



December 2017

Newsletter #5

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,

Time certainly flies while you're having fun! I can't believe it's December already! Please be sure that your children have their cold and wet weather gear handy near the door as they head out on these dark & rainy days. If you have one of those children who can't resist the puddles, packing a second pair of pants & socks to have on hand at school might be a great idea!

*Also, as our mornings and afternoons are becoming darker as the winter season approaches, please be reminded to **drive safely as you are dropping off and picking up your children.** When parking along Trimble Street, please ensure that you are not impeding the view of our patrollers by parking too far forward into the intersections. This poses a safety risk to our children as they are crossing Trimble and also for our patrollers, as drivers cannot see them due to parked cars blocking them from the sightlines of oncoming drivers. Be aware of the stopping and parking signage surrounding our school. We appreciate your support.*

Unbelievably, the holiday break is fast approaching. While this term has gone by as quickly as ever, we feel that it has been a very joyous and productive time at Queen Mary. 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. As this newsletter is being written, we are looking forward to upcoming seasonal festivities! We hope that all families get a chance to come out and share in some fun!

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 December & January

Date	Event
December 1 st	ProD - no school for students
December 6 th - 8 th	Grade 7's to Camp Cheakamus
December 6 th	Div 7 & 8 to Carousel Theatre
December 8 th	Div. 4 to Lord Byng Pool
December 12 th	PAC meeting 9:00am
December 15 th	PAC Winter Craft & Bake Sale
December 18 th	Div 9 Nature Walk
December 20 th	Winter Carolling Sing along
December 21 st	Winter Carolling Sing along

December 22 nd	Winter Carolling Sing along
	Last Day of School - Winter Break Begins
January 8 th	School reopens - Welcome Back
January 9 th	PAC meeting 7:00pm

COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING:

As you are aware, the communication of student learning will look different this school year. Written communication will be designed to align reporting practices with the redesigned BC curriculum.

Communications of student learning will **shift from primarily focussing on summative assessment to a primarily focussing on formative assessment**. Ongoing personal feedback which is embedded in daily instruction, along with examples of student work will be shared at various points throughout the school year. The communication of student learning to parents will be based on clear standards and expectations and will be intended to make learning more visible.

As has been the practice in past years, there will continue to be 5 communications with parents within a school year:

Goal Setting conferences: Oct 4 th & 5 th , 2017
Ongoing Communication of Student Learning
Mid-Year Written Progress Report: January 30 th , 2018
March conferences: March 7 th & 8 th , 2018
Ongoing Communication of Student Learning
Final Written Progress Report: June 28 th

Ongoing Communication of student learning is at each teacher's discretion, will look different from classroom to classroom, and will be:

- based on authentic evidence of student learning from a variety of sources (examples of student work, photographs, audio, video, portfolios)
- based on clear standards and expectations with the intention of making learning visible
- occurring in different ways (three-way conferences, portfolio reviews, parent-teacher meetings, reflections on student work, on-line platforms, telephone conversations, interim written reports....)
- parents are always welcome to contact teachers to discuss your child's learning and progress.

Written Progress Reports: (sample included below - curricular areas will vary dependent on grade level)

- will indicate where the child is in relation to the age/grade expectations at the mid-year point
- June report will indicate where the child is in relation to the age/grade expectations and will include a student self-assessment of the **Core Competencies** (Communication, Thinking and Personal and Social)
- where applicable, a summary of the progress toward the goals in the child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be provided
- letter grades will not be included on the written reports but will be provided to parents on request at the end of the school year.

MID-YEAR WRITTEN PROGRESS REPORT

January 2018

STUDENT NAME: _____ GRADE: _____
 STUDENT ATTENDANCE: _____

YOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: _____
 ADDRESS, CITY, POSTAL: _____
 PHONE NUMBER: _____
 PRINCIPAL'S: _____
 TEACHER'S: _____

This report is a summary of student's progress according to the widely held grade level expectations in relation to the learning standards of the BC Curriculum. The student's level of learning has been assessed through a variety of learning opportunities to determine what the student knows, understands, and is able to do.

Descriptive Written Comments

STUDENT'S LEARNING STRENGTHS:	AREAS FOR GROWTH:	WAYS TO SUPPORT LEARNING:

MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

STUDENT COMPETENCY SCALE (in relation to grade level expectations)	BEGINNING to acquire knowledge, skills, strategies and processes.	DEVELOPING the ability to apply knowledge, skills, strategies and processes.	APPLYING knowledge, skills, strategies and processes consistently.	EXTENDING knowledge, skills, strategies and processes creatively and strategically.
ENGLISH LANGUAGE Arts Comprehend and connect READING, LISTENING, and VIEWING				
Communicate WRITING, SPEAKING, and REPRESENTING				
MATHEMATICS				
SCIENCE				
SOCIAL STUDIES				
ARTS EDUCATION				
PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION				
CAREER EDUCATION				
APPLIED DESIGN, SKILLS, and TECHNOLOGY				
CORE FRENCH (Grades 5-8)				

ATTACHMENTS:

Student Signature: _____ Teacher Signature: _____ Principal Signature: _____

All 5 communications with parents can include:

- descriptive information about the child's learning
- the learning goals the child is working towards
- ways to further support the child's learning at school and at home
- the child's contributions to the classroom, school and community
- how the child interacts with others

Student Self-Assessment of the Core Competencies with the written summative report in June

By participating in this process, students are provided with meaningful information about their learning so that they can monitor their progress towards the learning goals they have set. Parents are involved as partners in a dialogue about their child's progress and the best ways to support and improve learning.

We will continue to share information at PAC meetings. We look forward to working with you as we continue to focus on your child's learning.

I do hope that you will make every effort to connect with your child(ren)'s teacher(s) at any time to discuss your child's learning and progress. As you know, research shows that when home and school work together, children do better at school. As we move through the year we will continue to invite feedback from parents and students around the communication of student learning as we implement the new curriculum and ways of sharing student learning with parents.

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.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS - WINTER 2018: The following after school programs will be offered again for the Winter session. Registration information can be found on the Parent Information Board outside the office.

- Mondays: Mad Science www.register.madscience.org/vancouver
- Mondays: Escape Room www.escaperoom4kids.com
- Tuesdays: Young Rembrandts www.youngrembrandts.com/metrovancouver
- Thursdays: Chess www.vanchess.ca

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 **December 12th at 9:00am in our staffroom.**

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!

'Tis the Season 2017

As well as seasonal activities taking place in our classrooms, there will be some school wide festivities taking place:

- **PAC Winter Craft Market** - PAC, teachers and students are working on various crafts and items to sell for the Annual Winter Craft Market on Friday, December 15. Please mark your calendar and visit the Winter Craft Market in the gym. It will be open at 10:30am. If you can help volunteer, please contact info@queenmarypac.com
- Wednesday, December 20th - Seasonal Sing Along: 9:00 - 9:45am - Gym
- Thursday, December 21st - Seasonal Sing Along: 9:00 - 9:45am - Gym
- Friday, December 22nd - Seasonal Sing Along: 9:00 - 9:45am - Gym

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, Tuesdays for Junior Girls, Wednesdays for Senior Boys and Thursdays for Sr. Girls. If any parents are interested in coaching a basketball team please contact Mr. Klassen. 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>

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found is now located outside our office in the Learning Commons. Our students are very good about placing found items in the blue bins and in the area - retrieving when lost looks a little bit different however! If your child misplaces a jacket, shirt, hat or backpack it's worth checking this area. Please check for your child's missing items. On Wednesday, November 29th, we displayed all lost items

and had our students look in order to claim any lost items. The last week of December will see all unclaimed items being donated.