Fantastic Start to 2014
A very warm welcome to new families and staff at our school. We trust that you will have a very happy and rewarding time as part of the Northbridge Public School community. All children were placed in their classes on their first day back. I would like to sincerely thank all the teachers for their outstanding efforts in ensuring an amazingly smooth and happy beginning to the 2014 school year. Kindergarten have completed their Best Start assessment and have settled in brilliantly to school routines.

Ellison Public School
At the end of last year the school raised $995 from the annual Talent Quest showcase. These funds were donated to Ellison Public School where twenty four families from the school lost everything in the October 2013 bushfires. NPS has received the following words of thanks from Ellison Public: “Many, many thanks for your thoughts and kindness, they are very much appreciated! Please be assured that your kindness will go directly to assisting our people who have lost everything. Our very best wishes”, Rob Hutchinson, Principal

PBEL (Positive Behaviour Engaging Learners)
All classes have started discussing our three school expectations (rules) during the first weeks of school. One way of being responsible is by making sure all your belongings are clearly labelled with your name. This includes hats, jumpers and any classroom equipment. It also means getting to school in plenty of time to get organised for the start of the day. Students are learning about being respectful which includes having good manners both inside and outside the classroom. Being successful means trying your hardest and working to the best of your ability. It has been very pleasing to see that students have returned to school full of enthusiasm and keen to start learning again.

New Landscaping
We are most excited about the highly successful upgrade at the front of our school. Thank you to all the parents who have provided positive feedback but most importantly it is the delight expressed by the children that has been most rewarding. We now have an outdoor stage, an area for parent helpers to work with students, and a most conducive place to meet at the end of a busy school the day. Please enjoy the before and after images below.

Students of the week
Madeleine L (1AM)  
Evelyn E (1C)  
Eloise P (5F)  
Sarah B (5H)
**Northbridge Public School Staff 2014**

**Principal**  
Mrs Amanda Donlan

**Deputy Principal**  
Miss Kasey Henness

**Assistant Principals**  
Mrs Rebecca Oatley  
Miss Helen Finn (Relieving)  
Mr Trent Gardiner (Relieving)  
Miss Christie McMillan (Relieving)  
Mrs Hayley Reid (Relieving)

**Class Teachers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KF</td>
<td>Miss Helen Finn</td>
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<tr>
<td>KM</td>
<td>Miss Amy MacDonald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KP</td>
<td>Miss Jane McWilliams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KR</td>
<td>Mrs Hayley Reid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1AM</td>
<td>Mrs Melinda Barbarich (M-W) &amp; Mrs Amanda Royle (Th-F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Mr Jeremy Burke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1C</td>
<td>Mr Brett Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1R</td>
<td>Miss Rebecca Benrimoj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2C</td>
<td>Miss Kate Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2G</td>
<td>Mr Trent Gardiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2M</td>
<td>Miss Natasha Morrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2N</td>
<td>Mrs Tessa Napper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3DR</td>
<td>Mrs Angela Dobbins (M-W) &amp; Mrs Sally Robertson (Th-F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3O</td>
<td>Mr Mitchell O'Brien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3P</td>
<td>Mrs Ruth Parker</td>
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<tr>
<td>3W</td>
<td>Miss Jocelyn Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>4N</td>
<td>Miss Nicole Neville</td>
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<tr>
<td>4O</td>
<td>Mrs Rebecca Oatley</td>
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<tr>
<td>4T</td>
<td>Mr Jack Tolnay</td>
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<tr>
<td>5F</td>
<td>Miss Sally Fisk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5H</td>
<td>Mr Tim Haines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6S</td>
<td>Ms Jill Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6M</td>
<td>Miss Christie McMillan</td>
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**Teacher Librarian**  
Mr George Glasson

**Maths Kindy/Year 1 Japanese and ICT**  
Mr Takashi Ogawa

**Japanese Yrs 1-6**  
Larner Sensei

**Music K – 6, Yr 4 Maths**  
Miss Lynda Schorer

**Science K – 1**  
Mrs Elicia Sleet-Ford

**Science Yrs 2 – 6**  
Mrs Julie Vali

**Gifted/Talented**  
Mrs Debbie Pegolo

**Reading Recovery**  
Mrs Jo Alder

**STL**  
Mrs Sue Salter (Mon, Tues)  
Mrs Fiona Still (Wed, Thurs, Fri)

**School Counsellor**  
Mrs Rosemary Massey (Tuesday)

**Our School Ancillary Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Lisbeth Lowe (School Admin Manager)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Ann Turner (School Admin Officer)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Sue Baumann (School Admin Officer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Janet Crawford (School Admin Officer)</td>
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**School Learning Support Officers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Annie Holstock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Suzie Buttel</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Gemma Wilkinson</td>
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**General Assistant**  
Mr Geoff Lowe

**Band Director**  
Mr Dave Scarborough

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**School Captains & Prefects 2014**

At Presentation Day last term we announced our School Leadership Team for 2014. Congratulations to our Captains and Prefects.

**Captains** – Bella S and Zach K  
**Prefects** – Antonia W, William T, Emily M, William McD

**House Captains and SRC 2014**

The following children were elected as House Captains for 2014. Congratulations to:  
Barton: Ashleigh S and Ken K  
Hume: Maya W and Harry V  
Parkes: Georgina S and Charley L  
Sturt: Amelia H and Max C

These children and our SRC Representatives will receive their badges at a special Badge Assembly on Thursday 13 February 2014 at 2.40pm.
SRC Executive:
President: Lucy F, Secretary: Spencer B, Treasurer: Alec H

SRC Class Representatives:
1AM Luke M & Sienna B
1B Nina B & Henry C
1C Otilie E & Henry B C
1R Saskia B & Billy N
2C Chloe D & Charlie W
2G Jordan S & Thomas K
2M Lily R & Benjamin H
2N Mary M & Benny T
3DR Mia C & Joshua H
3O Patrick O & Bridgette D
3P Charlie W & Emilia W
3W Chloe A & Jackson C
4N Zoe M & Jack C
4O Ruby G & Harry F
4T India F & Lawrence C
5F Phoebe W & Jasmine T
5H Brooklyn C & Ayden R
6M Caroline B
6S Sophie W

Parent Information Night Monday 10 February
You are strongly encouraged to attend your child’s class Parent Information Night in their classroom. These sessions provide a vital initial communication between the school and home and are designed to give parents an awareness of how their child’s class will operate this year. This is not a time for individual interviews, as these are held in Week 10 Term 1. Children do not attend the evening.

6.30pm – 7.15pm Years 1 & 2
7.15pm – 8.00pm Kindy, Years 5 & 6
8.00pm – 8.45pm Years 3 & 4

School Fees
On Monday 17 February you will receive the School Class Requisites and Sports Costs green payment note. Payment will be due by Friday 28 February.

P & C Annual Child Enrichment Levy 2014
On Monday 17 February your child will receive an envelope containing the yellow P&C Annual Child Enrichment Levy for 2014. Please read this carefully and forward contributions to the P&C by cheque or electronic transfer by Friday 28 February.

Term Calendar
Last week our Term 1 Calendar was sent to all parents/caregivers. When receiving email attachments to your mobile phones please ensure that you scroll down to read the attachment. The Term 1 Calendar is attached to this newsletter. Please keep it handy for future reference.

Newsletter
You will receive a school newsletter via email on Thursday every even week during the term. Please make sure you check your emails. A request from the office: Please ensure you let the office know of any changes of address, phone numbers and email. If you receive the newsletter twice please reply by email giving the names and classes of your children to enable the school to update our records so that you receive the newsletter only once.

Swimming Carnival – Thursday 20 February 2014
Our School Swimming Carnival will be held at Ryde Aquatic Centre on Thursday 20 February 2014. All primary children (Yrs 3-6) and 8 year olds in Year 2, who can independently and confidently swim 50m, and would like to swim in the carnival will attend. Please note this is a compulsory school event for years 3-6.

Students will depart school by bus at 9.00am, so they must be at school at 8.45am. Students will return by 3.10pm. Children must wear their swimmers, house sports polo (or T-shirt in house colours). They will need to bring with them a towel, swim cap, goggles, food and drinks. House coloured swim caps are available to purchase at the School Office for $5.00. NO THONGS are to be worn. Please note there will be NO CANTEEN available for children on the day. All parents are welcome to attend the carnival. Entry cost is $2.50 for spectators, payable at the door. Parking is available, but there is a 4 hour limit. If you are able to assist with the carnival it would be greatly appreciated. No experience necessary. See Ms Smith on the day. Anaphylactic children must carry their Epi-Pens in their excursion bag.
New Chime Tower
During the summer holidays we had a wonderful new sound sculpture erected in the lower quad. The Chime Tower was designed and crafted by Kim Bowman using ironbark and stainless steel and the sound quality can produce a whole range of harmonics. The Chime Tower has been a fun and tactile addition to our school playground, engaging the students as they make lively and interesting music.

Peanut Butter and Nut Products
We have a number of identified children at Northbridge who experience severe allergies to peanuts and other nut products. These reactions can be life threatening. These children do have Epi-Pens for us to administer at school if they suffer a reaction. An anaphylactic reaction is not only distressing and frightening for the child involved, it is also distressing for other children. I seek your support in providing other fillings for your child’s sandwiches. I do realise that some children are allergic to other products. However, peanut allergy is the most common, often most lethal, and very often young children do not have a reaction until they commence school and come into contact with peanut butter. Please keep this in mind when preparing your children’s recess and lunch.

Anaphylaxis – Just a reminder for parents with anaphylaxic children – please make sure you check dates on your Epi-pen and update accordingly. Epi-Pens should be kept in the front pocket of your child’s school bag. An additional pen is to be held at the School Office.

Absences from School
As part of our duty of care it is essential that we have an accurate record of where your child is at all times. If your child is absent from school please ensure that you send a note to the teacher on the first day that your child returns to school explaining the absence. If your child arrives at school after the 9.10am bell this is considered a ‘Partial Absence’ and a note is also required. Similarly if your child is leaving school early it is essential that the class teacher receives a note explaining their early departure. Red absence notes are available on the counter near Sick-Bay. Please hand these to the class teacher. If your child has head lice or a contagious illness, please inform the school office on 9958 7122. It is not necessary to ring the office regarding short term illnesses.

Assembly
Assemblies are held on Thursdays 2.40 - 3.10pm. Classes take turns in sharing their work and performing musical items on these occasions and we also recognise our Student of the Week awardees. Occasionally we have special assemblies that involve all or most of the school population. Parents are most warmly welcome to join us for assembly. However, we do ask that you respect that this is a formal school occasion and the focus is on the students. Parents are encouraged to arrive punctually, have their mobile phones switched to ‘silent’, bring something to keep toddlers occupied, and not to leave before the end of assembly. Please check calendar for dates as assembly is not every week.

Think Outside the Wrapper
With the multitude of fantastic lunchboxes and reusable containers with built-in compartments now available, our ability to attain a school lunch that requires no wrapping or packaging has eased. With waste quickly filling our current tips and those wrappers that ‘got away’ before being thrown in the bin choking our waterways, this is indeed a good thing. As part of Northbridge Public School’s goal to reduce unnecessary waste and to raise awareness with our students of the need to reduce waste, not just recycle it, we will be implementing ‘Nude Food Mondays’ and ‘Wrap Free Wednesdays’ from the start of the year. On these days students must strive to have morning teas and lunches that do not have any wrapping or packaging. This is a great opportunity for your child to work with you in preparing their school lunch and an ideal platform for discussing the importance of minimising one’s footprint on our precious Earth. As in the past, I know these days will be enthusiastically embraced! Mrs Vall, Science Teacher

Chess Club
Chess coaching for students at Northbridge Public School is held on Thursdays from 8:00am – 9:00am in classroom 3P. Term 1 lessons will commence on 13 February, 2014. Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment. Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practise games. Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop. If your child is interested in taking part, you can collect an enrolment form from the school office, or email enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au for a copy. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.
Parking Alert
Access to school: **No child or parent should use the driveway to the teachers' carpark when entering or exiting the school.**

For those new to the school and as a reminder for the rest of us, set out below are some of the guidelines for pick up and drop off times at the school. If you could please discuss these guidelines with your children and other carers that would be appreciated and complying with these simple guidelines will make the parking at the school safer for our children and more efficient for everyone:

1. Do not turn from Sailors Bay Rd into the scout hall driveway. For those travelling east along Sailors Bay Rd the most efficient way to access the Pick-Up and Drop-Off zone is to turn left at the roundabout at Woonona Rd just before the school, travel to the end and turn right at the T intersection into Narooma Rd and then travel to the end and turn right on to Sailors Bay Rd.
2. It is against the school rules to turn into the school driveway. This driveway is for the use of school staff only.
3. If you are using the Pick-Up and Drop-Off zone, arrange for the children to meet at a pre-arranged spot on the footpath next to the Pick-Up and Drop-Off zone. If the children and you both know where they are to wait there is no confusion and the pick-up can be very quick once the children have spotted you.
4. Agree on an approximate time that you will pick the children up so that they know how fast they need to move from their classroom to the Pick-Up zone.
5. Please do not leave your vehicle, unless you are assisting your child to safely get themselves in and out of the car. Try to avoid using this area to talk to other parents, even if you are in the car.
6. Parking at the Pick-Up zone is for no more than 2 minutes at a time. If any of your children are not at the arranged pick-up point when you arrive and you have waited 2 minutes please move on. A loop as described in paragraph 1 takes no more than 2 minutes. It is appreciated that this option is not as convenient as sitting and waiting in the Pick-Up zone but it does ensure that there is a continuous flow of traffic through the Pick-Up zone, which is beneficial to everyone. If your child knows where to wait there is no risk to their safety.
7. If there are no spots available in the Pick-Up zone when you arrive please drive the above-mentioned loop and come back to the Pick-Up zone to park. Do not encourage children to get into the car whilst it is on the street in the traffic flow.

**Amanda Donlan**
Principal

**K-6 Club**
A warm welcome to you all from the K-6 Club. For those families and carers who are new to the NPS community, the K-6 club is a parent committee responsible for co-ordinating social fundraising activities, facilitating parent communications and encouraging social opportunities that bring the school community together.

Each class has two class parents. If you are interested in being a class parent please complete the form available in the classroom at Parent Information night next Monday. It is a really rewarding experience with duties including:

* Supporting your teacher and the children of the class as s/he directs.
* Disseminating K-6 information to your class.
* Organising all class functions for the year.
* Arrange or assist with outfits for concerts etc.
* Arrange birthday and Christmas gifts for your teacher.

Each grade group is responsible for co-ordinating a special event within the school, as outlined below.

* Kindy - Working Bee (on the NPS grounds) 2.00-4.00pm Saturday 22 March
* Yr 1 - A FUNRaiser event for the children - date (TBA)
* Yr 2 - Major FUNraiser event for the parents tentative date Saturday 24 May
* Yr 3 - Bi-election day Cake Stall - Saturday 12 April
* Yr 4 - K-2 Grandparents Day and Morning Tea - Friday 4 April
* Yr 5 - End Of Year Cocktail Party - date (TBA)
* Yr 6 - Year 6 Graduation Day Dinner - 15 December

The K-6 Club office holders for 2014 are:
President - Alexandra Warrener
K-6 inventory - Nicole Mattani
Secretary - Sarah Foster
Treasurer - Hannah Baring

**Your K-6 Committee**
**Uniform Shop**
The uniform shop will be open at the usual times of Tuesday 8.45am – 9.45am and Thursday 2.45pm - 3.45pm. Mail order forms are available outside sickbay or can be downloaded from the school website. We are well stocked in second hand items, particularly boys winter uniforms. As always we welcome any clean pre-loved garments – good quality is imperative as damaged clothing does not sell.

**Canteen News**
Welcome back to Canteen for 2014 - we opened on the 4th February and we're looking forward to a great year. As always, we'd love to see some more helpers in the canteen so if you think you can help out please contact us at northbridgecanteen@gmail.com. Don't worry if you're new - our lovely roster coordinator Rod does a great job of pairing people up with someone more experienced.

**Canteen Committee Meeting**
Interested in canteen? Want to find out what it's all about? Have suggestions for improvements, ideas, feedback. Please come along to our committee meeting. We're not looking to hand out jobs (though we can find one if you'd like to help!), just to get the input from more of the school community. Join our friendly committee members in the school staffroom on Wednesday 12 February in the staffroom.

**MunchMonitor**
It is VERY IMPORTANT for you to update your child's class in MunchMonitor (all children have been placed in a default "UPDATE" class). It is impossible for the volunteers to get the lunches into the right bag if they don't know the classes. Even if you're not planning on ordering any time soon, please log in and update your child's class as it will affect events later in the year such as sausage sizzles.

If you're new to the school, simply log on to http://www.munchmonitor.com with the user name nps and the password munch2063 and follow the easy steps to create an account. All canteen lunch orders need to be placed through MunchMonitor - cash is only accepted at recess for over the counter sales.