

At Home with the Harlands

Christmas 2007

Christmas time again so soon? The kids are all bigger, on holidays from school and getting excited, so it must be We have now got to the point where all four children are at school, which seems only to mean that there is now four sets of homework, excursions, uniforms, clubs etc. to be managed ...



Jeremy has completed his Prep year, which is his first official year of school. He was very pleased to be one of the 'big' people at last! He has again found a niche in the book corner, (although the classroom computers gave it some stiff competition), and his energy was very much appreciated by his teacher. He is not exactly a natural with the uniform of cap, tie and blazer, but they all survived the experience more or less intact. He got a new bike for his birthday (his first new bike ever ---- the disadvantage of being the youngest), and of course red ones are the fastest :-). He had a lot of fun in the after-school soccer and cricket clubs, which perhaps just goes to show that chasing around after three elder siblings is good training ...



Emily has had a lot of fun in Grade 2, and has had a lot of stimulation from the literacy and numeracy programs at Haileybury. Her teacher often said that Emily really likes to chat! She had to choose between learning the cello, violin and viola, and she chose the cello "because you get to sit down". The after-school dancing club was a great attraction, especially when it came to the end-of-year concert. She also volunteered to sing at a school function earlier in the year, and at a school assembly, so there is little danger of stage fright! She has been a keen follower of basketball matches, and has almost managed to get the ball above the ring.



Timothy has completed Grade 4, which means that he moves in to the Middle School next year. For once, the he had the same teacher all year, and that was certainly a blessing. The School camp was again a highlight, something that he mentioned in the short speech that all Grade 4 students had to give at the graduation night at the end of the year. Next year means some different uniform and being one of the "smaller" kids again, but in his case, this will be less than for some others. You know he is getting big when thongs that barely fit him are fine for his mother! He has been having tennis lessons, and he took up basketball this year, for the same club as Joshua, and his team managed to win the premiership, something he was quick to point out to his older brother ...



Joshua completed year 9 in October. This is a less formal year than many others, which included trips to South Australia, the Northern Territory and the Snowy River. Each involved a particular theme, and required the completion of a substantial project after his return. His collection of photographs from each of the trips is very large! His continuing with Japanese, and, in line with recent Haileybury practice, commenced year 10 before the end of the year. This made the year end on a bang rather than a whimper, and he is still a bit unsure about the benefits of being in the same part of the campus as his mother. He is still playing basketball with some old friends, although he is still a bit uncomfortable with being the coach's son.

Linda has had another very busy year at work. "Timetable" has become a dirty word at our place! If you ever get asked a trivial question such as "Which school has the most complicated timetable in the Southern Hemisphere?", you know what to answer! It wasn't helped by the untimely death of the Principal during the year, which has meant a change of various management positions, with some further appointments still to be made. She was also coaching the Girls First Tennis, which made for something completely different from maths or timetables.

James managed to get back into some teaching this year, whilst continuing with off-shore management and research. This has meant less travel than last year, but still way too much from everyone else's point of view. This year he "only" went to Hawaii, Vietnam and Malaysia, usually at the most inconvenient times possible. It was nice to actually mark some exams again for a change!

With best wishes from all of us for a refreshing Christmas and a prosperous New Year,

James, Linda, Joshua, Timothy, Emily & Jeremy Harland