

THE COMET

MARCH
2009

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

QUAKER ROAD
PUBLIC SCHOOL

Hello ladies and gentlemen! I hope you are enjoying the winter and all of the exciting activities that have been going on here at Quaker Road Public School recently. Thanks to everyone who came out in support of our recent Book Fair - I know the students really enjoyed all of the great books and various items on display in our library. The money generated will be used to purchase more books for our school library in the near future! On the topic of fundraising, we are currently in the midst of our major Spring Chocolate Bar Fundraiser! This school-wide fundraiser will end on **Tuesday, March 10, 2009 and we ask that all money and/or unsold Chocolate Bars please be returned on this date.** A big thanks to the volunteers on the Fundraising Committee (Lori Wood, Kim Colangelo,

Susan Davies and Marg Smith) for taking time out of their busy schedules to count money and keep things running smoothly! Thanks again for your tremendous support in helping to raise money to assist the school. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive community!

Just a reminder that Term Two Report Cards will be going home with students on Friday, March 27, 2009.

Please remember to sign page three and return this page to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

We have developed a Bulletin Board located in our front entrance with each Division's definition of "Reading for Meaning" and posted rubrics that are related to tasks from a specific six-week cycle that deal with inferencing and summarizing. We also have, "At Home Ideas" for each

division for parents to use with their child in support of our Narrow Focus Goal. We continue to focus on "Reading for Meaning" by using a wide variety of form and style of texts here at Quaker Road Public School. Teachers are working with students to improve comprehension strategies, making inferences, extending understanding, analysing texts, etc. across the curriculum. Ways that parents can support their son/daughter in this area include reading with your child every night, making connections to the outside world, asking questions about what your child has read, etc. If you have any questions with respect to our school-wide focus on "Reading for Meaning", please feel free to contact your child's teacher for ideas and support!

CHOCOLATE EVERYWHERE!!



Our chocolate bar fundraiser is well underway. A big thank you to all of the families that are participating. Our wish list for spending the money raised is gym equipment, new team uniforms, classroom resources, etc. The more chocolate we sell the more items we can get from our

list. Make sure to check the calendar for the dates you can get a new box of chocolate. Don't forget to write your name on the outside of the envelope. Each envelope returned with the \$75 is the student's entry for the draws. Keep up the good work!!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **March 2** - Chocolate Bar Distribution
- **March 3** - Grade 7 and 7/8 Vow of Silence
- **March 4** - World Math Day
- **March 4** - Chocolate Bar Distribution
- **March 6** - Chocolate Bar Distribution
- **March 8** - Daylight Savings Ends
- **March 10** - Last Day for Chocolate Bar Fundraiser
- **March 12** - Soup Day
- **March 13** - Grade 5/6 and 6 Bowling
- **March 13** - Variety Show
- **March 14 to March 22** - MARCH BREAK
- **March 24** - Ottawa Deposit Due (\$157.03)
- **March 24** - Grade 7 and 8 Immunizations
- **March 24** - School Council 6:30
- **March 27** - Earth Hour School Based
- **March 27** - Report Cards Go Home
- **March 28** - Earth Hour (8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.)

JANUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the following students for receiving our Student of the Month recognition. January's themes were:

Tact which is thinking before you speak and telling the truth in a way that does not disturb or offend others.

Self Discipline or control. Self-discipline is self-control. It means getting yourself to do what is important to do. You don't lose control of yourself when you feel hurt or angry, but decide how you are going to talk and what you are going to do.

Kdg = Dominic M. and Michael D.

Gr 1 = Emily B. and Wilson G.

Gr 1/2 = Alexander N. and Jennifer V.

Gr 2 = Isaac W. and Ashley P.

Gr 2/3 = Tyler L. and Alex B.

Gr 3 = Memory J. and Krista M.

Gr 3/4 = Paige S. and Mansi P.

Gr 4/5 = Seana W and Jaimie R.

Gr 5/6 = Alison D. and Brandon E.

Gr 6 = Arienne S. and Ann H.

Gr 7 = Sarah R. and Jayden L.

Gr 7/8 = Natasha N.

Spec Needs = Kelli-Anne and Owen K.

LEGION SPEECH COMPETITION

Congratulations goes to Alex A. (Grade 6) who placed 3rd at the Legion's Speech Competition. She received her cash prize at the awards ceremony in February.



NO SMOKING

School Volunteer Drivers Take Note!

An amendment to the *Smoke Free Ontario Act* came in effect on January 21, 2009, which prohibits smoking in a motor vehicle with passengers under age 16. Under the law, a driver or

passenger smoking in a motor vehicle, while someone else under the age of 16 is present, is committing an offence, and can be fined up to \$250. This legislation impacts on volunteer drivers who are transporting DSBN students to

school related events and extracurricular activities. All volunteer drivers and/or their passengers are expected to comply with the legislation when travelling with students under age 16. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

CRAIG KIELBURGER by Nicole C. and Nicole B.

On Friday, February 13, 2009, 36 schools from DSBN attended a Craig Kielburger: Me to We event at Centennial S.S. He told us about how youth can take action to build a better world for all. He also told us stories about how he started. He showed us a video of his first trip to Asia when he backpacked across it. He asked around where the kids worked, how they felt about the jobs and what they did. I remember one story that was on the video a girl was working in a place where she took used needles a part and she pricked herself a

hundred of times a day and they just told her to wash it out. But she could get sick from it and they wouldn't care, and she wouldn't care. But, our favourite story he told us was about the four year old boy that was sold by his parents to be used as a slave, but at the age of 10 he ran away and came to Canada and started telling his story and went against child slavery, then returned to his country at the age of 12 and was riding his bike past his house and was shot because he was working against child slavery. At the end of the event he answered questions and asked us all "Who's going to change the world?" We replied "We are!"

WHAT IS "ME TO WE"?

By Kelly M : It means that children don't go to school and work for money. Go to war to fight for land. Me to We helps the kids be free. Seeing the girl sorting needles made me sad.

By Eric P : Me to We helps people in poor countries build schools. I would like to help the environment.

By Chris M : Me to We is kids helping to build schools and homes. I want to help build houses when I am in high school.



In August of 2005 Haiti and Cuba were both severely hit by a hurricane that wreaked havoc everywhere its path took it. Homes were completely destroyed and families were torn apart by the deaths of loved-ones. Now 4 years later, there are still people in need who are living in critical conditions.

How can you help? Simply save your milk bags!

Quaker Road School, along with other area schools, will be helping Mrs. Cathleen Stallwood achieve her goal of sending 1000 milk bag

MILK BAG MATS

mats to Haiti/Cuba. We will do this by collecting milk bags (outer, colourful bags only please) and assisting in the 'wool' making process. It is hoped this is one small way Quaker Road School can help other communities around the world.

THE FACTS:

- Only the outside of the milk bag can be used, however it does not matter what colour it is.
- 300 milk bags are used to make 1 child size mat; 600 milk bags are used to make 1 adult size mat
- The outer bags are cut into strips.
- The strips are then tied together to form long strands and the strands are

rolled into balls like wool.

- The "wool" is then crocheted into comfortable waterproof mats.
- These mats are then shipped to Haiti and Cuba and given to survivors of the hurricane so they have a bed to sleep on.
- The goal is to make 1000 mats and 300,000 milk bags are needed.
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Please start collecting milk bags and bring them into your classroom on a regular basis.

For more information please check out BagsforBeds.com or contact Mrs. Haining, Mr. Lafleur or Mrs. Cahill at the school.

LISTEN...LAUGH...LEARN

BY BREYER T.

On Friday, February 27, six Grade 8 students attended the first ever Regional Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving Conference (OSAID), held at Centennial Secondary School. OSAID provides leadership training and programs to motivate teenagers to make proactive and responsible choices in their lives so they can prevent injuries and save lives caused by impaired driving.

Highlights

Incorporated December 1, 1987

Alcohol related deaths have

decreased

Began three years ago with only 3 students, now they have a total of 25

The students were involved in a range of activities and they heard from several high profile speakers -- Brittany Beatty (13-year-old Canadian National Go-Kart Racer), Lucas Hodgson (hit by an impaired driver), Frances Wdowczyk (Executive Dir. of Student Life Education Co.), Constables Lori Emick and Cathy Edgecombe (Niagara Regional Police) and Matt Evans (OSAID's Executive Director).

Each speaker was powerful and gave our students first-hand knowledge of the pain - emotional as well as physical - that a crash from impaired driving leaves in its wake. The speakers used a combination of humour and often gut-wrenching realism, but by the time they finished, we all agreed with the message of "zero tolerance for impaired driving."

This is one thing you can't get better at with practise. Practise doesn't make perfect. - Brock University Students

YOU WOULD MAKE A GREAT FRESH AIR HOST!

It doesn't take much to be a host family for The Fresh Air Fund – just a little room in your heart and your home. Many Fresh Air children have never left the streets of New York City.

"My host family taught me how to ride a bike and now they have a bike for me at their house!" remarked 11-year-old Julio from Manhattan. The Fresh Air Fund is seeking more host families in the Niagara Region to open their homes to a New



York City child for two weeks this summer.

Since 1877, The Fresh Air Fund's

Friendly Town program has brought more than 1.7 million young New Yorkers from low-income neighborhoods to visit hundreds of suburban and rural communities throughout 13 northeastern states and Canada to explore the joys of country life.

Last year, close to 5,000 New York City children experienced the thrill of summer pastimes like roasting marshmallows over a campfire and flying kites in open fields. Fresh Air host families can choose the gender and approximate age of their visitor. First-time Fresh Air children are between the ages of six and 12. Many families find their hosting experiences so rewarding that over 65 percent of all children are reinvited to stay with host fami-

lies, year after year. Children can participate in the Friendly Town program through age 18.

In 2009, The Fund celebrates its 133rd summer of serving children with a wide variety of events and volunteer opportunities.

For more information on how you can share the simple joys of summer with a city child, please contact **Laura-Ann Morris at 905-835-2896 or 905-941-2896 or Eileen Lucas at 905-646-2046** The Fresh Air Fund at (800) 367-0003.

You can also visit The Fund online at www.freshair.org.

SPIRIT WEAR FOR SALE

We still have some pieces of Spirit Wear for sale. If you are interested please send in your money. These items will be sold on a first come first serve basis.

Youth Small Shorts = \$15.00

Youth Medium Shorts = \$15.00

Adult Medium Tshirt = \$7.00

Adult Medium Tshirt = \$7.00

Youth Medium Sweatshirt = \$25.00

Youth Large Sweatshirt = \$25.00

Book Fair - A HUGE SUCCESS!!!

Thank you to all students, parents and staff for supporting our recent book fair. **Together, we raised \$2367.52**, all of which will go towards the purchase of new books for our library. As a school we are very fortunate to have this huge success and both staff and especially students will be excited to see many of the new books on display in the library in the next two weeks. The Wednesday night door prize winner was Jessica O. in Mrs. Haining's kindergarten class who received \$25 in books and \$25 of books for her classroom. Congratulations to Sam L. (gr. 4), Zachary Y. (gr. 4), Seana W. (gr. 4) and Kassie M. (gr. 1) who had the exact guess of how many sea shells were in the beach jar.

A Special Thank you....

Our second book fair of the year was a huge success with the support and help from some of the grade 7 students. Without their time and amazing leadership and customer service skills our book fair couldn't have run so smoothly. Crew Members included:

Ashley V., Jenna M., Allyssa P., Sarah R., Jessica W., Natasha N.

Also, thanks to Miss Fulford and Mrs. Shannon for all of the planning and organizing for our successful Book Fair and to Mrs.

Mendez and Ms Merritt for all of their help and support.



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Dear Parents and Students,

We want to share some great news with you about our **Premier AT Home** website where you can download reading, writing and study tools that can be used on your home computers. This program is sponsored by our school in conjunction with Premier Literacy. If you haven't already used the site you'll want to take advantage of the free literacy tool downloads from www.premierathome.com.

You can download software, documentation and support videos using the following login information

Username: dsbn

Password: enable

Please note the following:

- The login page is customized specifically for our school board.
- The interface and graphics make the site user-friendly.
- A Getting Started page will help you determine which tools might be best for you.
- A detailed description of each tool is right on the site so you don't have to look anywhere else.
- Additional support options like online video tutorials, online product manuals and email and phone contact information for Technical Support and Customer Service.

We're excited about this technology and hope that you'll make use of the great tools that can benefit you at school and at home.

NEW! The DSBN e-flyer Website

For the past several years, the DSBN has supported community organizations by distributing flyers through our school to our students. While it is important to support non-profit organizations, it is also time to introduce a more cost-effective and environmentally friendly way to distribute this information.

We are very excited to introduce to parents a **prototype for the DSBN e-flyer website**. This website posts electronic flyers that parents and students can view from home. Rather than distributing hundreds of pages to students, parents can view the information online and only print those flyers they are interested in.

This site is not yet live and your feedback is important. To give feedback, go to the "Contact Us" section of the flyer website and let the DSBN know your thoughts on this environmental initiative.

<http://www.dsbnschools.ca/eflyers/>

March is Nutrition Month! Let's Eat Well Together



When parents and children eat together, they are more likely to eat healthy, balanced

meals. They eat more vegetables and fruit and less fried food, and drink less pop. When children see their parents eat healthy, they will also eat healthy and develop healthy eating habits. Healthy eating habits can help reduce the risk of children developing chronic diseases such as heart disease, some types of cancer and obesity.

Whether it's breakfast, lunch or dinner, eat meals together as often as possible.

Family mealtime

Aim to eat at least 4 meals together each week. If you do more that's great! Keep the conversation positive. Turn off

the TV and radio. Return phone calls later. Plan easy meals for the entire week. Get the whole family involved in making a menu for each day.

Involve your children in making a grocery list and doing the shopping. Let the whole family help out with getting supper on the table. Younger children can set the table and older children can help cook.

Respect each person's right to decide how much to eat. Like adults, children should decide for themselves how much food to eat. This amount will vary during childhood as they go through growth spurts and activity levels change.

Visit www.dietitians.ca for more healthy eating tips.





PIZZA DRAW WINNER!

Congratulations to Cameron B. (grade 6) for being our Website Pizza Draw Winner. Cameron's ballot was the first drawn with the correct number of photos. In our February edition of the newsletter there were 13 photos from our Literacy Day.



THE GREEN TEAM REPORT

We are happy to announce that we have a new club at Quaker Road School. The Green Team is an environmental club made up of approximately 40 members from all grade levels. For the month of March we have organized the following exciting events:

Waste-Less Wednesdays:

Students will get points from bringing in lunches that minimize waste. One point for a reusable drink container, one point for a reusable food container, and one point for no garbage at all. The winning class will get an extra gym period!!

School Yard Cleanup:

On March 27th you will see the Green Team out on the play ground ensuring it is free of litter.

Think Recycle Program:

Please continue to send in old cell phones, and used printer cartridges and toners for the Think Recycle Program. This is a fund raising program for us that is environmentally friendly and costs nothing!

Milk Bag Mats:

Please send in your used milk bags, we will send them along to be processed into sleeping mats for victims of natural disasters in Haiti and Cuba.

The Green Team thank you for your support in these important activities. Together we can make a difference!