QUAKERS WHISPER No. 2  
Thursday 19 February 2015

Department of Education & Training  
SECURITY Phone No. 1300 880 021

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY
20 Fri 11:40am – Infants Assembly  
LED BY 2S

12:15pm – Primary Assembly  
LED BY CAPTAINS

**** Presentation of all Swimming  
carnival ribbons at Primary  
Assembly

SUMMER PSSA BEGINS
27 Fri  Clean Up Australia Day  
At Quakers Hill East

11:40am – Infants Assembly  
LED BY 2B

12:15pm – Primary Assembly  
LED BY 5/6W

**** Presentation of SRC badges at  
both assemblies

SUMMER PSSA

MARCH
3 Tues  Ridges Zone Swimming  
Carnival

6 Fri 11:40am – Infants Assembly  
LED BY 2F

12:15pm – Primary Assembly  
LED BY 4B

SUMMER PSSA

ACCOMPANYING THIS NEWSLETTER

* Mathletics Note
* Road Safety Information Pack - Kindy
* Compulsory School Attendance information sheet

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY  
AT QHEPS

Friday, February 27

As part of National Clean Up Australia  
Day our school is participating in the  
Schools' Clean Up on Friday, February  
27 (not March 27 as stated in the original Term 1  
planner)

Each class has been allocated an area of  
the school playground to clean up and  
will be under the direct supervision of  
their class teacher.

We will not be supplying disposable  
gloves to students as they produced  
more rubbish than was collected in the  
past, therefore if you wish your child to  
wear gloves please provide a pair from  
home with name clearly marked. All  
students will be directed to wash their  
hands with soap at the conclusion.

“Pursuing excellence in student achievement and community participation”
Dear Parents/Caregivers

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING
It was lovely to see so many parents and carers at the Information Evening on Monday night continuing the very important partnership between home and school. Everyone had the opportunity to meet with their child’s teachers for an overview of the teaching and learning program for the coming year. We look forward to working in partnership with you in 2015.

SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL
What a great day we had at the swimming carnival! Excited and keen swimmers were in attendance and ardent parents were eager to assist the teachers in the running of the carnival. It was an impressive day of competition with everyone giving it their best go. Congratulations to those students who were placed in each event and who will be going on to the district carnival. Thank you also to the many parents who helped out, it was much appreciated. I’d also like to acknowledge the work of Mrs Talintyre and her team for coordinating such a successful event.

KINDERGARTEN WORKING BEE
The Kindergarten working bee was held last Wednesday with many parents helping to make the sight word and letter sound rings that Kindergarten will be using during 2015. I’d like to thank those parents who participated for their time and enthusiasm.

PARENT HELPER INFORMATION SESSION
Mrs Smith and Mrs Bennetts coordinated this meeting and had the opportunity to meet with a good number of parents who would like to volunteer their time to work in classrooms, the library or as part of our Multilit (Reading Program) team. There are many ways in which you can help and if you were unable to attend the meeting please feel free to offer your time directly to your child’s classroom teacher.

BOOKPACK FEES
A note and invoice will be sent home early next week requesting payment of student bookpack fees. This fee covers items such as textbooks, printed workbooks, basic stationery and computer consumables as well as craft supplies that your child will use this year.

XO COMPUTERS
In 2015 QHEPS is planning an exciting initiative to provide all students from Year 1 to Year 6 with an internet enabled computer. These devices will assist our students to become 21st Century learners. The devices are being rolled out to students this term. You can look on this website to see what they look like https://www.one-education.org/xo/. The device is a small computer based on the ‘android’ operating system that will remain the property of the school and also remain at school. Each child will have a computer that is labelled with their details and move from school year to school year with them.

At this stage we are only able to purchase enough XO computers for every child in Year 1 to Year 6 due to the inability of the provider to supply a larger quantity. We will endeavor to purchase XOs for Kindergarten when they become available again.

It will cost the school $60000. To enable us to purchase the computers for each child we have made a request to the P&C to provide $40 000 and we will also be asking parents to pay a one off technology levy per child. The younger students will pay a higher levy as they will have access to the computer for a longer period of time. The school will pay the remaining costs.

The cost per child is:

Year 1 and Year 2 - $40
Year 3 and Year 4 - $30
Year 5 and Year 6 - $20

This levy will be included on the invoice being sent home next week. We hope everyone will support the implementation of this most beneficial initiative.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION FEE
The P&C have agreed to keep the voluntary contribution payment at $30 per student and $50 per family. As the State Government only provides funds to cover basic needs, it is necessary for us to generate further funds through this contribution to provide additional
teaching resources and equipment for use by all the students from Kindergarten to Year 6.

TEACHERS CARPARK
There have been many parents using the teacher’s carpark to drop their children off and pick them up in the afternoon. I would like to remind everyone that the carpark is for the specific use of teachers and students who have a disability. There should be no traffic going in and out of the carpark especially close to bell times.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...
The students who competed at the swimming carnival for trying their best.

Clayton C and Mitchell T who were selected for Ridges Softball.

Jessica W and Juliet T who were selected for Ridges Soccer.

GOOD LUCK TO...
Those students who will be attending the Ridges Zone swimming carnival on 3 March.

SCRIPTURE CLASSES
Scripture classes will commence next week with students in K-2 attending classes between 9am-9:30am and student in Years 3-6 attending classes between 9:30am and 10:00am.

Parents/caregivers in government schools have the right to have their children receive instruction in their preferred religious persuasion, where authorised teachers of that persuasion are available. At QHEPS this year classes will be provided for Buddhism, Christian (Catholic), Christian (Protestant), Hindu, Islam and Sikhism.

Students will attend the groups based on the information provided on their enrolment forms. Students who do not attend scripture classes will be supervised by teachers in a non-scripture group. If you have any concerns about the scripture group your child attends please write a note to the class teacher in the first instance.

2015 SRC REPRESENTATIVES
Our 2015 Semester 1 Student representative Councillors will receive their badges at their Friday assemblies on 27 February.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
Regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. At QHEPS we work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

The NSW DEC has recently made some changes to its attendance procedures particularly with regards to overseas travel. The attached information sheet outlines the school attendance requirements and the new procedures and outcomes of overseas travel.

Michele Hedge
Principal

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Week 3 Term 1 Award Winners

KAR Adia, Elijah
KC Marli, Cooper
KG Kayla, Dev
KM Arhaan, Mia
KR Karissa, Christopher
KT Ava, Kai
1B Jemma, Hussain
1D Cooper, Khloe
1R Niko, Ella
1PT Ryan, Carmen
1/2T Mikey, Tristan
2B Jasmin, Jordan
2F Shylah, Saanvi
2K Eamon, Ryder
2S Anish, Georgina
3B Dylan, Mikaela
3C Rasleen, Thomas
3L Jaih, Manraj
3R Tyson, Kiara
4B Adam, Ava
4J Myia, Kyan
4K Declan, Sabriyya
5/6B Maxwell, Hajeera
5/6C Rachel, Jeremy
5/6Q Jordan, Niklas
5/6T Hayley, Kamal
5/6W Ruheen, Kalpa
**Week 3 Citizens of the Week**

K-2  Cooper R  
3-6  Mehnaaz K  

**Week 3 “Be Your Best” Award Winners**

K-2  Ranbir D  
3-6  Myia M  

**LIBRARY NEWS………..**

**BOOK CLUB**

Just a reminder that Book Club Orders for this issue have now closed. The orders have been finalised and paid for, so no late orders can be accepted. The children will receive their orders as soon as they are delivered.

Happy Reading

Kim Curnow,  
Teacher Librarian  

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**P&C NEWS…………….**

**CONTACT US**

If you have a query for the P&C you can email us at pandc_qheps@hotmail.com. We also have a Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/groups/OHEPS/ where you can keep up to date with what’s happening and ask questions.

If you have a query regarding the uniform shop please email uniforms_qheps@hotmail.com

**VOLUNTEER REQUESTS**

We’re looking for some volunteers for 2 separate fundraising events! Support will be provided to any volunteers (eg information about what we’ve done in previous years)

**Election Day BBQ (28 March)** - we need someone to order and purchase meat, bread and drinks and as many people as possible to man the BBQ on the day.

**Mothers’ Day Stall** - we need someone (or a small group) to select and recommend items for us to sell and to order the items once approved and we need several volunteers to man the stall (day to be determined subject to volunteer availability during the week of 4-8 May).

Please let us know if you are able to help by emailing us at pandc_qheps@hotmail.com

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**UNIFORM ORDERS**

All purchasing of NEW school uniforms must now be done online through Flexischools.

The Uniform Shop will be open each week:

- Mondays – 2:30pm – 3:15pm (approx)
- Fridays – 8:30am – 9:15am (approx)

These opening times are only for trying on clothes and exchanging items (which must still have their tags attached)

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**KINDY PARENTS**

Don’t forget to pop a change of clothes in a plastic bag in your child’s school bag so they are prepared for any “little accidents”

Thank you
SPECIAL REQUEST
Ky is a little boy at our school who is battling leukaemia. If you are able, please donate to this very worthy cause that is close to our school community's heart

FITNESS TIPS:

COMBATING CHILDHOOD OBESITY STARTS AT HOME

Parents and carers are important influences on children’s eating and exercise habits. There are some subtle lifestyle changes that can be made immediately that will have huge benefits to children’s health.

Top tips for parents:
* Plan family activities to encourage children to stay away from the TV! Go out for a family bike ride or walk, or cook healthy meals together at home.

* Be a role model - kids will usually follow what you do more than what you say. If they see you enjoying physical activity and having fun, it will motivate them to be more active.

* Playing together is important. Help your child practise basic sporting and movement skills such as throwing and catching or kicking a ball.

* Remember that while exercise burns energy, feeding them junk food or sports drinks may mean they are still taking in more than they burn. And last but not least...make sure active children drink plenty of water!

PAYMENT ENVELOPES

A reminder that we are no longer stapling envelopes to the back of notes being sent home for excursions, etc.

small bundles of payment envelopes were sent home with youngest child in each family last year to be kept safely at home to use whenever a payment is being sent in to school.

If you need more at any time you are welcome to collect some from the office.

Glenwood Girl Guides

Would you like to get involved in your community and help girls develop skills for life? Glenwood Guide District is looking for women 18 years and over interested in leadership.

You will be supported in becoming a Leader of Guides: training, mentoring, resources and friendship. Challenge yourself as you enable girls and young women grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members.

Call Joanne on 0414 925 057 or email weeksjoanne@hotmail.com
Or to find out more about Guides visit our website: www.girlguides-nswact.org.au
Another perfect day arrived for our annual swimming carnival last Thursday. All students are to be commended for their outstanding behaviour and sportsmanship on the day. The students from HARVEY House are the Swimming Champions for 2015.

The final placings for the 2015 Swimming Carnival were as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Place</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Harvey</td>
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<td>2nd</td>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>397</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Pye</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Pearce</td>
<td>329</td>
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All placegetter ribbons will be distributed tomorrow afternoon at the Years 3–6 assembly, commencing at 12:30pm in our hall.

The carnival’s success was due to the combined efforts of all members of the school community.

I would like to thank all the teachers for their valued contributions and the family members who supported the students throughout the day. A special thank you to Mrs Lea, Mrs Joshi, Mrs Carter, Mrs Duck, Mrs Khaliqi, Mrs Boatfield and Ms Duffy who worked tirelessly as our timekeepers. Thanks also to Mr Thompson who assisted with the setting up and packing up of the carnival.

A full list of event winners and placegetters for the 2015 Carnival can be found over the page.

Many of these students, through their placings and times, have qualified to represent the school at the Ridges Zone PSSA Swimming Championships at Blacktown Aquatic Centre on Tuesday, March 3.

Well done to all!

Mrs Lynda Talintyre
Carnival Coordinator
## 2015 Swimming Carnival Honour Board

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<th>Details</th>
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<td>Hayden L</td>
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QHHS

invites all prospective
Year 5 & 6 students and their families to our

2015 Information Evening

DISCOVER

EXPLORE

CONNECT

Tuesday 3rd March at 7 p.m.
Quakers Hill High School Hall

This evening is designed to inform interested students and their parents of the educational programs and facilities at Quakers Hill High School and to assist them in making a smooth and harmonious transition to high school.
2015 Year 6 students and their parents are invited to attend The Hills Sports High School Open afternoon, come along and meet staff, explore what learning opportunities are available, visit our specialist rooms and Science Laboratories for practical lessons.

**Tours of the school will occur every half hour until 6pm.**

**Talented Sports Program**

There will be an Information session hosted by the Director of Sports at 5pm in the library for interested students & parents.

**TALENTED SPORTS PROGRAM OPEN NIGHT**

An information evening will be conducted for students and parents interested in the Talented Sports Program for 2016 on Monday 4th May, 2015 at 6.30pm. Sports on offer are AFL, Athletics, Baseball, Cheerleading, Cricket, Golf, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Rugby “7’s” (Girls), Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Touch Football, and Water Polo.

**Sport and Fitness Trials will be held in May/June 2015,**

**Talented Sports applications close Monday 9th May 2015.**

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**ENJOY A REFRESHMENT AS YOU TOUR THE SCHOOL, PROVIDED BY OUR SENIOR HOSPITALITY STUDENTS**

**Prices**

- **Coffee**
  - Small - $2.50
  - Large - $3.00
TAFE WSI Nirimba College
Access and Foundation Programs

Certificate I in
Basic English Language Skills
This course will cover basic English language skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking.
Classes are on Mondays and Thursdays 9am -2:30pm

Certificate II in
Foundation English Language Skills
This course will help develop your reading, writing, speaking, listening and basic computing. Classes are three days a week, 9am-2:30pm.

Certificate III in
English for Further Study
This course is for people with intermediate English language skills. It focuses on academic English skills to help prepare students for study at TAFE. Classes are three days a week, 9am-2:30pm

Important Details
9am- 2:30pm (school hours) Starts February 2015
TAFE Nirimba College, Eastern Rd, Quakers Hill.
Block T2C, Ground Floor- Room 30

For more information please contact
Meagan Geist on 9208 7030 or meagan.geist1@tafensw.edu.au
Mathletics

Thursday 19 February 2015

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This year, our students continue to benefit from access to the Mathletics online learning community – alongside over 4 million other students around the world. This program has been generously funded by our P&C.

Mathletics is an online numeracy resource, helping students to love learning and achieve greater results through content that matches their school curriculum. It provides an engaging site for students, plus a place for you to keep track of your child’s results and progress. Mathletics responds to your child’s individual strengths and weaknesses so they know instantly if they are on the right track and can improve at their own pace.

Within the next week, all of our students will be issued with their sign in card through their class teacher. This card will have their username and password. It is important that students keep their sign in card in a secure location and only access the internet under the supervision of an adult. If your child doesn’t have access to the internet or a computer at home, please see their class teacher and we will make provisions for them to have regular access to Mathletics at school.

To ensure we gain the most from Mathletics, we are setting the following targets for all of our students to work towards:

- Spend **60-90 minutes per week** (3 x 20min sessions) or 10-15 mins per weeknight on Mathletics.
- Aim to have 1000 points gained by Sunday night. This will earn students a Bronze Certificate. Five bronze certificates earn a Silver certificate (awarded in grades), and four silver certificates earn a gold certificate (awarded at K-2 and 3-6 assemblies).
- Repeat each activity until they achieve Mastery (Gold Bars).
- Raise their RANK to Human Calculator on LIVE Mathletics (Levels 1 to 5).
- Complete all core activities before attempting the end of topic test.

As a parent, you can help by:

- Taking an active role in your child’s mathematics progress by working together with them. The Support Centre in each activity will help by showing how to solve particular problems.
- Encouraging your child to select activities that challenge, rather than those your child finds easy.
- Celebrating your child’s successes. Proudly display their certificates and provide lots of praise.

Mathletics is open all of the time. To get started, simply visit [www.mathletics.com](http://www.mathletics.com) and enter your child’s login details as provided by their teacher.

Ms Truong, Mrs Rubino and Ms Busuttil
QHEPS Mathletics Coordinators

Mrs Michele Hedge
Principal
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they’ll have missed over a year of school.

My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

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My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

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