Classroom Happenings:

Last Monday morning at 7am there were some very eager, keen students loading bags into the bus and kissing parents goodbye as we traded our normal learning environment (the classroom) for all the Townsville has to offer. Over the week we did some amazing activities and partook in numerous educational experiences not available in Stonehenge or Longreach.

Reef HQ, Billabong Sanctuary, The Miners Cottage, the RAAF Museum and the Museum of Tropical Queensland were some of the places we visited. The group had KFC, McDonald’s, and pizza and ate at the Cowboys League Club. We also went bowling and had an hour at laser tag. Laser tag was our positive behaviour reward for this term.

All week everyone was trying to guess what our ‘special’ activity was. Jason came close but wasn’t sure and I certainly wasn’t telling him! Brodie thought it was the firing of the cannon at the Museum of Tropical Queensland and was sadly disappointed as he wasn’t old enough to participate and had to be a spectator with the younger boys. On our return to school everyone voted laser tag as their favourite camp activity. Camp was very enjoyable and a detailed report is included further on in this newsletter.

The days were long and busy but the students still moaned and groaned when it was time to leave for home.

The students and I wish to thank Julie Allen and Jason Miller, our parent volunteers for coming with us on camp and we hope that this is the first of many. Their assistance over the week was invaluable.

The camp was funded from the fundraising efforts by the students and by the school using RREAP funding. The students had raised nearly $1 000 washing windscreen and selling homemade lollies when the Variety Rally overnighted in Stonehenge in 2013 plus they sold ice-cream at the 2013 Stonehenge Rodeo.

With all unit assessment completed prior to camp and the end of school year rapidly approaching returning to the school room for the final week wasn’t a high priority for the students. We used this week for consolidation and for benchmarking Reading levels.

This week’s mathematics lessons have seen them in the kitchen doubling and halving quantities, measuring and mixing. They have observed solids turning into liquids and liquids solidifying as they created a range of Christmas treats under the guidance of Mrs McColl.

Today is the last school day for 2014 and for Anna, Tahnee and Prue this signals the ending of their primary schooling because in 2015 the girls begin the next leg of their education, starting high school.

The school awards night and student graduation in conjunction with the community Christmas tree will be held at the Stonehenge Hall tomorrow night, Saturday 6th December commencing at 6pm. The P&C Association will be serving dinner and will be operating a bar.

This is our final newsletter for this year. I wish everyone a happy Christmas and all the best for 2015. Fingers crossed that 2015 brings more rain than we have seen this year. I thank the community for their continued support of our school during 2014. School resumes for teaching staff on Monday 19th January when we will undertake professional development in Longreach. School resumes for students on Tuesday 27th January, 2015.
I encourage all of the Stonehenge community to check out Planet Ark’s [12 Do’s of Christmas](#) website. It offers simple tips for making your family’s Christmas special, without costing the earth - from fun [festive recycled crafts](#), to feel-good gifts with meaning.

### Student Advantage

All Queensland State School students from Prep–Year 12 can now get multiple free copies of the Microsoft Office 2013 Suite.

The Microsoft Office 2013 Suite can now be downloaded by all students on to their personal devices.

- The suite of products is only available for download on to personal devices, not devices connected to a school network.
- Personal devices include those devices in the students home environment as well as mobile devices.

In order for students to take advantage of this offer they will require an active MIS login and school email account.

A student who does not currently have an active school email account and password should contact their school MIS Administrator or class teacher.

### Smoking Ban

From 1 January 2015, smoking is banned at all Queensland state and non-state schools, and for 5 metres beyond their boundaries.

The law applies at all times—during and after school hours, on weekends and during school holidays. It includes the use of all smoking products, including regular cigarettes and devices commonly known as electronic cigarettes.

School land is defined as land on which a:

- state school provides education programs under the [Education (General Provisions) Act 2006](#)
- non-state school provides primary education, secondary education or special education under the [Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2011](#)
- state or non-state school provides other educational facilities, instruction or activities, for example, sports grounds, and including land that is owned or leased by the school.

### Upcoming events

Stonehenge State School date claimer:

- Christmas Tree 6/12/14
- Term 4 concludes 5/12/14
- PD Longreach – teaching staff- 19, 20 & 21st /1/2015
- Staff at Stonehenge SS 22 -23 /1/2015
- Term 1 commences 27/1/2015
- Good Friday 3/4/2015
- Anzac Day 25/4/2015
- Queen’s Birthday holiday 8/6/2015

#### 2015 Term Dates

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<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
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<td>Term 3</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
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Townsville School Camp November 24-28
November, 2015

Two parents, Julie Allen and Jason Miller accompanied the eight students on the school camp to Townsville departing from Stonehenge at 7am on Monday 24th November. Monday 24th and Friday 28th were travel days. We travelled through Muttaburra to Torrens Creek then onto Townsville arriving late afternoon. The CWA accommodation at Kissing Point consisted of two 2 bedroom self-contained units. Arriving in Townsville late afternoon the vehicle was unloaded then we went to The Strand and enjoyed fish and chips for dinner from Harold’s Seafood Restaurant.

The group were up early on Tuesday morning and after breakfast walked to The Strand. Some time was spent playing on the flying fox, playground and swings. We then walked along the sand to the jetty, returning to the units for an early morning tea before boarding the bus for the RAAF Museum at 9am.

The museum was very hands on with loads of displays in the buildings (displays for – caribou, cells, navigation, American Vietnam war, uniforms, Coral Sea, bombs & missiles and vehicles) and the outdoor displays included: Bofor guns, antiaircraft gun, Iroquois displays plus the Nissan huts display. The students were given a sample bag containing RAAF information, a water bottle and a cap. While we were there we saw 5 fighter planes returning to base.

KFC was on the menu for lunch and after having burgers, chips and a bottle of water we travelled along the Bruce Highway to Billabong Sanctuary. We were in time for the afternoon wildlife talks and feeding shows at Billabong Sanctuary. Over the course of the afternoon the group experienced: the bird show, turtle feeding & turtle racing, the dingo talk, crocodile feeding, wombat, koala and reptile shows and the students also hand-fed the kangaroos, ducks and birds with the grain we purchased at the kiosk.

The crocodiles were amazing and for such a huge animal they are very agile. Luckily the crocodiles that the kids held were smaller than Bully as he had an enormous mouth and when he clamped his jaws together there was no mistaking that one snap could mean BIG trouble.

The students had the opportunity to touch koalas, have a parrot sit on their finger, pose for a photo and pat a dingo, drape a snake across their shoulders or hold a crocodile. Some students were apprehensive while others were eager to embrace the opportunity to get up close with the animals on offer.

Leaving Billabong we travelled back into Townsville for ten pin bowling. We had two lanes and were able to play with five a side. Julie led one team while Jason was the leader of the second team. Bowling completed we headed into town for grocery shopping then back to the units for showers and dinner.
Wednesday was spent discovering Charters Towers. The information centre provided a short presentation and history about the town then we went into the Stock Exchange arcade for the calling of the cards and viewed the early mining exhibits housed in a brick building dating back just prior to World War 1. It was just a short walk down the street to the folk museum. With the Venus Battery tour booked for 12 noon we had to leave the folk museum without having viewed the extensive collection housed there.

Coming back into town after the Venus Battery tour we lunched at Pizza Hut before our last activity of the day, gold panning at the Miners Cottage. Every student found gold and bagged their sample as a reminder of their day in Charters Towers.

Always eager for the next activity we headed back to Townsville. While the adults prepared the salads and packed the meat the kids gathered their swimming gear for a swim in the rock pool. The group were more than ready for a well-deserved swim. Rory and Harry were content to play around the edges of the pool while Tahnee, Heath, Brodie, Jarrod, Anna and Prue ventured into the middle. With the tide going out the water level, even in the deepest part was surprisingly shallow. After swallowing a mouthful Brodie commented, ‘the water tastes like salt’. I wonder why?

Thursday saw everyone up and ready by 7am to head off for a walk along The Strand and in particular the jetty. During our daily walks we had made friends with a group of persons fishing off the jetty so everyone was keen to see if their catch was better than the shark we saw them haul in on Tuesday morning. There was certainly some action on the jetty! While one person was struggling to haul in his catch, another man ran to get a net to assist in landing the catch. It wasn’t to be, the shark was too heavy for the line and escaped. After discussing the fishing conditions with the men we headed back along the beach and home for morning tea.

Reef HQ was the first activity on our program for Thursday. The guided tour of the aquarium, the turtle hospital and the dive show proved popular. At the end of the tour we did our own exploring. Reef HQ is the world’s largest living coral reef aquarium and is an underwater wonderland filled with all species of fish and marine life, corals and plants. With all this exploring we had some hungry kids ready to hit the Cowboys League Club for lunch.

After lunch we headed off to the Museum of Tropical Queensland. This multi-level building contained a range of exhibits including the Pandora ship wreck, Eye on the Sahara (a photography display of life in the Sahara desert), Croc Country and Tropical Rainforest display. The Pandora display is housed permanently in the museum with the actual size of the ship imprinted into the carpet. A section of the boat has been reproduced showing the various levels together with artefacts on each of the levels which creates a real feel for what the ship was like when it sailed. Prue, Heath, Anna, Jarrod and Tahnee were able to load and fire off the cannon in an enactment of the ship in combat with enemy ships.
Our final activity for the camp was laser tag at Cannon Park. Laser tag was this term’s positive behaviour reward for those students that achieved their target of two hundred tokens. Laser tag was popular with all students with many groans and pleas for just one more game. Our final dinner in Townsville was at Sizzler then it was back to our units to pack our bags and prepare for an early morning start on our journey back to Stonehenge.

Heading home after our successful school camp.

The trip to Townsville was funded by the school and the funds raised by the students when the Variety Rally passed through Stonehenge in 2013. The parents made a cash contribution to the P & C Association for the camp.