Classroom Happenings:
Our prep students, Chloe and Brodie, have spent this term listening to and engaging with a range of literary and non-literary texts with the focus on exploring how language is used to entertain through retelling events. As the term is nearing completion they have been busy preparing to present their spoken retells which they will present to peers, family and friends next Thursday in the Resource Centre.

Reading News
Tips for Parents with students in P-3

Find ways to read, write, and tell stories together with your child. Always applaud your young reader and beginning story writer!

Tell family tales:
Children love to hear stories about their family. Tell your child what it was like when you or your parents were growing up, or talk about a funny thing that happened when you were young.

Create a writing toolbox:
Find a special box and fill it with drawing and writing materials. Think of everyday opportunities for your child to write – the family shopping list, thankyou notes, birthday cards, or signs for the bedroom door.

Be your child’s #1 fan:
Show interest in your child’s homework and writing tasks. Ask your child to read out loud what they have written. Be an enthusiastic listener.

Once more with feeling:
When you child has figured out an unfamiliar word, have them re-read that sentence one more time. Often children are so busy figuring out a word that they lose the meaning of what they’ve just read.

Create a book together:
Make a handmade book together by folding pieces of paper in half and stapling them together. They can write their own story, with different sentences on each page. Ask your child to illustrate the book with their own drawings.

Do storytelling on the go:
Take turns adding to a story the two of you make up while riding in the car. Either one of you could start. Try making the story funny or spooky. This will stretch the imagination and foster a love for stories. It’s fun, too!

Point out the relationship between words:
Show your child how words relate and how this helps with both spelling and word meanings. If you child is having a hard time spelling a word like knowledge, point out that it is related to the word know.

Reading and writing skills go hand in hand. Reading gives children models of good writing – they learn about punctuation, capitalisation, grammar, storytelling and vocabulary. Writing builds important thinking skills such as how or organise, sequence, and express ideas in a way that makes sense

2012 SCHOOL TERM DATES

Term 2

Term 3

Term 4

DATES TO REMEMBER

✓ State of Origin 2nd Game 13th June
✓ Windorah Sports Camp 18th – 22nd June
✓ Report Cards 22nd June
✓ End of Term 22nd June
✓ NAIDOC Week 1st July
✓ State of Origin Final 4th July

Queensland Opera –Sing Song

The students travelled to Jundah on Friday 1st June to participate in a workshop hosted by Queensland Opera. The day began with an introduction to the singers followed by a number of fun activities including the interactive and highly amusing Heehaw, Haybarn, Hoedown, a get-to-know-you game before a condensed lesson on what opera is (a narrative) and the different voices of the singers. Each singer sang a few lines allowing everyone to compare the voices. It was very easy for them to pick the difference between the soprano and the mezzo-soprano (females) and the tenor and bass (males).
After an entertaining retelling of *The Elixir of Love* the remainder of the workshop was spent learning “Make Them Laugh”. The cumulating activity was a performance to parents and visitors at the end of the day.

**Barcoo Athletics Carnival – Windorah 5-6-2012**

[Imagery of students at an athletics carnival]

It was an early start on Tuesday morning, leaving Stonehenge at 6:15am, for the trip to Windorah for the annual Barcoo Shire Athletics Carnival. The distance of the sprints (50m – 100m) varied according to age.

All of the students gave 100% and are to be complimented on their participation in all track and field events as well as their sportsmanship. Everyone came home with multiple ribbons for either winning or placing in an event.

Individual awards included Brodie setting a new record for his age group in the 50m sprint as well as receiving a trophy for Sportsmanship. Heath won the Boy’s Junior Championship trophy. Stonehenge won the March-past trophy while Windorah was the overall carnival winner.

Stonehenge looks forward to hosting the Barcoo Shire Athletics Carnival in 2013.

**Australian Curriculum and Reporting**

As you are aware, students and teachers this year have been working with the new Australian Curriculum, as interpreted through Queensland’s C2C curriculum resources for English, Maths and Science. Whilst the Australian Curriculum is similar in many respects to the previous Queensland curriculum, there are some differences which have required educational adjustments. For example, some concepts are covered earlier than previously expected, there is a stronger focus on specific areas and in some cases a different standard of work is expected of students.

For Semester 1 report cards, I will be evaluating student work based on our new C2C units and assessments tasks from Term 1 and 2 in English, Maths and Science. Due to the fact that this is the first assessment period following implementation of a new curriculum, report card results may also reflect students’ ‘learning curve’ in terms of the change in expectations for learning in their year level. This is not a cause for concern, as teachers across the state are adapting and adjusting their teaching/learning to ensure that students receive the necessary prior knowledge and are supported through their learning tasks. However, it is worth noting the fact that report card results in English, Maths and Science this semester are based on the new content descriptors and year level Achievement Standards from the Australian Curriculum, and as such may not be reliably compared to previous years’ results. For further information on the Australian Curriculum standards visit the online curriculum at [http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/)

Enjoy the long weekend,

Sandra