Produced for the Charters Towers Central State School Community
From the Principal

The Easter holidays are well and truly almost upon us. Charters Towers Central SS will break for the Easter holidays at 3pm tomorrow—Friday 4th April. This year we have a two week Easter holiday, meaning school will resume again on Tuesday 22nd April after the Easter Monday public holiday. There are no Pupil Free Days these holidays. It has been a very lengthy term and the children are all very tired and in need of a well deserved holiday. I’d like to commend the Charters Towers Central SS children on their overall behaviour this term.

Charters Towers Central State School has achieved many great successes this year, but our proudest achievement has been the improvements in individual student reading abilities. Almost all children at Central have improved their reading levels in Term 1, with most students improving at rates far exceeding the national norm. There are a number of children at Central who started the term as struggling readers and are now finishing the term reading at their age equivalent level, or higher. We also have quite a large number of children who are reading well above their chronological reading age, which is very pleasing. There is one common element to every student’s reading success—reading at home. Our school data indicates that students who read at home every night are improving their reading abilities. This is reflected in our classroom reading assessments whereby students who read each night at home are improving their reading levels at a far greater rate than those students who do not read regularly at home. Research proves that all children, regardless of their age, should be reading at home for a minimum of 15 minutes each night. As children grow older they should be reading for longer periods. Research also proves that reading should be free from distractions—turn the television off, unplug the iPod, and find a quiet location around the house. Reading does not necessarily need to involve books as such—children can read digital text on devices such as iPads and computers; they can read age appropriate magazines; or they can read books that they have borrowed from the school or town libraries. Central SS would like to thank and congratulate the families who read together each night.

Student Attendance

This term I set the school a challenge—to have 90% of our school children attending school every day, all day. Attending school every day is not only benefits your child academically, it is actually the law. Queensland law states that children must attend school every day unless they are sick or have a valid reason that has been approved by the school. At present our school’s attendance rate is 89%, which is just shy of our term target of 90%. Next term our target will be 91%. The table below maps our daily school’s attendance rate for Term 1, and you can see Friday’s, Monday’s and Tuesday’s are days where many children are regularly away. I would like to congratulate the many families who send their children to school regularly. By attending school every day, all day, your child is getting the best chance at school.
Interhouse Cross Country
This morning the annual Interhouse Cross Country was held at Charters Towers Central State School. Students from Billabong, Matilda and Coolabah ran various distances ranging from 1000m to 3000m around our school’s grounds. Congratulations to the following students who were awarded Age Champions on the day: Kyron Eatts, Patrick Pehi, Jayme Oakley, Crystal-Lee Walsh, Skye Telford, Vanessa Richter, Yasmin Petchprasit, Tarny Singh, John Kennedy and Dallas Taylor. Special congratulations to Matilda who were the overall winners on the day. Congratulations students and Matilda.

Keep watch on our school these holidays
With the holidays fast approaching, please keep an eye out for after-hours crime in our school. If you see anything suspicious, please call the School Watch number – 13 1788. The School Watch Program is a partnership between Department of Education and Training, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools. If you do see something suspicious, please don’t attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter. Keep the number handy – 13 1788 – and let’s work together to help create a safer school community. If you would like to know more about the program, please call Education Queensland’s Security Program on 3237 0874.

Thank you Central SS Staff
As the term draws to a close it is vital that the efforts and achievements our wonderful Central SS staff are recognised. I would like to thank all staff members at Central for their contributions towards the education of each child at our school. This term has certainly been an extremely busy period for our staff, especially our teachers. The expectations placed on teachers is very high at present, and at times is quite demanding, and I know Central SS teachers spend many hours working outside of school hours at home and on weekends preparing quality lessons, activities and events for their classes. It is not uncommon to see Central SS staff at school on weekends preparing for the week ahead. I’d like to acknowledge the efforts of our entire Central team and wish them a well deserved break.

Happy Holidays
Finally, if you are travelling during the Easter holiday period, please drive safely and take regular breaks. School will resume as normal on Tuesday 22nd April. Happy holidays

Nick Shirley
Principal—Charters Towers Central State School

Follow Central on Facebook!
Charters Towers Central State School has a dedicated Facebook site allowing parents, community members and past students to stay connected and up to date with the events occurring at our school. Key messages, events and updates are posted regularly, as well as occasional photos where possible. Follow us on Facebook to ensure you’re connected with the school events and activities.
Prep—Miss Mathews

Happy holidays everyone – Yes! It’s time to relax. Thank you kindly for all your support and assistance this term. We’ve had a great time in Prep and hope that Term 2 will be just as busy and fun.

Today we celebrated our end of term with a Smarty Pants Party. This was a shared lunch together with lots of special food to help us stay alert and ‘smart’ for the remainder of the year.

Country Music – What are we doing in prep?

Over the holidays, please start getting your child’s Country Music Costume ready. Each year we hold a dress up day at school and also participate in the evening parade down the street. Jeans, a check shirt, country hat and boots are a great place to start. I will let you know more information after the holidays if we need anything special.

Have a great holiday everyone and thank you again for a terrific start to the year. Kind regards, Miss Mathews.

Year 1—Miss Jensen

It is hard to believe this Term has come to an end already. The past two weeks have given us opportunities to tie out our learning units and begin assessment pieces. Within this time, we have also completed reading and sight word assessment. I am pleased to report that all students have improved in the area of reading and most students have increased their sight word knowledge over the past 5 weeks. On Wednesday, the year 1 class will hold a ‘Cupcakes and Milkshakes’ morning tea to celebrate those students who have returned and completed their homework tasks for the majority of the Term. Congratulations to those students who will be attending this celebration. Finally, I hope you all have a safe and happy holiday and I look forward to seeing you all next Term.

Year 2—Miss Cran

Congratulations to Riley and Cyril for having their SWPBS tickets drawn out last week on parade. Temia and Felicity should also be congratulated for receiving their bronze level home reading award for 25 nights of reading. I’m sure they will be getting their silver level awards very soon and that many other students will be completing 25 nights early next term. Our last few weeks have been exceptionally busy! We have had a lot of assessment tasks that we have been working our way through and most children have been putting in their very best effort. Thanks to all the parents who came along to the parent teacher interviews held last week, it’s always great to be able to discuss and share progress that the students are making. A well deserved holiday is almost here and I wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable break. See you after the holidays!

Year 5/6—Miss Boyle

Thank you parents and students for a wonderful term. Don’t forget to keep reading over the holidays, you may discover a new author or learn about something you are interested in.

Please make sure your child attends every day this week as we are still completing our persuasive writing assessment and completing revision work on difficult concepts that we have learnt this term. Cross country is on Thursday morning; starting at 9am and in the afternoon we will be celebrating positive behaviour by rewarding students with a disco!
Year 3—Mr Moore

Thank you all for a great first term! As we all know this term has gone very quickly and the students have worked very hard to make sure that they have achieved their best, learnt a lot and completed their assessment pieces on time. We have had a lot of work to do this term and the students have handled the pressure very well, even with some poor behaviour choices made in the classroom.

A huge congratulation goes to Ryan, Isabelle, Mystique and Samara who completed all their homework on time and in a neat manner. I hope that the number of names that I put in at the end of semester will increase. Some students only missed one day or forgot to complete one part of their homework, which is a promising sign.

The opportunities that our Year 3’s have had this year are fantastic. The students have had access to morning reading every day, which is an added bonus to the nightly reading the students should be doing with their home readers. We have also had access to a reading intervention program which runs alongside the focussed reading we have completed in class.

Next term the students will be completing a technology assessment piece. They will be building a reef cruise boat, which gives the passengers protection and safety, but also allows them to view the reef without leaving the boat. Also, in term two we have NAPLAN. We have been preparing for this since last year and the students will be as well prepared as possible.

It was also great to see and meet many parents at the Parent/Teacher interviews that were conducted this week and last week. I hope everyone is as pleased with their student’s progress as I am. Everyone student has developed in their academic, behaviour and sporting abilities and I can’t wait to see the change by the end of First Semester. Well done everyone on a great first term.
Central Chatters

Year 4—Mrs Thomas &

Well, we finally made it to the finish line - end of term one!

Just like their efforts in the cross country - the children have given their best in their school work also! Such a stellar effort to complete all assessment pieces before the break. Both classes have been busy! Have a relaxing break and see you all after the holidays - enjoy!

Finally a mention about our science excursion to observe erosion in our local community. Classes visited Towers Hill and saw firsthand how the surface of the earth had changed due to the different agents of erosion.

Mr Barath’s Reading Rampage

With holidays on our doorstep, now is the time to get in some extra reading with your kids and what better way to do it than with a book for Easter. There are plenty of good books available to read with your kids. I highly recommend some of the classics like the Narnia Chronicles by C.S. Lewis or anything by Roald Dahl but especially The Twits and The BFG.

Here are some more contemporary options:

- Captain Underpants Series by Dav Pilkey
- The Skullduggery Series by Derek Landy
- The Artemis Fowl Series by Eoin Colfer
- Animal Adventure Stories by Gil Lewis
- Mr Stink or Gangsta Granny by David Walliams

Many of these books and plenty of other great titles are free to borrow from the Town Library. Take some time to go down on the holidays, browse the shelves and pick something for yourself and for the kids. Have a great

Central S.S- Rugby League

Well done to those students who have been participating in the Rugby League training and full day trial on Friday 21st March. The work they were doing developed the students’ skills and teamwork greatly. The students tested their skills against the other schools in the Charters Towers Region last Friday. During the trial day the students played many games and had the possibility of being selected to play for Charters Towers in the regional carnival in Proserpine.

The students tried their best, however unfortunately for us, as a team we were outplayed by the other opposition. Even with the other teams getting the upper hand it was great to see the boys still having a lot of fun and enjoying their time on the field. The team created a few really good chances and never gave up. Well done to the whole team and a particular mention to Crystal-Lee Walsh and Jayme Oakley who made it into the Possibles V Probables match. An extra congratulation goes to Jayme for being selected to be a part of the Charters Towers Rugby League Team. The team that represented the school was; Patrick Pehj, Nick Clark, Shane Gordon, Jayden Morganson, Matthew Foster, Crystal-Lee Walsh, Jayme Oakley, Clay Moore, Seth Lawn, Malachi Corporal, Simon Law and Tara Sampson

Great Effort!
Mr Moore Year 3 Teacher
Year 6/7—Mr Crow

Thank you to the parents who have read with, or listened to their child read throughout the term. Many of the students have made significant progress with their reading. Well done to those students! Many of the students whose reading has not improved are the ones who are not reading on a regular basis at home. This is a choice that they make....unfortunately it will have life-long consequences. It is never too late to make reading a habit. Reading is a bit like watching television in that we keep changing the channel until we find something we will enjoy. With reading we have to keep changing the genre until we find what we enjoy reading.

After the holidays the children usually inform me the holidays were boring. Why not go to the town Library and borrow some books? Borrow some non-fiction books and find the answers to some of your questions? Or ‘hit’ the fiction section and ‘live’ in some characters fantasy world for a few hours. Reading is certainly relaxing. Reading can be educational. But most importantly, reading can be an enjoyable way to pass the time. Happy reading!

With the exception of a few students all of our assessable tasks have been completed. This week the students are putting the finishing touches on their games. I’m sure there will be a great deal of laughter and maybe a few disagreements when we trial these on Friday.

Congratulations to Stephanie Lowe (Netball) and Jayme Oakley (Rugby League) who have been selected to represent Charters Towers at their respective NQ trials. Well done to all the students who represented Central at trials on their behaviour and sportsmanship.

Please check with your child if they need to replace any stationery items before next term. Several of the students have misplaced or broken some of their materials.

Next term the students will be introduced to the next Key Learning Area of the Australian Curriculum...Geography. Most of the students have a spare book which we will use for this subject.

Photos from the Cross Country
I am Safe
I am Respectful
I am a Learner