Learning about Antarctica

On Wednesday this week Year One were the lucky audience to a presentation from Mr Ashley-Brown who is a journalist for the ABC. Mr Ashley-Brown shared his experiences in the Antarctic, where he had recently stayed for two months. Year One were spellbound for an hour, while learning about the features of this frozen desert, such as icebergs that stretch for hundreds of kilometres and cheeky penguins that show no fear. The students also learnt about the importance of conservation and environmental awareness. After an informative question time, the students experienced Antarctic cold first hand when they were invited to plunge their hands into a bucket of icy water.
Dear Parents,

Some people are likely to cause an accident by inappropriately entering the Visitor’s Carpark to drop off students. While other cars are doing the right thing on the roundabout, some drivers are backing out or forcing their way in to the roundabout traffic.

VISITORS CARPARK
ONLY ENTER in the Visitor’s Carpark if you are a:
- Canteen volunteer
- Disabled parking permit
- Volunteer
- Temporary Teacher

A New P&C for 2013

I would like to thank the outgoing P&C executive for another most successful year at Biddabah School. Their work and support for the school through 2012-13 has been very much appreciated.

The 2012 P&C Association and the School Council worked extremely hard. Through their energy and creative fund-raising they enjoyed some really outstanding results.

At last night’s P&C meeting, two of our members stepped down from their central and very high profile positions to mentor new incumbents in their roles.

Mandy Swan has been involved in fundraising for Biddabah School since 2005. She took over as fundraising coordinator in 2007. Since then she has filled a variety of roles. Her outstanding organizational ability only just eclipses the number of contacts she can draw upon.

Mandy, who is also our canteen and uniform shop supervisor stood down last night from the fundraising coordinator role and will mentor Kerrie Keenan in 2013 as her ‘offsider’.

The new 2013 P&C Executive team:

President           Leanne Fong
Vice Presidents     Stuart Glover
                   Kellie Andriessen
Secretary           Kimberley Gulliver
Treasurer           Michelle Freund
Publicity           Kim Eve
School Council      Leanne Fong (P&C)
                   Mandy Swan (P&C)
                   Paul Jupp (Parent)
                   Fiona Gooch (Parent)
                   Nance Adams (Community)
                   Karen Reper (Community)
                   Jenny Dutch (Staff)
                   Joanne Wood (Staff)
District P&C        Elizabeth Glover
                   Jamie Munns
Fundraising Coordinator  Kerrie Keenan
                          Mandy Swan (offsider)
Canteen Treasurer    Joanne Campbell-Schmidt
Auditor             Sally Lole

Stuart Glover has been our president since 2011, taking over the role from another high profile leader: Lindy Dunlop. Stu has many accomplishments to his credit. We will miss his organizational ability and his good humour. Well maybe not just yet. He will stay on to mentor our new president: Leanne Fong.
Easter Colouring In Competition Fundraiser

To celebrate Easter, this year we are running a whole school Easter Colouring in Competition. One winner will be chosen from each class across the entire school. To enter the competition students will need to hand in their colouring in sheets to the office by next Thursday morning along with a $1 entry fee. The Infants winners will be announced during the Easter Hat Parade and the Primary winners will be announced in their classrooms. All money raised will be going towards setting up a new Red Cross Club which will begin operating next term.

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)

Maths Camp at Myuna Bay

Late last year, I did a NPBS Maths Test, as a result I was chosen to represent Biddabah at a Maths Comp at Myuna Bay. The camp was held last weekend.

I was with 95 boys and girls. They were from all different schools. We did a lot of maths activities like Oragami Hexahedrons, maths games about odd and even numbers, Graphic Calculaters (Day 1) then, graphs using M’n’M’s and tessalations (day 2).

After each maths lesson, there was an activity: Swimming, mini golf, low ropes and kick ball. That night we had a BBQ tea and a math relay. My group didn’t come first, but we were close! Then it was time to get entertained by students who brought an instrument along with them, or sang, danced, did stand up comedy etc. It was a fun, challenging, social weekend.

Some of the questions were:

• Sam was looking through the mirror. He thought the time was 4:50,. What was the real time?
• What is the sum of all the odd numbers up to 100?

There were what my group got caught on, but we finished successfully!

Abby Hindmarch 6D
Is your hat ready for the Easter Hat Parade on Thursday 28th March

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

CONGRATULATIONS

Winners of Mathletics Certificates

Bronze
Cody Woodley
Taylah Cowling
Ella McGregor
Lizabel Brunskill
Camille Mossman
Tahlia Stone
Braydon Keating
Chenaye Mancinelli
Emily Gesovski
Jack Phelps
Lara Gooch
Lily Stanbury
Mia Lozanovski
Noah Mudford
Rebecca Dumas
Mikaylah Billet
Charlotte Ratcliffe
Amelia Snape
Anabelle Antony
Conner West
Daniel Williams
Fleur Davies

Silver
Samuel Donaldson
Blake Knight
Cameron Price
Jack Bruce
Brianne Cross
Aidan Creer

Gold
Bailey Creer
Mikayla Hindmarch

Green Plover Award

Congratulations

Jessica Boersma
Mikaylah Billet

Will receive a certificate at the next Friday school assembly.

Our “pre-loved” annual book sale is set for Wednesday 15th May (week 3 next term).

A HUGE thank you to Manuela and Junior for their very generous donation of books to our library. One book (a lovely Victorian doll-house) is on display.

Any one who wishes to donate books no longer used by their children will find they will be most gratefully received. All money raised goes towards new books and lunch-time activities for all students.

Congratulations to Sam (1D) and Ryan (5G)----Library award winners for week 7.
Thelma Keogh

Congratulations to the following students for achieving an Outstanding Certificate in the School Banking Program:
Olivia Crossley
Mia Hyslop
Hugo Kidd-Matthews

Library News

Student Banking
In their own Write

Today's featured class is 2/3K.

This term in 2/3K we have been discussing our favourite subjects and activities.

Let's hear what 2/3K has to say:

In 2/3K my favourite subject is maths because we get to do times tables and do a dice game.
By Eli

In 2/3K my favourite subject is PE because it is fun to play games like Medicine ball.
By Ella.

In 2/3K my favourite subject is PE because it is fun to play games like Medicine ball.
By Monique.

In 2/3K my favourite subject is maths because we get to do a dice game and learn your times tables.
By Sam. D

In 2/3K my favourite subject is Spelling because you get to learn how to spell new words.
By Samantha Woodhouse

In 2/3K my favourite subject is handwriting because I am very neat at handwriting.
By Abbey

In 2/3K my favourite subject is Mathematics because the dice game is easy. First you start with a 6 sided dice and work up to a 20 sided dice. By Hugo

In 2/3K my favourite subject is PE because we get to play Medicine ball against the girls.
By Joel

In 2/3K my favourite subject is PE I like PE because there are games I like !!!! ☺
By Mia

In 2/3K my favourite subject is spelling because you get to learn how to spell words.
By Isabella Maguire

In 2/3K my favourite subject is maths because we get to do times tables.
By Braydon

My favourite subject is Art because we create things that are cool and we show our art at assembly.
By Conner

In 2/3K my favourite subject is PE. In PE we play medicine ball. We play it on the hard court. We sometimes play Year 2 Vs Year 3. We have a fun time playing Medicine ball. I also enjoy doing handwriting. We do a different letter every week. By Elie.

My favourite subject is art because we get to paint cool pictures like cars and planes. I love it when we do art we always take care in our work. It is very fun doing art and we have a fantastic teacher to lead us.
By Josh

In 2/3K my favourite subject is Art because I love to create and fiddle with art and I like to use contrasting colours.
By Amy

In 2/3K my favourite subject is PE. My favourite game is medicine ball.
By Jett

In 2/3K my favourite subject is PE because we get to play a lot of fun games and learn lots more. One of the games is Medicine ball another one is mouse trap. By Mikaylah

In 2/3K my favourite subject is PE because Mr Knight takes us out to play Medicine ball, we play girls Vs boys it takes a long time to get the ball off the boys because the boys are a little bit faster than the girls team its easy some times and its hard sometimes.
By Lucy Thomas

In 2/3K my favourite subject is art because you can use your imagination! ☺
By Sam.N

In 2/3K my Favourite subject is P.E because Mr Knight lets us play Medicine ball, we play girls Vs boys it's very hard for the girls to get the ball.
By Fleur

In 2/3K my favourite subject is P.E. Medicine ball is fun to play, as it keeps you fit.
By Daniel

Is your hat ready for the Easter Hat Parade on Thursday 28th March
In 2/3k my favourite subject is P.E because we get to play fun games like Medicine ball and cat and mouse and lots of other fun games.

By Grace

In 2/3k my favourite subject is Maths because I am very good at it. I like doing lots of rows of time tables.

By JorJa

In 2/3k my favourite subject is P.E. I Like P.E because we get to play Medicine ball and Cat and Mouse. Sometimes we do year 2 against year 3 and we always have lots of fun.

By Lexi

In 2/3k my favourite subject is PE. In PE we get to play games like Medicine ball. It is fun and you get fit.

By Luke

My favourite subject is Art because we can do cool art like our an initials. Art is cool I love it. When we do art we always take care in our work. It is very fun doing art and we have a fantastic teacher to lead us.

By Fraser

Sydney Aquarium Permission Note
Parent Expression of Interest Sydney Aquarium Excursion.

**EXCURSIONS & PAYMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXCURSIONS</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-2 Sydney Aquarium</td>
<td>Due date 3 May 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 10 May 2013</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Parents are advised that no payment will be accepted after the due date unless approved by the organising teacher.

**TOMORROW**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>School Assembly, 10.10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presentation by 3M, Parents Welcome</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NEXT WEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Easter Raffle drawn on Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade 2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SCHOOL DIARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>EASTER MONDAY (Mon) Cross Country (Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Assembly 4/5W (Fri)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**P&C News**

The next meeting of the Biddabah P&C and School Council will be at 7.30pm on

Wednesday, 15 May

School Council 6.30pm  P&C  7.30pm

**CAANTEEN ROSTER - Term 1 Week 9**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name 1</th>
<th>Name 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>Paula Boersma</td>
<td>Tracie Lavelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Mar 26</td>
<td>Sarah Patrick</td>
<td>Michelle Freund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Mar 27</td>
<td>Joanne Campbell-Schmidt</td>
<td>Tracie Lavelle, Sue MacLeod, Kay Graham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Mar 28</td>
<td>Rajka Alexander</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Mar 29</td>
<td>CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

We all love dogs but for the safety of our children, please do not bring them on to the school grounds

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.

Newsletter Advertising Costs (incl. GST)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advertisement Type</th>
<th>Cost (week)</th>
<th>Cost (term)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business Card Size</td>
<td>$14.33</td>
<td>$85.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ Page</td>
<td>$25.30</td>
<td>$220.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ Page</td>
<td>$41.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Page</td>
<td>$69.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribute Your Pamphlets</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIAL OFFER ¼ Page Advertisement</td>
<td>$220.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

OTHER NOTES SENT HOME THIS WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Sydney Aquarium Permission Note</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHOOL HALL BOOKINGS

Bookings for Biddabah’s Communal Hall can be made with the principal. 4954 6058

Is your hat ready for the Easter Hat Parade on Thursday 28th March
Business Directory
A guide to local businesses that support our school

Biddabah Public School

KARATE
Engage, Encourage & Empower!
✓ FREE karate uniform
✓ Includes 10 classes
✓ Just $99

Kids ages 5-7 @ 5pm
Kids ages 8-12 @ 5:45pm
Adults @ 6:30pm - 8pm
Mondays & Thursdays

Phone: 0411 669 669
www.newcastlekarate.com

Breakaway Dancers

 ★ STREET STYLEZ
AGES 7 — 12YRS
“Hip Hop” “Funky Jazz” “Street Tap
ALL 3 classes for $16.00 TOTAL!
Be a DANCE STAR!
Have FUN and learn the coolest dance
moves to the latest dance grooves!

 ★ JUNIOR JAMZ
AGES 3 — 6YRS
“Baby Ballerinas®” “Jumpin Jazz”
“Tiny Tappers”
ALL 3 classes for $13.00 TOTAL
FUN, creative and energetic!
Perfect class for your little princess!

VALENTINE
TORONTO
WARNERS BAY
EDGEOUGH
CHARLESTOWN
SPEERS POINT

ENROL NOW! PH: 4959 5754
www.breakawaydancers.com.au

Cox’s Concreting Services Pty Ltd
Small Job Specialist
Glenn Cox
Concretor
Licence No. 218241C
ABN: 30 162 335 677
ACN: 162 335 677
Mobile: 0410 584646
Email: admin@coxconcretingservices.com
www.coxconcretingservices.com

Biddabah School does not necessarily endorse paid advertising in this Newsletter
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Sizes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dress</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skirt</td>
<td>$34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bootleg Pants (Girls)</td>
<td>$28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culottes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Polo Shirt</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey Shorts</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey Long Cargo Pants</td>
<td>$20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grey Polo Shirt</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snr White Button Shirts (Girls &amp; Boys)</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacket</td>
<td>$38</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sloppy Joe</td>
<td>$24</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trackpants (double knee)</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Sports Shorts</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Polo Shirt (Saturn)</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Polo Shirt (Mercuery)</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Polo Shirt (Jupiter)</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gold Polo Shirt (Venus)</td>
<td>$16</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hat</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Stockings</td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Sports Socks</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrunnies</td>
<td>$2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Material (per Metre)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Backpack</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Sml</th>
<th>Med</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nitstuff</td>
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<tr>
<td>160ml</td>
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<tr>
<td>250ml</td>
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<tr>
<td>500ml refill</td>
<td>$26</td>
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**Date** | **Student Name** | **Class** |
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</table>

**Total Order Amount**

**Payment Method** (Circle Applicable)
- Cash
- Cheque
- EFT/Credit Card

**Please Note:** All orders must be pre-paid at the office.

**Student**

**Class**

**Payment for**

**AMOUNT** $ .

**Please debit my**
- Mastercard
- Visa

**Expiry Date** / 

**Credit Card No.**

**Name on card**

**Signature**

**Date**

**CREDIT CARDS CANNOT BE USED FOR PAYMENTS LESS THAN $20.00**
Focus on Reading Survey Report

Background

When readers comprehend, they interpret, integrate, critique, infer, analyse, connect and evaluate ideas in texts. Focus on Reading is a professional learning program written for classroom teachers that focuses on explicitly teaching reading comprehension. The purpose is to equip students with the strategies they need to meet the changing and challenging demands of texts.

The program emphasises the importance and use of:

• rich texts, particularly subject-based texts, and the types of texts that interest and motivate learners in the middle years,
• rich talk of the kind that encourages children to ‘show their thinking’ through talk, and
• ‘deliberate’ teaching that begins with insightful assessment; involves planning for explicit instruction based on students’ needs; supports and scaffolds students through modelled, guided and independent teaching; provides clear and purposeful feedback and constant opportunities for student reflection.

Over the last two years, teachers at Biddabah School have participated in the Focus on Reading program through our involvement with other local schools in a specially funded LMG program.

All staff and students are focusing on the Super 6 Comprehension Strategies: Predicting, Visualising, Connecting, Monitoring, Questioning and Summarising. Focus on Reading was originally developed as a Year 3-6 program but at Biddabah we are extending it from Kindergarten as a K-6 program.

At this stage it would be beneficial to sample parent’s perceptions and opinions of Focus on Reading. A survey was constructed and distributed to parents

1. Does your child like reading?
2. I feel my child is progressing well in Reading
3. I am aware that a new reading comprehension program called Focus on Reading that has been introduced to the school.
4. The new reading comprehension program called Focus on Reading has been discussed with me.
5. I would like to know more about the school’s new reading comprehension program called Focus on Reading
6. In the last year or so I have noticed a change in my child’s attitude to school.
7. In the last year or so I have noticed a change in my child’s reading skills in relation to comprehension.
8. In the last year or so I have noticed a change in my child’s overall enjoyment of reading.
9. In the last year or so I have noticed my child is reading a greater variety of literature than s/he did last year
10. My child has talked about strategies or things s/he does when reading to assist his/her comprehension or fluency skills.
11. My child talks more about what goes on in class than s/he did last year.
12. I think the Focus on Reading program has made a difference to my child’s reading.

Findings and conclusions

Data from the Focus on Reading parent survey was collated and graphed and the following information summarized from the data.

Respondents feel their children like reading and are progressing well with their reading (1)(2).

While Focus on Reading is seen as a major teaching and learning program at school not enough has been done as yet to inform parents and carers about what is being done(4). Most respondents indicate (5) they would like to know more about Focus on Reading.

Focus on Reading is a program aimed at developing children’s comprehension. While few respondents have noticed a difference in their children’s attitude to school, a significant number (7) have noticed changes in their children’s comprehension of reading.

More than 50% of respondents have noticed a change in their children’s enjoyment of reading (8) and breadth of interest in reading (9).

There is however little communication of the six comprehension strategies which are at the centre of Focus on Reading (10)(12).

Focus on Reading: Survey

Future directions

While the results from Focus on Reading are exciting teachers, after a full year of implementation we now need to excite parents. Parents have noticed some of the changes and want to know more. It will assure more and even better success with children if we spend some time informing parents about this initiative.