Dear Parents and Carers

I am sure that all families would have been appreciating the cool change to the weather that we have been experiencing this week after the extended run of hot weather we have experienced over the last two weeks. I would like to thank all parents for ensuring that their children have a broad brimmed hat to wear when outside the classroom and a water bottle so that they can keep hydrated as well.

School Board: The board has held its first meeting for the term and is focussed on the successful implementation of the strategies included in our business plan. This will include how the school community can come together to celebrate Poseidon Primary School’s 30th Anniversary. Samantha Smolarek, our Marketing Officer has been doing an amazing job promoting the first event, our Celebration of Education Memorabilia Evening, which is scheduled for Friday, March 18.

We invite all parents, carers and students to come along and see the history of the school and see how much it has changed in 30 years. This is a free community event, however registration is required. More details are available in the newsletter.

We are still looking for memorabilia from present students and families – we would love to share your memories and stories of our school with past students on our celebration evening and show them the Poseidon Primary of 2016. If you can help, please email us at poseidon.ps@education.wa.edu.au or come and see Sam in the Front Office.

Peter
Peter Blackford
Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Upcoming Events
TERM 1, 2016

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
Celebration of Education Memorabilia Evening 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Thursday March 24
Easter Assembly & Raffle

Friday March 25 – Tuesday March 29
EASTER LONG WEEKEND

Monday April 4
School Board Meeting 7:00pm

Friday April 8
Yr 4/5 Rm 1 Mrs Wakeb’s Assembly

END OF TERM 1

Thought of the Week
“Mothers always know!” - Oprah Winfrey
Celebration of Education Memorabilia Evening

18th March 2016

Poseidon Primary School
97 Poseidon Road, Heathridge
5.00pm to 8.00pm

Connect with staff and students, past and present, and take a trip down memory lane. Free event however registration is required. Refreshments will be available.

For further details:
Email poseidon.ps@education.wa.edu.au or PoseidonPrimaryCelebrating30Years

Poseidon Primary - An Independent Public School
Class Parent Information Meetings

These important meetings are being held tonight, **Thursday February 25** and it is hoped that most parents from all classes will be able to take advantage of this opportunity. 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

This year, the staff have again decided to offer two short sessions on the same night in an attempt to allow parents with more than one child at the school to attend both information sessions on the one night. If parents are unable to make these meetings they are encouraged to contact their child’s teacher to organise a time to meet so they can have access to the same information that was presented at the meetings.

In Term Swimming

This year the school has been allocated Weeks 7 and 8 of Term 1 (**March 14 to 24**) and this will give all students from PP to Year 6 nine lessons at the Craigie Leisure Centre. Enrolment forms and other relevant information have already been distributed to all families.

Now is the perfect time to grab a Poseidon Sport & Swim Bag from The Uniform Shop. This versatile bag is perfect for training, a trip to the beach or sleepovers. Made from strong, showerproof, 100% recycled PET fabric, the Poseidon Sport & Swim Bag will hold damp swimmers, towels, footy boots or dance gear.

- Eco friendly and PVC free
- External zipped pocket
- Round base with drawstring closure
- Comfortable shoulder straps
- Packs flat for easy storage
- Printed name patch on reverse
- Easy sponge clean
- Measures 52cm x 28.5cm x 20cm

Bags are on sale for $15 at The Uniform Shop.

**LIMITED STOCK!! GET YOURS NOW!!**

The Uniform Shop is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before school. EFTPOS facilities available.

Ocean Reef Senior High School Information Evening

Are you thinking about enrolling your child at Ocean Reef Senior High School? Unsure how to secure a place or complete an enrolment application? Wondering what Specialist & Elite Programs are on offer? Ocean Reef SHS invites all parents and carers of Year 6 students to an Information Evening on **Monday, March 21** from 6:00pm to 7:30pm

If you are unable to attend, please be aware Year 7 2017 applications for the Specialist & Elite Programs close on April 29. Application forms are available to download on our website [www.oceanreef.wa.edu.au](http://www.oceanreef.wa.edu.au) after March 21.
Safety Suggestions for Students

Each term I like to include a reminder to families of the police information for students to take care when going to and from school, and to report anything suspicious to parents, school and the police – call 000 in an emergency or 1800 333 000 to reach Crime Stoppers.

**PLEASE MAKE THE TIME TO TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT HOW TO STAY SAFE.**

Here are some simple suggestions to help children stay safer:

- Always travel in company
- Walk on the right hand side of the road so you face oncoming traffic
- Wherever possible, leave space between yourself and the roadway
- Stay in areas that are well lit
- Stay in view – avoid going into areas that are hidden from view (such as parkland bush or behind shopping centres) and plan trips to avoid such locations
- Be alert – earphones and headphones can reduce your awareness considerably
- If you have a mobile phone, have it turned on and ready to dial an emergency number
- If a passing car stops nearby never get too close
- Do not hesitate to run from a situation in which you feel at risk
- Provide this advice to brothers and sisters, especially if younger
- Report suspicious behaviour to parents, school and the police, noting number plates of cars and/or clothing or distinguishing features of individuals.

School Parking

There is never enough parking close to schools for the short period of time at the beginning and end of each school day. I would like to acknowledge the majority of parents who park their vehicles either on the oval side of the school or at Larkspur Park as this helps to ensure the safety of our students and relieves congestion at the front of the school.

Parents who regularly park on Poseidon Road, on the foot path in front of the Early Childhood building or on the verge in front of the school are likely to incur fines in the future. Plenty of parking is available at Larkspur Park and by parking there and walking with your children up to the school crossing you would be avoiding any chance of a fine and helping to ensure that we are able to keep our manned crossing.

Please see the attached map at the end of the newsletter that clearly indicates the safest areas in which to park.

Stolen Scooter

On Thursday, February 11 a new scooter belonging to one of our Year 6 students was stolen from the bike racks at the front of the school. The scooter was purchased with the student’s own money and was secured with a combination lock and chain. This is the first time in my six years at Poseidon Primary that we have had a thing stolen from these bike racks.

If you can help us find it, please contact Hayley on 0425 273 506 or the scooter can be returned to the school between 8:00am and 3:00pm, no questions asked.
Easter Bonnet Parade

Our annual Easter Bonnet Parade will be held as part of the Easter Assembly on Thursday, March 24. Parents are encouraged to help their child to make their own Easter Bonnet at home. The major prizes in our MONSTER Easter Raffle will also be drawn at the assembly. Raffle tickets will be coming home with your child today, and will also be available before school from The Canteen and P&C Central in the Undercover Area.

Easter Raffle Donations

This year’s P&C Easter Raffle will be drawn at the Easter Assembly on Thursday March 24 and is only four weeks away!! We are asking for Easter eggs, Easter rabbits and new soft toys for our Easter Raffle.

We would like every family to please donate at least one egg so we have loads of prizes. We like to have many small prizes (rather than one big prize) so everyone has a better chance to win. Please drop off your donations to P&C Central, The Canteen or the Front Office.

Poseidon Easter Raffle

We are asking every family to donate at least one item

More Donations = More Prizes!!

Please drop off your donations to P&C Central as soon as possible
How Can I Help My Child Read?

In this second edition of the newsletter I have also included some information in response to a question that many parents often ask teachers and school administrators - How can I help my child read?

This is a question parents often ask. Mem Fox, Dymocks Literacy Foundation Advisory Group Member and acclaimed children’s author, offers the following as a very simple answer – read to your children EVERY DAY. International research claims it’s the most important thing parents can do to improve childhood literacy, yet a recent news poll survey confirmed almost 50% of Australians don't read daily to their children.

Almost two thirds of Australian parents said they would like to read more to their children but did not have enough time. Half the respondents said they would like to spend more time reading to their children. Mem Fox has dismissed the excuses, suggesting the average Australian needs only to rearrange their priorities to accommodate reading time.

‘Given that the ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) reports Australians watch two hours of television a day, spending less than this across an entire week reading to your child will be an investment in their future’, she said.

To help your children become skilled readers, try these suggestions:

**Read to them:** Reading to your children is the single most important thing you can do to help children develop a love of books and reading. While bedtime is traditionally story time, don’t limit yourself. Keep books in your car, in your bag, by the sofa, and even by the bathtub. That way, reading can easily be made part of the day. Also, keep books on low shelves, on the floor, in toy chests, or anywhere else your children can reach them.

**Have plenty of material:** Books aren’t the only thing children can read. Posters, maps, magazines, recipes and newspapers are great reading material. Computer games that emphasize reading skills may also be useful for your school age children.

**Listen to them read:** From the day your children begin sounding out letters, concentrate on how they’re doing. Try to include some “read aloud” time where they’re reading to you in your everyday routine. You can offer them praise and catch any early problems before they have time to become habits.

**Model good reading habits and limit TV:** Your children need to see that reading is a lifelong skill and a form of entertainment. When you take them to the library to choose books, choose some for yourself, too. If you can, subscribe to the daily newspaper or to magazines, and discuss articles you read with your children. This shows children that reading isn’t only schoolwork – it’s something that’s an integral part of everyone’s life. Also, limit the amount of time you spend watching television.

**Let them choose:** Within reason, allow your children to choose their own reading material. If they choose what to read, they’ll be more likely to actually spend time reading. Get your children their own library cards and entrust them with keeping their books in good shape and returning them on time.
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.

Parenting Ideas

This week’s Parenting Ideas article is on Teasing V Bullying. In this edition Michael Grose explains the difference between two important but often confused concepts.
P & C News
Our 2016 Executive Committee

Poseidon Primary P&C continues to enjoy the high level of support from the school community, with another hugely successful AGM. We look forward to creating opportunities together with the new P & C executive and supporters throughout 2016.

Congratulations to our returning committee members:

President: Cameron Walton
Vice President: Shane Dowling
Secretary: Melinda McAndrew
Treasurer: Debbie Ellis
Communications Co-ordinator: Samantha Smolarek

and welcome to our new committee member:

Uniform Co-ordinator: Tara Houston

Many thanks to our departing Uniform Co-ordinator, Jodie Carroll. We would like to thank her for all her hours of tireless efforts in sourcing the impossible and keeping our Uniform Shop running. We will miss you and wish you and your family all the best for the future.

We are still looking for a Fundraising Co-ordinator. With the support of the Fundraising Team, the role of the Fundraising Coordinator includes:

• Submitting fundraising proposals to the P&C.
• Managing volunteers.
• Ensuring approved events are properly prepared and managed.
• Assisting with event and issues
• Reporting event results to Executive and P&C.

If you are interested in taking on this role or would like to know more, please contact us at poseidonpandc@gmail.com.

Clean Up Australia Day

Join Joondalup Rotary Club this Sunday to help keep our Mullaloo Beach area clean and beautiful on Clean Up Australia Day.

Bring a hat, sunscreen and water bottle (we'll supply cold water!) - we'll be at the picnic area on the right hand side of the surf club from 8.00am. We've got gloves and bags for you.

Look for the Rotary banner and come say hi, sign in and stay and help for as long as you like. We'd love to meet you.

QUERIES: EMAIL JOONDALUPROTARY@GMAIL.COM
School Banking

Welcome back to another great year of school banking. Our School Banking Program continues to grow, and is a fun, engaging way for kids to learn lifelong money-management skills. For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for exclusive school banking reward items in recognition of their continued savings behaviour.

The 2016 reward items include:

- Flying Snake Tail – now available to order
- Wildlife Writer Set – now available to order
- Mud Splat Handball – released in Term 2
- Outback Pat Bag Tag – released in Term 2
- Backtrack Eraser Pen – released in Term 3
- Jump and Skip Rope – released in Term 3
- Bush Fly Fan – released in Term 4
- Wriggily Glow Worm – released in Term 4

These fun rewards are a great way to keep children motivated and demonstrate the value of saving.

If your children are not currently involved in the School Banking program and you would like to know more, come down to see us Thursday mornings from 8.10am in the Undercover Area and grab a 2016 School Banking Program Information Pack. Jenni Lee from the Commonwealth Bank will be at Poseidon Primary on Thursday March 31 if you have any questions and she will be able to complete your membership that morning – parents just need to bring their drivers licence.

😊 Kristie, Tracey, Kelly and Tehani 😊

Canteen News

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

New Opening Hours
The Uniform Shop located in P & C Central in the Undercover Area and is now open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 8:00am. Thank you to our new helpers 😊. We are happy to open after school by prior appointment. Simply contact Debbie Ellis on 0408 083 312 to arrange a time. EFTPOS facilities available.

Winter Uniform Orders COMING SOON
Winter uniform order forms will be coming home soon, ready for the cooler weather.
😊 Tara, Deb, Sara, Tenille and Mel 😊

Contact the P & C

Next Meeting: March 16, 7:00pm
This dedicated and hard working group needs the support of more parents and families. Parents and carers are always welcome and encouraged to attend, share their ideas and provide input on decision making. The committee members are happy to chat to parents and carers who cannot attend about any ideas or feedback and are able to bring issues to the meeting for discussion.

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.
Teasing V Bullying

When speaking with parents when I present at schools, or engaging with them via our social media, bullying is always a hot topic. A recent Facebook post had one of our biggest engagement rates ever. It begged the question- “What is bullying? Do we mix it up with teasing and other forms of mean behaviour?”

It’s an important topic that needs clarification.

Bullying is a term that’s wrapped in emotion. For many people it’s associated with bad childhood memories. It’s been estimated that around 40 per cent of people have experienced bullying in the past. It’s something that we don’t want to happen to our kids.

But I fear it’s being overused at the moment and confused with teasing and rudeness.

Rudeness refers to thoughtless behaviours and thoughtless words. Kids often do rude things to each other without thinking their actions through. Examples include breaking wind in a child’s direction; joking about the colour of a child’s hair in front of others; failing to share possessions and neglecting to acknowledge someone. Rudeness is usually about selfishness and thoughtlessness. Taken on their own many rude behaviours can be seen as an element of bullying but when looked at in context they are more about thoughtlessness, lack of consideration and poor manners rather than a deliberate attempt to hurt someone.

Teasing refers to annoying, hurtful behaviour that is used to get a reaction from someone else. Teasing can be persistent in nature, but not always. It’s generally an attempt to get under a person’s skin. It can involve name-calling; it can be personal and hurtful in nature. It can also infringe on another person’s rights. But generally teasing doesn’t have the key ingredients that make up bullying.

Bullying is the selective, uninvited, repetitive oppression of one person or group by another. It involves three elements – intent to hurt or harm; power imbalance; and repetition over time. It takes many forms and guises including physical aggression; verbal abuse; emotional aggression (or blackmail); intimidation; harassment and exclusion.

The new cyber-dimension to bullying has moved the goalpost for many kids. In the past children and young people could escape bullying behaviours by being at home. Cyber-bullying means that children can’t escape bullies like they once could.

Why the distinction? I hear the term bullying misused a great deal in the media and when talking with parents. We run the risk of “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” Syndrome where we become so desensitised to the term that we (or teachers) ignore it when children really are the victims of bullying. We also run the risk of failing to skill our kids up to manage rudeness and teasing if we categorise every awful behaviour that kids experience as bullying.

Our ability to be discerning about bullying is as important as the action we take when we are sure that our child is on the receiving end of bullying behaviour. These actions include: dealing with feelings; providing emotional coping skills, getting others involved; building up a child’s support networks; and building self-confidence that can take a battering.

Bullying needs to be taken seriously. But we also need to be discerning about bullying behaviours.

Michael Grose
The P&C have been in frequent contact with the City of Joondalup in an effort to address the schools parking issues. Below is a Key and Map outlining where it is safe to park. Already this year the P&C have been made aware of at least 7 separate incidences where children have come close to being hurt due to illegal parking. Please work together with us to ensure every child can get to and from school safely.

**Map Key**

**Drop Off and Pick-up Loop**
- Driver must stay with the car
- Cars should move forward as vehicles leave the Loop to allow other cars to enter behind them
- Do not park on the sides of the Loop
- Be careful of children crossing while entering and exiting the Loop

**School Parking**
- These are locations where parking is permitted on the grass verge.
- Do the right thing and consider others using these parking areas.

**No Stopping and No Parking in these areas**
- These are areas marked by the City of Joondalup as No Stopping and No Parking zones for both the road and the entire verge.
- The P&C have had already had 7 reports of children being involved in near misses where cars are pulling in or reversing out from these prohibited areas endangering children using the footpaths
- Parking either side or on the footpath is prohibited and dangerous
- The City of Joondalup will randomly patrol school times to enforce the parking restrictions and issue infringements where required

**Staff Parking**
- Do not enter or park in the staff car park before, during or after school

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Note: If you have parking concerns or questions please contact Joondalup’s Ranger Services on 9400 4960 or contact the P&C via email: poseidonpandc@gmail.com