

SPECIAL ED NEWS

Bray Park State High School

Fifth Edition – June 2007

Editorial

2007 arrived with a lot of new faces of staff and students. Our teaching staff includes Mr Lines, Mrs Klibbe, Mrs McDonald, Mr Stewart, Ms Newton, Mr Dawes and Mrs Raymond.

Our support team includes Mrs Hore, Mrs Glockling, Mrs Thomsen, Ms Edwards, Mrs Dreyer, Ms Grams, Mrs McCulloch, Mrs Rowcliffe, Mrs O'Donnell and our Administration Officer Ms O'Neill. Mrs Farlow and Mrs Frawley have also been helping out when we are needy.

On the personal side of things – Mrs McCulloch is celebrating the birth of her first grandchild Alexander. Two SEU teachers are expecting new arrivals at the end of this year. Mr Lines will be relieving at another High School in Term 3 this year and Mr David Robinson is to replace him.

We have been continuing the support of our students in participating in sporting activities and have a number of events to attend over the next few weeks. It's really great to see Bray Park High students having a go and getting fit at the same time. So . . . more news on our physical education successes next issue.

On the matter of participation, we had a number of students in the marvellous musical this term. Great work folks.

The new Year 8's are very enthusiastic and working hard in their first semester at High School.

We look forward to a continuing productive 2007 and maintaining the close relationships we have with all our families.

Good Sports

It has been a busy semester of sport and physical activity for our little crew. We kicked off in February with a great swimming carnival. Most students enjoyed the freezing cold water of the pool, with Hayleigh Farlow completing two full laps of the Olympic Pool in the 16 years Girls 100m Freestyle. Matt Pascoe was again a star competitor, racking up the points for his house, Rain.

The cross country once again got us out and about in Term 2. With a merry band of helpers, we headed out to the park to complete the Fun Run and gain points for our houses. On Tuesday, June 5, Mat Tanovic represented the school in the Met North AWD Cross Country. Well done Mat!

Upcoming events for our students include the School and Regional Athletics Carnivals, Multi Sport Expo and a special outing to watch the wheelchair rugby!!!

The World of Work

Over the past semester, many of our students have been experiencing the world of work. Many generous employers have taken our crew under their wings and showed them how to do many new things like caring for snakes, spray painting cars and propagating plants.

Our students experienced a range of workplaces including Smash Repairs, local nurseries, pet shops, printing and computer business, aged care and entertainment and retail.

Work experience is an important part of our senior and pre-senior courses as it offers students the opportunity to gain skills and competencies that will help them with their future transition to employment. Work placement is also a compulsory component of Certificate Courses such as Work Readiness and Hospitality.

Matching our students to appropriate work placements can be a very difficult and time consuming task. We greatly appreciate all of the patient and willing businesses who have taken us on so far. If you know of any small business, tradesman or shop managers / owners who would be able to help us out with placements for our unit students in semester 2, please call Mrs Raymond on 3881 6666.

Thanks again to those great local businesses for their support in 2007.

"Work experience is fun. I enjoy getting out of the school and doing something different" Yasmin, (pet shop and gift/homewares.)

"I like doing all the different jobs they plan for me. I really enjoy working with animals" Sussie, (pet shop, vet and library).

WORK...WORK?

Semester one has been a very busy time for some of our Year 11 and 12 students as they have been going out on Work Placement.

- Hayleigh Farlow has been enjoying her Thursday afternoons at Printabout, Matthew Pascoe was in his element at Network Video
- Sussie Kenn fell in love with the animals at Aussie Pet Store
- Emma James has worked very hard in the school library
- Dean Eastwick has been getting back to nature at Kumbartcho Community nursery and environment centre.

We have also had students at the RSPCA, Mr CD-R Electronics, Hawkins Nursery, a florist, and a smash repair shop.

Our Year 10 Work Readiness students have been to the Pine Rivers Aquarium, Pinewoods Aged Care, and a Gifts and Homewares shop.

Kimberley McDonald - SEU Teacher

My Basketball Report *by Matt Pascoe*

On the 1st of April I played in my first basketball competition for the Special Olympics. There were teams from Redcliffe, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Brisbane clubs.

The day began with a march for all the teams. We marched past our parents and friends and they clapped and cheered. We then got into our teams and we played four round robin games. My team was made up of six friends from our Redcliffe club. We won all our games. It was great fun!

The day ended with a sausage sizzle. I really had a great time!

Year 9 Science Rocks!

This term our Year 9 Science class has been exploring the world of rocks. From the depths of the hottest volcano where igneous rocks are formed, to the ocean floor where we find our sedimentary rocks, the group has learnt all about the Earth's Rock Cycle. We have done some great experiments including growing our own Copper Sulphate Crystals and making Sedimentary Slice (a yummy combo of dried fruit, nuts, cornflakes, and orange juice!)

We also enjoyed an "IMAX" day in the library where we watched "The Ring of Fire" on the big screen. Looking into the future, we will be doing lots more great experiments as we venture into the world of Light and Sound.

Health and Independent Living (HAIL)

Excursion to Petrie Fire Station “Safehome” Centre

As a part of their Health and Independent Living (HAIL) studies, a group of Year 8 and 9 SEU students visited the Safehome Centre to learn about fire safety, and what to do in an emergency.

The visit proved to be very educational and a lot of fun as well. Mat and Dean dressed up in full fire-fighting gear including gas masks and oxygen tanks, and all of the students then had to escape a simulated house fire. Remember to get down low and GO, GO, GO!

The fire officers conducting the information session and activities were very impressed by the student’s knowledge of home safety, their enthusiasm, and commented that their behaviour was the best they had seen at the centre.

Kimberley McDonald - SEU Teacher

So where to from here...?

On Wednesday 31 May a small group of Year 10, 11 and 12 students headed into The Convention Centre to explore the Post School Options Expo. This Expo provided great information on job and career pathways for our students after they graduate. There were also displays from local councils and providers of leisure and recreation activities. After collecting bags full of useful info (and lollies, pens and balloons) we all headed over to Southbank for a lovely lunch and a walk along the river up to the Goodwill Bridge.

A great day was had by all involved and a few tired bodies even enjoyed a little nap on the way home.

A big thanks to Townsend’s Buses for providing us with a free bus for the day. Your continual support of our SEU is much appreciated!

Kimberley McDonald and Kelly Klibbe

Rock and Water

Rock and Water is a good thing to get into. We get to go rock climbing and we learn how to defend ourselves. It shows you how to live well, use good manners and be a respectful man and father. We also have a lot of fun and we make new friends. Our teacher is a nice guy too!

Written by Dylan Jones (Junior Leader)

Phip Stewart and David Robinson - SEU Teachers

Camp Warrawee - A great success!

This year Camp Warrawee was a great success. Teamwork was the key feature of the Bray Park State High School Year 8 Camp.

Over two days, students and staff participated in a variety of activities ranging from the Flying Fox to the Hanging Vine, pushing students out of their comfort zone and fear of heights to new adventurous experiences. Group encouragement built some new and strong relationships between students.

Congratulations to Blake Ord who was nominated by teachers as the Star Camper, through his helping nature and consideration for others. Also a big congratulations to Jai Woodforth and Jake Lavelle who made it a very special time.

The most memorable moments were seeing Jake and Jai soaring free on the flying fox and giant swing. Why? Because they discovered . . . flight! Well done guys.

The camp finished on Wednesday with a picnic lunch at Bullocky Rest. Lots of action. Lots of Fun. Lots of good memories.

SEU Snippets

- Jai Woodforth is on the road to recovery after many weeks off school. We look forward to Jai back at the books next term.
- Yasmin Hamid flew on her first plane flight to Rockhampton last holidays.
- Jake has been doing some fancy moves on his new computer communication program. With the new voice in the classroom, it's like having another student.

Teacher Aide Professional Development Day

The Teacher Aide Professional Development Day on 25th January 2007 was run extremely well, beginning with an outline of ASD and supporting students in class.

This was followed by a choice of either: "Supporting Students with a Speech Language Impairment", "Sensory Issues in the Classroom – Effective Management" and "Stress Management for Teacher Aides". All attending Teacher Aides split up to cover each area.

Morning Tea and lunch were delicious and again we had a choice of three Speakers discussing "The differences between Intellectual Impairment and Learning Difficulties", "EAPs - some examples of adjustments made by class teachers and Teacher Aides", and "Strategies for Teaching Reading in the Classroom".

We finished with "Managing Challenging Behaviours in the Classroom". The whole day was excellently organised and each Aide agreed the presentation by all speakers was both informative and entertaining . . . a thoroughly worthwhile day.

Kathleen Edwards – TA

Disability Action Week

15-21 July 2007

Disability touches the lives of most Queenslanders in some way - through the experiences we have with friends and family, in the school, at the workplace and in the community.

For further information about Disability Action Week please contact:
Disability Action Week State Planning Committee
C/- Marketing and Communication Branch
Disability Services Queensland,
GPO Box 806, Brisbane 4001

Phone 3224 7535 or email: actionweek@disability.qld.gov.au

Website: www.disability.qld.gov.au/actionweek

Bray Park State High School Education Unit will be participating in a variety of sport games eg. bocchia, table tennis.

Thankyou to the SEU team, school staff and parents for all the wonderful support you give our students. Let's look forward to a great Semester 2.

Sue Raymond 