Wow, we are already at the end of the school year, and what a great year it has been for our staff and students! I thought that I would take the opportunity to reflect on the last twelve months as principal of this great school, although unless you want to read a novel, I will only mention a couple. We started off the year with a very small cohort of 7 students (yes, 1 student) after farewelling the year 6 and 7 students at the end of last year. Our 6’s happily headed off to Northern Beaches State High School as our trial ‘Flying Star’ group. I am very proud of the way they embraced high school life and was lucky enough to be a presenter at the NBSHS Awards Night last week and presented high academic awards to our Rolly students (congratulations Caitlyn, Sophie and Mikayla). All of the staff over there always say great things about the students they get from Rollingstone. Our student numbers didn’t drop though, with another big intake of some amazing preps.

All staff and students hit the ground running this year to improve our reading results, and achieve some high benchmark levels. We received $22,458 of extra funding for the Great Results Guarantee from the state government, which enabled us to get another full time teachers aide. Our Reading Program began in week 2... and boy are we all so proud of the results that our students have achieved. (Last year we celebrated that 36% of our prep to 3 students reached benchmark- in 2014 we are aiming to achieve 80%). At the time of writing this, the staff are busily testing the students and I am looking forward to each child coming in to the office to let me know about their fantastic growth over the year.

Another proud moment for me this year was our work with the community. This year saw the beginning of the Junior Leos club in partnership with the Rollingstone and District Lions and Leos Club. Seven of our students stepped up to join the club and to be involved in the community. They have developed a Junior Leos garden and cleaned up Bushy Parker Park. Our local RSL moved their Remembrance Service to Balgal Beach this year, so we didn’t think that we would be able to get there for the service... They organised to bus the whole school there! It is great to see such great partnerships happening within our local community. In 2014 we also started our music program, with both classroom music and instrumental lessons. Almost a third of the school has been participating in either guitar or piano lessons!

A permanent principal has been appointed at Rollingstone State School, and I am very proud (and a little relieved) to announce to the community that it is me! So I will certainly see you all next year! Have a wonderful holiday!

Keep reading!
Kacey Constantine Principal

Chappy Chat: Hi all, it was lovely to attend the Remembrance Day ceremony recently and have the extreme privilege of leading two prayers for the community. I have been at Rollingstone State School for 2 years now and have enjoyed being their School Chaplain as I visit each Monday and Thursday to be involved with the lives of students, staff and families. Things that stand out as incredible moments include: getting to know new students, being part of parades each week and seeing their great achievements, running activities at Under 8’s Day, NAIDOC celebrations and the year 4-7 Camp at Daradgee. It has been wonderful attending the P&C meetings as parents and community members work together to enable many great things to be part of the school year and have organised 2 discos (a 'Super' theme and 'Back to the 80's') for the kids to have fun dressing up, dancing and raising money for the Starlight Foundation and the school. I loved seeing students cheer and participate in Red Track events, playing my ukulele for the Pineapple festival school float, making many pancakes for Chappy Week breakfast and now organising a few items for the carols evening. It has also been great to see Jake Thomson continue to volunteer when he can as he supports the students in the classroom and is another supportive role model. If you would like to get in contact with myself at any time in the year to connect or support the school community in any way, please email me on jschwartz08@gmail.com. May you have a blessed and joyous Christmas Season as we spend time thinking of others. Another big Christmas event you might like to take the family to is Stable on the Strand, December 18-22 http://stableonthestrand.com.au/ . Have fun, take care and laugh often. Cheers............. Chappy Jess :)

P & C Association News
The Rollingstone School P&C Committee has been active this year. Here is a quick summary of what we have been able to provide for the school from our fundraising efforts:

- NAPLAN breakfasts $ 107
- Craft items for under 8s week $ 219
- Hire of bus for senior school camp $1200
- Fuel for bus for camp $ 105
- Craft items for NAIDOC week $ 200

The P&C was also successful in obtaining a grant to construct shade sails above the all-purpose court. The shade sails will be in place for the commencement of the new school year in 2015. The P&C contributed a further $6,000 towards the shortfall between the grant and the final cost of the shade sails.

On behalf of the P&C, I offer sincere congratulations to Ms Kacey Constantine on her official appointment as Principal at Rollingstone State School. The school has flourished under Kacey’s enthusiastic and skilled guiding hand. We look forward to working with Kacey next year. We would love to see new members for the P&C in 2015. You don’t have to be a parent of a child at the school.

Cheers......................

Margaret Card (Pres.)