Staff Holiday Reading
Don’t forget to stop by the Library before the end of term to stock up on some great reading over the holidays. Here’s a mix of fiction and non-fiction to tempt you:

Non fiction
COOKING: Do you know the winner of MasterChef for this season was an ex-student Emma Dean? Why don’t you cook up a storm over the holidays, get the kids involved too. We have a range of great cook books available.

*MasterChef Australia, Junior MasterChef:* Recipes the whole family will love,
*Junior MasterChef:* Around the world in 80 amazing recipes, *Feast: food that celebrates life* by Nigella Lawson, *Vegetarian Cooking* by Jo Anne Calabria and *Allergy-free cooking for kids* by Women’s Weekly.


GARDENING: For all you ‘green thumbs’ take a look at some of our gardening books such as *I'm Hungry, Let’s grow it:* Organic gardening and recipes for Australian families by Joanne Newell, *Waterwise Gardening* by Kevin Walsh, *The Practical Australian Gardener* by Peter Cundall, *100 easy ways for Earth-wise living* by Reader’s Digest, *The Reverse Garbage Mulch Book* by Sandra Clayton.

Fiction & Autobiographies
*I am Pilgrim* by Terry Hayes
*The Caged Virgin* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali
*Unstoppable* by Nick Vujicic
*Shamed* by Sarbjit Kaur Athwal
*The boy on the wooden box* by Leon Leyson

*Enjoy your holiday break*
*Happy Reading!*

Grow in mercy
What staff are reading

JOHN FERRIS - THE LITTLE COFFEE SHOP OF KABUL by Deborah Rodriguez
This book centres around the lives of five women in modern day Kabul. Good story and plenty of insights into modern Afghanistan. Even at first glance you may think it is more a ladies book, I really enjoyed it.
Visit Deborah's website here... To find out more of her amazing story and how she came to have such a passion for the women of Kabul. You may also like her other book Kabul Beauty Shop which tells of her struggle to set up a beauty school and save the lives of many women, and also A Cup of Friendship. Although she was forced to leave the country, her story and the story of the brave women of Afghanistan continues to be heard through her books and campaigns.

LEAH CORDETTA—IN FALLEN SNOW by Mary-Rose MacColl
I just finished reading this book and I absolutely could not put it down. It was interesting and well written. It was written from the perspective of two women (one chapter from Grace and one from Iris). I liked the different perspectives and you really felt for the characters. It also included some issues like pregnancy before marriage, childhood illness and war. I found it interesting with a love story with a twist.

LISA WHEELDON & JENNIFER STREET - THE ROSIE PROJECT by Graeme Simsion
This book is a moving and hilarious novel which delves into living life with Asperger's. It's a real page turner. Don't think it's just for the ladies, it's written by a middle aged man and the main character is male. Jennifer and I recently heard Graeme talk about his book at the Bendigo Writer’s Festival and hearing him read several excerpts aloud was fabulous, as it allowed us to really feel the character's personality, and voice, as it was written. The audience were in fits of laughter during the reading. At times it is hilarious, other times quite sad. Narrated by an oddly charming and socially challenged genetics professor, Don, who sums up people by their body mass index He is on an unusual quest: to find out if he is capable of true love. He has designed the ‘Wife Project’, using a sixteen-page double sided questionnaire to help him find the perfect partner. She will most definitely not be a barmaid, a smoker, a drinker, or a late-arriver. Rosie Jarman is all these things. She is also fiery and intelligent and beautiful. And on a quest of her own to find her biological father—a search that Don might just be able to help her with. A must read novel that will make you laugh out loud. This is Graeme's first novel and it is already in 34 countries.

Watch a book trailer http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqX8Kd7aokI
Watch an interview with Graeme http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYm52nl5WWY

BOOK DOMINO - WORLD RECORD - What can you do with 2131 books, 27 volunteers and 112 slices of pizza! Click here to find out.
BOOKS THAT COME TO LIFE

For those of you who love APPS... have we got some book apps for you! These digital books come ALIVE! Children have no hesitation in touching and swiping the screen to investigate what is possible. How wonderful that this technology can create a unique reading experience for children with the latest technology available to them. They won’t replace normal books I’m sure, it’s just a DIFFERENT way of reading, that’s fun and you get to interact with the story and characters... remember the excitement of ‘pop-up’ books when we were young! For those who haven’t had the opportunity to explore them, here’s your chance to see them in action (click on icons). Don’t worry if you don’t have young children... they are wonderful for the ‘kid at heart’ and they are a lot of fun. Enjoy The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr Morris Lessmore, The Wind in the Willows and Peter Rabbit.

WATCH OUT FOR THIS ‘BOOK TO MOVIE’

THE BOOK THIEF by Markus Zukas (Australian author) (review by Lisa Wheeldon)
I am very excited to find out that one of my favourite books The Book Thief has been made into a movie that is to be released this year. I so loved this unforgettable book. I was taken on an incredible journey from the very first page and by the time I got to the final chapters, I was in tears. With ‘death’ as the narrator, you may think this would be gruesome, but on the contrary, it is told in such a sensitive way it astonished me. Death explains at the start that he can be cheerful, agreeable, amiable and fair. He refers to himself as the 'soul carrier'. It was like no other book I have ever read... It truly mesmerized me and I found myself re-reading descriptions and sentences over and over. It was wonderful reading it on my Kindle as I highlighted many of the precious thoughts and sentences I wanted to revisit. This well-loved book by adults and teens alike has won many awards, mostly in the Young Adult category, and selling at least a million copies. If you haven’t read The Book Thief I encourage you to do so before the movie comes out in November. It stars Geoffrey Rush, Emily Watson and Sophie Nélisse Watch the Movie Trailer...

Get organised...Here’s a couple of ideas for keeping track of the books you read. (Click the icons to go to their website for more information)

Create a virtual bookshelf where with one click you can bring up the your books by author, date read, date added and more. You can rate each book, add searchable tags, write reviews or join book groups. You can also record when you have leant a book to a friend and what you plan to read next. It’s easy to add your widget to your blog or Facebook.

This is a free website that is like a large library which allows you to wander through other bookshelves online or just keep track of your reading. It allows you to catalogue and review the books you have read or list the ones you want to read in the future. You can join discussion groups, start a book club, contact an author or just share with friends what you are reading.
Bookish things

FOR BOOK LOVERS—High Tea at the State Library of Victoria
If you are in Melbourne over the holidays why don’t you indulge yourself in High Tea in the beautiful surrounds of the State Library, then you can enjoy a guided tour of the rare treasures showcased in Mirror of the world: books and ideas exhibition.

50 BOOKS YOU CAN’T PUT DOWN - September is all about reading so here is your chance to check out this year’s page turners by ‘Get Reading’. Download guide

12 SCIENTIFIC WAYS READING CAN IMPROVE YOUR LIFE
Reading helps to keep your mind active and can have some wonderful health advantages. Click here to read more about what reading actually does for you.

TROVE - is a fantastic resource for teaching, studying, tracing family history or reading for pleasure. Find over 366,208,771 Australian and online resources from books, images, historic newspapers, maps, music, archives and more at the National Library of Australia.

THE BOOK CLUB with Jennifer Byrnes - ABC program on the first Tuesday of each month. Visit this site for lots of books to inspire you, Jennifer’s blog, author interviews, latest episodes and more. Also included is the list of 10 Aussie books to read before you die

EDINBURGH MYSTERY - Like a good mystery? Well we have a great one for you all and be prepared to be AMAZED! 10 beautifully sculptured creations, all made from books, were found in libraries around Edinburgh. No one knew how they got there or who made them but each place was touched by this generous donation. Click on the links to find out more... you won’t be disappointed.


WHAT’S SHAKESPEARE GOT TO DO WITH IT?
Shakespeare’s phrases and sayings have become so much a part of our everyday speech we don’t even know we are using it. Click pic for more For example:
♦ A sorry sight
♦ A tower of strength
♦ Mum’s the word
♦ Set your teeth on edge
♦ Vanish into thin air
♦ There’s method in my madness

The La Valla Library team wish you all a fabulous, well-earned rest and look forward to seeing you all in Term 4.