

# Quisqueya Eagles Newsletter

<http://www.quisqueya.org>



Friday, April 17, 2009 A.D.

*The Most Excellent Way*

Much is going on at QCS! The Elementary School just finished read-a-thon where students were encouraged to read – and encouraged to raise funds for literacy and education in Haiti. Eighth graders have been preparing speeches for English class, the soccer teams have had some fierce competition, and the basketball team shows improvement in each game. Elementary students have been challenged in Chapels with the Heroes of the Faith, and Secondary Chapels have recently focused on God's holiness. Grade six is ready to move up to Middle School; Grade 8 is looking forward to High School; and the Seniors will go on their Senior Trip and, shortly thereafter, Commencement exercises!



In the middle of the activity, the office staff is processing new admissions and welcoming new families to participate in QCS! There are a limited number of places open in middle and high school, and there are quite a few spots open, especially in the younger grades. If you know of a family interested in a QCS education, please encourage them to apply soon.

Even with all the activity, the busy schedules and challenges – such as moving the wall along Delmas 75 - - we start our day with prayer and scripture, looking to God for wisdom because, as James teaches us, if anyone lacks “wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.” Because we know that unless God empowers our efforts and works through us, our work comes to nothing.”

Blessings!

Growth.

As we are approaching the end of the school year, I can see growth in the students at school. Looking at the ES children, I can see that they have grown in height – physical growth. Looking at the students practicing soccer after school, I can see growth in their soccer skills as the teams play one another. Hearing the ES classes reciting their memory work each week during our weekly chapels, I hear of the growth of keeping God's Word in their hearts. In my math classes, I can see growth in the specifics of Algebra or Geometry. This growth is desired academic growth.

**Next week the Stanford Testing** will be given to the students in the grades 3 – 11. This testing measures student growth toward academic standards since they were taken last year. The Stanford multiple-choice assessment will help the staff find out what students know and are able to do from year to year and see if their growth is continuous. It also gives the staff specifics in those areas where the student is weak and needs follow up. The results of the testing will be shared with you as parents next Fall.

**Please have your child at school on time** so that we are able to have an accurate test score for your child. **Be sure your son/daughter gets enough rest** next week so that there will be clarity of mind. May the results of these tests indicate that your child has grown at least one academic year since the last time the test was taken.

In our learning, we must remember, without God human knowledge is meaningless. True academic growth, true wisdom begins when we acknowledge our Maker and believe in Him.

*The*  
**FEAR**  
*of the LORD*  
*is the beginning*  
**of KNOWLEDGE.**  
PROVERBS 1:7

## Read-a-thon Results

Overall, the elementary students and a few adults read a total of 46,252 minutes during the Read-a-thon week. This was from Friday March 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. How many hours of reading is that?



The third grade class read a total of 8,096 minutes and as a prize, they get to drench Mr. McMahon with water in/before/after chapel some Thursday. The results for the other grades were as follows:

pre-k read a combined total of 2,330 minutes and their teacher had 524 minutes.  
kindergarten had a total of 3,252 minutes and their teacher read 960 minutes.  
1<sup>st</sup> grade had a total of 4,435 minutes  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade had a total of 4,286 minutes  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade had a total of 8,096 minutes. The winners!  
4<sup>th</sup> grade had a total of 6,656 minutes  
5<sup>th</sup> grade had a total of 5,356 minutes  
6<sup>th</sup> grade had a total of 7,213 minutes.

Six adults turned in reading logs for a total of 4,628 minutes with the librarian Mrs. White having 1,279 minutes read. Mrs. Hersey read 1,061 minutes and Mrs. Chabot-Stahls had 960 minutes.

Reino Daniel, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader turned in the most sponsor pledges and also read the overall most individual minutes with a total of 1,342 minutes read over the week. Wow! Fantastic!

Here are the individual class winners:

pre-k:

1<sup>st</sup> - Makeda Adane, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Bethaina Blesh, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Nathanael Aristide

k:

1<sup>st</sup> - Abby White, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Sebastian Hersey, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Karl-Heinz Morose

1st grade

1st - Vanessa Martinez, 2nd - Victoria Jean-Charles, 3rd - Emmanuelle Rocourt

2<sup>nd</sup> grade

1<sup>st</sup> - Kearah Conserve 2<sup>nd</sup> - Kristian Agenor, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Kyle Edgerton

3<sup>rd</sup> grade

1<sup>st</sup> - Tayna Latortue, 2<sup>nd</sup> - William White, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Katie Tlucek

4<sup>th</sup> grade

1<sup>st</sup> - Reino Daniel, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Malieka VanDam, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Kaithlyn Pierre-Louis

5<sup>th</sup> grade

1<sup>st</sup> - Aisha d'Ennery Dejoie, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Banning Blesh, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Abigail Sauval

6<sup>th</sup> grade

1<sup>st</sup> - Anika Latortue, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Anaelle Audant, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Stephanie Etienne

**The total pledge for the read-a-thon was \$2224.38 U.S. Thank you to all who participated.**

## School Calendar

April 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	- Girls' Retreat
April 20 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>	- week of the senior class trip - week of the Stanford Testing – gr 3 - 11
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	- progress reports go home
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	- Agriculture and Labor Day - no school
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	- Staff PD Day - no school for students
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	- Flag Day - no school
May 26 <sup>th</sup>	- grade 8 promotion
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	- Grade 6 Step-up
May 25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	- high school exams – noon dismissal
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	- last day of school - non-uniform day
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	- Graduation at 4 PM

## Introducing . . . .

### Hillary Prag

I came to Haiti in June 2008 to work as a photojournalist for the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and Church World Service. Every day I would walk from the MCC guesthouse where I was staying, past the gates of Quisqueya on my way to the market or Epi d'Or. I knew of it, but never much about what went on behind those gates.



In November I finished my Master's degree in International and Intercultural Communication at the University of Denver and returned to Haiti to look for a place to put my love for youth to work. I had recently developed a program in the U.S. for educating homeless and at-risk youth in the art and technique of photojournalistic storytelling. I was hoping to find an opportunity to do something similar in Haiti. Then I remembered Quisqueya and all the times I had been so curious about what happens behind those gates.

Though the students at Quisqueya are not literally homeless, many of them struggle from a similar sense of displacement as the youth I had worked with in the past. My interest in teaching at Quisqueya came to fruition in February when I began teaching photojournalism, sociology, and creative writing.

I am grateful to be here working with a group of students who are shaping my experience of Haiti into something surprising and hopeful. My vision is to cultivate great storytellers who can document the reality of Haiti from the inside as well as be able to communicate about their multi-cultural journeys. I am also eager to teach students how to listen to each other, so that they can learn the art of dialogue at a young age. It is a privilege to work with such young revolutionaries.