Next week the Queanbeyan Public School community will recognise Reconciliation Week. On Monday 26 May, National Sorry Day, we will hold a whole school assembly at 12.30pm in the school hall. You are welcome to join us on this occasion. On Tuesday 27 May, Reconciliation Week will commence with a Walk over Queen’s Bridge at 11am. Again you are welcome to join us on the walk. Staff and students will leave school at 10.45am.

Students should be dressed in formal school uniform to represent the school on the 2014 walk to Reconciliation Place.

Parents of Aboriginal students may want their children to participate in the other activities available at the Town Park on the day. If this is the case then those parents may collect their children from Mrs Hawes and stay with them at the park. This would be marked in attendance as school business, not an absence.

Simultaneous Story Time at QPS

This week a very exciting event is taking place at QPS. The National Simultaneous Story Time is happening again in 2014! The aim of the event is to encourage more young Australians to read and enjoy books. The event has been operating for 14 years but this is only our third year. Over 380,000 children in over 2,000 locations took part in 2013 and QPS was one of those locations, with over 500 participants. This year we are hoping every class and student will get involved. The book chosen this year is ‘Too Many Elephants in this House’ by Ursula Dubarsky and Andrew Joyner.

If you have young children at home, you might also like to take part. The National Library will host this free event on Wednesday 21 May at 11am, featuring Jackie French, local author and this year’s National Children’s Laureate.

Personalised Pavers in the Friendship Garden

Offer extended to Friday 23 May, 14

To celebrate our 150th Anniversary, we are offering past and present QPS families the opportunity to purchase their own, personalised paver, which will be laid in our Friendship Garden, towards the end of Term 2. Please collect a form from the Front Office.

Starting School Expo

Saturday 24 May 10am to 12pm
Qbn Bicentennial Hall
Crawford St

For families with children starting school in 2015
Information Stalls, School/Preschool displays, Childrens Arts & Crafts, Sausage Sizzle, Lucky Door Prizes, Jumping Castle, Face Painting and Give Aways. For more information contact Brooke 6297 2167

Starting School is Really Cool!
On Monday 5 May the School Rugby League team was successful 26-8 against Crookwell PS in the 1st round of PSSA Classic Shield Knockout. Congratulations boys and well done to Mr Peter Cox and Mr Chris Newman for their coaching and encouragement. The team will now play against Goulburn East in Round 2.
Choir News
Mrs Sawyer’s Choirs only
May 2014

Choirs in 2014
Welcome to our choir community. This year is a busy, but exciting one, filled with many opportunities for our students to perform and develop as singers.

Sydney Concerts and Auditions
Last year, I sent videos of our Intermediate and Senior Choirs performing, to audition for a place in the state-wide Festival of Choral Music (Sydney Opera House) and the Primary Proms (Sydney Town Hall). Both choirs were successful in their applications. We have been allocated thirty-six places and thirty places respectively, in these concerts.

Our Intermediate Vocal Ensemble students (2013) have also just received news that they will be performing an individual item in the Primary Proms. Congratulations Alexandra Ciechan, Joanna Cruikshank, Maia Gavel, Bella Gray, Emily Hazilias, Amy McAlister, Jessica McPherson, Lara Pulciani, Loren Reeve, Tabetha Schweiger, Laura Warner and Olivia Whitby on this outstanding achievement!

Choosing students for the Sydney opportunities is always a very difficult task. With over sixty-five students in the Senior Choir and over ninety-five students in the Intermediate Choir, this year’s selection was particularly difficult.

Congratulations to the students selected. For those who did not gain a place this year, I am happy to offer individual feedback. In most cases, the following feedback applies and may help in dealing with disappointment and developing resilience in these situations.

Most of the students who missed out this time need further work on singing in pitch consistently, or singing their own part when another student is singing a different part.

Voices mature at different rates. Nerves can also affect performance ability. A number of previous choir students who missed out on opportunities in the early years have progressed and become soloists or ensemble members in later years. I encourage students to continue listening to their CDs and striving to improve their singing. I have noticed that hard work and determination have been even more integral to student success than natural singing ability. I am willing to work with students to help them achieve their singing goals.

When making final decisions, if students are equal in singing ability, behaviour in the classroom, on the playground and in choir rehearsals is considered. It is important (for student safety) to select responsible students who will follow all teacher instructions when going away on an overnight trip.

Upcoming Events and Performances
(Dates for your diaries)

- **Queanbeyan Choral Festival:**
  Wednesday, 28 May
  Llewellyn Hall (9:00am – 8:30/9:00pm, performing from 6:30pm)
  *Senior and Intermediate Choirs*

- **School Assembly Performance:**
  Thursday, 29 May
  QPS Hall (1:55pm-2:55pm)
  *Mrs Sawyer’s Junior Choir*

- **Parent Information Evening**
  Thursday, 5 June:
  QPS Staff Room
  *Parents of Intermediate students performing in the Sydney Primary Proms and Senior students performing in the Festival of Choral Music concerts*  
  *(Note: Rehearsal and performance dates will be detailed in a booklet to be handed out and discussed this evening)*

- **Goulburn Eisteddfod**
  Thursday, 12 June
  Goulburn Worker’s Club Auditorium
  *Mrs Sawyer’s Junior Choir (Years 1-2), Intermediate Choir (Years 3-4 and class 2/3L), Senior Choir (Years 5-6) and all vocal ensembles*

- **Cluster (combined school’s) Rehearsal for the Festival of Choral Music (Sydney Opera House)**
  Thursday, 19 June
  Goulburn East Public School
  *All Senior Choir students invited to attend this excellent opportunity to rehearse with an exceptional Sydney composer and conductor, Ian Jefferson*

- **Ticket Sales Open for Festival of Choral Music**
  Thursday 19 June, 9am (concert August 7)
  Sydney Opera House
  *Selected Senior Choir students*

- **Ticket Sales Open for Primary Proms**
  Thursday 31 July, 9am (concert September 18)
  Sydney Town Hall
  *Selected Intermediate Choir students*
**Choir Leaders**
Each year, student leaders are selected to help with the running of the school choirs. These students perform such roles as:
- taking the roll each rehearsal
- setting up and packing away rehearsal equipment
- encouraging good behaviour in rehearsals
- providing entertainment for other students
- lining students up prior to performances
- introducing items at some concerts and
- adding ideas to choreograph vocal ensemble performances.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as choir leaders this year:

**Senior Choir**
Captains
Emerson Jolliffe, Lachlan Silsby and Nabila Tursun
Prefects
Kristina Veskovic, Alexandra Whitby and Isobel White

**Intermediate Choir**
Captains
Cory Bax and Olivia Whitby
Prefects
Paige Boutzos, Emily Griffiths, Clive McLachlan and Chloe McPherson

**Mrs Sawyer’s Junior Choir**
Captains
Rhett Harwood-Smith and Charli Houssenloge
Vice-Captains / Prefects
Nicholas Catanzariti and Chloe Reid

**Vocal Health and Preparing to Perform**
Here are a few tips for keeping your voice healthy and preparing for singing performances:
- always warm-up prior to singing
- drink plenty of water hours before and just before singing
- make sure you get enough rest
- avoid shouting and coughing too much
- avoid singing and talking with sore throats and
- avoid milky products (such as yoghurt, custard, cream and milk) prior to performing. Milk products produce excess mucous, which can clog vocal chords just before singing.

Please, kindly consider these tips when packing lunches for choir excursions.

**The School Fete and Anzac Day**
Our Senior and Intermediate Choirs have already performed at two occasions this year. The Senior Choir sang three songs with vitality at the school fete and the Intermediate Choir sang with conviction at the school’s ANZAC Day assembly. Congratulations to both of these choirs. We look forward to hearing Mrs Sawyer’s Junior Choir perform at the upcoming school assembly and the Goulburn Eisteddfod.

**Choir Uniform**
Please ensure that all choir students have access to the following uniform items ASAP. Students will be performing numerous times this term. While we would like to include every student in performances, we do not have enough spare clothing (or time) to dress students before each excursion and event. The uniform expectations are detailed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short-sleeved white logo shirt</td>
<td>Short-sleeved white logo shirt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal pleated skirt</td>
<td>Long grey pants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polished black shoes</td>
<td>Polished black shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White socks</td>
<td>Grey socks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair tied back or clipped off face with white, black or maroon hair accessories only</td>
<td>Hair neat and tidy (off face)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Junior Girls**
Bib added to create a pinafore

**Note:** Jumpers and stockings are encouraged to stay warm in the cold weather, but need to be removed (and socks put on) prior to performing.

**Mrs Hamnett**
Our wonderful accompanist, Mrs Olga Hamnett, will be leaving us soon to have a baby boy. The baby is due in early June and we hope to have Mrs Hamnett with us until the end of May. Rachel Kelly will accompany us at the eisteddfod.

Thank you to all the students who have contributed to purchasing some items for the baby, to thank Mrs Hamnett for all she does for us. I was able to purchase a book, a bath toy and a singlet from each choir. If any students would still like to contribute, 50c or $1 is plenty. Contributions can be given to me directly or sent to the office, in an envelope marked with ‘Mrs Sawyer for Mrs Hamnett’s baby’.

We hope to see you at the upcoming events,

*Cornelia Sawyer*