

Dear QEA families,

Here is to a successful first full week of school! We had a good first day back and the staff and I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the students face-to-face. There were many smiles and happy faces (even under the masks).

A big thank you for your help with so many things: the daily health assessments, reading the mass of information that was sent out the past couple of weeks, for getting students to school prepared for the day and for helping us with the many protocols and routines that came with this September Start.

We will be sending out the September packages (forms, forms, forms) soon and we ask that you complete them in a timely manner. The School Fee Schedule is also attached, and you will receive more information regarding your specific division soon. With the nature of the school year, we ask that all payments be made through School Cash, the district's online program.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we get started this year. We know that, at times, it may get a little bumpy, but we hope to work together to solve any issues that will arise. Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Upcoming

Friday, Sept 25th is a Professional Development day for teachers, School is not in session

Friday, Sept 30th – Orange Shirt Day

Daily Health Assessment

Vancouver Coastal Health has provided us with a new Daily Health Check. You will have noticed that the list of symptoms is smaller. The actions to follow when symptoms show has also changed. **Please familiarize yourselves with the new protocols.**

Orange Shirt Day

September 30th has been declared Orange Shirt Day, in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and well-being, and as an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters.

The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for indigenous and non-indigenous people, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. So wear your best orange shirt or something orange and shine!

Food Information

- Food will be eaten in class under teacher's supervision.
- Until further notice, there will not be a Hot Lunch fundraiser
- As there are children in the school with severe allergies, please keep lunches and snacks nut free.
- Please pack lunches that do not need reheating and include cutlery.
- Please label all bags and ensure your child has a water bottle.
- No drop-off of lunch or snacks accepted. Student should bring it with them.

School Cash Online

The Vancouver School Board uses School Cash Online as its preferred method of payment for all school fees, including field trips. This secure system helps parents pay school-related fees safely, quickly and easily online. The system puts all of the school fees available to your student online for purchase, keeping you informed of your child's activities. We will post items through the system and assign the relevant fees to your student. You can then purchase these fees online with one of three different methods, including credit cards.

The system strictly adheres to Canada's privacy and anti-spam legislation and meets the latest industry standards for payment security. To register, please visit <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com>. You will need to provide your child's usual first name, last name and birth date. **In-Person Instruction and Health and Safety**

As in June, teachers will continue to:

- Encourage frequent hand washing.
- Maximize physical distancing.
- Minimize physical contact.
- Ensure additional cleaning measures are in place.

Hand Hygiene and Masks

- Students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival each day, throughout the day and before leaving.

- Masks are a personal choice for students from Kindergarten to Grade 5.

Parent support is important and much appreciated with the following:

- Only VSB staff is allowed in school building.
- Please ensure your child/children will come to school on time. Too early and late are problematic.
- Before and after school playing on school grounds is discouraged to keep our learning cohorts safe (2 metre rule applies here).
- Families can make appointment with the office (VP) on essential school matters only, please.

Daily Health Assessment Reminder

Each family should have received the Daily Health Assessment Guide. Your completed form needs to be submitted to the teacher. Extra forms are available.

Please complete the Daily Health Assessment with your child every morning before sending to school. Please keep

your child home if they have symptoms and follow the procedures on the guide.

Enjoy your weekend, everyone,

Mark Cormack

VP Queen Elizabeth Annex