REVIEWING A VERY SUCCESSFUL 2014 SCHOOL YEAR

North Beach Primary School continued to strive to provide a quality education programme in a caring environment, that nurtures and enables all students to achieve high standards and maximise their potential. Our school values clearly articulate the shared understanding of all staff. Our educational programme is:-

**Academically Rigorous** - We provide a curriculum that allows all students to develop their potential across a range of areas.

**Challenging** - We provide engaging and purposeful learning experiences to develop skills for life long learning.

**Inclusive** - We recognise that every child is unique and cater for their differing circumstances and needs.

**Respectful** - We are courteous to each other, respectful of diversity and promote a sense of belonging in a safe and supportive environment.

**Collaborative** - As a school community we work together to achieve common goals by implementing strategies that improve results and reflect best practice.

2014 was very much a year of “reviews” for North Beach, with an external Independent Review conducted by the Department of Educational Services, the NBPS Financial Audit and the biennial Parent/Staff/Student surveys.

I believe this Annual Report will reflect what we believe was another positive year for the academic, social and emotional development of our terrific students.

Steve Pash, Principal

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL REVIEW FINDINGS

In early and mid March, the Department of Educational Services conducted an independent review of North Beach Primary School and the findings document, which is the official report of the reviewers, is now available on our school website. Copies were forwarded to Peter Collier, the Minister of Education, Ms Sharyn O’Neill, Director General of Education and De Graber, our Board Chair.

The findings were very positive and reflect extremely well on the school culture and self assessment processes. The School Board met to discuss the findings and plans are already in place to act upon areas identified for improvement. The following is a conclusion on page 15 of the report and I recommend you have a read of the report when you get the chance, at least pages 15 and 16 which include the conclusion, commendations and areas for improvement.

**CONCLUSION**

North Beach Primary School exhibits a culture that is student focused, gives primacy to the development of the whole child and provides a concentrated focus on pastoral care and values development whilst achieving good academic standards. The school demonstrates a strong sense of community and is a friendly, safe place for children to optimise their development and learning. The positive school culture will enable appropriate responses to changing demographics which includes more students with learning difficulties and non-English speaking backgrounds.

School leaders model ethical, respectful and professional practice and set the very positive tone for the school. The school exhibits the characteristics of a genuine “learning organisation” where there are high expectations of children and staff. Staff collaborate to achieve the best outcomes for children, continually challenge their own teaching practice and engage in professional learning and use evidence-based planning and practices. Relationships between staff, students and parents are positive and supportive.

The school has achieved a number of targets of the Business Plan relating to literacy and numeracy, and is well positioned to achieve the remainder of the targets by the time of completion of the current Business Plan and DPA period.
Did you know….

Did you know that the students in Years 4-7 began learning to play the “ukulele” in 2014 and that the word ukulele, in Hawaiian, means “jumping flea”?

Did you know that “Harmony Day” is celebrated each March at NBPS? Since the end of World War II in 1945, more than seven million migrants have made Australia their home.

Did you know that the Bicycle Network’s Ride2School Program supports over 2,000 schools across Australia to develop a healthy active-travel culture. At North Beach we have been participating in the Ride2School program since 2008 and the Environmental Leadership Group manages this event.

SCHOOL AUDIT REPORT
The Audit and Risk Management Branch within the Department of Education completed a “School Audit Report” in November 2014. The Audit assesses the processes and systems in place to manage receipting and banking, purchasing and payments, financial planning and management, assets management and the school’s human resources and management information systems.

The Director General, Sharyn O’Neill, summarised the results of the audit in her letter to the school. She stated “I would like to acknowledge the effective management of the school’s financial systems and procedures. I would also like to recognise your staff, particularly your registrar, Mrs Susan Logan.”

“The audit program encompasses extensive areas of school operations and to achieve excellent assessments overall and in four control areas is to be highly commended.” Congratulations and well done to Sue Logan and her wonderful team in the front office.

SCHOOL SURVEYS
All schools must now administer the National School Survey, developed by Education Services Australia (ESA) on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Education, as agreed by Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers for Education. There are three surveys in total, school parent, student and staff opinion surveys and these must be administered at least every two years commencing in 2014.

Last year’s survey had a lot of new questions but the School Board was determined to also include a number of relevant questions consistent with previous school surveys and the resulting data was compared to the results obtained from similar surveys conducted in 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012. The results have been tabled at School Board and P & C meetings, is available on the school website and a summary was also published in the school newsletter.

PARENT SURVEY
This is a brief summary of the returns from the 134 families who responded. This is well up on the 66 responses we received in 2012. We had our strongest responses from the Early Childhood and Junior Primary families (K-3) with these families providing 62% of the returns. The responses were overwhelmingly positive and the staff are also very appreciative of the large number of complimentary comments made by parents. Specific survey results were:

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**Survey Results Graph**

- **Teachers at this school expect my child to do his or her best:**
  - Strongly agree: 70%
  - Agree: 25%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 5%
  - Disagree: 0%
  - Strongly disagree: 0%

- **Teachers at this school provide my child with useful feedback:**
  - Strongly agree: 75%
  - Agree: 20%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 5%
  - Disagree: 0%
  - Strongly disagree: 0%

- **Teachers at this school treat students fairly:**
  - Strongly agree: 80%
  - Agree: 15%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 5%
  - Disagree: 0%
  - Strongly disagree: 0%

- **This school is well maintained:**
  - Strongly agree: 85%
  - Agree: 15%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 0%
  - Disagree: 0%
  - Strongly disagree: 0%

- **My child feels safe at this school:**
  - Strongly agree: 90%
  - Agree: 10%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 0%
  - Disagree: 0%
  - Strongly disagree: 0%

- **I can talk to my child’s teachers about my concerns:**
  - Strongly agree: 85%
  - Agree: 15%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 0%
  - Disagree: 0%
  - Strongly disagree: 0%

- **Student behaviour is well managed at this school:**
  - Strongly agree: 90%
  - Agree: 10%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 0%
  - Disagree: 0%
  - Strongly disagree: 0%

- **My child likes being at this school:**
  - Strongly agree: 95%
  - Agree: 5%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 0%
  - Disagree: 0%
  - Strongly disagree: 0%

- **This school looks for ways to improve:**
  - Strongly agree: 90%
  - Agree: 10%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 0%
  - Disagree: 0%
  - Strongly disagree: 0%

- **This school takes parents’ satisfiers seriously:**
  - Strongly agree: 95%
  - Agree: 5%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 0%
  - Disagree: 0%
  - Strongly disagree: 0%

- **Teachers at this school motivate my child to learn:**
  - Strongly agree: 95%
  - Agree: 5%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 0%
  - Disagree: 0%
  - Strongly disagree: 0%

- **My child is making good progress at this school:**
  - Strongly agree: 90%
  - Agree: 10%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 0%
  - Disagree: 0%
  - Strongly disagree: 0%

- **My child’s learning needs are being met at this school:**
  - Strongly agree: 95%
  - Agree: 5%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 0%
  - Disagree: 0%
  - Strongly disagree: 0%

- **This school helps me to support my child’s learning:**
  - Strongly agree: 95%
  - Agree: 5%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 0%
  - Disagree: 0%
  - Strongly disagree: 0%

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STAFF SURVEY
This is a brief summary of the returns from the 34 staff who responded. All teaching and non teaching staff were given the opportunity to respond anonymously and the results were again very positive.

STUDENT SURVEY
Sixty five students randomly selected from Years 5, 6 and 7 completed the online survey. The results below provided the staff with important feedback in preparing priorities for 2015.

Did you know….
that the North Beach Primary School’s Chess Club, thanks to coaches Sean Fuller and Mrs Barton, again participated in an Interschool Chess Competition at Dalmain Primary School in 2014?

that Olivia Bubb won the prestigious YOLANDE FRANKE MEMORIAL AWARD in 2014? This prize, for creative expression of the Declaration of Human Rights, was first awarded in 2010. It is in memory of Yolande Frank who died in 2009.

that our second P&C Family Camping Night was a tremendous success, with about 35 families camping under the stars on Friday 21st November?
Did you know….

that the P&C Wishlist resourcing is above and beyond that of “like schools” and really makes a huge difference for students at North Beach?

that the P&C purchased 30 ipads and the associated laptop, software/apps, licences, training, synch & charge cart, covers and initial configuration costs by the P&C in 2014 has meant the students are familiar with and benefitting from appropriate contemporary technology

that the P&C covers the cost of 10 half days teacher relief to release a staff specialist to provide extension maths in junior & middle primary?

SCHOOL BOARD
2014 was a year of both review and renewal for the NBPS School Board. Early in the year the members provided feedback for self reflection through the School Board Survey and then met with the independent reviewers for discussion, assessment and guidance. The self reflection which followed led to further alignment and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the School Board. In 2014 the board membership was due for renewal and we said farewell to inaugural Board members Ady Holt, Nat Fletcher and Kirsten Muir and thanked them for the amazing job they had done leading our Independent Public School journey to self management. We welcomed to the board Justine Rowe, Kelly Riddle and Brett Hazelden.

Analysis and Review of the NBPS Business Plan (2012-2015) was carried out in Semester 2 and the board then commenced on planning for the NBPS Business Plan (2015-2017)

SCHOOL PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (P&C)
The NBPS P&C has been instrumental in providing supplementary resourcing for many years and in 2014 the funding and support reached a new high.

The annual P&C wishlist is compiled after consultation with staff. It is the result of careful consideration of the student’s needs and a realistic evaluation of the P&C’s capacity to improve the school learning environment and opportunities. The “Standing Requests” (items 1 & 2) have been maintained over many years and are the only “given” items.

In 2012 the wishlist presented to the P&C totalled $35,000, of which $26,500 was approved initially and $3,500 was paid later to total $30,000.

In 2013 the wishlist presented to the P&C totalled $41,300, of which $26,500 was approved initially and $4,000 was paid later to total $30,500.

In 2014 our requests total $39,500.

2014 WISH LIST Items
1. To help ease the whole school computer / ICT lease for 2014, the P&C has previously agreed to an annual commitment of $5000.
2. Administration (Photocopying / Printing) expenses and consumables. This helps to cover school photocopying costs, pay for all P&C printing requirements and bank charges for the use of EFTPOS. $3300
3. To cover 50% of the Mathletics user licence for 12 months. $1700
4. To purchase 30 x ipads and the associated laptop, software/apps, licences, training, synch & charge cart, covers and initial configuration costs. $20,000
5. To cover 10 x half day teacher relief to release a staff specialist to provide extension maths in junior & middle primary. $2750
6. To further develop the collection of fiction & non fiction library books in the new library and sets of novels for guided reading. (esp. in Upper Primary) $3400
7. To provide a portable PA system which runs on mains/battery, wired and wireless microphones and Bluetooth / ipod connectivity. $2000
8. To provide a big screen LCD TV in computer lab, with HDMI connectivity to school computers and wall mount bracket. $1000
9. To provide a portable music speaker / docking station for 8.30am “It’s time” musical welcome. $200

The P&C also agreed to finance the resurfacing of the netball court. Thanks to this tremendous generosity the children now enjoy the benefits of a more appropriate and safer netball surface while shooting hoops, playing handball or chasing their mates.

Then there is the aesthetics, what a terrific difference the green surface and newly painted lines make to the outlook and I know the entire school community share the pride in this upgrade. The cost to the P&C was $22,810.

The contribution the P&C makes to the school is far more than financial. We enjoy a wonderful relationship with our P&C and work toward the common goal of making our school the best place for our kids at all times.
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014
2014 was an exciting and challenging year for students, staff and the school community. Many new initiatives presented opportunities for students to extend themselves and many traditional “North Beach” activities were enjoyed and appreciated.

The senior “ANZAC” choir, the Westcoast Songfest, the “North Beach Idol” performance and the Instrumental Music Night were again all outstanding in 2014. The biennial Science Week Tabloids and Challenge were huge successes, thanks to the student enthusiasm, terrific staff input and amazing parent support.

The Veggie Garden project or “The Patch” has continued to grow, with our Year 4 gardening and cooking sessions being a highlight for everyone involved. In 2014 “The Patch” Outdoor Classroom was also completed and this is now a much loved facility. Darren and Christine Harvey have continued to provide initiative, leadership and the efforts to ensure the Veggie Program is a magnificent characteristic of our school. Bush Buddies continues to be a very important program in the transition into schooling, for parents and students, as it promotes a working partnership through literacy and play sessions for 2 1/2 and 3 1/2 year olds.

Incursions, excursions, overnight stays and camps again provided our students with various opportunities and the Year 6 students especially appreciated the challenges presented at the Nanga Bush Camp.

There has been a concerted effort to achieve better results in some of our interschool sporting events. The “Running Club” has meant a fitter student body and as a result our children achieved greatly improved results in Swimming, Cross Country and Athletic events in 2014. The Gymbus/Dancesport programs, Active After School Communities and specialist sports coaches helped to further develop specialist skills in a wide range of physical pursuits.

Outstanding results such as winning much sought after scholarships, the Maths extension competition “Olympiad” and “Speak Up” awards highlighted the diversity of the academic achievements in 2014.

The “Kids Hope” program is run in conjunction with the North Beach Church and has made a significant difference in the social and emotional wellbeing of some of our students. The work our children do in supporting the Hoiker school in Laos continues to grow in importance and gives the students yet another opportunity to model the ethos we are so proud of at North Beach - “We Care”.

SCHOOL ENROLMENTS, ATTENDANCE & STAFF NUMBERS

Did you know…. that with the help of some fabulous volunteers, Mrs Nat Kettle has been busy mosaicking concrete pavers which we plan to use in our Nature Play Space?

that senior students have been participating in the 40 HOUR FAMINE for many years and now often substitute the deprivation of food with technology or furniture? They raise valuable funds for WORLD VISION.

that our Year 4/5 Choir spent a fantastic day performing at the HBF Arena in Joondalup as part of the Westcoast Songfest?
Did you know that the school ANZAC service has in recent years invited parents who work in the armed forces to address the school community and demonstrate our very close links to this special day?

That since 2011, the amazing Christine and Darren Harvey have been working with our Year 4 students in “The Patch”. Their purpose is to develop an understanding and appreciation of growing vegetables and nutritional eating. Since then they have initiated and installed further garden beds, reticulation, fruit trees and the outdoor classroom.

### STUDENT PERFORMANCE DATA

#### NAPLAN Relative Assessment

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1. Above Expected - more than one standard deviation above the predicted school mean
2. Expected - within one standard deviation of the predicted school mean
3. Below Expected - more than one standard deviation below the predicted school mean

No data available or number of students is less than 6
The proficiency bands are the levels of achievement and the percentages below indicate the number of students at North Beach PS who achieved at these levels in 2014 NAPLAN testing compared with students from “like schools”.

Did you know….

- that the Science Week activities include a tabloid day and a whole school challenge for students to design and build their own hypothesis and experiment?

- that Senior students have been attending the Nanga Bush camp for around 15 years and this event has proved to be an excellent challenge on our students bush skills, endurance and sense of humour?

- that a student designed ANZAC banner was financed by a community member and will now hold pride of place in future ANZAC Day services?
NORTH BEACH PRIMARY SCHOOL
FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS AT 4 FEBRUARY 2015

Did you know….

that the Running Club T-shirts are a prized possession for the dedicated girls and boys who have been punctual and consistent in their attendance every Tuesday and Thursday?

that the Gym Bus is the final reward session for students who have participated in a strenuous term of gymnastics skills and activities?

that the “Investing in our Schools” play equipment still attracts boys and girls from all years and encourages risk taking, collaboration and skill development in a safe environment?