

The Haven Education Centre



making a difference!

Haven Happenings

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Term 4

Monday 5th December 2016

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making a difference!

How time flies, the end to yet another year! This being the thirteenth year The Haven has been successfully running. We concluded 2016 with 28 students, 5 reintegrating, 12 attending Orientation for 2017 and more on the waiting list. Sadly, we say 'Farewell' to four of our students this term who will not be returning next year as they will be attending their new schools; Matt L, Matt S, Daryl and Dylan. Congratulations! We can definitely see that The Haven has made a difference to the lives of our students and enabled them to move on to new beginnings.

In order to enhance student resilience and wellbeing, staff have been working diligently promoting and implementing positive behaviour learning. The school wide approach encouraged students to display appropriate behaviours working towards being invited to special events we had on offer. We had two special events this term; Haven Camp at Putty Beach and Treetops. Several students were able to attend, they proved that they were able to overcome challenges, use strategies learnt at school autonomously and improve learning. For this, they were rewarded for their exceptional efforts. It was great to see so many kids able to participate.

We have had a great affiliation with St Pius X College this year. As part of their Social Justice program they have donated timpani drums, skateboards, tablet computers and raised funds. These items have been put to great use. Students from The Haven were invited to participate in their Founders Day activities; a day of games, speeches and meeting new people. Our student representatives included Matt L, William, Matt S and Griffin. They displayed the wonderful artistic creations illustrated on their skateboards, and I believe a few St Pius students were in awe of their talents.

A great show up to the Haven Race Day, approximately 263 people were in attendance this year and a great sum was raised. The Race Day provides a platform for local businesses to meet and network with one another. It also provides an opportunity for staff to meet the supporters and sponsors of The Haven who work diligently working towards the one purpose, to make a difference in someone's life.

The students at The Haven have been exposed to an array of experiences. These have been through the various excursions planned this semester. These include the Farm visit to Mangrove Mountain, Kids vs Cops Oztag, Camp to Putty Beach and recently The Haven Day Out to Tree Tops.

We would like to thank our principal partners, St Edwards College, Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, EREA, ET Australia and Broken Bay Catholic Schools Office. Thank you also to our many sponsors who keep giving and supporting our cause.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy and Safe New Year!

Till next year.....

Sonya Robinson



Billy Cart Races... Staff v's Students!!!



Snorkeling!!!



**Stand Up Paddle Boarding
Friday Sports**

Mangrove Yoga Farm

On Thursday, 3rd November students from The Haven Education Centre went to visit Mangrove Yoga Farm at Mangrove Mountain as part of their Agriculture unit in Science. The excursion was organised to build on the practical activities the students already participated in with The Haven Garden and to see if these new experiences at the farm could further re-engage the students. *The excursion was a huge success with some students saying that it was the best experience of their life!* After learning about the problems that bees and humans are facing as a result of large scale prolonged use of insecticides, the students were shown, from a safe distance, an active bee hive. The students were able to identify the queen and the different cells in a honey comb. Students got to taste fresh honey straight out of the hive which is something I think everybody needs to experience for themselves! It was an amazing experience for the students and it was great to see some of the students who were



Learning about bees...



Garlic Harvest...

very anxious at the beginning be able to overcome their fears of bees and see them as the fascinating creatures they are. One of my favorite experiences was when students were allowed to walk through rows of beautiful strawberries picking and eating as they went. As I was watching the students it was like everything was reset, just like a time machine, and the students were just enjoying the simple things in life as kids should. I think the smiles on their faces and the little cries of excitement when they found a big strawberry will make them all want to plant a few more strawberries back at The Haven and at home. After tasting strawberries, broccoli, asparagus and identifying other plants, students as part of the experience were required to harvest 3000 garlic plants that were ready for harvesting. Chris from the farm said with two people it could take up to two or three days how-

ever with 10 people from The Haven all pitching in together the job was done in little over an hour. It was a great display of team work from our students with everyone working together to get the job done. I think the students really felt a sense of community and they were happy to be able to give something back to the farm that had given them such a great experience. The students finished with a BBQ lunch alongside some of the fresh produce they had picked from the garden and whilst they were eating, they were sharing some stories from the day. I noticed that for the whole day there had been no bullying and everyone had been nice to each other! As the Agricultural teacher, it highlights for me how these practical farming experiences can re-engage the students in their learning and provide them with life skills that can help them be positive members of our community. The success of the experience makes me want to expand the current agriculture program into the future and provide our students with more hands on experiences like this. A big thanks you to Chris Roach the organiser of the day and Mangrove Yoga Farm for letting us visit.



That's how artichoke grows!!!

Billy Cart Derby

During Term 4, the students were introduced to Newtons Laws of Motion in a very exciting creative and practical means. To understand the concept in real terms, the students were set the task to design and build a Billy Cart. They worked in small groups and all contributed to the project producing terrific designs and some innovative braking systems.

This unit was completed with The Haven Billy Cart Derby. Racing in pairs down the Haven Dragstrip Driveway over 40.5 metres. All qualifiers were given times and then raced in a knock out competition. There were some cliff hanger finishes and many engineered tactical manoeuvres in an attempt to take out the ultimate prize. There could only be one winner though.... and that was "The Beast". Designed and engineered by Will. With 2.5 Horse Power, plenty of torque, pram Mag wheels, and driven with precision, "The Beast" did prove legend and to have what it takes to be at the top of the Billy Cart Grand Prix.



Slippery Slide

Well what an awesome way to finish our year with the iconic Aussie 'fun it up' Slippery Slide. With a runway that spanned 22metres of reinforced black building plastic, it was only proper and just that we chose a prime grassed pitch; challenging at 20-25 degrees gradient. On a perfect end of a spring season balmy day, with Barbeque cooking and the slippery pitch being prepared for our students to take on, the scene was set for an exciting time.

In the early stages our sliders used safe conventional moves but quickly grew in confidence and enthusiasm to *chance their arm* with more challenging slides. From spinning on the back, front and backside from start to finish, students demonstrated amazing skills to stay on the 'runway'. Michaels move was impressive, testing his balance by attacking the slide standing up. Clearly his surfing prowess assisted him.

Not to be out done, a couple of students with a... 'what you can do I can do better' attitude, attempted the stand up technique with an impressive display. Luke was able to complete the 22m on his feet with a 360 to finish scoring him a 9.4 from the judges.

Apart from individual feats everyone loved the "gang attack" when all took to the slide almost simultaneously competing for the space and ride the slide to the finish.

A fantastic couple of hours with real Aussie flavour to wrap it up.... A sausage sizzle ! Great time guyzz!



School Camp

This term, there were a number of students who were lucky enough to be taken on an overnight camp to Putty Beach. To earn the right to come, students had to get an average of 1 star per day leading up to camp. This meant that everyone was trying extra hard to be good! Students enjoyed the open space of the great outdoors and the challenges they faced. Students had to listen carefully to how to put up their tent as there was rain forecast for the night (I wish they listened this well in class!!!) The first activity was snorkeling and for some it was the first time. Students were so happy to experience the freedom of the water and to see fish swimming under them. *After snorkeling students stayed in the water on the edge just jumping the waves and splashing each other as I am shore kids have done for centuries.* After walking around the rock platform and identifying various creatures the students returned to camp to take on The Mini Olympics set up by Brigsy. The event saw staff and students (including our college Deputy, Mark Bonnici) participating shoulder to shoulder in some fun activities until the rain came and forced everyone undercover. Night activities saw the students refine their debating skills and put several rules in place in order to play 44 home around the camp site. It was great to see the students having fun but also being able to negotiate a set of rules with staff to ensure that the game was not only fun but safe! Morning came at 5am with the sound of the Kookaburras and with the choir came three adventurist fisherman ready to take on the dawn and whatever it threw at them. Tristan soon hooked up the big one however, after seeing it jump just meters from the shore the fish took off for the deep. Tristan had the choice of following it in or resisting but unfortunately, the line wasn't set up for a fish of this size and the line snapped. The students did however manage to catch a crab after, but nothing that could be brought back to camp. The story of the one that got away soon woke up the camp as students started to pile out of their tents to hear the reports coming in. The morning was beginning to look good with the sun up and not a cloud in the sky. After a hearty breakfast of bacon and eggs (thanks Annie!) students applied sun cream and with water bottles ready took off to discover the national park. The most adventurist students were greeted with a fresh water creek running over some rocks where there were pools of fresh water laden with tadpoles. This brought up a few conversations of fresh water and the life cycle of frogs. The morning finished with a swim and some more snorkeling. Students left camp with a big smile on their face and some great memories they will never forget!



Oz tag

Students at The Haven were invited to participate in the annual Kids vs Cops Oz tag Gala Day. The day didn't disappoint with The Haven team at school early and ready to take on any team that stood in their way. Students played the side that ended up winning the day first and were beaten convincingly however, our students didn't give up and were quickly learning some important lessons about how to encourage team members and to be a leader within a team. The Haven team soon picked up their game and came up with a draw and a win in quick succession. *It was great to see the students who don't always excel in class activities scoring tries and leading by example on the field.* My proudest moment of the day was when we were playing on the main field. We had had a player Paul helping us out from another school, and even though Paul said he struggled to fit in at another school, his energy was definitely an asset to the team. The opposition obviously didn't like being beaten and started to put down Paul. The Haven students did not retaliate and ignored the on field banter. The ref eventually intervened and disqualified the other team for bad sportsmanship. The Haven students resilience on the field meant that we were accelerated into the semifinals! In the semifinals we played North Lakes and even though Jordan scored a hat-trick of tries it wasn't enough and we went down by one try. After playing 5 games of Oz tag The Haven students left with their heads held high and smiles on their faces. Thanks to PCYC Bateau Bay for organizing another successful Oz tag Gala day!



Garden and Cooking

This year has seen our garden flourish with fresh produce. Zucchini, corn cucumber, lettuce, fresh herbs, just to name a few. *This year the kids have taken an exceptional interest in the garden a lot of it is because we have been making fresh salad sandwiches for lunch. All the students have wanted to eat from the garden.* New students on their initial interview had been given carrots from the garden and the majority of students have taken zucchinis home. At one stage students collected up to 40 zucchinis that I took to Coast Shelter to feed over 100 people.

We have been concentrating on feeding the kids breakfast as soon as they come to school, they either have cereal or a fresh fruit smoothie with yoghurt, coconut and skim milk. At recess I have been cutting fresh fruit up, I also use rice crackers with cheese, we then take the food and the students down stairs to eat them, and this has proven to be very popular with the students and staff. When surveyed students stated that the lunches the school provided were the best strategy employed to improve the students behaviour at the school.

Next year with the cooking we will be concentrating on taking sugar out of the cooking, we will be teaching the students to take food from the garden and use it in the kitchen. Hopefully we will have our chickens and Bee hive up and running which will allow the student's to continually widen their experiences from garden to kitchen.

Annie Lynn





Haven Day out Term 4 2016

What an amazing day it was, everyone was really excited and there was a great deal of chatter in the bus on the way up to Yarramalong. The people at Treetops were fantastic, they got us into our harnesses and helmets and we proceeded to the training area. Some of the students were quite anxious and a number of them were frightened of heights so it was a big challenge even to do the training run. *I was so proud of all the students, as they all overcame their fear and gave it a go.*

We started on the lowest level and the students powered through. I was amazed at how even those students who were unsure kept going. It wasn't until half way through the 2nd run when disaster struck, one of the students became stuck on a flying fox and it was a Treetops staff member to the rescue. I love Treetops and go as fast as I can through the obstacles, but he was amazing how fast he was able to get to our student to help them.

You could hear the students calling out to each other and there was a lot of encouragement from everyone to help each other through the course. When we finished there was well earned water, salad rolls and snakes for the victors. I really enjoyed my day with the students and am looking forward to the next Haven Day.

Wendy



This term some students were asked what they liked, disliked and found interesting about their year. This is what they said...

I had lots of fun on camp!

I found interesting that bees can sense fear.!

There is nothing I don't Like about this school.

This term I liked going to camp and going fishing early in the morning with Mick, Josh, Will and I. We caught a crab and put it back because it was too small. Then I caught a salmon, but when it was about 5 meters from shore the line snapped and the fish got away.

What I found interesting this term was when Briggsy's mates from American Rugby came to visit the school and played kick tennis with us and heard about their stories.

This term I did not like the way we did not go surfing as I really like it. I hope we can go surfing in term 1 next year.

This term I disliked- That I didn't get to go to the haven day out, but next time I will try harder.

This term I liked-The camp we went on to Putty Beach, I really liked snorkeling we seen many different fish, I liked kick tennis.

What I found interesting this term was-When the haven went to Sydney and we went to a place where these people taught us how to make milk chocolate it was fun.

I liked how my garden at school grew better than everyone else's because I brought in some chicken poo from home to fertilise the tomato plants.

I liked the excursion we went on to Mangrove Mountain Farm. I really enjoyed looking into the bee hive and seeing the honey comb being made. I liked the fact that we got to pick over 3000 garlic and we even got to take some home.

This term I liked the camp we went on to Putty Beach. We got to go snorkeling and saw different types of fish. We also got to play 44 home which was great!

I really liked how we were able to share our produce with Coast Shelter to feed people that don't have any food. I got to see some of the photos from the meals they made with our zucchinis and it made me feel really good that I was able to help in some way.