



ON THE QT

DECEMBER, 2011

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Families of QE,

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families who participated in parent conferences. Clearly, the turnout indicated that the families of QE are actively involved in the home/school partnership. We look forward to this continued communication as we strive to enhance your children's learning and success at QE.

QCSD Accomplishments

District Student Achievement

All schools have met AYP benchmarks in reading and math assessments with exception of HS special education math in 2009. The special ed subgroup improved by 20 points the following year.

Of 500 Pennsylvania school districts measured in the 2010 PSSA, QCSD ranks:

- 53rd overall in the state for reading and math achievement
- 4th in school districts with similar demographics; 4th in Bucks County behind New Hope, Central Bucks and Council Rock...all of which have single digit poverty. QCSD has over 20% poverty.
- 31st in the state in the number of students performing at an Advanced level in Math
- 12th in the state in reading and math scores combined in 5th grade

Since 2002 up to and including 2010, PSSA results:

- QCSD 5th grade Math grew by 20%, Reading by 19%
- QCSD 8th grade Math grew by 31%, Reading by 31%
- QCSD 11th grade Math grew by 38%, Reading by 36%

QE Student Achievement

- Math 85% Advanced/Proficient
- Reading 72% Advanced/Proficient
- Writing 91% Advanced/Proficient

On behalf of the staff at QE, I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. May the joy of the season fill your homes throughout the year.

Sincerely, Dr. Kathy Winters



SECOND GRADE MUSICAL

Second Grade Parents and Friends, mark your calendars! Our second graders have been working on their holiday program, "December in Our Town." They will present it to you on Tuesday evening, December 13th at 6:30 P.M. Come and hear the music of all of the different holidays that are celebrated during the month of December.

SEE YOU THEN!

DECEMBER CALENDAR

5

Market Day Pick Up
5:00-6:00 PM

5-8

Little Shoppers
Shop
During Lunches

9

Winter Wonderland
6:00-8:30 PM

13

Grade 2 Music
Program 6:30 PM

14

Grade 3 Respect
Assembly 2:30 PM

16

Spirit Day Wear
Holiday Colors
and Crazy Hair

23

Holiday Parties
And Sing Along
2:45 PM

26

Holiday Break
Begins

Jan. 3

School Reopens

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

It is that time of year again, where it is important to consider our Quakertown Community families who might be in need of assistance this holiday season. Last year, along with community donations and your generosity, the "Give The Gift of Giving" Campaign was able to provide holiday help to 194 QCS D families! We are hoping to assist as many families as possible again this year. We are asking for campaign contributions to support this program. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated.

Your donations will be given directly to families within our school district community! It's as simple as writing a check to "Quakertown Cares" for a tax deductible contribution. Cash is also accepted. You can deliver your tax deductible contribution to the guidance counselor in your building. The checks and/or cash will be deposited into the "Quakertown Cares" account with Quakertown National Bank, then gift cards will be distributed to local families in need. Final contributions need to be made by Monday, December 12, 2011 to your building guidance counselor. Thank you in advance for your generosity and continued support during this holiday season.

MITTEN TREE

QE again has a Mitten Tree set up in the cafeteria by the stage. If you would like to donate children's mittens, gloves, winter hats or scarves for QE students, please send them with your child by Friday, December 16.

Thank you for your kindness!



CREATIVE ORNAMENTS

A few weeks ago, Mrs. Yerger's fourth grade class was contacted by Always Beautiful, the flower shop located in the QMart. They asked if her class would be interested in creating decorations for a Christmas Tree that would be displayed on the third floor at St. Luke's Bone and Joint Center behind Dairy Queen. In conjunction with Mrs. Tamrah Gross, QE art teacher, the students decided on a recycling theme and painted water bottles that were cut to create ornaments. "Always Beautiful" decorated the tree and students are encouraged to go visit the tree!

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Sponsored by: the Senior Class of Quakertown High School

When: Saturday, December 17, 20011

Where: In the High School Cafeteria

Time: 8:00-10:00 AM or 10:30-12:30 PM

Price: \$7.00 per person

Enjoy a breakfast with Santa and his Elves, share your wish list, participate in games and crafts, and get your picture taken with Santa.

Attention Parents of Kindergarten Students ONLY

EARLY DISMISSAL AND DELAYED OPENING OF SCHOOLS

EARLY DISMISSAL PLAN

There may be days when QCS D has an unscheduled early dismissal due to inclement weather or another reason. Please read the following scenarios carefully and contact our school office if you have any questions.

Scenario 1:

Early dismissal at 1 PM – If we dismiss the students at 1 PM, then morning kindergarten students will be picked up by the parents as usual... 11:40 AM and there will not be an afternoon kindergarten session.

Scenario 2:

DELAYED OPENING PLAN

A MODIFIED AM and PM kindergarten schedule will be used when QCS D announces a delayed opening or late start of the school day.

AM MODIFIED SCHEDULE – 11:10 AM to 1:10 PM

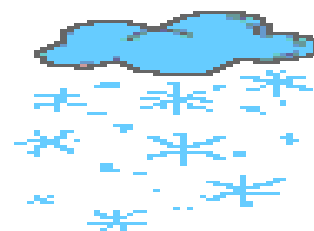
AM PARENT PICK UP TIME IS 1:10 PM

Bus riders ride bus to school as they do on a normal day

PM MODIFIED SCHEDULE - 1:45 PM to 3:45PM

PM PARENT DROP OFF TIME IS 1:45 PM

Bus riders ride bus home as they do on a normal day



ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

- Parents are reminded that they have (3) school days to return a signed written excuse verifying a child's absence. **As per PA State Law, excuse blanks cannot be accepted more than three days after a student returns to school.** Emails to the school office are appreciated, but do not replace the written excuse. Parents are welcome to call the office (215-529-2410) to verify that the written excuse has been submitted by the student. If a written excuse is not submitted within the three day return window, the excuse is permanently considered illegal or "unexcused" by the state.
- Any time an excuse note is required for your child i.e. full day absence, half day absence, tardy and especially an early dismissal – a reason must be given as to why your child was out or is going to be taken out of school. A parent signature is also required. A doctor's or dentist's note can be submitted for these types of appointments also. This mandated by the State. If reasons aren't given, the absence will be noted in your child's records as unexcused. (Reasons should be included on notes also.)
- Early dismissals are discouraged, except for medical and dental appointments, if no other arrangements can be made. Attending sporting events for older siblings is not considered a legal excuse. Written requests for early dismissal must be sent by the parent in order to have a child excused. If a child arrives after 10:41 a.m., or is excused before 2:15 p.m., it is considered a half-day absence.
- **If a student accumulates three (3) unexcused absences, parents will receive a written "First Legal Notice" from the school district with a warning that future unexcused absences may result in a citation from District Court. If a student accumulates an additional unexcused absence after a First Legal Notice has been served, the parent/legal guardian will be cited for a violation of the compulsory attendance laws of Pennsylvania.**
- **Once a student compiles ten (10) total absences (including trip requests, half day absences, etc.), parents will be required to submit a doctor's excuse for any further absence to be considered excused. Parents will be notified in writing if this occurs.**
- If your family is planning for your child(ren) to be away for several school days, there is an "Educational Trip Request" form that needs to be filled out and submitted to the school office a minimum of 10 days prior to the trip. All trip requests must be pre-approved by the building principal.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR QE CARES WINNERS

Week of October 10

Jacob Demeter – Grade 1

Courtney Schreier – Grade 5

Cielo Sanchez – Grade 2

Week of October 17

Kassie Hill – Grade 3

Sophia Trout – Grade 1

Susana Keller – Grade 3

Week of October 24

Tyler Gillmer – Grade 3

Griffin Gardo – Grade 3

Megan Bloss – Grade 1

Week of November 1

Elizabeth Campbell – Grade 2

Kassie Hill – Grade 3

Week of November 7

Emma Murphy – Grade 4

Skylar Winters – Grade 4

Jacob Demeter – Grade 1

Week of November 14

Logan Parker – Grade 2

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

As the colder months approach, remember that the children go outside for recess daily as the weather allows. Please send them to school with hats, gloves and coats that are appropriate for the daily temperatures outside. Send them in with chap sticks, water bottles (taken home and rinsed daily), encourage frequent hand washing during the day and plenty of rest at night.

With holiday parties just around the corner, here are a few suggestions for healthy classroom snacks. Fresh fruit (apples, bananas, grapes with low-fat yogurt or caramel dip), vegetables and low fat dip, mini muffins (no nuts please), jell-o jigglers, light popcorn or pretzels, baked tortilla chips and mild salsa, animal crackers, snack cups of applesauce, peaches or mixed fruit, low fat cheese cubes with whole grain crackers, dried fruit such as raisins or apricots, or frozen fruit bars.

Please remember that due to the increase in severe nut and peanut allergies, we ask that you do not send in anything containing those items. If you have been made aware of a specific food allergy in your child's class, please follow those guidelines to make celebrations safe for all.

Have a safe and joyous holiday!

Mrs. Mestayer, School Nurse

THE GIFT OF BOOKS

What a wonderful time of year to make a family tradition of reading and sharing favorite books! Show your children how important reading is by making books a part of your holiday celebrations. Write a note in the book or books you give your children... including their name and noting the date and occasion. By sharing books with your children, you'll be creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Here are some of QE staff favorites that could help in making your holiday family traditions.

Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins by Eric Kimmel (Dr. Winters & Mrs. Demchick)

The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg (Mrs. Casale & Mrs. Weinlein)

Snowmen at Christmas by Caralyn Buehner (Miss Musial & Mrs. Altner)

Gingerbread Pirates by Kristen Kladstrup (Miss Burrows)

The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey by [Susan Wojciechowski](#) (Mrs. Nolan)

Snowmen at Night by Caralyn Buehner & Mark Buehner (Mrs. Goldberg)

Pennsylvania Dutch Christmas by Chet Williamson (Mrs. Yerger and Mr. Wieand)

A Charlie Brown Christmas by Charles Schulz (Mrs. Riedi)

How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss (Mr. Flynn, Mr. Palen, and Mrs. Bruchak)

The Night Before Christmas by Clement Moore (Mrs. Detweiler and Mrs. Pierce)

Dream Snow by Eric Carle (Mrs. Rivera)

Fancy Nancy Splendiferous Christmas by Jane O'Connor (Miss Maddon)

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson (Dr. Winters)

The Christmas Day Kitten by James Herriott (Mrs. Zimmerman)

Christmas Always by Peter Catalanotto (Mrs. Reynard)

Corduroy's Christmas by Don Freeman (Mrs. Monserrat)

Treasure of Chanukah by Greg Hildebrandt (Mrs. Maxwell)

Who's that Knocking on Christmas Eve by Jan Brett (Mrs. Altner)

Gingerbread Baby by Jan Brett (Mr. Wsocki)

The Littlest Angel by Charles Tazewell (Mrs. Zimmerman & Mrs. Mestayer)

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus by Chris Phelal (Mrs. Kennedy)

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens (Mrs. Maxwell)

The Wild Christmas Reindeer by Jan Brett (Miss Armstrong)



CREATING LITERACY TRADITIONS

This holiday season consider adding some new traditions for your family that will make meaningful memories and strengthen foundations for reading and learning success.

Listen, laugh, learn...

- Listen to audio books while you're traveling to visit family, wrapping gifts, or cooking for the holidays.
- Lyrics to holiday songs are fun to read and sing together. It is also good fun and good collaborative writing practice to make up your own lyrics to familiar tunes.
- Start a story-telling tradition by revisiting holidays of the past. Old family photographs at holiday gatherings will help prompt stories about your own life and family traditions.

Read, relax, respond...

- Put reading and writing skills to practical use. Plan holiday meals by reading cookbooks together, writing the shopping lists and finding the needed items at the store by reading signs and labels. Read the recipe and cook together. During the simmering and baking, kids can write and decorate menus or place cards for special holiday meals.
- Set aside time just for reading. Curl up on the couch together and read aloud an old favorite or check out books about another culture's winter celebrations.
- Work on those letters. Improve writing skills with letters to Santa and writing thank you notes for holiday gifts to relatives and friends.



From The Art Room

ITEMS YOUR CHILD WOULD LOVE TO HAVE

With the holidays right around the corner you may consider buying your child art supplies to spark their creativity during the long indoor days and nights. Art supplies can be found at any nearby dollar store, local craft store, or even the grocery store!

Items your child would love to have. . . .

- A brand new BIG box of crayons with built in sharpener. Coloring is always better with a sharp point!
- A sketchbook- Drawing on computer paper or scratch paper is fine, but encourage your child to start an keep a sketchbook without tearing out the pages. It's like a diary. Especially when used to record ideas and scenes from a family vacation or special time.
- Funky scissors and paper punches- Check out a craft store for all new types of scissors and punches that are available in the scrapbooking aisles. Kids love them.
- New Play Doh or modeling clay- There is always something special about the bright colors and smell of new Play Doh that makes kids excited to create. And modeling clay is great because it never dries out!
- BIG tablet of construction paper. Nothing is better than having every color paper at your fingertips!
- An artist box set- Sets include: watercolor, oil, pastels., colored pencils, and crayons. There is no way your child will say they don't know what to do!

Did you know. . .

The arts teach children to make good judgments about qualitative relationships.

Unlike much of the curriculum in which correct answers and rules prevail, in the arts, it is judgment rather than rules that prevail.

Mrs. Gross, Art Teacher



FREE WORKSHOP

Free Internet Safety Workshop – How To Keep Your Family Safe.

Tuesday, December 6 from 7-8 PM

At the Bucks County Free Library on Mill Street, Quakertown

GYM NEWS

Quakertown Elementary students in grades 3, 4, and 5 have been working on their basketball skills in PE class during the past few weeks. In addition they have also begun using their monthly 'Pacer tracking sheets' as a way of improving their Pacer score from the October fitnessgram test. Students will be checked on their Pacer once a month leading up to their retest in April 2012. Students are encouraged to work on their fitness levels at home as a way of achieving good overall personal physical fitness.

Students in grades 1 and 2 have had classes outlining safety procedures and the dangers of smoking in our Health units. Grade 3 received instruction in lessons covering proper nutrition, and the dangers of smoking.

Upcoming units during the month of December and early January will focus on gymnastics and tumbling skills for all grade levels.

I would like to wish all families of Quakertown Elementary students and staff a happy and safe holiday season.

Get Active And Stay Fit, Mr. Flynn

NOTES FROM MRS. Z

Mark your calendars...The Quakertown Music Promoters Organization (QMPO) has once again invited elementary students to perform at the annual Craft Fair. It will be held at Strayer Middle School on Ronald Regan Drive. At 10:30 a.m., on Saturday, December 10, combined students from QE and TV will perform songs they have been learning for this occasion. Please come to support your children and enjoy some Christmas shopping, too.

The same students are working on holiday songs to be played at their respective schools. The dates and times will be determined later. I am using this opportunity to display quality student work that gives the students experience playing in the spotlight. Remember to check my web page for details about upcoming events, information, and other musical activities.



PIE NEWS

WINTER WONDERLAND is a family fun night on December 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the auditorium. Join us for an evening of holiday craft making, pictures with Santa, Chinese Auction of baskets made by the classrooms, and poinsettia sale. Hoagies, BBQ, hotdogs, chips, drinks, and baked goods will be sold in the gym from 6:00 to 7:00 PM

LITTLE SHOPPERS SHOP will be held during lunch on December 5, 6, 7 and 8. Students will have the opportunity to do some Christmas shopping for family members. Details about this event will come home with your child.

MARKET DAY PICKUP is on Monday, December 5 from 5:00-6:00 PM.

SPIRIT DAY is on Friday, December 16. The theme is to wear holiday colors and crazy hair. Home baked cookies will be given to the students at lunch.

*PIE would greatly appreciate donations of postage stamps for use in our spring fundraiser:
Race For Education.*

Our next PIE meeting is on Thursday, December 8 at 9:30 AM. We hope to see you there!

PIE WISHES YOUR FAMILY A HAPPY AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON.

BOTTOM DOLLAR FOODS CLASSROOM CONNECTION

Bottom Dollar Foods has come to Quakertown! Shoppers can register at the store or online (www.bottomdollarfood.com) for a membership card. Then sign up for our school under the Community News section then on Classroom Connections to register your Bottom Dollar Food membership Card for our school. Our school code is: 52248. This will automatically earn credit for the school every time you shop using your Bottom Dollar Food Membership Card. Shop with your membership card and help us earn educational equipment for our classrooms.

*The Entire Faculty And Staff
Of Quakertown Elementary School
Would Like To Wish You
And Your Family A Safe
And Very Happy Holiday Season.*

BEFORE PLANNING FAMILY VACATIONS

Important Calendar Information The PSSA State Assessments

Testing Window

PSSA Math and Reading Grades 3,4,5

March 12 -23 (make ups March 26-30), 2012

PSSA Writing Assessment Grade 5

April 16 – 20, 2012

PSSA Science Assessment Grade 4

April 23 – 27, 2012

Please know that the school and ***the district will not approve family trips*** for students in grades 3, 4, and 5 during these assessment periods due to the important nature of these tests. Please contact Dr. Winters if you have questions.

RECESS

Barring academic/disciplinary reason, or unless weather is extreme (rain or excessive cold – 10 degree F or below), children will have daily outside recess. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor recess every day.

EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOL

QCS D uses the Connect-Ed phone messaging service to notify parents of a school closing or early dismissal due to inclement weather or other emergency. This system enables all parents of student to receive a phone call from the district within minutes of making a decision to close school. It is important that the QE office be kept informed of any changes in your contact information. School closing info will also be available on the district website at www.qcsd.org, or by calling the Inform-A-Line (215-529-2010), or by turning to the following television stations: WFMZ (69) or NBC (10). PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE. A rush of calls jams the phone lines and prevents emergency calls from being made. It is imperative that you rehearse with you child what they should do in case school closes early. Every student turned in and EMERGENCY BACK UP FORM in the beginning of the school year. That is what we follow if there is a reason to close school early.

GET YOUR NEWS HERE!

Go to www.qcsd.org:

QCommuniqué, a weekly newsletter

Kudos

Who's Who

QCSD-TV videos

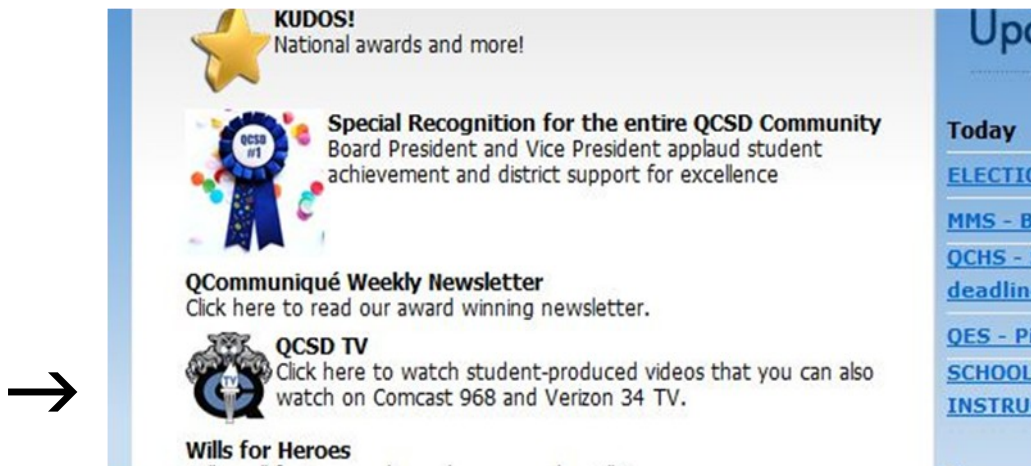
Photos on building pages

Comcast 968, Verizon 34 and www.qcsd.org for QCSD-TV

Click on the **Curriculum** channel at the top of the home page. On the drop down menu, you can select and read about QCSD Accomplishments and Assessment.

How to watch videos on the website

At www.qcsd.org: Click on QCSD TV



When the page opens up, click on a video.

OR click on folders (top left) to get the school you want.

OR click on page numbers (top right) to advance through all the posted videos.

