



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

A Fine Arts Multicultural Integrated Learning for Youth School

December 4th, 2017 (Newsletter #3)

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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.

Winter Concert on Thursday Dec. 7th

We hope that you can join us on Thursday December 7th for our Winter Concert. Students are to be in their classrooms at 5:30pm. The concert begins at 6:00pm!

The concert will include fantastic singing, acting, dancing and music by the band!

PAC will be selling raffle tickets and 50-50 tickets. Proceeds will go to student programming at Queen Alexandra.

See you on Thursday!



Important Upcoming Dates

- Dec. 7 6:00pm Winter Concert (students arrive at 5:30pm)
- Dec. 8 Interim Reports go home
- Dec. 12 6:30pm PAC meeting (6:00pm dinner)
- Dec. 14 QA to the Gladstone Secondary Winter Dance Show
- Dec. 18 Primary Students to Grouse Mountain
- Dec. 20 Pancake Breakfast (8:30am)
- Dec. 22 Intermediate Students to Cypress Mountain

Generosity for Queen Alexandra

In December, Queen Alexandra students and families often receive generous support from many people and organizations. This year, many families will receive a Holiday Hamper. Also, students will be treated to gifts, fieldtrips to Grouse Mountain (Kindergarten-Grade 3) and Cypress Mountain (Grades 4-7), a Pancake Breakfast and more. We are very grateful to the following sponsors and donors: Anonymous donors including Queen Alexandra Alumni, Pam & Tracy of Fill the Gaps, the Vancouver District Labour Council, The Peterson Group, Queen Mary Elementary, St. George's School, Soroptomist International, St. Philip's Church, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP and The Vancouver Sun Adopt-a-School program.



Pancake Breakfast

Queen Alexandra will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Wednesday, December 20th at 8:30am. Students and their families will be treated to pancakes, sausages, fruit salad and juice! Volunteers from The Peterson Group will be joining us to help prepare and serve breakfast! Students from Van Tech Secondary will be at Queen Alex to entertain us with holiday hits. Santa may even drop by for a visit! We hope you can join us!



Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for children born in 2013 began on November 1st and closes at 4:00pm on Wednesday January 31st. Students who submit an application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants. All Kindergarten applicants are required to submit an application to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for choice programs (French Immersion, Montessori, etc.) and/or a cross boundary placement. In the event there are more in-catchment applicants than the school can accommodate the following process will be used to prioritize enrolment:

Kindergarten Applications Received Between November 1st and January 31st

1. In-catchment Kindergarten applicants with siblings in attendance at the school (and who will be attending next year) will be placed first.
2. The names of all other in-catchment registrants will be entered into a **random draw** for the remaining Kindergarten spaces.
3. Students who cannot be accommodated will be placed on a waitlist in the order in which their name was drawn.
4. Between January 31st and the second Friday in June students on the ordered waitlist will be accommodated as space becomes available.

Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 31st

In-catchment Kindergarten students who apply **after** January 31st will be accommodated if there is space. If there is no space their names will be added to the bottom of the existing waitlist. **Note: There will be no priority given to registrants with siblings if they register after January 31st.**

When registering your child please bring: Proof of residence in Vancouver, the child's birth certificate, immigration documentation (if applicable) and immunization records.

If you wish to apply for a Choice program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for Choice programs and cross boundary placements will be accepted in early 2018. **For more information please visit:** <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten>

Queen Alexandra and VSB's Communicating Student Learning Pilot Project

This year, QA families will notice changes in the ways that we report on student learning! Along with many other schools in the VSB, our school is piloting a new reporting format. There are three significant changes to our reporting for 2017-2018.

1. A shift to primarily focussing on formative assessment.

These changes in communicating with parents are part of the redesigned BC Curriculum. Based on current assessment research, ongoing personal feedback, embedded in daily instruction, and examples of student work are more critical to supporting student learning than simply reporting on student results.

2. Four required communications with parents within a school year including one written Progress Report at the end of January and one written Summative Report at the end of June. While all communication about student learning will address student strengths, challenges and plans for future learning/supports, written reports in January and June will specifically:

- reference the learning standards (curricular competencies and content)
- include authentic evidence of learning
- provide descriptive feedback
- include student voice
- include all the curricular areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies (and others as necessary)
- indicate where the child is in relation to age/grade expectations
- describe the child's contributions to the classroom, school and community, how the child interacts with others, the child's ability to be personally aware and socially responsible, and the child's ability to engage in critical and creative thinking

3. Student Self-Assessment of the Core Competencies accompanies the written summative report in June.

Please note that letter grades will not appear on any progress reports. They will be provided to parents upon request.

Interim Reports

On Friday Dec. 8th, students will be bringing home an Interim Report that specifically highlights progress in Language Arts (Reading and Writing) and Math. Detail may also be included about a child's ability to understand and demonstrate Social Responsibility and Work Habits. While letter grades will not be included, teachers will indicate how a child is progressing in relation to grade specific core and curricular competencies. Please contact your child's classroom teacher with any questions regarding your child's learning and/or how you can support your child's learning at home!



Winter Field Trips

Queen Alexandra is extremely fortunate to have a very caring and generous donor who is giving each student a fun experience on one of our local mountains! On Dec. 18th, our Primary students are going to Grouse Mountain to enjoy the Peak of Vancouver Winter Wonderland including crafts, stories, reindeer, skating, a light tunnel, gingerbread village and more! On Dec. 22nd, our Intermediate students are going to Cypress mountain to enjoy the tube park and build structures in the snow. Please ensure that your child is dressed warmly for their day in the snow – contact the school by Dec. 12th if you need support with snow pants, a warm jacket, boots, gloves/mittens, and/or a hat. We are so lucky to have such a generous donor! Thank you for supporting QA!



Farwell and Welcome

While we are sad to say farewell to the following staff, we are very grateful for the time, care and hard work they dedicated to our Queen Alexandra family. We wish them well on their new adventures! Stephanie Wu has been our temporary Neighbourhood Assistant for the last 3 months and Atsuko Ishihara is commencing maternity leave.

Welcome to Emily Brothman our new Neighbourhood Assistant and welcome back to Justin Reist who recently completed his teaching degree at SFU and will be with us in the role of Primary Resource Teacher.



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>

