

Quisqueya Eagles Newsletter



**Be Strong! Be Strong!
Make each other strong!**

Friday, August 19, 2011 A.D.

<http://www.quisqueya.org>

School is back in session! QCS has over 40 faculty and staff to serve the 305 students enrolled this



year. We have a number of new faculty that I'm eager to introduce to you, and I'm happy to see children running in the yard, playing basketball, learning the routines of the classroom, and stretching their minds with subjects ranging from Physics and Anatomy to Digital Photography, Bible, Music Appreciation, History, and Reading and Writing.

Each year QCS chooses one discipline to thoroughly examine, from pre-kindergarten to grade 12, and this year QCS will do a thorough review of English. This review will include an examination of the methods we use to teach, the books available for students to read, and ways to help students read and write more effectively.

QCS is serious about getting all students reading because reading is the most important academic skill your child can acquire. The surest way to judge future academic success is by how well students are reading. E. D. Hirsch, famed for his series championing deep content knowledge in each subject, claims that reading is "the most important single goal of schooling," and Jacques Barzun, the great cultural historian says that "no subject of study is more important than reading . . . all other intellectual powers depend on it."

Let's set some goals: each student at QCS should spend a minimum of 150 hours of reading this academic year. That's a minimum. Students who are behind or who struggle with reading, must read more to catch up. Parents committed to excellence and to their child's success will go further: severely restrict all screen time such as TV, video games, and computer games. Such activities only encourage and reinforce poor habits of mind.

QCS is serious about the life of the mind - - serious about learning and school - - committed to seeing each child move toward success.

Please pick up a good book, and join me on the journey.

Welcome back to school.

School is on! I would like to welcome all the returning students/families and all those students/families who are new to the QCS community. Welcome! I pray that you and your children will feel at home soon, being an integral part of the QCS community. As God's Word puts it, *The body is a unit, though it is made of many parts; and though all the parts are many, they form one body* (1 Corinthians 12:12). So it should it be with the school body.

School is on! As we stand on the threshold of the new school year, we stand with excitement in our hearts and minds since we have not gone this way before. We have started our academic journey once again, knowing full well that His presence is with us throughout our journey. He is our Guide, our Comforter, our Encourager, our Strength not only for our academics travels, but for all of life. We need to be GodStrong always.

This reminds me of Joshua standing 'on the threshold' to the land of Canaan. God gave him these words as he was about to enter the new territory;

"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go."

Those words are also our school theme this year. **Be strong! Be strong! Make each other strong!**

We will be dwelling on these words throughout the school year. What makes God's people strong? What makes our Quisqueyaites strong? What makes you/me strong? How do we make each other strong?



As we travel in our journey of learning in joy we will continue to serve our God, equipping the students to be His disciples. Learning for serving. And in our learning, may we also remember the past how God helped us, prayer to fix our thoughts on the king, priority – putting God first, passion for our living, and persistence in our task.

School Calendar

- Aug 25, Thurs - meet the teacher & info on Sycamore
- meet in the chapel at 4 P.M.
- Sept 10, Sat - school 'picnic'
- fun, fellowship, food, soccer
- Sept 16, Fri - parent teacher conferences in A.M.
- Dec 3, Sat - Christmas Bazaar



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

ON MONDAYS, school will start **one hour later** than usual, so that staff may have their staff meetings and have professional development time. The students arriving early will be supervised, but the students will not be **called to class until 8:50 A.M.**

- ✓ Presently we have about 305 students
- ✓ There are about 40 new families
- ✓ All the grades 5 and up are full ☺
- ✓ Today was the new parent breakfast
- ✓ The weekly newsletter is always posted. In order to receive a copy via email go to the school web site <http://quisqueya.org> and sign up.

ES Soccer

A soccer form went home with the ES children regarding soccer after school. Please return the form asap if you desire your child to participate. Many of the children are ready and eager to participate. That's school spirit!



Educational Tip of the Week Read to Your Child Every Day

Children who read, succeed. Reading is the single most important skill a child needs in order to do well in school. And reading to your child every day is the single most important activity you can do to help your child become a better reader. Teachers have known it for years, and a study conducted by the U.S. Department of Education has shown that children whose parents read to them regularly are typically more successful in elementary school. So when should you begin? The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends beginning when your baby is six months old. But it's never too late to start. You can help your children succeed in school by reading aloud to them starting today.

Meet the Teacher ☺

Hi! I'm Robbie Pruitt. I'm originally from Columbia, South Carolina. In Columbia, I served as the Director of Youth Ministries at Eastwood Baptist Church for seven years. For three years after this time at Eastwood, I was involved in the leadership of Tommy's Interactive, an interdenominational church plant to the postmodern generation.



In 2003, I graduated with a Bachelor's of Science degree from Columbia International University, with a double major in Biblical Studies and General Education, and with a minor in Youth Ministry. Shortly after graduation, I married the love of my life, Irene Pruitt. Irene and I moved to Reston, Virginia, a suburb of Washington, DC. There, I worked as the Director of Youth Ministries at an Anglican Church for seven years. Recently, in 2009, I graduated from Trinity School for Ministry with a Diploma in Christian Ministry.

My other interests include reading and writing about discipleship and leadership, backpacking, woodworking, camping ministries, hiking, mountain biking, canoeing, writing poetry and blogs, and enjoying the great outdoors. Irene and I are excited to be serving our Lord Jesus at Quisqueya Christian School and I am looking forward to teaching Bible to High School students!

Reading Focus

The last newsletter of May 27, 2011 focused on reading and how important it was. It stated:



*If daily reading begins in infancy, by the time the child is five years old, he or she has been fed roughly 900 hours of brain food!

*Reduce that experience to just 30 minutes a week, and the child's hungry mind lose 770 hours of nursery rhymes, fairy tales, and stories.

*A kindergarten student who has not been read aloud to could enter school with less than 60 hours of literacy nutrition. No teacher, no matter how talented, can make up for those lost hours of mental nourishment.

Watch for the focus on reading throughout this school year. Watch for reading tips or book suggestions and **Get Caught Reading!** I did ☺