Our school community is committed to providing a supportive learning environment which promotes success and equity.
**School Context**

Soldiers Point Public School aims to provide a happy and safe learning environment with an emphasis on success and equity. It is a dynamic primary school located on the Tomaree peninsula on the shores of Port Stephens.

The school offers an exciting curriculum for all students through the delivery of quality teaching and learning programs and a multitude of opportunities in sport and the arts. The school also hosts an Opportunity Class (OC) catering for the needs of academically gifted students.

The school continues to experience growth with our population increasing to 353 students (December 2014) who are accommodated across 14 classes.

**Principal’s Message**

At Soldiers Point Public School our motto, *Wisdom, Conduct, Knowledge* provides the foundation on which our school community is built. Our common goal is to provide a supportive learning environment ensuring students are engaged in their learning in order to succeed and that appropriate support is in place to promote equity.

Indeed, 2014 has been a successful year both in and out of the classroom. Our students have consistently given their personal best in order to achieve in all they have undertaken.

This report provides a summary of the school’s achievements of which we are rightly proud. These outcomes are the direct result of the hard work and creativity of our students, the commitment and professionalism of our teachers and support staff, and the support and involvement of our community.

In particular our school’s reading results are beyond expectations. This can be attributed to the provision of quality, interruption-free literacy lessons across the school each morning between 8:55-10:55.

Additional information about student results are published later in this report.

I would like to acknowledge and praise the work of the Parents & Citizen’s Association (P&C); its canteen, uniform, grounds, school improvement and finance committees (SIFC) for their contributions this year.

The P&C was successful in completing several projects which have enhanced the quality of the school’s learning environment. The most notable of these is the work on and around our school’s oval and surrounds. You will be able to read more about our Creative Play Spaces project later in this report.

The staff, students and I sincerely thank our school community for their continued support throughout 2014.

In closing, I would like to recognize the outstanding contribution of Ken Harper whom the staff unanimously nominated for Grandparent of the Year. Papa Ken selflessly joins us each morning to support the reading development of our youngest learners. Ken, you are an inspiration.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school’s achievements and areas for development.

*Simon Parson – Principal*
P&C Message

What a wonderful year it has been and thank you so much to all those who have helped the P&C and the school this year and for some for many years.

I sincerely thank all of you.

Some great news, I received a phone call from Craig Baumann, Member of Parliament for Port Stephens who let me know that we were successful in the last round of grants for Community Building Partnership 2014. We have been successful for $5,500 for a covered walkway, being the part between the most recent covered walkway and the COLA i.e. the bit over the stairs. We were also successful with the playground – creative play spaces to the tune of $50,000. So that makes $55,500 for this round of grants and $97,500 in grants over the last three years.

A grant of $50,000 for a creative play spaces playground is most pleasing because the fete in 2010, which raised around $36,000, was for this purpose but circumstances were that funds had to first be directed towards plans, drainage and grounds issues before the goal of chasing down the actual creative play spaces could take place. This grant will allow the creative play spaces playground to move forward in 2015. This most recent $55,500 is a really satisfying result in the overall and on-going projects.

Craig Baumann emphasised that the school is a wonderful and worthy recipient and the project was a worthy project. We sincerely thank Craig Baumann and the NSW State Government for their support over the years and hopefully also into the future.

With all the events and ongoing work in the canteen and uniform shop and in particular this year, the Twilight Markets which raised $6,750 ($6,500 for school reading resources and $250 for the music department from fabulous busking), we have had a very successful year once again.

Thank you once again to all of you this year.

Tristen Cosgrove – President

Captain’s Message

WOW! What a great seven years I have had here at Soldiers Point Public School. They have been the best and I know my peers, who elected me, loved their years here too. We have gained wondrous knowledge, even though I have used autocorrect eight times so far in this document. The teachers have been great and even entertaining!

Soldiers Point is a fun and caring school where all kids are cool and different. You have the sporty type, the arty type, the creative type, the social type, the dreamer type and the academic type.

The SRC have been supportive and were always a positive team to work with whether it be planning and organising fundraisers or providing new ideas for the school. The years have been so much fun and I have found lots of enjoyment in them.

The fundraisers were exceptional experiences, the colour and drama of the Pedlars Parade, Rise for Alex, the Walkathon, and so many more. All the year sixes enjoyed making games for Games Day and the OC loved Think Fest.

As I move on and in to high school I will go knowing I have had a great education and learned many skills at Soldiers Point PS. The confidence that we have gained will surely help us in the transition to high school. When I’m old and probably still good-looking, at the ripe old age of 70, I will tell my family about my wonderful primary school, Soldiers Point.

A special thanks to Mr Parson, Mrs Sherman, Mrs Bradbury and Paula in the canteen for all they have done throughout our time here.

I’m confident the class of 2014 have enjoyed the years at SPPS as much as I have.

Harry A
School Captain

(Extract from 2014 Yearbook)
Vice-captain’s Message

I am so proud to say that not only have I lived my entire life in Soldiers Point but for the last seven years I can also say how proud I am to have been a student at Soldiers Point Public School.

To assist me in writing this report I looked back on the many photos that I have accumulated over my primary school years. What wonderful memories and fantastic opportunities I have had while attending Soldiers Point Public School.

Looking back I realise all the hard work and enormous effort that the teachers and parents put into making our school such a wonderful place and the opportunities we have had to explore our world.

I feel so honoured to be the school’s vice-captain for 2014 and it has certainly been the icing on my cupcake, with a cherry on top.

Honestly, I have loved coming to school each day, especially time spent on school camps, excursions and special fun days.

It has been extremely rewarding to work with the other SRC members to fundraise for Year 6 Fundraising and other causes such as the Alex McKinnon Day. Thank you to all the teachers, parents and students for supporting each of our fundraising events.

I have been fortunate to have made many special friendships whilst at this school and despite many of us going to different high schools I am sure we will stay good friends.

I will miss so much this wonderful school at Soldiers Point and all the teachers and fellow students.

Before I go, as we move on to high school, some advice from me to you:

BE A FRUIT LOOP IN A WORLD FULL OF CHEERIOS!

Tess R
School Vice-captain
(Extract from 2014 Yearbook)
Management of non-attendance

The teachers at Soldiers Point Public School closely monitor student attendance according to protocols stated in the Department of Education and Communities Attendance Policy. School procedures regarding student absences are explained at Parent Information Sessions, which are held at the beginning of the school year.

Workforce Information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all staff must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

Workforce Composition

The Australian Education Regulation, 2014 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce.

One staff member has an indigenous background.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal(s)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teacher(s)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Reading Recovery</td>
<td>0.525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning and Support Teacher(s)</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Counsellor</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>2.922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20.147</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teacher Qualifications

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Institute of Teachers Accreditation</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beginning Teachers

In 2014, Soldiers Point Public School had one beginning teacher appointed to the school. As this was the teacher’s first appointment to a school, additional support was provided under the Great Teaching, Inspired Learning Program.

The funding provided enabled the beginning teacher to attend professional learning activities in classroom management and curriculum development. Time was also made available for the beginning teacher to visit other classrooms to observe best practice in a range of settings.

Professional Learning and Teacher Accreditation

Professional learning is fundamental in raising the capability of all staff, which ultimately transfers to improved student outcomes. Throughout 2014, all staff participated in our Staff Development Day activities in Terms 1, 2, 3 and 4. In addition, fortnightly professional learning activities were offered on a range of topics.

Key priorities for Soldiers Point in 2014 were the implementation of the new English syllabus and familiarisation of the new Mathematics syllabus. Much time was also dedicated to differentiation and ensuring learning adjustments were incorporated into teaching programs.

Compulsory training was also provided for all staff in Emergency Care, Child Protection and anaphylaxis.

The total amount of expenditure for professional learning in 2014 was $20,244.
Financial Summary

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

Date of financial summary 30/11/2014

Income
Balance brought forward $135835.60
Global funds 192329.27
Tied funds 122499.68
School & community sources 181461.29
Interest 5394.93
Trust receipts 29130.80
Canteen 0.00
Total income $530815.97

Expenditure
Teaching & learning
  Key learning areas 10879.04
  Excursions 41951.99
  Extracurricular dissections 58634.86
Library 6260.14
Training & development 12764.86
Tied funds 84123.10
Casual relief teachers 52018.32
Administration & office 64896.40
School-operated canteen 0.00
Utilities 41190.48
Maintenance 19389.41
Trust accounts 23736.50
Capital programs 42503.07
Total expenditure $458348.17
Balance carried forward $208303.40

A full copy of the school’s 2014 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the School Council and/or the parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School Performance

2014 Academic Achievements

NAPLAN

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in these assessments.

Year 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)
Year 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)

The My School website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing (NAPLAN).

Click on the link http://www.myschool.edu.au and enter the school name in the Find a school and select GO to access the school data.

NAPLAN Year 3 - Literacy

Details included below reflect student results in the strands of writing, grammar and punctuation. Students’ reading results are included later in this report.

In 2014, 35 students in Year 3 participated in the writing component of NAPLAN. An impressive 58% of students were placed in Bands 5 and 6 compared to a 43% state average.

![Percentage in bands: Year 3 Writing](chart.png)

- Percentage in Bands
- School Average 2011-2014
- SSG % in Bands 2014
- State DEC % in Bands 2014

Soldiers Point Public School | Annual School Report 2014
Our Year 3 students performed well in grammar and punctuation with 67% of students scoring in Band 5 and 6, compared to a 50% state average.

Similar to Year 3, Year 5 students performed well in grammar and punctuation with 58% of students in Band 7 and 8 for grammar and punctuation compared to a 45% state average.

NAPLAN Year 5 – Literacy
Details included below reflect Year 5 student results in the strands of writing, grammar and punctuation. Student reading results are included later in this report.

In 2014, 64 students in Year 5 participated in the writing component of NAPLAN. An impressive 25% of students were placed in Bands 7 and 8, compared to a 15% state average.

Our girls scored higher than our boys in all areas. Our boys scored higher than the state average for boys in all areas.

Other Achievements
Visual Arts
The school playground was further enhanced this year with the addition of the relief sculpture on the Stage 3 balcony. A whole school Indigenous artwork focus led to several students’ artwork being selected and combined to create a sculpture. With great appreciation Mr. James Rogers, a parent of one of our students, was involved in creating the final sculpture.

This year we hosted the inaugural Twilight Markets at Soldiers Point Public School. The whole school decided that this would be the creative arts focus for the year. Teachers integrated art activities into all Key Learning Areas to support this major fundraiser. This whole school event provided opportunities for students to create, value and market their products.

Students designed and created excellent handmade products including:
- gift wrapping paper
- ceramic jewellery
- fridge magnets
- bird seed feeders
- mobiles.
This was a successful event for students, staff and the wider school community. The event developed great pride amongst all involved.

Students have been provided with many opportunities to showcase their artwork and learn new skills:

- Stage 2 classes developed new skills working with pottery. Experimentation with glazing techniques increased students’ understanding of successful application and appreciation for design. Students were able to produce a quality Christmas gift for families using these acquired skills.

- Various staff members included art appreciation into their lessons. Students studied the various styles of art from the past and attempted to recreate these techniques. Works from famous artist were referred to and discussed. Artists included Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol.

- In 2014 an individual creative focus was encouraged in our annual card art program. A popular addition was the inclusion of diaries. Cards and calendars were again an option. Student’s artwork was exemplary and well supported by the school community.

- Major assemblies throughout the school year have provided opportunities for students to view and appreciate their peer’s creativity.

Soldiers Point Public School is committed to delivering quality creative arts programs, which enables students of all abilities to succeed.

### Academic Achievements

The University of New South Wales International Competitions and Assessments for Schools is offered to students from Year 3 to 6. Students participated in the Mathematics, English, Writing, Spelling, Science and Computer Skills Competitions. Our results across all subject areas were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Distinction</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students in Year 5 and 6 were involved in the Newcastle Permanent Mathematics Competition. Murray J, Ethan M and Abbie B achieved High Distinctions in the Year 5 division, whilst Harrison L achieved a High Distinction in the Year 6 division.

Harrison L participated in the Premier’s Spelling Bee with other students from across the Hunter/Central Coast Region.

The Opportunity Class once again participated in Murder under the Microscope and the annual Thinkfest challenge. These learning activities provide the students with valuable experiences, which support the development of 21st Century skills such as collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity.

Thinkfest was held at Maryland Public School with the class split into four groups to solve unique problems. Each group presented their processes creatively through a visual diary, backdrop, prop and skit.

The class was successful in receiving six awards for their responses:

- English / Visual Images – Best Overall, Best Performance and Best Script;
- Human Society in its Environment (HSIE) – Best Overall, Best Visual Diary and Best Skit Solution.
Sport

Soldiers Point Public School aims to foster participation in and an enjoyment of a variety of sporting activities to promote a happy and healthy lifestyle.

Our school carnivals allowed all students the opportunity to participate regardless of their abilities. Pearson house were the overall winners of our carnival program this year.

The table below indicates the levels that students competed at the various Primary School Sports Association (PSSA) trials and competitions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Hunter</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFL</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby League</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby Union</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our boys’ softball team performed particularly well and won the Hunter section of the PSSA Sports Knockouts, thus making it to the top 16 teams in the state. They eventually lost to a very competent team of more experienced players.

AFL continued its resurgence with the team performing exceptionally well in the PSSA competition. As Hunter champions the side lost a hard fought game to exit in the top 16 teams in the state.

Girls’ and boys’ touch football teams represented the school in both PSSA and gala day events.

The school fielded several rugby league teams in a number of events in both junior and senior divisions.

The junior (Under 12) rugby league team progressed to Round 3 of the PSSA Knockout. The same team participated in the Jarrod Mullen Cup held at Salamander Bay. The boys competed very well winning 4 of their 5 games.

Girls' and boys’ touch football teams represented the school in both PSSA and gala day events.

A team of eight tennis players competed in the local schools competition and were runners-up.

The school fielded several rugby league teams in a number of events in both junior and senior divisions.

The senior (Under 12) rugby league team entered the 2014 All Schools Knockout held in Newcastle. For many of the boys this was a great opportunity to have their first taste of rugby league.

The number of hockey players continues to grow and an enthusiastic group represented the school in the knockouts.

Although fielding strong girl’s and boy’s sides our football (soccer) teams both made early exits in the PSSA competition despite both our teams having several zone and Hunter players.

In 2014 the school’s netball team used their natural sporting abilities to perform competitively in all games.
Significant Programs & Initiatives - Policy and Equity Funding

Aboriginal Education

In 2014, 16 Aboriginal students attended Soldiers Point Public School. In order to strengthen partnerships and promote genuine collaboration between the school and Aboriginal families, each student had a Personalised Learning Plan (PLP) which was developed with the students’ parent at the beginning of the year.

Aboriginal education has been an inclusive part of the curriculum at Soldiers Point Public School. This approach has seen all students exposed to Aboriginal perspectives in their units of work.

We continue to feature an Acknowledgement of Country at the beginning of our school assemblies and at significant school events.

Multicultural education and anti-racism

In order to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will allow our students to fully participate in a culturally diverse society, the school has maintained a focus on multicultural education in all areas of the curriculum.

Units of work completed by students reflect these values and encourage appreciation of multicultural Australia, as do related topics in English.

The school does not tolerate racism in any form and has an Anti-Racism Contact Officer who is trained to deal with issues related to racism.

Socio-economic background

Soldiers Point Public School received funding that was used to increase the effectiveness of classroom, stage and school organisation. It enabled teachers to cooperatively plan and assess existing protocols thus improving the quality of teaching and learning outcomes across the school.

Learning and Support

In 2014, Soldiers Point Public School received additional funding to support the learning needs of students requiring low level adjustments ensuring they are able to access the curriculum. The bulk of these funds were used to fund a School Learning Support Officer (SLSO) who provided support for teachers in recognising and responding to the additional learning needs of students.

Other significant initiatives

At Soldiers Point Public School we have had the National Schools Chaplaincy Program for two and a half years. This Program provides students with support and appropriate referral when experiencing difficult situations such as during times of grief or when students are facing personal or emotional challenges. Our Chaplain, Mrs. Joy Shotter, is a member of the school’s Learning Support Team and works closely with the Learning Support Team and staff to plan for and deliver student resilience and wellbeing services.

During the time that we have had a Chaplain, she has facilitated one-on-one mentoring and group sessions to support student wellbeing, for example, resilience programs, peer support, social groups and Seasons for Growth.

With parental permission, our Chaplain is available to support students who express a desire to explore their spirituality, providing guidance about spirituality, values and ethical matters as per Chaplaincy Guidelines.

Our Chaplain engages with and represents the parents and members of the school community to provide support or referral in times of grief or other critical events. The Chaplain has an extensive referral list of welfare services available to Soldiers Point Public School and helps teachers with resources on welfare and emotional issues when appropriate.
School Planning & Evaluation 2012—2014

School Evaluation Processes

NSW public schools conduct evaluations to support the effective implementation of the school plan. The processes used include:

- Extensive analysis of NAPLAN and school-based data.
- Reviews of school policies and procedures.
- Wider consultation with the community was achieved via an electronic survey, which was completed by 44 families.
- A Parent Forum was held to discuss community expectations and strategies for communication. The outcomes have created future pathways for better communication and engagement with the school.

School Priority 1

Facilitate quality teaching initiatives that increase levels of literacy and numeracy achievement for every student.

2014 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Increased percentage of Year 3 and 5 students in the top two bands in numeracy:
  - Year 3 = 42% in Bands 5 and 6
  - Year 5 = 46% in Bands 7 and 8
- Student growth equal to or greater than expected for NAPLAN = 80 points

Our achievements include:

Year 3 students were successful in meeting our school target for numeracy with 46% being placed in Bands 5-6.

Year 5 students were unsuccessful in meeting our school numeracy target with 33% being placed in Bands 7-8.
Outcomes from 2012–2014

It is pleasing to note that the average student growth between Years 3 and 5 increased to 87 points, which is an improvement on previous years.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014

- All teachers attended professional learning in order to familiarise themselves with the new Mathematics syllabus.
- Professional learning opportunities for teachers which reinforce the explicit teaching of problem solving.
- In-school consultation with the learning and support teacher to support identified students in numeracy.

School Priority 2

Working and learning environments are practical, attractive and environmentally responsible.

Outcomes from 2012–2014

Creative Play Spaces project completed.

The grounds at Soldiers Point Public School have appreciated a significant amount of attention again this year with numerous achievements including:

- Upgrading the oval by installing sub-soil drainage and laying new turf.
- Constructing concrete seating at the northern end of the oval.
- Erecting a swale to direct water away from the oval to minimise flooding.
- Constructing a covered walkway which will provide protection between the Administration Block and Blocks I, H and the library.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

Underlying the Creative Play Spaces project is the enthusiasm of the community to help students grow and develop safely through a world of play.

To achieve this goal, the school’s P&C have actively and successfully raised funds throughout 2014 to continue work on our school’s Creative Play Spaces project, which will roll into 2015.

Future Directions

The final stage of the project will see the introduction of playground equipment to the school.

Continued consultation with students, teachers and parents will inform a decision on preferred designs for the school’s play equipment.

This exciting stage will commence following the removal of the demountable Library, which is due to be replaced in 2015.
School Priority 3
Facilitate quality teaching initiatives that increase levels of literacy and numeracy achievement for every student.

Outcomes from 2012–2014
Improve reading performance of all students.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:
In 2014, 35 students in Year 3 participated in the reading component of NAPLAN. An impressive 59% of students were placed in Bands 5 and 6 compared to a 50% state average.

- Boys scored higher in all areas compared to boys across the state; and our boys have scored better than our girls in reading.
- 69% of students in Band 5 and 6 for reading compared to a 50% state average.

It is pleasing to note that the average student growth between Years 3 and 5 increased to 78 points which is higher than previous years.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:
- Professional learning opportunities for teachers which reinforce the explicit teaching of reading focusing on the new English syllabus.
- Allocation of additional literacy support time of 5 hours per week in Stage 1 and 2 hours each week in Early Stage 1.
- Continuation of the Reading Recovery program in Year 1.
- In-school consultation with learning and support teacher.
- Providing explicit and systematic teaching of reading across all stages each morning in all classes.

Book Week 2014 was a lot of fun for our entire school community.
Parent / Caregiver, Student and Teacher Satisfaction

In 2014, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers specifically about the school’s welfare programs. This process involved the opportunity for the community to complete an online survey, as well as offering the opportunity for parents to attend a Parent Forum. Their responses are presented below.

2014 was a year of reflection and review in respect to student welfare. This meant that the school reviewed its Effective Learning Code, including the You Can Do It! Program.

All staff members responded via a pen and paper survey while 45 parents completed the online survey, which was open to all of the school community.

Some of the positive results included:

• Of parents, 93% agreed that our students learn in a happy, healthy, caring environment.

• Of parents, 93% believe that teachers encourage students to participate and be given opportunities in decision making.

• Of parents, 96% felt that the school acknowledged student achievements in the school newsletter and local media.

Some areas for improvement were indicated by:

• Only 61% of staff and 80% of parents felt that students arrived at school punctually, prepared for lessons and in school uniform.

• 90% of staff and 67% of parents believed that the school / teachers contacted parents in person, by letter or telephone.
**Future Directions**

- The format and presentation of the Effective Learning Code will be reconfigured, using colour and pictures to highlight the *You Can Do It!* foundations, making it more user-friendly for staff and parents.

- The Effective Learning Code will include the school’s new vision statement and strategic directions, in line with the 2015-2017 Strategic Plan.

- The school will continue the *You Can Do It!* Program, with emphasis on goal setting and building resilience in our students.

The aim of the Parent Forum was to hear directly from parents about some of the school’s current practices and share ideas for improvement to help shape future directions for the school. More specifically the forum aimed to:

- Hear about what is working well in the school and what areas could be improved.

- Obtain feedback about the overall vision and strategic directions for the school.

- Gather suggestions on how we achieve successful partnerships through effective collaboration and communication.

The outcomes of the Forum will be used to assist in the development of the Strategic Plan 2015-17.

The Strategic Plan is a three-year plan required by the Department of Education which identifies the overall vision of the school, strategic directions and goals, and actions to achieve those goals.

The outcomes from the Parent Forum reflect several key themes. These include:

- Soldiers Point Public School provides a positive, caring learning environment supported by professional staff and the broader school community.

- Communication between the school and parents / caregivers continues to be of concern.

- Ideas to improve communication include more opportunities for direct contact between class teachers and parents / caregivers; and increased communication regarding school processes.

**Future Directions**

**2015-2017 School Plan**

NSW Department of Education and Communities (DEC) is implementing a new school planning process for 2015-17. The new plan will be published on the school’s website from the beginning of Term 2 2015.

The school’s vision statement is:

**Our school community is committed to providing a supportive learning environment fostering respect, creativity and resilience.** (2015)

The vision statement will be supported by three strategic directions:

- Successful learning through innovative teaching.

- Successful teaching through cooperative and consistent practices.

- Successful partnerships through collaboration and communication.
About This Report

In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analysed other information about the school's practices and student learning outcomes. The self-evaluation committee and school planning committee have determined targets for the school's future development.

Tristen Cosgrove Parent
Kylie Screen Parent
Ruth McLeod Parent
Harry A. Student
Tess R. Student
Joy Shotter Chaplain
Lya Strassmeir Teacher
Michelle Sproule Teacher
Jenny Baxter Teacher
Sharon Egan Teacher
Alison Soulsby Teacher
Rose Aitchison Teacher
Lisa Cornwell Teacher
Jeff Gibson Teacher
Helen Wilson Assistant Principal
Ashlee Pawley Assistant Principal
Simon Parson Principal

School Contact Information

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Parents can find more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the report and have the opportunity to provide feedback about the report at: