



# QUEEN MARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

Happy New Year and welcome back!

Dear parents, staff and students,

I would like to start by saying how excited I am to be able to be a part of the wonderful Queen Mary Elementary community! I look forward to supporting and leading to help our students achieve their best. In the coming weeks I hope to meet parents at PAC meetings and during drop off and pick up. My focus will be on getting to know our students and staff and determining how I can use my skills to support the learning. Also much time still needs to be focused on the completion of the new school and ensuring all building projects are fully completed.

This is my 32<sup>nd</sup> year as an educator and I have taught from Kindergarten to University level (SFU Teacher Education). I have taught Secondary in Northern BC, K-10 in the Yukon in an Aboriginal Community and K-7 at various VSB schools. I have been a VP/P for the last 12 years. In all my experiences a common theme has emerged. We are all educators and learners and we all need to work together to ensure the best for our young learners. Creating a safe, caring, orderly and dynamic learning environment is crucial to success. Helping to meet each student's learning needs, challenges and passions is what it is all about.

### **How we accomplish this is:**

- by open communication (when you or the teacher have concerns about your child it is shared in a respectful way—with the goal to promote further learning)
- trusting each other (parents know their child(ren) and teachers/staff are professional educators)
- expecting the best (parents need to prepare their child for school—sleep, nutrition, reading and talking and 'unpacking' the school day). Teachers need to focus on each learner to reach their potential.

### **A few reminders as we start back:**

- our new lunch area is small. Division 1-4 will have the privilege of eating in the main foyer at tables and bench seating. Division 5-14 will eat in the multipurpose area.
- We want to focus on recycling and the environment. Please help your child to review proper clean up/disposal using the bins or packing their litter to take home.
- Dressing for the weather. Fresh air is important and we expect students to enjoy the outdoors. We will only offer inside choice during inclement days.

Looking forward to a great year. My door is always open and email is always on!

Hugh Blackman  
Principal, Queen Mary