



The Poppet Head

Weekly newsletter of Quarry Hill Primary School

Thursday, December 11th, 2025

Newsletter No. 20

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

DECEMBER

Friday 12 th	9:05am	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- -Assembly at 1:15pm -Early finish at 1:30pm

JANUARY 2026

Monday 19 th to Wednesday 21 st	8:00am-Midday	Booklist Collection
Wednesday 28 th	All day	Start Up Day Interviews (More info to come) Prep Testing Day
Thursday 29 th	All day	Grade 1-6 First Full Day of School for 2026 Prep Testing Day
Friday 30 th	All day	Prep Testing Day

FEBRUARY 2026

Monday 2 nd	All day	Prep First Full Day of School for 2026
Every Wednesday in February	All day	Prep Rest Day

Reminders:

- 'No hat, no play'

-Spare hats available at the office for \$12.

- Library News

-All books due back by Monday 15th of December.



BOOKLIST COLLECTION

Booklists need to be ordered online by Friday 12th December to ensure they are ready for collection before school commences. Narelle will be in the office from the 12th of January at various times. If you would like to collect your books, just ring to make sure she is in the office. Otherwise book collection will be Monday 19th to Wednesday 21st from 8.00am to midday.

P-2 CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our Grade Prep-2 Christmas Concert is upcoming on Monday 15th December. On this day, students in Grade Prep-Grade 2 can wear Christmas clothing/Christmas accessories for the day. The concert will be held in the Quadrangle.

SEMESTER TWO STUDENT REPORTS

Reports will be released electronically via Compass on Monday 15th December, from 4pm. Quarry Hill Primary School's continuous reporting consists of Learning Tasks, a mid-year, and an end of year report. In Semester One, the teacher report comment focuses on your child's work habits and how they have settled into the new school year. In Semester Two, the teacher comment focuses on your child's literacy and maths successes and a future area for improvement. Learning Tasks are regularly used throughout the term to capture and communicate your child's growth. These tasks are shared on the student management app, Compass. It is important to access your child's Learning Tasks because this is where you will be updated on their academic progress.

START UP DAY INTERVIEWS FOR GRADES 1-6 2025

These interviews will take place on **Wednesday, January 28th**.

The Start-Up Day Interviews are a valuable opportunity for teachers to meet with families and discuss your child's goals, needs, and any important information for the year ahead. It's a chance for both parents and students to share insights and expectations for the school year.

In early January, you will receive more details about:

- **When bookings will open** for the interviews.
- **What the interviews will involve**, including the structure and focus areas.
- **How to make a booking** through our Compass platform.

We strongly encourage all families to take part in these interviews, as they help set the foundation for a successful year of learning.

GRADE 6 GRADUATION AWARDS

The Grade 6 Graduation is scheduled for Tuesday 16th December at BSE. Each year there are a number of awards presented to individual students. It is interesting to know the story behind some of the awards as many of them date back a long way. Quarry Hill Primary School is known for its history!

The following criterion assists with the selection of the recipients:

Morton Family Maths Award: The Morton family has a long association with QHPS dating back to 1966. The Morton Family Maths Award recognises a student who has demonstrated excellence in the field of mathematics.

J A Johnstone Art Award: The award is named after John Arthur Johnstone who was a prominent member of the Easter Fair committee from the 1890s and was a sign writer of repute and a skilled artist. The award is presented to a Grade 6 graduating student who has demonstrated an exceptional talent in visual arts.

Sports Award: This award is presented to a student who shows ability and skills across a range of sports.

Maureen Egan Sprint: Maureen Egan taught at QHPS for 15 years from 1991 until retirement in 2005 and was the Physical Education coordinator for many years. The award recognises the fastest boy and girl sprint over 100 metres.

Pinnell Swimming Trophy: Leslie Pinnell attended QHPS and enjoyed competing in swimming competitions. In 1912 he won a silver medallion as the swimming champion of Quarry Hill State School. This award is presented to the fastest boy and girl over 50 metres.

Florence Campbell Memorial Scholarship: This award was established by William J Campbell in memory of his wife who passed away on September 16, 1957. William Campbell was the head teacher at Quarry Hill State School from February 1950 until he retired in June 1957. The award is presented to one boy and one girl for proficiency in literary subjects with an emphasis on written expression.

Citizenship Award: This award is presented to a male and a female student who have demonstrated outstanding citizenship & service to the school community.

Music Award: This award is presented to a student who has shown outstanding musical ability & shown a genuine passion for studying music.

Best all Round: This award is presented to a student who has demonstrated outstanding dedication, persistence & resilience across the whole school curriculum.

Dedication to Studies Award: This award is presented to a student who exemplifies the QHPS values towards their studies.

Isacc Ireland Values Award: This award was established by the Ireland family in memory of Isacc who was a student at QHPS. This award is presented to a student who displays our school values in and outside of the classroom.

LOTE Award: The LOTE Award is presented to a student who has excelled in the study of Languages Other Than English. The recipient demonstrates enthusiasm for learning a new language, a deep understanding of cultural appreciation, and a commitment to developing strong communication skills.

Bike Ed Award: This award is presented to a student who has demonstrated outstanding growth, determination, and perseverance throughout the Bike Education program. They approached each challenge with a positive attitude, showed resilience in developing their riding skills, and displayed a strong commitment to safety and improvement.

Kitchen Garden Award: This award is presented to a student who has shown remarkable growth, determination, and enthusiasm throughout the Kitchen Garden program. They approach each task with a positive attitude, demonstrate perseverance in developing their gardening and cooking skills, and show a genuine appreciation for teamwork, sustainability, and healthy living.

Grade 6 Overcoming Adversity to Achieve Award: This award is presented to a student who has shown remarkable courage, resilience, and determination in the face of challenges.

Throughout this student's primary school years, they have demonstrated strength of character, perseverance, and a positive attitude, never allowing obstacles to define their journey.

Through hard work and self-belief, they have made significant personal and academic growth through their primary years.

The Dianne Elliott Scholarship Award: This award recognizes a student who demonstrates potential and commitment to furthering their education. The recipient is a self-motivated and deeply curious learner who actively seeks opportunities to expand their knowledge. Despite facing some hurdles, they have shown resilience, perseverance, and a remarkable ability to overcome challenges. Their leadership qualities and positive influence on others make them a true role model within their community. This award honours not only their achievements, but also their character, determination, and promise for future success.

STEM Award: This award goes to a student fostering a love for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This award is designed to celebrate and support those students who have demonstrated exceptional aptitude and enthusiasm in these areas.

Heidi Teague Young Historian Award: This award goes to the student that has displayed an interest in the history of their community.

FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY

We are very thankful to McKern Steel for their Fresh Fruit initiative.

Our students are very lucky to have an abundance of fresh fruit in the office to enjoy each week.



2025 BEST LEARNER IN CHINESE AWARD

The 2025 Best Learner in Chinese Award is presented to students in Grades 1 to 5 who have demonstrated exceptional kindness, bravery, and curiosity in their Chinese learning throughout the year. Their positive attitude, consistent effort, and strong commitment to learning make them shining examples of our school values. Congratulations to the following students for being our Best Learners in Chinese for 2025!

Grade 1: Oliver R

Grade 2: Ava C

Grade 3: Kaisa G

Grade 4: Tola M

Grade 5: Alec B



2025 CHINESE KITE DESIGN

Chinese kites were first invented over 2,000 years ago. Traditional kites come in many symbolic shapes—such as dragons for strength, butterflies for happiness, and birds for freedom—each carrying its own cultural meaning.

This term, students in Grades 3 to 6 worked creatively to design their own traditional Chinese kites. Many students put in great effort, thoughtfully incorporating Chinese patterns, Australian motifs, and even Indigenous-inspired symbols and designs. Congratulations to our Best Kite Design Award recipients for 2025—their creativity, attention to detail, and cultural awareness truly stood out.

Grade 4 Grade 5

Olivia J Isla W

Darcy B

Arielle S



Kitchen Garden Afternoon Tea



Thank you to all the families who came to share the delicious recipes we've created over the year. A special thanks to Renee and Val—without you, we could not run this wonderful program.

Wellbeing spotlight

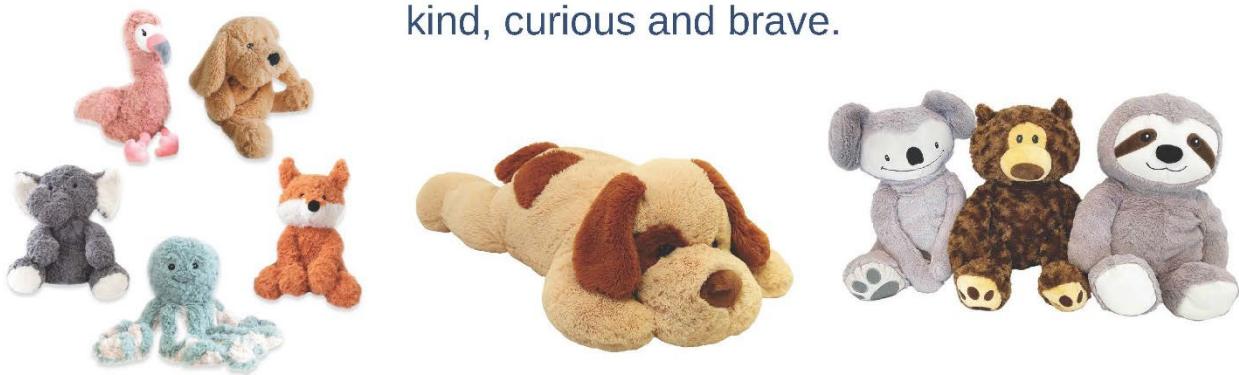


You may have noticed some of our students using small weighted toys or animals at Quarry Hill Primary School. These soft, cuddly companions aren't just for comfort — they're a helpful tool some children use to feel calm, focused and ready to learn.

Weighted toys provide a gentle, steady pressure that can feel a bit like a hug. This type of sensory feedback helps the body feel grounded and can reduce feelings of worry, restlessness or overwhelm. For some children, especially those who find busy classrooms or big emotions tricky to manage, holding or having a weighted toy on their lap can make a big difference.

At our school, these toys are used on a needs basis, meaning they're offered thoughtfully to students who benefit from them. They're one of the many supports we use to help every child feel safe, settled and able to do their best.

Just like we adapt our teaching to suit different learning styles, we also adapt our wellbeing supports to meet students' emotional and sensory needs. It's all part of creating a school where every student can be kind, curious and brave.



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS SORTED



PLAY

4 - 7 YEAR OLDS

A safe and fun program led by experienced AFL coaches, your child will learn basic footy skills, and enjoy mini-games, all while experiencing NAB AFL Auskick in a supportive environment, leaving with big smiles and a day of Good Clean Fun!

Children who turn 5 in 2026 can register!



8 - 12 YEAR OLDS



Get a taste of NAB AFL Superkick, with a mix of skill development, modified game play. See their confidence grow in a supportive environment where buddies, mud & fun collide!

Bendigo School Holiday Program
Monday 19th January at Harry Trott Oval
9am to 3pm - \$55 which includes a football
A day of footy fun!

