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“Learning and growing together”

December 3rd, 2009

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE – DARREN FREEMAN

Educational research continues to make huge strides in defining why some students seem to understand what they read better than others. Why is this? In the past, students were told to re-read again and again until they got it. This simply does not work. Now, when we read at school, we read with a purpose and with strategies to make sense of the text. Reading for understanding at home can have the same set of strategies. I would like to see reading at home become a purposeful experience for both students and parents. There is an excellent book, entitled “I Read It, But I Don’t Get It-Comprehension Strategies for Adolescent Readers”, by Cris Tovani. She writes about her own experiences as a reader. *“I didn’t have a problem decoding. I had a problem understanding. I faked comprehension for years...I thought I was just born a bad reader.”* How many of you have experienced these feelings yourself or with your children? She identifies seven strategies used by successful readers of all ages:

1. They use existing knowledge to make sense of new information.
2. They ask questions about the text before, during, and after reading.
3. They draw inferences from the text.
4. They monitor their comprehension.
5. They use “fix-up” strategies when meaning breaks down.
6. They determine what is important.
7. They synthesize information to create new thinking.

Next time your child reads at home, help them through the process by working through these seven strategies with them. Children at this age are capable of all seven. They just need continual support.

Heritage Country Fair Night, Divisions 6-1 and 6-3

As part of Social Studies this term, we are planning to hold our Heritage Fair Thursday, December 3rd, 6:30-8:00 in the Multi-Purpose Room at QBMS. It is really important that families try to rearrange their busy schedules to fit in this important event in your child’s education. All family members are invited to come, including siblings and grandparents! More information will be coming home with the students. See you there!

IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Friday, December 4 | - Last day of Term 1 |
| Monday, December 7 | - Term 2 begins |
| Tuesday, December 15 | - Band Concert (7:00pm) |
| Wednesday, December 16 | - Term 1 Report Cards issued |
| 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 |

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.

SEWING CLASS

Ms. Bogle and the sewing students are looking for any extra fabric or sewing notions (thread, elastic, etc). Any donations you have may be dropped off at the school and would be greatly appreciated by all. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Ms. Bogle at the school (250-752-9212).

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.

POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER

Thank-you to all who ordered a poinsettia through our fundraiser. We sold a total of 157 poinsettias! A big thank-you to students for your hard work selling them. The plants are set to be delivered on December 9th and will be available for pickup on December 10th. We would also like to congratulate our Poinsettia Fundraiser winners. In first place, William Mandt won a \$20 gift certificate to the Mulberry Bush Book Store for selling 20 plants. In 2nd place, Kyra Wilson won a \$10 gift certificate to the Mulberry Bush Book Store for selling 17 poinsettias. Congratulations!

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 4th: Pajamas Day. Wear your PJ's to school and bring your favorite teddy bear and earn Sprit points. (Dress code is in effect)

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.

December 18th: A variety of afternoon activities. There will be a sock hop (cost is to bring a canned good for the SOS), a Movie (no cost, the Guatemala club will be selling popcorn for \$1 per bag), and a games room.

SCHOLASTIC BOOKFAIR

Many thanks to the parents and students of QBMS for their support during our Scholastic Book Fair. A special thanks to Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Johansen, and Ms. Butts for volunteering time out of their day to help with sales. The Fair has provided our library with valuable reading for our students.

QBMS BAND INFORMATION

1. Music Parents' Group: Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 7th at 7pm in the band room.

2. QF Gift Cards - The QBMS Band Program is selling QF Gift Cards as a fundraiser. The gift cards come in denominations of \$100.00 and can be purchased until Friday, December 11th. An order form has been sent home, and you can pick up more order forms from the office and from the band room. The more gift cards we sell the greater percentage of discount QF gives us for buying the cards. The gift cards will be available to be picked up at the Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 15th. Please contact Mr. Kellas for more details.

3. Christmas Concert - The QBMS Christmas Concert will take place on Tuesday, December 15th at 7pm in the gym. All band students must have black dress pants, black dress shoes, black socks, and a white dress shirt for our performances. Students should be in the band room by 6:30pm. We'll see you there!

GUATEMALA CLUB

The Guatemala Kids Club meets Wednesday at lunch in the LRC. We are making beginning reading books for the students in Guatemala. Everyone is welcome. Christmas Cards designed by District 69 students are for sale at Home Expressions in Qualicum. They make a perfect gift and help the villagers of Panabaj. Popcorn and beaded jewellery is for sale this Friday. We have made \$95 towards the cost of Dorcas, our sponsor student, going to school.

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.**

Congratulations to this week's Gotcha Winner....*Rosie of division 6-3!!*



SPIRIT WEAR MAKES A GREAT GIFT!!

Mr. Worthen



EMAIL ADDRESS FOR QBMS NEWSLETTER

NAME: _____ **EMAIL ADDRESS:** _____

Student Name: _____ **Division:** _____

Thank-you for your support!



