

Quisqueya Eagles Newsletter



Wednesday, November 23, 2011 A.D.

<http://www.quisqueya.org>

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

Thanksgiving is around the corner, and I've been considering all the many ways I've been blessed. And I thought also of the story of the 10 lepers found in Luke 17:11-19.



The lepers cried out to Jesus for help, and Jesus healed them. Incredibly, only one came back to thank him. But perhaps that isn't so incredible. It makes me consider how many times I've failed to be thankful for the many blessings I have - - from the things I own to the health I enjoy to the friends and family I have, to the educational opportunities I have. It rather overwhelms me to consider all the ways I've been blessed.

Too many today, in an age of superabundance, seem to have a sense of entitlement - - a sense that they somehow deserve those good things that happen in life - - wealth, abundance, health. This is the very opposite of gratitude.

G.K. Chesterton, that great English writer well known for such works as *Orthodoxy* and *The Everlasting Man* (please read them both!), writes, "I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought; and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder."

He goes on to add, "you say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the concert and the opera, and grace before the play and pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing and grace before I dip the pen in the ink."

Which is just to say, Chesterton lived a life of gratitude for everything and I want to as well. I'm going to start by thanking God for every blessing I can think of, and then I'll tell all those I can how thankful I am for them.

Blessings on you as you this upcoming Thanksgiving day, and may you be thankful every day!

I was in Canada this past week celebrating God's goodness in a school community where I served as a teaching principal for 18 years. It was good to come together to celebrate God's goodness. I need to become like a little child at times and list God's blessings, God's goodness one by one. All too often I get lost in the busyness of time that I don't have the time to celebrate in community.

Community for me means that we have a common bond - a common unity - which is not only the school community but also the larger Christian community, the people of God. The description of the early church tells of the people's oneness of mind and heart as they gathered together **daily**. They worshipped together. They talked together. They prayed together. No wonder that they were so close. That's community.

How much 'community' do I have? All too often we do not connect with people because the pace of our lives is in the fast lane. We are too busy. We are so busy during the week that we do not even take the time to meet with the people of God on Sundays. When we stumble across our 'friends' we say 'We need to get together real soon' or 'Let's do lunch when things settle down' and continue in our own hurriedness.

You can't hurry community.

You can't hurry listening.

You can't hurry friendships.

You can't hurry your rejoicing with those who rejoice; mourning with those who mourn; living in harmony with each other (Romans 12). That is not the way to practice hospitality.

As we need to set time apart to spend with our God, so too we need time set aside to celebrate His goodness. We too can celebrate all what God has done in this school community. Give praise and thanks this day for the movement of Christian education. God needs to be the center of all. You and I need to be His champions. Be encouragers of one another. Live in community. Make that a priority in living for Jesus.

T. DeKoter

School Calendar

Nov 24, Thurs	- American Thanksgiving Day - no school
Nov 25, Fri	- no school
Dec 3, Sat	- Christmas Bazaar
Dec 16, Fri	- start of HS exams
Dec 19, Mon	- HS exams – half school day for all
Dec 20, Tues	- HS exams – half school day for all
Dec 21, Wed	- HS exams – half school day for all - last day for first semester – non uniform
Jan 10, Tues	- second semester begins/third quarter



Only 9 more days until the Christmas Bazaar! Reserve the day to attend. Why not be involved and donate some time while you are here. **Your help is needed!!**

Volunteers are needed for ticket sales. Vendors are also welcomed. Pass their name along. Send them a form.

Do you have a few hours to spare? Just call the school and they will gladly take your name. Just call 2816 - 3000 or 2816 – 4000.

Do you know of someone who has a product which could be sold at the bazaar? Why not encourage them to display their wares at the bazaar?

We also need donations of items for the silent auction. This is new this year and should be exciting. Watch for more details what will be available. Highest bid wins ☺



Children go on reading binges about certain subjects. Animal stories was one of my favourite categories. Some of these stories are funny; others touch the heart and bring tears. But all of them teach the children about love and courage. Some that come to my mind are:

Black Stallion by Walter Farley
Old Yeller by Fred Gibson
Big Red by James A. Kjelgaard
Lassie Come Home by Eric Knight
Call of the Wild by Jack London
Rascal by Sterling North
The Red Pony by John Steinbeck

Introducing . . .

I am Kelli Noel, a native of North Carolina. I am new to Quisqueya this year, though I am not new to Haiti. Since 2001,



I have been to Haiti on several mission trips and during one of the trips I met my husband Obed Noel. I never dreamed I would meet my husband while on a mission trip. Once all the red tape with immigration was completed Obed and I were married in 2004 and resided in North Carolina until this summer. Obed was led to return to Haiti and I, being reluctant at first, finally submitted to the Lord and joined him here this summer. Obed and I have a son, Angelo, who is in 7th grade and a daughter Cherina who is in kindergarten.

I received my BA degree from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and my MA from North Carolina State University. Most of my experience has been in middle grades science and math. I am currently enrolled to take online classes at the University of Maryland to increase my knowledge in the area of science so that I can be a better high school science teacher. I have been teaching the last 16 years in public schools in North Carolina. I love to teach and feel that God has made teaching my mission. I am excited about being able to teach this year at Quisqueya.

Educational Tip of the Week Praise Your Child Every Day

Comments like "I really like that you fed the dog without being asked" or "You did a fine job of selecting matching clothes today" go a long way in boosting self-esteem.

Children with high self esteem do better in school. You can boost your child's ego by giving legitimate praise and compliments. Kids do many things right every day. So, get in to the habit of looking for the goodness in your child, and practice giving "high fives" often.

Spirit Week

Spirit week is coming up next WEEK!!!

ARE YOU READY???

Monday, November 28th - Friday, December 2nd

Monday: A Blast from the Past

New

You can be from the Roaring 20's- 90's and anything in between. You can be from the 70's as hippie, Abraham Lincoln, or even someone from the medieval times. Whatever you want

Tuesday: Superhero/Villain day

Wacky day

Wednesday: from HAIR to TOE

Make sure your hair is wacky as well, or else...

Thursday: Twin/Multiplicity Day

New

You can either be a twin or multiple twins! You can have 5-7 or more twins... If you can get that many!!

Friday: **SPiRiT DAY**

SORRY- **NO** villain day on Tuesday for the Elementary School – just a super hero day.

Night of the Arts

Who: Parents, students and QCS Staff

What: Invitation to a Night of the Arts where select students will showcase their artistic talent.

Date: Saturday, December 3, 2011

Time: 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Where: In the Chapel at QCS

Hosted by: QCS Student Council