



Queen Mary's Annual Holiday Market



We are very excited to be able to hold our "Holiday Market" again this year! This is set up for our primary students (Grades K-3) to "shop" at school for gifts to give to their family members. Money is not required but we are encouraging students to bring loonies, toonies, or other coins for "transactions" as a way for students to experience "purchasing" something (teaching financial literacy!). All students will be allowed to "shop" even if they do not bring any \$, and all funds collected will be donated to the [Family Services North Shore](#).

When: Students (Kindergarten to Gr 3) Shopping: Tuesday, December 16th and Wednesday December 17th (classes will be scheduled for a "shopping" time)

Where: Queen Mary's Art Room

Purpose: To allow the primary students the opportunity to "shop" (using \$1, \$2, and other small change, as described above) for gifts for family - to experience the pleasure and joy of giving!

How this works:

- Gently used or new items are "donated" for the holiday market by our community members and families – anyone can donate so spread the word! *A wonderful way to clean out closets and "re-gift"!!*
- Donated items can be dropped off in front of the main office by parents or sent with students to be handed in at the school office up until Dec 15th

Examples of items to donate:

- Wrapping paper and/or gift bags, name tags/cards
- New Items: soaps, hand and body creams, shaving lotion, and other toiletries; tea, coffee, hot chocolate, candies or other packaged "goodies", chocolates; housewares, tea towels, candles, socks, hats, stuffies, etc... (dollar store is a good source for many of these types of items)
- Gently Used Items: books, cards/small games, stuffies, toys, ties, bracelets, decorations, mittens or gloves, scarves (cleaned), coffee/tea cups, etc...

****Nothing too big or breakable please as young children will be carrying these gifts home.**

- Items will set out on tables to create a "market" experience. Students will be brought in during the day by their teachers to "shop" for items that they will give as gifts to family members.

Thank you for supporting this "shopping" and gift-giving experience for our young students!

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or email me.

THANKS!

Jen Wilson

Principal, Queen Mary Community Elementary

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This holiday season, let's come together to support families within the Queen Mary Community through the QM Giving Tree initiative. During this financially challenging time, our goal is to provide some extra support for those in need.

How You Can Help:

We invite you to send a cash donation or gift card to school (suggestions below) with your child or drop it off at the school office. These donations will go toward the creation of "Holiday Hampers" for local families. Gift cards will be included directly in the hampers, while cash donations will be used to purchase additional items for them.

As a thank you, each child who brings in a donation will receive a paper ornament to color. They can print their name on it or leave it blank to remain anonymous. These ornaments will be hung on a large paper Christmas Tree displayed outside the library on the second floor, as a way to recognize our community's contributions. Each day, we will update the star at the top of the tree with our total donations. Every bit helps - small or big – any contribution is appreciated!

Donating students will also be entered into a draw for a special holiday gift basket filled with treats for the whole family. These baskets will be displayed in the office window, and the lucky winners will be announced during the last week of school.

Important Dates:

- Donation Collection: December 1--December 11

Gift Card Suggestions: Loblaws, Walmart, London Drugs, Shoppers, Tim Hortons, McDonald's, Starbucks, and other local options. Feel free to get creative—shopping rewards points can be a great way to give back!