

The QDE Courier

September 2014



to our new students....

Finn Caswell	Khemarin Sorn
Liam Mansell	Chaelee Short
Holly Mansell	Chloe Short
Jasmine Mansell	Harrison Short
Jake Jovanovic	Deaglan Payne
Marco Jovanovic	Riley Payne
Alexander McLennan	Braith Forrest
Isabella McLennan	Jade Ollman
Alexander Sepetauc	Samuel Murray
Natasha Sepetauc	Ella Manns
Chloe Grabia	Hayley Grabia



Mac Livissianos
Mathletics champ



and Samantha Bryan
Zooming ahead

How has it been at your end?

I hope you've found the term rewarding and I'm sure you are all looking forward to a well-earned break. Please rest up so you can come back ready for the final term for 2014. The Gathering was a huge success at every level and the children really enjoyed being together. I hope parents enjoyed each other's company. The new, shorter days and pizza lunch seemed to work well for all.

Did you happen to see Kahli and Olivia Henley top the Australian and World Achievement charts in Mathletics? We have had another Mathletics star too - Mac Livissianos, who was busy while he travelled around Spain. Another rising star is Samantha Bryan who has jumped a whole 20% in her reading and writing bands and her mum, Barbara is over the moon as we are.

This term we said goodbye to Ruth Hayward. She has taken the opportunity to go overseas to teach and is now in Doha, Qatar administering and teaching in special education. We have missed her already. Julie Kendal-Rowe has joined the staff and with her expertise in special education, Indonesian and writing and we know she will work well with students. Kathy Junor, a very experienced teacher across year levels, has also come into DE and we look forward to her being with us for a longer time period next term. Enjoy the break and come back refreshed next term.

Happy hols to all of you from all of us at QDE



Olivia and Kahli Henley – Mathletics champions



Hi I'm **Kathy Junor**. I have only been teaching in the Queanbeyan Distance Education Centre for a short time. I have been a classroom teacher at Queanbeyan Public School for 13 years and am enjoying the new challenges of the DE. I am

currently teaching Kindergarten in the School and working in DE for half a day a week. I am really enjoying exploring all the online tools and using them in planning for my DE students and have discovered some new ideas for teaching my kindergarten class. I live in Queanbeyan with my husband and have three adult children as well as a much loved border collie named Meg. She is great to come home to at the end of a busy day.

Hello everyone, I am **Julie Kendal-Rowe**. I have been teaching in the Queanbeyan area as a casual teacher for a number of years. Last year I worked at Karabar Distance



Education Centre across all curriculum areas for students with learning difficulties. Despite this experience in distance education, I find I am again on a steep learning curve teaching here at Queanbeyan Distance Education Centre. However, I am really enjoying the challenge of learning new technologies and getting to know the students through marking their work. I lived and taught in Indonesia for a number of years and will be drawing on this experience to write a distance education course in Indonesian language and culture. I live in Queanbeyan with my husband who is a distance education teacher at Karabar and our two school aged sons.

Attendance at school 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 and help you with re-organising.

Contacting teachers



The Centre's staff can be contacted between 8:30am to 3pm Monday to Friday. Outside of these hours teachers can be contacted using either the phone to answer machine or by their education emails. Please note, the answering machine is also on during administration staff recess periods (11am to 11.20am) and lunch periods (1.15pm to 2pm). Vickie and Isabel check the answering machine each morning, after recess and after lunch so you can be assured your message is forwarded to teachers.

The Centre's email address: queanbeypd.school@det.nsw.edu.au can be found on the Centre's website <http://www.queanbeypd.schools.nsw.edu.au/>.

Emails are checked every morning and then periodically throughout the day. If you experience any problems, with any of these systems, please let us know and thank you to the mum who did just that. We've fixed our machine!!

Our September Gathering

By Reporter Jo



The September gathering was a beauty! It was so much fun and we learnt so much while, of course, having heaps of fun being together. It had a science focus and with the new Science curriculum to be ready to go in 2015, it was ideal timing.

Day 1

We started with a great warm up activity which included all of us – teachers, students and parents. Who was I again? With what group did I belong? Classifying according to our characteristics was just a fab way to get to know each other as well. The science experiment activities made us think and work like scientists would. We then toted off to *Geo Science Australia* 'in the bus'. What was better fun I ask you? *Geo Science* had all manner of groovy crystals of all shapes and colours and fascinating rocks from the earth's surface as well as deep layers under the crust. Wouldn't Geology be a great thing to be?



Flubber making...mmm goo balls galore

We made some flubber! It's rubber of sorts; made with pva paste and borax. What a blast that was and it was a good bit of chemistry to inspire us to think about what chemists do – even Rumpelstiltskin!

Day 2

We all drove out to Tidbinbilla. This is a most fascinating area – full of things science with bush tucker all about, with habitats galore and lichens and mosses in abundance. It was a most beautiful day with the sun out and the shelter of the mountain protecting us. We saw and walked over some Aboriginal sacred sites and thought upon at a way of a way of life passed but with lessons in

family and cultural connections from which we could learn. We enjoyed each other's company and practiced our life rules to live by – particularly being birds together.



At Tidbinbilla - a beautiful, sacred and peaceful area



Climbing the big Rock – of which there were many

Day 3

This was our final day and it was a great one too. We started the morning with yet more Science experiments with testing how substances reacted with each other and how we could use the the force of air pressure to turn small things into rockets and to make things fly efficiently. It was good to hear students making predications and hypothesising and then testing their ideas. After morning tea it was off to the CSIRO. Now that was fun!



Gathering happy snaps



Testing air pressure



Testing aerodynamics



Eating!!



Fun on the bus



Tidbinbilla playground



Tidbinbilla socialising



We enjoy each other's company wherever we are



Happy faces here and there





Don't forget to do your



offline on your desktop or device at least 4 times a week but 5 times is even better!!

Life rules to live by

Happy talking



Not hurtful talking



Be birds together



Treat others respectfully



Not disrespectfully



Include new people.....especially if they look lonely



Thank you to all our students who made these rules their own and lived by them at the gathering. It was so so so good to see how you all pulled together, were incredibly inclusive and considerate to and of each other. We are so proud of you all. We were birds together

New Distance Education Enrolment Procedures 2014



The new **Distance Education Enrolment Procedures 2014** are finalized and are to take full effect as of January 2105. Changes and new additions are here below. The new procedures are also linked to our website.

Determining eligibility

Principals of distance education schools determine the category under which a student will be admitted to distance education and the duration of the enrolment, acting on advice or recommendations from other departmental officers, relevant professionals, documentary evidence and their own enquiries. Enrolment will proceed when it is established that distance education is the best course of action for that student after consideration of all known circumstances.

New - Periodic review of all enrolments

Enrolments in some categories are subject to periodic review to ensure that eligibility for distance education is maintained due to the specialist nature of that category. Where this is the case, it is detailed in the specific enrolment information in that category. If a student is deemed no longer eligible for distance education, the student's enrolment will cease and the parent/carer will be required to enrol their child at the local school or other approved education provision in order to meet the requirements of the *Education Act (1990)*. Some full time enrolments target temporary student circumstances and have time limits.

The commitment of the Supervisor

The role of the supervisor is vital to the success of distance education for primary school aged children. As part of the review process, the role the supervisor plays is taken into account. A supervisor must provide the following:

- 1.** Confirmation that the home learning environment is safe and suitable for effective distance education provision
- 2.** A declaration by the parent/carer that they recognise and accept their roles and responsibilities in the student's education
- 3.** An undertaking by the parent/carer to provide and maintain an agreed mode of communication between themselves and the distance education school for the duration of the enrolment
- 4.** Nomination by the parent/carer of a person who will perform the role of supervisor during the period of enrolment, and acceptance by that person of the following responsibilities:
 - a.** liaising with the school about the program of learning that will be provided for the student and the scheduling of the student's and supervisor's time for engaging in schoolwork and the completion of set tasks
 - b.** supervising the student during schoolwork activities
 - c.** supporting and encouraging the student through assistance with locating materials and resources needed for lessons, development of a timetable for work, provision of a suitable workplace and basic equipment
 - d.** ensuring that the student follows the course developed by the school and addresses, with diligence and sustained effort, the set tasks and experiences provided by the school
 - e.** interacting with the student as required by the learning materials
 - f.** interpreting and explaining to the student the spirit and intention of instructions or comments included in lesson materials or in messages from the distance education teacher
 - g.** providing feedback to the distance education teacher on the student's responses to the lesson activities and on the student's performance and interest, including advice about illnesses or absences which have affected the student's ability to complete activities
 - g.** monitoring the student's participation in satellite, computer-based or teleconference lessons and field services as appropriate
 - h.** providing appropriate conditions for the student and supervising all their examinations and assessment tasks, as requested.

Work returns and feedback

Supervisors are reminded that work is to be returned every fortnight. Please do not bank up sets and then post them all back in one go. Some families are keeping up to 8 weeks of returns before posting and this is not going to benefit anyone. Fortnightly returns ensure the best possible opportunities for meaningful feedback to students. Where feedback is delayed by the delay of returning work, the value of teacher comment is lost for both student and supervisor. The gap between completing the work and having it marked and commented upon is just too wide to be meaningful. Where multiple sets are returned, the most recently returned set will be marked with detailed feedback given to supervisor and student. Earlier sets will be recorded as returned only. Please contact your teacher if you need to change the fortnightly return routine. Eloise

Maths in DE

Our students are working with a number of different Maths resources. Your student could have a mix of paper-based material, online or interactive learning or electronic downloads. Your teacher has carefully blended the learning so the most can be gained. Where students have 'hands on' activities such as cutting out, assembling, playing a number game or recording what they observe, please do these activities. What's in the hand is in the brain and the games or hands-on learning is just as essential as the rest. There is no expediency in missing these vital learning opportunities and it is disappointing to see work returned with the activity based learning left out. Please make every effort to complete all the activities in the Maths. This way the 'what's in the hand is in the brain' will actually be there. Thanks all. Eloise.

Olivia and Kahli H living in China



The way it is for QDE students



Mac and Joe L in the van on the way to Spain



Molly and Will on their yacht 'Yollata' getting ready for school with QDE



!! 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. 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. 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.



Ivana, Joshua, Matthew & James G watching the river boats at Echuca

Term Dates

*Students last day for Term 3 is
Friday, 19 September 2014*

*Students first day for Term 4 is
Tuesday, 7 October 2014*

We're almost there with.....



Dropbox

We are finally ironing out the bugs at our end and we thank you all for your persistence with setting up your Dropbox at home. We will be sending families their new links to their newly created or moved Dropboxes. No wonder we could see things and you couldn't! I had better not go there. Im hoping it is all sorted. To our overseas families and travellers in particular, many thanks for persisting and explaining your issues. We have finally got it happening. Dropbox, a reliable and easy-to-use cloud server, for families travelling in Australia or traveling or living overseas is just the way to go. It is also most applicable for families who are home-based. You can and we can transfer large documents at a fraction of the cost of emailing and it provides an option to elect to be hard-post free. I must admit though, it isn't the easiest to download onto your computer but don't give up! Call or email if you are having grief and we can guide you through. Once you have it there, you can download documents and photo files to Dropbox while you are offline simply by 'saving as' to Dropbox. When next you go online, it will sync all new uploads. You will receive an invitation to use the shared folder for your family. It will prompt you to download the software and then you'll be good to go. If you would like to view the tutorial, go to:



For PC



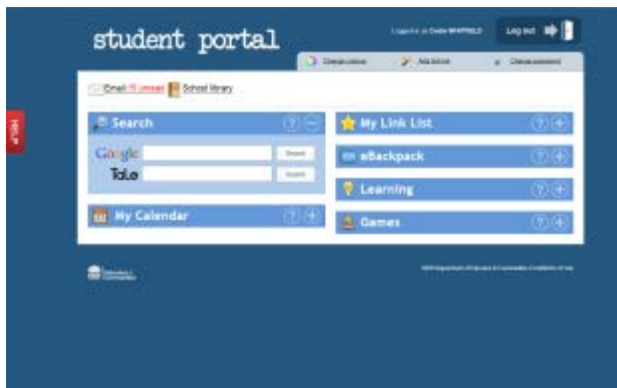
For Mac



Now you can choose your own books from our library from home

You can reach our library catalogue by going into [Links for Learning](#) on the student portal. We have a vast library collection just waiting for you to choose your own books. Once you have decided what you want, please let your teacher know and they can send these to you.

For those who may not have discovered the free or almost free software, this could save you dollars; particularly if you are upgrading to the latest Microsoft operating system. The Adobe InDesign program for example, costs nearly \$800 and you are able to have a DEC licenced copy for free. That is a true bargain. Licences for these software products belong the Dept. of Education and Communities which allows each to be used by you at home for these very rock-bottom prices.



Screenshot of the Student Portal homepage

We have a large number of new students who have joined us in the past few weeks or who are about to start in term 4 so this information will be important. If you are not aware of your login details, please ask your teacher.

Every student in a NSW public school has access to the Student Portal. This includes our DE students. Within 24 hours of your enrolment being finalised you will have access and your student will have their own email account.

The Student Portal

Each student has a login and a password which will take them to their own portal page. Above is a screenshot of the portal page. This page is accessed via our DE website. Go to the login tab then to student and use your unique login. This is usually first name, then a dot, then surname. Most accounts these days, are followed by a number. From this page, you are able to go to the student email account. It even tells you how many are unread.

Student email accounts

This is also your child's email account name followed by @education.nsw.gov.au Sometimes there is also a number after the name. If I were a student, mine would be

Eloise.dews@education.nsw.gov.au

Passwords have all been issued to individual students. **The centre will use this email account to correspond with you.** It will only be where the content of correspondence is sensitive that we would contact you via your private email account.

Once you are in the portal you will see a number of drop-down menus which all contain various sites. You can also add to special website links to 'My Link List' for easy access. There is a google bar for searching. The [Links for learning](#) section has some really valuable sites. One is the [Behind the News](#) site. If there is a topic your student would like to research from this series, please email your teacher so that we can personalise learning and make it as meaningful to students as possible. There is also a suite of BBC TV for kids sites there too. These are fun and always have an educational focus. It's really worth getting to know the student portal. If you don't know your login details, please email me on Eloise.dews@det.nsw.edu.au and I can email your information directly to you.

It's Yearbook time right now!!

All students have the Yearbook page set for them as their writing and composing task in week 1 of next term. It has either been delivered to you electronically or is about to be delivered to you that way. That page is also below. It is to be completed electronically. Your student has a whole page to tell their story and include any details they wish. Please remember to resize digital images so they are not massive. This can be done by right clicking on the image and opening it in Microsoft Office and then using the editing tools to resize. At the end of week 1, please email the page back to your teacher. Be sure to feature by returning your page on time with the first set of returns in term 4.

Type your name and year level here

Insert your picture here

Type your text here

Type your text here

Insert your picture here

Insert your picture here

Type your text here

