



Queen Mary Elementary School

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March 31th, 2021

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We live, work and learn on the traditional and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Coast Salish Nations. Queen Mary Elementary School wishes to acknowledge the history of our community and neighbourhood.

Welcome Back!

We hope that everyone had a restful, relaxing, healthy and fun Spring Break!

In the last several weeks we have learned about, celebrated and recognized history, diversity, inclusion, friendship, connection and community through many different class specific and school-wide learning opportunities including: our Pink Shirt Day Assembly, Black History Month Assembly and Gallery Walk featuring each class' learning about Black Canadians in History, the start-up of our Classroom Gardener sessions and Student Leadership initiatives recognizing and engaging our whole school community. Our Student Leaders have done a fantastic job this year to not only support each other but also look for ways to ensure that all Queen Mary students (and staff!) feel seen, heard, cared for and included. This month, our learning will continue to focus on health and safety, social & emotional learning, student connection and engagement and diversity, equity and inclusion.



Important Upcoming Dates

- April 2 Good Friday – School not in session
- April 5 Easter Monday – School not in session
- April 9 Deadline for families to register for access to Body Science Online Resources (see pg. 3)
- April 13 7pm PAC Meeting & Body Science Parent Presentation
- April 15 & 16 K – Gr. 7 Saleema Noon Body Science Lessons
- April 26 Professional Day – School not in session



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.



Protocols and Health Orders

In efforts to significantly reduce COVID-19 transmission related to social interactions and travel, British Columbians are continuing to follow the order and direction of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO).

Please consider reviewing the current orders here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions>

In accordance with these orders, we request that families:

- Avoid gathering/socializing on our school grounds during drop off and pick up
- Take children home promptly at 3:00pm instead of playing on the playground with others who may not be in the same cohort
- Continue to remind your child(ren) of the importance of maximizing distancing and minimizing/completely avoiding physical contact with classmates or friends whenever possible

Please also:

- Continue to review our Daily Health Assessment every morning
- Keep your child at home if they feel sick or have any sign of illness
- Get tested immediately if anyone in your family feels sick

Thank you for continuing to be extra vigilant of your personal activities and community/club sports. Please take all possible health precautions! The PHO prohibits all in-person indoor gatherings - playdates, sleepovers, dinner guests etc. as well as non-essential travel outside of Vancouver. For those gathering in groups of up to 10 people outside, please stick to the same 10 people and continue to use COVID layers of protection and maintain physical distancing.



Mask Use in Vancouver Schools

All staff, students in Grades 4 to 12, and visitors are now required to wear a face mask while indoors in schools and on school buses. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are encouraged to wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses.

The requirement to wear a mask does not apply to staff, students and visitors in the following circumstances:

- when an individual cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons;
- if the individual is unable to put on or remove a mask without assistance of another person;
- if the mask is removed temporarily for 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 (e.g. playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity, etc.)
- if the 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 (including but not limited to a hearing impairment) where visual cues, facial expression and/or lip reading/movements is important.

Mask Use in Vancouver Schools Continued ...

Staff or students who cannot wear a mask for any of the reasons noted above are not required to provide the school with a health-care provider note (e.g. a doctor's note) to confirm they cannot wear a mask.

Students and staff will be able to remove their masks while outside, including at recess, lunchtime and while learning outside. As the weather improves, teachers will continue to look for opportunities to move their classes outdoors.

Staff will be supporting student mask wearing through positive and inclusive approaches. In addition, staff will work with students to foster proper mask usage including how to wear, take off and store masks. Staff and students in the District received two reusable masks at the start of the school year and an additional two reusable masks prior to Spring Break. Schools will have a supply of disposable masks available for students and staff who forget to bring their mask to school.

All schools in the Vancouver School District continue to implement all layers of protection as advised by health officials to limit the spread of COVID-19. While mask use is an important layer of protection, it does not replace other measures like staying home when sick or required to self-isolate, completing the daily health check, maximizing physical distancing and proper hand hygiene. Following Spring Break, all schools and District sites are reviewing COVID-19 health and safety protocols and procedures, which have helped to keep students and staff safe.

COVID-19 Daily Health Assessment

All parents, guardians, and/or caregivers have the responsibility to conduct a Daily Health Assessment of your child(ren) each day before sending them to school.

Similarly, all VSB staff must complete a Daily Health Assessment and confirm completion each day at sign-in or with their supervisor. *Do not return this form to your school/supervisor.*

Keep a copy of this Daily Health Assessment in a handy area at home (such as in your kitchen) and incorporate this Daily Health Assessment into your morning routine, before leaving for school or work.

All parents, guardians, and/or caregivers have the responsibility to conduct a Daily Health Assessment of your child(ren) each day before sending them to school.

Similarly, all VSB staff must complete a Daily Health Assessment and confirm completion each day at sign-in or with their supervisor.

Please continue to refer to this form each day when conducting COVID-19 Daily Health Assessments at home.

Thank you!

Daily Health Assessment			
1. COVID-19 Symptoms		Do you have any of the following symptoms?	
Fever (over 38°C)		YES	NO
Chills		YES	NO
Cough or worsening of chronic cough		YES	NO
Difficulty breathing		YES	NO
Loss of sense of smell or taste		YES	NO
Sore throat		YES	NO
Loss of appetite		YES	NO
Extreme fatigue or tiredness		YES	NO
Headache		YES	NO
Body aches		YES	NO
Nausea and vomiting		YES	NO
Diarrhea		YES	NO
2. International Travel	Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3. Close Contact	Have you had contact with a person who has COVID-19? You would have been advised of this by Public Health.	YES	NO
4. Isolate	Have you been told to isolate by Public Health?	YES	NO

WHAT TO DO NEXT

If you answered "No" to all of the above (1-4), the student or staff member is welcome to attend school or work.

1. If you answered "Yes" to any of the above symptoms, follow the instructions below:

SYMPTOMS		WHAT TO DO
Fever (above 38°C) Chills Cough	Loss of sense of smell or taste Difficulty breathing	1 or more of these symptoms: Get tested and stay home.
Sore throat Loss of appetite Headache Body aches	Extreme fatigue or tiredness Nausea or vomiting Diarrhea	If you have 1 symptom: Stay home until you feel better. If you have 2 or more of these symptoms: Stay home and wait 24 hours to see if you feel better. Get tested if not better after 24 hours.

2. If you answered "Yes" to travelling internationally within the last 14 days,

Self-quarantine for 14 days at home from the date that you arrived back in Canada.

3. If you answered "Yes" to being a Public Health confirmed close contact of someone who has COVID-19,

Self-isolate at home for 14 days. If you also have any symptoms or develop any, get tested for COVID-19.

Note: People who are close contacts are notified by Public Health.

4. If you answered "Yes" to having been told to isolate, you must stay home until Public Health says it is safe to return

Access the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool (<https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>) anytime to determine if you/your child should seek testing for COVID-19.

Version: February 2021



School Drop Off and Pick Up

Families and students are encouraged to walk to and from Queen Mary each day! Even when driving to school, a vehicle can be parked 2-3 blocks away from the school and students/families can walk the rest of the way! On the occasions when families must drop off or pick up a child on Trimble Street (between 4th Ave and 8th Ave), please adhere to road signs and the rules of the road (follow parking and stopping regulations, speed limits, traffic signs and laws pertaining to turns, reversing, U-Turns etc). **Whenever possible, please avoid drop off and pick up on 6th Avenue (east of Trimble) near Quadra Daycare – this area is a high pedestrian area and Quadra families need access to the daycare.**

To use the Designated Accessible Parking areas on Trimble St and 6th Ave, vehicles **MUST display a valid SPARC permit AND require the space for a current passenger (ie the permit holder) to safely access our school.**

Drivers who are not following road signs or the laws pertaining to parking and driving in Vancouver may be ticketed/towed.





Smart decisions start here.

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Each year, students in all elementary grades throughout BC receive instruction in sexual health education. This information is included in the Physical and Health Education program mandated for all BC students by the Ministry for Education. From time to time, schools bring in experts in the field to address this topic with the school community. We are excited to inform you that this year, **Dr Brandy Wiebe** of Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators will be joining us via Zoom to work with students Kindergarten to Grade 7. In addition, all parents will have access to Saleema's online learning platform, *Body Science Online*, for 30 days so they can see exactly what their children will learn in class. Please use this link to submit your email for access to Body Science Online (BSO) videos for 30 days (DEADLINE to REGISTER is APRIL 9 12PM): -

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18WHFQG5oiMVzj54WykCQs2vt1hbkgZAu1Ad0iZ2loA/edit>

In their Body Science presentations, Saleema Noon and her team of educators work with children of all ages, teaching them about healthy bodies and healthy sexuality in ways they find non-threatening and entertaining. In their own language, children learn about how their bodies change, and what those changes mean. Based on research and her many years of experience as a sexual health educator, Saleema identifies three reasons why providing this information starting at Kindergarten is crucial:

1. Most importantly, studies from all over the world consistently show that children who are educated about healthy bodies, healthy boundaries and healthy sexuality are at reduced risk of child sexual abuse. Even if children are not asking questions yet (some never will) we need to give them information about their bodies and help them to develop strong personal boundaries. Sexual offenders (85% of which are known to the victim) prey on children who aren't educated about their bodies and therefore lack the skills to differentiate between appropriate and inappropriate touching. These children find it hard to say "no", especially to an adult, and may not report abuse for fear of getting in trouble.
2. Young children are easiest to teach. They are excited to be body scientists and accept the information very matter-of-factly. Older children and teens, however, often find it difficult to talk about sexual health openly, especially with their parents! This means we have to surmount the embarrassment barrier before they can accept the information they need. The good news is that young children only absorb information they are ready for...everything else just goes above their head. More good news, studies show that children who learn about healthy bodies at an early age from reliable adults in their life delay sexual intercourse.
3. Unfortunately, children today are exposed at earlier and earlier ages to all things involving sex. We, as responsible adults, need to stay one step ahead of this by arming our children with accurate information about sexual health before they get their questions answered on the playground, by older friends or on the internet. We need to teach them to think critically about what they hear, and this allows parents need to establish themselves early as their child's number one source of sexual health information throughout their development.

Brandy from the Body Science Team will join students via Zoom in their classroom on Thursday & Friday April 15th & 16th. Brandy will show pre-recorded, animated videos of Saleema Noon's Body Science Online workshops for each grade followed by a live Q and A session. The content of the presentations is supported by current research as being age appropriate and contributes to healthy child development. Some of the topics Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators cover in their workshops extend beyond the content of the BC Physical and Health Education curriculum. For this reason, parents may choose to have their children OPT OUT of the Body Science sessions with Brandy. If you do not wish your child to attend, we ask that you notify our office no later than **Wednesday April 14th**. Attendance at the parent presentation before making this decision is strongly encouraged. Please also feel free to contact the school to speak to Megan Davies, the school's principal, if you have any questions and/or concerns about Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators' presentations.

Please join us for an informative **live Zoom Presentation for Parents/Guardians** on **Tuesday April 13th, 2021 from 7:00pm-8:30pm**. In this session, Brandy will give an overview of student presentations and, using humor and straight talk in an open, interactive environment, will show parents how easy it is to convey healthy, meaningful messages about sex and growing up to children. In addition, all parents will have access to Body Science Online for 30 days so they can see exactly what their children will learn in class.

ZOOM PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

Topic: Queen Mary (Van) Parent/Guardian session

Time: Apr 13, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83654569177?pwd=eHNzd2E0czlVTkYxQXlCbXlpSElxQT09>

Meeting ID: 836 5456 9177 Passcode: 891329

