Dear Parents and Carers

Student reports will be sent home on **Monday December 12** with the children. Teachers have put a lot of time and thought into creating individualised reports that reflect the achievements made by each student this semester. Please make the time to sit down and discuss their reports with your son or daughter.

I would like to thank all parents who have assisted in classrooms and around the school throughout the year. There are many programs in the school that would be extremely difficult to operate without parental assistance. Invitations have been sent out to a thank you morning tea which is to be held on **Friday December 2** in the staffroom.

A final reminder to all families, that on **Friday December 9** we will be holding our **Christmas Assembly**. This is one of the highlights of the year. This will be followed by our annual **Book Awards Assembly** on **Monday December 12** 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 both end of year events.

School commences again for students on **Wednesday, February 1, 2017** and the office will open from **Monday January 30, 2017**.

Enjoy the holidays with your children, have a lovely Christmas and we look forward to seeing you back at school next year

**Peter**
Peter Blackford
Principal

**Thought of the Week**
Praise does wonders for the sense of hearing.
School Board Parent Representative Election

The elections for the new School Board closed last Friday and Peter Blackford, our Returning Officer, can now confirm the following nominees have been successfully elected to the School Board:

**Parent Representatives**
- Olivia Johnston
- Katie Newbury

**Staff Representative**
- Rosalind Mugg

Congratulations to those who have been elected to the School Board for at least the next two years. Special thanks also to all who nominated for a position. Even though you haven’t been elected for the current term of the School Board, just by nominating for a position shows how committed you are to Poseidon Primary. I hope they will consider nominating in the future as various board positions become available.

I would also like to formally acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the outgoing board members:
- Mi-Lin Finnie
- Samantha McSpadden
- Michelle Porro
- Jan Norberger
- Madlen Griffiths

They have all been members of the School Board for the past two years and, on behalf of the new Board, I wish to thank them for the many hours of voluntary time they have contributed in helping to create our first business plan and build our wonderful school community. It’s been a privilege working with you all.

Finally a big thanks to everyone who took the time to vote and decide on who you believed could best represent them on the School Board. The ability for the community to make these decisions is fundamental to Poseidon Primary being a successful Independent Public School. Together we can make it work.

I very much look forward to working with the new Board and continue Creating more Opportunities Together.

Yvonne Atkinson
School Board Chair

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**2017 Classes**

I have decided on an 11 class structure for the school for next year. This will stay in place unless there is a significant change to the total number of students enrolled at the school. Split year level classes are unavoidable in a school of 290 students and there will be 6 split year level classes next year. Staff have commenced the task of placing students into classes for next year. I am currently, in the process of allocating staff to classes. This will be made public at the beginning of next year.

Final class lists will be displayed in the undercover area on **Wednesday February 1, 2017**.
School Board Thank You

I would like to thank all ten members of the School Board for the enthusiastic and professional manner in which they have worked together this year to begin the implementation of the school’s first business plan. This document provides the strategic direction for the school for another year before the school will be reviewed and a new business plan developed. It has been a privilege to work with such an experienced and talented group who are really committed to creating a positive future for the students of Poseidon Primary School.

P & C Thank You

On behalf of the students and staff I would like to once again thank the dedicated and enthusiastic members of the P & C, who this year, have continued to maintain an active involvement in our school. They have not only once again raised an exceptional amount of funds for the school and your children, but also continued to bring the school community together through the very enjoyable social events they have organised. The P & C members are a friendly and cooperative group to work with and if there are parents who would like to join the P & C for 2017, you are most welcome to come along for the first meeting in 2017, which will be held in the staff room on Wednesday February 22.

Parent & Community Thank You

I would also like to thank the parents and community members for your support of our school during another very successful year. The school has achieved a great deal thanks largely to the strong partnerships that have been developed between the parent body and the school.

Staff Thank You

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to ALL staff of Poseidon Primary School for the commitment and dedication they have continued to display this year to ensure that the students are engaged in meaningful, interesting and relevant learning programs.
Christmas Assembly

This year’s Christmas Assembly will be on Friday December 9 commencing at 8:45am. The Pre Primary students will be performing a Christmas themed play, with the School Choir also performing and leading the school community in singing Christmas carols – so bring your best singing voice!

Cooperative Learning Focus

During science lessons this term, Ms Mugg and Mr Swan’s Year 3 classes learned about heat. We did a different experiment each week to test our understanding. In our final lesson, we started off using a Kagan strategy called “jigsaw” to share our knowledge in groups. Each group learnt about a topic and then one person explained it to the rest of the groups. We then tried out a new app called Plickers to do our final test. Miss Doleman and Ms Thornton asked questions and we held up our individual Plicker code cards to answer. The teachers now have a record of each students’ understanding. These are two great strategies.

Ms Mugg & Mr Swan

Class Teachers

Lost Property

We have an abundance of Lost Property located in the Frog Pond Area. Could Parents and Carers come by and have a look to see if any of the lost property might belong to their children before the end of the year. All uniforms will be given to the Uniform Shop with all other items placed into the Good Sammy bin.
Parenting Ideas

It’s a (Christmas) WRAP. How will you close up the school year and set the scene to make next year your child’s best year ever?

Uniform Shop

The uniform orders are now available for collection at the Uniform Shop. The opening hours are from 8:15am – 8:45am on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings or by arrangement. The uniform shop will also be open on Friday January 27, 2017 from 10:00am-12:00pm before the start of Term 1. If you need to arrange another time to pick up uniform orders, you can contact Tara Houston on 0411 699 495.

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.

Giggleing Gecko Out of School Care

Poseidon Primary School

0405 310 648

gigglinggeckoosc@yahoo.com.au

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/ren’s Name: _____________________________________________

Current Year Level: _____________________________________________

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ______________________

Or alternatively please email the above details to Poseidon.ps@education.wa.edu.au
It’s a (Christmas) WRAP!

How will you close up the school year and set the scene to make next year your child’s best year ever?

It’s that time of year again! The school year is almost over. The Christmas holidays are just around the corner.

“Where did the last twelve months go?” That’s the adult viewpoint. Kids think, “What took so long?” Different ages, different perspectives.

Kids generally want to plunge into holidays, leaving schoolwork, timetables and teachers behind. That’s only natural.

But before they get too far into holiday mode, consider how you’ll round out the year, and bring it to a close. If your child is finishing primary or secondary school then there will be a graduation ceremony that signals the end of one phase of their school lives.

The greater importance given to school graduation ceremonies over the last few decades is recognition of the human need to bring closure to one stage of life, and prepare for the next.

Kids of all ages benefit from parental recognition of their achievements and successes as it sets the stage for the coming school year.

Here are a few ideas to help you close off the old year to prepare for the year ahead:

1. Discuss the highlights and the lowlights of the year:
   Ask kids to name their highlights, favourite times or most memorable moments of the year just gone. Use age appropriate language and questions that will open them up, rather than shut them down. At the year’s end I would ask my school-aged kids to rate the year from 1 to 5, and to identify their best memory, their favourite subject and something new that they encountered. These questions worked for me, but each parent needs to find their own approach.

2. Celebrate improvement and success:
   Identify one or two areas where they excelled, improved or overcame some challenges. Broaden the focus away from just academic performance and recognise achievement in social, sport or arts areas. It’s important for kids who struggle academically to understand that you value success in a variety of areas.

3. Show appreciation:
   Consider how they can show appreciation to teachers, coaches or other people who may have assisted them during the year. Not only is it good manners to show gratitude, but some kids need reminding that other people contribute to their achievements.

4. Look forward
   It maybe beneficial to give your kids a chance to vent about some aspect of the year that they didn’t like, found difficult or challenging. Try to limit this type of discussion so that it doesn’t end in a whinge session and point them toward a better future next year.

5. Now relax
   It’s time for them to set the previous school year aside, put their feet up and chill out over the school break. Remember, if the previous year wasn’t one of your child’s best, the five to six week break gives him or her a chance to make a fresh start next year.

So it’s a wrap! The slate has been wiped clean. Enjoy the break and see you next year!