



Queen Mary Elementary School

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March 4, 2022

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We are honoured to be working and learning together on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the x̱m̱əθḵʷəy̱əm | Musqueam, Skwx̱wú7mesh | Squamish & səliłwətaʔ | Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Queen Mary acknowledges the history of our community and neighbourhood.

Rapid Test Kits from BC's Ministry of Education

In the coming days, Queen Mary *should* be receiving a supply of COVID-19 Rapid Test Kits for students from the BC Government.

Our delivery and distribution dates are still to be determined.

Please stay tuned for further details!

With parent/guardian permission, we will be distributing kits directly to students in Grades 4-7. Each Grade 4-7 student at QM (with signed permission) will receive 1 box containing five test kits. For students in Grade 4-7 with younger siblings in K-3, they will likely also receive a test kit for each of their younger siblings. Parents/guardians of Kindergarten through Grade 3 students with no older siblings will be invited to pick-up 1 box containing five test kits from their child's teacher at drop off or pick up.

If your child in Grade 4-7 is absent next week, or you cannot make it to the school to pick-up the kit(s) on the pick up days, parents/guardians will be asked to contact the school office to make arrangements to receive your child's test kits.

It is important to note that test kits should be stored in a secure location out of reach of children and pets.

The instructions for the Rapid Test Kits will be included in the package. Also, the information on how to administer the tests can also be found here: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID-19_Tests/POC_screening/RapidTestInstructions_Artron.pdf

Important Upcoming Dates

Mar. 8	6:30pm PAC Mtg & SafeOnline Parent Session
Mar. 11	Last day before Spring Break
Mar. 28	School re-opens after Spring Break
Apr. 5 & 7	SafeOnline Student Sessions for all classes
Apr. 15	Good Friday – School not in session
Apr. 18	Easter Monday – School not in session
Apr. 25	Pro-D Day – School not in session

Classroom Gardener

This week, our Classroom Gardener facilitators Tomas and Megan returned to Queen Mary to begin leading classes through sessions in our school garden! It's fantastic to have students back in the garden, learning outside, connecting to nature and building patience, perseverance and life skills! The Classroom Gardener program supports us to use our garden as a shared outdoor classroom, focusing on playful inquiry and connecting with each other, our environment and our community.

This month, sessions will focus on replenishing our soil with compost and organic fertilizer and preparing the beds for Spring planting. This spring, rain or shine, each class will have 4 guided sessions with Classroom Gardener.

School Ventilation Improvements

From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic the District has prioritized the health and safety of students, staff and families. Several layers of protection were implemented in all schools, in compliance with public health guidelines, including the requirement for daily self-health checks, increased hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning, and the wearing of masks. The District also undertook several large initiatives to enhance and improve ventilation at all schools and to upgrade faucets and install additional sinks in schools. All mechanical ventilation systems were adjusted to run for longer and to maximize the intake of outdoor air into classrooms. In addition, the District upgraded systems with MERV-13 filters which provide for greater air filtration.

Information on school ventilation systems was posted to the District website in November of 2021 and was recently updated to reflect ongoing improvements. School by school information can be found at:

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/COVID-19/Ventilation/Documents/VSB_Ventilation_System_Overview_Feb2022.pdf

SafeOnline

During the first week of April, Merlyn Horton of SafeOnline will be facilitating age-appropriate sessions with all classes relating to internet safety. Topics may include accessing websites, images, games and/or social media, our online privacy, communicating/interacting with others online, digital citizenship etc. The theme for each grade grouping will be:

Kindergarten - Grade 2 - "Starting Out Online"

Grade 3 - 5 - "Setting Limits"

Grade 6 - 7 - "Your Life Online"

QM is grateful to the PAC for organizing and subsidizing this important programming. We also hope that many parents/guardians will be able to join the SafeOnline Parent/Guardian Session being held on Tues. March 8th.

This Tuesday: PAC Meeting & SafeOnline

Join the QM PAC on Tuesday March 8th at 6:30pm for our monthly PAC Meeting followed by a parent/guardian seminar presented by Merlyn Horton of SafeOnline.

The SafeOnline seminar content may include ...

- Online parenting basics
- Parental controls
- Online rules
- Managing screen time
- Sexuality online
- Cyber bullying
- Excessive gaming

A Zoom link will be shared with families on Tuesday March 8th.

We hope to see you there!

Cultivating Genius with Dr. Gholdy Muhammad

This year's theme for Black History Month was February and Forever. This week, VSB, in collaboration with Burnaby and Maple Ridge School Districts, provided a wonderful opportunity for all staff to attend a keynote with Dr. Gholdy Muhammad, an Associate Professor of Language and Literacy at Georgia State University. The session focused upon Culturally and Historically Responsive Education and Dr. Muhammad blended history, theory and practice into her presentation.

Dr. Muhammad spoke about the importance of cultivating the genius that is within each child. She stressed the importance of focusing our teaching and learning upon Five Practical Pursuits –

IDENTITY – Advancing students' knowledge and affirmation of self and others

SKILLS – Advancing students' content area skills and proficiencies

INTELLECT – Advancing students' knowledge by putting their knowledge into action

CRITICALITY – Advancing students' understanding of oppression, equity and anti-racism

JOY – Advancing students' happiness by elevating beautiful and truthful images, representations and narratives about self and others.



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.