Final Principal’s Perspective for 2015:

As the school year draws to a close, I would like to sincerely thank Jen Sutherland and Travis Paterson for their outstanding work in 2015 as Assistant Principals. I thank the teachers and the administration team for their enthusiasm, energy and commitment to the students and families of Surrey Hills Primary School. Thank you to members of the School Council, Parents’ Association and class parent representatives who have all contributed to the school community in a variety of ways to support their children and the students at Surrey Hills Primary School in their primary years of education. I sincerely thank Roger Dickinson, a retiring School Council member for his tireless efforts as the Convenor of the Facilities Committee over many years. Roger has coordinated many Working Bees, mowing the school nature strip when needed; an outstanding effort.

Student Leadership
I would like to thank our 2015 Student Leadership Team for their commitment this year ensuring and upholding the school values. Their leadership of our school assemblies on Friday under the guidance of Marika Smith has been outstanding and I wish them every success for their future schooling. I wish to congratulate the Year 5 students who nominated for the 2016 student leadership positions. All student leadership positions will be announced at the 9.00am Assembly on Thursday 17 December.

Student Council
Congratulations to the members of Student Council for organising a breadth of fundraising events this year. Under the guidance of Nicole Richards, the Student Council and our students have supported many worthwhile charities inspiring us all to support and care for the vulnerable members in our communities - it was an outstanding achievement.

Staffing
Congratulations to Marika Smith who was appointed as our 2016 Leading Teacher-Curriculum through state-wide advertised positions. We have several teachers leaving at the end of year and we thank them for their time and commitment to the students of Surrey Hills Primary School.

Teresa Douglass who commenced in July 2009 has been an innovative classroom teacher, Team Leader and PE/Sports teacher. Teresa is returning to secondary teaching at Belgrave Heights Christian College and we wish her every success.

Tristan Buchanan commenced in 2013 as a young graduate teacher teaching in Level 2 & 3. Tristan has been instrumental in the development of the new reporting package – ‘Accelerus’ this year, conducting professional development for teachers. Tristan is leaving to travel overseas and teach. We wish him every success for the future.
Sheryl Boey commenced in 2013 as a young graduate teacher and developed our new LOTE (Mandarin) curriculum. Sheryl also established the Eagles program in 2014 which enriches the learning of high achieving students through accelerated and enriched learning opportunities. We thank Sheryl for her commitment to the students at SHPS, organising and implementing two very successful whole school LOTE days – an amazing achievement. Sheryl is leaving to pursue further studies and we wish her every success.

Simone Dean joined us this year as a graduate teacher in the Foundation Team. Simone is moving to Mt Pleasant Primary School to work in their new open-learning environment. We wish Simone every success.

Kim Harrington who has been a member of our student support team since 2006 has worked tirelessly, not only for the special needs students in her care but also within the Performing Arts program. Kim was instrumental in introducing SHPS to ‘Lypsync’ and has been the school production and Wakakirri costume designer, maker and choreographer for many years. Kim’s commitment to the students and staff of this school through her innovative and creative talents has been outstanding and we wish her every success as she moves to Birralee Primary School next year.

I welcome the following teachers to our 2016 teaching team: Thea Godfrey; Elizabeth Ogilvy (LOTE) and Nancy Robottom who is returning from family leave.

We will have 19 classes in 2016:

**Level 1 - Foundation**: Leanne Rabl, Bec Candy and Penny Camiot

**Level 2 - Years 1 & 2**: Simone Boyd-Clark, Rebecca Gardiner, Anita Jennings, Ange Hatzilepos, Shelley Heriot, Thea Godfrey and Krystal Willcocks

**Level 3 - Years 3 & 4**: Nancy Robottom, Ryan Gordon, Brydon O’Neill-Guy, Sue Hawkins and Robyn Donaldson

**Level 4 - Years 5 & 6**: Marika Smith, Felicity Ryan, Nicole Richards and Daniel Hunt

**PE/Sport**: Alan Beale; **LOTE**: Elizabeth Ogilvy; **PA**: Anne Strasser; **VA**: Katie Burke & Bonnie McNeil

**Student Reports and Learning Journals**

Students took home their School Report, Individual Learning Plan and Learning Journals today. This envelope also includes your child’s 2016 Homegroup teacher and class location.

**Learning Zones**

An additional flexible wall is being installed downstairs in Zone 1 to enable greater flexibility for class movement as our student enrolment fluctuates across the school. The Library (picture story, fiction and non-fiction, teacher reference) will be consolidated in the front presentation room to enable greater flexibility and location of classes.

In 2016, Zone 3 (Years 3&4) will be located downstairs at the Valonia Ave end and it will also include an additional space created by the new flexible wall in Zone 1. Zone 4 (Year 5&6) will move upstairs; Zone 2, (Year 1 & 2) will remain upstairs and Zone 1 (Foundation) will be downstairs.

**Year 6 Students**

The Year 6 Graduation evening is being held on Monday 14 December, commencing at 6.00pm. We will celebrate with the students and their parents seven years of primary education. Thank you to all parents and teachers who have assisted in the organisation of this evening.

**Final Assemblies**

There will be two assemblies on Thursday 17 December. The end of year assembly will be held in the Stadium at 9.00am and the Year 6 Farewell assembly will commence promptly at 12.00 noon in the Stadium. Students do not bring lunch on Thursday only a snack for morning tea as they will dismiss at 12.50pm from the stadium and collect their bags from learning zones. Students attending the Camp Australia program on Thursday afternoon will need to bring their lunch. The Camp Australia program will finish at 6.00pm on Thursday 17 December.

**Retirement**

On behalf of the Surrey Hills School Community I wish Jen Sutherland every happiness as she explores the realms of retirement. Jen has contributed to our school and state education through her ongoing commitment, dedication and tireless efforts to make a difference in the life of every child. She will be sadly missed and I hope that she will visit us from time to time to check out the Library!

I wish all students, teachers and their families a safe and relaxing holiday and look forward to the 2016 school year which commences for teachers on Wednesday 27 January and for students, Thursday 29 January.