Term 4 week 10 2014
From The Principal
2014 – The Year in Review

Next Wednesday marks the end of the school year for 2014. It has been a wonderful year and many things have been achieved as a result. Over the year I have witnessed amazing academic growth and achievement and have had the absolute pleasure of watching 315 students from Preschool to Year 6 grow and learn each and every day. I am extremely proud of the efforts of our students and am thankful for the hard work and dedication shown by all of our teachers each and every day.

In 2014 we celebrated a very important milestone. We celebrated our 40 year anniversary. It was a time for us to acknowledge how successful our school has been and it gave us an opportunity to draw on the collective knowledge of our community and celebrate our success. The events showcased the many talents of teachers and students. Each time we showcase our school throughout the year my pride and passion for our school and community deepen.

Finally I would like to acknowledge all of the students within our school. They have worked hard each and every day and model our school motto of ‘Courage and Determination’. If we are to achieve a school of excellence which I truly believe we are capable of achieving, we can only do it together in a true partnership. If 2014 is an indication of our capabilities I truly look forward to seeing what greatness we can achieve in 2015. Merry Christmas and I hope you have a wonderful and peaceful time relaxing with your families over the break.

Staffing 2014

In 2015 a number of teaching staff will be moving on to other schools and opportunities. Sadly we say goodbye to Mrs Hayes as she makes her way over to Ambarvale PS. Mrs Johns will be moving on to Campbelltown Public School in a promotional capacity. Mrs Mat will be joining Glenfield Park School and Mrs Lowes is taking a tree change and will be moving to Dubbo South Public School. We are very fortunate to have an amazing staff at our school and I thank the entire staff for their dedication and commitment to making Briar Road a school of excellence.

Parent Help and Support

This year I am proud and warmed by the increase of parent involvement in a variety of ways from helping in classrooms through to performing for whole school events in things such as Christmas performances and assisting in and around the school on a regular basis. On behalf of the staff, students and wider community I thank all of the dedicated and committed parents who have helped our students achieve throughout the year.

Year Six Graduating Class

The 2014 graduating class have certainly set the bar high and have been outstanding role models for all students within our school. We will miss the many characters within Year 6 and they will certainly leave a hole here at our special place in 2015.

Late Returns 2015

Are you going on a holiday in late January and won’t be returning until after school commences? Have you let us know that you will be returning late? At the beginning of next year I will be required to send the Department of Education and Communities the number of children in each grade. The Department uses these numbers to calculate the number of teachers for our school. If you don’t let us know that you are returning late you may not be counted in the numbers and this could have an impact on classes and the number of teachers we will be allocated. Please call us if you won’t be here when school begins on Wednesday, 28 January.

Student Absences 2015

We have been advised by the Department that from the beginning of 2015 exemptions for holidays will no longer be given. All leave taken from 2015 will be recorded as leave days and will be reflected in the student’s records.

Presentation Day

What a fantastic celebration! Thank you to everyone who came along to help celebrate the achievements of our wonderful students. The whole event went very smoothly and I would like to give a special thank you to Mrs Hughes, Mrs Thompson and Mr Garcia for their superb organisation. Sitting on stage it was nice to see so many proud parents beaming at their children as they collected their awards. This is just one of a number of reasons why Briar Road is such a special school.

School Reports

Student reports will be sent home on Friday 12th December. Please take the time to read and explain aspects of these reports to your children. The teachers have spent many long hours assessing, evaluating and monitoring each student to develop these reports and we know that it will give you a strong indication of your child’s success throughout the year.

School Supplies

In 2015 the school will be supplying all students with exercise books and some limited stationery needs. Parents and carers of students in Years K-2 are asked to supply basic requirements such as rulers, eraser, coloured pencils, lead pencils, pencil case, glue sticks, sharpeners, textas, pens (for older grades) and replace these items throughout the year. Parents will be advised of any other requirements when classes are formed in early 2015.

Premier’s Reading Challenge

This year students at Briar Road participated in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. All children from Kindergarten to Year 2 (who were here from the start of the year) successfully completed the challenge, as did Katelyn Price, Grace Talaolaoa and Rhylke Connolly from Year 6. Special mention must be made to Sarah Hardy who received a gold certificate for completing the challenge for four years. Certificates will be handed out to infants students this week.

Safety and Security

As the holidays approach I would ask that community help to keep our school safe and secure by notifying the authorities should you witness any suspicious activity in or around our school. We are fortunate to have a state of the art security system, but community diligence always goes a long way in keeping our place safe and secure. The number for Campbelltown Police is 46201199 and the NSW DEC Safety and Security Unit 1300 880021.

Best wishes,
Ms T Anderson

Class Parties P-6

When: Friday 13th December

A note will be going home giving more information about what each child is asked to bring to the class party.

Mr Chomicz

Briar Road Preschool

Briar Road Public School preschool is located on the premises of the school grounds. Preschool is for children who are currently 4 and 5 and will be attending Kindergarten the following year.

If you or a friend have a child they would like to enrol for an amazing preschool experience for 2015, come and complete an application form either in the preschool or at the front office. Spaces are filling fast already for 2015! Look forward to seeing you at Briar Road Public School Preschool.

Awards Term 4 Week 8

| Banners         | Nayte, Justin D, Jayden G, Blaze T, Kenny L, Jason K, Paul K |
| Medallions      | Nayte, Curtis, Blaze, Ryan C, Jason K |

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Allison Cross, Teacher Librarian.

NATIONALITY: I was born in Australia, my mother is Aboriginal from the Kamilaroi Tribe and my father is from Tongatapu a small island in the pacific.

FAVOURITE SPORTS: I like a lot of sports, if I was to choose one it would be Rugby League.

FAVOURITE TEAM IN NRL: West Tigers.

FAVOURITE FOOD: would have to be fried fish with coconut milk and talo.

WHAT SOME OF THE THINGS YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR JOB: one of the things I like about my job is that it gives me the opportunity to meet and build relationship with people from all walks of life in the community; I get to yarn with community members and listen to their stories. I have a passion to help our students fulfil their potential.

I am honoured to be employed at Briar Road P.S, the staff and students have been very welcoming and also members of the community that I have met.

LAST AND FINAL WORD: just want to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas holiday as I look forward to meeting you all in the new year.

Road safety reminder for parents and carers these holidays

Remember when walking near roads, on footpaths, near driveways and in car parks always: hold your child’s hand, talk to your child about road safety and point out road safety dangers and differences in new environments.

The best way to keep your child safe on or near the road is to hold their hand. Talk with your child daily about road safety. For further information visit: http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/children/pedestriansafety.html