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 **Monday December 12**, 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.

Also on **Monday December 12**, we will be holding our annual Book Awards Assembly commencing at 9:00am. The Year Six Graduation ceremony will be held on **Tuesday December 13**, commencing at 5:00pm. I am looking forward to seeing lots of parents, grandparents and friends at these end of year events.

This year our annual Christmas assembly will be held on **Friday December 9**, commencing at 8:45am. This will involve the Pre Primary students performing a nativity play and the singing of Christmas carols.

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Thought of the Week

The hardest thing to break is a habit!

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**Thought of the Week**

*The hardest thing to break is a habit!*

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**Upcoming Events**

**TERM 4, 2016**

- **Friday November 18**
  - Yr 4/5 Rm 14 Mrs Wakeb’s Assembly
- **Friday November 25**
  - Pre Primary 2017 Parent Meeting 9:00am
- **Monday November 28**
  - Yr 6 Ern Halliday Excursion
- **Friday December 2**
  - Yr 3 Rms 17 & 18 Mr Swan & Ms Mugg’s Assembly
  - Parent Morning Tea 10:30am – 11:00am
- **Monday December 5**
  - Yr 6 Ern Halliday Excursion
  - School Board Meeting 7:00pm
- **Friday December 9**
  - Pre Primary Rms 4,5 & 7 Mrs Isbister, Miss Sentonas & Miss Ward’s Christmas Assembly
  - Christmas Disco 5:00pm – 7:00pm
- **Monday December 12**
  - Book Awards Kindy – Yr 5 Assembly
- **Tuesday December 13**
  - Year 6 Graduation 5:00pm
- **Wednesday December 14**
  - Yr 6 Perth Splash Excursion
- **Thursday December 15**
  - END OF TERM 4
School Board Elections

The school received 3 nominations for the 2 vacant parent representative positions. The nominees are: Wes Buzza, Olivia Johnston and Katie Newbury.

Online voting, via Survey Monkey opened on November 11 and will close on November 25. Please check your email for the voting link.

I encourage all members of the school community to make the time to read the individual outlines of what each nominee can bring to the Board and then vote for the 2 nominees that you want to help provide the school’s strategic direction for the next 2-3 years.

School Board Public Meeting

Just another reminder, the Board’s annual public meeting is on Monday, December 5 at 6:00pm in the staffroom.

Staffing & Class Structures 2017

With an anticipated enrolment of 285 students, the school is in the process of deciding on the class structure that it will be operating in 2017. The school has developed several versions of how the classes could be structured next year. Which structure we will eventually commence the year with, has yet to be decided as the school is still receiving a slow, but steady flow of enrolments. The year level of each new enrolment is crucial in determining which structure the school can operate with as some year levels have room for growth and others are at, or above, the recommended class size capacity. All versions include some classes that are made up of split year levels.

Once a decision on class structure has been finalised, I will be in the position where I can list any staffing vacancies and begin the process of filling them. It is my aim that this will all be completed by the end of the school year.

30th Anniversary Gala Day

The 30th Anniversary Gala Day was a very successful event which the students really enjoyed, particularly the water pistol Lapathon. Each family will be provided with a copy of the whole school photograph as a memento of this special anniversary. Thank you to Mr Robert Salisbury for donating his services to take the photograph. The school would also like to thank both Jan Norberger MLA and Ian Goodenough MP for donating the costs associated with the colour printing.

Thank you to all those families that have collected and handed in their children’s Lapathon sponsorship money. So far $2,039 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.
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.

Cooperative Learning Focus

In Miss Ward’s literacy group students have been learning about adjectives, nouns and verbs. After these had been introduced, students were put into groups and used the Kagan Strategy called Round Table Consensus.

Students were given a range of words and a large piece of paper with 3 columns labelled adjectives, verbs and nouns. The students in each group would take turns choosing a word and deciding which type of word it is. They would select the column and their team mates would give thumbs up if they agree or thumbs down if they disagree. If there is a disagreement they must talk as a group to come to a consensus. If they agreed, the team would celebrate together.

There was great discussions happening during this task and support for one another.

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**

*How to Encourage Kids to be Problem-solvers* - When parents solve all children’s problems we not only increase their dependency on adults but we teach kids to be afraid of making mistakes and to blame themselves for not being good enough. That’s fertile ground for anxiety and depressive illness.

**Next P & C Meeting**

**February 22, 2017 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.

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**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
How to encourage kids to be problem-solvers

When parents solve all children’s problems we not only increase their dependency on adults but we teach kids to be afraid of making mistakes and to blame themselves for not being good enough. That’s fertile ground for anxiety and depressive illness.

So, how can we raise kids to be courageous problem-solvers rather than self-critical scaredy cats?

Here are six practical ideas to get you started.

1. **Turn requests into problems for kids to solve**
   Kids get used to bringing their problems to parents to solve. If you are in a time-poor family to simply jump in and help kids out. Alternatively, you can take a problem-solving approach, cuing them to resolve their own problems and take responsibility for their concerns.
   “What can you do to make her stop annoying you?”
   “What’s the best approach to take with your teacher?”
   “Socks, smocks! Where might they be?”

2. **Ask good questions to prompt problem-solving**
   A problem-solving approach relies on asking good questions, which can be challenging if you are used to solving your child’s problems. The first question when a child brings you a problem should be: ‘Can you handle this on your own?’ Next should be, ‘What do you want me to do to help you solve the problem?’ These questions are not meant to deter children from coming to you; rather, to encourage and teach them to start working through their own concerns themselves.

3. **Coach them through problems and concerns**
   So, your child feels she was unfairly left out of a school sports team by a teacher and asks you get involved. The easiest solution may be to meet with the teacher and find out what’s going on. You may or not resolve the problem but in doing so you are teaching a child to become dependent on you. Alternatively, you could coach your child to speak to the teacher herself and find out why she was left out. Obviously, there are times when children need their parents to be advocates for them such as when they are being bullied, but we need to make the most of the opportunities for children to speak for themselves. Better to help your child find the right words to use and discuss the best way to approach another person when they have problems. These are great skills to take into adulthood.

4. **Prepare kids for problems and contingencies**
   You may coach your child to be independent – walk to school, spend some time alone at home (when old enough), catch a train with friends – but does he know what to do in an emergency? What happens if he comes home after school and the house is locked? Who should he go to? Discuss different scenarios with children whenever they enter new or potentially risky situations so that they won’t fall apart when things don’t go their way. Remember the Boy Scouts motto – be prepared!
... How to encourage kids to be problem-solvers ...

5  **Show a little faith**
Sometimes you’ve got to show faith in children. We can easily trip them up with our negative expectations, such as by saying ‘Don’t spill it!’ to a child who is carrying a glass filled with water. Of course, your child doesn’t want to spill it but you’ve just conveyed your expectations with that statement. We need to be careful that we don’t sabotage children’s efforts to be independent problem-solvers with comments such as, ‘Now don’t stuff it up!’ ‘You’ll be okay … won’t you?’ ‘You’re not very good at looking after yourself!’

6  **Applaud mistakes and stuff-ups**
Would a child who accidentally breaks a plate in your family while emptying the dishwasher be met with a ‘That’s really annoying, you can be clumsy sometimes’ response or an ‘It doesn’t matter, thanks for your help’ type of response? Hopefully it won’t be the first response, because nothing shuts a child’s natural tendencies to extend themselves down quicker than an adult who can’t abide mistakes. If you have a low-risk-taking, perfectionist, consider throwing a little party rather than making a fuss when they make errors so they can learn that mistakes don’t reflect on them personally, and that the sun will still shine even if they break a plate, tell a joke that falls flat or don’t get a perfect examination score.

Michael Grose