



October 2017

Newsletter #3

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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.

Our Code of Conduct:

***Respect for Self**

*** Respect for Others**

***Respect for Surroundings**

Dear Queen Mary Community:

Here we are approaching October already! As well as the many activities that will take place throughout the month, October will of course be ending with the various Halloween events throughout the community and school. Please remember to keep Halloween candies at home and most importantly, remember that Queen Mary is a peanut/nut free school.

Our school has a deep commitment to create and maintain a respectful, welcoming, safe and nurturing environment. Thank you to those family members who were able to visit during our Meet the Staff evening. We all enjoyed welcoming back our children and families and meeting our new school community members. Please do join us for future school & community events. There are many ways to stay connected; PAC meetings, school wide and classroom events, and of course through our monthly newsletters and School and PAC websites.

Student leaders are coming together to foster school spirit and ownership of their school by helping with our PA announcements, being assembly leaders, library and office monitors, playground leaders, sports reps, planning events for the school, recycling, school safety patrol and many other service activities. We appreciate our students at Queen Mary!

We are working with everyone to best utilize our spaces inside and outside as the Fall rains will be returning. Evidence of 'Respect for Self, Others and our Place' is demonstrated often throughout our school community. Our students are enjoying the sunny Fall days on our wonderful playground thanks to our Queen Mary PAC!

Margaret Jorgensen

Coming Up in October

Date	Event
Monday, Oct 2 nd	Lice Screening
	Hold & Secure Emergency Drill
Tuesday, Oct 3 rd	Terry Fox Run - 1:00pm
Wednesday, Oct 4 th	2:00pm dismissal - Goal Setting Conferences
Thursday, Oct. 5 th	2:00pm dismissal - Goal Setting Conferences
Friday, Oct 6 th	Div 3,5 & 6 to Science World
Monday, Oct. 9 th	Thanksgiving Day - Schools Closed
Tuesday, Oct. 10 th	PAC meeting - 9:00am
Wed. Oct. 12 th	Earthquake Preparedness Drill
Thursday, Oct 13 th	Mobile Dairy Cart (9:00 - 12:00)
Monday, Oct 16 th	Div 13, 14 to Southlands Pumpkin Farm
Wednesday, Oct 18 th	We Day Conference
Thursday, Oct. 19 th	District Cross Country Meet
Friday, Oct. 20 th	Professional Day - no school for students
Monday, Oct 23 rd	Div. 9 Nature Walk
Tuesday, Oct 24 th	Code Red Lockdown Drill
Wednesday, Oct 25 th	Div 4 to VPL
Thursday, Oct 26 th	Kindergarten Vision Screening
Friday, Oct. 30 th	Div 4 to Steveston Cannery
Tuesday, Oct. 31 st	Halloween Parade
Wednesday, Nov. 1 st	Student Photo Retake Day
Thursday, Nov 4 th	Book Fair
Friday, Nov. 3 rd	Book Fair

STUDENT VERIFICATION & OPENING PACKAGES

All students brought home student and school information in September. We ask that all parents complete and return the verification forms and pay school fees by October 6th. These forms included communications consent, student and family contact and emergency information, school fees information as well as media consent, local field trip consent & internet agreement. If you did not receive these forms, please let us know.

TERRY FOX RUN

Queen Mary's Annual Terry Fox Run will take place on Tuesday, October 3rd. Students and staff members will meet at Jericho Beach for a warm-up at 1:15 and the run/walk will start by 1:30. We will be looking for parent volunteers to help out as course marshals. We will also be coming around classrooms to collect donations for the Terry Fox Foundation beginning Monday Oct. 2nd through to Friday October 6th. We are looking forward to seeing everyone out participating in this special event, honouring Terry Fox.

GOAL SETTING CONFERENCES

Goal setting conferences will be taking place Wednesday, October 4th and Thursday, October 5th. **Parents please note the 2:00pm dismissal time on both of these days!** Thank you to those families who are able to spend time in conversation with their child's classroom teachers in reviewing progress and setting goals for learning. Teachers value the home school partnership as working together can only benefit student learning. Children learn best when the significant adults in their lives -- parents, teachers, and other family and community members -- work together to encourage and support them. Schools alone cannot address all of a child's developmental needs: The meaningful involvement of parents and support from the community are

essential.

GRADE 7 PARENTS: The Vancouver School Board Grade 8 High school Options 2018 is available online. Students and families are provided a guide to programs in Vancouver district available for grade 7 students to apply for. The application process is clearly laid out on the VSB website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/programs/mini-school-registration>

- Letters to Grade 7 parents in several languages are posted on the VSB website
- Please take special note of the times for Open Houses and Parent Information nights. **November 23rd will be the Grade 7 Parent Information Night.** Mark your calendars. Check Lord Byng website for more information. It is strongly advised to attend these evenings. Lord Byng is our primary feeder school and appointments with the counsellors will be made with our grade 7 teachers, where application forms will be distributed. If you wish to put in an application to any other school, please contact that school directly. If you have particular questions about programs, please call the Secondary School directly.
- **Grade 7 Mini School Applicants only** -District-wide testing for all Grade 7 mini-school applicants will be on November 21st. Online registration for the test is October 27th to November 9th. See the VSB website <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/programs/mini-school-registration> for updates.

RAINY DAY CLOTHING

Regardless of the weather becoming increasingly cold and wet, children love to play outdoors and be active during recess and lunch hour, as they should! It is important that children are dressed appropriately for outside play. If their clothes become wet and cold, it is very difficult for them to focus on learning throughout the day. Please ensure that your child is dressed for outside play.

PARENT CORNER & PAC EVENTS:

Thanks to the many parents who attended our first Parent Meeting of the year. Lots of information has been shared, great plans made, and new connections are forming! We hope to have this kind of turnout for future 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. PAC meetings are held once a month on Tuesdays. Our next PAC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 10th at 9:00am**. Don't forget to stay up to date and informed by checking the Queen Mary PAC website: <http://www.queenmarypac.com>

EARTHQUAKE COMFORT KITS

Thanks to Rebecca and her team from PAC who is updating the comfort kits and to new parents for sending in their child's / children's comfort kit.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Halloween falls on Tuesday, October 31st. Students may choose to wear a costume to school. We will be having a costume parade in the gym. Please ensure that your child can move safely in their costume. Costumes do not include full facial masks and toy weapons or special accessories that may get lost. Please do not send food or candy to be shared with classmates or peers at recess and lunch as per the most recent school letter regarding allergies.

We encourage all **Trick or Treaters** to go in groups, using flash lights, and costumes that have reflective tape with an adult. All **Trick or Treaters** should not eat any treats while trick or treating and all treats should be examined by families before consumption.

With Halloween around the corner, we again try to make every effort to prevent and minimize damage / risk to our school and surrounding areas (e.g., adventure playgrounds, portables, new school buildings). The Vancouver School Board encourages this procedure: **YOU MAKE THE CALL** - If you or the neighbours see anything that involves safety of people, vandalism, fireworks, graffiti etc. We need your assistance in addressing this serious and very costly problem. Please call the police. Thank you for your support.

COACHES CORNER

Thank you to all of our staff coaches!! We have had a successful turn out for our Cross Country and Volleyball for Seniors has also begun. Cross country practises are held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. The District's Cross Country Meet will be held on Thursday, October 19th. Volleyball practises will be on Monday mornings and Wednesdays at lunch. Game Day for Senior Girls is Thursdays. Please look for notices from respective coaches with more information. Thank you to parent volunteer coaches and drivers.

TRAFFIC - ALL ADULTS CONCERNED

We continue to have parents, families and or caregivers violating traffic regulations. Some examples of infractions occurring are parking and leaving vehicles in no stopping zones, backing up where pedestrians are crossing, making illegal U turns on 5th and 6th, passing cars on Trimble, driving their cars through the crosswalk on 5th when the **Safety Patrollers** have their stop signs out, and parents allowing their children to exit the car on the street side instead of the curb side. These violations occur daily in the morning and afternoon. Our school community is very concerned that our students and families who are walking are not safe. **BEWARE** - Traffic police are patrolling and giving out tickets. Please do make U turns on Trimble street!

We are requesting all community members to try and have an earlier start to their day so they can park two blocks away and walk into to the school. This may be an inconvenience but we would like to keep everyone in our school community safe.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



PLEASE REMEMBER: Observe Parking and Stopping signs. Don't pull in and back out onto Trimble. Don't stop close to corners as vision is impeded for drivers and pedestrians.

LOCK DOWN (Code Red) and HOLD AND SECURE (Code Yellow) ALERTS

As you know as part of our emergency and safety plans we have in the school, we hold regular fire drills and also do earthquake drills. The Big One at Two in May gives us an opportunity to practice our earthquake evacuation of the building etc. Fire drills are routine.

To ensure further safety of everyone in the building, the students and staff continue to practice Lock Down and Hold and Secure Alerts. A lockdown takes place in the event that there is an intruder in the school or an unsafe situation in the surrounding school community. Staff and students follow procedures to have students go into the nearest classroom (if not their own). This means students on the way to the washroom, to the library, gym or wherever, upon hearing LOCKDOWN over the PA are being instructed to go into the nearest classroom to where they are and stay there until it is safe to return to normal activity.

Students remain quiet in their classroom, doors are locked, blinds or drapes are pulled and students and staff remain in their rooms until instructed otherwise. This is for a lockdown (code red) inside. If the students are outside at recess or lunch and there is a Code Red, three short rings of the bell indicate to the students that they are to come into the building immediately if it is safe to do so or we pre-designate a space in the park for all to meet.

When we have these alerts, a common message is given to the children. We do not wish to alarm them or make them feel unsafe. The message given:

- As we practise Fire Drills and Earthquake Drills, we now have drills called **LOCKDOWN** *this means that there is an unsafe situation nearby and we need to have everyone in a classroom to ensure everyone's safety.*
- **HOLD AND SECURE** - This means there is an unsafe situation outside the school. Outside doors are locked and secure.

Your child(ren) may come home in the near future to tell you we had a LOCKDOWN OR HOLD AND SECURE Alert today and we wanted to inform you of what that means and what we are doing about it. Students and staff remain in their classrooms until an "All Clear" announcement is made which indicates all is clear and we can go about business as usual.

Should you have any other questions, please feel free to ask and we will try our best to answer them for you. Remember, we do this to ensure the safety and security of everyone in the school during the school day.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten Registration begins November 1 to January 31st for enrolment in September 2017. 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.

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. If your child misplaces a jacket, shirt, hat or backpack it's worth checking this area. Please check for your child's missing items.

LICE SCREENING

Thank you to our PAC and volunteers who have organized our Lice Screening for students once each term. If you have not registered your child to participate and would like to there are forms available on the PAC website or outside the office. There is a \$10 fee for each student and includes 3 screening dates throughout the year.