

# QMS Weekly Newsletter



September 8, 2023

**QMS Tsunami**

## Queensborough Middle School

### Important Dates

<b>September 11</b>	French and Punjabi classes begin
<b>September 12</b>	Exploratory Rotation #1 begins for students in grades 6, 7 & 8
<b>September 15</b>	Welcome Back Assembly in the Gym
<b>September 18</b>	Professional Development Day <b>Students do not attend</b>
<b>September 19</b>	Fuel Up Lunch Program begins for participating students
<b>September 19</b>	Fruit & veggie delivery (blueberries)
<b>September 20</b>	Breakfast program begins (Wed. & Fri.) <b>8 a.m. in the Foods Room</b>
<b>September 20</b>	PAC (Parent Advisory Council) meeting <b>7:15 p.m. in the Library</b>
<b>September 21</b>	Picture Day: morning only
<b>September 21</b>	Fire Drill
<b>September 29</b>	Terry Fox Run <b>1:30 p.m. Volunteers needed</b>
<b>September 29</b>	Orange Shirt Day
<b>October 2</b>	National Day of Truth and Reconciliation School closed

### Principal's Message:

Welcome to all our students and families as we begin the 2023-2024 school year! We hope you all had a fun and relaxing summer in the company of family and friends.

QMS is growing! We are welcoming several new staff members and our office staff has been busy with new student registrations. We currently have 375 students divided among 14 divisions. In May/June our staff worked very hard to make the best decisions for every class placement, and students are now settled into their classes. It often takes some time for students to adjust to a new environment and new classmates, which is part of the middle school experience. We appreciate your support and cooperation in reassuring your child that change (which comes with a new school year) brings fresh opportunities for students to learn and grow, and create new friendships - as they look forward to the year ahead.

During the last week of August, QMS staff met for two productive Professional Development Days. During this time we explored themes including enhancing the student experience, school community, culture, curriculum and SEL. For the last two years, our school's Social Emotional Learning focus has been on developing core SEL competencies support learning, achievement and fostering a growth mindset.

We invite families to take an active interest in the school and your child's progress. A strong connection between home and school is key to optimizing each student's success. Your involvement matters! Whether you're able to offer a little or a lot of time, please consider participating in school activities. Parents/guardians are invited to attend the first PAC meeting on **Wednesday, September 20 at 7:15 p.m.** (Library) to find out about how you can be involved in our wonderful QMS community.

Mr. Rai and I are looking forward to getting to know our new students, and learning together with all our staff, students and families this school year.

Enjoy your Sunday!

John Lekakis



### Welcome to the following new staff members:

- ♦ Jesse Greenway - Grade 6/7 Teacher
- ♦ Harriet Averill - Grade 8 Teacher
- ♦ Kim Byrne - Resource Teacher
- ♦ Nataliya Chorna - ELL Teacher
- ♦ Zsuzsanna Viragh - Resource Teacher
- ♦ Linda Nguyen - Education Assistant
- ♦ Christina Mills - Education Assistant
- ♦ Cassidy Mcleod - Education Assistant
- ♦ Shane Lee - Education Assistant
- ♦ Peter Fiorini - Education Assistant



## Upcoming Events and Reminders:

### Terry Fox Run

Our Terry Fox Run is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 29** (after lunch). We need volunteers to take up posts along the route. If you are able to help, please email our QMS PAC at: [qmspac2013@gmail.com](mailto:qmspac2013@gmail.com)



### Breakfast Program begins September 20: **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Students can enjoy a delicious and nutritious breakfast in the Foods Room every Wednesday morning (8:00-8:30 am) for only 50 cents.

We'd love to expand the program to more than one day per week. If you would like to volunteer (one hour commitment) please email PAC Chair Josie Johnston ([qmspac2013@gmail.com](mailto:qmspac2013@gmail.com)).

Thank you to our community volunteers for providing this wonderful program to our students!



### Leaving School at Lunchtime

We have a closed campus at QMS.

We ask that students stay at school and not leave the school property and the adjacent park during lunchtime between 11:55 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.



Students may go home for lunch **only** if they have a permission form signed by their parent or guardian.

This form must be completed each year and is available at the office. **Please ask!** This form is for going home, not for visiting the Community Centre or a store.

### Student Planners:

The planner is a powerful organizational tool for students and an important means of communication between parents and teachers.

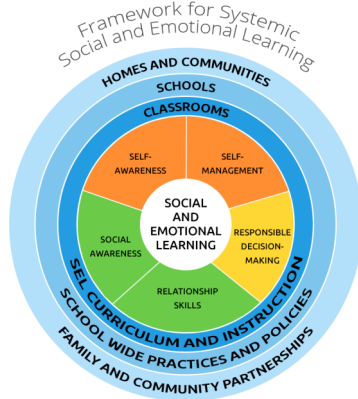


Students are expected to write homework assignments in their planners each day, and we ask that parents sign the planner each evening.

The cost of the planner is \$10 and can be purchased through School Cash Online.

### QMS Learning Goal for 2023.2024

For the upcoming school year, our staff is exploring areas of professional learning and will soon decide our learning focus for the coming year. For the last two year's our goal focused on developing the five SEL competencies with our students: self-awareness, self-management, relationship skills, social awareness and responsible decision-making. For your reference, please read our [22.23.School Learning Plan QMS](#).



### Reporting Student Absences:

Call or email Queensborough Middle School at:

**604-517-6040**

Email: [queensborough@sd40.bc.ca](mailto:queensborough@sd40.bc.ca)

Please notify the school by **9:00 a.m.** if you know your child will be absent or late for school. You may leave a phone message (please include your child's name and division #) at the school anytime of the day or night.

**Please cut this out and put it on your fridge!**

## School Routines and Expectations:

### School Mission:

At Queensborough Middle School we are dedicated to working together within a safe, caring, respectful learning environment to enable all students to reach their full potential as life-long learners and contributing global citizens.

### QMS Values:

At Queensborough Middle School we value:

- ♦ respect for ourselves and others
- ♦ respect for learning
- ♦ respect for the environment

MISSION



VISION



VALUES



### QMS Vision:

- ♦ Our vision is that our students reach their full potential as caring, self-motivated people with good self-esteem and high standards.
- ♦ Our students are preparing to be contributing members of the global community through the development of life-long learning skills.
- ♦ Our local community is important to us and we are working together to share resources and develop appreciation of our heritage and history.

### Reminders About the School Timetable:

- The first bell rings at **8:31 a.m.** Students may enter the school at **8:25 a.m.** (There is no supervision from staff members before or after school.)
- Nutrition Break is from **10:25 to 10:40 a.m.** (Students are encouraged to bring healthy snacks and dress for the weather as we are outside most days.)
- Lunch is at **11:55 to 12:45 p.m.** Students play outside first and come inside to eat their lunch at **12:25 p.m.**
- Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school.
- Students are dismissed at **3:00 p.m.**

#### Bell Schedule

<b>8:31 a.m.</b>	Welcoming Bell
<b>8:36 a.m.</b>	CHAT begins
<b>8:40 a.m.</b>	Morning classes begin
<b>10:10 a.m.</b>	Nutrition Break/recess
<b>10:25 a.m.</b>	Morning classes continue
<b>11:55 a.m.</b>	Lunch begins (outside)
<b>12:25 p.m.</b>	Students inside to eat
<b>12:45 p.m.</b>	Afternoon classes begin
<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	Dismissal

**Bell Schedule**

### QMS Band:

Any Grade 5-8 students interested in joining the QMS Band program, please let Ms. Stephen know. QMS Band sign-up forms can be picked up at the office.



### Youth Drop In Is Back! Starts on Monday, Sept. 11

Queensborough Community Centre staff will be running Youth Drop In sessions at QMS on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays after school. Students in grades 6-8 are welcome to attend.

For more information, please visit: [www.newwestyouth.ca](http://www.newwestyouth.ca)  
 Monday & Wednesday 3:15 – 5:15pm  
 Friday 3:15 – 9:00pm (dinner included)



Join us for games, sports, crafts, karaoke, baking & cooking. Watch for info coming soon on the Leaders In Training program, and a new program – Voices of India.

Drop-In fee is \$1 per time, or \$21 for year pass. Year pass must be purchased at the Community Centre.

Questions? Email Val at [vmckinnon@newwestcity.com](mailto:vmckinnon@newwestcity.com) or find us online at [newwestyouth.ca](http://newwestyouth.ca)

# School Routines and Expectations:

## QMS Code of Conduct

The QMS Code of Conduct follows the guidelines of the BC Human Rights Code. QMS Staff, Students, Parents and any visitors to the school are expected to follow the Code of Conduct.

### The purpose of the QMS Code of Conduct and Code of Consequences:

- ◆ To establish and maintain a safe, caring and orderly environment for purposeful learning
- ◆ To clarify and publish expectations for student behavior at school, going to and from school, and while attending any school function or activity at any location
- ◆ To promote the values expressed in the **BC Human Rights Code** respecting the right of all individuals in accordance with the law-prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation or gender identity-in respect of discriminatory publication and discrimination in accommodation, service and facility in the school.

### Acceptable Behaviour for QMS Students:

- ◆ Showing Respect, Compassion and Integrity
- ◆ Respecting self, others, the learning environment and the surrounding environment
- ◆ Helping to make the school a safe, caring and orderly place
- ◆ Informing an adult, in a timely manner (in advance, if possible) of incidents of bullying, harassment or intimidation
- ◆ Engaging in purposeful learning activities in a timely manner
- ◆ Acting in a manner that brings credit to QMS

### Unacceptable Conduct for QMS Students:

- ◆ Behaviours that:
  - Interfere with the learning of others
  - Interfere with an orderly environment
  - Create unsafe conditions
- ◆ Acts of:
  - Bullying, harassment or intimidation
  - Physical violence
  - Retribution against a person who has reported incidents
  - Discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity (prohibited grounds set out in the **BC Human Rights Code**)
- ◆ Illegal acts, such as:
  - Possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances
  - Possession or use of weapons
  - Theft of or damage to property



The unacceptable behaviours listed in the Code of Consequences are examples only and are not intended to be an all-inclusive list.

A student's medical, cognitive, social-emotional and personal profile must be considered in the determination of appropriate interventions and/or consequences. Therefore, the application of the school's Code of Conduct must take into account the student's ability to meet behavioural expectations.

Disciplinary action, wherever possible, is preventative and restorative, rather than merely punitive. The purpose of consequences for unacceptable behavior is to help students learn from mistakes and be proactive about preventing further inappropriate behaviour.

**RESPECT &  
RESPONSIBILITY**



## Safety First:

### Safety to and from School:

#### Parents and Guardians:

**Please take care when dropping off and picking up your children from school:**

- ⇒ Drive slowly in the vicinity of the school and park
- ⇒ Watch for pedestrians
- ⇒ Don't stop in or block the crosswalks
- ⇒ Please park in legal, designated areas



#### Students:

##### **Be Aware of Your Surroundings:**

Pay attention when walking to and from school. Watch out for moving vehicles at driveways, back lanes and parking lots. If you are listening to music, remove an ear piece before crossing the street or walking in less populated areas.

##### **Team Up:**

It is safer and more fun to walk to school with family or friends. If something unusual happens on your way to or from school, report the incident immediately to an adult you know and trust.

**Check the school website for our “Best Routes to School” brochure for maps and safety tips for walking and cycling to school, and the following link for Back to School Safety Tips:**

<https://www.tranbc.ca/2015/09/01/prepare-to-be-schooled-bc-is-back-to-school/>

### Bikes, Scooters and Skateboards:

Many students ride bikes, scooters or skateboards to school. For your child's safety, please ensure that they are wearing an approved helmet. Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

Scooters & skateboards can be stored in the blue cage located by near the counselling office.



### Visitors:

#### **Please report to the office when visiting the school:**

Please sign in at the office when entering the school. We need to be aware of all visitors to the school and identifying yourself with one our “visitor” badges is helpful to staff who may not know you.

### Personal electronic devices:

If students have an electronic device that they want to use for personal reasons on the way to and from school, they must lock it in their locker as soon as they arrive at school.

At times, teachers may permit students to bring their devices into the classroom for educational purposes; otherwise they should be secured in their lockers. Emergency phone calls can be made at the office during the day.



Please note that any personal items brought to school are at the student's own risk and the school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.





## QMS Community School Programs:

Click [here](#) to register



### Community School Programs at QMS!

#### SUPERCOOKS (Grades 6-8)

Have you ever wished you could make delicious meals at home? Join SUPERCOOKS and learn some kitchen skills, recipes, and nutrition.

Queensborough Middle School - Home Ec. Room

**Wednesdays and Fridays**; 3:00 - 5:00pm

Session 1: Oct 4 - Oct 25 \*no class Oct 18\*

Session 2: Oct 27 - Nov 15

Registration Fee: Free



**FAMILY SERVICES**  
of Greater Vancouver

#### Python Coding (Grades 6-8)

With endless possibilities, Python Playground is where your coding adventure begins. Whether you aspire to be a game developer or just want to explore the world of coding.

Queensborough Middle School - Computer Lab

**Thursdays**, 3:00 - 4:00pm

**Date:** Nov 2 - Dec 7 (6 sessions)

Registration Fee: Free

To submit your registration application, please visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/eyumpBjnZH>

Forms must be submitted by Monday, September 18th. Participants will be selected via a random draw. If your child is selected for the program, you will be contacted for confirmation.

Have questions?

Contact Community Schools

Phone: 604-517-6291 E-mail: [communityschools@sd40.bc.ca](mailto:communityschools@sd40.bc.ca)

Check out our friends for more program opportunities at :



## Online Consent Forms:

SchoolCashOnline  
KEV GROUP

Fast. Safe. Convenient.

# Register Today!

Purchase these items and more online.

Use your computer, tablet or smartphone to register and pay online.

### 1. Create Your Profile

Go to our school website at [queensboroughschool.ca](http://queensboroughschool.ca) click the "Fees and Forms" button and then the green "REGISTER AND LOGIN HERE" link or go to: <https://newwestschools.schoolcashonline.com/> and click on "Get Started Today".

### 2. Confirm Your Email

Check your inbox for the email confirmation and click on the link inside. Sign in with your new login details.

*Stay connected by selecting "Yes" to email notifications about upcoming fees.*

☒ I want to receive email notifications for new fees assigned to my student and updates on school-related activities.

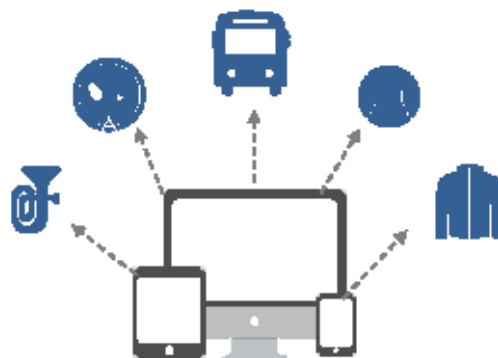
### 3. Add a Student

Click "Add Student" and fill in the required fields with your child's details.

#### Why sign up for School Cash Online?

School Cash Online is an online parent portal that offers a safe, fast and convenient way to pay for school activity fees.

- ✓ Pay for your child's school fees online. Anytime, anywhere.
- ✓ Stop sending your child to school with money.
- ✓ Get automatic email notifications about upcoming school fees and activities.



#### Which payment methods are accepted?



##### Credit Card

Pay with Visa or MasterCard on School Cash Online by entering your credit card number, CVV number (the three digits on the back of your card), card expiry date, and billing information.



##### eCheck

An electronic version of a paper check used to make payments online. Anyone with a checking or savings account can pay by eCheck on School Cash Online.



##### myWallet

An online wallet that can be loaded to hold funds and pay for your child's fees on School Cash Online. myWallet also allows you to allocate funds to pay for school fees at a later date.

##### Interac Online

Pay directly from your bank account with Interac Online.



For more information, contact Parent Helpdesk at  
[parenthelp@schoolcashonline.com](mailto:parenthelp@schoolcashonline.com) or 1.866.961.1803

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