

At Home with the Harlands

Christmas 2009

2009 has turned out to be a year with a few travel highlights, but not from the usual suspects ... We had a family holiday in Cairns in July, which was a nice break from routine (and the Melbourne winter!), and the year finished up with Joshua spending three weeks in Japan, and with Linda in China for two of those weeks. There is nothing like not doing things by halves ...



Jeremy has just completed Year 2, and is thoroughly enjoying it. He started playing the viola this year, and took to it very well (although remembering to bring it with him to school was sometimes a problem!). He also started karate lessons this year, and is already a red belt (which almost matches his hair). He loves taking photographs, and taking photographs of himself, so it is not a good idea to leave a camera unattended when he is around ...



Emily has just completed Year 4, which means that she moves into the Middle School next year and will be in girls-only classes from now on. She thoroughly enjoyed being a House Leader for the second half of this year, and was very pleased when she got School colours for Dancing. Perhaps due to some influence from an elder sibling, she also started learning the bagpipes (but mercifully for our eardrums, only the chanter so far!). She also has reached her red belt in karate.



Timothy has just finished Year 6. He still enjoys his Japanese very much, and has continued to do very well at it. He was very pleased to hear that he may be able to travel to Japan with the school in Year 9. He has found a sporting niche in volleyball, for which he got a School Achievement Award, which is probably due to his ever-increasing height --- he has recently been threatening to relegate Linda to the shorter half of the family. He does keep telling us that he is not the tallest in his year, and he also continues to enjoy his tennis (so don't try to lob over him!).



Joshua has just started Year 12, having completed Year 11 a few weeks ago. He continues to enjoy his time in the Pipes and Drums band, despite the constant demands to play at various occasions, and he is almost getting comfortable wearing a kilt in public. He has just returned from his trip to Japan, which he thoroughly enjoyed (and managed to send us two postcards). The weather in Sapporo wasn't exactly tropical, which means that he will probably enjoy the summer a lot this year ...



Linda has had another busy year at work, but being "only" a classroom teacher has found it a lot less stressful than previously. The highlight was being selected as part of a Haileybury delegation to various schools in China, which teach VCE courses in English to their students. This meant a rather hectic week of visits, lessons and banquets (more than could be eaten or counted!), followed by some more relaxing time in Shanghai and Hong Kong.



James has done a lot less travelling this year, due to not having to manage offshore teaching any more, but still managed to be kept busy by acting as a Discipline Leader (and briefly as Head of School) due to some absences. The second half of the year was generally more productive, once it got down to the core business of teaching and research (and even managed one performance with the Astra choir in December).

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

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