



April 2018

Principal: Erin Gibbs
PAC Chair: Justin Morrison
Trustee: Joy Alexander

Director of Field Services: Richard Zerbe
Administrative Assistant: Erin Schneider
Safe Arrival: 604-228-1717

Our Mission

Our mission is to build a respectful community of lifelong learners. We work towards becoming caring, accomplished and cooperative citizens. We aim to provide an enriched environment in which children are encouraged to think, question, create and wonder.

Dear Queen Mary Community,

As we enter the final term of the school year, we are reminded of how time flies! The weather is starting to shift, the cherry blossoms are out, and rich classroom learning continues both indoors and outdoors. There is much to look forward to, including PAC's eagerly anticipated Staff Appreciation Luncheon, and our annual Volunteer Tea! This newsletter is packed with information about events and programs, as well as criteria for class placement for next school year. I have also attached the calendar for 2018-2019. The Committee planning the Grade 7 leaving ceremony has been busy putting together a memorable event for the end of the year. We welcome two student teachers from UBC, and one practicum student from the Langara student support worker program. They will be with us until early June, gaining valuable learning experience from our Queen Mary team of professionals. We look forward to a great third term together!

Erin Gibbs
Principal

PARENT CORNER & PAC EVENTS: Our next PAC meeting is April 10th at 9am. Mara St. Onge will be presenting to parents about the Blingja curriculum she has developed around social emotional and mindfulness skills and tools. Mara has been working with staff and students at Queen Mary throughout the school year.

Queen Mary staff would like to thank PAC in advance for our upcoming luncheon. The staff always look forward to this special day and appreciate the PAC's efforts to make it a special day for everyone. THANK YOU!

Upcoming Parenting Sessions (see attached posters for more information. RSVP through Eventbrite:

- **Raising Digitally Responsible Youth**
 - April 16th 6:30 pm at Vancouver Technical Secondary
 - May 8th 6:30 pm at Prince of Wales Secondary
- Spring 2018 SACY workshop – **Building Bridges with your Teen**

• **VSBC SWIS/SACY/MCLW Programs jointly present a Chinese-speaking Workshop at Kerrisdale Community Centre**

温哥华教育局学校移民安顿项目/SACY项目/多元文化工作者共同举办免费华人教育讲座

VOLUNTEER TEA

Queen Mary staff would like to extend an invitation to all our wonderful parent and community volunteers who help out with our students and the school. We couldn't do it without you. Please join us on Thursday, April 26th at 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the library for some tea and cookies and some student entertainment. Details to follow!

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for our new system SCHO (School Cash Online). Queen Mary has had an incredible response with 99% of families registered. We have 4 families left to make it to the 100% mark! Please note that as SCO can accept payment by cheque, the school will no longer be accepting cash or cheque payments at the office for field trips and various fees. Please familiarize yourself with SCO so that making payments is easy. Please feel free to ask at the office should you have any questions. For those families who have yet to register, please do so at <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com/Home/SignIn>

COACHES CORNER

Track and Field is fast approaching. Please stay tuned for more information regarding practice and meet times. Track and Field is open to students in Grades 3-7 and Mr. Klassen is our school contact this year.

Brain Gain mornings continue at Queen Mary! This is a morning homework club offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:30 – 8:55am in room 101. These sessions will be supervised by a Support Staff and often a Learning Support Teacher. The goal of these sessions is to provide students with as much support as possible. It is expected that students come with homework to finish, or an academic task that they need help with. Students of all ages are welcome. Please contact Learning Support Teacher Kerri Smith (kksmith@vsb.bc.ca) if you have any questions or concerns.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AT QUEEN MARY

PROGRAM NAME	REGISTRATION WEBSITE	DAY/DATES/TIME
Ocean Explorer - Beach After School Program	seasmartschool.com/store	Wednesdays May 2 – June 20 th 3-4:45 \$240/child
Escape Room for Kids	www.escaperooms4kids.com .	Mondays Room 208 April 23 rd – June 4 th 3:15-4:30
Mad Science	http://vancouver.madscience.org	Mondays Music Room April 16 th – June 11 th
Chess	http://vanchess.ca/locations/set/id/33/target/%252Fgroups	Wednesdays Room 208 Starts April 12 th 3-4:30
Young Rembrandts	www.youngrembrandts.com/metrovancouver	Tuesdays Room 208 April 17 th – June 5 th 3:05 -4:15

OTHER SPORT PROGRAMS

Moresports Mini Soccer Spring 2018

No experience necessary! Come play in a fun, low pressure, skill-building experience for boys and girls who want to play with friends and schoolmates in a supportive soccer environment. Midtown Soccer Jam T-shirts are included. Soccer shoes and shin guards are not provided but are recommended. Each session includes practice time and game play, **rain or shine!** Mini soccer runs every Saturday starting April 14th to June 9th. No practice on May 19, 2018. Location: Memorial Park Turf Field ***Soccer Jam: June 9, 2018 @ Trilium Turf Field. Cost: \$40/program.

Mini Soccer gr. K-1 program #: 155312

Mini Soccer gr. 2-3 program #: 155313

Mini Soccer gr. 4-7 Girls program #: 155314

Mini Soccer gr. 4-7 Boys program #: 155315

Moresports Fastbreak Basketball Spring 2018

Calling all basketball enthusiasts in grades 5-7! Learn the FUNdamentals of basketball - dribble, pass and shoot through progressive skill development, role playing and active participation. This program is designed for beginners to intermediate. Come show off your skills while learning from the best Midtown Tigers Coaches in the area! Fastbreak basketball runs every Tuesday starting May 1st to June 12th from 3:30pm to 5:00pm at Mount Pleasant Community Centre Gym. Cost: 35\$/program.

Fastbreak Basketball gr. 5-7 program #: 160666

You can register online: moresports.org/programs

...through the phone: (604) 257-3080 ext. 1

...or in person: at Mount Pleasant Community Centre

FREE KICK CUP SOCCER LEAGUES

Saturdays: April 28-June 23rd (Ages 4-12years) at Shaugnessy School

Sundays: April 29-June 24th (Ages 4-12years) at Jericho Turf

Registration at info@freekickfc.com or 604-551-7066

PRO D – APRIL 27TH - OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

QM PAC is offering a Red Cross Babysitting Course through Link2life at Queen Mary on the Pro D Day of April 27th. We need a minimum of 20 children 11 years and older to register. For more information please click on the link below

<http://www.queenmarypac.com/events/babysitting-course-at-qm-during-pro-d-day-april-27>

Norma Rose Point is offering a Robocamp on April 27th from 9am – 3pm. There will be Brain games, Math games, sports and board games as well as robotics. The course is by donation with a suggested donation of \$50. All proceeds will assist the NRP Forces of Atlantis FLL robotics team get a spot in the International Competition in Europe. Sign up at www.Robocamps.ca

Upcoming Dates

Monday April 9 th	Div 9 Soaring Eagles Walk
Tuesday, April 10 th	PAC meeting 9am
Wednesday, April 11 th	Rainbow Assembly 11am
Thursday, April 12 th	Staff Appreciation Lunch
Friday, April 13 th	Div 10-12 Young Actors Project
Monday, April 16 th	Lice Screening
Friday, April 20 th	Class and Team Photos
Thursday, April 26 th	Volunteer Tea
Friday, April 27 th	PRO D Day – no school for students
Monday, April 30 th	Div 10-12 Young Actors Project

Summer school

Registration opens on April 27th for summer school and all summer school program information can be found at: <https://summer.vsb.bc.ca/Pages/default.aspx>

Attached is a parent form to request a student support worker for your child

CRITERIA FOR CLASS PLACEMENT FOR 2018/19

Queen Mary staff works very hard to make the *best possible placement* for your child. There are many factors considered when generating class compositions. They include: academic progress/ability, individual learning styles, classroom interactions between students, specific learning needs in different areas, a balance of gender, a balance of students requiring English Language and learning support, and information provided by the children and parents.

This is not an easy task. Queen Mary staff invests a great deal of time and thought into this process. There are many variables to consider in our school population; however, our staff considers the individual needs and nature of each child.

Difficulties often arise when the parents' perceived needs for their children do not align with the perceived needs by the professionals who work in our school. For example, we might receive information from students or parents that two or three students work well together, but the evidence in the school indicates otherwise. In this case, contrary to requests, students may be separated.

Another difficulty is with regard to combination classes, which contrary to what some believe, **does not reflect in any way your child's academic ability.** Placement in a combination class at the lower grade does not mean that your child will cover the curriculum of the upper grade or receive an advanced program. The same holds true for a student who is in the upper end of a split class - your child does not receive a non-advanced program because students from a lower grade are in the same classroom; nor will your child be academically penalized by being placed into the combination class, rather than a straight class.

The way in which the number of divisions and grade levels are determined is directly dependent upon the number of students registered at the school, the number of staff assigned by the Board and the contractual rules for class configuration.

Our teachers do an excellent job of placing all of the students. Make sure that your child's current classroom teacher has all pertinent information about your child. Please also make sure your classroom teacher is aware of any concerns you may have with regard to academic and emotional vulnerability or behavioural conflicts so that these factors may be **considered** in placing students. Please note, we do not place students based on wanting to be with a best friend. If you feel it is necessary to make a written request, please ensure that it is accompanied by an educational rationale for the placement. Writing a letter is **not** a guarantee of placement but an acknowledgement of your interest and hope for your child. Thank you for your support as we strive to create the best possible learning environment for all of the students in our school.

Earthquake/Student Reunification Drill

We are currently working to update our emergency plan, based on Vancouver School Board workshops and directives that are happening this spring. Information will be sent out to parents prior to the Big One at 2 on May 3rd, to inform them of any changes. In the May 3rd Drill we will be carrying out a partial student reunification which will include the release of a small group of students to parents, in order to reinforce our emergency protocols. I will be contacting up to 20 families to participate. Stay tuned!