Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to welcome all families, both new and existing, to Poseidon Primary School for 2014. This year we had a very calm and smooth start during the first week. All children have settled well into their classrooms and routines are quickly being established that will facilitate the establishment of positive classroom environments that will allow all students the opportunity to maximise their learning.

Thank you to ALL parents for sending your children to school well equipped and in school uniform. It is pleasing to see that many families have made the change to our new school uniform and all students look great in either version of our uniform. It is planned to have a two year transition period for all families to change over to the new uniform.

We appreciate your efforts to prepare your children so that they can get the most of their school day. Below are four of our Year One students looking fantastic in the new school uniforms.

I am looking forward to a happy and productive term with all students, staff and parents.

Peter
Peter Blackford
Principal

Thought of the Week
What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?
Dr Robert Schuller

You don’t need to join Facebook to see our page!
Simply Google Search “Facebook Poseidon Primary School Heathridge” to find our regular posts about upcoming events and school news.
School Development Days

This year the Department of Education has increased the number of School Development Days from six to seven to give schools time to provide staff with the support they require to continue with the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. This year our teachers will begin the implementation of the History and Science strands of the curriculum. Last year the school council endorsed that the following for this year’s school development days.

**Term 1**
- Day 1: Thursday, January 30
- Day 2: Friday, January 31
- Day 3: Tuesday, March 4 (the day after Labour Day Public Holiday)

**Term 2**
- Day 4: Monday, May 5 - Ocean Reef Education Network Common Professional Development Day

**Term 3**
- Day 5: Monday, July 21

**Term 4**
- Day 6: Monday, October 13
- Day 7: Friday, December 19

Please note the extra SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY in Term One - Tuesday, March 4 after the long weekend.

Parent Information Meetings

Parent Information Meetings will be held in Week Three of this term.

- Yr 1, Yr 1/2 & Yr 2 classes: Thursday, February 20 at 8:00am
- Yr 3 classes: Thursday, February 20 at 3:00am
- Yr 4 classes: Thursday, February 20 at 8:00pm
- Yr 5 classes: Thursday, February 20 at 3:00pm
- Yr 6/7 classes: Thursday, February 20 at 3:00pm

These meetings are very important to your child’s education, as they allow the teacher to share a range of important information on how his/her class will function throughout the year. It also provides parents with the opportunity to ask questions and clarify any aspects they are not sure of. It is the start of the partnership between home and school that is so important to a successful year for your child.

Before School Routine

I would like to remind students and parents that ALL students who at school before the 8:20am siren are required to go to the undercover area and SIT quietly for the siren to sound. This indicates that it is time to move to classrooms and get ready for the commencement of the school day. This is a duty of care issue for the school and as there is no-one on duty before school the safest place for students who arrive early is the undercover area where a member of the admin team will be located. Parents are welcome to come into the undercover area and sit with their children.
Responsibilities Regarding School Attendance

Regular attendance at school is fundamental to your child’s learning. Consistent attendance and participation are essential for your child’s social and academic learning.

As parents or legal guardians of an enrolled child, you are responsible under the School Education Act 1999 to ensure the attendance of your child at school every day. It is important to assist your child’s achievement and learning by making regular school attendance a priority in your child’s life.

The Department of Education’s Student Attendance policy requires parents and guardians to provide an acceptable explanation to the school principal for any absence of their children.

Principals must authorise all absences. The Act defines health, religious and cultural observances as reasonable cause for a school absence and the absence would be recorded as ‘authorised’ by the principal.

As the parent or guardian you must obtain the principal’s approval for any planned absence.

Sharyn O’Neill
Director General of Education

School Map

Please find included with this newsletter and updated map of the school with all classes and teachers clearly marked. We hope that this will make it easier for families to find their way around the school.

Term 1 & 2 Planner

A planner for Terms 1 & 2 is also included with our first newsletter of the year so that you are aware of when the major events will occur.

Staff Appointments

With the commencement of another school year I would like to introduce the staff who have been appointed to our school. We have two staff who we are welcoming back to the school after twelve months away.

- Mr. Danial Swan: Year 3
- Mrs. Sarah Wakeb: Year 3 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday)

I would also like to welcome Mrs. Jaine Seward who will be in our kindy / preprimary class on Fridays. For our full staff list, please see the following page.
# Staff and School Organisation 2014

## ADMINISTRATION
- **Principal**: Mr Peter Blackford
- **Associate Principal**: Mr Michael Wright

## OFFICE STAFF
- **Registrar**: Mrs Debbie Linehan
- **School Officer**: Mrs Jo-Ann Why

## LIBRARY
- **Library Officer**: Mrs Lydia Tegjeu

## ARTEMIS BLOCK
- **Kindy**: Rm 1  Mrs Biljana Wright
- **Assistant**: Mrs Gwyneth Hacking

## OLYMPUS BLOCK
- **Kindy/Pre Primary**: Rm 2  Mrs Erin Isbister
  - Mrs Jaine Seward (Friday)
- **Assistant**: Mrs Marianna Chan
- **Pre Primary**: Rm 3  Miss Effe Sentonas
  - Mrs Katie Aarons (Friday)
- **Assistant**: Mrs Anne Barlow
- **Assistant**: Mrs Sandy Morton
- **Year 1**: Rm 4  Miss Rachel Ward
- **Special Needs Assistant**: Mrs Maria Kotsopoulos
- **Year 1/2**: Rm 5  Ms Jane Kasperkiewicz

## ATHENA BLOCK
- **Year 2**: Rm 6  Ms Ros Mugg
- **Year 3**: Rm 7  Mrs Sarah Wakeb
  - Mrs Biljana Wright (Monday)
- **Year 3**: Rm 8  Mr Danial Swan
  - Mrs Robyn Bentley
- **Special Needs Assistant**: Mrs Michelle Porro (Monday, Tuesday, alt Wednesday)
- **Year 4**: Rm 9  Mrs Marie Paragalli (alt Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)

## ATLANTIS BLOCK
- **Year 5**: Rm 10  Mr Scott Sullivan
- **Year 6/7**: Rm 11  Mr Mike Hawke-Linsley
- **Year 6/7**: Rm 12  Mrs Margaret Willett

## SPECIALIST TEACHERS
- **Phys Ed**: Mrs Michelle Porro
- **Music**: Mrs Lisa Sturgess
- **LOTE (French)**: Mr Andre Dumolard
- **Visual Arts**: Mrs Loretta Clark
- **Health (Years 1-3)**: Mrs Katie Aarons
AUXILIARY STAFF
Gardener  Mr Mietek Berezowski
Cleaners  Mrs Ayre Ambrose
          Mrs Pamela Marsden
          Mrs Lesley Butler
          Mrs Thanamas Thorburn
Canteen  Mrs Bronwen Tuhakaraina
          Mrs Claire McGill
          Mrs Rebecca Walton

Parenting Ideas
This week’s Parenting Ideas article is on Parent Involvement: The Secret Ingredient To Children’s School Success. Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as holding their school in high regard.

P & C News
Welcome to 2014
Welcome to 2014 and another year of coming together to support Poseidon Primary School. To all our new families at Poseidon this year, we offer you a very warm welcome to the school and the Poseidon family. We very much look forward to meeting you at our meetings or at a P&C event very soon.

Poseidon Primary P & C is an active and dynamic group of parents who are passionate about making a difference to the children at Poseidon Primary School. We had a very exciting and productive year last year with many events organized for children, parents to enjoy. A significant amount of money was raised with lots of parent and community support. We have lots of new and exciting ideas for social events and fundraising opportunities for 2014 too.

If you would like to get involved with any aspect of the P & C then please come along to the AGM on Wednesday 26 February. We would love to see you and everyone is welcome. Our meetings are friendly and quick, certainly not staid and boring!

To stay up to date with everything that’s happening in and around our P & C please join our Facebook page. Search for the “Poseidon Primary School P&C” and request to become a member.

We have included a brief FAQ sheet regarding our P & C. If you have any further queries, please contact our P & C President Cameron Walton on 0409 868 190.

P & C Diary Dates Term 1
Friday, February 21, 4.00pm – 6.00pm  Early Learning Summer Sundowner (Pre Primary Playground)
Wednesday, February 26, 7.00pm  P & C AGM followed by general meeting (Staffroom)
Saturday, April 5, 5.30pm  Family Movie Night – “Cat in the Hat” (Undercover Area)
AGM Meeting

The P & C will be hold it’s AGM Meeting on Wednesday, 26th February at 7:00pm in the staffroom. This dedicated and hard working group of parents needs the support of more parents and families. Please make the time to attend so that you too can help provide resources that improve the learning for ALL our students.

New Uniform Shop Update

During the school holidays a several working bees were held to construct a P & C uniform shop and some much needed storage space for the school in the undercover area. Steady progress was being made until, unfortunately the project coordinator became ill and construction ceased. Work should begin again in the near future so it won’t be long before the P & C has a new and more convenient place to sell uniforms. A BIG thank you to all those parents who were able to lend a hand during the holidays!

School Banking

Welcome back to school and a new year for school banking. There are some great rewards this year and all the details are in the new packs that can be collected when you do your school banking. Come down to see us Thursday mornings between 8.10 and 8.30 in the undercover area.
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Parent involvement – the secret ingredient to children’s school success

Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as holding their school in high regard.

If you want the best outcomes for your child or young person then it’s important that you become involved in as many aspects of your child’s education as practical.

The involvement of parents helps break down the mystique about school that can exist for some children. Their chances of success are better when they see school as an extension of home rather than merely an institution for learning.

Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as their school. Children copy many of their parents’ views so your positive attitude to school and learning is catching.

Parent involvement takes energy

Many primary schools offer parents classroom jobs such as hearing kids read, taking small groups in elective activities and assisting children when writing stories.

Unfortunately, finding parents who are willing to take part in these activities is increasingly difficult. Many parents find themselves worn out from working too hard or being involved in a variety of activities. They find themselves with no energy left to be involved in their child’s school.

Make sure kids are school ready every day

Participating as a parent can be much broader than helping out in the classroom. There is a range of simple things you can do at home that will assist teachers to maximise the learning of your child.

These include: talking with your child about their day, hearing young learners read, helping with homework and making sure kids go off to school happy, healthy and having had plenty of sleep.

Here are some more ideas to help you participate in your child’s education in positive ways:

✔ Support a broad, balanced curriculum that offers children a variety of educational experiences rather than a program that focuses narrowly on the traditional 3 R’s.

✔ Direct conversations through the correct channels such as your child’s teacher, the principal or the school’s governing body. Gossip or thoughtless criticism within the general community can easily tarnish a school’s reputation.

✔ Become an advocate for your child’s school and promote its positive features throughout the wider community. Encourage your child to take pride in their school through your example.

✔ Attend school activities such as open days, concerts, sports events and celebrations. Invite other members of the community along as well.

✔ Consult with your child’s teacher about practical ways that you can assist both at home and at school.

Positive parent participation in school and learning is a proven contributor to student success. One practical way to assist your child as a learner is to become actively involved in his or her school life.

Parentingideas just got better! Parentingideas Club has just been launched and has all the answers you need. There are 100’s of articles, videos, guides, how to’s, book reviews and more available for members. Become a member today at parentingideasclub.com.au.
Poseidon P&C Questions and Answers

What does P&C stand for?

P&C stands for Parents and Citizens.

Who can be involved in the P&C?

The P&C is open to parents, guardians and citizens over 18 years old who are interested in making a difference for the children at Poseidon’s Primary School.

What does the P&C do?

The role of the P&C is:

- To raise funds that benefit the students at Poseidon Primary School
- Decide on how best to spend those fund for the benefit of the students
- Manages the school canteen
- Manage the ordering and sales of the school uniforms
- Represent parent body in matters of Safety, Health and children’s well being

What has the P&C achieved in the past few years?

- Funding Literacy Program
- Upgrade of the school crossing red and white poles to the new 1.8m standard poles
- Commenced construction of the new uniform shop
- Held discussions with Joondalup Council to upgrade traffic conditions and parking at the front of the school
- Management of uniforms
- Held some significant fundraising initiatives with the proceeds to be determined in 2014.

How can I help?

Become a P&C member and input at the meetings

While not everyone can make the meetings there is still a lot you can do:

- Give general feedback
- Help out with planning or running of Fundraising events
- Volunteer for Canteen, Uniforms, school banking etc.
- Financial support

Why should I join the P&C?

Membership gives you the right to vote at the AGM and all other P&C meetings for the year. Membership ensures your children are represented adequately. We decide what to fundraise and where the money is best spent.

How can I become a member?

Membership costs $1 only. Simply attend any P&C meeting or contact one of the members below. You will need to provide some basic details so we can record your membership and keep in touch.

Should I become a member if I can’t make the meetings?

Yes, we believe there is still a lot of value for anyone being involved. All contributions no matter how small make a difference.
**Poseidon P&C Questions and Answers**

**AGM - P&C Annual General Meeting**

The AGM is an opportunity for the P&C members to vote in a new Executive Committee. The Executive Committee members are responsible for ensuring the P&C is being effective in fundraising and supporting initiatives for our children. The executive must ensure the Committee adheres to the constitution and meets legislative requirements.

All positions become vacant at the AGM. Here is an outline of the roles:

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<th>Vice President</th>
<th>Treasurer</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
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<td>Manages the P&amp;C Executive Committee</td>
<td>Assist in the management of the P&amp;C Executive and provides support for all the P&amp;C roles</td>
<td>Manages the financial aspects of the P&amp;C</td>
<td>Manages all correspondence in and out related to P&amp;C business</td>
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<th>Uniform Co-ordinator</th>
<th>Fundraising Co-ordinator</th>
<th>Fundraising Treasurer</th>
<th>Communications Co-ordinator</th>
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<td>Manages the ordering and sale of school uniform items.</td>
<td>Co-ordinates all aspects of fundraising and social events</td>
<td>Manages all aspects of fundraising financials.</td>
<td>Manages and co-ordinates all communications relating to the P&amp;C.</td>
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Committee Members: Contribute positively to the P&C and decisions presented at the meeting.

**Who can I contact if I want more information?**

All of the P&C executive members are volunteers and try their very best to complete their roles to the best of their abilities. If you would like to discuss any aspects of the P&C with the members please contact them as below:

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<th>President</th>
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<td>Linda</td>
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