



# Queen Mary Community School

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February 3, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Subject: *Food Access Program*

The North Vancouver School District is in the process of changing the School Meal Program, also known as the lunch program, to better meet the needs of all students. A year ago we implemented the *Food Access Program* at Queen Mary – a program where trays of food are placed in classrooms and in hallways each day making healthy snacking available to all students at any time. As of April 2017, the *Food Access Program* will replace the School Meal Program or lunch program, currently available at our school.

Queen Mary Community Elementary School is one of four schools in our school district that has a lunch program. The program has been running in our school for many years providing lunch to students who sign up for the program. Recognizing the value of ensuring students have access to healthy food when they are hungry, and knowing that there are students throughout our entire school district who do not have access to regular nutritious food, the North Vancouver School District is changing its food program district-wide. Instead of just operating in four schools, the new *Food Access Program* will be available in all 31 schools. With the *Food Access Program*, instead of offering only lunch for select students, nutritious snacks will be made available to ALL students throughout the day, including such items as fruits, vegetables, breads, and cheeses.

For our families who are accustomed to the lunch program, please note the following:

- There will no longer be formal lunches offered as of March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- All children will be encouraged to bring a lunch and snack from home; HOWEVER, if any child needs food or a healthy snack it will be provided to the student for FREE, at any time during the school day.

While this change may take some getting used to, I hope that our parents/guardians will understand the importance and value of the new expanded food program. Consistent, healthy nutrition is an important factor in EVERY student's ability to learn, stay focused, and self-regulate. The *Food Access Program* allows access to nutritional snacks all day for ANY student in need.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wilson  
Principal, Queen Mary Community Elementary

