Classroom Happenings:
This week State Schools across the Queensland observed Education Week by hosting a variety of activities.
At Stonehenge we chose to hold a P & C Day to recognise the untiring work and continual commitment made by parents and community members to the school.
Members of the P & C were treated to an afternoon tea in the resource centre and then were invited to observe individual students turn an ordinary photograph into an individualised work of art through digital enhancement. After the students demonstrated the functions available using the pilrx program parents were invited to have-a-go themselves. This is one time that the parents were very willing to have their child tell them what to do!

P & C Association: The school does not have a designated ‘school gardener’ and is heavily reliant on the parents to carry out all but the mowing of the grounds. The P & C hold regular working bees throughout the year beautifying the school: pruning, weeding and tidying the grounds. A huge commitment, late last year, was the complete makeover of the school entrance area.
The major source of fundraising for the association is catering. Last year they catered for the horse riding school and at the Stonehenge Bronco Branding and Rodeo in August. The next catering engagement will be for J & J Transport’s Machinery auction on Saturday 9th June.
This year the P & C ladies are gathering together a wide range of favourite recipes from residents from the Barcoo Shire and surrounding area to be published in a book. The previous recipe book: Outback Offerings from Around the Ridges and Down the River was published back in 1989 and can still be found in many kitchens in the Barcoo.

Sing Story
Opera Queensland, the Tim Fairfax Family Trust and The John Villiers Trust are delighted to offer students of the Barcoo Shire performing arts education and development opportunities when they conduct their Sing Story workshop in Jundah on Friday 1st June.
Common misconceptions surround the art form of opera due to lack of exposure to opera. Sing Story focuses on the fact that opera is simply a narrative told through drama and song. Sing Story is designed to break down common stereotypes associated with opera and musical theatre whilst explicitly teaching and consolidating the English curriculum. A full report of the workshop will be published in the next newsletter on the 8th June.

I will be attending the Central Queensland Region principals’ conference in Yeppoon from Monday 28th – Thursday 31st May. Mrs Tina McColl will be replacing me during this time.

Have a great week,
Sandra

---

2012 SCHOOL TERM DATES
Term 2
Term 3
Term 4

DATES TO REMEMBER
• Central Qld Principals Conference 28th – 31st May
• Sing Story @ Jundah 1st June
• Barcoo Athletics Carnival 5th June @ Windorah
• Queen’s Birthday Long weekend 11th June
• Small Schools Athletics Carnival 15th June @ Longreach
• Windorah Sports Camp 18th – 22nd June

School Physical Education: In addition to the daily Smart Moves program students participate in a weekly PE lessons with Miss W on Tuesday’s. This term, in preparation for the upcoming athletics carnivals – Barcoo and Small Schools - the focus of the PE sessions is athletics. Parents and interested community are welcome to come along to the carnivals to support the students.

I will be attending the Central Queensland Region principals’ conference in Yeppoon from Monday 28th – Thursday 31st May. Mrs Tina McColl will be replacing me during this time.

Have a great week,
Sandra
Reading News:
Tips for Parents of Preps Students

Play with letters, words, and sounds! Having fun with language helps your child learn to crack the code of reading.

Say silly tongue twisters:
Sing songs, read rhyming books, and say silly tongue twisters. These help kids become sensitive to the sounds in words.

Play language games:
“My name is Mark. I like words that rhyme with my name. Does park rhyme with Mark? Does ball rhyme with Mark?”

Play sound games:
Give your child practice blending individual sounds into words. “Can you guess what this word is? m-o-p.” Say the sound each letter makes rather than the name of the letter.

Hold each sound longer than normal. This will help your child recognise the different letter sounds.

Use the sounds and letters in your child’s name:
Draw attention to the letters in your child’s name. Point out the link between letters and sounds. Say things like “John, the word jump begins with the same sound as your names. John, jump. Both begin with j.”

Trace and say letters:
Use a finger to trace a letter while saying the letter’s sound at the same time. You can do this on paper or in a sandbox or on a plate with flour. Involving touch, sight, and speech in this way has a powerful effect on learning. You can also draw a letter in dots for your child to connect.

Watch my lips:
This may feel odd at first, but encourage your child to watch your lips and mouth while you make certain sounds. Have your child think about how their own lips and tongue move. “Can you feel how your mouth moves the same way when we say mouse, mum and man?”

Read it and experience it:
Help your child make the connection between what they read in books and what happens in life eg if you’re reading a book about animals relate it to a trip to the zoo or the family pet.

Let you child choose:
Give your child the chance to pick their own books, even if the reading seems too easy. Easier books build confidence and letting children choose their own books nurtures independence and their own interests.

In order to read, children have to learn that written words are made up of letters that also represent the sounds we speak. Reading experts call this skill “phonological awareness”

Looking for suitable reading material?
The school library and the Stonehenge Community Library have a wide range of books available for you to borrow.