

Quisqueya Eagles Newsletter

<http://www.quisqueya.org>



Friday, September 24, 2010 A.D.

Worship = Walk the Talk

I've been away all week at the annual Paideia Conference, a superb educational conference



which gathers top professionals in schooling from around the United States. This year's featured key-note speaker was Gene Frost, author of **Learning From the Best**, a book that presents the practices and procedures of the best functioning schools in the United States, and many representatives from those schools of excellence were present. It was thrilling and inspiring to discuss academic rigor, policy concerns, board relations, authentic Christianity, and other aspects of school with brilliant practitioners.

QCS regularly seeks out the very best counsel from the top leaders of the very best schools, and we are proud of our relationship with Paideia. I attended with Tim Banks, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Rod Meadth, High School Principal, and Art McMahon, Alumni Coordinator as well as the Health/PE Teacher and Coach. QCS invests in professional development opportunities, and we are never satisfied with the status quo but are always striving to be better, striving for excellence.

Because I believe that the only reason to have a school is to have an excellent, academically rigorous program which acknowledges the lordship of Jesus Christ in all areas, we will be discussing with the faculty the ideas we learned, seeing which ideas we can implement, and determining what goals we need to set.

Yours, for excellence in Christian schooling,

Steve Hersey

QCS is pleased to announce that our Director, Steve Hersey received the Exceptional Leadership Award from Paideia, Inc. at the Conference he attended this past week.

The plaque reads as follows:

Exceptional Leadership Award

In recognition of your leadership and example at Quisqueya Christian School during the Haiti earthquake and its aftermath, which by God's providence enabled the school to be a place of refuge while continuing its mission.

Presented by Paideia, Inc.
at The Paideia Conference
September 21, 2010.

I daily give thanks to the Lord for QCS and for the people He places at the right times and in the right places so that His wonders, His purposes may be fulfilled. For this, we together give thanks. PTL!

And Lord, as we continue this school year, we continually pray for Your guiding hand upon the leadership of the school, the staff, the students, the parents and our supporting community. As we enter the school year we can truly say that we have never been here before and we need Your guiding hand to help direct us on our way. Continue to direct the Way in which we should go. That way throughout this school year, we can be life-long learners and life-long worshippers.

Tony DeKoter

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people” (Colossians 3:23 TEV).

We just completed our first parent teacher conferences and appreciated the input of all the parents who came. We shared only beginning thoughts of the school year, but it was great to have the home and school working together. During the discussions, the academics always surfaced because the grades do have a story to tell. The journey of learning to failure is paved with good intentions while the road to success is paved with results. We all desire the best in all our students. So what does excellence look like?

Striving for excellence requires enthusiasm. Whatever your hand finds doing, you give it your best because it is the Lord God you are serving. We do our work to the best of our ability, giving Him the praise. All of life is worship, even our studies each day or our teachings.

Students who excel go the extra mile. Striving for excellence people do more than what is required of them. Their enthusiasm for the task drives them beyond the requirements for the joy of learning. Students striving for excellence always remain positive. They do their work without grumbling or complaining. Just think of the athletes or inventors or scientists striking out, failing only to get up and try again and again until they succeeded. More than 10,000 experiments were completed before the electric light bulb worked successfully! Once you are successful one time, you can perfect your talents/skills to succeed again and again.

Let's all excel in our learning this day. May we all excel in being life-long learners and life-long worshippers.



School Calendar

Sat/Sept 25	- Beautification Day – 10 – 2 for juniors and seniors
Fri/Oct 15 – 17	- Senior trip to Sequin
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

Keep Lines of Communication Open With Your Child's Teacher

I often need to reach parents during the day, but with mom and dad both working, I hesitate to place calls at the work site, unless prior permission has been given. Exchange phone numbers and times to call.

Inform your child's teacher if you are available to receive phone calls during the day, or if you prefer s/he leave a message, send a note home with your child, or email you. Failure to communicate remains a major complaint of both parents and teachers. Avoid this pitfall by clearly communicating how to get in touch. A brief phone call or a quick note provides a vital link to your child's academic success. Use them often.

AND now with Sycamore, we have no excuse. Both the parents and the teachers can send a quick note and you will see the note when you open the program. Please connect to the program and stay in touch!

PAC – Parent Action Committee

Monday, September 27 at 3:15 P.M. we welcome all those interested in being involved in this year's Christmas Bazaar to come to our first planning meeting. This will be a time to brainstorm ideas and decide what areas we would like to be involved in. Your participation would be greatly appreciated.

From the Guidance Department

The **PSAT** test will be given at school Wed. Oct. 13. It is a good practice test for the SAT exam. Scholarships from the results of the test are also possible. This test is open to Juniors and Sophomores.

The cost of the test is \$18 (US). Payment should be made at the office and students should keep their receipt for the day of the test to show the testing supervisor that they indeed paid. Next, students should come to the Guidance Office and get a practice booklet to help them prepare for the test.

Introducing . . .

Me. I am Tony DeKoter and this is my fifth year at QCS and I am here because I enjoy what I am doing – teaching, principaling and some more. This year I teach Bible in the grades 7 and 8. - a first for me at QCS, but a subject I have taught many a time before.



QCS is the fourth school where I am serving the Lord. I don't like changing jobs readily and my wife, Mary, doesn't like the thought of moving all too often. I also told her, whatever we buy in Haiti, and if it can't fit into our suitcases when we leave, it stays here ☺ We both are from Southwestern Ontario, the province of Canada that juts into the United States. As I heard from the grapevine from someone in grade six, Canada might as well be a part of the US ☺ But, we Canucks are a little different than the Americans. We say eh a lot!

Although a Canadian, I attended Dordt College in the corn fields of Iowa. Believe it or not, all three of our children also graduated from the very same college. Their choice ☺

During the school year, my hobby is schooling. I enjoy what I am doing and the Lord has given me the health to continue what I enjoy. I can't retire from teaching, because there should be no word such as retire. One can never retire from God's service. During the summertime I like to travel and a 'to do' on my 'bucket list' is to drive our motor home throughout North America for a whole year and see the sights of God's beautiful creation. God has blessed our family – three married children with Christian partners, seven grandchildren and the eighth one on her/his way. God is good!

Simple Ways to Build Your Child's Confidence

Don't allow your child to be self-critical. Watch your child's responses when s/he expresses failure. The actions at this time will tell you a lot about your child's level of self esteem. What is the response when s/he gets a poor grade?

I'm just a dummy.

I'm a slow learner.

Where did s/he learn the negative responses? And if the response continues, s/he will start to equate her/his performance to her/his self worth. A person's self worth is never tied to her/his academic performance. No student should be allowed to criticize who she or he is and never should a child be allowed to equate mistakes of failures to self-worth. God doesn't create junk.



When you thought I wasn't looking

Author: Unknown

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you hang my first painting on the
refrigerator,
and I wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you feed a stray cat,
and I thought it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you make my favorite cake for me,
and I knew that little things are special things.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I heard you say a prayer,
and I believed that there was a God to talk to.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I felt you kiss me goodnight,
and I felt loved.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw tears come from your eyes,
and I learned that sometimes things hurt,
but it's alright to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw that you cared,
and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I looked...
and I wanted to say thanks for all the things
I saw when you thought I wasn't looking.