Dear Parents and Carers

What a fantastic school community event our annual Easter Bonnet Parade and Raffle turned out to be last Friday. Both our special guests, Mr Jan Norberger, MLA for Joondalup and Mr Ian Goodenough, Federal Member for Moore were very impressed with the level of creativeness and thought that went into the construction of many of the bonnets.

Following the Term One holidays, I will be commencing some long service leave on Monday, April 28 and returning to work on Monday, May 12. Whilst I am on leave Michael Wright will be Acting Principal. Margaret Willet and Scott Sullivan will be sharing the acting Associate Principal’s position. Philip Brown will be in Mrs Willett’s Year 6/7 class and Mr Benn will be teaching our Year 5 class. I know that I am leaving the school in very capable hands.

As this is my last newsletter for this term I would like to thank ALL the staff for their efforts in providing a safe learning environment in which the students are motivated and challenged to achieve their best. Enjoy your well-deserved breaks of Easter then the Term One holidays.

I wish everyone a very happy Easter and hope that all families have an enjoyable and relaxing holiday.

Peter
Peter Blackford
Principal

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### Thought of the Week

If you always do your best you don’t have to worry about failure.

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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Upcoming Events

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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.
Independent Public School Development Program

This semester the school is participating in developmental program that we hope will see the school granted Independent Public School (IPS) status from the beginning of 2015. Below is an outline of the presentation Yvonne Atkinson and I will be making to a panel in early June.

Creating Opportunities Together

Poseidon Primary is a small, friendly, community minded school in the northern suburbs. We have a reputation for our students achieving high academic standards and for providing quality pastoral care that creates a safe and supportive learning environment for all students. We are often affectionately known as the “Poseidon Family”.

Our challenge is to maintain the current high level of academic performance along with quality school relationships, as acknowledged in the 2013 ERG School Performance report, as we aspire to become the school of choice for Heathridge and surrounding suburbs.

Before I arrived at the school in the middle of 2009, the school had 12 principals in 16 years. The stable and experienced staff knew the school community needs and continued to deliver quality education programs, even with the constantly changing leadership. As principal, I empowered and supported the staff and school community to embark on a process of school revitalisation in 2010 that identified the future direction of the school for the next 5 to10 years.

At the end of 2013 the school had completed the creation of the three elements that are essential to successful schools. The school now has for the first time a set of core values; a shared vision and an agreed School Wide Teaching & Learning framework (SWTL). These are K-7 common approaches to teaching and learning that are built upon as students’ progress through the school. These three elements form the basis of Poseidon Primary School’s unique new identity and thus the school’s new strategic direction for the next 2 to 3 years.

Our vision of Creating Opportunities Together combined with our newly created SWTL will provide the school with the structures and frameworks to allow our students to develop into caring, innovative, 21st century learners who have developed the skills and understandings to become global citizens.

We are excited that the opportunity of gaining IPS status will enable Poseidon Primary to match the staff profile to meet the needs of our local community. The school will be able to identify and then provide the specialised expertise required to implement our SWP and the Australian Curriculum. With the increased levels of autonomy and authority the school has plans to build on the partnerships that the P & C has recently created with local businesses as well as with Edith Cowan University to channel additional resources and expertise into embedding our SWP. For example, the increased flexibility to allocate resources to support student learning will enable the school to be proactive and contract additional speech therapist time to address the identified needs of a significant number of early childhood students.

As an IPS, Poseidon Primary will have the flexibility, autonomy and authority to make our new school identity a reality that has a positive impact on student achievement levels, increased school community involvement and greater environmental and global awareness.

If you would like to know more about the benefits of Poseidon Primary becoming an IPS please contact myself at the school or our community representative, Yvonne Atkinson (mobile:0419 184 572 or email: trevoli@bigpond.com.au).
An essential part of the developmental program is the school being able to demonstrate community support for becoming an IPS. Below is a link to an online survey that I would ask all families to complete as part of this process. This link may have to be cut and pasted into your web browser.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TQ99JGN

The link will remain open until 4:00pm on Friday, 2nd May 2014.

Poseidon’s Learning Journey

Thank you to all those parents who were able to participate in the school’s inaugural Learning Journey evening. Feedback from staff indicated that many families had been able to participate in their children’s journey. As I moved from classroom to classroom there was a very positive atmosphere created through the students engaging with their parents talking about their learning. Anecdotal feedback from the many parents I asked indicated that it was great to come to school and develop an understanding of the various types of learning their child or children had been engaged in throughout the term. It was especially, great to see Mums and Dads completing many of the hands on activities with the assistance of their children.

Not only was the Art room filled with displays of the student’s work from this term, it was a hive of activity with many families working together to make an original clay creation.

I think that this was a sensational evening for our first attempt at staging this type of event to communicate with families about your child’s progress throughout the term.

ANZAC Commemorations

Another reminder that this year’s ANZAC Service is planned for tomorrow, Friday, April 11. It has been organised by Mrs Willett and her Year 6/7 class and it would be great to see lots of parents and members of the school community join the students in recognising the sacrifices that have been made by our armed forces that allow us to live in such a wonderful country.

Worm Wizz Sale!!

END OF TERM - 50% OFF!!
ONLY $1 PER BOTTLE.
Get in quick these bottles will not last!!
On sale from the Undercover Area after assembly.
Please remember to return your empty bottles to Mr H-L’s classroom or the Front Office.
Parenting Ideas

This week’s parenting idea is on how emptying the dishwasher can build independence. You can learn a lot about a family by knowing who clears their dishwasher. Who empties yours?

Lost Property

There are HEAPS of lost jackets, t-shirts and other items in the Lost Property area near the Frog Pond. Lots of items even have names! If your child has lost something, please check through to see if you can find it. Any items not claimed by FRIDAY APRIL 11, THE LAST DAY OF TERM 1 will be donated to the Uniform Shop or to charity.

P & C News

A big thank you to everyone at Poseidon Primary for their support of the recent P & C fundraising events.

- The Year 3 to 7 Sundowner was a lovely evening with a fun game of cricket. All those who attended had a great time and certainly it is an event we would like to see happen again. **Amount raised: Over $200**

- Our Easter Raffle was a huge success and was well and truly supported by the Poseidon community, with over sixty delicious prizes given out. **Amount raised: Nearly $1200**

- The Election Day BBQ & Plant Sale was steady with many voters enjoying our fabulous food. **Amount raised: Over $1200**

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!
WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!!

Welcome to P & C Central

At the Easter Parade Assembly, P & C Vice-President Yvonne Atkinson was proud to open P & C Central. Comprising the new Uniform Shop, P & C Noticeboard and The Canteen, P & C Central is the new focal point for the Poseidon Primary P & C, providing a base for school banking, ticket sales and other fundraising activities. Thank you to all those who volunteered their time and skills for the construction of this great resource, with special thanks going to John McSpadden.

Jan Norberger, Yvonne Atkinson, Cameron Walton and Peter Blackford outside P & C Central, with some of our fabulous Easter Raffle prizes.
Entertainment Books

The 2014-2015 Entertainment Books are here! Entertainment Memberships are packed with hundreds of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for the best local restaurants, cafés, attractions, hotel accommodation, travel and much more!

Available as a
Traditional Entertainment Book

OR

the NEW Entertainment Digital Membership
for up to four Apple or Android devices,
your Membership gives you over $20,000 worth of valuable offers valid through to 1 June 2015!

Order either membership type before April 30,
and you'll receive over $260 worth of Bonus Offers which you can use straight away!

With limited numbers of both the printed book and the digital version available, pre-order yours TODAY!!

Order your new 2014 | 2015 Perth Entertainment Membership from Poseidon Primary School and 20% of your membership purchase goes towards our fundraising!

Follow the link to order https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/8610t4
(Please remember to reference Poseidon Primary School when registering your 2014 | 2015 Entertainment Membership)

Family Movie Night

Cat in the Hat
Saturday, May 24 in the Undercover Area
Tickets will go on sale on the first day of Term 2 from P & C Central

Tickets $3 each
ONLY 200 TICKETS AVAILABLE
so get in QUICK!!
School Banking

The Dollarmites have found sunken treasure from the Lost City of Savings and they want to share it with your students in the form of some amazing prizes.

**Major student prize**
One student will win an underwater family adventure holiday including:
- Five nights’ accommodation at the Sea World Resort & Water Park on the Gold Coast;
- VIP Passes for two adults and three kids to Sea World, Warner Bros. Movie World, and Wet’n’Wild Gold Coast;
- A Dolphin Family Aqua Adventure; and
- A $3,000 travel voucher to get them there.

**Runner-up student prizes**
- 130 Toys"R"Us Gift Cards to the value of $250 each.

**Sunken treasure for schools and you**
- There will be a separate draw of $1,000 cash for a school in each State/Territory of Australia.

**Here’s how to win!**
All your students need to do is make three or more deposits through School Banking during Term 2 and they’re automatically entered into the competition.

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**Contact the P & C**

If you are interested in finding out more about what the P & C is, what they do and how you can be a part of it, come along to one of our meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm in the staffroom. We are also on Facebook - simply search for Poseidon Primary School P&C and request to join our group. Or you can contact us via email at poseidonpandc@gmail.com.

Gaylene Bicheno, Peard Real Estate
*Major Sponsor of the 2013 Spring Fair*
How emptying the dishwasher can build independence

You can learn a lot about a family by knowing who clears their dishwasher. Who empties yours?

The choice of who empties the dishwasher in your family tells a great deal about your parenting philosophy.

If you or your partner usually do it then I humbly suggest that you maybe working too hard. You’re letting your kids off the hook.

On the other hand, if one or all of your kids (over the age of three) have this job then congratulations. You’re travelling down the road toward redundancy, and your children are heading toward independence.

Many parents would love their kids to do this task but pragmatism (“It’s easier to do it myself”), lack of faith (“They’re sure to break something!”) and unwillingness to let go (“It’s my job after all”) get in the way.

Why the dishwasher?

Good question. Here are seven good reasons:

1. These days almost every house has one, and it’s a job that just has to be done!

2. It’s fiddly and tedious, and it needs to be done right, which is a great lesson for kids to learn.

3. Kids learn that everything has a place in the kitchen, which is a great lesson for those who are organisationally challenged. Knowing their way around the kitchen is also an important first step toward children making their own snacks and preparing meals – a worthy aim!

4. It’s emptied every morning/day, second morning/day so kids learn about routine.

5. As it needs to be emptied whether they feel like it or not, kids learn about grit (the ability to stick at a task even though it’s boring) and self-control (through delaying gratification) – two important character strengths that contribute to kids’ success.

6. If they don’t do it then who will? It teaches kids that others rely on them, as well as the other way around. Believe me, I see many young people who’ve never learned this lesson at home!

7. Kids are hard-wired to help but they need the opportunity to do their bit at home. The dishwasher is the perfect opportunity that never goes away!

There are plenty of other reasons for putting the dishwasher on the kids’ chores list, but that should be enough to get you thinking.

So, if you buy into the notion that kids should routinely help at home without being paid, and that your aim is to make yourself redundant – but getting them to empty the dishwasher just doesn’t cut it in your world – find a similarly regular, laborious task that they can do that will also benefit others.

No dishwasher? You have an advantage

Of course, families without a dishwasher have a great communication mechanism at their disposal. That is, one person washing (a parent) and the other drying (a child/teenager) provides a fabulous shoulder-to-shoulder parenting opportunity. As many parents have discovered, when a child or young person’s hands are busy their tongue suddenly loosens up and the chat happens naturally.

Gradually, then suddenly

If getting kids to help is an uphill battle then I suggest you don’t let up. Keep expecting them to help. Keep working on a chores roster and keep at your kids to do the right thing. One day it will all click and helping out will become habitual, hardwired into their brains so that helping out becomes neurological as well as psychological.

That’s why ‘gradually, then suddenly’ is a really useful parenting mantra. The Australian cricket team’s recent success can be attributed to this approach. They’d been gradually improving by doing all the right things throughout 2013 without success and then suddenly it all clicked in the Australian summer. But that’s another story...

Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael’s NEW Parenting ideas Club today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.