



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

A Fine Arts Multicultural Integrated Learning for Youth School

September 11th, 2017 (Newsletter #1)

Director of Instruction

Mr. A. Davis

604 713 4448

Principal

Ms. M. Davies

604 713 4599

Official Trustee

Ms. D. Turner

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Parent Advisory Council

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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.

Welcome Back!

We're so happy to see you! Welcome, especially, to our new students, families and staff! Please let us know how we can help you settle in!

Many QA staff spent time throughout the summer, particularly throughout the month of August, preparing for the 2017-2018 school year. Thank you, especially, to our building engineers Brian Kumar and Jay Prasad who did a fantastic job throughout July and August cleaning classrooms and common areas – our building looks amazing! Thank you also to KidSafe who provided fantastic programming and care for many of QA's students.

We are ready for a great year!



Important Upcoming Dates

- Sept. 13 First full day of Kindergarten
- Sept. 14 QA Potluck and Social (6:00pm – 7:00pm lunchroom)
- Sept. 18 Terry Fox Assembly
- Sept. 19 PAC Meeting (6:00pm dinner 6:30pm meeting)
- Sept. 21 Protein for the People VLDC Event on our QA field
- Sept. 22 Professional Day – School not in session
- Sept. 25-28 Scholastic Book Fair
- Sept. 26 Individual Student Photos
- Sept. 27 2:00pm Dismissal for Goal Setting Conferences
- Sept. 28 2:00pm Dismissal for Goal Setting Conferences
- Sept. 28 Terry Fox Run
- Sept. 29 Orange Shirt Day

Please see the QA website for additional 2017-18 Important dates.

School Fees & Forms

This week, several forms are being sent home. Please keep them stapled and in the order that they are delivered.

Completion and return of the forms is very important as they allow Queen Alexandra staff to protect your child's safety and well-being. Please read them carefully, fill them out and return them to the classroom teacher by September 22nd, 2017.



THANK YOU!

Medical Conditions

1. Please ensure that the school is informed of any medical condition that may require emergency care at school ie: anaphylaxis, diabetes, seizures, severe asthma and serious heart conditions.

2. A "Medical Administration" form, completed by a physician, is required for any medication being dispensed by a school staff member. Copies of these forms are available in the office.

3. Parents choosing to keep medication such as an epi-pen or inhaler in the First Aid Room at school are responsible for checking expiry dates and providing new supplies as needed.



New Staff!

Please welcome the following staff members to our Queen Alexandra family:

- Michelle Cieslik – Grade 1/2
- Hugh Egerton – Student Support Worker (returning)
- Kimberly Griffiths – Student Support Worker
- Richard Harewicz – Youth and Family Worker (returning)
- Aliya Khan – Student Support Worker (returning)
- Naomi Kidd – Student Support Worker
- Richard Miller – Student Support Worker
- Nazima Parmar – Community Support YFW
- Karen Tang – Grade 2/3 and Resource
- Kathy Wong – After School Programmer
- Stephanie Wu – Neighbourhood Assistant



We are currently in the process of hiring a Resource Teacher (to cover Ms. Young's mat leave) and a Grade 2/3 teacher. We hope to fill these positions as soon as possible! An article about the VSB's current hiring frenzy can be found here:

<http://www.vsb.bc.ca/district-news/hiring-frenzy-recruit-teachers-start-school-year>

Congratulations, thank you and best wishes to Ms. Robinson who accepted a position with the Delta School District over the summer. We are so grateful for the dedication, passion, teaching excellence, generosity, kindness and care that she always shared with our entire school community – students, caregivers, visitors and staff. Ms. Robinson will be missed!

Vancouver School Board Safe Arrival and Absence Protocols Reporting Student Absences (A New District-wide Process)

Student safety is of paramount importance at the Vancouver School District. Ensuring student safety is a shared responsibility. In order to assist schools, we ask parents to notify schools of student absences. If your child will be absent from school, please report this absence as early as possible. **Parents should leave a message on a dedicated VSB answering service by calling 604 713 5159. Queen Alexandra's 2 digit code is 64.** Messages will be received before the office is open. School offices are busy places: consistently notifying the school in advance of your child's absence will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Safe Arrival Morning Routine.

To Report Your Child's Absence – Please Call 604 713 5159 (2 digit code – 64) prior to 9 am on the first day of the absence.



(If you have difficulty with this number/the code, please call Queen Alexandra to report the absence! 604 713 4599)

District-Wide Student Sign Out Procedure

When you pick up your child during the school day, please ensure that you sign them out at the school office. If you do not sign out your child, they will be unaccounted for, and the school will identify your child as a 'missing' student and will commence a search of school grounds. If the school staff do not locate the child, and are unable to reach a parent promptly, the school will call the Vancouver Police Department. Therefore, clear communication is essential for ensuring the safety of your child and to prevent unnecessary searches.



Thank you for your assistance and support in implementing these essential protocols and for helping us to keep your children safe!

Pot Luck and Social! Thursday Sept. 14th

Please join us on Thursday September 14th for our annual Queen Alexandra F.A.M.I.L.Y. Pot Luck! The event runs from 6:00pm-7:00pm in the lunchroom and is an opportunity to meet and visit with some of our QA families and staff.

The school will be contributing pizza. Families are encouraged to contribute a favourite dish. See you in the lunchroom at 6:00pm!



SUPPORT AT QA

At Queen Alexandra, families are very well supported by the VSB and several other individual private donors and larger organizations. The Vancouver District Labour Council funds our Wishing Tree Store (located beside the library) where families can go to pick up basic non-perishable food items and toiletries. Our Fill the Gaps volunteer program provides the school with snacks for students and bi-weekly dinner packs for families (funded by The Vancouver Sun Adopt a School Program and private donors). Backpack Buddies provides the school with 60-75 bags of nutritious, easy to prepare groceries for kids to take home 2 Fridays each month. Cause We Care funds our fantastic After School Programs (which will be starting in October). Our sister school, Queen Mary Elementary, also looks for ways to support us – they've sponsored guest speakers, donated PJs, and hope to support our Holiday Hampers. Please contact the school if we can help you in any way – we will try our best!

Bell Schedule	
Welcome Bell	8:55am
Homeroom	9:00am
Recess	10:50am – 11:10am
Lunch	12:10pm – 12:57pm
Dismissal	3:00pm

Contact
1300 East Broadway Vancouver BC V5N 1V6 Phone 604 713 4599 Fax: 604 713 4679

Through commitment to cooperation and hard work, the students, parents and staff of Queen Alexandra work together so that all students can succeed academically and socially in an emotionally nurturing environment. We care for ourselves, others, our school and our community.

<http://queenalexandra.vsb.bc.ca>

