



# ON THE QT

OCTOBER, 2011

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

### Dear Families of QE,

Teachers communicate with parents in a number of ways including but not limited to: updating the Parent Portal, sharing assessment results, rubric scores, sharing tracking sheets, sending emails, phone conversations, writing progress reports, communication journals, conferences and report cards. Essentially, communication of your child's progress is ongoing.

The Parent Portal is one of the communication tools we use to help parents understand their child's progress toward learning targets. When a parent logs in they can see the current level of achievement for each learning target.

There are helpful videos to guide parents with the Parent Portal on QE's webpage under the tab – RESOURCES. Parents should have received passwords this month. Additionally, your child's teacher collects vast amounts of information regarding progress toward grade level goals. Teachers use this information to plan for future instruction. Part of that instruction often includes other adults in the building. QEs Reading Specialist, Instructional Support Specialist and ESL Teacher provide targeted support during "Target Time". The purpose of this time, simply stated, is to increase student achievement. During this half hour block each day, teachers will not present new instruction. Students achieving at high levels will participate in enriching activities. Students achieving at or below grade level benchmarks and standards will participate in activities to solidify required skills. Other teachers and instructional assistants may also provide support to your child's teacher as well. The teacher and I would like you to understand that your child will most likely work with another adult in the building this year to meet his or her goals. That is a good thing! Your child's teacher remains the most important element of your child's program here at QE...that will not change. However, your child's teacher will take advantage of the many levels of assistance at QE to provide your child with an optimal program.

Sincerely, Dr. Kathy Winters

## OCTOBER CALENDAR

**13**  
Grades K, 1, 2  
Fire Truck Visits

**13**  
PIE Meeting  
4:00 PM

**13**  
School Board Meeting  
7:00 PM

**18**  
NOVA  
Grades K, 2 & 4  
Bully-Free  
Classrooms

**20**  
Grade 4 To  
Peace Valley

**21**  
Fall Festival  
4:00 PM

**27**  
Grade 3  
To Crystal Cave

**27**  
Market Day Pick Up  
5:00-6:00 PM

**27**  
School Board Meeting  
7:00 PM

**28-Nov. 4**  
Book Fair



## THANK YOU, WALMART!

On September 22, 10 teachers at QE received a \$100 gift card each to use for their classroom to benefit our students. Walmart wishes to thank teachers for their commitment to educating the students of today and building the leaders of tomorrow. Gift cards will be used to buy nutritious snacks, school supplies and materials for our students.

---

## 25/50 BOOK GOAL

All students at Quakertown Elementary are expected to reach the 25/50 book goal. We encourage students to exceed the goal. Students in Kindergarten and First Grade will be expected to read 50 books to MEET the Goal and 51 or more books to EXCEED the goal. Students in Second through Fifth Grades will be expected to read 25 books to MEET the Goal and 26 or more books to EXCEED the goal.

Students should read at least 15-20 minutes each night. Each time a child completes a book he/she records it on a book log. When the book log is completed, the student returns it to his/her classroom teacher. Books from the book log will be tallied by the classroom teacher.

This year's theme is "Chews" a Good Book! There is a display in the cafeteria that will acknowledge students who meet and exceed the Book Goal. Students who EXCEED the Book Goal will receive special recognition of his/her accomplishments at the Panther Pride Assemblies throughout the year.

---



### 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.

---

### COUNSELOR'S CORNER

It has been a great start to our school year! In September I visited all of the classes and we did a lesson about friendship building. The character trait for October is Inclusion. Red Ribbon Week is celebrated nationwide at the end of October when students take an active stance to make healthy choices and say no to drugs. The guidance lesson in October will be about inclusion as well as about making healthy choices and goal setting.

The Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA) will be visiting grades K, 2, & 4 for a Bully-Free Class Presentation on October 18. According to NOVA in the Bully-Free Classroom presentation students will "participate in skill building strategies designed to stop or reduce the effects of bullying. Focus is placed on how it feels to be bullied, treating others with respect while acting confident, understanding the difference between joking and bullying, and when to report bullying to adults."

Small Groups this fall:

"Changing Families" - This group would be appropriate for students that are currently experiencing a separation, divorce, re-marriage, or a blended family situation.

"Building Friendships" – We will work on learning how to be a good friend and how to make and keep friends.

Please contact me by Wednesday October 12<sup>th</sup> if you are interested in your child participating.

Please feel free to contact me anytime with any questions or concerns about your child.

**Mrs. Eileen Bruchak ([ebruchak@qcsd.org](mailto:ebruchak@qcsd.org))**

**215-529-2413**

### LIBRARY LESSONS

Library lessons are designed to help the students meet the following learning targets:

#### Information/Research Skills

- \*Locates resources
- \*Uses resources correctly to access information
- \*Extracts relevant information from resources
- \*Uses a system to organize information
- \*Shares information in an appropriate format
- \*Demonstrates ethical use of copyrighted materials (Grades 3-5 only)

#### Literature Appreciation

- \*Responds to literature in various formats

#### Internet Safety

- \*Determines responsible Internet use
- 

### GYM NEWS

Quakertown Elementary students are off to a busy start this school year in Physical Education class. Grades three, four, and five have been practicing their football skills and will soon be pre-testing in the Fitnessgram Fitness Test. Students in grades one and two have been spending class time working on locomotor skills, eye hand coordination activities, and eye foot coordination skills.

Students are encouraged to track their home exercise hours through the use of workout logs. After totaling 10 hours of exercise time and having their log signed by a parent they should return their log to me at school. They will be given recognition in the form of having their name on the QE workout list which is posted on the front door of the gym. While supplies last I can also give students tickets to QHS varsity sporting events held at Alumni Field and the QHS gymnasium. Of course the most important benefit of logging exercise time at home is to adopt and maintain an active heart healthy lifestyle.

**GET ACTIVE AND STAY FIT, MR. FLYNN**

---

---

# 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.
- 

## 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 directly if you have questions.



## QE DRESS DOWN FRIDAYS

Teachers and Staff that have made donations to the American Cancer Society/Relay for life will be dressing down on Fridays. Thank you for your understanding as we support this worthy cause.

## HEALTH ROOM UPDATES

Please send in updated physicals, dental exams and vaccines to the nurse. Flu and cold season is starting. Please keep your child home if they have the following symptoms:

**Fever that is 100 or greater  
Chills**

**Cough and/or sore throat with fever**

Student needs to be fever free (without the use of medications) for 24 hours before returning to school. Please call you doctor's office or the Department of Health (215-529-7000) for flu shots for the family.

---

## DON'T FORGET

To check out the Community Bulletin Board at [www.qcsd.org](http://www.qcsd.org) to find out what events and activities are available in the Quakertown Area. Just click on Community Bulletin Board on the left hand side of the home page for the listing.

---

## FROM THE KITCHEN

There is no microwave available for students to use. Please send in only ready to eat food. We are unable to heat items up during lunch periods for student who packed their lunches.

---

---

# HELP US HELP OUR SCHOOL

Did you know there's an easy way to help us raise money for our school. It's called "Take Charge of Education", and it's helping us earn extra money right now. Thanks to all of you currently participating in the program. Target has donated \$194.39 so far this year to QE with your help! You can help by simply shopping with your Target Credit Card, Target Debit Card or Target Visa Credit Card and designating our school. A percentage of the amount of each purchase you make is donated back to our school.

If you're not already taking part, please consider doing so – grandparents, friends and neighbors can help too. To participate or to see how much has been contributed towards our next check, please visit [target.com/tcoe](http://target.com/tcoe) or call 1-800-316-6142.

---

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC WITH MRS. Z



Many excited students have enrolled in the instrumental music program. They have their instruments, music stands and books already in use. These fourth and fifth graders have accepted the responsibility to practice regularly 20-30 minutes each day. The first step for wind students is to produce tone on the mouthpiece, learn 5 notes on the staff and how to finger them. The percussion student learns proper grip on sticks and good wrist action.

It takes diligent practice to coordinate the foot tap with changing fingerings, sticking, or slide positions. It takes discipline to learn to read another language, that is, music notation. The answer to developing all these skills is practice, practice, practice.

The student learns responsibility as he or she must faithfully bring his or her instrument and book to lessons on the assigned day. They also learn to take care of the instrument properly. Returning students resume where we left off in the spring and look forward to performances in December.

**Contact information:** If you have regular access to email accounts, those addresses are greatly appreciated. Feel free to contact me. [fzimmerman@qcsd.org](mailto:fzimmerman@qcsd.org) or 215-529-2511 (TV) 215-529-2496 (Richland) and 215-529-2421 (QE). I encourage you to go to my web page for tips to help the beginning student.

---

## QE CARES



We will again be implementing the QE Cares Program that "catches" students being kind. When a teacher spots a RAK (random act of kindness), a student earns a lottery ticket. A drawing will be held on Mondays during the morning announcements. Three random tickets will be chosen and those winners will earn a restaurant gift certificate. We look forward to all of the kind behavior from our wonderful group of students!

Also, throughout the upcoming school year, we will focus on a particular character trait as it relates to building respect and a sense of community. Beginning in September, and for each month following, we will focus on the following themes: respect, inclusion, courage, compassion, tolerance, understanding and perseverance.

---

## PIE NEWS

Congratulations to the winners of our Parent's Night raffle: Michael Bianco—KPM, Kayla Winter—Grade 1, Jack Warnke—Grade 2, Patrick Henry—Grade 3, Erin Wilsey—Grade 4, Julia Cressman—Grade 5. Winners received either a water bottle or a pencil box filled with goodies.

**Friday, October 7** is QE's first Spirit Day with an orange, black and purple theme and a special treat for the students at lunch.

**Monday, October 17** from 4:00 to 6:00 PM is the order pickup for those who purchased items from our Battery Fundraiser.

The Fall Festival will be held on **Friday, October 21** from 4:00-6:00 PM. Please join us for an evening filled with games, food, mum and pumpkin sale and lots of family FUN!

Market Day pickup is on **October 27**. Support QE by purchasing food from Market Day. Flyers are located in the lobby.

PIE is looking for a parent to take the position of second Vice President. If you are interested, please contact one of the PIE officers or come to our next meeting.

Cathy Covaleski, President [kc.covaleski@verizon.net](mailto:kc.covaleski@verizon.net)

Paul Solliday, Vice President [psolliday@hotmail.com](mailto:psolliday@hotmail.com)

Sarah Henry, Secretary [sarahhenryPIE@verizon.net](mailto:sarahhenryPIE@verizon.net)

Ruthann Barndt, Treasurer [ruthybarndt@verizon.net](mailto:ruthybarndt@verizon.net)

**Our next PIE meeting will be held on Thursday, October 13 at 4:00 PM.**

**We hope to see you there!**

---