

Happy Holidays

From 1444 Maine

December 18, 2008



From the Superintendent A Holiday Wish and Thank You

Merry Christmas! I cannot believe how fast this school year has gone by! It seems just like yesterday it was late June and I sat in my office chair for the first time. So much has happened these past six months. I am so happy to be “back home” in Quincy.

I find myself understanding the true meaning of Christmas a little more each year. The past nine years I have spent Christmas in Mexico. Although there isn't any snow, the spirit of Christmas is so alive. The Mexican people celebrate Christmas on December 24. Most of the people are so poor and work so hard, yet family is very important to them. Every year I see the moms and dads riding on the buses, weary from work, bringing home a small toy for their children. I know they cannot afford the gifts many of us enjoy here in the USA, but I truly believe they understand the true meaning of Christmas. Every year I take clothing to give away to children in their schools. It is so rewarding to see the appreciation on their faces.

I am so blessed. My entire professional career has been spent in great schools with great staffs. Each of you makes our school district special. You work so very hard to provide the very best for our students. It is my continued goal to try and make each day easier for you in your quest. I know we are doing great work in Quincy...I see it in the students' eyes, watch it in their expressions, and hear it in their laughter. They are the reason we come to work.

Thanks for your continued loyalty, support, kind words and acts. I am proud to be a small part of your team. May your wishes come true and may your vacation be spent laughing with friends and loved ones.



With Quincy pride,

Lonny

QHS PARKING LOT

At last night's meeting, the Board approved repaving and realigning the entrance of the Quincy Senior High School parking lot. The entrance will be aligned with 33rd Street and a concrete cut through and new east parking lot will be added. The trees will be removed and replaced in other areas. The project will increase the number of parking spots from 383 to 581.



Early Dismissal Due to Weather

The decision to dismiss school early due to bad weather is a complex process. Superintendent Lemon says that the decision must be made prior to 10:30 a.m. in order to cancel afternoon early childhood classes. With input from transportation personnel and radar weather reports, a judgment call must be made early as to whether the snowy and/or icy conditions will continue or if crews will have the roads cleared before regular dismissal times. Superintendent Lemon said that school would not dismiss after the early childhood students have arrived in the afternoon because it would cause an extreme hardship for preschool parents and caregivers who must be present when the students are dropped off.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

APPOINTMENTS: **ANDREA TURNER**-special education EMH teacher QJHS January 5. **LORI GENGENBACHER**-ECFC paraeducator January 5. **JERI NICHOLSON**-cook QJHS January 5. **WENDY SHEETS**-occupational therapist January 5. **JODI YACKLE**- 2 hr bus driver November 18. **LEAVES OF ABSENCE:** **DENISE MOORE**-ECFC teacher through the end of December. **JILL STEINKAMP**-general music teacher February 2 through April 27. **KELLE SCHLUETER**-Monroe autism teacher approximately March 4 through May 20. **CAROL SCHAFFER BENT**-teacher at Adams, beginning January 5. **JESSICA HARVEY**-para QJHS November 26 through January 4. **JENNIFER STEPHENS**, bus driver, beginning November 10 for six to 12 months. **RANDY MILLER**, bus driver, beginning December 12 for six to eight weeks. **RESIGNATIONS:** **CHAKA FOUNTAIN**-para QJHS December 28. **ANDREAS MANNHARDT**-para Washington January 1.

2008 Tax Levy

The Board of Education adopted the tax levy for 2008. Business Manager Rich Royalty reported that the equalized assessed valuation (EAV) is estimated to increase 6.7% over last year. The regular levy is estimated to increase 11.34% to \$25,979,000, while the debt service levy will decrease 21.65% to \$3,223,598 for a total levy amount of \$29,202,598. This is a 6.40% increase over last year's extensions.



Although the district's EAV has increased, the overall total tax has not increased over last year, \$4.01 per \$100 of assessed value. If a property owner's assessed value did not increase from last year, the district's portion of their tax bill will not increase.



QHS MUSIC STUDENTS AND STAFF for the *Vespers Concert* which truly reflected the spirit of the season.



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