

Chief Maquinna Elementary Newsletter

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/chief-maquinna/Pages/default.aspx>

February 2024

Land Acknowledgement

"With deep gratitude and respect, (we/I) (are/am) honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)."

"Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction."

Martin Luther King Jr. on Education

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

January went by so quickly and we are now into February! We are preparing for a very busy February this month with Black History Month, Lunar New Year, Pink Shirt Day and Student Led conferences. We are working on themes of kindness, diversity, equity and inclusion throughout the school. Please take a moment to read through the newsletter, especially the calendar dates and check your email boxes often for further updates. Thank you!

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards,

Ms. Joyce Chong

This newsletter has updates and important school information. Please check your email (and junk/spam folder) daily for further updates through the month.

UPDATED LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

As you can see in the above banner, the Vancouver School Board has updated the Land Acknowledgement used in all VSB schools and District. The work was done with the 3 Host Nations through the Indigenous Education Team at VSB. This update provides consistent oral and written delivery of this important territory acknowledgement. The land acknowledgement is part of Maquinna's daily announcements, meetings and assemblies and is important as it provides relational information, speaks the truth of historical and ongoing processes of colonialism and the need for systemic changes of this ongoing problem.

KINDNESS AND "HANDS TO SELF":

We are finding some incidents where Maquinna students are not being kind to friends or to other students with mean words and actions, such as pushing, hitting, swearing (bad language) and getting carried away during physical games or jokes. Please help us at school with a chat with your child(ren) about their actions at school and our Code of Conduct: Respect Yourself, Respect Others and Respect this Place. We will continue learning about kindness and what it looks like during the month of February and beyond. Thank you.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION CELL PHONE USE CHANGES:

Update: Provincial government announced restrictions on cell phones in schools for September 2024.

On Friday, January 26, the provincial government announced measures to improve student safety online. This included information about restricting cell phones in schools to be put in place by the next school year.

Currently, in the VSB, several measures are in place to guide appropriate use of cell phones and other devices. These including the [District Student Code of Conduct](#) and [Acceptable Use of Technology](#) administrative procedures. Staff will work with the Ministry of Education and Child Care to ensure that any necessary changes are implemented ahead of September 2024. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Learn more about the provincial government's [announcement](#).

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES NEXT WEEK: FEBRUARY 6TH AND 7TH

By now you should have received an invitation to a Student-Led conference with your child's teacher on February 6th or 7th. If not, please contact them for a link to book one. Please bring your child to the conference as they will be showing you their learning. These days are also EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS at 2:00 pm. Please ensure your child is picked up by 2:00 pm as classroom teachers will be starting their conferences promptly.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR AT MAQUINNA LIBRARY- FEBRUARY 5TH TO 9TH

The Maquinna PAC is sponsoring a Scholastic Book Fair from February 5th to 9th in the library. It is an opportunity to purchase books and other stationary items as a fundraiser for PAC. The hours are:

Monday, Thursday and Friday 3:00 - 3:45 PM

Tuesday and Wednesday 2:00 - 5:00 PM

If you would like to volunteer at the bookfair, please contact Judy Stoyko at jdystoyko@gmail.com.

GRADE 6/7 BASKETBALL TEAM:

The Grade 6/7 Basketball Team have been having regular practices to develop skills and have just started their games. Games are on Wednesday after schools for the month of February either at home or away. Please join us to cheer them on. A special thank you to Mr. Sabbagha for coaching and sponsoring the team.

PICKLEBALL:

Students enjoyed their pickleball sessions last week as part of the Physical Health Education curriculum. Students from K-7 enjoyed learning about the fastest growing sport in North America. A thank you to Ms. Van and Mr. Sabbagha for making the arrangements.

FLU SEASON INFORMATION:

Tips to help prevent the spread of respiratory illness this season: - Get all recommended vaccines, including influenza & COVID-19 booster vaccine doses. - Stay at home/keep your child at home if they do not feel well and have symptoms - Wear a mask in indoor public spaces if you have symptoms. - Cough/sneeze in your elbow. - Clean your hands regularly & avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, mouth and nose. Thank you for helping to prevent the spread of illnesses.

SAFETY MATTERS! NO U TURNS ON EAST 3rd PLEASE!

Please review with your child good "Road Sense" and model safe pedestrian practices for them. Our student Safety Patrollers are working at the corner of 3rd and Slocan. Please follow their directions; cross at the corners, NO U-TURNS ON EAST 3rd please, don't stop in coned-off areas; and don't enter or back into the staff parking lot. Please abide by the traffic signs (No PARKING) around the school. Thank you.

VSB

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2024:

February 6th and 7th - Student Led Conferences - **2:00 pm dismissal on both days.**

February 9th - Lunar New Year Assembly and Lion Dance 1:45 pm. All Welcome

February 14 – Valentine’s Day Dance 1:30 in the gym – all welcome

February 16 – Professional Day for Staff – No school for students.

February 19 – Family Day – Statuary holiday – No school

February 22 – PAC meeting at Maquinna Library (or online) from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. All welcome

February 23 – Pink Shirt Day Assembly 9:05 – all welcome (Please wear something Pink on this day to support anti-bullying). The actual Pink Shirt day is February 28th and you are welcome to wear pink as well.

Please join us for Friday Assemblies usually held every Friday at approximately 9:05 a.m. You are welcome to enter through the Green GO door in the undercover area or the front door on East 2nd. Parent/Family seating is at the back of the gym on the right.

VSB NEEDS MORE EDUCATION ASSISTANTS (SSA/SSW):

Burnaby Education Assistant Program information

This program is accepting applications for the next EA cohort. The program is 6 months in duration and includes 2 practicums.

<http://www.burnabyce.ca/courses/education-assistant-diploma/>

A message from PAC

RETURN-IT PAC ACCOUNT:

Just a reminder to drop off your recyclables to Return-It marked with the Schools phone number (604-713-4705) as the money from the recyclables will be directed back to Maquinna PAC and students. Thank you!



PAC Meeting:

The next PAC meeting will on February 22, 2024 from 6:00-7:00 m. It will be a hybrid meeting with those who can come in-person to the Maquinna Library and a digital meeting (on Zoom) for those who aren't able to be in the building. Babysitting is provided. All are welcome. The Zoom Link will be sent out via email closer to the time.

Any guardian can attend the meetings, and it is okay to just listen in. We always have an update from the principal about how things are going at school, we decide on how to spend fundraised dollars to support the student's educational needs, and we sometimes talk about policies to bring forward to other parent advisory councils to improve the student experience. It is a great way to meet other families and to be connected with what's happening at Maquinna. Please consider joining and taking a position on the Parent Advisory Committee.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Maquinna School PAC

VSB