Principal’s message

Last Friday, the classroom staff spent the day working through the Department’s School Excellence Framework as part of our self-evaluation process. Evaluating our three strategic directions required developing an understanding of the Framework and producing evidence to support our beliefs about where we are placed. The results and comments from the school survey were integral to this process.

The Framework provides each school with descriptors in the areas of teaching, learning and leading and assists with school improvement. For each descriptor a school may be placed as Delivering, Sustaining and Growing or Excelling. As a school we are always seeking to move forward and the descriptors used in the Framework will ensure this progression is ongoing.

As a result of this extensive day, the staff have analysed our progress for each strategic direction and used a range of sources to determine the next steps for our 2016 School Plan. As you have seen in the calendar section of the newsletter and website, there are many events occurring over the coming weeks. Please take the time to read the newsletter and notes from teachers to ensure your family does not miss an event. We very much look forward to the K-2 Social this Thursday and the Talent Show auditions on Friday.

At Bulli, we are committed to participating in professional learning to ensure the health and welfare of all our students. Yesterday afternoon, our staff completed mandatory face-to-face anaphylaxis training. This is the second part of the training that involved the completion of a two hour online module in Term 1. Next week, the staff will work with our school counsellor, Nikki Dalla Pozza, to explore and develop a greater understanding of Mindfulness. You may like to explore this area by accessing the Smiling Mind app. On the staff development day, staff members will complete mandatory CPR training. Health, safety and welfare will continue to be one of our highest priorities in 2016.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who were able to attend our thank you morning tea today. Classroom helpers, Ethics and Religious Education teachers, canteen helpers, members of the P&C and other volunteers enjoyed some light conversation and delicious treats prepared by our staff. We thank all our volunteers for your assistance throughout the year and wish you all the very best for a relaxing festive season. We hope to see many of you again in 2016.

Enjoy your week! Rhonda Morton
End of Year Concert - Thursday 3 December
The 2015 Concert is fast approaching. The evening will commence at 5:00pm with a BBQ, raffle and cake stall courtesy of our P&C. Students are to meet their teacher in their classroom at 6:00pm to prepare for the concert that commences at 6.30pm. If your child is not able to attend the concert, please inform the teacher well in advance so adjustments to performances can be made. A child’s tears because a partner hasn’t arrived are distressing for all.

Changes to School Student Transport Scheme
From Term 1 2016, Transport NSW will be issuing School Opal cards to students. 

Automatic Renewal: Students who currently have school travel passes will automatically receive a school Opal card in 2016. However you will need to apply if:
- Applying for a SSTS pass for the first time
- Enrolling in Kindergarten
- Progressing from year 2 to year 3
- Progressing from year 6 to year 7
- Changing name, school and/or address
- Requesting an additional pass as a result of new shared parental responsibility.

Online applications: Parents and carers of students listed above need to apply online at www.transportnsw.info/school-students

New Term Bus Pass: If students live too close to the school to be eligible* for free travel they may be able to apply for a Term Bus Pass ($52 per term). For details and to apply go to https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts

*Minimum distance from school for students in years 3-6 is 2.3km walking distance.

Mulch moving / spreading
We have a great deal of mulch at school and no time or staff to spread or move it. If you can spare an hour or two and have your own shovel and wheelbarrow, please let the office know and they will direct you to where you can help. Mrs Holz, our General Assistant, is at school each Wednesday and can lend you a wheelbarrow and shovel on that day if you don’t have your own. Thank you in advance to anyone who is able to assist. It would be lovely to have our grounds looking spick and span for the Presentation Assembly on Wednesday of Week 9 (next week).

Awards
Pennants
Special congratulations to:
Chloe B – K/1HT
Rory J – K/1HT
Max D – 1/2B
Jade P – 1/2B
Cassia W – 1/2B
Rebecca B – 2PM
Kalani P – 2PM
Angus R – 2PM
Emma B – 4/5S
Blake P – 3/4W

These awards were presented at this week’s whole school assembly.

Scholastic BookClub orders
If you would like to place one final Scholastic BookClub order for 2015 please call at the school office to collect a catalogue. All orders need to be returned by this Friday 27 November.

NSW PREMIER’S SPORTING CHALLENGE
Certificates were given out in class today to recognise the achievements of those children who took part in our Premier’s Sporting Challenge this year. At BPS we encourage children to be active learners and aim for this to become a habit for life.

As part of the rules of the Challenge all K-2 students receive a gold award for their participation. The rules enabling students to achieve different award levels start to occur in Year 3.

Students in Years 3 – 6 (and beyond in Secondary School) work together as a class to achieve an average across the ten weeks of the Challenge. A class may accumulate time spent in a broad range of sports and recreational activities during lunchtime, in school sport programs, class time, after school or in weekend physical activity.

There are four levels of achievement determined by average minutes of physical exercise:
- bronze (30 mins a day = 210 mins per week)
- silver (45 mins a day)
- gold (60 mins a day)
- diamond (80 mins a day = 560 mins per week)

Although the students keep an individual log of their achievements, they are added to the PSC Tracker and it calculates a class average.

This year for the first time we had staff members who took up the challenge to complete the PSC Staff Challenge. Congratulations to Mrs Byrom, Mrs Cadorin, Mrs Morris, Mr Cochrane, Mrs Hand, Mrs Hiscocks, Ms McLean, Mrs Morton, Mrs O’Brien, Mrs Pfister, Mrs Saddi and Mrs Turner.

We recognise Mrs Morton as our leader of the PSC Staff Challenge achieving Diamond status.

Over 289,000 students state-wide completed the Challenge this year. PSC not only helps to focus and make our children fitter and healthier but also provides our school with a funding grant to assist in its implementation. 

Mrs Saddi
2015 PSC co-ordinator

Talent Show Auditions - Next week!
Students are reminded that auditions for our Talent Show will only be held on Friday 4 December. To audition successfully, the item must be complete with costumes, props, music and other items brought to school on the day. Please remember that you can only be in one item, costumes are to be age appropriate and respectful and, the item must be no longer than 3 minutes. Gymnastics and lifts are not permitted. Students playing the piano and dancing will have access to the hall. Mrs Byrom, Mrs Wedeman and Mrs Morton look forward to watching a variety of acts. Parents are welcome to join us for the Talent Show on Tuesday 15 December at 9.30am.
Handball ... Anyone for Handball?!

Our 2015 inaugural BPS Handball Championships have concluded. Congratulations to all who took part for your sportsmanship and the manner in which all players entered the competition and ‘had a go’! It was great to see the excitement of the winners going through to the next round and the handshakes between the players congratulating each other on a good game.

To ensure the event ran smoothly our 18 SRC members took on many jobs from umpire to official, announcer to radio manager. Working cooperatively they created a three day event that involved 29 original teams of four, with 54 games and 116 players, divided into each of the stages.

Congratulations to Kai who led his team to organise the draw and oversee the event and Amelia C who led her team to create the rules and train the umpires. Good work to both Charlotte and Kai as our announcers and thank you to our Year 6 students who stepped up to help as needed, in particular Nathalia for her work as chief recorder.

Winners were announced at today’s Assembly.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAGE</th>
<th>Winners</th>
<th>Runner UP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>Emeliah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 1</td>
<td>Indy</td>
<td>Archie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 2</td>
<td>Adam</td>
<td>Eliza</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 3</td>
<td>Kye</td>
<td>Mason</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Mr Cochrane and Mrs Saddi
SRC 2015

Parenting Ideas from Michael Grose
The latest articles ‘Parents using kids as bargaining chips’ and ‘Talking to children about sex: when and how?’ from Michael Grose have been added to the Parenting Ideas News Story on our website. Articles from Parenting Ideas are also displayed in our community window and in a folder in the foyer. We hope you are enjoying these articles.

P & C NEWS
End of Year Concert- Cake Stall Reminder
Don’t forget we will be having a cake stall at the school End of Year Concert on Thursday 3 December. We are looking for as many volunteers as possible who are willing to make something sweet or savoury. Anything you are able to donate is greatly appreciated. If you require containers, bags or boxes they are available from the office.

Please return all donations to school on Thursday 3 December. Thanks for your support.

Angela Carroll  
42685125 or 0414645074

Danniele Spokes  
0421 330 581

COMMUNITY NEWS
Illawarra 2016 Performing Ensemble
This information is for students in Years 7-12 in 2016. For information about the 2016 Performing Ensemble, auditions and online applications, please click the link below.

PERFORMINGENSEMBLE.FILES.WORDPRESS.COM
Applications close on Tuesday 1 December 2015.
Further information can also be found at www.southernarts.det.nsw.edu.au

Riding the Wave
Families of children of all abilities are being introduced to the fun of the beach and Surf Life Saving Nippers program through the Illawarra Branch’s Riding the Wave Nippers program. This program provides the opportunity through the clubs for children of all abilities to participate in beach and water based activities such as beach ball games, relays, flags, boards and wades.

Get involved and have some fun!

Riding the Wave program aims to:
- Provide an opportunity for all to be a part of a Surf Life Saving Club
- Provide an opportunity for participants to be involved in a non competitive, flexible Nippers program
- Provide an opportunity for participants to enjoy the beach and its surrounds in a safe manner
- Have dedicated and trained water safety personnel deliver the program.

Riding the Wave is a four week program conducted mid February to mid March. For further information and an application form please contact Catherine on 4228 5355 or email catherine.campbell@sport.nsw.gov.au
Your Local Clubs are: Towradgi, Bellambi, Woonona, Bulli and Coledale
The Illawarra Folk Festival 2016 will be held over four days from Thursday 14 till Sunday 17 January at the Bulli Showground. Our school is an Illawarra Folk Festival Community Partner, and you are able to support your school and the festival when you purchase festival tickets online at http://www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au simply by entering the code BPS2016. The Folk Festival will make a $40 donation to the school for every season pass and $20 for each weekend pass purchased using this code.

Welcome the world into your home in 2016 and become a WEP Host Family!
Hosting an overseas exchange student allows families to gain insight into another culture and way of living, without leaving the comfort of their own home. The personal rewards and friendships that come from hosting an international exchange student often endure for generations.
WEP host families live all around Eastern Australia. Not all our host families have kids, some are young couples and some are single. In fact, host families can come in any shape or form, but they all share a desire to learn more about other peoples and cultures!
For more information and to view the profiles of students eagerly awaiting news of their host family, head to our website, www.wep.org.au, email info@wep.org.au or call 1300 884 733 to speak to our friendly hosting team!