



February 2018

Newsletter #7

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.

2018

Dear Queen Mary Community

I can't believe it's already been a month since I joined this lovely community. Thank you for making me feel so welcome! February, while the shortest month of the year is most certainly one of our busiest. Our grade seven students are in the process of deciding which high school they will be attending and at the same time, we are already planning our welcome events for our 2018 Kindergarten students. There are many events throughout the months February and March that become part of classroom learning; Lunar New Year, Valentine's Day, 100 Day, Pink Day....So many great things are happening at Queen Mary and I know I'm only capturing a few things. Our student leaders, sports reps, and library monitors are doing such a great job in their leadership and care of our school. Basketball is up and underway, with four games left between now and the end of February. On top of this, there is much going on in the classrooms - engaged learners guided by engaging and dedicated staff!

As you are aware, Queen Mary is one of 62 schools piloting the new format for Communicating Student Learning. Teachers and school administrators are learning together as we embark on these exciting new changes. The communication sent home today with students will look quite different to the traditional reporting format you have been accustomed to. We ask for your support as we transition to the new style of Communicating Student Learning. An informational video about CSL is on the [PAC website](#). Between now and Spring Break, surveys will be given to participating teachers, school administrators and then to parents at the CSL schools. These surveys will be followed up with Teacher Focus Groups as well as Parent Focus Groups to inform future direction.

We would like to express another heartfelt thank you to our PAC for the additional PIN money! The extra funds given to teachers are very much appreciated, and reflect the unending generosity of the Queen Mary PAC. Your support of community building and care for others sets a wonderful example of kindness, care and vision.

Erin Gibbs
Principal

SOCIAL MEDIA AND LINKING IN

There are a number of ways of being informed, staying connected, engaging in discourse or sharing your thoughts and questions about school for your child. With such a vast landscape of social media tools, it's challenging not to become overwhelmed and it is sometimes a challenge to find the right tool for the task. As well as our monthly newsletter that is emailed out to parents, there are other ways of being informed:

- With the phasing out of School Day, email communication to parents will now be sent through MyEd. Please make sure the school has your most up-to-date contact information.

- Our school website: <http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/queenmary/Pages/Default.aspx> for up to date information about our school.
- Classroom blogs. Some teachers have blogs that are only accessible to their classroom community.
- Classroom group emails through class parent support
- Check out the VSB website as well - www.vsb.bc.ca
- Queen Mary PAC e-news, website: <http://www.queenmarypac.com>
- As always, attending PAC meetings is a great way of staying connected!

PARENT CORNER & PAC EVENTS:

- We would like to extend a HUGE thank you to our PAC executive and parent volunteers whose work provides support to our students, staff and classrooms. Thanks as well, to the many parents who have been available to attend our first term's PAC Meetings. This is your opportunity to come and meet other parents, hear about upcoming events in the school, support school planning and to ask any questions you may have. Our next PAC meeting will be held on **February 13th at 9:00 a.m.**

Volunteering: Thank you to those parents who are able to carve time out of their school day to volunteer in our classrooms and for school events & projects. Your time, smiles and hard work are greatly appreciated! If you have not yet signed a Volunteer Conduct Agreement form, you will need to before volunteering within the school.

COACHES CORNER

Thank you to all of our parent and staff coaches!! We have had a successful turn out for our Basketball. Game Days are Mondays for Junior Boys, Wednesdays for Senior Boys and Thursdays for Sr. Girls. We are also looking for scorekeepers for our home games on the following days: Wednesdays Jan 31st, Feb 14th and Feb 21st and Thursdays Feb 1, 15th and 22nd. If your child is in grades 5-7 and would like to help from 3:30-4:30 please have them see Ms. Erin.

CROSS-BOUNDARY APPLICATIONS If you are interested in having your child attend an English school that is not your catchment school, you may want to consider our cross-boundary application process that begins **February 1st** and will end **February 28th**. If you are applying outside your catchment area, it is important for you to know that your child will only be considered once all other in-catchment students have been considered.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2018-2019: Do you have a child born in 2013?

All Kindergarten applicants are required to submit an application to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for choice programs (French Immersion, Mandarin Bilingual, Montessori, etc.) and/or a cross boundary placement.

Last Day: The priority registration period for Kindergarten opened on **Tuesday November 1st** and will close at **4 pm on Wednesday January 31st**. Students who submit an application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants.

In a few Vancouver schools there may be more in-catchment applicants than the school can accommodate. For those schools, applicants who applied within the priority registration period (November 1 to January 31) will be included in a draw for available spaces. Students with siblings already in attendance at the school (and who will be attending next year) will be placed prior to the draw.

When registering your child please bring:

1. Proof of residence in Vancouver
2. Child's birth certificate
3. Immigration documentation (if applicable)
4. Immunization records

If your child was born outside of Canada, you need to report to the VSB District Reception and Placement Centre (DRPC) and complete the initial Kindergarten application there.

If you want to apply for a Choice program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for **Choice programs will be accepted from January 15th to February 5th**, but only after you have registered at your catchment school.

Lunar New Year Lion Dance: will take place on Thursday, Feb. 15th at 11:15 a.m.

SATISFACTION SURVEY: The Provincial Satisfaction Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents, teachers and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective. Throughout February, March & April, the Satisfaction Survey will be administered to students in grades 4 and 7, their parents, and all school staff. We encourage parents to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. If you are a parent of a child in grades 4 or 7, and you have not received your logon number by the end of February, please contact the school at 604-713-5464.

Upcoming Dates

Thursday, February 1 st	Lice Check
Friday, February 2 nd	Jump Rope Assembly 9:15
Monday, February 12 th	Family Day – schools closed
Tuesday, February 13 th	PAC 9 a.m.
Thursday, February 15 th	Lion Dance at 11:15 in gym
Monday, February 19 th	Professional Day #4 – no school for students
Wednesday, February 28 th	Pink Shirt Day
Wednesday, March 7 th	Goal Review Conferences/Student led 2:00 dismissal
Thursday, March 8 th	Goal Review Conferences/Student led 2:00 dismissal
Friday, March 16 th	Last Day Before Spring Break
March 19 th – April 2 nd	Spring Break
Tuesday, April 3 rd	Schools reopen