



Qualicum Beach Elementary School

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November 15, 2023

Important Dates to Remember	
Friday, November 17	Operation Christmas Child Collection Date
Friday, November 24	Science Spectacular – school-wide presentation - Thank You PAC!
Friday, December 1	District Planning Day – No School
Mon/Tues, December 4 & 5	District Basketball Tournament (Gr 6 & 7) – QBES Hosts
Wednesday, December 13	QBES Winter Concerts (1:00 and 6:00)
Monday, December 18	Learning Updates sent home
Tuesday, December 19	Winter Wonderland Skate – Skate Tiers Needed
Friday, December 22	Last Day of School / Winter Break until January 8

Halloween Fun, Fantastic Costumes & Barbies



Pokemon Collectors Club

The newest QBES club is up and trading is underway. More than 50 students are consistently attending Tuesday and Thursday afternoon recesses. The club first established their rules and everyone is abiding by them while the adult supervisors look on and learn. Some things never get old.



Mountain Bike Club Pauses Until Spring



With the cooler, wetter weather and early darkness, QBES Bike Club is taking a break until the spring. This is not to be confused with the QBES Exploratory “Mountain Biking” which carries on right up until the Winter Break.

Indigenous Map



On Monday, November 6, the Indigenous Map of Canada came to QBES. It filled the entire floor of the MPR which is a considerable space. The map was without political borders, but instead showed traditional territories and languages. Classes visited and learned a great deal from the instructors who came from the Indigenous Ed department in the Qualicum district.

Remembrance Day Assembly

Many thanks to the students who contributed to the Remembrance Day assembly on November 9, especially Zachary Thorne who gave his personal / memorized Land Acknowledgement and the Grade 3 / 4 classes who performed musically and - in the case of 3 / 4 F - reciting “In Flanders Fields” as they did the week prior at the opening of the Field of Crosses ceremony. The school heard from a veteran of the Canadian Air Force and Peacekeepers, Captain Al Walsh (Retired). We were also fortunate that trumpeter Ed Wasiak was available to play The Last Post and Reveille around our minute of silence. As always, our QBES students were respectful on the solemn occasion.



- Photo Courtesy of PQB News

Winter Wonderland Skate



On Tuesday, December 19, all 18 QBES classes are invited to Oceanside Place for skating. We have booked both ice surfaces for two 1-hour slots. While some will enjoy a wide-open skate on the big open surface, others of us will meander among the magical decorations the RDN puts out each year to create their “Winter Wonderland”. Parents as skate-tiers would be much appreciated that day. More details to follow.

Feeding Futures



This school year the Ministry of Education has provided generously to schools to help support children and families in need of assistance with healthy meals. These are tough economic times and some families are in a crisis while others are in a more temporary need. If you are a family – or you know of one we should reach out to - who could use a little help feeding the kids in these difficult days, please call Jane in the office and let her know. Alternatively, you can reach out to our school counselor, Karen Campbell at kcampbell@sd69.bc.ca or by calling her through the school office.

QBES Choir is Starting

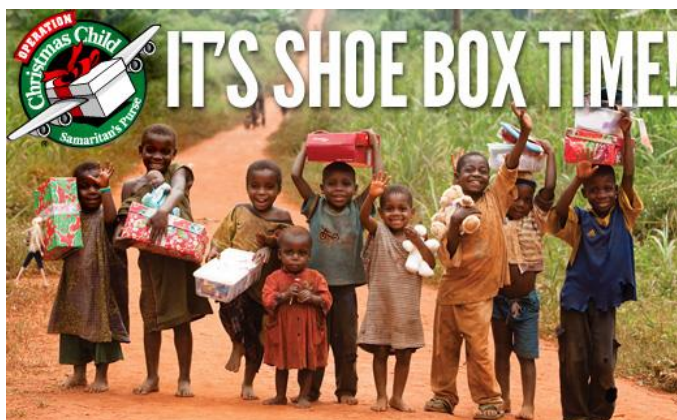
This week we welcome Ms. Kelly back to work after a lengthy absence, and the QBES Choir is going to begin practicing. This year the group is open to singers from Grades 3 to 7. Practices will be held during the school day on Wednesdays and Fridays. If your child is interested, they can listen for the announcement and simply head to the Music Room. Ms. Kelly appreciates consistent attendance so that the whole choir will grow together.

Winter Concert Preparation

Save the date! Ms. Kelly is back and the Musical Theatre exploratory class is hard at work preparing their original script **Christmas in Winterland**. Though the actors from Musical Theatre will carry the plot, entertainment will be provided by all K to 4 classes. Other students are involved through the Art Exploratory who are working on set design and more. We are planning two shows on Wednesday, December 13 so you can choose 1:00 pm or the ever-popular 6:00 (parking is difficult – walking recommended for those who live close!) Yes, soon you will be hearing the joyful singing of your child’s class song over and over again!

QBES Packs Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

If you are interested in donating to your child’s class shoebox, consider sending a **toy** (a jump rope, ball, car, yo-yo, or cuddly stuffy), **school supply item** (pen, pencils, crayons, coloring book, etc.) or an **accessory** (t-shirt, socks, hair clips, flashlight, flip flops, etc.). Note that candy, toothpaste, liquids / gels, war-related toys, and food are not accepted. The deadline for shoebox donations is earlier than you may expect: **November 17**.



*Full disclosure: Operation Christmas Child is coordinated by Samaritan’s Purse, a Christian organization. QBES participates on a secular basis.

New This Year: QBES Culture Club

For the past month, Ms. Amos and Ms. Marshall have been leading a small group of Grade 4-7 students on an around-the-world adventure. Each Thursday lunchtime the group has enjoyed learning about a different culture, both exotic and closer to home. For example, Indigenous culture might be the focus one week while India’s Diwali festival might be celebrated the next. New members are welcome. Meet in the MPR Thursdays at lunch.

Message From Local Rotary Club:

The Rotary Club of Qualicum Beach is going to Guatemala in February 2024 to help improve the lives of single Mayan mothers and their children. Part of this project is to supply school supplies to children ages 5-10 years. However, without shoes , they are not allowed to go to school. We are collecting **used running shoes** to take to them. If you can donate, please bring these to the school office where there will be a bin with a sign on it. Your support is greatly appreciated before the end of January.

A Note From the Principal, Ms McKinnon



Hello Parents,

Things are so busy around here that I hardly have time to write! Between finishing up the fall assessments at Grades 3 to 7, all the clubs and sports activities, field trips and trips into the local outdoors, learning and growing at QBES is in full tilt.

Much fun was had at Halloween – the costumes were amazing (Great job!). We also noticed very little in the way of candy wrappers blowing astray across the field. Thanks for limiting the sugar intake during the days following Halloween – a challenge I am sure – but teachers appreciate when students come ready to learn.

The staff enjoyed a well-earned rest this past weekend with the Friday off in lieu of long days spent in Parent-Teacher conferences back in October. Additionally, we spent Tuesday/14th together as a staff working on our school goals, the first of which is, again, bolstering our classroom literacy programs to ensure that they are rigorous with all students having choice and accessibility to the reading and writing activities teachers provide.

Staff and students alike will enjoy this next short stretch of uninterrupted learning time. With the exception of Friday, December 1 – our school district’s professional learning day – we are looking at full 5-day weeks right up until the winter break. This is prime learning time! Teachers will be preparing a Learning Update for you during this window and we will send those home early in the last week before the break.

Until then, enjoy every day of your children’s big season of learning and growing.

Criminal Record Checks

If you plan to volunteer with your child’s class on a field trip, outdoor ed, or other activity, you will require a CRC on file with our office. Please email the office at qualicumbeach@sd69.bc.ca for a letter and application form.

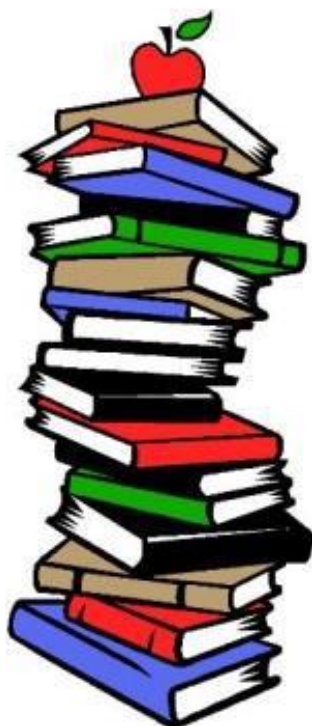
Ways to Give Charitably This Winter Season

QBES Annual Sock & Mitt Drive	Rotary Used Shoe Drive	QBES Food Drive
This popular QBES charitable effort is in its 5 th year and has been outfitting those in need locally with warm socks and mitts. Students who contribute will receive a yummy hot cholate drink. DATE	See the introduction to this charity above. Donations due by late January.	Leadership will soon be placing collection boxes in every classroom. Donations of non-perishable food items will be welcome and will be given to families in need via the Food Bank.

Waiting Outside Takes Patience

Arriving at school in the morning means waiting outside. This is necessary as staff arrive and prepare for the day. Please remind your children that we have morning supervision out front and on the playground starting at 8:30. (If they do see other children inside they are likely part of the Discovery Center’s Before School Care program.) Please note that we do not supervise the playground after school as students generally head straight home.

Free Books for Pre-Schoolers



FREE Books for Preschoolers!

THE WONDERFUL WORLD of BOOKS

<https://thewonderfulworldofbooks.com/>

For children born in **2021** and living in Qualicum School District #69
(Bowser to Nanoose Bay)

Register By November 15th

Email: wwbeec@gmail.com

- Child's Name
- Birthdate
- Parents' Name
- Home Address
- Postal Address
- Phone Number

Further information will be emailed to you!

Children receive free books in the year they turn three years old. One book per month is delivered for two years from January 2024 to December 2025

SOS Caring for Community at Christmas

Starting Nov. 15, low income families and individuals can register at the SOS Community Services Centre in Parksville from 9:15 am - 11:30 am and 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm, Monday - Friday. Parents and grandparents receive help providing gifts for children and youth, and grocery gift cards are provided to adults, seniors and families.

Community Events/Programs and Information Link

<https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Community69/Pages/default.aspx#/>