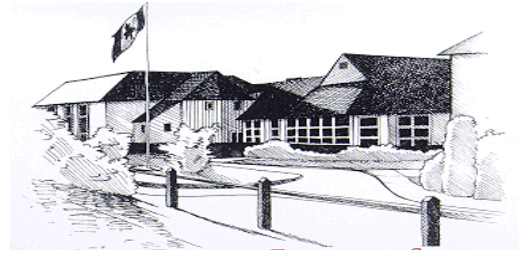


Queen Elizabeth Elementary



4102 W. 16th Avenue * Vancouver, BC * V6R 3E3 * Ph: 604-713-5408

School Website: <https://queenelizabeth.vsb.bc.ca> Twitter: #qevsb39 Email: StudentRecordsQE@vsb.bc.ca

Trustee:	Mr. Oliver Hanson	Director of Instruction:	Mr. Richard Zerbe
Principal:	Mrs. Susie C. Car	PAC Co-Chairs:	Ms. Claire McClean/Ms. Domina Edwards

NEWSLETTER #1 – September 17, 2021

Dear Queen Elizabeth families and friends:

I sent home a short memo last Friday, but this is our first 'official' newsletter of the school year. Again, a big WELCOME BACK! We hope you and your children had a fun-filled summer and are eager and ready to start the new school year. I would like to extend a special welcome to our new students and their families – we are happy to have you join our QE community. We look forward to beginning our new school year and working with our families!

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff members to QE: Ms Bryden MacDonald – Grade 6, Ms Lisa Schwarz – ELSP Class, Ms Lisa Loo – SLP, Ms Rachel Howard – School Psychologist & Mr. Daniel McFaul who is here covering our new grade 5/6 class.

Thank you for everyone's patience during the first few days as the district added a new division to our school due to new registrations. This is great news but required staff to meet and reorganize this year's classes.

As we begin the school year, I would like to reassure our families that the District's four guiding principles remain priorities:

- Health and Safety – adherence of PHO and District Health and Safety guidelines
- Communication – frequently to staff and families during start up, consultation with stakeholder groups
- Connection – Social emotional learning (SEL) emphasis
- Continuity of Learning – Implementation of the full curriculum, SEL and Health and Safety Protocols are encouraged and taught

These continue to be the guiding principles as students' return to school with health and safety being a top priority and communication being key.

A reminder that students must bring their snack and lunch to school with them. We are trying to discourage lunch drop offs if they can be avoided. Reminder that all students will be eating in their classrooms with their teachers. At the 12:28 bell, all students will go outside until 1:00 pm.

Students will be outside rain or shine during breaks. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. We also ask that each child has a change of clothing and rain gear at school, including rain boots.

Please ensure all your child's belongings are clearly labelled including their water bottles, containers, and lunch bags/boxes.

Thank you for your help with keeping our school safe for our students and staff!

Regards,

Susie C. Car
Principal

URGENT: Please ensure you are obeying all signs if you are dropping off or picking up children.

Congestion and unsafe practices continue to be on-going concerns – please do not block intersections, drop off your children in the middle of the street, pull U-turns or leave your vehicle in unsafe areas causing children to weave between parked cars. If you need to drive your child, please be aware that smaller children often cannot be seen as they move between parked vehicles. Obey the signage along Camosun St. Please do not drive into the staff parking lot. Whenever possible, park a few blocks away and walk your child to school.

Safety Alert: Please do not walk through the staff parking lot when you are dropping off or picking up your children.

Code of Conduct



Queen Elizabeth's Code of Conduct is designed to promote cooperation among students, encourage respect for others, and safety when at school. It emphasizes: Cooperation, Courtesy, Care: for Self, for Others and for the Environment. A copy of our Code of Conduct is posted on the school website. All teachers will be reviewing the same Code in classes this week and throughout the year. For students who use agendas, the first few pages include our Code of Conduct. Please review it with your child and sign the agreement page and return the page to your child's teacher.

Verification Forms and Student Packages

September is a time when schools require a substantial amount of paperwork from families. Today your child will be coming home with some of these forms and more the following week. It is most important that you review these forms very carefully and ensure that information is correct and up to date. Please ensure that you have supplied the required contact numbers so that we can reach you in the event of an emergency. Please go over these forms this weekend and return **the signed and completed** forms to your child's teacher on **Monday, September 20th**.



School Cash Online

The Vancouver School Board uses School Cash Online as the method of payment for all school fees, agendas, workbooks, etc. This secure system helps parents/guardians and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily online.



If you have not already done so, please take time to register now. This is a simple process that takes only a few minutes by visiting <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com>. You will need your child's usual first name, last name and birth date to register. More information will be sent home next week regarding SCO and how to register. Should you encounter any difficulties, you can use the parent help desk at **1(866) 961-1803** or use the **support option on the front page**.



The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP)

FARP coverage is provided by Industrial Alliance and is a voluntary plan which offers coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan is ideal for not covered by provincial health insurance or existing supplementing costs employer extended health and dental plans.

Families can register online to participate in the Plan: <https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>



Allergy Alert

QE School is allergy-aware! Please **DO NOT** send food containing nuts or peanut products to school with your child. We have some students with severe allergies to these foods. We cannot guarantee a nut-free environment. If your child does have an allergy, please help them to ensure their own safety by not sharing food with others at school.

Student Medical Alerts



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

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

Bell Schedule

8:55am - warning bell
9:00am - school starts
11:00am - 11:30am - recess
12:28pm - 1:00pm lunch
3:00pm - dismissal

Safe arrival

If your child is going to be absent, please leave a message on a dedicated answering service by calling 604-713-5159 extension 66# **before 9:00am**. 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. If your child arrives late, they **MUST** check in at the office first and get a late slip before going to their classroom.



To Report Your Child's Absence – Please call 604-713-5159 extension 66# prior to 9:00am on the first day of the absence.

Supervision

Student safety is our primary concern. We ask parents to please have students arrive as close to the bell as possible for both drop off and pick up. This will avoid congestion and gathering on the school grounds.



Morning supervision is from 8:40-8:55 am and afternoon supervision is from 3:00-3:20 pm. Please do not drop your child off earlier than 8:40 am and arrive on time for pick up. Children must not arrive unsupervised prior to 8:45 am. Please note, there is no supervision prior to the above times. Classes have designated doors to enter and exit the school. Children know where to line up to wait for their teachers to pick them up every morning after the 8:55 bell.

Please ensure your child is picked up promptly at 3:00 pm. Do not linger on the grounds. Again, these are different times. Let's work together to keep all our children, families and staff safe.

Bikes, Scooters, Skateboards

We know that many students are coming to school by bicycle, scooter, skateboard, etc. We are thrilled that students are choosing a healthy and environmentally friendly method of transportation, but we are sending a friendly reminder asking students to "**walk their wheels**" on the school grounds between 8:40 am and 3:20 pm. Please make sure your child wears a helmet when riding to school. For safety reasons, we do not permit bikes, scooters etc. to be ridden in the school or on the grounds. We respectfully ask everyone in our school community to follow these guidelines for safety reasons. **RIDE SAFE!**



Cellphones

We know that it is more and more common for many of the older students to carry **cell phones** so that they can communicate with family before and after school. Our school policy is that students are not permitted to use their cell phones during school time (including during recess and lunch) without permission from a staff member. This is for safety reasons, and we ask all students to follow the same expectations. If a student ever needs to phone home during the day for an important reason, they may ask to use the office phone. However, the office telephone is **NOT** to be used to make social arrangements. Please encourage your child to make their arrangements before arriving to school.



VSB Dog Policy

Dogs are not allowed on the school grounds, playfields or in the school at any time between the hours of 8:00 am – 5:00 pm and during other organized school events outside of these hours unless they are service dogs. Please take some time to review the VSB's Dog Code, posted on the bright green signs on the fences which includes more detailed information. We have students with severe allergies to dog saliva at QE.



Our school grounds and buildings are very active places with many children playing and moving about. Some children are afraid of dogs and/or allergic to them. School age children may put themselves at risk without thinking and get hurt by a dog. Unfortunately, dog feces have been left on our playgrounds, which is a concern for our students' safety and hygiene when they engage in healthy outdoor play and as you can imagine it creates unpleasant odours. Allergic reactions, unhygienic situations arising from pet feces, and the possibility of unpredictable aggression contribute to the School District's decision to prohibit dogs in/on school properties during the school day.

Thank you for your cooperation and for making our school grounds and playfields safe for all our students

Terry Fox Run & Donations



We will be participating in the annual The Terry Fox Run and asking families to contribute to the worthy cause of raising money for cancer research, working towards Terry's dream and of cure for cancer. Staff are working on the details but we will be running on Friday, October 8th. Please keep an eye out for further information about the day and how to make donations.

Wearing masks

All students were given a new reusable cloth mask yesterday. Please ensure your child has a mask every day. Keep a clean mask at school & wash used ones at the end of the day.

As required in provincial guidelines, all staff, students in grades 4 to 12 and visitors are required to wear masks in all indoor areas, including:

- At their desks
- On school buses



Exceptions include:

- A person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons
- A person unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person
- If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it
- If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask.
- If a person is eating or drinking
- If a person is behind a barrier
- While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (for example, a hearing impairment), where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important.

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear a mask indoors while in school and on school buses.

Visitors

Schools in Vancouver will continue to welcome in-person visitors by appointment only. If you would like to make an in-person appointment, please contact Cecilia or Lisa in our Main Office at 604 713-5408. All visitors are required to wear a mask, complete a daily health check, and follow all COVID-safety guidelines.

Upcoming Dates

Friday, September 24 th	PRO D DAY – No school for students
Wednesday, September 29 th	Orange Shirt Day
Thursday, September 30 th	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – No School
Monday, October 4 th	Photo Day
Wednesday, October 6 th	PAC Meeting via Zoom – 7:00pm
Friday, October 8 th	Terry Fox Run
Monday, October 11 th	Thanksgiving Day Holiday – No school
Tuesday, October 19 th	2pm Early Dismissal – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Wednesday, October 20 th	2pm Early Dismissal – Parent/Teacher Conferences



PAC NEWS

The PAC serves as a bridge between parents, the school and the community. Every parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the school is automatically a member of the PAC and can vote on issues that come up. Further, parent involvement as volunteers is essential to the PAC being able to run programs in the school for our children.

Please sign up for the mailing list on the home page of our website, www.qepac.ca, to stay up to date on all of the programs that the PAC runs, including Hot Lunch and other volunteer opportunities.

Hot Lunch ordering is open on our website now and the **first Hot Lunch Day will be Wednesday October 6th**. In order to receive lunch on this day you will need to order by Tuesday September 28th. Ordering after that date is fine but will be for delivery the subsequent week(s).

Our first meeting and AGM is scheduled for October 6, 2021 at 7 pm over zoom. Further details will be posted on www.qepac.ca and sent to our mailing list closer to the date.

