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<http://portal.sd69.bc.ca>

“Learning and growing together”

December 10, 2009

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE—DARREN FREEMAN—HERITAGE (from Wikipedia) –“Heritage refers to something which is inherited from one's ancestors. It has several different senses, including *Tradition*. The word tradition comes from the Latin word *traditio* which means "to hand down" or "to hand over." It is used in a number of ways in the English language.”

Hopefully you have had the opportunity to experience the QBMS Heritage Fair (either this year or in previous years). Our grade 6 students and their parents do a masterful job of demonstrating their heritage. Last week the MPR was jammed with students proudly displaying (often in traditional garb) the foods, the customs, the politics and the lives of their ancestors. What I found so pleasing about the Fair was the energy and passion that the students demonstrated. As I walked into the MPR, I was besieged with students wanting to share their projects. I had time to walk and listen to students talk about their projects. The pride that the students demonstrated, both about their heritage and about their work on the project was deep and honest. This was a special event for parents to share with their children.

Last week, I defined learning strategies used by successful students. The first one was that they use existing knowledge to make sense of new information. While this seems to be an easy concept, the difficulty arises when students claim to have little or no background knowledge and refuse to make connections. A very simple exercise that parents can do with their children is to read a homework passage with their child and make side-notes as they read. These side-notes can simply start with the phrase, “This reminds me of ...” and then recall something from the past that might link to the assigned passage. These connections are personal and relevant only to the reader, but they help in three ways:

They create visual pictures

They make the passage more interactive

They bring meaning to the words

Try this strategy this week and see how your child responds.

QBMS DECEMBER SPIRIT ACTIVITIES

December 1-16th: Decorate your classroom door and earn Spirit points. Please use materials brought from home or recycled materials. Bonus Spirit points for the top 3 doors/divisions.

December 16th: Sled Relays in the gym. A fun competition between grades and divisions.

December 18th: A combination of Christmas colors – green, red, gold, white and silver. Students must wear at least 2 of the colors to earn a point for their division.

HOT LUNCH REMINDER

After the Winter Break, the hot lunch program will resume on January 12th. **There will be no lunches the first week back.**

SALVATION ARMY FOOD DRIVE

Please bring non perishable food items to donate to the Salvation Army food bank. Collection boxes are in the main foyer.

QBMS SPIRIT WEAR

There are still some QBMS Spirit Wear clothes left for those parents who wish to purchase it as a Christmas gift. Garments will include adult size sweat pants, blue or white running shirts, golf shirts, shorts and the popular hoodie. All clothes are navy in colour and will have QBMS or the QBMS logo on them. Prices range from \$23 to \$30. Please contact Mr. Worthen at bworthen@sd69.bc.ca if you are interested.

HERITAGE NIGHT “THANK YOUs”

Mrs. Frampton, Mr. Worthen, and Mr. Lantaigne would like to thank all the parents, grandparents, and family friends who supported the 6-1/3 students on their heritage country projects last Thursday evening. We know that many karate, soccer and dance practices were missed so that the students could attend this very important (and delicious!) evening event. A lot of hard work and persistence went into each display; a big congratulations must go out to the students. Very well done everyone!

QBMS NEWSLETTER **PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO US IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO**

Our QBMS newsletter is published on Thursday of each week. In an effort to be more environmentally aware, our goal is to have paperless distribution of our newsletters by the end of December. Included in this newsletter is a slip for you to add your email address to the office roster. We will email you your newsletter starting in January. If you wish, you may send your email address to avallor@sd69.bc.ca. Please be sure to include your name, student's name, and email address. There will be a limited supply of paper copies available for pickup in the office, and our newsletter is also posted on our website each week. Please take note that we will not be sending paper newsletters home with students anymore. If we do not have your email address your child will be responsible for picking up a paper copy from the office, or you can visit our website to view the newsletter. Thank-you in advance for your support in this initiative.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, December 15

- Band Concert (7:00pm)

Wednesday, December 16

- Term 1 Report Cards issued. Please return the signed report card insert to your child's homeroom teacher to indicate you have received the Term 1 Report Card. Also, please return the report card Ziploc bag for future term reports.

Friday, December 18

- Last Day of School prior to Winter Break

December 21-January 1

- Winter Break

Monday, January 4

- School re-opens after Winter Break

COMMUNITY NEWS

Just a reminder that the Community Events or Activities – second tab on the left on the main schools district website (www.sd69.bc.ca) is continually being updated with new information regarding family or children/youth oriented activities in the Oceanside community. A few seasonal, holiday activities have been recently added.

Youth Yoga Club – starting up in January at the Hot N’ Cool Yoga Club in Parksville. The first workshop for teens (ages 11 to 16) is starting on Thursday, January 7th and will run for 8 sessions until Thursday, Feb. 25th. Sessions start at 3:30 pm and the cost will be \$80 for all 8 sessions. Special Friday Night events (extra yoga, films, special topics) are a possibility. Call the studio @ 250-586-4202 for more details and to pre-register. Our logo is linked below if you need it.

CHESS CHALLENGE

We finished the Christmas Chess Challenge and have come up with the six challengers for our visiting chess expert. David Whitmore will be the visiting chess master on Thursday, December 17th.

The students who will be facing him are:

Grade 6 - Stuart Isbister

Grade 7 - Kashes Redfern; Eric Wiersma and Bryce Wilson

Grade 8 - Jadeyn Cove and Evan Stefanek



Good luck to each of you!

POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER

Our beautiful poinsettia’s arrived yesterday. These are available for pickup in the office between 8am-3:30pm. Thank-you for your support!



WEATHER APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

With the cold weather upon us, we would like to pass along a reminder of the importance of dressing appropriately for the cooler weather. Please ensure you child is leaving the house wearing weather appropriate clothing.



SPIRIT WEAR MAKES A GREAT GIFT!!

NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

6-1	Rose Jansen	7-1	Griffin Parlow	8-1	Jesse Binnersley
6-2	Theo Faust Robinson	7-2	Emerson Flatley	8-2	Shania Frampton
6-3	Sam Baglier	7-3	Kiera Chykoski	8-3	Brook Chase
		7-4	Melanie Hardy	8-4	Joo Hyun Choi

PHONE CALL REMINDERS

To reduce the number of classroom interruptions during school hours, students are strongly encouraged to make their after school arrangements at home. The office phone is not for students to use except in emergencies. Parents, we are glad to pass along messages to students in an emergency or if something comes up during the day such as a medical appointment, but in most cases, please arrange pick ups at home. Students may not usually receive phone calls/messages at school from other students.



EMAIL ADDRESS FOR QBMS NEWSLETTER

NAME: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Student Name: _____ Division: _____



Thank-you for your support!