

Queneesh Elementary

September 2017



2345 Mission Rd.,
Courtenay, B.C. V9N 9H1

Phone: 250-334-4089
<http://www3.sd71.bc.ca/School/queneesh>

Fax: 250-334-4029
Whereabouts: 250-334-4029

Administrator's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to all of our Queneesh families (especially our new ones) and staff as we look forward to a great 2017/2018 school year. Our full staff list can be found on our school website. Please help us welcome our new and returning staff.

- ✓ Lauren Geneau (gr. K and K/1 teacher)
- ✓ Sarah Dakin (gr. K/1 teacher)
- ✓ Adrienne Glover (gr. 1/2 teacher)
- ✓ Krista Dickson (gr. 1/2 teacher)
- ✓ Brooke McQueen (gr. 2/3 teacher)
- ✓ Catherine Crowe (gr. 4/5 teacher)
- ✓ Michelle Wiest (gr. 6/7 teacher)
- ✓ Stephen Garland (gr. K, ½ and 4 teacher)
- ✓ Erica Spizawka (Educational Assistant)
- ✓ Aryn Franklin (Speech and Language)

Please be mindful of our crowded halls and parking areas. When dropping off your child, drive all the way to the end of the concrete barrier before you drop off in the morning. Do not block our driveway entrance, especially the bus lane or our pedestrian cross walks. It would also help us out if you arranged a meeting place with your children for pick up. We are often teaching right up to the 2:30 bell and the extra bodies and voices in the hall can be quite a distraction for some of our learners.

Please feel free to talk to us about any concerns you may have as we don't want little problems to become big ones. Your child's teacher will be available upon request to discuss your child's progress. An email is typically the best way to set up an appointment or initiate a phone call. Teachers will not discuss school or district decisions or other peoples' children with you. Please direct those questions to either of us.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year! We are challenging the children to make each day the 'best day ever' thus making this the 'best year ever!'

Mrs. VanderRee and Mr. Burdett

School Day Start Up

Our morning breakfast programs is now underway. Morning gym starts on Sept. 11th.

If you would like your child to access the breakfast program, they may do so by coming in through the front doors after 8:00 am and heading up the stairs to the kitchen. We rely on some staff as well as a team of school and community volunteers to run this valued program.

Children who would like some before school supervised active time may head to the gym via the front doors to participate in the supervised activities. They should leave their packs at the gym entrance on the tables and cubbies and not go to their lockers. Parents are welcome to join in the fun, but families with small children should be cautious as it is a busy time in the gym.

We have a bell at 8:35. This indicates the time that students and their families may head to the classrooms. If you need to access the office prior to then, please do so. We would prefer for families, escorting their child to class to wait until that 8:35 bell before entering the school. We appreciate your understanding to keep the halls free as staff prepare for the day and to make sure that children are only in supervised areas of the school.



Nut Aware Policy



Due to the prevalence of nut oils in a variety of products and the fact that nut residue can reside on things brought to school from home and/or in common areas of the school we cannot offer a 'Nut Free' environment. What we promote is a 'Nut Aware' policy.

How can **you** help?

- Encourage your children to wash their hands with soap before school or after eating.
- Try to choose lunch and snack items for your child that have no traces of nuts.
- When providing something for a class party please try to avoid all nut products.

What can **the school** do?

Encourage all students to wash their hands before and after eating.

- Wipe down desks and doorknobs each evening.
- Be extra careful in classes with students who have known allergies
- Provide health education of the risk and severity of the allergy to students in affected classes

Parking

As we once again anticipate some struggles with adequate parking due to the college and hospital impact, staff and daytime visitors are required to display a parking pass. Passes are not needed during drop off and pick up times but if you think you will be at the school during the learning day, please ask for a parking pass at the office. We would not want to have a vehicle towed that belongs to someone doing business at the school. Staff will park in the west parking lot or the front of the school. Families and visitors should use the East (or hospital side) lot. Thanks!

Queneesh Free Store

We continue to take donations of good, clean elementary aged children's clothing and shoes. If your child has had a growth spurt and you are done with his/her clothes, please consider dropping them off in the bins in our school foyer. Queneesh children, needing clothes are often taken 'shopping' for their pick of available clothing. Our most needed item is typically boys and girls pants.

Clothing Drive

A heads up that we will do a clothing drive starting Sept. 20th in partnership with Value Village. Adult and children's clothes can be dropped off at our school from September 20th until 27th. Funds raised by this donation will go back into the school's Free Store and breakfast programs.

Soup for Kids

Thanks to the Vanier Prep program donation of soup supplies, children will have an opportunity to be part of enjoying homemade soup at least once this year. Ms. Sally will work with some of her aboriginal students as well as the leadership students to prepare and deliver the soup to each class on their assigned day. Ms. Walling will work with students to prepare bannock for this tasty treat.



Designated Disabled Parking

Please note that we have several families that need access to our two designated disabled parking spots. Their vehicles have the pass displayed on their rear view mirrors. Many times last year, a few families without this pass have used these two spots. Please refrain from doing so.

Thanks in advance!



Outdoor Learning Space

Thank you to our hard working PAC and maintenance staff our Outdoor Learning Space is already in use and appreciated. Here, division 18 is doing class presentations.

Red Dress *Awareness Campaign & Installation*

Once again members of the Comox Valley community have joined forces to raise awareness by hosting the Red Dress Awareness Campaign and Installation. From [October 1 to October 7](#), the Red Dress Awareness Campaign & Installation will be visible in the Comox Valley which seeks to recognize and inform the public about the increasingly high numbers of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls throughout Canada. This year we are pleased to announce the Installation is being hosted by the City of Courtenay at Simms Park.

The REDress Project was started in 2010 by Metis artist Jamie Black to raise awareness about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada. If you would like to show your support it's as simple as hanging a Red Dress in your front yard or your place of business or store front. We encourage you to share this information with friends, family, co-workers and within your community and hang a Red Dress.

For more information please contact: Lee Everson C. [250-702-6740](tel:250-702-6740)

Orange Shirt Day Wear orange on September 29th (Thursday).



The Seventh Generation Club will be giving every student and staff a button to wear on "Orange Shirt Day", if you can please send a small money donation, the money will be donated to the Orange Shirt Day Society.

Orange Shirt Day is a day to bring awareness about the impact of Residential school. Activities will take place in classrooms to help children understand this important day. For more information, please have a look at the website. <http://www.orangeshirtday.org/>

Individual School Photos

Photo day is scheduled for Tuesday October 10th, after the long weekend. Order forms will be given out prior to this.



Bell Times

School Opening Bell 8:35
Warning Bell – 8:40
Class Starts – 8:45
Recess 10:15 – 10:30
Lunch Playtime – 11:45
Eating Bell – 12:10
Warning Bell – 12:25
Afternoon Classes – 12:30 – 2:30

Driver's Abstracts

If you anticipate that you might drive for a field trip this year, please submit your request for a driver's abstract now so we don't get a rush of them at the last second. We will also need copies of your insurance and driver's license. You may call ICBC at 1-800-950-1498 and have them fax or email your records: 250-334-4029 or email trina.mingo@sd71.bc.ca. It is quite quick to do this process on line instead here: <https://onlinebusiness.icbc.com/clio/> You will need your driver's license number available. Thanks in advance for helping us out this year!



Student Planners

Planners have been distributed by teachers who intend to use them. Cost for planners for students is \$5.00. Please have students hand the money in to their teacher as soon as possible. Montessori fees include the cost of home communication

Student Absences/Lates

If your child is going to be absent please call our Whereabouts Line at 250-334-4029 and leave a message. This line is available 24/7. You may also email queneesh@sd71.bc.ca

If you are late in the morning please have your child check in at the office for a late slip before going to class.

Open House

We look forward to meeting you at our Open House, Wednesday Sept. 20- 5 to 6:00 pm.

Students will have an opportunity to show you their classrooms and introduce you to the people they spend their school day with. We will also celebrate the opening of our Outdoor Learning Space. Potatoes and all the fixings will be shared. More information to come.

Please join us.

PAC Meeting

Please join us for the first PAC/CVMS meeting on **Wednesday, September 20th** at **6 pm** in the library. Childcare is available, just let the office know if you will need it. We looking forward to seeing if we can make a combined PAC and CVMS meeting.

Hot Lunches

Order forms will be made available soon. Hot lunches will be on Wednesdays this year starting on Sept. 27th. We will use the on-line ordering for this.

Please take a look at our website.

<http://www3.sd71.bc.ca/School/queneesh>

You should have received quite a variety of forms to check over including the Student Information printout. Please check and if needed, correct it and send it in.

School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)

607 Cumberland Road

Courtenay, B.C., V9N 7G5

Office of the Assistant Superintendent

Fax (250) 334-5552

Telephone (250) 334 5500

September 8, 2017

TO: Parents of all students in the Comox Valley School District

RE: Student Information

At the start of each school year, schools undergo a process to verify important personal information we have on file for your children. It is absolutely vital that schools be able to rely on this information so we can reach you or your designated emergency contacts, and be aware of allergies or other health conditions, or legal matters such as custody, guardianship, access, or name changes.

The safety of your children is paramount for us. In the event of an accident, medical emergency or other event such as closure due to bad weather, power outages, etc., schools need to be able to respond in the best way possible using the information you provide.

Please take a few minutes to carefully review the verification form:

- check mark each correct item,
- cross out any incorrect or outdated information;
- replace incorrect information with corrections printed directly on the form as neatly as possible;
- complete any missing pieces (especially regarding medical conditions);
- return the form to the school by Monday, September 18, 2017 and

➤ **if you possess any court orders that refer to your children please ensure that the school has a copy of the most recent order.**

Please know that the protection of privacy and the safeguarding of all personal information is important to us. Be assured that the information you provide is confidential and securely kept, and will be used only as needed by the school district.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Tom Demeo

Assistant Superintendent



Indigenous Parents Advocacy Club
(IPAC) and
Aboriginal Education Services
School District 71 (Comox Valley)



You're Invited to a



All Aboriginal students and their families in SD #71
are invited to our 2nd annual



Welcome Back Barbeque!
Wednesday, September 20th



5:00 - 7:00 pm

Aboriginal Education Centre / Nala'atsi School,

665 16th Street, Courtenay



*We have school supplies available for any Aboriginal student
– come visit our pick-up area at the BBQ or contact the ABED
centre to set up an alternate time to pick up.*

Phone 250-331-4040 and ask for Sue.

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 First day of school 8:45—11:45	6 Breakfast club begins Walk through Fire drill	7 10:45 ssembly CVMS meet and greet 2:30 Outdoor Learning space	8	9
10	11 Morning Gym begins	12	13 Fire Drill 1:00	14	15	16
17	18	19 EQ Drill Iride – A, B, C	20 Iride – A, B, C Orange Shirt Day Presentations Open House and Outdoor Learning Space Grand Opening—Potato Palooza 5—6:00, PAC/CVMS Meeting Clothing drive begins	21 Iride – A, B, C	22 Terry Fox Run 12:45	23
24	25	26 Iride – D, E, F AbEd K – meet and greet 2:15	27 Iride – D, E, F Clothing drive last day. Hot lunch day	28 Iride – D, E, F Orange Shirt Day Vanier Meet the Teacher Night	29 Non Instructional Day—Curriculum Implementation	30

OCTOBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Homework Club begins	3	4 Lock Down Drill Hot Lunch	5 Homework Club	6	7
8	9Thanksgiving	10 Individual Photos	11 Hot Lunch	12 Homework Club	13	14
15	16 Homework Club	17	18 Green Thumb Theatre 1 pm Hot Lunch PAC /CVMS mtg time to be determined	19 Great Shake Out Homework Club	20 Non Instructional Day	21
22	23 Metis Dance Troop Homework Club	24	25 Gr 6 Immunizations 9:30 Hot Lunch Homework Club	26	27 Fire Drill	28
29	30 Homework Club	31Costume Parade				