

Chief Maquinna Elementary Newsletter

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

March 2022

We live, work and learn on the traditional lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples. We wish to acknowledge the history of our neighborhood and community as we have all benefited from the richness of their teachings.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Spring is just around the corner! The sunshine has been very welcome, despite the cold temperatures. With the lifting of some of the Covid restrictions, there have been some updates to school protocols, and we have resumed some of our practices from the Fall. We will move slowly, to ensure that all are feeling safe and are comfortable. Please read below for some of the changes.

This newsletter has some updates as well as important school information. Please check your email (and spam folder) daily for updates and notices from the school or district. Thank you.

Ms. Joyce Chong

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AND INFORMATION:

School Ventilation Improvements

From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic the District has prioritized the health and safety of students, staff and families. Several layers of protection were implemented in all schools, in compliance with public health guidelines, including the requirement for daily self-health checks, increased hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning, and the wearing of masks. The District also undertook several large initiatives to enhance and improve ventilation at all schools and to upgrade faucets and install additional sinks in schools. All mechanical ventilation systems were adjusted to run for longer and to maximize the intake of outdoor air into classrooms. In addition, the District upgraded systems with MERV-13 filters which provide for greater air filtration.

Information on school ventilation systems was posted to the District website in November of 2021 and was recently updated to reflect ongoing improvements. School by school information can be found at: https://www.vsb.bc.ca/COVID-19/Ventilation/Documents/VSB_Ventilation_System_Overview_Feb2022.pdf

The Ministry of Education and VCH have updated Covid-10 protocols within schools and we have been able to resume some school activities such as Hot lunch, limited capacity assemblies and performances, sports events, and local field trips.

RAPID TEST KIT PICK-UP UPDATE:

The Ministry of Education has asked schools to distribute one rapid Test kit package (5 tests inside) to each student. Many were distributed on February 25th. **If you have not yet picked up your child's Rapid Test kit and would like one, please contact the office to arrange a time for pick up. If you cannot come to the school and would like your child (Gr 4-7 only) to pick it up, please email or send a written note which gives permission for your child to bring the test kit home.**

Please ensure that the tests are stored away from children and pets and that they are disposed of properly when used.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work together to keep everyone safe.

An updated version of the Districts Communicable Disease Prevention plan can be found here:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/COVID-19/updates/Pages/Important.aspx>

Thank you to all students and families for:

- Completing the Daily Health Check every morning at [VSB Daily Health Check](#)
**Please help us by having your child stay home at the first hint of illness/symptoms.
We will be sending any students who are ill home, without exception.**
- Wearing masks indoors (K-7)
- Washing hands throughout the day and spreading out in the space available
- Following the school procedures and guidelines set by the BCCDC

VISITORS

With the Covid-19 updates, we are able to have non-VSB guests in the schools by appointment only. The building is open to staff and students as usual but please call for an appointment if needed (604)713-4705. Thank-you.

BIG THANK YOU TO MAQUINNA PAC!

The students and staff at Maquinna would like to thank the PAC for their fundraising efforts and for generously funding some new sports equipment for PE as well as the butterfly program for our Kindergarten students. Thank you!

2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

The Vancouver School District is already making plans for the 2022/23 school year. It would greatly help with our school organization, if you could inform the office or classroom teacher if your child will not be attending Maquinna School next year. This information will be kept confidential. Thank you for your help.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 3 – **Pick up at school of PAC Frozen Foods fundraiser from Neufeld Farms** at approximately 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm on the blacktop area by the staff parking lot. If you cannot make this time, please arrange for your order to be picked up by someone else. Unfortunately, the school does not have freezer storage for unclaimed items. Thank you for supporting the Maquinna PAC which supports all Maquinna students.

March 4 – VPD Pedestrian Safety Talks for K-5 students 9:15 – 10:00 – learning to walk to school and cross streets safely. (This is an approved joint program by VPD and VSB as approved by Board of Trustees and pertains to student safety).

March 14 – First day of Spring Break – schools are closed.

March 28th – Schools re-open after Spring Break and students return to school

March 30th – Maquinna PAC meeting at 6:00 pm on ZOOM.

A message from PAC

Hello Maquinna Community,

Please join us at our PAC meetings at 6:00pm on the third Wednesday of every month (note exception for December). Any guardian can attend the meetings, and it is okay to just listen in without your video camera on. 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.

For March, because of Spring Break, the PAC meeting will be on Wednesday, March 30th at 6:00 pm.

Link to register is here at the Maquinna PAC website

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

