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April QM Monthly News

Earth Day



Queen Mary celebrated Earth Day with a meaningful assembly focused on awareness, action, and responsibility. Students learned that Earth Day is not only a day to celebrate our planet, but a reminder to care for it all year long. Our Grade 2 students performed the song *"I Am the Future,"* sharing the message that young people can make a difference through their actions. Across the school, students showcased how they are helping the Earth. Grade 1 students built chickadee birdhouses to support local wildlife, and Grade 4 students participated in the Cool It Challenge, taking climate action and reducing emissions. Through student presentations and a public service announcement, we explored how small actions can make a big difference.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all teachers, staff, students, and parents who supported Earth Day, as well as our Student Leadership Club for organizing and leading this special event. The assembly highlighted the importance of the Three R's—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle—and inspired our school community to continue taking action to care for our planet.

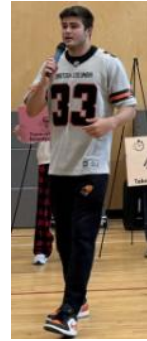
By Jin Hong

BC LIONS

We were excited to kick off Earth Week at Queen Mary with a visit from the BC Lions as part of the BC Lions Energy Champions Program. Students had the opportunity to hear from Bo Lokombo and Jackson Findlay, who spoke about the importance of saving energy and taking care of our environment.

They shared how small actions, like turning off lights, reducing waste, and making smart choices can make a big difference. Students also learned what it means to be an “Energy Champion” and how we can all help protect the Earth.

It was a fun and inspiring way to begin Earth Week, and students left feeling motivated to make positive changes at school and at home!



Carson Music Festival

On Friday, May 17, Queen Mary Choir students went with Mr. Hopkins to the annual NVSD Intermediate Music Festival held at Carson Graham Secondary, to share Queen Mary student's passion for song and dance. Queen Mary students participated with students from other North Vancouver elementary schools to celebrate the Performing Arts together. Let's give a shout out to the Queen Mary Choir students for the commitment of time they put into practising together to share the best of Queen Mary spirit in the school community and beyond.



Student Perspective

I am a student that arrived at Queen Mary at the start of 2026. It makes me feel happy to be at Queen Mary because it is better than my other school. Queen Mary has a lot of students that have welcomed me and I have family here. I enjoy the brain breaks outside with my friends. If I forget my lunch, I like that we get real food here instead of just a granola bar. The teachers here are really nice, there are boundaries, but teachers are not just strict.

Track and Field Season

In April, interested students in Grades 4 to 7 began their track and field training. Over 70 students have been running every Tuesday and Thursday morning at Fen Burdett Stadium, as well as practising high jump, long jump, triple jump, and shot-put skills at school.

On April 28, approximately 50 Queen Mary student athletes competed in a mini meet with three other schools. Students are now looking forward to the upcoming competitions on May 12 and 13. The track and field season will conclude on June 2 with the NVSD finals at Swangard Stadium, where students from all the NVSD elementary schools compete together.



Gr 4 Outdoor School

The Grade 4 students had an amazing time at Outdoor School from April 8th–10th! Over the three days, they explored the outdoors, learned new skills, and enjoyed lots of delicious food. One student shared that their highlight was the nature art field study, where they searched for natural materials like leaves, sticks, rocks, and moss and used them to create unique pieces of art. This was their favourite activity because they were able to use these materials to build a fort, combining creativity with teamwork!



Robotics



Since December, some of our Grade 5 and 6 students have been hard at work designing, building, and coding their robots through the school's robotics club. Working collaboratively in teams, they developed both their technical skills and their ability to communicate and problem-solve effectively.

We were proud to have four teams represent Queen Mary Elementary School at the recent district-wide robotics challenge at Handsworth Secondary School, where more than 35 teams competed. Throughout this journey, students learned how to overcome challenges, persevere through setbacks, and support one another. Most importantly, they had fun while building confidence and a strong sense of teamwork.

We look forward to seeing what our robotics team will bring forward next year!

Chickadees

Hello Queen Mary!

The Grade 1s have been learning all about chickadees this week! We painted special chickadee birdhouses, and they are now around our school. See if you can spot them when you are outside! We hope chickadees will come and make nests in them. If you find one, please be caring and principled by giving the birds lots of space so they feel safe in their new home.

We also discovered some amazing chickadee superpowers!

1. Chickadees can grow their brains to help them remember all the places they hide their food—just like great learners!
2. They stay all winter long, even when it's cold—they are strong and brave!
3. They can even dance and do acrobatics in the air!
4. The chickadee is famous for its chickadee call - if it only says "chickadee," it is safe and happy, if it is saying "chickadee-dee-dee," it is warning about danger.

Thank you for helping us be caring members of our community and take care of our chickadee friends!



School Grounds Cleanup

Division 14 has begun a weekly litter collection as part of our “Sharing the Planet” unit, connecting our learning in a transdisciplinary way. Each week, we head outside to collect litter around the school grounds, then return to sort what we have gathered into recycling, compost, and garbage. This “hands-on” (with gloves/tongs of course!) experience allows students to see the impact of waste and understand how much can be diverted from the landfill. We are also collecting data and using a tally chart to track our findings over time. Students will create graphs to represent our results. It has been a meaningful and engaging way for students to care for their environment while building real-world connections in their learning.



Salmon

A young boy is holding a white bucket over a large glass tank, possibly containing water or a small animal. He is looking intently at the tank.	<p>Grade 2 cohort gathering at Mosquito Creek before the release of the salmon.</p> A group of children and adults are gathered outdoors in a wooded area. They are standing in a line, possibly waiting for the release of salmon. There are white buckets on the ground.	A group of children are gathered around a stream, releasing salmon. They are holding white buckets and looking at the fish as they are released into the water.
<p>After months of careful observation and care, our school community is finally ready to release the Pacific Chum Salmon we received as tiny, eyed eggs back in January. At first, they seemed almost lifeless, but over time we watched them develop, hatch, and grow into active young fish, each stage revealing just how remarkable their life cycle is. Now, as they are strong enough to survive in the wild, we released them into Mosquito Creek, returning them to their natural habitat. This experience has shown us why salmon are considered a keystone species—they play a vital role in maintaining the balance of their ecosystem, supporting everything from forest life to other animals. Being part of their journey has helped us better understand the importance of protecting these fish and the environments they depend on.</p>		

IB Sharing

In the Primary Years Programme (PYP), students develop not only knowledge and understanding, but also the skills they need to become confident, independent, and lifelong learners. These are called **Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills**. ATL skills help students learn how to learn. They support success in the classroom and beyond by encouraging students to think critically, work with others, manage themselves, and communicate effectively.

The five ATL skill categories are to the right →

Throughout the year, students practice these skills during lessons, inquiries, group work, and everyday classroom experiences. ATL skills help children become active participants in their own learning and prepare them for success both inside and outside of school.

Families can support ATL development at home by encouraging independence, asking open-ended questions, and providing opportunities for children to reflect, problem-solve, and collaborate.

