

February 4, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

All Grade 5 students enrolled in New Westminster Schools are eligible to present themselves as a candidate for the May Day Royal Suite. May Day is a tradition in New Westminster with roots going back 150 years. The Royal Suite, consisting of two Grade 5 representatives from each elementary school, is a part of the annual celebration in Queen's Park. This year's event will be held during the school day on Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

In order to be selected as the school's Royal Suite representative, interested candidates must prepare a speech outlining why they would like to represent their school at the annual May Day celebration. More details on the speech will be shared with all interested candidates by school staff. The speech is given at a school assembly and then students in Grades 3 through 5 cast a ballot for the students they would like to represent them at May Day. Once selected by their school, Royal Suite representatives from all elementary schools become part of a draw held at City Hall on Monday, March 9, 2020 where the following positions are identified:

- May Queen
- 1st Maid of Honour
- 2nd Maid of Honour
- Medal Bearer
- Register Bearer
- 1st Flower Girl
- 2nd Flower Girl
- 3rd Flower Girl

The male representative who accompanies the May Queen is called the Royal Consort; all other male representatives are called Royal Knights.

Please be aware that if your child is interested in becoming a candidate for the Royal Suite, there is a significant time commitment to prepare for and fulfill the role. Royal Suite members will have a part in facilitating the May Day celebration at Queen's Park that may include presenting a speech, introducing guests, introducing the Folk and May Pole dances and sharing the history of May Day. They will also be required to present a speech and perform a traditional dance at the City's May Day Banquet held the evening of May 20, 2020. Please note that all practices/rehearsals to support May Day events will take place outside of school time.

Should you wish your child to participate in the May Day Royal Suite, please read the attached notice and indicate your consent by signing and sending the notice back to the school on or before **Thursday, February 13, 2020** at 9:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please call your child's Principal.

Yours sincerely,



Karim Hachlaf
Superintendent of Schools

2020 Incoming Royal Suite: Dates to Remember

*Participation of Royal Suite Members coordinated by Royal Suite
Coordinator: Karen Baker-MacGrotty*

Event (Place)	Date	Time	Comments
Parent Meeting (School Board Office Board Room)	Monday, March 2	7:00 – 8:30 pm	Very important – at least one parent must attend.
May Day Draw (City Hall)	Monday, March 9	5:00 pm (draw starts at 5:30 pm)	Please arrive on time so we can rehearse prior to the draw.
Photographs for May Day Queen Suite (School Board Office Board Room)	Wednesday, April 15	5:00 pm	Please wear your full traditional May Day outfit.
May Day Queen’s Park Celebration Rehearsal (School Board Office)	Wednesday, April 29	4:30 – 6:30 pm	Please make this a priority; attendance is very important.
May Day Banquet & Community Heritage Picnic Dance Practices (Richard McBride Gym)	Tuesday, May 5	4:30 – 5:30 pm	All Suite members
		5:30 – 6:30 pm	May Queen Suite members
May Day Queen’s Park Celebration Rehearsal (School Board Office)	Wednesday, May 6	4:30 – 6:30 pm	Please make this a priority; attendance is very important.
May Day Banquet & Community Heritage Picnic Dance Practices (Richard McBride Gym)	Thursday, May 7	4:30 – 5:30 pm	All Suite members
		5:30 – 6:30 pm	May Queen Suite members
May Day Banquet & Community Heritage Picnic Dance Practices (Richard McBride Gym)	Tuesday, May 12	4:00 – 5:00 pm	All Suite Members
		5:00 – 6:00 pm	May Queen Suite members
May Day Queen’s Park Celebration Rehearsal (School Board Office)	Wednesday, May 13	4:30 – 6:30 pm	** Rehearsal may not be necessary.

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May Day Banquet & Community Heritage Picnic Dance Practices (Richard McBride Gym)	Thursday, May 14	4:00 – 5:00 pm	All Suite Members
		5:00 – 6:00 pm	May Queen Suite members
Speech Practice (Queens Park Stadium)	Tuesday, May 19	4:00 – 5:00 pm	Speech Practice
Final Dance Practice & Dinner Speech Practice (Queens Park Arena)	Tuesday, May 19	5:00 – 6:30 pm (this may run longer)	This is the final practice for performances and speeches.
May Day Ceremony & Celebrations (Queens Park Stadium)	Wednesday, May 20	During the school day	Details to follow.
May Day Tea (Hyack Festival Association event - Centennial Lodge @ Queens Park)	Wednesday, May 20	Approx. 1:00 – 2:30 pm immediately following May Day in Queen's park.	Royal Suite and Parents invitations to follow.
Royal Suite Community Visit Activities (TBC)	Wednesday, May 20	2:30 – 5:00 pm immediately following Hyack Festival Assoc. May Day Tea.	Details to follow.
May Day Banquet hosted by City of New Westminster	Wednesday May 20	Evening	Details and invitations to follow.
Hyack Festival Assoc. International Parade	Saturday, May 23	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Details to follow.
May Day Community Heritage Picnic (Hyack Festival Association event) (The Armoury of the Royal Westminster Regiment, 530 Queens Ave., New West)	Sunday, May 24	12:00 – 4:00 pm	Details to follow.

Royal Suites will receive invitations to several events throughout the year organized by the Hyack Festival Association and various community organizations. These events will be organized and information communicated to the Royal Suite participants by the Royal Suite Coordinator, Karen Baker-MacGrotty. Attendance is optional based on availability and interest.

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CANDIDATES FOR ROYAL SUITE MEMBERS: PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM**Royal Suite Candidate Eligibility Criteria:**

Grade 5 student enrolled in a New Westminster School as of September 30, 2019;

Must approach the Royal Suite role in a responsible manner and commit to being an exemplary representative of their school;

Must commit to participating in all Royal Suite rehearsals and May Day events (see the attached dates);

Make at least two speeches—one as part of the Royal Suite selection process and another at the City's May Day Banquet and be prepared to play an active role in facilitating the May Day celebration at Queen's Park on May 20, 2020;

Must be accompanied by at least one parent/guardian at an important meeting scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the School District Office.

Girls participating in the royal Suite will need a white dress, white shoes, white purse, white tights, white gloves and a white cardigan. The costs associated with these items are the responsibility of the parents/guardians. White capes will be provided on loan with the option of purchasing. If purchasing, the associated costs are the responsibility of the parents/guardians. Floral headbands will be paid for by the School District and provided by the Royal Suite Coordinator.

Boys participating in the Royal Suite will need a long-sleeved white collared shirt, black pants, black socks and black shoes (black athletic shoes are acceptable). The costs associated with these items are the responsibility of the parents/guardians. A vest and tie will be provided on loan.

Please note that all the events are community-based, except for the selection of candidates from each school and the celebration in Queen's Park on May 20. **The Royal Suite is coordinated and supervised by community volunteers and participation of Royal Suite members is given with permission of parents. Parents/Guardians will be responsible for getting their child safely to and from these events.**

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS PORTION TO THE SCHOOL *on or before Thursday, February 13, 2020*

Name: _____ Birth Date _____
(Year/Month/Day): _____

School: _____

Has my permission to be a candidate for the May Day 2020 Royal Suite and I confirm that he/she meets the Royal Suite Candidate Eligibility Criteria noted above.

I understand that there will be a considerable time commitment (as noted by the attached list of events) and that my child, if successful, is expected to attend these events.

In the event that my child is selected to participate in the May Day 2020 Royal Suite, I give my consent for the release of contact information to the City of New Westminster and the Hyack Festival Association to assist with the organization of the May Day Banquet and other events related to May Day celebration.

Name of Parent/Guardian (please print): _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Cell: _____