Fantastic Start to 2015
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 2015 school year. Kindergarten students have completed their Best Start assessments and have settled in brilliantly to school routines.

Vale Carol Muiznieks
It is with great sadness that I inform the school community of the sad passing of Carol Muiznieks on 17 December 2014. She passed away after a valiant battle with cancer. Mrs Muiznieks had been Assistant Principal at NPS for 11 years. Her funeral was held on 24 December and attended by many staff, a recognition of the high esteem in which she was held. One of Mrs Muizniek’s passions was our Japanese program and we will be placing a plaque in Carol's memory in our Japanese garden.

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, food containers and any classroom equipment. It also means getting to school by 9:00am to have 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.

Kindergarten 2015
Congratulations to our Kindergarten students and their parents on a brilliant first week of school. Our new students are independently bringing in their bags, wearing their school uniform with pride and being here by 9.00am. What a magnificent start!
Northbridge Public School Staff 2015

Principal
Mrs Amanda Donlan

Deputy Principal
Miss Kasey Henness

Assistant Principals
Mrs Rebecca Oatley
Mrs Kimberly Long
Miss Helen Finn (Relieving A.P.)
Mr Trent Gardiner (Relieving A. P.)
Miss Christie McMillan (Relieving A. P.)

Class Teachers
KF  Miss Helen Finn
KS  Mrs Joanna Savage
KL  Miss Eleanor Lamb
KB  Miss Loren Bignell
1M  Miss Amy Macdonald
1N  Mrs Tessa Napper
1L  Mrs Kimberly Long
1R  Mrs Sarah Robertson
2M  Miss Natasha Morrow
2G  Mr Trent Gardiner
2J  Miss Jessica Jefferys
2C  Mr Brett Court
3DC Mrs Angela Dobbin (M-W) & Mrs Sophie Curtis (Th-F)
3O  Mr Mitchell O’Brien
3T  Mr Jack Tolnay
3MB Mrs Anastasia Martinez (M-W) & Mrs Melinda Barbarich (Th-F)
4N  Miss Nicole Neville
4O  Mrs Rebecca Oatley
4H  Mr Tim Haines
5P  Miss Haylee Pyke
5W  Miss Jocelyn Williams
5/6M Miss Christie McMillan
6S  Ms Jill Smith

Teacher Librarian
Mrs Ruth Parker

Maths, Japanese – Kindy and Year 1
Mr Takashi Ogawa

Japanese Yrs 2-6 (M-Th)
Larner Sensei

Music
Mrs Sally Robertson (Wed-Fri)

Maths, Science K – 2 (Wed - Fri)
Miss Kath Watson

Science Yrs 3– 6 (Mon-Wed)
Mrs Julie Vali

Reading Recovery
Mrs Jo Alder

LAST (Learning and Support Teacher)
Mrs Fiona Still (Tue,Wed,Th)
Mrs Debbie Achurch (Mon/Fri)

School Counsellor
Mrs Rosemary Massey (Tues/Fri)

Ancillary Staff
Mrs Lisbeth Lowe (School Admin Manager)
Mrs Ann Turner (School Admin Officer)
Mrs Miriam Thurston (School Admin Officer)
Mrs Janet Crawford (School Admin Officer)
Mr Geoff Lowe (General Assistant)

School Learning Support Officers
Ms Annie Holstock
Mrs Suzie Buttel
Mrs Gemma Reinart

Band Director
Mr Dave Scarborough

School Captains & Prefects 2015
At Presentation Day last term we announced our School Leadership Team for 2015. Congratulations to our Captains and Prefects.

Captains  Elizabeth M and Aaron H
Vice Captains  Elle F and Toby M
Prefects  Marianna D and Pamela A

House Captains and SRC 2015
The following children were elected as House Captains for 2015. Congratulations to:
Barton:  Dillon H and Megan P  Hume:  Lily L and Jackson H
Parkes:  William L and Tui B  Sturt:  Mitchell B and Jacqueline H

These children and our SRC Representatives will receive their badges at a special Badge Assembly today at 2.40pm.
SRC Executive:
Tara W, Sam L and Toby H

SRC Class Representatives:
1M Coco C and Angus B
1N Harry C and Millie Firth
1L Alex J and Isaac M
1R Hannah A and Charlie O
2M Zoe W and Sebastien C
2J Jack L and Halle D
2G Poppy W and Lachlan I
2C Anabelle M and Toby L
3MB Ella F and Aiden L
3DC Sophie M and Daniel L
3T Emeline D and Finlay T
3O Caitlin M and Jett H
4O Harriet T and William P
4N Maatai B and Maia H
4H Imogen M and William W
5W Paris L and Sebastian T
5P Kate H and Harry W
5/6M Victor L
6S Bethany R

Library Monitors

Band Captains: Chloe E and Ayden R

Year 6 Buddies

Thank you to our Year 6 Buddies for a brilliant start to the school year. This year during lunchtime our Year 6 Buddies are rostered on the Kindergarten/Year 1 playground. Our students wear their high visibility vests so they can be easily recognised by the younger students. In this role they are assisting their younger peers transition to school and the bigger playground. They help the students in many ways including teaching them how to play games, listening to stories about their day, guiding them in making new friends and establishing a mentoring relationship.

Parent Information Night Monday 9 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 Weeks 10 and 11 in 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
Next Monday 9 February you will receive the School Class Requisites and Sports Costs (green payment note). Payment will be due by Friday 27 February.

P & C Annual Child Enrichment Levy 2015
On Monday 9 February your child will receive an envelope containing the yellow P&C Annual Child Enrichment Levy for 2015. Please read this carefully and forward contributions to the P&C by cheque or electronic transfer by Friday 27 February.

Term Calendar
The Term 1 Calendar is attached to this newsletter. Please keep this 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 19 February 2015
Our School Swimming Carnival will be held at Ryde Aquatic Centre on Thursday 19 February 2015. All primary children (Years 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 $2.80 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.

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 anaphylactic 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.

Waste Reduction Initiatives at Northbridge
As part of the school’s initiative to promote sustainability, both students and teachers are encouraged to participate in ‘Nude Food Mondays’ and ‘Wrap Free Wednesdays’. On these days students and teachers bring recess and lunch that has been packed in reusable containers and choose food items that have not been pre-packaged, therefore creating no waste. Families are encouraged to become involved in this school-wide initiative and use it as a platform for discussing the importance of sustainability and ensuring resources that we use today will be there for future generations. Mrs Vali. Congratulations to all the children who have wrap free food every day.
**Library News**

The school library offers a modern, bright and airy space where the students can read, share and discuss quality literature. This is all thanks to extensive renovations that were undertaken in 2014. Library lessons have now commenced and students have begun to enthusiastically borrow books from a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction on offer. We are very lucky to have such a supportive and helpful parent community and as such are requesting parent assistance in the library. Jobs will include book covering (can be done at home or in the library), book repairs and shelving. If you are interested and can spare some of your time please contact the office with your details and I will be in touch. *Mrs Parker Teacher Librarian*

**Chess Club**

Learn to be a chess champion! Coaching for students at Northbridge Public School is held on Thursdays from 8:00am – 9:00am in Classroom 3DC (Mrs Dobbin/Mrs Curtis). Term 1 lessons commenced today. 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 practice 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. 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 you and your children 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 Sunday 15 March
* Yr 1 - A FUNraiser event for the children - date TBA
* Yr 2 - Major FUNraiser event for the parents - date TBA
* Yr 3 – State election day Cake Stall - Saturday 28 March
* Yr 4 - K-2 Grandparents Day and Morning Tea - Friday 27 March
* Yr 5 - End Of Year Cocktail Party - date TBA
* Yr 6 - Year 6 Graduation Day Dinner - 14 December

**Your K-6 Committee**

**Uniform Shop**
Welcome back to all families from the volunteer uniform shop committee!
Our opening hours continue as the same:

Tues 8.45-9.30am
Thurs 2.45-3.30pm

Please note if you are unable to visit us in the shop you can always place an online order that will be delivered to your child’s classroom. We are now up and running with school24 as our online sales provider. If you do not already have an account established please register at [school24.com.au](http://school24.com.au). Just follow the prompts to provide your child’s name and class. If you already have an account and your child listed as a student please ensure you update the details to their current 2015 class. Any orders that do not have current details will not be processed.

Now is a great time to donate any uniforms that no longer fit. Any clean second hand garments are welcomed at the office or bring them into the shop during opening hours. Please remember if they are scrappy they don’t sell so please do not leave garments with significant stains or signs of wear and tear. This includes shorts where the elastic has gone. Thank you. **The Parent Uniform Committee.**

**Canteen News**
As announced last year, School24 has replaced MunchMonitor for online school ordering. This includes both the Canteen and then Uniform Shop (and will also cover other events such as Band Sausage Sizzle). School24 is already taking orders for both Canteen and Uniform Shop:

> **If you are already registered PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CHILD’S CLASS. WE CANNOT deliver lunches or uniforms if classes are not updated.**

If you have not, please register with School24 using the information attached.

When placing your first canteen order, you will need to choose a "payment plan". The options are a charge of $0.25 per order/ per child, or an "unlimited" option of $8.80/year for a family. Note that MunchMonitor had a similar usage fee of $2.50/term.

Please find attached a one page "getting started" document as well as a user guide for the Canteen and the Uniform Shop.

Please send any questions or feedback to [michelle.moss@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.moss@gmail.com) or contact School24 directly.

We're looking forward to a great year in the Canteen this year. **Canteen Committee**