



Queen Victoria Elementary School Newsletter

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April 2025

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, April 2nd

Elementary Checkers Tournament
Spark Program 3:00 pm
Autism Awareness Day

Wednesday, April 9th

Spark Program 3:00 pm
International Day of Pink

Thursday, April 10th

Intermediate Anti-Sex Trafficking
information session for parents. 5:00-6:30

Friday, April 11th

Intermediate Anti-Sex Trafficking
Presentation- presented by YMCA

Tuesday, April 15

Grad Photos (am)

Wednesday, April 16th

Pizza Day
Spark Program 3:00pm

Friday, April 18th

Good Friday (no school)

Sunday, April 19th

Easter Sunday

Monday, April 20th Easter Monday – no school

Tuesday, April 22nd –25th

Earth Week

Wednesday, April 23rd

Administrative Professionals' Week

Thursday, April 24th

Earth Hour

Friday, April 25th

Sub Day

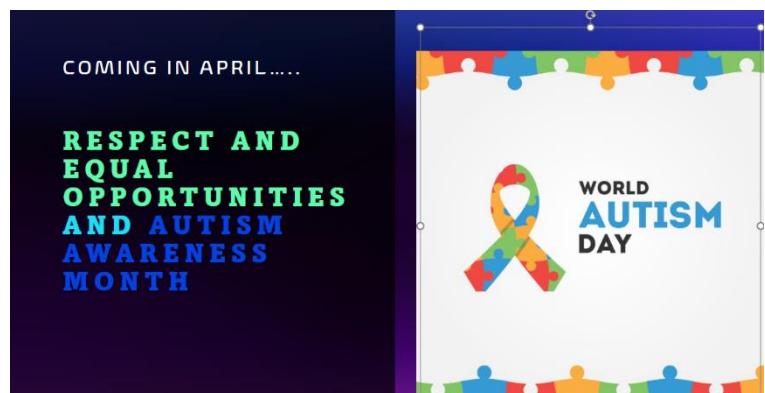
Dear QV Community,

Dear Parents,

As we step into April, our school is buzzing with excitement and new opportunities for learning and growth. This Month, our school is dedicated to promoting the value of **Respect** with a strong emphasis on **Equal Opportunities**. We believe that every student deserves to be treated with dignity and given the same chances to succeed, regardless of their background.

Throughout the month, we will engage our students in activities and discussions that highlight the importance of respecting one another and ensuring fairness in all aspects of school life. By fostering an environment where respect and equality are paramount, we aim to empower our students to become considerate and inclusive members of our community. Thank you for your continued support in reinforcing these values at home.

April is Autism Awareness Month, a time to celebrate and support individuals with autism. Let's come together to promote understanding, acceptance, and inclusion for everyone in our community. We will have many activities happening during the month to raise awareness and educate one another.



Staff Shoutouts:

Thank you this month to.....



- *Ms. Mamone, Ms. Lolua and Ms. Boyle for coordinating the McMaster Workshops
- *Our Phonics Academy teachers!
- *Ms. Dely for organizing the grade 3/4 trip to the Art Gallery
- * Ms. Iavarone for coordinating our Mental Health Presentations for Intermediate Students

Volunteers Needed

As the spring season slowly approaches, our teachers are thinking about class trips! If you are interested in volunteering with your child's class for any trip opportunities, please see the necessary paperwork to be completed:

[tinyurl.com/VolunteerHWDSB](https://www.tinyurl.com/VolunteerHWDSB)

For most volunteer roles within the HWDSB you must have a **Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC)** with Hamilton Police. The fee for a VSC is \$25 and can be reimbursed by the school if cost is a barrier. Processing time is 30 days.

To obtain a VSC from HPS, visit:

<https://www.policesolutions.ca/checks/services/hamilton/>

Pizza and Sub Days

Pizza and Sub sandwich Days will be once a month in 2024-2025. Payments through School Cash Online (SCO) close one week prior. Please see this month's dates above.

To register for SCO go to:

<https://hwdsb.schoolcashonline.com/Registration>

Exciting Activities at Our School!

Our school was busy with activity last month! The Junior Basketball Season is in full swing, led by Ms. Chong, Ms. Lolua, Ms. Elder, and Mr. White.

Congratulations to the Junior Hip Hop Team, coached by Ms. Dely, for winning the Judge's Favourite award!

In Student Leadership, Mrs. Iavarone and Mrs. Smith guided students through impactful anti-bullying workshops as part of Pink Shirt Day.

Our Robotics program is now finished with the Coding Club, led by Ms. Paquette, every Tuesday after school, in partnership with United for Literacy.

The Spark Program (STEM) continues to inspire students every Wednesday after school, thanks to our collaboration with YMCA and Mathstronauts.

Additionally, our STEM initiative, led by Ms. Dykstra, Ms. Imani, Ms. Marcotte, and Ms. Vaughan, includes a vibrant Robotics Club for Grades 4/5 and Grades 6-8 on Day 4s.

Thank you to all our families that supported the School Council Make It Sow Fundraiser. We raised \$520! This support has allowed us to enhance our Robotics program and purchase a Lego Prime Essentials Kit. Our school will now be able to participate in Robotics Competitions against other schools.

Join us in celebrating these wonderful activities and the dedicated staff and students making them possible!



A Message from our Nutrition Helpers

Spring is in the air and delicious new fruits and vegetables will soon be showing up in the snack bins. With the help of our wonderful volunteers, we will soon be serving favourites like watermelon and sugar snap peas.

On March 6th, the school participated in "The Great BIG Crunch". It's a special day of food education and community engagement where students and teachers took a synchronized bite of an apple to promote healthy eating and local food. Thanks to Tastebuds and Drummond Farms for providing the delicious apples.

The Nutrition program had to put its Little Ceasars fundraiser on hold. The pizzas come from Michigan, and we had concerns that the tariffs would cost us too much. We are working to come up with another idea.

We were still able to purchase our reusable dishes and have started using them to serve our snacks. The Nutrition Program not only aims to educate kids about healthy eating habits but also about making ecofriendly choices when eating.

It's been an exciting year at the Nutrition Program. We have had more volunteers join the team and all of these helping hands are vital to ensuring the children have access to healthy food each day.




QV Parking: We continue to struggle with the parking situation at QV. We understand that parking can be a challenge. **Please avoid parking or dropping off in no stopping zones such as the Walnut Street bus zone and the school parking lot laneway.** Please remember to park **ONLY** in authorized parking spots. If parking is not available, simply park a little further away and walk your child in. Thank you for your cooperation to keep our students safe.

Health and Peer Relations Study

We are pleased to inform you that our students will be participating in the Health and Peer Relations study conducted by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB). This important study aims to collect valuable data on school climate, focusing on students' health, well-being, and peer relationships. The insights gained will help us create a safer, more supportive, and inclusive environment for all students. Participation in the study is voluntary, and all responses will be kept confidential. We appreciate your support in encouraging your child to take part in this initiative, as their input is crucial in shaping a positive school experience.

Human Development and Sexual Health Curriculum Update

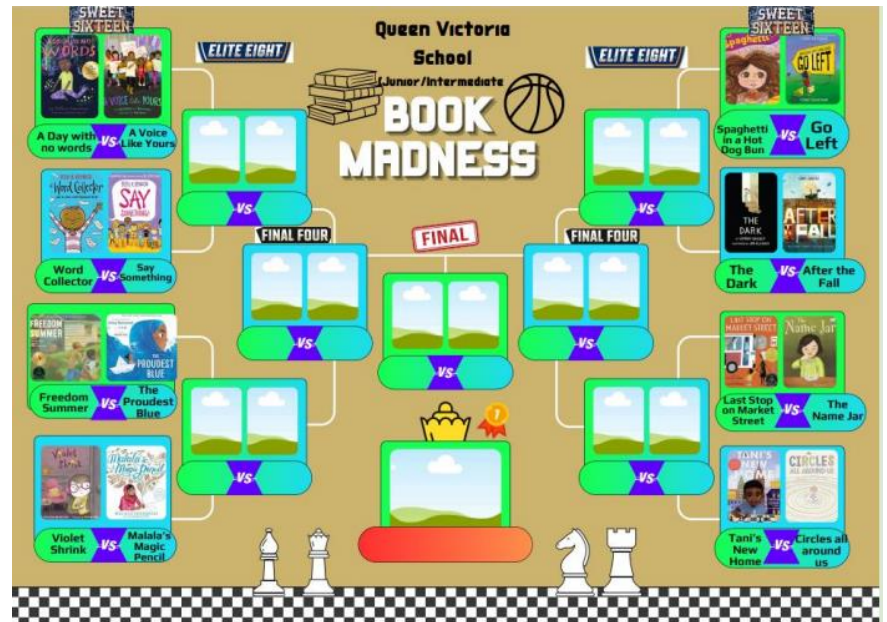
 The Ministry of Education's 2019 Health and Physical Education Curriculum for Grades 1–8 will be taught between **March 24th and April 30th, 2025**. Parents or caregivers who wish to exempt their children from this part of the curriculum should have completed an exemption form by **March 18th, 2025**. Information letters will be coming home from classroom teachers outlining the curriculum being taught and the window of time it will be administered. For any further questions, please contact your child's teacher or the office.

Playground Revitalization Project

We are excited to announce upcoming changes to our school playground. Through a \$28K donation, plans are in the works to make our play spaces safer and more enjoyable for students. We will be paving the kindergarten pen, relocating basketball nets to make the space more open, adding a triple hoop basketball net, and adding new painted lines for outdoor games (e.g., 4 Square). Stay tuned for the upcoming changes.



QV Book Madness We are excited to have Book Madness happening in the school. Thank you to Ms. Groff for organizing our bracket for Primary and Junior/Intermediate by Ms. Lolua. Students will vote on their favourite books until there is one winner! All books identify our school character traits / themes.



Last month's values of Integrity connected to Allyship and Advocacy lead to some very insightful responses from students. Here's a little snippet of some responses:

PADLET RESPONSES

We can stand up for other cultures by studying and learning about the other religions so we have a greater understanding of everyone. So we never make bad mistakes and offend people. I think that all people deserve respect because we are all humans and deserve respect. All religions are different but so are people, whatever somebody believes in that's their culture and religion and it should never affect how they are treated. Everybody is equals despite religion or culture.

We can express our feelings to let others know their words can hurt

We can share our stories and experiences with others

We can share our cultures and celebrations with others

We can advocate for more understanding by:

- Not judging people based on their skin colour
- Not judging people based on their religion
- Include everyone in games
- Not judging people based on what they eat
- Ask people who have a different culture than you to teach you about their culture.

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