



## Queen of Peace Newsletter

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### *Queen of Peace – Guiding the Way*

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to the beginning of yet another school year. Don't the holidays go quickly! I'm sure some of you will be glad we are back but there will be others of you who were sad to say goodbye to your children this morning. I hope that you all had a wonderful time on the holidays with the children and were able to spend some quality family time together and share some great experiences.

Welcome especially to our new families into the Queen of Peace community. I hope your time here is a happy one and that you feel welcome. Welcome also to our new staff for the year, Mrs Alicia Wilson, Year 3 and Mrs Gabriella Marcok, Learning Support Officer. Welcome back also those teachers returning from Parental Leave, Mrs Natasha Manger, Mrs Nicole Williams and Mrs Lisa-Marie Fiorenza. I hope you all settle in well and enjoy your time here at Queen of Peace.

The beginning of the year is such an exciting time. It holds so much promise with the new Preps bringing their enthusiasm and excitement and everyone else moving up to a new year level where there is lots of anticipation and thoughts about what is to be. I know the teachers are planning lots of great learning experiences for the children.

#### THRASS Training

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, the staff undertook training in THRASS (**T**eaching **H**andwriting **R**eadng and **S**pelling **S**kills). THRASS looks at the sounds (phonemes) in the English language and the spelling choice (graphemes) that represent these sounds. It was very much an eye opener for all of the staff to gain the understanding of how THRASS will help us and the children with their English language skills. The children will be introduced to THRASS very early on this term and may come home talking about it. To assist you we will be engaging Denyse, one of the creators of THRASS to run some parent sessions. We are awaiting confirmation of a date for this and will let you know as soon as we know. Please make every effort to be part of this new and exciting journey at QoP.

#### Sunsmart Policy

Queen of Peace is a Sunsmart school. This means that all children are required to wear their school hat and sunglasses when outside at recess and lunchtime as well as during outside activities. As of Monday, children who forget their glasses or hats will have to sit under the sails during recess and lunchtime. If you need to buy hats or sunglasses you can purchase them from the office or Uniform Shop.

### Prayer to Begin a School Year

God of wisdom and might,

we praise you for the wonder of our  
being,

for mind, body and spirit.

Be with our children as they begin  
a new school year.

Bless them and their teachers and staff.

Give the strength and grace as their  
bodies grow;

wisdom and knowledge to their minds  
as they search for understanding;

and peace and zeal to their hearts.



## Calendar

Today we are sending home a Parent Calendar Term 1. This Calendar will have all of the known dates for the term that effect either the children or families. Please place this somewhere you can refer to it during the term.

## Parking in the Car Park

It is that time of the year again when I get to remind everyone of how the car park works. There are only a few rules that everyone needs to remember.

1. The only way into the car park is via a **left** turn from Everingham Road. Right hand turns from Everingham Road are not permitted.
2. Travel in the car park is walking speed, 5 kmph.
3. Please park only in the parking bays provided. Do not park in the disabled car parks. Do not park in the Presbytery reserved parking spaces. The lane closest to Everingham Rd is for parking only, not for stopping and dropping or picking up.
4. If using the Drop Off lane closest to the school, children can be dropped off anywhere **after** the crossing. You do not have to wait until the office end. Parents should not be getting out of the car to get things from the boot etc. If you need to do this, please park.
5. Please do not drive across the central walkway between the parked cars. This is reserved for pedestrians.
6. Pedestrians can only enter and exit the school via the walkway closest to the Parish house or the gate in the centre of the carpark. Please do not enter or exit via the car entrance.

## 3-Way Learning Conferences

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February we will be holding our 3-Way Learning Conferences. You will be getting a letter from us with the information you will need to book an appointment time through PTO. The children will also be bringing home a Home Learning Activity for you to work with them to be returned at the conferences. The teachers are looking forward to meeting you and hearing all about your child.

## Assembly – Monday 6th February

Next Monday will be our first Assembly for the year. I will be running it with the help of some children. I will be announcing the rest of our leaders for the year and presenting them with the badges. Remember that Assembly begins promptly at 2.30pm in our Hall. Parents are welcome to attend.

## Supervision Before School - Arriving at School

I would like to make it very clear from the outset that we begin supervising our children when the gates open at 8.30am. Before that, they are your responsibility. Therefore **NO** child should be dropped off or allowed to come to school unsupervised before 8.30am. If you have to get children to school before 8.30am then you **MUST** arrange for them to be placed in Before School Care which opens at 7.00 am. We will not take responsibility for any child who arrives unsupervised before 8.30am. Please make sure you adhere to these rules so all of our children can be safe.

## CareMonkey - Notes

Over the next week there will be a number of notes coming home either through CareMonkey, if you have set up the profile for your child or paper notes if you have not. These are all very important and need to be completed ASAP. Please assist us with the smooth beginning of the year by completing these notes.

## Skoolbag App

In a major effort to become more sustainable and use far less paper, we will be using the Skoolbag App more this year to communicate to the whole community. Paper newsletters will be phased out during the year and will no longer be available in the Foyer. Please make sure you have downloaded the App so you can receive the updates from us. Instructions about how to download it are on our website. Don't forget, you will need to update the setting so you receive alerts for your child's new year level in 2017. Simply go to the Menu (top left) select Setup and then slide the button to 'on' for the appropriate year level.

## Beginning of School Year Mass

The beginning of school year Mass is next Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 9:15am. Parents are very welcome to join us.

**Anthony Drill**  
**Principal**

**Have you changed your Mobile no? Address? Email? PLEASE INFORM SCHOOL OFFICE**

## Reminders from Sick Bay

If your child requires **medication** at school, a medication form must be completed by parents. Medication will not be given to children unless we have written permission from parents. Forms are available from the office foyer and the school website.

### Asthma Action Plans

QoP is an Asthma Accredited School and requires all children who suffer from asthma to provide the school with an Asthma Action Plan **ANNUALLY**. **New** Asthma action plans were sent home with children's medication at the end of last year. Forms are also available on our website and from the office. Please return completed forms to school next week with your child's **asthma medication & SPACER**. Using a spacer with a puffer ensures that more medication reaches the airways. Spacers are an essential part of the Asthma First Aid procedure that Victorian schools/preschools are instructed to follow.

### Anaphylaxis

Allergies are becoming more prevalent in our society. Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. Minimising risk protects vulnerable children and reduces opportunities for incidents.

**We ask that all families avoid sending peanut butter and other nut products in your child's lunch.**

We ask that you are very careful in the choice of foods that you include in your child's recess/lunch box and we discourage sharing of food. Please consider this if you plan to celebrate your child's birthday at school.

If your child is diagnosed with anaphylaxis please contact the office. **Sharing of food is discouraged at QoP.**

**Please ensure your child's CareMonkey profile is up to date**

## Important Dates

Term 1:	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February – Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> March
Term 2:	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June
Term 3:	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> July – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September
Term 4:	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December

### Early Finish

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February - 3-Way Conferences  
Students will finish school at 1pm

### End of Term

Students finish at 1:30pm

### Confirmed Pupil Free Days

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Staff to work on our School Review  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May – Staff Professional Learning in Mathematics  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August – Staff Professional Learning in Differentiation  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November – Reflection on 2017 and Planning for 2018

As always the school will be closed on the Monday before the Melbourne Cup Holiday on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November.

## PARISH OF LAVERTON

### PREP 2018

## PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

**Considering enrolling your child in a Catholic Primary school in Laverton, Altona Meadows or Point Cook?**

**We invite you to come along and join us at the Parish of Laverton Enrolment Meeting**

**which will be held on**

**TUESDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm**

**at**

**QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL (HALL)**

Information about school and Parish boundaries and the enrolment process will be shared.

Enrolment packs will be available for collection after the meeting

Photo Day is

## TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

All Photo Envelopes must be returned to school **BEFORE THIS DAY**.

**FAMILY** (more than 1 student at QoP) photo envelopes are available from the office foyer.

Full Summer School Uniform must be worn.



### Reminder:

To avoid disruption to classrooms please note, if children need to be collected early they should be picked up at the lunch break (at 1.30pm Monday or 1:40pm Tuesday – Friday).

It is also very disruptive for classes and the office to be passing on messages to children in the afternoons. It would be appreciated if these interruptions could be kept to a minimum.

## UNIFORM SHOP

**OPEN MONDAYS**  
8:30am – 9:30am

*Orders can be left with the school office if you are unable to attend at this time.*

*Returns will only be accepted with receipt.*

## Newsletter

The QoP Newsletter is published fortnightly. A hard copy of this first newsletter is going home to all families. Please note that newsletters are not usually sent home. The newsletter is available on the Skoolbag App and uploaded to our website. An email with the newsletter attached is also sent to all 'newsletter subscribers'. To subscribe and receive the weekly newsletter you must click on the '**SUBSCRIBE**' button on the QoP website and complete the details.



Smartphone school to parent communication

Skoolbag is a mobile App for your school to communicate directly to both parents and students. It works through both smart phones and smart devices (such as iPads and Android Tablets). Ideal for:

- School, free push notification alerts
- School events
- School newsletters
- School documents
- School RSS feeds
- School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parents and students



### How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

#### iPhone & iPad Users

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "Free" then "Install".
4. If iPad, change the drop list to "iPhone Apps", your school will then be visible, click "Free" then "Install".
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.



iPhone



#### Android Users

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.



ANDROID



Don't forget to like us on Facebook! 

Find out more at [www.skoolbag.com.au](http://www.skoolbag.com.au)

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