



December 2017

Newsletter #6

Principal: Margaret Jorgensen
 PAC Chair: Justin Morrison
 Trustee: Joy Alexander

Director of Field Services: Ellen Roberts
 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 Parents,



Here we are at the end of 2017 - another calendar year gone by! We all hope that you have a great Winter break and find some time to be with family and friends and also some time to relax. The holidays come and go quickly and before you know it, we will be back to the regular rhythm of the school year. December was a very fast month with amazing seasonal activities. We have an amazing group of educators at Queen Mary and I can't even begin to express how happy and fortunate I have felt to be part of this school community.

This morning we enjoyed our annual holiday carolling! All of our seasonal activities represent all that is so magical about this school and our community - the great sense of family and togetherness. We have wonderful students, so warm, friendly and caring - and we enjoy working with them and watching them grow and succeed. It is our joy and privilege to work with them. And a huge thank you to our PAC!! The Queen Mary PAC is an amazing group of parents whose efforts are incredibly supportive of community building and care for others. The craft and bake sale was beautiful and the gym was transformed into a holiday wonderland! The hampers built by our students, parents and staff for families in our Inner City were overflowing with generosity. This community works together to provide a safe, engaging, and rich place for all to learn and play. Queen Mary is certainly a special place to learn and work.

Margaret

Don't forget to check out our school and PAC websites for information:

<http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/queenmary/Pages/Default.aspx>

<http://www.queenmarypac.com>

Coming Up in January

Date	Event
January 8 th	School reopens - Welcome Back
January 9 th	PAC meeting 7:00pm
January 10 th	Uzume Taiko - afternoon performance
January 12 th	Taiko Drumming workshops - K-7
January 29 th	Curriculum Implementation Day - no school for students
January 30 th	Mid-term reports home to parents.

QUEEN MARY'S PRINCIPAL: Queen Mary will be welcoming Erin Gibbs as its incoming principal beginning January, 2018. Ms. Gibbs has worked with the Vancouver School District for 24 years and comes to Queen Mary with a wealth of experience. She is currently at Dickens Annex and was also at Norquay as part of the administrative team. I have had the pleasure of working with Erin and know that she will be a great addition to the Queen Mary community. Erin and I will be working together to support a smooth transition for students and staff. It has been my great pleasure to have worked with the staff, children and families of Queen Mary. Thank you for being such a welcoming and kind community! I wish you the very best for the new year!

ATTENDANCE & SAFE ARRIVAL: All schools in Vancouver will be changing their attendance procedures. Teachers will be using MyEd, our online platform, to take attendance. Our classroom teachers, office team and Safe Arrival parent team, work together to ensure that children are arriving safely each day. As we change to our new system, we ask for your support by:

- **Calling the Safe Arrival line as early as possible** if your child is going to be late or absent. 604 228 1717. Our answering machine is available 24/7 for messages.
- Ensuring that your contact information is up to date.

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 **January 9th at 7:00pm.**

Volunteering: Thank you to those parents who are able to carve time out of their school day to volunteer in our library, classrooms and for school events & projects. Your time, smiles and hard work are greatly appreciated!

COACHES CORNER

Thank you to all of our staff coaches!! We have had a successful turn out for our Volleyball season and Basketball season will soon be underway. Game Days are Mondays for Junior Boys, Wednesdays for Senior Boys and Thursdays for Sr. Girls. Please look for notices from respective coaches with more information. Thank you to parent volunteer coaches and drivers.

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

Kindergarten registration started on November 1st. 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.

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

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.

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

Kindergarten Registration begins November 1 to January 31st for enrolment in September 2018. If you have a child who will be five years of age in 2018 and lives in the Queen Mary catchment please register within the above time frame.

For more information on Kindergarten registration please visit:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten>

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the entire staff of
Queen Mary Elementary School!*