

Quisqueya Eagles Newsletter

<http://www.quisqueya.org>



Friday, March 4, 2011 A.D.

Worship = Walk the Talk

The last week of third quarter has passed, and we are gearing up for fourth quarter. Last week I wrote about the rhythms of school life, and how my life has been in synch with these rhythms for a long time.



Another set of rhythms has been interwoven with my life: the church calendar. The church year moves along, reminding us to observe, celebrate, and relearn the lessons of Easter, Pentecost, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Christmas!

This coming week we observe Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, a time set apart for recognizing that we have come from dust and will return to dust, a time of intense reflection to recognize our sinfulness and brokenness before God and repent of our sins.

It's that time to have all the pride knocked out of us and to get alone and quiet with God and confess, putting meaning behind those powerful words in the Book of Common Prayer: "Most Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen."

May God bless you as you draw close to Him.

My favourite moment this week was not in delivering the PowerPoint lecture I had prepared for Physics. It was not when I heard that the U.S. government had decided to extend their budget. It was not even when I remembered that I still had one of my wife's homemade cookies in my bag.

My favourite moment this week was when I stood in front of two dozen students at 4:00 pm, saluted them, and said, "I hope to never see you again!" They returned big smiles, and said, "Thank you, sir! We hope to never see you again, either!"

Traditionally, our after-school Ninth Hour program has only been for students that are on academic probation, but this semester, we made the decision to be more pro-active. We required that all students that were in danger must come and do supervised homework and study. If a student was falling behind in their grades after the first month, we pledged to give them extra help for four weeks and get them back on track.

There are few joys that compare to that of working hard and seeing the fruit of labour. Perhaps we get this from our Heavenly Father Himself, who started history by working hard for a week and seeing something that was "very good!" A great many of the students who were required to come to this preventative Ninth Hour worked hard, brought their grades up, and are now enjoying the satisfaction of a job well done.

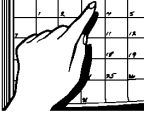
To those of you who brought your grades up to a satisfactory point -- well done! I hope to never see you again!

To those of you still working at it: on behalf of the teaching staff, we renew our commitment to work with you, be available to you, and to keep challenging you. I trust that you will likewise commit yourself to personal excellence. Make the effort, and we will meet you there.

Let's continue to celebrate every victory! Have a great week!

Rod Meadth
Secondary Principal

School Calendar

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- Fri/March 4
 - last day of third quarter
 - third quarter report cards
 - reports on Sycamore
 - M-F/March 7-11
 - Spring Break
 - Washington Trip
 - Mon/March 14
 - 4th Quarter begins
 - 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.

The grades are posted for the third quarter. Parents need to check the progress reports of their child(ren). **Do you know how well your child is or is not doing?** Our next set of Parent Teacher conferences will be with those parents of the students who are doing unsatisfactory work and/or misbehaving.

Educational Tip of the Week

Don't Compare Your Child to Others

Avoid comments like *Juan does so much better in school than you* or *Why can't you make me proud like Alaina makes her mother proud?*

Comparing your child to another may cause your child to become angry with you and resent the other youngster. It matters little whether your child does better than another. What matters is that he is doing the best he can.

Today's Smile from chemistry ☺

Two atoms collide and the first atom says to the second, *How are you feeling?*

The second atom replied, *Oh, not good at all. I've lost an electron!*

The first atom exclaimed, *Are you sure???*

The second atom replied, *I'm positive!*



Sycamore Corner

The third quarter report cards are posted on the Sycamore site alone. Please view the academic progress of your child. It will be on

the results of this report card that we will base our third Parent – Teacher conference by invitation only – by you or the teacher.

Gearing Up for 2011 – 2012!

Re-enrollment forms for the upcoming academic year will be going out on March 21 and will be due on March 31. Students who are not reenrolled by March 31 will not have a place reserved for the coming year.

Communicate with your mind
Over and over again.
Never stop
Communicating
Even when your mind gets full.
Night passes by
Till the next day
Right till the test comes
And you passed
The test
In a split second and know
Over and over again
Never stop communicating.



Liska

REMINDER TO PARENTS

The 10th of the month will soon be here which is the final day for payment of school fees. As we will be on a break next week, do not forget to pay any outstanding fees by Monday, March 14 in order to avoid the 5% late fee that will be added to any balance owing after that date. Note also that the school reserves the right to refuse students from attending classes for delinquent accounts until the amount is paid or unless prior arrangements are made through the business manager, Mrs. Paultre. You can contact her via e-mail: business@quisqueya.org or during office hours.

WHY READ 30 MINUTES A DAY?

*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.

*Therefore...30 minutes daily = 900 hours
30 minutes weekly = 130 hours
Less than 30 minutes weekly = 60 hours
Guess you now understand why reading daily is so very important. Why not have family night reading? It is great to just shut off the television for 20-30 minutes and read... and share.

The Read-a-Thon is over. Thank you to all our readers and sponsors. A job well done! The students in the ES read for a total of 41,590 minutes or about 693 hours. Our overall top reader was Larissa Delimon with 1,610 minutes. Fantastic!

This past Thursday the top three readers in each class were recognized in chapel. The results were as follows:

Pre-Kindergarten

- 1st - Djuissa Pierre
- 2nd - Maya Rayes
- 3rd - Wolfgeen Hall

Kindergarten

- 1st - Vivian King
- 2nd - Ryan Laforest
- 3rd - Isaiah King

Grade 1

- 1st - Jenna Oostland
- 2nd - Ashton Hendrick
- 3rd - Claude Pierre-Louis

Grade 2

- 1st - Pierre Louis
- 2nd - Christopher Deravine
- 3rd - Liam Brandt

Grade 3

- 1st - Monica Polycarp
- 2nd - Isaac Livesay
- 3rd - Rodney Michel

Grade 4

- 1st - Laryssa Delimon
- 2nd - Kendall Dorlus
- 3rd - David Charles

Grade 5

- 1st - Anson Hendrick
- 2nd - William White
- 3rd - Marvin Cange

Grade 6

- 1st - Karen Michel
- 2nd - Micah VanDam
- 3rd - Alexa Delimon

Now the work begins for all our readers. They need to collect the monies promised by their sponsors. Please do this so that the monies may be given to TeachHaiti ☺



Why Your Child Should Read for 20 minutes Every Day

"WHY CAN'T I SKIP MY 20 MINUTES OF READING TONIGHT?"

LET'S FIGURE IT OUT --- MATHEMATICALLY!

Student A reads 20 minutes five nights of every week.
Student B reads only 4 minutes a night...or not at all!

Step 1:

Multiply minutes a night x 5 times each week.

Student A reads 20 min. x 5 times a week = 100 mins./week

Student B reads 4 minutes x 5 times a week = 20 minutes

Step 2:

Multiply minutes a week x 4 weeks each month.

Student A reads 400 minutes a month.

Student B reads 80 minutes a month.

Step 3:

Multiply minutes a month x 9 months/school year

Student A reads 3600 min. in a school year.

Student B reads 720 min. in a school year.

Student A practices reading the equivalent of ten whole school days a year.

Student B gets the equivalent of only two school days of reading practice.

By the end of 6th grade if Student A and Student B maintain these same reading habits,

Student A

will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days

Student B

will have read the equivalent of only 12 school days.

One would expect the gap of information retained will have widened considerably and so, undoubtedly, will school performance. How do you think Student B will feel about him/herself as a student?

Some questions to ponder:

Which student would you expect to read better?

Which student would you expect to know more?

Which student would you expect to write better?

Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?

Which student would you expect to be more successful in school....and in life?



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Dear Parents,

Today your child's third quarter report card is available on your Sycamore account. This report will give you an accurate update of your child's educational growth during the present school year. Please take the time to discuss the report with your child.

At this time we are also pleased to provide this Parent Report Card that you are able to use to review your contribution to your child's success in school. It is important to remember that you are an important ingredient of the three legged stool that influences your child's education – the home – the school - the church. This report card aims at you, the parent, to become more involved with your child's education.

Please take the time to review and complete the Parent Report Card. It is not intended to be returned to the school, but help you assess your involvement with your child's education.

Research indicates that students are more successful when parents are involved in their child's education. Please use these questions as a guide to some of the ways that you can help your child at school.

Directions: Simply circle your answer to the following questions.

How well do you support your child's learning?

1. Have you identified a regular time and place for your child to do your homework? Yes No
2. Do you monitor your child's homework daily? Yes No
3. Do you read to your young child? If your child is older, do you encourage reading by paying attention to what your child reads as well how often s/he reads? Yes No
4. Have you helped your child by providing/obtaining his/her personal collection of books? Yes No
5. Do you monitor and limit your child's television viewing habits? Yes No
6. Do you monitor and limit your child's use of the computer, cell phone? Yes No
7. Do you ensure that your child has excellent attendance at school, including being on time each day? Yes No
8. Do you hold your child responsible for completing all assignments on time and to the best of his/her ability? Yes No
9. Do you support and reinforce the school's discipline policy so that all students can benefit from a good learning environment? Yes No
10. Do you support your child's learning by providing nutritious meals and an adequate time for sleep? Yes No
11. Have you discussed with your child the importance of a good education? Yes No
12. Are you aware of your child's academic strengths and weaknesses? Yes No
13. Do you take your child to places of interest in the history of the land? Yes No
14. Do you regularly take your children to church with you? Yes No

How involved are you with your child's school?

15. Does the school have your current phone number, address and email address? Yes No
16. Did you attend the New Parent Breakfast, the Christmas Bazaar, Board Parents Meeting?
Yes No
17. Have you attended the parent teacher conferences with the teachers of your child(ren)?
Yes No
18. Have you volunteered by working on a school committee, a school function such as the Christmas Bazaar, Sports Picnic? Yes No
19. Are you a model of 'good sportsmanship' when attending school events? Yes No
20. Do you encourage your child to participate in community service projects? Yes No
21. Have you taken the time to work with your child in volunteer projects? Yes No
22. Do you initiate contact with your child's teacher or principal just to show your interest? Yes No

How familiar are you with school information?

23. Have you read the *Parent Handbook* which includes the student code of conduct and/or discipline policy? Yes No
24. Do you regularly read our Eagles Newsletter online? Did you subscribe? Yes No
25. Do you regularly check your child's academic progress on your Sycamore account? Yes No
26. Did you know that the report card is only available on the Sycamore account – the school's grading program? If you desire a paper copy, you must contact the office. Yes No

Now go back and count the number of yes circled. Then get your score below.

18 - 26: Congratulations! You are a strong partner in your child's education!

9 – 17: You are making worthwhile contributions to your child's education, but there are more ways you can help.

0 – 8: We need your help! Your child's success at school might be increased if you were able to help more.