

## **Parents as Partners at Queen Mary Community Elementary**

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

<http://www.queenmarypac.ca>

<https://www.facebook.com/QueenMaryPAC/>

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) at Queen Mary plays a vital and integral role in the functioning of our school. The Council is a non-profit society made up of a voted-in executive (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary) and members at large from the parent community. Membership in PAC is free and automatic for any parent or guardian of a child attending the school. Regular monthly meetings of the PAC are held between September and June and are open to all parents and community members who wish to attend. Meeting dates are posted on the QM PAC website and on our school events calendar. All parents are encouraged to attend the PAC meetings and to take part in discussions as well as vote on matters at hand. A variety of information is distributed at the meetings, and attending them provides an ideal opportunity to meet other parents and get involved with the Queen Mary community. The purposes of the PAC are:

- To advise the principal and staff on parents' views on any matter relating to the school programs, policies, plans, and activities
- To reflect the collective voices of parents and thereby enhance communication and promote cooperation between the home and school
- To provide advocacy support for individual children and their parents
- To organize PAC activities and events
- To raise funds for the school's curricular and extracurricular programs

#### **Other PAC involvement/initiatives:**

- Facilitating the cooperation between the school and community in the pursuit of quality education
- Providing for effective communication to and from the community and the school
- Serving as a sponsoring body for community needs and to aid in the implementation of programs and services to meet these needs
- Encouraging and promoting participation in community development by partnering with resident groups and agencies servicing the Queen Mary Community School area

### **Parent Volunteers**

We welcome and encourage parents to become involved in the Queen Mary school community. Research has identified home environment and parental support as powerful influences on student learning. As an IB World School we encourage parents to become involved in their children's learning to extend classroom learning into aspects of their daily life outside of school. This could include:

- Taking an active role in the classroom when teachers request volunteers or participating in classroom-based celebrations of learning
- Participation in school events and celebrations
- Reviewing the Unit of Inquiry information and discussing with your children their daily learning experiences within the units
- Sharing any Unit of Inquiry related expertise that you may have in classrooms (beyond your own child's class - check the Programme of Inquiry to see if any your area of expertise relate to any of the school's Units of Inquiry)
- Posting the IB Learner Profile attribute and IB Attitudes words and using the terms in as many aspects of daily life as possible
- Supporting IB "Action"- any child-initiated extensions of their Unit of Inquiry learning at home (see the IB parent section of the school website on ideas for how to integrate, support, and extend aspects of the IB PYP into daily experiences outside of school)

Much appreciated parent volunteerism also comes in the form of providing transportation and assisting with supervision on field trips, reading to or with children, and assisting in the library (cataloguing and circulation of books), as well as parent participation in PAC fundraising and community events (visit the PARENTS section of the school website to learn more about volunteer opportunities in QM PAC initiatives).

*Note: Parents who volunteer with students in places where the teacher is not always present or supervising (e.g., working with children in the hallway) must complete a criminal record check.*

### **Parents as Important Teachers**

A few suggestions to consider:

- Always speak of the school and staff in positive, constructive terms (Please discuss any concerns with your child's classroom teacher)
- Send your child to school each morning with a cheerful parting
- Talk with your children about their learning (see school website IB parent section for suggestions)
- Support your children with completing their schoolwork, while fostering independence and perseverance (Use of IB Learner Profile attributes)
- Share time one-on-one with your child each day - even if just a few minutes to talk and to enjoy each other's company
- You are a powerful model—your child should see you reading, writing, solving problems, and enjoying these activities