



Queen Mary Elementary School

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February 13th, 2019 (Newsletter #6)

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We live, work and learn on the traditional and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Coast Salish people. Queen Mary Elementary School wishes to acknowledge the history of our community and neighbourhood.

February at QM!

February marks the midpoint of the school year and includes many holidays, events and activities that confirm the value and importance of relationships within our Queen Mary community. Lunar New Year, Student-Led Conferences, Valentine’s Day, Family Day and Pink Shirt Day bring students, staff and families together. Throughout the month, students will be sharing stories, having discussions and participating in lessons on learning, growth mindset, perseverance, friendship, kindness, family, inclusion, communication, acceptance and more! As a school, we’ll be creating a “Kindness Is ...” wall where staff, students and families will have an opportunity to share their ideas about kindness - what it looks like, feels like and sounds like!



Winter Weather in Vancouver

We hope that everyone has been able to stay safe, dry and warm during our rainy days, recent snowfall and colder, winter temperatures! On days when school is in session, please ensure that your child comes to school dressed for the weather – unless the weather is absolutely terrible, students typically go outside for recess and lunch! We also continue to encourage families to “Walk Whatever the Weather” - especially on days when the hills on 4th Ave and Trimble Street are slippery and dangerous for driving! For those who drive to school, please always consider parking 2-3 blocks away and walking to Queen Mary. Doing so relieves traffic congestion, helps the environment and builds strong, healthy bodies!

During extreme weather, Queen Mary shares up-to-date information through emails from the school and PAC as well as on our school and PAC websites. Additionally, updates can usually be found at www.vsb.bc.ca or via the following radio/tv stations:

- CKNW (980 AM)
- CBC (690 AM, 105.7 FM)
- CJVB (1470 AM)
- CFHG (96.1 FM)
- CKWX (1130 AM)
- BCTV/Global (Cable channel 11)
- CITY TV (Cable channel 13)



VSB Proposed School Calendars 2019-20; 2020-21; 2021-22

The VSB’s proposed school calendar for the next 3 school years has been posted on the VSB website. The VSB works closely with our neighbouring districts to ensure alignment of dates as much as possible. The proposed calendar can be found here:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Calendars/Pages/School-Year-Calendar.aspx>

The calendar includes proposed dates for Winter and Spring Breaks for 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 - as well as proposed dates for Non-Instructional/Professional Days for the 2019-20 school year. Parents can provide feedback by emailing calendar@vsb.bc.ca. Feedback will be received until February 15th, and will be taken into consideration when the calendar is finalized. We anticipate that the final school calendar will be approved by the Board and published by early March.

Important Upcoming Dates

- Feb. 13 Early Dismissal (2:00pm) for Conferences
- Feb. 15 Professional Development Day – School not in Session
- Feb. 18 Family Day – School not in Session
- Feb. 19 PAC Meeting (9:00am)
- Feb. 27 Pink Shirt Day (assembly time TBD)
- Feb. 28 Drumming Workshops with Milton Randall
- Mar. 5 Fire Drill (time TBD)
- Mar. 6 Early Dismissal (2:00pm) for Conferences
- Mar. 7 9:15am Ready Set Learn
- Mar. 12 PAC Meeting (7:00pm)
- Mar. 15 Last day before Spring Break
- Apr. 1 First day back after Spring Break



Last Chance for an IXL Membership!

Register by Monday February 18th (through School Cash Online)!



In the Fall, families were offered the opportunity to purchase student access to a supplementary online Math program called IXL (<https://www.IXL.com>).

Because QM families are accessing an account through Queen Mary's license, we are able to offer a subscription for \$10.00/child. This is a fantastic deal as IXL typically costs individuals \$156.00/child! Our school's license lasts until next November and allows students to practice their math skills throughout the remainder of this school year, during the Summer months and well into next Fall! Amazing!

IXL is a comprehensive learning program offering unlimited math practice problems in thousands of skills. One great thing about IXL is that your child can access it from home and you can see your child's progress! In addition to making practice exciting, IXL is designed to help your child learn at their own pace. The program is adaptive and will adjust based on your child's demonstrated understanding of the material. All of your child's results will be saved, so you can monitor their progress anytime by clicking on the *Analytics* tab at the top of the page. For on-the-go practice, you can download IXL's free tablet apps for iPad, Android, or Kindle and sign in with your child's username and password.

This is a supplementary and optional resource to compliment math skills learned in the classroom.

If you wish for your child to access IXL, the cost is \$10 per student for a membership that is valid until November, 2019 (payments are available on School Cash Online). The payment deadline is Tuesday February 19th. Please notify the school once you have registered for IXL and we will provide you with a login and password.

Choir at Queen Mary

Choir will be offered weekly to approximately 30 interested Grade 3, 4 and/or 5 students starting on Monday February 25th at lunch. The first 3 lunch time choir sessions will be Drop-In sessions to gauge student interest and allow students to experience choir at Queen Mary! After Spring Break, choir will be offered more formally to 30 Grade 3, 4 and/or 5 students who register and pay a \$20.00 choir fee. The fee will cover the cost of 8 Monday, lunch time choir sessions led by Musician and QM parent, Maria Koebsch. We are looking forward to having a choir at Queen Mary! Should there be considerable interest and enthusiasm, we may consider expanding the offer to other grades and more students!



Lunchtime Recitals

Starting on Thursday February 28th, Queen Mary will be hosting monthly lunch hour music recitals. The recitals will be an opportunity for up to 10 students to informally share a musical piece or song that they've been working on or mastering at home! A week in advance, students will be asked to sign up for a performance time slot. On the day of the recital, students will come prepared with their music and instrument(s)! Thank you to our QM PAC for organizing and sponsoring our lunchtime recitals! Students who are interested in participating or attending should listen for announcements on how to sign up and when and where to attend!



Queen Mary's Code of Conduct

We respect everyone's learning by respecting ourselves, others and our surroundings.



Queen Mary's Mission Statement

Our mission is to build a respectful community of lifelong learners. We work towards becoming caring, accomplished and cooperative citizens. We aim to provide an enriched environment in which children are encouraged to think, question, create and wonder.