Welcome to the 2016 school year.
We have an exciting year ahead: students, parents and staff working together to create a vital learning community. Last year teachers participated in professional learning activities to enhance their understanding of the knowledge and skills essential for the introduction of the two new syllabuses’ of History and Geography this year.

An inquiry focus has been included into programs for many years. Now, we are clarifying what specific skills are required for inquiry learning in history and geography.

Geographical inquiry involves posing questions, gathering, analysing and interpreting data and information and reaching conclusions. A geographical inquiry assumes that the outcome of the inquiry is an action that is relevant, personally, locally, nationally or globally. Geographical inquiry questions can be summarised into What is where? Why there? Why care?

Historical inquiry is about asking questions using the language of time, gathering and evaluating evidence from the past and drawing conclusions from this evidence. Historical questions are shaped around Why then? Why there? Historical research is constantly asking why certain events happened when and where they did; What is the historical context that led to this event or situation? Why did it happen at this time and place?

The knowledge, skills and understandings developed through inquiry learning in history and geography can be applied to future learning and everyday life. This enables students to participate effectively in maintaining and improving the quality of our changing world.

Students in 3/4M are currently investigating Built Environments. Last week they set up tents on playground 2 and enjoyed an outdoor learning day with their teacher, Mrs Merchant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Term 1: 28 January – 8 April</th>
<th>Dates for your Diary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 8 Feb</td>
<td>P&amp;C meeting 6.30pm Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 9 Feb</td>
<td>School Swim Carnival (8yrs and over)</td>
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<td>Wed 10 Feb</td>
<td>Uniform Shop open 2.15-3.15pm</td>
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<td>Sat 13 Feb</td>
<td>Anniversary of Apology to the Stolen Generations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 15 Feb</td>
<td>Year 1 Swim School begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 17 Feb 6.00pm</td>
<td>Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander parent information gathering, Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 22 Feb</td>
<td>Year 1 Swim School continues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 5 March</td>
<td>Baby and Kid’s Expo</td>
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Year 6 2015
The graduating Year 6 students were farewelled on the last day of the 2015 school year. Students from Kindergarten to Year 5 formed an arch that started in playground 5 and stretched across playgrounds 4 and 3 to the front gate. This arch created many emotions in the students: pride, happiness, excitement and some sadness. These students have successfully concluded their primary education. Their achievements demonstrate our commitment to the goals of the Melbourne Declaration: to promote equity and excellence and support students to become confident, resilient individuals who relate well to others, embrace opportunities, make informed decisions, accept responsibility and engage with the community as active and informed citizens.
Barnardos Aboriginal Homework Centre
Barnardos Queanbeyan Homework Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children operates Monday for K-2 students, Tuesday for years 3-4 students and Wednesday for years 5-6 students from 3:00pm-5:00pm during school terms at the SaCC (Schools as Community Centres) building on Isabella Street. The idea for the Homework Centre came from talking with Aboriginal families at our Gatherings in the Park and Stories in the Street Programs. It has been successfully operating since 2009. Barnardos staff collect the children participating in the Homework Centre from their respective schools, supervise the completing of homework and take children home between 5 and 6pm. They are provided with a healthy afternoon tea. Students also take part in cultural activities and receive support for homework, reading and writing. School holiday activities are available. All of the costing involved with resources and activities throughout the school term is covered by Barnardos. To talk about your child attending the Homework Centre, please call: Denise Green - 6124 3800.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Information Gathering
Parents of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are invited to attend an information gathering on Wednesday 17 February from 6.00pm – 7.00pm. Come along to meet other parents and the teachers, to hear about school programs planned for this year and to share your ideas for your children’s learning. The gathering will be held in the Hall. Pizzas will be served during the evening.

Baby and Kids Expo at QPS
In partnership with Queanbeyan Public School and Schools as Community Centres
Saturday 5 March 2016
10am-1pm
To book a stall contact Angela Kouparitsas angela.chatzakos@det.nsw.edu.au
$20 table provided from school or $15 with own table
Free entry with a raffle ticket, goody bag and entertainment for the kids
Come along for a fun day for the whole family.

Parent Volunteers Needed!

Registration for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation
Registration for children who will be in Year 3 in 2016 has commenced. Please register your child before 11 February 2016. Your child must be baptised to receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. Download at - www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com/sacred-room/sacraments/first-reconciliation/
Payment can be made on-line at - www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com/engine-room/online-payments/
Please call the parish office if you have any questions regarding this sacrament 6299 4611.

Schools as Community Centres (SaCC) Music and Play Program
A six week Music and Play Program is starting at the SaCC on Thursday 18 February 2016 from 1:15 – 2pm.
This is a FREE weekly program for families with children 0 - 3yrs, and their pre-school siblings. There are limited places. Interested families should see their worker, child and family health nurse, or the SaCC coordinator for a referral. Phone 6297 2167 for more information. The SaCC building is located in the grounds of QPS.

Parent Online Payments – POP
Westpac Bank has upgraded the POP webpage attached to the school website. Now, when you click on ‘$ Make a Payment’ page using a computer, mobile device or tablet you can complete the online form with ease.
2016: At School
How to install School Enews

**iPhone and iPad Users**
1) Press App Store icon on your device
2) Press Search and type in "Enews"
3) Press "Get", the app will download
4) Press "Open" and accept "push alerts"
5) Search for your school name

**Android Users**
1) Press Play Store icon on your device
2) Press magnifying glass and type in "Enews"
3) Press "Install", the app will download
4) Press "Open"
5) Search for your school name

**Configure Push Alerts**
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2) Turn off the lists you don’t want

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4) Enter in your name and email address.
5) Click Subscribe (IMPORTANT: An email will be sent to your email address, you MUST click the “Activate Now” inside this email that is sent to you)