This year Book Week will be celebrated in Week 6 (19th to 23rd August). Following are some of the activities we have planned for Christ the King.

1. **Guest Author – Kate Forsyth**, Wednesday 21st August. Kate is an Australian author who writes for all ages. She has written picture books, books for early childhood and younger readers, books for young adults and adults. We look forward to learning how Kate became a writer, what inspires her and some of her writing techniques.

2. **Write a Book in a Day (WABIAD)** – On Thursday 22nd August twenty Year 6 students will be competing in this year’s WABIAD competition. WABIAD is a fund raising event held each year by the Katherine Susannah Pritchard Writing Centre in Perth and all monies raised in NSW go to the Children’s Oncology Foundation at Westmead Children’s Hospital. The day starts at 8.00 am when our two teams open the envelope which contains the parameters that they will write about. They then have until 4.00 pm to write and illustrate their book. The challenge lies in the students cooperating to make an interesting and cohesive story.

   To help support our WABIAD teams we are asking that each child brings in a gold coin donation on Friday, 23rd August for the Book Parade. This money will go directly to the Oncology Foundation at Westmead Children’s Hospital.

3. **Book Parade** – Friday 23rd August. **Gold Coin donation (with funds raised going directly to the Oncology Foundation at Westmead Children’s Hospital)**. This year’s theme is ‘Read Across the Universe’ which means that students can come dressed as any space character or as their favourite character from a book. The parade will be held at approximately 9.15 am on the back oval. All parents are welcome to stay and watch the students as they walk around the oval displaying their costumes. After the parade the students will return to class for a normal day of learning. Students are welcome to stay in their costume all day if this is practical. Please do not go to any expense with the costumes as this is a fun event to help celebrate reading and Book Week.

4. **Book Swap** – Friday 23rd August. Students bring in a book from home that they have finished reading. Within the grade, students then swap their book for somebody else’s, taking home a different book to read. Books are NOT returned to the original owner. Please do not choose a book that has sentimental value, personal inscriptions or is drawn in or damaged, choose a book that your child would be happy to receive. This is an opportunity for your child to get a ‘new’ book to read without the expense. Classes may continue the swapping process over the next couple of weeks.

5. **The Reading Hour** – A fantastic way to reinforce Book Week is for your family to participate in the Reading Hour. Sharing a book with your child for 10 minutes a day, approximately an hour a week, is the aim of Reading Hour celebrated on the 24 August 2013. We know it’s not always possible for parents to share a book at bedtime with their children, but if you can manage 10 minutes most nights, your child will have the best chance of becoming a good reader, with all the social and educational benefits this brings. Most of our brain development happens between birth and three years of age, so reading to your child regularly will be a huge benefit to them. The Reading Hour is nominated as 5pm to 6pm on 24 August, but you can read to your children at any time. Visit your local library to see what events they have planned for The Reading Hour 2013.
Writers Wanted - write4fun.net

Entry is NOW OPEN in the 2013 Schools Writing Competition! Students all over Australia are invited to enter their short stories OR poems, and battle it out for the great cash prizes on offer. There is no theme!! Entrants are encouraged to let their imaginations run wild and get their creative juices flowing to write on ANY TOPIC and in ANY STYLE. Students from ALL GRADES are welcome to enter - Kindergarten to Grade 12. Visit the website for more information. Entry is FREE and all entries must be in by September 13, 2013. Mrs Cook will look over any entry up until the 6th September.

Premier’s Reading Challenge

The PRC finishes in three weeks. Congratulations to all those students who have already completed the challenge. If you need help to complete your challenge please see me this week. Due to a technical difficulty the PRC usernames and passwords will not be ready until early next week. Your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated.

Life Education - Healthy Harold

Life Education is the largest non-government provider of health education to children and young people, Australia wide. Our Mission is to empower children and young people to make informed choices for a safe and healthy life. Life Education will be visiting CTK during Week 6 and Week 7. Infants will participate in a one hour session per class while the primary grades receive 1.5 hours per session. The students always love Healthy Harold and get a lot from this educational visit. There will be a parent information session on Wednesday 21st August from 2.00 pm – 2.55pm. Harold merchandise is available for purchase; monies go directly into supporting Life Education. Please note: order forms will be coming home soon but merchandise purchases are purely optional. A parent catalogue is available for viewing but ordering from catalogue is only available online at: www.edex.com.au

Chess News

Congratulations to Marko Wong, Jordan Hodgers, Joshua Pemberton, Christie Davies and Kavin Sivanathan and Jarod Wimalaratne our emergency reserve, for their valiant efforts throughout CTK’s first ever NSW Junior Chess Competition. Although the team did not progress to the next stage they showed fantastic sportsmanship and enjoyed the experience of playing a different school each week. Their chess skills have definitely improved. A Big thank you to the parents who transported the players to the various schools and who stay at CTK to supervise our home games. Without your support our entry in this competition would not have been possible.

Upcoming Tournament

Primary Schools One Day Chess Teams Tournament – Hills District. This event will be held on Monday 26th August at North Rocks Public School. Any student who is interested in being a part of this team event should see Mrs Cook.

Sarah Cook, Teacher / Librarian