



Kids ripe for holiday fun

From a sleep-in to French cuisine

**Natalie Gregg
Margaret Wenham**

THERE'LL be wide smiles spread across the faces of 480,000 state school students today as they begin their two-week hiatus from classrooms and teachers.

Talisha Hansen, 8, of Algester in Brisbane's southwest, left school with a skip in her step yesterday and a firm idea of what the school break was all about.

"The best thing about holidays is you get to do a lot of fun stuff with your friends," Talisha said.

"I like going skating with my friend Rhianna."

The Algester State School Year 3 student also plans to spend time with her sister and enjoy some extra time in bed.

"Usually for school I'm the first up at 6am and I wake my

Mum up, but I think I'll sleep in a bit."

At Broadwater Caravan Park at the Gold Coast, a TV-free holiday is already under way for Zac Peters, 12, of Parkwood, and his mate Jack Levien, 12, of Southport.

The boys, as well as the rest of the Levien family, keep their days full boating, skiing, swimming, riding rip-sticks, bikes, and scooters, playing tennis, chinese checkers and cards.

Jack's mum Judy Levien said despite living just around the corner, camping was an opportunity to connect as a family.

"At home I can get busy with things and the boys might sit there and play computer games," Mrs Levien said.

"With camping we can spend time together, get back to basics and enjoy the simple things."

For those staying home there are a plethora of free and

affordable activities to keep active kids entertained.

Parents of city kids could try French cuisine at the Belle Epoque restaurant in New Farm, which is encouraging patrons to dine avec les enfants.

Yesterday, Wilston mother Annie Harris treated her daughter Isabella Saw and best friend, Matilda Mackay, both 8, to petit dejeuner at the New Farm Parisian-style bistro.

Ms Harris said another meal at the restaurant — where children can see their crepes being flambeed before their eyes before being smothered in chocolate or lemon sauce — was part of their planned holiday activities, which also featured tennis camp, visits to the Queensland Museum and art gallery and the Powerkids drama program at the Powerhouse.

Students return to school on Tuesday, July 14.



READY for school holidays ... Matilda Mackay and Isabella Saw try the children's menu at New Farm's Belle Epoque restaurant, and Zac Peters and Jack Levien camp on the Gold Coast.

Pictures: Mark Calleja, Tim Marsden