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QM Monthly News

November 28th, 2025

This Month's Highlights:

Basketball Season Concludes

Congratulations to the Grade 7 boys and girls basketball teams for their outstanding representation of Queen Mary throughout their season and at the NVSD Elementary Basketball finals where the boys' team placed third overall and the girls team placed fourth. We thank all the coaches and parents who supported the players throughout the season.

Remembrance Day and National Indigenous Veterans Day Assembly

Our annual assembly commemorating these two important days was held on Friday November 7th, led by members of our Student Leadership Committee. An Honour Guard parade into the gym began the assembly, followed by both the Coast Salish Anthem and O Canada, and then a moment of silence. Choir and student performances were incorporated into the assembly.



Grade 6 Outdoor School



In the ODS Program, students built awareness of their community and environment while extending their classroom learning. They took part in hands-on lessons about local ecology, wildlife, and food systems, and enjoyed nature games, farm explorations, and evening campfires. Working together, they strengthened their sense of community and practiced positive problem-solving. They also studied salmon life cycles in the Salmon Hatchery, interacted with animals on the Biodiversity Farm, explored forest ecology at the Forest Field Pavilions, and gathered for meals and activities in the Environmental Learning Centre.

Vancouver Warriors

Students in Grades 2-7 were treated to an assembly by Vancouver Warriors Lacrosse players of who shared the history of Lacrosse and a demonstration of how to play the game. The visiting players then led Lacrosse lessons in students' Physical Education Classes. Scan the QR code or go to [Warriors Tickets](#) for more information on tickets and discounts



Friendship Lab Workshops



Students in Grades 1 – 3 have been taking part in the Friendship Lab Workshops run by the same presenters who provide the Grade 6 and 7 students with the GRIT workshops. In these sessions students are led to explore big emotions, role-play tricky friendship scenarios, brainstorm conflict resolutions, and tap into their naturally kind, social selves. The goal is to leave students feeling more empowered, informed, and ready to handle whatever friendship challenges the year might bring.

Tulip Planting by Grade 2s

Grade 2 students distributed a truckload of topsoil to the planters next to the Basketball court where they will soon be planting tulip bulbs. The students will observe the plants' growth over the course of the year, in connection with their "Sharing the Planet" IB PYP Unit of Inquiry. We ask everyone to help us care for these flowers by staying out of these planters. Thanks!



QM Spirit Week and 111th Birthday! Students enjoyed a week of QM Spirit fun as a way to celebrate Queen Mary's 111th Birthday!



Student's Voices (From the voice of a Kindergarten student)

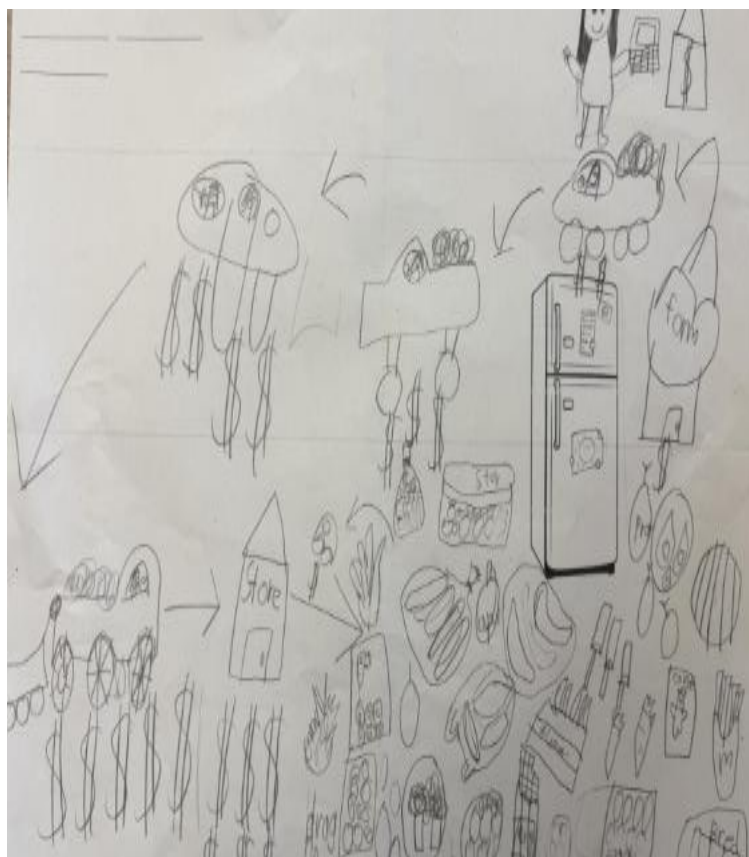
Kindergarten is fun. I like doing math. We do the things that I like. Like just learning things. I like art too. We make monsters and we paint pictures. We also make people. I like doing the gym. I like doing the action break and I like doing the drawing. Being a special helper is something I just like. I like the art that is around the school. I just like my teachers. Some kids are excited together and they are happy too.

IB Sharing

What is conceptual understanding?

In the PYP, conceptual understanding is when students learn broad, powerful ideas—called concepts—that help them connect their learning across subjects and apply it to real-life situations. Instead of memorizing information, students learn *why things work, how things connect, and how to use their understanding in new contexts.*

In their How We Organize Ourselves unit of inquiry, Grade 2s are developing their understanding of the concept of needs and wants by exploring the idea that everyone has the right to food. But where does our food come from, who is involved as it moves from farm to fridge and how are food prices determined?



Student-Led Goal Setting Conferences: Connecting to our School Plan

THANK YOU to everyone who was able to make it into the school this month for the student-led goal-setting conferences. Almost all families were able to take part! The feedback we received has been overwhelmingly positive, so we look forward to using this format again next fall. Please know that you can talk with teachers about your child's learning progress at ANY time over the course of the year – you don't have to wait for learning conferences or reporting times! Feel free to contact teachers to request a meeting (phone call or in person) at any time throughout the year.

As part of our request for conference feedback from families, we also asked for names of parents who would be willing to act as translators for other QM parents when needed. We requested this as a means of addressing our school goal of enhancing parents'/guardians' involvement in our school community by facilitating an increase in families' connection to student learning and to school events in general. Given our multi-lingual community we are assuming that communication in English might be a barrier to engagement for some families, so we want to provide greater options for parents to communicate in their language of choice. Once

the list of volunteer translators is completed, we will let the school community know how to access their services.

A BIG THANK YOU to those who have volunteered in this capacity! If you missed the opportunity to do so, and would like to add your name to the translator list, please email JEN WILSON with your contact info (email and phone #) and the languages, other than English, you feel comfortable translating for (proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking).

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