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## **École Quadra School Receives Music Education Excellence Award**

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École Quadra School and music teachers Jody Onuma and Kimberley Quinn have been awarded the Kodaly Society of Canada's Music Education Excellence Award. This award is given to elementary schools that apply for the award and meet criteria set by the Canadian Coalition for Music Education:

- all students in the school receive specialized instruction in music
- the music teachers have specialized expertise in music and education
- the music program incorporates quality traditional and composed music
- the students receive at least 60 minutes of quality music instruction per week

"École Quadra School has amazing music teachers. Ms. Onuma and Ms. Quinn both hold Bachelor of Music degrees, specializing in music education" said Mark Walsh, Vice Chair of the Board of Education. Principal Maureen Weston, also a former music teacher, is very proud of the sequential music program that is offered to the students from kindergarten to grade five.

"A love of participating in music making is nurtured in the students, as they experience the opportunity to play a range of instruments including xylophones, recorders, and ukuleles" said Walsh. Interested grade five students are also invited to participate in the strings program under the instruction of Ms. Quinn. Every student also experiences a variety of other activities including singing, movement, and dancing. The extra-curricular programs offered by Ms. Onuma act as a powerful complement to the core music program. The School Choir is comprised of students from grades two to five and performs both at school concerts and at community events. The choir was honoured to appear in concert with well known children's performer Fred Penner last fall.

The award program was instituted in 2003 by the Kodaly Society of Ontario in response to cutback to music programs across Canada. This year 15 schools from BC to Newfoundland applied for and received Music Education Excellence awards.

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