Dear Parents,

We have had yet another productive fortnight at Queenscliff Primary School.

Last weekend Sarah, Craig and myself spent several hours at our school working bee clearing the Toy Library and Tidy-ing the shed. We managed to get most of the excess furniture neatly stacked away and a lot of rubbish taken to the tip. This week, Lucie, Tracey and Alex have been of great assistance to Mrs Fitzgerald and myself setting up the library, Science room and assisting with the new F-2 classroom. We have also been fortunate to have Mrs Kirk back at our school over the past two weeks, auditing, sorting and classifying all of our guided reading resources into Fountas and Pinnell reading levels. Many hands do indeed make light work at our little school.

On Monday, Mrs Fitzgerald and I were delighted to take our students on my first excursion at Queenscliff Primary School. What a day we had—even if the weather was against us. Our excursion was to the city and connected well with our inquiry units of Australian History. We participated in an educational session at Cook’s Cottage (where our students really got to show off their knowledge of sea life), followed by lunch at the Shrine of Remembrance and finally a visit to the Melbourne Immigration Museum. We had a great day and look forward to many more excursions in the future.

On Tuesday, Lonsdale House sent a team of workers over to relocate the after school care into our portables—A HUGE thank you needed for Sharon and her team—the new after school cares venue looks fantastic and the far side of the school has been freed up to maximise the versatility of our learning spaces. As you were all aware, the vacated space was intended to be used for our Japanese Dojo and Science room, however, once cleared, the room’s potential to be used as large, yet flexible Early Years classroom became very apparent—thankfully Mrs Fitzgerald, Mrs Mutton and I could all agree to relocate the Dojo to the former Early Years classroom, the Science area to the former ICT/library area and the new F-2 classroom to the former After School Care area. I must say the results are AMAZING!!!

This evening we have our Prep Information Evening. We look forward to meeting prospective families and welcome all of our current families to attend to share their experiences at Queenscliff Primary School. We currently have 4 Prep enrolments for 2017 and look forward to hopefully increasing this number. We will be having a small BBQ at 6pm so please feel free to come along for dinner. Feel free to bring a salad or something to share if you wish.

Our mid-year reports are well and truly underway on our new Compass management system. We will be printing reports this time around and having an information session early in Term 3 to provide families with training and individual logon details for using the parent features of Compass. All things going well, reports will be sent home with students on Friday. If not, we will be posting these out early in the first week of the holidays. We do ask for your patience if these do get posted out in week one as this is our first time using this system and we want to ‘get it right’ the first time.

Finally, a HUGE thank you to all of the students, staff and families who have made me so welcome during my first term at Queenscliff Primary School. I really appreciate all of the hours, labour and support from all of you.

Richard Buckingham

Principal
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Week Ten
Jed Hutchins
Sol Bowtell

Week Eleven
TBA

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PLANS

At the beginning of Term 3, all students and parents will be required to meet with their homeroom teacher to discuss mid-year reports and develop an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) for the term. These plans will include a goal for each of the following areas:

English, Mathematics, Inquiry, Specialist, Organisation, Social

Once the goals are finalised, strategies will be identified and implemented to assist students and teachers to work towards achieving the goals. Students and parents will again meet with their homeroom teacher at the end of Term 3 to share their completed school work and assessments from throughout the term and; to discuss/assess how they either achieved or did not achieve their learning goals. Information from this meeting will be used to develop ILPs for Term 4. These ongoing ILPs will take place instead of the previous Learner Spotlight meetings.

FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVING STUDENT OUTCOMES (FISO)

The FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVING STUDENT OUTCOMES (otherwise known as FISO) is the State Government’s priority for school improvement, to ultimately become ‘The Education State’. FISO is a term that as a school community we must all become familiar with and develop a clear understanding of where Queenscliff Primary School sits within this initiative. You may have noticed in our foyer, an increasing display outlining a snap shot of where we are as a school, what we need to do for school improvement and in what priority we need to achieve these.

We have made many changes throughout the term refining our engaging learning spaces and have begun working with Williamstown North Primary School and Montpelier Primary School to develop our English and Mathematics Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum and Whole-School Instructional Model. Our Instructional Model has been implemented throughout this term and is now evident in all classes, weekly work programs and formative assessment. During the holidays, we will completing the documentation of our curriculum maps in English, Mathematics and Inquiry.

In addition, we will be developing our scaffold for Individual Learning Plans for all students which will be aligned to our learning continuums. Our learning continuums will essentially be student trackers across all year levels in Reading, Writing and Number. We will also be refining our whole-school assessment schedule and developing data analysis protocols and whole-school protocols.

We clearly have another very busy term ahead of us for Term 3. We welcome any discussions, questions and feedback from our school community in relation to FISO and where we are as a learning community at Queenscliff Primary School.
WEEK 20 – BULLYING: NO WAY!

Wellbeing Element – Relationships and Optimism
Character Strength – Bravery

Bullying is a severe form of harassment that occurs when someone, or a group of people, have power over a student and deliberately upset or hurt him/her, damage his/her property, reputation or social acceptance more than once. The student’s inner self has been hurt and may experience and feel:

- Anxious – when will it happen again?
- Powerless – there’s nothing I can do?
- Angry – it’s not my fault, why me?
- Frustrated – this is consuming me!
- Embarrassed – are other students watching and what do they think?
- Helpless – no one understands what I’m going through!

Bullying is unacceptable in any shape or form and students must be empowered to speak up until they are heard and action is taken by responsible adults to address the issue. All too often, students lack confidence to confront the issue, feel overpowered by the bully, say nothing and continue to be the subject of bullying. The bully must have this power taken away forever and be counselled on appropriate ways in which to treat others. Explicit conversations about bullying build robust assertive attitudes and growth mindsets in our students.

Students craving for peer esteem and acceptance often are blockers for them to report bullying. They desperately don’t want to lose connections to their group and may see speaking up against as threatening this.

Building the wellbeing and resilience of our students to stand their ground and not tolerate the bullying of themselves or others will instil valuable lifelong dispositions in them. The intention of this focus on bullying is to initiate capacity building discussions both at home and at school about bullying. These discussions should include many of the considerations following:

- importance of responsibly reporting bullying and harassment for everyone
- dealing with bullies, social skills training and rights and responsibilities
- need to support those who have been bullied or harassed with empowering strategies
- assertive habits and appropriate responses training for victims of bullying
- anger management strategies, empathetic thinking and restoring focus activities for bullies
- understanding why do bullies bully
- restoring esteem and making things right for the victim.