

# ON THE QT



Volume 1, Issue 3

NOVEMBER, 2009

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### *Dear QE Families:*

*Autumn has arrived and things are falling into place at QE!*

We will be sharing your child's accomplishments with you in November during American Education Week, November 15-21, 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. 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 15-21

American Education Week spotlights the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education from kindergarten through college, and the need for everyone to do his or her part in making public schools great.

**Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility**, reflects the Association's calling upon America to provide students with quality public schools so that they can grow, prosper, and achieve in the 21st century.

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 visit on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 between 9:15 AM to 3:00 PM. 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.

**PLEASE SIGN IN AT THE OFFICE UPON YOUR ARRIVAL!!**



**PICTURE RETAKES** Will Be On WEDNESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 11. **Please Mark Your Calendar.**

### NOVEMBER

**Oct. 30-Nov. 6**

Book Fair

**1** Standard Time Begins

**2** First Marking Period Ends  
Conferences

4:00-8:00 PM

**3** School Closed

**5** Conferences  
4:00-8:00 PM

**6** Fifth Grade Egg Drop Competition

**9** Report Cards Go Home

**11** Picture Retakes Conferences

4:00-8:00 PM

**12** PIE Meeting  
9:00 AM

Kindergarten Conferences

**13** School Closed

**17** Parent Visits For American Education Week

**25** Market Day Pick Up 7-8 PM

**25-30**

Thanksgiving Holiday

# PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences are being scheduled for Monday, November 2, Thursday, November 5 and Wednesday, November 11 from 4:00-8:00 PM. Additional Kindergarten conferences will be held on Thursday, November 12. 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.

**REMINDER:  
Report Cards  
Are Being  
Sent Home  
On Monday,  
November 9.**

## 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 those 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.

**TARGET TIME** During QE's recent Parent Night, many parents heard teachers talk about a time block in the classroom schedule called EI Time, also called Target Time. The purpose of this time, simply stated, is to increase student achievement. EI stands for Enrichment and Intervention. 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. Each grade level's Target Time is different, which allows appropriate building personnel to assist the classroom teachers with meeting students' needs. Our goal is to maximize QEs resources to increase student achievement.



## LIBRARY NEWS

**Did you know?** *There are more public libraries than McDonald's in the United States—a total of more than 16,500! Visit the James Michener Branch of the Bucks County Library at 401 West Mill St. [www.buckslib.org](http://www.buckslib.org) or call 215-536-3306.*

### **Children's Book Fair**

*Proceeds benefit our school library!*

Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>- Day 3 students can shop from 9AM -7:45PM, Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>- Day 4 students can shop from 9AM-4 PM, Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>- All students can shop from 4 PM- 7:45 PM

Congratulations to our fourth graders for completing their Peace Valley Animal Research and PowerPoint Projects.

## NEWS FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

The character trait of the month is RESPONSIBILITY. We will be incorporating the Kiwanis program “Terrific Kids” into our monthly theme. Each classroom has coupons that a staff member or student can complete when they see another student exhibiting the monthly trait. Coupons are put into an envelope in the classroom and 3 coupons per month are picked out. The lucky winners receive a certificate and a pencil.

We have received donations of additional school supplies and back packs. If your child is in need of these, please contact me while supplies last.

As a district we will be helping out our families in need this holiday season. If you and/or your business are willing to donate to our campaign, please contact our district social worker, Kirsten Cochran at [kcochran@qcsd.org](mailto:kcochran@qcsd.org) or at 215-529-2419.

I will be starting two small groups soon for children who have experienced a loss recently and another group focusing on family relations (recent divorce, separation, re-marriage). Please contact me if you would like your child to participate.

Mrs. Bruchak ([ebruchak@qcsd.org](mailto:ebruchak@qcsd.org)) 215-529-2413

## THINGS TO KNOW

**INFORM-A-LINE** - The Quakertown Community School District INFORM-A-LINE number is 215-529-2010. The website is [www.qcsd.org](http://www.qcsd.org). Both contain news about school closings, lunch menus, and events, both are available to you 24 hours a day. In the event of inclement weather you can also tune to KYW AM radio 1060 or WFMZ channel 69 on the television. Please make sure your current phone numbers and email addresses are on file with the office so that you can receive Connect-Ed notifications about school closings or special events.

**MORNING STUDENT DROP-OFF** - Do not drop your child prior to 8:55 AM in the morning. The first bell rings at 8:55 AM and class begins at 9:10 AM. Students may not enter the building prior to 8:55, unless the child attends LifeSpan or is eating breakfast.

**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, and updated calendar section and much more. Please take a look!

**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](http://www.weather.com): 0-10 degrees – out for 10 minutes, below 0 degrees – stay in.

## THE GREAT EGG DROP

On Friday, November 6 at 1:45 PM, Fifth Grade students will have the opportunity to participate in an egg drop contest. This contest is **NOT** mandatory and is being held for the love of Science. There will not be any extra credit or grades awarded for completing the experiment. All of the work for this project will done at home. There will not be any class time dedicated to the students designing or creating their project.

Students can either work by themselves, in pairs, or on a team of three to create an Egg Transport Vehicle (ETV). The goal of the contest is to create an ETV that can prevent a raw egg from breaking when it is dropped off the visitor’s side bleachers in the football stadium.

Parents and family members are welcomed to join us for this spectacular science event behind the visitor side bleachers in the football stadium.

Don’t forget to check the rules of the competition and ETV requirement! Permission slips and rules for the competition can be picked up in Mr. Wieand’s classroom. Permission slips need to be returned by Friday, October 16. If you have any questions or concerns about the contest, please email Mr. Wieand at [rwieand@qcsd.org](mailto:rwieand@qcsd.org).



**LOST AND FOUND** Please remind your child/children to check out the Lost and Found, if they’re missing an item of clothing, lunch box, jewelry, etc. We seem to be acquiring quite a lot of lost items. The box is located right inside the cafeteria.



## CH-CH-CH-CH-CHANGES...

With the change of seasons from summer to fall, the temperature drops, the Phillies begin playoff baseball and a brand new group of students begin to study an instrument for the first time. The new wave of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students (and even some new 5<sup>th</sup> graders) began lessons last month on their chosen woodwind, brass or percussion instrument and are off to an excellent start. Within the lessons, students learn the intricacies of their chosen instrument (including tone production, articulation, instrument maintenance) all while reading, performing and even composing music.

As a parent, you may be asking yourself, "How can I help my child succeed at home when I have no musical background?" No worries! Elementary instrumental music students are expected to practice between 20 and 30 minutes for 5 days out of the week. Students are also expected to maintain a practice record in the front of their Essential Elements 2000 Book complete with a parent signature at the end of each week (which is where you come in!). Practicing should occur in a relatively quiet place in the house where your student musician will be able to focus on their performance. Ask your child what they are learning about it band and how it applies to their instrument. Encourage your student musician by asking them to hear a song that they are working on every once in a while and showing that you are interested in something that they are as well. Family members love to see their relative playing an instrument and students love an audience! I also encourage you to check my website periodically for helpful web links to music games for students (and parents together) to use outside of the classroom.

The students and I are looking forward to a great year of making music. We hope to see you all at our debut performance in the spring! Until then, keep practicing...

**Mr. DiRenzo, Instrumental Music**

### COMPOSER OF THE MONTH

Ludwig van Beethoven was born in 1770. His mother and father were both singers at the court. When he was four, he began taking piano and violin lessons. By the time he was eleven, he was helping to support his family by playing organ. Beethoven moved to Vienna when he was twenty-two to study music. He wanted to become a concert pianist and a composer. He found aristocratic patrons to support his musical career and he became the first important composer to succeed at working on his own. He never worked for a prince or for a church.

In 1799, Beethoven discovered he was going deaf. Even though he could not hear, he continued to compose. He wrote 32 piano sonatas, 9 symphonies, and 18 string quartets. Often his anger showed in his music. His music has strong rhythms and powerful themes. At other times, another side of him showed in his flowing melodies. Ludwig van Beethoven died in 1827.

### 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: Cardio-vascular (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 230 hours of home exercise logs as of October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Keep up the good work and build those fitness levels.

**Get Active and Stay Fit, Mr. Flynn**

### PSSA NEWS

Once again, ALL Quakertown Community School District schools achieved the adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals set by the state of Pennsylvania. The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Federal law requires schools to meet AYP. Quakertown is only one of a handful of Pennsylvania's 501 school districts to have all schools meet AYP for the SEVENTH year in a row! That is something to celebrate.

**PSSA DATES 2009-2010 (please have your child in school for these dates)**

Grades 3, 4, 5 Reading and Math – April 7-16, 2010

Grade 5 Writing – April 19-23, 2010

Grade 4 Science – April 26-30, 2010

## SERVICE PROJECTS

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
Kindergarten	Holiday Crafts for Local Nursing Home
Grade 1	Holiday Cards/Notes for Belle Haven Nursing Home
Grade 2	Animals In Distress
Grade 3	Baby Bundles For Families In Need
Grade 4	Book Exchange
Grade 5	Ronald McDonald House – Soda Tabs

## SODA TAB COLLECTION

Each year, students at QE are involved in a service project to help the community. Fifth grade will be collecting soda tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia, PA. The Ronald McDonald House is a “home away from home” for families with very sick children.

How can soda tabs help out? The soda tabs help support the 2,350 families that stay there each year. Collecting soda tabs is easy! It’s simple and it’s low cost. It is a great way to get involved. Due to the community support for programs such as this, families can stay there for only \$15 a night. To date, the Ronald McDonald House has collected over 127 tons of tabs which translates into more than \$94,153 since the program started 10 years ago!

**Your job:** After drinking something from an aluminum can such as soda, rip the tab off and save it. Bring the tabs to school on the **FIRST FRIDAY** of the month. These tabs can be placed inside of the bins located in the fifth grade classrooms.

## QE COLLECTIONS SAVE YOUR LABELS

REMEMBER to order through the Boxtops website for Quakertown Elementary to earn more Boxtop bonus points. Check out the stores listed and see if you can do your holiday shopping online through [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com) New Campbell's Soup one and five point collection sheets are in the lobby - Fill them up!!

Remember to **save the UPC CODES** not the photos of the label.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR QE CARES WINNERS

**September 28** - Cheyanne Fisher ( Grade 5);  
Kyle Shope (Grade 4); Logan Saugling (Grade 4)

**October 5** - Patrick Pilon (Grade 4);  
Mark Wilsey (Grade 4); Harbert Barndt (Grade 2)

**October 12** - George Fisher (Grade 4);  
William Friemann (Gr. 4); Kellyn Neville (Grade 4)

**October 19** - Kyle Shope (Grade 4);  
Olivia Burke (Grade 4); Joseph McErlain (Grade 2)

## NEW PHONE NUMBER, NEW JOB, NEW ADDRESS, HEALTH CONCERNS

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. A simple note to the office will update your child’s files in their student records and the nurse’s office.



## 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.

## PIE NEWS

Sign up sheets will be coming home for Winter Wonderland and Little Shopper Shop, this event will be held on Friday, December 11 at 7pm. In November, sign ups will also be available in the cafeteria on our PIE bulletin board.

PIE would like to thank all who came out to support our Fall Festival, we had well over 200 attend.

Thank you for your continued support, volunteering and participation in our fundraisers is what makes all this possible for our students.

**Please join us on November 12 at 9:00 AM for our next PIE meeting.**

# NOVEMBER

2	Italian or Tuna Hoagie Lettuce and Tomato Macaroni Salad Chilled Applesauce <b>DAY 3</b>	3	NON-INSTRUCTION DAY NO SCHOOL	4	Hamburger or Cheeseburger Lettuce and Tomato Baked Beans Chilled Applesauce <b>DAY 4</b>	5	Baked Chicken Nuggets Creamy Mashed Potatoes Steamed Corn Chilled Strawberry Slices <b>DAY 1</b>	6	Personal Pan Pizza Steamed Green Beans Chilled Peach Cups <b>DAY 2</b>
9	Steak or Cheesesteak Sandwich Oven Baked French Fries Steamed Carrots Chilled Fruit Cup <b>DAY 3</b>	10	Macaroni and Cheese Stewed Tomatoes Multi Grain Dinner Roll Fresh Apple Slices <b>DAY 4</b>	11	Nacho's Grande Bar ... topped with seasoned beef, cheese, sour cream, salsa, lettuce and tomatoes <b>DAY 1</b>	12	Chicken Parmesan Seasoned Noodles Steamed Green Beans Apple Crisp <b>DAY 2</b>	13	NON-INSTRUCTION DAY NO SCHOOL
16	Ziti with Meatballs Italian Dinner Roll Steamed Broccoli Chilled Mixed Fruit <b>DAY 3</b>	17	Toasted Cheese Sandwich Fresh Carrot Sticks with Dip Fresh Apple Slices <b>DAY 4</b>	18	Beef Ravioli Tossed Salad Cheese Breadstick Polish Water Ice <b>DAY 1</b>	19	OUR THANKSGIVING DINNER Roast Turkey Homemade Filling Creamy Mashed Potatoes Golden Corn Dinner Roll Assorted Harvest Pies <b>DAY 2</b>	20	Bosco Stuffed Crust Pizza Tossed Garden Salad Warm Cinnamon Apples Slices <b>DAY 3</b>
23	Hot Dog or Cheese Dog Baked Beans Sauerkraut Chilled Peach Cups <b>DAY 4</b>	24	Chilled Fruit Juice Sausage, Egg and Cheese on an English Muffin Hash Brown Patty Fresh Apple Slices <b>DAY 1</b>	25	NON-INSTRUCTION DAY NO SCHOOL	26	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NO SCHOOL	27	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NO SCHOOL
30	NON-INSTRUCTION DAY NO SCHOOL								