



# THE QUEENSVILLE QUILL



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Principal: Bob Sandiford (for Bruce Baynham) Superintendent: Erik Khilji

Vice Principal: Jennifer May Trustee: Elizabeth Terrell-Tracey

Elementary Office Administrative Assistant: Lisa Mammone

## December 2020



### Grandfather Teaching: Love

(Love), so that he would love his brother and sister and share with them.

#### Character Trait: Empathy

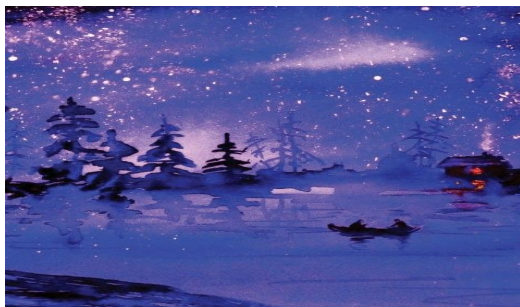
We strive to sense and appreciate the emotions of others, 'to stand in their shoes'; We demonstrate appreciation of and concern for their feelings. We try to understand issues from their perspectives even though we may not agree with them personally.

Character  
Matters!

### Write to the Troops



The men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) have demonstrated time and again that they will rise to any challenge. Our students at Queensville PS have reached out to say thank you and Seasons Greetings to those who serve. All the students participated in writing cards to a members of CAF. Congratulations to all of our students.



Dear families,

I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and well. 2020 has been a challenging year in so many ways, and the global pandemic has affected individuals and families in different ways.

I want to reassure you that we continue to work closely with York Region Public Health and to prioritize the health and well-being of our students, staff members and families. It continues to be important that we adhere to the health and safety measures in place to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. You can learn more about what schools are doing at [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening).

While we have seen cases in some of our schools, we continue to work with public health to respond quickly, identify cohorts that need to self-isolate as a precautionary measure and take all appropriate measures. I want to thank all of our students, families and staff members for their diligence in adhering to the public health recommendations and health and safety measures in place in our schools.

One of our priorities in our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) is to foster well-being and mental health. As a result of the pandemic, many of us are facing changes and new challenges that can take a toll on our mental health. It is more important than ever that we check in on one another and practice self-care. There are [mental health resources for students and families](#) on our Board website that address the unique nature of our current situation. You can also find information about our [Mental Health and Addiction Strategy](#) and the [work we are doing in schools](#) to promote positive mental health and provide support for students.

While there are challenges, we also continue to have so many reasons to feel positive. Our students continue to impress us with their kindness, creativity, innovation, resilience, courage and perseverance. Visit us on [YouTube at YRDSBMedia](#) to see just some of these stories. In the coming weeks and months, many of our students and families will be celebrating days of significance and holidays, and I wish you all the very best for the season. While we may be celebrating a little differently this year, I hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming students back into our in-person and virtual schools in January.

Trustee Elizabeth Terrell-Tracey



# Covid-19

## Dear Parents

With all of the news about rising COVID-19 rates in recent days, we know it is something everyone is thinking about. There is a lot to remember from the large number of memos and updates that we have been receiving since September, so we have summarized some of the key messages as a refresher below. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions or concerns. You can also go to the [School Reopening Staff Information Page](#) on BWW and look at the FAQs or other links for more information.

### Masks:

Masks are optional for Grades K-3 and are required for Grades 4 – 8 at all times when indoors except when eating.

- Mask breaks must be taken outside, at an appropriate distance; Mask breaks may not be taken in the classroom or halls.
- During lunch, students should have their masks on even when at their desks if they are not eating.
- Staff must wear their masks at all times except when eating in the staff room or when alone in an office space or your classroom.
- In addition to a medical mask, eye protection in the form of a face shield (disposable or reusable) must also be worn where a physical distance of 2-metres cannot be maintained.

### Shared Space and Materials:

Books must no longer be quarantined for 72 hours. Instead, wash hands before and after use.

Students should only use their assigned seat and desk. If they are meeting with the teacher at an alternate space (like a guided reading table) the teacher should disinfect the seat and table between students.

- Shared classroom materials (blocks, manipulatives, markers, technology) must be disinfected by the teacher between use.
- Students should be 2 meters apart when using lockers, lining up and moving through the hallways, waiting to use the washroom, etc. Please support/reinforce this with your classes. It may take extra time out of classroom instruction, but this is important learning for our students too.
- Food (including typical common food items such as salt shakers, tea bags, etc. that are typically kept in a staff room) should not be shared.
- Staff using a shared office space or workroom (i.e.: photocopy rooms) are reminded to wear masks when together, stay safely distanced, and to continue to disinfect shared items such as desks/staplers, etc.

Staff are reminded that meetings between staff should take place virtually, even when in the same building.

- When speaking to or working alongside another staff member, it is expected that staff will keep a two meter distance.
- Where a 2 meter physical distance can't be maintained from *any* individual, in classrooms or otherwise, a face shield or goggle must be worn in addition to a mask to protect your eyes.

Recess Zones must be closely monitored and reinforced at all times to avoid cohort-mixing

If you go outside with your class during instructional time, please designate a zone and have your class stay in that area with you. If another class, not in your cohort, is already in a zone, please do not allow your class to go there.

- Students should not be in the halls unsupervised at any time except if they are going to get a drink or to use the washroom outside of class washroom times. To ensure their safety, they should do this on their own and not with a classmate.

### Illness:

- If you are not feeling well, please refer to this [Decision Tree](#) provided by York Region Public Health to support you in making a decision about what to do.
- If a student in your class is not well, please contact the office for support. A reminder that all students who are ill must be sent home through the office. On their return, every student must bring a [Return to School/Child Care Attestation Following Illness](#) form. Please contact the office if this does not happen.

We know how hard it is to stay on top of your students, and how often you are repeating and reinforcing the new safety expectations, and we really appreciate this. We share a huge burden of responsibility right now to keep everyone safe, and we know that this is taking time away from classroom instruction. Thank you so much for committing to this extra work. It has been paying off, and as long as we can maintain the stamina and keep on keeping on, we will all be safe.

## December has many Celebrations and Events: Happy Holidays



**Indigenous Spirituality Dec. 1 -Long Nights Moon (local Oneida)** A long time ago, when the Hunters returned to the community in winter, they brought back stories of the hunt as well as meat. They went to different homes in the community and shared stories as well as food such as corn soup, meat, onions and potatoes. Stories were told at this time of the year because there was too much work to be done at planting and harvesting times...as told by Oneida of the Thames Elders.



**Buddhism Dec. 8 Bodhi / Rōhatsu (Awakening) Day Anniversary** of the historical Buddha's awakening. Rōhatsu is Japanese and literally means 8th Day of the 12th Month. (Mahāyāna) (Japan, North America)



**Judaism Dec.10 Eve of Hanukkah** Observance begins at sundown.

**Dec. 11 First day of Hanukkah** Hanukkah (December 11 - 18), the Festival of Lights (and the Feast of Dedication), commemorates the victory of Judah the Maccabee and religious freedom, and the re-dedication of the Temple in 165 BCE. It also celebrates the power of God and the faithfulness of Israel. Suspension of work



**Bahá'í Faith Masá'il Masá'il Dec. 11 (Questions)** is the 15th month of the Bahá'í year.



**New Moon Dec. 14 New Moon (16:18 UTC)** The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies, astronomical events and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere. (Sea and Sky)

**Dec. 14 Total Solar Eclipse** A total solar eclipse occurs when the moon completely blocks the Sun, revealing the Sun's beautiful outer atmosphere known as the corona. The path of totality will only be visible in parts of southern Chile and southern Argentina. A partial eclipse will be visible in most parts of southern South America, the southeastern Pacific Ocean and the southern Atlantic Ocean. (Sea and Sky)



**Judaism. Last day of Hanukkah Dec. 18**



**Wicca Dec. 21 Yule** - This day, which marks the New Year in the Anglo-Saxon and northern traditions of Wicca, is the celebration of the birth of the God as the Winter-born King, symbolized by the rebirth of the life-generating and life-sustaining sun. It is a time for ritually shedding the impurities of the past year, and for contemplating avenues of spiritual development in the year ahead.



**Shinto Dec. 21 Tohji-taisai** - The Grand Ceremony of the December (Winter) Solstice celebrates the joy of the ending of the yin period of the sun, when it declines in strength, and the beginning of its growing power or yang period. The sun is of central importance in Japan, expressing the presence of Amaterasu Omikami, the Kami of the Sun.

**Astronomical Event December 21- Solstice** The December solstice occurs at 10:02 UTC. This is the first day of winter (winter solstice) in the northern hemisphere and the first day of summer (summer solstice) in the southern hemisphere. (Sea and Sky)



**Christianity Dec. 25 Christmas (W, E - New Calendar)** Christmas celebrates the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. A Holy Day of Obligation for Roman Catholics.



**Jainism Dec. 25 Maunajiyaras (Day of Fasting with Vow of Silence)** This is a day of fasting, silence and meditation on the five holy beings: monks, teachers, religious leaders, Arihants (Jinas, enlightened masters) and Siddhas (liberated souls).



**Zarathushti (Zoroastrianism) Dec. 26 Anniversary of the Death of Prophet Zarathustra** The anniversary of the death of Zarathustra (Zoroaster), the founder of the Zoroastrian faith. His dates are uncertain: the ancient Greeks dated him at ca. 6000 BCE. Modern scholarship suggests he lived in the second millennium BCE. Some of his hymns, known as Gathas, are preserved in the Zoroastrian scriptures



**Buddhism Dec. 29 Sanghamitta Day Anniversary** of the arrival of Sanghamitta, daughter of King Asoka, who started the Order of Nuns in Sri Lanka and brought a branch of the Bodhi Tree (which still survives in the ancient capital of Anuradhapura). (Theravāda) (Sri Lanka)



**Bahá'í Faith Dec. 30 Sharaf Sharaf (Honour)** is the 16th month of the Bahá'í year.



**Full Moon Dec. 30 Full Moon- (03:30 UTC)** This full moon was known by early First Nations peoples / Native American tribes as the Full Cold Moon because this is the time of year when the cold winter air settles in and the nights become long and dark. This moon has also been known as the Full Long Nights Moon and the Moon Before Yule. (Sea and Sky)



**Zarathushti (Zoroastrianism) Dec. 31 Ghambar Maidyarem begins.** This period (December 31 - January 4) celebrates the creation of animals. It is also the time for equitable sharing of food.

# Winter HEALTH AND SAFETY

This year, we are doing many things differently in our schools to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and support the health and safety of our students, staff members and families. As we enter the colder months, we have also reviewed what it will look like when inclement weather days are declared and school transportation is cancelled.

We usually try to keep schools open as much as possible, and in previous years, schools have remained open when school transportation is cancelled. This year, however, given the importance of adhering to our [health and safety guidelines](#), we have made the decision to **close schools to students when an inclement weather day is declared and school transportation is cancelled. Please do not send your child to school when an inclement weather day is declared.** We are unable to guarantee appropriate coverage for students on inclement weather days when school transportation is closed and classes cannot be combined.

**Please take the time to make plans in the event of an inclement weather day school closure.** Please note that before and after care programs will not be operating on inclement weather days. For on-site, full-day child care, please confirm with your childcare operator. We recognize that this may be an inconvenience for some families. This decision was not made lightly and made to prioritize the health and safety of students, staff members and families.

There are also rare occasions when school transportation is cancelled due to extreme cold weather and not road conditions, and schools will remain open for students.

## **Student learning will continue:**

- Students attending elementary school in person will be provided with learning activities for the day through their Google classroom and teachers will be available online to support students.
- Students attending secondary school in person will shift to virtual learning for all of their classes for the day.
- Elementary and secondary virtual schools will operate as normal.

## **Communication to families**

Decisions about school transportation and school closures will be made as early as possible and no later than 6:00 a.m. We will do our best to notify families in advance. Our priority continues to be the safety of our students, staff members and families. If you have any questions, please speak with your school principal.

Transportation cancellations or school closures will also continue to be communicated through:

- Student Transportation Services website: [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com)
- Student Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330-3001
- Board website and school websites
- @YRDSB Twitter account
- Radio and TV media outlets

Families who have provided the school with their cell phone will also receive a text message, unless you have opted out of this service. Please contact your school if you have any questions. Please contact the office if your cell number has changed via EDSBY (you can message the office) or email [Queensville.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Queensville.ps@yrdsb.ca) or phone 905 478-4191. Sincerely, Bob Sandiford Jennifer May Principal Vice-Principal Queensville PS



# AROUND OUR SCHOOL...

## Winter Calendar

Winter Calendar	
	Spirit Day
Dec. 14	<b>Hanukkah Day:</b> Wear blue, white and silver to honour our friends who celebrate Hanukkah.
Dec. 15	<b>Candy Cane Day:</b> Wear red and white to look like your favourite Holiday treat Carolling Days: (Jebb/Wallace/Davidson)
Dec. 16	<b>Tree Topper:</b> Wear your favourite holiday headwear (ex. Santa hat, antlers, elf hat, other holiday/winter hat/headbands, etc.)
Dec. 17	<b>New Year Cheer :</b> Dress to Impress to celebrate the end of 2020 and bring in the new year in style Carolling Days: (Toma/Vallance/Mitchell/Kenny) Dough Pick Up
Dec. 18	<b>PJ Day ; 'Twas the Night Before Winter Break: PJ Day</b>

Keeping our social distance.







# SCHOOL COUNCIL CORNER

Dear Queensville Students and Families

As you know we are so excited to be able to fundraise this year! Having been such a crazy year for all of us, it's fun for our students to be able to participate in something like this! We have chosen for the students to sell cookie dough from Terra Cotta Cookies. Cookie boxes cost \$13 each and come with 40 pre-formed cookie drops. There are tons of flavors to pick from, even gluten-free!!

Please reach out to family, friends, and even neighbours to help us meet our goal of \$1000. All proceeds go directly back to the school and students! Remember to ask students NOT to solicit door-to-door!

Orders are due December 1<sup>st</sup> and need to be placed through School Cash Online. Unfortunately, we are not able to accept cheque or cash sales. Pick up will be December 17<sup>th</sup>. Please consolidate your orders into one large order. Here is a [link](#) to the Terra Cotta Cookie catalogue to see all the delicious choices.

If cookie dough isn't your thing, there is another way to support our wonderful school. You can make a direct donation using the School Cash Online [website](#). Please see the [instructions](#) to assist you with purchasing this item. A tax receipt be printed immediately for any donation of \$20 or more! Please help us reach our goal and give back to the teachers and students of our lovely little school!

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Your School Council

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Your School Council

**Council Executive: Co-Chairs: Jennifer Chaggares and Shannon Camenzuli**  
**Treasurer: Edie Luhowy**  
**Secretary: Monica Phillips**

With the support of our School Council we continue to provide snacks for our morning meal program. **The Council is looking for your help. WE NEED a parent to assist with our SNACK program this year.** This task requires minimal time to do some shopping / sorting and organizing of each of our class snack bins. Please contact Jen Chaggares at 905-716-1980

**Our next VIRTUAL SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING is on  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7 @ 5:30 pm**

## Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week — November 16 - 20

The week of Nov. 16 to 20 is Bullying Awareness and Prevention week. We'll be sharing tips every day that week through our morning announcements to help students learn more about cyberbullying. One very important tip: THINK before you post. Ask yourself: Is it TRUE?

Is it HELPFUL?

Is it INSPIRING?

Is it NECESSARY?

Is it KIND. T.H.I.N.K.

You can support efforts to change the culture of cyber bullying by using the hashtag #yeswewill on Twitter.

## Annual Holocaust Education Week

November 2 - 9

The week of November 2 to 9, was Holocaust Education Week. The focus of this year's Holocaust Week is Liberation: Aftermath & Rebirth. The purpose of this week has historically been to raise awareness and encourage remembrance of the atrocities perpetrated against the Jewish people during the Nazi regime, in the hope of encouraging remembrance and denouncing intolerance of all people.

During this week we additionally want to acknowledge those who were also targeted by this regime as a result of their social identities. People of colour, the Roma (commonly referred to as Gypsies), people with physical disabilities, and those who identified as LGBTQ were also subjected to intolerance and persecution in Europe.

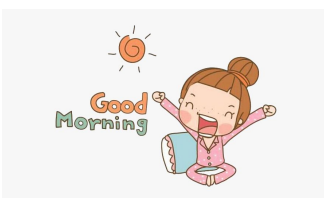
## Lost and Found Clothing

- 1) Remember to dress for the weather.
- 2) Label all clothing.
- 3) Check the Lost and Found as soon as something goes missing !!!!!



## How can I encourage my child to eat breakfast?

Do you rush out the door for work with only a coffee in hand? Children learn best by watching their parents' positive behaviours. It's very hard to ask your children to eat breakfast if you don't. One tip for getting your kids to eat in the morning is to set a good example. Give yourself a few extra minutes each morning to enjoy a healthy breakfast with your family. Remember, your children are watching!



## Is your child ready to use the rules of the road?

According to Safe Kids Canada, each year in Canada more than 4,000 children are hit by motor vehicles while playing outdoors or walking to school, a friend's house, to sports activities, or to a neighbourhood shop.

Teach your child these 5 steps to safely cross the street:

1. Stop
2. Look down the road to make sure you have a clear view in all three directions: left, straight ahead and right
3. Listen for traffic
4. Wait until the street is clear and all traffic has stopped
5. Make eye contact with drivers to make sure they see you



Remember:

1. Wear reflective or colourful clothing to be more visible to drivers
2. Always walk on the sidewalk. In areas without a sidewalk, walk facing traffic
3. Cross only at traffic signals, crosswalks and stop signs
4. Never run out onto the street, especially between parked cars
5. Keep a safe distance from service vehicles such as waste and recycling trucks
6. Cross at railway using the designated crossings
7. Young children should be accompanied by an adult when crossing



### School Zone Safety

The rush of cars, buses and children arriving at school can create many dangers. Everyone plays a role in ensuring the safety of children when they are going back and forth to school.

**Drivers, to keep kids safe in the school zone:**· Reduce your speed and be ready to stop at all times. Avoid distractions like a cell phone· Drive cautiously and follow the rules (even when you're late!)Be patient and wait for children to complete their crossing before proceeding

**Parents, teach your children to:**· Stop, look and listen before stepping out of the car or bus· Walk only on the sidewalk and crosswalk and follow the crossing guard's instructions· Be sure that drivers see them before they cross by making eye contact  
Sit on the side of the car where they will exit Consider practicing a drop-off during an off-peak time and teach your child what to do. Or start a program at the school where volunteers open car doors and escort children to the building.

### Children, vehicles and smoking don't mix!

Second-hand smoke in vehicles can be 60 times more concentrated than a smoke-free home. Even with the windows open and fan on high, second-hand smoke is more toxic in a vehicle than in any other children's environment.

### Tips for a smoke-free vehicle:

- Take smoke breaks outside the vehicle (stand where you can see children)
- Ask other smokers to smoke outside the vehicle
- Stick a smoke-free decal on the window of the vehicle
- Plan ahead and make stops on longer trips
- Replace smoking in the vehicle with other things (chewing gum, singing to music)
- Fill in the ashtray with sugar-free candy or gum

If you are thinking about quitting, contact Smokers' Helpline for free, confidential, one to one support at 1-877-513-5333 or [www.smokershelpline.ca](http://www.smokershelpline.ca).

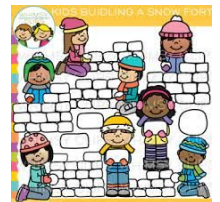


### ***Weather Watch***

All students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 are expected to go out for every recess unless the principal or vice-principal decides that weather conditions are so poor that it would be detrimental for them to be outdoors. Students are to come to school ready for winter and prepared to be outdoors up to 40 minutes after lunch. **We always monitor the weather and, in extreme conditions e.g. wind chill; we keep the students indoors or shorten the recess breaks.**

Please make sure that your children are dressed properly for our invigorating winter days. It is advisable for students to bring extra pants and socks. A change is often necessary due to the wet and cold weather of the winter months. To avoid adding to our clothing collection in the Lost and Found, please be sure to label all articles of clothing. Boots, hats, mitts/gloves, scarves, and snow pants for the younger children will help make recess an enjoyable time.

Exceptions are made on an individual basis for children who may need to remain indoors for an extended period of time because of a physical condition or recovery from a serious illness or accident. In such cases, a letter from the doctor is required.



### **Let it Snow**

With the winter season upon us, people of all ages are looking forward to the joys of snow. Most children rank snowballing high on the list of fun winter activities. We have instructed all of our students that for **SAFETY REASONS SNOWBALLING IS FORBIDDEN**. There may be times where a teacher may supervise a snow activity such as snow/ice sculpture building if conditions are appropriate; however, with the exception of these activities, and the making of snowmen or snow forts, **SNOW MUST STAY OUT OF HANDS AND ON THE GROUND** at all times.

Students are aware of the following consequences:

**1st incident:** detention/no snowballing assignment

**2nd incident:** warning letter goes home

**3rd incident:** Suspension



Injury to a student could result in suspension even for a first incident. We appreciate your support in all matters relating to your child(ren)'s safety. Please take time with your child to review this policy.



## **The ABCs of How YOU can Help with Reading at Home**

There are many ways that you can help your child develop as a reader. Here are 26 ideas you might want to consider.

**Assorted Materials...**provide your child with an assortment of picture books, alphabet books, poetry, nursery rhymes, fairy tale collections, non-fiction materials, instruction manuals, novels, comics, magazines, and computer software.

**Bookmaking...**assist your child to create his or her own books.

**Cooking...**involve your child in cooking activities, and share the reading of recipes and the preparation of ingredients.

**Discussions...**involve your child in conversations with you and other family members.

**Errands...**take your child with you on errands (to the grocery store, gas station, etc.) to notice the print-rich environment outside the home.

**Finding answers...**spark your child's natural curiosity and beginning research skills by showing how to use print materials to find answers to questions.

**Grab their attention...**seek out books by favourite authors and illustrators to do just that!

**Holiday gifts...**buy a book for your child as a gift for a special occasion.

**Interests...**look for opportunities to share your child's interest in a topic (space, dinosaurs, insects, etc.) and help him or her explore it.

**Jokes...**encourage the playfulness of language and the development of communication skills by sharing jokes and riddles.

**Kittens and Puppies...**teach your child to care for pets by looking up information on the subject in books or on CD-ROMs.

**writing...**promote meaningful writing by helping your child to create and compose greeting cards, thank you notes, invitations, and letters. **Letter**

**Magazines...**subscribe to a children's magazine and have other magazines and newspapers available in your home.

**Nursery rhymes...**share the nursery rhymes and stories from your own childhood.

**Opportunities for sharing reading...**set aside some time every day for reading together. Use strategies such as "You read a page, I read a page."

**Patience...**learning takes time. It's a wonderful gift to give your child.

**Questions...**listen to and encourage your child's questions. Take time to provide satisfying answers.

**Reading aloud...**model your love of reading by taking time to read to your child everyday.

**Science time...**link the wonders of the world with literature. Share books about the senses, how things work, nature, the great outdoors, and other topics of interest to your child.

**Television time...**watch educational programs with your child and talk about them.

**Uplifting support...**give lots of encouragement, praise, and time as your child learns to read and write.

**Value literacy...**let your child see family members reading and writing for different reasons, and talk about what they are doing. **Writing**

**experiences...**make a variety of writing materials available for your child, such as pencils, pens, crayons, markers, and different kinds of paper. **"X-tra"**

**special attention...**give extra special attention to your child as he or she is learning to read and write.

**Your literate home environment...**provide opportunities for your child to talk, to listen, to read, to write, to look, to ask questions, to imagine, to wonder, to make pictures, to...

**Zoo trips...**take your child on trips to the zoo, to museums, amusement parks, public libraries, ...have fun together!