



From the desk of Superintendent Mark J. Decker

January 12, 2023

Dear QTS Staff, School Board Members and Community!

- This is a rather long update.** Enjoy and scan over the topics and if you need to know more scroll down and read that section.
  
- QTS begins its sixth month in our new school.
- Thank you to our Maintenance Crew
- Morning Circles Invite
- Congratulations to the Grade 7-12 Staff, Elder Planning Committee and Cole Peregrine, along with all of those behind the scenes to make our x<sup>w</sup>a<sup>?</sup>ts (Early Fall) x<sup>w</sup>a<sup>?</sup>áts - chí<sup>?</sup>al ax<sup>w</sup>ó<sup>?</sup>l x<sup>w</sup>á<sup>?</sup> tsiká-ti · "take care of the land" project was a huge success.
- Congratulations to our IT Department and IT Administrator Todd Weeks and Assistant Mario Black for a successful launch of the rebranded web page to bring in the new 2023 Year.
- Fantastic news that we have 28 adults and students in the Quileute Language Class
- iReady Diagnostics and Smarter Balanced Assessments will soon be challenging students at QTS. Check out the growth data.
- Remember to check out the Quileute Nation Community Calendar
- QTS continues to be challenged like other organizations with illness.
- The administration is asking our Associated Student Body (ASB)
- The Construction Company Graham and Vanir are wrapping up work here at QTS.
- The Fish Hatchery Project (Salmon Restoration)
- The Bus Barn Maintenance Office/Work Project
- The Design Center Project
- The BIE Safety Analysis
- Remaining Projects and status
- Reminder to the community that Superintendent Mark J. Decker informed the QTS School Board in a written public letter in November that his intentions were to be onsite until June 30, 2023.
- Food Services is experiencing growth after the second audit.
- QTS has been unsuccessful since October in attracting a candidate for the Business, Finance and Human Resource Director.
- Coming up in March we will be asking certified teachers to sign a non-binding letter of intent on whether they plan to return for the 2023-24 school year.
- 21st Century After School Programming is up and running at all levels.
- Thank you Johnson O'Malley (JOM) parent committee and Cody for facilitating the approval of the purchase for the covered playground equipment.

- QTS begins its sixth month in our new school.** The first half of the year has seen students, staff and parents adjusting to new routines. The school setup truly has changed for the positive the way we do business and how our staff and students interact with one another. Returning after the long winter break, students and staff were excited to be back and the warm, cozy atmosphere and familiarity with routines made for a quick start up. Really awesome to see the artwork posted and doors decorated. Happy New Year Everyone!
- Thank you to our Maintenance Crew** over the holidays for giving the facility a cleaning and touch up. Thank you Gus, Nathan, Thomas, Ed, Vern, James and Leroy!
- Morning Circles** are at the beginning of the week at approximately 9:50 am. Community participation is growing and we invite those wanting to sing and dance to participate. Announcements by staff and words of wisdom from Community Elders have been the norm at the circle. Consider joining us and invite a friend from the community. Most events are posted on our community calendar on the new school web page or call the school at 360.963.4100 and talk to Stephanie Doebbler, Cody LeClair or Andrea Coberly.
- Congratulations to the Grade 7-12 Staff, Elder Planning Committee and Cole Peregrine, along with all of those behind the scenes to make our xʷaʔts (Early Fall) xʷaʔáts - chíʔal axʷól xʷáʔ ísiǰá-ti · "take care of the land" project was a huge success.** Recently portions of the project were published in the Northwest Treaty Tribes Journal. <https://nwtreatytribes.org/planting-seeds-for...> Look for more on our school web page.
- Congratulations to our IT Department and IT Administrator Todd Weeks and Assistant Mario Black for a successful launch of the rebranded web page to bring in the new 2023 Year.** This has been ongoing work for nearly a year. Remember to check out the Quileute Tribal School Calendar on the front page of the website (see Upcoming Events) or click on the full calendar (Show All or Show Calendar).
- Fantastic news that we have 28 adults and students in the Quileute Language Class** being offered by Peninsula College and taught by our very own cadre of people. Big Positive Shout Out to Jay Powell, Vickie Jensen, Scott Jackson, James Jaime and Cole Peregrine, along with elders and QTS Staff. Watching this come about gives me great pride in our work the past couple years. We **ARE** moving the needle on [preserving, protecting and enhancing Quileute Language and Culture](#). In addition many in this group are working on a 50 words and activities book to be published later this Spring. Furthermore the first 26 boxes of QTS archives have been digitized and soon will be searchable on the web page. Thank you Larry Burtness, Jeff Harrison, James Jaime for your support of QTS on this project.
- iReady Diagnostics and Smarter Balanced Assessments will soon be challenging students at QTS.** Testing windows on the school calendar are indicated by a "T" in front of the date, see the example below. The best way to understand your child's diagnostic Fall scores is to request a meeting with their homeroom teacher asking to view the iReady data. A snapshot view of all student iReady Diagnostics from 2019-Fall 2022 can be reviewed by [clicking here](#). Students and staff will be working on iReady beginning

k <sup>w</sup> a <sup>?</sup> wiya <sup>?</sup> alíktiyat						
Steelhead Days						
January 2023						
Sun	Monthly Details - <a href="#">LINK</a>					Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	<a href="#">T-24</a>	<a href="#">T-25</a>	<a href="#">T-26</a>	<a href="#">T-27</a>	28
29	<a href="#">T-30</a>	<a href="#">T-31</a>				
22	Reminder Grades ONLINE in Student / Parent Access of Skyward need to be updated every 10 business days.					20



[LINK TO FULL CALENDAR](#) with LINKS “hot”

- Remember to check out the Quileute Nation Community Calendar** for events like Drum Group, Akalat gym events, etc. Their web page community events calendar is <https://quileutenation.org/events/>
- QTS continues to be challenged like other organizations with illness.** Please stay home if you are sick, wash your hands with soap and hot water, cover your mouth when coughing and keep your hands and fingers away from your mouth. Please know that instructions from the QN and Clallam County are on the web page calendar.
- The administration is asking our Associated Student Body (ASB)** to help us come up with a solution for the overflow of Grade 7-12 students into the popular Student Center. Due to the popularity of the location for lunch and breakfast, it is becoming unhealthy and safety concerns are rising up. We have shifted more adults to the location and we have a camera on the whole area. The furniture is cloth based and not easily cleaned after meals. Administration and ASB hope to meet on Friday, January 20 at a designated period of time to discuss and form solutions empowered by students.
- The Construction Company Graham and Vanir are wrapping up work here at QTS.** They have whittled the list down to a handful of issues to be resolved.
  - Doors are heavy, large and continue to be a challenge with hardware and closing properly.
  - Science classroom on certain wind direction days a smell of sewer comes about.
  - Water System backup generator being installed
  - Pillar bases in the covered play area are concerned for safety. Some solutions have been proposed.
  - A broken window is not fixed in the courtyard/lunchroom.
  - Blinds installed in the Business Office, IT Office and Principal office blinds are forthcoming.
- The Fish Hatchery Project** (Salmon Restoration) experienced some delays due to electrical work complications. As of January 10, 2023 we now have a clear process on how to complete the Fish Hatchery Project.
- The Bus Barn Maintenance Office/Work Project** has experienced a slow down with the holidays and other challenges. The project is running seven months behind schedule with an original target date of

mid August 2022. The next step is to finish the sheetrocking, taping, painting, restroom and sink fixtures, cabinets, flooring and furniture. A new target date has been extended to March 1st.

- The Design Center Project** in Room 125 is now the Maintenance & Transportation Office (Room 125) and will become a Design Center. We have nearly \$230K in American Funds funding waiting for this project to move forward. I am hesitant to go get bids again until it is clear to me when the Bus Barn Maintenance Office/Workroom will be completed. The install and training on a Design Center is a minimum of 10 weeks. Project is on hold until further notice.
- The BIE Safety Analysis** was completed on January 10-11 with a thumbs up and only minor fixable matters were identified. The QTS Safety Team meets monthly and a running record system is used to track the drills and provide feedback. QTS continues to move forward with the Operations Plan and the QTS Safety Team has reviewed the document once. We are working with a Safety Consultant [When It Counts](#) to assist us with safety planning and training. The school needs to have a safety road that goes out the backside of the school, after all in a serious emergency the main entrance into the school will be blocked off by Incident Command preventing traffic in/out. To transport students/staff out a secondary road needs to be enhanced.
- Remaining Projects and status include:**
  - Ocean Guardian Natural Area** - Officially identified next to the School Boundary and 7-12 Science Classes are planting natural plants in the riparian area.
  - Climbing Wall** - Install completed January 6th
  - Front Entrance Fire Panel Beeping** - New electronic card needed/ordered by Northwest Securities.
  - Covered Playground Equipment** - approved by JOM Parent Committee - In process
  - Akalat Lighting** - Synergy Electric is in process and will be fixing exterior entrance lights to the Akalat. Recall that QTS has put a new roof on the Akalat, refinished the floor which had not been done in 11 years, purchased new floor mats and supports the Akalat with personnel for cleaning and supplies. January 10, 2023 the school board passed a motion to transfer the Akalat and Old Campus at 40 Ocean Drive to the Quileute Nation. This process will begin.
  - [Lu Interactive Playground System and Audio Visual Performance System](#)** for the Gym: Funding source secured through 21st Century. Need to arrange for purchase and install.
  - Tribal Flags Display** - Funding has been established with the goal to purchase the tribal flags of every one of our students and have them on display in the front lobby and be able to be used for special assemblies and graduation ceremonies.
  - Locker Room Doors** need locking mechanisms installed.
  - Projects for the Future:**
    - Begin preparing for events to be booked by the community and gym, kitchen and other areas. Protocols to be developed and staffing to be identified. Training on scoreboards and kitchen equipment.
    - Outdoor play areas
    - Sound Baffling System in Gym and Business Office. Normal to loud conversations in the business office disrupt the work of four others working in that area.
    - Weight Room - Some old equipment will come from the Akalat to the new much smaller weight room
    - Student CTE Business Center - let's get a [student business center](#) going in Classroom 039.
    - Sustainable Food - <https://www.freightfarms.com/company> Relationship forming with The Nature Conservancy
    - The 3.5 acres of field at the new school. What is next?

- The School Board is continuing their work on Policy reviews by conducting special meetings.** These are public meetings and are posted on the calendar with public agendas.
- School Board Chairperson Bonnie Jackson and QTS Human Resource Coordinator Page Foster are leading the new Superintendent search.** The School Board wants your feedback and attendance at school board meetings as it is a standing agenda item on the regular board sessions.
- Reminder to the community that Superintendent Mark J. Decker informed the QTS School Board in a written public letter in November that his intentions were to be onsite until June 30, 2023.** I am seeking out other positions outside of education, as well as possibly re-entering the international community. A resignation could possibly come sooner than June 30, 2023. The goal for me is for my wife and I to be living in the same home again, ideally in Port Townsend where our home is or some other part of the world. Living in a 27 foot camper in Mora the past several years has been more challenging than I thought. I am very proud of the work that we have accomplished in the past years around the School Motto, Vision, Mission and Future, as well as the relationships built with community members. There is lots of work to do and challenges forthcoming remain like finding qualified people for positions; less certified teachers seem to be available; less administrators and superintendents are entering the profession; many students have substantial growth in achievement to master and will funding levels keep pace with costs (salaries, benefits, fuel and food costs, etc). Nearly every school on the Washington State west end passed negative budgets and are facing decreased enrollment this school year. QTS is fortunate to have seen a bump in enrollment from a steady 117 to 148 this year. Affordable housing continues to challenge communities. Our school also will face budgetary challenges depending on costs of living expenses. We continue to be upside down in our financing in important programs like Food Services and Career Technology Education (CTE). We also need to do better for a handful of our families that struggle with health care coverage and finding affordable housing.
- Food Services is experiencing growth after the second audit.** Growth areas include understanding the importance of providing more leafy greens, fruit and vegetables daily. The solution is to provide a daily salad bar and staff is working on consistently providing this daily. A protein source at breakfast is important. The rules say two grains and a fruit satisfy the breakfast requirement but a protein source (ie, eggs, meat source, etc) would really help out students with energy levels through to lunch. We have decided to continue our afternoon snack for K6 students though it is not reimbursable and costs are picked up through the budget. We will have the afterschool snack through the 21st Century Program, which can be subsidized by the School Lunch Program with some minor adjustments made in the program. Finally, the audit showed that the Food Service program needs to improve in its organization and accuracy with production records coming from the kitchen. QTS has been hindered by the loss of our Business, Finance and HR Director that has directly impacted filing our claims, so Hailey Miller, QTS Data Support, has taken this on in the meantime.
- QTS has been unsuccessful since October in attracting a candidate for the Business, Finance and Human Resource Director.** As we head into the financing process for 2023-24 this remains a critical concern for outgoing Superintendent Mark Decker and the success of the school. After a lengthy School Board discussion on January 10, 2023, Superintendent Decker has removed the posting from the Employment Postings and we will be faced with having to reshuffle our business department to meet the needs. I shared with the School Board it will be imperative that the new Superintendent that is hired has a strong background in finance and human resources, along with a solid understanding of Bureau of Indian Education and Washington State financing. The staff in the business office will be supervised by the Superintendent in years to come, whereas prior to the Director of Business, Finance and Human Resources oversaw the Business Department.
- Coming up in March we will be asking certified teachers to sign a non-binding letter of intent on whether they plan to return for the 2023-24 school year.** This will give our recruiting team some data to work on possible openings or actual openings if we receive letters of resignation. Contracts for certified teachers are not due until late May 2023, so openings will become clearer.

- 21st Century After School Programming is up and running at all levels.** QTS 21st Century After School Coordinator Dan Ryan is overseeing the program.
- Thank you Johnson O'Malley (JOM) parent committee and Cody for facilitating the approval of the purchase for the covered playground equipment.** Thank you Lakhina and Megan for collecting feedback and getting it to Cody for the K6 covered play area recommendations.
- The School Calendar was updated for correct testing/assessment dates, as well as second semester dates through July 2023
- Lots of events coming up in the next couple of weeks, don't get left out be sure you are checking the Google calendars for current information and the weekly events scheduled:
  - QTS Public Events Calendar (open for the public)
  - QTS Leave Calendar (unofficial report of people out of the building) (only available to QTS Staff)
  - QTS Internal ONLY Google Staff Calendar (only available to QTS Staff)
  - QTS Facilities Calendar (only available to QTS Staff)
  - QTS Professional Development (only available to QTS Staff)

Thank you students, staff and parents for your support and enjoy your upcoming 3 day weekend as we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and his message about equality and dreams of freedom.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Decker  
QTS Superintendent