Classroom Happenings:

Our much anticipated school camp last week at Camp Fairbairn was very successful with the students having the opportunity to undertake some amazing activities for the first time with rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing and catapult building on the program. These real life learning experiences stimulate awareness of Self, Others and Place and are designed to challenge students to extend their individual capabilities.

This week students have been writing a recount on their camp experience as this week’s writing topic but between assessment, LOTE lessons and the Opera workshop on Wednesday Prue is the only student with her writing task completed. The remaining recounts will be included in the next newsletter on 20th September.

Regular assessment of learning occurs across all Education Queensland schools and Stonehenge is no exception with the students undertaking a number of assessments pieces this week in the areas of written spelling, comprehension, reading, punctuation and grammar and mathematics. These assessment tasks measure progressive achievement across a year of learning.

For the second consecutive year the students in the Barcoo Cluster had the opportunity to participate in a Queensland Opera one day workshop at Jundah on Wednesday 4th. Five professional artists from Opera Q worked with the students to develop vocal and choral techniques, improvisation, stagecraft, movement and stage direction.

During the two weeks in the region the Opera Q team will work with approximately ten schools before their final presentation which will be on Wednesday 11th September at 7pm in the Qantas Founders Museum.

The Musical Showcase is a free event and is open to all interested persons. Doors open at 6pm for a 7pm start.

The school will be competing in the Sir Wally Rae Sports day at Isisford Racecourse next Friday 13th.

Teacher Aide Day 6 September

We celebrated Teacher Aide Day today to recognise the great work teacher aides do to support our students.

The help they offer goes a long way in our classrooms, providing the extra attention some students need to get the most out of a lesson and supporting teachers to organise engaging and educational activities each day.

I special thank you to our teacher aide, Robyn Smith on behalf of our whole school community.

Dates to Remember
13th September - Sir Wally Rae Sports - Isisford
7th October - Public Holiday
8th October – Term 4 commences
21st October - Student free day
30-31st October - Principals Business Meeting
Longreach

P & C
The next general meeting will be held at the school Thursday 10th October at 3:15pm. Agenda items welcomed. Please contact,
Secretary: Mrs Dianne Pidgeon
Treasurer: Ann Godber
FROM THE DEPARTMENT
The P-12 curriculum, assessment and reporting framework specifies that schools must develop a school homework policy. This will be on the agenda for the next P & C meeting on Thursday 10th October. Students complete set homework tasks on a weekly basis which are directed at improving essential skills in literacy and numeracy.

Homework Tips for Parents
1. Set a regular time and a quiet place for homework
2. Plan the work to be done and the time to be spent on each task
3. Take short breaks between tasks
4. Set small realistic goals for each area or night
5. Avoid study marathons
6. If problems occur, talk to the teacher
7. Read to young children and ask them to read to you
8. Encourage students. Praise them for their efforts, not just their results
9. Talk to the teacher if your child is struggling with their homework.

Camp Fairbairn - Prue

“Yes!!”, I yell as I reach the top. The view of Fairbairn dam is amazing. I’m at the top of the rock climbing wall. It is 8 metre’s high and is the most awesome thing in the world. I am harnessed, with my safety team of 4 down on the ground holding me up nice and tight. Don’t worry. It’s not like I’m scared or anything. I am 8 metres high but I have a reliable grounds crew holding me up who won’t let me fall (I’m hoping).

We had been driving all day yesterday. Sunday morning we were up bright’n early. Brugo had rolled his car into Emu Creek so there was chaos in our house. Duncan came up to investigate with the Ambulance close behind. Brugo scrambled out fine but the car… well that’s a different story. As we were heading to Stonehenge we watched cautiously as Sam pulled the ruined car from the metre deep creek with his mighty orange bulldozer. We then set off. As we drove to town we were jumping around the car. As we pull up beside the shiny, packed Tarago we jump out of the car and start blubbering on at a million miles an hour about the Brugo saga. Then we pack the car and head off.

As we come to a stop outside of MacDonald’s at Emerald, the noise in the car is deafening. We are so excited to be so close to food. You can’t hear yourself think. Jundah and Bedourie pull up beside us. They are also coming to Camp Fairbairn with us. We all jump out of the cars/buses and race excitedly into Macca’s. We hurriedly gulp down our delicious burgers, fries and cokes then run outside to the playground. We had a fantastic play then got back in the car to travel, refreshed, a half hour more to camp. When we arrived we were all exhausted and just wanted to get to sleep. Lyn told us some basic things and then we all hit the sack.

The next morning we were up bright’n early to kick start the day. We had breakfast and plunged straight into some group activities. They were very challenging and required teamwork. We were a bit hesitant I must say at first but then warmed up after some time.
After smoko we participated in Lily Pad. This is a group activity where you have to make a plan to get over a river using lily pads and so on. Then it was lunch time. Yummo! We had frozen chicken burgers. The frozen chicken was as hard as a rock but it defrosted quickly.

After lunch it was time for rock climbing. I was bouncing around like crazy. The little kids were up at the campfire with Sophie making damper and building shelters. With safety in mind we harnessed up and intently listened to instructions recalled by Toni. He then gave us a demonstration to show us all how it’s done. The rock wall was amazing. I went from the bottom to the top four times which may have been a couple too many as I was sick that night. The teachers then brought down some damper that the little kids had made for afternoon smoko. It was delicious.
We then continued on rock climbing.

Next was the treacherous Tuesday. We had bacon, eggs and toast for brekkie. We then walked down to the lush, green grass to start our day. We made catapults. I was in a very enthusiastic group with Molly, Siobhan and Brodie. We had green and red bamboo sticks to make the structure of our catapults and rope to tie the bamboo sticks together. None of us had any idea how it was going to make a catapult but in the end it all came together. We then used slings to fire tennis balls all over the place. My team could not manage to get the balls far but it didn’t matter, we had fun anyway.
My safety gear is capable of handling a workout and that was tested by Toni and Sophie hitting me in the head with a flying, yellow tennis ball. It did not hurt (much).

That afternoon we were all very excited because we were canoeing over to Camp Out. It was so exciting. We grabbed our life jackets and picked out our paddle. We ran down to the shore and picked our rowing groups. I was in a boat with Siobhan and Amy. I steered in the back with Siobhan in the front and Amy in the middle. Dakota had a combined team of boys and girls featuring Molly, Heath and Alice. Toni was in his own little kayak and the teacher’s Miss Davis and Miss Thimble in a boat together as well. Becky’s boat included Anna and Stacy from Bedouie. Initially it was Tahnee instead of Stacy but Tahnee got a bit freaked out at the start so Stacy took her place. He probably wasn’t any help though as Becky and Anna would say. I was amazed though at how well Anna and Becky rowed out to the rest of us with no practise. I think they make a good team. Canoeing was fantastic. We rafted up a lot (holding each other’s canoe so you all float together) and a lot of running into trees.

We arrived just before the exhausted little kids who had walked 3 to 4kms while we canoed. We camped out that night and then canoed back the next morning. Alice was sick so Emily took her place in Dakota’s boat. On the way back we had a luxurious, freezing cold swim at the muddy shore. We were all starving by the time we got back to base camp. Canoeing was thrilling although the only down-cast was that none of the boats capsized!!

The afternoon that we came back from camp out we participated in Abseiling. It’s pretty much like coming down the rock wall. You climb up power poles with your harness and ropes attached to you. Toni then attaches you to some more ropes. You then walk down a steel wall for 2 metres. Then walk off the wall and swing down. You then lower yourself down until you’re on the ground. It is nerve-racking at first but then after you’ve had a go it is really fun. I was so ecstatic. Heath and Molly were first up. They were both very excited. I had two goes and both were thrilling.

I hope we will get to go again sometime. I loved it and wish every kid could get to do the things like I had the chance to experience. If anybody ever asked me what is the best camp to go to I would definitely recommend Camp Fairbairn.