

Quisqueya Eagles Newsletter

<http://www.quisqueya.org>



Friday, January 23, 2009 A.D.

The Most Excellent Way

Annual Parent Meeting Address



Thank you for entrusting your children to QCS -- it is a privilege and a pleasure to partner with you in providing an excellent school. And let me give an extra thank you to those who regularly participate in QCS by upholding the school in your regular prayers, by donating financially to projects, by donating equipment, materials, time and expertise. To those special parents -- PAC members and room moms -- Thanks! Thank you for your commitment to QCS and excellence in Christian Education.

A year ago I stood before you, presenting achievements and challenges, and I stood before you with considerable humility, because I know my limitations, but I also had considerable optimism because of the faith I have in God to guide and to help us through even the most difficult of times. I stand before you today with no less optimism knowing that QCS has a firm foundation on God's Word, a dedicated, well-prepared staff, a visionary Board dedicated to seeing QCS thrive, and interested, supportive parents.

QCS has as its mission to equip students with the necessary academic and spiritual training that prepares them to impact their world for the glory of God. With such a lofty mission -- a mission that I dedicate myself to on a daily basis -- we have no choice except to reach for excellence. Mediocrity is not an option. QCS must be a school that celebrates the life of the mind and academic achievement for the glory of God.

A reliable guide to help us fulfill our mission statement has been the book *Learning from the Best: Growing Greatness in the Christian School*. This book outlines best practices used in the most highly rated Christian Schools in the United States. And these best practices have been confirmed by Dr. Bruce Lockerbie, who consulted with the Board, Staff, and Parents earlier this year. Many of the changes which we have implemented and will continue to implement -- from fund raising to finances, from instructional techniques to lessons in leadership -- have been successfully implemented

by our Benchmarks, schools which are operating effectively and from whom we borrow ideas.

And, by the way, Bruce Lockerbie has this to say about QCS: *seeing as many schools as I do, QCS is unusually stable and firm in its governing board and executive leadership. The tone among faculty and staff is wholesome, dedicated, unified, and hopeful of even better things to come. The surprising attendance by parents at the Monday afternoon meeting indicates their interest in and commitment to whatever will better their children's education and subsequent opportunities. And the reception I was given by students at this morning's chapel service speaks for their contentment—if not yet joy—in being at QCS to learn.*

While any school can make a claim for excellence, and many do, QCS backs up the claim with strong evidence: our alumni. I could point to many students around the world doing impressive work as teachers, ministers, nurses, doctors, dentists, professors, lawyers, businessmen. A student I taught when I first came to QCS is now on the faculty of Harvard, and two former QCS students are attending Harvard at present. At least six students in recent years have attended Cornell and have done exceptionally well. Two years ago a QCS senior was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Chicago, one of the finest Universities in the United States. Last year a senior was awarded a full scholarship to college. Many of our seniors get accepted into the Honors track in college, And many other students credit QCS with giving them a solid academic start in life.

Each day I'm well aware and humbled by the fact that many of the students I'm working with are my intellectual superiors, and I'm pleased to help them on their way to surpassing me.

Now let me show you some evidence of how your children are faring in school by pointing out Stanford achievement scores by grade. We give the Stanford test each year to students in Grades 3 - 11, and these, our latest scores from last spring, show us that we compare favorably with other schools.

Though academics has a very high place at QCS, the second half of our mission statement is no less important: spiritual training. We insist that character is more important than career. Who you are is more important than what you do for a living. Honor, integrity, respect and character are more important than learning a trade. We insist that holding firm to the teachings of Jesus Christ gives students a perspective on life that is indispensable, life affirming, and purposeful. Any school that ignores the Eternal, any school that glosses over the teachings of scripture, any school that does not bow down to God Almighty as the maker of heaven and earth and the source of all beauty, goodness, and truth seriously misses the mark.



Because spiritual training is so important, we take the scriptural principle seriously: to whom much is given, much is required. So QCS students go on service projects, interpreting for medical teams, planting trees, visiting orphanages, assisting in clinics, serving the rotary club.

And, since much has been given to QCS, I want this school to be a blessing to the larger community: We have opened the basketball court to the Scholastic Sports Association for basketball games; A group of men, the Quisqueya Soccer Club, play soccer once a week; a Bible study meets every Wednesday after school where Haitian men study in English; A Christian church worships in this building on Sundays; The Haitian Table Tennis Association played here for their championships not long ago. We are an important community asset.

This is an exciting time to be at QCS, and there is much to celebrate:

- a new 220 KW Generator was installed, providing stable electricity.
- the Katie Broecker Basketball Court is regularly used and enjoyed.
- a reorganized elementary library with 1328 volumes added this year, making a total of 9395 books in the collection!
- the number of computers in the lab has doubled, and additional computers have been placed in classrooms.
- new lockers have been installed in the HS.
- a program for giving additional ESL support has been implemented school-wide.
- the French program has been moving forward and we are now offering French from third grade to HS.

- pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten have fully implemented a new reading program with impressive results.
- programs to improve student responsibility have proven successful: the No More Zeros, Ninth Hour, and Leadership Academy result in students who achieve higher levels of academic progress and who take responsibility.
- enhanced professional development for faculty, including a complete ACSI Christian Philosophy of Education program
- a graduate level course by Dr. Dave Carter on Assessment and Measurement
- a lecture by Dr. John Van Dyke from Dordt College on Teaching Christianly
- sessions with Dr. Bruce Lockerbie with both the Board and Staff on Academic Excellence.

QCS has greatly strengthened the course of studies, offering electives including Art and Music classes in the elementary, HS Art classes in Graphic Design, Film and MultiMedia, and Art Studio courses in drawing and painting, Art History, Music courses include HS Choir and Music Appreciation, Marine Biology, Aeronautical Engineering, Web-design, Health, Nutrition, Creative Writing, Digital Photography, Photo Journalism, Sociology, Chess, Anatomy, World Religions and Church History, Worship and Leadership, Business Ethics, Chess.

The Board has increased spending to strengthen technology campus-wide which has resulted in doubling the number of computers in the computer lab, providing computers in the office and computerizing receipts, the installation of computers in upper elementary, and putting the elementary and HS libraries on-line.



But with the excitement and satisfaction of recent accomplishments come challenges:

- while most students at QCS are served very well, an extra effort is underway to support those students who find learning difficult. At the same time, extra effort is underway to challenge and engage those students who are exceptionally academically gifted.
- monitoring and maintaining new programs. ESL support is given across the school, the program is just beginning and I'm eager to see the results.

- the mayor's office has just asked us to move the wall back 2.5 meters along Delmas 75. This is a recent development, but if we approach this with the same determination that we had when we got accreditation three years ago; if we have the same generosity that we had when we put the soccer field in place, this hurdle can also be overcome.
- we are preparing for a mid-term accreditation visit with ACSI next year, and with ACSI's support and encouragement, we are seeking dual accreditation with SACS, The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. ACSI's standards are not less rigorous than SACS, but QCS is looking for ways to enhance standards and have greater accountability.
- earning dual accreditation will place QCS as a school of distinction that only 10% of schools in the United States have.

(And, just for your information, QCS is a member school of Christian Schools International, and we also hold professional memberships in International Association of Christian School Administrators and Board Members; International Association of Early Childhood Educators, and the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development)

I am pleased to inform you that we have maintained Accreditation Standards and we are committed to increasing the value of a QCS diploma.

A goal from the last accreditation visit was fund raising. I believe that there are many people, people who believe in the mission and vision of QCS, alumni who have benefited from the education here, and people who see the positive impact QCS is having on the community -- I believe that there are many people who are able to willing to donate funds to strengthen the financial base of this school.

In all our planning and meeting the coming challenges, our mission remains unshakeable: to prepare and equip students to impact the world for the Glory of God. And as we trust him fully, honoring and acknowledging Him at every step of the way, I firmly believe that God will bless this campus in ways that we have yet to image.

Thank you again for partnering with QCS to educate your children, and a special thank you for those who support the school with your time and resources.

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12:18



This traffic sign simply states, let the other person go before you go. This is especially true when streets intersect such as Delmas 75 and Main Delmas. I would not be in my right mind if I pulled into the intersection when a dump truck is barreling down the hill and the street lights are not operating. That would invite a disaster. Let the other person go before me. Why the impatience? Why the rush?

When we obey the rules of the road, driving is much easier. When we obey the traffic signs and signals, our nerves are calmer and there are less fender benders.

My daily living is also much calmer if I obey the yield signs, rather than insisting upon my own way. This is the JOY(JesusOthersYourself) principal at work. In order to have the JOY of the Lord, we need to yield first place in our hearts to Him. Another way of looking at this would be to ask the question, *What would Jesus do?* in this situation I am in. In second place are OTHERS – God created me to serve not only Him, but also the people I meet and greet each day. I must not yield to be self serving, but yield to love others in my daily task of living for Jesus. I am always in last place. This JOY principal certainly goes contrary to the world's ways which basically states *every man for himself. Get all you can. Look out for # 1 – yourself.* When that happens, there will be hurt feelings, resentments, anger, frustrations, bitterness, brokenness. No yielding

We need to go against the flow and show that we are Christians by our love. This is the Most Excellent Way. Help us Lord, to take our turn in Your timing. Help us to yield to Your Way.

T. DeKoter

Introducing . . . Jodie Ackerman

My name is Jodie Ackerman. I grew up as a “preacher’s kid” in various parts of the eastern United States, and the church has been very important in my life. I graduated from Anderson University with degrees in elementary education and music, and from Ball State University with a masters in elementary education. I have taught in a variety of settings, both in the US and Haiti. This will be my eleventh year to teach Kindergarten at QCS.



My family has lived in Haiti for over twenty-two years. My husband, John, is a Registered Nurse and works in clinics and health education with the Eglise de Dieu Reforme. We have two daughters: Jacqueline and her husband Kevin live in Indiana, and Jessica is a junior at QCS.

When I have free time, I enjoy reading, listening to music, playing the piano, scrapbooking, and keeping in touch with family.

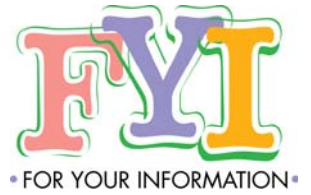
School Calendar

Friday, Jan 16th - It was good ☺
Friday, Jan 23 – 25 - Jr. and Sr Sequin Trip
Friday, Jan 30th - bake sale by freshman class
Wednesday, Feb 5th - Science Fair
Friday, Feb 6th - Progress Reports
Saturday, Feb 7th - National Workers’ Day
Friday, Feb 13th - another bake sale
- Jr and Sr High Valentine’s Day Dinner
Friday, Feb 20th - noon dismissal
February 23 – 27 - Spring Break – Carnival Break

Interesting:

$1 \times 8 + 1 = 9$
 $12 \times 8 + 2 = 98$
 $123 \times 8 + 3 = 987$
 $1234 \times 8 + 4 = 9876$
 $12345 \times 8 + 5 = 98765$
 $123456 \times 8 + 6 = 987654$
 $1234567 \times 8 + 7 = 9876543$
 $12345678 \times 8 + 8 = 98765432$
 $123456789 \times 8 + 9 = 987654321$

Presently, I am reviewing the Bible curriculum across the grades at QCS to see whether or not my curriculum binders are up to date. It is good



to review and update the overviews, to see where we have come from and where we are going. Basic to all of this is the question, *Why teach Bible?*

The role of the Bible functions in different ways as part of the curriculum. The Scriptures function as the primary source in the subject Bible. The subject Bible is one course among many, and as such has an academic (knowledge) nature. Like the other subjects in the curriculum, the Bible studies too, must be aimed at preparing the child in his full-orbed Christian life of discipleship.

This life of discipleship must come to expression in the child's commitment. This commitment will come to expression in the various school activities such as singing, praying, listening and confessing, showing a sincerity of expression or a sense of being called to serve. These activities ought to be characterized by the nature of the school as an educational institution.

The Scriptures are the norm for our lives including our educational activities. The Bible is the basis and directive in everything that is done and in every subject area at QCS. The knowledge and wisdom gleaned from the serious Bible study form the basis of knowledge for all other subjects. The Word of God is the foundation of all the activities at school. Only if we know God's Word do we understand Science, Geography, History, Music, etc. The students, teachers, and the school society must remain faithful to the Word of God as the religious norm for all of life.

The purpose of the Bible Memory Work is the following:

- ✓ support the Bible program. The selected passages relate directly to a Bible lesson or a Bible unit. They are chosen to summarize a main point or provide key words to recall the main passage.
- ✓ build up the knowledge of key passages. These passages are chosen for the following reasons:
 - commit to memory major highlights in the history of redemption
 - summarize significant themes or Bible books
 - know well-known selections of praise and comfort
 - know main Bible facts

Continuous review is necessary within the grade level, but it should also include the memory work of previous years.