

# Quisqueya Eagles Newsletter

<http://www.quisqueya.org>



Friday, January 30, 2009 A.D.

*The Most Excellent Way*

In last week's mail bag I received the sort of letter I enjoy and confirms much of the work we do at QCS: "Mr. Hersey, thank you for recommending [your student] to our Honors college, and if you have any other qualified students, please send them our way." QCS has a long tradition of having a high percentage of seniors attending college -- and many attend challenging colleges and universities.



This is due, in part, to the high standards QCS holds to, standards that have strengthened in recent years. For example, now, in order to graduate, students must have a fine arts credit and additional credits in Health or Nutrition, and students must complete 30 hours of community service per year.

QCS holds to high standards, and its students do well whether transferring to schools elsewhere or in going on to higher education. But, more important than high standards -- anyone can construct challenging tests which are impossible to pass -- are appropriate standards. Not all students are able to function at the same academic level. Not all students can be at the top of the class, and not all students can excel in Chemistry or Calculus. Thus two solid mathematics courses are required for graduation, and two solid science courses are required as well. These are minimum requirements -- but we strongly urge qualified students to take the most challenging courses offered. All of us, if inspired and encouraged, can reach heights never before dreamed of.

Excellence, then, as Harold Best writes in *Confronting the Enemies of Leadership*, is "both absolute and relative; absolute, because it is the norm of stewardship and cannot be avoided or compromised; relative, because it is set in the context of striving, wrestling, hungering, thirsting, pressing on from point to point and achievement to achievement."

We will encourage each student to do his or her best moving from achievement to achievement . . . to excellence!

Why all these street signs in the newsletters? I enjoy driving. When living in North America, my wife and I used to drive more than 40,000 km per year. I continue to like driving also here in Haiti, but I certainly do not do the mileage I used to drive. Those road signs are there for my health.



We are all on the road of life. We all have a destination, whether we want to realize it or not. Sometimes when I drive and I want to get out of the busyness of the congestion of traffic, I quickly turn into a side street. Many a time I have come to experience that the side street is a dead end. It is a street going to nowhere. I quickly do a turn about and head back into the traffic of the main road. A dead end street is not a place where you want to stay for a long time, especially if you are on a journey.

Sometimes I discover dead ends quickly but there are times when it takes time to discover that the way I am going is a dead end. You do not arrive at your destination if you stay in a dead end street. You can't continue your journey on a dead end street. I have had dead end courses at school, but it took me a whole year to get into something more profitable. I need a map or a guide to help me stay focused on my journey.

God wants us to travel in the main stream of life in **the Most Excellent Way**. He has equipped us and is still equipping/encouraging us to live fully for Him in all that we say and do. I need to be a Christ follower and then I would know the way and not end up in the dead ends of life. Jesus told His disciples *I am the Way and the Truth and the Life*. Follow me. Listen. Choose. The choice is yours.

Which road will you travel?

## Introducing . . .

Mrs. Rocourt

I have been around Quisqueya for sometimes now. Most of you have already met me. My name is Alzire Rocourt, and I have taught French in High school as well as Music. This year again I will teach French I and Music in the elementary from K-6.



A native of Haiti, I grew up in Port-au-Prince, and share the blessings of a Christian family. I attended both elementary and secondary school in the French system. After Studies pursued at the West Indies University, as well as the Music school in Kingston Jamaica, I continued at Chicago, at Roosevelt University, where I earned a Bachelor of music degree.

I have two sons, Olivier now dwelling with the Lord and Raphael who resides in Chicago. All are welcome to visit me in the music room.

### School Calendar

Friday, Jan 23 – 25 - Sequin Trip – **the students and staff had a great time according to reports received.**

Friday, Jan 30<sup>th</sup> - bake sale by freshman class

Wednesday, Feb 5<sup>th</sup> - Science Fair

Friday, Feb 6<sup>th</sup> - Progress Reports

Saturday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup> - National Workers' Day

Friday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup> - another bake sale

- Jr and Sr High Valentine's Day Dinner

Friday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup> - noon dismissal

February 23 – 27 - Spring Break – Carnival Break

### FAFSA for Seniors/Parents of Seniors:

It is important to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order for your senior to qualify for financial aid for college. It can be completed online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Though companies attempt to charge to do this service for you, the FAFSA application is free. The website gives all the needed information regarding who qualifies, documents needed, and directions. Colleges use your FAFSA information to determine the amount of financial aid your student qualifies for, and the amount that the family is expected to contribute. Colleges have different deadlines as far as completion of the FAFSA. FAFSA, itself, has a June 30 deadline. Obviously, the earlier the completion, the better chance of receiving financial aid for your student.

## MATHEMATICS and QCS

God created an orderly universe. Mathematics is a specialized language used to describe the relationships within the universe. The study of mathematics allows man to discover the patterns, relationships, and operations that God has created. Once known, these principles are to be used in carrying out God's commands in Genesis 1:28 and Genesis 2:15 to subdue, work in, and care for God's creation. This knowledge thus assists man in functioning in a more orderly and decent manner as God intends.

Although all situations in life have a mathematical aspect, its place in the creation is a limited one. Its importance is related to its many applications in life. In all this the student must see that mathematics gives us a deeper understanding of God's creation. To enable the child to be aware of his calling, it is necessary to teach skills within a meaningful framework which includes: solving problems, applying math to everyday situations, reading, interpreting and constructing graphs, showing how math is used in predicting and making decisions, and showing the role and impact of computers in our society.

### An Interesting Math Fact

The highest number recognized by orthodox mathematics is the Centillion. Any number higher than a Centillion is considered an unimaginable abstraction belonging to the realm of infinity.

Here is a partial list from greatest to least in value:

- Centillion has 303 zeros
- Googol has 100 zeros
- Vigintillion has 63 zeros
- Octodecillion has 57 zeros
- Septendecillion has 54 zeros
- Quindecillion has 48 zeros
- Quattuordecillion has 45 zeros
- Duodecillion has 39 zeros
- Nonillion has 30 zeros
- Octillion has 27 zeros
- Sextillion has 21 zeros
- Quintillion has 18 zeros
- Quadrillion has 15 zeros
- Trillion has 12 zeros
- Billion has 9 zeros
- Million has 6 zeros

**Please remember ☺**

**On Mondays, classes will start at 8:50 A.M. Students should be on campus by 8:30 A.M. so they are in time at the start of class. It is important to start the day together, setting the tone of the day, in His presence.**