Principal’s Report 2014

During 2014 enrolment remained consistently in the range of 570 – 580 students. The students were organised into 23 classes, with Specialist areas of LOTE: Auslan, Performing Arts (Prep - Grade 4) Visual Arts and Physical Education. Chinese language was offered to Prep student, and students in Grade 3 and Grade 5. In addition Reading Recovery was available to eligible Grade 1 students.

While the teaching group at Kennington Primary School continued to be relatively unchanged; we welcomed Naomi Thomson and Leah Daley to our team. During the year, two staff members required long term personal leave. We were able to ensure continuity in these classrooms largely due to the strength of grade level planning.

All staff members were provided with a significant range of opportunities for professional learning from within the school, with our in-house coaching program offering support and guidance to our teaching group. The school continued its work as a participant in the Inclusion Support Program – Autism Spectrum Disorder (ISP-ASD) trial, with a significant and measurable improvement in managing some challenging behaviours sometimes associated with autism, and hence improving the educational experience for students with autism. The performance and development of teachers focussed on developing skills for managing challenging behaviours, and a goal associated with the development of this skill was included in all teachers Performance and Development Plans.

Team planning, incorporating the most effective use of flexible learning spaces and maximising instructional time for students, continued to be a significant focus. We now have an environment where all classes from Grade 3 – Grade 6 work in flexible learning spaces, allowing for instructional groups ranging from small group through to very large groups. These spaces enhance the opportunity for highly effective team teaching to implement programs developed through a team planning approach.

The range of extracurricular activities offered at our school continues to be a highlight. In 2014 we had two teams represent the school in Energy Breakthrough. This is a very special event in the school year. Involvement in this program comes at a significant cost to the school but it does continue to be a highlight.

The Performing Arts Program was enhanced by an extensive Instrumental Music Program, which provided music instruction for in excess of 130 students from Grade 3 through to Grade 6. We further celebrated the performance expertise of our students through the Annual School Production; the performance was ‘Pirates of the Curry Bean’. In 2014, we again held our school production at the Capital Theatre and the feedback about using this venue was very positive. Students were also provided with the opportunity to participate in our singing choir and our signing choir. The signing choir perform at School Assembly, signing both the national anthem and our school song. The singing choir also performs at assembly.

The effectiveness of the Physical Education Program at our school continues to be demonstrated by the number of sports participated in at a Regional and State level, and by the success our teams enjoy.

The School Council continued to support the cyclical maintenance and upgrade of the school’s facilities. The facilities at Kennington Primary School were further enhanced during 2014 with the completion of the netball court cover.

In general the atmosphere at the school is very positive, and there is a significant amount of parent participation and support of school programs. Student Management continued to be at the forefront of our work, and we continued to make contact with parents to celebrate successes but also to communicate concerns and ask for cooperation in dealing with unsatisfactory behaviours.

During 2014, the dedication of teachers and support staff continued to enhance teaching and learning and provided quality programs and growth in both student and teacher development. The Grade Level team
planning procedures ensured diversity of educational programs, with student learning outcomes regularly assessed and recorded. Many excursions, camps, special events, activities and experiences were organised to engage students in their learning. These were celebrated through the school’s newsletter, school assemblies and our website.

Many parents willingly gave their time and commitment to school management and decision making. The role of the school’s key decision making teams and committees during the year ensured the school continued to provide students with the highest possible education by effectively using the resources available.

Members of the School Council led by President Mr Peter Dyer and its Sub-Committees, the Parents and Friends’ Group and the work of parents who actively involved themselves in the school in a variety of ways provided significant support to the operation of the school.

The school is well placed for achievements in 2015 and beyond. Kennington Primary School completed its cyclical review during 2014, with the subsequent preparation of a new Strategic Plan. The following is from the School Review report:

*In recent years, the school has made consistent use of data and other quality research, effectively utilised its resources and introduced new initiatives that have led to more positive outcomes for Kennington’s students. Specifically, the school has: implemented a strategic, whole-school professional learning program characterised by in-school coaching; established an extended leadership structure; adopted a stronger staff team structure to enhance curriculum development; employed additional and expert staff to assist students with complex needs; made effective use of high quality assessment and student management programs; capitalised on available and new infrastructure to create expanded learning opportunities; and restructured student learning time and staff planning time. The school intends to build on these approaches over the next School Strategic Plan period.*

The review process enabled us to best identify needs and re-focus for the following years. The intent remains the same: that is that the school will continue on its path of continuous improvement. Kennington Primary School will continue to provide a high-quality education and genuine opportunities for all students to succeed in a stimulating, happy and secure environment.

*Glenda Miller*  
**PRINCIPAL**