Queen Alexandra F.A.M.I.L.Y. School

A Fine Arts Multicultural Integrated Learning for Youth School

December 7th, 2020 (Newsletter #4)

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| **Director of Instruction** | **Principal** | **Trustee** | **Parent Advisory Council** |
| Ms. Alison Ogden | Mr. J. MacCormack | Ms. Estrelita Gonzalez | QueenAlexPAC @gmail.com |
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**Acknowledgement**

We live, work and learn on the traditional and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Coast Salish

people. Queen Alexandra F.A.M.I.L.Y. School wishes to acknowledge the history of our community and neighbourhood.

Hello and Happy December to All of You:

It has been said that many people look forward to the New Year so they can get a fresh start on old habits; but as I reflect on 2020, I am reminded of what an incredibly long and unstable year it has been. I’ve watched each season come and go from my kitchen window and much of what I called normal has been discarded. 2020 is once in a generation year and I, like you, will be happy to bid it farewell as I look forward to a fresh start.

I want to thank our dedicated, tireless, amazing, caring QA staff. Every tricky situation Covid and the pandemic thrust in their paths was handled with expert precision as they rose to meet the challenges head on. Their skills at calming and reducing the levels of anxiety and stress around the school and in our community were, and are, clearly on display. They work hard and are passionate about what they do. Thank you, QA Staff.

Last, but not least, I want to wish the best to everyone in our QA Community, and whether you’re an optimist who stays up till midnight to ring in the New Year or a pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves, enjoy yourselves. Wishing you holiday cheer and a Happy New Year.

Regards,



J MacCormack

Principal

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| **New Trustee**  We have a new trustee, Estrellita Gonzalez, appointed to our school. You can contact her using the email above and follow her on social media.  Social Media accounts are:  @estiemgonzalez  @Estrellita4Schools  staff and parents can learn more about her at this link: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/District/Board-of-Education/Trustees/Pages/Estrellita-Gonzalez.aspx> | | **No Class Photos**  Individual and class photos continue to be on hold. We will update you as the PHO guidelines change.  **WINTER HOLIDAYS**  The last day of school before the holidays is Friday, December 18th, 2020. Students will be dismissed at their regular dismissal time of 3:00 PM.  Winter holidays are from Monday, December 21st until Friday, January 1st, 2021. School reopens on Monday, January 4th, 2021. |
| **SNOW CLOSURE**  If schools are closed due to weather conditions, the Vancouver School Board will contact the following radio and television stations to make an announcement by 6 am. Please do not call the stations directly:   * CKNW (980 AM) * CKWX (NEWS 1130 AM) * FAIRCHILD RADIO * CJVB AM 1470 * CBC RAIDO (690 AM, 105.7 FM) * BCTV/ GLOBAL (CABLE CHANNEL 11) * CITY TV (CABLE CHANNEL 13) | | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Pitching In**  Please help us keep our school clean by using the garbage, compost and recycling bins. Every little effort helps our school and the environment. | **AIRS**  We will be running the Artist in Residence program this year…with a bit of a twist.  Some sessions will be virtual and some will be in person…but only outside. There is to be no in person sessions in the school.  Cole Pauls is returning, and another artist named Tim Bauer will be joining the QA Team. | | | |
| **Sincerest**  The generosity and kindness people, businesses, schools, organizations and programs have extended to our QA community is remarkable. Thank you to the many who have contributed and given to our school, especially during the Holiday season. These include:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | * The Vancouver District Labour Council * St. Philip’s School * Marsham International * Patrick Hatch * The Peterson Group * Soroptomist International * Parq Vancouver * Pam & Tracey of Fill the Gaps * Vancouver Sun Adopt-School-Program * St. George’s School | * Queen Mary Elementary School * Anonymous Donors including the Queen Alex Alumni * Soul Pepper Digital * City Reach * United Way * Stratford Hall School * The David McKinlay memorial donors * Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services * Crofton House |   These kind donors have supported our school community with books, toys and games; Holiday Hampers; Gift Cards and so much more. | | |
| **COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING**  Vancouver public schools, along with schools throughout British Columbia, have moved from a model of ‘reporting to parents’ on a regular and pre-determined schedule to ‘communicating student learning with parents’ on an on-going basis throughout the school year.  This year all teachers at QA are using this Communicating Student Learning (CSL) approach. Parents will receive five communications from teachers within a school year 2 of which will be:  • a written progress report at the end of January  • a written summative report at the end of June  The written reports will include descriptive comments and a summary of student progress in relation to the learning standards from the BC Curriculum. In addition, there will be a minimum of three ongoing communications of student learning in various subject areas. Two of these communications have already occurred | | |
| **Some ideas for keeping active when there seems to be nothing else to do!**  1. Go to the track and run track races.  2. Go for a bike ride around Trout Lake.  3. Pack a picnic lunch and eat it at Trout Lake or China Creek on a sunny day.  4. Go for a long walk at Pacific Spirit Park and see if you can find something for each colour of the rainbow.  5. Create a Rube Goldberg machine at home – how intricate can you make it?  6. Jump rope, skateboard, scooter, puddle jump in your own neighbourhood. |  | |
| **Kindergarten Registration**  K Registration began on Nov 1. If your child is born in 2016, you can register them online. (see website below) All families must first register their child in their English catchment elementary school. This includes those whose preference is a choice program (French Immersion, Montessori, etc.) and or a cross boundary placement.  When registering your child, please have the following documents:  Proof of residence in Vancouver  Child’s birth certificate  Immigration documents (if needed)  Immunization records  If your child was born outside of Cananda, you are required to report to the VSB District Reception and Placement Centre (DRPC) and complete an application there.  See website below for info:  [**https://www.vsb.bc.ca/School/School-Registration/Kindergarten\_Registration/Pages/default.aspx**](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/School/School-Registration/Kindergarten_Registration/Pages/default.aspx) | | |
| **Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Update**    The PAC meets once a month on ZOOM on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. Please feel free to join if you are free.  The next PAC meeting is December 15. See the email at the top of this newsletter to connect with the PAC Executive. | | |

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| **Covid-19 Safety**  Please refer to the email sent in November for reminders concerning the safety protocols and practices all QA students and staff are being asked to follow:  • Maximize physical distancing.  See the source image• Minimize physical contact.  • Practice frequent and proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.  • Wear masks as appropriate and required.  • Conscientiously complete the daily self-health check prior to arriving at school.  When announcing the Public Health Orders on Nov 19th, Dr Henry specifically indicated that parents socializing with each other outside schools at student drop off and pick up is not permitted under the current orders and is the type of social contact we need to curtail at this time. While the orders do not apply to schools, please help us support and model the orders and keep 2 m away from others and avoid gathering before and after school. We are all in this together and this is for now, not forever! Thank you!  Families are also reminded that access to the school continues to be limited at this time. All adults wishing to access the school, including parents accompanying late students, please call 604-713-4599 and our office staff will assist you. |
| See the source image**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  Unfortunately, due to current Phase 2 restrictions, this event will not be taking place this year. |
| **BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL SUPERVISION**  See the source imageA reminder that students are supervised by staff before school from **8:40AM until 9:00AM** and from **3:00PM to 3:20PM** in the afternoon. Children should not arrive before 8:40AM or leave after 3:20PM unless they are part of the after-school care or an organized/supervised activity, otherwise, they will be unsupervised outside. |
| **Important Upcoming Dates**     * Dec 10 – School Lock Down Drill * Dec 15 – PAC Meeting @ 7:00 (ZOOM) * Dec 18 – Last Day of School Before Winter Holiday * Dec 18 – Pajama Day * Jan 4 – First day back! |