The Leader In Me

1. Be Proactive
2. Begin with the end in mind.
3. Put first things first.
4. Think Win Win.
5. Seek first to understand.
7. Sharpen the saw.

**** STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE ****

Everyone involved in the school Dance Concert.
Our choreographer, Shannon Riley
Miss Weir, for her vision of the Missing Masterpiece.
The students, who smiled and enjoyed presenting their dances and for showing yet again that Dance is Cool!

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Cute Elf!

Dear Parents,
This is the final Buzz for 2014. What a year it’s been!

I am pleased to announce that after an exhaustive process, Mr Adam Baker is officially a permanent Assistant Principal of Beauty Point Public School. Mr Baker is a valuable asset to Beauty Point and a fabulous teacher who has been in the position of relieving AP for the last two years, and this confirms his suitability for the role.

Beauty Point Public School is officially a P3 primary school, having had in excess of 300 pupils for the last two years! The most important thing about this is that at P3 level, a Principal cannot be transferred into the school and all applicants for the Principal role must go through merit selection.
On a sad note, Mr Nicholls is leaving us to pursue other areas of teaching. Mr Nicholls has been on 1G this year and the children have blossomed under his tutelage. A truly gentle man who could not have been a better role model for these children. We will miss him but there is always an open door for him at Beauty Point.

Thursday’s Presentation Day was a great success. As I said in my speech, it was a celebration of the Beauty Point community and there were a number of things I hope can continue and become traditions. The first was having a parent speaker, and I thank Erica Gregan for pioneering this role. We have so many parents who achieve extraordinary things in their lives and from whom children can learn a lot, and I think this is a resource that the school needs to tap into. Another first was to have all the music for the day provided by the children of the school. For Thursday, Dominique prepared the trumpet players, Welvin prepared the Mentor’s Ensemble, and Will, Leo and Jess provided a treat with their individual performances, and I thank them for their time and wonderful performances. I have already lined up two acts for next year from amongst the children! Presentation Days can be controversial and for some children disappointing, but the teachers thought long and hard about their choices of recipients and the selection for Leadership Roles was, as one staff member pointed out, the most democratic one he has seen at a school.

There was another tradition we were a part of on Friday. Everybody noticed Mr Nicholl’s kilt. It is a tradition in his family, promoted by his grandmother that for special occasions his family honour the day by acknowledging their Scottish heritage and dressing appropriately. I thought this was a very touching thing to do and a lovely sign of respect and belonging. (I also love the fact that someone’s grandma still rules the roost!)

The Strategic Plan meeting on Friday was very good. Lots of discussions, ideas and interaction between parents. Two of our student councillors, Brooke and Hunter, advised and informed the parents of their views about things that occur at the school. Following that was the Parent Helpers’ morning tea, and again I offer my most heartfelt thanks from all the teaching staff for the contributions parents make in assisting in the classroom. So much of what we achieve is because of the help you provide, and the accessibility of the school and its teachers was one of the first ‘good’ points brought up by parents.

2015. Next year will see some changes at the school in regards to classes and teaching roles. I have always believed in being upfront and honest with parents, and you should expect no less. When it comes to the education of your children, there should be notice of what might eventuate and the reasons for this.

Much of what happens at a school depends on one thing- student numbers. **Student numbers determine the environment we construct.** In 2015 we are maintaining student enrolments of over 300, but the school is top heavy (due to more children staying) in the Primary section and we have had less Kinder enrolments. The formula for staffing is weighted towards younger students, and as a consequence of having less in the Infants (K-2) section and the retention of more Primary (3-6) we are losing a teaching position. We find ourselves in a position similar to 2013, with numbers just below retaining a 13th classroom teacher position.

There will be a composite class next year. Composite classes were used by opposing political parties to denigrate governments in the Education Portfolio, and often misrepresented with a negative connotation. Most of the teachers at Beauty Point have taught composite classes, and there have been a number of students at school who have been in one. A previous Principal, Graham Phillips, used to tell parents his daughter was in composite classes for her entire primary schooling and her University degree was testament there being no ill effect of this. The teachers of the grades where the composite class will be are already planning for next year and are aware of the challenges this poses, but also the opportunities they foresee in terms of groupings, mobility, extension work and learning support. They are excited by what they will be doing! Currently, classes are also being formed, and the teachers will think long and hard about combinations and
which students work best with other students. This is not a time to stress, but to have faith in the professionalism of the staff at Beauty Point and their professional judgements. Spending 6 hours a day with your children for an entire year gives us time to see who they best work with, who their friendship groups are and sometimes, who it’s best not to be with.

At the moment there is an outbreak of Chicken Pox in the Year 2 children, just what you need at the start of the festive season.
All Year 2 children going into Year 3 in 2015 need to fill in new bus pass application. If you can do it by Wednesday afternoon that would be great, otherwise there is a two week grace period at the start of 2015.

This year has been a fantastic one at Beauty Point PS. Lots of things were achieved of which we can be proud, but there are still many areas we need to work on, and goals to be set and achieved. We are very fortunate to have in the front Office Mrs Lopez, Mrs Lutze, Mrs McAnulty and Mrs Wiles to deal with the increasingly complex administrative work load and very often providing the icepacks for bumps and bruises! I have not worked with a finer group of teachers than the ones we currently have at Beauty Point, and the ‘feel’ of the school, made possible by the community of parents and students, is very positive. I’ll leave it up to the aide of Major Michael Jeffereys to sum up the year when she said, “What a beautiful school. What beautiful children.”
That’ll do it for me!

Have a happy and safe break!
Kevin Gallagher

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

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<th>DECEMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 15</td>
<td>Picnic and movie (K-2)</td>
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<td>Tue 16</td>
<td>Manly Waterworks (Yrs 3-6)</td>
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<td>Wed 17</td>
<td>Last day for students</td>
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<th>JANUARY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 28</td>
<td>Students Start (1-6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 28-Fri 30</td>
<td>Best Start Interviews (K)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 2</td>
<td>Kindergarten Start</td>
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<td>Wed 4</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival (2-6)</td>
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**CHILDREN RECEIVING AWARDS**

*Congratulations to all students who have received awards in the last fortnight!*

- Gold Card Josephine L 1G
- Gold Card Jarvis C 1G
**LIBRARY NEWS**

The school book fair was a huge success - Thank you to everyone who purchased a book or two!!

We made over $5000.00 dollars at the book fair which means we will receive $1600 worth of books for our school library.

Please return all overdue books back to library this week.

Have a safe, fun and relaxing holiday - Happy Reading.

See you in 2015.

Many thanks
Eliza Hall and Carole Brown

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**TEA TOWEL UPDATE**

Thank you to all the parents who supported our tea towel fundraiser. A staggering 265 were ordered and a profit of $1030.50 was raised for Hope Cambodia.

They will make a wonderful keepsake for children or the perfect Christmas present for friends and family.

Regards,
Robin Dunn

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**ETHICS CLASSES**

**MORE PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TEACH NEW ETHICS CLASSES AT BPPS**

We are delighted that Primary Ethics classes are now an option for all the children at BPPS from Kindy to Year 6 in 2015.

The philosophical ethics classes that make up the Primary Ethics curriculum use reasoned argument to discuss a vast variety of subjects, from knowing right from wrong and the value of friendship and sharing to the rights of animals and what is courage? They are also fascinating and fun.

We now need more teachers to keep the classes nice and small. Full training is totally free and available at Sydney and Macquarie Uni shortly.
Dear Parents & Carers,

2015 Enrolments
I have allocated places for all those families who handed in enrolments. If you would like your child to attend OOSH next year, we do have places left on all days.

Closing Dates
Please remember that we will be closed from the 20th December 2014 – 4th January 2015. We still have places left on all vacation care dates if you require care.

Lucie’s Farewell
As some of you may already know, this past year I have been applying to join the NSW Police Force. I have been offered a place to study at Goulburn Police Academy starting January 11 2015. My last day at OOSH will be during vacation care on January 9.

It is with great sadness that I will say goodbye to the Beauty Point Public School Community. I feel so blessed to have been given the opportunity to work at Beauty Point OOSH over the past 8 years. I have really grown as a person and professionally, after starting out as a casual and working my way up the ladder. I will miss all the beautiful children who come every afternoon, as well as all the parents I have gotten to know over the years.

I’d like to thank the Management Committee for giving me the opportunity to be the Director of OOSH at such a young age. They have always been so helpful and supportive over the years. I’d also like to thank all the teachers and staff of Beauty Point School for assisting me in so many aspects of my job.

Most of all - I couldn’t have asked for a better team of staff. I’d like to thank them all for being amazing assets to OOSH. Their vibrant personalities make coming to work so wonderful. I’d especially like to thank Fran Cook and Bec Burrowes for their commitment and for supporting me so much during my time here.

Fran will be taking over as Centre Director and Bec will remain the Assistant Director.

Please join me for a farewell / end of year party on the last day of school from 3:00pm onwards - Wednesday 17 December. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
New Holiday Workshops
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Art Classes, Weekend / After School
PAINTING SCULPTURE PRINTMAKING
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French Club at Beauty Point Public school
Immerse your child into a fun language

- Primary aged French Club
- Tuesday morning 8.00am to 8.45am
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- Lots of fun activities, drama, music & games
- Register now for 2015

The FUN way to become bilingual
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Tick every box this school holidays with a Sport and Recreation Camp. Our popular Kids’ and Family Camps offer a range of exciting activities to keep even the biggest kid entertained. Try your hand at over 40 different activities, including fishing, mountain biking, surfing, abseiling, crafts, kayaking, cooking and more, and relax knowing you’re in good hands. Kids’ Day Camps start from $47; Family Camp weekends start from $168 for kids and $238 for adults. Kids under five years attend free of charge. Cost includes accommodation, meals and activities.

Bonus! Residential Kids’ Camps include supervised transport from:

- Central Station, Sydney
- Penrith
- Lithgow
- Bathurst
- Orange
- Wellington
- Brooklyn
- Mooney Mooney.

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