Targeted Early Numeracy Parents’ Workshop
Last Wednesday evening over 30 parents attended the TEN information session. Mrs Hadobas explained how the systematic and explicit teaching provided to students builds their understanding and skills in the early years of Mathematics learning. Mrs Merchant, Mrs Casey, Miss Raymond and Miss Border demonstrated to parents how to play a variety of mathematical games, how to adjust the games for different levels of understanding, where the games can be found on the school website and how to use them to support their children’s learning.

Clean Up Australia and Keep It Beautiful
On Friday 4 March students took time out from their classrooms to join in the School Clean up Australia activity. Each class has adopted an area of the school to keep beautiful during 2016. Some students also volunteered part of their playtime to pick up rubbish to clean the school environment.

District Swimming Carnival
By Lucinda Bott, Chloe McPherson and Mrs Bryant
On Monday 22 March, 43 students represented QPS at the District Swimming Carnival held at the AIS in Canberra. Mrs Bryant managed the team and Miss Hill and Mrs Rosser represented QPS assisting in the running of the carnival. The team looked very smart in the new QPS team shirts that were purchased for them by the P&C late last year. All students showed great sportsmanship and competed to the best of their ability. Congratulations to the following students who will be travelling to the Regional Carnival at Dapto as part of the Queanbeyan District Team: Koby Anderson, Thomas Blazevski, Ty Broers, Danny Celeski, Macy Don, Ashlee Fensom, Koby Gibbs, Abbey Goiser, Kiah Kreunen, Jack O’Loughlan, Sam Keys, Anthony Blazevski, Hannah Sproule and Mikayla Nikoloski. Additional congratulations go to Koby Gibbs who was named the Boys 11 years District Swimming Champion. All place ribbons from the school carnival and district carnival have been given to stage leaders to be presented at stage assemblies.
From the Library
The Premier’s Reading Challenge
The NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) aims to encourage in students a love of reading for leisure and pleasure, and to enable them to experience quality literature. Please support your children to participate in the Challenge by checking regularly that they are recording the books they read and are on track to complete the Challenge in the required time. Our library has many books from the PRC lists at all reading levels and on a variety of topics, so the PRC is easily achievable for all students. I am available to help in selecting reading material. Please drop in or email me, at frances.handley@det.nsw.edu.au if you have any questions or feel your children may need help.

The PRC is open to all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 9. This year it finishes on the 26 August. Students from Years 3 to 6 must read a minimum of 15 PRC books and a maximum of 5 personal choice books, totalling 20 books. They need to enter them online, in their Student Reading Record. They can access their Student Reading Record any time while the Challenge is open. Students use their individual usernames and passwords to access the PRC website and their own Student Reading Record. Kindergarten and Years 1 and 2 students will complete the challenge as a class, with their teacher. Their reading record will be completed by the teacher librarian.

Fran Handley

P&C Annual General Meeting
Monday 14 March 6:30pm in the QPS staffroom
The P&C Association works together with school staff to promote the interests of the school, to assist in providing resources and to contribute to decision making that supports success at school. All parents are invited to attend the AGM on Monday 14 March. At this meeting the positions for President, Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President will be declared vacant and nominations called for the positions so the P&C can continue its role in the school.

The AGM will be followed by the monthly P&C meeting. The agenda will be posted on the Thorpe Avenue notice board and copies will be available from the front office.

QPS AND SACC Baby / Kids Expo and Market
Saturday 5 March 10am – 1 pm
Many families attended the Baby and Kids Expo with Markets last Saturday. The community information stalls, the wide array of individual stallholders, the face painting, jumping castle and the visit from Elsa and Spiderman kept everyone entertained.

Tell Them From Me Surveys
This year our school is participating in the Tell Them From Me student, parent and teacher surveys. These surveys will provide valid and reliable data to help us during the 2015-2017 planning cycle, including with the annual review of strategic directions, development of improvement measures and milestones, self-assessment against the School Excellence Framework and preparation of the annual report. The survey is confidential and can be used to identify trends and better inform school priorities.

The student survey provides insight into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at their school, from the perspective of students. Surveys are completed during school time and students in Years 4, 5 and 6 can participate. Parents may request that their children do not complete the survey. (More information will be sent home with these students and is attached to the e-newsletter.)

The parent survey is anonymous and helps to clarify and strengthen the important relationship between parents and the school.

The teacher survey is anonymous. It provides insight into school and classroom effectiveness, from the perspective of teachers and provides part of an overall school improvement toolkit.

Data collected from the survey responses are quickly compiled into reports for school leaders. Principals can then use this information to help them identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.
Dear Parents and Carers

In Term 1 2016, our school is taking part in the Tell Them From Me student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Students in Years 4, 5 and 6 can participate. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help them improve. The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, The Learning Bar, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes 30 minutes or less to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), has access to data from across NSW and is running a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research is looking at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students and schools will not be identified in any CESE publications, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Students’ personal information will not be disclosed by the Department to any other person or body other than as required by law.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next question. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you do not want your child to take part in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child's school by Friday 18 March 2016.

More information about the survey and the research is available in English on the CESE website: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

Kym Hawes
Principal
Queanbeyan Public School
7 March 2016

Dr Jenny Donovan
Executive Director
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation
Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey non-consent form

If you **do not want** your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school by Friday 18 March 2016.

I **DO NOT** give consent for my child/children to participate in the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey.

Name of student/s ………………………………………………………………………………

Roll class/es ………………………………………………………………………………………

Name of parent/carer ………………………………………………………………………...

Signature of parent/carer ……………………………………………………………………

Date ……………………………
1. What is the *Tell Them From Me* student survey?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey asks questions about factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other outcomes. It aims to help improve the learning outcomes of students. The survey is designed to measure, assess and report insights from the student point of view at the school and system levels. The focus of this NSW survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

2. What kind of questions will the survey ask?

The survey questions relate to the following 18 measures for primary schools:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation in sports</th>
<th>Behaviour at school</th>
<th>Effective learning time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in extra-curricular activities</td>
<td>Homework behaviour</td>
<td>Teaching relevance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of belonging</td>
<td>Interest and motivation</td>
<td>Teaching rigour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive relationships</td>
<td>Effort</td>
<td>Experience of being bullied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valuing school outcomes</td>
<td>Skills and learning challenge</td>
<td>Advocacy at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive teacher student relations</td>
<td>Expectations for success</td>
<td>Positive learning climate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The survey questions relate to the following 22 measures for secondary schools:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation in sports</th>
<th>Homework behaviour</th>
<th>Expectations for success</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive learning climate</td>
<td>Participation in clubs</td>
<td>Behaviour at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience of being bullied</td>
<td>Truancy</td>
<td>Sense of belonging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and motivation</td>
<td>Effective learning time</td>
<td>Aspirations: finishing Year 12, University, TAFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive relationships</td>
<td>Effort</td>
<td>Teaching relevance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellness</td>
<td>Valuing school outcomes</td>
<td>Positive learning climate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching rigour</td>
<td>Advocacy at school</td>
<td>Advocacy outside school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive teacher student relations</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. How have schools been selected to take part?

The survey is open to all NSW government schools at no cost to them. Your child’s school has decided to participate.
4. How will taking part in this survey benefit my child’s school?

The Tell Them From Me student survey will provide school principals and school leaders with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at their school, from the perspective of students. Data collected from the survey responses are quickly compiled into reports for school leaders. Principals can then use this information to help them identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.

5. What does my child need to do to participate in the survey?

The survey typically takes less than 30 minutes and is conducted entirely online through a secure website operated by the survey developers, The Learning Bar. Schools will make computers or laptops available so that students can complete the survey during school hours.

6. Does my child have to participate?

No, participation in the survey is optional. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable, he/she can choose to stop the survey at any time. The majority of questions in the survey can be skipped. Parents/students have a right to apply for access to, and correction of, a student’s information.

7. Will the school be able to identify my child from their responses?

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will not be made available.

8. What sort of analysis will be done of the survey data?

Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days. School leaders can use the data to better understand the experiences and views of students at their school. The results will help all schools better understand the relationship between wellbeing, engagement, effective teaching and student learning. Results from CESE’s analysis of this data will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes. This supports the Department’s continuing focus on quality teaching and leadership. The data will be retained for future analysis to help us better understand the nature of student engagement and wellbeing over time.

9. Can all school students participate in the survey?

The primary school survey is designed for students in Years 4 to 6. Schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in these Year groups to participate. Secondary schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in Years 7 to 12 to participate.

10. When will the Tell Them From Me survey happen?

The surveys will be conducted in all participating schools at the end of Term 1 and (optionally) Term 3.

What is CESE?

The Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) is part of the Department of Education. CESE has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in New South Wales. CESE will identify and share what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all of education.

More information about CESE is available at: www.cese.nsw.gov.au

What is The Learning Bar?

The Learning Bar is a Canadian education company that specialises in school surveys for both primary and secondary students. Its survey, Tell Them From Me, is the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of Canada’s ten provinces. More than 2,600 schools and 1.7 million Canadian students have participated in the survey over the last nine years. Australian schools have been participating in the Tell Them From Me surveys since 2012.

The Learning Bar is led by Dr J Douglas Willms. Dr Willms is a Professor and Director of the Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy at the University of New Brunswick, and holds the Canada Research Chair in Literacy and Human Development. Dr Willms led the development of questions on student engagement for the OECD’s Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

More information about The Learning Bar is available at: www.thelearningbar.com

If you have any questions about the parent survey, please contact CESE via email: TTFM@det.nsw.edu.au or by telephone: 9561 8056 /9561 8688 /9561 8370.