



The QDE Courier

September 2013



to our new students in term
They are

- 😊 Slade Bell
- 😊 Ludovic Blakemore
- 😊 Olive Blakemore
- 😊 Brooke Bryan
- 😊 Samantha Bryan
- 😊 Jessica Chamberlain
- 😊 Benjamin Evans
- 😊 Hugh Haywood-Mercer
- 😊 Katherine Hinchcliffe
- 😊 Emily Hinchcliffe
- 😊 Corey Hordpenko
- 😊 Hayden Keenan
- 😊 Ashton Parish
- 😊 Bailey Parish
- 😊 Jesse Parish
- 😊 Genevieve Temple
- 😊 Laura Temple
- 😊 Max Thompson
- 😊 Zoe Tot
- 😊 Kyle Yates



Brooke mixed dough for twisty making at the Gathering. They were so yummy and a big hit.

What's happened this term?

*This term, as with all other terms it seems, has been packed with things happening. Our Term 3 Gathering was the highlight with sixteen children attending. It was great to see new faces as well as the old hands. People were most appreciative of the time they could have to talk to other parents and share stories and learn from each other. We are extending our website to include a parent contact through Facebook. *We have some new teaching staff on board. Ryan Kearns is new teacher with great ideas and a wealth of technological expertise which we seem to draw upon each time he comes in. Michelle is also new to DE and has proved her weight in gold already. Ryan and Michelle are sharing a class. *Teachers have been busy learning about the new Australian curriculum for NSW. It's been a three term journey for English and we've just started investigating the implications for Mathematics. It's all quite new and exciting and teachers have been preparing so that implementation of new curriculum can begin for Maths and English in 2014. Thank you to all for a most productive term. Enjoy the break and please make sure you set aside the school work for the fortnight.
Warm regards, Eloise Dews





School Attendance in DE

Your child, while on distance education, is enrolled as a student at a NSW Department of Education and Communities school. Each set of work represents the work your student is to complete for their learning for the length of time indicated on the pack. This is usually two weeks, or in some instances, one week.

The regular return of work demonstrates students have been in attendance at school.

Students in distance education are allowed to be absent from school for legitimate reasons! Should the work not be able to be completed for any reason, you need to inform your child's teacher. Your child may be sick or on leave for a special reason (to attend an appointment requiring travel or for urgent family business for example). Alternatively, you, the supervisor, may be ill and not able to fulfil your role. In either instance, where work is unable to be completed, call or email or write a note so the teacher can record the absence or help you with re-organising.

In production...The 2013 Yearbook

The production of the digital version of the Queanbeyan Distance Education 2013 Yearbook is underway. All students have the task of creating their special page and will receive, or have already received, the digital template by email or other means, to complete and return. All pages should be returned with the first set of returns in term 4. Hopefully, the template will help students to set their work out so that pages can be inserted into the Yearbook with ease.

Please remember to reduce the size of photos. If you have Microsoft Office, please open each photo in this program and click 'edit' then go to 'compress pictures'. Once there, click on 'Document'. This will compress ready for saving and then copying into the template.

If you haven't received the digital template, please contact your teacher.



Our new teachers

Ryan



Hello Everyone,

I am Ryan Kearns and I am new to the Distance Education Centre. I work as a Primary teacher in Queanbeyan when I am not working in the Distance Education Centre. I moved and travelled a lot as a kid so I really enjoy hearing about my travelling students adventures.

I live in Queanbeyan and love to go walking by the river near my house, especially in hot weather! I love teaching as well as sports and anything to do with science and technology.

Michelle



Hi Everyone,

My name is Michelle Wilson and I am a new addition to the Distance Education Centre. I have marked quite a few students work and have really enjoyed it. I am sharing a class with Ryan and most of them are travelling. It has been great marking students work who have been travelling around Australia and the world, as I have been given the opportunity to read their journals and hear about their adventures. I look forward in getting to know the students and families here at the Distance Education.

One of our DE families is...

The O'Brien Family



Determination makes things happen!

The O'Brien family is about half-way through their inspiring journey. They decided to address the blockers and embark on a trip around the world on their fabulous bike4four. Just get a look at that bike. Yes. They are biking their way around the world and their adventures have been plentiful. In the doing of it, Rosie, in Year 5, and Tom, in Year 3, have had an education in life, in nurturing family ties, in communicating and in living life abundantly. They've set up their own blog which contains information, not only about their travels, but about how 'Making it happen' is within the reach of all of us. It took a determination and then commitment. They saw the big picture and seized the chance of a lifetime to enjoy and bind their family unit by adventuring far afield. Here are a few gems about Rosie's and Tom's escapades with Mum and Dad.



In France, the O'Brien's hit the headlines much to their amusement and even the news stand said so.

In 45 degree heat, the bike journey continued into the French countryside.

It was so hot, 'Tom was surprised we weren't in a desert!

60 kilometers of struggling up hills, sweating our heads off, and having breaks every half hour- but it was worth it'. Look what they saw - Beautiful Azay Le Rideau





Rosie turned a soccer ball inside-out and made a shower. Inventiveness is everything on a hot day.



Our tent in **Verdun sur le doubs**, Burgundy, the Aus flag still flying on the bike behind.



The Rhein River Cycle path in Germany delayed travels only on the wettest of days.



We peddled all the way from down there to here



The family's journey has been full of history. They were amazed at how well preserved this chateau had remained. They also reflected on how fortunate they were to be there to see it. 'So much depth of history' are Helen's words.



Rosie and Tom have done their school work on their ipads so as to eliminate extra things to carry. It's a deserved cup of coffee for Mum too.



Things to do with loo paper when you have to buy eight rolls but you can only carry two! →





Dad, Rosie and Tom on the bike. Dad leads the push. It's good really.



We never tired of seeing rooftops like these. They are quite fascinating.



The most 'vomit inducing' hill of all as we trekked in Holland says Helen



The locals were amused at our bike and sent the pic off to the newspaper – again!



There was some time spent searching for this 'wildrooster' wildlife but it was never spotted.



Lesson time – the Eastern progression of Allies across Europe after the Normandy Beach landings



We could have fun with just one skateboard and....look at this cottage!!



You can visit Tom and Rosie and Jeff and Helen on their blog at <http://bike4four.wordpress.com> and follow their inspiring journey of travels into far-away lands on their fabulous bike4four.



America. You're out there somewhere.
We're on our way!

September Gathering

The September Gathering was well attended and all students across all categories of enrolment were invited. We believe that the social and emotional growth and intelligence of all children is paramount and precedes successful learning and living. To this end, we strive to do our best to provide a nurturing environment so this can occur. Our September activities were aimed at providing opportunities for socialising and learning to be inclusive of all. All activities were great fun.



Signing The Rainbow Connection with Leila



Dough making and eating was great fun



The bush dancing was a laugh and a half!



We cooked twisties in the hot coals. Such fun.



Jonah and Kearah enjoying the activities

Kids Matter



Plenty of boot skootin here!



Precision jewellery making



Collecting the 'team building' spaghetti



Team building tower making



The whole team walk the plank



They have a group hug – smallies in the centre.



Huckback stitching was the hit of all hits



River 'in the swing'



Kara, Liam and Brooke
Jiving away

Contacting Teachers



Teachers and the Administrative staff can be contacted between 8:30am and 3pm Monday to Friday. Outside of these hours teachers can be

contacted using either the phone and the answering machine or the their respective Department of Education and Communities email addresses. All teachers have made this email address known to their students and families. If you need to make a general enquiry, the Centre's email address is:

queanbey-d.school@det.nsw.edu.au and can be found on the Centre's website at <http://www.queanbey-d.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

Please note: The Department's Code of Conduct advises teachers about maintaining a professional relationship between themselves, students, and supervisors. This means that teachers are discouraged from using social media such as Facebook and Twitter as a means of communicating with students. The DEC portal has also blocked the use of Skype and other similar sites. Teacher's personal devices such as mobile phones for calls or text messages are also not recommended.

Important Term Dates

Students last day for Term 3 2013
is Friday, 20th September 2013

Students first day for Term 4 2013
is Tuesday, 8th October 2013

(Monday, 7th October is a public holiday)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2013



<http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/calendar>

Fees Reminder

Queanbeyan Distance Education Centre is a public education facility and is part of the NSW Department of Education and Communities. We try to keep costs and charges to families as low as possible.

Queanbeyan Distance Education levies two types of fees. The first is a general service fee of \$50 per student per year. This contribution helps cover the cost of consumables and consumable materials used as part of the student's program. This fee is payable every year that a student is enrolled. It has not been our practice to invoice families for this fee but a reminder letter is sent and notice is provided in this newsletter.

A second fee of \$50 for resources is a one-off fee which is charged to cover returnable resources such as books, USB drives, maths kits and other items necessary to the delivery of student programs.

When an enrolment is completed and all resources loaned to a student have been returned, this resource deposit is fully refunded. In a case where items have been misplaced, damaged or not returned, the cost may be deducted from the resource fee before a refund is given.

An Overseas Student Fee of \$100.00 is payable at the time of enrolment and prior to the beginning of each term. *Exemptions under this category only applies to students where hard-copy mail is forwarded to a locked or diplomatic bag within Australia OR where a family elects to receive and send work wholly electronically.*

Payment of fees, as explained in the enrolment package, is a condition of enrolment and of continuing enrolment. Fees can be paid either by cheque, money order, cash or direct deposit. Unfortunately we do not have EFTPOS facilities. Receipts for payments received are provided.

Further information about fees can be obtained by contacting our office on (02) 6299 2966. Special circumstances are considered with regard to the payment of fees. Please discuss this with the centre manager at the time of your student's interview.

TAKE THE PARENT SURVEY - We would also like parents to take the parent survey. You will be sent a code via email to use. Simply go to our school website parent page and click the link to open the survey login page. Use the code to login and complete. Your opinions and contributions are very important and will help us steer our boat in the right direction. Please visit and complete the survey.

Congratulations to Melina Skidmore

Melina, one of our DE parents/supervisors, is a finalist in the Pride of Australia awards for NSW.



News Corp Australia

PRIDE OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL 2013

PROUD MEDIA PARTNER



Having suffered horrific abuse during her one hundred foster care placements, this single mum of four has overcome her past to establish 'Angels for the forgotten' which has distributed crisis care packages through police and emergency agencies to more than two thousand needy youth and families. The Sunday Telegraph reported that Melina was amongst an extraordinary group of 'everyday Australians, united by a bond of compassion, bravery and true heroism...their selfless acts are inspiring'. State winners will compete in the national awards on 15 November. The ceremony will be shown live on Channel 10s Morning show. ***We are all barracking for you Melina.***

(Ben, Melina's son in Year 5, is in Max's class. He works tirelessly in his community with and for people of all ages. He has inherited his mother's spirit of selflessness.)

Lost Property

There were quite a number of items of clothing left at school after the Gathering.

Do you own any of them? If you do, please let your teacher know.

*A black hoody with 'Converse All Stars' embroidered on the front.

*A girl's size 10 black denim jacket

*A women's size 10 dark grey/black ¾ length ladies woollen coat (gathered at the waist)

It's Yearbook Time – Take action now!!

Each student is to ensure they complete their Yearbook page and return it electronically to their teacher. Please click either link to complete.

[Yearbook template 1](#) [Yearbook Template 2](#)

Please remember to reduce the size of images by going to Microsoft Office and then 'Edit Pictures'. You then need to click 'compress picture' and then click 'Document'. By doing this you will reduce your images and it is very important. It will mean you won't be sending lots of extra data back to the school and using up your internet allowance. If you prefer, please upload your completed pages to your USB drive and return it that way.

Entries close 25 October.