



**Escaping to a new world:** Mortdale Public School pupils Jordan Dedes, Peter Popovski and Jessie Stein. Mr Mead's year 3 class finished the Premier's Reading Challenge before starting the Scholastic Book Clubs' ClassroomsCare challenge.

Picture: Lisa McMahon

# Children read all about it in challenge

By Lema Samandar

GETTING children to read is vital to their learning, says Mortdale Public School teacher Steve Mead.

Mr Mead has entered his year 3 class in the Scholastic Book Clubs' ClassroomsCare challenge, which encourages children to read 100 books and, in turn, Scholastic will donate 100 books to disadvantaged children. He said a sense of competitiveness and team work has even encouraged the reluctant readers in his class to take part.

"I encourage them to read about their interest whether it is a dirt bike magazine or

non-fiction books, as long as they are reading something," Mr Mead said.

He said exposing children to a variety of texts in their early years was important.

"Reading is the basis of all their subjects even maths and if they can read well everything else become a bit easier," he said.

Mr Mead said books such as the Goosebumps series was still popular but most students did not see the internet as a resource for reading.

"Students mainly go online to play games or chat - they don't see it as a place to read but we try and show that research can also be done on the internet," he said.

## HANDY HINTS

Mr Mead's guide to getting children to read:

- Encourage children to select reading material based on their interests
- Make reading part of a daily routine
- Use books as a focus for discussion at home
- Build reading confidence by allowing children to sense achievement through reading