

Quisqueya Eagles Newsletter

<http://www.quisqueya.org>



Friday, September 17, 2010 A.D.

Worship = Walk the Talk

QCS teachers work hard to improve the craft of teaching.



Every Monday morning before school teachers spend an hour discussing the latest research on teaching and learning, on motivating students and on learning how the brain works. Teachers read books and articles, discussing with each other ways to enhance the learning experiences of your children.

And we invite expert practitioners to come alongside us and share their practices with us. A team of international educators from Pan American Christian Academy in Brazil will be visiting this November to provide professional development.

And, next week, Rod Meadth, Secondary School Principal, Art McMahon, Alumni Coordinator and PE/Health teacher, Tim Banks, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and I will be attending the annual Paideia conference. Paideia has been consulting for QCS for several years now, and we are encouraged by the on-going relationship we have with them. They are committed, as are we, to academic excellence, strong board development, and sound financial practices.

Thanks for joining us on our quest for excellence.

Steve Hersey



The QCS Board of Trustees held our first meeting of the school year last week. As a board committed to pursuing excellence for QCS, we are excited to welcome 80 new families to the QCS community.

The school year has started smoothly and the new physical changes to the facility have made things more efficient. Plans are underway to continue updating and expanding facilities this year.

The current Board of Trustees consists of:

Tim Banks	chair
Johanne Buteau	vice-chair
Ad de Blaeij	treasurer
Ruth VanDam	secretary
Tim DeYoung	
Beth Charles	
Shelley Tlucek	
Patrick Brun	

In the pursuit of excellence we are always encouraging parents to be involved at the school.

Many opportunities exist to allow you to participate in school business. Right now we are in search of new members for the Board of Trustees. Applications are available in the office, feel free to pick one up or contact a board member for details. There are also board committees that need parental involvement: The Long-Range Planning, The Promotions and The Building committees will benefit from parents with gifts and talents in these areas. Let us know how you would like to be involved.

This year's ombudsman is Art McMahon. He acts as an intermediary between QCS and individual members of the QCS community. If you have an issue at the school you feel has not been resolved using the steps recommended in the handbook, or if you feel uncomfortable approaching someone at the school, Art is the person to contact.

We are looking forward to an excellent year. If you have questions or concerns, contact me at tbanks@quisqueya.org.

Evaluation Guidelines

Teachers constantly evaluate student characteristics: their behaviour, achievements, aptitudes, interests and attitudes. Such evaluation is based on our beliefs or the beliefs of society about the nature of schooling and its function in society. Both **how** and **what** we choose to evaluate reflects what we hold to be important. In turn, the importance we attach to evaluation and how we go about it creates meaning for ourselves and for our students. It is one way in which our world view is implicitly transferred to our students.

Our aim is to help children be and become responsible disciples of Jesus Christ. That means that, no less than for curriculum and pedagogy, our evaluation methods must reflect the Biblical understanding of the nature of children, of their relationship to God and their neighbours, of a conception of knowledge that goes beyond the narrow technocratic one embedded in North American culture.

There are some basic principles that need to guide the evaluation of students.

- evaluate the student products, not their personhood. It is not our role to judge a person's heart (Matt. 7:1).
- we are called to *correct, rebuke, encourage* -- - *with great patience and careful instruction* (2 Tim. 4:2). Teachers must evaluate, give feedback and correct in a loving and upbuilding way. Correction is always accompanied by encouragement.
- all children are God's image bearers. All have their individual talents and resulting responsibilities. Evaluation must foster and strengthen those special gifts.
- internal responses may not be measurable, but yet our ultimate aim includes positive dispositions and commitment.

See you at the conferences ☺



School Calendar

Fri/Oct 15 – 17	- Senior trip to Seguin
Oct 15 th	- last day of First Quarter
	- a non-uniform day ☺
Oct 18 th	- Staff PD Day – no school for students
Oct 19 th	- 2 nd quarter begins
Oct 22 nd	- Parent Teacher conferences
	- no school for the students
Nov 1 st	- All Saints Day – no school
Nov 2 nd	- All Souls Day – no school
Nov 18 th	- Battle of Vertieres – no school
Nov 25 th	- American Thanksgiving – no school
Nov 26 th	- no school
Dec 4 th	- Christmas Bazaar
Dec 13 th	- HS exams – noon dismissal
Dec 14 th	- HS exams – noon dismissal
Dec 15 th	- HS exams – noon dismissal
	- last day of the first semester
Jan 4 th	- 2 nd semester – 3 rd quarter begins

Educational Tip of the Week

"Make Your Home a Literature-Rich Environment"

Fill your home with books and magazines. Promote reading by letting your child catch you reading often.

Be a good role model. Children want to grow up to be "just like mommy" or "just like daddy". Show your child that reading is enjoyable by reading often. You'll be glad you did, and proud that your child grew up to be a reader, "Just like mommy or daddy."



Introducing . . .

Hello, my name is Heidi Saylor and I will be teaching digital photography, yearbook/photojournalism, and phys. ed. I grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where both of my parents currently live. I also have two brothers who live in Georgia and Indiana. Growing up, my family and I attended a non-denominational, Bible church, which serves as my home church in the States.



In the summer of 2009, I graduated from The Art Institute of Philadelphia, and received my degree in photography. Shortly after, I married Ben Saylor (middle school math and science teacher for QCS), and we resided in a village in Alaska, where I worked as a General Education Development Instructor. A few of my hobbies include hiking, kiting, team sports, traveling and of course, photography.

Curriculum Corner

God created an orderly universe. Mathematics is a specialized language used to describe the relationships within the universe. The study of mathematics allows man to discover the patterns, relationships, and operations that God has created. Once known, these principles are to be used in carrying out God's commands in Genesis 1:28 and Genesis 2:15 to subdue, work in, and care for God's creation. This knowledge thus assists man in functioning in a more orderly and decent manner as God intends.

Although all situations in life have a mathematical aspect, its place in the creation is a limited one. Its importance is related to its many applications in life. In all this the student must see that mathematics gives us a deeper understanding of God's creation. To enable the child to be aware of his calling, it is necessary to teach skills within a meaningful framework which includes: solving problems, applying math to everyday situations, reading, interpreting and constructing graphs, show how math is used in predicting and making decisions, and showing the role and impact of computers in our society.

- ✓ Math answers are right or wrong because God is Truth
- ✓ The precision, accuracy, and exactitude of measurement are rooted in God's justice, shown through His perfection
- ✓ Mathematical patterns are predictable and reliable because a faithful, dependable God established them
- ✓ A biblical perspective of math focuses on the following values:
 - Accuracy
 - Precision
 - Orderliness
 - Diligence
 - Perseverance
 - Wonder and awe
 - Endurance
 - Responsible use of mathematics
 - Creativity
 - Humility
 - Thoroughness
 - Punctuality



Praise and Prayer

- Thank You Lord for Your daily blessings. I need to become as a small child and name them one by one – for a new day to serve You, for my daily bread, for my colleagues working in this place, for Haiti and all the good happenings occurring each day, for the children in my care, for parents, for communities working together, for family and friends, for those who are a blessing to others, for Your daily presence.

Welcome Aboard

It is with great pleasure and thankfulness that I like to announce the addition of the following to our staff at QCS. God is good. God is great. Let us always give thanks for ALL what He has done for us. It is only through His power I am able to do what I committed myself to do here at QCS.

We welcome the artistic talents of Mrs. Jennifer Edgerton, who is teaching art to the grades 1 – 6 and also a class of music in grade one.

We also welcome Miss Kristina Birkhead who will be teaching English in the HS and also aiding the elementary school working with the children in small groups, and individualized help.

Lastly, we welcome the return of Mrs. Coby DeBlaej who will be helping in the elementary school with group work in the language and mathematics areas and also help out the administration in special assigned tasks.

Simple Ways to Build Your Child's Confidence

During the report card time, I always look at a comment page I have which gives a listing of 100 ways to praise a child. This word bank helps me to original and creative, coming up with my own descriptive words. How often do I come up with a compliment, recognizing the work of the student, or the staff member? We all thrive on words of praise and most certainly the children we teach.

After the Parent Teacher conferences, share what was discussed at the conferences with your child. Be sure to also give compliments when desired saying *I am proud of you, Good job! Well done.*

Be sure that your praise is sincere. It is a building block for developing your child's sense of self-worth.

Lunch Menu

What's for lunch?

This newsletter will no longer publish the lunch menu. The menu is found for parents on the Sycamore sight for which they received an email. More and more, you will find us on the web. Be sure that you check out the school web site and the Sycamore site for the latest happenings at school.

