in place for parents and families. **Please join us at our first PAC meeting on Wednesday, September 11 in the library.**

Meet the Teacher

You will have the opportunity to meet your child’s teacher on Meet the Teacher Night, Thursday, September 19th. More information including times and locations will be emailed to you closer to the time. That evening is also a special Information Night for our grade 8 and grade 12 parents.

Schedule:

6:00pm	Grade 12 Parent Information Night
6:15pm	Grade 8 Parent Presentation
7:00pm	Meet the Teacher

Get Involved!

We encourage all our students to get involved this year! We have TONS of clubs to join, and if students can’t find a club they enjoy, they are encouraged to find a teacher sponsor to start their own club. We will host a Clubs Day in September where students can get a taste of what they can join. We ask all our grade 8s to have a minimum of 5 hours of school involvement.

The 2024 -2025 Athletics season also gets underway this month! Students – listen to the announcements for try-out days and times, and check notices by the PE office for more information. If you have questions, please see our new Athletic Director, Mr. Haigh.

New Acceptable Use of Personal Digital Devices Policy

In alignment with the Ministry of Education and Child Care’s mandate to all school boards in British Columbia to update their Codes of Conduct to include restrictions on students’ personal digital device use, the Richmond Board of Education has updated our District Code of Conduct and established new guidelines on the acceptable use of personal digital devices. These changes are designed to promote online safety and ensure a focused learning environment for all students.

The **Acceptable Use of Student Personal Digital Devices Policy 104-G (A)**, and updated **District Code of Conduct Policy 105** are now in effect at all SD38 schools. Please read the following excerpts to familiarize yourself and your child with the new expectations. The full policies can be found on our website.

From “Policy 104-G (A) Acceptable Use of Student Personal Digital Devices”:

Use of student personal digital devices for instructional purposes and digital literacy at school, including during hours of instruction

- Secondary School (Grades 8 to 12)
 - Students should not use Personal Digital Devices during instructional time, unless permission is granted by the supervising staff for educational purposes.
 - When not permitted, personal digital devices should be powered off, secured inside a student’s backpack, locker or secured location.
 - Personal digital devices are not to be used in areas where privacy is expected or required.
 - Access to social media platforms from personal digital devices may be restricted on the school wireless network during instructional time.

The district does not assume responsibility for the safety, security, loss, repair or replacement of any personal digital devices. The security and storage of personal digital devices is the sole responsibility of the student/user.

Accessibility and Accommodation Needs:

Personal digital devices may be used to support students with disabilities or diverse abilities as outlined in a student’s support plan or Individual Education Plan.

Thank you in advance for helping support the implementation of these very important policies.

Stay Connected!

Please stay connected and informed. Much of our communication happens via email, so please make sure we have updated email information, and check your email regularly for school updates. Please also check our website <https://mcroberts.sd38.bc.ca/> on a weekly basis, and read the *Strikers Weekly* for important information about the week ahead. You can also follow us on [Instagram](#) at [hugh_mcroberts](#).

We look forward to a wonderful 2024-2025 school year!

Learning Together Achieving Our Dreams

McRoberts Mission Statement

McRoberts is a bilingual school where staff, students, and parents learn together in an environment of trust, support, and mutual respect. Our purpose is to enable all learners to develop their potential, prepare for the future, and achieve their dreams.