Dear Parents and Carers

The count down to the end of year has well and truly begun! Staff are well into the process of preparing the end of year reports for all students. Teachers put a lot of thought and effort into creating individual reports that reflect the progress and achievements that each student has made during this semester. Students will be given their reports to take home on Tuesday December 15 so that if you have any concerns about any aspect of your child’s report there is still time to make an appointment to discuss it with the class teacher.

This year our annual Christmas Assembly will be held on Friday December 11, commencing at 8:45am. This will involve all the Pre Primary students performing a nativity play and the singing of Christmas carols.

On Monday December 14 we will be holding our annual Book Awards Assembly, commencing at 9:00am. The Year Six Graduation ceremony will be held on Tuesday December 15, commencing at 5:00pm. I am looking forward to seeing lots of parents, grandparents and friends at these end-of-year events.

Thought for the Week
If you lose your temper – don’t look for it!

Follow Us on Facebook
You don’t need to join Facebook to see our page. Just click here to find our regular posts about upcoming events and school news.
PoseidonPrimarySchoolHeathridge

Vol 17, November 19, 2015

Peter Blackford
Principal
Congratulations To Our Year Six Students

Our Year Six students will shortly be embarking on their end of year activities and graduation ceremonies. It is an exciting time for all those involved as they prepare for secondary school and savour the last memories from primary school. We wish them all the best during this exciting time of their school career.

Poseidon Memorabilia

As you know, in 2016 Poseidon Primary will be celebrating 30 years of providing quality education to the Heathridge community. In preparation for next year we are looking to gather any Poseidon memorabilia that families have held onto over the past 30 years. These could take the form of old photographs, school uniforms, newsletters or newspaper reports or anything else that represents part of the history of our school. If you have items that you are prepared to lend to the school for an exhibit, please contact our Marketing Officer Samantha Smolarek on 9307 2356 or via email at samantha.warren@education.wa.edu.au. Thank you to those families who have already brought in photos, t-shirts and certificates – it’s great seeing what the school was like in the 80’s and 90’s.
Lego Robotics Club

Congratulations to our Poseidon Lego Robotics Teams; Lego Gaga and Triple Threat. Our two teams competed on Sunday, November 8 at Curtin University in the First Lego League Perth Regional Tournament.

First Lego League (FLL) introduces upper-primary and lower-secondary school students to real-world engineering challenges by building Lego-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface. FLL teams, guided by their imaginations and adult coaches, get to:

- Design, build, test and program robots using Lego Mindstorms technology
- Apply real-world math and science concepts
- Research challenges facing today’s scientists
- Learn critical thinking, team-building and presentation skills

Every year, teams of up to 10 students build, program and compete with a robot, while also learning about a modern problem in science and engineering and developing solutions for it. The entire competition for the year is based around a particular theme – this year is was the Trash Trek Challenge. From collection, to sorting, to smart production and reuse, our students explored the fascinating world of trash. Their project mission was to make less trash or improve the way people handle the trash we make. Each team identified a problem, designed an innovative solution and then created a presentation to share their solution.

Triple Threat took the Programming Award and Lego Gaga took the Performance Award with the most points scored on the Challenge Table. Both teams represented themselves and the school in the best possible manner, and Poseidon Primary was the only school to win two awards this year. This success can be directly attributed to the enthusiasm and commitment of Peter Atkinson and Danial Swan, who along with the support of a group of parents have given up many out school hours so that the students can work together to solve the challenges. Congratulations to everyone – Poseidon Primary is very proud of you!!

See more photos on our Facebook page

Our Lego Robotics Club will be running again next year – more information coming in 2016.
2016 Booklists
The 2016 booklists have been sent home. The lists are also available on our website. The school realises that with Christmas approaching, some families may be experiencing a degree of financial stress with the added expenses of the booklist. The items included on each booklist are those that the staff have determined as student requirements for the whole year. That is why there are multiple of some items. Feel free to only purchase one or two of these items to reduce the overall cost of the booklist. Also, there is no need to purchase new items such as calculators and pencil cases if this years items are still in good condition.

You may purchase the booklist items from any supplier that you wish. However, as Poseidon Primary’s preferred supplier, shopping with Campion acts as a fundraiser for our school. If you do choose to use Campion, Poseidon receives a commission which assists the school to purchase additional resources for the students. Your support is greatly appreciated.

School Grounds Improvements:
We Want Your Ideas!
The new school business plan was launched a couple of weeks ago and we hope you’ve had a chance to read it - if not, click here! As part of the implementation process, the school board has formed three subcommittees; one of these is the Sustainability, Grounds and Arts Committee, which aims to improve the amenity and look of our school, both the buildings and the school grounds. In order to create a plan of action, we want your ideas and input. What would you like to see happening to our school grounds and buildings? Do you have a wish list? What would you like added? What would you like to see improved or replaced? What needs more maintenance and TLC? Send an email to poseidonpandc@gmail.com with your thoughts - all ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Lapathon
Thank you to all those families that have collected and handed in their children’s sponsorship money. So far $3371 has been raised which will be used to commence construction of a nature playground for our students. It is not too late to bring in sponsorship money as Mr Wright is still in the process of organising the prizes for the 10 students who raised the most money. Please return all outstanding funds to your child’s classroom teacher by Tuesday December 1 so we can give out prizes at the Friday December 4 assembly.

Excess Furniture Sale
The revitalisation of our library combined with the replacement of older student furniture means we’ve got excess furniture. MAKE US AN OFFER! There will be a range of desks on display in the Undercover Area for one week from Monday November 30. Buyers will be responsible for the removal of the items purchased.

Games for Giggling Geckos
Giggling Geckos are looking for games – board games, card games, all games! If you’re doing a pre-Christmas clean out of the games cupboard and have a heap of games you don’t know what to do with, drop them off at Giggling Geckos before or after school – the kids just LOVE games!!
Parenting Ideas

Parents Using Kids as Bargaining Chips: It’s been said that children are the unwitting victims of a breakdown between partners, but it doesn’t take a separation for kids to be caught up in their parents’ disputes.

Direct Deposit School Payments

You can now make payments by direct deposit for incursions, excursions and voluntary contributions.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bank</th>
<th>ANZ</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Account Name:</td>
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<td>BSB:</td>
<td>016494</td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please remember to use your child’s name (first name AND surname) as a reference.

Kindergarten and Pre Primary Enrolments 2016

Say Hello To Learning – Apply Now To Enrol

Application and enrolment forms are now available from the Front Office. See the table below to find out when your child can start school. Please don’t wait to enrol as places are filling fast.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My child was born between</th>
<th>My child can start Kindergarten in</th>
<th>My child can start Pre-Primary in</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2018</td>
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Students Who Will Not Be Attending Poseidon Primary in 2016

If any parents know that their child/children will not be attending Poseidon Primary School next year, 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 2016.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON STUDENTS WHO WILL NOT BE ATTENDING POSEIDON PRIMARY SCHOOL IN 2016

My child/ren will not be attending Poseidon Primary School in 2016.

Child/rens Name:                         

Current Year Level:                     

Signed:                                 Date:                

P & C News

Spiers Centre Christmas Appeal

Once again we have decided not to conduct a Christmas Raffle as it was felt that our families have contributed significantly to the school by supporting the range of fundraising events held throughout the year. Instead, we would like to focus the school community’s spirit of Christmas on supporting The Spiers Centre Christmas Appeal to assist needy WA families.

We are asking for each student to donate specific food items for Christmas hampers being made up by The Spiers Centre. Each class will be asked to donate a specific item. Class Donation Lists are being sent home today.

Canteen News

Olaf Ice Creams ON SALE!
Olaf ice creams are now only $1.50!! A tasty lunchtime treat.

Canteen Accounts
Please be advised, Canteen Accounts can only be run on credit – we cannot run The Canteen on a debit system, so add some money to yours today!! EFTPOS facilities are available.

Volunteers Needed!!
The Canteen needs more volunteers! If you have a spare half hour during the day, we’d love to see you.
Our busy times are:
- 8:15am to 8:45am: taking the kids’ orders
- 10:40am to 11:00am: serving recess
- 12:00pm to 12:20pm: packing lunches
- 12:20pm to 1:00pm: serving lunch

There are always lots of laughs, and we always have lots of coffee!!
😊 Bronwen, Claire & Bec 😊

Uniform Shop News

The P & C Central Uniform Shop is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:00am to 8:30am. If you are able to volunteer your time, we’d love to see you. Simply email poseidon.uniforms@gmail.com with your contact details and preferred days or pop by and say Hi!

😊 Jodie, Debbie, Bec, Tara & Shona 😊

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.
Parents using kids as bargaining chips

It’s been said that children are the unwitting victims of a breakdown between partners, but it doesn’t take a separation for kids to be caught up in their parents’ disputes.

In particular, kids of all ages can be impacted by games of one-upmanship that can be played out even when parents are together.

It happens when one parent criticises the other parent’s child-rearing either verbally or non-verbally: a raised eyebrow can send a strong message. This type of criticism creates doubt and uncertainty in children.

It happens when one parent intentionally overindulges children by buying them toys, gadgets and clothes or granting them excessive freedom out of spite. Competitiveness and disloyalty cause confusion and unhappiness in children.

It happens when a parent withholds affection and attention to children to punish their partner for some transgressions they may have committed. Callousness leads to feelings of unhappiness and guilt in children.

Consistency is the greatest gift parents can give
Kids crave consistency from their parents. They love to be able to predict how their parents will raise them as this puts them in control, which is vital for their healthy development. When they grow up in a predictable, caring environment they are more likely to take the learning risks necessary to grow and develop. In unstable, unpredictable environments kids either go into their shells to keep safe or they rebel. Consistency requires parents to use predictable routines, to stick to a known set of rules and to act always in their children’s best interests when raising them.

Avoid negative partnership spill over
Families have many relationships within them. Parents have relationships with children as individuals and as a group. Children also have relationships with each other and with each parent, if there are two. Parents also have a relationship with each other, which can be compromised when there is family breakdown. The challenge for parents is to prevent a breakdown in their relationship impacting on their other relationships including each person’s relationship with children. Positive parent relationships also have a positive effect on children’s learning and wellbeing. Conversely, anecdotal evidence suggests that the spill over to children from their parents’ negative relationships is significant indeed in terms of negatively impacting children’s learning and their wellbeing.

Kids are mood detectives
If two parents are in dispute there is an absolute imperative for the parents to keep the breakdown or conflict between themselves and to minimise the negative spill over to children. Inevitably, children will experience a tension if it exits between couples no matter how well their parents try to keep a dispute private. Kids are mood detectives. They’re generally better than we think at picking up the nuances of relationship tensions.
... Parents using kids as bargaining chips ...

Stick to the business of parenting
It helps if parents in dispute can stick to the business of parenting and don’t confuse it with the business of partnering. If a parent isn’t getting along with a partner, then this is a problem to be worked out between them. Acting in the best interests of children means that we separate the partnering from the parenting when it comes to childrearing. This means that parents may have to compromise about many issues ranging from the straightforward, such as bedtimes, to more complex issues such as how best to manage children’s behaviour. Giving some ground to the other parent maybe problematic when relationships are troubled, but it’s not impossible. Plenty of separated couples do so successfully by consciously putting their children’s best interest before their own.

Putting aside differences in children’s best interests
Relationship breakdown can bring out the worst and the best in people. It brings out the worst when parents put their individual interest before their children’s, particularly when they interact with each other. Parents show their best side when they don’t let emotions rule their heads when they are in dispute with their partner. That means refraining from using kids as bargaining chips when interacting with their partner or ex-partner. Instead they stick to the business of parenting and make decisions in the very best interests of their children rather than their own interests. That’s the adult thing to do.

Michael Grose