

Essay by Bailey Neate

On Friday 19 October 2007 we gathered at Wanda Beach for the first ever "Beach Bonanza". As usual the weather at Cronulla was perfect for a day at the beach, but today was about more than that, it was about Year 6 students from diverse backgrounds getting together and having some fun.

At St Aloysius we believe that it is important that we as students are aware and informed about other people and their cultural backgrounds and beliefs. The "Beach Bonanza" was the perfect place for this integration to take place.

When we arrived we were greeted by the people organising the day and we were all given different coloured caps, this would be our group for the day and ensured everyone had the opportunity to mix and make new friends.

Our first activity was the beach sprint. Growing up in Cronulla has meant that I am used to walking, running and playing on the sand. Many of the children present were unfamiliar with this activity, but with team work, support and encouragement our team was able to complete this activity with success.

Our next activity was the flags, by this stage many of children had taken off their shoes and were ready to try anything. Everyone loved the flags and friendly rivalry meant fun for all.

We played Frisbee and made and flew kites (mine has pride of place on the staircase at home) before the Beach Rescue Helicopter arrived and we got to take a closer look inside.

A BBQ sausage lunch made sure we were ready for more fun and games as the helicopter took off and circled the beach before it disappeared out to sea.

After lunch our group had a game of soccer then show bags and goodbye to our new found friends.

As we walked back to St Aloysius I realised how lucky I am and how important my values taught to me by my teachers and my mother are.

At St Aloysius we believe that the values of understanding, tolerance and inclusion are important to building a caring and loving spirit in our school. We endeavour to live these values in the way we interact with each other, each and every day.

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