

Hello Grade 6 parents,

The Silent Auction at Winterfest (Dec 8) can raise over \$8000 for our kids' Quebec trip.

Each family is asked to contribute a minimum of 3 items to the Silent Auction (helpful hints below).

This was outlined in the [Parent Participation Agreement](#).

Besides contributing to the Silent Auction, parents will be expected to volunteer at Winterfest (Dec 8), donate baked goods for the Bake Sale, and sell wine raffle tickets (details soon on all of this).

After Winterfest, we really do lay off of you ...

If we do this event properly, we are practically done for the fundraising year!

Here are some Silent Auction details:

- deadline for Silent Auction items is Wednesday, Nov 29
- once Silent Auction items are obtained (helpful hints below), parents fill out an online form to provide details about the item
- a link to the online form will be sent once it is ready
- fill out the form for each item (3 items means fill out the form 3 times)
- an email providing an Auction Item Number will be sent to you once the form is filled out
- label the item(s) with the Auction Item Number(s)
- bring the item(s) to the school lobby: 8:45-9:15am and 2:45-3:15pm from Thursday, Nov 23 to Wednesday, Nov 29
- contact Tracy at tracy@cumquat.ca or 604-218-9022 (text) to make alternate arrangements
- the "buy out" for families that cannot provide 3 items is \$250
- send me photos/descriptions of your item so I can start promoting to parents on the Tennyson website

Here are some helpful hints for providing items:

How Do I Get Silent Auction Items? (approaching businesses)

- approach any business (particularly local businesses) - it really is easier than you think it will be
- check with friends who own businesses
- [Here is a letter you can bring with you](#) - present it as a "win-win" where they will gain new customers. Hit up businesses on Broadway, Arbutus, and West 4th. Restaurants and service providers are excellent options. Gift certificates are great!
- ask your hairdresser, nail salon, any business that you frequent (we can display promotional material)
- [here is a tip sheet for hitting up businesses](#)
- here is a [list of businesses that have donated in the past](#)
- emailing businesses is less effective than stopping by in person but worth a try if you can't bring yourself to approach businesses
- please [use this spreadsheet to record businesses that you approach](#) (and check it to make sure we are not all bugging the same places)

Alternative Options: I can't bring myself to ask businesses for donations

- Regifting is fine but items must be new and in original packaging (that gift that your mother-in-law gave you but you will never use? Donate it!)

- Regifting of unopened kids items is super - lego sets, toys, games, etc
- Provide a service - babysitting, cooking lessons, fresh baked muffins delivered on a Sunday am, Dinner Delivered - lasagna and salad to be delivered to a family ... Tennyson parents would bid on any of these! Get creative!
- Grade 6 students can offer French Reading Help after school, Snow-Shoveling, Dog-Walking, etc
- Can you make jewelry, knit, do photography, bake, or woodwork? Make something to donate.
- Maybe you are a bargain-shopper ... make a gift package with sale items that you buy
- Costco - buy a pre-made Christmas gift basket of goodies
- Vacation property - do you have a place at Whistler or on the Gulf Islands? Rent it out for a weekend!
- Make a coupon for a birthday cake or cupcakes
- Interior designing, haircutting, etc
- Booze is always popular at Tennyson - buy some items and package them up. Craft beers, wine, etc
- If you are willing to teach my 16 year old son to drive IN YOUR CAR, I will bid HUGE on that!! He's really nice, I promise.
- and, finally, you can "buy yourself out" by contributing \$250 instead of providing Silent Auction items

Please send along any questions that you have. Happy hunting everyone!

Toni