



ON THE QT

JANUARY, 2011

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families of QE,

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the children and families who contributed to the QE Mitten Tree.

As we complete the first half of the school year, it is an opportunity to reflect on your child's progress. Please take time to talk with your child about his/her school work. Please contact your child's teacher or the school at 215-529-2410, if you have any concerns about his/her progress. Mrs. Bruchak, our guidance counselor, Mrs. Gerancher, our IST instructor, are also available for assistance in helping your child be successful in school.

Sincerely, Dr. Kathy Winters

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO BJs...

BJs located at Rt. 309 and Pumping Station Road in Quakertown, adopted Quakertown Elementary and recently donated \$500 to the school. The company has also offered assistance with volunteers and donations for our Family Fun Nights and school events.



ELEMENTARY PARENT PORTAL

Your son/daughter came home with a sealed envelope with information regarding the Elementary Parent Portal. The Parent Portal is a communication tool where parents can see grades, attendance, school information, etc. For those parents with children at the secondary level, you have already experienced this tool.

For more information on how to utilize the Parent Portal, parents can view the four video tutorials located on the "Elementary Parent Portal" page, under the "Resources" tab of each building's homepage.

For the Parent Portal Tutorials click below:

<http://www.qcsd.org/quakertownes/cwp/view.asp?A=3&Q=304930>

Please take a few moments to review the District letter that came home. This letter provides parents with the appropriate username and password for the Portal. Parents can access the Portal on each building's homepage, or by going directly to:

<http://powerschool.qcsd.org/>. Parents will also notice that students have a unique username and password to the portal. This will enable students to track their progress for their own learning as well.

If you have questions regarding your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher.

JANUARY CALENDAR

6

Market Day
PickUp

5:30-6:30 PM

7

Family Fun
Night—Bingo

6:30 PM

In the Cafeteria

13

PIE Meeting

4:00 PM

14

Family Fun
Night

Snow Date

17

No School

24

No School

PARENT VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

To ensure the safety of our students, QCS D has instituted a policy regarding volunteers. As per School Board policy there are two categories for school volunteers: Casual volunteers and Clearances Required Volunteers.

A "Casual Volunteer" is defined as an individual who volunteers with students ONLY in the presence of a teacher or administrator. Casual Volunteers are not required to obtain clearances, and may not be left unsupervised with students at any time.

A "Volunteer – Clearances Required" is defined as a volunteer who may have unsupervised contact with students. Volunteers who chaperone students on field trips, who volunteer in the classroom and work with one or more students outside the supervision of the classroom teacher, who are volunteer coaches, and who otherwise volunteer in any curricular, co-curricular or extracurricular activity where unsupervised contact with students is possible are all required to obtain Act 34 and Act 151 clearances.

Both types of volunteers need to complete the "Liability and Indemnity Contract Form." This form is available upon request from the school office or on the building website under Resources tab.

Occasional visitors should continue to comply with building security policies (such as signing in before entering the building), but are not required to complete the Liability and Indemnity Contract Form or clearances.

A volunteer page has been added to the school website under Resources. There are links for all of the forms (Liability and Indemnity Contract Form , Act 34, and Act 151 clearances) on that webpage.

Here is the link. <http://www.qcsd.org/213720123121432193/site/default.asp>

PSSA TESTING

Please do NOT schedule vacations during these times:

**3rd, 4th and 5th Grade
Reading and Math**

March 14-25, 2011

5th Grade Writing

March 28 - April 1, 2011

4th Grade Science

April 4-8, 2011

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR QE CARES WINNERS

Week of December 6, 2010

Nick McErlain – Grade 1
Alexandra Whalen – Grade 4
Hope Davis – Grade 3

Week of December 13, 2010

Lamees ElTohami – Grade 4
Shannon Ball – Grade 4
John Daley – Grade 2

Week of December 20, 2010

Megan Jackson – Grade 4
Hannah Parker – Grade 1
Emily Sheldon – Grade 4

FROM THE KITCHEN

MealpayPlus – the "bear" necessity this season!

Use MealpayPlus to:

Check account balances online 24/7

Make payments* to your student's lunch account

Monitor cafeteria purchases

Receive email reminders when your student's balance is low

Set up auto-replenish payments*

MealpayPlus has many other benefits:

Speeds up serving lines in the cafeteria, providing more time for students to eat their meals

Eliminates the worry of lost or forgotten lunch money

Ensures that your student will receive a nutritious meal

Signing up is FREE and easy:

Visit www.MealpayPlus.com

Click "Register a FREE account" and follow the simple onscreen instructions

Add your student by using their Student ID number

*A small program fee may apply to payments made online via MealpayPlus

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Beginning February 1, 2011, appointments will be taken for registration of children who will be entering Kindergarten next fall. If your child will be five before August 31, 2011, please call **215-529-2023** between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM to schedule an appointment for Friday, April 8, Monday, April 11, Tuesday, April 12, or Wednesday, April 13 at the District Services Center.

REGISTRATION IS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY,

so please start calling in February to make your appointment.

GYM NEWS

Quakertown Elementary students are working in our gymnastics and tumbling units during the months of December and January. As of December 14th, QE students have logged 660 hours of home workout time through the use of fitness logs. I encourage students to participate in an effort to build on their lifetime fitness goal.

Our annual Field day will be held during early May.

More detailed information will be forthcoming as Spring approaches.

Keep Active And Get Fit, Mr. Flynn

STUDENTS EXCEEDING THE 25 BOOK STANDARD

Students who EXCEEDED the Book Goal were recognized at the Panther Pride assemblies in December. They received a bookmark and will be invited to popcorn/movie party at the end of the school year. Students in kindergarten and first grade exceeded the goal by reading 51 or more books, while second through fifth graders exceeded the goal by reading 26 or more books! Congratulations to ALL of those students who have exceeded the Book Goal so far this year!!!

Kindergarten

Payton Armstrong, Ivyanna Barndt, Ava Geiser, Eva Lacey, Jordan Pearson

First Grade

Nicholas Sauerwine, Alexandra Wittman

Second Grade

Jennifer Abraham, Jackson Auger, Caitlyn Covaleski, John Daley, Aurora Fantozzi, Patrick Henry, Jeffrey Krenzel, Dex Phillips, Alex Rodriguez, Naia Sanchez, Rachel Sanchez, Noah Vivian, Ethan Welsh

Third Grade

Harbert Barndt, Nicholas DeBonza, Kenia Escobar, Emil Ferrer, Braylan Flores, Alex Fosbenner, Destinee Foulke, Jack Fox, Dominique Hagey, Danilo Honorato, Samantha Jimenez, Saonna Johnson, Lance Jones, Damien Kratz, Gage Leary, Abigail MacMullen, Joseph McErlain, Andrew Miller, David Nunez, Justin Rosenberger, Hannah Schumacher, Katrina Stevens, Taylor Vitko, Riley Wadsworth, Ying Wang, Erin Wilsey, Sarah Wireman, Tia Wittman

Fourth Grade

Lamees El Tohami, Armando Honorato, Megan Jackson, Alexandra Whalen

Fifth Grade

Katrina Fried, William Friemann, David Gasca, Grace Henry, Jason Kozin, Kellyn Neville, Joanna Olivares, Trent Rogers

LIBRARY NEWS

National Hobby Month

"We've got it or we'll find it at your library"

Did you know that Mrs. Demchick meets with our students for research twice a month? She is currently working with Ms Catalogna's class on current events and has been doing research with Mrs. Rosica's and Mrs. Nolan's classes.

Mary Pope Osborne is visiting the Harleysville Book Store on January 12th, 2011.

Tickets are free, but required. For more information check out www.harleysvillebooks.com.

Save the date: Tuesday, May 24th for our Barnes and Noble Book Fair. The chorus will perform. Mark your calendars now.

Mrs. Nolte and Mrs. Reynard, Librarians

ATTENTION FAMILIES!

Are you looking for a way to recycle all your 2010 calendars, holiday cards, and other unneeded items? When you're finished with them, send them to school to be used for projects in upcoming art classes. **Students can drop off items in the art room or parents can drop off items in the office before school during December and January.** Thanks so much for taking part in this great way to recycle and reuse materials!

I will be collecting any/all of the following:

- *Holiday Cards
- *Unwanted CD's
- *Rinsed and Dried 1/2 gallon coated cardboard juice or milk CARTONS (The kind with a twist-on plastic cap)
- *Used Calendars with art prints or photos

Thank you for your support! Mrs. Copeland



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS

The second-year instrumental students had two performances in December and did a nice job. The students from QE teamed up with the students at Tohickon Valley to play selected pieces from their method book and some holiday tunes at the craft fair sponsored by Quakertown Music Promoter's Organization (QMPO). They played unison tunes, 2-part rounds, and one simple band arrangement. They also played holiday tunes during 2 lunch times on December 20.

Mrs. Zimmerman, Instrumental Music

GUIDANCE NEWS

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday break! Welcome back! Thanks to many generous donations from staff, families, & community members our school district was able to help many families for the holidays. We are so fortunate to be surrounded with such kindness and generosity! Our character trait for this month is compassion. New friendship groups will start this month. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about your child.

Mrs. Eileen Bruchak (ebruchak@qcsd.org) 215-529-2413

PARKING REMINDERS

Please do **NOT** park in the yellow zone located in the front of our building, this is to be used as a drop off only, in the morning, for our students and is a safety concern at dismissal. Handicapped areas are clearly marked in the front and on the side of the school building. Please do not park in these zones unless you are handicapped. Quakertown Elementary is patrolled by the Quakertown Police. Additional parking for parents and visitors is located behind the school on 6th Street.



PIE NEWS

Little Shoppers Shop and Winter Wonderland were held at the beginning of December and both were a great success. Family and friends came to Winter Wonderland and enjoyed making the variety of crafts that were available, as well as, the Chinese Auction and Poinsettia sale. A special thank you to RuthAnn Barndt, Cathy Covaleski, the Winter Wonderland committee and all of the parent volunteers that made both these events a success.

Our next events coming up for January are:

January 6 - Market Day Pick-Up 5:30-6:30 PM

**January 7 - Family Fun Night Bingo - 6:30 PM
(Snowdate: January 14)**

January 13 - PIE Meeting - 4:00 PM

February 11 - Family Fun Night (Square Dancing) - 6:30 PM (Snowdate: February 25)

Congratulations to the following winners of the Winter Wonderland gift baskets:

AM Kdg. (Baking and Cooking) – Julian Renner

PM Kdg. (Boys Rule) – Crystal Wolf

Learning Support (All About Mom) – Erica Werst

Mrs. Skonier (Fiesta Night) – Rich Warning

Miss Deacon (After School Snacks) – Doug Ploucher

Miss Burrows (Arts, Crafts, Movies) – Maureen Healy

Mrs. Goldcamp (Girls Rule) – Nina Graeber

Mrs. Rosica (Warm Up To A Good Book) – Olivia Burke

Mrs. Altner (Monday Night Football) – Tim Hendricks

Mrs. Nolan (Pasta Night) – Cathy Covaleski

Mrs. Yerger (Help With The Holidays) – Dawn Koehler

Mr. Wieand (Just For Dad) – Darcy Walter

Miss Catalogna (Ice Cream Night) – Paul Solliday

Faculty/Staff (Family Game Night) – Nina Graeber
Angel – Doug Ploucher

Keyboard – Wayne Hayes

Razor Scooter – Liz Vitko

Snowboard – Grace & Patrick Henry

EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOL

QCSO 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.



RECESS AND WIND CHILL

A doctor's note is required if your child is not to go out for recess. We expect all children to have outdoor recess daily. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather, including warm outer clothing, hats and gloves. Sneakers are the best shoes for active children playing at recess time. If the weather is severe, we will have indoor recess.

This is the chart we follow based on information from www.weather.com:

11 degrees + - full outdoor recess

0-10 degrees – out for 10 minutes

Below 0 degrees – stay in
