

The Haven Education Centre



making a difference!

Haven Happenings

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Term 4

Friday 10th December 2015

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making a difference!

From the Director...

How quickly the term and year are winding up. Our students have been very busy this year with a wide variety of activities and excursions that were designed by staff to motivate our students and keep them on their toes. Finding challenging tasks for them plays an important role in their development. This is a brief overview of the term.

At the start of the term we had a visit from Master Chef champion Julie Goodwin. This was well received and recently we visited her new cooking school in Gosford. Another awesome experience for the students. Julie is an amazing lady and was excellent with our pupils, we will definitely be returning in the future. Earlier in the year we had a visit from Board of Studies to check on the implementation of the new programs and documents developed last year. They were very impressed and stated that staff were to be commended **“on the quality of programs and excellent outcomes being achieved by our students at The Haven!”** Well done to all staff!!! Check out these examples to demonstrate:

Daryl in **2014** was working at Year 3 level in English, he is now working at Year 7 standard.

Matt S in **2014** was working at Year 5 level in English, 2015 Year 10 level.

Katie in **2014** was working at Year 3 level in English, now working at Year 5 level. These results are not only due to the implementation of learning activities but how they feel within themselves and their changes of behaviour.

In Visual Arts this term, our students created designs for their individual skateboard decks. These decks, plus new sets of trucks and deck-grip were donated by students and staff from **St.Pius X Chatswood**. A huge thanks to the boys and their Social Justice Coordinator, Mr. David Blake. After completing their design on the deck, they attached their new trucks and deck grip to their boards. As an added Christmas bonus, all students now have a brand new skateboard. Our Bush Tucker garden and new fire-pit are proving to be a popular place to relax and eat lunch. Students were heavily involved in all aspects of this from digging, concreting, collecting and spreading mulch. Local Elder and Haven supporter Mr John Oates (“Uncle John”) did a smoking ceremony and led us on an excellent excursion to Little Beach. We were privileged to be shown some carvings including a killer whale which is thousands of years old. The students had a ball and this helps to deepen their understanding of our local Indigenous people.

Stand Up Paddle Boarding **SUP** is a new activity just introduced to our Outdoor Education program. In order to provide safety for this and other ocean-based water sports we have taken delivery of three Sharkshield units. They give reassurance and safety, while allowing us to promote new challenges and further enjoyment for all. On the Social Justice front, we have been busy cooking and doing craft items for the recent Star of the Sea School fete. This provides a wonderful opportunity for us to contribute back to our community. A massive “Thank You” to our principal partners, **St. Edwards College, Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, The Christian Brothers, Edmund Rice Education Australia** and the **Broken Bay Catholic Schools Office**. Thanks also to our many sponsors who just keep giving and supporting our cause and a reminder to support those who support us. You can now check us out (Haven Education) on **Facebook**, thanks to Vic and Brett from St Eddies I.T department for their time and effort. Finally, to Wendy, Sonya, Annie, Shannon, Dawn, Mick and Jay, Thank You. Each day brings new hurdles and challenges and it is an absolute pleasure to work with you and be a part of this amazing team!!!

I wish you all a safe, healthy, relaxing and Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Regards
Koke



Patonga

On the third last week of school as part of The Havens Outdoor Education Program, students were taken on a kayaking expedition to Patonga Creek. Once on the water the students had to work together to move in the desired direction. After several minutes and a little direction from staff we were able to raft up and then paddle up stream. It was great to see the kids in the outdoors laughing and singing and being kids. Once on the island up stream students were able to run around, swim in the water, pump yabbies' and fish. What a great change from the computer games, phones and internet that often dominate their lives outside school. All students enjoyed being outdoors absorbing their natural surroundings. A big thanks needs to go to all The Haven Staff who worked tirelessly to manage all the different insecurities and issues that students had along the way.





Report on Putty Beach

The Haven students had an opportunity to go snorkeling at Putty Beach in the Bouddi National Park this term. The same week, we welcomed the arrival of three Freedom 7 Shark Shields purchased from Shark Shield, to help deter sharks and sting rays. Going to Putty Beach was a perfect opportunity to trial them for the first time.

The day was perfect. It was warm, minimal wind and very calm conditions. Perfect for snorkeling. Each student was equipped with a set of snorkels and explored around the rocks at Putty Beach. They saw an abundance of fish with plenty of life under the sea in which they were very interested in. Towards the end, the students were more than happy to have a swim and play around in the water in the corner of Putty Beach. The day finished off with a lunch back at The Haven Education Centre. Each student had a great day out exploring life under the sea.

Skateboards from St Pius

It was with great pleasure to receive a donation of handmade blank skateboards, grip and trucks from the boys of St. Pius College Chatswood. Several St Pius boys made the trip to the Haven Education Centre to meet all the students and present the skateboards to us. Over the next several weeks in art, The Haven students had the opportunity to personally design the bottom of their boards and then take them home when finished. There were some very impressive designs and all students had a great time completing them. We would like to thank the boys from St Pius for sharing their time with us and particularly the efforts that went into making and donating the blank boards. Thank you.

END OF YEAR PRESENTATION

We have once again reached another milestone in completing 2015 with an award ceremony celebrating the achievements of students participating in The Haven's program. Parents, carers and families mingled with one another as they shared a light meal before the presentation began. Students were very excited and proud to show their families the display of work exhibited around the school, the lush veggie garden and stories of their adventures. Students were awarded an array of certificates including; most improved, consistent effort, citizenship along with other categories. Aaron was our MC for the day ensuring our presentation went smoothly in addition to having a few jokes with his audience. Well done 2015 Haven students, what a great year!





The Haven Day out

Term 4 attendance and positive behavior during excursions earned 10 students to be invited on The Haven Day out. We went to Intensity first and then on to see the last Hunger Games at the movies. Finally, we went to lunch at GPK. This was an amazing opportunity for a number of the students to experience new things. We had a few of the students who had not been to Intensity before and also who had never been to a restaurant. This led to a bit of anxiety, especially in the restaurant where a number of students felt unsure of what they were supposed to do. By the end of the meal, however, the students felt more confident and they all commented on how much they enjoyed the experience. For me, it was a reminder that not everyone gets the opportunity to have experiences that we take for granted. This made me grateful that The Haven has the opportunity to give these students such a diverse range of experiences.



Haven Race Day

Once again our annual race day was a huge success, 24 tables were filled and with the generosity of all our sponsors and their guests all our raffle tickets were sold. Chris Koke has once again gone above and beyond with his collection of prizes for the raffles. Without this day we at The Haven would struggle to provide some of the essentials for the students and a variety of different experiences. The staff were amazed at the kindness and generosity of all the people that attended and the people who gave selflessly. Thank you all so much. God Bless and have a safe and blessed Christmas. Annie Lynn

The Haven Garden

The end of year has seen our garden flourishing with new fresh vegetables. The old and new students have once again exceeded themselves getting involved in the planting and the picking of the delicious produce. They have cooked and eaten with the staff and enjoyed every ounce of the goods. Anne Lynn

Orientation Week

We had quite a few students attend our Orientation Week Program at The Haven. These students have transitioned from various schools around the Central Coast from as far as Lake Munmorah to Woy Woy. These students have participated in Literacy and Numeracy diagnostic testing in order to create Personal Learning Plans. Students completed a visual diagram where they created a profile of themselves and analyzed the reasons and expectations for attending our school.

I want to achieve the following things next year at The Haven:

Get better reading/writing
Make my parents proud
Being a good role model
Control my feelings
Try and believe in myself
To see my mum more
Say things in a better way
Go back to mainstream
Make more friends
Face new challenges

To achieve these things I need to:

Listen and pay attention
Feel confident
Ask for help
Be understanding
Be friendly
Stop swearing
Believe that I'm a good person

When I achieve these things I will become:

A happier and nicer person
A Teacher and wonderful student
The best!
A mature teenager
A better person

Life of a Jewish immigrant

Biography written from student

Australia a land of plenty surrounded by crystal blue water, a place to raise a family and have a sense of freedom. That was our dream. The dream of freedom. The start of our dream began long ago, from a country called Ukraine.

Ukraine a place of starvation located right of Romania situated on the black sea. Filled with 7 million Jewish people, many persecuted for being Jewish. The Russian government stopped Jewish people having education and food. The Russian government requested aid from Israel and America, they agreed to comply with the request only if they released 10,000 Jewish people. One of the families who left the Ukraine where my grandparents, Galina Abromovich and Arnold Abromovich, caring a two month year old baby, which was my mother, and my uncle who was a toddler, also leaving with the Abromovich family were my grandmas parents. They were all considered traitors to Russia for leaving the country.

They travelled from Ukraine to the town next to the border called Uzhorov and spent one week at the train station. The train took them to a Czechoslovakian town called Bratislava where the trains were separated. The men had to bribe a train driver with vodka to take them to the next station. The women, children and elderly where stranded while waiting for the men who had the passports.

At the time terrorists bombed trains, the area was on high alert. It was a very dangerous place to be. When they reached Austria they were greeted by the army attack dogs and snipers. Men with machine guns were with them until they reached Vienna to protect them from terrorists. After spending a considerable amount of time under protection, they put my family on a train to Rome.

In Rome there where thousands of Jewish people waiting to resettle into different countries. In Rome, Jewish families went to the supermarket, for the first time many people saw fully stocked shelves of food. My Grandma and other family's were crying because she never saw that much food in her life. They spent six months in Rome being given cloths shelter and food.

Late July in 1979 my family flew with Airlitalia to Australia. My immediate family where staying with family members for a while in Bondi, they were getting ready to rent a flat which they took for a year. They then bought a house in Cabramatta, they worked at the Commonwealth Bank in the city and had to travel 300km every week. After 15 years in Cabramatta they bought an apartment in Allawah and lived there for 14 years. They then moved to Central Coast.

My family are now enjoying their time in Australia and still enjoying life and being happy.

by Aaron Brein

