



ON THE QT

NOVEMBER, 2011

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Families of QE,

We will be sharing your child's accomplishments with you in November during American Education Week, November 13-19, and at Parent-Teacher Conferences. School conferences are a great time for parents and teachers to learn more about children. They're also a good time for you to tell the teacher important things about your child.

The key to a successful conference, parents and teachers agree is two-way communication. By exchanging information, parents and teachers can set the stage for a great school year.

Communication about student progress can take many forms: sharing assessment results and rubric scores, sending emails, having phone conversations, writing progress reports, maintaining communication journals, holding conferences, and/or sending report cards. However, due to ongoing communication and the specificity of the learning targets already present, report comments may not be included for each child.

Since parents are partners in their children's education, it is expected that if a child is not meeting the learning targets, a teacher would communicate with parents beyond the progress reports and report cards.

Our goal is to ensure that parents receive relevant and current progress reporting information so that together we can maximize each student's achievement.

Enclosed you will find tips for making conference time productive and some suggestions when talking with your child about his/her report card.

The start of the holiday season reminds us of how much we all have to be thankful for! It is a pleasure working with such caring families and staff. Working together we can provide the best possible education for QE's children. Thank you for supporting QE.

Sincerely, Dr. Kathy Winters

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

NOVEMBER 13-19, 2011

We invite you to learn more about our school by visiting our classrooms. These times provide an opportunity for you to see your child's class in action. We recommend that you visit on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 between 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The year's theme is: **Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility**. In order to provide more comfortable seating for everyone who wishes to come, we ask that you limit your visit to 30 minutes. Please remain seated during the visit and remember that instruction is going on. Although we enjoy seeing our future students, please make arrangements not to bring them with you. We hope that you take advantage of this opportunity to see your child and teachers at work.

SIGN IN AT THE OFFICE WHEN YOU ARRIVE!!

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 5 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 8 No School
- 9 & 10 NOVA All Grades Personal Safety
- 9 Report Cards Go Home
- 10 Mr. Wysocki Class Trip To Lake Nockamixon
- 10 PIE Meeting 6:30 PM
- 10, 15, 17 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-8PM
- 11 Picture Retake Day
- 13-19 American Education Week
- 14-17 Book Fair
- 16 Grade 3 To Crystal Cave
- 16 NOVA Gr. 4 Internet Safety
- Gr. 5 Cyber Bullying
- 17 Mrs. Altner Class Trip To Lake Nockamixon
- 22 Grade 5 Health Lessons
- 23-28 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 29 Market Day Pick Up 5:00-6:00 PM

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences are being scheduled for Thursday, November 10, Tuesday, November 15 and Thursday, November 17 from 4:00-8:00 PM. If you have not yet scheduled a conference, please call your child's teacher or the school office at 215-529-2410.



PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE TIPS

Many parents feel nervous about the first parent conference of the year, but remember that many teachers are just as nervous as you are. They need to tell you about your child's progress in a very short time. They don't know what questions you will have and the next set of parents may be waiting in the hall. Remember that both you and the teacher have important information to share about your child. You know your child's personality best, so plan to tell a little about your child's strengths, talents and interests. You know what would make your child motivated to do their best in school.

Some basic tips can make conference time productive and even enjoyable:

1. Ask your child what he/she wants you to talk about (this might clue you into any problems).
2. Jot down your concerns ahead of time. You may want to know how your child is doing socially and behaviorally as well as academically.
3. Tell the teacher things about your child that you want the teacher to know.
4. Listen as the teacher shares information with you.
5. If there are problems, brainstorm ways to work on them together. Ask for specific ways to help at home.

Sharing and working together is what conferences are all about.

6. Share pertinent points of the conference with your child. It shows that you and the teacher are partners in your child's success.
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**REPORT CARDS ARE BEING
SENT HOME ON WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 9, 2011.**

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR QE CARES WINNERS

Week of September 12:

Carlos Flores – Grade 3
Saonna Johnson – Grade 4
Perpetual Kahindo – Grade 3

Week of September 20:

Dakota Fisher – Grade 5
Angel Lew – Grade 3
Patrick Henry – Grade 3

Week of September 26:

Bryan Pierce – Grade 1
Antonio Morano – Grade 2
Kyra Sacks – Grade 2

Week of October 3:

Miranda Walsh – Grade 1
Sean Suida – Grade 1
Riley Wadsworth – Grade 4

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

USING REPORT CARDS WISELY

Your child comes home from school with his/her head hung low. You realize he/she just got their report card. Try these tips to turn a poor report card into a positive learning experience.

TALK IT OVER. Where he/she did well or showed improvement, say "Wow! You did great in math!"

If a grade isn't so good, ask, "What are some things you can do to bring this up?"

SET GOALS. List each subject your child wants to do better in and the improvement he/she will shoot for. Hang the goals in the kitchen or his/her room.

DEVELOP A PLAN. How can your child reach these goals? Write a plan for adjusting student habits, including ways you can help. For example, if spelling is a problem, quiz him/her on five words every day.



PICTURE RETAKES

Picture retakes will be on **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2011.** If you would like your child's picture retaken, please send the old pictures to school on November 11 and they will retake your child's picture. If your child missed the original photo day, please send in your child's package choice (available in the office) along with payment on November 11.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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.

COLD AND FLU SEASON IS HERE!

Does your child need to stay home from school?

Children need to stay home from school whenever they have a temperature of 100 F or more. Keeping sick students home helps to control the spread of certain health conditions and provides you with an opportunity to monitor your child so that you can contact the doctor if necessary. Your child should be fever free (while off fever-reducing medicine) for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school. In the absence of a fever, if a child has more than one episode of diarrhea or vomiting in the prior 24 hrs., it is best to keep your child at home. Children often need reminders to wash their hands with soap and warm water after using the bathroom. Hand sanitizer is a great alternative after blowing their nose, touching an open sore or when soap and water are not available. These tips along with a balanced diet full of fruits and vegetables, daily exercise and 9-11 hours of sleep will help your child stay healthy through cold and flu season.

Mrs. Mestayer, School Nurse



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR!

Education experts confirm what you already know: Reading for fun has a profound impact on our children. It not only introduces them to facts, fables, and fun, but also can increase math scores, develop thinking ability, and improve vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation skills. To encourage reading, our school is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair. You will find over 100 titles by popular authors and illustrators for young readers. All of the **students** will have the opportunity to buy books during their library class on **Monday, November 14th (Day 3)** or **Tuesday, November 15th (Day 4)**. Whichever one of those days your child has library class is the day they will be going to the book fair to purchase books. **Volunteers are needed to help with the book fair on the days the students buy.** If you are interested in helping please call me at 215-529-2416 or email rreynard@qcsd.org or rdemchick@qcsd.org. **Parents** will have the opportunity to purchase books on **November 17th from 4:00pm - 7:30pm.** All the purchases will benefit our school by generating funds for the library. This is a great time to be thinking about holiday gift buying. Books make great gifts.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE BOOK FAIR!

Mrs. Reynard and Mrs. Demchick, Librarians

THE LANGUAGE OF MATH: IS YOUR CHILD LEARNING THE LINGO?

BY MR. WYSOCKI

The purpose of this article is to help parents and people at home help your children master the **learning target** of **Uses Math Vocabulary**. *Progress will be indicated on the QCS D Report Card.* We need you to try as often as possible to “talk math” in your homes. You can have a HUGE positive effect on your child’s math achievement by just using the correct vocabulary terms and helping your child use the right math words to talk about the math they are doing in school. Not sure what the focus vocabulary is in your child’s class? Look at the math materials that come home. Want to know more? JUST ASK your child and/or ASK a teacher!

First, take a look at the homework your child is doing in math. Ask them to use “math words” to explain what they are doing. Don’t accept terms like, “I plussed them to get the answer” for addition. Instead, expect correct terms like, “I used **addition** to get the **sum**.” We call an addition sentence like $13+11$ an **addition number model**.

Look for opportunities to use math vocabulary yourself. As you move about, ask your child to tell what patterns he/she sees. Name examples of triangles, rectangles, pentagons, cubes, spheres, rectangular prisms, octagons, hexagons, trapezoids, rhombuses, etc. Once you start to **see** math in your world, it gets easier to talk about what you see using math terms. Ask your child to **estimate** costs, talk about the **probability** that certain events will occur. Look for key words that usually indicate specific mathematical operations. **Subtraction** is usually indicated by “**less than, difference, lost, how many more**”, etc. **Addition** key words might include, “**sum, total, in all, together**”, etc.

Students will all be taught and tested on their ability to use math vocabulary. Some of these tests include District Benchmark Tests, Unit Tests and Quizzes, Math Projects, Responses and Strategy Explanations, Worksheets, Online Experiences, and on PSSA tests in grades 3, 4, and 5.

Some other terms we use (appropriate to grade level):

pattern, place value, addend, sum, difference, product, factor, quotient, number sentence / number model, table, combinations, diagram, digit, odd, even, prime, composite, congruent, factors

Many more math terms can be found in your child’s math text at school. You can also access an online version of our Everyday Math Reference Books through your child’s Everyday Math Online account.

Here is a sample of some terms beginning with P, just to give you an idea à **partial-sums method, pentagon, percent, perimeter, perpendicular, pictograph, pie graph, place value, plane, point, polygon**

Always ask your child **why**. When children can use the math words to tell why they are adding, subtracting, multiplying or whatever the strategy, they are building concepts and math vocabulary. They need to be able to fluently speak the language of math. Some key words are “to get”, “to find”, “to see”, “to show”, “to figure out”, “because”, and “since”. We often refer to these as the **magic words** since they are the words that will be used to connect a strategy with a reason why. An example:

- 42 fish in one tank... 51 in the other... How many fish in all?
- Solution → $42 + 51 = 93$ fish
- **Explanation** → “**I estimated the sum by looking at the tens, then I added using an addition number sentence to show the sum of all the fish.**”
- *Notice, you don’t need numbers in the explanation at all, just specific math language!*

Talk about mathematical strategies you use in your own life. Tell your children about times when you use estimation.... Better yet, **show them!** Do you ever make **organized lists**? If so, you are using a mathematical strategy! Other strategies you might catch yourself using around the house are: **tallies, make a plan, acting out a problem, making a chart, table or diagram** (useful for assigning household chores!), **write and solve an equation** (who balances the checkbook in your house?), **making a picture, guess and check, or solve a problem by working backwards**. The more children see and experience these strategies at work in real life, the more they will be able to apply them themselves.

Encourage your children to **label everything**. Everyday Math calls the label word a **unit**. Be sure you encourage children to label the unit on any answer with proper words or symbols. Teach them to assume that the person looking at their work has no idea what the numbers, letters, pictures, or symbols stand for. In problem solving, numbers without units or labels will receive a lower rubric score than those that are clearly labeled. Note: *to get a "4" on the PSSA rubric, your work must be organized, correctly explained and the answer must be labeled!*

Thanks for the support you give your children.

Let’s work together and do all we can to help our children be *the best they can be!*

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

News you can use:

- We still have back packs available. Please contact me while supplies last.
- Quakertown Cares helps families throughout the community including school aged children, veterans, and senior citizens. If you or a local business would like to make a tax deductible contribution to help our families for the holidays please send a check written out to Quakertown Cares to my attention.
- Christmas Carnival – sponsored by Quakertown Ministerium, HUBBUB & Toys for Tots will be held at the Quakertown United Methodist Church on Saturday, December 10th. To register, call Sharon @ the Salvation Army (215) 529-6547.
- NOVA will visit grades 1, 3, 4, & 5 on Wednesday 11/9 and 2nd grade on Thursday 11/10 for their Personal Safety presentation. The Personal Safety program “teaches students strategies to protect themselves from crime and personal invasion. This interactive program discusses safe and unsafe touches, emphasizes the safety rules: NO-GO-TELL-Be Believed. Students are empowered to listen to their feelings, say NO assertively to dangerous situations and tell people they trust about uncomfortable feelings.”
- NOVA will visit grade 4 for Internet Safety and grade 5 for Cyber-Bullying on Wednesday, November 16.
- The QE Trait of the Month is RESPONSIBILITY.

As always, I am here to help you and your child. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

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

NOTES FROM MRS. Z

By this point in the school year, beginning instrumental students should be playing recognizable tunes. This is contingent on whether or not the student has studied the note names, learned the fingerings, and can produce an acceptable tone. The biggest factor in determining success is time--time spent practicing. Recommended time each day is 20 minutes. Flashcards are made available for any student who needs them to learn the note names.

Second-year students have the opportunity to perform at 2 events in December, the QMPO craft fair and the sing-a-long at school. Please ask your child to see the letter or go to my webpage for more details. Naturally, the students should be practicing the music 20-30 minutes each day.

Mrs. Zimmerman, Instrumental Music



From The Art Room

Tell Me What You've Made.

“Umm, that's nice” is probably the most common response to a child's proudly displayed artwork which makes your child smile but leaves you wondering exactly what you are looking at. For children, what is important is not what the art looks like (the product) but about what they want to make (the content) and how they go about it (the process). Asking the artist to tell you about his or her creation will elicit an enthusiastic response. The thought, feelings, and ideas that a child puts into his or her masterpiece are more important than what it looks like.

Next time your child brings home artwork try these questions instead.

- How interesting. Tell me about it.
- Why did you choose that color?
- How did you feel when you made this artwork?
- What kind of tools or supplies did you use?
- Does this remind you of any art work that you studied in class?
- Do you like what you've made?
- How would you change it if you could?

Mrs. Gross, Art Teacher

GYM NEWS

Quakertown Elementary students in grades three, four, and five have been participating in the Fitnessgram fitness test. Fitnessgram consists of several tests involving areas of overall fitness. Cardiovascular (mile run and 15 meter pacer), flexibility (trunk lift, sit and reach, and shoulder stretch), upper body strength (flexed hang and push ups), and abdominal strength (curl ups).

We test twice during the school year during the months of October and April. Emphasis is placed on individual improvement in each fitness area over the 6 month period. Primary grade students will be working on jump rope skills. Jumping rope is great exercise for improving cardiovascular fitness, agility, and leg strength. It can be an individual activity or a great cooperative activity when using a long rope. I encourage students to practice their skills at home. Primary grade students also engaged in 3 cycles of fitness station activities.

Students have turned in 290 hours of home exercise logs as of October 20th. Keep up the good work and build those fitness levels.

Get Active And Stay Fit, Mr. Flynn

PIE NEWS

The Fall Festival was a huge success!

A big thank you to all who volunteered and participated.

Save the date for our next family fun night, Winter Wonderland, on Friday, December 9. Look for information and volunteer sign-ups coming home soon. Little Shopper's Shop will take place on December 5, 6, 7 and 8 during the lunch periods. Students can do some holiday shopping for their family members. Watch for information about this event also. There will be a Market Day pickup on November 29 from 5:00-6:00 PM.

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

Sarah Henry, Secretary sarahhenryPIE@verizon.net

Paul Solliday, Vice President psolliday@hotmail.com

Ruthann Barndt, Treasurer ruthybarndt@verizon.net

Check out the Boxtops For Education website: www.btf.com, for bonus opportunities like San Diego Zoo + points and chex mix + points. Also see: forddrivesboxtops.com/marketplace (watch 4 videos earn 25 points, get sent a brochure earn 10 points, enter for 250,00 points). Sign up for coupons for box tops items also.

Our next PIE meeting will be held on Thursday, November 10 at 6:30 PM.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

QE'S BOOK CLUBS

Since September, students in grades 3-5 who love to read have been participating in QE's Book Club. Since over 60 students joined the club, the students were divided into two separate book clubs. The 3rd & 5th grade students have named their club "The Monkeys", and the 4th grade students are called "The Spooky Readers". The clubs meet during recess in the library to enjoy reading together twice a month on Tuesdays. The reading specialists and librarians provide opportunities for readers to listen to great literature and enjoy reading independently. Special events like "pajama day" have been a great hit and the book club members look forward to more exciting meetings!



EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOL

QCSD 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.

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.



The Upper Bucks YMCA is proud to be selected as a coat distribution partner by the Auto Dealers CARing for Kids Foundation's signature program called "Driving Away the Cold".

We have 500 new coats which we would like to distribute to community children in need.

If you, or a family member or friend, have children who need winter coats, please visit the Upper Bucks YMCA:

**Dates: Saturday, November 5, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sunday, November 6, 12:00 – 4:00 pm**

**Location: Upper Bucks YMCA
401 Fairview Ave., Quakertown PA 18951**

Sizes: 3T to 18/20 (limited quantities of each size)

Approximately 160 new car dealers made this gift possible by pledging a brand new winter coat each time a vehicle was sold in his or her dealership/s during the month of September.



DRIVING

AWAY THE COLD

Auto Dealers CARing for Kids Foundation
