



Quail Tales



Quail Summit Elementary
23330 Quail Summit Drive, Diamond Bar
909.861.3004

A NATIONAL SCHOOL
of
EXCELLENCE

December 2009

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 4 & 11-After School Snack \$1
- Dec. 3-Meet the Masters-Lawrence
- Dec. 4-Report Cards Go Home
- Dec. 7-Santa's Workshop Begins
- Dec. 10-2nd Grade Penguin Play/Gift Wrap Delivery/JoJo's Fundraiser
- Dec. 11-Secret Santa's Workshop Ends
- Dec. 14-All School Spirit Assembly@8:45am/Community Club Dinner@6:30pm
- Dec. 15-Renaissance Assembly@11am
- Dec. 18-Santa Visits/Class Parties/Minimum Day
- Dec. 21-Winter Break Begins
- Jan. 4-Return to School from Winter Break
- Jan. 7-Talent Show Kick-Off
- Jan. 8-Community Club Meeting @8:30am
- Jan. 11-Chili's Fundraiser
- Jan. 14-Jojo's Fundraiser
- Jan. 15-Pupil Free Day-No School
- Jan. 18-Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday-No School
- Jan. 19-School Site Council Meeting @3:00
- Jan. 28-Meet the Masters-Ringgold/All School Spirit Day Assembly@8:45am

SCRIP...SCRIP...SCRIP...

Do you know what scrip is? Scrip is simply a gift card for your favorite store and/or restaurants. Many of us are shopping a little more whether it's for gifts or groceries for all those big family meals. Please consider purchasing scrip. Many of the vendors we carry are increasing their contribution during the holiday season. Currently, the school is at less than 8% participation. We know that this can be better. So if you use scrip...Thank you, please pass the word on to friends and families. If you never have...please contact us so we can get you started. Attention business owners or office managers these cards make great employee gifts. **REMEMBER IT DOESN'T COST YOU A PENNY MORE.**

The winners of the monthly Spirit Day contest are as follows:

November: Each winner received a Credit at Santa's Workshop
Kinder Hillary Nakaishi

- 1st Jillian Swartout
- 2nd Emily Ruhl
- 3rd Abigail Nakaishi
- 4th Mark Parent
- 5th Emily Slater



Remember each order is worth a ticket into the drawing for a chance to spin the prize wheel at the Spirit Assembly. Thank you for your support. Questions? Email gssscrip@yahoo.com

Office Notes

The Holidays are here! The QS school office would like to wish each of our families a happy and healthy holiday season. A couple of reminders for everyone:

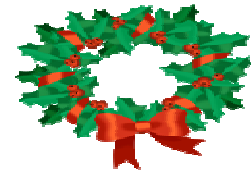
- Our Lost and Found is growing! If your child has lost a jacket, sweater, lunch box, or anything else, please take a look to see if you can find it. Lost and Found items are donated to charities periodically.
- Thank you to all families that work together to make pick ups and drop offs run smoothly. We appreciate your kindness and consideration for other students and drivers during this rushed time of day. Please continue to have patience and to work with the teachers on duty at this time.
- Please remember to keep all emergency cards updated. You can change the information on your student's emergency card in the school office. It is important for the school office to have updated contact information. Thank you!
- **A pitch for Scrip** – as you do your holiday shopping, why not use scrip to pay for it? We have a great selection of all kinds of stores, plus restaurants and many others that might make great gift cards! It's easy to do and helps generate much needed donations for Quail Summit. Thanks for your help!

Here's to a wonderful holiday season!
Sylvia Vasquez
School Office Manager

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Quail Summit Classroom



Kindergarten News

Kindergarten has been a whirlwind of activity through November. We started the month just recovering from October's Carnival, Halloween, and Parent/Teacher Conferences, oh my! We learned about the changing colors of leaves in the fall and have had a lot of fun learning about the different landforms that make up our world. We closed November with our traditional Thanksgiving feast and all learn a lot about friendship and sharing. Although short, December promises to be twice as exciting as November and we are looking forward to it with visions of gingerbread men dancing in our heads.

First Grade News



The children in first grade have been learning a lot about **Our Changing World** in social studies this month. First, we learned that schools, like other things change over time. We compared schools of long ago and today. Long ago, in the 1900's, many children learned at home. Others went to schools that had only one room, one teacher with many students of all ages. Back then, children learned to read from a hornbook, not a textbook. They dipped pens or **quills** in ink to write on paper, and they used chalk to write on small chalkboards called slates. It was amazing for the children to learn that toys they played with back then were mostly made by hand. We also learned that **technology** is not just a computer, but is all the tools we use to make our lives easier. Technology has made **transportation**, like boats, trains, cars and planes now safer and faster. Many of us who came to America, like the Pilgrims, were thankful we came to America on an airplane, and not on the Mayflower like the Pilgrims did in 1620. "Technology is great!" the children shouted. Today, people can go to places that are far away, even to outer space! Wow! To experience and understand the past, we had two days filled with "**Days of Long Ago.**" We made corn husk toys with our own hands and played the games that children played long ago. We made quilts and used quills to write. We "dressed up" or put on clothes from the colonial times. These culminating activities helped us understand that in many ways, people today are the same as people who lived long ago. But the **way** people live has changed over time. You can also visit Virtual Tours at

www.harcourtschool.com/hss. As the Pilgrims would say, "fare thee well" means goodbye for now.

Second Grade News



We were thankful for a wonderful November and are now looking forward to a Magical December! Thank you to all of our parents who helped with the Friendship Feast. The kids had a wonderful time sharing what they were thankful for and special friendships, too. Our time in 2009 is coming to an end yet we still have so many wonderful activities to look forward too! Mark your calendars for our musical, "How the Penguins Saved Christmas", on December 10 at 6:30p.m. This special event will take place in our wintery amphitheater. Dress warm and prepare to be dazzled! Thank you to all of our wonderful parents who helped to create costumes. You are such a blessing to us! Reports cards will be coming home on December 4th. Please sign your child's report card envelope and return it to your classroom teacher. We will be having class parties on December 18th to celebrate this festive season. All parents are welcome to join us celebrate in style! As you may know, one of our neighbors, and alumni, The Wall family lost a large portion of their home due to a fire. They are a wonderful family who have supported our community for years. We would like to return the favor by showing compassion and grace. We are asking families to support this cause with monetary donations of any amount and gift cards to help support them during this season. It has been a tragic loss for this family, let's show them kindness and mercy this holiday season! Happy Holidays to all!

Third Grade News



Times flies when you're having fun! The end of November is already here, and the third grade students are working as hard as ever. We've been visiting the computer lab and working on Accelerated Reader, Skills Tutor, and other computer skills. The third graders are also hard at work on their multiplication

facts. They've been practicing them diligently and committing them to memory. Also, the third graders are working on developing their higher level thinking skills in reading. In addition, they are practicing their reading skills by reading daily and taking Accelerated Reader quizzes. The character trait for the month of November was compassion, and students worked on being kind and caring to one another. Cursive is also a big emphasis in third grade, and now that the students have learned the alphabet, they will be working on learning how to join letters together. Lastly, the third graders just began their extra P.E. time with Mrs. Carrey. They are learning sportsmanship as well as various games and exercises. Certainly, November has been quite a busy month in third grade!

Fourth Grade News

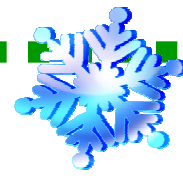
In the month of November, fourth grade students have accomplished a lot educationally. The science we studied always left us inquisitive and wanting to know more. We learned about ecosystems and how they function. Experiments were interesting like the pond snails in bottles filled with water and elodea plants. We observed the ecosystem periodically and recorded what we saw. In social studies we learned about the California Indians. We discovered that the Indians traded with other tribes and used all sorts of natural resources. The methods of long multiplication and division with remainders kept us working in math. We've read a vast variety of stories including different cultural versions of Cinderella tales. To tie our month up, we've learned about being compassionate and thankful. **Written by Megan Mach and Myra Mayr, 4th grade students.**

Fifth Grade News



The fifth graders continue to work hard in all subjects. In science, the students experimented and discussed different aspects of "Water on Earth." One of the lessons asked, "What is the water cycle?" To demonstrate their understanding, some students created drawings that explained the cycle, and some students wrote a story from the view of a water drop. Here is an example **written by Neil Tengbumroon**. Enjoy the journey.

Principal News...



Dear Parents and Friends of Quail Summit,

Warm holiday greetings! As families look forward to a wonderful holiday break together, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of Quail Summit. From school events to Scrip Gift Cards, your enthusiastic participation is much appreciated. We are thankful for you!

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I wish you a peaceful and safe holiday season. Don't forget to add a little fun together as a family! I wanted to suggest some fun activities to play with your children over the holidays to continue to encourage a love for reading and learning. Reading on location and learning about your world are two fun skills that families can build together over the holiday. Here are some tips to help you navigate...

Reading on location: Encourage your child to get out this winter and read! From libraries and bookstores to theaters and zoos, your child can read anywhere. Try these ideas to keep reading skills sharp over the vacation!

1. **Visit "bookish" places.** Take your youngster to places where book lovers go, such as libraries, bookstores, and coffeehouses. Seeing others enjoying reading will motivate him to read. Be sure to stop by these places on vacation, too. You can find other spots by asking at a local visitor's center – you might tour an author's home that has been turned into a museum or see a famous setting described in a story.
2. **Find your way.** Show your child that reading is an important part of everyday life. When you walk through your neighborhood or drive in the car, ask him to help you navigate by reading street signs. At an airport or a train or bus station, have him read your tickets and sound out the destinations on the schedule boards.
3. **Plan outings together.** Go places where your youngster can read for information. You might attend a play or musical and help him read the program during intermission – he'll learn more about the story and the actors. Visit a zoo or an aquarium where he can read descriptions of the animals and find out what they like to eat. At a garden center, have him read plant names and care instructions to help you make choices.

Learning about your world: Teach your youngster about people, places, and customs around the world. You'll make social studies more meaningful and help your child appreciate the diversity in life.

4. **Learn about people in different parts of the world.** Does your child know that Australian children have summer vacation from December through February? Or that many youngsters in Kenya help out at home instead of going to school? Allow your child to read about the lives of children in other countries, building research skills and learning about differences and similarities among people. Try *Children from Australia to Zimbabwe* (Maya Ajmera and Anna Rhesa Versola) and <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Place>.
5. **Explore geography.** Creating a beach ball globe will help your youngster remember continents and oceans. With a permanent marker, have your child draw a line (equator) around the middle of a ball. Let your child cut out continents from an old map and trace around them with a marker on her globe. Then, have your child label the continents and the oceans.
6. **Experiment with customs.** First-hand experience can help your child understand other cultures. For instance, your family might learn to eat with chopsticks. Read *The Story of Chopsticks* (Ying Chang Compestone). Race to see who can be the first to move a dozen cotton balls from one bowl to another using chopsticks. When your youngster is comfortable with them, move on to food, such as cheese cubes or orange slices. Another fun suggestion is making tamales together as a family. For a great recipe, see http://mexicanfood.about.com/od/tamales101/Tamales_101.htm.

Whatever you decide to do, as we begin our holiday season, my hope is that you find time to nestle into some good family time together. We can't wait to see you when school resumes on January 4, 2010!

Fondly,
Ms. Alysia Hobbs
Principal

My First Time Going Through the Water Cycle

Hi! My name is Phil and I'm a water droplet. I live in a lake with my mom, dad, and brother. It was pretty peaceful there, until the day my parents said that we were going to go through the water cycle. At first I thought it meant I was going to be swallowed over and over again, like the food chain, so I wasn't too enthusiastic about the idea. I started panicking. My brother said it's really fun, and I told him he was crazy. I felt a little calmer after my mom explained what the water cycle really was. I was about to ask a question when all of a sudden I got lifted into the air. *Here we go*, I thought. I just realized I was going through the first step of the water cycle: **evaporation**. When you evaporate, you basically get lifted into the air, higher and higher, and form a little cloud with other water droplets. Have you ever left a cup of water out in the sun for a few hours and found out that most of the water is gone when you came back? It probably evaporated and was forming a little cloud already. Anyway, when I finally reached all the other water drops in the clouds, I found out I was going through the next step of the water cycle: **condensation**. Condensation, by my standards, is pretty much the most boring thing in the history of things. I have to wait for a *long* time up here in this light cloud until it gets heavy enough to drop me and my fellow water droplets here as rain. After about four weeks, I felt myself start to drop a little and I knew I was about to go through the next step of the water cycle: **precipitation**. Falling ten thousand feet is not exactly what you would call fun. Neither is bursting out of a cloud at a hundred miles an hour. When the cloud (which was very heavy now) seemed like it would explode from its weight, I shot out so fast I was surprised I didn't catch on fire and before I knew it I was freefalling from the sky. I could see the world from up here. I saw the lake I lived in. It looked like a small puddle. *Plop!* I landed on a rusty old truck that had probably seen better days. My mom landed to my right. My dad landed to my left. And my brother, well... he landed right on me. I pushed him off. Rubbing my arm, I wondered how we were going to get back to the lake. My mom told me what she called was "an amazing fact", and suddenly getting back to the lake was the least of my worries. She told me that a water droplet goes through the dreaded water cycle at least five hundred thousand times in its lifetime. I started hyperventilating, and then I fainted. When I woke up, I found myself up in the clouds again. I was back in the water cycle. Again. No warning. Nothing. It was freezing up here. *Well*, I thought. *Only four hundred and ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred ninety-eight and a half more times to go.* Nothing much happens in my life, besides the water cycle. So, I guess I'll see you later!

By Neil Tengbumroong

Student of the Month

Kindergarten:

Aicard
Camilla Ibarra
Brandon Giang

Chung

Julissa Juarez
Hailey Morales
Isabella Expinoza

Giang

Haylee Choi
Isabella Yang

Yates/Chang

Lauren Gately
Roderick Sigmon
Avery Knapp

First Grade:

Kim

Jillian Swartout
Kenzo Khowdee
Stella Craine

Morales

Ashwin Sanjaye
Chloe Arias
Kyle Ambroise

Penticoff

Brian Collison
Ashley Kien
Jared Wong
Anieka Akbar

Yim

Jordan Cid
Megan Lee
Iris Lee

Second Grade:

Clayton/Silva
Kenta Yamamoto
Ethan Chavarin
Madison Thayer

Legind

Dominique Williams
Rick Williams
Joy Zhang

McCabe

Chase Pedrini
Duyan Le
Sophia Nitti

McLean

Emily Ruhl

Ruhl

Isaac Vasquez
Kate Zhang
Mina Mayr

Third Grade:

Bishop

Aaron Romero
Quinn Green

Heusner

Christina Soriano
Sydney Ferris

McLean

Aaron Tamura
Ryan Shah

Renner

Amanda Liu
Caitlyn Kanemitsu
Garrett Miller

Snider

Joshua Kummerman
Lorenzo Corral
Sareena Mendoza

Fourth Grade:

Grimes

Danielle Sy

Moore

Denise Kim

Sugita

Monique Yim

Fifth Grade:

Burke

Nathan Si

Hayes

Stephanie Pan

Leslie

Claire Zbicki



Community Club News

Wow, where has the year gone! It is hard to believe that 2009 will be behind us soon. We have had a great and busy fall.

The carnival was a huge success, making \$7,500! Thank you to all of you who attended and especially to those who volunteered their time and energy to pull it all together.

We've had several successful restaurant fundraisers. Togos, Chick-Fil-A and Johnny Rockets combined, raised about \$500. Our next one is Chili's on Monday, January 11th. Chili's accepts scrip so this is a great opportunity to raise money and enjoy a great meal out. We hope to see you there!

Regarding scrip, remember it is a great way to raise money for Quail Summit without any out of pocket expense. Think of them as gift cards that you can use in your everyday shopping. With the holidays here, please consider purchasing your gift cards through school rather than directly from the retailer.

Sponsorship, our general donation fund, has raised just over \$7,000. If you need a tax deductible donation or know of someone who does before the end of 2009, please consider this option.

Santa's Secret Workshop is just around the corner. Kids can buy gifts for their family, teachers and friends. Nothing is over \$10 with most items under \$5. All gifts are wrapped and ready to give to someone special. We'll be open Monday, December 7th through Friday, December 11th. We need lots of volunteers to help the kids shop. If you can donate a couple hours (or more) of your time, we would greatly appreciate it. Contact Susan Swartout at sjswartout@yahoo.com.

As we come to the close of 2009, we'd like to thank each and every one of you for your constant support of our school. Community Club couldn't offer the programs and support without you!

On behalf of the Community Club board, we wish you a restful and memorable holiday season,

Susan Swartout and Shannon Thayer
Community Club Co-Presidents



Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive

SPECIAL THANKS.....

Thank you for sharing and caring during the canned food drive sponsored by Student Council. Canned goods donated by Quail Summit were taken to the fire station before Thanksgiving to be delivered to local families in need. You have helped to brighten and warm the holidays for everyone!

