



The Poppet Head

Weekly newsletter of Quarry Hill Primary School
Thursday, August 7th, 2025
Newsletter No. 12

Our Vision:

QHPS students are empowered to be engaged learners. Our community fosters a culture of respect and belonging.

2025 TERM DATES

Term 1: 29th January - 4th April
Term 2: 22nd April - 4th July
Term 3: 21st July - 19th September
Term 4: 6th October - 19th December

Principal: Anne Rochford

School Council President: Andrew Ellis

PFA President: Michelle Kennedy

PFA Vice President: Rhayven Milliner

~OUR VALUES~

Kind

I understand that everyone is different.
I co-operate.
I respect myself, others, and the environment.
I am community minded.
I belong.

Curious

I am a learner.
I seek knowledge.
I ask questions.
I explore and wonder.
I Create.

Brave

I am honest.
I am independent.
I have high expectations.
I am resilient.
I am open to feedback.

IMPORTANT DATES

AUGUST		
Friday 8 th	9:00am	Issue 5 Book Club orders due
Monday 11 th	All day	Division Football- selected students
Friday 15 th	All day	Writers Workshop- selected students
Thursday 21 st	All day	Curriculum Day (no students at school)
Friday 22 nd	All day	Book Week Dress Up/Parade and Multi-Age Activities
Friday 29 th	12:00pm 2:30pm	3-6 Book Week Performance Incursion P-2 Book Week Performance Incursion
SEPTEMBER		
Friday 5 th	All day	Division Basketball- selected students Father's Day Stall
Monday 8 th -Wednesday 10 th	All day	Grade 6 Urban Camp
Friday 19 th	9:00am-2:30pm	Last day of Term 3- Early finish
OCTOBER		
Monday 6 th	All day	First day of Term 4
Wednesday 29 th	All day	Bendigo Cup Public Holiday



Students at QHPS are very excited to be celebrating CBCA (Children's Book Council of Australia) Book Week! The theme for 2025 is 'Book an Adventure'. This theme celebrates reading stories and the magical way books can take us on adventures.

On Friday, 22nd of August, students, parents, and teachers are encouraged to join in our book week celebrations by dressing up as their favourite book character, or to dress in the theme of 'Book an Adventure.' We will join in a Book Parade (with prizes for costumes!). Students will participate in a range of Multi-Age Activities related to some of the amazing shortlisted books throughout the day.

On Friday 29th August, we will continue the celebration, with students watching a performance titled 'Treasure Hunt' in the Multi-Purpose Room.

This interactive and educational musical adventure celebrates the Children's Book Week® 2025 theme (*Book An Adventure*) and incorporates a selection of the CBCA 2025 Shortlisted Books.

Quarry Hill Primary School, 25 Peel Street, Bendigo 3550
Email: quarry.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au
Website: www.quarryhillps.vic.edu.au
Phone: 03 5443 3537



2025 NAPLAN

Recently, you might have seen our feature in the Bendigo Advertiser (online 30/07/2025), celebrating our impressive NAPLAN results.

The tables below show how Quarry Hill Primary School is tracking compared with State and Similar Schools scores. Similar Schools are schools of a similar size and background to QHPS.

Strong and Exceeding means students are at, or above, the expected level for their grade.

We are incredibly proud of our QHPS school community for their dedication and hard work. Congratulations to all of the Grade 3s and Grade 5s for these excellent results this year.

Grade 3: Percentage of students who are Strong or Exceeding			
NAPLAN Test	QHPS	State	Similar Schools
Reading	78%	69%	72%
Writing	89%	79%	82%
Spelling	76%	63%	63%
Grammar and Punctuation	64%	57%	60%
Numeracy	79%	66%	68%

Grade 5: Percentage of students who are Strong or Exceeding			
NAPLAN Test	QHPS	State	Similar Schools
Reading	73%	74%	76%
Writing	80%	72%	72%
Spelling	71%	68%	64%
Grammar and Punctuation	68%	64%	65%
Numeracy	87%	69%	73%

LULU AT SCHOOL 🐕

We're lucky to have Lulu, our much-loved school wellbeing dog, as part of our Quarry Hill community.

Lulu attends school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, supporting students with emotional regulation, connection, and calm.

Please note that on occasion, Lulu may not be at school — for example, during unfavourable weather (very hot or wet/windy conditions) or when she simply needs a rest day. Just like humans, dogs can experience fatigue, and working in a busy school environment can be both enriching and tiring for her. Ensuring that we are responsive to Lulu's wellbeing allows her to continue bringing joy and calm to our students in a sustainable way.

We appreciate your understanding and support as we prioritise Lulu's health and comfort, just as we would any other valued member of our school.

YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT

In the coming weeks you will receive an invitation to participate in the annual Parent Opinion Survey. Last year we had 84 families participate in this survey and we are hoping for more in 2025.

There is a 5 point scale for each question from 1- strongly disagree to 5- strongly agree. 3 is considered a neutral response, neither agree or disagree. In 2024 there were not a lot of neutral responses which is helpful when we are looking at areas we need to focus on. However the one area where 1 in 5 parents had a neutral response related to bullying. There can be confusion around what is bullying so I have included an excerpt from Dr Justin Coulson's most recent article, which has a helpful explanation.

What Is Bullying?

*It is critical to be aware of one important note: **not all unkind behaviour is bullying.***

Yes, being left out can hurt. So can a cruel comment or an occasional playground spat. Children can be awful to one another. These things are worth addressing. Teaching children to be socially aware, adept, and considerate is vitally important – and the better we do it, the less likely it is that bullying will occur. But we live in an imperfect world.

Unkindness exists. And these things are unkind. They don't, however, meet the definition of bullying.

So what's the difference? Bullying is deliberate, repeated, and targeted behaviour that causes distress, and that involves a power imbalance.

We don't want to underreact when a child is in real distress—but we also want to avoid the trap of labelling every playground disagreement as "bullying." A clear definition gives us a firm footing to act wisely.

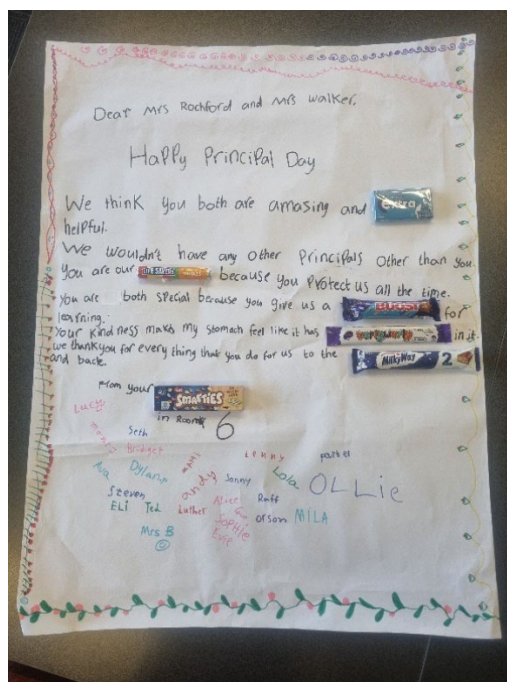
When we distinguish between general unkindness and bullying, our responses become more targeted and effective. Isolated incidents of meanness typically call for teaching moments about empathy, conflict resolution, and social skills—helping children understand the impact of their words and learn better ways to interact. Bullying, however, requires more serious intervention. This distinction also helps children understand the difference between making a mistake in social interaction (which we can learn from) and engaging in deliberate, harmful behaviour (which has serious consequences).

To read the whole article, you can find it on Dr Coulson's site, [Happy Families](https://www.happyfamilies.com.au).

PRINCIPAL'S DAY: THANK YOU!

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you for the incredible kindness and thoughtfulness shown last Friday on Principal's Day. Your well wishes truly made our day!

Room 6's creative presentation was an impressive example of our school value *kind* in action. Our offices are brightly decorated with posters and cards the students from Prep to Grade 6 made for us. We were so lucky to receive such stunning pieces of art.



We feel so privileged to be the Principal and Assistant Principal of such a caring and vibrant school community. Thank you to all staff, students, and families for the lovely messages and ongoing support.

-Anne Rochford (Principal) and Merryn Walker (Assistant Principal).

'WHAT MATTERS MOST' COMPETITION

Have you seen the new video on our website?

Last term, our Junior School Council engaged in a creative project as part of the Commission for Children and Young People's "What Matters Most" competition. The aim of the competition was to give children a platform to express what they care about and the changes they'd like to see in their world.

In response, our JSC created a powerful short video that reflects the values, priorities, and passions of our students. Throughout the process, they showed incredible teamwork, thoughtful reflection, and a strong sense of student voice. Their efforts made a real impact. Meena Singh, the Acting Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People (and Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People), was so impressed by the students' message that she hopes to personally visit our Junior School Council before the end of the year to acknowledge their outstanding contribution. We're also proud to announce that the video will be featured at the upcoming 'Lead Your Way' conference, where student voice and leadership will take centre stage.

Well done to our JSC, your voices are being heard and making a difference!



FATHERS DAY STALL

The Father's Day Stall will be held on Friday 5th September.

To help with the stall we ask families to kindly donate gifts, which can be dropped off at the school office.

Gift ideas include: socks, small games or puzzles, plants, gardening supplies, chocolate, lollies, tea, mugs, books, sporting, and camping accessories.

Each class will have a turn of visiting the stall and students can purchase one gift each. All gifts will be sold for \$2.

Funds raised at the Father's Day Stall will go towards projects in the QHPS grounds.

Thanks for your support,

QHPS Parents & Friends Association

SMILE SQUAD

The Smile Squad team from Bendigo Health are coming to our school soon.

Smile Squad is the Victorian Government free school dental program.

This means ALL students can get a free dental check-up, preventive services, and treatment at school.

How to access free dental care

We need your consent before we can provide services. Consent is usually provided by a parent or guardian.

Sign up to Smile Squad at: <https://bit.ly/smilesquadvic>

OR use the below QR code:



Paper copies of the consent form are available. Please contact the school office if you would like to request one and they will be distributed to your child when they arrive.

The electronic consent form can be translated into more than 100 languages, and the paper form is currently available in 13 languages.

Smile Squad oral health packs

All children deserve a healthy smile, and the Smile Squad free school dental program is working hard to help make sure this happens.

Your child(ren) will soon receive a free oral health pack to bring home. The pack contains a toothbrush, full sized toothpaste, and an oral health brochure. Please take the time to read the brochure. It's full of helpful hints and tips to help your whole family eat well, drink well and clean well – for life.

Standard strength toothpaste

Smile Squad provides standard strength fluoride toothpaste that is generally used by ages six and over, unless recommended by a dental or trained health professional.

If your child is under six, please talk to a dental or trained health professional to find out if your child might benefit from using this toothpaste. You can also choose to put the toothpaste away until they turn six or give it to someone else in your family to use.

Do I need to attend my child's appointment?

No, you do not need to attend your child's appointment. You can attend if you would like to, and you can take your child to the community dental clinic if you prefer.

FIRE EDUCATION FOR FOUNDATION

Prep students have participated in two 45-minute interactive sessions with Fire Rescue Victoria's Fire Education For Foundation program. The four-stage program is designed for students to learn and utilise fire safety information.

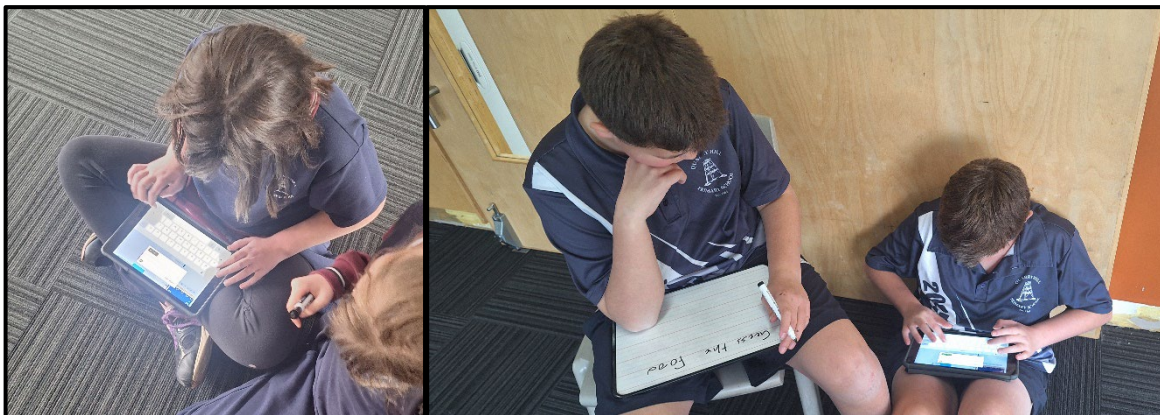
During the incursions Prep students have engaged with a range of topics including:-

- Firefighters are helpers
- Good fires and bad fires
- Crawl low in smoke
- Safe Meeting Place
- What is an Emergency? 000 (Triple Zero)
- Observation and discussion of students' Safe Meeting Place Worksheets
- Introduction to the concept: Stop Drop Cover Roll (what to do if your clothes catch fire)
- A visit to the fire truck and operation of fire hose



STEM INCURSION

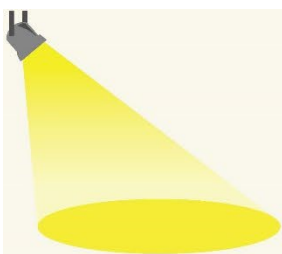
On Tuesday 29th July, selected Grade 5/6 students participated in a Micro:Bit Mystery Workshop. In this session, students investigated using code along with hardware to store and organise information. They used problem-based learning strategies to discover, identify, and organise, data to create and decode messages. This session was constrained to the tech space using code, digital and physical inputs and outputs and created a digital mystery box for their classmates to try and decode!



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



KIND		
Eldana B	Room 11	For a seamless transition to QHPS. You certainly 'belong' in Room 11.
Harriet J	Room 13	For always being kind, friendly and respectful to everyone in our community.
CURIOUS		
Mason B	Room 7	For demonstrating quiet and curious browsing in our Library!
Maeve C	Room 2	For successfully including three Tricky Words in one sentence.
Hatty K	Room 16	For challenging herself when writing by exploring new words and sentence structures.
Inesa L	Room 8	For challenging yourself to write interesting sentences using tricky words. Well done!
Steven P	Room 6	For always challenging himself during class activities.
Hudson S	Room 17	For your consistent focus and work during Knowledge and Curiosity.
Henry S	Room 7	For showing excitement about the new tricky words he is learning.
Katherine S	Room 5	For sharing her wonderings during class discussions.
Mason W	Room 14	For discovering the joy of reading during our Literacy Block.
BRAVE		
Elke B	Room 7	For being brave at school drop off. Well done!
Spencer B	Room 9	For consistently seeking out new challenges and thriving when solving problems independently.
Lola E	Room 14	Demonstrating great leadership and supporting her fellow netballers players at Division Netball.
Leni F	Room 10	For being a wonderful coach, demonstrating great sportsmanship and leadership at Division Netball.
Ava G	Room 12	For consistently demonstrating exceptional effort in class and contributing significantly to class discussions. Great job, Ava!
Isla L	Room 2	For showing excellent focus and dedication during Morning Reading.
Royce T	Room 14	For performing to the best of his abilities at Zone Athletics.
Ariah W	Room 14	Demonstrating great leadership and supporting your fellow netballers.
Shylah W	Room 11	Demonstrating great leadership and supporting your fellow netballers.



Spotlight on Teaching and Learning:

Number Fact Fluency

This week we continue our Spotlight on Teaching and Learning, where we will share the importance of Number Fact Fluency.

What is Number Fact Fluency?

Number fact fluency refers to the ability to recall the basic facts in all four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) accurately, quickly and effortlessly. When students achieve automatic recall with these facts, they have attained a level of mastery that enables them to retrieve them from long-term memory without needing to count or calculate.

Why is it important?

- Reduces Cognitive Load:

Number fact fluency allows children to recall answers quickly and accurately without needing to pause and calculate them. It is strongly linked to success in higher-level maths, as it reduces the cognitive load during more advanced mathematical problem-solving activities.

- Increases Confidence:

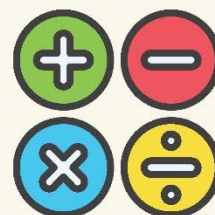
When students can easily recall maths facts, they feel more confident in their maths abilities. This positive attitude can motivate them to tackle more challenging problems and persist in their maths learning.

What do we do at QHPS?

At QHPS number fact fluency is included in each lesson. We use a range of strategies including:

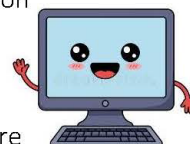
- At the start of the year all Grade 1 to Grade 6 children's number fact fluency is assessed. Grade 1 and Grade 2 assessments focus on addition and subtraction. Grade 3 to Grade 6 assessments focus on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- Prep children focus on subitising (recognising small collections without counting).
- Throughout the year teachers explicitly teach counting strategies to improve number fact fluency for example, subitising, counting on, doubles and near doubles.
- Number fact fluency is included in all maths lessons.

The website Love Maths <https://www.lovemaths.me/games> is an excellent resource if you enjoy playing maths games with your child/ren.





The relationship between social media and children's mental health is one of the most important conversations of our time. That's why, from mid-December, the Australian Government will require certain social media services to take steps to prevent under 16s from having accounts. This week, eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant outlined how Australia plans to take this bold action forward, in a speech delivered at the National Press Club.



Here's what parents need to know right now:

1. **It's not a ban, it's a delay.** We're giving kids more time to build digital skills and resilience before facing the pressures of social media.
2. **The responsibility lies with the platform.** There are no penalties for children or parents—only for platforms that fail to take reasonable steps to prevent under 16s from having accounts.
3. **You're not alone.** eSafety offers trusted resources for parents and carers, educators, young people and kids.

Australia is building a culture of online safety—just like we've done on our beaches. Because the internet, like the ocean, is not going away – and our kids are already dipping their toes in. To stay up to date on social media age restrictions, visit [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au).

**Term 3, 2025**
eSafety parents and carers webinars

Join eSafety's free live webinars for parents and carers.

Term 3 topics:

- **Recognising online coercive control in young people's lives (45 minutes).** For parents and carers of young people in upper primary and secondary school.
- **Understanding AI Companions: What parents and carers need to know (45 minutes).** For parents and carers of young people in upper primary and secondary school.
- **AI-assisted image-based abuse: Navigating the deepfake threat (45 minutes).** For parents and carers of young people in upper primary and secondary school.
- **The changing face of cyberbullying: Protecting your child in 2025 (45 minutes).** For parents and carers of children in primary and secondary school.



For more information and to register now: [eSafety.gov.au/parents/webinars](https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars)



[eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au)

For more information or to register for free webinars visit
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

SAFE CROSSINGS, SAFE KIDS

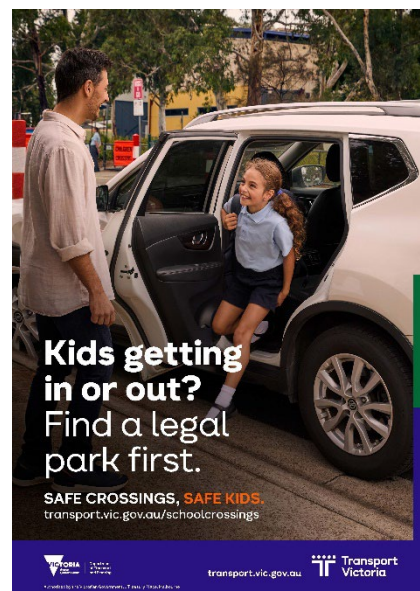
The safety of our school children is a top priority. School crossings have special rules and are often a workplace for our School Crossing Supervisors. Your actions on and around school crossings keep our community safe.

The Department of Transport and Planning has launched a new road safety initiative for school crossings.

The [Safe Crossings, Safe Kids initiative](#):

- reminds road users of the special road rules that apply at school crossings
- promotes 8 safe behaviours at school crossings for drivers
- outlines how to identify a school crossing.

We can all do our part to help children get to and from school safely.



IGNITING CREATIVITY IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

ART WORKSHOPS FOR KIDS

AUG 21 - SEPT 11
THURSDAYS 3:45 - 4:45PM
AT THE OLD CHURCH ON THE HILL

A FUN & ENGAGING WEEKLY PROGRAM FOR BUDDING ARTISTS TO EXPLORE NEW ART TECHNIQUES & MEDIUMS!

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:
PATTERN PRINTING . MARBLING ON PAPER . SCRAPE PAINTING . PAPER EMBROIDERY

BOOK VIA WEBSITE www.brightyoungthing.com.au

OLD CHURCH ON THE HILL Neighbourhood Collective AUSTRALIA BRIGHT

After School Art – Bendigo Art Gallery

THURSDAY 07 AUG 2025 - THURSDAY 11 SEP 2025

All students aged 10–18 are invited to take part in a fun and inspiring weekly art session led by our talented educators. Each week, you'll explore different materials and techniques, with a focus on creativity, experimentation, and the joy of making.

Every Thursday, from 7 Aug to 11 Sept 2025, 3:45 pm– 4:45 pm

Admission: **FREE** but booking required.

Bookings open two weeks prior to each session.

Next session Thursday 7th August 3.45-4.45pm



Contact Bendigo Art Gallery for more information or follow the link below

<https://www.bendigoregion.com.au/bendigo-art-gallery/bag-events/after-school-art>

South Bendigo Junior Football Club



Calling all Top Age U12 Players!

COME & TRY U14S TRAINING SESSION

You're invited to a **Come and Try** training session with the South Bendigo Junior Football Club U14s.

Date: Tuesday, August 12th

Time: 4:00pm – 5:00pm

Location: Harry Trott Oval, Neale Street, Kennington

WHAT IS IT?

Come along for a relaxed session where you'll:

- Train with our current U14s squad
- Meet coaches and players
- Get a feel for what being part of South Bendigo JFC is all about

WHY SOUTH BENDIGO JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB?

Welcoming Environment: We pride ourselves on being a family-oriented and inclusive club.

Player Development: Our focus is on growing skills, confidence and wellbeing, both on and off the field.

Pathways & Coaching: Quality coaching and links to representative and senior football.

Modern Facilities: Based at Harry Trott Recreation Reserve with upgraded facilities and a great community feel.

Need more information?

Contact our Coaching Co-ordinator, Alex Galea at:
jnrfboaching@southbendigofnc.com.au



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Website: www.quarryhillps.vic.edu.au

Phone: 5443 3537