

Newsletter December

News from the Executive Principal – Alan Sampson



What a brilliant year!

Watching the smiles on the faces of the year twelve graduating class of 2015 at Awards Day on Saturday 21 November, was rewarding for every parent and teacher who had a part in their education. Those days make you realize what it is all about. The future of this great nation.

Our students had progressed through a considerable milestone in their life. Some having to negotiate many obstacles just to get there.

Our ceremony was recognition of the countless achievements of students, parents, home tutors, teachers and support staff throughout 2015.

It is the time of year for reflection. It was summed up perfectly at the recent staff meeting when our school was described as the School of Big Love. *Lots of dedicated professionals providing oodles of support to students.* I want to thank all our staff who put in that little bit extra to make a difference in students' lives. Whether it's school camps, carnivals, senior formals, lesson prep, or quality feedback.

What makes a great school is the commitment by you, the families and staff. Making a positive difference through high expectations is the way forward.

As a school our priorities for next year are not rocket science. They are grass roots education.

They include:

- Knowing our students well and give them ways to improve their results.
- Giving students constructive feedback.
- Continue our work on Reading and Pedagogy.

We still have things to improve in our massive enterprise. The way ahead is through constructive and positive solutions. Working together to build a cooperative and innovative culture is the key.

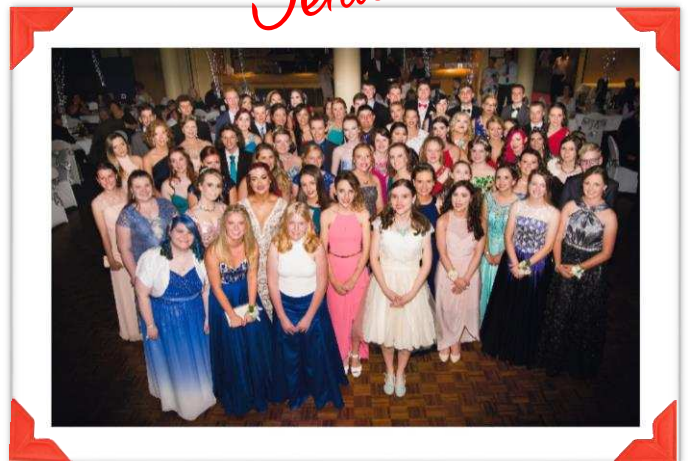
There are many 'quiet achievers' in our community. It is important to acknowledge those people who do an amazing amount of extra work behind the scenes in addition to their normal role. There are a lot of you in our community and your tireless efforts certainly don't go un-noticed.

Thank you and have a wonderful Christmas break.

Awards Day



Senior Formal



NEWS FROM OUR DEPUTY PRINCIPALS . . .

PRIMARY

Term 4 has been a busy one for all. As the school year draws to a close, I'm sure students, home tutors and teachers will be looking forward to well-earned holidays. The primary school has a diverse range of students and it's wonderful to be part of such a vibrant and eclectic community and to witness the remarkable growth of students throughout the year.

I would particularly like to take the time to thank our dedicated staff. Our teachers and teacher aides work tirelessly to ensure we provide the best education we can for students. I have enjoyed reading emails from home tutors singing the praises of our staff.

Enjoy the break, *Eileen Furlonger*

JUNIOR SECONDARY

Well we are at the end of a very busy and productive semester that culminates in our annual end of term fun packed activity days.

I would like to thank the dedicated teachers and support staff, who go over and beyond to support our students. To the Year 9 students who are moving into Year 10, we wish you all the very best for the future and good luck!

We welcome the new Year 7 students who are joining us in the secondary school in 2016 and we know, after some of you and your parents attended our transition program, that you are ready for the challenge.

Congratulations to our Junior Secondary Leaders; Grace Richardson and Dominic Robertson for 2016 and we will be hearing more from them in the future.

My time with the Junior Secondary School has been a rewarding experience and it has been a pleasure to work with the teaching and support services, and meeting a number of students and parents. Whilst I am looking forward to my next 6 month challenge, I am proud of the staff and heads of departments who strive for improvement to ensure positive outcomes for our students. I know that this will continue in 2016.

Have a wonderful break and all the very best for 2016, *Marg Barber*

SENIOR SECONDARY

It is a sad time of year as we say goodbye to our year 12's. Many of them have been with us for quite a few years, some even since Primary School. Congratulations to all of you for the effort you have put in, and I hope you get the results you are hoping for. Whether you did, or didn't there are numerous pathways that you can now undertake to help you reach your dreams. It doesn't end with school. The whole world beckons and I know you will approach it with an absolute sense of wonder. Don't be afraid to try new things, don't be a spectator in life and as I said at the graduation - make your lives extraordinary. To our year 10's and 11's continuing with us, I look forward to working with you next year.

Cheers, *Mark Law*

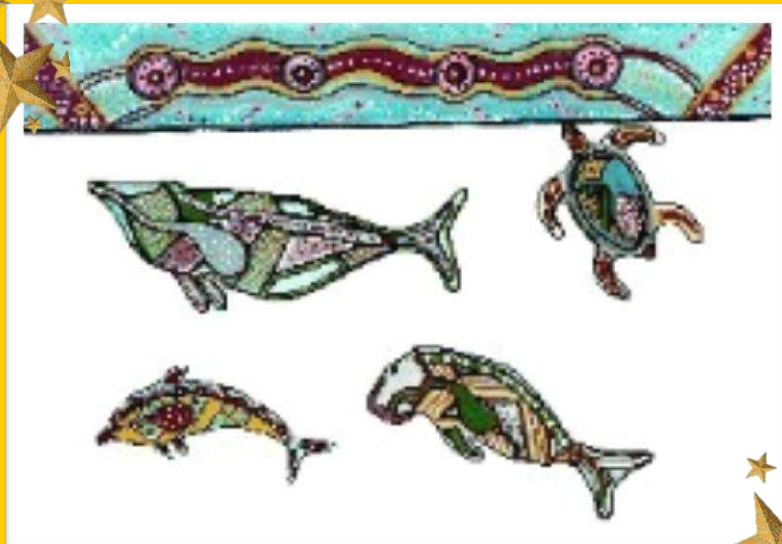
Indigenous News

Student Achievement

Two Aboriginal students, Chantelle Martin & Amanda Martin, are the first students in BSDE's history to be selected as Co-Indigenous Leaders for 2016. Both students attended Awards Day on Saturday 21st November, where their achievement was celebrated by welcoming them into the student leadership team and with the receipt of their certificates. Chantelle then delivered the Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners at the start of proceedings. We wish them a successful year of leadership and promotion of Aboriginal Culture to all students.



Chantelle Martin and Amanda Martin with
Aunty Pat Williams



Images from Culcha Disc

Chantelle's Acknowledgement

Hello everyone, my name is Chantelle and this is Amanda. We are descendants of the Gadigal people from Redfern. We cannot do the traditional welcome as this area is not our land; however we are so pleased to be able to perform the acknowledgement.

I wish to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land where we meet today and pay my respects to all Elders Past, Present and Future. For they hold the memories, Traditions and Cultures for all Aboriginal & Torres Strait islander people throughout Australia. I would also, like to acknowledge "Sorry Business" for those who are sick or have lost a loved one recently.

I hope you all have a successful day and congratulations to all our students for their success this past year. Thank you.

News and Upcoming Dates

- Six year 12 students graduated this year and will receive Uncle Albert Holt's new book "Murri on a Mission - Gunnan Gunnan".
- Uncle Albert Holt (BSDE School Elder) launched his book at Ngutana Lui Cultural Studies Centre at Inala on 21 November 2015. Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk was guest speaker at the event.
- Solid partners-Solid futures meetings will be held monthly at BSDE during lunch breaks.
- Wangarra Mura Advisory Group meetings will be held twice a year; 2016 dates are **25 February** and **18 August**.
- Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) meetings will be held once a semester.
- National Apology Day to the Stolen Generations will be held on Thursday 11 February in partnership with Coorparoo Secondary College.

All Cultural events will be listed on BSDE website's [Events Calendar](#).

E K I N D Y N E W S

Let's acknowledge our country for the last time!

Ms Genevieve

Transition Statements for families have been completed. It is strongly suggested that parents give a copy of this statement to their Prep teacher next year to assist in a smooth transition for their children. Families will also receive a portfolio of their children's eKindy activities this year. The team is winding down from a very full-on year. There has been great happiness with the birth of new family members and great sadness with the loss of others. This is the mix that life brings us and we hope that our children can be resilient through these times.

Thank you to the whole team, state-wide, including all our wonderful SDE's and small schools. A special thank you to the BSDE Despatch and Student Services teams. Your assistance and support is very much appreciated.

Now we are saying good-bye to our 2015 eKindy families who are on their journey into formal schooling in Prep next year. Our November/December web-sessions are a celebration of this year and the achievements through play and engagement of each and every child. It is also a celebration of our families, small schools and other adult's commitment to our children's education. Without them the program would not work. We are reminded of what this can look like in [this article](#).

Registration for eKindy 2016 is open. Children must be born between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012 and meet the eKindy eligibility requirements. Please refer to the eKindy tab on the [BSDE website](#) for more information. From eKindy, best wishes for a happy festive season and a safe and prosperous New Year!

End of year celebrations

Charters Towers eKindy Cluster with Ms Genevieve

Cath O'Connor | Manager eKindy |

Primary News

KEEP ON READING

Students in the early years have made some significant gains particularly in the area of reading as part of the literacy block and/or MiniLit. Please make sure you continue to work with your child on their sight words, sounds and daily reading. There are lots of fun games and activities you can do. Cooking, writing lists and letters, memory games and snap, and lots and lots of talk and discussion are great ways to engage your child. Enjoy those special moments reading to and with your child.

ROALD DAHL EXTRAVAGANZA

Year 3 and Year 4 students attended a performance of some of the works of Roald Dahl. Catching the train, enjoying the show and sharing lunch with friends was a great way for students, teachers and home tutors to experience the pleasures of literature and social interactions. As part of their English units, students have studied George's Marvellous Medicine in Year 2, Fantastic Mr Fox in Year 3 and The Twits in Year 4, and all of these were an integral part of the show. Some students travelled significant distances to attend and it was great to have them with us.



LAB COATS, ROCKETS AND A THIRST FOR LEARNING

Year 5 students had the exciting opportunity to become scientists at a recent Enrichment Day, and investigate solids, liquids and gases. Led by Brett Reece, students conducted investigations to learn more about the properties of matter. A highlight of the day was the launching of the AquaPod rockets. We would like to thank Brett and a number of Senior School students for sharing their passion for science with our Year 5 students.



GOOD-BYE YEAR 6

We wish the Year 6 students of 2015 all the best as they transition into Junior Secondary.

As Albert Einstein said, "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to not stop questioning." We look forward to watching your progress through your school years.



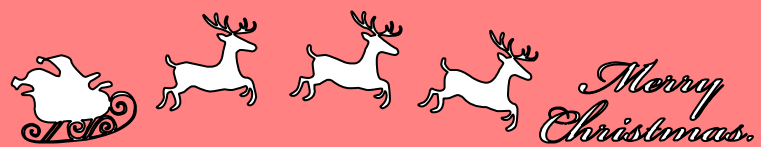
SCHOOL VICE CAPTAINS

Congratulations to our primary school Vice-Captains for 2016: Hannah Purser, Grace Kavanagh and Noah Harris. Voting was very close and we thank all students who nominated. Hannah, Grace and Noah were lucky enough to attend a United Nations Leadership Day at Parliament House recently. Check out Hannah's account of the day.

A Day at Parliament House by Hannah Purser, Vice-Captain, Primary School

Last Tuesday, Grace Kavanagh, Noah Harris and I went to Parliament House in Brisbane for a United Nations Student Council Leadership Program. First off, we started with an introduction from Joe Kelly MP, Holley Somerville Knott and Mac Millar. Holley who is 12, is the founder of the Stardust Foundation which is a charity designed to promote health and wellness while helping people, animals and a planet in need. Mac is a young leader who has provided soccer balls for disadvantaged kids around the world. It was amazing to see such young leaders with such big goals.

We then went for a tour of Parliament House. We got to go in many rooms, like the Green Room which is a fair, democratic room. The Red Room is a not so fair, and a non-democratic room and the Reading Room. The Reading Room was very interesting as it had books with every word said in Parliaments from all different countries. Where I was sitting I saw books from North America in the 1800's. We then went back to our room and started to do a fun activity to get to know each other. I found that activity lots of fun and I wish we had a bit more time to complete it. We were even given Mac Millar's book and got him to sign it. After that activity, we did a brainstorm activity on what a good leader is or does. What do you think? Maybe we could have a forum where you can tell me what you think a good leader is or does. It was all so much fun and I really enjoyed the day. I would like to thank the people who organised the trip, Hayley Yates and Julie Barber for taking us there and helping us along the way. Thank you for reading and have a lovely day!



STUDENT COUNCIL'S FAST FICTION WRITING COMPETITION

Winning Entry: Luke Bennett, Year 12 (BSDE)

Next Door

By Luke Bennett

Funny stuff was happening next door. Wild shrieks, low groans sometimes moans and grinding of bones.

Nigel wondered what on earth was going on, was there a serial killer living there who was murdering animals every day.

The truth was less gory, it was a boy with Autism murdering his demons by shouting at them and screaming with frustration at the world – it's stupid rules that made him an idiot and a cretin and a useless blot on the landscape.

One day Nigel saw him in the garden doing the same thing over and over, Nigel suddenly got it, because he had a sister with autism who wasn't so badly affected. "Hey buddy" he said and the world changed into a better place.

More information about the competition, this piece and the runner-up piece are all available on The BSDE Bugle.



Year 10 Camp 2015

The three day Year 10 Camp was held at Noosa North Shore from 11th – 13th November. The students had an opportunity to enjoy a variety of activities including; mountain biking, rock climbing, the giant swing and pamper pole, beach carnival, night hike and team building. I was pleased to see how well the group bonded and how many students overcame their fears and got involved in the various activities. According to the students, some of the highlights from camp included:

- coming together with classmates that they know and ones they had not met before and doing activities together as a team.
- the variety of activities planned
- food
- bonfire

A special thank you to our teachers, Michelle Burstow and Dave Swannell for helping out at the camp.

Thank you for a great year!

Year 10 YLC

Camilla Ayala



DISCOVERY CENTRE NEWS

... *our Library in disguise! Come visit if you can, it's great!*

Thank you to the BSDE Parents and Citizens' Association for funding the online author sessions for our students this year. Briony Stewart, author of *Kumiko and the Dragon*, a year 3 C2C text, visited BSDE for an online session with all Year 3 students. Briony, who lives in Western Australia, was in Brisbane for the Writers' Festival and to everyone's delight came to BSDE for the session.

Holidays are nearly here. Now is the time to read some good books!

If you have returned all of your resources and are enrolled at BSDE for 2016 you can request holiday borrowing by completing the Holiday Borrowing form below and returning by email or post. You will also find this on the Library Blackboard site or in the Discovery Centre. Books will be sent out in the last two weeks of school and can be returned after the holidays. The Discovery Centre will be closed for borrowing on Friday, December 11.

Don't forget that the Discovery Centre has links to online magazines on its Blackboard site and on the School website that can assist you with ideas for reading over the holidays. These include PK Magazine for primary students, Spine Out for secondary Students and Good Reading for adults and senior secondary students.

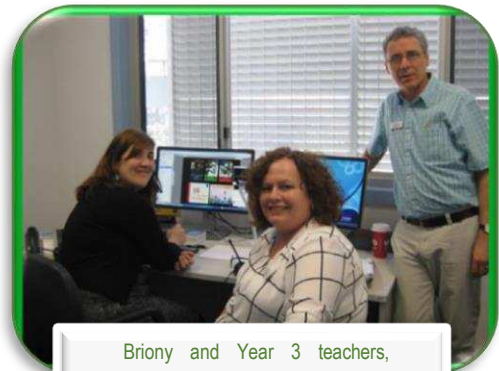
The Summer Reading Club is a national reading programme co-ordinated and delivered by the State Library of Queensland. It's run annually during the school holidays and is online as well as onsite through participating public libraries. The theme this year is *Lost Worlds* and it will begin on December 1.

The link is <http://www.summerreadingclub.org.au/>

The Discovery Centre staff would like to wish you the 'Compliments of the Season' and we hope that you will all have the time to relax and enjoy a good book.

Julie Sharpe /Bronwyn White/Cecily Baker

Teacher Librarians



Briony and Year 3 teachers,
Kerri Richards and Bruce Corbett

SUMMER HOLIDAY BORROWING



I have returned all of my resources and will be enrolling at BSDE for 2016.

I would like to request resources for Summer Holiday borrowing.

Name	Yr. level	Email
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Title of books or series I'd like to borrow:
Topics

Creative

Generation 2015

The Creative Generation State Schools Onstage concert was held earlier this year at the Brisbane Convention Centre.

Be sure to tune in to Network Ten at 2:30pm on Saturday 12 December to see BSDE students Daria Orlovskaya and Katie Palmer performing alongside Queensland Ballet, James Morrison Big Band and more than 1500 talented Queensland State school students.



2015 Brisbane Tram and Bus Special Children's Association Art Competition

On Thursday 26th November, 5 students from across the school attended the celebration ceremony for the annual Brisbane Tram & Bus Special Children's Association Art Competition at the Botanical Gardens, Mt Cootha. The students were recognised for their tremendous hard work and creativity in producing fantastic pieces of art.



The award winners were:

- Jayden Low – Commonwealth Bank Prize Winner
- Jemma Fulloon – Toni Miles Special Award
- Thomas Gibson – 2nd prize in water colour for 13-14 year olds
- Cougar Welch – 3rd prize in craypas for 8-9 year olds
- Phoebe Butler – 2nd prize in craypas for 10 year olds

Their teachers, Brooke Howard, Michelle Tihverainen, Judy Drynan and Kristen Jefferies also attended the ceremony and were delighted to watch their students receive their awards. A special thanks also goes to Maria Lavery for organising BSDE students to enter this competition each year.

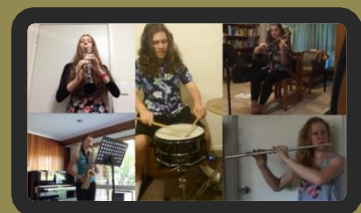
MUSIC MATTERS

I would teach children music, physics and philosophy; but most importantly music, for in the patterns of music and all the arts are the keys to learning. – Plato

It's no secret that engaging with music greatly benefits a child's social and cognitive development. Recent scientific studies have shown that this is particularly true of learning an instrument. While there is no Instrumental Music program at Brisbane SDE, students enrolling in Music subjects are encouraged to take up private instrumental/vocal lessons, learn for themselves or get involved in a community music group.

In 2016, however, the implementation of a new **Year 7 Music** course will give students the unique opportunity to learn and/or develop skills in playing a keyboard instrument as part of their regular lessons. Students don't need to have learnt music before – just have an interest in music, a willingness to learn and their own 'keyboard' such as a glockenspiel, digital keyboard or piano.

To find out more, check out the [course outlines](#) on the school website.



Brisbane SDE Senior Music students (Images from Awards Day video project)



Oral Health- a message from the school based youth health nurse

It is well recognised that oral health is an important part of general health and wellbeing. Poor oral health, and untreated oral diseases and conditions can have a significant impact on quality of life. New research has suggested that in many cases, the condition of the mouth mirrors the condition of the body as a whole.

Regular dentist visits can tell dentists a lot about your overall health, including whether or not your body is developing diseases like diabetes

Make sure your young person is up to date with their oral health.

To make an appointment for your free dental care, you can call the Oral Health Hub on 1300 300 850

For more information about free dental care on the [Northside](#)

For more information about free dental care on the [Southside](#)

Have a safe and happy holiday

Jo Bach, School Based Youth Health Nurse

