

**NEWSLETTER**

**Term 4 Week 9 1st December, 2015**

*Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Bates Drive School,*

*As 2015 draws rather quickly to a close, it provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments, successes and changes to the Bates Drive community over the past 12 months.*

*Together, the students and staff have celebrated significant days in both class and whole school activities. We came together to learn and deepen our respect for the ANZACs, the Indigenous Community during NAIDOC Week and community spirit during Harmony day. We celebrated the input and love we share with our families during Grandparents’ Day, Valentine’s Day, Mothers’ & Fathers’ Days as well as the birthdays of peers.*

*More significantly, we acknowledged & celebrated the individual success and achievements of each and every student in our school. Just like parents, staff at Bates Drive see every little academic accomplishment, every little improvement in social engagement, every small development in a mobility program or increase in independence. Every achievement is noted and celebrated.*

*This is none more obvious than at the Presentation of the Graduating students by family, friends and staff last week at Kareela Golf Club. Three gentlemen, who have spent a varying number of years attending our school, have now finished here at Bates Drive and are starting on the next part of their journey. We wish our Graduating students- Daniel D’Souza, Phillip Kapsimallis and Harrison Katzos- all the best for the future.*

*It takes many hands to make a successful night. I would like to thank Maree Milwain for the delicious graduation cake and cupcakes, Robert Miller for the supply and printing of the jerseys, Kareela Golf Club for generously supplying the venue & the P&C for hiring the DJ and purchasing the graduation jerseys. To all the staff who worked diligently to fund-raise, produce the fabulous room decorations, power point presentations and the donation of your time- thankyou- this is what our school is all about.*

*I would also like to thank the hard working members of the P&C. Without their help and support, our students would do without so many of the fantastic resources we have at the school. This year the P&C have supplied more equipment for the playground, Carols in the Park BBQ, supply of gifts for the mothers’ and fathers’ day stalls and so much more.*

*It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to one of the P&Cs greatest advocates and hardest workers- Voula Kapsimallis. Voula has been an active member of the committee for many years and a driving force behind many fund raising functions. Voula and her infectious spirit will be sorely missed by everyone she comes into contact with.*

*We are also saying goodbye to one of our students Lucy Halliday and her family and wish them all the best in their new venture. Lucy and her bubbly personality will be missed by staff and peers alike. We also wish the following staff all the best-Clare will be leaving us to pursue further teaching experiences in other schools and Cheryl will be moving temporarily down the coast to be closer to family. We wish them both all happiness.*

*Next year we welcome four new boys to our school, Robert Seeroo, Oscar Milosevski and Connor Gilfoyle who will all be starting in kindergarten and Robbie Anderson who will be entering year 10. We wish them a warm welcome.*

*Lastly I would like to thank Robyn for this opportunity to fill her hard working boots whilst she is off recovering from surgery – I know she is keen to return ASAP! Huge thanks also to the staff for their support and patience with me during this huge learning curve. A special mention must go to the Executive team and Andrea in the office who helped guided me through the complexities of the position.*

*The staff and I wish all our students, families and carers a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday. We look forward to seeing you all back in 2016*

Warmest Regards, Chris Mealey, Relieving Principal

Warmest regards

Robyn Compton, Principal

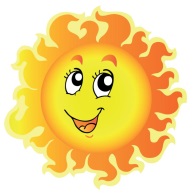
It was great to see so many parents and carers attending our Meet the Staff Evening. There will be other opportunities throughout the year to visit classrooms and see what the students are doing in each curriculum area. Over the next coming weeks the Personalised Learning Plan meetings will be taking place. It is important that we work together as a team to develop a worthwhile learning plan for each child.

Your child’s class teacher will send out an invitation to each family.

Warmest regards

Robyn Compton, Principal



**SUNSHINE** 

Our last newsletter entry for the year!

The Sunshine class is having a great end to term. In Week 5, we went on an outing to the Teddy Bears’ Picnic in the Royal National Park. We had such a good time participating in craft activities, going on a bush walk, and of course – morning tea with our teddy bears.

We are wrapping up our unit of work on ‘Keeping Safe’, where we have been sorting pictures and reading social stories about how to keep ourselves and others safe in school and at home. We have made a start on our Christmas craft and our classroom is looking wonderfully festive! Monday is our active day, where we have a splash and a swim in the pool as well as visit Funarama in Kirrawee, where we explore and climb to our hearts content!

It has been a fantastic year for the Sunshine class. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know my new Kindergartners; Marley, Akif and Sharnae, and it has been wonderful to have Kitana, Katelyn, Aaron and Jeremy in my class again this year. Thank you to our families for all of your support this year, and MERRY CHRISTMAS!! See you in 2016!

Leah, Cheryl and the Sunshine class.





**RAINBOWS** 

Hello!

The Rainbows have been enjoying the warm weather this term! We have begun swimming again and cooling down in the spring heat with the Sunshine class, which has been so much fun. This term has been jam packed full of exciting programs and activities. Our class went on an excursion to the Royal National Park earlier this term with our friends, the Sunshines. We went on a teddy bear’s picnic where we bushwalked, painted, read stories and had morning tea with our favourite stuffed toy. It was a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed themselves! We are also planning a shopping trip to Kareela Coles Shopping centre during week 9 to coincide with our unit of work on ‘Keeping Safe’.

The year 1 students in our class have been busy with their integration program the last two terms and recently had their end of year party. Both classes from Grays Point Public School attended the party, so we were able to see all of our friends from the year. They enjoyed parachute games, dancing and treats. Each of them also received a lovely card signed by their friends to take home with them.

We wish everyone a happy and safe summer holidays.

Molly, Karen, Angela and the Rainbows

# E:\2015 Rainbows Photos\Teddy Bears Picnic 2015\Ryan\IMG_9441.JPG



**SPARKLES** 

As we are nearing the end of the year and Christmas is fast approaching, the Sparkles’ class have been busily participating in a range of themed programs and attending special events.

In week six we celebrated two birthdays in our class – Happy Birthday Amna, who turned 11 years old on Tuesday the 10th of November, and Happy Birthday Victoria, who turned an unspecified age on Thursday the 12th of November! The Rays’ class also had a birthday to celebrate, and so our classes joined together on Friday the 13th of November for a shared birthday bonanza. Thank you to Sarah, Charmaine and Cassie for organising the festivities, and thank you to everyone who participated – we all had a great time!

On the night of Friday the 13th of November, the school held the highly anticipated Christmas Carols event despite wet weather conditions. Wow, what a wonderful night! It was lovely to see so many smiling faces and beautiful artworks on display from every class!

We are all enjoying our community learning program as we drive to Shelly Park each Thursday morning and exit the bus. Our favourite areas are the swings and the climbing apparatus. We have a couple more weeks to enjoy this program, before we wrap things up and prepare for what’s to come. Our swimming program is also going very well – everyone is getting in as this weather is heating up!

Wishing you all a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year!

Victoria, Charmaine and the Sparkles





**SOLARS**  SOLARS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents for their support this year. We really appreciate being able to work as a team because it has made our year more enjoyable. We have had a great year with LOTs of fun times and many more to come leading into Christmas. This past term we have had Grandparents’ Day with three of our grandparents able to join us and it was lovely to show off. The boys couldn’t stop smiling all day. Halloween was spooky but a lot of fun. The walkathon wore us out and we are now getting ready for Christmas.

To our SLSOs Jo, Kelly & Gabby, THANK YOU.

Nicole and Kirrily



**RAYS**  

Well I can’t believe we are down to our last newsletter for the year! The time has absolutely flown by. I would like to start off by saying what a wonderful year it has been teaching the Rays’ class with Cassie. We have had an absolute ball and will miss our ‘Rays of sunshine’. The class has participated in many events this year all of which brought a smile to our faces. Most recently we celebrated the Jack Hinton Walk-a-thon and Carols in the Park. Both events were a huge success and it was so great to see so many families out of school having some fun dancing and singing along to Christmas classics and Wiggles songs!!

In class we also celebrated our last birthday for the year. Happy Birthday to Victoria who turned 12 years old! We celebrated in style by joining forces with our neighbouring class, the Sparkles (who also had a few birthdays to celebrate) and had a pizza party down in the COLA! It was an excellent day and the students enjoyed this very much. The Rays’ class have worked very hard this year across all Key Learning Areas and are looking forward to heading into the festive season with some Christmas activities. I would just like to say thanks again to all our families for a wonderful year and wish all the students the best for the year ahead.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Sarah, Cassie and our Rays of sunshine, ☺

(Braden, Lucy, Angelina, Victoria, Magnus and Hayden)

**COSMICS** 



Chris is back in the Principal’s chair until Friday 4th December, so I am back on the Cosmics’ class. The boys are busy busy busy this term with swimming, community access on Tuesdays and lots of work to finish off. We have begun looking at ‘Position’ in Maths and are continuing to work through the strand ‘number’. We have almost completed all our work on Letter of the Week, and we’ll be starting some Christmas craft soon! This term we also participated in the Annual Jack Hinton Walkathon, with all the boys enjoying the event – especially the sensory trays at the side of the track. We would like to wish everyone an early Merry Christmas and safe holidays!

From Shinead and Bec

**HS V**

It has been a pleasure teaching HSV for the past 4 weeks. Students have been working hard using PECS (picture exchange communication system) to communicate their needs and wants and to answer questions in stories.

Although it is coming up to the end of the year students are still working hard. All the students worked well creating Christmas snowmen for the ‘Carols in the park’ which was a great night celebrated with friends and family of Bates Drive. Now the weather is warming up students are participating in the weekly swimming program each Tuesday morning with HSL.

It has been a pleasure teaching the students in HSV and watching the students learn and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

All the best for 2016!

Cheers the HSV Team;

Egypt, Reece, Julian, James, Jess and Rick.

Mel A, (Vanessa), Natalie, Sarah and Jo.

**HS CK**

We are nearing the end of the year, and what a year it’s been. There is (and has been) a lot going on in HSCK this term. We all enjoy our swimming program and movement task cards for our fitness program. The group that goes to integration at Kirrawee High School have been happy at the new venue. The Kirrawee High School students involved in the Kirrawee Friends’ Program organized a bake sale to raise money for our school with a goal of raising $500. They did even better than that, raising $1150 for our school. This was completely organized and supported by their students and we cannot thank them enough for their amazing generous donation. We will soon be organizing our Christmas gifts for our families and look forward to Presentation Day, BBQs, cooking, and Christmas themed activities in the final weeks. We in HSCK are wishing all our families a safe and happy holiday. See you in 2016!

Keltie, Clare and Cassandra







**HS L**

Hello!

Here we are at the last newsletter of the school year!

HSL have had a great last term for 2015. We have been working very hard with our communication skills, maths, learning about ASIA, swimming, as well as our great Community Learning program where the boys have enjoyed sampling some of the Chinese cuisine at the Sylvania Bowlo. It has been a great term!

It is a bitter sweet time for the boys of HSL. Soon we farewell two of our friends: Harrison Katzos and Daniel D’Souza as they are graduating from Bates Drive School this year. On behalf of HSL and the school community we wish them all the best at their post school program.

Deb and I have had a great year with the gentlemen of HSL. It has been very productive and we have had lots of laughs along the way. Thank you boys for a great year!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday.



Lee and Deb

**HS A**

Can you believe this is the last newsletter for 2015?

Where has the year gone? It only seems like yesterday when we were welcoming in the New Year.

HSA have had an excellent year. It has been wonderful to see the progress that our students have made this year. It has been a great year. We take this opportunity to thank all our parents for the support throughout the year. We also wish our parents a happy and safe Christmas.

A special mention to our Year 12 graduates Phillip, Harrison and Daniel. Good luck and all the best for your future journey ahead.

Maryam, Jackson, Samuel, Michael and Eamon

Annemarie and Linda



**HS M**

Hello again to our HSM families!

Welcome to our last newsletter for 2015!

What a year it’s been. Everyone in HSM has worked so hard and we are very proud of all the wonderful achievements that have been made by our class. Even though we are on the home stretch, we still have a lot going on in class.

We have finally finished our multisensory story The Secret Garden after following Mary, Dickon and Colin’s journey through the secret garden towards friendship and happiness. We investigated the needs of a plant and used our knowledge to plant and grow a variety of plants to create our own little secret garden in class. We also learned about the importance of friendship and enjoyed watching slide shows of the class working together and having fun throughout the year.

During art lessons we have started thinking about Christmas. We plan our artworks on the interactive whiteboard before transfering our ideas to card or canvas for our class and individual Christmas projects. The students used their whiteboard skills to move and modify images and create special visual and sound effects. Our class art project was successfully shown at the ‘Carols in the Park’ evening to a bumper crowd!

Now that the weather has finally warmed up, our swimming program is in full swing. A big thankyou goes out to Karl’s mum, Leanne for helping us out in the pool on Wednsdays. We’ve been having a great time both in the pool and completing sport activities in the playground this term. We have been honing our mobility, balance and coordination skills on the play equipment, trampoline, hammock, spinner and swing.

But it isn’t over yet! The highlight of last week was the Year 12 Graduation dinner where our good mate Phillip (along with Daniel and Harrison) was celebrated and farewelled in true Bates Drive style – a massive party of course!! We are all so very proud of you Phillip and wish you all the very best as you embark on your next exciting adventure! Goodbye and Good Luck!

We are also very excited about our Presentation Day and have been busily practising our special songs and musical items for the day. We can’t wait to see you there!

Finally a huge thankyou goes out to Carmen and Narelle (our fantastic SLSOs) for all their very hard work in helping to make this year a great one for HSM. Thankyou! Thankyou! Thankyou!

We would like to thank our wonderful families for all your support this year. We wish you all a very happy and relaxing(?!?!) Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone back in 2016.

Best wishes

Mel, Narelle & Carmen.



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**GRADUATION 2015**





**School resumes for students on**

**Thursday 28th January, 2015**