

# Calgary Quest School Newsletter

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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ January 13/14, 2012  
Quest Casino
- ◆ February 15, 2012  
6:30 - 8:00 PM  
[Asperger's Syndrome Presentation](#)  
Held at Quest on the Day of Parent/Teacher Conference  
[Registration required by February 8, 2012](#)

## Administration

### Happy New Year, Everyone!

We hope you had a refreshing winter break and that you are energized for the next phase of our learning journey together.

**Thank You** from the entire staff for all the wonderful treats and gifts sent in over the month of December.

Thank you to all who contributed to our Christmas Hamper. Your generosity is truly amazing!

Thank you to all who made baking donations and those that made purchases for our bake and basket sale fundraiser.

Thank you to everyone who supported and helped with our winter celebrations.

Our Winter Concert was again a great success - Great Job!

Finally, we want to thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to a bright and exciting 2012.

## Board of Directors

The big event initiated by the board for January is the casino running on Friday Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>.

In previous years the casino has generated approximately \$60,000 towards a variety of projects at Calgary Quest. This amount can vary considerably year over year, but we are hopeful to obtain similar dollars for 2012. A couple of recent projects have been upgrades to classrooms and contributions to the building fund.

We appreciate all the family and staff that have stepped forward and donated a portion of their weekend to work at the casino. With the demands of raising

### 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](#)

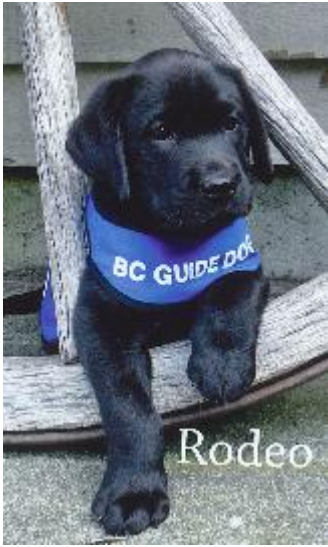
a special needs child, work, and family, we know this is a challenge.

A special thank you to Arleen Gritten as Treasurer on the Board for pulling this event together. It is no easy task working through the requirements of the Alberta Gaming Commission and organizing the extensive amount of volunteers. Thank you to Arleen for volunteering an incredible amount of hours and doing it with a smile.

**Trish Hart**, Vice President

Calgary Quest Board of Directors

## Yellow Room - Puppy Co-Sponsor Update



We would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you the first of our three Alberta Guide Dog Co-Sponsor Puppies.

Rodeo is a beautiful black Labrador Retriever who is with a puppy raising family in B.C. We are hoping to get our other two puppies in the New Year.

We are also very happy to let you know that Griffin, one of our first puppies has finished his schooling

and is now an Autism Support Dog, living with a young boy from B.C. We hope that you enjoy reading Griffin and Jonathan's inspirational story.

Thank you again to everyone who helped our students accomplish their goal and in doing so, help kids like Jonathan to have a friend and companion to help him with his challenges in life.

Yellow Room students and staff

[Testimonial: A new approach to safety](#)

[By Jonathan's mom Kathryn can be found in:](#)

[PAW Prints - Official newsletter from the staff, graduates and volunteers of BC & Alberta Guide Dog Services and Autism Support Dogs](#)

### Kid's Health

- ✓ Start your morning right
- ✓ Seal out tooth decay
- ✓ Watch, discuss, reinforce
- ✓ Featured recipe

## Behavioural Strategist

Cindy Oneil



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I look forward to working with many of the children at the school this year. I am at the school part time, on Mondays and Thursdays and am called into individual classrooms on an "as needed" basis.

Many children engage, at times, in behaviour that may not make sense to anyone casually observing. However, this behaviour can eventually alienate them from peers or limit their class participation and ability to learn.

My purpose, as a behavioural strategist, is to determine the functions of the behaviours I see and come up with a positive behavioural plan that staff can implement to help make each child as successful as possible. I am finding there are **4 primary reasons** for most behaviours occurring:

- lack of ability to communicate basic needs and wants
- to make choices
- sensory issues
- medication issues

These areas are explored in depth, to determine exactly what it is each individual child is seeking and needing, and how they are going about doing that.

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### We're on the Web!

[calgaryquestschool.com](http://calgaryquestschool.com)

## Behavioural Therapist continued...

Once this is determined, then we work on reward systems:

- replacement behaviour
- program modifications,
- being proactive in meeting the child's needs throughout the day before behaviours escalate

I work closely with all classroom staff to make sure consistency in strategies is carried out and that each staff member understands what the needs of each child are and how to meet those needs for them.

Last year was a very successful year and I am looking forward to this year being just as successful.

### Journey Circle



## Yellow Room News

It's been a busy and rewarding start to the year in the Yellow Room.

As part of our character education curriculum, students in the Yellow Room have been exploring various character traits and ways to care for others in the classroom and extended community. During the holiday season, our students practiced generosity and learning how to help others in need.

The Yellow Room has had the privilege of continuing its partnership with Cedars Villa Retirement Home for the second year in a row. Every second Thursday, our students visit with the residents and participate in fun activities such as reading, doing artwork, playing games and sharing a snack. We also had a fun filled afternoon selecting toys at the local dollar store to donate to *Toy Mountain* at Westbrook Mall.



The Yellow Room students donated the change from their purchases to the Salvation Army. We are so proud of the kindness our students are showing to others. It has been thrilling to see how much they enjoy the act of giving.

One of the most exciting activities for the Yellow Room students has been the ongoing visits from Calgary Guide Dog Services. We always look forward to visits from the dogs and their puppy raisers. As we enter into 2012, the Yellow Room students continue to brainstorm ways to fundraise for more pups in the coming year.

These community service experiences are designed to foster a sense of community, generosity and compassion in our children. And we've had so much fun working together to make our neighbourhood a better place. It is our most sincere hope that through opportunities such as these, our students will realize the positive impact they can have on others---and that together, we can change the world.

*Yellow Room's visit to  
Toy Mountain*



## Note from the School Nurse

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year.

With the return to school and the upcoming influenza season here are some important reminders for parents. Please keep your child at home if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Fever
- Chills, aches, or pains
- Sore throat, cough, runny nose
- Extreme tiredness

Students who arrive at school with any of these symptoms or develop them during the school day will be isolated from others and parents will receive a call to pick them up immediately. It is important to have alternate child care arrangements in place if you are not able to pick up your child immediately. As this influenza season may bring new challenges it is important to be socially responsible in helping to prevent the spread of infection. We all need to take part in protecting our school environment and our children.

When calling in to report an illness please advise the school on what symptoms your child is experiencing. This way we can better assess what may be occurring at the school and be able to take appropriate measures sooner.

Here are some important measures your family can follow to help in protecting against infection.

1. Frequent, proper hand washing with soap and water is one of the most effective ways to stop the spread of infection. Or, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2. Cover your coughs and sneezes with your arm, not your hand.
3. Keep hands away from your eyes, nose, and mouth.
4. Get adequate sleep and eat a nutritionally balanced diet. Obtain your influenza vaccination.

If you have questions regarding influenza please call Alberta Health Link at  
403-943-LINK (5465)  
Heather Perdue R.N. B.N.  
Shaganappi Health Center  
403-944-7334 Ext. \*5006

### Update from Facility Committee

NORR Architects will be presenting to the Calgary Quest staff a preliminary draft of a new school at the Professional Development Day on Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>. It will be important to obtain staff feedback at this initial stage.

We have obtained 2 proposals regarding the fund raising campaign. The board is hopeful that this detail can be finalized in the spring of 2012. Determining the company that will manage the fundraising campaign is the next critical step. It should be noted that the decision to build a new facility vs. moving to an existing space, has not been finalized. As particulars are gathered from the architects, real estate professionals, project manager and fund raising company, this decision will be made.

**Trish Hart**, Chairperson

Calgary Quest School 2011 - 2012 Facility Committee