



The Poppet Head

Weekly newsletter of Quarry Hill Primary School
Thursday, April 30th, 2026
Newsletter No. 6

Our Vision:

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

2026 TERM DATES

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

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY		
Friday 1 st	Various times	Grades 3-6 Swimming Program
Monday 4 th	Various times	Grade 5/6 Prevention of Vaping session
Tuesday 5 th	Various times	Grade 5/6 Prevention of Vaping session
Thursday 7 th	9:30am	2027 Prep School Tour with Principal
Friday 8 th	9:00am	Issue 3 Book Club Orders due to the office Mother's Day Stall
Thursday 14 th	All day	School House Athletics Carnival *Students to be dropped at La Birpa Athletics Complex from 8:45am. Families welcome to attend. Students will walk back to school with teachers for collection at normal time of 3.30pm.
Friday 15 th	All day	Curriculum Day- no students at school
Tuesday 19 th	6:00pm	2027 Prep Information Session
Friday 22 nd	9:15am	2027 Prep Information Session
JUNE		
Wednesday 3 rd	All day	Curriculum Day- no students at school
Monday 8 th	All day	King's Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday 9 th - Friday 12 th	Various times	Grades P-2 Swimming Program
Tuesday 16 th	Various times	Grades P-2 Swimming Program

Reminders:

- Grade 6 Students Important Information
-Grade 6 students have been given a pack containing their 'Application for Year 7 Placement'. Forms to be filled out and returned to the office by Friday 8th May.
-Grade 6 Camp Deposit notes and payment due to the office by Friday 8th May.
- Mother's Day Stall Donations
-To help with the stall we ask families to kindly donate gifts, which can be dropped off at the school office.
-Gift ideas include: Chocolate, lollies, tea, mugs, socks, beauty products, soaps, notebooks, plants, gardening supplies, magazines, relaxing colouring books, games, puzzles, books & candles.
- Grade P-2 Swimming Program
-Complete approval/payment through the Compass event
-Complete the Google form (available [here](#) and on the Compass event)
-Fill out and return the hardcopy medical form to your child's classroom teacher

SUPERVISION REMINDER FOR FAMILIES

Just a quick reminder that our school grounds are supervised from 8:45am before school and until 3:45pm after school. Outside of these times, supervision is only provided for students attending OSHClub or other organised activities. If you're staying after school for a play and a catch-up with other parents (which we love to see!), please make sure your child is being actively supervised by you during that time. OSHClub are making the most of the sunny Autumn weather by having afternoon tea out on the decking. This means no after school ball games on the junior astro please. We also kindly ask that families vacate the playgrounds by 4:00pm, as these areas are part of OSHClub's licensed program and need to be available for their use.

Thanks so much for helping us keep our school a safe, respectful, and welcoming place for everyone!

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

~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.

ANZAC DAY CEREMONY

Our school captains, Alec and Evie, proudly represented our school at the ANZAC day service on Saturday.



2027 ENROLMENTS

Foundation (Prep) Enrolments

The Department of Education has a statewide timeline for enrolling in Foundation (Prep) for the 2027 school year. If you have a child starting primary school in 2027, it's time to enrol. Make sure to submit your enrolment application by *Friday 31st July 2026*.

If you are enrolling the sibling of a student at our school for Foundation in 2027, and both children will be attending our school at the same time, your child is prioritised for a place at our school as per the Department of Education's Placement Policy.

It is important to follow the statewide timeline to enrol your child in Foundation. Enrolling your child in line with the timelines allows us to plan our classrooms, staffing and transition activities and ensures your child has the best start to school.

If you are seeking to enrol your child into Foundation next year, application forms and enrolment forms are now available at the office to collect.

You can find information and resources about the timeline, including [factsheets](#), at: [Enrolling in Foundation \(Prep\)](#).

Grade 6 to Year 7

Grade 6 students have been given a pack containing their 'Application for Year 7 Placement'. Forms are to be filled out and returned to the office by Friday 8th May.

From Wednesday 24th June, parents and carers will receive written notification from us of their Year 7 placement offer for 2027.

Other year levels

If you know that you will not be here at Quarry Hill Primary School next year, please let us know. This enables us to have a better idea about the number of Prep children we can enrol and about the grade levels where there may be places available for other students.

COMPASS

Please ensure you are logging on to Compass, our Parent Portal, regularly to check for unexplained absences/approvals needing to be made. If you are having any issues logging onto Compass, please contact the office.

ANAPHYLAXIS AND ASTHMA

We have several children enrolled who suffer from severe allergies to a variety of things including nuts, nut products, dairy, dairy products, wheat and egg, 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 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.

Action Plans for Anaphylaxis and also for Asthma are required for all children who suffer from either, and must be obtained from the family doctor. Please ensure that your child has an updated plan if they suffer from asthma or are at risk of experiencing anaphylaxis. A copy of this plan must be provided to the school immediately.

ASTHMA ALERT - SPACER USE IN SCHOOLS

Schools are no longer be able to wash, sterilise and re-use spacers and face masks from their asthma emergency kits when assisting students and children with asthma symptoms.

Spacers should always be used when administering reliever 'puffer' medication because:

- Using a spacer with a 'puffer' ensures that more medication reaches the airways.
- Spacers are much easier for children to use than a 'puffer' alone, and allows school and preschool staff to help students/children during an asthma attack, often in an emergency situation.
- Spacers are an essential part of the Asthma First Aid procedure that Victorian schools/preschools are instructed to follow.

Asthma first aid kits should only ever be used as a back-up for when a child with asthma does not have their own spacer available, or if it is a first asthma attack or the cause of breathing difficulty is unknown. If your child requires medication and does not have their own spacer, a cost of \$10.00 will be charged to cover the purchase of the spacer. Even if your child has mild asthma, it is essential that their medication and spacer (and a compatible face mask if under 5 years old) is always available to school staff. To ensure that a spacer is not left at home, we would recommend that parents/carers purchase a second spacer for their child to have with them at school at all times if possible.

STAY WELL THIS WINTER

[Influenza \(flu\)](#) can be serious, especially for children.

Choose to protect yourself and your loved ones with an [annual flu vaccine](#). The earlier you and your family get vaccinated, the better your protection heading into winter.

[Keeping our school community well](#)

We encourage parents, carers, and students to:

- wash or sanitise your hands thoroughly and regularly, particularly before and after touching your face
- cough or sneeze into your elbow
- stay home if unwell and consult your GP or [Nurse-on-Call](#) as needed
- stay up to date with your flu vaccinations.

[Flu vaccinations](#)

Flu vaccination is recommended for everyone aged 6 months and older.

Some people are more at risk of severe illness from flu, especially babies and toddlers. They can get a [free vaccination](#) as part of the National Immunisation Program.

You can book a flu vaccine through your GP or pharmacy, or [find a flu vaccine near you](#).

[RSV vaccinations for mothers and babies](#)

[RSV \(respiratory syncytial virus\)](#) is a common virus that causes colds and ear infections. In babies, it can cause severe illness like [bronchiolitis](#).

The RSV vaccine is available for pregnant women as part of the National Immunisation Program. In Victoria, eligible babies can also get the RSV vaccine until Wednesday 30 September 2026.

You can speak with your GP or midwife about the vaccine.

[Find out more](#)

For more information about staying well this winter, refer to:

- your GP, pharmacist, or midwife
- the Better Health Channel – [Don't risk the flu](#) campaign, including information about flu and other vaccines. This information is available in different languages.
- the Better Health Channel – [RSV vaccine for mothers and infants](#)
- the Raising Children Network – [influenza](#), [COVID-19](#), [bronchiolitis](#) and [helping your child prepare for vaccination](#).



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



KIND		
Alec B	Room 13	For having exceptional manners, always respecting those around him.
Mabel S	Room 16	For being an amazing partner during our paired fluency routines.
Matilda T	Room 2	For being kind by helping out your classmates with their chairs in the morning.
CURIOS		
Mahalia B	Room 14	For demonstrating an enthusiastic and curious start to our Science unit on Space.
Piper B	Room 6	For always striving to achieve her very best in her learning!
Rhonan F	Room 7	For reading his reader books each night at home.
Lucy J	Room 17	For showing confidence and a strong growth mindset as you learn about fractions.
Harry L	Room 5	For your excellent effort and positive approach to everything we do in class.
Vivian S	Room 9	For her dedication in both English and Mathematics. You are a star!
BRAVE		
Soli B	Room 8	For making a fantastic start at Quarry Hill PS . You have joined Room 8 with a smile and a positive attitude. Well done, Soli!
Hester B	Room 1	For showing great independence with managing your morning routine.
Mason D	Room 14	For demonstrating great bravery and presenting your narrative to the class.
Eleanor J	Room 10	For consistently contributing to class discussions. Great job Eleanor.
Billy R-J	Room 11	For his proud presentation at the ANZAC day ceremony at school.
Samuel W	Room 12	For always setting high expectations in his school work and outside.

Comics

Created in Art by students from Gr 3-6

Crazy Birthday

By Addie rm 16

The bird that went 'Bonk'

By Cian rm 10

Piglets Adventure


By Wim rm 17

Help Me

By Rasheed rm 17

QUARRY HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
JSC PRESENTS

Staff Spotlight



If you could have any superpower, what would it be?
To fly

What is your favourite ice cream flavour?
Chocolate

What is your favourite thing about teaching?
The students and the aha moments

If you could meet any famous person, who would it be?
Eric Dane

What was your dream job as a kid?
Lawyer or Psychologist

Mrs. Jones



Kind



Curious



Brave

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

JSC ANNOUNCEMENT



SOMETHING
BIG
IS COMING!





Gr 6 Crews News



Kitchen Garden Crews had a busy and rewarding Term 1. Students enjoyed cooking a variety of delicious treats, including muffins, pizza, pasta and marshmallow slice. In the garden, we celebrated a bumper harvest of 9 butternut pumpkins, along with plenty of fresh herbs, capsicums and cherry tomatoes.

Our crews also worked hard preparing new garden beds, digging over the soil, adding compost, and planting a range of crops including rainbow chard, lettuce, peas, swede, and kale.

We've hit the ground running in Term 2, using some of our freshly harvested pumpkins to make dahl and flatbreads—so tasty they were eaten before a photo could be taken! As the weather cools, we'll continue planting seasonal greens, along with beetroot and beans, and we're looking forward to harvesting more pumpkins soon.



We can't wait to warm up with some homemade pumpkin soup in the coming weeks!






Reset for Term 2


A new school term is a great opportunity to reset family tech habits — starting with how your family shares personal information, photos and videos online.


Children don't always understand how small details shared online — like their school, location, or images — can travel further than intended or be used in ways they didn't expect. Helping them build strong privacy habits early supports their safety now and into the future.


By involving children in everyday privacy decisions, families can model consent and help children feel confident, respected and in control of their online identity — while building trust around technology use.

Our website also has advice specifically for young people and kids to explore. You can share the below links with your child to help build healthy online habits:

 [Digital footprints](#) – explains how online actions can have a lasting impact. You can use this page to start a positive conversation about protecting your child's reputation and future online.

 [Consent and sharing photos or videos](#) – helps young people understand why consent matters when sharing photos and videos, and how respectful choices can protect both themselves and others online.

 [Keeping personal information safe online](#) – provides helpful information for kids to understand what personal information is, why it's important to protect it online, and how simple choices can keep them safer.

 [Mighty Heroes online safety adventures](#) – use stories and game as a fun way to start conversations about online safety, kindness and getting help when needed.



Term 2, 2026

eSafety parents and carers webinars

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

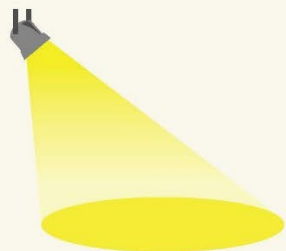
Term 2 topics:

- **Navigating screen time: tools for today's families.** Suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary and lower secondary school.
- **Exploring the online experiences of boys and young men.** Suitable for parents and carers of young people in upper primary and secondary school.
- **How AI is influencing new online risks for children and young people.** Suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary and secondary school.
- **The trust trap: navigating friendships, pressure and manipulation online.** This webinar is designed to support shared viewing and conversations between parents/carers and young people (13+).



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

To register for one of these webinars visit
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars>.



Spotlight on Teaching and Learning:

Fluency Pairs

This week we continue our Spotlight on Teaching and Learning, where we will share how we use Fluency Pairs in the classroom.

Fluency Pairs

Fluency pairs is a reading practice where two students work together to read aloud. They take turns reading while supporting each other to improve accuracy, pace, and expression.

Why Fluency Pairs?

Fluency pairs help children become more confident and skilled readers.

- **Increased Reading Time:** In paired reading, each student has more opportunities to read aloud within the allocated time, as the continuous role-switching ensures both students are actively engaged in reading and listening.
- **Peer Support and Collaboration:** Paired reading encourages incidental peer-to-peer support, allowing students to help each other with difficult words and reading strategies.
- **Enhanced Engagement:** The dynamic nature of role-switching in paired reading keeps students engaged, maintaining their interest and focus.
- **Immediate Feedback and Correction:** In paired reading, immediate feedback from peers allows for real-time correction of mistakes, enhancing learning effectiveness.
- **Confidence Building:** Paired reading builds confidence by providing a supportive environment where students read to a peer in a comfortable way.

What do we do at QHPS?

At QHPS, students participate in fluency pairs three times per week.

During each session:

- Students work with a partner and take turns reading the text
- Each student reads for 1–4 minutes, depending on their stage in learning
- Teachers listen to every student read in every session.

We use a variety of texts to meet students at their level and support their learning, including:

- reading sounds
- decodable words and sentences
- short passages
- texts connected to our Knowledge and Curiosity units

This structured and consistent practice helps build strong, confident readers over time.

2026 GRADE 6 INFORMATION EVENING MONDAY 4TH MAY

Grade 6 Information Sessions at the following
Bendigo Secondary Colleges



6.00pm - 7.30pm
Location: College Gymnasium

5447 7722
crusoecollege.vic.edu.au



6.00pm - 7.30pm
Location: Global Learning Centre

5443 2133
weeroona.vic.edu.au



6.00pm - 7.30pm
Location: Grieve Building

5446 8099
eaglehawksc.vic.edu.au



6.00pm - 7.30pm
Location: BSE Gymnasium

5443 4522
bse.vic.edu.au



Department
of Education



SUPPORTING NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN IN COMMUNITY SPORT

FREE WORKSHOP
FOR SPORTS COACHES &
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROVIDERS IN GREATER BENDIGO

Monday 11th May, 6pm-8.30pm
@ Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve

or

Sunday 21st June, 2pm-4.30pm
@ Lake Weeroona Pavilion

or

Wednesday 8th July, 6pm-8.30pm
@ Lake Weeroona Pavilion

Light refreshments provided



Scan the QR code to
register for the
workshop or visit:
<https://www.trybooking.com/DKRWW>

This FREE workshop will help community sports clubs and physical activity providers understand neurodiversity and how to implement practical strategies to create inclusive, supportive environments for neurodivergent children. This interactive workshop is a neuro-affirming session developed and facilitated by people with lived experience

Contact Jo at Sports Focus for further information
on 5442 3101 or joc@sportsfocus.com.au



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