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# Eye of the Dragon



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## QSI Main Campus Temple Fair

This week, students at the main campus celebrated the upcoming Chinese New Year in a new, exciting way—by having a temple fair. The idea of using a traditional temple fair came to our Chinese staff after watching middle school students struggle through performances over the past few years. “At this age,” said Hope Li, “students are not interested in singing songs or dancing on stage as a group. They feel more self conscious and it does not work well.” So the idea of the temple fair was born. Based on traditional celebrations, students first created authentic decorations for the gym. Pin wheels, red lanterns with riddles attached, intricate paper cuttings and banners made the gym feel like a different place altogether. The students worked for weeks before the event to design and create traditional Chinese games for visitors to play. Parents got to try their hand at bamboo jumping, demonstrating chop stick mastery, making dumplings, and much more. “I’ve learned so much,” said one parent on hand after trying a game, “and am surprised that the students made all of this on their own.” The event was rounded off with some volunteer groups doing singing and dancing routines. In the end, the students felt proud of their accomplishment and were excited about doing it again next year. A very special thanks goes to Hope Li, Karen Huang, Joan He, and Julia Chen for their hard work in making the temple fair a reality. Also, we recognize the dedication and preparation of Vanessa Li, Wendy Wang, Candy Yin, Amy Zheng, and Rachel Gong for putting together the 9 and 10 routines. Without these talented individuals the event would not have been possible.



## Ask the Director of Instruction



*Question: Does QSI have any academic deadlines?*

Answer: At QSI we believe that time is a resource to be used by students to achieve academic excellence. Much the same way as we care for our limited natural resources, such as forests, we also must recognize that time is to be carefully used. Students have as much time as they need based on their

effort and ability to master units. Students learn at different paces and it is acceptable that they will not all master units at the same rate. However, it is not acceptable that students put off work to a later time to avoid doing it. In cases like this, teachers give students the “D” grade (deficient in effort). In the main campus, we have set the date of February 10 as a time when students should be finished with their first four units in each class. Naturally, if it is an ability issue, students might get more time from a teacher. If parents or students have any questions then they should feel free to write me at

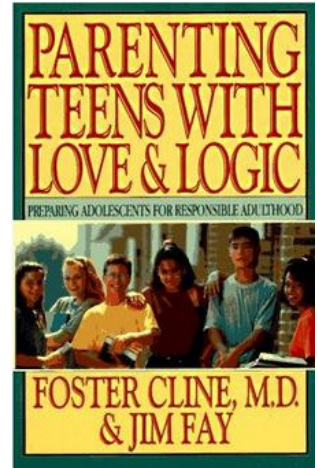
[Robert-Jackson@shk.qsi.org](mailto:Robert-Jackson@shk.qsi.org)

## Parenting Book Study

Parents, ever have one of those days (or weeks) with your pre-teen/teen ager? We have some help available for you. Join two of our QSI school counselors Mrs. Kenealy and Mr. Anfinson as we read and discuss the book **Parenting Teens with Love and Logic**. The Love and Logic program is a well respected and “...provides simple and practical techniques to help parents have less stress and more fun while raising responsible kids”. We will meet for seven weeks on Thursdays, starting February 2, 2012. If you have questions or are interested in joining us please RSVP with Mr. Anfinson at

[eric-anfinson@shk.qsi.org](mailto:eric-anfinson@shk.qsi.org)

[www.loveandlogic.com](http://www.loveandlogic.com)



## ERB WrAP

The week of February 13, all students will participate in the ERB WrAP, a direct writing assessment. Each student will be asked to produce a piece of writing based on a common prompt. Different prompts are used for different age levels, and new prompts are used each year. Students take the test in two sessions, over two days, during their language arts classes. The final draft of the essay is sent away to be scored by trained readers. Each student’s essay is scored with respect to six different elements on a scale of one (low) to six (high). The six elements are:



Overall Development – how well the writer communicates with the reader, shows awareness of the audience, task, and purpose for writing and writes in the appropriate mode.

Organization – ability to develop a logical plan of organization, maintain coherence throughout the paper, and create paragraphs.

Support – use of appropriate reason, details, and examples to enhance the effect and/or support the generalizations and conclusions of the essay.

Sentence Structure – completeness, correct usage, and variety or sophistication of sentences.

Word Choice – vocabulary, as well as, freshness and vividness of language.

Mechanics – correct and effective use of spelling, punctuation and capitalization.

As in years past, our teachers and administrators will use individual and age level results to plan classroom instruction and professional development. In addition, starting this year, the ERB WrAP results will be used to consider a 13 year old student’s readiness for Writing I at the Secondary level. The scores will be used in conjunction with other writing assessments, reading assessments, MAP scores and teacher observations to determine a student readiness for Secondary Literature I and Writing I. It is essential that that all students understand the importance of the ERB WrAP and come prepared to do their very best on the assessment. This is especially true for all 13 year old students. If you or your child have any questions please contact Mr. Robert Jackson.

## Dragons Defeat Geckos

After only a couple of weeks of practices, the boys' volleyball teams squared off against SIS in the first match of the season. The 11 year old team started things off well by defeating the SIS B team (the Geckos don't have a U12 team). Good serving, especially by Steven Chiu, and good team work helped the Dragons to a win in a game they led from start to finish. The QSI boys' A team then defeated the starting squad from SIS in a two set to one victory. Brian

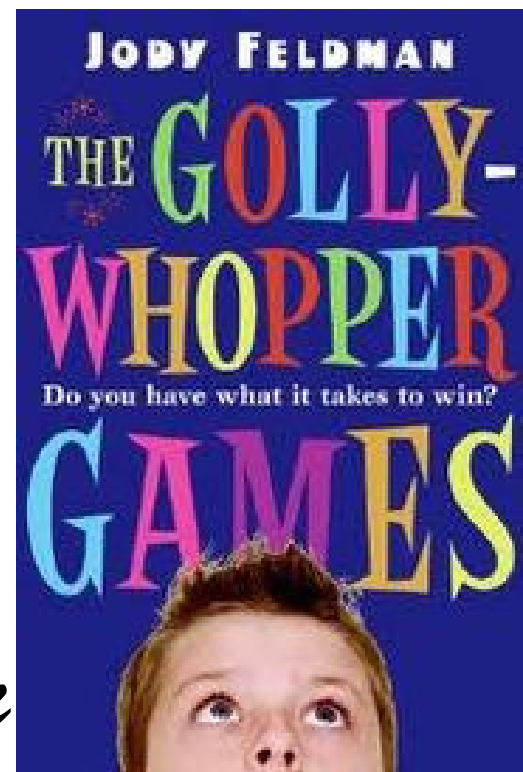
Ko showed his prowess as a top server and setter to lead the

Dragons to this victory. The Dragons were completely dominant at the net and more consistent at serving and showed excellent court sense with very few balls landing on their side. The B team then faced SIS' second team and won in two straight sets with the outcome never in question. The Dragons' second team will be competing against A teams all season long including the SDRC Tournament hosted by QSI in March. At this time it is hard to be sure who will end up on the 1<sup>st</sup> team as so many players looked good. The SIS team decided to play one final match with their A team playing a mixed group of QSI A and B squads. The Dragons again won in two straight sets in a match where Shannon Youse and Sasha Wilson served long strings of points. Great start boys, keep it up!



## Book of the Week

*The Golly-Whopper Games* by Jody Feldman tells the story of a young boy named Gil Goodson. His only desire in life is to move away from Orchard Heights, a dark place that looks down upon his family because of a mysterious incident years ago. To achieve his goal, Gil will participate in the Golly-Whopper games. Sponsored by a toy company, he must answer questions, solve riddles, and conquer obstacle courses to become the winner of the games. But before he can claim his prize, he first must defeat the other contestants, who have special skills of their own.



*Happy Chinese New Year*