



École Secondaire Hugh McRoberts Secondary

NEWSLETTER

January, 2025

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

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UPCOMING DATES:

Jan 6: First Day Back to School
 Jan 7 – 14: Grad Photos
 By Appointment
 Jan 8: DAG Meeting
 Jan 8: PAC Meeting
 Jan 15: LTF & GNA 10
 Jan 16: GNA 10
 Jan 20 – 23: Grade 7 Visits
 Jan 23: Grade 7 Parent Night
 Jan 24: Last Day of Semester 1
 Jan 27: Pro-D Day, School Closed
 Jan 28: Semester Turn Around Day
 No Classes
 Jan 29: First Day of Semester 2
 Jan 30: Parent Program Planning
 Night
 Jan 31: Grad Group Photos
 By Appointment
 Feb 5: Grade 12 CLC Meeting PLT
 Feb 5: Grade 10 Program Planning
 Teams Meeting PLT
 Feb 6: Grade 11 Program Planning
 Teams Meeting PLT
 Feb 6: S1 Final Report Published
 Feb 6: S2 Meet the Teacher Night

Principal's Message

Happy New Year to all our McRoberts families! I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well rested.

2024 was a year of growth and learning for our school community. Together we celebrated achievements, overcame challenges, and worked to build a strong and inclusive environment where every student feels valued and supported. We finished the year with a busy December that included events to bring our school and local community together, including events with our elementary family of schools, our Grade 8s and Mentors, and of course our annual holiday breakfast.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back from holidays as we usher in 2025. January is one of my favourite times of the year, as is it a time for a fresh start. It's a wonderful time to reflect on the past year and look ahead with a renewed focus and goals for the year ahead. This month we'll be finishing up Semester 1, and preparing for the start of Semester 2. We will also be looking forward to the next school year as we begin program planning later this month.

Here at McRoberts, we are looking forward to new opportunities to learn, grow, and connect as a community in 2025. Thank you for being such an integral part of our school's success.

Ms. Vaughan

December in Review

Grade 8 Mentors

In December our Student Mentors and Grade 8s met for another round of engaging activities and discussions. These included a focus on Core Competency goals, with Mentors offering guidance on setting and achieving personal objectives. They also explored "What would you do if?" scenarios centered on social responsibility.

To spread holiday cheer, Mentors personally invited grade 8s to our Winter Holiday Breakfast. Each Grade 8 student also received a Candygram from their Mentor.

We are excited to continue building these connections between our Mentors and Grade 8s in the new year!



McRoberts – Grade 7 Connections in the LLC

In December, our Library Learning Commons welcomed our senior French Immersion students and our young FI students from our Elementary Family of Schools for holiday stories in French, arts and crafts, and hot chocolate. Our McRoberts FI students had a great time connecting with and welcoming our future McRoberts FI students this holiday season!



At-Risk Interims

Students who are at risk of not passing any of their classes were issued an At-Risk Interim by email on December 12th. These students are encouraged to make use of PLT in January, to catch up with missed work and to get extra one-on-one help from their teachers. Parents are encouraged to reach out directly to teachers by email if they have any questions on how to best support their children for the remainder of Semester 1.

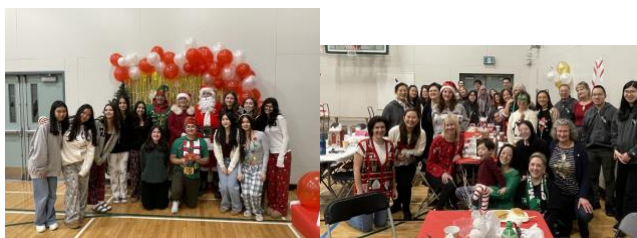
Winter Concert

On December 12th we enjoyed an incredible concert led by our talented Mr. Naso. Holiday tunes were shared by our Grade 8 Concert Band, our Grade 9-12 Concert Band, our Grade 9 – 12 Jazz Band and our incredible choir. Thank you to all the families who came out to support this amazing evening.



Holiday Breakfast

Our Grade 12 Human Services students organized an incredible Holiday Breakfast on the last day before break. Delicious pancakes, hot chocolate and cookies were served. We were also entertained by our very own students and staff with songs and dance. Thank you to Mr. Li and our Grade 12 HS students for creating a morning of holiday memories!



Looking Forward: January, 2025

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 for our January meeting, on Wednesday, January 8th at 7pm in the library.**

DRY AFTER GRAD (DAG)

What is Dry After Grad? DAG is a special all-night event crafted to provide our graduating class with a safe and inclusive environment, free from the influences of drugs or alcohol. The goal is to create lasting memories through a mix of engaging activities, games, and delicious food for our graduates. This event happens right after the Grad Dinner Dance and lasts until 5:00am the next day.

Are you interested in helping with Dry After Grad? Or learning about the process? The Dry After Grad Parent Committee is holding their next meeting on Wednesday, **January 8th at 6pm**, just before the PAC meeting. All parents are invited, regardless of what grade your student is in. Please join us in the McRoberts library to learn more about what is involved in organizing this important grad event.

PROGRAM PLANNING

We will begin the program planning process for the 2025-2026 school year this month.

January 23: Grade 7 Parent Information Night
January 30: Grade 8 – 12 Parent Information Night
February 5: Grade 10 Student Meeting PLT on Teams
February 6: Grade 11 Student Meeting PLT on Teams
February 12: Grade 9 Student Meeting PLT on Teams
February 13: Grade 8 Student Meeting PLT on Teams

For more information, see our website:

<https://mcroberts.sd38.bc.ca/news/2024/12/program-planning-2025-2026>

GRAD ASSESSMENTS

The Ministry of Education requires students to successfully complete three graduation assessments between grade 10 and grade 12: A Numeracy Assessment and two Literacy assessments, one in Grade 10 and a second in

The Ministry of Education requires students to successfully complete three graduation assessments between grade 10 and grade 12: A Numeracy Assessment and two Literacy assessments, one in Grade 10 and a second in Grade 12. Our French Immersion students also need to complete a written and oral assessment in their Grade 12 year. The graduation assessments are not tied to specific courses or grade levels nor do students earn 'credits' toward graduation by completing the assessments. They are, however, required components of the Graduation Program.

Our Grade 10 students will be writing the Grad Numeracy Assessment (GNA) on January 15 & 16. Our Grade 12 French Immersion students will be taking their LTF on January 15th. More information will be provided to students, including their scheduled writing date and time via email.

Parents and students can find more details including practice assessment on the Ministry's website under 'Provincial Assessments' at: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

SAFETY DRILLS

The safety of our students and staff is a priority. To ensure we are ready case of an emergency, whether it be an earthquake, lockdown, or other emergency, we practice every year to ensure we are ready in case of any emergency. In December we practiced drills for Hold & Secure and Shelter-In Place. This month we will practice a Drop/Cover/Hold-On drill.

SEMESTER TURNAROUND

The last day of Semester 1 is on January 24th. January 28th is our Semester Turn-Around Day, when classes will not be in session. Students are encouraged to make use of Personal Learning Time (PLT) in January to catch up on work and to get assistance from their teachers before semester-end. Semester 1 Report Cards will be published on MyEd on February 6th. Semester 2 begins on January 29th. Meet the Teacher Night for Semester 2 is on February 6th.

NUMERACY / LITERACY

This year, the Richmond School District is supporting a Literacy/Numeracy Mentorship position at every secondary school. Mme. Mainville is our Literacy/Numeracy leader and has been hard at work determining how best to support literacy and numeracy with our students. Based on the data collected from students and staff, we have two main school goals. For literacy, we are working on the following questions: How do we create opportunities for students to grow their comprehension skills in order to read/understand more complex texts? How do we build resiliency to get there? Our numeracy goal is based on the question: How do we create more confidence in staff including numeracy development in their subject area?

GRAD EVENTS & DEADLINES

GRAD WINTER FORMAL: February 13th. Ticket sales are closed.

GRAD PHOTOS: Grads can sign up now for their Grad Photos and Friendship Photos with Artona at: www.artona.com
Grad Photos take place from January 7 – 14, 2025 by appointment only in a mobile studio in the McRoberts parking lot. Friendship/Group Photos take place on January 31, also by appointment.

VALEDICTORY FEES: Valedictory fees are on sale now on cash online. See your email for more details sent out last month,

For any questions or concerns about Grad Events, please contact Ms. Vaughan.

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](https://www.instagram.com/hugh_mcroberts).

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.