

# Neutral Bay Public School

## Annual Report



2016



2730

## Introduction

The Annual Report for 2016 is provided to the community of Neutral Bay Public School as an account of the school's operations and achievements throughout the year.

It provides a detailed account of the progress the school has made to provide high quality educational opportunities for all students, as set out in the school plan. It outlines the findings from self-assessment that reflect the impact of key school strategies for improved learning and the benefit to all students from the expenditure of resources, including equity funding.

David Shuster

Principal

## School contact details

Neutral Bay Public School

Ben Boyd Rd

Neutral Bay, 2089

[www.neutralbay-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.neutralbay-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

[neutralbay-p.School@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:neutralbay-p.School@det.nsw.edu.au)

9953 1798

## Message from the Principal

In 2016 we had much to be proud of at Neutral Bay Public School. The students achieved outstanding success in academic areas and in a wide range of extra curricula activities.

A number of new initiatives were introduced in 2016. These included Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) which at Neutral Bay we titled the *The Bay Way*, additional extra curricula opportunities for the students, parent information sessions on mathematics, NAPLAN, cyber safety and building resilience; Parent Focus Groups and a community information night. I am appreciative of the staff and parent support for these initiatives.

The staff of our school participated in a range of professional learning activities throughout the year, mainly in their own time. Our school committed \$155 000 for this purpose knowing the direct benefit professional learning has for student learning.

In NAPLAN, our Year 3 students performed at a high level in all aspects of literacy and numeracy. An average of 49% of students achieved the highest band, an average of 40% of our Year 5 students achieved the highest band in all aspects. For growth from Year 3 to Year 5, 67% of students exceeded expected growth and 68% of our former students exceeded expected growth from Year 5 to Year 7.

We are extremely appreciative to our parents and community. To our classroom helpers and those who help with canteen, P&C, School Council, committees, scripture, ethics, library, excursions, sport, uniform, concerts, band, classroom learning programs and special days– we value you very much for your assistance and what you added to our school.

To our staff, which includes teachers and administration, I thank you for your dedication to our profession, the commitment you made to the students and the extra work you undertook which added to our school.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school's achievements and areas for development.

David Shuster

Grad. Dip. (Ed.Admin.), B. Ed., Dip. Teach.

### Neutral Bay Public School Parents and Citizens Association Annual Report 2016

The Neutral Bay Public School P&C Association is pleased to report on its activities for 2016. The NBPS P&C Association fulfills a number of functions in the school community:

- as a forum for parent and school executive interaction and consultation with regular contributions from both the Principal and Deputy Principals;
- the provision of funding for key educational and other resources, through fundraising activities;
- operating two businesses which provide key services to the Community (Canteen and Uniform Shop);
- organising the school bands and the orchestra;
- organising social and other events for school families and the community;
- representing the views of, and providing information to the school community;
- representing parents in interactions with our broader local community.

**Funding projects:** The primary objective of the P&C's fund raising activities is to direct funds raised towards enhancing the educational outcomes and experience for all students at the school. Accordingly, in the year to 30 September 2016, the P&C Association contributed \$190,000 to the ongoing support of the Science and Music programs at the school (\$110,000), additional IT resources (\$30,000), and support of learning support programs (\$30,000). This year, the P & C also funded the purchase of a portable stage to enable the school to host all of school assemblies (\$20,000). Voluntary contributions are the backbone of the P&C's fundraising efforts and I would like to thank the very generous support of all Neutral Bay families in 2016. I am pleased to report that we raised \$101,405 from voluntary contributions, representing an 18.7% increase over 2015, with a participation rate of over 60%, up from around 50% in 2015.

**Fundraising and Events:** NBPS enjoyed another year of strong fundraising and events. The highlights for 2016 included the Twilight Picnic, Welcome Drinks, Grandfriends' Day, Mother's and Father's Day and the Federal Election BBQ. These were all great community events, supported by our parent body and our wonderful group of volunteers. Our highlight event for the year was the 'Bay Fair' Carnival, a celebration of the sense of community in our school. Amid glorious sunshine thousands attended the event and we exceeded our fundraising target, raising an impressive \$41,000. The collective effort of the teachers and parent volunteers must also be recognized. It is the efforts of all those involved in the Carnival Committee that delivered beyond expectations and ensured that the Carnival was a great success.

I want to thank the entire P&C Executive team for their tireless efforts during 2016. I wish the newly elected representatives of the P&C in 2017 all the best in their roles. Finally, on behalf of the parents and the entire NBPS School Community, I wish to acknowledge the incredible contribution that the teaching and administrative staff continue to deliver for our children, the students. Accordingly, the P&C extends its gratitude for their amazing professionalism, dedication and support in 2016.

*Ben Keen – President of the P&C Association*

### School Council 2016

The NBPS Council is a formal body comprised of parents, teachers and community representatives, including our local state member. Our objective is to assist the school with the wider issues of the school. Less profile than the P&C, the Council tends to work more closely on matters such school budgets, school physical environment, safety, school curriculum and academic results, plus working with the Department of Education to assist the school to deliver the highest quality education possible. Specifically, we directly assist the School Executive to deliver the School Plan. The major focus of the School Council during 2016 was to develop a future plan for the school. It was developed by working closely with the Principal, Deputy Principal and the Department of Education. The final plan was completed and submitted in October to the Department of Education formally requesting funds to extend the school. The plan includes a building that is likely to be 2/3 stories to maximise use of land, an additional 14 classrooms, room for After School Care, a larger hall, purpose built areas, toilets, library, canteen, staff room, entry and exit plans and a new administration area. The plan, extending to 2041 and accommodating an additional 325 students provides a working platform of the physical school taking into account future demographics and community considerations. The plan has become urgent due to the increasing pressure of student numbers especially over the next five years. The detailed plan was presented to the NSW Minister for Education and the School Education Director. Council is pleased to confirm the request to upgrade our School to meet future demographics has been received and acknowledged by the Department of Education. The School Council will continue to press this issue. Council are very pleased that through the combined efforts of many, and a visit by the then Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Mr. Andrew Constance, North Sydney Council has agreed and has commenced upgrading the safety on the intersection of Ben Boyd Road and Yeo Street. North Sydney Council and Road and Maritime Services (RMS) have been extremely proactive, with works due for completion early 2017. Other key issues being addressed by Council include teacher parking and future allocation. This will remain a key issue for 2017.

*David Jackson – President of the School Council*



# School background

## School vision statement

To develop each child's academic, social, creative, physical, cultural and citizenship ability.

## School context

Neutral Bay Public School is situated close to the busy commercial area of Neutral Bay, a lower north shore suburb of Sydney. Established in 1886, the school has a long tradition of academic excellence and is proud of its outstanding reputation for providing quality programs in all curricula, as well as in technology, public speaking, creative arts, band, sport and student leadership. Opportunity classes for academically able students in Years 5 and 6 offer extension and enrichment programs. In a safe and caring environment, all students are encouraged to be active participants in their learning. The school values, develops and maintains strong partnerships with parents and the community. The school is well supported by an active P&C and a committed School Council.

## Self-assessment and school achievement

### Self-assessment using the School Excellence Framework

This section of the Annual Report outlines the findings from self-assessment using the School Excellence Framework (SEF), school achievements and the next steps to be pursued.

The SEF results were determined from bodies of evidence gathered as part of an external validation process and from the on-going evidence from the impact milestone evaluations detailed in the School Plan.

### Learning

The results of this process indicated that in the School Excellence Framework domain of Learning, our school is sustaining and growing in the elements of learning culture, assessment and reporting and student performance measures. We are delivering in well being and curriculum and learning.

Our efforts have primarily focused on learning, well being and curriculum. The following strategies have occurred as part of this focus.

- A demonstrated commitment to catering for individual learning needs through practices such as differentiation and individual learning plans.
- Student achievement levels in the aspects of writing, counting sequences, place value and multiplication and division were plotted into the *Planning for Literacy and Numeracy* (PLAN) data base.
- All grades K–6 implemented a writing project which included reflection on best practices, use of rubrics, consistency in teacher judgement practices and setting of student learning goals.
- All staff implementing *Focus on Reading* comprehension strategies.
- Year 2 staff implementing *Teaching Early Numeracy* (TEN) strategies.
- All staff implementing NSW syllabuses for Australian Curriculums in History and Geography and scope and sequences designed. (Refer to School Plan)
- All staff implementing *Positive Behaviour for Learning* (PBL) program.
- All staff implementing appropriate learning adjustments and utilising the Learning and Support Team (LaST) to assist targeted students.

### Teaching

The results of this process indicated that in the School Excellence Framework domain of Teaching, our school is sustaining and growing in all of the elements which are effective classroom practice, data skills and use, collaborative practice, learning and development and professional standards.

Our efforts have primarily focused on collaborative practice and effective classroom practice. The following strategies have occurred as part of this focus.

- Staff engaged in professional learning on the use and understanding of the Literacy and Numeracy continuums and plotting of data into PLAN.

- All staff engaged in professional learning in the understanding and implementation of Focus on Reading.
- Stage 1 staff engaged in professional learning in the understanding and implementation of TEN.
- All staff engaged in professional learning in the understanding and implementing of PBL.
- All staff engaged in professional learning for the NSW syllabuses for the Australian Curriculums in History and Geography.
- All staff engaged in the analysis and use of data to determine future learning and teaching.
- All staff involved in collaborative planning days held at the end of each term focusing on developing differentiated units of work in literacy and numeracy.
- All grades K–6 implemented a writing project which was collaboratively planned, grade presentation to staff and involved instructional rounds.
- All staff involved in developing Professional Development Plans (PDP) which were framed on Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.

## Leading

The results of this process indicated that in the School Excellence Framework domain of Leading, our school is sustaining and growing in management practices and processes. We are delivering in leadership, school planning, implementation and reporting and school resources.

Our efforts have primarily focused on providing leadership to engage the community, support early career teachers, aspiring leaders and professional learning for the staff. Our school has a Leadership Team who meets on a weekly basis to discuss, plan, engage and inspire all of our staff and community. Our parent bodies of Parents' and Citizens' Association and School Council are also part of this process. The following strategies have occurred as part of this focus.

- Extensive consultation with parents and community.
- Extensive range and involvement in parent educational sessions.
- Development and resourcing of early career teacher skills and understandings.
- Development and resourcing of aspiring leaders' skills and understandings.
- Engaging staff in a range of relevant professional learning linked with their PDPs and resourcing these activities.
- Developing appropriate procedures for gathering student information such as PLAN and *National Consistent Collection of Data* (NCCD).
- Providing appropriate resources for recording student information through software such as Sentral.
- Providing appropriate resources such as Learning Support Officers to assist in implementing individual learning plans.
- Providing appropriate resourcing for teaching and learning activities.

Our self-assessment and the external validation process will assist the school to refine the strategic priorities in our School Plan, leading to further improvements in the delivery of education to our students.

For more information about the School Excellence Framework:

<http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-the-department/our-reforms/school-excellence-framework>

## Strategic Direction 1

### Drive Our Educational Practice

#### Purpose

To aspire for all students at Neutral Bay Public School to be successful, confident and creative learners.

#### Overall summary of progress

Teachers understand continuums and are using PLAN to plot student progress in identified aspects. This data is enhancing the monitoring and planning for student progress. Key staff have been trained to implement Focus on Reading and TEN across all stages. This is to be continued in 2017. These programs have been implemented in response to student data.

All teaching staff trained to implement the Geography syllabus in readiness for 2017. Whole school and grade meetings focussed on the development of skill based scope and sequence charts to provide useful planning documents for the future with literacy clearly embedded into all learning. The school now has practical, detailed documents for each grade which focus on cross curricular perspectives and concepts students will need to succeed in the 21st century.

#### Progress towards achieving improvement measures

Improvement measures (to be achieved over 3 years)	Progress achieved this year	Funds Expended (Resources)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increase the percentage of students in the top band of NAPLAN writing:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>–Year 3 from 41% to 45%</li><li>–Year 5 from 22% to 30%</li></ul></li><li>Increase the percentage of students achieving greater than expected growth in NAPLAN writing:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>–Years 3–5 from 80% to 85%</li><li>–Years 5–7 from 66% to 70%</li></ul></li></ul>	<p>All teachers trialled units in Geography. Geography Scope and Sequence K–6 developed and implemented.</p> <p>Selected staff trained in <i>Focus on Reading</i>. Training commenced for all teachers K–6.</p> <p>All Year 2 teachers trained in TEN program.</p> <p>Strategies implemented in all Year 3 classrooms. Training commenced for all Year 1 teachers.</p> <p>100% of students plotted in PLAN for some aspects of numeracy, aspect of writing and comprehension.</p> <p>Instructional rounds trialled and implemented across grades.</p>	<p>Employment of LaST 0.5</p> <p>Employment of SLSO 114 hours week</p> <p>\$16145 per term (LaST)</p> <p>\$15572 per term (Tied SLSO)</p> <p>\$24187 per term (SLSO)</p> <p>\$10202 per term (EAL/D)</p> <p>Employment of SLSO for 22 hours week \$30000</p> <p>Employment of specialist science and music teachers with P&amp;C contributing 50% funds \$120 000</p>

#### Next Steps

- Extend training and understanding of TEN program to all Year 1 teachers.
- Plot into PLAN 100% of students in all aspects of numeracy and literacy.
- PLAN data to be analysed and used for reporting and programming.
- Standardised tests to be implemented for benchmarking all students in spelling, numeracy and reading.
- NAPLAN data to be analysed to determine future focus areas for development and improvement.

## Strategic Direction 2

### Promote Well-being and Citizenship

#### Purpose

To develop Neutral Bay Public School citizens who live fulfilling, productive and responsible lives.

#### Overall summary of progress

Our school implemented Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) in 2016. The implementation was led by a motivated committee. In 2017 our school will be implementing phase 2, which focuses on classroom systems. In association with PBL social skills programs were implemented in all grades.

Professional learning in the National Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) was undertaken by all teaching staff and information provided to parents through the school newsletter and P&C meetings. This in association with enhanced Learning and Support Team processes provided enhanced monitoring and planning of student progress. This enabled us to improve early identification and intervention to provide stronger, more focussed support to individual students in partnership with parents.

#### Progress towards achieving improvement measures

Improvement measures (to be achieved over 3 years)	Progress achieved this year	Funds Expended (Resources)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 80% of students, staff and parents meaningfully connect with student well-being programs in our school.</li><li>• 90% of students show positive behaviours for effective learning.</li></ul>	<p>Framework of expectations, teaching matrix, associated lessons, new award system and structure for dealing with incidents was implemented. PBL Committee met on a fortnightly basis to plan, evaluate and adjust the framework. The PBL SET tool was administered with our school achieving 100% success rating. Parent meetings were provided on PBL, resilience and cyber bullying. 109 Principal Awards were presented.</p> <p>Tell Them from Me Student Survey indicated: (a) Areas of strength: increase in sense of belonging and advocacy, decrease in bullying. (b) Areas of development: positive homework behaviours and learning climate.</p> <p>Selected school staff undertook professional learning in Peer Support.</p> <p>NCCD adjustments and student support information recorded on Sentral. Based on Sentral data 95% of students demonstrated positive behaviour on an on-going basis.</p>	

#### Next Steps

- Implement PBL (phase 2).
- Professional learning of the Well-being Framework.
- Continue to build on the improved learning and support processes and strengthen the support for gifted and talented students.
- Develop a deeper understanding of NCCD adjustments to benefit students at our school.
- Explore Peer Support.

## Strategic Direction 3

### Productive Partnerships

#### Purpose

To maximise learning opportunities for all stakeholders through meaningful links with the community, other schools and organisations.

#### Overall summary of progress

There has been enhanced opportunities to increase the involvement of parents in the school and in particular the learning of their children. The school-home learning partnerships have enabled parents to help their children to continue learning and practical student skills from school to home.

Communication has been enhanced between school and home leading to high levels of volunteering in many and varied aspects of school life. This includes canteen, uniform shop, band, P&C fundraising activities, school productions and school information sessions. In addition, the School Plan and School Excellence Framework were meticulously prepared and successfully delivered with full consultation of all stakeholders.

#### Progress towards achieving improvement measures

Improvement measures (to be achieved over 3 years)	Progress achieved this year	Funds Expended (Resources)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parent attendance at P&amp;C meetings will increase by 20%.</li><li>• Participation in school surveys will be at or above a response rate of 40%.</li></ul>	<p>Parent attendance at P&amp;C meetings is the same or higher than 2015 leading to continued funding of important teaching and learning programs. All vacant positions in the P&amp;C were filled for 2017 and beyond.</p> <p>A successful forum for school community members was held in 2016 leading to improved relationships with neighbours, especially in relation to noise. A focus group of randomly selected parents was held, providing in depth feedback on the school's programs. This led to improved ways to welcome new families to the school.</p> <p>The outdoor stage has provided opportunities for more parents and community members to attend several important assemblies.</p> <p>The Harbourside network continues to provide learning and collaborative opportunities for Principals, Deputy Principals, and Early Career Teachers, librarians, sport organisers, music teachers and EALD teachers.</p> <p>The School Council has made many links with the community for the safety and planning of buildings for a growing student population.</p>	

#### Next Steps

- Enhanced networking between schools for classroom teachers with the Harbourside Learning Community.
- Continued opportunities to enhance communication between school/home.
- Development of a social media presence for Neutral Bay Public School.
- Develop opportunities with the School Council to enhance further aspects of the 'Strengthening Family and Community Engagement' document.



Key Initiatives	Impact achieved this year	Resources (annual)
<b>English language proficiency</b>	LaST used to plan, implement and monitor classroom based projects aimed at professional development of staff to assist targeted students. SLSOs used to implement programs to assist targeted students. Individual, small group, in-class support provided for a range of students with special needs and EAL/D students.	\$10202 per term (EAL/D) Employment of EAL/D teacher 0.4
<b>Low level adjustment for disability</b>	LaST used to plan, implement and monitor classroom based projects aimed at professional development of staff to assist targeted students. SLSOs used to implement programs to assist targeted students.	\$16145 per term (LaST), \$15572 per term (Tied SLSO) \$24187 per term (SLSO)  Employment of LaST 0.5 Employment of SLSO 114 hours week
<b>Socio-economic background</b>	SLSOs used to implement programs to assist targeted students.	\$493 Employment supplement of SLSO  • Socio-economic background (\$0.00)
<b>Support for beginning teachers</b>	Early Career Teachers were part of Middle Harbour Early Career Teacher network. These teachers were provided with additional release time, mentoring and support to seek and maintain their accreditation.	\$13378 per term  • Support for beginning teachers (\$10 000.00)

## Student information

### Student enrolment profile

	Enrolments			
Students	2013	2014	2015	2016
Boys	427	450	463	484
Girls	461	448	501	502

### Student attendance profile

School				
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016
K	96.9	96.2	96.9	95.1
1	95.5	96.6	95.9	94
2	95.5	95.6	96.1	94.5
3	95.5	96.3	95.6	95.9
4	94.9	96	96.1	94.5
5	97	96.5	96.2	94.8
6	94.7	95.6	95.4	93.7
All Years	95.7	96.1	96.1	94.6
State DoE				
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016
K	95	95.2	94.4	94.4
1	94.5	94.7	93.8	93.9
2	94.7	94.9	94	94.1
3	94.8	95	94.1	94.2
4	94.7	94.9	94	93.9
5	94.5	94.8	94	93.9
6	94.1	94.2	93.5	93.4
All Years	94.7	94.8	94	94

### Class sizes

Class	Total
KB	24
KR1008	24
KL	24
KK	24
KD	22
KSV	24
1A	25
1M	26
AR0042	24
1K	23
1E	26
1CR	26
2R	28
2M	28
2J	27
2E	27
2C	29
3P	26
3J	28
3D	27
3C	26
3R	29
4M	28
4I	27
4H	25
4C	28
4R	28
5L	26
5K	25
5T	30
5B	25
5R	24
5M	23
6K	26
6C	31
6S	27
6R	25
6P	26

## Workforce information

### Workforce composition

Position	FTE*
Principal	1
Deputy Principal(s)	2
Assistant Principal(s)	4
Classroom Teacher(s)	37.32
Learning and Support Teacher(s)	0.5
Teacher Librarian	1.6
Teacher of ESL	0.4
School Counsellor	0
School Administration & Support Staff	5.87
Other Positions	0

\*Full Time Equivalent

There are no teachers identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

### Teacher qualifications

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

### Teacher qualifications

Qualifications	% of staff
Undergraduate degree or diploma	100
Postgraduate degree	30

## Financial information (for schools fully deployed to SAP/SALM)

### Financial summary

The information provided in the financial summary includes reporting from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016.

	2016 Actual (\$)
<b>Opening Balance</b>	569 227.26
<b>Revenue</b>	7 071 244.33
(2a) Appropriation	6 191 593.99
(2b) Sale of Goods and Services	5 840.15
(2c) Grants and Contributions	852 510.86
(2e) Gain and Loss	0.00
(2f) Other Revenue	7 630.00
(2d) Investment Income	13 669.33
<b>Expenses</b>	-7 246 613.87
Recurrent Expenses	-7 405 348.99
(3a) Employee Related	-6 324 043.76
(3b) Operating Expenses	-1 081 305.23
Capital Expenses	158 735.12
(3c) Employee Related	0.00
(3d) Operating Expenses	158 735.12
<b>SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	-175 369.54
<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	393 857.72

### Financial summary equity funding

The equity funding data is the main component of the 'Appropriation' section of the financial summary above.

	2016 Actual (\$)
<b>Base Total</b>	5 839 715.32
Base Per Capita	51 921.67
Base Location	0.00
Other Base	5 787 793.65
<b>Equity Total</b>	163 753.14
Equity Aboriginal	0.00
Equity Socio economic	1 971.70
Equity Language	64 577.89
Equity Disability	97 203.55
<b>Targeted Total</b>	80 884.03
<b>Other Total</b>	2 601.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	6 086 953.50

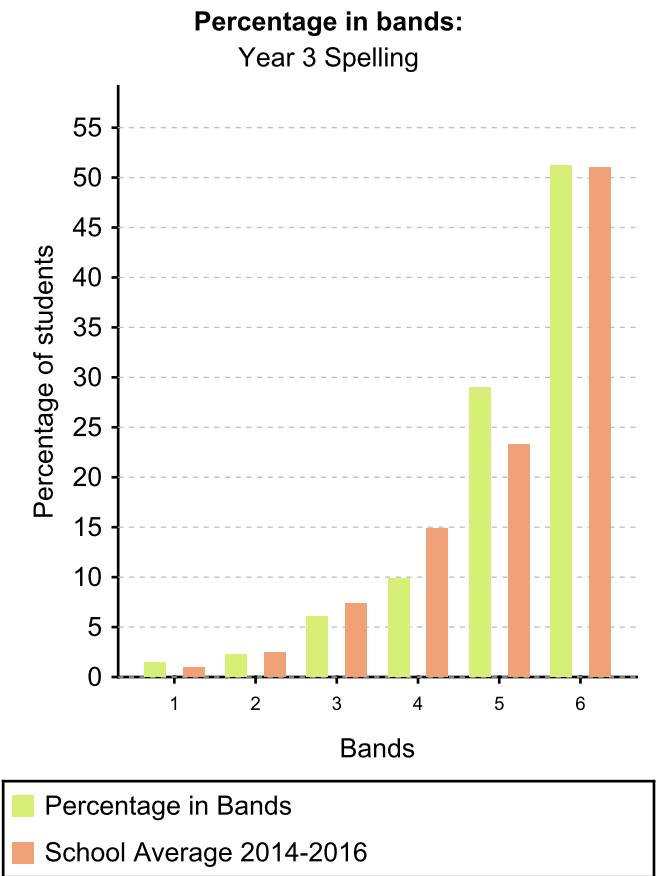
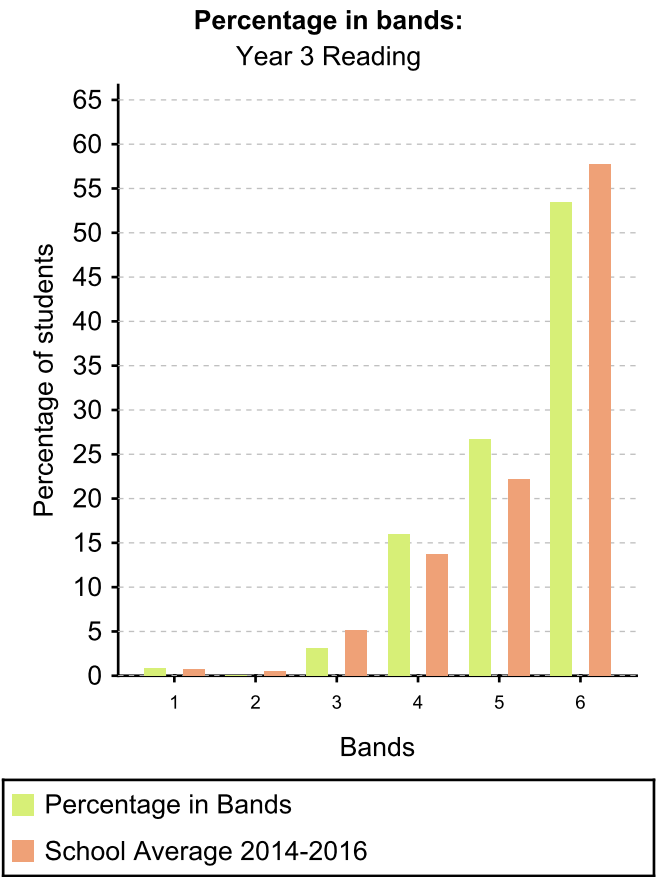
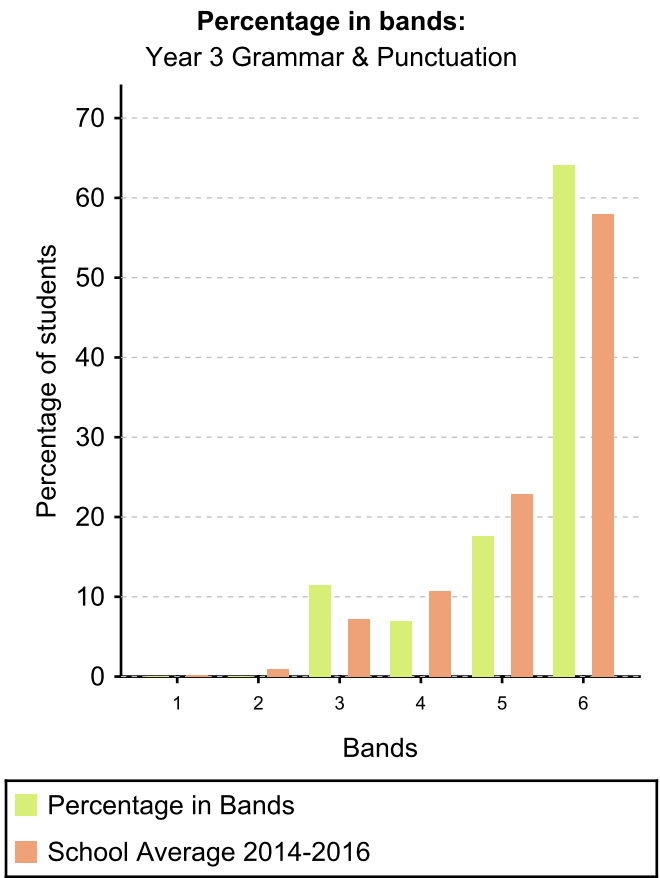
A full copy of the school's financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the parent and/or

community groups. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

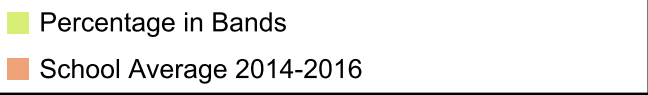
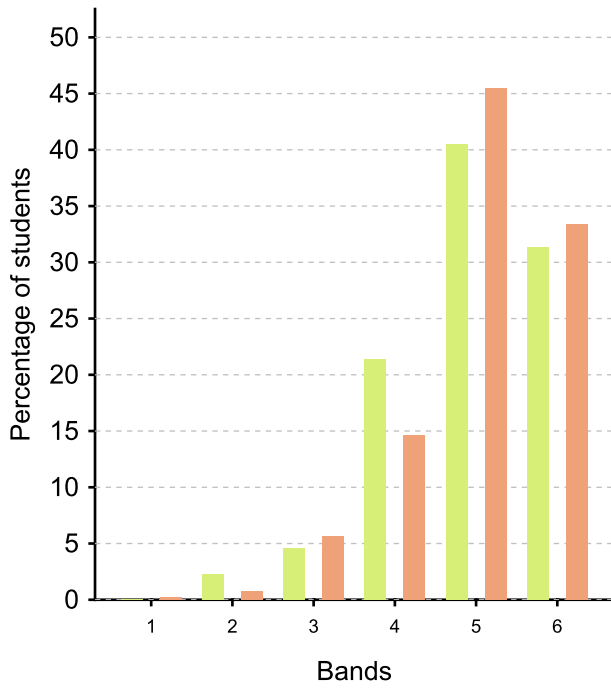
School performance

NAPLAN

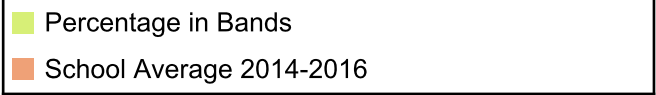
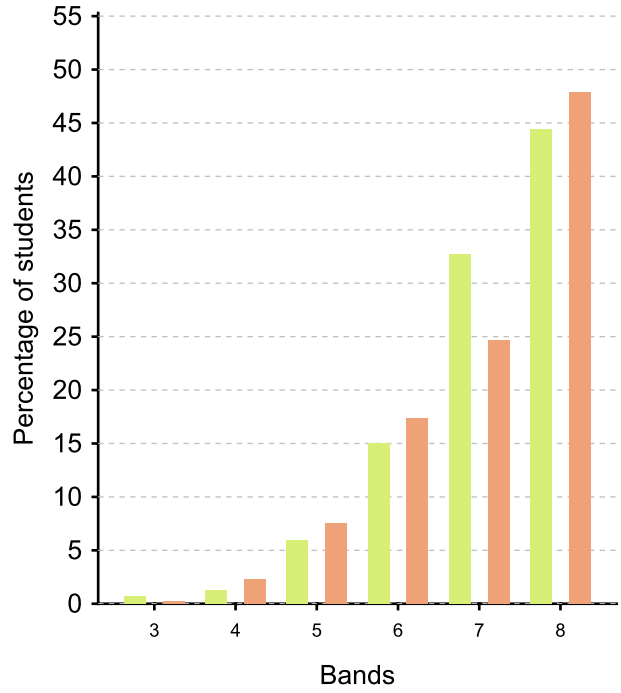
In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10. The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in these assessments.



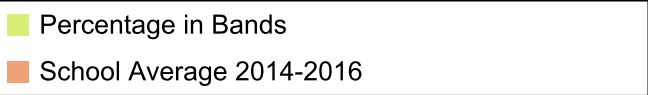
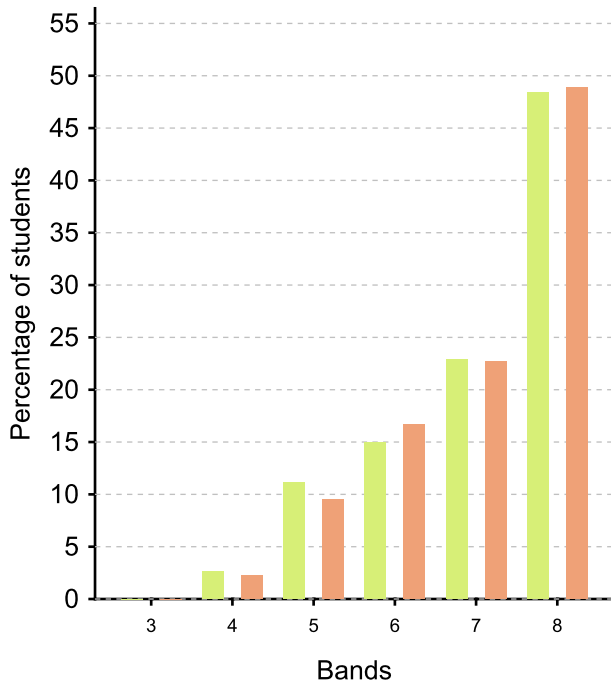
**Percentage in bands:**  
Year 3 Writing



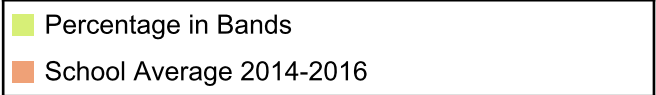
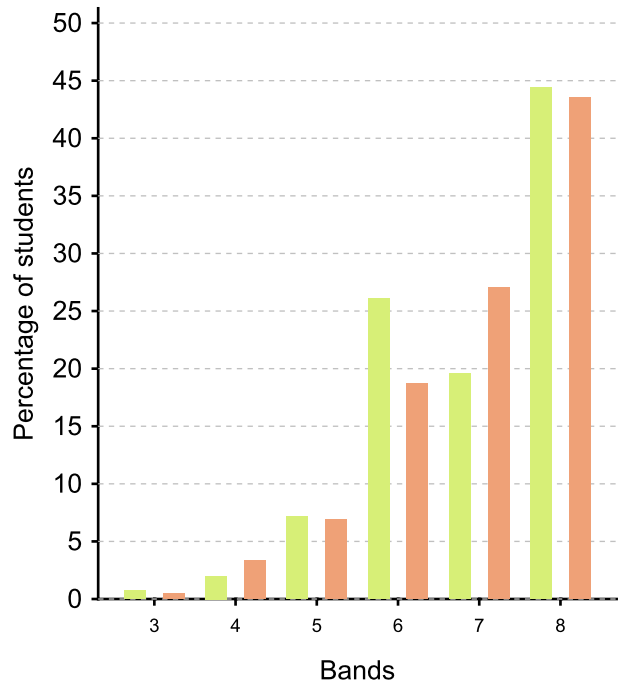
**Percentage in bands:**  
Year 5 Reading



**Percentage in bands:**  
Year 5 Grammar & Punctuation

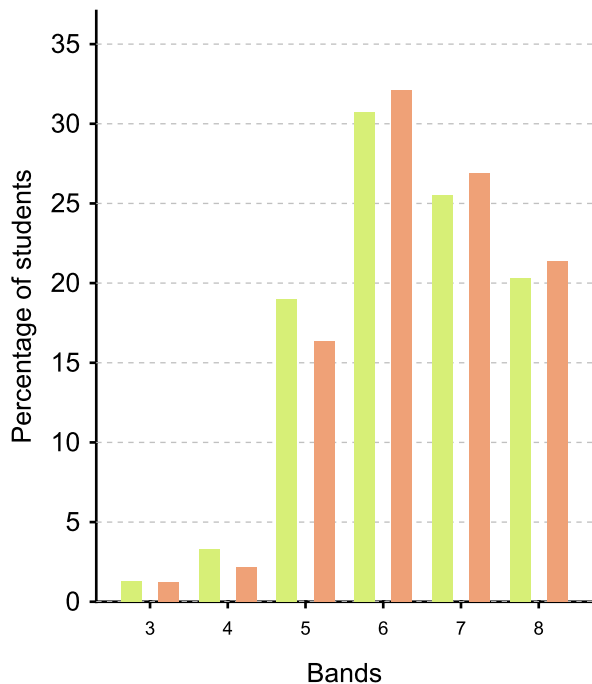


**Percentage in bands:**  
Year 5 Spelling



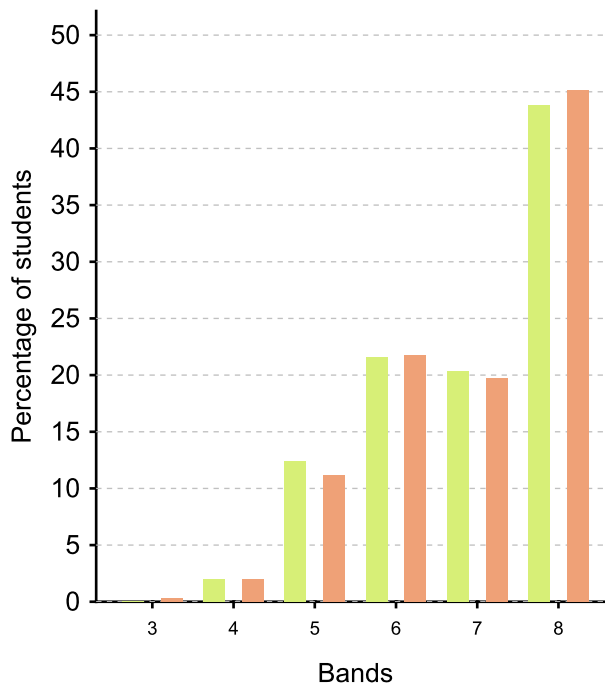


**Percentage in bands:**  
Year 5 Writing



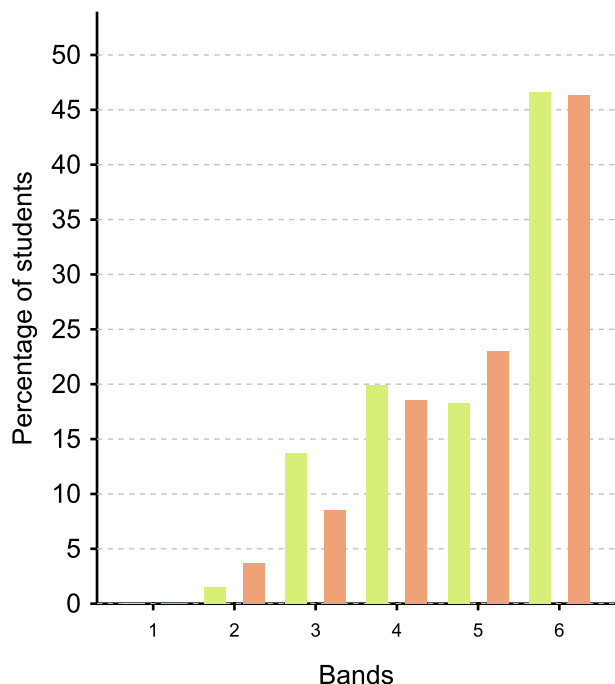
Percentage in Bands  
School Average 2014-2016

**Percentage in bands:**  
Year 5 Numeracy



Percentage in Bands  
School Average 2014-2016

**Percentage in bands:**  
Year 3 Numeracy



Percentage in Bands  
School Average 2014-2016

The My School website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing. Click on the link <http://www.myschool.edu.au> and insert the school name in the Find a school and select GO to access the school data.

# Policy requirements

## Aboriginal education

Neutral Bay Public School is committed to build all students' understanding and knowledge of Aboriginal histories, cultures and languages. Aboriginal perspectives are incorporated across all new Australian Curriculum syllabuses.

In 2016, the Aboriginal Education Committee undertook a number of projects to enhance understanding and knowledge.

Every student participated in classroom and whole school learning activities in NAIDOC week with a focus on Aboriginal music, histories, culture and languages.

The Aboriginal Education Committee has furthered its partnership with Moree Public School as a 'sister' school. Two staff members have visited the school and several classes have been involved in communication with other classes at Moree Public School.

## Multicultural and anti-racism education

Neutral Bay Public School is comprised of many cultures. 40% of our students are from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds (NESB). The procedures place a strong emphasis on inclusiveness and tolerance. These values are specifically taught in all classrooms as part of the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) program.

## Other school programs

### Band 2016

2016 has seen all bands make great progress. Junior Band had 70 members and won a Gold Medal at the NSW Band Festival. Senior Band had 40 members and won a Silver Medal at the NSW Band Festival and also performed at the Sydney Eisteddfod. Concert Band had 36 members and won a Silver Medal at the NSW Band Festival. Concert Band also performed at the Sydney Eisteddfod and the Primary Proms Concert at Sydney Town Hall. Band Camp and the Band Workshop were both highly successful events with the students having fun and improving their skills as a group. All bands performed at end of year assemblies. Our end of year Concert was held at Norths Leagues Club where all bands performed including Reunion Band. 2017 looks set to be a great year for the Band Program with 99 students trying out for Junior Band. This year a new band co-ordination model was trialed with the role spread across a number of people with Mr Tan performing the role of overseer. This model proved to be very successful.

*Band Coordinators – Mrs K Scott & Mrs D Zurita (Concert Band), Ms A Nottage (Senior Band), Mrs D Saada (Junior Band) & Mrs M Lindsay (Treasurer).*

### Junior Choir

Neutral Bay Public School Junior Choir consists of 30 students from Years 3 and 4 who rehearse weekly. This year the students had the opportunity to learn and perform a range of repertoire throughout the year at special events. The repertoire included songs selected from a variety of genres that required students to sing in unison and two-part harmony. This year the Junior Choir was selected to participate in the Primary Proms Festival, as part of a combined choir with other schools, at the Sydney Town Hall. The concert was a wonderful culmination of all the hard work put in each week and all students were excellent representatives of Neutral Bay Public School. Other performances for the Junior Choir during the year included Education Week and both Year 3 and 4 Presentation Day Assemblies. Thank you to each member of the choir for their commitment and enthusiasm during rehearsals and for all the hard work put in at home. Thanks also to the parents who brought their child to rehearsals each week and encouraged them to practise their repertoire. Well done Junior Choir on a great year of beautiful music making.

*Junior Choir Coordinator – Ms Emma Howells*

### Glee Club

2016 was another successful year for the Glee Club. There was so much interest in the group and so much talent displayed in the auditions, that we ended up with 52 students from Years 4–6 in the final group. Thankfully two staff members offered their assistance, and with their help, the club was off and running. Our song selection was varied this year, ranging from musical hits such as the Hamilton Mashup (Hamilton: The Musical), I Hope I Get It (A Chorus Line), The Schuyler Sisters (Hamilton: The Musical), If Only You Would Listen (School of Rock: The Musical) and Pandemonium (The 75th Putnam County Spelling Bee). The other half of the program consisted of modern hits such as Heroes, Clarity, Drag Me Down and Beyonce's hit song Girls Run the World. Our end of year concert was a huge success, with our finale song, 'Fix You', being a favourite with the audience. Many thanks to our 2016 student choreographers Mei Yamada (5K), Lauren Watts (5S), Lila Shrubbs (6S), Olivia Forman (6C), Sophia Maxwell (6C) and Ksenia Suturina (6P). We cannot thank these students enough for their talent in coming up with original choreography, their patience in teaching steps to groups of children who were not all natural dancers and their dedication, especially when extra rehearsals were required. Thanks to Mr Shuster and Mr Tan for their continued support of this performing arts club, and also to Mrs Roberts for supervising rehearsals before she went on maternity leave.

*Glee Club Coordinators – Miss Taylor, Ms Cooper and Miss Lopez*

### Drama Club

Drama Club was very popular this year, so much so, that we were able to divide the students into two separate groups. The group directed by Miss Taylor, performed the amusing play 'Beauty is the Beast', and the group directed by Mrs Rabone and Mrs Remenyi

performed the hilarious comedy, 'The Hysterical Mysteries of Troy'. Both plays were performed to appreciative audiences at the end of the year. Students in 'Beauty is the Beast' were also given the opportunity to perform an excerpt from the play at the school's Parent Open Day. Congratulations to all the children in both drama groups, especially the lead actors, who had to learn many lines and to those students who filled in for cast mates who were sick or pulled out of their parts. Your dedication and enthusiasm was greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Sophia Maxwell (6C) and Charlotte Harman (6C), who wrote an alternate ending to our play 'Beauty is the Beast', so that it didn't end with a predictable, 'happily ever after'. Thanks also to the parents of Drama Club students for helping them learn lines and organise costumes.

*Drama Club Coordinators – Ms A Taylor, Mrs Rabone and Mrs Remenyi*

### **Schools Spectacular**

Schools Spectacular is a showcase of the exceptional talent of almost 5000 students from over 400 New South Wales public schools. The show has been running since 1984 and promotes inclusiveness, reconciliation and has launched the career of a number of international stars. It is an iconic cultural event and the theme this year was 'Dream Big'. This year, the event was so large that it broke the Guinness World Record for 'Largest Amateur Variety Act'. In 2016, Neutral Bay Public School was chosen after an extensive audition process, to participate in Schools Spectacular. 24 students were selected from Senior Choir and they sang in a 2700-voice choir consisting of schools from around NSW. Students learned a large repertoire of songs and practised these at weekly rehearsals, and also individually at home. The choir was led by three teachers, Miss Rosie-Jane Stone, Ms Alison Taylor and Ms Emma Howells. In 2016, 12 students were selected to participate in Schools Spectacular in dance. The dancers were led by Mrs Belinda Reid, Miss Anna Robertson and Miss Megan Kessler. Our dance group attended an extensive schedule of rehearsals with large groups of children from all over the state. They performed as blue parrots to a song entitled 'Try Everything' as well as the finale, 'Can't Stop The Feeling' at Qudos Bank Arena, for two evening and one matinee performance for an audience of up to 20,000 people. The event was then televised across the nation on prime time television. The entire experience has been a challenging yet rewarding one for all the dedicated students involved.

*School Spectacular Coordinators – Mrs B Reid, Miss A Robertson, Miss M Kessler, Miss R Stone, Mrs E Howells and Ms A Taylor*

### **PSSA T-Ball**

PSSA T-Ball was so popular this year, that we were able to create six teams, not just our normal four. Two teams (one Year 6 and one Year 5) were graded into the competitive competition and the other four were placed in the social competition. In Term 1, each team had two training sessions, one morning session before school and one afternoon session after our weekly

match at Tunks Park. Throughout the season, the three coaches Miss Taylor, Mrs Remenyi and Miss Keighran were impressed with the students' skills, their sportsmanship and their enthusiasm, despite frequently having to play in extremely hot conditions. Congratulations to Team B who ended the season ranked equal 2nd and to Team A. The other four teams were not ranked, as their competition was considered social.

*PSSA T-Ball Coaches – Ms A Taylor, Mrs N Remenyi and Miss K Keighran*

### **Cricket**

This year we competed in the State Cricket Knockout Competition and the Milo Cup. On both of these occasions the students representing our school displayed excellent skill and sportsmanship. In the Knockout Competition we played our first game against Thornleigh West PS. Chasing a total of 81 to win, following some excellent bowling from Neutral Bay, we were sitting comfortably at 0/35. However, some tight fielding and accurate bowling from Thornleigh West late in the innings meant the Neutral Bay team unfortunately didn't come away with a win. However, the strong Year 5 contingent in the Neutral Bay team is looking forward to another chance next year. For the first time this year we entered teams from Stage 2 as well as our teams from Stage 3 in the Milo Cup. Altogether 120 boys and girls attended two fantastic days of 6 over-a-side cricket. Short boundaries, as well as the music being blasted over the oval made for an excellent day with countless 4s and 6s being smashed in every game. Special congratulations must be made to Hugo Willington and Kinjal Kumari who both won the 'high ball' catching competitions on the day.

*Cricket Coordinator – Mr W MacInnes*

### **Oz Tag**

On Thursday 27 October, Neutral Bay took part in the NRL's Oz Tag Gala Day at Blackman Park in Lane Cove. We entered 12 teams, comprising a total of 121 boys and girls in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. It was a highly successful day, for both beginners and experienced players. Our students were quick learners and successfully transferred the skills they had learned during training into their games. All teams played a high standard, fast-paced Oz Tag, with some excellent team tries being scored across the day. A junior girls' team and a senior boys' team progressed to the regional finals of the competition. The finals were held at a separate carnival, with our two teams having to brave 35 degree heat in their quest for victory. The girls team played five games and were extremely unlucky to not walk away with any wins, losing twice to tries scored after the full time siren. The boys' team was much more successful. Despite being much younger than all their opponents, the boys' skill, speed and flair allowed them to walk away in 3rd place. The boys are already being touted by NRL staff as the favourites for the 2017 trophy.

*Oz Tag Coordinator – Mr W MacInnes*

## Chess

This year was a very successful year for the chess teams and individual chess players at Neutral Bay Public School. In the weekly interschool chess competition, the Neutral Bay A team won their zone competition and went on to be finalists in the Northern Sydney Regional Championship. Neutral Bay B team came third in the Zone competition and the Neutral Bay C team were first in Rookies competition. In the one-day Interschool Chess Challenge, Neutral Bay A Team placed first, with Ewan Odenthal placing first and Toby Huey placing fifth in the individual competition. There were further successes in the Scots Chess Challenge where the Neutral Bay A Team placed second and in the Lower North Shore Primary Schools One-Day tournament where the Neutral Bay A Team placed first. A record number of 15 students represented the school in chess competitions this year.

*Chess coordinator – Mr V Tan*

## Debating

This year, ten students were selected to form two debating teams – Team Blue and Team White. The teams met weekly to train for their participation in the Premier's Debating Challenge. Both teams debated their way through four rounds against schools in the Northern Sydney region. Whilst neither team made it to the Zone Final, they both secured some wins and learnt a lot along the way. Several students also formed the Debating Training Squad. These students worked hard to improve their debating skills, and capped off the season with two friendly debates against Mosman Public School's Training Squad. In September this year, several students from the debating teams and the Training Squad attended the two day annual Northern Sydney Debating Camp held at Collaroy Centre. The students had a great time, and learnt valuable debating techniques to help them in future.

*Debating Coordinators – Miss M Magney and Miss J Hudson*

## Great Aussie Bush Camp – Grade 6 camp

It was a warm morning in mid-November when Year 6 students arrived at school, sleepily rubbing their eyes, eager to embark on an exciting adventure to the Great Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens. Accompanied by Ms Carnegie, Miss Chapple, Miss Keighran, Mrs Pope, Mr Kessler, Mr Tan and Mr Shuster, students took part in a series of fun group challenges and activities over three days that promoted learning through communication, problem solving, cooperation, respect and care. Whether it was working in teams to paddle a canoe, plunging through Mud World, sailing along the flying fox, practicing their archery skills, or crossing a muddy pond using only planks of wood and short lengths of rope, students came away from camp with positive experiences and great memories. A 'Challenge by Choice' policy meant that students were able to safely go beyond their comfort zones at a pace that felt right for them. One highlight was 'Lost Island', where students underwent a muddy commando assault course made up of several individual elements. Each

element was designed to test students' stamina, teamwork and endurance in a fun, competitive and challenging way. Another highlight was the walk along Jimmy's Beach, complete with pristine views of the ocean. Students also enjoyed the free time on the sand—taking part in a sandcastle-building competition, half-burying friends, collecting shells and wading in the water. Our Grade 6 camp provided our students with numerous opportunities for bonding across the year group. Every student had the chance to shine and learn more about themselves and others. The results will be seen over the duration of their time in high school with strong peer support and lasting friendships.

*Year 6 Camp Coordinator – Miss G Carnegie*

## Senior Choir

Neutral Bay Public School Senior Choir is a choir that consists of 35 students from Year 5 and 6 conducted by Music Teacher, Rosie-Jane Stone. In 2016, the choir was selected to perform at the Festival of Choral Music held at the Sydney Opera House on Tuesday 1 November. The Senior Choir performed alongside 20 other public schools from around New South Wales to form a massed choir. The repertoire for this concert consisted of 11 songs selected from a variety of genres, which were practised at weekly rehearsals at school and at home. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to perform at the iconic Sydney Opera House. The Senior Choir also performed at a number of other events including Education Week, the Stage 3 Presentation Day and at Lansdowne Gardens Aged Care Facility. Well done to each member of the choir for their dedication this year in rehearsals and for their impressive performances throughout the year.

*Senior Choir Conductor – Miss RJ Stone*

## Orchestra and Senior Chamber

Orchestra and Senior Chamber had a growing number of enrolments in 2016 bringing the total number to 30 students. It has been a very busy and exciting year for the groups. Both groups participated in the Sydney Eisteddfod and the Orchestra was awarded third place for its performance in the primary orchestra category. The groups also performed at the various school events, Grandfriend's Day, Education Week and final year assemblies. A big thank you to the strings conductor, Ms Rachel Miller, for all her hard work and dedication to the groups.

*String Coordinator – Mrs S Soorian*

## Interschools Snowsports Championship

The Interschools Snowsports, Sydney region, was on again this year at Perisher Valley, NSW. Neutral Bay Public was represented in the skiing, snowboarding and moguls events. The participants performed well with some of them advancing on to the State and National levels. Neutral Bay Public School participants had always performed well in the Interschools considering its small number of representatives and events registered. Nonetheless, this is the fourth year running that Neutral Bay Public School was awarded Champion

## **Soccer**

The school had another excellent year in soccer. The four teams that participated in the PSSA competitions all achieved and performed well over the season. The teams finished their competitions in the following positions: A team –2nd place, B Team 1st place, C Team equal 1st place, Girls team 5th. There were many outstanding performances over the season, but overall the team element was the key one that made our teams so competitive this year. This factor, plus respectful sportsmanship, have been the virtues we have tried to install into our players in all matches and competitions. The boys A team also had a highly successful run in the NSW State Knockout competition once again. This year, they progressed to the regional final after some great matches against strong opposition on the way, including Artarmon, Balgowlah North and Hornsby North. In the regional final they lost in extra time to a single goal against Mount Colah in a extremely close and hard fought game. Neutral Bay sent a number of talented players to the zone trials with a three going on to the combined zone trial. Eban Barney made it through to the regional team.

*Soccer Coach – Mr R Kessler*

## **The May Gibbs Memorial Library**

The May Gibbs Memorial Library was a busy place during 2016. The new titles to our collection focused on supporting curriculum based programs and student recreational reading through quality literature. In 2016 a number of Year 6 students volunteered to become Library Monitors at the start of the school year. After demonstrating their familiarity with the school library students were presented with their badges and have assisted with the day-to-day running of the library. The Premier's Reading Challenge began in March this year and a number of students from Kindergarten to Year 6 at Neutral Bay Public School entered and completed the challenge for 2016. Among this year's participants were four students who received a Gold Certificate, for completing their 4th challenge, and one student who received a Platinum Certificate, for completing their 7th challenge. Our Donate-A-Book event during Education Week this year saw a number of families visit the school library and kindly donate new titles to our collection. A number of other families and students, past and present, also made generous donations to the May Gibbs Memorial Library throughout the year. The May Gibbs Memorial Library would like to thank Mrs Rintoul and Ms Tadich for volunteering in the library this year.

*Librarian – Miss J Mazey*