

BATES DRIVE BUZZ

Exceptional Learning Opportunities For All

TERM 1 WEEK 9

29th March 2018

A very big thank you to all the parents and carers that managed to make it to the “Meet the Teachers” evening. For those of you unable to make it I truly understand that it is not always possible to attend when it’s over a limited time scale but as always please feel free to contact me if needed.

It was my first real chance to introduce myself to the Bates Drive community that I have heard so many positive things about. After the classroom visits we all returned to the area in front of the hall where the Teachers were gathered to introduce themselves. I put the introductions on hold as the networking and sharing of ideas just simply took off between the parents and carers. I could hear people exchanging information and self-help ideas and what works and what doesn’t work plus plenty of laughter. Eventually after 20 minutes I had to interrupt everyone and let the Teachers talk about their individual classes and what was happening within the classroom in relation to Teaching and Learning.

Boy has it been busy. Take a deep breath before you read the next sentence. The two week period of the teachers meeting with the parents and carers to develop each and every student’s Personal learning plan is nearly over, school photos taken, the Annual School Report for 2017 is about to be published on the school website, the 2018-2020 school plan is written and is in its final stages of approval as well as organisation for Harmony day, the Easter hat parade and the Commonwealth Games carnival!!!

A big chocolate thumbs up to every single person who donated gifts to the P&C Easter Eggstravagent raffle, the photo below shows your overwhelming generosity. To the lucky winners enjoy the baskets of goodies.



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Sad news

The Bates Drive school staff and wider community were saddened to hear of the recent passing of a former student Jamie Tolovae. Jamie who graduated from Bates Drive School at the end of 2016 had been very unwell in his last year of school, spending many months in hospital when in Year 12. We were also very saddened to hear also of the passing of his mum Jackie, who too had been very unwell. Our thoughts are with the Tolovae family.

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NEPTUNE

It has been a busy and productive second half of the term in the Neptunes class. We have begun our desk work programs and have been working hard on matching and identifying letters, numbers, shapes and writing our names.

Our PECS lessons have been a particular favourite and it is fantastic to see everyone developing their critical communication skills and requesting toys, activities, books, help and bubbles.

At the suggestion of Susan Heilor, the OT involved with our school, we introduced a crash cushion to our classroom last week. Not only is crashing into a giant cushion a fun way to start each session it has helped to keep everyone settled and on task for the rest of the session. We are also developing our waiting and turn taking skills while we 'crash'.

We have been fortunate to have an SLSO prac student, Lana, with us for the past four weeks. Lana has been supporting all of our programs while gaining the experience needed to be a successful SLSO. We'd like to thank Lana for all her hard work and look forward to seeing you back at Bates Drive when you are qualified.

Nicole and Bec

COMETS

We have been very busy here in the Comets classroom. Term one has given us opportunities to explore sensory tasks together and build up our play skills. We are learning to take turns and share fun activities in and out of the classroom. We even had a sensory spa day which was a big hit and enjoyed by all students.

Our favoured activities so far have been swimming on Mondays and Rhythm Village on Wednesdays with our class neighbours the Neptunes, and Friday cooking with the Venus class. We better not forget Scripture on Tuesday with all of the K-6 classes. The puppets brought in by our scripture teachers have been a highlight.

In Maths we have been working on number identification and identifying 2D shapes. We love using the light box to explore these concepts. In Literacy we are working on our communication skills through the use of PECS, and re-telling familiar stories. Geography has been a fun unit to engage in. We have been creating maps from stories like 'we're going on a bear hunt' using pictures from the book.

We have lots of exciting events happening in the coming weeks like Harmony Day and our Easter Hat Parade which we are looking forward too.



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VENUS

Hello dear families and community, welcome to week 8 of term 1! I simply cannot believe how fast this term is moving and I would firstly like to say a big, "Thank you!" for all of your support and communication so far and also for attending the meet and greet evening and PLP meetings. It is great getting to know you all and working together to create goals and strategies for learning.

With programs in place and routines being learnt quite quickly, we have been busy learning together both in the classroom and out in the playground. K-6 sport on Thursdays has been going nicely and we have all been practicing a range of movement skills. The newly set up gym area with trampoline, elliptical machine, climbing apparatus and weighted ropes has been received well as this seems to be a favourite area for our class. Cooking with the Comets class each Friday has been exciting and so far we have made jelly, toasted sandwiches, chocolates in moulds, spaghetti and more. Not everyone likes the food that is made, however, everyone has impressed us with their willingness to give anything a go and make that decision!

Now, it is time for us to start making our hats and headbands for the K-6 Easter Hat Parade that will be held on Wednesday, 28th March. Thank you for sending in some wonderful craft supplies and we hope to see you there!

Victoria, Deb and the Venus class



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MERCURY

Hello Mercury families!

Wow, Term 1 is flying by! The Mercury class have been very busy with their class programs and settling into the school year. Each morning the students spend time learning about managing their emotions during our Zones of Regulation program. Students 'check in' to tell us how they feel in the morning by speaking short sentences and placing their photo in the appropriate zone. The students enjoy practicing how to calm down by trying different breathing techniques. Their favourite things to do are blow out candles, use a straw to blow bubbles in a cup and make the class windmill go around. We also have some fun sensory items that are not only enjoyable to use, but have been useful in calming our students. Playdough, body socks and the head massager are the most used and favoured!

This term we have been collaborating with our peers for a few programs each week. On Tuesday mornings our friends from the K-Stars come to our class and participate in Maths Groups where they are split into 5 groups and follow a visual timetable to rotate around the room. Nicole the Chaplain helps us and we have so much fun practicing our Maths skills. We work on functional skills like dialling our phone numbers on a telephone, reading the time to the hour and learning about Australian currency. We also focus on number and shapes for this term. Our favourite activity is making 3D shapes using play doh.

We have also enjoyed our cooking program with our friends from HSM. Each week we have been cooking some yummy meals such as, nachos, pizza and mini quiches. All of our students have fun cooking in the Hospitality Kitchen and getting to eat their delicious treats.

This term we even celebrated a birthday for Breanna. To prepare for her birthday the Mercury students made sausage rolls with SLSO Natalie and baked cupcakes to have on the day. It was so fun mixing the batter and decorating our cupcakes! We then had a fabulous party with our K-Star friends to celebrate Breanna turning 12.

We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Easter break!

Molly, Natalie, Donna
and the Mercury class



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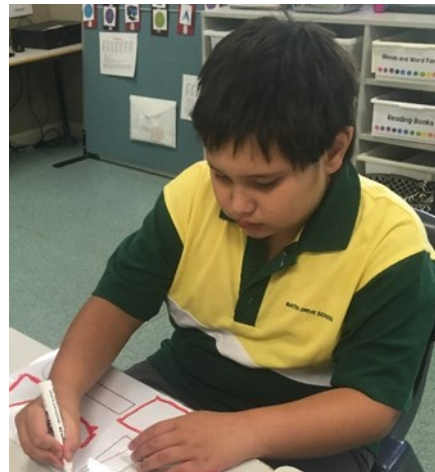
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K STARS -

K-stars are having a great first Term!

We have a few favourite activities of course swimming, cooking and music are on that list but would you believe Maths groups and scripture are high on our list too.

It helps when Pat (our scripture teacher of 36 years whom knows us so well) Kathy (a trained special Ed teacher who has provided the loveliest craft with stickers for us to do) and Suzanne (a ventriloquist with the cutest puppets) are our friends. Maths groups we join with Mercury class to learn with our friends. All in all, life in K-Stars is fantastic!!



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HSM

Hello to our HSM families!

Term One is flying by! We have all been very busy over the last few weeks with our class programs up and running. Cooking on Tuesdays has proven to be a big hit with our guys. We have been following visual recipes to make nachos, pizza, mini quiches, spaghetti and baked bean toasties....It's the quietest part of our day when everyone is busy enjoying their delicious results!

Swimming on Thursdays continues to be a class favourite especially as we have been blessed with such beautiful weather. We have been working on our swimming and safety skills through fun games such as dolphin races, noodle rides and treasure hunts. The most challenging part is getting out of the pool at the end of the session!

We have started our History theme work for this term on Ancient Greece. We have listened to music, watched video clips, completed mapping activities and dressed up in traditional robes (chitons) to explore what life would have been like for the people of Ancient Greece.

Our Maths and Literacy activities are up and running and we have been working hard on using our PECS visuals to initiate requests and provide comments throughout the day.

We are excited for upcoming activities including Harmony Day (Monday 26th March) and of course, Easter!

Stay tuned for more exciting adventures!

Mel.



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HSK

It has been one busy term in HSK. We can't believe we have arrived at week 8 and Term 1 is coming to a close. Our students have really enjoyed swimming with our solar heated pool. They are encouraged to try a variety of swimming techniques, sports and breathing techniques which the students really enjoyed trying out. In class programs we are learning letters, numbers, spelling, comprehension and problem solving. The students are engaged with Picture Exchange Communication throughout the day to encourage communication skills. In HSIE we are studying Ancient Greece, looking at the culture, the food, architecture and listening to the music. We are celebrating Harmony Day in week 9 and look forward to the activities planned for that. We are also doing art and craft that has to do with Easter themes. We have also just completed our first few rounds of the class footy tipping competition.



HSS

HSS have had a fantastic term 1 – very productive! Swimming 2-3 times a week has been the highlight of our term so far, even though there have been a few days that have been too wet and rainy to get in the water. HSS have all participated well in our History unit of work on Ancient Greece and have all improved in the time they spend engaged. We have also had a mini St. Patrick's Day celebration as well as an egg hunt for Easter! Rhythm Village is another high point in our week, where every student is able to calmly sit and participate in a hands on music session. We've had a few bugs going around the class, with most students (and staff!) having to take a few days off to rest and recover! Looking forward to Easter and the end of term!

From Shinead, Narelle and Jolanta

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HSV

The students in HSV have been very busy this term. We continue to work on our literacy and numeracy skills through participation in our daily Teen Talk program. Here we have been practising matching our photograph, name and address as well as identifying the date and day of the week, the month of the year, the weather and temperature. The HSV Footy tipping program has started yet again with HSV students making weekly football tips which we tally through a visual NRL weekly ladder and also stencil graphs. Vanessa in particular is very pleased with her mighty St George Dragons being in first place after Round 3.

Cheers

Vanessa, Kelly, Teresa and Catherine

HSA -

This term in Science Life Skills, HSA have been learning all about life cycles. This week we studied the life cycle of a butterfly. Thanks Catherine for making Science so much fun. We have also completed work on celebrations such as Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, Saint Patrick's Day, Easter and Harmony Day. On Wednesday this week, don't forget to wear orange or bright colours for Harmony Day. To celebrate our diversity Bates Drive School will be participating in Harmony Day activities. We will be combining in teams to participate in literacy, sensory and craft activities such as listening to stories or making people chains.

Also recently this term we helped Jessica celebrate her 17th birthday. Happy birthday to you Jess !! We all had a great time at your class party.

We would like to wish all our families a happy and safe Easter break

Till next time

Reece, Rick, Robbie,
Samuel, Eamon and Jess

Annemarie and Cassandra



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HSL

Welcome to the last newsletter on Term 1.

Wow, that went fast!

HSL have had a great first term back at school. We have been working very hard in all areas of the Life Skills outcomes and having lots of fun!

This term HSL have been engaged in Cognitive Exercises (COGS) instead of the Teen Talk program. The exercises are aimed to improved short and long term memory, auditory memory, fine gross motor skills, communication and cognitive functions. HSL have been doing great and I am very pleased with their improvements in their receptive language development.

Besides our COGS work we have been swimming, doing our daily reading activities, emails and reading eggs. HSL have also been learning how to play variations of the snare drums rudiments (RLRR LRLL) on the djembe and simple tunes on the xylophone.

Our biggest achievement though is our bike skills, HSL are doing 12 laps of the school parking lot mostly unassisted and this week they have followed the arrows on a bike track to assist their turning and pedalling. It is great to see all students' development and enjoyment for this activity.

Wishing you all a lovey Easter, and a restful break.

Lee and Belinda

HSL



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Coles Sports for Schools

A HUGE thank you to our wonderful school community for your support in the Coles Sports for Schools. On 3 occasions I had to empty the collection box at Kareela Coles as well as I lost count of the number of times I emptied the collection box at school. I look forward to our school receiving much needed sporting equipment and resources.

Vanessa Marsden

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to collect vouchers for sports gear

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PEACOCK VALLEY LGA COOL, WINDERMERE, FRIDAY 7, 2018



Do you require care for your child in the April School Holidays?

Sylvanvale's Holiday Club has vacancies for children with disability at their vacation care based in Kirrawee. We have a great program of excursions and incursions to keep your child entertained, and highly skilled support staff to ensure their safety.



Enquire today **1300 244 577**
or **sylvanvale.com.au/holiday-club**

sylvanvale.com.au

April 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Easter Monday	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 K-6 Comm Games Carnival	12	13 Last day of term	14
15	16 School Holidays	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 School Holidays	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Staff development					

May 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 P & C, AGM Students return	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Sorry Day	26
27	28 HS Vaccinations Reconciliation week	29	30	31		