

Quarter Times

03 5929 2055

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quarters.ps@education.vic.gov.au

www.quartersps.vic.edu.au

Issue 6: 1st May 2025

Important Dates and Reminders:

Friday 2 nd May	Grade 5/6 Science Works Excursion
Friday 2 nd May	Grade 3/4 Supreme Incursion
Wednesday 7 th May	Mother's Day Stall
Friday 9 th May	Mothers and Special Others Picnic 12:00pm -12:40pm
Monday 12 th Friday 16 th May	Lamont Book Fair (held in the Library)
Wednesday 14 th May	Years 3-6 District Athletics Day
Friday 16 th May	Whole School Assembly 2:30pm

AN INVITATION TO OUR BOOK FAIR!

Where: Quarters PS Library

Date: Mon 12th May – Fri 16th May

Time: Tues - Fri: 8:30am – 9:00am
Mon - Fri: 3:15pm – 3:30pm

Don't miss out!
Every purchase supports our school!

LAMONT BOOK FAIRS

www.lamontbooks.com.au



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Principals Message

Dear Families,

Welcome back to Term 2! It was lovely to see our students again.

During Term 1, Mrs Sanghani and I applied for a grant under the banner of “Connecting Indian Communities with Schools “(CICS).

QPS has been successful in its application and has been granted \$25,000 to support building connections. We have a master plan that has a theme of “Finding My Place”.

We hope that the activities we have planned will allow all QPS families to share their story and create some lasting displays in our school.

There will be 2 major works and 2 minor works to demonstrate “Finding My Place”.

2 major works:

Term 3: Artist in Residence at QPS

Inviting an artist to create parts of a wall mural for our school. The theme/s for these murals to be food, sports and cultural festivals.

Over a four week period, families working on a collaborative approach to develop the art concept. Once the initial designs are drafted, the company would assist by creating a digital version. Following that, they would attend the school for three weeks, working with small groups of children and families during school hours (subject to permission). If necessary, they are also open to continuing the work after school hours, engaging families and students to help paint the final mural.

Open to families through an expression of interest. If we get more families than places, a ballot will be conducted.

Families would need to commit to all workshops to be held on a Wednesday/Thursday after school for 50 minutes.

More info and an EOI to come.

Term 4: The Quarters Primary School Cultural Project: "Finding My Place"

Recipe Collection Invitation

As part of our Cultural Project “Finding My Place,” we are collecting recipes from our school community to celebrate and share the wonderful diversity within our school.

If you would like to contribute, please include the following information with your recipe:

- Name of the dish and type of meal (e.g., entrée, main, dessert, lunch, breakfast, snack)
- Country of origin
- List of ingredients
- Step-by-step instructions on how to make the dish
- Photo of the dish (optional but encouraged)
- Name of the family submitting the recipe

Recipes can be submitted in a Word document or in the body of an email and sent to:

quarters.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Alternatively, you can handwrite your recipe and bring it to school — just please make sure the handwriting is clear and easy to read.

Thank you for supporting this special project. We look forward to seeing (and sharing) the delicious foods that are part of your family traditions!



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2 minor works:

Term 2: Tree Planting

(fruit plants and native plants)

Saturday 7th June 2025 as 5th June is World Environment Day

Gurdwara Sri Guru Nanak Darbar Officer/Lynbrook

To represent our school:

- School captains
 - Volunteer families
 - Staff volunteers
 - School council members
- Looking at purchasing 10 – 20 plants
 - Families to organise their own transportation and meet school staff at the venue.
 - If you would like to take part, please email your interest to quarters.ps@education.vic.gov.au with your names, child/ren's grade.
- First 10 families accepted with potential for more depending on how many plants we can buy.

Term 2: Bilingual resources for our library

Lots of book options available focusing on our Social and Emotional Learning Program, basic phonemics . fables, fairy tales .

Order the books based on these languages - Hindi, Gujarati , Punjabi , Sinhalese Arabic and Urdu



International Student Program

Global Learning and Engagement

Overview

Student Programs

School and Community Programs

International Delegations

Resources

[Global Learning and Engagement](#) > [School and Community Programs](#) >

Connecting Schools with Indian Communities

Connecting Schools with Indian Communities (CSIC) is a funding program that supports Victorian government schools to develop initiatives that foster collaborative partnerships between school, the Indian diaspora, and the broader community.

We look forward to working with our families on the "Finding My Place" project. It looks like an exciting experience for all.

<https://www.study.vic.gov.au/en/global-learning-and-engagement/school-and-community-programs/connecting-schools-with-indian-communities>

Have a great term 2!

Liz Davey

Principal



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Wellbeing and Inclusion News

Parents of Students in Grades 4, 5 and 6

Student Attitudes to School Survey (AtoSS)

A message to families of students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 regarding the upcoming Student Attitudes to School Survey. This is a voluntary student survey offered by the Department of Education every year to help schools and the department understand students' experiences of school.

In the survey students will be asked about their thoughts and feelings in relation to their school, their learning, peer relationships, resilience, bullying, health and wellbeing, physical activity, and life in general.

At Quarters Primary School we value student voice as a means to improve student engagement, wellbeing and quality instruction. This year, the survey will be conducted with Grade 4, 5 and 6 students between **19th May to the 13th of June**.

Please read the additional information on the final pages of the newsletter, sent from the Department of Education outlining the survey in greater detail.



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Attendance and Uniform



LEARNING TIME BEGINS AT 9.00AM at QPS.

It is important for students to arrive at school by 8.50am each day so they can put their bag away, change their share book and have their name marked on the roll, before learning time starts at 9am. Students arriving late miss out on valuable learning time and cause disruptions when they arrive to class late. Classrooms are open from 8.50 am for students to get organized for their day.

Sometimes arriving late at school can't be avoided, due to early morning appointments, traffic chaos or the occasional alarm clock that hasn't gone off etc. In these instances, it is important for

students to remember to go to the office on their way to class for a late slip. Students who are late must go to the office to be marked as arriving at school.



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Uniform Blitz

This week, we continue our focus on school uniform, and it has been fantastic to see so many of our students proudly wearing their full school uniform.

Wearing the school uniform is **compulsory** at Quarters Primary School. It fosters a strong sense of belonging and promotes equality across our learning community. When all learners wear the uniform, it helps set a positive tone for our school culture.

We kindly ask families to support this initiative by helping students prepare their uniform the night before. Thank you to everyone who has supported our 'uniform blitz' so far!

Jewellery and Cosmetics

Students are not permitted to wear decorative jewellery to school. The only acceptable items are stud earrings or sleepers worn in the ears, and watches.

We have also noticed some students wearing cargo pants and using glossy lip gloss, which do not align with our uniform guidelines. Please remind your child of our expectations regarding school uniform and personal presentation.

We appreciate your continued support in helping maintain a consistent and respectful learning environment for all.

Our full Uniform Policy is available on the [Quarters Primary School website](#).



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Grade News

Supreme Incursion Visit – Team Building and Mind & Body Workshops

We are excited to announce that Supreme Incursion Productions will be visiting Quarters Primary School in the coming weeks.

During their visit, students will participate in a **Team Building Incursion**, engaging in a rotation of challenges designed to strengthen communication, problem-solving, resilience, and leadership skills. Activities are carefully differentiated by age group:

- **Grade 1/2 year levels** will focus on cooperation, turn-taking, and effective communication.
- **Grade 3-6 year levels** will develop trust and leadership through more complex problem-solving tasks.

All equipment and activities will be adapted to support the diverse abilities and learning goals of our students. Throughout the program, students will be encouraged to reflect on their individual strengths and contributions within a team environment.

In addition, our **preps** students will take part in **Mind and Body Workshops**, where they will:

- Practice mindfulness strategies, including focused breathing, to improve attention and manage stress.
- Improve strength, coordination, and flexibility through targeted physical exercises.
- Build self-awareness and develop positive relationships with peers through an understanding of themselves and others.

There is no cost to families for this incursion as this is part of our Social and Emotional Wellbeing Focus and funded through the Department of Education and Training Victoria Mental Health Fund.

If you would like to find out more about Supreme Incursion, please visit: <https://www.supremeincursions.com.au/>

We look forward to students enjoying this valuable and engaging learning experience!

Save the below dates:

Date: Thursday 1st May for Grade 1/2 year level and focus is Team Building

Date: Friday 2nd May for Grade 3/4 year level and focus is Team Building

Date: Friday 9th May for Grade 3/4 year level and focus is Team Building

Date: Wednesday 28th May for Prep level for Mind and Body



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Specialist News – Digi Tech



Better conversations about gaming for families

When it comes to online gaming, there can be a disconnect between what children experience and what they hear adults saying. Bridging this gap will help children to have safer and more positive online experiences.

Key points

Children are more likely to seek help when a parent or carer:

- encourages them to talk with them if they have issues
- gets involved by playing games with them or shows an interest by asking open questions about the game they're playing
- learns about their gaming interests and how it benefits them.

How to have better conversations with children about gaming

See the benefits of gaming

What kids hear you say: 'I really don't like that game. Why don't you go find something better to do with your time?'

What we know: Children learn and grow through play. As a form of play, gaming offers a range of benefits. When children see their gaming is valued, they are more likely to share their experiences – both positive and negative.

Better conversations sound like: 'I can see you really enjoy that game. What do you like about it?'

1. Talk to them about the benefits they experience.
2. Get to know the games they are playing and help them find new games that match their motivations and skills.



eSafetyCommissioner

eSafety.gov.au



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Research* shows:

52%
of children

27%
of teens



want their parents or carers to play with them.



Connect through game play

What kids hear you say: 'Why don't you spend time with your family or friends instead of being glued to that computer game?'

What we know: Most online games provide opportunities to play with friends, find community and build social skills. Gaming can also be an opportunity for families to connect. Many children want to game with their parents or carers or would like them to game with them more. If you're not confident about gaming, or young people refuse to co-play, you can still connect by getting involved with the game they're playing.

Better conversations sound like: 'Who do you like to play with? Is there a game that we could play together? What character is your favourite?'

1. Get involved by watching or playing with them or show an interest by asking questions about the action or storyline in the game.
2. During gameplay, talk about the skills they are building and celebrate their achievements.

Choose the right amount of game play for your family

What children hear: 'All you ever do is play that game!'

What we know: Many parents worry about time online. The right amount will look different for every child and family. Focus on the quality of their play, as well as getting the right balance. What are they getting out of it? Are they getting enough time to sleep, be physically active or connect with friends offline?

Better conversations sound like: 'I found a game I think you would enjoy, but before we start, let's work out a plan together to make sure you fit everything in.'

1. Access game reviews on [Common Sense Media](#) to understand and select games with learning opportunities and values that best suit your child and family.
2. Work with them to find time for gaming. You might find [eSafety's Family Tech Agreements](#) helpful to create shared expectations.

*Leveling up to stay safe: Young people's experiences navigating the joys and risks of online gaming. February 2024.



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Manage risks and ensure safety

What children hear: "Don't talk to strangers in-game!"

What we know: Instead of focusing on strangers, it's important that children know the red flags of unsafe contact, including someone trying to be friendly too quickly, asking them to go on a different platform or private space, or doing something inappropriate or sexual.

For young children, put in place safeguards that restrict risky features (like communicating with people they don't know). As they grow, build their skills so they can play with others and not miss out on the social benefits. Most gaming experiences are positive and children are often helping others.

Better conversations sound like: 'I'm glad you're having fun with friends online. Let's talk about safe and unsafe behaviours in games. And remember, I'm always here to help, even if you feel like you've made a mistake.'

1. Encourage your child to talk to you if they experience an issue while they are gaming. Let them know you are there to support them.
2. Read [The eSafety Guide](#) to get a better understanding of risky features in games. These can be managed via parental or user controls.

When to get help from counselling and support services

Even though games are often fun and beneficial, some kids may struggle with managing their gaming or may have an experience while gaming that negatively impacts them.

If you are worried about your child's mental health or wellbeing, there are services and professionals who can help. They can help you make changes in a safe way. You can read more about when to get help in the headspace resource titled, '[Understanding gaming – a guide for family and friends](#)'.

Services that can provide support include:

Kids Helpline

1800 55 1800

[Connect online](#)

5 to 25-year-olds. All issues. Confidential phone counselling available all day, every day. Online chat available 24/7, 365 days a year.

headspace

1800 650 890

[Connect online](#)

12 to 25-year-olds. All issues. Phone counselling and online chat available 9am to 1am AEST, every day.



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PARENT / CAREGIVER / GUARDIAN INFORMATION AND CONSENT LETTER

2025 Student Attitudes to School Survey

1st May 2025

Dear Parent / Caregiver / Guardian,

This letter is to inform you about the 2025 Student Attitudes to School Survey (AtoSS), which all government school students in Years 4 to 12 will be invited to complete.

About the survey

The AtoSS is a voluntary student survey offered by the Department of Education every year to help schools and the department understand students' experiences of school. We will ask your child about their thoughts and feelings about their school, their learning, relationships with other students, resilience, bullying, health and wellbeing, physical activity, and life in general.

ORIMA Research Pty Ltd has been contracted by the department to manage the collection of the online survey and will provide support to schools through a telephone hotline and email.

This year, the survey will be conducted at **Quarters Primary School** from **19th May to 13th June**.

What are the benefits?

Young people enjoy having a say! This survey has been running for nearly 20 years and helps schools plan programs and activities to improve your child's engagement with school, their wellbeing and their learning. The survey data also helps the Department of Education understand how to improve student learning.

What are the risks?

We don't expect many risks of participation, but some students may find some questions personal or sensitive. If you agree for your child to take part, they can still skip questions or withdraw at any time whilst completing the survey if it makes them upset or uncomfortable. A teacher will be present during the survey to support students.

The questions come from validated survey instruments used in Australia and around the world. They focus on your child's strengths and are designed for each year level group.

What will my child be asked to do?

Your child will be invited to complete the survey **online during class time** using a purpose built secure online survey tool. We are not "testing" your child. Please note:

- Students can choose if they want to take part, skip questions if they don't want to answer, and can stop doing the survey at any time.
- There are different versions of the survey to let all students take part.
- The survey will take around 20-40 minutes to complete.

How is my child's privacy protected?

A teacher will give your child a unique login to complete the survey. This unique student login is an assigned identifier that will be used by the department to link data for analysis and research only. Some student demographic data such as year level, gender, age, and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status are provided to ORIMA research, and linked with the unique student login ID to administer the survey. This information helps to support analysis and research, to paint a clearer picture of how Victorian school students are faring.



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ORIMA Research will only use student personal information for research purposes to facilitate the administration and data collection of the Attitudes to School Survey. To keep your child's survey answers private, ORIMA Research won't include any personally identifiable data in the survey answers file that is provided to the department.

All data is stored on servers located in Australia, and only staff who are working on the project can access it.

All information collected about your child will be handled in accordance with the *Privacy Data and Protection Act 2014* (Vic), the *Health Records Act 2001* (Vic) and the *Public Records Act 1973* (Vic), as well as the Department's [Schools' Privacy Policy](#). Please note that consistent with the above legislation and our policy, there are instances where we may be required by law to share information provided by your child. For example, where there is a threat to your child's health and safety.

How will results be reported?

The department will only use aggregated state-wide survey data to report on initiatives and this data may also be used in public discussions of issues about student engagement and wellbeing. An example of how survey data has been previously used includes reporting levels of student engagement in the Performance Summary in the Annual Report to the School Community. The department will not share any identifiable student data with any other party.

Your child's school will only get reports about groups of students. Information about individual students and the student answers data file will not be shared with schools. If there are low numbers of student answers to a question, the report will not show results for this question to protect the privacy of those students.

Your school may share the survey report back to you.

What if I don't want my child to do the survey?

This survey is **voluntary**. If you **do not** want your child to do the survey, please opt out by emailing your school at quarters.ps@education.vic.gov.au before the survey starts on **Monday 19th May**. Student personal information will be shared with ORIMA Research to facilitate survey preparations prior to this opt out process. If you opt your child out of participating, then your school will ensure that your child is not provided with access to the survey. Student details will be deleted by ORIMA Research at the conclusion of the survey.

If your school does not receive a "Refusal of Consent" email from you before the survey begins, we will assume that you agree for your child to take part in the 2025 Attitudes to School Survey. Please remember, as noted above, the survey is voluntary: even with your consent, your child can choose to skip questions or stop doing the survey at any time.

For more information about this survey, including the questions your child will be asked to answer, please visit the department's [survey information page](#).

If you would like more information or have any concerns about the survey, please speak to your child's teacher, or contact the department at school.surveys@education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

Department of Education, Victoria



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