Dear Parents and Carers

LEARNING JOURNEYS – Learning Journeys took place for the second time on Monday, March 23. As was the case last year, many parents and families took the opportunity to spend some time in their child’s classroom developing an understanding of the learning they have been engaged in this term. As I went from classroom to classroom it was great to see the students owning and understanding their class’ learning journey and actively leading their parents through the different parts of the journey. Numerous students and families also made their way up to the Music and Visual Arts rooms to see the learning that has been going on in those specialist rooms. I would like to congratulate the staff on creating such effective and engaging learning journeys.

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 and 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

Thought of the Week
Money talks.
The secret is holding on to it long enough to hear what it says!

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.
Staffing Update

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that Samantha Smolarek has been appointed to the position of School Officer Level 2 – Marketing. This is a fixed term appointment for the remainder of 2015. Congratulations to Samantha and I look forward to working with her and the School Board to build and promote the school’s reputation in the wider community.

Staff Leave

Peter Blackford is on long service leave from March 30 to the May 1, returning to Poseidon Primary on May 4. Whilst Peter is away on leave, Michael Wright will be the acting Principal and Michelle Porro will be the acting Associate Principal. Marie Paragalli will teach the Year 4 class on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Jon Benn will be the school’s PE specialist on Thursdays and Fridays.

Effie Sentonas will be on medical leave for the remainder of the term.

Mike Hawke-Linsley will be on long service leave from March 30 to April 1

Debbie Linehan, Katie Aarons and Jane Kasperkiewicz will be on long service leave for Week One of Term 2.
Easter Bonnet Parade & Raffle

Our annual Easter Bonnet Parade will be held as part of the Easter Assembly TOMORROW, Friday, March 27. We hope that everyone has been busy making their Easter Bonnets!!

The major prizes in our monster Easter Raffle will also be drawn tomorrow. Thank you to the many families who have already made a donation – donations will still be accepted tomorrow morning.

Getting ready for tomorrow!!
Remember, more donations = more prizes!!

ANZAC Commemorations

This year’s ANZAC Service is planned for Friday April 24 and will be organised by Mrs Willett’s Year 6 class. It would be great to see lots of parents and members of the school community join the students, in this the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign, recognising the sacrifices that have been made by our armed forces that allow us to live in such a wonderful country.
Twilight Lantern Parade

The Joondalup Festival is the spectacular finale to the City of Joondalup’s summer events season. Celebrating seventeen years in 2015, it is the northern corridor’s largest and most significant community event, a two-day feast of arts and cultural happenings.

One of the highlights of the Festival is the Twilight Lantern Parade, a participative community arts project that showcases the talent, energy and creativity of the community. Using the rich colours of the rainbow, lantern parade entries will come together to create our own Curious Landscape at the Joondalup Festival.

This year Poseidon Primary was the only school invited to make and carry 1.5 metre tall puppets in the lantern parade. Our Year 5’s and 6’s have worked incredibly hard designing and creating giant puppets with our visiting artist, Leon Hendroff, and are practicing how to walk with them and keep in time. For many students this project is the first time they have threaded a needle or sewn anything. Many thanks to the parents who helped us finish the puppets

Join us Saturday 28 March as we create a Curious Landscape.

Parade starts 6:30pm

The best viewing places for the parade are on Grand Boulevard and Boas Avenue. These sections have the most room for families to watch the lantern parade go by. Parade starts 6:30pm.

Students taking part in the parade need to meet at the West Coast Institute of Training car park at 5:00pm – further details have already been sent home with the students participating in the parade.

- Loretta -

Mrs Loretta Clark
Visual Arts Specialist
Wanted

Mrs Clark from the Art Room is in desperate need of the following items for the School’s Art Program:

- 1 Litre drink bottles
- Ice cream containers with lids
- Margarine containers
- Paper kitchen towel rolls

Items can be dropped off at the Front Office.

Parent Helpers Needed

If you have a spare hour on a Wednesday morning, parent helpers are desperately needed in the Library to add spine labels to the new home readers.

Many thanks ☺

-Lisa-
Lisa Bowe
Librarian

Parenting Ideas

This week’s Parenting Ideas article is titled ‘Lost in Concentration’. It’s more challenging than ever to be present with our kids, and so easy to get lost in concentration on a device. Here are 5 tips to really impact and make the most of every opportunity you have with your kids

P & C News

Coming in Term 2

We have lots of great events planned for Term 2, so be sure to mark these dates on your calendars!

Entertainment Books, coming Early May: The 2015-2016 Entertainment Books will be available through Poseidon P&C from early May! The 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, and they raise fund for our students.

Scitech Evening, May 29, 5:30pm to 8:30pm: The P&C are booking Scitech just for Poseidon Primary! Join us for a fun evening of science. Tickets will be available from the start of Term 2:

- Under 4s – FREE!
- Kids - $6
- Adults - $10

Friends and family are also welcome, but there will be limited numbers, so be sure to get your tickets! PLUS we will be organising pizza orders so you can have dinner at Scitech!!

Quiz Night, August 22: We’re planning another great quiz night, SAVE THE DATE!!

More information on all these events will be coming in Term 2.

😊 Yvonne & the Fundraising Team
Canteen News

Easter Parade Hot Cross Buns & Take Away Coffee: The Canteen will be selling delicious HOME MADE hot cross buns and REAL coffee during tomorrow’s Easter Parade. EFTPOS facilities available. Students will also be able to buy hot cross buns at recess.

Home-made hot cross buns all ready for Friday!!

Canteen Accounts: Please ensure your account is up to date by Wednesday April 1. EFTPOS facilities available.

End of Term: As we near the end of term 1 we are running down our stock levels. Some menu items may not be available, especially drinks. Please check with the Canteen staff for more information.

😊 Bronwen, Claire & Bec 😊

Uniform Shop News

Uniform Orders: We are still waiting for the uniform orders. We will contact you once they arrive.

Coming Next Term - New Book Bags: Perfect for protecting library book and homework. Made from heavy duty showerproof nylon that simply wipes clean, these bags are designed to last throughout your child’s school life and have a 25 year guarantee. Will come in a variety of colours. More information in Term 2.

😊 Jodie & Debbie 😊

Contact the P & C

Next Meeting: April 22, 7:00pm
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. Alternatively you can contact us via email at poseidonpandc@gmail.com.
I can’t help but admire my young colleague Sonia, mother of a 4-year-old boy and a seven-year-old girl. She is an avid user of social media and other electronic devices, but she is disciplined enough to set them aside when she is with her kids. Sonia chooses to focus her attention on her children, so she limits her use of communication devices to the times when she is alone – which she admits is less often than she’d like.

Electronic devices such as tablets and mobile phones are ever present. They are heaps of fun, the source of so much knowledge and a great way to stay in touch with others. The flip side is that their hypnotic effect is powerful so that frequently all our concentration is directed at them rather than our kids. When this happens you’ll more than likely miss some wonderful opportunities to really impact your child.

There are five BIG opportunities available to you as a parent if you, like Sonia, choose to be in the moment when you have children.

**When you are fully present you can:**

**1. Build their language**
Recently, I saw a mother walking side by side with a young toddler playing a simple language game. She would make a sound with her mouth and her young son would mimic her. She changed or added to the sounds and her son tried to replicate the sounds. This is language building at its most natural and finest, and wouldn’t have happened if this mother was on the mobile phone rather than being present with her child. Whether you are with a toddler, primary aged child or a teen the language building opportunities are endless. You just have to focus on the one you are with and let things happen naturally.

**2. Teach your children about their world**
Most children are naturally curious and will ask lots of questions. “Why do dogs bark?” “Why is the sun round?” “Where do babies come from?” Yes, some are simple, some are hard to answer and some you are just not ready for. But it’s through these simple interactions that you become your child’s first and most important teacher. My hunch is that most kids will stop asking these questions of you if your attention is focused elsewhere, such as on a mobile phone or other electronic device.

**3. Impact their thinking**
Influential British educator Charles Des Forges says, “If you want to influence your child’s thinking then you need to talk to him. If parents want more influence then they need to talk more to their children.” According to Des Forges it’s through the conversations that parents have with their children that they impact the way they think, as well as influence their values. Nothing kills personal conversation with a child or young person like a mobile device.
Lost in concentration ...

4 Build relationships
Relationships are built through common interest, good intent and respectful behaviour. I can think of no better reason for being in the moment with your child than the opportunity it presents to build some common interest and rapport. Time spent giving attention to your child is like putting money in the bank for the future. You never know when you are going to withdraw some of the deposits that you’ve made, so it’s reassuring to know that you’ve made plenty of deposits of goodwill to draw on, particularly in the tricky teenage years.

5 Build memories for you
As a parent of adult children I now treasure the memories of times I was fortunate to have spent with them as young children. It’s strange how these memories resurface at the most unexpected time. Recently, I was in a supermarket and I remembered the time when I enthusiastically asked my youngest, who was three at the time, to get the box of cereal with the big red K. Off she went feeling all important and returned with a triumphant smile armed with a box of dog food. “Thanks darling. Nearly!” was my reply desperate not to quell the enthusiasm to help that only a three year old can have.

Yes, there are million memories such as this available to parents who are willing to focus attention on the children rather than be distracted by the lure of communication devices.

As a parent you have competing demands on your time, and the allure of communication technology can be overwhelming. However, as Sonia is so aware, the time for parents to really impact on kids is limited so you want to make the most of every opportunity you have with them.

The key to positively influencing your kids, building strong relationships and building enough fond memories to last a lifetime is to make sure that your mind is where your body is and be fully present when you are with your kids.