



230 Keith Road West,  
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queenmarycommunityelementary.ca



## QUEEN MARY NEWS – JANUARY 2026

### **Black History Matters**

On Black Excellence Day, January 15<sup>th</sup>, students in Grades 4-7 enjoyed the very informative and engaging *Black History Matters (BHM)* presentations by Presentation House. The workshop presenters talked to students about Black history and culture, inclusive of songs and dance, the impacts of racism and discrimination, and the contributions of Black Canadians.

In our library we have many great books for all ages featuring Black history and culture, available for student sign-out - fiction and non-fiction, picture books and novels – encourage your children to select from the books on display in our library!



### **Carson Graham Choir, Band and Jazz Band visit**



On January 21st, Carson Graham's Band and Choir performed for Queen Mary students. This experience supported the IB Learner Profile of risk-taker, as students were inspired to try new musical experiences and imagine themselves performing with confidence. The performance also highlighted opportunities for QM students to join the NVSD band program for next year, and to continue engaging in music programs when they move on to high school.



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### Long Distance Running Club

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|  | <p>Queen Mary's new Distance Run Club had their first practice this week. Coaches Ms. Aragon and Teacher Taylor were truly impressed by the group's effort as they ran 4 km in 30 minutes – a sign of great (and longer) things to come. Distance Run Club meets Thursdays after school and students in Grades 4 to 7 are welcome to join.</p> |
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### Salmon Eggs

Our salmon eggs have arrived and are nestled into the pebble bottom our aquarium. Grade 2 students will be monitoring their growth and change as they learn about lifecycles, as part of their "Sharing the Planet" IB PYP Unit of Inquiry.





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### Student Art Hallway Displays

We are enjoying some fantastic student art on display in our hallways!





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## Darryl Fox and Tom Mayenknecht

Our entire school attended a powerful presentation by Darryl Fox, Terry Fox's brother, and Tom Mayenknecht, Chair of the BC Sports Hall of Fame and Sportsnet 650. Their presentation highlighted the lasting impact of Terry Fox's legacy and emphasized the power of family. It showed how Terry's deep devotion to a cause greater than himself inspired change across Canada and beyond. Terry's mission was not just to run, but to help eradicate cancer and prove that anything is possible through determination and perseverance. The presentation encouraged students to set high goals, work hard to achieve them, and always give back to others. Terry Fox's story is a powerful reminder that courage, perseverance, and a commitment to helping others can truly change the world.



## Calligraphy

Hayate Yamamoto, a teacher from Japan, is being hosted by Queen Mary for this school year. He came to learn about Canadian education and while here is also teaching us about Japanese culture. This month he has had the opportunity to teach Japanese calligraphy to the students from Grades 5 to 7. They practiced writing characters for "New Year" using a brush, ink, and paper. He shared: "Japanese calligraphy is not only about writing beautifully, but also about focus, balance, and expressing feelings." The students worked hard and had a great time practicing Japanese calligraphy.





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## Robotics

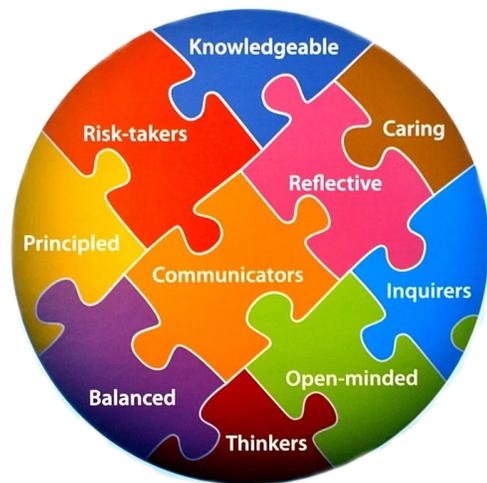
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|---|---|---|
|  |  | <p>The Grade 5 and 6 Robotics Club members have been busy exploring engineering and problem-solving using VEX IQ robotics kits. Students have been learning how to build sturdy robot designs while experimenting with motors, sensors, and developing coding skills. It has been exciting to see students' confidence and collaborations skills grow while working with their team members. The ultimate goal for the Robotics Club members is to compete at the District Robotics competition in April.</p> |
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**A QM Student's Perspective:** Hi, I am in Grade 1, last year I was in Kindergarten. What I liked to do in Kindergarten was play with my friends. My favourite thing to learn was math. I like math so I can get smart. This year, my favourite thing to learn is learning how to be a good kid because the teachers actually teach of how to be a good kid. My favourite thing about Queen Mary is playing with my friends and the playground.

## IB Sharing

### The Learner Profile

The learner profile describes the kind of person we hope students grow into through their learning. It focuses on helping students become curious, thoughtful, and caring individuals who can think for themselves, work well with others, and respect different perspectives. It also encourages students to act responsibly, take on challenges, reflect on their learning, and develop balance in their academic and personal lives.





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