Year 1 Local Community Walk
Dear Parents,

This term Year One has been studying the roles and responsibilities of the people who work in our local community. Last Friday the students took part in an excursion through the Warner’s Bay area to see community helpers in real life situations.

Part of our walk took us through the retail centre and shopping areas where the students received compliments and recognition of their exemplary behaviour. It was an extremely successful and rewarding day.

Two Surveys

Just a reminder about the two surveys that were included in the Newsletter over the past few weeks. It would be really good if you could fill them in and drop them in to the office. Last chance to be famous!

School Photo Day

The School Photo Day went very well. Master School Portraits did a great job with the class and group photos.

Earlier in the year MSP had taken an individual photo of all Kindergarten students in their first days at school. These were offered free to parents. Similarly, they use the Year 6 individual portraits to provide a free graduation folder at the end of the year for all students moving on to high school.

Parents will have their class, individual and family photos back as soon as possible. There will also be a series of group photos (school and sport leaders and library prefects). These will be available for inspection and separate ordering when the class photos come back.

Easter Raffle

Time is running short.

Easter is almost upon us.

I know that Easter Buns and Easter Eggs have been in the shops since Boxing Day but now we’re really serious. Please donate a chocolate egg to the P&C raffle.

Remember: children must be 13 years of age or older to create a Facebook account.

DON'T FORGET

EASTER HAT PARADE

THURSDAY 28TH MARCH

Thinking About

Enrolling at Biddabah in 2014?

If your child will turn five by July 31st 2014

You can enrol in Kindergarten for the 2014 school year.

Contact office or phone (4954 6058)
NO STRAWBERRIES
WE HAVE ENROLLED A LITTLE BOY WHO IS ANAPHYLACTIC TO STRAWBERRIES

NO NUTS
WE SAY NO TO PEANUTS, AND ALL NUT PRODUCTS AT BIDDABAH SCHOOL

VISITORS CARPARK
PLEASE DO NOT PARK in our DISABLED CARPARK SPACE
This space is reserved for DROP OFF ONLY

Green Plover Award
Congratulations
Lachlan Colley

Will receive a certificate at the next Friday school assembly.

Congratulations
Winners of Mathletics Certificates

Bronze
Anabelle Antony
Ethan Cowling
Jacob Ashley-Brown
Daniel Williams
Hugo Kidd-Matthews
Isabella Maguire
Jordan Parsons
Lexi coleman
Chenaye Mancinelli
Egan Ford
Jack Bruce
Joseph Blundell
Jack Phelps
Jack Trudgett
Lily Stanbury
Mia Lozanovski
Eleanor Stanton
Rebecca Dumas
Tahlia Stone
Bailey Creer
Claire Ashley-Brown
Emma Gulliver
Taylah Cowling
Aidan Creer
Alexandra Nash
Mikayla Hindmarch
Lucy Reid
Camille Mossman

Silver
Maddison Jones
Siobhan Snedden
Joseph Arrowsmith
Emma Morris
Cody Woodley
Lara Gooch

Gold
Mackenzie Curtis
Brylee Cavanough
Week 7

Lots of new books are now on the shelves. A big thank you to the kind mums who covered them!! New books are placed on a special stand for a week for students to browse. They are then able to borrow them.

Next term I plan to have a "pre-loved" book stall. They are mainly books that have been replaced on the shelves, and are still in good order. If you have any books, magazines, DVDs etc you would like to donate to our stall they would be gratefully accepted. Please just send to the library.

Congratulations to Cameron (1D ) and Matthew (5G )----Library award winners for week 6.

Thelma Keogh

Student Banking

PLEASE NOTE: Student Banking is processed by our wonderful parent volunteers between 9.00am and 10.30am. Please make sure you have your bank deposit books at the office PRIOR to 9.30am to ensure they are included in the banking.

Congratulations to the following students for achieving a Bronze Certificate in the School Banking Program:
- Jorja Saxby

Congratulations to the following students for achieving a Silver Certificate in the School Banking Program:
- Jaime Frith
- Tahlia Stone

Congratulations to the following students for achieving an Outstanding Certificate in the School Banking Program:
- Taylah Cowling
- Anabelle Antony
- Archie Young
- Emily Creely
- Izabella Alexander

WANTED: Students to take up an instrument in our fantastic school band.

Mr Ward, is especially, looking for anyone interested in playing the drums, but all instruments are available on excellent terms. Research into a musical education has shown positive outcomes for student’s learning in all areas.

If anyone is interested please see Mr Ward on Tuesday mornings or Mrs Broxom for details.

Thank you.

In their own Write

Today’s featured class is KF.

Kinder have had a very busy start to the year. There have been lots of learning, playing and creating going on in all the classes. Here are some of the reflections about Kindergarten from KF:

I really like playing colour bingo and playing on the equipment. The best thing about Kindergarten is the sandpit. Kye P

I have learned that there are different ways of saying hello in the morning. My favourite is Ella (an Aboriginal word). I really like going to assemblies because it is nearly our turn to go on the stage. When Ms Filipcevic was reading a book to us, I could read one of the words. Daniel S

I really like telling News about my skateboard because it has a picture of Batman on it. I really like learning about all the colours. In Activity groups, waterplay is the best group. Macklin F

We did some art about Spot the dog. Spot went to school and played dressups just like me in Activity groups. I really liked making my hat. Grace R

I can remember when we did the sound for the letter S, we do a snake action with our hands. We are learning about our numbers. My favourite thing to do is play with my friends. Sierra B
I like learning about numbers and my favourite is 14. We have been learning new words. I like playing in the COLA with my friends. Eli H

I really like trying to learn my words and numbers and writing my name. The sand pit is my favourite place to play with my friends. Mia A

I like learning my numbers and how to write. The really enjoy gluing in activity groups. My favourite thing to do is play with my friends in the playground. Jacob F

In Kindergarten I have been learning some sight words and some letters. We are reading stories and I like crossing my legs when I sit on the floor. I really like counting. Mathew W

I play with my friends at school. I am learning my numbers and write letters. In activity groups I like it when we play dress ups. Sabora-Lee

I enjoy when we sit down and read stories. I am learning my sight words, I even helped my big sister with one of her words. We have been colouring in and using paint and I like to do that. Kinder has been fun. Cora S

I like playing in the COLA and playing with my friends in the sandpit. I have been learning my sight words and my favourite word is friend. I like to eat my fruit at fruit break. Alex M

I like playing with my buddy and eating my fruit at school. We have been learning how to write and reading our words. I like running around with my friends. Noah D

I have been trying to write my letters and my numbers. I like playing with my buddy. I really like dressing up in Activity groups. Harper Y

We play games at school. We are learning our letters and numbers and writing my name. We do lots of work, we read books and play sport. Nathan B

In Kindergarten we have been leaning our letters and numbers. We learn about the Rainbow Fish and how to play in the playground. We are not to pick up sticks. Cooper S

We have been reading the Rainbow Fish and how to share and to keep our hands to our self. I like to drawing and painting. Koby B

I like painting and drawing at my table. I like writing my name and my friend's name. I like to play games with my friends in the playground. Lokita P

I have been learning my letters and numbers. In activity groups I like to play bingo games. My favourite part is playing in the sandpit. Chelsea M

CONGRATULATIONS

Our very special congratulations go to Tom Swain from 5G for being selected to play for Westlakes PSSA Rugby League Team.

A big congratulations to Sophie Keeble from 5G for being selected in the Hunter Representative Basketball team. What a great achievement for both students.

Mr Cox

TOMORROW

Friday School Assembly, 10.10am Presentation by 2/3K, Parents Welcome

NEXT WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Scripture Assembly (9.30-10.15) in the hall</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Annual General P&amp;C Meeting (7.30pm)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>School Assembly, 10.10am Presentation by 3M, Parents Welcome</td>
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SCHOOL DIARY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>Scripture Assembly (Tue)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Easter Hat Parade (Thur)</td>
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<td>GOOD FRIDAY (Fri)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>EASTER MONDAY (Mon)</td>
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<td>Cross Country (Fri)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Assembly 4/5W (Fri)</td>
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The next meeting of the Biddabah P&C and School Council will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 20 March

School Council 6.30pm  P&C 7.30pm

Easter Raffle

This year the Easter raffle will be drawn on Monday 25th March.

As Easter eggs and products are already on display we are asking our families for donations of Easter eggs, Easter products and gift bags and baskets which will be put together to form the prizes on offer in our Easter raffle.

These items can be left at the school office.

We will be putting the prizes together on Tuesday 19th March at 7.30pm in the hall and on Friday 22nd March from 2pm til 3pm in the hall.

Anyone that can offer assistance with drawing the raffle on Monday morning 25th March please give me a call.

Raffle tickets will be sent home with your child on Monday, and need to be returned to the office by Thursday 21st March.

Extra books of raffle tickets will also be available from the office.

If you have any questions feel free to give me a call on 0432310741.

Many Thanks
Mandy Swan
Fundraising Coordinator

Canteen Update

The canteen roster for Term 2 is now in the canteen. Please call in to volunteer your time, once a month or once a term would be great, or alternatively phone or text me a date when you are available.

Unfortunately our milk supplier cannot supply Vanilla Malt milk so we will only have Banana milk as an alternative to strawberry.

There has been a price increase on our Vanilla Lime and Apple Raspberry Juice Bombs. These will now sell for $1.70 not $1.50. Effective Monday 3rd March.

Just a reminder that we have fruit available for purchase before school for fruit break.

All lunch orders must be received at the canteen by 9.15am.

Please check our specials board for new items and daily specials.

If you have any queries in regards to menu items or anything canteen related I will be in the canteen Monday to Friday from 8am until 11.30am or give me a call on 0432310741.

Many thanks
Mandy Swan
Canteen Manager

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Canteen Roster – Term 1 Week 8</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon</strong> Mar 18</td>
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<td><strong>Tue</strong> Mar 19</td>
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<td><strong>Wed</strong> Mar 20</td>
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<td><strong>Thu</strong> Mar 21</td>
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<td><strong>Fri</strong> Mar 22</td>
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We all love dogs but for the safety of our children, please do not bring them on to the school grounds.

**Uniform Shop Update**

Renovations in the uniform shop are now complete and the uniform shop will reopen on Monday 18th March. Opening hours will still be Monday to Thursday 2.30pm until 3pm and Wednesday mornings 8.30am until 9am.

We have polar fleece lined raincoats now available for $36 each. These range in sizes from 6 to 14.

Due to the introduction of our new ordering system can I please ask parents to have patience at this time. We will endeavour to have your orders to you in the week following when you placed your order however it may take time for your order to be processed, especially if we are waiting on stock to arrive from our suppliers. Therefore some preplanning may be required when working out your child/childrens uniform requirements. Any enquiries about the uniform shop can be made with myself on 0432 310 741.

Many thanks

Mandy Swan

Uniform Shop Manager

**NEXT WEEK’S UNIFORM SHOP**

**MONDAY**
2.30-3.00pm
Sarah Patrick

**TUESDAY**
2.30-3.00pm
Nicole Reid

**WEDNESDAY MORNING**
8.30 - 9.00am
Jenny Preston

**WEDNESDAY PM**
2.30-3.00pm
Michelle Hain

**THURSDAY**
2.30-3.00pm
Nicole Stone

**FRIDAY**
2.30-3.00pm
Emma Swain

**ADVERTISING COSTS**

Roadside Sign in Medcalf Street
Your business can advertise on our roadside sign. Advertisers are offered one of the eight places for an annual fee of $500. If you are interested in taking up this offer, please contact the principal: Mr. Graeme Mason.

| Advertisement Type                  | Cost  
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Business Card Size                  | $14.33 (week)  
|                                     | $85.80 (term) |
| ¼ Page                              | $25 (week)  
|                                     | $220 (year) |
| ½ Page                              | $41.80 (week)  
| Full Page                           | $69.30 (week) |
| Distribute Your Pamphlets           | $25.00 (week) |
| **SPECIAL OFFER**                   |       
| ¼ Page Advertisement                | 1 Year  
|                                     | $220.00 |

This newsletter is produced each Thursday by the students and staff of Biddabah Public School. For further information phone 4954 6058

**Subscriptions** can be mailed each week for $12/term or $25/year. Contact Christine or Michelle for details.

**Advertisers** please contact Christine or Michelle to negotiate special rates. Parents are reminded that paid advertisements are not necessarily endorsed by the school, but they do assist with the costs of publication.

Graeme Mason
Principal

**BOOKCLUB ORDERS DUE**

Closed

P&C AGM  Wednesday 20th March 7.30pm
WE’D LOVE TO MEET YOU!!

Are you a single mum or do you know anyone who is? Lions Club Australia is supporting a local single mother to start a new Club in the Newcastle-Lake Macquarie area.

This Club will provide a free, fun & friendly environment for single mums to meet each fortnight. There will be interesting speakers, practical workshops, external assistance resources and a chance to share with others.

We are launching this Club with a free information night. If you’re interested in attending or providing support please join us:

When: Monday 18th February
Time: 7.30pm with a brief presentation at 8pm.
Where: Lakelands Community Hall
Ambleside Circuit, Lakelands (Warners Bay)

Children welcome.

If you would like further information about the evening feel free to contact Natalie at smums.org@gmail.com

Biddabah School does not necessarily endorse paid advertising in this Newsletter
Focus on Reading: Parent

This survey is designed primarily to investigate your child’s reading ability, and whether the literacy program called Focus on Reading that began last year has had any impact on this.

Please respond for one child only.

Your Child’s Class ________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Usually</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Does your child like reading?</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>I feel my child is progressing well in Reading</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>I am aware that a new reading comprehension program called Focus on Reading that has been introduced to the school.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>The new reading comprehension program called Focus on Reading has been discussed with me.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>I would like to know more about the school’s new reading comprehension program called Focus on Reading</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>In the last year or so I have noticed a change in my child’s attitude to school.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>In the last year or so I have noticed a change in my child’s reading skills in relation to comprehension.</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>In the last year or so I have noticed a change in my child’s overall enjoyment of reading.</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>In the last year or so I have noticed my child is reading a greater variety of literature than s/he did last year</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>My child has talked about strategies or things s/he does when reading to assist his/her comprehension or fluency skills.</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>My child talks more about what goes on in class than s/he did last year.</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>I think the Focus on Reading program has made a difference to my child’s reading.</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>In what ways has the Focus on Reading program made a difference to your child’s reading?</td>
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Last Friday Siobhan Snedden’s pet, Olivia the python came to meet 5G. Mr Snedden brought her into the classroom in a big box. She’s an Olive Python and weighs about 25-30kg and measures 2.3m long! She is 14 years old and 5G think she’s pretty awesome!

First, Mr Snedden asked us what we already knew about snakes. 5G already knew a lot of facts but we also learnt some new fascinating things about snakes. We already knew that snakes don’t have eyelids or legs, but Mr Snedden told us that some snakes originally were lizards and had legs but through evolution have lost them. Wow! Snakes smell and feel with their tongue as they are almost blind but they can see your heartbeat through thermal means.

We learnt that seven of the world’s most deadliest snakes live in Australia. Did you know that the rats which pet snakes are fed are bred in a laboratory? This makes the rats cleaner than the meat you or I eat for dinner! Yum! Luckily for 5G, Olivia had eaten earlier that week and therefore wasn’t hungry enough to eat little children! We had to be careful that we hadn’t had contact with rats or chickens for two months or Olivia would have gotten excited by the smell. Olivia had shed a week before we met her, and she had some imperfections where her skin hadn’t shed properly.

Mr Snedden asked us if we would like to have a pat first and those willing lined up. You would think that she’s slimy yet she was cold and muscular to touch. After that, some brave members of the class lined up to have Olivia draped around their necks! We did this in pairs as she is so heavy. When Mrs Dutch walked into the room she looked a little pale and scared.

After we had had turns holding Olivia, she did a wee into her box. This was a quick lesson in biology, then it was time for Mr Snedden to head to 2MC for a visit. 5G would like to thank Mr Snedden for this interesting and fun visit.