The 2016 school year.
Student numbers this year are well over 700. The department formula for forming classes gave us 27 classes. With an extra classroom onsite, due to increased enrolment during 2015, we decided to form a 28th class and provide staffing through school funds. This gave us smaller class sizes in stage 1 and stage 2.
Stage 2 classes are all multi-age this year. This teaching model was the school preferred grouping and it was only in recent years that we had moved away from it. It has been a surprise to parents who are still processing the change. To help parents develop their understanding a meeting was held Tuesday, 5 February. This meeting was very well attended. The parents had a range of views along a continuum from very happy and excited with the model to sad and angry about the change. Their concerns were listened to and clarifying questions were answered. We are seeking to increase parent involvement and consultation in decision making, in line with department requirements, so while it was a hard meeting it was also positive in many ways. Parents have asked for a similar meeting later in term 2 to continue the conversation.
One parent made this comment: ’I would like to thank everyone for the information provided. I’m genuinely excited by everything I have heard. I don’t see significant difference between the challenge of providing differentiation for kids of similar abilities but varying ages and the challenge of providing differentiation for kids of different abilities who are the same age.’
If you are interested, further information and discussion ideas are available on these websites:
- Multiage classes NSW Department of Education
- SMH Multiage Classes

Kindergarten
This year we welcomed over 100 students into Kindergarten. Many new families are now a part of our school community.
P&C News
The first P&C meeting for 2016 was held on Monday 8 February. Cathy Duke, vice-president, led the meeting which was attended by continuing parents and some new members. The fund raising project for this term is Spring Bulb ordering. This activity is being coordinated by Kym Bush. Look out for the order forms later this week.

Getting to Know Your Child Meetings
Next week we will host our Getting to Know Your Child meetings. This is an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher, exchange information and build high expectations.

Supporting School Attendance
It is important for children to attend school all day, every day. Only by their punctual, regular attendance can children make the most of the educational opportunities available to them. Regular attendance enables students to develop a sense of belonging to a peer group and assists in building important coping and friendship skills. Confident children are more likely to do well with their learning and social interactions.

Arriving at school and class on time:
- gives students time to greet their friends before class
- ensures that students don’t miss out on the important learning activities timetabled early in the day when the students are most alert
- helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- reduces classroom disruption.

Absences from School
If your child is late, has been absent from school or is leaving early, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for the lateness or absence. Parents may send a note, email or telephone the school or visit in person. Attendance information is recorded in the Semester Reports.

Students who arrive at school after 8.55am are to report to the Administration Office to collect a yellow late slip, before going to class.

Parents who are collecting students during school hours need to go to the Administration Office. Classrooms are contacted, by the internal phone system, and students are sent to the Office to meet their parents. All partial and whole day absences need to be explained.

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.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Information Gathering
Wednesday 17 February 6.00pm – 7.00pm.
Parents of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are invited to attend this information gathering. Come along to meet other parents and 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.

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. Please call: Denise Green - 6124 3800.

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 Kouparris
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!
Apology to the Stolen Generations
School Ceremony for the Eighth Anniversary

On Friday 12 February students and staff came together to acknowledge the eighth anniversary of The Apology to the Indigenous peoples of this land. The apology, given by then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, marked a significant step towards healing the pain, suffering and hurt caused to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and ‘recognised the time had come to right the wrongs of the past and move forward with confidence to the future’. The theme for the assembly was: ‘Heal the past, build our future together and celebrate the strength and courage of the Stolen Generations’. Students participated in class discussions to deepen their understanding and reflect on how the taking away of Aboriginal children had affected their mothers, families and communities. The assembly was led by the Year 6 Aboriginal students and the school captains and prefects and concluded with the raising of the flags.
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**
1) Press "Settings / Cog" icon
2) Turn off the lists you don’t want

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