

Term 4 | Week 11 | Tuesday 16 December 2014



## Message from the Principal

### Value Add Project—Schools striving for excellence

Last week I was excited to hear that Pretty Beach Public School had been identified as 1 of 20 schools who had achieved beyond the expected level of growth in NAPLAN 2010 – 2014. The school was invited to partake in the “High Value Add” Schools Research Project.

Congratulations to our motivated staff members who have been pivotal in bringing about improved student outcomes each year from 2010-2014. This research project will highlight factors that were the key drivers of the observed improvement over the past few years.

Today we welcomed Sophie Clarke - the R/Policy Officer in the Evaluation Unit at the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation in Strategic Information and Reporting for the Office of Education, to our school. Mrs Simpson, Mr Podmore and I met with the research representatives to answer in depth questions about the school's excellent delivery of curriculum matters. Our strengths in Literacy and Numeracy data, student engagement in school activities as well as extracurricular opportunities and community involvement were dually noted.

The school has also been recognised by Karen Jones, Director Public Schools NSW Gosford Network of Principals as having developed a school culture that is focused on teaching and learning...

*Pretty Beach Public School's commitment to the improvement of student outcomes has been well noted. It has been acknowledged that the analysis of school-based and system-wide student assessment data has impacted upon school priorities, targets and teaching and learning programs to improve student outcomes. The success of leadership and the strength of management as well as the teacher's knowledge of curriculum and strong collaborative skills have been reflected by the school's invitation to participate in the High Value-Add Schools Research Project that*

*includes schools that have been exceeding growth expectations on an annual basis since 2010.*

These words reflect my strong belief and vision for Pretty Beach PS, its dedicated staff, students who have a thirst for learning and our supportive community. At Pretty Beach we strive for Excellence, Respect and Responsibility.

### 2015

Next year we are looking at extending our strings program, as well as adding drum lessons to our curriculum. Extracurricular activities will include: Music theory lessons, drama lessons and possible woodwind lessons. So watch this space next year!

### Season's Greetings

#### End of year

To our students and families who are leaving us in 2014, we thank you for the privilege of sharing in your learning journey so far and we wish you all the best in the next exciting chapter of your lives.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank Mrs Jane Rees for her professional leadership over the past 15 months. Thanks also to our wonderful community for their support throughout 2014.

Have a happy, safe, relaxing and enjoyable holiday.

See you in 2015!

*Deborah Callender - Principal*

