Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to welcome all families, both new and continuing, to Poseidon Primary for 2016. This is a very special year for the Poseidon as we will be celebrating 30 years of providing quality education to our local community. The School Board is planning to host a number of events throughout the year to celebrate this significant achievement. The first event, Celebrating 30 Years of Education Memorabilia Night, is scheduled for Friday March 18. More information will be coming home in the next couple of weeks. I look forward to meeting many of the school’s past students, parents and staff throughout the year.

The P&C are kicking of the year with a Whole School Summer Sundowner on Friday February 19 on The Oval. More details in the newsletter.

Once again, 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 and 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. We appreciate your efforts to prepare your children so that they can get the most of their school day.

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

Peter
Peter Blackford
Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Upcoming Events
TERM 1, 2016

Monday February 1
START OF TERM 1

Monday February 15
School Board Meeting 7:00pm

Friday February 19
Yr 4/5 Rm 16 Mrs Porro & Mrs Paragalli ‘s Assembly
Whole School Summer Sundowner from 4:00pm

Wednesday February 24
P & C AGM 7:00pm

Friday March 4
Yr 2 Rm 19 Ms Kasperkiewcz’ Assembly

Monday March 7
LABOUR DAY Public Holiday

Monday March 14 – Thursday March 24
Swimming Lessons

Wednesday March 16
P & C Meeting 7:00pm

Friday March 18
Yr 2 Rm 20 Miss Edward’s Assembly
Celebrating 30 Years of Education Evening

Thursday March 24
Easter Assembly & Raffle

Friday March 25 – Tuesday March 29
EASTER LONG WEEKEND

Thought of the Week
Like the shadow of a tree, our influence falls where we are not.
School Development Days

This year the Department of Education has increased the number of School Development Days to seven. The additional day is to provide time for teachers to familiarise themselves with WA Curriculum and Assessment Outline and to ensure that implementation timelines are met.

The School Board has endorsed the following dates for this year’s school development days.

**Term 1**
- **Day 1:** Thursday, January 28
- **Day 2:** Friday, January 29

**Term 2**
- **Day 3:** Tuesday, April 26 – the day after the ANZAC day public holiday.
- **Day 4:** Friday, June 3 – day before WA Day public holiday

**Term 3**
- **Day 5:** Monday, July 18

**Term 4**
- **Day 6:** Monday, October 10
- **Day 7:** Friday, December 16

Please note the extra SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY in Term Two on Friday, June 3 will create a four day long weekend.

Parent Information Meetings

Parent Information Meetings will be held in Week Four on Thursday February 25. For all classes PP to Year 6 there will be two sessions for parents to select from

- **Session 1:** 6:00pm – 6:20pm
- **Session 2:** 6:30pm – 6:50pm

Staff have again decided to offer two shorter sessions this year to give parents who have children in two different classes the opportunity to go to both class meetings on the same night.

These meetings are very important to your child’s education as they allow the teacher to share a range of important information on how their 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 and we hope to see you there.

Before School Routine

I would like to remind students and parents that ALL students who arrive 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 an updated map of the school included with this newsletter 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 four staff who are new to the school:

- Miss Amy Edwards: Year 2 for Semester 1
- Miss Jessica Lyons: Kindy DOTT on Fridays
- Mrs Jade Morrison: Pre Primary/Year 1 DOTT on Fridays
- Mrs Rebecca Cameron: Pre Primary/Year 1 DOTT on Fridays.

It is also a pleasure to formally welcome back two staff who have been appointed on 12 month contracts:

- Miss Rachel Ward: Pre Primary/Year 1
- Mrs Sarah Wakeb: Year 4/5
# Staff and School Organisation 2016

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

## OFFICE STAFF
- **Manager Corporate Services**: Mrs Debbie Linehan
- **School Officer**: Mrs Jo-Ann Why
- **Marketing Officer**: Mrs Samantha Smolarek

## LIBRARY
- **Library Officer**: Mrs Lisa Bowe

## ARTEMIS BLOCK
- **Kindy Rm 3**: Mrs Biljana Wright, Miss Jessica Lyons (Fri)
- **Assistant**: Mrs Gwyneth Hacking
- **Assistant**: Mrs Sandy Morton

## OLYMPUS BLOCK
- **Pre Primary/Year 1 Rm 4**: Mrs Erin Isbister, Miss Jade Morrison (Fri)
- **Pre Primary/Year 1 Rm 5**: Miss Effe Sentonas, Mrs Rebecca Cameron (Fri)
- **Pre Primary/Year 1 Rm 7**: Miss Rachel Ward, Mrs Katie Aarons (Fri)
- **Assistant**: Mrs Anne Barlow
- **Assistant**: Mrs Sandy Morton
- **Assistant**: Mrs Marianna Chan
- **Assistant**: Mrs Kelly Godecke
- **Special Needs Assistant**: Mrs Robyn Bentley
- **Special Needs Assistant**: Mrs Leanne Best

## ATHENA BLOCK
- **Year 2 Rm 19**: Ms Jane Kasperkiewicz
- **Year 2 Rm 20**: Miss Amy Edwards
- **Year 3 Rm 17**: Mr Danial Swan
- **Year 3 Rm 18**: Ms Ros Mugg
- **Special Needs Assistant**: Mrs Robyn Bentley
- **Special Needs Assistant**: Ms Samantha Johns

## ATLANTIS BLOCK
- **Year 4/5 Rm 16**: Mrs Michelle Porro (Mon, Tue, alt Wed), Mrs Marie Paragalli (alt Wed, Thu, Fri)
- **Year 4/5 Rm 15**: Mrs Michelle Beurs (Term 1), Mr Hawke-Linsley (Term 2 - 4)
- **Year 4/5 Rm 14**: Mrs Sarah Wakeb
- **Year 6 Rm 13**: Mrs Margaret Willett
- **Special Needs Assistant**: Mrs Maria Kotsopoulos
SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Physical Education  Mrs Michelle Porro
Music  Ms Lisa Sturgess
Visual Arts  Mrs Loretta Clark
Health (Years 1-3)  Mrs Katie Aarons
Drama (Years 3-6)  Mrs Katie Aarons

AUXILLIARY 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

Voluntary Contributions

I would like to remind all families that the Voluntary Contributions of $60 per child are now due. If you have paid through Office Max please ignore this reminder. If you have not paid through Office Max, the school office is open from 8:00am to 3:00pm daily to assist you in paying this account. Alternatively, payments can be made via direct deposit. Please remember to use your child’s name (first name AND surname) as a reference.

Thank you

Debbie Linehan
Manager Corporate Services

Direct Deposit School Payments

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

Bank: ANZ
Account Name: Poseidon Primary School
BSB: 016494
Account Number: 340975592

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

School Dress Code

Poseidon Primary has established a dress code for all students that fosters and enhances the school’s image within the community, builds school and team spirit and covers safety and equity issues.

Appropriate Student Dress

• Poseidon Primary School polo shirt**. Plain royal blue polo shirts with no insignia are also acceptable.
• Royal blue cargo shorts, skorts or skirts.
• Royal blue track pants, jazz pants or leggings.
• Poseidon Primary School jumper or jacket. Royal blue jumpers and windcheaters with no insignias are also acceptable.
• Suitable footwear (sneakers, sandals, low heeled boots).
• Sneakers for physical education/sports.
• Poseidon Primary School hat. Plain royal blue wide brim hats with no insignia are also acceptable.

Please remember, Poseidon Primary is a NO HAT NO PLAY school. Wide brimmed school hats are mandatory for outside activities at all times of the year.
• Long hair must be tied back.
• Full school uniform must be worn when representing the school at school outings.
• Each Thursday and Friday, students are permitted to wear their Faction polo.

**School polo shirts:** Due to serious issues with the supply of the royal blue, light blue and black school polo shirts, the P&C have located a local supplier who is able to supply a polo shirt that is close to the original design (royal blue, light blue and white). Either version of the new style polo shirt uniform is acceptable for students to wear. There will be a transition period of several years to allow families to get full wear out of their current school polo shirts before having to purchase one of the new style shirts.

All items of the school uniform are available from The Uniform Shop. The Uniform Shop is located at P & C Central in the Undercover Area and is open very Wednesday morning from 8:00am to 8:20am or by appointment (Contact Deb on 0408 083 312).

Items in the designated school colours may be purchased at department stores but must not include large logos or graphics.

Unacceptable Student Dress
• The following items of clothing are unacceptable at school at all times.
• Thongs, reef sandals, health sandals, ugg boots
• Caps
• Excessive jewellery, drop earrings, necklaces
• Nail polish, make-up
• Jeans / Denim

Students not following the dress code will be denied the opportunity to represent the school on official school activities.
Celebrating 30 Years

Our Call for Memorabilia is really taking off and we’ve set up a Facebook Group for all our current and past students, staff and families. Join PoseidonPrimaryCelebrating30Years to check out the memories and don’t forget to share the page across your network – you never know who it will reach!

We hope you will join us on Friday March 18 for the Celebration of Education memorabilia evening.
More details coming soon!

If you (or anyone you know) are happy to loan Poseidon photos, uniforms, newspaper clippings, medallions or other memorabilia to the school for display, please contact us on poseidon.ps@education.wa.edu.au.

Lego Robotics Club

Open to Years 3 to 6, the Poseidon Lego Robotics Club is starting on Monday February 15. This term’s theme is Medieval Mayhem Joust – build the catapult, storm the castle and rescue the Princess (or Prince!).

The fun happens Mondays after school, except public holidays. We start at 3pm to allow the students time to eat some afternoon tea that they have packed, with student collection by 5pm. The club will also have a couple of full days in the holidays (looks like a Wednesday at this stage).

The cost is $100 to cover equipment and consumables. This includes the two full days during the holidays.

Places are limited (only 24 places this term) so it’s first in best dressed!

Please contact Peter Atkinson on 0417 184 572 or email admin@gr8setup.com.au to register.
School Choir
This is just a reminder to all students who are in the choir that practice will commence in Week 4 on Thursday 25 February in the morning before school.

Table Tennis Tables For Sale
The school has two table tennis tables that are for sale on a “make the school a reasonable offer” basis. If you are interested and would like to have a look at them please contact the Front Office on 9307 2356 to arrange a suitable time.

Parenting Ideas
This week’s Parenting Ideas article is on 10 Confidence Building Strategies Every Parent and Teacher Should Know. Instilling confidence takes more than heaping praise on kids. Here are 10 practical confidence-building strategies for parents and teachers of children and young people.

P & C News
The Poseidon Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) is an active and dynamic group of dedicated parents and carers who have a significant input into student wellbeing, providing a wide range of educational resources for students and fostering the great sense of community which exists at our school. We support the school by fundraising throughout the year, managing The Canteen and running The Uniform Shop. Poseidon P&C raised over $20,000 last year thanks to the dedication of our fantastic members and the support of our wonderful school community, and we have lots of new and exciting ideas planned for 2016.

We welcome all our new families to Poseidon Primary, and a big hello and welcome back to our continuing families. We wish everyone a wonderful year and hope to see you at a P&C event soon.

Annual General Meeting
7:00pm in the Staffroom
The P & C will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, February 24 at 7:00pm in the Staffroom. At the AGM all executive positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Co-ordinator, Uniform Co-ordinator and Fundraising Co-ordinator) are vacated and nominees are called upon. If you are interested in any of these roles, or would like to become involved in the P&C as a general member, come to the AGM and join us in selecting the committee to lead the P&C in 2016.

Membership is $1 for voting rights. Attendees must be over 18.
Canteen News

UPDATED SUMMER MENU
The updated 2016 Canteen Summer Menu is available on our website at http://www.poseidon.wa.edu.au/for-parents/the-canteen/. Lots of yummy food, plus our ever popular $5 daily deal combos – lunch, plus a treat and a drink - brilliant value!

We are very mindful of keeping prices affordable, and there have only been a few price increases - Chill flavoured milks, slushies and jellies, which are all more treat items. Ordering one of our delicious lunches supports The Canteen and allows us to keep our prices as low as possible.

RESTRICTED DIETS
Every now and then, a student may forget their lunch, or their sandwich might accidentally get trodden on. The Canteen is happy to help out and make sure kids don’t go hungry, but if your child has a restricted diet, be it for health, religious or lifestyle reasons, we would like to know. Drop by and have a chat with us about your child’s diet to ensure we can provide safe, healthy food for them.

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 can promise lots of coffee!!

& just a friendly reminder to our students

Please and thank you are still magic words!

😊 Bronwen, Claire & Bec 😊
Uniform Shop News

The Uniform Shop located in P & C Central in the Undercover Area and is open Wednesday mornings from 8:00am to 8:20am before school. We are happy to open after school by prior appointment. Simply contact Debbie Ellis on 0408 083 312 to arrange a time.

EFTPOS facilities are available.

Contact the P & C

Next Meeting: P&C AGM Wednesday February 24, 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.
Instilling confidence takes more than heaping praise on kids. Here are 10 practical confidence-building strategies for parents and teachers of children and young people.

Children with healthy self-esteem and self-confidence learn more, achieve more and are generally happier than those with low confidence levels. Building children’s and young people’s confidence is complex. It’s more than being a praise robot and heaping positive comments on a child at the first sign of them doing something well. Confidence building requires a number of approaches that impact on how they think, how they feel and what they can do.

Here are ten practical strategies that you can use to build real self-confidence in kids of all ages:

1. **Model confident thinking**
   Kids soak up the language, thinking and behaviour of those closest to them in their environment. Parents and teachers play a part in modelling confident thinking and behaviour particularly when it comes to tackling new activities. In particular, let kids hear positive self-talk when you tackle something new. They should hear something like, “I’ll have a go at this. If I don’t do so well then I can try again tomorrow.” This is far more effective than “I’m no good at this. I’ll probably stuff it up.”

2. **Focus on effort & improvement**
   Current thinking shows that people who believe that they can increase their intelligence through effort and challenge actually get smarter and do better in school, work, and life over time. One way to develop a growth mindset is to focus your language on effort and improvement rather than on the results of what they do. By linking success with effort you are teaching them success comes from something other than purely their ability, talents or smarts.

3. **Praise strategy**
   While effort is key for achievement, it’s not the only thing. Kids need to try new strategies and seek input from others when they’re stuck. They need this repertoire of approaches – not just sheer effort – to learn and improve. It helps too to focus language on better and smarter ways on improving. Comments such as “That was a smart idea to tackle the hardest task while you were fresh!” (strategy) and “You recognised the first few steps were the most important but then after that you were right” are descriptive statements that have significant instructional value for kids.

4. **Develop self-help skills from an early age**
   A child’s self-esteem comes as a result of his or her successes and accomplishments. The most important competencies to build confidence are basic self-help skills. These form the building blocks upon which other competencies such as organisational skills and many social skills are formed.

5. **Give them real responsibility**
   From a young age start giving children responsibility for some aspects of their lives. By giving kids responsibility we are sending a powerful message that we think they are capable. Also they are learning the skills necessary to care for themselves.

6. **Practise unconditional acceptance**
   Your ability to accept children and young people’s best efforts in any area of endeavour, irrespective of the results, will go a long way toward determining their self-esteem and confidence.
... 10 confidence-building strategies every parent and teacher should know ...

If a child makes their bed to the very best of their ability, resist fixing it, even though it may fall short of your adult standards. Instead remind them next time of how to do it well.

7 Expand their horizons
Some kids are confident and capable at home but are fearful and nervous when it comes to new social situations and unfamiliar environments. Children today have less opportunity than those in the past to negotiate and explore unpredictable situations. Wherever possible look for opportunities to expand children’s horizons to include unfamiliar places and unfamiliar locations including catching public transport and walking to friends’ places unattended when capable.

8 Recognise improvement
Focus your comments on children’s effort and improvement rather than on winning the game or getting top marks. Help kids set realistic goals in line with their capabilities and interests. Learning five new spelling words a week maybe more realistic than 20 words that school may require.

9 Put the training wheels on to support learning
Putting training wheels on a bike is a great way to teach a young child to ride. They keep them upright and mobile while they are getting the knack of balancing. We can use the same principle to support kids learning while they develop independence in many areas of life. For instance, we can accompany anxious kids to birthday parties and stay for a short time so they become comfortable before leaving.

10 Build teaching and training into your day
Teaching and training needs to be part of the every day repertoire of a parent. This means we need to add a little extra time to many of our interactions so we can help children acquire many of the basic skills of living, whether it is a young child learning to do up his or her shoelaces or a teenager learning how to fill out his or her tax form for a part-time job. When adults are busy it is often easier to do things ourselves.

Most importantly, great parents and teachers have a knack of communicating confidence in kids. They find ways to let kids know that they believe in them – that they know their kids will perform and succeed, that they have faith that they can deal with life’s challenges and know that they can become more independent.

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.
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Printed 10/02/2016
Poseidon P&C Presents

Whole School Summer Sundowner

Playgroup to Year 6

Friday 19 February from 4pm

Come and meet other families, teachers and your P&C members.

Pack your esky and we’ll fire up the BBQ plus we’ll play some games on The Oval.

Please let your class teacher know if you can join us.

Sausage Sizzle $2.

Popcorn, cold drinks, icy poles $1.

BYO Drinks.