What a fantastic fortnight of opportunities and learning at Lord Howe Island Central School. It's amazing to think that we are past halfway through our first term for the school year. There is a considerable amount of pride felt around this time of year with the Fish Fry, Sea Week, the Julia Donaldson experience, the helicopter viewing and the up coming Swimming Carnival. This Friday we will be holding our annual Swimming Carnival at the Pines. Next Friday week on the 20th March from 11.15am we will be hosting a morning tea for the Senior Citizens of the Island. We would like parents and community members to join us for the morning tea and we would appreciate it if you could bring a plate to share. Following the morning tea we will be conducting our first assembly for the year at 12:00pm. This will be followed by a special Book Fair in the Library.

Julia Donaldson

Last Tuesday week we hosted some very special visitors. The entire School sang, acted and danced away a fun filled learning afternoon with the famous poet, songwriter and author Julia Donaldson and her husband Malcolm. It was a complete delight and a very special experience for our kids. A huge thank you to Emily Riddle for steering this opportunity in our direction.

Helicopter visit

The kids experienced the opportunity to travel out to the MET Station last Friday to engage in the helicopter visit. They met the pilot, explored the chopper and asked many interesting questions. They also got to witness the weather balloon being deployed. A huge thank you to Jim McFadyen and the LHI Board for offering this opportunity.
Clam Survey
A team of parents, local Marine Parks experts and our kids made their way out to Little Island to collect data on the clams on the South reef. After enjoying some lunch the kids were put into groups and we all made our way onto the reef. We laid down set areas with tape measures and the kids set about recording the various colours, sizes and amount of clams in their areas. The kids were highly engaged in the experience and real world environment. It was a fantastic opportunity supported by LHI Marine Parks Tas Douglas and Cam Lay. A huge thank you to all the parents who were to lend a hand.

Rockfest
Our teachers and students have been practising some special songs for Rockfest week. All the kids will need to be at Neds at 3.30pm on the Wednesday, 25th of March as they are the opening act of the outdoor concert. Then they will open the final act on the Friday night at the Golfie on the 27th of March.

ANZAC Centenary project
Local artist Ginny Retmock will support our School leaders Isaac, Ryan, Wilson & Isabella to design and paint some banners to celebrate the centenary of ANZAC. The banners will reflect the spirit of respect and celebration that underpins the ANZAC Centenary Commemoration. The banners will feature a series of commemorative flowers including the Flanders poppy, Rosemary, the Gallipoli rose and the Wattle, which are all significant to the ANZAC Day celebrations.

Swimming Carnival - The Swimming Carnival will be held this Friday, 13th of March. To allow for the tides and to assist with the setting up of the event we will be starting at 10a.m. There will be no Lunch orders from the Canteen. Everyone is encouraged to come along and support the kids. If you are able to help with a job on the day please let Mrs Roberts know asap.

North Bay Camp
The North Bay School Camp is on Wednesday and Thursday 1st & 2nd of April (which is the last 2 days of this term). A note will come home regarding the details and equipment needed. We will be asking for a $25 contribution for food.

School Council Meeting
There will be a School Council meeting on Tuesday the 17th of March. The Agenda items include Infants home readers and stage 2 & 3 reading resources, School Improvement Plan and Term One school learning data report. A warm welcome and congratulations to Greg Higgins who has been appointed as the Community Member representative on the School council.
2-6M Class report
Yet another busy couple of weeks at Lord Howe Island Central School, with yet another couple of surreal moments for me. The first being our sport last Friday, swimming. Riding down to the lagoon, shoeless, in my swimmers and with a trail of 35 kids following behind on their push bikes!! Then jumping off the pontoon and swimming back to shore, with the emphasis of being involved and participating for the fun of it. I absolutely can’t wait for the swimming carnival. The next experience was our great excursion down to South Reef for our clam survey. What an absolute treat! I have never seen clams like this before, in fact I haven’t seen clams in their own natural environment in my life so my jaw was permanently open, dragging along the ocean bed. Now for the kids of 2-6M. Of course they partook in the above mentioned events and enjoyed every moment. However, one of the highlights of the week was our visit by world famous author Julia Donaldson. I was in awe!!! I love children’s books and Julia’s books are some of my favourites. Julia and her husband Malcolm were highly entertaining and we all loved our experience with her. Here is Wilson’s recount of Julia’s visit.

Julia Donaldson is a famous children’s story book writer. She came into our school on the 2nd of March 2015. Julia introduced herself and Malcolm. She said that Malcolm was a paediatrician, that means he is a children’s doctor. Julia started with a song called Under the Sea and she could only remember one verse so we made up three more verses. They were crabs pinching, octopuses wobbling and sharks eating fish. After that song she told us about how her and Malcolm met. Next we had play called a Squash and a Squeeze. Lots of people got to be an animal because there was two plays. Coming up came a book called Monkey Puzzle, it was really interesting. Following that she asked us if we had any questions. Lots of people had questions. Last we did a play called The Gruffalo and so many people were interested in the book. We finished up with Ryan and Isaac giving Julia and Malcolm a present. Then everyone gave them a wave goodbye. Then we went home at 3:00.

What other school does a world famous author come to visit while she’s on holiday?? We were so lucky and I’m sure this is an experience that most of the students of LHICS will remember for a long time, I know I will.

K-R News
Last week was a very hectic week with lots of activities happening throughout the week. We started the week with a very motivated talk from Julia Donaldson. What an enthusiastic lady. She made the books that we have been reading come alive. The children have been very enthusiastic writers this week after being inspired by her and Malcolm’s performances. On Tuesday we headed off to Little Island to count the clams and all the students enjoyed clambering around the rock finding these wonderful creatures. A big thank you to the Marine parks team for helping and imparting some very useful information about the reef and the marine life that live on the reef. On Friday we headed off to the airport to have a look through the helicopters that has been delivering men and equipment around the island to very remote spots. In amongst all these excursions we still managed to get our reading and math done. Who remembers these!!! The children have been exploring the different ways to make mats of different number combinations.

Volunteer needed to make Cooked Play dough. I have all the ingredients so if anyone wants to help could you please see me ASAP. (Sorry but every time I have made it, it is a gooey mess!!!)

Also I found this wonderful and very informative article on Home Reading. Would highly recommend you have a read. Kelly’s blog has many interesting articles on Education.
http://creatingalearningenvironment.com/?p=213

Don’t forget swimming carnival this Friday!!!!
Looking forward to a wonderful week.
Judy

Secondary room - “Hello Mums and Dads, For those of you who don’t know me - my name is Pam Goyen and I volunteer at the school to support the supervising of the Distance Education students. This year there are two D.E. students - Monique (Thompson) and Aiden (Martin). Monique and Aiden have adapted to D.E. life quickly and have already achieved terrific results - sometimes in the high 80’s but more often in the 90’s. Both of these students are hardworking and polite and they strive to do their best at all times, which is shown by the positive comments from their teachers. Both of the students have received “Encouragement Awards” from their maths teacher. Mr Mason is readily available with various support and encouragement and the students appreciate his guidance. Monique and Aiden fit in well with the younger children and are quick to lend a hand or to say a kind word.
I’d like to say to both sets of parents what a great job they’ve done in raising two terrific individuals and let Monique and Aiden know how nice it is to help out as their supervisor. T.T.F.N.
Mrs Goyen