Classroom Happenings:

2012 has been named the National Year of Reading to celebrate the joy of reading. It’s a great chance to read new books, meet some different characters and discover exciting new worlds.

The year focuses on improving student’s literacy skills, increasing the number of children reading books and promoting the important role of libraries.

Our school Explicit Improvement Agenda has Reading as a target. Students having individual reading targets, using top level strategies to improve their reading comprehension. Books and reading play a large part in our daily program with students reading across all the KLA’s. I have included information on a new App for iPhones or iPads titled Out and About Sight Words—developed by Queensland Department of Education for younger students to practice their sight words.

Our school library houses some delightful books and there are many to choose from as the prep students continually discover as part of their day.

Have you ever seen a Sneep, a Snook, a Grullock, a Knoo or even a Loon? If not, ask Chloe and Brodie and they will willingly share what they know about these mystical creatures as they met them this week when they read Have You Ever Seen a Sneep by Tasha Pym and Joel Stewart. This was a funny and original rhyming story with delightfully quirky illustrations. The book was used to support the students identify rhyming words.

Discovering the moral of traditional stories from China, Korea and Indonesia have keep Tahnee and Heath engaged this week while Anna and Prue have read extracts from My Australian Story: Snowy – The Diary of Eva Fischer. The Diary of Eva Fischer is a step back in time to 1958-1959 when Eva moves from Sydney to Cabramurra for her father to work on the construction of Snowy River Scheme which occurred between 1949 and 1974.

Prue is attending the Central West Athletics Carnival in Longreach today having gained selection in the discus event following the Small Schools & SODE combined Athletics Carnival late in Term 2. We wish her well in her individual event.

Sir Wally Rae Sports Carnival was postponed earlier this month due to rain. It will now be held at Isisford on Friday 24th August.

I will be attending the Principals Business Meeting (PBM) in Longreach on 1st & 2nd of August. Mrs McColl will replace me during this time.

Sandra
Educational Apps.

Out and about sight words app - level 1

This fun and free app will give your child a flying start in literacy by helping them practise their sight words when they are 'out and about'.

Out and About sight words kit - level 1 is the first in a series being developed by the Queensland Department of Education and Training.

It's aimed at Prep to Grade 2 students to help them master the first 100 sight words to which they are typically introduced.

Out and About has been designed for parents to give to young children when they are in transit or waiting and want to fill the time in a fun and educational way.

The words in this kit are grouped into ten word sets. Students select the word set and say the word that appears. If they cannot remember the word, they can touch it and hear the word and then swipe to the next. Once they have mastered the words, they can move on to the next set.

Kids love using their parents' phones and they love mastering each set.

In no time, your youngster will be ready to zoom through entry-level books.

This app also contains additional games and ideas for parents to help their children recognise sight words.

This week the students are sharing the writing they completed on Monday. The writing was a diary entry and they all had to start with an opening sentence of Yesterday was the best day. What has been your best day? Is it something funny that you did or maybe you completed that long winded project that you started so long ago that you have forgotten when?

Please feel free to share them with us.

Sunday

Yesterday was the best day. First I got out of bed and had a late breakfast with Mum, Heath & Brodie. Dad was out dog baiting with Mr Pratt. When Dad got home we went over to the cattle yards. Heath, Brodie & I played in the cattle yard while Mum & Dad welded and stuff. Later I drove the tractor. That night we had a barbecue. It was the best day! (Prue)