



ON THE QT

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 2011

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Families of QE,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year!

We are excited for another tremendous year at QE!

We encourage communication and know that as a team, parent and school together, we can provide your child with a successful school year. Please contact us by email, voice-mail or meet with us to help at anytime. The QE website, www.qcsd.org/quakertownes, has staff contact information and resources for your use.

It is your job to instill the importance of school by making sure that students are at school, on time, every day. Research shows a direct correlation between student success in school and daily attendance. Parents have three days to return an excuse slip, or the absence is considered illegal (unexcused) by the State of PA. Please make sure to send in a written excuse as soon as your child returns to school.

For parents of students in grades 3, 4, and 5, please note the testing window for the PSSA exams in the spring. The exams will be administered as follows:

The PSSA State Assessments

PSSA Math and Reading Grades 3,4,5

PSSA Writing Assessment Grade 5

PSSA Science Assessment Grade 4

Just a friendly reminder that family trips will not be permitted for grades 3, 4, and 5 during these time periods due to the important nature of these tests. Family trips are also not permitted during the first 10 school days.

Testing Window

March 12 -23, 2012

(Make ups March 26-30)

April 16 - 20, 2012

April 23 - 27, 2012

Parents' Night will be held on Thursday, September 15, beginning with a staff welcome at 6:50 PM. We hope to see you there!

Sincerely, Dr. Kathy Winters

WELCOME TO QE

Amanda Kennedy – Grade 1 for Katie Skonier who is out on maternity leave.

Steve Wysocki – Grade 2 coming from Haycock Elementary.

Lori Pierce – Grade 3 back from maternity leave.

Kim Casale – Grade 5 for Miss Catalogna who will be in the reading room while Mrs. Groller is on sabbatical leave.

Tamrah Souder – Art for Courtney Copeland who is out on maternity leave.

Rachel Demchick—Librarian.

Kristen Ricker - Reading Room for Kelly Cassel who is out on maternity leave.

Linda Friday joining our cafeteria staff.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sept. 1

Market Day

Pickup

5:00-6:00 PM

2

Non-Instructional

Day

5

Holiday

8

PIE Meeting

6:30 PM

15

Parents' Night

7:00 PM

28

Picture Day

29

Non-Instructional

Day

29

Market Day

Pickup

5:00-6:00 PM

District

Calendar

Available at

www.qcsd.org

REMINDERS, REMINDERS, REMINDERS...

1. Children should **NOT** bring CD players or electronic games to school.
 2. Students who ride their bikes to school need to put their bike directly in the bike rack located on the edge of the playground and walk to the front of the building to wait for the door to open.
 3. Students should **NOT** be waiting outside the front door in the morning before 8:55 AM as there is no adult supervision. Doors open at 8:55 AM and all students should be in the classrooms by 9:10 AM. Also, the school is locked after 4:00 PM.
 4. For your safety students are **NOT** permitted to wear shoes or sneakers with rollers/skates to school.
 5. Please send in your check to be deposited in your child's lunch account on the first school day of the week. Remember to include your child's name and account number on the envelope.
 6. Please do **NOT** park in the yellow zone, in the morning, this is to be used as a drop off only for our students and is a safety concern at dismissal.
 7. Parents may use the rear bus lane door to the parking lot in "severe" weather. Parents must wait until the third bell has rung to exit this door.
 8. Please notify the school office immediately of any change in a pupil's address or phone number. It is vitally important to keep emergency numbers up-to-date in case of any emergency with your child.
 9. To promote safety on buses, students may be monitored by a silent witness video and/or audio surveillance system.
 10. Please be sure to check for important school and PIE information, every Wednesday, in your child's QE paw print folder.
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PARENTS' NIGHT

Thursday, September 15, 2011 is Parents' Night from 7:00-8:15 PM. This is your opportunity to become acquainted with your child's teacher and our programs. Each classroom teacher will address their curriculum, classroom goals, and respond to your questions and concerns. This evening is specifically designed for open communication between parents and teachers, MEET and GREET at 6:50 PM in the cafeteria, first session will be from 7:10-7:40 PM and the second session will be from 7:45-8:15 PM.

FOUR DAY CYCLE

All of the Quakertown Community School District elementary schools follow a four day cycle for all special areas (art, library, physical education and vocal music). Day 1 of the cycle will be Monday, August 29, Tuesday, August 30 will be Day 2, Wednesday, August 31 will be Day 3 and Thursday, September 1 will be Day 4. Tuesday, September 6 will start the cycle again. All students will have classes in special areas on a day of the cycle rather than on a given day of the week.

LUNCH PRICES

A student lunch will cost \$2.25 for the 2011-2012 school year. The prices for milk will be \$.60, juice \$.50 and water \$.85. Remember milk is included with each school lunch. BREAKFAST is also available at 8:35 AM. The cost is \$.75 and \$.30 for reduced. Any money coming to the cafeteria must be in a sealed envelope with your child's name, ID number and amount of money enclosed. All balances and meal history are available online at MealpayPlus.com. If you do not have access to a computer and would like this information, please notify our cafeteria manager at 215-529-2415.



PICTURE DAY IS COMING ON SEPTEMBER 28

Watch for the flyer which will be sent home about two weeks before.
Money for pictures should be sent to school with your child **ON** Picture Day.

FYI...

This will be the only paper copy that you will receive of "On The QT", our monthly newsletter. If you would like our newsletter sent to your email, please be sure the office has your current email address. We are aware that some families do not have access to the Internet, so we are happy to provide a printed copy of the newsletter for you, just call the office at 215-529-2410.

QE WEB SITE

Please be sure to access the Quakertown Elementary web site. The information presented on the site may answer many common questions. On the site you will find your child's teacher's web site, copies of the On The QT newsletters, excuse forms, lunch menu, parent resources, an updated calendar section and much more.

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.

STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is not coming to school, it is important for you to let us know. In this way, the home and school will know that your child is safe. Please call the office by 9:00 AM (1:00 PM for PM Kindergarten). The school's phone number is 215-529-2410. For safety reasons, if you forget to call, we will call you. Also, please assist the office by returning excuses for absences and late arrivals. Having your child attend regularly and having them at school by 9:10 AM is a great help to us. If your child is absent, please help us by returning the excuse slip within 3 days of your child's absence.



AFTER SCHOOL PLANS

Occasionally your child may want to visit with a friend after school which requires him/her to take a different bus, or to get off at a different bus stop, or to be picked up at school by someone other than yourself. We normally are glad to accommodate this practice; however, for the protection of your child(ren), we insist that a permission note be written by the parent or guardian of each child. Notes should also be written for doctor and dental appointments.

PLANNING A TRIP

If you wish to have your child excused from school to go on a trip with you or another adult, you must first complete an "Educational Trip Request" form which delineates the educational aspects of the trip at least ten days prior to the trip. This is school district policy. Teachers will then arrange for any work that will be missed while your child is away. Forms are available in the school office. According to school district policy, absences for trips must be limited to five (5) school days or less. Any trip beyond 5 days will result in a letter from a district administrator. It's advisable to check the school calendar and plan trips for already scheduled "no school" dates.

CONNECT ED CALLING

Our Connect Ed system is used to inform parents of any changes that would occur before or during the regular school day. Connect Ed can call up to six phone numbers and send an email. At the beginning of the school year, your child's emergency form was sent home for you to update, if you did not fill in any additional phone numbers, only your home number will be called. If you would like to make a change or addition to your information, please call the QE office at 215-529-2410.



QE SAFETY AND SECURITY

For our children's safety please:

Before School (Prior to 8:55)

- Students arrival time is 8:55 AM. Students should not arrive prior to that time as there is no adult supervision. Students are marked tardy after 9:10.
- Students arrival for breakfast is 8:35 AM. Only students who participate in the breakfast program may enter at this time.
- Parents who have scheduled meetings before school, with staff, should report to the office to sign in, receive a badge and sign out. Badges must be visible at all times.

School Day Procedures (9:10-4:00)

- Parents/students must use front door.
- Parents will drop off students in the lobby (no one will be permitted to go beyond the lobby. Notes, cafeteria money, or other communication may be given to the office and it will be delivered to the teacher. Messages can also be left via phone or email.)
- Parents signing in for lunch must remain in the cafeteria.
- Parents/volunteers must report to the office to sign in, receive a badge and sign out. Badges must be visible at all times.

Dismissal

- Parents (family members, siblings, etc.) should not arrive prior to 3:30 PM.
- Parents who pick up students are to enter and exit via the front door.
- Parents are to report directly to the cafeteria to sign out their K-3 student(s).
- Walkers in grades 4 & 5 are permitted to exit the building without parental sign-out. (A parent may opt to have their 4th or 5th grade child wait in the cafeteria for pickup, please notify the office if this is your choice).
- Parents who have scheduled after school meetings with staff must sign in and wait in the cafeteria until all students are dismissed.

After School (After 4:00 PM)

- The school will be locked after 4:00 PM.
- Parents who have scheduled meetings with staff must sign in and wait in the cafeteria until all students are dismissed.
- Students/parents returning to the school prior to 4:00 PM, must sign in at the office, receive a badge and sign out.

Thank you for your help and support in making QE a safe and secure environment for students.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

QE Office & Dr. Winters	215-529-2410 / Guidance Office	215-529-2413
Nurse's Office	215-529-2417 / Cafeteria	215-529-2415

PIE NEWS

PLEASE JOIN PIE and sign up to be involved in JUST ONE of QE's many activities. PIE can only continue to do as much as it does with your help. If every parent volunteers for just one project, we can be more successful than ever. **PIE'S first meeting will be Thursday, September 8 at 6:30 PM.**

PIE will also be available at Parents' Night, September 15, for questions or contact one of the PIE officers:

President – Cathy Covaleski – kc.covaleski@verizon.net
Vice President – Paul Solliday – njsolliday@hotmail.com
Secretary – Sarah Henry – SarahHenryPIE@verizon.net
Treasurer – RuthAnn Barndt – ruthybarndt@verizon.net

Here is a list of the PIE meeting dates for 2011-2012, please mark your calendars:

Thursday, October 13, 2011 - 4:00 P.M.
Thursday, November 10, 2011 - 6:30 P.M.
Thursday, December 8, 2011 - 9:30 A.M.
Thursday, January 12, 2012 - 6:30 P.M.
Thursday, February 9, 2012 - 6:30 P.M.
Thursday, March 8, 2012 - 4:00 P.M.
Thursday, April 12, 2012 - 6:30 P.M.
Thursday, May 10, 2012 - 6:30 P.M.

