ANZAC DAY 2015

On Saturday, 25th April, students from Biddabah Public School attended the ANZAC Day dawn service at Speers Point Cenotaph. Our school leaders represented Biddabah with distinction and Annabella Gemmell (School Captain) recited the ‘Prayer for the Queen’ with pride and honour.

This historic 100th year anniversary marks the first military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. We also remember all those who have fought for our country throughout the years. Thank you to all those who attended the dawn service and paid their respects.

Biddabah remembers the 100th anniversary of ANZAC DAY in this newsletter.
Dear Parents,

Week One, Term Two was unique in that so many schools were closed because of safety issues. Some schools were without power, some without phones or other means of communication. Fallen trees and hanging branches posed a significant threat.

We have had damage from east coast lows in the past. 1974 the Sygna went up on Stockton; In 2007 we had the Pasha Bulka storm and now the 2015 storm has caused the most damage of all.

Local Schools Local Decisions has put the responsibility for emergency decisions with individual schools. What we will be doing now with other schools is to draw up protocols for similar events in the future.

In the meantime we are all glad to be back and looking forward to another great term.

Easter Bunny Visit

At the end of last term we had a special visitor to Biddabah: the Easter Bunny.

The Easter Bunny was welcomed by Mrs Dutch and Mr Harris before Mrs McEwan assisted him to take his basket of eggs around all the classes.

Visit from a Serving Soldier

Corporal Dan Gardoll visited stage 3 classes for Anzac Day last Tuesday. Unfortunately none of us thought to take a photo when he visited but Mrs Gardoll attached a few photos from her photo album.

Corporal Gardoll visited each Stage 3 class on Tuesday for an Anzac day lesson. He discussed the traits that good quality soldiers and all successful people have, such as courage, discipline, commitment, integrity, respect for others and loyalty; and how Biddabah students can and do show these skills at school and in life too.

Corporal Gardoll has served in both the Australian Army and in the British forces. He discussed his deployments...
to different countries: a peace keeping deployment in East Timor in 1999-2000, to the Solomon Islands peace keeping in 2004, Jordan surveillance (near Iraq border with British forces) in 2009, the Afghanistan war 2010 operation Herrick 12 (British forces) in Helmand Provence. All classes had many good questions for Corporal Gardoll and liked looking at some of the photos and his medals.

**Peer Support News**

In Term 2, Biddabah Public School will introduce a new Peer Support program titled Speaking Up. This module will be implemented as part of a range of initiatives to reduce bullying behaviours and achieve long term cultural change within the school community. Our school already recognises the importance of creating and maintaining an environment that fosters acceptance and tolerance, while making a clear and strong stand against bullying behaviours. This whole school approach advocated by the Peer Support Foundation entails reinforcing a range of positive initiatives within the school which emphasise and encourage positive behaviours, in addition to developing appropriate policy and procedures to address bullying behaviours when they occur.

Our Year 6 Peer Support Leaders have completed their training and look forward to implementing this new, exciting module. Good luck Year 6! We would like to thank Mr and Mrs Boersma from The Bay Chippy for providing us with fish & chips on our last day of training.

Mr Harris  
Peer Support Coordinator

**Thinking About**

**Enrolling at Biddabah in 2016?**

If your child will turn five by July 31st 2016  
You can enrol in Kindergarten for the 2016 school year.  
Contact office or phone 4954 6058

**Technology News**

Don’t forget to download our new Skoolbag App, available for both iPhone and Android devices. Once downloaded onto your device please feel free to explore this new tool, however, we will only be using the App for notifications, calendar updates and newsletters at this stage, with a view to expand to include online absences etc. in the future. It is an excellent tool for information so please download as soon as possible.

Moving forward in 2015, the use of the App will grow and will form the basis, with our website, for our communications with our school community.

Don’t forget to visit our website for regular updates and additions:


Coordinating Teachers
Jenny Dutch & Technology Team

Biddabah is a cool school
We say no to peanuts, and all nut products at Biddabah School

All parents, teachers and students should understand that peanuts, tree nuts (walnuts, cashews etc) or nut products must not be introduced to Biddabah School in any way. Even so, we do not claim to be nut free because this may lead to a false sense of security for students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis.

Visitors Carpark
Please do not park in our two disabled parking spaces
This space is reserved for disabled students only

Black Shoes
or
Plain Black Joggers
Biddabah School Uniform

Congratulations
Winners of Mathletics Certificates

Bronze
Callie Morton
Amy Hain
Cooper Fitchett
Logan Cowling
Zoe Price
Taylah Cowling
Ethan Cowling

Silver
Alexandra Cowling

Library News

Classes this term will focus on authors and illustrators. Students will research authors and their books as well as learning more about essential library skills.

Book club is going home this week, and is due back Friday 8th May. There are many great resources available...some specials at $1 and $2, not to be missed!!

Our second hand bookstall will be held on Tuesday 19th May...starting at 8:30. If you have any books you are prepared to donate they would be much appreciated. All books will sell for 50c-$1. This money goes towards games, puzzles and craft material for lunchtime activities.

We are in the process of organising a visiting author for next term. This will involve primary students as K-2 students will take part in a Book Parade. More information to follow nearer the end of term.

Happy reading all!

Thelma Keogh & Michelle Freund

Taylea Brown

Will receive a certificate at the next Friday school assembly.

Biddabah is a cool school
Congratulations to the following students for achieving a Bronze Certificate in the School Banking Program:

Jamie Blake
Oliver Antony

Congratulations to the following students for achieving a Gold Certificate in the School Banking Program:

Jessica Gesovski

Congratulations to the following students for achieving an Outstanding Certificate in the School Banking Program:

Alessandra Perazzolo
Bridie Asquith

In their own Write

Today's featured class is 3C.

The Storm
We had no power for days. We went to sleep and ate dinner by candlelight. I wish every night was no power.
Charli Ratcliffe

On the stormy holiday I felt really trapped inside my house. I felt like reading so I read a few books and harassed my brothers. I was stuck inside all week.
Jonathan Haley

I thought a tree had fallen on the house and crashed in while I was asleep and fallen on my stuff. But I woke up and I didn’t.
Liam Richardson

Outside was flooding and clothes were drenched. My dad had to go and dinner was started and I said in my head this pitter patter pitter patter. Thunder came and lightning struck.
Charlie Sobb

At the storm my mum’s tree fell. It was extremely bad. A tree fell on the street. My next door garage has been wrecked.
Levi Roberts

It was a storm on Monday. It was the biggest storm yet. I was so so scared!
Nicola Mitchell

My dad’s house had no power at 100 o’clock in the morning. My next door neighbours fence blew down. At my mum’s house we were lucky we only had a 30 second black out.
Keighan Brown

Half of me and my brothers trampoline flooded. There was some flashes of lightning and thunder outside. A branch of one of the trees fell on the net of one trampoline. My kitten was so scared she ran around the house.
Zayne Reiman

At my cousin’s house two massive trees fell. One went on both of their cars and the other one fell on the garage. The day we were there it was as scary as a zombie.
Archie Young

On Monday 21st there was a big storm and we had our power cut so we went to my nans house. While we were asleep the cable got caught in the tree. Then the tree smashed my nans car. It was AWESOME!
Sophie Rafferty

On Monday night a storm came. I liked that storm because we got an overflow in our creek. My grandma’s power went out. We got to have dinner with torch light at her house. The storm was as loud as my dog barking.
Isabelle Blundell

We had to put my year old puppy Bella in the garage. Four of the trees in our reserve fell over, even the ‘Angus almighty’ the strongest tree in the reserve. I woke up on Tuesday in the morning when I heard a big BANG! It was as loud as a jackhammer.
Montana McRae

It was awesome because we got to stay home. Our ariel blew off our house. We stayed home till school was open.
Benjamin Summers

A tree fell over the street. Our next door neighbour’s tree fell and now it is leaning on another tree and a fence. It was awesome!
Amity Golding
In the storm I got very scared. It was as scary as a monster for my sister. A tree collapsed close to our house. We had to go to my brother Josh’s room for the night.
Sienna Hayes

A little tree fell on my mum’s car. At home I played Minecraft and Xbox. My mums frangipani tree fell over and snapped.
Jack Phelps

We had a black out. So we had candle light and played games. Our electricity came back on. Thursday morning and our internet came back on Thursday afternoon. It was really wet as rain.
Mikaylah Billiet

My power went out. It was really scary. We played monopoly.
Samuel Torranse

It was a very bad storm. All the trees were falling down. It was even hailing. It was as wet as the sea.
Eva Hatfield

The storm was very big our door almost fell off. The wind blew our window and it cracked a bit. The wind was so strong that our internet went off.
Cooper Fitch

When the storm happened it rained for a couple of days. It was like as wet as the sea. I was really scared but then I got used to it.
Haley Gardiner

At my dad’s part of the roof came off and while it was storming my dad had to get on the roof and fix it! When I was trying to go to sleep all I could hear was rain. One night my dogs were outside for the night and all I could hear was barking and rain.
Charlotte Terry

There was a blackout in my house. A tree fell down 5 houses down and squashed a car. We played card games and Monopoly because the power was out.
Travis Wright

A tree fell in my window. Glass fell everywhere. I shouted and I called out to mum. I was scared.
Max Murano

The category 2 storm had caused streets to turn into rivers. Three people died in the event. Trees started to fall down causing power cuts as quick as a snap.
Javier Collins

I was sad when the storm started. But when I came home from shopping I saw my friend’s tree fell down on the shed. So I got dad and me and my dad helped our friends.
Lockie Murnane

My mum’s friends two cars, study and garage got crushed by a tree. We lost power for ten seconds. Isla’s preschool’s gum tree fell over.
Callie Stone

We didn’t have power for two weeks! We got power at 2:30 in the morning. Our oven and microwave broke so we couldn’t use them.
Jaime Frith

The storm was very big, it could blow a tree out of the ground. It blew up to 135kph. Our neighbours clothes got blown away.
Ken Young

**LOST PROPERTY**

**PLEASE CHECK THE LOST PROPERTY BOX REGULARLY**

**EXCURSIONS & PAYMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXCURSIONS</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zoo Excursion Friday 15</td>
<td>Payments due Friday 8 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May K, Yr 1, 2</td>
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Parents are advised that no payment will be accepted after the due date unless approved by the organising teacher.

**TOMORROW**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>School Assembly, 10.10am</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presentation by ALL KINDER &amp; 5L</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parents Welcome</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Zone Cross Country (Myuna Bay)</td>
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Biddabah is a cool school
### NEXT WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Hunter Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Hunter Life, Rugby 9am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Hunter Life, Mother's Day Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Paul Kelly Cup (AFL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
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### SCHOOL DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Assembly All KINDER &amp; 5L (Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Hunter Life (Mon-Wed) Mother's Day Stall (Wed) Assembly 5W (Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>NAPLAN Language/Writing (Tue) NAPLAN Reading (Wed) Science Show (Wed) NAPLAN Numeracy (Thurs) RAW ART (Fri) Assembly 3W (Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>RAW ART (Mon) P&amp;C (Wed) RAW ART (Thurs) Assembly 4M (Fri)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>RAW ART (Wed-Fri) Assembly 3D (Fri)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>School Disco (Tue) Assembly 3D (Fri)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY (Mon) Assembly 1E (Fri)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>P&amp;C (Wed) Assembly 6D (Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>June 22</td>
<td>Assembly 3C (Fri)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The New Entertainment Books have arrived and a copy of the book will be sent home this week with your child. $12 from every Entertainment Book and Entertainment Digital Membership goes towards our fundraising and has been hugely successful in previous years. If you would like to purchase the book at a cost of $60, you can do so online at: https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/3482w9 or alternatively, payment can be made to the school office.

If you do not wish to purchase the Entertainment Book, or would prefer a digital membership, please return the book to school with your child as soon as possible.

If you have any queries at all, please don’t hesitate to contact Rachel on 0410 588040. Thank you for supporting Biddabah P & C.

The next meeting of the Biddabah P&C and School Council will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 20 May.

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The next meeting of the Biddabah P&C and School Council will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 20 May.

P&C 7.30pm

Corporal Gardoll on duty

Biddabah is a cool school
Help is required on Friday 15 May. If you would like to volunteer in the school canteen please call in and say hello and have a look around. You can put your name down on the roster that is in the canteen, see Jo Chock, Tiz Perazzolo or send Mel Aurisch a message.

If you can help at all, either for a half or full day, please contact Mel on 0419 294 046.

NB Changes made to the canteen roster after Tuesday will not be reflected in the current newsletter.

Thank You!
The canteen roster is starting to look healthier thanks to the help Jo Chock and Tiz Perazzolo have given to Mel Aurisch. All 3 ladies are doing a great job with Jo and Tiz being the “faces” at the school that are known to many. A big thank you to Mel, Jo and Tiz - but please, we are still in need of helpers so if you can spare any time at all, we would love to see you!
Lake Macquarie Service Centre

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AQUASTARS Swim School Warners Bay 7/311 Hillsborough Road Monday & Wednesday 6:30am & 6:30pm $12 casual - $40 block of 4 visits

Find me on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sarahs-Personal-Training-Group-Fitness/827704200644852?ref=aymt_homepage_panel
Ethics Classes at Biddabah Public School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ethics classes are now available in NSW public primary schools as an option for children who do not attend Special Religious Education (SRE) / Scripture. The NSW government has authorised the charity, Primary Ethics, to create curriculum and deliver these classes. Curriculum is available for children from Years K-6.

Classes are inquiry-based where children use dialogue and discussion to learn how to think about ethical matters through the give-and-take of reasoned argument. Trained and vetted volunteer Ethics Teachers lead discussions.

To enable classes to commence at Biddabah Public School we require a volunteer Ethics Coordinator and a number of volunteer Ethics Teachers, depending on demand. The Ethics Coordinator acts as a liaison between Primary Ethics and the school and organises the recruitment of the Ethics Teachers. Ethics Teachers must attend our two day training and commit to teaching their weekly ethics class for a minimum of one year.

We will commence ethics classes at Biddabah Public School if there is enough demand and suitable volunteers. Please return the slip below by 23rd March 2015 if you are interested in choosing ethics for your child.

For more information, please visit the website at www.primaryethics.com.au or contact the Primary Ethics Regional Manager, Nigel Gilchrist, on lakemacquarie-region@primaryethics.com.au

Signed
Principal,
Biddabah Public School

Please return this form if you are interested in choosing Ethics for your child in 2015.

Child’s Name: ____________________________________________ Class: ______________________

Signed: ____________________________________________ Date _______________________

Yes, please register my interest with Primary Ethics:

My name: ____________________________________________ In 2015, my child will be in year:____________________

My email address:____________________________________
Seasons for Growth Grief Program
Learning to live with change and loss

**Student Course**

Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives. At Biddabah PS we recognise that when changes occur in families through death, separation, divorce or related circumstances, young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively. We are therefore offering a very successful education program called Seasons for Growth which will commence in Term 2. This program is facilitated in small groups and is based on research which highlights the importance of social support and the need to learn new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. The program focuses on issues such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem-solving, decision-making, effective communication and support networks.

Biddabah PS is pleased to be able to offer this important program and we are confident that it will be a valuable learning experience for those who request to be involved. If you require further information please contact Mrs Hussain (3M), Mrs Morrison (2M) or make contact at the school office.

**Parent Course**

For many years parents whose children have participated in the Seasons for Growth® Young People’s Program have been asking ‘Is there a program that can help parents, too’? The Seasons for Growth® Parent Program has been developed to meet this need. The program provides an opportunity for parents to reflect on the experience of separation and divorce from their child’s perspective, and to explore ideas and strategies that might help parents support their child/ren through the changes happening in their family.

This term the parent course will be offered at St Joseph’s PS, Charlestown. Please contact Jenny Harris who coordinates the program. Whilst she works for the Catholic Diocese, the program does not have a religious theme.

**Jenny Harris**  P 02 4979 1355 | F 02 4969 2035
Email jenny.harris@mn.catholic.org.au
Visit us online [www.mn.catholic.org.au](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au)
Skoolbag for Windows Phone Users (as well as iPhone, iPad & Android users)

Please be advised that Skoolbag have finally released their App for Windows Phone Users.


Please download as soon as possible. Hopefully we now have all families connected. Moving forward, if you are unable to use Skoolbag, please contact the school directly to let us know as this will be our primary communication tool. If you are experiencing technical difficulties with the app and your specific phone, please contact Skoolbag for support and assistance (http://www.skoolbag.com.au/enquiries.php).

Jenny Dutch & the Technology Team

We are also aware that there have been some issues with the Skoolbag App and the sending of push notifications. The ability for us to schedule notices for a later date is not working well with notices appearing immediately, despite being assigned for a later date. We understand the confusion this creates but we have no control over this. For the time being, we will endeavor to send notifications only on the day it is due to be sent out and cease using the scheduling tool.
TOP LEFT: School Leaders officiate at the school ANZAC service (guests were the catafalque party, Mr Lyle Dalton, parents)
TOP RIGHT: Biddabah students attending the 100th ANZAC commemoration dawn service at Speers Point.

RIGHT & BOTTOM: Claire and Jacob Ashley-Brown had the very special honour of lighting the Newcastle ANZAC flame at Nobbys Beach. After Claire and Jacob lit the flame it burned across the ANZAC weekend and was the main focus at the dawn service. Claire and Jacob's great grandfather was in Gallipoli, which is why they were asked to light it. Claire did an amazing job - she was live on TV at the time and in front of a crowd.

CLAIRE’S SPEECH
“I’m really proud of my great grandfather William Ashley-Brown, or Brownie as he was known and it’s very special to light this flame today. My grandfather was in Gallipoli and in his letter he talks about how cold it was and how the soldiers were always in the open when it rained and when it snowed. He talked about how he buried some of them and how special it was for him to care for them and look after them. In his letter he talks about landing on the beach and says, “Next day I went by minesweeper and was landed at Anzac amidst flying shrapnel bullets. I think it’s funny that he left his suitcase on the beach in Gallipoli and it turned up in India many years later. It’s great that he was there to care for people and I feel special to be here today to light this flame.”

The people in the photos are, Peter Ashley-Brown, Claire Ashley-Brown, Jacob Ashley-Brown, Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes, and Stephen Finney from the RSL.