

# BATES DRIVE BUZZ

Exceptional Learning Opportunities For All

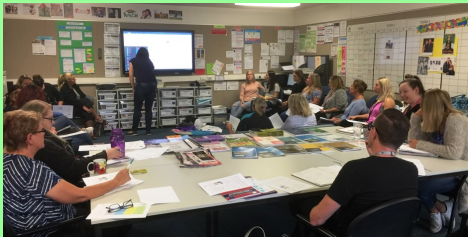
TERM 2 WEEK 5

29th May 2018

Hi everyone and welcome to Term 2! It's hard to believe we are already into week 5.

The term began with lots of greetings, smiling faces and all students getting down to the business of learning, caring and being safe which are our Positive Behaviour for Learning focus areas.

The pupil free day on the first day of term was very busy for Bates Drive staff. We covered topics including Positive Behaviour for learning, meanwhile, Susan our OT has been developing sensory profiles of students in order to better cater for their individual learning needs.



I feel so privileged to work at a school that has such a great culture and community spirit. Talking of community spirit, the P&C fundraising BBQ at Bunnings last Sunday was a huge success - a big thank goes out to Shantelle, your P&C president who organised the day. Just to give you an idea of the size of the event, we served well over 100 kg of sausages!



Continuing with the community theme, the big news so far this term is that with the help of the Feros Group and a grant from Sutherland Shire Council (Flying Fox Amenity Impact Reduction Grant) along with some school and P&C funds, we are able to announce that we are going to fully enclose the pool with a revolutionary system that will eventually allow us to use it every week of the school year. It is versatile and can be partially or completely open in the summer with UV protection, or fully enclosed in winter. It is manufactured in Germany, so won't be installed until the end of the year. The P&C along with the school will seek community support to pay for and install gas heating. The picture here is an impression of what it will look like but on a much larger scale, especially in terms of the height. The Feros Hotel Group operate the Prince at Kirrawee and Highfield at Caringbah, they organised a golf challenge day that raised \$25,000 for Bates Drive School. The 2018 golf Challenge will be held in October, any local businesses who wish to express an interest in participating and supporting the event can contact the Feros group



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**29th May 2018**

I have had the pleasure of joining many classes on community access excursions to venues such as Sylvania Bowling Club, Sutherland Library, Oyster Bay Public School and Kirrawee High School—these are highly valuable learning experiences and are often challenging for the students, but ultimately rewarding as well as allowing supporting students to meet learning outcomes.



The Schools Plus Project sponsored by Toyota is still evolving, we have had Master of Occupational Therapy students from Sydney University doing an environmental and sensory audit along with re designing the sensory room. They are due to report back to the school in the next few weeks.



The Annual School Report for 2017 is now published on the Schools website, the last three pages 17, 18, 19 give information on the “Other School” programs that we run at Bates Drive and is worth a read if you have the time. An example is the “Sports Ready” program that the P&C partially fund along with yourselves.



Mel king, a long time Teacher at Bates Drive School is leaving us at the end of week 5.

Mel has gained another position at St George School. I am really happy for her, but unfortunately we are losing an outstanding educator. Mel has bundles of experience in special settings, including a long stint in London before arriving at Bates Drive 8 years ago. She is passionate about the students in her care and we all wish her well in her new endeavour. She will be sadly missed by all of us.

As always, if you require anything, please drop in, call or email.

David

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#### NEPTUNE

Welcome back to Term 2! The Neptunes have jumped straight back into routines this term and have been hard at work using PECS to develop our communication skills.

We loved making Mother's Day gifts in week 2 and hope that all of our wonderful Mums had a beautiful day.

Our new story for this term is 'There Was an Old Woman Who Swallowed a Fly'. It has been a huge hit with everyone enjoying feeding the animals to our old woman and watching her reaction.

#### COMETS

Term two has been a lot of fun already!

The Comets have been focusing on their visual exchange skills to make choices in a wide range of activities. We've even taken our visuals outside which was a great success. All the boys are doing extremely well and we are feeling very proud.

Rhythm Village, Sports Ready and Cooking have been a lot of fun so far this term and all the boys are demonstrating their wonderful listening and turn taking skills.

We had a lot of fun celebrating our AMAZING Mums by making cards and coconut roughs, and choosing tea flavours to send home. Thank you, Mums for being AWESOME!

Ciara, Carmen and the Comet Boys





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#### VENUS

Hello everyone and welcome to term two! Happy Mother's Day to all of our super mums, we hope your special day was filled with love and joy. We would also like to say, "Happy Birthday!" to Marley who turned 9 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May! We had a class celebration on the day.

With our routines and programs already in place, we have all jumped straight back into the swing of things. Everybody seems to be very happy and we have been powering through work with many positive outcomes. From week one to week four, we have been incredibly fortunate to have an extra smiling face and set of hands in the Venus class. Tahlia is a practicum student from university who is aiming to become a Special Education Teacher and she has been getting to know all of the students and teaching programs with us. We are going to miss her dearly when she completes her practicum, so we will be having a big class party on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May to say, "Thank you and good luck with the remainder of your studies!" She will be an incredible teacher very soon. That's two parties in week 4!

Sports Ready started back up this term and students have been learning to hop, jump and score goals in hockey with different types of balls. We have continued all other programs including cooking with the Comets class – this is now alternating with visual arts every second week. Rhythm Village also continues to be a favourite program with students learning to sing, dance and move with their instruments.

Thank you for all of your ongoing support and we hope to see you on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> at the K-6 Commonwealth Games!

Victoria, Deb, Tahlia and the Venus class



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#### MERCURY

Hello Mercury families!

The Mercury class has been flying through learning programs and has started this term's Unit of Work on 'Emotions'. This is perfect for continuing our practice on Zones of Regulation and learning how to manage our own feelings. We have been working on breathing techniques and even made 'fire breathing dragons' to practice deep breaths. Everyone has been trying their best to stay calm and using the appropriate tools to get them back to the 'green zone'.

This term we also began our weekly integration program with students at Oyster Bay Public School. Each week we meet at the Oyster Bay Park and integrate with year 6 students. This has been so much fun! Not only have we made new friends, but we have been teaching them some sign language and playing together on the equipment. Each week we start by introducing ourselves and saying, "Hello!". Then, we break up into small groups and play on the fun playground equipment. Molly has been bringing along the parachute to play with at the end of our session. We love running under the big parachute!

We also started our community learning program to Kareela Coles shopping centre. This happens fortnightly in odd weeks. We shop for our cooking ingredients by following a visual list and complete self checkout. After our shop, we walk to Portico and have hot chips for lunch.

In even weeks, we go to the Sutherland Public Library. This is an exciting program because the librarians read us a story and always have fun activities for us to do. We have been practicing our PBL expectations by staying with the group while remaining calm and sensible. After we read a story, the teachers help us each choose a book to check out. We bring the books back to school and read them during our leisure time until the next time we go to the library.

We have had a fun and eventful start to term 2. We can't wait to see what else we will be doing this year!

Molly, Natalie, Donna and the Mercury class



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#### K STARS -

We hear about Mum all the time from the kids - K-stars adore their mums!

To spoil our Mum this Mother's Day we did a spot of gardening. We followed a 5 step sequence: we got a jar, put 3 spoons of sand into it, then 5 spoons of soil, put our plant (a succulent) in and then we filled our jars with stones.

Yes, the truth is that it was a huge mess, but lots of fun!



We only have one birthday this term in K-Stars, SO... We celebrated for a week! Jasmine had 1 great party, she was student of the day for 6 days and the entire school sang to her twice at assembly.

The rest of the term looks to be just as fun for us. We have library visits, community access, cooking, music and sports ready to look forward to each week. School's pretty awesome!





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#### HSM

Hello to our HSM families!

Well, term 2 is certainly flying by in a whirl of activity! In our History unit of work on The Anzacs we have explored the cultures of Australia, New Zealand and Turkey; played instruments while listening to Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture to simulate the noise of the battlefield and; explored the themes of courage and mateship through the story of John Simpson and his donkey. We will finish off the unit of work by experiencing the traditions of Anzac Day including listening to The Last Post, making a wreath of flowers and playing a game of modified 'two-up'.

We have been enjoying using the Hospitality Kitchen for our weekly cooking sessions and the new OT area continues to be a hit with our energetic boys! We excitedly welcome back our Sports Ready friends this term and continue to develop our fitness levels and skills through fun activities and sports including hockey and soccer. We have been learning about time and money during our maths lessons and continue to work on our communication skills using PECS and visuals. We have continued our weekly Rhythm Village program with Daniel and have been having lots of fun learning some songs from around the world in preparation for the Football World Cup – ole, ole, ole... Anyone?!

Our sensory movement program has been coming along in leaps and bounds! With regular movement breaks throughout the day, HSM students are much calmer, better able to focus in class and have been doing some great work at the whiteboard and at their desks—well done boys!

We have some upcoming activities including the K-6 Sports Carnival for our Primary students and we also have Riley's birthday coming up soon so stay tuned for the details!

On a sad note, after being part of the Bates Drive family for 8 years, I will be leaving the school at the end of Week 5 to begin a new job in another school. I am really pleased to introduce Catherine who will take over as classroom teacher and both she and Jen, our amazing SLSO, will form a real dynamic duo!

I would like to thank all our families for your input, ideas and support over the semester. It has been great getting to know you all. Both Jen and I are so proud of the progress our gorgeous boys have made so far and I know that they will continue to shine under the guidance and care of Catherine and Jen.

Signing off for the last time!

Mel and Jen.



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#### HSK

HSK have been very busy this term. We have been cooking up delicious recipes in our cooking program each Wednesday. We have also started a garden maintenance program. The students have responded very well to directions on how to stay with the group, use the tools and dump the collection of garden waste in the bin. The students are showing excellent life skills progress and work experience skills during this program, all while improving the look of our school. We were very jealous watching HSL have so much fun on the bikes that we thought we would give them a try too. The students love steering around the ramps and enjoy the exercise. Speaking of exercise, our group is also excited to participate in the Sports Ready program this term. The team is back with a lot of exciting activities and challenges each week. We have started an excursion on the bus each Tuesday. Students are familiarising themselves with the transport process and we will be getting off to each select and pay for an item of choice. We can't wait to go again!

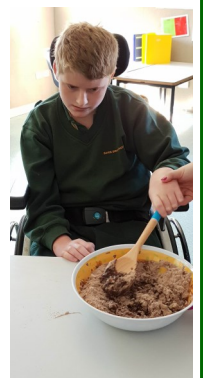
Keltie, Cassie, and HSK



#### HSS

HSS have had a great start back to term 2. We have been busy with our units of work on 'Money' in Maths and 'Australia: Then/Now' in History. Sports Ready is back on Thursdays and we all enjoy getting up and being active, which is contributing to great results in our Premier's Sporting Challenge tallies. The whole class has also been getting up and being active in our daily mobility sessions and teachers are seeing a positive result with calmer and more engaged students. Rhythm Village is also a highlight of our week, with most of us loving the theme this term on the soccer World Cup! We have quite a few birthdays coming up this term too, looking forward to the celebrations. Lastly we have started a cooking lesson every Tuesday, and every student has tried at least one of the prepared treats! Well done HSS!

From Shinead and Narelle





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#### HSV

Welcome back to students and families for term 2, 2018. I would like to formally introduce myself, my name is Catherine Di Maria and I have been working in HSV since the beginning of the term. I hold a bachelor in education and a master in education (specialising in special education). I am passionate about teaching and believe this is what I was destined to do.

Since commencing on HSV, we have participated in many exciting endeavours across the last four weeks.

We have begun our community access program which allows us to collectively explore Como and the surrounding community. We have also been able to visit Dora's Kitchen and physically pay and collect our lunch orders. The students become extremely excited as the smell of warm chips, calamari and fresh sandwiches fill the school van.

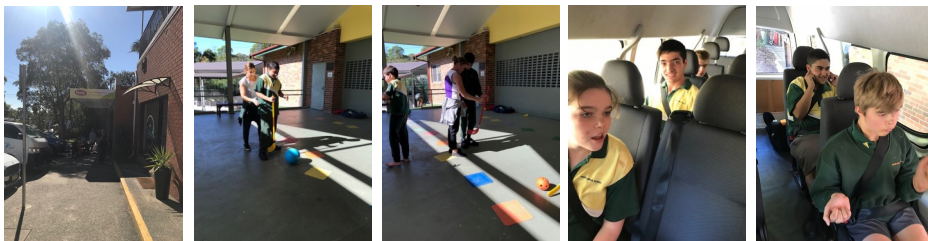
HSV have continued to participate in Rhythm Village with Daniel. This is always enjoyable for the students as they are able to shake, drum and move to the sounds of the music. It has been proven that this form of learning increases focus and reliefs stress.

We have also began to participate in the sports ready program. HSV become increasingly excited when they walk down to sports. Across the two weeks students have engaged in soccer and hockey. This appropriately engages their hand-eye coordination, develops their balance and their team work. This program also fosters their listening and communication skills.

This is just a taste of what has been occurring in HSV this term. I look forward to our future endeavours.

Cheers,

Catherine, Kelly, Teresa and Vanessa



#### HSA -

We have had a busy start to the term. In HAS, we have been learning about Australia, time and the Solar System. During the Rhythm Village program we have been practicing drumming. On Thursdays the Sports Ready program is keeping us fit and active

Thank you to the P and C for organising the Bunning's BBQ on Sunday 20th May, to raise funds for our pool cover. It was a big success! A great big 'thank you' to everyone who helped out and for all the support. Many hands certainly do make the work easier.

The P and C have also been busy providing a Mother's Day stall for our students. Classes enjoyed selecting and purchasing gifts for someone special.

Next week we will be starting our own Bates Drive Cake Day when all students can purchase a cake, cookie or something yummy to support our 2018 school leavers. The money raised will go towards our 2018 Year 12 graduation. Keep an eye out for the note that will be sent home soon!

Thank you for your support,

Samuel, Eamon, Jess and the 3 RS, Robbie, Rick and Reece

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#### HSL -

Welcome to the first newsletter of term 2!

HSL have had a very settled and productive return to school and are very keen to get back into our studies.

Term 2 has seen us resume our COG activities. The exercises are designed to increase auditory memory retention, hand eye motor coordination, communication skills, listening, processing and social skills. HSL enjoy the activities and it is pretty interesting stuff!

We have also been incorporating a lot of music into our learning. HSL have learnt nursery rhymes to play as duets on the glockenspiel and xylophone as well as drumming rudiments (RLRR LRLL). I am really impressed with how quickly they have taken to the activities.

It's not all work and no play though! HSL's greatest achievement this year has been the bike riding sessions. Currently all students are doing 3 laps of the bike track (around the car park, up the ramp to the play ground, down the ramp to the car park). A huge improvement for all! HSL LOVE IT!

To celebrate the end of our week, we have been dining at the Sylvania Bowling Club each Friday for lunch. It is always a highlight to end a busy week at school.

Till next time,

Lee and Belinda

HSL



# 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 day	29	30	31		

# June 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Queens Birthday	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Medical Clinics	21	22	23
24	25 K-6 Math's Day	26	27	28	29 Aboriginal Celebration/ Performance	30