Identifying High value - add Schools

The aim of the study was to explore the key drivers of school improvement that were common across HVA schools. A robust value-added approach was used to identify 36 NSW government schools (20 primary schools and 16 high schools) that made a particularly strong contribution to student NAPLAN growth from 2010 to 2014. Value-added measures of school performance control for important contextual factors in estimating the contribution that a school makes to growth in student achievement. Quantitative data were analysed to identify whether HVA schools had higher levels of positive student behaviour, higher student engagement and more frequent use of effective teaching practices. Staff from the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) also interviewed school leaders and teachers in 14 schools including Pretty Beach PS to understand improvement drivers in their schools.

Drivers of school improvement are complex and context specific. However, this research found that HVA schools shared a common focus on six key practices:

- effective collaboration among staff
- engaging and sharing relevant professional learning
- setting whole-school goals and strategies for change
- using explicit and effective teaching strategies
- creating an environment that promotes learning and
- high levels of student engagement
- setting high expectations for student achievement.

“Congratulations to your staff, parents and students. Your school has been identified as a “High Value – Add School”. This means that from 2010 – 2014, your school is one of 36 NSW schools that has contributed most to growth in students learning”.

A full report can be accessed from the CESE website: http://www.cese.nsw.gov.au/publications

Well done everyone at Pretty Beach PS

2016: Watch this space!
New initiatives and a return of favourites for 2016:

1. 7 classes K-6;
2. Extension of the Strings Program – with the possibility of the introduction of another instrument for the students to learn;
3. Indonesian lessons;
4. Australian curriculum, NSW version of the History syllabus;
5. Music and Drama lessons;
6. Possibility of representation of a section of our string group at the Opera House;
7. Gymnastics through the “Sportspro” program;
8. “Kincumba Shines” concert;
9. The Art Show and Operation Art;
10. 5 Lands Walk photography workshop and

Please note: Peer Support Training for Years 5 & 6 will be undertaken on 28 & 29 January 2016. Year 5/6 Students will wear school uniform on Thursday and mufti on Friday 29 January. Details to follow.

Dates for 2016
Wednesday 27 January 2016 SDD & Office Open
Thursday 28 January 2016 Years 1-6 students return
Thursday 4 February 2016 Kindergarten students start

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to Everyone!

Deborah Callender – Principal
School Opal Card

From term one 2016, eligible students within the Opal network will be able to travel to and from school with the new School Opal card. Information about which areas are within the Opal network can be found at https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/#/OpalNetworkByPostcode.

Most students who already have a 2015 school student travel pass will have their School Opal card automatically issued and sent to their school.

Some students, including new applicants and students changing school or campuses, updating their personal details, or going from year 2 to 3 or year 6 to 7 who have already applied or who need to apply, will have their School Opal cards posted to their home address. Most School Opal cards should be received in the first two weeks of term one 2016.

Students who have been approved to travel on more than one operator or to more than one home address, for example where there is shared parental responsibility, will only receive a single Opal card.

Travelling in Term One

School students will need to carry their School Opal card and tap on and off when travelling. A grace period applies at the start of each new school year, where school students who have been approved for SSTS travel can travel without a valid pass while new passes are being issued. Students must be in school uniform or be able to provide evidence (such as a school ID or school books) that they are travelling to or from school during this time.

To report a lost, stolen or damaged School Opal card, customers should phone 131 500 or visit transportnsw.info/school-students

Kindergarten Graduation

Parent Online Payments are now available

It is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the schools website by selecting $ Make a payment.

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include band, drama and dance). There is also a category called Other this to cover items not covered in the previous headings, Other can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

When you access the $ Make a payment you must enter:
- the students name, and
- class and reference number OR
- the students name, and
- date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. There is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number if you are aware of them, these are optional fields. This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child’s account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.

For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office.