Dear Parents

Welcome back to another year of good things becoming even greater. It was fabulous to see everyone after the holidays, and particularly great to see that everyone had a happy and safe time.

Staffing for 2016

Mr Mason is still recovering and will remain on sick leave until further notice. I will continue to relieve for him which means that Ms Hones will be relieving Assistant Principal for Stage 2 and Miss Natalie Daly will teach my class, 4M.

We have had 5 permanent teaching appointments. Welcome to Mr Leadbeatter Assistant Principal Stage 1, Miss Probert, Mrs Osborn, Mrs Bradshaw and Mrs Broxom, who has been a long term casual at BPS. Mrs Broxom will continue to be our Reading Recovery tutor each morning as well as sharing 1X. Ms Hones has returned to her role as Learning & Support and Release From Face to Face teaching. Mrs Pedersen will also be a Learning & Support Teacher and an RFF teacher. Mr Maher will be here 2 days a week as a Learning Support Teacher. Mrs Cox has returned to our Office and she will be supported by Ms Llowarch and Mrs Cavanough.

If you have concerns about your child. You can also request to discuss these issues with the Stage Supervisor about your child. The first place you need to go is their class teacher. You can do this several ways, but it is always best to make an appointment and let the teacher know what you want to talk about. This gives them time to think about the issue and to allow them to investigate it a little further before you get to meet. You can also request to speak to the supervisor of your child’s stage.

Of course, there will be times when you need an urgent meeting and this is fine, but you need to stress that it is urgent.
**LIBRARY NEWS**

Welcome to 2016 in the Library! Classes have already begun with borrowing starting next week across all years. Just a reminder that students can borrow for up to 2 weeks before they need to return their book(s) or bring them in for renewal. Please ensure students have a library bag as they are unable to borrow without one.

If a student forgets to return a book, they will receive a coloured armband as a visual reminder. This will be followed by a reminder bookmark and finally, if they continue to forget their book(s), a letter will be sent to parents/carers. Please encourage your child to be responsible for their books – books can be returned any day, not just on designated library days.

This semester, Year 1 through to Year 6 will be studying a history unit as part of library. In line with the library becoming an information centre, the historical inquiry component of the new history syllabus will be taught as part of the library program and students may come home asking questions about their heritage and what life was like for parents/grandparents when they were at school. Students are being encouraged to ask questions, seek information and answers and form new questions.

Michelle Freund
Library Teacher

**SPORT NEWS**

**Congratulation to our new House Captains and Vice Captains**

**Mercury**
Braith Pellow, Jorja Saxby, Cody Roberts, Sophie Conway

**Venus**
Ashton Daley, Meckenzie Curtis, Jacob Marshall, Charlotte Bagnall,

**Saturn**
Lucy Thomas, Curtis Rae, Lara Gooch, Hugo Kidd Matthews

**Jupiter**
Lexi Coleman, Daniel Williams, Jessica Boersma, Eli Sharman
As you maybe aware there have been numerous HOAX BOMB THREATS to schools across Australia since the beginning of the school year. It is believed that the computerised threats are originating from outside Australia, in every case the threat has been diagnosed to cause disruption and there has been no danger to students or staff. I would seek to reassure you that our school has a detailed emergency management plan.

In the event that we receive any type of threat the students and staff would be immediately evacuated and the NSW police engaged to investigate. We would ask at this time that you support the school by not contacting or attending the school as this can interfere with our capacity to manage the event. The school will always seek to keep parents informed whilst prioritising student and staff safety. Our school would give early communication via our email: Biddabah-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Regards Louise

Director Public Schools
IN THEIR OWN WRITE

2MC: What’s the best thing about being back at school?

Tayla: Learning and playing games and having new homework.
Grace: Playing with friends and being in Mrs McEwan’s class.
Jack: I really like Mrs McEwan’s homework!
Morgan: Playing games with friends, being with teachers, dancing and learning the recorder.
Hunter: Is being surprised about which classroom I’m in and playing with my mates.
Zane: We get to play with the Year 3s on the field behind the Dutch Hutch.
Nicholas: My favourite part about being in Year 2 is seeing all of my friends.
Isabella: We can play with our friends. I like being in the dance groups and being in Mrs McEwan’s class.
Kyan: I’m in Zane, Hunter, Thomas, Jack, Kuda and Mrs McEwan’s class.
Imogen: I like having new homework, new friends and new memories.
Taylea: I like painting in 2MC.
Zoe F: I like being back at school because we get to go to the swimming carnival and I get to play with my friends. I can’t wait to learn the recorder.
Luke: I like being next door to my two favourite teachers Mrs Butler and Mrs McEwan.
Zoe G: I like doing science and spelling.
Tahlia: I like being in Mrs McEwan’s class because we get to do lots of fun stuff. I like doing computers.
Remi: I like playing with my friends and learning some maths.
Charmaine: I like being back at school because we get to use pencil cases for the first time. I love being in Mrs McEwan’s class.
Maddison: I like being back at school so I can see my friends and make new friends.
Kuda: I like being in Mrs McEwan’s class because she taught my brother last year.
Thomas: The best thing is having a nice Year 2 teacher. The work is fun and we get to do a lot of art.

BANKING NEWS TERM 1 2016

Joke of the Week

Why wasn’t Cinderella good at soccer?
Because she ran away from the ball!!

If you have a funny joke for next week’s newsletter, please forward it to Mrs Cavanough with your name and class attached. The funniest joke each week will be published.
Welcome back to school everyone. We hope you had a fun and safe Christmas holidays. Hello to the new starters and also to our old friends. It is great to already see so many names, some new on the canteen roster. It is very encouraging.

For something fun, we are having a competition where the prize is a $50 voucher to Absolute Thai Charlestown. If you have your name on the canteen roster starting from the 8 February through to the 8 April 2016, you will be automatically entered into the draw. Your name will go into the draw once. The winner’s name will be drawn on the 24 February and be notified this day.

**P & C 2016**

2016 is now underway and the P&C are already busy planning the year’s fundraising and fun. Saturday 22nd October is our Fete so please add this to your calendar as we have new, bigger and better rides and stalls planned.

Wednesday 17th February is our first gathering for the P&C for 2016. This will be an informal gathering so please come along, enjoy some nibbles and drinks and meet other parents and some of the teaching staff in a friendly, inviting and relaxed atmosphere. P&C gatherings and meetings are a great way to meet new people including some of our teachers and the perfect opportunity to ask questions and get accurate and reliable information directly from the school. The majority of P&C members are working parents who are simply trying to help their children receive essential resources for a successful school career and we are always in need of new members and volunteers.

We meet at 7.30pm in the school library and everyone is most welcome.
UNIFORM SHOP
OPENING HOURS

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<th>Tues Morning</th>
<th>Thurs Morning</th>
<th>Thurs Afternoon</th>
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<td>8.30am-9.00am</td>
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<td>2.30pm-3.00pm</td>
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<td>Teachers</td>
<td>Donna Newham</td>
<td>Kirsten Rae</td>
<td>Renea Shepherd</td>
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BROAD BRIMMED HAT
NOW sold in the CANTEEN
Biddabah School Uniform

IMPORTANT NOTICE
UPDATE FOR PARENT ONLINE PAYMENT

POP is now user friendly on mobile devices. In the past using the $ Make A Payment page through a mobile device or tablet has not been easy as on a computer. Now when you click on this page, via mobile device, you will be able to complete the online form with ease!!

YEAR 6 JUMBLE SALE
Year 6 pre-loved clothing shop will be on sale during school hours. Come along and sift through the large collection of clean and tidy uniforms

It's not OK to be Away

Please plan your Family Holidays in the School Holidays

ABSENCE OR LATE LEAVERS OR EARLY LEAVERS

At Biddabah we now use computer roll marking. This means the system will generate a note to you for unexplained absences.

Late children should be accompanied and signed by a parent otherwise an explanation request will be sent home.
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<th>Wk</th>
<th>SCHOOL DIARY: TERM 1</th>
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<td>January 28</td>
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<td>February 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kinder Orientation Photos Library and House Leaders Swimming Carnival (Fri 5th)</td>
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<td>February 8</td>
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<td>Swans AFL-12.30-1pm Yrs3-6 Hall</td>
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<td>February 15</td>
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<td>Hunter PSSA Swimming</td>
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<td>March 7</td>
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<td>School Photos Tuesday 8th March</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
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<td>P&amp;C Meeting 17th Feb 7.30pm Library</td>
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<td>NSW PSSA Swimming 6th-7th</td>
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<th>Notes Sent Home This Week</th>
<th>Excursions &amp; Payments Due</th>
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<td>2 Feb</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Sessions Mon 8 Feb</td>
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Check for Individual Class Notes Sent Home

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

**Advertisers** please contact Jessica or Julie 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

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

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