

Quisqueya Eagles Newsletter

<http://www.quisqueya.org>



Friday, March 18, 2011 A.D.

Worship = Walk the Talk

QCS, through ACSI, our accrediting agency, is part of an enormous world-wide network of Christian schools, and it is thrilling to hear stories of how God is active, working in the hearts and minds of students to consider the truth claims of Christ. This Spring Break QCS took advantage of belonging to this network when Jean Graham, (4th grade teacher), Kristie Mattenley (6th grade teacher), Art McMahon (Health and PE teacher), and I spent Spring Break at the International Christian Educator's Conference in Quito, Ecuador. It was good to join with Christian schools from around Latin America in order to learn, share, collaborate, and fellowship.



Brian Simmon's, president of ACSI, challenged us to "Put First Things First," which was the theme of the conference taken from Matthew 6:33, "Seek first the Kingdom of God . . ." Other prominent leaders such as Dan Beerens, an educational consultant with wide experience in Christian schools challenged us to understand and use technology wisely, and, while using ever more complex methods of presentation, to educate for wisdom. Dan Rankin, an Apple Distinguished Educator, joined in the call for excellence, urging schools to help students assess the dizzying amount of information available and present such information well.

We are pleased to be part of such a dynamic group of international educators that celebrate and cultivate excellence, an association that is impacting lives for Jesus Christ every day. And that's what we want at QCS - - a strong academic program with solid co-curricular programs that prepares students to impact their world for Jesus Christ.

Listen!

Pay Attention!

Show me that you are paying attention.

These are words students hear many a time from not only teachers, but also parents. To listen means to do. If they can't listen, I sometimes ask them to go away – to leave the room and make up the lost time later. Our students, our children are listening to whom?

Not only do teachers talk, talk and talk, so do the students talk, talk, talk one to another – face to face, facebook, twitter, etc., but how good are we with our listening skills? The following story I have shared in my class

An Indian was walking in downtown New York City alongside a resident friend. As they approached a busy street corner in the center of Manhattan, the Indian seized his friend's arm and whispered, "Wait. I hear a cricket."

"Come on!", the city boy sneered, "This is downtown New York – how could you possibly hear a cricket?"

His friend persisted however, "No – seriously, I do!"

As cars were roaring, horns honking, people shouting, brakes screeching, cash registers clanging, subway clamoring and people bustling about, the Indian began leading his friend along slowly, every now and again stopping and turning his ear toward the seemingly noiseless sound. At last, the Indian insisted they were near and proceeded to follow the sound across the street and toward a small dark corner next to a graffiti covered wall. There, he bent down to a minuscule tuft of grass and pulled out the cricket.

"I told, you", he said, "I heard a cricket."

Astounded, the New Yorker marveled "How could you have heard that cricket in the middle of all this noise?"

"Well", said his foreign friend, "My ears are different from yours. It simply depends on what you're listening to. Here, let me show you what I mean." He reached into his pocket and pulled out a handful of change – a couple of quarters, three or four nickels, and a dime and a few pennies.

"Now," he said, "watch this." He held the coins waist high and dropped them to the sidewalk. At once, every head within nearly a block turned around and looked in the direction of the Indian.

"You see, it all depends on what you're listening to."

To what sounds are our ears trained to listen? Are they trained to hear the still small voice of the Lord God, saying, *This is the Way. Walk in it.* Let's strive to do less talking and more listening. Let's become active listeners showing that we care. To listen is to do.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
John 10:27

School Calendar

- Fri/March 25 - half day of classes
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences by appointment** from the teacher and/or the parent in the afternoon
- Sat/April 16th - Sports Day 'Picnic'
- Thurs/April 21st - Maundy Thursday - noon dismissal
- F-M/April 22-25 - Easter Holiday
- Wed/May 18th - Flag Day – no school
- M-W/May 23-25 - High school exams
- noon dismissal for all
- May 24th - K graduation & grade 6 Step-up
- May 25th - Grade 8 graduation
- T-F/May 26-27 - Staff work days
- Sat/May 28th - Commencement Exercises at 4 P.M.

Educational Tip of the Week

Develop an Action Plan to Combat Poor Grades

Rather than punishing your child when she shows you a poor test paper or report card grade, develop an action plan to help her do better next time.

- Determine the cause: Was it lack of preparation, inability to grasp the concepts, poor test-taking skills, or failure to know that the test was scheduled?
- Develop a plan: Call the teacher. Ask her opinion about what caused the low grade. Tell her that you're committed to helping the child improve. Schedule fifteen to thirty minutes each night for studying with your child. Mark the test date on your calendar. Restrict TV or set a curfew if needed.
- Word hard: Make studying a team effort, rather than a child's punishment. Prove that you're serious about wanting better grades by working with your child nightly. Read or review the textbook or do practice problems, even when homework isn't assigned. Studying each night will yield big rewards, compared to cramming the night before the test.
- Celebrate the victory: When your child improves her grade, even slightly, celebrate the victory. Treat her to the zoo or to the movies. Show her you are proud of her accomplishment.

Today's Smile – grocery math

In a grocery store a cashier held up a small dairy carton and yelled to a co-worker, "How much is half-and-half?"



Without a moment's hesitation the other cashier replied, "One."



Sycamore Corner

The report cards are online for the grades 1 through 12. Be sure to check them out. The result of this report card is the basis for our

third Parent – Teacher conference by invitation only – by you or the teacher – next Friday, March 25 in the afternoon.

Re-enrollment for 2011 – 2012!

Re-enrollment period for current families runs from Monday, March 21st to Thursday, March 31st.

Re-enrollment must be made in person with either Mrs. Beneche or Mrs. Jules during office hours.

Upon arrival you will be given a form showing your current status. You will be asked to confirm and/or update the information.

The re-enrollment fee of \$500.⁰⁰ US per family is required at the time of application.

Making A Memory

For years, teachers have used familiar mnemonics to help students remember historical facts, musical lines, and spaces, but today's educators are not just using tried and true memory tools, they are making their own as well. In mnemonic instruction, students relate new information to what they have already learned through visual and verbal cues. The approach is often used in special education classes, but it can be applied in any class. Its success lies in enhancement of initial processing of information and leads to better retrieval of that information at a later time.

Classic Mnemonics

Some mnemonic tools based on the technique of *letter strategy* (using acronyms and acrostics) are "oldies but goodies" that teachers recall from their own school days. Here are a few that "every good boy" -- and girl -- should remember!

- ROY G. BIV: the colors in the spectrum of visible light in order: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet
- Every Good Boy Does Fine: the lines of the treble clef: E, G, B, D, and F
FACE = the spaces of the treble clef: F, A, C, and E
- HOMES: the five Great Lakes: Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior
- Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally: the order of mathematical operations: parentheses, exponents, multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction
- My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas: the nine planets in order: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. Ops – scratch Pluto
- King Philip Came Over For Good Soup (or Spaghetti): the taxonomic categories in biology: kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species
- Never Eat Shredded Wheat: the points of a compass: north, east, south, and west

Spinal Screening

QCS will be conducting spinal screening on March 22 and March 23. Spinal screening detects abnormal curves of the spine at the earliest stages so that treatment can be determined.

Scoliosis, a common spinal abnormality found in adolescents, is a sideways twisting of the spine, which is usually detected between 10-14 years of age. Kyphosis, sometimes called round back is an exaggerated rounding of the upper back and is often confused with poor postures. Many cases are mild and require only ongoing observation by a physician. Others can worsen and require active treatment such as bracing and surgery. Early treatment can prevent the development of a severe deformity, which can affect a person's appearance and health.

The procedure for screening is simple. Specially trained screeners will look at your child's back while he/she stands and then bends forward. Miquette Denie is the school nurse and will be screening the children along with one or two nurses. For this examination, boys and girls will be screened separately.

The following grades will be screened:

7th, 8th and 9th grade on March 22nd starting at 9:05 A.M.

4th, 5th, 6th on March 23rd starting at 10:05 A.M.



This week The Paulette Blain Memorial Library received a very generous donation of the following new books from Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Dening:

Mirette on the High Wire By Emily Arnold McCully
Jacob Two-Two's First By Mordecai Richler
The Berenstain Bears By Stan & Jan Berenstain
CLIFFORD: School Days Treasury By Norman Bridwell
Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary D. Schmidt
The Family Under the Bridge by Natalie Savage Carlson
Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator by Roald Dahl
Miss Honey's Busy Day by Richard Scarry
Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levin
Holes by Louis Sachar
Susanneke by C. J. Van Doornik
Jermemiah Learns to Read by Jo Ellen Bogart
(more to be listed next time ☺)



Line up shortest to tallest!" the teacher calls out.

"Not again," some kids might groan — especially if they have to stand at one end or the other.

For most kids, height isn't something they can change, so what do you do if you don't like how tall or short you are? It might be girls feeling too tall and boys feeling too short. But some really tall boys might not like all that height and some shorter girls might get tired of all the jokes or of feeling like they're staying little while their friends are growing up.

It's in Your Genes.

But the truth is that everyone is growing up — it's just that they're doing it at their own pace. In other words, your body grows on its own schedule. You can't wish yourself taller or stretch yourself. Or if you're already tall, you can't do anything to hurry up your friends up so you're not the tallest one.

You might want to know how tall you will be. Will you be nose to nose with your mom or dad someday? There's no way to know for sure how tall a kid will be as an adult, but it's easy to get a clue: Look at your parents and the other adult members of your family. How tall are they? Chances are you'll be around the same height as your parents. If one parent is tall and one short, then you're likely to end up somewhere in between.

But you could be taller or shorter, too. Boy, there are a lot of "buts" when it comes to height! That's because your height is determined by your genes — the complicated code of instructions that you inherit from your parents. Genes tell your body how to grow and determine lots of things, including how tall you are.

You are fearfully and wonderfully made as a child of the great King Whom you are serving. Be a Kingdom Kid with your whole being ☺

Next Friday, March 25th will be only a half day for the students. During the afternoon from 1 – 4 P.M. we will be having Parent Teacher conferences based on the last report card. The focus will be on the academic progress and the child's behaviour necessary for the last quarter in order to make it a successful quarter. Watch for your invitation to attend early in the week ☺