

BATES DRIVE BUZZ

Exceptional Learning Opportunities For All



TERM 2 WEEK 9

28th June 2018

Principals Message

As we near the end of Term 2 and reach the midpoint of 2018, more formal school activities have been the focus with teaching and learning taking centre stage. Our extra-curricular areas such as “Rhythm Village” and “Sports Ready” continue to support the students in achieving outcomes in the areas of PDHPE and Creative Arts. These programs are funded by your contributions as well as the P&C topping up the short falls in funding.

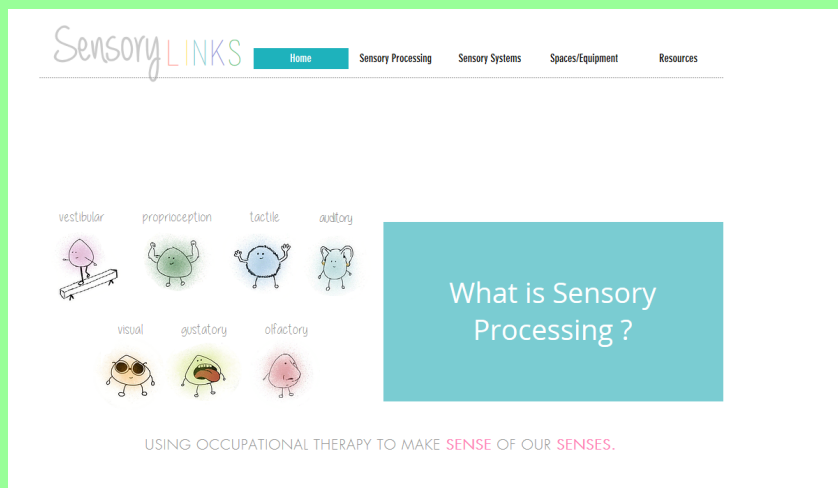
The Teachers have been very busy assessing students’ progress and writing reports. I have been reading them and the Bates Drive Staff really do have an excellent understanding of their individual students in the domain of learning as well as social and emotional development. It is expected that these will be sent home to the parents and carers during the final week of this term.

During this term, all staff have continued working on the Zones of Regulation with the support of Susan, our Occupational Therapist, implementing them into everything we do. These are the key areas upon which we scaffold the children’s learning to help them understand what is expected of them in regards to social and learning behaviours. As we develop a more consistent language and set of expectations, the Zones of Regulation program is playing a key role in assisting the students to recognise when their feelings or behaviours are becoming less regulated and preventing them from engaging in learning or fun activities. The students are recognising when they are anxious/stressed/unsettled and are starting to be able to manage their feelings and do something about it in a positive way, this is due to constant practise in the classroom but can be used anywhere including at home.

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As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the OT Masters Students from the University of Sydney have now completed their project and submitted a "Sensory Links" website (see above) to Susan and myself which is part of the Schools Plus project. It's a brilliant resource for the Bates Drive staff but will also be shared across similar settings in NSW. Once it is live and online I will make sure every family and carer get the address sent to them as once again, it overlaps whole of life issues and is a useful resource for all of you.

The new multi-purpose swing frame and swings have been installed. It is a very large structure and you can look out for it as you drive past the front of the school. The teachers are undergoing a training program supervised by Susan, our OT, before actually using it with their classes.



I hope everyone is keeping dry and warm, a nice thought is that we are past mid-winter with last Thursday been the winter solstice. It will be spring before we know it!

As always, please call, email or drop in if you need to.

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TERM 2 WEEK 5

29th May 2018



The P & C would like to thank all families for their support of the McDonalds night and the Bunning's BBQ. We raised around \$2000 with both these events, a great outcome. We are looking forward to our Comedy for a Cause night on August 25th at Kareela Golf Club. Save the date in your diary.



Hi from Vanessa!

I just wanted to pass on my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the many parents and members of our school community who have been in contact with me since my diagnosis and surgery. I have been overwhelmed by the messages of love and support. I still have quite a way to go on this journey and have just started chemotherapy. I continue to be strong, to follow my many Specialists' and Doctors' orders as part of my recovery and will return to school when fit and well. I miss all my wonderful work colleagues and of course, all Bates Drive students.

Regards,

Vanessa Marsden



JOIN US ON TUESDAYS 4-5PM
TAREN POINT YOUTH CENTRE
FREE OF CHARGE

*Skillz4Me is an activity & therapy program
for children with Autism or Additional needs*

FUN & Social Interaction
JUMPING, CLIMBING, RUNNING
Following Instructions
Basketball, Soccer, Footy
EYE TRACKING

Verbal and Non Verbal
CONFIDENCE BUILDING
COMMUNICATION
Hand Eye Co-ordination
Turn Taking



www.skillz4me.com.au

Contact Jason 0404107111

'Skillz 4 Me' is a wonderful FREE sports skills and activities program for primary (and early high school) aged children with Autism and other disabilities. It is designed for children who cannot access mainstream sporting activities and has 2 Occupational Therapists and a Behavioural Therapist who help run the program.

It is FREE to attend, with no signup or regular weekly commitment required, just turn up on a Tuesday afternoon when you can. Jason and Sarah are keen to answer any questions you may have regarding your child and how their needs can be accommodated.

If you are at work, perhaps a support worker can bring your child along to this activity of an afternoon? Contact Jason on 0404 107 111 (or myself) if you have any questions.

Nicole Clark, Bates Drive School Chaplain

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NEPTUNE

The Neptunes have been very busy and active throughout this term. We have been practising our football skills during weekly Sports Ready sessions and have been working hard on throwing and kicking footballs to a partner. Our favourite football skill however is running and we love running laps to warm up our bodies and get all our energy out.

We all had a great time during our Founder's Day activities in Week 5. Everyone interacted well with De La Salle High School students and made some new friends. It was great to see everyone have the opportunity to choose the activities they were interested in and be supported by their new friends. Haydyn enjoyed listening to the drumming, Jacob danced up a storm, Jeet was the king of the dress up station, Abass dove right in to the sensory station, Kai was super speedy on the bikes and Mariana beautified herself and her friends with nail polish and face paint.

Half of our class have had the opportunity to participate in an integration program at Oyster Bay Public School over the past few weeks and have been enthusiastically practising their social skills with their mainstream buddies.

We are looking forward to a busy last few weeks of term.

Nicole, Bec and the Neptunes

COMETS

Hello Families!

Since our last update we have been very busy learning and having fun.

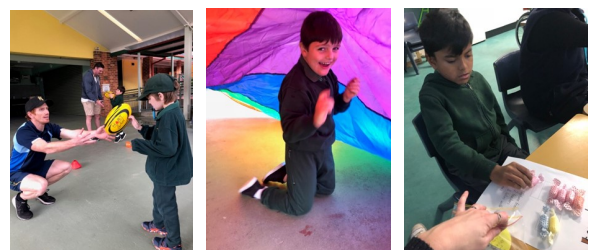
The Comets have been enjoying PBL lessons every week. Over the last fortnight we have been practicing our sharing skills. We are learning that being a caring friend means we share. The boys have been sharing toys and equipment and laughing spontaneously.

We have also enjoyed working on our emotions theme work. We are learning that it's okay to be angry or nervous and learning about ways to make ourselves feel better, like taking a big deep breath.

As usual, Sports Ready and Rhythm Village have been a hit. We are all getting really skilled in throwing and catching footballs.

In other news, our wonderful SLSO Carmen became a first time Grandma in week 8. Congratulations to Carmen and her family on the birth of little Ruby! We know she will be very loved and looked after.

From Ciara, Carmen and the Comets



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VENUS

Dear Parents of the Venus class, can you believe that it is week 8 already? We certainly cannot!

In week 5, the Venus class participated in the Founder's Day event held here at Bates Drive School. During this event, many students from De La Salle visited and interacted with students during various activities. We spent the whole middle session outside playing music on the drums with Lee, getting our face or hands painted, completing an obstacle course in the sandpit and completing some artworks. We all had a great time – thank you to our event coordinators here at Bates Drive and also to De La Salle staff and students.

In addition to our weekly term two programs such as Sports Ready and Rhythm Village, we have also commenced a new and very exciting integration program. Each Thursday morning from week 6, we have been attending Oyster Bay Public School to play some games and meet new students. So far we have been twice and we have already begun to form friendships with some of the students. We have been learning new sport skills from them during the program and in return we have been teaching them how to communicate using different techniques including key sings. We have taught the students at Oyster Bay how to sign 'help', 'finished', 'more', 'jump', 'walk' and some of our names. The students are all very enthusiastic in communicating with and learning about each other. This integration program is proving to be an invaluable experience for all involved and we hope that this will continue into term 3!

As the term is flying by, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe school holiday in July.

Victoria, Deb and the Venus class



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MERCURY

Hello Mercury families!

The Mercury class is having an exciting Term 2!

We have been continuing our community learning programs to the Sutherland Library, Kareela Coles, Portico and Oyster Bay Park. The students absolutely love going out on the bus. They enjoy listening to stories read by the librarians in Sutherland and each check out a book afterwards while carrying their library bag. Eating hot chips at Portico is another one of our favourite activities. I am so proud of the students and their beautiful behaviour while out in the community. On the last day of the term we are joining our friends from HSM and going to Funarama in Kirrawee. Funarama is a great place to climb, slide and be active in the winter. We can't wait for our excursion!

The Mercury class also looks forward to Wednesdays, where we have music with Daniel from Rhythm Village. We have been practicing our drumming skills and learning to follow the beat. One of our favourite songs is 'We Will Rock You' by Queen. The students are encouraged to follow the pattern 'boom boom clap' with their drums and sing along to the words. We have also been following the World Cup and playing music from around the world. It has been so much fun to learn from Daniel and continue practicing in our classroom.

Stay tuned for new and different excursions for Term 3!

Molly, Natalie, Donna and the Mercury class



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HSC

Dear HSC families and carers,

I am proud to say that these last few weeks in HSM (now HSC) have been fantastic! I am getting to know each student well, their likes and dislikes and what they enjoy doing in and outside of the classroom.

Upon arriving into HSC, almost 3 weeks ago, I have made a few changes to the classroom and routine.

In particular, HSC students are regularly visiting the sensory room! They are scheduled to visit the sensory room twice a week, which they are thoroughly enjoying. The sensory room is vital for each student's development and growth. For example, the sensory room develops and/or reactivates senses, it promotes cognitive development, improves gross and fine motor skills and stimulates mental and physical relaxation whilst providing an abundance of other additional benefits. As these fundamental skills are fostered in the sensory room, I decided to add additional items into the sensory room attached to our classroom, fostering this experience further. By adding a tent, beanbag and foam rocking chair, the students have been able to better engage in their learning throughout the day.

I have also introduced the Zones of Regulation into the classroom routine. I discovered that this system works brilliantly throughout the day. This strategy allows students to inform teachers how they are feeling. For instance, one student was able to tell me that he was feeling calm and ready to learn by placing his picture into the green zone. Later in the day, he was able to place himself into the red zone as he became distressed. From this I was able to implement strategies which helped him to calm himself down, allowing him to place his picture back into the green zone shortly after. This system is brilliant and has been working significantly well for the students in HSC.

Finally, a third addition (amongst many others) to HSC is the regular support from the schools Occupational Therapist (OT). We have been lucky to receive close support from Susan, Bates Drive's OT, who worked alongside Jen and I in introducing the new swing set to the class. I have never seen such big smiles from the students as they tested out our new swing set.

As you can see, there has been a lot happening over these last few weeks, putting that aside, I am enjoying teaching this group of students, they are capable in so many different ways and I look forward to their growth over the remainder of the year.

Cheers,

Catherine and Jen



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HSK

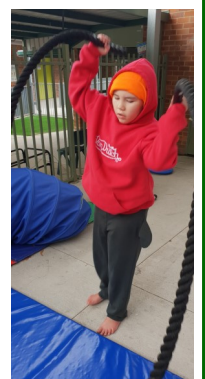
HSK have had such a busy term, we cant believe its already week 8. The boys have been practicing their gardening skills and we must say there have been big improvements. The boys are practising to identify what needs to be taken out of the gardens and they take turns filling and emptying the buckets. They have also responded to direction for how to hold the equipment properly and make proper piles for pick up. We have been working on our fitness by stretching and moving in class, participating in the Sports Ready program and riding bikes. The students have responded well to these activities and their skills are improving with pedalling and steering the bikes around the school. Our Master Chef skills are being put to good use with new weekly challenges. Cakes one week, ham and cheese wraps and sausage sizzle the next. All recipes were well received by our judges with all 5 consuming every bite (we are our harshest critics). We have started looking at stories from the Dreaming in HSIE and continue to add to our massive rainbow serpent we have created for the classroom using a variety of colour and as many textures as we can find.



HSS

HSS have had a busy term! Our cooking lessons have continued to be a hit with every student. We have made muffins, chocolate crackles, pancakes, pizza and decorated Arnott's biscuits with icing and lollies to make faces. We've had two more birthdays this term – happy birthday to Narelle and Harry! In Sports Ready we have practised our footy skills and every student has improved their ability to kick and catch footballs! We are all enjoying our daily sensory time, having a turn on the Liberty Swing, playing with sensory toys and materials, and getting up and active every day. Lastly, we have welcomed a lovely new student into our school and our class and she has settled in well to our routines. HSS wish everyone a safe holiday break and see you in Term 3!

From Shinead and Narelle



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HSV

A big hello to our students and their families as the end of Term 2 is fast approaching.

My name is Jennifer Perry and I am a new teacher at Bates Drive School. I have had the pleasure of teaching the students in HSV for the past few weeks. I am very excited to be teaching at the school, getting to know everyone and particularly, working with the students in HSV. Theodore, Jackson, Michael, Victoria and Braden and our class SLSOs, Kelly and Teresa.

HSV have continued to have a great term and have adjusted well to the changes. The students' school life has been running smoothly with much to learn and enjoy. All of the students seem to really love the Sports Ready program and Rhythm Village music program. We extend on these in the classroom with some other PDHPE programs such as class bowling and the sensory room. In afternoon music sessions, I play my guitar and sing to the students.

The students continue to enjoy their cooking programs (particularly eating what they cook!), their community learning experiences, footy tipping and our afternoon reading sessions. During reading corner activities we all enjoy listening to stories, selecting and looking at our favourite books.

Thank you for welcoming me to your school, it is an absolute pleasure to teach here.

Jennifer Perry

HSA

HSA have had a busy term. We have continued with Rhythm Village and the Sports Ready programs. As well as focusing on the Life Skills curriculum we have also been learning about the Solar System and the Dream time. Students in HSA have been listening to Dream time stories and decorating Aboriginal artworks. Don't forget to wear red, black or yellow to school next Friday the 29th of June, for our whole school Walangari Indigenous performance. It will be lots of fun with art, dance, stories and music activities.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our cake day fundraiser for our Year 12 graduation. We raised over 100 dollars. There will be another cake day coming soon.

Another big thank you to the Bates Drive P & C for funding the Year 12 graduation jerseys, for all of our school leavers. We took lots of photos of the students wearing their new jerseys, which we will use for their graduation.

HSA would like to wish Robbie a happy 18th birthday—happy 18th birthday to you, Robbie! We all know how much you enjoy a party.

With only a few weeks till the end of term we would like to wish all our families a happy and safe holidays.

Thank you for your support

Robbie, Samuel, Rick, Reece, Eamon and Jess



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HSL -

Welcome to the last newsletter for term 2!

HSL have had a very fun and productive term and a very successful first semester at school.

We have been very busy in HSL. We continue to work very diligently on COGS exercises, auditory memory retention skills activities, communication exercises, Maths (time and money) HSIE (Australia Then and Now) and our social skills this term. I am very pleased with the students' progress in their developing skills and comprehension of increasingly difficult activities.

HSL have formed a high school band! They have been playing a lot of music and singing and are aiming to play in front of an audience in week 10. There shall be rock!

Besides our class learning, HSL have also been enjoying our community learning program to the Sylvania Bowling Club for lunch on Fridays, our new sensory swings (check out the photo) and the bike program. All students are riding 5 laps of the bike track. From the staff car park – up the ramp – around the top playground- back down the ramp without any assistance. A huge effort. Well done HSL!

Wishing you safe and rested winter holiday.

Lee and Belinda

HSL



RFF—Science

Everybody has been busy in their Science lessons this term. Primary are learning about light and sound. We have explored natural and man-made light; creating shadows with our bodies in the sun and utilised different torches and light up toys in a classroom. We have found lots of interesting videos of shadow puppets and light displays on YouTube which are fascinating and very captivating.

High School is learning about the Solar System. Starting our focus on identifying the sun, the Earth as the planet where we live, the stars and the moon. Some classes are even identifying the planets of the solar system and listing them in order from the sun.

Genevieve and Matt



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	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Indigenous Day	30

July 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Hair Cuts	4	5	6	7
8	9 1st day School Holidays	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Last Day School Holidays	21
22	23 Pupil Free Day	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	25	26	27	