Dear parents, carers and friends of our school,

As a school we devote a lot of energy to growing the whole child and giving them feedback about how they are going academically, socially and emotionally. We have a range of whole school and targeted programs to build on student strengths. We favour correction over punishment and seek to restore positive relationships when things have gone wrong. We catch the children being good and our Awards system provides students with public acclaim for accumulating enough ‘Top Kids’ to get their Emerald, Ruby, Sapphire, Jade, Topaz, Opal or Diamond Awards.

The students of our school progress through the Awards system over the years with most (not all) attaining Emerald in Kindergarten, Ruby in Year 1, Sapphire in Year 2, Jade in Year 3, Topaz in Year 4, Opal in Year 5 and hopefully, Diamond in Year 6. Not all students proceed according to schedule – i.e. there is time for some to catch up and there is opportunity for some to accelerate. A review of any new students to our school, allows them to be placed at an appropriate point on our Awards scale.

Following a review of the Awards, I have decided to discontinue the Distinction Awards that have been available to Year 6 students, upon application. I have observed these Awards for some time now and view them as unnecessary given the strength of our K-6 Awards system and the personalised and authentic feedback Year 6 students get from their teachers daily. I believe that achieving Diamond status is a sufficient and worthy goal, attainable by every student, if they work at it! Achieving Diamond status at Sandy Beach Public School is an impressive credential and Diamond students drive the culture of our school!

Tomorrow I am spending the day with my Northern Beaches Community of Schools colleagues and the Director, NSW Public Schools, Jenny Murray, to share our wisdom? We will explore new, collaborative ways forward for all of our local public schools. We think that going forward together is a way of leveraging strength from each of our schools and offers opportunity to share the ideas and talent in each school. This is a timely exercise as we move to construct our 2015-2017 School Plan. I would welcome your feedback.

What would you like our school to LOOK, SOUND and FEEL like in say, 2017? What do you think are the directions we need to take? Why do you feel that way? I welcome your ideas – ring me up, come to a P&C meeting, email us through the school email sandybeach-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

????Possible directions for our School 2015-2017????

SOLID FOUNDATIONS
A Core of Literacy and Numeracy
Solid syllabus implementation
Equity and Excellence for confident and creative learners

BUILDING ON TEACHER & LEADER CAPACITY
Exploring differentiation and provisions for individual student learning
Integrating information and communication technology for learning
Nationally accredited teachers
Outward looking leadership
Teachers collaborating beyond the classroom and beyond the school gate

SELF REGULATION WITH ACCOUNTABILITY
Integrating new learning management business reforms
Democratising budgets
Local decisions

Regards
Ray Rincheval, Proud Principal
Did You Know?
The primary students Years 3—6 are currently rehearsing for the Musical Production of “The Pirates of the Curry Bean” which will be presented on Tuesday 9th September—night performance, Wednesday 10th September, matinee performance and Thursday 11th September the final night time performance. Save the date for this highly entertaining production.

Did You Know?
Tickets will be available later this month to purchase.

Did You Know?
KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS FOR 2015 are currently being organised. If you have a child due to start school here next year please call into the office to collect an enrolment form.

Please make sure you have the following information available: child’s birth certificate or passport, proof of residency and Immunisation certificate.

For further information please contact the office.

Did You Know?
Visitors to the school are required to sign in and out. This requirement includes volunteers and canteen workers.

Did You Know?
THIS Thursday our school will close at 12 midday. Students who travel on Ryan’s Bus Service will not be picked up early so private arrangements will have to be made for your child to get home on this day.

The Woolgoolga Out of School Hours (OoSH) service is able to offer care for students at a cost and can provide a pick up at school between 11.30am-12midday, as necessary. If you want to reserve a place please contact Carlie at admin@communityoosh.com.au

Did You Know?
Our school photos are scheduled for Thursday 4th September (in 5 weeks) so now might be a good time to think about refreshing those older school shirts and tatty shoes.

Did You Know?
Our school uniform specifies black shoes. We are seeing an increasing number of students trying to pressure parents into buying super bright “look at me” shoes that are probably expensive too! Keep them for out of school use. One of the reasons we have a school uniform is to reduce the potential for peer pressure and outdoing each other with fashion or brand names. Can you please buy black school shoes next time and remember, you are the adult and you are the one with the money!

REMINDER - The P&C run Uniform Shop is now only open on Wednesday mornings between 8.40—9.10am.

Hats $15  T-Shirts $20  Jackets $30—$35