### TERM 4 – WEEK 10

#### From The Principal

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2014!

Thank you to all the parents who came to our Presentation Day this morning.

Here is an extract of my 2014 reflection for those of you who couldn’t make it.

I can’t believe how quickly this year has passed; it has been such a busy one. Every year this school just gets better and better. I know I’ve said it before but I feel so lucky and privileged to be the Principal of our school. It is a school with a very long history, the second oldest school on the Northern Beaches. And yet in many ways it feels like we are very new.

All schools go through cycles of change, and here at Brookvale we are right on the cusp of significant change; it is a very exciting time to be involved in this community.

We are growing and our population is changing. This year we grew from 7 to 8 classes and we welcomed 46 Kindergarten students and their families to our school community. Next year we will have 10 classes, including three Kindergarten classes. We will have more than 200 students. The things that our parents, teachers and others tell us that they most value about our school are things like the open communication, the individual attention given to each and every child, our high expectations and our cultural diversity.

It is important that as we grow bigger we maintain these qualities, and family involvement, your involvement, will become increasingly important to build and sustain an inclusive community. Your active participation in this is vital. We need to build strong bonds between all our families to help make this school the very best that it can be.

During 2014 we have had many successes – in academic, sporting, cultural and the creative and performing arts. Our school first participated in the Multicultural Public Speaking Competition only two years ago. This year, Jessica Shepherd in Year 3 won the Northern Beaches final and went on to represent Brookvale at the Northern Sydney regional final. And she did very well!

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#### DATES FOR THE DIARY

**TERM 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 12 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation ‘Big Day Out’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 12 Dec</td>
<td>K-6 Family Christmas Disco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 15 Dec</td>
<td>Sausage Sizzle Lunch – free for winners of the House Spirit Cup!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 16 Dec</td>
<td>Talent Quest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 17 Dec</td>
<td>K-6 Picnic Day (LAST DAY OF TERM)</td>
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**2015**

ALL STUDENTS RETURN ON WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY (Yrs 1-6 at 9am, K- at 9:15am)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weds 4 Feb</td>
<td>Parent Information Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 10 Feb</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 13 Feb</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 3 Mar</td>
<td>Kindergarten 2016 Parent Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9-10 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 6 Leadership Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9 Mar</td>
<td>Stage 2 to Glen Street Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9 Mar</td>
<td>K-2 Responsible Pet Owners Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 17, 24, 31 Mar</td>
<td>Interrelate Program Yrs 5/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>17,18,19 Mar</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20 Mar</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 23 Mar</td>
<td>Stage 2 Theatre Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 25 Mar</td>
<td>Cross Country Carnival/Sponsored Run</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 28 Mar</td>
<td>NSW State Election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weds 1 Apr</td>
<td>Kindergarten 2016 Parent Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 1 Apr</td>
<td>K/2 and 3/6 Lunchtime Discos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 2 Apr</td>
<td>Grandparents Day/Easter Parade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 2 Apr</td>
<td>Scripture Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 2 Apr</td>
<td>Gold, Silver, Bronze Certificates</td>
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During 2014 we have had many successes – in academic, sporting, cultural and the creative and performing arts. Our school first participated in the Multicultural Public Speaking Competition only two years ago. This year, Jessica Shepherd in Year 3 won the Northern Beaches final and went on to represent Brookvale at the Northern Sydney regional final. And she did very well!
In PSSA sport, our senior boys’ soccer team won the final, becoming champions, and our senior girls’ netball team were runners up in their final. We participated in the Jump Rope for Heart program, increasing our kids’ fitness levels and skipping skills, whilst also raising funds for research into heart disease.

The high academic performance of last year’s Year 6 students in their first year at high school has been widely recognised. The NAPLAN results were outstanding. In Year 5 NAPLAN tests most of our students achieved growth that was significantly above expectations. A particular strength was seen in Writing and Mathematics.

A new innovation this year was to introduce Mandarin language lessons as part of our curriculum for all students from Kindergarten to Year 6. Mandarin was chosen because of the ever increasing business and cultural links between Australia and China. The lessons with LaoShu Mary have been very successful and have brought our school into the spotlight. Recently CCTV, the national TV channel of China came to our school to film a documentary about our language program. The program is titled, A Head Start and Mary’s lessons are certainly giving our students exactly that.

We have had a great year with the Performing Arts. Our choir auditioned and were selected to sing at the Town Hall in the Primary Proms concert. They also performed very well at the Northern Beaches Choir Eisteddfod. On Saturday, along with our dance group, the choir has been invited to perform at the official opening of the new Vale Medical Centre.

The concert band that played for us earlier now has 35 members and is going from strength to strength.

Our school is a very active member of The Northern Beaches Learning Alliance. The NBLA is a professional community consisting of the 13 primary schools and 5 high schools between Manly and Dee Why. We participate in joint professional training opportunities and attend network meetings where we share our expertise and practice with our local colleagues, building and promoting excellence in public education.

This year Miss Surrest and Ms Kortekaas established a network for Assistant Principals from NBLA schools. This has proved to be highly successful under their guidance and has been praised by the Director of Schools.

In June I planned and organised the first NBLA combined student leadership camp which was attended by Year 6 students from the 13 primary schools. According to the other 12 Principals apparently it’s a job I get to keep for life!

The reason I tell you all of this is to demonstrate how the profile of Brookvale PS has been raised significantly, both in the wider educational community and also locally amongst the general public.

This is very rewarding; the hard work is paying off! Word spreads and Brookvale is recognised as a very good school.

Improvements to the school buildings, grounds and resources during 2014 have included the new toilet block, the security fencing, an artificial lawn and pencil sculptures in the front garden, painted games in the playground, a new front entrance to the foyer and the purchase of more iPads for use in the classroom.

Much of the funding for this has been raised through P&C events and I thank all of our parent volunteers and the P&C executive for their tireless efforts. Football car parking, gardening bees, Mothers’ and Fathers’ Day stalls, raffles, bingo nights and our recent car boot sale have all contributed greatly to improving facilities and opportunities for our children.

It will be great if we can get even more parents helping out next year!

For me, one of the most memorable events this year was our first art exhibition held at the If U Like Art gallery in Brookvale. It was a wonderful celebration of creativity in lovely surroundings. It was a joy to see our children’s faces when they walked into the gallery and saw the impact of all those beautiful artworks displayed together. The atmosphere was fantastic, with almost all of our families present, enjoying the evening. That event certainly showed what we as a community are capable of. Let’s do more!
I’d like to thank every member of our school staff for their dedication, hard work and commitment to achieving the very best results for our students. We are very fortunate to have such highly talented teachers who are so passionate about education, and every day they demonstrate outstanding care, patience and support, always encouraging their students to achieve their personal best.

And most importantly, I want to congratulate each and every one of you, boys and girls, for all the great things that you have achieved this year at school. You have all made fantastic progress and should be very proud of yourselves. Thank you for making this school a happy place and for being good friends to each other.

Wishing all our families a happy and peaceful Christmas holiday. I look forward to seeing you all back at school on Wednesday 28 January!

Bev Maunder

Positive Behaviour, Engaging Learners (PBEL)

Congratulations to all students for following our school expectations and earning mini merits. Last week the Lucky Dip winners were:

RESPECT – Felix Williams
RESPONSIBILITY – Giulia Carnevale
PERSONAL BEST – Joel Ronzini

2014 Gold, Silver and Bronze Pins

Congratulations to these students who have been following our three PBEL expectations and have accumulated the most housepoints in their class throughout the year.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KM</td>
<td>Sam Bonaventura</td>
<td>Kayla O’Brien</td>
<td>Coen Clark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KJ</td>
<td>Freya Jackson</td>
<td>Alana Henry</td>
<td>Belle Long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2J</td>
<td>Sebastian Roper</td>
<td>Mackenzie Bell</td>
<td>Shanel Lawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2LR</td>
<td>Anmol Hassan</td>
<td>Mua Junior Leupolu</td>
<td>Brie Hawkes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4A</td>
<td>Jasmine Cheng</td>
<td>Jesse Melani</td>
<td>Chanel Finau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4D</td>
<td>Zara Dailhou</td>
<td>Vivian Xu</td>
<td>Tyrone Latu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6P</td>
<td>Cherry Kumar</td>
<td>Nathan Cheng</td>
<td>Janayah Tracey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6S</td>
<td>Kayleen Falconer</td>
<td>Giulia Carnevale</td>
<td>Lucy Watt</td>
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</tbody>
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At Presentation Day today, it was very exciting to announce the names of our student leaders for 2015.

SRC Presidents – Annysa Dormis and Damiano Melani
Vice-Captains – Lucy Watt and Zach Ghorra
Captains – Emma Dunstan and Nathan Cheng

Congratulations!

Sport Leaders and Class Patrons will be elected in the new year.

**Around the Stages – Stage 1**

Wow! Where did the year go? Stage 1 has had a fabulous year. We enjoyed our dance and gymnastic lessons. We excelled in the pool in our swimming lessons. Our Fundamental Movement Skills program is still going and we are learning how to throw, catch, hurdle and work as part of a team. Our excursions to Kuringai Wildflower Garden and The Gruffalo play at Glen Street Theatre were amazing and kept us talking for weeks. We participated in the Fun Run and Jump Rope for Heart fundraisers and certainly improved our skipping skills. Visits from our resident scientist, David Morgan-Mar, kept us intrigued as we learnt about our world. Last week we had an awesome time at the School Fair where we did our best to buy and try everything that was on offer! All the students and teachers in Stage 1 would like to thank you for your support this year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe, relaxing holiday!
Have you got some smooth dance moves? Come and show them off at the Brookvale Disco! Our special guest DJ will be spinning tunes, in the hall, Friday 12 December from 6-8pm.

Attendance is free and sausage sizzle, snacks and drinks can be purchased on the night.

**When:** Friday 12 from 6-8pm
(children must be collected promptly at 8pm)

**Where:** Assembly Hall

**Who:** All Brookvale PS students

**What:** Free, teacher supervised event with guest DJ. Sausage sizzle, snacks and drinks available at additional cost.
Imaginative holiday workshops

Run by Be Centre’s Play Therapists, these small group workshops give children an opportunity to receive individual attention and explore creativity and self-expression while having fun!

**LEGO CLUB**
Unstructured play allows kids to use their imagination, take control and create their own masterpieces. Doing this with Lego makes this even more fun!
- 4–11 years  Tuesday 13 January 2015  10.30am–12.00pm
- 4–11 years  Wednesday 14 January 2015  10.30am–12.00pm

**KITE CRAFT**
Use your imagination to create your own special handmade kite. This workshop is a great mix of creativity and craft and encourages active outdoor play.
- 5–7 years  Tuesday 20 January 2015  9.30–11.00am
- 8–11 years  Tuesday 20 January 2015  12.00–2.00pm

**FAIRY GARDEN**
Calling all fairies! Use your imagination to create special items for a magical fairy garden and enjoy our fairy picnic.
- 5–8 years  Wednesday 21 January 2015  9.30–11.00am

**JEWELLERY CRAFT**
Make and create with beads, baubles, glitter and glitter in this special workshop.
- 6–10 years  Wednesday 21 January 2015  12.00–2.00pm

**LEGO CLUB**
Unstructured play allows kids to use their imagination, take control and create their own masterpieces. Doing this with Lego makes this even more fun!
- 4–11 years  Thursday 22 January 2015  9.30–11.00am

**Warriewood**
Unit 3/9 Apollo Street
Warriewood NSW

**Manly**
Ground Floor
Elsie E Hill Building
18 Wentworth Street
Manly NSW

**BOOK EARLY! LIMITED PLACES**
$25 per session including all materials and light refreshments

Booking form on next page