



A progressive, independent Pre-K through Fifth Grade School

Our Mission:

Our mission is to create an educational environment in which children's curiosity and creativity can thrive, as well as their sense of self and belonging to a diverse and nurturing community.

We seek to have children develop a strong passion for learning, self expression and helping to make the world a better place for all.

Our programs reflect our commitment to active, project-based and interdisciplinary learning. Queen Anne Community School is a place for children to share their ideas and interests, learn from each other, and come to see themselves as capable contributors to their immediate and wider worlds.

Contact:

550 Mercer Street
Seattle, WA 98109
(206) 282-2997
info@queenannecs.org
www.queenannecs.org

Dear Prospective QACS Family,

Firstly, we would like to welcome you to our school and invite you to explore our learning environment and ask questions relevant to your family and your child. As you look to the 2009/10 school year and contemplate joining QACS, we would like to share a few words with you about our school and community.

What makes QACS such a unique place? Well, there are many reasons, but we feel the distinguishing feature is the role of the child in our school community. QACS is based on the premise that children have important things to say about themselves as learners and individuals, about their family, their school community and the wider world. It is our mission to help them develop their voice, their strengths and their ability to collaborate and achieve their dreams.

Our curriculum reflects our commitment to creating a learning environment nurtures the whole child, and challenges her/him to develop reflective and critical thinking. Each day *every* child at QACS is encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings with their class and/or school community during our group meetings. Teachers provide the support needed for each child to develop and share their voice with us. We aim to have each child feel heard, and to feel confident in communicating their thoughts and wishes.

Our focus on community and diversity fosters a strong sense of belonging and self-expression in our children. At QACS the uniqueness of each child is celebrated and enriches the development of all.

Our curriculum is thematic, interdisciplinary, and seeks to provide children with opportunities to learn *with* and *from* others in their local and wider community. We encourage independence and self-direction, as well as the skills needed to collaborate successfully with others.

QACS was founded in the fall of 2003 by a group of educators and parents dedicated to creating a progressive school that nurtures children's sense of self and community. The growth and accomplishments we have achieved to date are the result of our shared beliefs, efforts and trust in our children and school mission. We continue to be inspired by the growth we see in our children and community each day, month and year! We look forward to sharing our school with you and welcoming your child and family to our community.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Byrnes-Cloet".

Heidi Byrnes-Cloet, Head of School



Our Faculty

Pre-K

Lizzy Moxey
Kim Post

Kindergarten

Stacy Little

First/Second

Kelly Jacobs

Third-Fifth, Head of School

Heidi Byrnes-Cloet

Specialists

Merrill Becker (Spanish)

Amanda Cox (Art)

Melissa Dempsey-Hall
(Yoga, Administrative
Coordinator)

Sandy (Voice, Music)

Chia-Pei Cheng (Mandarin)

Our Advisory Board

David White

Brian Henn

Traci Sauvage

Martha White

Chia-Pei Cheng

Winston Yeung

Tracy White

Grant Hwang

Our School is based on a shared belief in:

- Respecting and empowering children's voices
- Active, multi-age learning
- Differentiated, developmentally appropriate curriculum
- The power of belonging, community and democratic decision-making
- Small class sizes
- Creative expression and the transformative power of art

Our Children:

Children at QACS are active learners! We believe that learning should be engaging, fun, collaborative, challenging, self- and community-building, and intrinsically satisfying. Our programs are designed to allow each child to share and extend their unique skills and interests, while developing their commitment to community involvement and collaboration with others.

Our Families:

QACS families are a key part of our school community. We hold family involvement as crucial to creating a truly fantastic school. Every child and adult in our community benefits from the diverse ideas, skills and inspirations each family brings. Our teachers strive to work with each family to find ways for them to contribute to the life of our school. Whatever their method of participation, each family adds something special to our community.

Our Teachers:

QACS teachers are dedicated to modeling the collaboration, passion and thinking we strive to have our children develop. Our teachers plan, reflect, evaluate, have fun and grow together - just as the children do, showing that 'school' is not a pre-determined thing, but something that involves on-going creative energy!

Queen Anne Community School does not discriminate on the basis of race, family composition, gender, age, marital status, physical ability, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, national or ethnic background. We seek to promote diversity through the administration of our educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, or other school-administered programs. We believe that diversity enriches learning within our school and wider community, and therefore seek to promote and celebrate that diversity within our school.

Admission at QACS typically involves the following steps:

1. Set up a time to visit the school. You may choose not to bring your child during your first visit, but families seeking enrollment above Kindergarten will need to schedule a visit with their child before proceeding further with our admissions process.
2. Meet with our Head of School to discuss your child's possible enrollment. This one-on-one time allows us to get to know you and your child better. It enables us to learn more about your child's previous learning experiences, as well as the goals and wishes you have for your child's development. It is a time when parents can ask more in-depth questions about our philosophy and approach to learning, and learn more about how QACS can meet the specific needs of their child.
3. Complete and submit an Enrollment Application, along with a \$75 non-refundable application fee.
4. After receiving an Enrollment Confirmation Letter (typically in early March), we ask that you pay 10% of the determined annual tuition to secure your child's place.

Please contact us if you have any further questions.

Frequently Asked Questions

How often would my child receive specialist lessons?

Children at QACS receive **daily foreign language, art and yoga instruction**. They also receive **weekly voice, music, dance and drama instruction**.

How do teachers communicate program and curriculum information?

Teachers at QACS send **weekly class letters** home to families outlining current learning activities and highlights from their week with the children. Each class also contributes to our **monthly QACS Times** newsletter, which contains information about learning and community highlights school wide.

How do teachers share information with parents about their child's growth?

Teachers and parents meet at least **three times per year** for **Parent/Teacher Conferences**. Prior to each scheduled conference period (Oct/Jan/May), teachers send home a Goal Setting or Learning Progress Report specific to each child's strengths and needs.

Are parents encouraged to become involved in their child's school learning?

Yes! We welcome parent participation, be it through regular volunteering, special visits, supporting school events, assisting faculty outside of regular school hours with specific tasks, or contributing knowledge, interests or expertise to school committees.

I can't afford full tuition. Is financial support available?


Yes! We are committed to helping all families interested in attending QACS meet tuition payments. Our scholarship fund is administered on an individual basis. Please contact the school for more information.





Art samples from our 2008/9 school year - Kindergarten through Fifth grade children.


A Day in Our School...


While every day is unique at QACS, the following sample schedule has been created to give a sense of how a typical day might unfold at our school:


 **Morning Work** - the children engage in activities designed to allow them to 'wake up' their brains and bodies for the day. These can usually be completed independently and allow the children to make choices over content and process.


 **Group Meeting** - teachers and children share news, welcome back students who were absent, plan for the day ahead, introduce volunteers or visitors, discuss issues or concerns, follow up on questions from the previous day, etc.


 **Writing** - it is a key goal at QACS for children to develop a passion for writing and literature. The children relish in hearing each others' stories and sharing their work with their school friends. It is a wonderful learning and community building time in each of our classes.


 **Math** - we strive to make math fun and engaging, and have each child love the challenges and rewards inherent in becoming mathematically literate. Math at QACS involves the use of many concrete hands-on materials, real-life problem-solving questions and applications, and the chance for the children to talk as they learn. In our Kindergarten class, this might involve children building towers out of unifix cubes or handing out 'cups of tea' from the water table. In Third Grade, this might involve children designing the layout of furniture and resources in their classroom, then presenting and defending their plans to the class.

 **Lunch/Recess** - this is a much-loved time of each child's school day. It is a time for the children to talk, play, move and solve problems together. It is also a time when our Pre-K to Fifth Grade children come together each day, to learn from each other and make new friends. As often as possible, the children recess at one of several neighboring parks - giving them access to a larger outdoor space to move, play and explore.

 **Reading** - this is a naturally quiet part of our day (unless a story is being read or performed aloud!). Each child is assisted to choose a variety of appropriately challenging reading materials. Across all grades, time is devoted daily to the sharing and discussion of books and other reading materials. Children also have extended periods of time for independent reading.

 **Integrated Studies** - this is the part of our day when the children participate in extended activities based around our current theme. This is our dedicated project-based, experiential learning time. Visitors to our classrooms during this time might see children excitedly transforming the room into an enchanted forest, underground bug habitat or futuristic space station. Whatever the activity or theme, there will likely be a great deal of noise, movement, discussion, problem solving and creating!

 **Choice Time** - this is a time when the children can spontaneously choose their own groupings and activities. Some children might choose to construct a ramp using wooden blocks, others might draw with a friend or paint at the easel, and others might join in an impromptu play in the dress-up area. Whatever the activity, each child knows that this is a time when they have freedom of 'choice' over what they engage in. Choice is a MUCH loved part of the children's day at QACS!

 **Shared Book & Community Diary** - this is a calm and reflective time of our day, when the children gather to enjoy literature of various kinds, and record their thoughts in their Community Diary (which, as its name suggests, is used by each class group to record insights, exciting highlights, questions and/or quotes from their day together).

Enrollment Application

2009-2010 School Year

Name of Child _____

Female _____ Male _____

To attend QACS in the _____ grade.

Age _____ Date of Birth _____ Place _____

Citizenship _____

* Name of Parent/Guardian 1 _____

Phone _____

Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Mailing address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Occupation _____

Employer _____

Business Address _____ Phone _____

Primary email address _____

If applicable:

* Name of Parent/Guardian 2 _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Mailing address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Occupation _____

Employer _____

Business Address _____ Phone _____

Primary email address _____

(For additional parents/guardians, please attach a separate information page)

Student's brothers and sisters (include birth dates)

How did you learn about QACS?

School last attended _____

Phone _____

School Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Name and address of grandparents (for mailing list)



Please answer the following questions in as much detail as possible. Our goal is to learn about your child's individual strengths, interests, previous learning experiences and developmental needs. Feel free to use additional pages, if needed.

Please describe your child's school experiences and settings to-date.

What do you consider to be your child's special talents, interests or strengths?

In what areas do you feel your child could benefit from extra support in school (academic, personal and/or social)?

Please describe your child's play activities, interests, and habits.

Please describe his/her ability to socialize with peers and adults.

What are your child's responsibilities in the household?

How willing is your child to transition between tasks or try something new?

Is anyone other than a parent involved in the out-of-school care of your child? What is the person's relationship to your child?

**May we contact this person for a recommendation? If so, please provide telephone and mailing address information:*

What goals do you have for your child?

In what kind of learning environment do you think your child functions best?

Does your child have any vision, hearing or other health related problems? If so please explain.

Is your child in a counseling relationship that may affect school behavior? Yes [] No [] If yes, please explain.

Is there information we need to know that will help us meet your child's needs (i.e. testing or diagnostic assessment)? Yes [] No [] If yes, please explain.

What do you think should be the priorities of a Pre-K through Fifth Grade progressive school?

Why are you interested in Queen Anne Community School for your child?

Please feel free to share any stories or anecdotes that might help us know your child and family better.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Please return completed application to: QACS, 550 Mercer St, Seattle WA, 98109

