Welcome back! I hope all of our families had a wonderful break and feel refreshed and relaxed. It is with great pleasure that I write my first newsletter as principal of Bass Hill Public School. I am absolutely thrilled to be part of such a wonderful school and look forward to working with the students, staff, families and community members to make Bass Hill the best it can be! I have worked in a range of schools across South Western Sydney, with my most recent roles being relieving principal at Homebush West PS and deputy principal at Campbellfield PS.

**Classes for 2014 are as follows;**

- Preschool Mrs Elizabeth Wulff and Mrs Joanne Jurgeit
- KA Mrs Sherry Abbas
- KM Miss Michelle Adams
- KS Miss Hayley Sellen
- 1C Miss Michelle Carey
- 1S Miss Kristen Sellen
- 1T Mrs Claire Tomlin (AP)
- 2H Miss Jessica Hall
- 2J Mrs Deborah Jones
- 2K Miss Jayde Adderly
- 3/4A Mrs Rosemary Adamson and Mrs Narelle Akkawy
- 3/4F Mrs Kim Fowler (AP)
- 3/4G Mrs Leanne Gray
- 3/4H Miss Camelia Handal
- 5A Mrs Lauren Attia
- 5/6D Miss Brianna Danaher (AP)
- 5/6T Mrs Louise Tate
- 5/6S Mrs Amber Taouk

**2014 Classes and Supervision**

Our 2014 student enrolment has resulted in the formation of 17 classes. A meet the teacher week is being organised for Week 4 this term and further information about this will be sent home in the next week or so.
Teachers when planning and programming refer to "stages" of development and the syllabus documents teachers use reflect the developmental nature of learning in young children.

In a primary school setting there are four stages of learning. They are;

- **Early Stage 1** = Kindergarten
- **Stage 1** = Years 1 and 2
- **Stage 2** = Years 3 and 4
- **Stage 3** = Years 5 and 6

All primary classes, apart from one, at Bass Hill this year are stage based.

Stage based classes acknowledge that there are significant individual differences in each child to be addressed regardless of age. The formation of classes according to stages can reflect and cater for these individual differences. Even within the same class, children will be at different levels. Teachers recognise this and usually extend the work of those who learn more quickly and give more attention to those needing more time to achieve that same level. The class then becomes outcome-based and encourages students to take responsibility and ownership of their learning environment.

All schools have executive teams that support teachers and students. At Bass Hill the executive team is made up of;

- The principal – Mrs Melissa Proctor
- An instructional leader – Miss Jodie Clark
- 3 Assistant Principals – Mrs Kim Fowler, Mrs Claire Tomlin and Miss Brianna Danaher

Each executive member is responsible for supporting a particular stage and group of teachers. This year, that support will be as follows;

- **Preschool and Early Stage 1** – Jodie Clark
- **Stage 1** – Claire Tomlin
- **Stage 2** – Kim Fowler
- **Stage 3** – Brianna Danaher

Support staff – Melissa Proctor

If at any time you have questions or concerns your first port of call should be your child’s classroom teacher. If they are unable to help you, please make an appointment to speak to the executive member responsible for that stage.

**Kindergarten**

All of our wonderful Kindergarten students started last Thursday and what a tremendous day they had. They all looked fabulous in their new uniforms and the majority were happy to wave goodbye to mum and dad and get started! They have settled in wonderfully and have spent time getting to know each other and their teachers.

**School Gates**

One of my main priorities as principal is to ensure my students and staff are happy and safe. At present students and families are entering and exiting the school through gates where cars and delivery trucks come and go. As of today the car park gates will be locked from 8:30am – 3:30pm and students will not be able to walk in through these entrances. There will be four gates open of a morning and afternoon to allow students and families to come into the school and one main gate to access the preschool.

Our school gates will then remain locked during school hours to keep our students safe and prevent intruders accessing our school.

From 9:10am to 2:30pm, the only available access into the school between these hours will be the pedestrian gate on Horton Street, closest to the COLA. Anyone on school grounds once the gates have been closed or lessons have commenced need to be known through the school office. Please sign on as a visitor at the school office, even if it is for a short visit. We have included a map in this week’s newsletter, illustrating the gates students and the community can use.

**P and C Meeting**

Our first P and C meeting for the year will be held this Wednesday evening in the staff room, commencing at 7pm. I will discuss my priorities for Bass Hill PS so please come along to the meeting as I would love to meet and chat with as many people as possible.

**Attendance**

In NSW, students must attend school regularly. Parents are required to explain their child’s absences and failure to explain them will be recorded on the child’s records as ‘unjustified absence’. Reasons such as birthdays, shopping, or minding brothers and sisters are deemed unsatisfactory reasons. If your child is absent for any reason please send a note with them, the day they return, explaining why.

We take attendance very seriously and parents will be contacted if a student has:

- attendance rate of 85% or less
- more than 5 unexplained absences
- excessive part day absences or lateness

It is also very important
that students arrive at school on time. Students that are late to school will need to come around to the front gate to enter the school, visit the office and receive a late note, before proceeding to class. Students that go straight to class without receiving a late note will be asked to return to the office.

If you have difficulty ensuring your child attends school every day please contact us, we are here to support you. A Home School Liaison Officer works closely with Bass Hill, supporting parents/care givers and students to address attendance issue.

**Morning Assemblies**
Every Monday and Tuesday at 9am all students will gather under the covered outdoor learning area for a short assembly. Parents and community members are welcome to stay for the assembly and listen to the messages before students move off to class.

**Clothing Pool**
All uniforms are now in stock. Clothing pool is open every Tuesday morning from 9.15 – 10.00am.

If your child has outgrown their uniform the clothing pool would appreciate them.

**Canteen**
A new lunch menu has gone home. Please keep a copy handy. Don’t forget all lunches need to be brought to the canteen by 9.00am.

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**Thank you for your continued support.**

Melissa Proctor
Principal

**P&C**
Welcome back to all our families and a special welcome to all our new families.

Our first P&C meeting for 2014 will be next Wednesday 5/2/14 at 7pm in the staffroom. Come along and meet our new principal Mrs Proctor. Everyone is welcome.

The P&C also have a facebook page. Please like our page to keep updated on all our fundraisers and events.
# 2014 Requirements for Classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage One – Year 1 and Year 2</th>
<th>Stage Two and Stage 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pencil case</td>
<td>pencil case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 HB lead pencils</td>
<td>4 HB lead pencils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coloured pencils</td>
<td>coloured pencils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pencil sharpener</td>
<td>wind up crayons (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eraser</td>
<td>pencil sharpener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 glue sticks</td>
<td>eraser small scissors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box of tissues</td>
<td>2 glue sticks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paint shirt</td>
<td>box of tissues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library bag</td>
<td>paint shirt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue school hat</td>
<td>textas (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrapbook for homework</td>
<td>30cm wooden or plastic ruler (No ‘bendy” flexible rulers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby wipes</td>
<td>Library bag</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 highlighter pens</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 blue pens</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4 black pens</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Blue school hat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A4 Book 48 pages Stage 2 (for homework)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A4 Book 96 pages Stage 3 (for homework)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NO LIQUID PAPER/WHITE OUT</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please ensure all items are labelled with your child’s name. Any other specific items required for 2014 will be advised by the class teacher.

Kinder students please bring baby wipes and tissues.

Thank you for your support

K-6 Teachers

**Healthy Eating**

It is important that children learn from an early age the importance of healthy eating. At school we reinforce this importance and encourage students to make healthy choices when it comes to food. It would be great if parents and teachers could work together to ensure children bring appropriate foods and drink for recess and lunch. Children should be encouraged to bring plain water to school to drink.

Sweet drinks such as cordials or fruit juice are high in sugar and are not necessary all the time. Soft drinks are also not appropriate drinks for students to bring to school.

Snack foods are also something to think about. While the occasional lolly or bag of chips does not do any harm, students should not be eating them before school or all the time. Please ensure your child has healthy snacks rather than chips, sweet biscuits, lollies etc when at school.

Lunch box suggestions include:
- Sandwiches or pita bread with cheese, lean meat, hummus and salad
- Cheese slices, crackers with spread, and fresh or dried fruits
- Washed and cut up raw vegetables or fresh fruits
- Frozen water bottle or tetra pack of milk, particularly in hot weather.