Dear Parents and Carers

Can you believe it? We are almost half way through the last term already! This Friday, November 4 will be our 30th Anniversary Gala Day - a special event for our students to celebrate the school reaching this significant milestone. It will involve the students participating in tabloid sports, having a special lunch provided by the canteen and then competing in a water themed fun run on the oval.

This term in the classrooms, is a reasonably intense time of the year for both staff and students. Students have started completing a range of assessments that will be used by teachers to help them create the end of year reports that are due to be sent home on Monday, December 12.

Thought of the Week

Like the shadow of a tree, our influence often falls where we are not.
Speak Out Finals

It was great to see a large turnout of parents, grandparents and family friends to watch the finals of the school’s annual public speaking competition. Once again, the standard and quality of the presentations was exceptionally high, making it a very difficult decision for the judges to determine the winner in each year level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Runner-up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre Primary</td>
<td>Madelyne Fogwill</td>
<td>Elliott O’Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Mya McSpadden</td>
<td>Eva Ritchie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Ivy Scott</td>
<td>Abigea Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Eman Alumari</td>
<td>Kieran Gray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Brooke Cunningham</td>
<td>Arianna Kotsopoulos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Caitlin Abrahams</td>
<td>Skyla Fleck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Jack Angell</td>
<td>Ellis Finnie</td>
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</tbody>
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School Board News

Each year all School Boards are required to conduct one public meeting to allow members of the school community to observe and develop an understanding of how the board operates. The Board has decided that the meeting scheduled for Monday, December 5 at 6:00pm in the staff room is open to the public and invites interested members of the school community to attend.

Notice of School Board Elections

Tomorrow, November 4 is the last day the school will be accepting nominations from parents to fill the two vacant parent representative positions. I encourage everyone to consider what you could bring to the School Board. No specific education, business experience or knowledge is necessary – just your willingness and passion to make a difference is enough. New Board members will be provided with all the support they require to help them understand the role of the school board and the responsibilities of Board members.

Nominations in the form of an outline of no more than 250 words of why you want to be a school board member should be either handed in to the school office or emailed to Peter.Blackford@education.wa.edu.au.
Choir Assembly

The Choir will be hosting this week’s assembly on Friday November 4 in the undercover area commencing at 8:40am. It would be great to see lots of family and friends in the audience to enjoy their performance.

Cooperative Learning Focus

Mr. Hawke-Linsley’s class has been using the Rally Coach strategy this year to help them with their learning. This strategy involved students working with shoulder partners to solve Maths problems. Specific to this task was the subtraction algorithm with regrouping. One student has a pencil and works on the problem describing their thoughts and actions. The partner (Rally Coach) listens, encourages and is only allowed to ask questions to help their partner if they get stuck. “What could you do now?” or “Where/how could you get some more ones into the ones column to make it possible to take?” Rally Coach is a great way to go over concepts/strategies using peer teaching. This method gets the maximum attention and involvement of students. The Rally Coach strategy is great for revision, ongoing review of strategies and can also be used to see where students are at.

School Stream Communication App

Poseidon Primary intends that School Stream will become the primary means of communication with our school community and there will be a reduction in email communications. If you haven’t already downloaded the app I encourage you to do so. This will enable you to get relevant and up to date information about your child’s schooling.
Parenting Ideas

*Digital Social Skills* - Just as we teach children social skills for real life, there are important social skills for the digital world. It is imperative that parents teach children to follow a few basic rules.

Next P & C Meeting

**November 16, 7:00 pm**

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 7:00 pm in the Staff room. 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.

Giggling Gecko Out of School Care

Poseidon Primary School

Before School Care  After School Care  Vacation Care  Pupil Free Days

**gigglinggeckoosc@yahoo.com.au**  **0405 310 648**

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON STUDENTS WHO WILL NOT BE ATTENDING POSEIDON PRIMARY SCHOOL IN 2017

My child/ren will not be attending Poseidon Primary School in 2017.

Child/rens Name:  

Current Year Level:

Signed:  Date:

Or alternatively please email the above details to Poseidon.ps@education.wa.edu.au
Just as we teach children social skills for real life, there are important social skills for the
digital world. It is imperative that parents teach children to follow a few basic rules.

The internet is a portal into some of the
most amazing places, and just like any
new place we visit, we are likely to make
a few social stumbles. If travelling the
world, every culture you visit would have
its own social nuances that you are likely
to have to work your way around. It would
be easy to misunderstand what others say
or take offence to something that was not
intended.

Young people, at the best of times, are still
learning social rules and developing their
critical thinking skills around collective
interactions. Well-meaning personalities
can make all kinds of mistakes when they
enter this new online culture.

As parents we want to do whatever it takes
to minimise the mistakes our children
make online. Netiquette is a set of general
guidelines for cyberspace behaviour. Here
are some basic principles parents can use
to help children solve their own ‘netiquette’
dilemmas.

Be kind Remember the human behind
every screen. Every user is an independent
person with individual thoughts and
feelings. It can be easy to misunderstand
another person’s intentions or even be
rude to others when you are not interacting
with them in person and given the grace of
viewing facial expressions and emotions.
Perhaps the best mantra we can go back
to as parents is the golden rule of “Treat
others how you would like to be treated.”
Developing empathy and trying to see
that comment, post or photo from many
different perspectives takes practice. How
would you feel if someone said that to you?
Treating others with respect is paramount.
Yes, there may be times when you might
have to stick up for yourself, however it
needs to be done in a responsible and
respectful way.

If you wouldn’t do it there, don’t
do it here Social standards apply to both
online and offline spaces, and standards of
online behaviour should be consistent with
real life expectations. As parents we put
many rules and expectations in place as to
how we expect our children to behave in
a public place. I know I expect my children
to show respect, use their manners, help
others out, practice kind language, etc.

Online is the biggest public place your child
will ever find themselves, which is all the
more reason to work on exceeding those
standards of behaviour.

Respect privacy With the world
wide web being a public place, privacy
is paramount. Learning how to protect
personal information and the importance
of looking at a website’s privacy policy can
help develop skills around internet privacy.
Asking for permission before creating
accounts and downloading files, strategies
for identifying scams and limiting the type
of information kids give about themselves
or others can help set a strong foundation
for their digital lives. Children do not
always appreciate that they may be putting
their information in jeopardy, because
the warning signs are not always obvious.
Respecting other people’s right to privacy
is also crucial; don’t tell other people’s stories,
spread rumours or give away personal
details without permission.
Develop their internal filter
Parents may feel that they have some control over their child’s use of technology and many use programs and apps that allow for monitoring and filtering content. Despite the best intentions, there are times when filters are re-set, not set up correctly or not even in place – for example when your child goes to their friend’s house, gets online and no safety mechanisms have been established. What this means is that we need to help our children develop their internal filter, as this is the one they will always have and may need to rely on. Research is clear that the best way to teach morals and ethics is through example.

Teach them to do the right thing
Parents can nurture moral principles that will guide their children to stand up for their beliefs and act right even without us. Know what you stand for so that your child knows. Parents with clearly identified moral convictions are more likely to raise children that do the right thing. Pursue opportunities to look for moral issues and talk about them as they come up: from TV shows and news events to situations at home, school, and friends. Discuss with your child how you feel about the issue and why.

Be upstanding
There will be times online when your child will have to be brave and stand up for others, when they will have to go against social pressure to do what is right. When someone they know is being deliberately upset or harassed by another person, expect your child to move from bystander to upstander, because this is the right thing to do. In most cases many people contribute to the cyberbullying. Many know about the situation, but choose not to get involved. Encourage your child to stand up, speak up and act up against online abuse. They can support the target by letting them know they are there and provide empathy. Encourage your child to report what is happening to a trusted adult; someone who they believe will listen and has the skills, desire, and authority to help.

Technology is moving forward quickly, and it continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace. Taking the time to impart digital social skills at an early age is vital for our children as they move from playground friends to social media and gaming friendships. These simple rules apply all along the developmental spectrum. They also give us a clear understanding of what we can do as parents, to help our children manage a positive digital reputation.

Catherine Gerhardt is a dedicated advocate of critical thinking skills in children and young people. As a parent of school aged children she understands the commitments and challenges parents face ensuring they provide the right information to young people in a way that empowers them to develop their personal and social capabilities. Catherine is a certified training provider through the Office of the Children’s eSafety Commissioner.

TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

1. **PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT** keep reinforcing positive digital social skills and a strong foundation will be laid.
2. **COACH** about privacy in a public place.
3. **FOLLOW** the social code of good people.
4. **MANNERS** are necessary.
5. **COMPLIMENTARY** conduct is proper.
6. **We are FREE** to follow group rules. **We are not FREE** to hurt others.
7. **Encourage the THINK rules.**

**THINK**
Using the THINK rule can go a long way in practicing digital social skills. It is a checklist of questions that children must go through before they post or comment online. Is it True? Is it Helpful? Is it Inspiring? Is it Necessary? Is it Kind? Created to emphasise care online, it applies to real world engagement as well.

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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.