Half the term has now passed and it has been an extremely busy but enjoyable five weeks at Stonehenge State School. The students are working extremely hard on their assessment pieces and showing enthusiasm in their work. They have had to work extra hard this week because last week we went to Camp Fairbairn.

CAMP

The students arrived on Monday morning to head for camp with their swags and bags packed. The boys were extremely excited.

We boarded the bus and drove into Longreach. We arrived and met up with Jundah State School so that we could go to the QANTAS museum. We had a wonderful tour guide who filled our heads with information about planes and showed us the many features of a plane.

Once we met up with Bedourie State School we were on our way to Camp Fairbairn. It was a long drive but the boys spent the trip reading some of the new books the library has just had delivered. We had dinner at McDonald's when we finally arrived in Emerald and then went straight to bed at Camp Fairbairn.

Camp Fairbairn teaches children about personal growth through challenge, leadership, teamwork, communication and resilience. When the students awoke, Tony went straight to work, setting challenges for students to reach as groups. It was very challenging for some students who discovered that communication is as much about listening to others as it is about talking to others.

Students in prep, year one, year 2 and year 3 headed to the low ropes course to face these challenges in groups while students in years 4-6 faced the monkey vomit challenge. These challenges helped students realise that being a good team isn't about individual brilliance, but working together with a common goal and plan.
The afternoon saw some excitement in camp and a change of plans with our campout moved to the following night. Instead students worked in a whole group and built catapults to shoot each other with tennis balls. Students from Stonehenge needed to make sure they built friendships quickly with students from Jundah and Bedourie to build a catapult that would fire well. Though the creation of the catapults was fun, firing was outstanding, once students got used to it. Thankfully, everyone was wearing a helmet, safety glasses and a life jacket to keep safe.

The students faced this challenge with enthusiasm and some of them made it look very easy. In the end, Brodie was the third fastest from Stonehenge with a climb of 2 minutes and 29 seconds, besting his previous time by 30 seconds. Heath managed the fastest time by climbing up the wall in just 51 seconds.

“On the second day, our older group started off with rock wall climbing, which I enjoyed. We all had a harness on and took turns at climbing the ten metre wall while the other people hooked to the rope below to support the person climbing. It was very important to get a safety check on your helmet and karabiner before you climbed.” (Written by Heath)

“On Wednesday we did Camp Out. There were two adult canoes and five student canoes. When we got there we had to set up a tent to sleep in. We could only use pegs, tarps and rope.” (Written by Jarrod)
It was definitely a bit of a cold night but the students grouped together to build three wonderful shelters that kept them much warmer than their teachers. Tony made us a wonderful camp stew and baked us a cake around the camp fire. In the morning we awoke, packed up and went back to camp. On the way, while the older children were canoeing, our younger students sailed back and pretended to be pirates. One of our students was adamant that he walked the plank.

After lunch, we wore the harnesses once more for abseiling. This was definitely a challenge in trust because going leaning over a ledge, ten metres in air with only a rope strapped to you takes a great deal of belief that your team is behind you and doing their job. This was a great exercise but when students were told that only four could have a second turn, they soon found that more work was needed around their communication to organise their team better.

That night we gathered for our final meal together at camp before competing in a trivia challenge for the reward of chocolates. Some of the questions stumped some groups, while others thrived. One question that seemed to stump the adult group – name that states in Australia. The adults didn't believe that Victoria counted. In the end, a group that had one boy from Stonehenge, two students from Jundah and one from Bedourie showed they had built enough of a connection to take victory.

We left the following morning but stopped off in Emerald for some more supplies. The boys bought themselves an activity book for the trip home while I collected some music to help keep everyone entertained. I didn't realise *The Horse* by Daryl Braithwaite would be such a huge hit with students today. Before we left the boys needed to look in their favourite shop – BCF.

In Longreach we stayed for the night and went to see *AntMan*. The boys all loved the movie and kept talking about “that weird looking dog,” and the giant Thomas the Tank engine.

We arrived home the next day. It was a wonderful camp and everyone had a wonderful time. Thank you to Camp Fairbairn for all the hard work you did to ensure we all had an amazing time. Thank you to Jundah State School and Bedourie State School for mixing well with Stonehenge and making it a week to remember.

**Reading Corner**

This week we have conducted reading tests to see how the students are progressing. Students worked very hard and we used our new Easi-Speak to record their reading. This will allow students to take a closer look at how they are reading and make personal reflections on how to improve.
Well done to Harry who completed a PM Level 15 – Skip Goes To The Rescue, and Brodie who passed a Probe Set 10 – The Blue Whale. Excellent to see your work in reading paying off with your results.

2. Read. It’s exercise for the brain.

Math Squared

Students have been working hard on their understandings of fractions, measurement and multiplication. These can be difficult concepts to understand but we have been using hands on materials to help out.

Jarrod and Rory have been focusing on fractions. Jarrod has been developing his understanding of mixed fractions and has been using magnetic fraction pies to build this understanding. Rory has been developing his understanding that groups of objects can also be separated into groups. He has used a range of materials from MAB blocks, unifix cubes, fraction pies and more. He was worked very well and is succeeding in understanding fractions. Well done!

Brodie and Heath have been working on multiplication. Brodie is attempting to show multiplication in a variety of ways. He has been using money, drawing pictures and diagrams as well as number lines to help show this. Heath is working on the distributive law – this allows him to multiply larger numbers by breaking them into smaller parts. He has been very successful at doing this. Have a go in the challenge task.

Harry has been using irregular objects to measure different objects. He has then had to explain what types of objects make better measuring tools and why. He has measured books, doors, people, desks and many other objects.

It is great to see enthusiasm in learning.

CHALLENGE

The Distributive Law

The distributive law says that multiplication can be written as two or more multiplications, then added. The distributive law can be applied as the split and multiply strategy when multiplying.

Example:

254 x 3
= (200+50+4) x 3
= (200 x 3) + (50 x 3)+ (4 x 3)
=600 + 150 + 12
=762

Your turn:
398 x 6
= 
= 
= 

5428 x 9
= 
= 
= 

This is a fantastic strategy as it will give you the skills to work out multiplications like this mentally – without pencils, paper, calculators, phones or computers. The mind is a powerful thing, we need to use it well.

Final Thought

Mrs Allen pointed out a website to show the class and talk about in class as it discusses some of the qualities that we need to succeed and gives advice to everyone who has a dream and wants to reach it.

The official Cooper Cronk Website contains lessons that he has learned on his journey to success. It talks about not being the biggest, strongest or smartest but by persevering, being resilient and working he hard, anyone can succeed.

1. No one gets ahead in life without help.

Cooper’s second life lesson has already been shared in the reading corner.

Thank you Julie for sharing this with me.