



Queen Alexandra F.A.M.I.L.Y. School

A Fine Arts Multicultural Integrated Learning for Youth School

January 13th, 2017 (Newsletter #5)

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Happy New Year!

Queen Alexandra classes have been back in full swing! Staff continues to work with the Redesigned Curriculum - focusing on "sound foundations of literacy and numeracy while supporting the development of citizens who are strong thinkers and communicators, and who are personally and socially prepared for all areas of their lives. BC's Redesigned Curriculum honours the ways in which students think, learn, and grow, and prepares them for a successful lifetime of learning where ongoing change is constant". From classroom lessons & inquiries, to badminton with Badminton BC and several fieldtrips, staff has been working hard to ensure that learning at QA is meaningful, engaging and diverse! Many more amazing learning opportunities are in the works for 2017! Stay tuned!



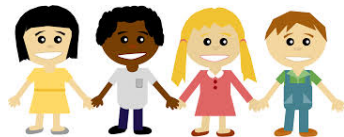
Important Upcoming Dates

- Jan. 13 PAC Meeting at 9:15am in the lunchroom
- Jan. 19&20 Badminton lessons at QA
- Jan. 27 Lunar New Year Celebration (1:00pm Lion Dance)
- Jan. 30 Professional Day – School not in session
- Feb. 13 Family Day – School not in session
- Feb. 17 PAC Session – Exploring Historical Relationships Between Indigenous & Non-Indigenous People in BC
- Feb. 21 PAC Meeting at 6:30pm (dinner at 6:00pm)
- Feb. 22 Pink Shirt Day
- Feb. 24 Professional Day – School not in session



QA PAC will host The Blanket Exercise Friday February 17th 9:15am – 10:45am

This 90 minute participatory workshop, developed in 1997 in partnership with the BC Teachers' Federation, will help participants understand how colonization of the land we now know as British Columbia and Canada has impacted the people who lived here long before settlers arrived. Through this exercise participants will explore the nation-to-nation relationship between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples in Canada, how this relationship has been damaged over the years, and how we can work toward reconciliation. The Blanket Exercise is a succinct overview of Indigenous rights in Canada. It explores the major themes and findings of the *Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP)*. Childcare will be available.



Please join us!

Welcome!

Please join me in welcoming the following staff members who have recently joined our Queen Alexandra Family!

- Carly Desharnais** – Grade 6/7 (Division 8)
- Kelley Young** – Resource Support
- Para Demosten** – Grade 2/3 (Division 4)
- Jay Prasad** – Evening Building Engineer
- Leah Gies** – Neighbourhood Assistant
- Hugh Egerton** – Student Support Worker



Next Year's Winter Break (2017-2018)

We have been advised by the District that there is a possibility that the Winter Break dates for 2017-2018 might change from December 18th - January 1st to December 25th - January 5th. This change will align our Winter Break with the Winter Breaks of all other neighbouring districts. We expect to know for certain on January 24th, after a decision at the Board Meeting. We recommend that you plan accordingly. Thank you for your understanding.



Acknowledgement



We live, work and learn on the traditional and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Coast Salish people. Queen Alexandra F.A.M.I.L.Y. School wishes to acknowledge the history of our community and neighbourhood.

The First Peoples' Principles of Learning

Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors.

Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place).

Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one's actions. Learning involves generational roles and responsibilities.

Learning recognizes the role of indigenous knowledge.

Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story.

Learning involves patience and time.

Learning requires exploration of one's identity.

Learning involves recognizing that some knowledge is sacred and only shared with permission and/or in certain situations.



-fnesc.ca

Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)

The FSA is an annual assessment that is conducted in Grade 4 & 7 classrooms across BC between January and February. The Ministry of Education uses this assessment as a provincial snapshot to provide information about how students in BC are doing as a whole in Reading, Writing and Numeracy (it is not used to evaluate individual students). It is a snapshot of specific skills and not a thorough examination over time of all desired learning outcomes for students. All students in Grade 4 & 7 who are capable of meaningful participation write the FSAs. Grade 4 & 7 parents/guardians are asked to contact the school principal or vice principal with any questions or to discuss the implications for their child. More information can be found at <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/info/welcome.htm>

Supreme Court Ruling

The VSB is still working on developing a plan to address the recent Supreme Court ruling around class size and composition. The common mandate of attaining further supports in the classroom is challenging; it is being addressed collaboratively with schools, the Vancouver Teacher's Federation and VSB's Directors and Employee Services. Staff will be meeting at the school and district levels to explore ways to best meet the ruling requirements and specific needs of students across the entire Vancouver School District. Allocations will be made within Vancouver based on consultations and the specific needs of each school.



Learning Tips for Everyone ... Especially Children Who Feel Anxious About School

Many people struggle with learning; students worry about challenging work, feeling confused, falling behind and making mistakes. Here are some ideas and tips to consider when supporting a child's learning and talking with children about school:

Failure is a Part of Learning – making mistakes helps us to understand how we learn and actually helps with brain development.

The Power of YET – While many students get stuck on the notion that they can't do something, it's important for a child to understand that he/she may not be able to do something YET. Encourage children to believe in themselves, look for different ways to learn and understand, ask for help and never ever give up.

Establish a Routine – Having clear expectations and a routine at home and school helps students feel more comfortable with unfamiliar environments and/or new learning challenges/situations.

Be Mindful – Taking time to sit quietly and calmly helps a child to relax, focus and be ready to learn.

Get Exercise, Eat Well & Rest – Movement, healthy eating and plenty of sleep all improve brain and body function and a person's ability to focus and learn.



– Ideas from Eaton Arrowsmith, Edutopia & Harriet Fancott

QA's Mission Statement: Through the commitment to cooperation and hard work, the students, parents and staff of Queen Alexandra work together so that all students can succeed academically and socially in an emotionally nurturing environment. We care for OURSELVES. We care for OTHERS. We care for OUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY.

