



Qualicum Beach Elementary School

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December 8, 2023

Important Dates to Remember	
Tuesday, December 12	Rehearsals and School-based Shows
Wednesday, December 13	QBES Winter Concerts for Families (1:00 and 6:00) – Please choose only one
Friday, December 15	Winter Sweater Day
Friday, December 15	Last Day of First Term Exploratories
Monday, December 18	Learning Updates sent home
Tuesday, December 19	Winter Wonderland Skate – Skate Tiers Needed
Wednesday, December 20	Maker Faire – homemade items for sale
Friday, December 22	Pajama Day
Friday, December 22	Last Day of School / Winter Break until January 8

Alice in Winterland Hits the Stage Dec 13

After months of preparation, QBES Musical Theatre class – together with Kindergarten to Grade 3/4 classes and Choir - are ready to stage their original Alice in Winterland script on Wednesday, December 13 with two shows at 1 and 6 pm. Having peeked in on the rehearsals this week, I can safely guarantee that you will enjoy engaging acting coupled with great music, sweet dance moves, delightful costuming, and our Art students’ hand-painted sets. Thank you to Ms Clark, Ms Kelly & Mr Alden for their work on this production ...Bravo! Please have your little performer back at school at 5:45 Wednesday evening (5:00 for Musical Theatre performers) for the 6:00 show. (See below!) Parking easily becomes congested at QBES. I recommend the 1:00 show or the few parking spots outside the back gate on Hoylake Road for those able to walk a short distance. Please bring a non-perishable donation for the Food Bank as your entry.



PAC Concession & Raffle Baskets Available at Concert



Both before the 1:00 show and after you drop your child off at their classroom (5:45) for the 6:00 show, join the PAC in the MPR where they will have tables set up and refreshments available while you wait for the gym doors to open. And while you are there, be sure to buy your tickets for their fundraising raffle baskets, each valued at over \$300 of merchandise donated by local Qualicum businesses. Tickets will sell for \$5 or 5 for \$20. Thank you to our sponsors. (PAC is only able to do cash transactions.)

Pokemon Club Pauses Until Spring

With the busy-ness of the holiday Collectors Club for awhile. The last your child to bring their collections trading is not allowed at school meetings. Watch for an start up again – probably for a



season, it is time to press “PAUSE” on Pokemon meeting was Thursday, December 7. Please ask home – and keep them safely at home – as outside of supervised Pokemon Collectors Club announcement indicating when the club will window of time later next Spring.

Please Pack a Change of Clothes



Recess supervisors are noting a number of slips outside, given the wet weather. Our field does get rather muddy too! Please consider packing a set of extra pants, socks, and underwear in your child’s backpack in the event that they get muddy from playing outside. Also, please remember to replace those extras once they have been used!

QBES Choir is Up and Singing

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.

QBES Basketball Season Ends With Strong Girls and Boys Performances

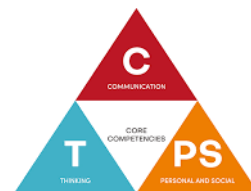
Congratulations to our two Boys' Basketball teams who finished 1st and 2nd place in the season-ending tournament hosted at our school this past week. These two evenly-divided teams both challenged and supported each other throughout the season. We couldn't be more proud of them for their hard work. The boys were coached by Mr Alden and Mr Siemens.



Congratulations also to our Girls' Basketball team (small in numbers but mighty in skill). They finished in 2nd place, falling to NBES by a narrow two-point margin in the final game. It was a nail-biter! The team was coached by Ms Wolfe and Mr Lewis who report that this group of girls was a joy to coach.

Learning Updates Coming Home Monday, December 18

It has been a busy first term, full of great learning experiences across the school. Teachers have prepared comments on your child's learning to this point in the year. Students have been part of the process too. Expect to see your child's reflection on the Core Competencies (Communication, Thinking, Personal-Social) as well as the goals they have set for their own learning.



Winter Wonderland Skate – Tuesday, December 19



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. Class teachers are sending home permission forms and will indicate whether your child skates with the 11:00 or the 1:00 group.

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.

Communication Board Added to Playground



The new communication board at the playground has attracted a good deal of attention as students look at the colorful symbols and find ways to use them. The visuals enable all students to communicate with peers or adults, but particularly those with communication challenges. From an invitation to play to clarifying wants and needs, the board is a useful tool. Be sure to check it out the next time you’re at the playground.

PAC Sponsors VIU Science Show

Students were enthralled by the “Science Spectacular” brought to us by two retired VIU Science professors and their talented team. After the hour-long show, students had an opportunity to try some hands-on science activities themselves. (Apologies if centrifugal force, tablecloth pulling, or elephant toothpaste has become problematic at home since the show.)



Farewell to Secretary Jane



After 15 years at the helm of Qualicum Beach Elementary – in two separate locations – our beloved Head Secretary, Jane Patenaude, is retiring on December 22. We are really going to miss Jane and all her local knowledge, organizational skills, and caring hand. She has been the friendly face that greets all of us as we enter QBES and seems to know the answer to most every question. Happy Retirement, Jane!

Please join us in thanking Jane for her amazing career of service by dropping a card or note in the basket at the front desk throughout the last week of school.

30 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes En Route to Children Faraway

Thank you QBES Community for your generous support of Operation Christmas Child aka “The Shoebox Project”. Because of the generous support of our parents, the Leadership class was able to present a total of 30 beautiful gift boxes to the local organizers who visited the class with some additional information. Leadership students learned about the shoeboxes’ upcoming journey which will transport our boxes to Central America, the West Coast of Africa, the Ukraine and the Philippines. Well done, QBES!

Ways to Give Charitably Through the School This Winter Season

Rotary Used Shoe Drive	QBES Food Drive
Shoes for school are being collected and transported to Guatemala for kids ages 5 – 10. 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.

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.

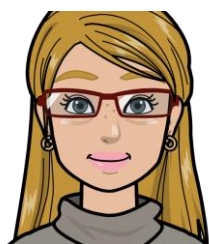
New This Year: QBES Culture Club

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.

Ms McKinnon Interviews Basketball Players Anastashia Robinson & Miller Bloomfield



Q: What was the highlight of your season playing for QBES?

A: Being on the team. Winning the 1st place banner in the tournament this week!

Q: If you could change one thing about the season what would it be?

A: We could have practiced more plays. (Both)

Q: Do you plan to continue in school sports when you get to high school next year?

A: Yes. It's lots of fun. I want to continue to try to get better and achieve my goals.

Q: What's one thing you learned by playing on the school team this year?

A: You have to learn how to lose. Also, it's tiring!

Q: What's hard about basketball and what's easy?

A: I had to learn not to reach in when playing defense. Learning how to pivot right is hard. The easiest thing to learn is passing.

Q: How could you tell your skills were improving as the season progressed?

A: I could feel it in games. I knew we were more ready to execute the plays by the end of the season.

Q: Did you eat, sleep, and even dream basketball?

A: No, I didn't quite dream about it. How would I eat basketball? No, actually I had six days a week of basketball because I played on other teams too.

Q: What's your favorite pro basketball team? And Part 2 who's your favorite player?

A: (Miller) I like the LA Clippers. And Kobe. (Anastashia) No favorites.

Q: How much does a pro make do you think?

A: I would say like \$5 to 6 million per year if they're average.

Q: So there's 10 seconds left on the clock, your team is down a bucket. Who are you trying to get the ball to?

A: (Both agreed) If no one's available, I'm taking it – I'm locked in and I'm driving it.

Q: What's the best piece of advice you got from a coach this season?

A: They emphasized shooting. Take the game slow and let it come to you.

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.

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.

Community Events/Programs and Information Link

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