



Feb. 2, 2024

Dear QM Families:

\*Note: A PDF copy of this message, and an archive of previous weekly messages, can be found on our school website. <https://www.sd44.ca/school/queenmary/About/Principal/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

### **Happy Ground Hog Day!**

[Groundhog Day 2024 in Canada \(timeanddate.com\)](https://timeanddate.com/holidays/canada/groundhog-day)

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Recognized in Canada for many decades now, Groundhog Day is a way of predicting if winter will continue or if spring is on its way. Van Isle Violet is B.C.'s official weather-predicting marmot for this occasion. Tradition has it that if the creature comes out of its burrow, sees its shadow and scurries back in then we will have six more weeks of Winter. If it does not scoot back into its burrow then Spring is on its way. Having grown up in Ontario and a lover of winter, I have my fingers crossed that the Van Isle Violet pokes her head out and then hides back in her burrow...Let's see what she predicts!

[Groundhog Day 2024 predictions to be made by 'Van Isle' Violet marmot - My Comox Valley Now](#)

### **QM Staff Professional Development and School Plan Updates**

On the Professional Development Day last Friday, staff members took part in workshops to extend learning in areas relating to our School Plan and the International Baccalaureate (IB) self-study process that we are working through this year in preparation for our October 2024 IBO Evaluation Visit. Details pertaining to this year's areas of focus and the IB self-study can be found in the School Plan section of our Queen Mary website.

### **Crossing Guard Update**

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we worked through the hiring process for Crossing Guards. Please join us in welcoming Christian to our Crossing Guard team! He will be joining Joanna and David (sharing the role throughout the week) doing the Crossing Guard duties consistently on Thursdays and Fridays starting next week, and occasionally filling in on other days as needed/available. It is fantastic to finally have a few people we can count on to fill the role in Gail's absence.

### **Karate**

[Canadian Karate Academy – Canadian Karate Academy](#)

Students have thoroughly enjoyed an introduction to Karate, led by instructors from the Canadian Karate Academy, during P.E. classes this week. Introducing children to a variety of athletic endeavours and sports is an important part of the Physical and Health Education curriculum, and it is fantastic when we can have experts in the field join us! Ask your child about their experience!



### **Spirit Day – Sports Theme!**

Students and staff showing their school spirit and athletic gear! Thanks to the Leadership Club for organizing the event. Stay tuned for our upcoming monthly Spirit Days!



### **Here is a quick overview of what is going on this month!**

**February is Black History Month** - We will be sharing highlights of how this is being honoured and recognized at Queen Mary in our weekly messages throughout the month of February.

**February is also QM's Random Acts of Kindness Month** - Each class will be encouraging, recognizing, and celebrating acts of kindness, in various ways throughout the month of February... watch as the sharing of these acts of kindness grows on our walls and windows as the month progresses!

**Chinese New Year** - Chinese New Year 2024 falls on Saturday, February 10th, with celebrations culminating with the [Lantern Festival](#) on February 24<sup>th</sup>. It is the Year of the Dragon!

### **JUMP ROPE FOR HEART event and QM Annual Fundraiser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation**

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Every year for the month of February, students and staff members at Queen Mary take part in the Heart and Stroke Foundation's Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser. Help us reach our \$1000 fundraising goal, helping fellow Canadians! Donate online throughout the month of February – see attached instructions.

To learn about the important work of the Heart and Stroke Foundation – link [HERE](#)

Our **“JUMP ROPE for HEART” event takes place on Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup>**, which is also **Valentine's Day!**

Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> : **National Flag of Canada Day**

Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> : **District-wide non-instructional day (students do not attend on this day)**

Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> : **Family Day (Schools are closed – Provincial holiday)**

### **Pink Shirt Day is Wednesday, February 28th**

“Lift each other up!”

This year's official Pink Shirt design is by Corey Bulpitt, an internationally recognized artist from the Haida Na7ikun-Raven Clan.

Visit: [www.pinkshirtday.ca](http://www.pinkshirtday.ca)

### **Triple Ball for Grades 6 and 7**

Come support our Triple Ball teams as their game schedule begins next week! Snacks will be sold as part of the Grade 7 Farewell Fundraising initiative. See the home game schedule below (game location and times set by the NVEAA committee).

Home Game Schedule – 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Grade 7 Boys - Monday February 12<sup>th</sup>

Grade 7 Girls – Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup>, Friday February 9<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday February 13<sup>th</sup>

Grade 6 Girls – Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday February 27<sup>th</sup>

### **Volleyball Club for Grades 6 and 7**

The Tuesday QM Volleyball club will be on hiatus until the end of the Triple Ball season.

***For other UPCOMING EVENTS and DATES of NOTE, please check the LIVE calendar on the main page of our school website.***

[Home - Queen Mary Community Elementary \(sd44.ca\)](http://Home - Queen Mary Community Elementary (sd44.ca))

### **QM Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**

Visit the Queen Mary PAC Facebook Page to stay informed, and to learn about ways to connect with and get involved in the school community. You can contact members of the PAC Executive members through Facebook or Email: [queenmarypac@gmail.com](mailto:queenmarypac@gmail.com)

[Queen Mary PAC | North Vancouver BC | Facebook](#)

**PAC Meetings:** Our next PAC meeting for this year will take place on **Monday, February 26th on ZOOM @ 7:00 p.m.** All QM parents/guardians are invited to take part. If planning to attend, email [queenmarypac@gmail.com](mailto:queenmarypac@gmail.com) prior to the PAC meeting to get the ZOOM link information.

### **Fun Lunch:**

Our PAC executive and parent volunteers organize lunches for students weekly, delivered by various vendors, for a minimal fee. Order using Munchalunch (online) – place order by Saturday (by 11:59 p.m.), for the following week's Fun Lunch. If you have any questions about Fun Lunch food orders, please contact the PAC. Fun Lunch Order Munchalunch Login: <https://munchalunch.com/schools/QueenMary/>

THANK YOU to all who have volunteered this fall to organize the lunch orders and get them into classrooms! To sign up to help with Fun Lunch, please go to: <https://signup.com/go/UuBuXCD>

### **NVSD Events and Information**

Upcoming NVSD events, registration information and public input opportunities (2024-25 school calendar and budget): [LINK HERE](#)

[News Item - North Vancouver School District \(sd44.ca\)](#)

### **NVSD Invites Your Feedback!**

**2024/25 School Calendar (proposed)** - Comments will be accepted between January 16 and February 13 – [LINK HERE](#) for further information and to submit comments

[School Calendar - North Vancouver School District \(sd44.ca\)](#)

**Budget Priorities for 2024/25** - There will be a survey issued to all NVSD community members seeking input and feedback on Budget Priorities to help inform the 2024/25 Preliminary Budget. The survey is available online or by traditional mail. Comments will be accepted between February 1 and 29, 2024.

**SEE ATTACHED FLYER for further info:**

### **Late French Immersion information Session – Reminder for Parents of Grade 5 Students**

Applications to the program will be accepted between January 9 and March 8. For more information, visit the [Late French Immersion](#) web page.

**New Student Registration and School Transfer Requests** for the 2024-25 school year

Submit requests between January 9<sup>th</sup> to March 8<sup>th</sup> 2024

Registrations and transfer requests received after March 8 will be placed in schools based on catchments where space is available.

Visit the [Student Registration](#) web page for further information,

**Elementary Band and Strings – Registration deadline reminders!**

Elementary Band and Strings is open to students in Grades 5 – 7 for the Band Program, and Grades 4 – 7 for the Strings Program. **Let's work toward keeping the Band Program at Queen Mary! Register by February 29<sup>th</sup> to ensure we reach the required number of registrations to sustain the program!!**

**If your child is interested, please register by February 29<sup>th</sup>!**

If you are requesting a bursary to assist with fees, please contact Jen Wilson for the bursary form. These forms must be received by **NVSD by Feb 15<sup>th</sup>!**

Visit the [Elementary Band and Strings](#) web page for information and registration details, including program fees.

***Soak up the sunshine this weekend...it has been a while since we have seen that shiny disc in the sky!!  
Enjoy!***

Jennifer Wilson, Principal [jwilson@sd44.ca](mailto:jwilson@sd44.ca)

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