

7 July, 2012

## St Rita's have marked the National Year of Reading with a 'Teacher-Librarian in Residence' and a whole week of activities to promote reading.

Everyday before school recently, talented staff took on the role of storytellers – dressing up and using props to bring stories to life for our students. Judging by the keen turn out of students each morning this was a popular event.

On Tuesday, the school enjoyed a visit from Cairns City Libraries' mascot Dewey and the Children's Librarian Tania Curtis. Tania let the children know about the special online resources available for them and about the activities that are on during school holidays – all of which are FREE! The teachers spent more time after school at a staff meeting looking in more detail, at the online resources they could use with their students.

On Thursday afternoon, parents, grandparents and friends joined students for 'High Tea @ the Library'. It was a very pleasant afternoon indeed – sipping tea, eating dainty cakes and sharing stories.

During breaks on Friday, some students got involved in 'Read Out Loud Day'. Volunteers climbing up on a 'soap box' to read a couple of pages of a book, in their best 'town crier' voices.

The 'Paper Bag Book Club' (i.e. the whole school), gathered on Friday afternoon to talk about books, share book reviews, eat popcorn and listen to another fabulous story "The Ugly Fish" read most enthusiastically by Ms Amber

In class, students were busy writing, reading and creating. Preps and ones made ebooks that included photographs, text and audio and used lots of prepositions. Years 2/3/4 created 'ebrochures' - cleverly putting themselves in the pictures with information that they have researched about various famous icons of England. Years 4/5/6/7 worked on creating persuasive book trailers (which are like movie trailers – except they promote books instead of movies).

This week also saw the launch of a brand new online library and websites search for the school. Students wanting to see what books or websites are available on a favourite topic can now go to <http://stritasbabinda.ces.cmeweb.libcode.com.au/> and check out what's on offer.

The staff and students worked hard to make the week a great success. We all know that this is just the start to embracing more and more reading at St Rita's during the National Year of Reading and beyond."



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