

Chief Maquinna Elementary Newsletter

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

(check out our school website for additional information)

October 2025

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

"The future of the world is in my classroom today" ~Ivan Welton Fitzwater

Thank you to everyone who were able to attend the Meet the Teacher and PAC pizza fundraiser dinner evening on Wednesday, September 24th. It was great to see so many new members at the PAC meeting! I encourage you to be involved with the Maquinna PAC in any capacity: by attending meetings, volunteering a few hours for hot lunch or participating in a fundraiser. You will have another opportunity to meet your child's teacher at the goal setting conferences scheduled for October 8th and 9th. An email invitation to book a time has been sent out. We encourage all families to sign up for an in-person goal-setting conference with your child and the classroom teacher.

Best regards,

Ms. Joyce Chong

This newsletter has some updates as well as important school information. Please check your email (and junk/spam folder) daily for newsletters, updates and notices from the school/district.

EARLY DISMISSAL AT 2:00 PM ON OCTOBER 8th AND 9th – GOAL SETTING CONFERENCES

Students will be dismissed at 2:00 pm on Wed. October 8th (Wed) and 9th (Thurs). Please ensure they are picked up promptly at 2:00 pm. An email through TEAMS Bookings was sent to you to book your appt with your child's classroom teacher. If you are unable to attend on the 8th or 9th, please arrange another time with your child's classroom teacher.

Mrs. Kwok is inviting families to visit the library before or after their goal setting conferences on October 9th from 2:00 to 6:30 pm. Come in and read a book together or take out books.

Online opportunity for Families: Keeping Students safe on October 7th:

The VSB has booked a **parent engagement** opportunity with the **White Hatter**.

<https://www.thewhitehatter.ca/>

The VSB is proud to present: **Raising AI Ready Youth: Safety, Privacy, Ethics, and Success Plans**. Date: Tuesday, October 7th. Time: 6 PM – 7:30 PM

This is a FREE live virtual presentation and open to all VSB parents. Parents will need to sign up with their email and the School(s) their child(ren) attend. We will send them the video conference link and pass code closer to the day.

On the day and time of the presentation, all a participant needs to do is click on this link, enter the password and they will be allowed access to the SLIDO platform where we will be hosting our live event. It is strongly recommended that parents' bookmark/save the link and password that you will send them, and sign into the event **10 minutes prior** to the scheduled event going live, as we will be starting promptly at the designated time.

***** Please DO NOT distribute this link and password outside or your family on request by The White Hatter*****

Here is the registration link: <https://forms.office.com/r/MT6JHL2YCK>

KEEPING KIDS SAFE ONLINE PRESENTATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

On Monday, September 22, Tatanya Davies from PLEA delivered an informative session for families titled **Keeping Kids Safe Online**. The presentation focused on digital literacy and protecting children from online exploitation.

Key Topics Covered:

- Types of online child exploitation and related statistics
- Risks associated with popular apps: *Instagram, Snapchat, Roblox, and Discord*
- Concerns around AI-generated images from shared family photos
- How to talk to children about online safety

Practical Tips for Families:

- Keep devices in shared spaces
- Use strong parental controls
- Maintain ongoing conversations with your child
- Ask "What if?" questions to build awareness
- Teach children how to respond to threats: report, screenshot, don't engage
- Reassure them of your support and that it's never too late to ask for help

Helpful Resources:

- [Cybertip.ca](https://www.cybertip.ca)
- [Common Sense Media](https://www.commonsensemedia.org)
- [Thorn for Parents](https://www.thornforparents.com)
- [MediaSmarts \(Canadian content\)](https://www.media-smarts.ca)

FREE ADHD WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES:

Free ADHD online sessions for parents and caregivers with Dr. Duncan, hosted by Kelty Mental Health & FamilySmart. October 7, 21 & 28, 2025 Details & registration:

<https://keltymentalhealth.ca/event/2025/10/adhd-real-deal>.

WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS AFTER 20 CONSECUTIVE SCHOOL DAY ABSENCES:

Please note that the Vancouver School District has an Administrative Procedure if families take their child out of school for more than 20 consecutive days during the school year (not for illness) [ap 300 admission to school.9be67c14473.pdf](#)

Section 9 of AP300 states:

9. Rules Respecting Withdrawal of Students After 20 Consecutive School Day Absences:

9.1 Students who have never attended by the end of the first week of school in September will be withdrawn, unless a prior arrangement has been made with the school Principal.

9.2 School Principals have the authority to withdraw any student who is absent for more than 20 consecutive school days (exception is illness)

9.3 When determining whether or not to withdraw a student who has been absent for more than 20 consecutive school days Principals may take the following factors into consideration:

- Family circumstances
- Availability of space for waitlisted catchment students at full schools
- Other relevant factors (illness)

9.4 Withdrawn students do not have continuing status at their former school.

9.5 Once withdrawn, an enrolment application to their catchment school is required for students who wish to be re-admitted.

9.6 If a space is not available at the time of application, the student will be placed on a waitlist for their catchment school and placed at another school within the District

AGENDAS (Code of Conduct and AUP)

All Grade 4- 7 students have received their new agendas/planners (and some Grade 3s). Please take a moment to go through the Maquinna Code of Conduct in the agenda with your child and sign the acknowledgement. We also ask that you review with your child, the AUP for their grade level at:

https://aup.vsb.bc.ca/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/SitePages/Home.aspx

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND OTHER FEES/FORMS REMINDER:

A reminder to families to please pay the school fees that were sent home in September. We encourage you to use the SchoolCashOnline to pay fees. If you are unable to use the online system, please talk to the classroom teacher to make other arrangements such as cash or cheque to the school. As there is no longer a Student and Family affordability Fund, the School Budget will be used for any waived or delinquent fees.

Please complete the package of forms that were sent home and return them to school as soon as possible. They include address, verification, emergency reunification, AUP, Neighbourhood walk forms, Social media consent forms and CASL forms etc.). Please review these carefully and return them to the school so our information is up to date. If you completed the forms online, please let the classroom teacher know. If you have any questions, please reach out to the office. Thank you!

TERRY FOX FUN ON OCTOBER 3RD

The Terry Fox run was held on October 3rd after morning assembly. We had fun at the Terry Fox Run. Students are asked to safely ask for pledges/donations to help us achieve our goal of \$2000. Donations are open until next Friday. Thank you for supporting! <https://schools.terryfox.ca/100490>

MESSAGE FROM MS. KWOK IN THE LIBRARY:

Hello families! I'm Maquinna's Teacher-Librarian, Ms. Dora Kwok. We have gotten off to a great start this September: several classes are already working on cooperative units with me, and all the classes have started their book exchanges.

Your child will have the opportunity to exchange their library books once a week. Reading is one of the most enjoyable and simple ways your child can improve their learning, so I hope you and your child will enjoy the books together, whether it's reading together or even just a quick chat about what they read and what they thought about the book.

I put together a help sheet (attached to this email) with some useful instructions on using VSB Library, our online catalogue. It has many great functions and resources (e.g. you can see which books your child has checked out, read e-books and listen to audiobooks). All the details and instructions you need are on the help sheet.

I have begun to open the library before and after school for students and their families to come in to read, do homework, or exchange their books. Please drop in on Thursday or Fridays.

HOMEWORK CLUB TO BEGIN ON OCT 20TH – GRADES 4-7 WELCOME!

Homework club will begin on October 20th and is open to Grades 4-7 students. Your child is welcome to drop in and stay until 4:00 pm so they can complete homework such as: reviewing for a test, working on a project, daily reading, practicing math facts, or reviewing a concept that has been challenging. Homework days will be on Monday, Wednesdays and Thursdays this year. Van Tech students tutors and staff will be on hand to help on Mondays and Wednesdays and Frog Hollow staff on Thursdays. We encourage students and families to take advantage of this free tutoring service. If there is no homework, please do not send your child as staff are unable to provide extra work or childcare.

FSA INFORMATION: (FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT)

After the Bell: Live! episode highlighting the development, purpose, and benefits of the FSAs now available to listen and/or view. [After the Bell: Live! \(ep. 38\) Discussing the Foundation Skills Assessment](#)

MAQUINNA CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

Ms. Plant have been running practices for Cross Country since September. The practices are on Monday afterschool until 4:00 and at 8:00 a.m. on Friday mornings. The mini meets at Clinton Park are usually held on Thursday afternoons afterschool. The District Meet is on Oct 21st at Trout Lake. Students have been enjoying their runs! Thank you Ms. Plant for sponsoring the Cross Country Team.

MAQUINNA SOCCER TEAM

Mr. Sabbagha has been holding soccer practices and games for the Grade 6/7s the past few weeks. They have hosted games in our soccer field. Come and cheer them on every Wednesday. Thank you, Mr. Sabbagha!

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PHOTOS – MOUNTAIN WEST MESSAGE:

Exciting news! Your online gallery from your school photo session is now live!

- Please visit this link to access the gallery: <https://vando.imagequix.com/K9L3W9Z>
- Your webcode to access your images was provided on photo day.
- Any active email address can be used to login.
- **Your order deadline is: October 9 2025**
- All orders will be shipped to the school. ***If you miss the deadline, your order will be shipped with your school's Catch Up Photo Day orders at no extra cost, however this will take 3-5 weeks.***

Missing your login code? No problem!

1. Visit <https://www.mountainwest.ca/support-for-families>
2. Enter the information required.
3. Your code will be emailed within 1 business day.

Catch Up Photo Day:

- Did you miss the first photo day or are needing a retake? Retakes are offered for expression, poor posture, or head tilt; not for personal style changes (ie: change of clothing or hair). Please note all glass glare is removed on final prints.
- If you would like your photo taken, we will be at your school on: **October 17 2025**
- [Click Here](#) to sign up. The cutoff to sign up is **October 15 2025**

[Click Here](#) to find out more about ordering.

Phone: 1.888.644.4494

Email: help@mountainwest.ca

SAFE ARRIVAL:

Reminder: please call the Safe Arrival Line for absences, late arrivals, appointments, and early pick-ups. Thank you for letting the office know at (604) 713-4705, select 1 for Safe Arrivals or email the office at maqsafearrival@vsb.bc.ca. Please be aware that most teachers check their emails at recess, lunch and afterschool may not receive them during the day. Please call the office to leave important messages for staff or students. If the Safe Arrival message center is not working, please email your child's absence or early pick up at: maqsafearrival@vsb.bc.ca

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 8th and 9th – Early dismissal (2:00 pm) for Goal setting conferences with your child's teacher.

Please make plans to pick up your child(ren) at 2:00 pm as teachers will begin their conferences promptly.

October 13th – Thanksgiving – No School

October 17th – Photo re-take day

October 24th – Professional Day – no school for students

October 31st – Halloween Dance Party (pm)

November 10th – Remembrance Day Assembly

November 11th – Remembrance Day – School is closed

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.

A message from PAC

PAC Meeting Update

Thank you to all the families who joined us for our first PAC meeting of the year. It was wonderful to see such a strong turnout! We hope to see you at our next PAC meeting — everyone is welcome! At this meeting, we will be voting on the budget and discussing fundraising and engagement opportunities for the year.



Date: Monday, October 20 **Time:** 6pm - 7:30pm

Location: Library - babysitting provided. If you are unable to attend in person, you can join via [Zoom](#).

Hot Lunch Program

In addition to our popular pizza Fridays, we're excited to introduce a new option this year. Starting this month, we'll be offering Luvin' Bites hot lunches on Mondays and Wednesdays. Ordering details and instructions will be shared with families shortly. Here is a flyer link with more information:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1iezrwCMr0kCMAgvng5liN6l_KYx1YUpF5DltTnrhs-l/edit?usp=drivesdk

HELP WANTED: Maquinna PAC needs volunteers for Pizza days on Friday mornings throughout the months of October to December. Please email the PAC at maquinna.school.pac@gmail.com if you have some time to volunteer.

Stay Connected!

Join our [Facebook](#) group and stay informed on the latest updates.

Return-It Fundraiser – year round fundraiser, return your recyclables and donate the money to Maquinna PAC:

Please use this link on how to set up an account : <https://www.return-it.ca/app/donation-details>

Thanks, everyone!

Cheers,

Winnie

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