

Goonawarra Primary School

School Council Annual General Meeting Minutes

Meeting Details

Date	16 th March 2015	Time	Started: 6.30pm Finished: 7.45pm
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1. Attendees & Apologies:

Attendees: ✓	Apologies: x
x Gary Hoiles Annie 5/6, Cate 2/3S (GH)	✓ Alan Fairweather Principal (AF)
✓ John Jinnette (JJ)	✓ Karen Reilly Assistant Principal (KR)
✓ Gwenda Griggs Chloe 5/6 (GG)	✓ Marita Ryan Grade 5/6 (MR)
Dimitra Rech Elissa 5/6, Serena 3 (DR)	✓ Liz Hornby LOTE / Reading (EH)
✓ Shawn Hindmarsh Hamish 2 / 3S Amelia Prep (SH)	Visitors: Jing Li (Anthony Yammouni – Prep F)
✓ Michelle Bowerman Riley 2/3S & Xavier 5/6 (MB)	
✓ Jane Alexander Elizabeth 2, Lachlan 2/3S & Joshua 5/6 (JA)	
Community Member ✓ Allison Crozier Oliver 2 & Hamish 5/6 (AC)	

President	John Jinnette	Treasurer	Gwenda Griggs
Vice President	Dimi Rech	Secretary	Michelle Bowerman

Sub Committees:

Finance	Buildings & Grounds	Canteen	Uniform	Curriculum	After Hours Care
Alan	Alan	Liz	Karen	Karen	Alan
Gwenda	Gary	Allison	Jacinta	Marita	Extend
John	Jane	Marita	Allison	Jane	Michelle
Judy	Shawn	Nicole / Heidi	Dimi / Gwenda	Dimi	

AGENDA

2014 Annual Report to the School Community

- **About Our School**
- **Performance Summary –**
 - **School Profile**
 - **Achievement**
 - **Engagement**
 - **Wellbeing**
 - **Productivity**
 - **Financial Performance & Position**

2014 Performance Summary (including Intake Adjusted Charts)

School Council President's Report – John Jinnette

Principal's Report – Alan Fairweather

Education / Curriculum Report – Karen Reilly

Parents & Friends Group Report – Allison Crozier



Annual General Meeting of Goonawarra Primary School School Council

Annual Report to the School Community for 2014

16th March 2015



Documents

2014 Annual Report to the School Community

- **About Our School**
- **Performance Summary –**
 - **School Profile**
 - **Achievement**
 - **Engagement & Wellbeing**
 - **Financial Performance & Position**

2014 Performance Summary (including Intake Adjusted Charts)

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School Council President's Report – John Jinnette

Many thanks to all School Council members for their dedication and hard work over the last year.

There have been many positive developments over recent years which is due to the wonderful and supportive work and attitude of the staff, parents and the wider school community. It has been an exciting time with the School Council being very proactive over recent years with many physical, educational and community building initiatives being undertaken.

Thank you to all the School Council members, both parents and staff, I have worked with during my time on Council. I have greatly enjoyed my time on School Council and wish everyone all the best as the school continues to grow into the future.

JOHN JINETTE

School Council President.

Principal Report – Alan Fairweather

2014 commenced with a strong enrolment, slightly higher than 2013.

Grade Level Numbers for 2014:

Start of Year-	Preps	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
	46	43	37	49	34	43	38	290
End of Year-								
	50	43	38	48	33	42	39	293

Grade structure for 2014 included 13 classrooms – 8 straight classes and 5 multi-aged. Class numbers ranged from 18 – 24.

The school community continued to be actively involved in the life of the school as more opportunities were created. Both staff (teaching and non-teaching) and students demonstrated a very positive approach to their roles and responsibilities within the school. The surveys conducted throughout the year provided clear evidence that there was a growing sense of improved engagement and connectedness throughout the school.

There are many features which blend together to make a school successful. The following descriptions in many areas of life at Goonawarra demonstrate the positive growth which is occurring across the school community.

- The staff and students, through the **School Start Up Program** continued to explore and develop the **core values** of the school which are summarised in the acronym of **G.R.E.A.T.** The school community is now well aware of the mantras '**Goonawarra is G.R.E.A.T!**' and '**At Goonawarra we aim to be Generous, Responsible, Enthusiastic, Ambitious and Trustworthy.**' The meanings and the practical applications of these words are regularly explored and discussed in the classrooms.
- The **Strategic Plan** for 2012 – 2015 and the **Annual Implementation Plan** for 2014 both continued to be implemented throughout the year. These documents focused on the areas of 'Student Learning', Student Engagement and Wellbeing and Student Pathways and Transition.

The goals in these areas were –

Student Learning:

To improve student outcomes in English, Mathematics and the broader curriculum.

Student Engagement and Wellbeing:

To improve the levels of student engagement in their learning and feelings of wellbeing as reflected in their attitudes to school, their positive behaviours and their learning outcomes.

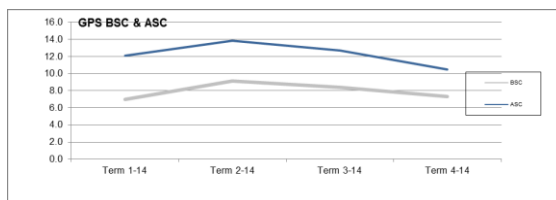
Student Pathways and Transitions:

To improve student outcomes relating to the various forms of transition that the students experience during their primary schooling.

The Key Improvement Strategies as outlined in the Strategic Plan were:

- Continue to build the capacity of all leaders and teachers in effective Literacy and Numeracy teaching.
 - Establish collective accountability for the assessment and monitoring of progress of individual students, cohorts of students, and the school as a whole.
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- Provide intervention and extension programs to support and extend student learning.
- Continue to provide a safe, secure and nurturing environment for students.
- Develop, implement, review and regularly promote a school-wide student engagement policy.
- Continue to build the student leadership program.
- Monitor trends in student attendance.
- Review and enhance the transition strategies across the three stages of transition.
- Review data and materials passed on as part of internal transition.
- Strengthen and broaden community partnerships.
- **The Financial Position of the school** has been well handled throughout the year. The Credit component (salaries) and the Cash component (local funds) both finished in a surplus position. A special thank you to Mrs Judy Toogood in her role as Business Manager who retired mid-year after 28 years of faithful service to the school. Mrs Janine Consiglio was promoted to this position and Mrs Sue Lavars (Integration Aide & Library Technician) assumed the position of Office Assistant.
- **A DEECD funded Welfare Officer position** was made available to the school for the period 2013 – 2015. The school filled this two day a week position internally by appointing Mrs Michele Pinti to the role. It has proven to be a very valuable acquisition to the school staffing profile. Many students and families have been assisted through Michele's caring, compassionate and diligent approach to the welfare role.
- **A grant from the National School Chaplaincy & Student Welfare Program** was successful in 2012. This grant covered the period of 2013 – 2014. A new Chaplain, Ben Smith was appointed at the commencement of 2014. Ben has performed an outstanding job throughout the year. Unfortunately the school did not receive government funding to extend the Chaplaincy program into 2015, so Ben was farewelled at the end of the year. (Other avenues for funding were explored during Term One 2015 and Ben has now been appointed for the full 2015 year).
- **Parent & Teacher Discussions** were held during the year and were well received with much helpful information being shared between all parties. A very high percentage of parents attended these meetings. The online booking service continued to be used which proved to be a very successful process and minimised a lot of administrative time and resources.
- The **Out of School Hours Care (OSHC)** program continues to be operated by Extend. The program was enlarged in 2012 to include Before School Care. This has continued to be a great service to families, especially with Prep students. Numbers have been very encouraging with daily enrolments averaging 6 - 8 in the mornings and 10 - 14 at night.



- The **Uniform Shop** continues to operate effectively. A special thank you to Jacinta Noble for her tireless efforts and commitment to the uniform shop over many years. Uniform profit for the year 2014 was \$78 with \$6,009 of stock in hand.
 - **The Canteen** has been available to students for two days a week as well as for special events. Nicole Huybers and her many helpers continue to provide a wonderful service to the school community. There have been some positive healthy changes to the menu throughout the year. Canteen profit for the year 2014 was \$10,008.
 - **Education Week** proved to be very successful with many parents attending the Open Morning.
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- **Prep Information Sessions** and five transition activity days were highly successful with a strong attendance at all events. It was encouraging to note that a very high percentage of parents who attended the information nights went on to enrol their children in the school. Barry Plant Real Estate donated signage boards advertising the school. Following the effective preschool Transition program throughout 2014, fifty seven students were enrolled for 2015. This is the highest Prep enrolment for 15 years which is very encouraging indeed.
- **Parent Opinion and Staff Opinion Surveys** as well as the **Student's Attitude to School Survey** were conducted throughout the year. They all returned very helpful information. Processes were put in place to address issues identified as needing attention across all areas surveyed.
- **In recent years the Principal for a Day program** was modified to include students as the 'Principal.' In 2014 two Grade six students were selected each Term to shadow me around for the day. They were involved in conducting Assembly, teaching students, sitting in on meetings, planning grade structures, conducting surveys and other activities. Lunch at Betty's shop continues to be a highlight of the day!
- **The school choir** continued to be an avenue for many students to express their creativity. The opportunity to sing at many events, including nursing homes, retirement homes and shopping centres was taken. Many thanks to Sonja Procek for her time commitment and guiding the students in this area of the curriculum.
- **Opportunities for Parental involvement** within the life of the school have been many and varied through events such as Open Days, morning teas, teddy bear picnics, Athletic and Swimming events, all the Parents and Friends activities, Working Bees, classroom assistance, Transition days, mowing, gardening, painting, repairing etc. All assistance has been greatly appreciated and this has had a real positive effect on the atmosphere and feeling within the school and the attitude towards the school from the local community.
- **The Parents & Friends** group has continued to be very active throughout the year with over ten fundraising efforts undertaken. This growing band of supportive parents is a real asset to the school. They provide funds for non budgeted items across the school. In 2014 they raised over \$15,000. Their major focus in 2014 was to replace the damaged shade sails on two of the adventure playground structures. All the shade sails have now been insured against further damage. Many thanks to Allison Crozier, Heidi Saffrey and their committed team of assistants for their dedication to the role of supporting the school and students in this manner.
- **Play Groups** for school families and the local community continued in a spare room with much interest from families with preschool children. Appropriate furniture was purchased and Careworks provided free fruit for the program. Two sessions per week operated for most of the year with fluctuating numbers of parents and preschool children attending.
- **Staff movements** during or at the end of the year included the employment of Stephanie Coakley, Jana Music and Samantha Bonello, the retirement of Judy Toogood and Deb McEwen and the return from Family Leave of Amy Hughes. Jana Music moved to another school at the end of the year.
- **The staff, teaching and non-teaching** as a whole need to be praised for their dedication and commitment to the students in their care. They continue to provide stimulating, challenging learning opportunities and support for all students and their families.

The school in general has made steady progress throughout the year on a number of fronts –

- Greater community involvement and connections. A more positive attitude in the perception of the school and the area from the wider community.
 - Parental input and involvement across the school has increased – classrooms, committees, working bees, special skills etc.
 - Staff input, dedication and personal willingness to be involved at a greater level.
 - Curriculum development and knowledge along with the approach to and delivery of teaching are constantly being explored and implemented.
 - The number of ICT resources (laptops, IWBs, ipads) and software continues to increase.
 - General improvement in student health, wellbeing and attitude across the school.
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- Transition from preschool, throughout the grade levels and on to secondary schools has intentionally been revised and improved to meet the needs of students, staff and families.
- Academic progress of all students is intentionally being tracked and targeted through the SPA program, On Demand testing and other forms of assessment tools that are all designed to improve student learning and understanding.
- New garden beds have been established. The major one is located between the two school buildings. This will be planted out as a 'sensory' garden early in 2015.
- New pathways were constructed between the two buildings.
- A new gate was installed in the school fence which has allowed greater access from a nearby carpark.
- Two 'original' relocatable classrooms were removed by DEECD late in the year. The school was officially over entitled to these teaching spaces, there was a greater need at another school, therefore they were removed. The restoration work was completed over the Christmas holidays. The removal of the classrooms meant a restructure of the school physical resources. With an increase in the school population in 2015, requiring two additional classes, this means that there is only one 'spare' classroom in the school – the computer lab. According to the current DEECD formula for the number of students to the number of classrooms (25 : 1), the school will not be entitled to an additional teaching space (relocatable building) until there is consistently over 400 students – an increase of 80 on current numbers.
- A new storeroom was constructed for Physical Education equipment off the gymnasium.
- The whole school lighting system (both inside and out) was converted to LED technology. This has greatly improved the lighting in classrooms and will save the school over \$10,000 in electricity on current usage.
- A school instrumental band commenced under the direction of Primary Music Institute.

The school student population is continuing to increase. Within the next two years there is a real possibility that there will be significant growth in the area as a result of several new local housing developments that are being planned. These developments have the potential to make a significant impact on the size and culture of the school.

In order to make Goonawarra 'the school of choice' for these new families, the staff and leadership team are purposefully reviewing all aspects of school life in order to present to a new cliental an attractive and well-resourced environment which has high academic standards, positive core values that are evident at all levels, a strong and vibrant connectedness with the community, an appreciation of parental involvement and a staff of dedicated and committed professional staff. School Council will have a major role to play as the future unfolds.

Thank you to the members of the school community who have served on School Council for the 2014 year. A special thank you to John Jinnette (in the position of President) and Dimi Rech who have both been on School Council for several years but are not continuing. It is pleasing to see how many current members have renominated for the next two years.

Alan Fairweather
Principal

Curriculum Report March 2014 – Karen Reilly (Assistant Principal)

Curriculum:

Mathematics was a continuing curriculum focus in 2014. Staff audited their curriculum in light of the AusVELS curriculum and Mathematics resources were explored as a new basis for our Mathematics planning was sought.

- **Maths Plus** identified as the basis for our whole school Maths program.
 - Term Planners.
 - Common language.
 - Common lesson structure which provides for differentiation.
 - Support and challenge students.
 - Lesson focus provides the Learning Intention for lessons, again providing a common language and common goals.
 - Diagnostic assessments which are used to pre and post-test students.
- Mathematics non-negotiables revisited and agreed upon. These non-negotiables are supported with the use of Maths Plus.
 - Number fluency, explicit purpose for the lesson, structure of the lesson, summarise by revisiting the purpose of the lesson.
- **Mathletics**
 - Integrated into Maths program.
 - Used in conjunction with Maths Plus to support / extend students.
 - Assessment tasks to be further explored (2015).

Assessment:

- **On Demand** assessments (Years 3 to 6) were completed in February, August and November.
- Continued use of **On Demand** assessments discussed with staff with mixed results. Conclusion was that this would no longer be used as a whole school assessment but would be available for teachers upon request.
- We are now investigating other resources which could be used as the basis for a whole school approach to assessment in the areas of Mathematics and English.
- Essential Assessments (Mathematics) was trialled by all teams during the course of the year. After discussion with staff the decision was made to discontinue with this assessment as a whole school approach.
- Use of PAT (Progressive Achievement Test) as a whole school approach is being investigated.
- Maths Plus assessments used as the whole school approach to pre and post testing at the beginning and end of each term. These are diagnostic in nature and will assist with the grouping of students.
- NAPLAN assessments were completed by students in years 3 and 5 in May. Results were tabled and discussed at the School Council meeting in September.
- Schonell Spelling to be continued. Running Records provide an excellent diagnostic tool and will continue to be used.

Reporting to parents:

- Initial parent – teacher discussions took place in February. These were completed in one afternoon and evening with approval granted by School Council for students to be dismissed at 1:30pm to allow this. Feedback from staff and parents was positive.
- Midyear discussions were held with parents re: student individual reports.
- Student Support Group meetings were held for identified students.

Staff Professional Development:

1. **Curriculum Differentiation, Facilitator:** Penny Willoughby
2. **First Aid training** - On completion of this training participants gained their Certificate II in First Aid.
3. **Use of ICT / Interactive Whiteboards, Facilitators:** Jess and Simone, Michael and Lauren, Sandi and Dani

Events Throughout the Year:

The events during the course of the year were many and varied. These included:

- Goonawarrior – enjoyed by all students, staff and many parents and relatives.
 - Clubs Program..
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- **National Literacy and Numeracy Week** activities. The **Let's Explore** evening was particularly successful with lots of current and future families visiting the school.
- Incursions and excursions.
- Fathers' Big Day Out.
- Grade 6 Graduation.
- Prep – 2 Christmas Concert.

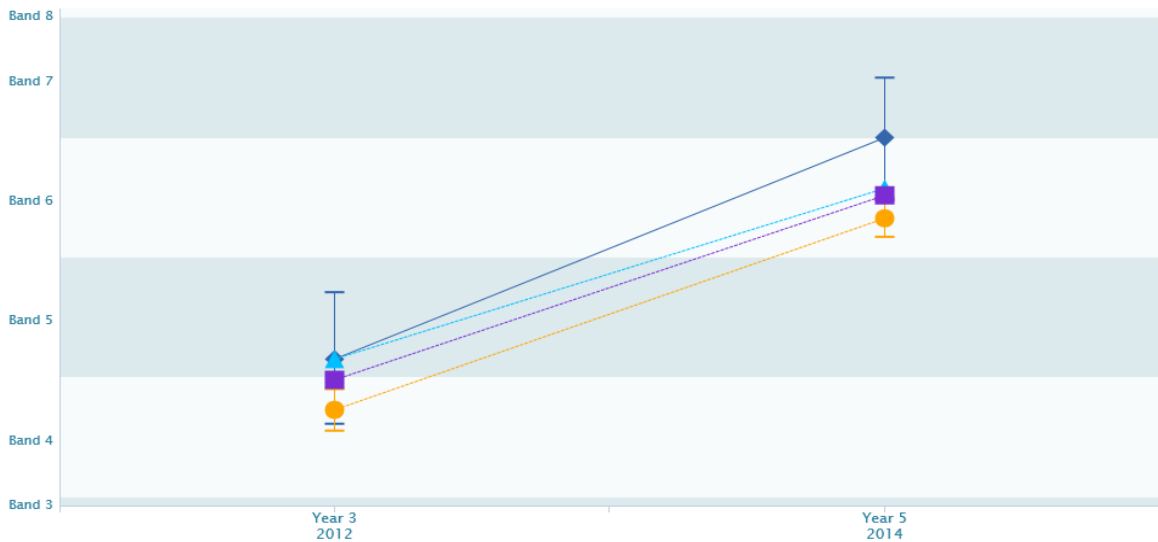
Review of target in the 2012 – 2015 Strategic Plan:

- Matched cohort growth: grow our students in line with state measures of growth.

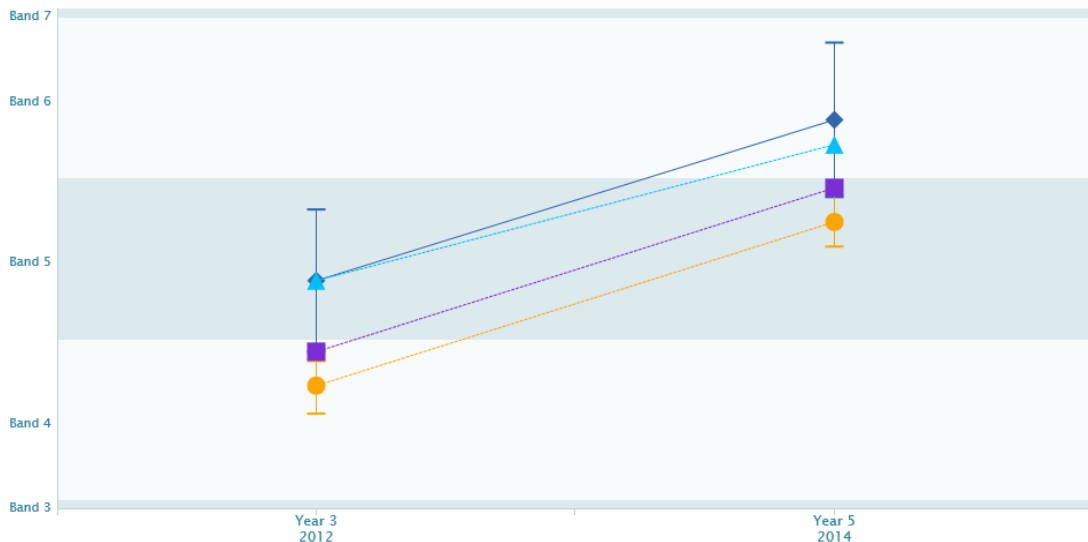
How to interpret these charts

- ◆ Average achievement of students in the school
- I Margin of error at 90% level of confidence
- Average achievement of students in schools with similar students (statistically similar schools) and margin of error at 90% level of confidence
- ▲ Average achievement of students with the same starting scores
- Average achievement of all students

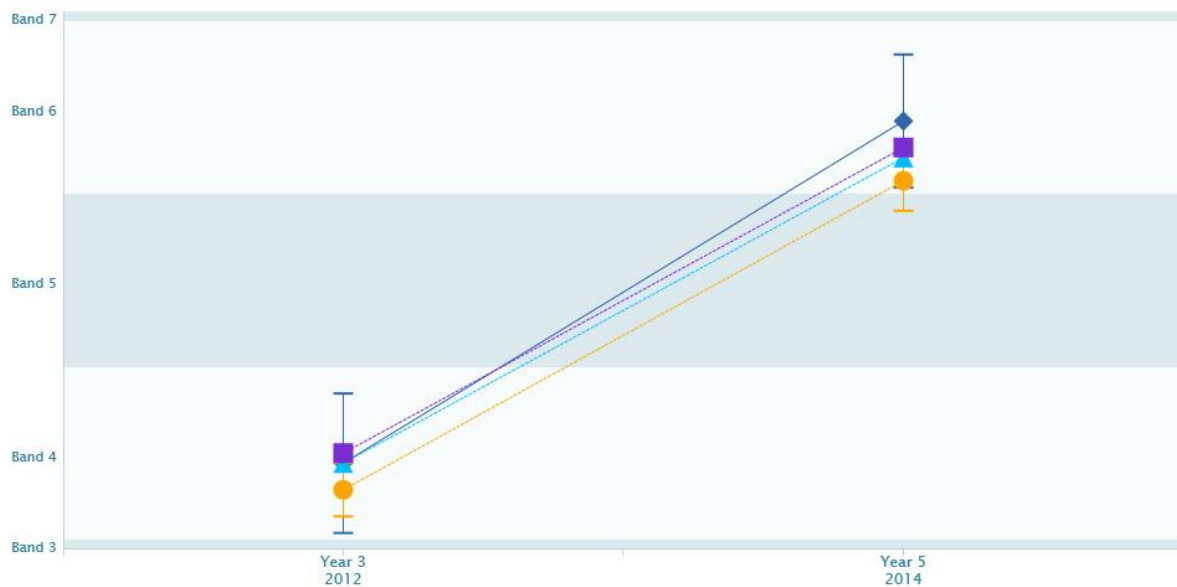
READING



PERSUASIVE WRITING



NUMERACY



Parents & Friends Group Report – Allison Crozier (President)

The P & F have had a fun and interesting year, taking on some new adventures and ideas for the first time.

We started the year with a fundraiser for lunch bags for the canteen - material bags for hot food to be placed in on lunch order days. These were popular with the younger classes.

An Easter raffle was held with donations from the school community of eggs, rabbits, baskets and other Easter related items.

We once again ran the Billy Gs cookie dough fundraiser.

Two Bunnings barbeques and a Masters barbeque were held with success.

The Mother's Day, Father's Day and Christmas stalls were all run with great success and we introduced gift wrapping and cards, which seemed very popular for Mother's Day especially.

We had two different major fundraisers. The first of which was 'The Great Goonawarra Gnome Hunt'. Gnomes were placed in a variety of shops and businesses within the Sunbury community. A Gnome passport with deals and offers from the businesses was created. The children and their families and friends purchased the passports from the school and over the two week period of the school holidays they visited the businesses on the card, found the gnome, recorded its name and redeemed the offer if they wished. Passports were then returned to school and placed in a draw to win prizes. The businesses were all very positive about participating in this if we were to run it again.

Our second event was the Goonawarrior Spectacular. Many obstacles were set up on the school oval and each class had to complete as many laps of the circuit as they could in a set amount of time. Some of the obstacles involved commando crawls, vault jump and a hay bale climb. The children, staff and parents all enjoyed this challenge. They were able to come dressed as warriors for the day. The children were sponsored per lap or for a predetermined value.

Our 2014 efforts raised \$15,000 which was used to purchase the shade sails for the prep -2 and 3-4s playgrounds.

I wish to take this opportunity to personally thank last year's committee and their families for all their help and support throughout the year. To Janine and Sue for putting up with me and all of my questions and badgering. Thank you to everyone. We have a great supportive school community.