

## **School Support Services and Programs**

### **Library Resource Centre**

Library Resource Centre at Queen Mary is an educational center where the emphasis is on encouraging students to develop a love of literature and learning through inquiry by conducting research and learning how to critically analyze and reflect upon information. The school library also supports the development of mother tongue languages through its rich book collection that represents the diverse languages spoken at the school.

The teacher-librarian works to support and enhance teaching the school's Units of Inquiry. The long-term goal is students' development of skills they need to become independent and life-long learners. Students have the opportunity to sign out books from the library for two-week loan periods. Parents can also sign out books from the parent library.

### **French as a Second Language (FSL)**

As an IB PYP school we include French Language instruction in all grades. Although all teachers include some French language in their daily instruction, our FSL specialists provide direct instruction weekly to Grades K through to 7. FSL specialists also provide teachers with support and resources to extend French language into their daily teaching.

### **Band Program**

<http://www.sd44.ca/ProgramsServices/BandStrings/Pages/default.aspx>

Queen Mary offers the North Vancouver School District's band program, available to students in Grades 5, 6 and 7, for an annual fee. Band instruction is provided twice a week and the students perform at school and district functions during the year.

### **School-Based Resource Team and Extended Resource Team**

The School-based and Extended Resource Teams support the academic, social, and emotional well being of Queen Mary's students. The School-based team is comprised of classroom teacher(s), the Learning Assistance Teacher, the English Language Learning teacher, the Principal, the Vice Principal, the school counsellor, and the Learning Support Teacher. Additional District staff members take part in the Extended Team meetings (psychologist, and the speech and language pathologist, etc.). Specific concerns about individual students are brought to the teams' attention by classroom teachers based on their observations and assessments. Alternatively, parents may request to have their child's learning reviewed by the teams. Through the collective expertise of all attending members, strategies and recommendations for the resolution of a student's difficulties or challenges are suggested and action plans put in place.

### **Learning Assistance - LAC**

The Learning Assistance teacher provides specialized programs for students who experience difficulties primarily in Language Arts and Math. Students receive small group instruction specific to their learning needs, or support in class with assignments. Due to the limited amount of time available, this support is usually limited to those who have identified learning needs that require them to have an Individualized Educational Program (IEP).

### **English Language Learning - ELL**

Children whose native or first language is not English are provided with small group instruction

in the English language, based on individual needs and level of English proficiency.

### **Squamish Language Teacher**

The Squamish Language teacher instructs students of the Squamish Band in Squamish language twice a week. Students' learning is enriched through cultural stories, and activities to ensure that the Squamish language and culture is preserved amongst its youth.

### **School Counsellor**

The school counsellor works with students, parents, and teachers to support children with social, emotional and/or learning needs. The focus is to assist with the development of positive school experiences and peer relationships, and personal empowerment for positive change. The counselor also works as a liaison between other school district programs and support services and family and children's services offered by the North Vancouver District.

### **Speech and Language Pathologist - SLP**

The speech-language pathologist is a school district employee responsible for working with children in a number of different schools. Children experiencing a wide range of communication issues, including articulation and oral language difficulties, may be eligible for service. Services include assessment, monitoring, and intervention. Services range from working with the classroom teachers to support implementation of programs, consultation with parents and Special Education Aides, and working directly with students in individual and small-group settings.

### **Learning Assistance Teacher (LAT)**

The Learning Support Teacher works with students who have designations for their learning needs. This teacher works with teachers and the Education Aides (EAs) to develop and monitor the implementation of Individualized Educational Plans (IEP). The Learning support teacher works closely with the classroom teachers, parents, and the students while also acting as a liaison between other school district programs and support services and family and children's services offered by the North Vancouver District.

### **Learning Support Worker (LSW)**

Learning Support Workers (LSW) are teaching assistants who have specialized training and experience to provide intensive remedial support to students with severe reading difficulties. They work under the direction of the Learning Assistance Teacher (LAT) to provide specific interventions using Phono-Graphix and/or Orton-Gillingham based strategies. Access to the service is determined through assessment that focuses on reading decoding skills and consideration of interventions already tried by the classroom teacher and LAT.

### **School Psychologist**

The school psychologist is a School District employee that provides learning assessment services to several schools. The main role of the school psychologist is to assess students who have been identified as having significant learning challenges. Students are referred to the school psychologist for assessment through the resource team, which is based on teacher/parent referral.

### **Education Aides (EAs)**

EAs work under the direction of the classroom teacher and the Learning Support Teacher to provide learning support for students. The students who receive support from an EA usually have an IEP/identified learning challenges. An EA works collaboratively with the classroom teacher to implement the IEP. When working in a classroom, the EA may also provide other students with support as needed, based on teacher requests. Support is provided in small group or one-to-one settings within the classroom or in an alternate space in the school.

### **First Nations Support Workers, First Nations Support Teacher, Aboriginal Success Teacher**

In North Vancouver School District, the First Nations Support Workers, First Nations Support Teachers, and Aboriginal Success Teachers provide on-going support and ensure the long-term success of students of Aboriginal ancestry.

<http://www.sd44.ca/ProgramsServices/AboriginalEducation/Pages/default.aspx>

### **North Vancouver School District's Outdoor School and Bighouse Programs at the Cheakamus Centre**

The students in Grades 3 and 6 have the opportunity to attend North Vancouver Outdoor School – the Cheakamus Centre - situated in Paradise Valley north of Squamish, where they experience environmental education in a natural setting. Led by their teachers and the teachers at the Centre (who are also North Vancouver SD teachers) students engage in hands-on outdoor education. The Grade 3 students attend for three days and two nights and the students in Grade 6 attend for a full week. <http://www.cheakamuscentre.ca/s/outdoor-school.asp> Grade 4 students have the opportunity to take part in the the Skw'unc-was program where students, teachers and First Nations cultural specialists work together to engage in daily life in and around our Bighouse. This provides a unique opportunity to learn more about the rich culture of Squamish people. Students attend the program for two days, spending the night with their teachers and parent volunteers in the Coast Salish Bighouse. The program is designed to enrich and support the Grade Four study of First Nations culture. All of these programs are designed to enhance classroom learning, and are developed based on the BC Ministry of Education Curriculum. <http://www.cheakamuscentre.ca/s/cultural-skwunc-was.asp>

### **North Vancouver Gifted Programs and Services**

The North Vancouver School District supports gifted learners through specific programs offered within the Family of Schools (FOS), in our case, the Carson FOS, and through adaptations to curriculum and learning as per gifted students' Individual Educational Plans (IEPs). Students who have been designated as Gifted by the District, through specific standardized tests (e.g., *Insight*), teacher observation, student and parent input, and/or outside assessment, have the opportunity to take part in FOS gifted programs and will have an IEP. Please speak to your child's classroom teacher if interested in learning more about this opportunity.

### **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

**North Shore Neighbourhood House – Community Development Project Coordinator**

The coordinator works with other community agencies, including John Braithwaite Community Center, to provide programs outside school hours for Queen Mary students. In addition, the coordinator provides information and referrals to community services to parents and guardians who may require additional supports. Luncheons are also scheduled throughout to school year as a way for parents/guardians to connect and build healthy relationships within the community.

### **Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS)**

The primary focus of the Settlement Workers In Schools program is to provide assistance to parents and their children with first-year settlement needs. The program facilitates settlement and integration of newcomer families through referrals and cross-cultural education. More specifically, the SWIS program is intended to:

- Help children adjust to school culture and focus on learning while providing their parents with information and resources on settlement and immigration issues
- Increase parents' understanding of Canadian culture and the BC school system
- Increase parent involvement in the school and community
- Assess the needs of immigrant families and the barriers to successful integration
- Increase access and improve the effectiveness to programs, services, and employment.

Settlement Workers In Schools' services are available in Farsi, Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Tagalog.

<http://www.sd44.ca/ProgramsServices/SWIS/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Medical Services**

Medical services are available to the school community – children and adults – through the Vancouver Coastal Health Unit. A Public Health Nurse is assigned to the school. This service includes: testing hearing and sight, inoculation program, consulting with parents or teachers on request, serving as a resource person, and contact person for other health services.

### **R.C.M.P. Liaison Officer**

An R.C.M.P. Liaison officer is assigned to our school. The officer's role is to provide liaison between the R.C.M.P and to model positive aspects of policing, which may include visits to classrooms to talk to students about safety.