Science and Technology
Scientific inquiry is a distinct way of finding answers to interesting questions and solutions to important problems. A student’s sense of wonder and curiosity about the world is encouraged through actively engaging in the processes of Working Scientifically and Working Technologically. Through Working Scientifically, students identify and ask questions about the world. They plan and conduct a range of practical investigations. They evaluate the processes and the quality of findings, evidence and conclusions. Through Working Technologically they recognise problems and respond to opportunities, needs and wants in their world for which possible solutions can be designed and produced.

Students in 5/6J and 5/6W are studying a unit on Energy. Last week they learnt a lot about conductors of heat and using solar energy through their participation in separate Solar Challenges.

Last Tuesday was a bright sunny day – perfect for 5/6J’s ‘Solar Sizzle’ challenge! The class was very excited to try out their ‘cutting edge’ solar ovens, which they had made themselves. The students had to attempt to either boil 200mls of water or cook a thin beef sausage in the shortest possible time. Everyone set up their ovens in the playground, carefully harnessing the sun’s energy. Vi took home the honour of being the water-boiling champion. Her cup of water boiled in 49 minutes; Lachlan won the sausage cooking competition, cooking his sausage in 47 mins. Overall, the competition was really great and we were all happy with our results.

by Olivia, Jordyn, Khadeeja and Kiahna

5/6W students made solar ovens using foil on the inside of a box, black paper around the outside and glad wrap to cover it all. Then we took our ovens into the playground to cook ‘smores’ (a biscuit topped first with a piece of chocolate then a marshmallow). The challenge was to see how long it would take to melt the chocolate and soften the marshmallow. We used thermometers to measure the temperature.

by Natalia, Jasmine and Charlotte

Regional Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to the 14 students who travelled to Dapto as part of the Queanbeyan District Swimming team. Everyone swam very well against very strong competition. Kiah Kreunen was successful and will travel to Sydney to compete in the 50m freestyle event at the State Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 6 April. Good luck, Kiah!
Moving into Year 7 in 2017
Parents are reminded that the Expression of Interest forms for Year 6 students moving into Year 7 in 2017 are to be returned to the front office by this Friday, 18 March.

Information for the Cross Country Carnival
This Friday 18 March our school's annual cross country carnival is being held. The competitive events for students aged 8 years to 13 years will be held at the Showground. Students will leave school at 9am and return by 1.05pm. There will be a whole school cheer at school at 9am to start our day off!

For the first time, students in Kindergarten to Year 2 will be participating in a separate cross country event at school.

Students in Year 2 who turn 8 years this year may compete in either the competitive event at the showground, or the non-competitive in-school event on playground 2. Parents need to complete the permission note for the event their child is attending. Parents are welcome to join us throughout the day.

Students, aged 8 years to 13 years are reminded to return their permission notes. Any student in Years 3-6 who do not return their permission note, will complete a cross country event at school on playground 5.

A Stage 2 assembly is scheduled for this Friday 18 March. However, because of the cross country carnival this assembly will be moved to Tuesday 22 March, beginning at the new time of 1.55pm until 2.55pm. 3/4N will be hosting the assembly.

School Photographs: Friday 1 April
Our annual school photographs will be taken on Friday 1 April. Notes are being sent home this week. The hall is required for the photographs so the following changes to routines are necessary:

- the stage 2 assembly scheduled for this day will be moved to the following week, Friday 8 April, at 12.25pm until 1.05pm. 3/4K will be hosting this assembly.
- there will be no sport for either stage 2 or stage 3 classes on Friday 1 April.

Uniform: Students should wear the following uniform on school photo day:

Girls
- White polo shirt (with collar, short sleeve)
- Pinafore/skirt/ in check fabric
- Summer check dress,
- White socks
- Black shoes with black laces
- Hair tied back or clipped off the face with black, white or maroon accessories only

Boys
- White polo shirt (with collar, short sleeve)
- ‘School Grey’ drill pants or shorts
- Grey or white socks
- Black shoes with black laces

Family Group Photos will be taken during the day. Payment is made directly to the school with the separate order forms.

White Ribbon Day Student Luncheon in 2015
Last November twelve year 6 students attended a White Ribbon Day luncheon at the Bicentennial Hall. It was co-hosted by Queanbeyan City Council and Monaro Local Area Command (Police). A panel of presenters engaged the students in discussions around Domestic and Family Violence and the meaning of giving respect. A highlight was the presentation by Alan Tongue of the Canberra Raiders. He spoke about balance and power in relationships.

The mantra for the day was ‘Give respect for a future without domestic and family violence.’

National Day of Action against bullying and Violence
This Friday is the National Day of Action against bullying and violence. It is important to build social and emotional competencies in self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, responsible decision making and relationship skills. These competencies are protective factors for student positive mental health.

Student Health
Type 1 diabetes is a medical condition that needs daily management and last year three students, with the support of staff, did just that throughout each school day. Joseph, Sophie and Ellie took it all in their stride. $500 was raised by the school community for the Junior Diabetes Research Foundation.

Many students have been diagnosed with medical conditions including anaphylaxis, asthma and epilepsy. The department requires that these Student Health Care Plans be updated annually. Parents need to provide the school with copies of health care plans and other relevant medical information that has been signed by the doctor.

Tell Them From Me Surveys
This year our school is participating in the Tell Them From Me student, parent and teacher surveys. These confidential surveys 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, self-assessment against the School Excellence Framework and preparation of the annual report.

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

Parent and teacher surveys will be completed later in the year.
2016 AFL Zone Trials

On a wet and miserable morning, sixteen enthusiastic Stage 3 boys attended the AFL zone trials at Allinsure Oval. With the rain bucketing down and the ground resembling a green swamp, the boys took to the field for a series of skills and drills sessions run by the staff from the ACT/NSW AFL. Conditions were difficult, to say the least yet this did not deter the boys from giving their best. Handballs hit their targets, drop punts landed on chests and balls were passed between groups with precision and expertise.

After a brief break to refuel and hydrate the Queanbeyan team took to the field for the first game against Bungendore. It was a hard fought match in wet conditions which made players work for every possession. Wil Aitchison in the ruck fed the ball to the mighty midfield of Luca Cervo, Lachlan Gisik and Harrison Jolliffe. Max Banic chased everything like a cat after a mouse, as he delivered the ball to the forward line. Winning both halves convincingly the boys left the field for a brief break with heads held high and comments from debutants like ‘I love AFL footy’ and ‘that was fun, when is our next game?’

Our second game was against West Queanbeyan. With the dynamic duo of Bailey Budd and Daunte Cervo sharing the ruck duties the boys quickly got the points on the board and led into the halftime break. In the second half, the team from the west got a little too much of the ball, and despite gallant efforts from Koby Gibbs, Kai Fraigneux, Harvey McAlister, Wil Bush and Jayden Cousins we lost our only half of the day.

The final game was against Jerrabomberra. With great sportsmanship, Ryan Crowe happily pulled on a Jerra jumper so that all QPS boys got maximum game time. Jackson Crowe found the uprights on a couple of occasions and was ably supported by Jacob Pulciani and Billy Rolfe. Daunte Cervo volunteered to wear the Jerra jersey in the second half and after a beautiful run down the wing almost scored but was stopped by a wall of Queanbeyan defenders who were intent on securing a third victory for the day.

At the conclusion of the day the 22 man team to travel to Bateman’s Bay was announced. Queanbeyan students Daunte Cervo, Max Banic and Koby Gibbs secured positions in the squad and will venture down the Clyde Mountain to test their mettle next Friday.

We wish them all the best.

Wendy Jolliffe

The Queanbeyan boys after a fruitful day at the office. Max Banic, Dante Cervo and Koby Gibbs who were successful in their selection into the zone team to travel to Batemans Bay next Friday.
Student Family Group Photographs
Friday 1 April 2016

Parents may request a Family Group photo to be taken of their children at school on School Photo Day, Friday 1 April. Family Photos will cost $15.00 each. Payment must be made directly to the school and should not be included with other photo money. Please complete the slip below and return it to school by Wednesday 30 March if you would like a Family Photo of your children.

☐ I would like to order a Family Photo of my children.
☐ Attached is the payment of $15.00.

Children’s Names and Classes:
1. __________________________  2. __________________________
3. __________________________  4. __________________________

Parent’s Name: ____________________________________________

(Please make cheques payable to Queanbeyan Public School)

I wish to pay by Cash  ☐ Cheque  ☐ Credit Card  ☐ On-line payment  ☐

Credit Card Authorisation

Please Charge $ ………………(total amount)

Card Number: ____________________________ (Complete all 16 digits)

Expiry Date: _ _ / _ _  Card Holders Name: ____________________________

Card Holders Signature………………………………………………

A credit card authorisation can also be given by phone to the Front Office on 6297 2144, by 12.00pm on Wednesday 30 March.
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.


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>Homework behaviour</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.