Welcome to 2015

Welcome Back
A very warm welcome back to school to all our students and families for the 2015 academic year. A special welcome also, to new students and their families. We hope that your time at Bexley North PS is both enjoyable and challenging. And a special welcome back to Mr Deighton - it's great to have you back at BNPS

Class Formation
This week we retained our 2014 classes while we organise the classes for 2015 and will be moving into the new organisation in Week 2. This is a most demanding task and a great deal of thought goes into class placement of students. The Department of Education and Communities allocate teachers on the total enrolment numbers of the school, not on a grade basis. This year we look to form 20 classes, however, until the Kinder enrolments are finalised, we will stay in the 2014 holding pattern. I thank you for your understanding and support in our co-ordination of this process.

Keeping in Touch
As a school community, we have endeavoured to find effective means of communicating news, events and general information to everyone. One way of doing so is through the school newsletter which is published every fortnight, with a diary alert on the even week. You can arrange to receive the newsletter by subscribing to it through the school website/newsletter tab and using your email account. Another way of keeping in touch with school news is by installing the SKOOLBAG App on your smartphone. To install it, just look for our school name "Bexley North Public School" in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, and install it on your smart phone. This is free!

PSSA @ BNPS
Once students are in Year 3, they have the opportunity to try out for a place in the Primary Schools Sporting Association (PSSA) teams representing BNPS. Each year, Bexley North Public School participates in the Botany Bay Zone Summer and Winter Competitions as it is one of the fifteen schools in the sporting zone.

We encourage all students to try out for a place on a team even though the younger students may not have a strong understanding of the sport involved. Our teaching staff put on their coaches caps and work to develop their teams for the interschool competition. It is important to realise, however, that the try-outs are very competitive - it is the sporting gifted and talented aspect of school and not all students can be selected.

PSSA Summer trials began today, Friday 30th January and will continue next week. The Summer Sports are Boys Softball, Girls Softball and Cricket.

Junior and Senior teams are comprised from years three to six. Students selected will receive a permission note with further information next week. This note, together with $90 transport levy, is due by Wednesday 11th February if the selected student wishes to participate.

Students will be notified of Winter trials which will be held later this term. The Winter Sports are Netball, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer and Oz tag.

Our website and newsletter formats are evolving. Look out for the changes.
Thank you to Nathan Watson (Tyler Yr 5) for the time he has put into organising and looking after the newly laid grass near the COLA. The grass that was once there had turned to dust and on windy days we had dust flying around not unlike an old western movie. The area looks wonderful now with the lush, green grass.

The back oval was aerated by Andy Kerr (Alexander Yr 4, Anastasia Yr 3) using the new aerator obtained with money from a grant received last year. Topsoil and a good dose of water were added and with time and love, we hope to see the grass there flourish.

We aim to improve and maintain the grounds wherever possible. Anybody with ideas for improvements or who would like to help in any way is welcome to contact the school on bexleynthp.school@det.nsw.gov.au.

Thank you to all those who put in time over the school holidays to improve our school grounds.

**Nature Playground**

You may have noticed some changes and new colour in the area outside BASC... we invite you to check out our new Nature Playground.

Did you know that research has shown that many benefits come from nature playgrounds and learning spaces, which include:

* Children who play regularly in natural settings are sick less often, as nature can help to stimulate children's immune system as well as their imagination.
* Children who spend more time outside tend to be more physically active and less likely to be overweight.
* Children who play in natural settings are more resistant to stress; have lower incidence of behavioural disorders, anxiety and depression; and have a higher measure of self-worth.
* Children who play in natural settings play in more diverse, imaginative and creative ways and show improved language and collaboration skills. Single use, repetitive play equipment becomes boring quickly.
* Natural, irregular and challenging spaces help kids learn to recognise, assess and negotiate risk and build confidence and competence.
* Children who play in nature have more positive feelings about each other.
* Bullying behaviour is greatly reduced where children have access to diverse nature-based play environments.
* Symptoms of Attention Deficit Disorder are reduced after contact with nature.

The nature playground is made from natural and/or recycled materials, helping to promote sustainability and showcasing how discarded materials can be re-used for another purpose.

The nature playground project was driven by BASC Coordinator Rebecca Patterson, who we congratulate for her hard work and dedication to making this improvement to the school grounds. We would like to extend our sincerest thanks.
to all of the little helpers listed below who contributed to the project, making sure this amazing nature playground was ready just in time for the start of the 2015 school year. Great job!

**A big thank you to...**

| Mrs Sheinwald (for letting us create the garden) | Nicky Stephens  
Luke Stephens  
Adam Stephens | Alexis Arriagada  
Phil Arriagada  
Ben Arriagada  
Kane Arriagada |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Audrey Bjazevich  
Luke Bjazevich  
Callum Bjazevich  
Connor Bjazevich | BASC Staff:  
Rebecca Patterson  
Melissa Ryan  
Luke Skorin  
Andrew Kikilas | David Patterson  
Louise Patterson  
Rachel  
Holly  
Kayla  
Ellie |
| BASC Children present on the pupil free days | Vince (BNPS GA) | Andy Kerr |
| BASC Parent Committee:  
Susan Skuodas  
Michael Thompson  
Renae Nottage  
Audrey Bjazevich  
Nancy Taylor  
Antonella Darcy | Companies:  
Jacksons Nature Works Beverly Hills (fence, decking and steps)  
Don Cornell’s Bexley (tyres)  
Sydney City Mulch and Tree Services (tree stumps)  
Sydney Plant Nursery Anangrove (plants) | |
Parliamentarians of Bexley North Public School
2015

Being the Prime Minister of Bexley North Public School, I would like to tell you how exciting it is to be a minister of BNPS. This school has acted like a second home to me since my first day of kindergarten. I have made so many friends and learnt so much from my experiences in this school. I cannot convey how terrific it is to be a leader here at BNPS.

Here are the Parliamentarians of 2015

Prime Minister: Peter Papoulidis

Welfare Minister: Angie Belin

Deputy PM: Samuel Woodhouse

Welfare Minister: Mali Lindberg

Culture Minister: Stephen Koutzoumis

Sport Minister: Elena Costas

Technology Minister: Sebastian Meijome

Environment Minister: Mariam Abbas

Communication Minister: Charlotte Enright

I think I am speaking for all the ministers when I say that I hope this year will be the best year yet, at this school and that we will all try our hardest to improve BNPS as much as possible.

PLAY THE GAME
Congratulations to Gabriel Tentomas who recently won a competition where he was nominated as one of the children to escort the soccer players onto the pitch at the commencement of the Korea Republic versus Iraq, Asia Cup Semi Final match on Australia Day. Gabriel also invited his school and soccer buddy Callum Bjacevich to share the special occasion.

What a great experience!