It’s all happening at QDE

A new facility is on its way. You may have heard in the media that Adrian Picoli, the Minister for Education, has announced that a new distance education facility be built in this region. It will mean that QDE and Karabar DE will finally come together to form a K to 12 campus. This has been the vision which distance education parents have advocated for many years which will now come to fruition. At this stage it is envisaged that the new facility will begin operation at the beginning of the 2019 school year. Planning is underway and, while it is some way off, there is much to be done to move forward.

New ways of learning.

We have made significant headway with introducing students to new areas of curriculum. During the May Gathering, students used Book Creator to compose and they took it up with great enthusiasm. There is information about Book Creator in this newsletter. We are now planning for the new history curriculum and expanding, where possible, student use of technology for learning, composing and responding. With the future demanding skill and knowledge in this area, it is quite imperative that students use it well.

Claiming the date for the next Gathering.

We are moving the dates for the term 3 Gathering forward this year to coincide with Karabar DE’s mini school. We have a number of Year 6 students who are transitioning to high school and families with students attending both campuses. Hence, our Gathering will be held 4 to 6 August which is week 4 of next term so we are claiming the date. Enjoy the coming break and renew, ready for next term. Eloise and Lyndal

to our new students....

Sienna
Latia
Daniel
George
Natalia
Danny
Nicholas
Sibel
Aidan
Kai
Logan
Detroit
Oskar

The Clunn Family have been living in Japan for the year but have visited many places in Europe too. This is a photo from inside a very famous Basilica in Rome. Bonus points if know which one!

Claudia, Joel and his older brother Liam travelling through France, Monte Carlo and Italy.
Our school rules

Happy talking; not hurtful talking

Treat others respectfully; not disrespectfully

Include new people; especially if they look lonely

Be birds together

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Attendance at school in DE
DE Parents – Please note

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.

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Every student in a NSW public school has access to their very own portal and email. They should be encouraged to use it to contact teachers if they are able to do so. Students can also request library books from our own QDE collection. Each student’s portal page has tabs and links to many areas of curriculum which is age appropriate and very engaging and can lead to students taking a greater role in deciding what they would like to learn. You should have your login details. If not, please contact your teacher. More information about the portal is in this newsletter.

During the last gathering we used Book Creator and Draw Free…

…to make digital books, complete with text, illustrations and audios. The students at the gathering looked like professionals with these apps after 20 minutes of practice. How do kids do it so easily?!

Making a digital book would be a wonderful way to present school work and we would love to receive them here at the centre.

The apps are available for download on apple and android devices. Tutorials on how to use them can also be found on YouTube and their support site is here
http://support.redjumper.net/hc/en-us
The May Gathering was a chance for our families old and new alike to come together. We had a good mixture of students from all year levels and once again it was brilliant to see everyone working and enjoying their time together.

**Day 1:** The students and staff got their heart rate up and their blood pumping with some morning Pilates, run by our Queanbeyan PS expert, Natalie.

_Stretching and working those muscles_

We had a Heath and Physical activity theme for our first Gathering of the year, so after lunch we all hurried onto the bus (thanks to our fantastic bus driver and teachers aide, Kathy) and headed out to the Kambah Adventure Park.

_Raven and the gang test out the equipment_

Afterward we loaded up the bus again and drove out to the Australian Institute of Sport. Here we got to try test our sporting skills with the help of some clever computer programs. Not to mention a private tour of the world class facilities by our volleyball playing guide, Jake.

_Chloe kicking a virtual goal_

**Day 3:** On our final day we packed in creating a book on the iPads, making a healthy food rainbow, problem solving games, a trip to the Q theatre and even a Nature themed walk!

_Everyone pitched in to create a huge tower_
Kid pics of the May Gathering

Who can you find?
Calling all DE Kids!! ....... take a look at this

To all those participating in the Premiers reading challenge, remember that you must finish reading and complete your book records by the 21st August. So keep on reading as much as you can!

Skoolbo has a brand new feature is about learning a new language. So if you have always wanted to learn French, Mandarin or Spanish get started on Skoolbo. If you haven’t tried Skoolbo yet now is great time to begin. Skoolbo is a program that asks great Maths, English and Language questions but feels like you are just playing a game.

Ask your teacher for your login details and get onto Skoolbo and see for yourself how good it really is.

Have you checked your Student email lately? Do you know your login details? Order your own books from our library and visit some great websites. There’s heaps there.
Healthy Living for QDE Students
Following on from our Health and Physical fitness focus during the May Gathering, we would love to see all students continuing to be active and eating well. The Live Life Well @ School Program has a lot of useful information for students as well as parents and is a great place to pick up a few tips and make a positive start.

If you haven’t already visited the ‘Supervisor support’ page on our website, please have a look. The Live Life Well @ School sections have a few examples of the types of resources we have available. If you would like to know more, please contact your teacher.

We have excellent resources available to teach the fundamental movement skills. There are videos, cards and loads of instructions to help each student perform as best they can. They also are packed with small tips that can help to run faster, kick a ball further and build stamina. Perfect for the aspiring sportsperson of the house!

Fundamental Movement Skills in action

There even are simple things that you can try with your children today. Such as having a set ‘fruit break’ time in the morning to break up the daily work routine and replenish their energy levels so they can continue to concentrate.

Visit the site here:
Your fees for 2015

Among other student purchases, your paid fees allow your students to access online learning sites. Please pay your fees at the beginning of the school year so that there is no interruption to your student’s online subscriptions. We have endeavoured to keep the fees as low as possible. The fees are:

Each student resident in NSW or travelling in Australia = $50 per 12 month period or part thereof depending on length of enrolment. Each student living temporarily or travelling overseas and receiving work wholly electronically or through diplomatic post = $50 per 12 month period or part thereof. Each student living temporarily or travelling overseas and receiving work via the post = $100 per term.

A resource deposit for newly enrolled students of $50 is held in trust and refunded on the return of all resources.

Please Direct Deposit your fees to
Bank name: Westpac Bank
Account name: Queanbeyan Distance Education Centre Administration Account
BSB Number: 032-001
Account Number: 16-7845
Further information about fees can be obtained by contacting the office on (02) 62992966.

*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. This is not going to benefit students at all as the gap between completing the work and having it marked and commented upon is just too wide to be meaningful. Hence, the value of teacher comment is lost for both student and supervisor. Fortnightly returns ensure the best possible opportunities for meaningful feedback to students and to families. 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 for purposes of attendance only. Please contact your teacher if you need to change the fortnightly return routine. Thanks all from Eloise

The Term 3 Gathering is in August

Dates The dates for the Gathering are 4, 5 and 6 August. We will be starting at 11am on Tuesday 4 August to give families time to travel from home. We will also be finishing at 2pm Thursday. If you are coming, please let us know you are!! That’s an important thing to do.

Activities Year 6 students will be visiting Karabar Distance Education CentreStudents will be visiting the National Gallery and the National Art Gallery as well as visiting some of the outdoor spaces around Lake Burley Griffin. They will have some time in the QPS library with guest speakers a

On returning home, students will be working on their own project during week 5; the week immediately after the Gathering. They will plan and generally resource their project while they are at school and will continue their inquiry at home. All students will continue with some programmed maths learning but all else will be on hold so that time is given to completing their projects.

Accommodation In the past the centre has partially funded accommodation costs for families. This will no longer be the case and so the full cost of accommodation will be your responsibility. Previous funding which allowed us to assist is no longer available. You may be eligible for sources of funding to assist in meeting the costs of coming to gatherings. Information about the Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme and Private Vehicle Conveyance Subsidy are included in this newsletter. Crestview Caravan Park remains value for money.
There are some sources of funding available for distance education students and families.

1. Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme

# 2015 School Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 1 - 10 weeks</th>
<th>Wednesday, 28 January 2015 – Thursday, 2 April 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TERM 2 – 10 weeks</td>
<td>Tuesday, 21 April 2015 – Friday, 26 June 2015</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Staff Development Day on Monday 20 April 2015)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TERM 3 – 10 weeks</td>
<td>Tuesday, 14 July 2015 – Friday, 18 September 2015</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Staff Development Day on Monday 13 July 2015)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TERM 4 – 11 weeks</td>
<td>Tuesday, 6 October 2015 – Wednesday, 16 December 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Staff Development Day on Thursday 17 and Friday 18 December 2015)</td>
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NB: Staff Development Days are teacher meeting days. Students do not attend school on staff development days. Staff are also not available by phone on these days.
Please join us for our August Gathering. We are learning about...

...a big world for all of us including you and me.

Be out and about around Canberra. Do the interactive discovery tour of the National Gallery and see all the new exhibitions and do stuff.

Go to the big National Gallery which is full of good things and a great place for kids to learn first-hand.

Listen to the story tellers who will tell you the most amazing stories and true things that will amaze you.

Try your hand at working with one of Earth’s gifts – clay. Then be the master of your own learning. Now that will be a surprise!

Year 6 students will pioneer our very first ‘Transition to High School’ morning and visit Karabar DE to find out all about it.

Students will all need:
- Packed morning tea and lunch for students each day, including a drink in a sealable bottle
- Sun screen and hat
- Back pack for food and water bottle
- Digital camera
- Clothes and shoes for sporting and

Be Allergy aware for the duration of the Gathering.

To PRESS REPLY and tell us you are coming or not coming.
And if you are, book your accommodation.
Here is your student portal page. Login with your own details. If you don’t know them, ask your teacher. There is so much to see, play and learn about. Get your login details today!

Parents – there is greatly reduced prices for the best software money can buy or free software for you. Here are some examples in the Learning tab
Here is our QDE Library page. You can browse and then request your own books.

And here is one of the interactive learning sites. You might consider this one for your project.