

Kath Sugars



It's hard to believe this time last year we were still looking for a builder! Since then we have built our kitchen, coped graciously with unwarranted debts from the builder going broke, had a big celebration, and now we just expect to see our brand new kitchen when we walk through the door!

I have had a year of firsts; with my first born graduating from high school (go Becca), planting and harvesting my first vege garden, getting my first dog (she is so cute), and doing my first back yard renovation (@#\$!! – but it looks great now)!

My year's highlights include: taking two weeks off to watch the Olympics (thanks everyone) and watching the Paralympics, too; Rebecca passing English Literature with much determination and teamwork (yay); Landsdale camp; meeting all the new families; singing Christmas carols at Phoenix Shopping Centre, Janey saying she nearly cried when we sang the John Lennon song and hearing later a random shopper wiped away a tear; seeing some of my responsibilities at school being handed over to dynamic and committed parents; and drumming my way through Fremantle in the parade with Stacey and Taylor!!.

I am sad to be saying goodbye to Tony, who has been an absolutely fabulous music teacher. I hope April can follow him with as much verve and good humour. We were lucky to have Stacey and Martin to take over when Tony was away and the drumming has been a popular theme for most-fun-thing-this-year with the kids. I have

appreciated the opportunity for Ben to have Kevin Price as a creative writing instructor, with his Born Storytellers workshops – a stroke of luck for our kids, without doubt. I think Polly provides an amazing languages program and I love all the creative ways she thinks of to get the kids to think and speak in Indonesian, especially the obstacle course. I thought *The Three Pigs*, directed by Fred, concocted by the kids, was a masterpiece of dramatic theatre. As always, I loved working with Tom, Geraldine, Fran and my mum – what a team we have.

It will be heartbreaking to say goodbye to the graduates this year. And when I think about saying goodbye to their mums and dads... The kids are a fantastic bunch of personalities. I remember Wylie when I first came here, a tiny bundle of trips and scrapes, who wouldn't give me the time of day, and certainly wouldn't trust me to put a bandaid on her knee. Wara and Stephen have been Ben's friends for as long as we can remember with sleepovers and birthdays galore; gorgeous kids. Michael has become a friend this year, with his quirky smile and turn of phrase. Cormac and I have discovered a mutual love of fantasy fiction and have read many of the same books, including our favourite, *Artemis Fowl*, what an awesome series! Shaquille has joined Ben and Callam's cricket team and I have really enjoyed getting to know him better, especially through our love of our dogs, Sally and Buster. When Louis first came to Kerry Street his mum took his hat off and said some people get surprised by what his head looks like – well, since then he has had water balloons in his head to stretch the skin and I remember the headline in the *Kookaburra Kids Newspaper* "Louis Gets Hair" when he had his last operation. Through all this, he has been cheerful and chatty, and I recall him saying the best thing about having hair was being able to do gym at Ying Li's!

I wish these students all the very best at high school next year and hope the love and hope we have for them will help them a little as they embark upon... School, Part II.

To all my friends at Kerry Street, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Liz Sugars

Looking back on 2008 I feel very privileged to have been involved in the lives and education of a group of such beautiful children and their families. The contribution of parents and Tom's unfailing enthusiasm, positivity and energy have helped to make this a fun-filled and successful year. There is



nothing more exciting to me than watching children learn to read, make their first attempts at writing and lose their baby teeth. Of course these are not the only achievements of the children in this class. Moving out from their sheltered homes into the busy sharing world of school can be daunting for both children and their parents and all have faced this transition with courage and commitment. Tom and I have watched in wonder as everyone in the class has developed their physical skills, from cutting with scissors to swinging from the monkey bars and riding trikes, scooters and rip sticks. Everyone had a go at gymnastics (what could be more breathtaking than the whole school encouraging Connor to jump from the high platform), netball, basketball, soccer and cricket. And let's not forget the fun times swimming and playing at the Fremantle Pool. Fun, sharing and learning were also features of our two family camps, the first at Hillarys and that wonderful beach, not to mention the HEAT, and the second at Landsdale Farm School. What a hands-on experience. I loved it! Camps are also a great time for me to get to know parents more intimately and this I very much enjoy and appreciate. Once again this year we cooked up a storm; muffins, fruit salad, vegetable soup again, fruit and vege faces, chocolate mug cake (yes, you read correctly), pancakes, etc, etc, etc. Learning is easier when the emotions and senses are involved and the children learn so much from our cooking sessions. Participating in the Tomato Festival, the Freo Festival Parade and the School concert (who could forget The Little Red Hen) were fun community activities and the Carol Singing at Phoenix Park brought a tear to the eye of more than one member of the audience. I don't always see our class as angelic but they certainly sang like angels on that day. That reminds me of how sad I am that we are losing our fantastic music teacher, Tony. Farewell and thank you, Tony. I hope your Margaret River venture brings happiness to you and your family. Our study of the community in Term 4 has seen us out and about on Wednesdays. My heartfelt thanks to the solid core of mums who braved rain, hail and shine to take us to Naragebup, Kings Park, Manning Park, the museum (by train), Scitech, and the grand finale, traveling by ferry to ring the bells in the bell tower. Yes, we really did ring the bells. Everyone had a pull on the ropes and sent 'music' pealing over the city. The solid support of parents in so many ways has been extraordinary and much appreciated this year. Thank you all so much. I know you do it to enhance your children's education and a spin-off is that I get to feel loved and supported and make new friends.

As I write I am feeling quite sad about 'losing' this gorgeous group of children. Thank goodness this is a small open school and I am not really losing them at all and I guess that this time next year I will be experiencing the same feelings about the next class. I am feeling very enthusiastic about 2009 and the next crop of beautiful kids coming through. I would like to wish the year 7s every success at high school and happiness throughout their lives. It has been great getting to know them all. I note and appreciate the mature way they have handled their final term at primary school. Thanks also to Polly for her bright and interesting Indonesian lessons and the care and attention she pays to each individual child. Since I started working four days per week in Term 3 I have not been around for Drama but I have enjoyed the results of Hardey's and Fred's efforts and would like to thank Ariane for her assistance on Friday afternoons in Terms 1 and 2. Thanks must also go to Fran and Geraldine who have been a continual source of encouragement and assistance to me. Few people would be lucky enough to work in such a vibrant and caring community as Kerry Street. And last, but definitely not least, I want to thank Kath for EVERYTHING. Throughout her adult life she has always encouraged me to be what I want to be and do what I want to do, which is why I am here and loving it.

Tom Francas

I must admit to being nervous, at the start of the year, about having the kindy and pre-primary class, after a couple of years' hiatus teaching the older children. Those nerves lasted about ten minutes. For a start, they find my jokes funny! Unfortunately, that just encourages me. Another great part of this job is that children learn through play, and if there's one thing I'm good at... it's play. I remember sitting at the table in our room eating a banana, with Ullani's pink gloves on my ears, and thinking "What a great job I have!" I also get to spend time with the older children, in a variety of ways, from hiking through the bush at Manning Park to playing footy, soccer or cricket at Bakers Square.

I think we have a magnificent school and I hope the children take as many good memories into their future as I have. It will be sad farewell to the year sevens, some of whom I can recall walking through the door as fresh-faced four year olds, but the flip-side to that will be welcoming a new group of four year olds at the start of next year.

I wanted to mention some of the highlights of the year. I started making a list, but there were too many, so I'll just say that I have had a magnificent 2008 at Kerry Street and look forward to more of the same next year.

Tom xx



Geraldine Stanton



Hi everyone,

Once again it's been a hectic year with heaps of fantastic outings and excursions.

Mostly I would like to thank the parents. This year there seems to have been heaps of parents milling around in the mornings, cutting up lunches, making coffees and teas, chatting and organising stuff, whether it's children's play times or things that need doing around school. It's just a great atmosphere to walk into and be around. Let's not forget the moral support they all give to us teachers and many teas and coffees as well.

Many thanks to Ariane for all the ideas, support and time she has given to the school and especially to our art classes.

It has been a hard year but fun so I wish you a Christmas filled with peace, love and joy.

G

Fran Ryce

This year has flown by; a cliché but accurate as to how it feels to me. As usual school is buzzing and looking back a lot has been accomplished.

We have our wonderful new kitchen after much work from everyone and particularly Kath.

The parade and the costume making before were a great example of community.

There are many highlights, too many to list all, but they included camps, excursions, the concert and many sessions in class.

I would also like to include the meetings where we have come together to express concerns and positive experiences, and to work on shared community expectations, and ways to implement our desire for a peaceful, harmonious environment, in which our children can flourish.

Thank you everyone who made this year so rich in experience. Thank you Geraldine, Kath, Liz and Tom for being excellent colleagues and people.

Goodbye to the year sevens. I will miss all your learning styles, energy and conversation. You have taught me a great deal. Your parents will also be missed as you and your families move to a different stage of life. Please come and visit sometimes.

Fran

