‘Sending a BIG thank you to all the people who helped and tended to Leanne, Zac and our families on the day of the accident over a week ago. We appreciate everyone who assisted in helping us to cover and warm up, supply blankets and towels, ring for help and assist with injuries. We are grateful to those who stayed with us in the pouring rain, even though they had their own kids waiting. We were also encouraged by the help of the wider school community who, in the ensuing chaos, made sure all the children were safe and cared for. We are amazed and feeling very lucky that there were no major injuries and all have made a speedy recovery.’

Thank you, the Catanzariti and Djikic Families.

It was a wonderful response from the whole school community to attend to the problem that occurred just before bell time on Wednesday of Week 4. The wind that preceded the rain was extreme, causing the accident involving Leanne Catanzariti and Zac Djikic on the footpath on Thorpe Avenue. Witnesses acted quickly, calling both the ambulance and police to help with end of school day traffic. City Council cleared the vegetation.

Staff have reflected on the incident. Future actions if faced with such an extreme storm again will be to conduct an Emergency Lock Down and keep students inside classrooms till the storm has passed. If it is at the end of the day, parents will be encouraged to go the classroom to collect students. It will be important for everyone to stay calm and think of helping each other.

I have spoken to the students in KA, 1H and 2MR as the sibling and children of those involved in the accident are in these classes. I assured the young students that all was okay. This Wednesday we will hold a practice Emergency Lock Down to rehearse the procedures. Students and staff will place themselves away from windows and doors in a ‘hook up’ position - Brain Gym pose for calmness.

**Trees in the school playground**

Each year the school assesses the health of trees in the school grounds and regularly employs members of the SES and tree removal companies to address problems. City Council is also involved to assess the health of trees identified to be removed. This week we have arranged for a tree specialist to examine all trees and establish an action plan. The recent drought has affected all the vegetation in the school, in particular the gum trees.

Friday 21 February, 35 students from QPS competed at the AIS in the Queanbeyan District Swimming Carnival. Our students performed really well on the day. We had 9 individuals and 1 relay team progress through to the Regional. It was a great day and everyone was very supportive.

Our 11 students heading to Dapto this Friday are: Daniel Baldan, Hugo Caruso, Aaron Colbertaldo, Rachel Condat, Tamia Fensom, Koby Gibbs, Rory Gibbs, Trent Lennon, Connor Lennon, Lara Pulciani and Dale Ciechan. Congratulations to all students and well done on your efforts!
Be Cybersmart
Our conversation continues on keeping your children safe -

**Knowledge:**
1. Know the rules for websites, especially social media sites – Facebook, Instagram, kik, snapchat – as these are all sites designed for people over the age of 13. The sites cannot protect your child and information from these sites is not always private. Privacy settings are constantly changing.
3. Discuss the idea of ownership of the information that is posted.

**Communication:**
1. Consider the concept of your child’s ‘digital footprint’ – what information about them is on the internet?
2. Reinforce ‘Stranger Danger’ – discuss unusual requests, and do not share private information.

Let’s work together to provide a safer, productive online experience for your children. This includes showing them how to be excellent digital citizens.

Student safety at the end of the school day
Parents and family members meeting students at the end of the school day need to avoid Playground 3 as an organised meeting place. This playground is only for students catching a bus. There are many other playgrounds that provide a suitable meeting place. The bell sounds at 2.55 and at 3.10 (15 minutes) the gates on Thorpe Ave and Hirst Ave will be locked.

Any students still to be picked up will be waiting on the silver seat in Playground 3. Students need to be inside the school grounds till they are picked up safely at the end of the school day.

Environment – Clean Up Australia Day
Last Friday students contributed to clean up our playgrounds by putting any rubbish, waste and landfill found on the ground into a bin.

St3 adopted playground 2; St2 and Supported Learning classes adopted Playgrounds 4, 5 and 6; Kindergarten adopted Playground 1 and St1 the front of the school and around the Library and Hall. Unfortunately some Yr1 students were stung when they discovered a wasps’ nest near the flag poles. Ice blocks helped to cool the students’ skin and eating them helped to re-establish calm.

Guy, a previous school cleaner and pest control expert, took care of the wasps over the weekend.

Kindergarten and St1 students met Splash our school mascot at their assembly on Thursday afternoon. Splash asked students to be responsible for their rubbish and food packaging so the Queanbeyan River can be kept clean.

This Wednesday we will start our Waste Free campaign. Let’s work together to create a more sustainable school by packing a Splash Friendly food selection.

Prayer Group
Prayer group is a group of students, staff and parents who pray together once a week. Prayers are held Tuesday mornings at 8:45am in the Music Room and continue until the bell rings at 8:55am. Students meet in Playground 3 (near the Canteen), until Mrs Sawyer takes them to the Music Room at 8:45am. During the prayer session, any of the people attending may (but are not obliged to) put their prayers forward. Some topics prayed about include:

- Leadership in the school, getting along with each other, dealing with exam/audition situations, developing resilience, natural disasters in the world, sick friends/relatives, scripture teachers, and more.

Although most of the people attending are Christian, the group is open to anyone, from any religion, who wants to pray with a group. If you would like to find out more please contact Cornelia Sawyer through the school Front Office. If you give your child permission to be involved in this group, please sign and return the permission slip below to Cornelia Sawyer or the Front Office. Parents are welcome to join us!

I ______________________________ give permission for my child __________________________

of class __________ to participate in the morning prayer group.

Signed __________________________ Date ________________