



Queen Mary Elementary School

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January 28, 2022

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Parent Advisory Council

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We are honoured to be working and learning together on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm | Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh | Squamish & səliilwətaʔ | Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Queen Mary acknowledges the history of our community and neighbourhood.

January and February at QM

Students and staff have settled back into the routines of teaching and learning following our Winter Break. Thank you for your support as we continue to work together to ensure that our community is safe! Please let us know how we can best support your child and family – feel free to reach out to your classroom teacher, Lisa or Erin in our front office or our principal, Megan Davies (mdavies@vsb.bc.ca).

We have many learning themes and opportunities during the months of January and February – often linked to days of celebration or recognition including the start of a new calendar year, Lunar New Year, Black History Month, Valentine’s Day, Pink Shirt Day and more. During this time of year, lessons often focus on goal setting, traits and virtues, equity, diversity, identity, acceptance, respect, inclusion, kindness, friendship and more!

Important Upcoming Dates

- Feb. 9 2:00pm Dismissal
- Feb. 15 7:00pm PAC Meeting
- Feb. 18 Professional Development Day
- Feb. 21 Family Day – School Not in Session
- Feb. 23 Pink Shirt Day
- Mar. 11 Last day before Spring Break
- Mar. 28 School re-opens after Spring Break



Communicating Student Learning

Progress reports are shared with students and families twice a year – often on the last Friday in January and last day of the school year in June. The report is a strength-based snapshot of your child’s learning during the school year. In combination with conferences and other written or verbal communications that you have with your child and/or your child’s teacher, the report most likely confirms your (and your child’s) understanding of their progress. Please use the report as a starting point for positive conversations with your child about his/her learning and progress. The upcoming conferences on Feb. 9th and Mar. 2nd will be another opportunity for further discussions with staff regarding your child’s strengths, areas for growth and the ways we can work together to support their learning and development.

The progress report identifies how a child is progressing in relation to grade level expectations for many subject areas. A competency scale includes descriptive words (beginning, developing, applying, and extending) to identify how a child is progressing on their own learning continuum. When talking about your child’s learning and progress, you may wish to:

- Ask your child: what they are most proud of so far this year; how they like to learn; their goals for the second half of the year, to tell you more about their strengths
- Look for the classroom teacher’s suggestions for areas of growth and ways to support learning and make a goal with your child to support his/her growth
- Remember that a progress report is a snapshot – it doesn’t highlight every strength and/or ability
- Recognize and celebrate your child’s learning, growth and perseverance!

BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	APPLYING	EXTENDING
I am just getting started.	I am getting there.	I get it.	I get it and go beyond what is expected of me.
I learn best with help.	I am beginning to do more and more on my own.	I can do it on my own.	I can teach it to a friend.

GROWTH MINDSET

Is Freedom

- Persevere in the face of failures
- Effort is required to build new skills
- Find inspiration in others success
- Embrace challenges
- Accept criticism
- Desire to learn
- Build abilities

Recess and Lunch Time at Queen Mary

Each day at QM, rain or shine, students play outside at recess (10:30am – 10:50am) and lunch (12:05pm – 12:52pm). Please ensure that children come to school each day dressed and prepared for the weather! During those times, our 3 Supervision Aides (and often 2-3 of QM's other staff) support the students. We are grateful to Asel, Melon & Shino, our Supervision Aides, who help students play safely, problem solve, connect with peers and more!

Students have access to various areas of the grounds depending on their grade:

Grade 3-7 – Picnic tables, basketball courts, intermediate playground, gravel field, space ball, undercover areas
Grade 1-3 - Picnic tables, basketball courts, primary playground, space ball, undercover areas
Kindergarten – Primary playground, picnic tables, undercover areas near the gym

Our Kindergarten students are continuing to be supported with (and learn about) recess and lunch time play, our school grounds, and playtime routines and expectations. For now, at the start and end of play time, a Supervision Aide walks the Kindergarten students to and from the primary playground area. As the Kindergarten students gain greater understanding, confidence, and independence, they will be able to access additional areas around the school (space ball, basketball courts, other undercover areas) and more independently be dismissed from/return to their designated line up spot.

Any students who are significantly delayed returning from recess or lunch time play can access their classroom via any outside door. If students are significantly delayed because they are using the bathroom, accessing support in the office, receiving first aid etc., they typically return to class via the hallways (rather than going back outside to their class' line up spot/entry door).

Infusing Indigenous Education into Our Teaching and Learning

Earlier this month, teachers attended a Professional Development workshop presented by the BCTF on how we can meaningfully and intentionally infuse Indigenous knowledge into our teaching and learning.

Together, we looked at the following Aboriginal Ways of Knowing and Being and considered how the concepts can be shared and applied within our classrooms:

Learning is connected to land, culture, and spirit.

Learning honours our Ancestors, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Descendants.

Learning involves developing relationships, respecting distinct cultures, and honouring the perspective of others in our communities.

Learning is a journey that takes courage, patience and humility.

We also learned about two websites that help us all access information about the world's land territories and, more locally, Musqueam's historical landmarks and heritage.

Territory Map –

<https://native-land.ca/>

Musqueam Place Name Map -

<https://placenamemap.musqueam.bc.ca/>

Queen Mary's PAC

Each year, our Parent Advisory Council does a wonderful job of supporting our staff, students and parent community. Typically, a school's PAC looks for ways to collaborate with school staff to plan, facilitate, organize, and subsidize learning opportunities, programs and events for the school community. PAC is also an opportunity for parents and guardians to advise on school programs, policies, plans and activities. Please consider attending our February PAC meeting on Feb. 15th (7pm) and visiting the PAC website frequently! Currently, PAC is offering a new QM t-shirt for Pink Shirt Day (order deadline is Sunday, January 30th).

Access PAC's website (and order a Queen Mary Pink Shirt Day T Shirt) here –

<https://www.queenmarypac.com/>



Queen Mary's Code of Conduct

We respect everyone's learning by respecting ourselves, others and our surroundings.



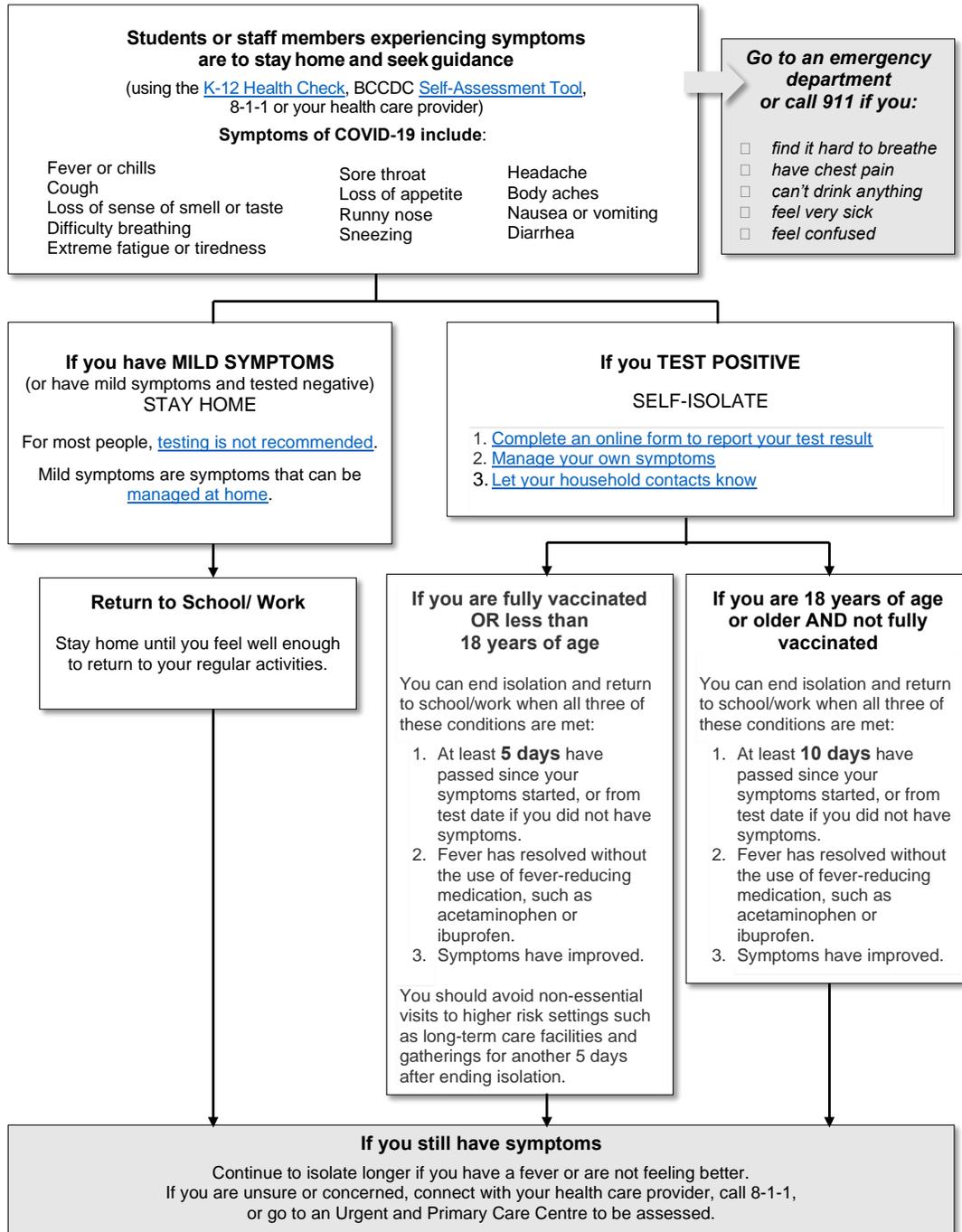
Queen Mary's Mission Statement is to build a respectful community of lifelong learners. We work towards becoming caring, accomplished & cooperative citizens. We aim to provide an enriched environment in which children are encouraged to think, question, create & wonder.

COVID-19 Symptoms, Testing and Return to School

Here is the most recent information and guidance from VCH and BCCDC. Please continue to conduct a daily health check and keep children home when they are experiencing symptoms. Please remember that this information is subject to change. Families can check the BCCDC and VCH websites for updated information.

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

<http://www.vch.ca/covid-19>



Close Contacts

Household contacts should continue to self-monitor for symptoms and stay home if they get sick. All school students and staff members should regularly self-monitor for symptoms as usual as per the Daily Health Check. Those who develop symptoms should stay home. The best way to protect yourself and your family from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated. Vaccines are available for anyone ages 5 and up. Register now at: Getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca

Information for Travelers

If you are a traveler returning from outside Canada and test positive for COVID-19, you need to follow the quarantine requirements set by the Federal government. Visit the Government of Canada website for more information: travel.gc.ca/travel-covid

Updated Jan 20, 2022, 6:00 pm