

**DATES TO  
REMEMBER**

**Thursday 14th  
December**  
End of Year  
Concert

**Friday 15th  
December**  
Last Day for EEP  
Students

**Monday 18th  
December**  
Last Day of 2023  
School Year for  
School-aged  
Students

**Tuesday 19th  
December**  
SSG Meetings—  
Student-Free Day

**Wednesday 20th  
December**  
Professional  
Practice Day—  
Student-Free Day



**Tuesday 30th  
January 2024**  
First Day of 2024  
School Year for  
School-aged  
Students

# BAYSIDE NEWSLETTER



**Bayside  
Special  
Developmental  
School**

ISSUE 17

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**BAYSIDE SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTAL SCHOOL**

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Bayside SDS Acknowledges the Bunurong Peoples' of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Owners and Custodians, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging

**Acting Principal's Report**

Last week there was an exciting event for staff and a select group of students. Bayside Special Development School graduation took place on Friday night, and whilst I was unable to be there, I did catch up with those students who were here on Monday. I was shown many photos of the event. From all accounts it was an emotional afternoon of celebration. It is always a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the journey of students through their schooling of which many have spent their whole schooling at Bayside. There were six students, Abi, Jordan, Ella, Balsam, Michelle, and Charles. It was also great to see Michael Pepprell return to share the evening.

The big events continue this time of year with the school

concert on Thursday next week. Practice is in full swing, and I am looking forward to the event. I have some idea of what it will be like after viewing snippets of past concerts.

Teachers are well under way with their reports. They are in the final stages of proof reading. You will receive them at your child's Student Support Group (SSG) meeting. On this topic, SSG's are scheduled for Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December so please keep this time in mind when planning that last week of school. These meetings are an important part of a student's plan for the future to assist them reaching their full potential. Teachers have reached out already, so if you have not yet made a time, please liaise with your son/daughter's teacher.

By now you will be aware of the class

groupings and who the teachers and Educational Support Staff that will be working with your children next year. This is a lengthy process to make sure the combinations of students and staff provides the best opportunities. This last couple of weeks is an important time for staff to share information with other staff to support students into 2024.

Finally, a summary of that last three days of the school year. Students finish on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December, Student Support Group meetings on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December and staff finish on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

As usual, the last few weeks at school have been a very busy time and staff have continued to focus on providing students with a varied and enriching program.

**Shaun Bacon**  
Acting Principal

## EEP ~ Llywela, Carly, & Natasha

With only a few more days of EEP for 2023 for each of the students, we have flung ourselves into the depths of end of year and Christmas crafts! There isn't a single student (or staff member!) leaving the classroom at the end of the day without some remnants of creativity – whether it be a little paint between fingers or under fingernails, or the persistent presence of a fleck of glitter here and there.

So here we are, the final newsletter for 2023!

We are still trying to comprehend where the year has gone, as it feels like such little time has passed since those first few weeks of term one. At the same time, as we recall each student's actual first few weeks in E1 in 2023, and reflect on the progress and achievements each has made, we appreciate the long-term

persistence and determination of each student and their family.

Layla, Hannah, Chester, Lucas, Jordan, Khang, Brooke, Will and Isaac, congratulations on all you have achieved this year! Thank you for a wonderful 2023 and we wish you all the very best in 2024!

## Room E5 ~ Ka Ling & Danielle

It's December! You know what that means! Christmas cheer is in the air! As students in E5 start winding down for the year, we have been spending more time outdoors for tricycle riding and enjoying the sunshine. We have also started our Christmas craft galore, from finger painting, to creating hanging decorations!

End of Year concert is also just around the corner! Without giving away too much, as we would like it to be a surprise, E5 have been listening to the concert song to get familiar with its rhythm and melody! Sam and Mamoud have been fascinated with the prop that we are using for the concert. Whilst, Yuki, Akain, Patrick and

Oscar enjoy having a turn drumming to the beat of the song.

As this is the last newsletter for the year, I wanted to say a big 'Thank You' to all the students and families in E5. This has been a wonderful year! Thank you to Danni for her unwavering support. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

## Room E6 ~ Cheryl & Alina

***Don't push the button! Oh No!***

You have changed into a Christmas Tree with tinsel, baubles, a star, and lights!

This is our last story for the year with our character Larry having an adventure with a BIGmack switch being pressed on each page by each E6 student!

Yes, Christmas is in full swing with our special craft activities and catchy well known favourite festive songs

This term is nearly over! E6 has looked a bit different over the year with change of students, including welcoming Both Xavier and Khizr in term three.

Each student has made personal achievements and growth towards their goals. Well done Naila, Jack, Mitchell, Taiga, Khizr and Xavier! The E6 teachers—Cheryl and Alina have enjoyed those notable moments, the shared experiences, and enjoyment that specific activities have given each student throughout the year.

I would like to thank Alina for her incredible energy, support, enthusiasm, organisation, and creativity during class activities! Thank you also to the various teachers who have supported us during this semester, and the therapy team who have supported us throughout the year.

This year, the end of year concert will have E6 joining E5 for our special item!

Hope to see you there! Have a restful break ready for 2024!

## Room N1 ~ Cara, Gemma, Marshall & Justine

Cannot believe I am writing the very last newsletter for 2023! What a year N1 have had. One of the highlights this year for the boys would have to be how far they have all come with their communication. James now brings in his iPad every day, and uses it to communicate. Archer is an absolute whiz on Prolo4Text. Franco is learning more sign

alongside his iPad. Both Dylan and Aiden are exploring the folders and sentence structure in Proloquo2Go and are always keen to follow along during literacy. Keshav joined our class in term 2, and had very little in way of communication. He is now using his iPad throughout the day, can form sentences such as 'I want food' and join his class mates in

group games. We have also loved having Em and Emily join us weekly for group games, bike riding. and in Term 4 visiting the café for yummy drinks!

Gemma, Marshall and I are so proud of how far all the boys have come. We look forward to seeing all our families at the End of Year Concert and SSGs!

## Room N2 ~ Abigail, Anouk & Jacqui

We cannot believe that we are already at the last newsletter for the year. 2023 has really flown! We would like to take the chance to share with you a photo highlight for each student – something that was fun and memorable. Jordan and Sam's pictures are from a recent party with friends in N3. They were both loving wearing their party hats and enjoying the music and party food! N2 have all enjoyed celebrating special occasions with

friends from across the school this year. Chris and Rosie are pictured in the new Engine Room in S-block. Chris is enjoying time in the lycra swing as it squeezes him and gently spins. Rosie was of course attracted to the rainbow path and kicked off her shoes to feel the different textures in her rainbow socks! Tom and William's pictures are from dress-up days. William is dressed up in a spooky coffin outfit for Halloween and enjoyed all the

ghostly sounds from staff when they saw him go by. Tom was dressed up for Purple Day, loving having flowing purple ribbons on his headphones! We hope you have enjoyed all the newsletter photos across the year as much as we have. Thank you for all your support this year, and we wish you and your families relaxing holidays and a fun holiday season.

## Room N3 ~ Tiana, Neena, Jacqui & Natasha

What a wonderful year it has been for the students in N3! Last week we celebrated Jay's 13<sup>th</sup> birthday with a class party and all his favourite food. Happy Birthday Jay!

A highlight for the year, and over the last fortnight, has been the progress all of the group have made in their communication. Annabel has

been kicking goals with her eye gaze device, Ellie has a brand new iPad with her own personal Proloquo2Go set up and Charlotte has been engaging with her personalised GoTalk app. Jay has been wearing his iPad and using it regularly to communicate around the school and Bella has been using more words—

even singing along to her favourite songs. Neena, Jacqui, Tash and I are so proud of the progress everyone has made this year and cannot wait to see all the amazing things you all get up to next year! We look forward to seeing all our families at the End of Year Concert and SSGs.

## Room W1 ~ Kate & Mel

They say all good things must come to an end, so its time for this year to end!

We have had a lot of fun in the classroom this last fortnight. We celebrated graduation for Abi, Balsam, Ella and Jordan, as well as Michelle and Charles. It was a wonderful night for everyone. A very bitter

sweet night, but was a great way to celebrate our amazing graduating class!! Everyone looked amazing all dressed up, and enjoyed celebrating with their families and staff from Bayside.

We have started Christmas celebrations in W1. This fortnight we have made Elves, Christmas trees,

Reindeers and read some Christmas books and listened to Christmas carols. We are all so excited for Christmas.

I just wanted to say a big thank you to all the students and families of W1. This year was full of fun, laughter, and learning. Well done everyone!

## Room W2 ~ Gloria & Marion

During the last few weeks, W2 have been reading, "Ducks Away" in our literacy sessions. Ale, Lachie, Issy and Michelle are learning about Mother Duck and her five ducklings, who all jump from a bridge into a pond. Michelle holds a big Mother Duck while Ale counts and lines five ducklings up, ready for them to flop into the river (a big blue mat on the

floor). Issy turns the pages of the book and Lachie listens to the story and waits until he can choose an upbeat version of "5 Little Ducks" for everyone to sing along and dance to. The story provides a great opportunity to learn lots of words like "up" and "down", "what" and "where". Everyone gets the chance to count from 1 to 5 too.

On Friday, the school celebrated the achievements of Michelle and five other Graduands. Michelle and her family caught up with lots of familiar Bayside faces and we all had a wonderful time. Congratulations Michelle: we will all miss you and wish you good luck!

## Room W3 ~ Charles & Paddy

Class numbers have again been low over the past couple of weeks, with students only now beginning to shrug off the nasty lurgy that swept through W3. Numbers fell as low as one. Thank you, Meckenzie, for keeping us employed. The low numbers meant that it has generally been just Charles and Paddy holding the fort, although we did have one wonderful day when the deckchair shuffle ended up with Marion back in the class with us. It's been weeks since she was last in W3,

and was a real treat for everyone to have her visiting back. The excellent staff to student ratios have meant that we've been doing lots of one-to-one sensory and literacy work.

Concert rehearsals are marching forward, and the costumes are gradually beginning to take shape. We're about to enter an 'intensive' phase, so wish us luck.

The highlight of the fortnight was the wonderful graduation ceremony for Charles K and five other students. Great slide

shows and speeches, especially from the parents. Thank you all, and best wishes for the future!

It's been a great year in W3 with our diverse group somehow melding together by the end and making perfect sense. Big applause to all the parents, and many thanks for making the year easier and more enjoyable. Special thanks for their great work to Paddy and Marion, and all of the other staff who have worked in W3 this year. Happy holidays. See you all again soon in 2024!

# Room W4 ~ Lulu & Mark

The last newsletter of 2023! It feels like only yesterday we were eagerly writing our first, excited to tell you about all the fun things we had planned!

The W4 gang are currently getting in to their end of year crafts. So far, we have made suncatchers that are displayed on the classroom windows and students have started decorating

their end of year bags. End of year concert practice is in full swing and we can't wait to show you what we've prepared (alongside N3) at the End of Year Concert next week!

It has been an absolute pleasure working with the W4 students this year: Reuvi, Theo, Kate and Archie, and we can't

wait to see what next year has in store for all of them.

We wish you all a happy and festive holiday season filled with love, laughter and food (of course).

## Bayside SDS Values:

*Teamwork—Working in teams offers a greater sense of belonging. By emphasising the value of teamwork and the importance of collaboration we achieve better outcomes for our students.*

*Respect—Respect means that you accept somebody for who they are, even when they are different from you or you do not agree with them.*

*Respect in your relationships builds feelings of trust, safety, and wellbeing.*

*Opportunity—We are committed to providing services, resources and encouragement that equip students and families for better outcomes, new futures, new hope and dignity.*

*Compassion—Compassion means temporarily suspending judgment so that you can appreciate others' perspectives or situations when they are different from your own. To be compassionate you need to be genuinely concerned about the other person or people's needs.*

*Community—Respect for the rights, differences, and dignity of others. Honesty and integrity with all members of the community. Accountability for personal behaviour*



# Speech Pathology Report—Em Mizzi



**Wh- questions are a key part of language development for children.** It is important that children ask and answer Wh- questions, as they lay the groundwork for children to participate in conversations, demonstrate knowledge, **What is a WH Question?**

Wh- questions are questions people ask to get information or communicate their wants and needs. These could be about anything. We use them every day at home, at work, and in the classroom and we use them frequently.

Here are the wh- questions:

- ◆ **What** is for asking about something (what is that?)
- ◆ **When** is for asking about a time (when do you brush your teeth?)
- ◆ **Where** is for asking about a place (where are you coming from?)
- ◆ **Why** is for asking about a reason (why are you running?)
- ◆ **Who** is for asking about a person (who is at school today?)
- ◆ **How** is for asking about the condition, manner, or quality of something (how do you draw?)



Why “WH” Questions

Wh- questions are an essential part of everyday life and their importance goes far beyond speech development. Learning to ask and answer wh- questions helps children:

- ◆ Build conversation skills
- ◆ Boost social skills and build relationships
- ◆ Stimulate vocabulary development
- ◆ Demonstrate an understanding of new information
- ◆ Promote reasoning, critical thinking and problem solving skills
- ◆ Learn how to follow directions
- ◆ Relay information to others



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## Speech Pathology Report—Em Mizzi

Usually, children start to learn wh- questions starting with more concrete questions, about their environment. They ask and master the “what” question earliest. Then “who” and “where” follow. Generally, due to its less concrete nature, the last question to be mastered is “why”.

### How to help your child learn to ask and answer “wh” questions.

1. **Visual Cues:** When asking questions, show photographs, illustrations, or actual objects that correlate to the question. Many children require visual support to full process information. Visual images help transform abstract concepts into concrete concepts. A visual representation provides a constant reminder of the type of question asked.
2. **Give Choices:** If your child is displaying difficulties answering open ended wh-questions, start off with multiple choices. This strategy will not only increase understanding, but will increase a child’s confidence, as he/she is more likely to answer accurately.
  - For example, if you are asking a child, “where does a cow live?”, give multiple choices (“ocean” or “farm”). Since both options are places, it reinforces the idea that the child must answer “where” questions with the name of a place.
3. **Help with “why” questions:** Answering “why” questions are more difficult, as these answers are not concrete and require inferential thinking. The good news is that we teach how to answer these questions in the same way that we teach how to answer other wh- questions: through visual cues, repetition, and multiple examples.

This term the senior students in W1 at Bayside SDS have been working on asking and answering “wh” questions. The goal has been to develop vocabulary, language and to build social skills.

Within the classroom, we have participated in teaching and learning through social stories, role plays, board games, interviewing our friends and creating “books about me”.

The seniors, using a multimodal approach to communication have participate in asking each other questions, with speech, Key Word Sign, picture-based visuals, and Electronic Communication Systems.

They have also been building on their social skills, finding out about their friends likes and dislikes, what they did on the weekends, and their home life.

We then extended this interview scenario to students interviewing staff around the school. This was a great experience for the students who very confidently asked “wh” questions and recorded answers.

See next page for one of the interviews and get to know a little more about Teacher Kate in W1: