



# Quigley Elementary Quasars

Monthly Newsletter - February 2018

## **Vehicles and Little Bodies**

Once again we want to thank all those drivers who have really slowed down while moving through our parking lot and to those of you who are thoughtful about where you stop/park to ensure you are not putting other drivers and pedestrians at danger. Sometimes we get caught up in the pressures of the day and become self-centered when it comes to driving – the safety of every single child at QGE requires each driver to put aside their own problems for the few minutes it takes to pick up/drop off in our parking area and to think about others. Please make sure you are not distracted by devices while in school areas (and on any road for that matter!). Please be extra careful around snow piles in school areas as they cause disruption to traffic flow, usually have ice around the edges ...and often have children exploring them! Please do not park and leave your vehicle in the kiss and drop zones – wait for your child in the car. Pull up to the car in front and make it easier for other drivers to find a spot. It is all about being mindful and respecting every member of our school community – young and old, big and small!

## **Want Your Child To Be Successful in the Future?**

At our most recent PAC meeting we examined attendance data from term one. Almost 80% of the students who have 10 or more lates and/or absences so far this school year are also at risk academically. This is not really surprising as one can assume that in order to do well at school you actually have to attend class to know what is going on. At the elementary level, the onus of responsibility for getting to school every day – on time – primarily falls on the adults. We know from research and examining data trends that generally students with poor attendance records in elementary school continue to struggle with attendance in middle and high school. We also know that often means they continue to struggle academically at these levels as well. One of the most important responsibilities for parents in elementary is to get their children to school on time every day. We are building life skills and habits, so please make sure your child is in class so they have the best opportunity to be successful in future.

The other challenge with excessive lates and absences is the impact that has on the other students and staff in the school community. Our secretary spends an excessive amount of time phoning home to make sure missing students are accounted for every morning. Our teachers spend an excessive amount of time trying to help students make up missed work and/or restarting lessons to help late students catch up. Our students end up wasting a great deal of time waiting for late students to get settled and caught up. It is not fair to all the other people impacted by students being late and absent.

We do not expect students to come to school when they are truly sick; we know that everyone is sick or has important appointments sometimes; and, we know that life happens sometimes and we can't do anything about that...but we encourage every family to try and keep lates and absences to less than ten per school year. It would help everyone be a little more successful.

### **Join us at Rutland Senior Secondary**

The Rutland Family of Schools have been working with their school teams to co-create an Inquiry and Innovation Community Forum for Rutland area parents and students to learn about the inquiry and innovation that is occurring in the Rutland Family of Schools. The Inquiry and Innovation Forum will provide opportunities for Rutland parents and students to interact with school teams from each of the eleven Rutland schools through interactive learning activities that highlight a learning focus at each school. The forum will take place at Rutland Senior Secondary on January 30th 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm.

Our Quigley team has been working on the question: How can we help our students develop a growth mindset around number sense? Our team of teacher leaders has been working with the District's Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) to research new methods and then our teacher leaders work with the rest of our staff through professional development opportunities to improve our practice. The forum is a family event, so please join us at RSS on January 30<sup>th</sup> to learn more about what our amazing teachers are doing! To register for this event [click here](#) .

### **Parent-Teacher Interviews/Student-Led Conferences**

Every classroom teacher will be communicating with you directly about the format for the upcoming Parent-Teacher Interviews/Student-Led Conferences. We will be dismissing all students at 12:30 pm on February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to accommodate these meetings. Please look for an invitation over the next week from your child's teacher and sign up for the appropriate meeting time. Of course, parents are encouraged to contact teachers at any time of the year to check on student progress.

### **Registration Opens February 5<sup>th</sup> for Next School Year**

It is that time of year when we start planning for 2018-19. All students currently attending Quigley Elementary will automatically be enrolled for QGE – you don't have to do anything at all! Parents of students entering Kindergarten or planning on moving/transferring to QGE for next school year (September 2018), need to go online and complete the registration process. SD 23 does operate on a first come, first serve process with priority given to current families at a school and catchment areas. Please help us spread the word so we can get as many students at QGE as possible. If your family is planning on moving or transferring schools for next year, please let us know at the office ASAP. There have been rumors that QGE will soon be converted to a middle school which has led to some families fearing their child may be displaced at some point in the future, but there are no definitive plans or timelines for this option at this time. We will communicate as soon as we can with all families the moment there is any news on this issue.

### **Thank You to Quigley Elementary Staff**

At our last PAC meeting the parents wanted to acknowledge the many QGE staff members who volunteer their time before school, at lunch, and after school to plan and supervise extra-curricular opportunities for our students. Our basketball teams have started up already, intramurals are running every day at lunch, the Maker Day continues to be a HUGE success every Thursday in the library, and we even have a knitting club. There are more fun events planned for the spring including Spaghetti Bridge building. None of this happens without the support and volunteerism of our staff – thanks!

### **Read & Recycle**

Thanks to all the QGE families who have donated their gently used books to our library for our annual read and recycle. Every student will be visiting the library to choose a book or two to keep and take home. What a great way to promote literacy and recycle those old books.

### **Kelowna Rockets Coming to QGE**

We are really fortunate to have the Kelowna Rockets come and visit us on the morning of Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. They will be visiting primary classrooms to read a few stories and then playing a little floor hockey with our intermediate classes. It is going to be a great morning!

### **BC Lions and Fortis Energy Tour Hope to Tackle Energy Issues with QGE Students**

The BC Lions will be dropping by QGE on Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> to talk with our students about conservation, perseverance and developing a growth mindset.

### **Sports on Mats for Every Primary Student**

Every Monday from the end of January until Spring Break, all of our primary classes will be working with instructors from Pacific Sport Okanagan to develop basic body movement skills. This is a great opportunity for our students and teachers to work with community instructors.

### **ArtStarts Grant**

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the ArtStarts program and our QGE PAC, we are able bring professional potter Marijanel Knight to work with our students. Each student will be creating a ceramic project and contributing to a school-wide project. It is going to be lots of fun. Marijanel will be here during the first full week of February and we are in need of some parent volunteers. If you are able to help out Feb 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, please contact Ms. Hokazono.

### **Movie Night on February 15<sup>th</sup>**

Our PAC is pleased to announce the next Movie Night will be on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the school gym. The last movie night was a great success and we hope to see just as many families out to support our school community.

### **PAC Meeting**

Our next scheduled PAC meeting is Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Mark your calendars! The PAC is also sponsoring a Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser from February 9<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. Stay tuned for details...especially if you love chocolate! Our PAC Spring Fair will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Together we can create exceptional learning environments for our students.

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Principal

#### **Important Dates**

January 29	Kelowna Rockets visit QGE
January 30	Rutland Family Learning Network meeting @6:00 pm RSS
January 31	BC Lions visit QGE
February 1 – 2	Parent-Teacher Interview / Student Led Conference. Early Dismissal @ 12:30 pm
February 6	PAC meeting 6:30 pm
February 15	Movie Night 5:30 pm