

The Poppet Head

Weekly newsletter of Quarry Hill Primary School
Thursday, November 13th, 2025
Newsletter No. 18

Our Vision:

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

2025 TERM DATES

Term 4: 6th October - 19th December

2026 TERM DATES

Term 1: 27th January (students start 28th January) - 2nd April

Term 2: 20th April - 26th June

Term 3: 13th July - 18th September

Term 4: 5th October - 18th 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

NOVEMBER		
Friday 14 th	All day	Professional Practice Day (no students at school- OSHC OPEN- bookings required)
Tuesday 18 th	8:15am-3:30pm	Grade 2 Kyabram Fauna Park (Excursion)
Wednesday 19 th	Various times	2026 Prep Transition
Thursday 27 th	Various times	2026 Prep Transition
Friday 28 th	9:00am	Issue 8 Book Club Orders due to the office
DECEMBER		
Thursday 4 th	2:30pm-4:45pm	QHPS Disco (Casual clothes and gold coin donation) P-2: 2:30-3:30pm 3-6: 3:30-4:45pm
Monday 8 th	TBC	Grade 5/6 Big Day Out
Tuesday 9 th	9:30am-11:00am	Statewide Transition Day
Friday 12 th	9:00am	Special Assembly - 2026 School Leaders and Calder Balsillie Award
Monday 15 th	9:00am	P-2 Christmas Concert (Quadrangle)
Tuesday 16 th	12:00pm 5:45pm for a 6:00pm start	Grade 6 Graduation Lunch (For students and staff- at QHPS) Grade 6 Graduation (at BSE in the Auditorium)
Friday 19 th	9:00am-1:30pm	Last Day of Term 4- Early Finish

Reminders:

- 'No hat, no play'
-Spare hats available at the office for \$12.
- Grade 2 Kyabram Fauna Park Excursion (Tuesday 18th November):
-Students need to arrive at school at 8:10am for an **8:15am departure**.
-Students will be back at school for normal pick up time at 3:30pm.
- Grade 6 Graduation Lunch
Please complete and return order form, and make payment through the office by Monday 8th December.



ENROLMENTS & CLASS PLACEMENTS 2026

If your child will not be attending Quarry Hill Primary School in 2026, we would appreciate you letting us know as soon as possible. If there are any considerations for placements for student classes in 2026, please discuss with Anne Rochford or your child's teacher and then send in writing by **Friday Nov 14th**, to

Anne.Rochford@education.vic.gov.au

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

2026 BOOKLISTS AND CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

2026 Booklists and Contribution information has been sent home with each student.

Orders for booklists need to be completed online, with all instructions included on the sheet. Booklists completed online by Friday 12th December will be delivered to the school before the end of term. Booklists submitted after this date will be delivered to the school in January. Further details regarding collection will be communicated through Compass and the Newsletter.

Any questions regarding the booklist or contributions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Orders for Issue 8 of Scholastic Book Club are due to the office at 9am on Friday 28th November. No late orders will be accepted. This is the last Book Club issue for the year.

To order the books online and pay with your credit card via the LOOP facility visit

<https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/Parent/Login.aspx>

The LOOP facility eliminates the need to put your credit card number on the order form and/or hand over cash. For paper copy book orders please include your child's name and classroom room number and/or teacher on the top of the form and return to office with correct payment by due date.

ANDREW CALDER BALSILLIE AWARD

This award will be given out at our assembly on Friday 12th December to the selected Grade 4 student. The following details outline the award.

The Balsillie family have been associated with the school for well over 100 years. On 3rd April 1911, the staff and students marched from the old Olinda Street School to the new school here in Peel Street, led by 6-year-old Calder Balsillie playing the kettle drum. Calder's father Andrew was an active member of the School Council in the early years also. Calder's son John attended the school from 1933 to 1940. One of John's children also attended the school.

In 2007, John Balsillie established the Andrew Calder Balsillie Citizenship Award to be awarded each year to a student in Grade 4 for 'Active participation and making an outstanding contribution to the school community.'

LIBRARY NEWS

There will be no more borrowing available from Friday 5th of December.

All books will be due back by Monday 15th of December so that the library is able to be cleaned in preparation for 2026.

WEBPAGE TO HELP FAMILIES AND STUDENTS PREPARE FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

A new school year is an exciting time for students and families, but it can be a big step – particularly for those starting Prep, secondary school, or VCE.

The Department of Education has a webpage with resources and information to help you prepare for the new school year.

During the school holidays, please consider reading through the resources, which include:

- tips to help transition from kinder to Prep, primary to secondary school, and Year 10 to VCE
- what to expect at school
- help with school costs and fees
- health and wellbeing guidance to support children's mental health.

Please refer to the [New year of learning webpage](#).

Quarry Hill Primary School, 25 Peel Street, Bendigo 3550

Email: quarry.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Website: www.quarryhillps.vic.edu.au

Phone: 5443 3537

FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

From 1 January 2026, people aged under 18 can travel free on all Victorian public transport services using a new youth myki card. This includes trams, trains, buses and coach services.

To access free travel, they must tap the myki card on and off each time they travel. For areas that do not use myki cards, they must show their myki card to travel free.

More information about the youth myki card will be available later in Term 4, 2025 – refer to the [myki types webpage](#) on the Transport Victoria website.

For more information about other travel options to school, and support for eligible students, refer to the [Travelling to school](#) webpage on the Victorian Government website.

P.F.A News

SCHOOL DISCO

Our School Disco is upcoming on Thursday 4th December and we need some parent/carers helpers to assist on the day.

Here are the ways you can help:

Setting Up Helpers - 9.00am - 11.00am

-Putting the decorations up and setting up for the Disco

-General preparations

Face Paint Helpers 1:30pm-2:15pm

-Helping apply face paint (very simple stick face paint style stripes)

Junior Disco Helpers - 2.15pm - 3.30pm

-Serving popcorn and Zooper Doopers

-General assistance

Senior Disco Helpers - 3.30pm - 4.45pm

-Serving popcorn and Zooper Doopers

-General assistance

Packing Up Helpers - 4.45pm - 5.15pm

-Taking down decorations and packing up.

Please let the staff in the office know if you are available to assist at any of those times by November 21st.

All helpers will need to show a Working With Children Check to the office.

The Disco is such a fun event to be part of, and it is a welcoming space for new parent volunteers to join in.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for the wonderful turn out at our 'Spring Picnic' last night.

It was great to see so many of our families enjoying the sunshine and joyful atmosphere.



Wellbeing spotlight



At our school, you'll notice some clear and consistent routines: Silent entry to class, lining up in set places, and desks arranged in rows for whole-class learning. While we value collaboration, creativity, and group work, we also know from brain science that strong routines and predictability help students thrive.

When students know exactly what to expect, it reduces uncertainty and anxiety. This creates a calm, focused environment where their brains can concentrate on the learning rather than on what's going to happen next. Predictable routines also support self-regulation, respect, and a smoother start to each lesson.

For example:

- Silent entry helps students transition calmly from play to learning.
- Lining up in set places reduces jostling and distractions.
- Rows for whole-class instruction ensure clear sightlines and focus when introducing new concepts.

Of course, we balance this structure with plenty of opportunities for collaboration, discussion, and creative thinking. The routines give us the foundation; the variety in learning activities helps students apply and extend their skills.

It's a bit like music; strong rhythm and structure set the beat, but it's the melodies and harmonies that bring the song to life.



Social Media Age Restrictions

Navigating the social media changes

From 10 December 2025, certain social media platforms won't be allowed to let Australian children under 16 create or keep an account, giving them more time to develop important skills and maturity.

Quick facts:

- The age restrictions are likely to apply to Facebook, Instagram, Kick, Reddit, Snap chat, Threads, TikTok, X and YouTube, as well as other platforms.
- Under-16s will still be able to see publicly available social media content that doesn't require logging into an account.
- Most standalone gaming and messaging apps, as well as many services that support health and education, will not be affected by the new law.
- There are no penalties for under-16s who access an account on an age-restricted social media platform, or for their parents or carers. This is about making the platforms take greater responsibility for the safety of children – they face fines of up to \$49.5 million dollars if they don't take reasonable steps to implement the changes.

How to get ready for the social media age restrictions

- ✓ Start having open, ongoing conversations with under-16s about their social media use, how they feel about the new law and what they can do to get ready. You could use eSafety's conversation starters for parents and carers to help with these conversations.
- ✓ List the online platforms and apps children have accounts with, as well as the key people, groups, communities and services they connect with on each, to determine which accounts they are likely to lose.
- ✓ Help your child plan and organise other ways to stay in contact with their friends, such as offline activities, or online messaging and gaming apps that are not age-restricted. Get them to note important phone numbers, tags and account names.
- ✓ Together, search for age-appropriate sites, apps and offline activities that allow your child to follow their interests and build a sense of connection and community. This is especially important if they rely on social media for support services.



Term 4, 2025

eSafety parents and carers webinars

Supporting healthy tech use as your child transitions into secondary school

This 45-minute webinar explores the social pressures, peer influences, and technological challenges young people face as they transition into secondary school. It also offers practical strategies for navigating online friendships and connections to help minimise negative experiences. It's suitable for parents and carers of children in upper primary school (ages 11 to 12) and Year 7. [Learn more about this webinar.](#)

Term 4 (AEDT): 18 November, 12:30pm

Understanding and using parental controls to help protect your child online

Parental controls can be a useful addition to the strategies you use to help protect your child online. This 45-minute webinar covers the types of controls available, and how to use them alongside other online safety measures. It's suitable for parents and carers of primary and high school students. [Learn more about this webinar.](#)

Term 4 (AEDT): 6 November, 12:30pm

For more information or to register for FREE webinars visit

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

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Student Art Display

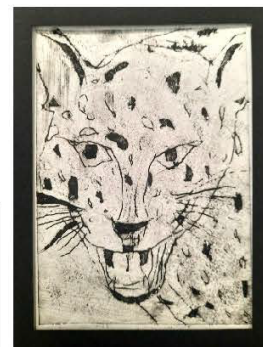
Spring Fair at The Old Church on the Hill

We are excited to share a selection of beautiful student artworks, created with imagination and care at the upcoming Spring Fair at The Old Church on the Hill. Our Grade 4 students have also been busy crafting hand-felted rocks, which will be donated to sell to help raise funds for this important community hub that supports so many wonderful local programs and activities.

Come along to enjoy the art display, browse the stalls, and soak up the friendly atmosphere. It's a lovely way to spend a spring morning while supporting our students and the wider community.



Sun 16th Nov 10am-12pm at
The Old Church on the Hill
Spring Fair



OSHClub

Free Webinars: Big School, Let's Go! 🖥️



📅 **Date :**

21 January 2026

👤 **Key Guest Speaker**

Robyn Monro Miller (CEO, Play Australia)

Topics Include:

- 💡 Practical tips and tricks for supporting children as they start school
- 🎮 The importance of play and how it helps children to thrive
- ❤️ Safety and wellbeing of children in OSHC
- 💰 We will also explain Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and upcoming changes in 2026.
- 👤 Hear from one of our Regional Managers to outline how we support preps settle in to their new environment in service

To learn more about this free webinar, or register, please visit the below link
[Join us for our free webinar!](#)



ELF ACADEMY

♦ OFFICIAL TRAINING FACILITY FOR SANTAS LITTLE HELPERS ♦

IT'S SNOW JOKE!

**ELF ACADEMY IS RETURNING TO BENDIGO
MORE MAGICAL THAN EVER!**

13-21 DECEMBER 2025

**THEY'RE CHEEKY, CREATIVE & FULL OF JOY...
BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT REALLY TAKES TO BE
ONE OF SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS?**

Through festive crafts, playful games, and elf-tastic challenges recruits will master the skills needed to join Santa's legendary crew, graduating with a Certificate IV in Elf Training!

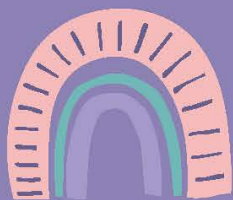
13-21 December | Beehive Building | \$25 per person | \$100 per family
All activities included | Santa photography additional



BOOK NOW!

bendigoheritage.com.au
4444 2810 | [f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [y](#) [v](#)





OSHClub

Term 4, Week 6

Newsletter

www.oshclub.com.au



QUARRY HILL OSHCLUB UPDATES

Hello families,

We have a busy last couple of months of the year! Please see below the weekly themes and special events for this month.

We are on the look out for connections within the community. Please do not be afraid to reach out if you know of any businesses and/or organisations that would be willing to connect with us!

We are going to be setting up a parent sign in/out iPad, stay tuned for details on how to set this up!

Here's to a great end to the year-
Quarry Hill OSHClub Team

REMINDERS

- ✓ Names on children's items - our lost property is overflowing and many do not come with names. If you are missing something please come and check in our room.
- ✓ Please ensure if your child is attending OSHClub this term that they have a hat in their bag.

CLASS DOJO

Quarry Hill OSHClub will be restarting ClassDojo! Please scan the attached QR code to see what OSHClub is doing each week!



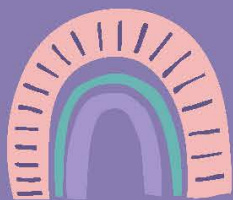
Alternatively, you can follow this link:
<https://www.classdojo.com/ul/p/addKid?target=class&class=689c273f3336f6b8b4667493>



Service Times: Morning 6:45am-9am / Afternoon 3-6pm
Holiday Program 6:45am-6pm

Service Phone Number: 0429 534 694
Service Email: quarryhill@oshclub.com.au

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LEGENDS OF THE WEEK:



WEEK 3



WEEK 4

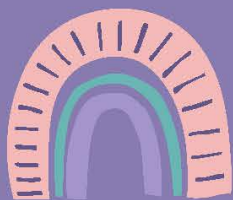


WEEK 5

Service Times: Morning 6:45am-9am / Afternoon 3-6pm
Holiday Program 6:45am-6pm

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QUARRY HILL OSHCLUB GALLERY



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Holiday Program 6:45am-6pm

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