Dear Parents and Carers

Student reports will be sent home on **Tuesday December 16** with the children. Teachers have put a lot of time and thought into creating individualised reports that reflect the achievements made by each student this semester. Please make the time to sit down and discuss their reports with your son or daughter.

I would like to thank all parents who have assisted in classrooms and around the school throughout the year. There are many programs in the school that would be extremely difficult to operate without parental assistance. Invitations are being sent out to a thank you morning tea which is to be held on **Friday December 12** following the Christmas Assembly in the Staffroom.

A final reminder to all families, that on **Monday December 15** we will be holding our annual Book Awards Assembly commencing at 9:00am. The Year Six - Seven Graduation ceremony will be held on **Tuesday December 16** commencing at 5:00pm. I am looking forward to seeing lots of parents, grandparents and friends at both end of year events.

School commences again for students on **Monday February 2 2015** and the office will open from **Tuesday January 27 2015**.

Enjoy the holidays with your children, have a lovely Christmas and we look forward to seeing you back at school next year.

Peter
Peter Blackford
Principal

**Upcoming Events**

**TERM 4, 2014**

- **Friday December 5**
  - Yr 2 Rm 6 Ms Mugg & Yr 3 Rm 8 Mr Swan’s Assembly
  - ORSHS Yr 6/7 Orientation

- **Monday December 8**
  - Yr 6/7 Camp Woodman Pt

- **Tuesday December 9**
  - Yr 6/7 Camp Woodman Pt

- **Thursday December 11**
  - Belridge SC Yr 6/7 Orientation

- **Friday December 12**
  - Christmas Assembly

- **Monday December 15**
  - Book Award Assembly

- **Tuesday December 16**
  - Reports Sent Home
  - Year 6/7 Graduation Ceremony at Poseidon Primary
  - Year 6/7 Graduation Dinner at Bridgeleigh

- **Wednesday December 17**
  - Yr 6/7 Great Escape Hillarys

- **Thursday December 18**
  - END OF TERM 4

**Thought of the Week**

Before the reality comes the dream!

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.
The elections for the new School Board closed last Friday and Peter Blackford, our Returning Officer, can now confirm the following nominees have been successfully elected to the School Board.

Parent Representatives
• Yvonne Atkinson
• Mi-Lin Finnie
• Melinda McAndrew
• Samantha McSpadden
• Linda Orton

Staff Representatives
• Michelle Porro
• Danial Swan
• Michael Wright

The School Board is further enhanced with the following members:

Principal
• Peter Blackford

Community Representatives
• Madlen Griffiths
• Jan Norberger

Congratulations to those who have been elected to the School Board for at least the next 12 months. A special thank you as well to all who nominated for a position. Even though they haven’t been elected for the current term of the School Board, just by nominating for a position shows how committed they are to Poseidon Primary. I hope they will consider nominating in the future as various board positions become available.

I would also like to formally acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the outgoing Board Members:
• Wes Buzza
• Brooke McKenna
• Margaret Willett
• Biljana Wright
• Rosalind Mugg

They have all been members of the School Council for a very long time and, on behalf of the Board, I wish to thank them for the many hours of voluntary time they have contributed in helping to build our wonderful school community. It’s been a privilege working with you all.

Finally a big thanks to everyone who took the time to vote and decide on who they believed could best represent them on the School Board. The ability for the community to make these decisions is fundamental to Poseidon Primary being a successful Independent Public School. Together we can make it work.

I very much look forward to working with the new Board over the next year and creating more opportunities together.

-Yvonne-

Yvonne Atkinson
Interim Board Chair
2015 Classes

Currently, we are considering several class structures that could operate in 2015. The final class structure will depend upon our total student enrolment, which has been consistently changing throughout Term Four. Until that has been determined no final decision has been made as to which staff member will be allocated to any particular class or year level.

Final class lists will be displayed in the Undercover Area on **Monday February 2, 2015**.

New School Garden

A special ceremony was held on Friday, November 28 to officially open our new school garden. The P & C’s sponsors, Jan Norberger MLA, Rex & Elana McCay of Blackburne Investments and Gaylene Bicheno from Peard Real Estate were invited to attend in recognition of the support they have provided to Poseidon Primary in helping this exciting project reach this stage.

From left to right: Mike Hawke-Linsley (Yr 6/7 Teacher & Garden Co-ordinator), Cameron Walton (P&C President), Jan Norberger MLA, (Member for Joondalup) and Peter Blackford.

Jan Norberger officially opens our new garden with Mike Hawke-Linsley and Melinda Mc Andrew (P&C Secretary & Garden Co-ordinator)

The new aquaponics tubs, ready for our new garden!! Plus we now have a greenhouse!!
A very successful busy bee involving over 25 parents, staff and students was conducted over the weekend of November 15 and 16. During these two days security fencing was installed and eight raised, reticulated garden beds were constructed from scratch. It truly demonstrated the community’s support for this project which will provide our students with hands on learning experiences as part of the school’s focus on sustainability. There is one garden bed for each year level and classes will begin growing produce in 2015.

This marks the completion of stage one of the school’s garden project. The longer term goal is to create a “community garden” on the unused basketball court where members of the Heathridge community will be given the opportunity to grow produce in a sustainable way.

Following on from the garden opening, family and community members were treated to a fantastic show of Poseidon’s Got Talent. Organised by our School Councillors, students from all year levels performed on stage in front of the entire school. It was a truly amazing show and we were all blown away by the talent, dedication and confidence shown by our fantastic students. Many hidden talents were revealed and it was wonderful to see all of the performers enjoy themselves onstage. Congratulations to all our performers, you have shown us that Poseidon really does have talent!!

**Christmas Assembly**

This year’s **Christmas Assembly** will be on **Friday December 12** commencing at 8:45am. The Kindergarten and Pre Primary students will be performing a selection of Christmas song, with the School Choir also performing and leading the school community in singing Christmas carols – so bring your best voice!
Poseidon’s Lego League Team
Everything is Awesome!!

Last Sunday Poseidon’s Cool Connectors attended Curtin University to take part in the Perth Regional Tournament of the First Lego League (FLL). It was a hectic but exciting day as the team ran between meeting rooms to present their research project, perform a team building exercise that demonstrated the FLL’s core values and then discuss the evolution of their robot design. The day then continued with three attempts at the robot challenge table to see how many missions their robot (Evie) could independently perform.

Poseidon’s Cool Connectors conducted themselves with maturity beyond their years, embracing the core values such as working as a team and “gracious professionalism”. They were the youngest of the 25 teams taking part, competing against students aged from 9 – 16. They made all their parents and especially their two mentors, Peter Atkinson and Danial Swan, incredibly proud of all of them.

The day culminated with Poseidon’s Cool Connectors being presented with the FLL trophy for the research project and THEY WON the robot challenge with an impressive 235 points, a clear 105 points more than their nearest rival.

As a result of their success Cool Connectors have been invited to represent WA and attend the National Competition to be held at Macquarie University in Sydney on 6 December. Unfortunately due to timing and insufficient funding Cool Connectors will be unable to attend this year. But there is always next year! How awesome would that be?

Congratulations Cool Connectors! You are so deserving of your success and you should feel very proud of your achievements. Poseidon Primary certainly is.

We’re hoping to start a second Lego team for Poseidon Primary next year. After school classes will resume in Term 1 for those students in Year 3 or above in 2015. More information will be given next year.
P & C Thank You

On behalf of the students and staff I would like to thank the dedicated and enthusiastic members of the Poseidon P & C, who this year have continued to set new standards and records for their involvement in our school. For one of the smallest schools in the Joondalup area, we have possibly the largest, but definitely the most active P & C membership that I have ever had the privilege to be associated with in my 30+ years in public education. They have not only once again raised an exceptional amount of funds for the school and your children, but also continued to bring the school community together through the very enjoyable social events they have organised. The P & C members are a friendly and cooperative group to work with and if there are parents who would like to join the P & C for 2015, you are most welcome to come along for the first meeting in 2015, which will be held in the staff room on Wednesday February 26.

Parent & Community Thank You

I would also like to thank you, the parents and community members for your support for our school during a very successful year. The school has achieved a great deal thanks largely to the strong partnerships that have been developed between the parent body and the school.

Staff Thank You

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to ALL staff of Poseidon Primary School for the commitment and dedication they have displayed this year to ensure that the students are engaged in meaningful, interesting and relevant learning programs.

Granny Spiers Christmas Hamper Appeal

This is a reminder that the P & C is once again conducting a Christmas appeal to assist needy WA families. Christmas items such as fruit mince pies, plum puddings, shortbread biscuits, nuts, Christmas cakes and bonbons would be greatly appreciated. Donations of canned fruit and vegetables, long life dried food and milk or hygiene items are also welcome and can be dropped off to your child’s class. This year each class has been allocated a particular hamper item to donate and each family should have received a note from their child’s teacher requesting donations of a particular item. Donations should be taken the classroom and will be received until Friday December 12.
Students Who Will Not Be Attending Poseidon Primary in 2015

If any parents know that their child/ren will not be attending Poseidon Primary School in 2015, could they please fill in the form at the bottom of the newsletter and return it to the Front Office as soon as possible. This information will help us in compiling the classes for 2015.

Parenting Ideas

Self-consciousness can make school concerts and end of year events daunting for some students. In this week’s article there are some ideas to help conquer self-consciousness.

Relationships Australia Parenting Courses

Relationship Australia is a not for profit organisation with no religious affiliations who has been serving the community in Western Australia for 60 years. They have a reputation for delivering exceptional Relationship Education Programs aimed at strengthening relationships and supporting parents.

February/March 2015

WEST LEEDERVILLE

Dads Raising Girls Wednesday, 11 February
Parent Teen Connection Monday, 16 23 Feb 9 16 March
Family Patterns Monday, 16 23 Feb 9 16 23 30 March
Making Step Families Work Tuesday, 17 24 Feb 3 10 17 24 March

JOONDALUP

Mums Raising Boys Wednesday, 25 February

Places are limited so please book now on 9489 6322.
More information on additional courses and the work of Relationships Australia is available at http://www.wa.relationships.com.au

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON STUDENTS WHO WILL NOT BE ATTENDING POSEIDON PRIMARY SCHOOL IN 2015

My child/ren will not be attending Poseidon Primary School in 2015.

Child/rens Name: ____________________________________________

Year: __________________________

Signed: __________________________ Date: ________________
P & C News

Poseidon P&C has raised nearly $30,000 over the last two years thanks to the dedication of our fantastic members and the support of our wonderful school community. But what exactly is that money being used for?

This year, the P&C have funded a number of projects around our school:

**Wireless Network Upgrade**
This year the P&C funded the upgrade of the wireless network hardware across the whole school. Combined with the school’s upgrade of the curriculum server, Poseidon Primary is now wireless ready, with whole-class tablet and laptop lessons planned for next year.

*Total Cost: $8000 split 50/50 with the school*

*P&C Contribution: $4000*

**Library Books**
In consultation with the Library and teachers, the P&C bought a range of Lexile books ranging across all levels. This has increased both our fiction and non-fiction collections and the children are enjoying and borrowing the new titles.

*Cost: $1000*

**Home Reading Books**
Many of our home readers for Pre Primary to Year 3 were literally falling apart, with damaged spines and covers coming off. In consultation with teachers, the P&C is replacing these with a new range of levelled home reading texts that will enable our students to independently practice their reading at home, at their own level.

*Cost: $1000*

The new library and home reading books are all engaging, current and cover a range of genres that will encourage your children to enjoy reading. The texts support the curriculum and tie in with the school’s 2015 Guided Reading literacy focus.

We have also approved the funding for new home readers for Years 1 to 4 in 2015.

*Proposed Cost (2015): $2,400*

**Pre Primary Fridge**
When the Pre Primary fridge gave up the ghost, the P&C were able to fund half the replacement cost, meaning the teachers didn't need to take the cost out of their classroom budget.

*Cost: $300*

**Choir Shirts**
At the request of Mrs Lisa Sturgess our Music Specialist, the P&C sourced and funded 35 embroidered polo shirts for our School Choir. The students premiered the shirts at the school Choir Assembly and wore them to the Westcoast Songfest, one of the largest massed choir events in Australia.

*Cost $1000*

**New Canteen Ovens**
Our poor Canteen had been running with one temperamental upright oven for years. The Canteen staff constantly had to battle with unreliable, fluctuating temperatures and there were more than a few burnt cheesies. The old oven has been replaced with two new Bosch ovens, a new ceramic hot plate and new cabinet work to house the new appliances. The school funded the necessary electrical upgrades. The Canteen can now work more efficiently.

*Cost: $4500 (but the value is approximately $6500 due to some nifty purchasing on the P&C’s behalf!)*
P & C Central

During the 2013-2014 summer holidays 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. P&C Central was officially opened at the Easter Assembly and has really become a focal point for the Poseidon Primary P & C, providing a base for school banking, ticket sales and other fundraising activities.

Cost: Approx $2000
A further $1100 has been allocated to improve the look of The Canteen and create artwork for the entire area.

Poseidon Veggie Garden

Poseidon Primary arrived back from the July school holidays to find that The Garden had been stolen – thieves cut the fence with bolt cutters and took all six of the hydroponic tubs. While this was an upsetting event for the students, the school looked to the future, with wonderful plans for aquaponics, fish, raised garden beds and chickens. And the P&C were there to help.

P&C members applied and received a Coles Landcare grant, and worked with Mr Mike Hawke-Linsley to fund and source materials for new fencing and raised vegetable beds. The P&C organised the Vegetable Garden Busy Bee, and parents, staff, students and members of Rotary Club of Joondalup joined together to work cooperatively over the two days to install the Poseidon Vegetable Patch next to the Apollo Block, and raised vegetable beds in the Early Childhood Playground. Over 30 volunteers from 20 families contributed more than 200 hours of their time.

Total Cost: Approx. $10,000
P&C Contribution: nearly $7000

Additional Services

The P&C runs the Uniform Shop and endeavours to keep our students looking smart and current. Moving from twice yearly uniform orders with a small “top-up” range to permanently holding numerous lines of stock in various sizes has an associated cost that is covered by the P&C. We want to continue to ensure that Poseidon Primary families have affordable and accessible uniforms.

The P&C also runs The Canteen and employs three staff. We ensure that your children have daily access to healthy, tasty lunches and snacks while endeavouring to run The Canteen as a successful business.

Total funding provided to Poseidon students this year: over $20,000
Benefits to Poseidon students – PRICELESS!!

thank you!

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

Join us in 2015 for more fantastic projects, as we create opportunities together.
Christmas Movie Night Cancelled

Unfortunately the P&C have felt it best to cancel the Christmas Movie Night scheduled for this Saturday. Ticket sales have been slow and the P&C understand that everyone has immense time pressures at this time of year. Thank you to everyone for their support throughout the year and we look forward to seeing everyone at many more P&C hosted events in 2015.

Canteen News

CANTEEN CRAZY CHRISTMAS SALE!!
Lemonade Nudies are half price – ONLY $1!!

FRIDAY RECESS TREATS
To celebrate the end of year, The Canteen will be making tasty non-menu recess goodies on the last two Fridays of term (December 7 and 12).
Prices range from 20c to $1 – treat the kids!!

STOCK RUN DOWN
As we come to the end of the year, we are starting to run down stock.
Please check when ordering lunches that menu items are available.

FINALISE ACCOUNTS
Please ensure your Canteen account is finalised by Friday December 12.
EFTPOS facilities available.

😊 Bronwen, Claire & Sheree 😊

Contact the P & C

Next Meeting: Wednesday February 26, 2015
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.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from
Poseidon Primary School P&C

We wish you a safe and relaxing holiday.
Help your child conquer self-consciousness

Self-consciousness can make school concerts and end of year events daunting for some students. Here are some ideas to help.

1. Help them prepare for public performance
   They can practise a talk or even rehearse an opening line to help them break the ice in social situations. Practice leads to competence, which often alleviates self-consciousness.

2. Use baby steps in social situations
   If they feel uncomfortable meeting a whole bunch of new people, then they can just meet one new friend at a party, rather than try to meet too many people, which can be overwhelming.

3. Practise strong self-talk
   Self-conscious kids often have atrocious self-talk. They say everyone is watching them enter a room, when the reality is quite different. Help them develop some realistic and more assertive messages about themselves. “It will be fun going on stage at the concert with my friends” is far more helpful than “Everyone will be staring at me” or “What if I muck up?”.

4. Catch kids being brave
   What you focus on expands so make sure you highlight kids being brave and overcoming possibly embarrassing situations. Also, let them know that even though they may have stumbled or fluffed a line or two the room didn’t cave in. It wasn’t so bad.

5. Breathe in, breathe out
   Some children and young people can be so debilitated by their self-consciousness that they work themselves into a frenzy with worry. Deep breathing where they count to 3 breathing in, but count to 6 when breathing out will help kids regain calm, control and hopefully perspective.

Self-consciousness is something that many adults suffer from too, so these ideas may hold true for you. It may not be something we can completely eradicate but it is something we all can learn to control so it doesn’t stop us, or our kids, doing what we want to do.