Excited, nervous and a little bit overwhelmed were the feelings of 15 students from our band at 9 o’clock yesterday morning, as they attended their very first Bandlink workshop. Over 500 students were at the Broadmeadow Racing Course to be involved in 2 days of intense learning of new skills and playing new music. Games and meeting new friends from schools around the Hunter Valley made the day even more fun.

The students were divided into beginner, intermediate and advanced groups and within 20 minutes of starting the first session were already playing and sounding fantastic. They couldn’t believe how much they could do if they just pushed themselves. Talking to the students after the day was thrilling because it was obvious that they were surprised, pleased and proud of their own achievements. This afternoon they will be presenting a concert, for their families, to showcase their achievements. I can only say how proud we are of them for stepping outside their comfort zones to participate in this opportunity, put on by the Department of Education’s Arts Unit.

Also, thank-you to the parents who transported the students into the venue and a special thanks to Mrs Connolly, who stayed at the venue as a representative of Biddabah.

Hopefully, this might inspire other students to join our band and to expand their skills and experiences into other areas. More pictures to come in next week’s newsletter.
Dear Parents,

Rehearsals are being carried on through the week now for the end of term performance of ‘Museum: the musical’. ‘Museum’ will be performed by all the students of Biddabah School on Wednesday, 16th September and Thursday 17th September in the school hall. There will be a matinee and an evening performance on each day starting at 10.00am and 6.30pm respectively.

Tickets will go on sale (CASH ONLY) from the library from Monday 10th August, 8.30-9.00am and 3.00-3.30pm. For the first 3 weeks tickets will be limited to six per family. From Monday 31st August there will be no restriction on ticket sales.

All toddlers must have a purchased ticket and no prams will be admitted to the hall.

We are hoping that by the time of the first performance our new stage curtains will be installed.

Any parent who can assist with costumes or props is asked to contact their child’s class teacher.

Chicken Pox Facts

I am including a Fact Sheet on chicken pox with this week’s newsletter.

There are several cases in other local schools and we have been informed of one at Biddabah. Due care is advised.

Good for Kids

Why volunteer in the school canteen?

Schools and community organisations are finding it increasingly difficult to find volunteers to help out. With many parents working or busy looking after children there is a real shortage of volunteers in school canteens.

Volunteering in your child’s school canteen has a whole range of benefits to you, your child and the school community:

- You may be able to have some input into what food is sold in the canteen
- It gives you an opportunity to meet other parents at the school and gives you another social outlet
- You can support your child in their food choices at the canteen
- Your child is able to see you at the canteen
- You are supporting the school be able to provide a food service for the students

Our school is in need of more volunteers for the canteen so if you are interested please contact our Canteen Supervisor.

Biddabah’s Athletics Carnival

The Biddabah Athletics Carnival will be held on Monday 3rd August at Neegulbah Park, Lawson Road, Macquarie Hills. Cardiff Little Athletics ground.

A Sausage Sizzle and drinks will be available on the day with all profits going to the school. A pre-order note will be sent home this week.

Also a coffee van will be available from 8.00am on the day with a percentage of profits going back to our school.

VISITORS CARPARK
PLEASE DO NOT PARK in our two DISABLED PARKING SPACES
This space is reserved for DISABLED STUDENTS ONLY

BIDDABAH PUBLIC SCHOOL   phone 4954 6058   fax 4956 6780   page 2
To enrol at Biddabah for 2016

To ensure a place in Kindergarten next year please call in to the office or phone 4954 6058 now.

Kindergarten Information Night will be held on Wednesday 12th August in the school hall 5.30pm-7.00pm.

From time to time parents may need to approach the school in order to: discuss the progress or welfare of their own child;

express concern about the actions of other students;
or

enquire about school policy or practice.

Parents must be aware that under Child Protection legislation it is an offence for them to directly approach another person’s child.

Concerns passed on to the principal or school staff will be dealt with fairly as part of the school’s Discipline and Welfare policy.

BLACK SHOES
or
PLAIN BLACK JOGGERS

Biddabah School Uniform

BROAD BRIMMED HAT
NOW sold in the CANTEEN

Biddabah School Uniform

If you see trespassers in the school out of school hours we would appreciate a call to school security.

100 nights = BRONZE
150 nights = SILVER
200 nights = GOLD
250 nights = DIAMOND

BRONZE and SILVER awards will be handed out at stage assemblies GOLD and the DIAMOND will be handed out by me at the whole school assembly, probably in term 4. For students who go on to read for 250 nights plus will still be eligible for a special award at the last whole school assembly for the year.

Congratulations 100 nights of reading

Bronze Certificate
William Johnson
Alessandro Perazzolo
Hayden Spargo
Liam Hyslop

Congratulations 150 nights of reading

Silver Certificate
Harry Van Der Helm
Kyan Priestley
Matilda Hughson
Bridie Asquith
Liam Hyslop
Mikayla Hindmarch
Tahlia Govan
Maddison Govan
Jude Schroder

Green Plover Award

Congratulations

Taylah Cowling
Mia Hyslop
Brylee Cavanough
Brock Adams
Aleisha Sinclair

Will receive a certificate at the next Friday school assembly.
Week 7 is Book Week and Friday 28\textsuperscript{th} Aug will see K-2 dress up as a character from their favourite book for our Book Week Parade. A book week parade has not been held for a number of years here at Biddabah and I would love to see all K-2 students taking part in the fun. It will not be a competition and I will send a note home to our K-2 parents with details and ideas for costumes you will be able to create from your child's existing wardrobe.

Our annual Book Fair will also be held the same day as our book week parade and all students, parents, family and friends are most welcome to visit the library from 8.30am to purchase from a huge range of new books at excellent prices. A lunch sausage sizzle (for the entire school) will also be held to cap off a fun day for our students. Notes will be sent home in the next couple of weeks with further details.

Last term, it was mentioned that we were going to hold a Read-a-Thon as part of book week. I have reconsidered this and due to the busy term we are all facing, I have decided to postpone this until Term 4 to ease the burden on families at this busy time.

Finally, we have some new books waiting to be covered. If anyone can assist, please call in - all help if greatly appreciated.

Mrs Freund
Teacher-Librarian
Thelma Keogh

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

Ruby Nelson
Oliver Antony

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

Lara Lozanovski

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

Max Muraro
Cooper Nelson
Jessica Gesovski
Lily Stanbury
Mia Hyslop
Tayla McIntosh
Macklin Ford
Georgia Manning

Welcome back to Term 3 and what a busy term we are going to have!

Traditionally, term 3 is an exciting one in the library as it incorporates book week. This year’s theme is Books Light Up Our World and each year will be exploring some of the 2015 CBCA short listed books across a range of categories throughout term 3.

Stages 2 & 3 will participate in a workshop conducted by author, Louise Park, on Friday 7\textsuperscript{th} Aug, organised by Mrs Keogh. Mrs Keogh sent home a note earlier this week, so please search your child’s bag if you are yet to receive it!
In their own Write

Today's featured class is 1B.

1B's Animal Riddles.
Can you guess the animal? (Answers at the end)

By Eden H.
1. It is a land animal. It has brown shapes on it. It is a plant eater. It has a very, very, very long neck. Answer _____________

2. By Hunter S-L
   It has sharp teeth. It eats fish. It is a sea animal. It has a big fin on its back. Answer _____________

3. By Tara
   It has fur. It has stripes. It is a carnivore. It is a type of big cat. Answer _____________

4. By Lakeisha
   It has four little legs. It eats lots of fish. It is a mammal. It has water-proof fur. Answer _____________

5. By Kristian
   It has little ears. It has short, grey fur. It has a pouch. It jumps. Answer _____________

6. By Ruby
   It has black fur. It is strong. It swings in the trees. It is the biggest of the apes. Answer _____________

7. By Hunter S.
   It has short, black fur. It can swing in trees. It has not got a tail. It looks a bit like a human. Answer _____________

8. By Tyrone
   It has four legs. It has brown fur. It eats meat. It has sharp teeth and a mane. Answer _____________

9. By Isabella M.
   It has two legs. It has brown fur. It swings in trees. It can hang on with its long tail. Answer _____________

10. By Kuda
    It has wings. Its food is from flowers. It flies. It is colourful. Answer _____________

11. By Morgan
    It has soft, grey fur. It eats green leaves. It likes to sleep a lot. It lives in trees in Australia. Answer _____________

12. By Mia
    It has four legs. It can run fast. It has two little ears. It has black and white stripes. Answer _____________

13. By Taylea
    It has four, brown little legs. It eats bugs. It has spikes everywhere. It can curl into a ball if it is scared. Answer _____________

14. By Trey
    It has two legs. It has wings. It has rainbow feathers. It eats nectar from flowers. Answer _____________

15. By Edan S.
    It has green skin. It jumps everywhere. It likes to be in water. It can croak. Answer _____________

16. By William
    It has black spots. It has two black lines on its face. It has four legs. It can run really fast. Answer _____________

17. By Bridie
    It has grey and white fur. It can climb very well. It has a very long tail. It has black rings on its tail. Answer _____________

18. By Zoe
    It has wings. It is brown and white. It has a sharp beak. It makes a laughing noise. Answer _____________

19. By Aiden
    It can bite people. It is very tiny. It has eight legs. It has a red stripe on its back. Answer _____________

20. By Ryan
    It lays eggs. It has scaly skin. It is a meat eater. It lives in water. Answer _____________

21. By Isabella D.
    It has four, fat grey legs. It has little eyes. It has big ears. It has a long trunk. Answer _____________

22. By Luke
    It is a reptile. It has scales. It has fangs. It slithers along on the ground. Answer _____________

ANSWERS:
Senior Boys PSSA Knockout Rugby League

Last Wednesday our Senior Rugby League Team went off to Bower Oval at Glendale to play Edgeworth PS. The team played extremely well, however, were beaten 16-6. The boys were in the match at all stages with the score at half time only 10-6. In the end the boys run out of puff, and with no reserves, the job at hand was very difficult.

Coordinating Teacher

Mr Alex Knight

Senior Girls PSSA Soccer

Last Thursday The Girls' Soccer team walked down to Warners Bay Oval to play in the second round of the State PSSA Knockout against Valentine PS. The team played very well, however, were beaten by a very good team in Valentine PS 4-0. The Girls were in the match at all stages never giving up. Well done girls on a fantastic effort.

Coordinating Teacher

Mr Alex Knight

JOKE OF THE WEEK

My dog doesn't eat meat.
Why not?
I don't give him any!

If you have a funny joke for next week’s newsletter, please forward it to Mrs Morrison with your name and class attached. The funniest joke each week will be published.
**EXCURSIONS & PAYMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Musical Costumes Kinder &amp; Yrs. 1, 2, 3, 4</td>
<td>Friday 31st July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author Visit Yr 3-6</td>
<td>Wed 5th Aug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackbutt To You Yr 3 &amp; Yr 4</td>
<td>Friday 31st Aug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventure Land Foster Yr 3 &amp; Yr 4</td>
<td>Balance Due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**TOMORROW**

- **Friday**
  - School Assembly, 10.10am
  - Presentation by 4A & 2M, Parents Welcome

**NEXT WEEK**

- **Tuesday**
  - ICAS English Comp
- **Wednesday**
  - Jarred Mullen Cup
- **Thursday**
  - Interrelate
- **Friday**
  - Netball Jnr Girls Wangi Assembly 1B

**SCHOOL DIARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>August 3</td>
<td>Interrelate (Thurs)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Louise Park Author Visit (Fri)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assembly 2/3W (Fri)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Snr Girls Netball (Fri)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>August 10</td>
<td>Interrelate (Thurs)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assembly 2Mc (Fri)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>August 17</td>
<td>SPORTS PHOTOS (Tue)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wed (P&amp;C)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Interrelate (Thurs)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assembly 1X (Fri)</td>
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</table>

**BOOKWEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>August 24</td>
<td>School Disco (Tue)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assembly 3C (Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>August 31</td>
<td>Stage 2 FOSTER CAMP (Thu-Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assembly 5G (Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>Assembly ALL KINDER (Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>September 14</td>
<td>P&amp;C (Wed) PERFORMANCE (Tue-Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assembly 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, 19 August

For the latest P&C News email pandc@biddabah.com.au

**Mrs Metcalfe Trivia Night Raffle**

Just a reminder if you would like to purchase tickets for the raffle they are still available from the office.

**Ticket prices**

- $2 a ticket or 3 for $5

**Prizes**

1st prize - a fire pit filled with alcohol
2nd prize - a $25 voucher for Warners Bay Tavern + 2 bottles of red
3rd prize - 2 bottles of champagne

**Drawn on the night - Tuesday 4th August**

Also, if anyone has any business contacts who would like to donate something (their business will be recognised on the night) please see office staff or Ms Minett.

Unfortunately tables have been booked out.

**Canteen News**

**CANTENE ROSTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>July 27</th>
<th>Ellen Williams, Louis James, HELP NEEDED X 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>July 28</td>
<td>Jo Chock, Enid Suba, Linden Smith (from 11.30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>Louis James, Jo Chock, Mel Ralph, Lauren Flett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>Louis James (9-1.30), Kristy Newman, HELP NEEDED X 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>Kerrie Keenan, Deb Marriott, Nicole Robbs, Kristen Waddington, Janine McGregor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The canteen requires an extra helping hand on Mondays as it is getting too busy for two volunteers to run. If you can help at all, particularly from 11-2, this would be a huge support for the volunteers that are on canteen this day.

**Monday 3 August** is the school’s sports carnival. This is being held at Macquarie Hills sports ovals. Due to no canteen facilities being available, there will be a sausage sizzle and drinks (pop and water) for you to purchase. If you can help at all on this day in cooking or distributing the food please let your class teacher know or advise the teachers on the day. The school cannot offer this unless our parents help out! The cost will be $5 for both a sausage sandwich and drink and a note will go home for this to be pre-ordered. A coffee van has also been organised for the day so please support this as they are supporting us.

**Friday 28 August** is the Book Week parade. The school is having a sausage sizzle this day so we need as many volunteers as we can to help in cooking and distributing the food to the students and family members. There will be no lunch orders accepted this day but the children will be able to still purchase food over the counter after lunch. An order form will be sent home with the students so you can pre-order your sausage sandwich for the day. There will be a roster in the canteen from next week for you to put your name down if you wish to help on this day.

On **Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 September** Biddabah is holding the school concert. There will be a matinee and night performance on each of these days. The canteen requires the help of volunteers for both days and times. There will be a roster in the canteen from next week where you select which day and performance. If you would like to help you can put your name down on the roster.

If you have time to volunteer in the canteen, either for a half or full day, please contact Mel Aurisch on 0419 294 046. If you see Jo Chock or Tiz Berrtaglia at school you can also let them know if you would to volunteer.

**NB** Changes made to the canteen roster after Tuesday will not be reflected in the current newsletter.
Lake Macquarie Service Centre

**Free roadside assistance with EVERY vehicle service**

- $129

Minor Club Evolution Vehicle Service includes:

- Up to 5.5Lts of semi synthetic oil & filter
- Top up all fluid levels under the bonnet
- Wynns Engine Flush & Inject-A-Clean
- Full vehicle inspection & 21 Point safety check, with a written report
- 24/7 Australia Wide Roadside assistance

Conditions: AWD, European, Commercial & Diesels may incur an extra charge. Will not void new car warranty.

Free PICK UP & DROP OFF

within 10km of workshop for service or repairs

38 Medcalf St, WARNERS BAY 2282

Bookings Essential 02-49046020

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**Girlstarz**

(Ages 7—12yrs)
*Hip Hop
*Funky Jazz
*Street Tap

ALL 3 classes for $17.00 TOTAL!

Be a GIRLSTAR!
Learn the coolest dance moves to the latest dance grooves!

**Princess**

(Ages 3—6yrs)
*Baby Ballerinas®
*Jumpin Jazz
*Tiny Tappers

ALL 3 classes for $14.00 TOTAL!

FUN, creative and energetic!
PERFECT for your little princess!

*Valentine *Edgeworth
*Toronto *Charlestown
*Warners Bay *Speers Pt

www.breakawaydancers.com.au
SARAH THOMAS

Sarah’s Personal Training & Group Fitness
Warners Bay (Fairfax Rd)

Indoor & Outdoor Training Available

Low Impact Group Classes $10
Personal Training $35 (45min)
Special Personal Training Offer
2 x 45 min $50
(Must be used in the same week)

Paper Pilots

Would your child / children like to learn the skill of making and flying paper planes?

The Paper Pilots both have world rankings in the art of folding and throwing paper planes. Dylan achieved 3rd Place at the World Paper Plane Championships in Austria in 2009 and has a personal distance record of 58.9m (no wind assistance). James made Top 10 in the world for time in the air and has a personal best of 23.7 seconds.

The Paper Pilots have designed all of their workshops to meet a variety of NSW and National curriculum requirements. Suitable from the age of 3 years.

Where – Warners Bay Lions Club - Corner King & Sweet Street
When - Sunday 2nd August 2015

Session Times
Please nominate your session time when booking. Max 40 children per session
9.00am - 9.45am
10.00am - 10.45am
11.00am - 11.45am
12.00pm - 12.45pm
1.00pm - 1.45pm
2.00pm - 2.45pm

Cost - $25.00 per child with a FREE sausage sizzle (Sorry no sibling discounts)

All bookings and enquiries can be made directly through:
Dione Savage - dione@resumeservicesaustralia.com.au

Payment is required at time of booking
Please quote your child’s name for reference when making payment.

Resume Services Australia (Business Owner - Dione Savage)
National Australia Bank
BSB 084 716
Account No. 843739372

Cox’s Concreting Services Pty Ltd
0410 584646
admin@coxconcretingservices.com
www.coxconcretingservices.com
Lic: 216 9082 ACN: 006 295 625
What is chickenpox?
- Chickenpox is a viral illness caused by the herpes zoster virus (also known as the Varicella-Zoster virus).
- In children it usually causes a relatively mild illness.
- Chickenpox in adults and immunosuppressed people can be severe.
- Infection in pregnancy can cause foetal malformations, skin scarring, and other problems in the baby.
- Before routine vaccination began in November 2005, chickenpox was a very common illness. The incidence of chickenpox appears to have decreased as more people receive the vaccine.

What are the symptoms?
- Chickenpox (varicella) begins with a sudden onset of slight fever, runny nose, feeling generally unwell and a skin rash.
- The rash usually begins as small lumps that turn into blisters and then scabs.
- The rash appears over three to four days. At any one time, the lesions of the rash vary in stages of development.
- Symptoms usually occur two weeks after exposure to the virus.
- Most people recover without complications, but sometimes the infection can lead to serious complications, such as pneumonia and inflammation of the brain. Rarely, the infection can be fatal.
- Persons who are previously vaccinated can still get chickenpox. If chickenpox occurs in a vaccinated person it is usually mild and less contagious than in an unvaccinated person.

How is it spread?
- Early in the illness, the virus is spread by coughing.
- Later in the illness, the virus is spread by direct contact with the fluid in the blisters.
- The infection is highly contagious to people who have never had chickenpox or who have not been vaccinated.
- People are infectious from one or two days before the rash appears (that is, during the runny nose phase) and up to five days after (when the blisters have formed crusts or scabs).
- Chickenpox infection triggers an immune response and people rarely get chickenpox twice.

Who is at risk?
- Anyone who has not had chickenpox or been vaccinated in the past can get chickenpox.
- People with a past history of chickenpox are likely to be immune to the virus. Even adults with no history of chickenpox have a chance of being immune (because of past infection that was mild). Doctors sometimes perform a blood test to see if these people need a vaccination.
How is it prevented?

- A free varicella containing vaccine (MMRV) is now recommended for all children at 18 months of age.
- Students in their first year of high school who have not previously received varicella vaccine and who have not had chickenpox are offered a varicella vaccine.
- The Varicella vaccine is recommended for all non-immune adolescents (>14 years) and adults. This involves two doses, at least 1 month apart. It is especially recommended for people at high risk, for example, health care workers, people living with or working with small children, women planning a pregnancy, and household contact of persons who are immunosuppressed.
- People with chickenpox should avoid others (and not attend childcare or school) until at least five days after onset of the rash and all the blisters have dried.
- People with chickenpox should cover the nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, dispose of soiled tissues, wash their hands well and not share eating utensils, food or drinking cups.
- Pregnant women should avoid anyone with chickenpox or shingles and should see their doctor if they have been around someone with these illnesses.
- Children with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or who are receiving chemotherapy should avoid anyone with chickenpox or shingles as the infection can be especially severe.

How is it diagnosed?

Most cases can be diagnosed based on the symptoms and by appearance of the rash. Sometimes the diagnosis is confirmed by testing samples taken from the rash or from blood.

What is Shingles?

- Shingles is caused by the reactivation of the virus that causes chickenpox, usually in adulthood and many years after the initial chickenpox illness.
- The illness is characterised by a painful chickenpox-like rash on a small area of skin, usually on one side of the body.
- Pain and tingling associated with the rash may persist for weeks or months after the rash has cleared. This is called post-herpetic neuralgia.
- The virus can be spread by direct contact with the skin rash of infected people. This causes chickenpox in people who are not immune.
- Shingles develops more commonly in people who are immunosuppressed.

How are shingles and chickenpox treated?

Shingles can be treated with special antiviral drugs such as acyclovir. Your general practitioner can advise on ways to minimise the discomfort associated with the symptoms of infection.

Chickenpox infection usually resolves without treatment.

What is the public health response?

Chickenpox is not currently notifiable in NSW but the incidence is monitored through the number of patients attending emergency departments and the number of patients who are hospitalised with chickenpox or shingles.

- Varicella vaccine protects against chickenpox, even if given up to five days after exposure.
- Short-term immunisation with varicella-zoster immunoglobulin (VZIG) - which is made from antibodies in donated blood - can prevent illness in people at high risk of complications. This needs to be given within 96 hours of exposure to the virus to be effective. People at high risk of complications following exposure include pregnant women who have not had chickenpox and who have not been immunised, newborn babies, and some immunosuppressed patients.

For further information please call your local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055 or visit the New South Wales Health website www.health.nsw.gov.au
Effective, reliable and accurate communication is of great importance at Biddabah Public School and in order to achieve this, we use the following means of communication:

**Website:**

http://www.biddabah-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Photographs of events, our school calendar, weekly newsletters and permission notes (to allow for printing) are all available from our website. The website, however, is not used for everyday notices.

**Skoolbag App:**


The Skoolbag App is heavily used at Biddabah for all notifications ranging from reminders about payment deadlines for activities to canteen closures. Please see overleaf for download and setup details for iPhone and iPad, Android and Windows users. It is vital that you setup your push notification options correctly to ensure you do not miss any important notices.

Any problems or questions or if you are unable to use this app, please see our office staff who will direct you to the most appropriate teacher for assistance or will make alternate arrangements for communications with you.

**Sentral for Parents:**

Moving forward to the end of 2015 and into 2016, we will be introducing our Sentral Parent Portal. Currently in its infancy, we are working towards Sentral being our primary communication source across all years. Sentral will allow communication between parents and/or students and their class teachers and with the school. Absences will be recorded online to eliminate handwritten notes and student’s academic reports etc. will be visible through the secure Sentral portal as will access to all permission notes, newsletters and our school calendar. Students will have access to their own pages on Sentral and will be used for showcasing their work for their parents to see.

All parents will be notified as soon as Sentral is ready to launch throughout our school, with personal login details and instructions being sent home to guide you.

**Email:**

Should you wish to contact the school directly, please email:

mailto:biddabah-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

**Facebook:**

Biddabah PS does not have a Facebook page, nor does our P&C. There are a couple of private parent pages that have been established over time but we encourage our parents to contact the school with any questions and/or concerns so you can receive accurate information, direct from the source.
For Parents

If you are a Parent and your school has Skoolbag, you can install the app on your phone or tablet device by following these instructions:

**For iPhone and iPad users:**

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

**For Android users:**

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.
1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

**Please Note:** Some brands of Android phones need the setting in "Notification Manager" changed to "Allow" instead of "Notify" in order for the push notifications to work. The phone must also be running at least version 4 system software to run the app.

**For Windows 8.1 Phone or device users:**

1. Go to the Windows Store on your 8.1 Windows Phone or Device
2. Search for "Skoolbag" in the keyword app search
3. Install the Skoolbag app
4. Find your school either by using the keyword search or location service.
5. Click the "Pin" icon to pin the school tile to your Windows Phone home screen.
6. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup"
7. Toggle the Push Categories that are applicable to you by tapping the on/off switch.

**Please Note:** The Skoolbag Windows App is for 8.1 version Windows devices.

If you have any questions please email sales@skoolbag.com.au