



The Poppet Head

Weekly newsletter of Quarry Hill Primary School
Thursday, October 15th, 2026
Newsletter No. 16

Our Vision:

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

2026 TERM DATES

Term 4: 5th October - 18th December

2027 TERM DATES

Term 1: 27th January (students start 28th January)- 27th March

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

OCTOBER		
Friday 16 th	2:15pm	Colour Fun Run (no assembly) Fun Run – 2.15pm- meet at Junior Astro Start of Event – 2.20pm Icy poles – 3.15pm- Junior Astro Home Time – 3.30pm
Tuesday 20 th	All day Various times	Staff Appreciation Day (see details below) P-4 Gymnastics Program
Wednesday 21 st	Various times	Responsible Pet Ownership Program (Grade 3-6 students)
Friday 23 rd	9:00am	Issue 7 Book Club Orders due to the office Mango order forms due to the office
Tuesday 27 th	9:00am Various times	PFA Community Cuppa (Multipurpose Kitchen) P-4 Gymnastics Program
Wednesday 28 th	All day	Bendigo Cup Public Holiday
NOVEMBER		
Tuesday 3 rd	Various times	2027 Prep Transition
Wednesday 4 th - Friday 6 th	All day	Grade 6 Urban Camp
Tuesday 10 th	Various times	2027 Prep Transition
Friday 13 th	9:00am 12:30pm-1:30pm	PFA Community Cuppa (Multipurpose Kitchen) Grade 3/4 Incursion (see Compass event for details)
Tuesday 17 th	Various times	2027 Prep Transition
Thursday 19 th	All day	Curriculum Day- no students at school

Reminders:

COLOUR FUN RUN- TOMORROW

Tomorrow afternoon we are hosting our Colour Fun Run.

Students are encouraged to wear white, although any plain clothing is acceptable.

We would love to see plenty of our Quarry Hill Primary school community supporting our students as they take on our Fun Run Obstacle Course, raising funds for a new Senior Playground.

Due to this event taking place in the afternoon, there will be no assembly.

MANGO FUNDRAISER

Mango order forms have been distributed. Spare order forms are available at the office. Payment can be made via Cash or Eftpos at the office, or paid online to our school account. All forms and payment are due to the office by Friday 23rd October.

GRADE 6 BIKE RIDES

Year 6 students who have participated in Bike Education during 2026 have the opportunity to take part in a bike ride as part of our Crews program. These bike rides will occur on various Thursdays during Term. Please view and approve event in Compass.

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



ENROLMENTS & CLASS PLACEMENTS 2027

If your child will not be attending Quarry Hill Primary School in 2027, we would appreciate you letting us know as soon as possible. If there are any considerations for placements for student classes in 2027, please discuss with Anne Rochford or your child's teacher, and then send in writing by Friday November 6th, to Anne.Rochford@education.vic.gov.au

Please note that it is not possible for parents to request specific teachers.

PREPARING FOR THE BUSHFIRE SEASON

The CFA declares the fire danger period at different times depending on the amount of rain, dry grass and other local conditions. It can be as early as October. To be ready for the fire season we suggest you do the following:

- Ensure we have your current details, including your mobile phone numbers
- Review your own [bushfire plan](#) and alternative care arrangements.
- If you haven't already, download the VicEmergency app.
- We ask you to read the [attachment](#) which outlines what we need to do as a school if a catastrophic fire danger rating is called in our fire district. On these days the school is required to close.

WELCOME RHYS BARRI

Hi everyone,

My name is Rhys Barri, and I'm the assistant principal at Eaglehawk Primary School. I'm currently undertaking Unlocking Potential, a principal preparation program, and I'm very fortunate to be spending the next four weeks at Quarry Hill Primary School, learning alongside Anne. I'm really looking forward to getting to know the wonderful students, staff and broader Quarry Hill Primary School community over the coming weeks. Thank you for welcoming me into your school community.

A few things to know about me: I'm a big Carlton supporter (the mighty Blues!), I love all sports, love a good pizza, enjoy a riddle and am always up for anything involving maths, so if you have a great brain teaser, I'm all ears!



SUBWAY LUNCH ON FRIDAY

Every Friday at Quarry Hill Primary School, families can order Subway for lunch. Orders are due by 7:30am Friday mornings.

All orders to be placed at <https://app.canteenhub.com.au/>

COMPASS

Please ensure you are logging on to Compass, our Parent Portal, regularly to check for unexplained absences needing to be followed up.

As it is a very busy term, we also have lots of events happening which will require approval.

Please also ensure you regularly check for any events that require approval/payment on Compass.

If you are having any issues logging onto Compass, please contact the office.

LATE ARRIVALS AND LATE PICK UPS

If your child/ren arrive to school after the bell, please ensure they come through to the office to be signed in before heading to class.

Please also let your child/ren know that if you are not there for pick up time, that they need to come to the office to wait for collection, rather than play out on the playground or wait out the front of the school.

This ensures they remain supervised until collected.

ANAPHYLAXIS AND ALLERGIES

We have several children enrolled who suffer from severe allergies to a variety of things including nuts and nut products, dairy & wheat, which can result in them going into anaphylactic shock. Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening. It must be treated as a medical emergency, requiring immediate treatment and urgent medical attention.

At Quarry Hill several strategies are in place to deal with this. We are an Allergy Aware school. Students are encouraged to wash hands before and after eating to minimise the risk of contamination. Often boxes and packages are sent to school for art construction activities and are very useful. However, do not send any packages for use at school that have contained dairy, wheat, nuts or nut products, so that we can minimise the risk of children with allergies coming into contact with products that may cause a reaction.

THUNDERSTORM ASTHMA

Grass pollen season in Victoria usually runs from October to December. During this time, Asthma and hay fever symptoms can get worse. There is also an increased risk of [thunderstorm asthma](#).

Thunderstorm Asthma can be sudden and serious. It can be life-threatening, especially if a person's Asthma or hay fever is not well controlled.

All of our staff are trained in Asthma first aid. We will monitor VicEmergency for thunderstorm Asthma warnings. When needed, we will keep students indoors if the weather forecast shows a higher risk.

During this pollen season, there are some things you can do to protect yourself and your family:

- If your child has ever had Asthma, talk to your doctor about your Asthma Action Plan and to make sure symptoms are well controlled.
- If your child has hay fever, talk to your pharmacist or doctor about a hay fever plan and check if you need an Asthma reliever puffer.
- Take Asthma medication as directed by your doctor, as the good control of symptoms can prevent Thunderstorm Asthma.
- Follow the [VicEmergency](#) website or app. Where possible, avoid being outside during thunderstorms – especially during the winds that come before the storm. Go inside and close your doors and windows. If you have your air conditioning on, turn it to 'recirculate'.
- Know [asthma first aid](#). If you are not sure if someone is having an asthma attack, you can still use a blue asthma reliever puffer.
- For more information, speak to your doctor. You can also:
 - speak with an asthma educator on [1800 ASTHMA \(1800 278 462\)](#). This is a free service from 9am to 5pm.
 - refer to [Better Health Channel](#). This includes information in different languages.

PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL

Parents are reminded that it is essential to comply with parking restrictions when dropping off and collecting children from school. A number of schools have short term time restricted areas, such as 2-minute pick up drop off. These parking areas are in place to allow for ease of access close to schools and these restrictions must be adhered to. Please watch out and slow down for children crossing the road and around school buses, a reminder that the speed limit around schools is 40.

With regard to children's crossings, the law requires that a driver approaching a children's crossing must drive at a speed at which the driver can, if necessary, stop safely before the crossing.

Please slow down and take extra care when driving in school zones.

City of Greater Bendigo Parking Officers and Bendigo Police do conduct random patrols throughout the school year at various locations to ensure that motorists are adhering to the Road Rules.

P.F.A News

Staff Appreciation Day – Tuesday 20th October

Next Tuesday 20th October will be the QHPS Staff Appreciation Day. The PFA would love to let our teachers and support staff know just how much we appreciate them by giving them a special afternoon tea at 2pm. If families would like to contribute something yummy, baked or bought goods can be dropped off to the office on Tuesday morning.

And feel free to be creative on the day to help your child's teacher know they are special and appreciated!

Community Cuppa Mornings

Did you know that the PFA have been hosting regular cuppa catch ups at our school for over 8 years? This continues to be a much loved time where all parents and carers are warmly invited to come along for a relaxed cuppa and chat with others from the school community. No need to bring anything. Younger children are also very welcome to come along with their parent.

This term the PFA are looking forward to hosting two Community Cuppa mornings:

Tuesday 27th October

Friday 13th November

9.00am straight after school drop off in the Multipurpose Kitchen area.

Hope to see you there!



QUARRY HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
JSC PRESENTS

Staff Spotlight

Were you the chatty student or quiet student?
Chatty student

What is your favourite food?
Asian food

Pizza or burgers?
Burgers

Dogs or cats?
Dogs

What is your favourite way to relax?
Taking a hot bubble bath

Narelle



Our Junior School Council students
have interviewed our QHPS staff
and this is what they found out!

Wellbeing spotlight



At Quarry Hill Primary School, we know that students learn best when they feel safe, supported and connected. When children feel a sense of belonging, they are more willing to take learning risks, ask questions, develop positive relationships and persevere through challenges.

Creating a safe learning environment is about much more than classroom rules. It is built through strong relationships, predictable routines and consistent expectations across the school. Our school values of being **Kind**, **Curious** and **Brave** guide the way we learn, play and interact with one another every day.

One of the ways we establish these foundations is through our **Creating Our Learning Environment (COLE)** program. While many families will already be familiar with COLE, its principles continue throughout the year as teachers revisit expectations, strengthen classroom communities and explicitly teach the social and emotional skills students need to succeed.

Alongside COLE, our staff use positive behaviour support practices, restorative conversations and proactive wellbeing strategies to help students understand expectations, repair relationships and continue learning from challenges.

By creating classrooms where every student feels respected, supported and valued, we provide the foundation for both academic success and positive wellbeing. A safe school is one where every child feels that they belong and that they can be themselves.



Navigating online friendships

Online friendships can bring connection and support, but they can also involve pressure, exclusion and manipulation. Young people may experience behaviours such as guilt-tripping, spreading rumours, being excluded from group chats or feeling pressured to end other friendships. These experiences can affect their confidence, sense of belonging and emotional wellbeing.

Parents and carers can help by creating a safe, supportive environment where young people feel comfortable talking about their online experiences without fear of judgement or getting into trouble. Ask open-ended questions, listen without dismissing their feelings, and work together to establish boundaries that help them feel safe and in control online.

Be aware of changes in behaviour, such as becoming upset after using particular apps, withdrawing from online groups or becoming unusually secretive about friendships. These may be signs that a young person needs support.

If you are concerned about a young person's online friendships, further information and support are available through the eSafety Commissioner, Kids Helpline (1800 55 1800) and headspace (1300 650 890).



Term 4, 2026

eSafety parents and carers webinars

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

Term 4 topics:

- **Navigating screen time: tools for today's families (45 minutes).** Suitable for parents and carers of children in primary and lower secondary school.
- **How connection and belonging shapes children and young people's vulnerability online (45 minutes).** Suitable for parents and carers of children in primary and secondary school.
- **Understanding and using parental controls to help protect your child online (45 minutes).** Suitable for parents and carers of children in primary and secondary school.
- **secondary school (45 minutes).** Suitable for parents and carers of children in upper primary school (ages 11 to 12) and Year 7.
- **How AI is influencing new online risks for children and young people (45 minutes).** Suitable 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)

For more information visit
www.esafety.gov.au/

