Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to welcome all families, both new and continuing, to Poseidon Primary School for 2017. A very special welcome to all the staff, students and families of the West Coast Language Development Centre, who have become part of our school community this year. We look forward to getting to know all of you and look forward to working with both staff and parents throughout the year.

Once again, this year we had a very calm and smooth start during the first week and a half. All children have settled well into their classrooms and routines are quickly being established that will facilitate the establishment of positive classroom environments. This will 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 out of their school day.

Today the Minister for Education, Mr Peter Collier visited the school. This is the first time that a Minister for Education has visited our school. During his visit he met with Yvonne Atkinson, School Board Chair, Melinda McAndrew, P & C Secretary, Michael Wright, Associate Principal and myself for a discussion on the school’s progress. The Minister then visited Biljana Wright’s Kindy classroom, Erin Isbister’s Pre Primary / Year One classroom, Mike Hawke-Linsley’s Year 4 classroom and school garden and Danial Swan’s Year 5/6 classroom to see Lego Robotics in action.

Thought of the Week

Destiny is not a matter of chance; it’s a matter of choice.
Student Leadership Roles

This year the school has decided that due to the large number of students in Year 6, there will be an increase in the number of student leadership roles. As well as the traditional Student Councillor and Faction Captain and Vice-Captain roles, there will be another 6 teams with specific areas of responsibility. The teams are:

- ROC Reading Team
- Sustainability Team
- Civics Team
- Library Team
- Technology Team
- Playground Team

In Term Four last year, student elections for Student Councillor and Faction Captain / Vice-Captain positions were held and the Year 5 students were also given the opportunity to indicate which of the above teams they would like to be part of. At the school’s first class assembly on Friday February 17, badges will be presented to all students who have been selected for a leadership role this year.

School Development Days

This year the Department of Education has reduced the number of School Development Days back to the usual six. The School Board has endorsed the following dates for this year’s School Development Days.

**Term 1**
Day 1: Monday, January 30
Day 2: Tuesday, January 31

**Term 2**
Day 4: Friday, June 2
The Friday before WA Day public holiday on Monday June 5

**Term 3**
Day 5: Monday, July 17
Commencement of Term 3

**Term 4**
Day 6: Monday, October 9
Commencement of Term 4
Day 7: Friday, December 15
Last day of Term 4

Please note that the **SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY in Term Two - Friday, June 2** which will create a **four** day long weekend.

Staffing Update

For the first time in my 8 years at Poseidon Primary, we have no new staff members which will create a high level of stability for students and parents. However, we do have some staff who will be taking long service leave this term.

Ms Kasperkiewicz will be having leave on Mondays for the rest of the term and Mrs Seward will be taking her class on these days.

Ms Mugg will be taking seven weeks of leave commencing in Week 4 and Miss Edwards will be taking her class whilst she is away.
Staff and School Organisation 2017

**ADMINISTRATION**
Principal  Mr Peter Blackford
Associate Principal  Mr Michael Wright

**OFFICE STAFF**
Manager Corporate Services  Mrs Debbie Linehan
School Officer  Mrs Jo-Ann Why (Wed, Thu, Fri)
Marketing Officer  Ms Sarah Desforges (Thu)

**SUPPORT STAFF**
School Psychologist  Mrs Jenny Bobridge (Tue)
School Chaplain  Mrs Natalie Caruso (Wed & Fri)

**LIBRARY**
Library Officer  Mrs Lisa Bowe (Wed, Thu)

**ARTEMIS BLOCK**
Kindy  Rm 3  Mrs Biljana Wright
Assistant  Mrs Gwyneth Hacking
Assistant  Mrs Sandy Morton
Special Needs Assistant  Mrs Leanne Best

**OLYMPUS BLOCK**
Pre Primary/Year 1  Rm 4  Mrs Erin Isbister
Pre Primary/Year 1  Rm 5  Miss Effie Sentonas
Pre Primary/Year 1  Rm 6  Miss Rachel Ward
Assistant  Mrs Anne Barlow
Assistant  Mrs Sandy Morton
Assistant  Mrs Marianna Chan
Assistant  Mrs Maria Kotsopoulos
Special Needs Assistant  Mrs Robyn Bentley
Special Needs Assistant  Mrs Leanne Best

**ATHENA BLOCK**
Year 2  Rm 18  Ms Ros Mugg
Year 2/3  Rm 19  Ms Jane Kasperkiewicz
Year 3  Rm 20  Mrs Michelle Porro (Mon, Tue, alt Wed)
Year 4  Rm 21  Mrs Marie Paragalli (alt Wed, Thu, Fri)
Year 4/5  Rm 17  Mr Mike Hawke-Linsley
Year 6  Rm 16  Mr Scott Sullivan (Mon, Tue)
Special Needs Assistant  Mrs Sarah Wakeb (Wed, Thu, Fri)

**ATLANTIS BLOCK**
Year 5/6  Rm 15  Mr Danial Swan
Year 6  Rm 16  Mrs Margaret Willett
Special Needs Assistant  Mrs Robyn Bentley
SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Physical Education Mrs Michelle Porro
Music Ms Lisa Sturgess
Visual Arts Mrs Loretta Clark
Health (Years 2-3) Mrs Katie Aarons
Drama (Years 3-6) Mrs Katie Aarons

AUXILIARY STAFF

Gardener Mr Mietek Berezowski
Cleaners Mrs Ayre Ambrose
Mrs Pamela Marsden
Mrs Lesley Butler
Mrs Thanamas Thorburn

Canteen Mrs Bronwen Tuhakaraina

Before School Routine

This year I have noticed that a significant number of students are arriving at school at 8:00am or even earlier, which is TOO early. If parents need to drop their children off this early due to other commitments, then I strongly suggest that the arrangements be made with Giggling Geckos our onsite childcare provider to care for your child until 8:10am.

Before & After School Procedures & Care of Children

I would like to reinforce with all parents and caregivers that children are not to arrive at school before 8.10am and that all children must have left the school by 3.00pm.

There is no staff available before 8.10 to supervise children. If there is staff on the school grounds before this time, they are preparing for the school day and are not required to supervise children who arrive before 8.10am. 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 between 8:10 and 8:20am 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 child / children.

We also require that all children are picked up after school, or leave the school grounds depending upon your individual arrangements, between 2:40 and 2:50pm. Please inform your child that if you have not picked them up from the designated place by 2:50pm, that the child must go to the office for supervision. We cannot have children roaming the school unsupervised, as the school has a duty of care for the safety of all children whilst they are on the school grounds and the children and families must abide by these rules.

If for any reason your child needs to arrive at school before 8:10am or cannot be picked up before 3:00pm, please phone Giggling Gecko on 0405 310 648 to book them into supervised before and after school care.
Parent Information Meetings

Parent Information Meetings will be held on Tuesday, February 21. There will be two sessions to allow for parents who have children in more than one year level to attend two classes meetings.

Session One: 6:00 – 6:20pm
Session Two: 6:30 – 6:50pm

The Preprimary / Year One Class meetings will be for the parents of students who have recently enrolled and were unable to attend the meetings held last year and for any other parents who would like to hear the information again.

These meetings are very important to your child’s education, as they allow the teacher to share a range of important information on how his/her class will function throughout the year. It also provides parents with the opportunity to ask questions and clarify any aspects which 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.

These meetings are for parents and it is NOT necessary for students to attend. As all teachers will be involved in the meetings there will be no one providing supervision outside of the classroom. Students who attend with their parents are requested to sit in the classroom with their parents during the meetings and not to take it as an opportunity to play outside with their friends.

School Map

Please find included with this newsletter an updated map of the school 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 Planner

A Term 1 Planner is also included with our first newsletter of the year so that you are aware of when the major events will occur.

Parenting Ideas

Moving beyond asking “What did you do at school?”- Here is 15 example question starters that help parents of primary-age children prompt a conversation with their child to give a window into their school life.

Cricket Skills Testing

If you have a child who is interested in developing their cricket skills whilst attending secondary school, then look for the information in the attached flyer from Belridge Secondary College.
The P & C will be holding their Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00pm** in the Staffroom. This dedicated and hard working group of parents needs the support of more parents and families. Please make the time to attend so that you too can help provide resources that improve the learning for ALL our students.

**Contact the P & C**

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**.

**P & C Whole School Summer Sundowner**

Come and meet other families, teachers and your P & C members at our whole school Summer Sundowner on **Friday February 17 from 4:00pm**. Pack your eskie and we’ll fire up the BBQ. Plus we’ll play some games on the oval. There will be a Sausage Sizzle ($2.00), popcorn, cold drinks and icy poles ($1.00) for sale. Please let your class teacher know if you can join us.
Canteen News

UPDATED SUMMER MENU
The updated 2017 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.

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!!

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.

& just a friendly reminder to our students

😊 Bronwen 😊
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- **2017 POSEIDON TERM ONE - STAFF CALENDAR**
- **2017 POSEIDON TERM ONE - STAFF CALENDAR**

- **School Board Meeting 7:00PM**
- **Parent Information Meetings**
  - PP – Yr 6 6:00pm
- **P&C AGM 7:00pm**
- **Yr 3 Rm 20 Mrs Porro & Mrs Paragalli’s Assembly Summer Sundowner 4pm**
- **Yr 2 Rm 18 Miss Edward’s Assembly**
- **Easter Assembly & Raffle**
- **Learning Journeys Kindy – Yr 6 6:00-7:00pm**
- **ANZAC Assembly**
Ever found yourself asking your child the same bland question about school? “So, how was your day? What did you do at school today? What did you learn?”

If these are your default questions the chances are that you'll get a one or two word reply along the lines, “Fine!” “Good!” “Okay” “Nothing much.” These answers don't really tell you a lot. On the other hand, these types of questions don't ask a great deal. So how can you move beyond the mundane when you talk with kids about their school days?

Set the atmosphere
It helps to create the right atmosphere for conversations. A quick “How was your day?” as you pick a child up from after-school is a rapport-builder or mood checker, but little more. If you drive you may learn a bit on the trip home, particularly if you keep the radio off and are able to keep some distance between kids and mobile devices. Alternatively, walking home together may loosen up your child's tongue and put them in the mood for talking.

Give kids a chance
Most kids need some time and space to unwind before expecting them to talk about their day, particularly if you are going to launch and ask them questions. This makes sense as most adults would feel annoyed if they were assaulted as soon as they walked in the door about their day, “How was your day? What did you do? Who did you see?” Ahh! Stop!

Create conversations rather than ask questions
The dinner table makes a great place to talk, if all televisions are off, mobile devices are left behind and you take the time to make it more than a pit stop. One way to kick off a conversation is to ask kids if they'd like to hear about your day. From my experience kids are often interested in the most mundane things that go on in an adult's day so don't think you have to make it sound grander than what it is. This gives kids permission to talk about their own days; your story can stimulate conversations which provides openings for kids to ask questions and share a little or in some cases a lot about their own day at school.

Interesting questions lead to interesting conversations
The questions you ask to prompt a conversation will often say a great deal about you and what you value. If you focus only on academic or learning questions then it indicates that's what you value.
It helps to take conversations and your questions in different directions to get a multi-faceted window into your child’s school life but also an indication of your child’s interests, social skills and welfare. Here are some examples of question starters that may prompt different responses from kids about their time at school:

1. Tell me what made you laugh today?
2. Who did you play with at recess today?
3. Did you do anything that was brave?
4. If I spoke to your teacher, what would she tell me about you?
5. What did your teacher talk about today?
6. Is there anyone in your class who needs to be in time out?
7. Where’s the best place to hang out/play at school?
8. Tell me one good thing that happened to you today?
9. Who were you nice/kind/friendly to today?
10. Did anyone push your buttons today?
11. What did you do that you were proud of/happy with today?
12. What’s something you learned with a friend today?
13. What’s your teacher’s most important rule?
14. If today was a musical instrument what would it be? Why?
15. If you were a teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?

Next time you ask a clichéd and dull question about your child’s day stop yourself before you utter the words. Instead think outside the square and ask questions that may stimulate a response beyond “Fine” or “Nothing.” And remember they may not feel like talking, which is fine too. Like adults, kids need to be in the right mood and the right environment if they are going to share a meaningful conversation about their day.

Visit our website for more ideas and information to help you raise confident and resilient young people.

**Special note:** I’m thrilled to announce that my latest book *Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children* is out. It’s available at parentingideas.com.au
SUMMER SAVER
$5.00 COMBOS
(Available Daily)

OPTION 1 –
HAM & SALAD WRAP

OPTION 2 –
CHICKEN & SALAD WRAP

All combos include a choice of PLAIN MILK or WATER

DRINKS
Plain Milk 1.60 (GF)
Plain Milk with Sippah Straw 2.00 (GF)
Flavoured Milk 2.50
(Choc, Choc Mint, Banana, Strawberry)
Nudie Juice 2.00
(Orange, Tropical, Apple, Apple & Blackcurrant)
Flavoured Water 2.00
Water 1.50

LUNCH ORDERS
(Order by 9am)
Cheeseburger - without salad 5.00
- with salad 5.50
Hamburger with salad 5.00
Grilled Chicken Burger with salad 5.00
Crumbed Chicken Burger with salad 5.00
Hot Chicken & Mayo Roll 4.50
Hot Dog (with or w/out sauce) 3.00
Pizza (Hawaiian or Cheese & Bacon) 3.50
Beef Pie (Gluten Free available) 3.50
Junior Pie 3.00
Sausage Roll 3.00
4 Chicken Nuggets 3.00
Yummy Drummy (with or w/out salad) 1.50
Hash Browns 0.50 (GF)
Salad Tray (tuna, ham, chicken or egg) 5.00 (GF)
Fruit Kebab 2.00 (GF)
Corn Cob 1.00 (GF)
Tomato or BBQ Sauce 0.20

Sandwiches (Order by 9am)
Tuna or Ham or Chicken 3.50
Egg (plain or curried) 3.50
Vegemite 2.50
Cheese 3.00
Add salad or cheese add 0.50
Change to a roll add 0.50
(Choice of plain or toasted)

RECESS ITEMS
Cheesie Half 0.50
Whole 1.00
Jelly Cup* 1.00 (GF)
Piece of Fruit* 0.80 (GF)
Muffin* 0.50
Pikelet* 0.20
Fruit Bites* 0.20 (GF)

LUNCHTIME ITEMS
(After the Lunch Siren)
Icy Pole Half 0.30
Whole 0.60
Ice Creams 1.50 - 2.00

ITEMS MARKED
* = Also available with Lunch Orders
(GF) = Gluten free

REMEMBER TO WRITE YOUR NAME AND YOUR TEACHER’S NAME ON YOUR LUNCH ORDER!!
EFTPOS FACILITIES AVAILABLE
Approved Specialist Program in Cricket

Cricket skills testing day

Parents with children in Year 6 are invited to apply for our 2018 Approved Specialist Program in Cricket.

CHOOSE CRICKET AS A FULL-TIME SUBJECT

Closing date for applications
Friday 31 March 2017

Testing Venue: WACA
Monday 3 April 2017 at 9:30am

For more information or to request an application form and trial pack, email Scott Ogilvie (Cricket Coordinator) at scott.ogilvie@education.wa.edu.au