



BEAUTY POINT BUZZ

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TERM 4 WEEK 5

12 November, 2008

Small School – Big Opportunities

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Our current School Value focus is "CARE"

Dear Parents,

What a night! What a venue! What an organising committee! And finally, what a fantastic result! Thank you to all members of the school community for the incredibly generous support of this year's major fundraiser for our school, "The Beauty Point Halloween Ball". The combined efforts of all parties has resulted in the staggering sum of \$62 400.00 being raised for our school. The outstanding success of the evening will see our goal of installing Interactive Whiteboards (IWBs) into all classrooms by the end of Term 1 next year being achieved.

Whilst speaking of school fundraising efforts. It is obvious for all to see, that after a number of years, the funds raised by the school community for the extension and refurbishment of the school hall have now provided a wonderful facility for the school.

This improvement was extremely evident at the first official function in the hall since its re-opening; last week's **Banner Presentation Assembly**. A large group of visiting parents and friends and performances by both our choir and Concert Band added to a splendid afternoon. Of course the stars of the assembly were our 12 proud "Banner" recipients. **Congratulations are extended to Felix, Emma, Tom, Wye-Yern, Cella, Oliver, Charlie, James, Charlotte, Jack, Bianca and Josh for being awarded their banner. Well done!**

Work on the hall is now complete. Last weekend, Helen Kirkman, Lucy Pollock and Monica Jacobs (and some of their children) did a great job with some **landscaping and planting** on the northern side of the hall. It looks very smart and I thank these dedicated mums for their work in this area. Over the Christmas holiday period, the car park is to be asphalted by the Department, so this will finish off the whole area very nicely.

Last Friday, Miss Weir and Year 4 students **Amy and Lucy** represented our school at the official opening of the **Mosman Combined Schools' Art Exhibition** being displayed in the Mosman Library. The girls were presented with books to the value \$200.00 for our school library. Students from Beauty Point who have their art work on display during the exhibition are **Daniel, Lachie, Annalena, Victor, Karolina, Julia, Olivia, Caitlin, Isabella, Pdraig, Madi and Daniel**. Due to the high quality of student art work submitted, our teachers had a very difficult task in selecting the works to be displayed. The exhibition showcases the work of local students from Kindergarten to Year 11 and is certainly well worth you visiting the library over the next week.

This afternoon the school hall was an area of high concentration and strategic thinking as 18 BPPS students took part in our school's **annual chess tournament**. At the time of going to print, matches were still underway, so the results will be published in the next "Buzz."

A valued service offered to families at Beauty Point is **Out of School Hours Care (OOSH)**. OOSH is run by a volunteer management committee of parents whose children use to centre and at this time, the committee needs your assistance. Two long term committee members, Mark Driessen and Su Cordiner are stepping down and they need to be replaced. We now have an excellent Centre Director in Meg Trop, but the centre requires a functioning management committee. If you are an OOSH user

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

*Congratulations to our Stage 2 students (Years 3 and 4) for their fantastic "Convict Day" held last Monday for the culmination of their studies on early settlement.
Well done also to Mrs Ewan, Ms Heath and Miss Paul*

parent, **please do not just assume that someone else will volunteer.** Why don't you consider putting your hand up to get involved at this time. I am very happy to speak with anyone who would be interested.

Attached to the front of this "Buzz", is some feedback provided by your parent representatives on the Beauty Point School Council following the recent survey of parents about aspects of our school. As you will see, a number of matters raised within the survey are already being actioned. Included among these actions are three classes 2C, 3/4E and 6G who are currently trialling a new technology based maths program known as "**Mathletics**" with a view to its introduction across the school in 2009.

The teaching staff and I are quite concerned that the **wearing of full school uniform, particularly the wearing of black school shoes**, has fallen away with some of our students,. The expectation of the school is quite clear that, with the exception of the designated sport day, 1 day per week, all students are required to wear their school uniform every day. This includes black school shoes and a school hat. Don't allow your child to tell you anything different.

The school's financial year ends on 30th November. Therefore I'd be extremely grateful if those few families who have yet to finalise their child's **school account** and have made no contact with the school in relation to this matter, please do so this week. This will allow Mrs Harvey to prepare our school financial accounts and statements.

I'd like to thank the Year 6 students, their parents, Ms Gilks, Mr Sharwood and the teaching staff who contributed to the success of last week's **school disco**. All the attending children had a most enjoyable time and their support of Year 6 will allow the group to purchase their farewell gift to the school.

In the last "Buzz", I asked that parents whose child is **not returning to Beauty Point** in 2009 notify me in writing by last Monday. For many aspects of school planning, especially staffing and class structure, this information is vital. Thank you to the families who have had the courtesy to formally advise me of their decision. For any families who have yet to afford the school this courtesy, please do so; **tomorrow!**

Invitations to parents for the **School Christmas Party** to be held in the home of Julie and Campbell Shepherd on 5th December have been sent home this week. Please note that this invitation is open to all parents of Beauty Point PS and is always a very pleasant occasion.

I closing, I wish to advise you that Angus Laing, our P & C President, is organising a **father and son camp** at Camp Yarramundi for a weekend in Term 1 next year. This event will be for boys currently in Years 2, 3 and 4; ie next year's Year 3 – 5. Further information will be sent home in the next fortnight.

Regards,

Graham Phillips
Principal

Proudly sponsored by



Mosman and Neutral Bay

P&C NEWS

Friday 5 December, **School Christmas Cocktail Party for parents**
at the home of Julie and Campbell Shepherd (**all welcome**)

Thanks to the hard work of our Year 2 parents and the generosity of our school community, we again had a very successful major fundraiser this year. Approximately \$62,000 was made on the night. Well done and thank you all. **Amazing. Stunning. Gobsmacked.**

Thanks to this we will now be able to bring the benefits of interactive whiteboards into all the classrooms at the school. As we don't have time to get them installed before the end of term and we don't want too much expensive equipment lying around through the holidays, they will be installed during the first term of 2009.

Now that the School Hall extension has been completed it was a pleasure to see how much more space there is for everyone at last week's Banner Assembly. The children aren't crammed together like sardines and there's plenty of space for parents and visitors to watch the proceedings in comfort. I found it hard to believe it was the same building. This project has been a long time coming, and finally we managed to get a great result for a reasonable price. The final chapter in this long story will be the P&C's attempt to reclaim monies that could be payable from the NSW Department of Education and Training, as this project was to be joint funded by both parties. In the meantime we can enjoy the use of a bigger school hall. Work is

also starting on tidying up and making new plantings in the area on the north side of the hall, ably led by Helen Kirkman whose energy and enthusiasm for the betterment of our school landscape never ceases to amaze.

NSW Government changes to the New South Wales Student Transport Scheme

The NSW government intends to introduce a flat fee for student use of public transport, irrespective of the distance travelled which unfairly penalises parents whose children travel to the local school. The Association of P&C's has started an online petition to campaign against this.

If you feel that your child, in attending a local government school should be able to obtain free access to school please complete the online petition at <http://www.pandc.org.au>.

Angus Laing
P&C President

SPORTING NEWS

Cricket – Played over two Fridays at Waverton Park, the first innings saw Beauty Point get away to a great start for the season, accumulating a very impressive 113 runs. After a shaky start, thanks largely to some very fast bowling from the NSDS openers, the innings was held together by Liam, with fine performances from Antoine and Kris in the latter part of the innings.

Week 2 saw Beauty Point attempt to restrict NSDS's run scoring, with bowlers such as Will, Joakim, Kris, Sam and Jack G doing a fine job, with Antoine, Liam and Ethan taking key wickets. Special mention must be made to the determined fielding efforts of Ben, Sam, Antoine and Jack G.

Overall, a fine performance from the BPPS Cricket team and a great win to start the season.
Jason Lawless (Umpire)

Super 8 Cricket

On Friday 31st October the Super 8 teams played North Sydney. The silver team was narrowly beaten and the aqua team won. Rafaela was our top scorer with 19 runs on the board with Maddy M and Carla both scoring 14 runs. Last week we had a forfeit so we played each other and had a great training session. The skills of all the children have greatly improved throughout the season. This week we will be playing Artarmon.

Sue Gilks
Cricket Coach

OzTag

Over the past two weeks our Oztag teams have played through some very warm conditions. It's pleasing to report that all three teams are making improvements on the field. There have been some wonderful tries scored by some of our up and coming Oztag athletes. As the weeks progress, we are learning more about the strategies used in the game such as spacing out along the field and driving forward with the ball. We look forward to the big clash between our own teams in the up coming weeks!

Danni Conway
Oztag Coach

SCIENCE NEWS



OUR WINNING SCIENTISTS FOR THE FORTNIGHT

are

Junior Scientist – Jack, Yr 2 and Senior Scientist - Lily, Yr 6

Mirelle Farrell

CHILDREN RECEIVING AWARDS

CHILDREN RECEIVING AWARDS

KJ	Grace, Ben, Elliot
KW	Sam
YR 3	Cain, Carla
YR 5	Harriet, Joakim, Sierra
YR 6	Will, Clemence, Honor, Tilly

CHILDREN RECEIVING BANNERS

YR 6	Will
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DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 4

NOVEMBER

Monday 10	-Convict Day for Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)
Wednesday 12	-School Chess Tournament
Thursday 13	-Mosman Council Youth Summit for Year 6
Tue 18-Tues 25	- TIM TAM night - Band and choir performances Book Fair in the Library - Buying Days Thurs 20 November and Mon 24 November Viewing Days - Tuesday 18 November and Wednesday 19 November

DECEMBER

Thursday 4	- Banner Presentation Assembly - 2.00pm
Friday 5	- School Christmas Cocktail Party for parents at the home of Julie and Campbell Shepherd (all welcome)
Monday 8	-School Concert, Matinee Performance at North Sydney Leagues Club - 12.00 noon
Wednesday 10	-Combined Scripture Service - 10.00-11.00am in the School Hall School Concert Evening Performance at North Sydney Leagues Club - 7.00 pm
Monday 15	-Year 6 Farewell Dinner
Tuesday 16	-Beauty Point Presentation Day - Middle Harbour Public School commencing at 11.30 am
Wednesday 17	-End of year picnic day K-2
Thursday 18	-End of year picnic day Yrs 3-6
Friday 19	-LAST DAY OF SCHOOL YEAR

JANUARY 2009

Monday 26	-Australia Day - Public Holiday
Tuesday 27	-School Development Day – staff return
Wednesday 28	-Years 1 - 6 return to school
Thursday 29	-Kindergarten children start school

LIBRARY NEWS



This term we will once again be holding a BOOK FAIR in the Library. This is where the students come and they may buy books for themselves, or to select Christmas presents for family and friends. Our school receives a 30% commission from all sales.

Viewing Days:	Tuesday 18 November Wednesday 19 November
Buying Days:	Thursday 20 November from 8.30 am Monday 24 November from 8.30 am

Parents are welcome to attend at any time with their children to view the Fair. Sales will however, only commence on Thursday 20th November, at 8.30 am. If parents are unable to come in to school, please enclose money in an envelope and the class teacher and myself will help your child to make a selection.

Project Hope is an aid organisation helping to put books into 3rd world countries.

Our school is collecting old books to send to Papua New Guinea. If you have any old books suitable for ages 0-18, please bring them to the library for packaging. **Books need to be delivered to school by Thursday 20 November at the latest.** PLEASE NO BOOKS AFTER THIS DATE. Encyclopedias, dictionaries and National Geographics are welcome.

Elizabeth Williams, Teacher Librarian

OOSH NEWS

Dear Parents and Carers,

As many of you have had a chance to see, OOSH is back in the Hall. We have a refurbished kitchen, new office and OOSH storeroom. Thanks to the OOSH Committee we were able to purchase new equipment and games for the children. The most popular are the Lego blocks; children are spending hours creating fascinating buildings and objects. I would like to appeal to anyone who may have some Lego blocks that they no longer use please donate them to OOSH. The more – the merrier as they say ☺ Your contribution will be greatly appreciated by our children! We also after any book shelves that would be placed in the OOSH office to accommodate our new games and toys.

Kind Regards, Meg Trop, OOSH Director

OOSH needs you.....



Due to the resignation of Mark Driessen, as Treasurer, and myself, as President, from the OOSH Committee we are urgently seeking volunteers. There are 3 positions available on the Committee and 2 need to be filled immediately. There are currently 4 members on the committee being Tracy Hibbert, Paula Baskus, Caroline Trotman and Kathryn Elliot. There is a great mix of skills between these individuals and the committee is run with a very collaborative approach so that no one position has an onerous responsibility.

The survival of OOSH depends on being able to maintain a quorum of volunteer parents to form the committee.

The very fact that you utilize the services of OOSH probably means that you are a working parent and therefore time is a precious commodity. All of the current committee members work full time hence their commitment to the running of the Centre is greatly appreciated. However we need at least 2 more parents to join the Committee as soon as possible. I have been on the Committee for 2 years and have found the experience to be very rewarding. It also gave me a chance to put a little back into this wonderful school that offers so many opportunities for our children.

If you are to assist please contact Graham Phillips who will welcome your involvement.

Kind Regards

Su Cordiner

BAND NOTES

We had a fantastic trial of 45 budding musicians at our instrument trial for the 2009 Training Band! Well done to all! Soon a letter will be sent home explaining the options and procedures for your child. Sign ups for Band and Bay Music Lessons will be within the first few days of Term 1, 2009. Go our new musicians!

Any questions can be directed to Helen Livesey or Brad Madigan.

Our fabulous TIM TAM NIGHT is less than 2 weeks away. Hope everyone is practising hard. There are options for solos and duets and we will also be combining the Bands for one item. Mark your calendars, buy your pack of Tim Tams to share and we will see you for a fun night on **TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25 at 7.00pm**. Any questions regarding TIM TAM night call Rebecca on 0412 064 242.

Rebecca and the Band Committee

COMMUNITY NOTES

FOR SALE

IKEA BUNK BED
LIGHT COLOURED WOOD
APPROX 3 YEARS OLD IN VERY GOOD CONDITION 200.00 including 2 mattresses
Need to be collected asap

ALSO

TRAMPOLINE FREE, NEEDS NEW SAFETY MATS
PLEASE PHONE ROBYN LOGIE 9960 1453 AND 0432 687 956



Mobile 0402 002 989
Email karenapw@gmail.com
Speech Pathology Service

Provided at my home on Sydney Road in Fairlight and school visits can be arranged.

My name is Karen Webster - I have over 20 years of experience as a children's speech pathologist.

I have a bachelor of science in speech pathology as well as a masters degree in speech pathology

I have owned my private practice for 14 years on the North Shore and recently am also working from home in Fairlight .

I work part time in the public health service as a children's speech pathologist.

I have seen a number of children at Beauty Point Public over a period of years including liaising with teaching staff. I see many children in this area from local preschools and schools.

NEW GOVERNMENT FUNDED FEE SYSTEM.

"THE ENHANCED CARE PLAN "

As from this year fees for the first 5 speech pathology sessions are usually claimable from Medicare Request a care plan from your GP along with your referral to speech pathology. Fees are usually also claimable long term from your medical insurance

Please contact me on my mobile or Email to discuss your child or make an appointment. You do not require a referral to speech pathology.

Thank you. I look forward to hearing from you regarding your Beauty Point child or their younger brothers or sisters.

DANZA & Performing Arts

Do You Love To Dance???
Classes Available
For
Children – Adults
In
RAD BALLE
MODERN
JAZZ
TAP
HIP HOP
Located in
Naremburn & Allambie Heights
For more Details
Contact Michelle on
0414 667 105
Or email
DANZA.PA@gmail.com
www.danza.com.au

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

FROM THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

PARENT FEEDBACK - NEXT STEPS

Many thanks again to all those who offered their feedback for the future directions of the school at the end of last term. As you know, we had a great response, and your thoughts have been discussed in depth at both School Council and staff meetings. We wanted to share with you some of the main findings from the feedback, and how we are planning to move forward. We want to thank the Principal and teachers for the open manner in which all ideas were discussed.

What do you love about the school?

Parents were very consistent in what they liked about Beauty Point School. They spoke warmly of the benefits of a small school, the sense of community and strong parental support. They loved the way that children from different year groups mix together like 'one big family'. Many praised the commitment of teachers, their energy and their approachability. Parents appreciated the wide variety of opportunities available to their children and the beautiful school campus.

What would you do differently?

When asked what they would like to see done differently at Beauty Point, some key themes emerged:

- **Italian:** Many parents felt that their children's conversational Italian was limited and that their children did not always enjoy the lessons. As a result, Mr Phillips is currently reviewing the foreign language teaching and will make a decision in early December regarding next year's provision.
- **Scripture:** Many parents would like to see multi-faith scripture or a non-denominational alternative (eg. ethics) to the current scripture lessons. Unfortunately, current government guidelines do not permit us to offer an ethics-based course. The School Council will be writing to the Director General of the NSW Department of Education and Training to express our dissatisfaction with this restriction. An alternative multi-faith scripture course may be possible, if an interested group of parents can develop a proposal for Mr Phillips. However, such a course would need to focus on approved religions and be taught by knowledgeable adults who can make a weekly commitment to staff the lessons.
- **Communication with parents:** Many parents asked for more rigorous and regular written communication from teachers. Teachers will ensure they produce an informative newsletter at the start of each term regarding the term's curriculum and learning goals. At the start of the year, parents will also be issued with foundation statements, which explain what children are expected to achieve in the key learning areas during the year. Parents will also be given an "Activities Directory". This will outline the wide variety of extra-curricular activities on offer within the school – you will have read about a few of these in last week's Buzz. Also, a few parents have asked for more frequent test and assessment results to be shared: they are welcome to approach class teachers regarding this.
- **Strengthening art, sport and music:** Several parents suggested that the school could consider strengthening its provision of art, sport or music. The school feels that it has many strengths in these areas already, and is concerned about overloading an already crowded curriculum.
- For example, there is a wealth of sports expertise amongst the staff team. Mr Phillips is the President both of the North Shore Zone PSSA and Sydney North Region Primary Schools Sports Association. As Sydney North Region Rugby Union Convener and coach he takes a team to the NSWPSA State Rugby Championships each year. Mr Jensen is Cricket Convenor for the North Shore Zone and Sydney North Region PSSA Golf Convener. Danni Conway has a strong background in softball, netball and soccer and coaches teams outside school in softball. Ms Gilks is the convener of North Shore Zone inter-school netball competition and is a keen player herself. Mrs Ewan has enthusiastically embraced the AFL's

modified North Shore PSSA competition for Year 3 and 4 students. Teams from Years 5-6 play interschool PSSA matches in cricket, Oztag, netball and soccer on Friday afternoons and Year 4 play AFL. The school's band program is thriving, involving many students from Year 3 – 6 in the Concert or Training band.

- Nevertheless, the school is currently trialling two ways of bringing in additional expertise: *Sport in Schools Australia* has been invited to run a pilot skills-based program; and Janelle Patchett has been hired to bring her arts expertise into Years 3-5 art lessons. Janelle has worked at the school for a number of years and is an extremely talented artist; we are sure she will enrich the children's learning experience in art. The school is also investing in a new selection of percussion instruments, to teach rhythm more effectively through the use of untuned percussion activities.
- **Playground supervision:** Some concerns were expressed at the number of teachers available during recess and lunchtime. As a result, teachers have now volunteered to provide double staffing during recess. Lunchtime staffing is felt to be adequate currently. It is believed among all teachers that the children have adequate time to eat their lunch and are usually itching to go and play, but please be assured that children who do not finish their meal in the 15 minutes allocated are able to continue eating under the big tree in the grounds.
- **Merit award system:** Some parents asked for more clarity regarding the handing out of merit awards. Mr Phillips and staff regularly discuss ways of applying merit awards more consistently across all classes and all subject areas. Teachers are also continuing to track students who receive merit awards.
- **Issues with bullying:** Several parents asked that the bullying policy is followed through more consistently. For example, discussion in year groups revealed a problem with some Kindy children being intimidated in the toilets. This has now been addressed with the relevant children, and teachers are patrolling the toilet areas more. However, the teachers were not aware of this issue and are concerned that parents and children had not reported this problem directly to class teachers. Please do let teachers know if any similar incidents do take place.

Ideas for the future:

Several ideas were offered, such as employing teaching assistants in classes, emphasising the international nature of the student population, increased innovation within the school curriculum, further grounds improvement, providing more lunchtime/ after school activities, and establishing a student council. These ideas will all be given proper consideration by the School Council and teaching staff and we are very grateful for your thoughts and input.

We hope that this gives you an overview of how the school is trying to action the priorities suggested by you as parents. Mr Phillips and the teachers have been happy to embrace your thoughts and you will have noted that many areas of concern are already being addressed. We hope that this is the beginning of an ongoing dialogue, and would love to hear from any parents who have thoughts or expertise to offer in any of the above areas.

Above all, we are keen to ensure that Beauty Point lives up to its motto – ***Small School, Big Opportunities***. We hope that this motto rings true for your child during their time at Beauty Point Public School.

From your School Council parent representatives:

Fiona Greet, Rosie Connor, Mark Little, Angus Laing