

# Calgary Quest School Newsletter

February 1, 2011  
Volume 2, Issue 5

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## Contents

Administration	1
Board of Directors	1
Cold Weather Tips	2
SLP	2
Rainbow Room News	3
Facility Committee Update	3
Triple P Event	3
Kid's Health	3

## Administration

### Accountability Pillar Survey

Alberta Education invites you to play an important role in your child's education.

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we're equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students will receive a survey form from Alberta Education. In February, students and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

[Accountability Pillar Survey](#)

## Board of Directors

A BIG thank you to all the parents, staff and family friends that volunteered for the January casino.

With some last minute cancellations, there were a number of family/friends that juggled their schedules to step forward and cover an 8 hour shift.

A special note to Arleen Gritten as Treasurer on the Board for running this event. Her contribution over the years in managing this event is invaluable.

The amount of money raised from this casino will not be known for a couple months. We will provide this

information once we receive confirmation from the province.

**Trish Hart**, Vice President  
Calgary Quest Board of Directors

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ February 15, 2012  
6:30 - 8:00 PM  
[Asperger's Syndrome Presentation](#)  
Held at Quest on the Day of Parent/Teacher Conference
- ◆ [Triple P Feb. 21, 2012 7:00-9:00 PM](#)  
[Registration required by February 8, 2012](#)



## THE **ECO EDGE** WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME HELPFUL TIPS FOR STAYING WARM IN COLD WEATHER!



Cold Weather  
Tips

1. Do not wear cotton or polyester/cotton fabrics next to your skin. Cotton absorbs moisture and therefore will get cold lying against your skin. This will lead to rapid loss of heat which could cause hypothermia in very cold weather. A good investment is a fleece vest as it will keep the heart and body warm which results in warmer blood being sent out to the body's extremities. Fleece is very good as it "wicks" moisture away from your skin quickly. Down jackets are great insulators if they do not get wet. But . . . WOOL is the best by far! It traps warm, dry air next to your skin keeping air from moving across your body.
2. Always dress in layers. Several thin layers are warmer than one heavy layer. You can always remove or add on layers as you need and therefore you can better regulate your core body temperature.

[Read more...](#)

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## Speech-Language Pathology

### What is Pragmatic Language?

Pragmatics is the area of language that embraces the functional use of language in social contexts. Pragmatics refers to the underpinnings of conversation: how something is said, the intentions of the speaker, the relationship between the participants, and the cultural expectations of the exchange.

### Pragmatic Language Development

Children develop pragmatic language skills in much the same way that they acquire milestones in other areas of development. Pragmatic language skills, such as eye contact and smiling, begin to develop soon after birth. They coincide with and are embedded within regular language development. Some research suggests that they may be closely linked to play skill development. In the normal course of language development, children learn about the rules of verbal interactions, such as how to engage others, maintain comfortable speaking distances, take conversational turns, change topics, clarify messages, and add verbal or nonverbal information. As in other areas of development, it is not unusual for children to experience some occasional pragmatic language difficulties as they learn these unspoken rules.

[Pragmatic Language Milestones](#)

### [Kid's Health](#)

- ✓ Dental hygiene
- ✓ Ways to stay active
- ✓ Positive body image

We're on the Web!  
[calgaryquestschool.com](http://calgaryquestschool.com)

## Rainbow Room News

The Rainbow room has had a very busy and successful school year so far.

We have been working on expanding the students' vocabulary during our circle time. We have been focusing on food, body parts and clothes.

Rainbow room is transformed into a kitchen every Tuesday morning. We have made some delicious food, such as fruit smoothies, carrot soup, pumpkin soup, sweet and salty pastries, Christmas cookies, and piña coladas.

We had a chance to go on a field trip to Our Lady Queen of Peace ranch in September. All of our students enjoyed horseback riding so much. We are already looking forward to going there in May again!



## Update from Facility Committee

At the February 6<sup>th</sup> Board meeting there will be presentations from two independent fundraising organizations. The focus of the presentations will be the feasibility study. This is a study completed by the fundraising company to determine the ability of Calgary Quest School to raise the required funds. The company will have an in-depth look at the resources that exist within the school, community and municipality for fundraising.

**Trish Hart**, Chairperson  
Calgary Quest School 2011-2012 Facility Committee

With the first snow coming down, we had a snow ball fight with the Purple room. Recently, we have been talking about winter sports. Students have been introduced to equipment of winter sports such as cross country skiing, hockey, skating, snowshoeing, and alpine skiing.

*Rainbow Room*



Rainbow students enjoy relaxation during TAC PAC (Communication through touch & music) every day after lunch.

Once a week we also transform our classroom into the big Snoezelen room in the morning. Come and join us anytime!

An Evening for Parents of Children 0 - 12

Government of Alberta

Experience the power of positive parenting

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012**

**7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Attend in person or via live webcast!**

**[Click here to register](#)**

## Workshops for Parents

- [Parenting Children](#) with special needs for multicultural families  
January 19 - March 15, 2012 every Thursday morning  
Contact Soledad Johnson at *The Children's Link Society* at 403-230-9185  
Email: [soledad.johnson@childrenslink.ca](mailto:soledad.johnson@childrenslink.ca)
- [Transitioning to Adulthood](#) - One day workshop  
February 11, 2012  
Contact Jannett Johnson at 403-508-7668  
Email: [jannett.johnson@mcman.ca](mailto:jannett.johnson@mcman.ca)
- [Sibshops](#) - Program for children who have a sibling with special needs  
[www.connections counselling.ab.ca](http://www.connections counselling.ab.ca)