SECONDARY LIBRARY NEWS

Children’s Book Week

Welcome back and into Term 3! Book Week is the longest running children’s festival in Australia and in 2010 celebrated its 65th birthday. Each year, many schools and public libraries from all over Australia spend a week celebrating books and Australian authors and illustrators. Classroom teachers, teacher librarians and public librarians develop activities, offer competitions and tell stories relating to a theme to highlight the importance of reading.

CBCA Book of the Year and Book Week 2012

The CBCA (Children’s Book Council of Australia) receives annually a collection of books by Australian authors and illustrators to be considered for the Book of the Year Award. Awards are considered primarily on literary merit and on the quality of illustrations (where applicable). Check out the Book week 2012 winners.

The 2012 Book Week theme is ‘Champions Read’ which reflects the London Olympic Games. Past themes have included ‘One world, many stories’ and ‘Book safari’.

Love 2 Read

The NYOR (National Year of Reading) 2012 provides an opportunity to focus on and reflect upon the nature of reading in the 21st century and common goal between parents, teachers, teacher librarians and the general community.

The NYOR communicates that nearly half the Australian population struggles with literacy to meet even the most basic of work and life functions. Sadly it is claimed that 46% of Australians are unable to read a newspaper, follow a recipe or timetable or understand the instructions on a medicine bottle. The NYOR campaign provides a wonderful focus for our school library services and it is anticipated that we will see more children becoming library users, linking together all the great things that are already happening around books, reading and literacy.

A highlight of the NYOR campaign was Reading Hour which took place on Saturday 25 August, 2012. Similar in concept to Earth Hour, this event has encouraged families to join together for an hour or so and read.
Visit the following link to see other NYOR activities [http://www.love2read.org.au/nyr-programs.cfm](http://www.love2read.org.au/nyr-programs.cfm)

Linking with this theme the following may be of interest, particularly to those parents with Primary school age children.

**Reading to children**

A PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) study examined the long-term impact of parental support on literacy and found, children with early support remained ahead in reading, with results showing a strong link between teenage reading skills and early parental help. Analysis of PISA data “based on teenagers in 14 developed countries, found that active parental involvement at the beginning of school was a significant trigger for developing children’s reading skills that would carry through until they were teenagers.” On average, teenagers whose parents had helped with reading at the beginning of school were six months ahead in reading levels at the age of 15.

The study states that “fifteen year old students whose parents read books to them during their first year of primary school show markedly higher test scores than students whose parents read to them infrequently or not at all.” What was important was that “parent’s read books regularly with their children - such as several times a week, and that they talked about what they were reading together.” A summary of the results of this study are published in the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) PISA ‘In Focus 10’ newsletter.

_The right to read and write by Louise Maher._

In light of the OECD program an interesting article has emerged from the ABC’s ‘The Drum’. In it Maher discusses the importance of literacy and highlights that while our students ranked well above the OECD average, alarmingly “our position was slipping”.

As a Teacher Librarian, fostering a love of reading in students is a priority. Considering today’s fast-paced technological world, a world in which we can access information more rapidly, it is critical that students are able to comprehend substantial and complex texts. Providing a wide variety of reading material that will engage students in sustained, independent reading has far reaching implications that can not only provide a foundation to achieve higher levels of language proficiency and extend their cultural knowledge (Krashen, 2004), above all is a pleasurable experience that can serve as an act of self-discovery.

**Searching within texts for pleasure or information**

_“Stories give you a way to see things. A way to understand the events of your life. Even if you don’t realize it when you’re hearing the tale.”_  
...from *Icefall* by Matthew J. Kirby

**Fiction books to borrow**

The [Prime Minister’s Literary Awards](http://www.australianliterature.com.au/) which ‘celebrate the contribution of Australian literature and history to the nation’s cultural and intellectual life,’ are the richest in
Australia, the winner of each award receiving $80 000 tax-free and the shortlisted entries in each category receiving $5000 tax-free. The winner of the fifth annual Prime Minister’s Literary Awards for Young adult fiction is Robert Newton for *When we were two*.

*When we were two* is set during the time of 1916. The story is about 16 year old Dan and his little brother Eddie who leave their home in Gunnedah to walk to Port Macquarie in search of their mum and a better life. On their journey they are confronted by many obstacles and find themselves associating with different characters, good and bad. They find an appreciation for life as they are taken under the wing of marching soldiers over the mountain to join up for the Great War, Dan and Eddie’s journey becomes unpredictable.

This is a very touching novel with a real sense of place. In essence the book sends a powerful message that even though these boys go through so much they still find their destinations. A heart filled story recommended for early to mid-teens offering great moral and family values with the fortitude to never give up or lose hope.

*Brotherband: the outcasts* is about a boy named Hal Mikkelson. He is from the country of Skandia, notorious for its warriors and ships. When boys turn sixteen they are required to take part in Brotherband training, a set of training and tests which focuses on weapon skills, teamwork and navigation skills. Hal is elected the Skirl, or the leader of his Brotherband, which has taken the name of the Herons. Hal is often teased by other boys in Hallasholm, especially Tursgud. The reason for this teasing is because Hal is half Araluan, another country near Skandia. His father was a brave Skandian Warrior who was killed by an enemy spear on a disastrous raid. His mother is a former Skandian slave, whom Hal’s father fell for. The Heron Brotherband may not be the strongest or the smartest, but can their determination and teamwork win them through?

John Flanagan has written an instant bestseller, just as *Ranger’s Apprentice* was. He uses wonderfully descriptive words to give the reader a picture of the landscape and what is going on. This is the fist novel in what is sure to be an exciting *Brotherband* series. I would recommend this book to readers who are in upper primary and secondary school. Not to give away any ‘spoilers’ the novel leaves you in suspense and waiting for the next!
Issues in society

Students, Staff and Teachers needing up-to-date information on topical Australian issues, look no further than the Issues in Society series – available in print with a view to the library acquiring a print + online subscription next year. Information in each Issues in Society title is carefully selected to ensure that it is current, unbiased and balanced. Latest titles include:

Extreme Weather & Natural Disasters; Respectful Relationships; The Nuclear Energy Debate; Self-Harm and Young People; Vegetarianism; Cardiovascular Health; Privacy & Information Rights; Carers: Ageing & Disability; Fast Food and International Aid.

Coming soon - Forest Conservation; Welfare Reform Debate; Human Trafficking and Slavery; Australia’s Mining Boom; Risk Taking & Personal Safety.

The Library space houses Primary and Secondary Library services...

The Wadalba Community School Library is more than a repository for books and resources that are managed and housed with security. The library is many things. It is a space for:

- Social learning because learning is about the dynamics between peers, and Teachers and Students and not just what goes on in the classroom.

- Reading (aloud and quietly), writing, listening and understanding.

- Showcasing student’s works.

- Quiet thinking, though we believe learning need not be silent.

- Exploring virtual worlds and learning how to do this safely, ethically and responsibly.

Secondary Library Brochure Link


Mrs Tanya Taylor
Teacher Librarian - Secondary

HAPPY READING ALWAYS!