

Quarter Times

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Thursday 1st June 2023 Issue 7

Important Dates and Reminders:

Friday 1 st June	Assembly 2.45pm
Wednesday 7 th June	Winter Lightning Prem
Friday 9 th June	Grade 4/5 and 5/6 Earth in Space Incursion
Thursday 15 th June	Grade 3/4 Moonlit Sanctuary Excursion
Monday 12 th June	Kings' birthday public holiday NO students at school

Prep 2024

Application for Prep 2024 are now open. Spaces are filling fast. Please make sure that if you have a student starting Prep in 2024 that you come to the office to collect your expression of interest form.

What you need to do:

1. Contact our school office (5929 2055) to book a school tour or to learn more about our school and the enrolment application process.
2. Submit an enrolment application for Foundation (Prep) **by Friday 28 July 2023**
3. You will be notified of the outcome of your application **by Friday 11 August 2023**. If you receive an offer of placement, you should contact our school to accept the offer **by Friday 25 August 2023**
4. Take part in enrolment information and transition sessions during Term 4, 2023
5. Your child will start Foundation (Prep) from **Tuesday 30 January 2024**.

Enrolment applications submitted after 28 July 2023 will be processed by our school as they are received, in accordance with the department's Placement Policy.



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Principals Message

Attendance:

Quarters Primary School is committed to providing the best possible learning experiences for your child, but we need your support as education is a partnership between families and school. The school's role is to provide quality learning and the family's role is to ensure their child is at school on time everyday unless ill.

A key message that needs to be embraced by schools, parents, and the wider community is that **"It's Not OK to be Away"**. The 'fallout' of poor attendance is very real. These students will be at risk of not achieving their potential and therefore limiting their life choices.

Your child should be in the **green** zone – we only have 14% of students in the **green** zone

10 days absence per year = 95% attendance rate	20 days absence per year = 90% attendance rate	20 + days absence per year = < 90% attendance rate
By being in the green zone, your child is: Achieving maximum learning potential and setting themselves up for successful future life choices.	By being in the orange zone, your child is: Probably reaching a reasonable level of learning but their absences are making it difficult to reach their full potential.	By being in the red zone, your child is: Missing too much instruction, finding it difficult to keep up with their learning and not achieving the "minimum" learning experience. Your child is at risk of losing connection with their peers and your child's teacher is not being given enough opportunity to assist your child in their learning.

If a child maintains a < 90% attendance rate per year, over the 7 years of primary school they will have missed almost ¼ of a school year meaning they will have substantial gaps in their learning and knowledge of basic concepts. Poor attendance in primary school leads to poor attendance in secondary school, more like to leave school early impacting their achievement later in life.

We are undertaking an attendance blitz. The data we have indicates that after 15 weeks of school, the average amount of absent days per students in our school is at 19.8 days. Due to the high number of unapproved absences (unapproved means absences that can be prevented like holidays, sleeping in, watching TV all day, playing video games) our absence rate is higher than the state average. We need to reduce this and work with parents to ensure you understand the importance of your child being at school every day on time unless unwell.

How do we improve this?

- Emails will be sent to families of students with high absenteeism (unapproved)
- Chats with your child's grade teacher
- Social media posts
- 100% attendance raffle at the end of term

Please help us to improve our attendance. Further information can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.



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School Council:

Last newsletter I asked for nominations for school council parent representatives. I am happy to announce that all 6 positions have been filled without the need to go to elections.

Please welcome:

Jean-ne Duncan (returning)	Valerie Tanuvasa (returning)	Kelly Roberts (returning)
Trish McColley (returning)	Annalese Schwallie (new)	Amanda Fegan (new)

This new school council will begin in Term 3.

I thank the outgoing school council of Jean-ne Duncan (President), Valerie Tanuvasa, Kellie Roberts, Trish McColley, Jagtar Mann and Karen Prince for their commitment to the school and making some very important decisions to ensure QPS started so well.

STEM Challenge:

We have set an at home STEM Challenge for any student to participate in. The challenge is elsewhere in this newsletter and all completed projects should be at school on Tuesday 20th June. They will then be displayed and we will have an open EXPO afternoon on Wednesday 21st from 3:15 – 4:00 pm for students to show case their work and for all families to see how creative and curious are students are. I hope to see many projects.

A reminder that Monday 12th June is a public holiday for the King's Birthday. There is no school this day.

Thank you for support of QPS.

Have a great weekend when it comes around.

Liz Davey

Principal



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Attendance



I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to the learners who have been at school every day so far this year. You are amazing!

As a school we aim for the highest attendance possible which would see us exceeding the state average. As Ms Davey mentioned above in her attendance news, with your help we are hoping to get as close to this figure as possible this term.

This term we are very excited to announce the launch of our new whole school attendance incentive—QPS Attendance Raffle. Any QPS learner who attends school each day for the week, will have their name go into a raffle draw. At the end of the term a learners name will be picked. The winner will win a raffle prize, an attendance certificate, house points for their house and their name will appear in the school newsletter! Everyday counts.

Each fortnight, during Friday assembly we will also announce the top 3 attending classes with the highest attendance within school.

We now have a couple of weeks until the end of term 2 and QPS learners are already very excited to find out which grade has had the best attendance each week. This incentive was designed with one of our school values in mind- HIGH Expectations.

Please support us with this incentive by ensuring that wherever possible you child attends school every day.



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Teaching and Learning News

Numeracy Ideas for Home

Below are some ideas for practising numeracy skills at home. There are plenty of ideas for developing number skills using everyday maths and fun games.

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

NUMBER GAMES, BOARD GAMES & OTHER GAMES

There are a range of games which are published in books and which are suitable as family games and which practice mathematics skills. One card game commonly available now is called *Numero* which can be purchased in games' shops and newsagents. These provide practice with mental arithmetic. There are also more traditional games such as *Gin Rummy*, *Snakes and Ladders*, and *Ludo* which provide some experience at addition and useful practice for children.

When playing games for which there is a degree of logical thinking implied, talk with the children about better moves, or plays which lead to winning. Think together about ways which help not to lose rather than to win. Verbalising strategies are important for logical thinking.

Some other games that can be played easily include:

Car number plates

When your car pulls up behind the car in front, you might have a competition to see how many different answers children can make using the numbers from the car number plate. For example if the number plate is 152 the children might say:

$1 \times 5 + 2$ is 7, or $1 + 5 + 2$ is 8, or $(1 + 5) \times 2$ is 12 and so on.

Another idea is to add the digits like this: 157 becomes $1 + 5 + 7$ which is 13, then $1 + 3 = 4$ and to see which number plate will give a special target number.

Guess the pattern

One player thinks of a rule (such as double and add 1). Other players can suggest a number (such as 5) and the first player tells them the number which results from the pattern (11). The players can keep testing numbers until they can tell what the rule is.

Guess my number

One player thinks of a number, say between 1 and 100, the other player can ask questions only using the words "more or less". For example, a player might ask "Is the number more than 52?" The first player must answer either yes or no.

Race to 10

This game has two players. Starting at 0 they take turns and can add either 1 or 2 to the last number said. The player who says 10 is the winner.

For example, suppose:

A says	B says
1	3
4	6
7	8
10	So A wins

Note that the game has a winning strategy. Can you work it out? This game is flexible. You can play 'Race to 21' counting by numbers from 1 to 3, or 'Race to 50' using 1 to 6, for example.

Fruit salad

This is based on a party game, where each child is given a fruit. The chairs are arranged in a circle, with one less chair than people. The child in the centre calls one fruit, then all children with a particular fruit must move to a different chair, and the child in the centre must also try to find a seat. The child who is left calls the next fruit. On the call of "fruit salad", all children must move seats. A variation is to have number cards say 1 up to 20, and call out "even numbers", "between 7 and 12", "is a factor of 36", "is prime", "is divisible by 5" etc. Note: This can be done for shapes, time words, numbers, in fact anything based on classifications.

Helpful gifts to promote mathematical thinking:

These items as gifts help encourage your children to think mathematically. Many of these things can be purchased cheaply from a \$2 shop: Playing cards, Dice, Calculators, Tape measures, Kitchen scales/balance scales, Building blocks, Jigsaw puzzles, Calendars and Clocks.



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Books, Books and More Books!



We have had AMAZING volunteers helping to get our take home and guided reading sets ready to go home and be used in classrooms. You will notice that our Preps have started bringing these home to read with families and then bring them back to school.

We ask that you take good care of these wonderful books when they come home and ensure they are not read when children are eating or drinking. If something does happen to one of the books when they are at home please be sure to let the class teacher know so that we can repair it and get it back into circulation.



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Wellbeing News

Introducing Sharon Patzel School Counsellor

Please join us in welcoming Sharon Patzel to the Quarters Primary School team. Sharon visits Quarters Primary School each Tuesday supporting students 1:1 and in small groups to develop their social and emotional skills.

My name is Sharon Patzel and I feel privileged to have joined Quarters Primary School as a School Counsellor. I have recently worked in the Department of Education as a Mental Health Coordinator and outside of work, am completing my final year of study in my Master of Clinical Psychology degree.



I am committed to creating an inclusive environment for all people and exploring the strengths of individuals to build resilience. I look forward to building positive relationships, working together with students, their families, and QPS staff to continue to build a happy, mentally healthy, and safe community.

School Wide Positive Behaviour Expectations

At Quarters Primary School we set high expectation for our students in their learning and in the way they interact with their peers and staff.

At the beginning of the school year, teachers discussed pro-social behaviours that would ensure students felt safe and supported in our school environment and that prioritised students' learning opportunities.

Our School, Wide Positive Behaviour Expectations focus on behaviours in Learning Spaces, Outside, Digitally, Toilets and in the Community under the banners of Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe and Be Inclusive.

The behaviours outlined below are those we support our students to display in **Learning Spaces** each day. Next fortnight I will share with you our behaviour expectations for **Outside** areas.



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Be Respectful

We respect everyone's learning time.
We listen to the thoughts and ideas of others.
We are polite and use our manners.
We share resources.

Be Responsible

We have learning resources ready.
We try our best and use a growth mind-set.
We keep our learning spaces neat and tidy.
We look after all learning resources.

Be Safe

We follow the instructions of all staff.
We wait for a staff member before entering a leaning space.
We are always safe with our movements and actions.
We sit on our chair with all 4 legs on the floor.
We ask permission before leaving a learning space.

Be Inclusive

We include others at all times.
We share resources.
We know that everyone learns at their own pace.



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Student News



Our Junior School Council (JSC) students have been elected! During the week we had an impressive number of students from years 3-6 interested in becoming a member of the Junior School Council. These students put an outstanding effort into auditioning for the available positions and made our decision almost impossible. We did get there eventually. The successful candidates will be announced at assembly **this Friday, 2nd of June**.

One of the roles a Junior School Council member has is to communicate upcoming events to each of the classes in the school. We have our first two fundraising events coming up very soon so next week our JSC will be out and about around the school making sure that all students at QPS are well informed.

PYJAMA DAY!!!



Our first fundraising event will be on **Wednesday 21st June** to help raise money for State Schools Relief. Bring a gold coin donation and hop into your PJ's. Junior School Council will be coming around to classes on Monday to provide more information, answer questions and put up posters.

HOW MANY JELLYBEANS???

To help raise money for sandpit equipment we thought it would be fun to have a 'guess how many' competition. Junior School Council members will bring a container filled with jellybeans around to classes. To win the whole jar filled with jellybeans students can make a gold coin donation or less and take a guess at how many jellybeans are inside. The more guesses the better chance at winning! The

lucky winner will be announced on the last day of school, Term 2. The competition starts on **Tuesday 6th June** and runs until **Thursday 22nd June** so **bring in your gold coins** and have a guess and then another and another and another. Junior School Council will come around on Monday 5TH June to explain what students need to do to enter their guesses.



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Community News

PYJAMA DAY



Wear your favourite pyjamas to school!

State School Relief fundraiser | Gold coin donation.



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State Schools' Relief needs your help

DONATE A DOLLAR!

STATE SCHOOLS' RELIEF

WEDNESDAY
21 JUNE
2023

FUNDRAISER EVENT

Help us reach our goal!

In order to continue assisting students in need, we are aiming to raise \$500,000 this year. If every student and staff member, at every government school donated just \$1 each, we could easily achieve this target. \$500,000 would allow us to assist an additional 5,000 students and families in need!

Donate a dollar on Wednesday 21st June 2023

Together we can do this!!

REGISTERED CHARITY



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26-30
JUNE



\$550
EVERYTHING
INCLUDED

THE PORTSEA CAMP
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MAKING A DIFFERENCE KIDS CAMP

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Inaugural QPS STEM Challenge

BUILD A BRIDGE



Challenge: Build a bridge out of spaghetti sticks that is strong enough to hold a can of food or 5 toys cars.

Suggested Materials: spaghetti sticks, masking tape, sticky tape, blu tack

**Projects to be completed at home.
Displayed: STEM EXPO Wednesday 21/6
3:15 - 4 pm**



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EVERY DAY COUNTS

EVERY DAY COUNTS

PRIMARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

SCHOOL IS BETTER WHEN YOUR CHILD IS THERE

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates.

It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

IN VICTORIA SCHOOL IS COMPULSORY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 6 -17 YEARS

Student Absences

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and developing good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

Family holidays - It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term. If you are planning to go on holiday during term time, make sure that you talk to your child's school in advance, and work with them to develop an absence learning plan.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.



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Tuancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

School refusal - School refusing children will experience significant emotional distress not only when going to school but also at the thought of going to school; they may be absent from school for weeks or even months at a time. School refusal differs from truancy as children generally stay home with the knowledge of the parents and despite their best efforts to encourage their child to go to school. See: [My child or teenager has anxiety](#)

BEING AWAY FROM SCHOOL FOR ONE DAY A FORTNIGHT EQUALS MISSING 1.5 YEARS OVER 13 YEARS OF SCHOOL

If your child is away

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

Inform the school

- Speak with your child’s classroom teacher and find out what work they need to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, **every day counts**. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Training Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Chronic or ongoing attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice being issued to parent/s.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Top attendance tips for parents

- Schools want to work in partnership with parents – act early if you have any concerns by contacting your child’s school and asking for advice and support
- Remember that every day counts
- There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness
- Talk positively about school and the importance of attending every day
- Open and prompt communication with your child’s school about all absences is a good idea
- Avoid making routine medical and dental appointments during the school day or planning family holidays during the term
- Seek help from your school if you are concerned about your child’s attendance and wellbeing. Schools want to work in partnership with parents to support student attendance and wellbeing.

Further information

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/studentmanagement/attendance/Pages/improve-attendance.aspx>



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