Thursday, 2nd February 2017

The Biddeston Bulletin
The Newsletter of the Biddeston School

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BPOINT

- BPAY is NO TO BE USED for the payment of school accounts.
- BPOINT is available with Mastercard, Visa Debit or Credit Cards but NOT Keycards.
- One invoice, one amount. Parents will need to enter the CRN (Customer Reference Number) for each invoice.
- Parents or other customers can make payments on school invoices from home and office or from smartphones.

Why BPOINT? It is the SAFEST method for payment of accounts. It is our school’s aim to eliminate cash payments except for amounts less than $10.

WHAT’S COMING!!

Feb 8 P&C monthly meeting
9 Y6 leaders’ speeches
9 Class Information Sessions
Feb 16 Mayoral Morning Tea

Welcome Back to School

Congratulations to

2017 Prep students
Daniel, Harrison, Tom, Xanthe, Emily, Lilly, Georgia, Dusty, Olivia, Jaxon, Mac & Alex

Who have made a great start to their learning journey

We’re very happy to have you at Biddeston School!

Checklist

- RECYCLE ALUMINIUM CANS and support the Biddeston School Playgroup. Collection bags at the school AND the Biddeston Store.
- Recycle your newspapers at Biddeston – any day! PLEASE ensure that ONLY newspaper, magazines & junk mail are deposited in the bins – definitely NO plastic of any nature, cardboard or shredded paper or ANY FOREIGN MATTER.
- NO soiled baby nappies to be placed in ANY bins at the school.

in February to

09 Benjamin Watson
13 Mrs Thomas
14 Miss Ribot
23 Mary Keutmann
24 Niklas Raeth
26 Isabelle Duncombe

children are made readers on the laps of their parents ~emile buchwald

Happy Birthday

To 2017 Prep students
Daniel, Harrison, Tom, Xanthe, Emily, Lilly, Georgia, Dusty, Olivia, Jaxon, Mac & Alex

Who have made a great start to their learning journey

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PRINCIPAL’S PEN

Dear Parents, Families and Community Members,

I trust each family had an enjoyable break from the school routine over the holidays and I welcome every returning student and their family back to school. It has been good to catch up with students and parents and see everyone so keen to be back. We have twelve new Prep students who have started school this year. We welcome Harrison, Dusty, Tom, Xanthé, Olivia, Jaxon, Mac, Emily, Daniel, Lilly, Georgia and Alex into Prep and Casey into Year 3. We welcome all new families to our school community. Our school currently has 62 students enrolled.

It was lovely to see so many parents at the Meet and Greet and the P&C Annual General Meeting last night, our first events for the year. Thank you to Sarah and her helpers for organising the BBQ. The dessert was amazing! A big thank you to our outgoing P&C committee. Your work last year has been appreciated. Congratulations and welcome to our 2017 P&C committee; President - Mr Max Strasser, Vice President – Mr Ian Speed, Secretary – Mrs Kate Cooke, Treasurer - Mrs Mel Patch, Tuckshop – Mrs Heidi Kruger, Events Coordinator – Mrs Melissa Duncombe, Uniform convenor – Mrs Belinda Strasser, Grants Officer – Mrs Georgina Hart and Health and Safety Officer – Mr Matthew Patti. I look forward to working with each of you, ensuring our students receive the very best education. The next P&C meeting is Wednesday 8th February 3:30pm in the library.

Thank you Mrs Gotz, Mr Jeff Gotz and Ms Ross for their wonderful work in having the school ready, clean and well-presented for the start of school. We welcome our new staff member, Mrs Rebel Bright to our Year 2/3 class. We also welcome Ms Kate Trulson as Guidance Officer and Ms Karen Logue as Behaviour Specialist.

Curriculum Our school is committed to teaching the Australian Curriculum in each Core Subject area of English, Maths, Science and Humanities and Social Sciences. Other Key Learning Areas include The Arts, Design and Digital Technologies, Health and Physical Education, German (Year 5/6).

Homework has started and we encourage you to support your child in their engagement with this, whether it be; a quiet place to work, a set routine, or taking an interest in what they are learning. More information around homework will be covered at the parent information sessions next Thursday afternoon. If homework is having a negative impact on family life, please see your child’s teacher.

Everyday learning tip: When you read aloud, your child... learns about words and language, about grammar, new, complex and difficult words and interesting words - while having fun he/she begins to notice how the language of books differs from spoken language.

Year 6 Speeches I welcome the Year 6 students to the leadership post this year and look forward to hearing their speeches on Thursday morning, 9th February. Parents of the Year 6 students are welcome to attend.

Playgroup will now meet on Thursday mornings from 9am to 11am. Mrs Shaw is the playgroup facilitator. We have membership with Playgroup Queensland. We look forward to welcoming children and parents each week. Please bring some healthy morning tea. There is no cost to parents for playgroup.

Specialist lessons Music and PE will be taught each Thursday, with Physical Education taught in the morning by Mr Morris and Music with Mrs Wheelidon in the afternoon. LOTE for the Year 5/6 students has been timetabled on a Wednesday afternoon with Frau Samuel.

Before and after school waiting areas Just a reminder, students are to wait in the assembly area for parents or the bus each afternoon. Students are to wait in the same area each morning before school if arriving before 8:30am. This is for student safety. Parents are reminded to check in with the supervising teacher when collecting your child/ren in the afternoon, to be checked off the departure roll. If picking up or dropping off your child/ren at alternate times due to appointments or illness, please call into the office to sign them in or out. This is a safety procedure so we know who is in attendance at all times.

Attendance If your child is ill and will not be attending school or you are running late, please be prompt in letting the school know with a phone call, SMS message or email. Due to legislation, absent students with no explanation will lead to parents being contacted, asking of their child/ren whereabouts. We are in the process of implementing an electronic system for parent contact and you will be kept up to date with how this will be rolled out.

We have a small number of students who have significant food allergies. Thus, the advice is not to share food and to wash hands after eating. This is the procedure we follow at school. Please help us by taking the time to discuss and explain these rules with your children.

Visitors to school When volunteering at school, whether for classroom or tuckshop, please sign the visitors’ book in the office. Once again, this is a safety procedure. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Keeping In Contact If you need to contact the school, the best email address with which to reach Mrs Nielsen and me, is admin@biddestoss.eq.edu.au My email address is swilsj@eq.edu.au . The school mobile number is: 0409 896 233.

Keeping up to date Our school website has lots of information, forms and the weekly newsletters. The website is also linked to the QSchools app which can be downloaded to phones/iPhones and iPads/tablets. The QSchools app provides an easy way to access vital school information, including latest news, events and newsletters. For more information, visit: http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/app/qschools-app.html

School uniform and hats It has been wonderful to see all students wearing uniforms and appropriate hats for the beginning of school. Please ensure your child’s belongings are all clearly named. We had a substantial amount of lost property at the end of last year and most items were unnamed. In the event of lost property, please visit A Block (front building), upstairs on the verandah, near the staff room.

Sporting Schools Our school offers an after school sports program one to two afternoons each week. This program usually runs for six weeks and will commence soon. I have applied for hockey this term and am waiting for confirmation. I will include information in the newsletter as it comes to hand.

Cross Country The cross country has been scheduled for the end of term, which requires the students to start practising their running. Students will train for this event by running around the oval after each assembly.
P & C Association
2017 DATES
8th FEBRUARY 3:30pm Monthly meeting

AGENDA:
P&C Contacts:
President: Max Strasser 0423 281 897
Vice President: Ian Speed 0402 227 206
Secretary: Kate Cooke 0438 307 044
Treasurer: Mel Patch 0448 494 639

General:

Fundraising:

Uniforms
For any uniform orders, please text Belinda Strasser to arrange suitable time for fitting and pick up. Belinda will be at school Friday mornings.
Belinda Strasser 0421 774 599

Tuckshop

Heidi Kruger & Jeanette Ziebell

We wish to acknowledge the sponsorship of the following business.
PLEASE consider their business.

At Biddeston State School every THURSDAY from 9-11am
Medication forms are being sent home to parents and need to be completed in the event that your child needs medication administered at school. Only prescribed medication with a medication form and clear pharmacy label on the medication can be administered to students by staff.

**Parent Information Session** This will be held on Thursday, 9th February, starting in the Prep-1 room at 3:15pm. The Year 2/3 session will begin at 3:45pm and the Year 4/5/6 session will commence at 4:15pm. I strongly urge parents to attend these sessions. This is an excellent opportunity to meet the teachers, find out class routines, the curriculum being taught and the expectations for your child/ren.

**Health and Safety** We are about to have a hand washing basin installed under Block A near the Year 2/3 classroom. This is to ensure there are hand-washing facilities in close proximity to classrooms.

**Professional Development** Before school started, staff engaged in extensive professional development including mandatory training, CPR, behaviour management, curriculum and wellbeing. I commend staff on their dedication and commitment to training and their respective roles.

**Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible** This is our school’s behaviour code and we have a focus each week for the students to follow.

From time to time, temporary positions come up at school, in particular teacher aide or cleaning. These are usually for relieving when someone is on leave. I am required to follow correct procedures in regards to employment in these positions. If you would like to be considered for a temporary position should one arise, please send in your resume for our files. This is the only way a person can be considered for a position.

Kind Regards,

Sharon

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**Oakey Junior Cricket Club MILO T20 BLAST Program**

MILO T20 Blast is a super fun, social, safe, cricket program for boys and girls. The program is much shorter than traditional cricket, with a maximum of 90 minutes playing time per game. All the equipment is supplied and the games take place at the same venue each week.

**Dates:** 9th February to 20th March

**Venue:** Heritage Oval, Stuart Street, Toowoomba

**Time:** Thursday’s, 4:30 – 6:00pm

**Age:** Girls and Boys, Year 2 – 6

**Cost:** $99 includes Brisbane Heat Player Pack

**Contact:** Anna Paton – 0419 725 834 – Anna.Paton@qldcricket.com.au

**Registration:** register at [www.playcricket.com.au](http://www.playcricket.com.au) and search “Toowoomba” and choose the club you would like to be a part of. All clubs are participating in this event.