



CHARTERS TOWERS CENTRAL STATE SCHOOL

Newsletter

Produced for the Charters Towers Central State School Community



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Central Chatters



From the Principal

I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to the wonderful Central community, children, families and staff after a much deserved holiday. It is wonderful to see the children excitedly returning to their classrooms and eagerly commencing their school work. I'd like to especially welcome the many new families, including our new Prep students, who have joined Charters Towers Central State School this year. At present, 155 children are enrolled at school, allowing for very comfortable class sizes and learning environments. Any new enrolments are always welcome and encouraged also. Attending school every day is always important at school, and I must congratulate the children for their prompt attendance after the school holidays. It is important that children return to school at the commencement of the school term so that they do not miss vital learning early in the term. This term is 10 weeks long, and with two weeks almost completed, the remaining 8 will be quite busy. Easter will be upon us before we realise therefore attending school every day, all day, is vital.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Playgroup

Will recommence shortly

Parade

Now held every Friday morning starting 9.00 in the Hall

Active After School

Permission notes will be sent home next week.

Tuckshop

The tuckshop will reopen this Thursday.

Cross Country

Thursday 3rd April

Charters Towers Central State School Staffing

Charters Towers Central State School is very fortunate to have a very stable staff this year, with very limited staffing changes in 2014. We warmly welcome to Central SS Miss Debbie Jensen who has transferred from Winton SS; Miss Amber Larson who has transferred from the Burdekin; and Miss Hannah Blanch who has relocated from Brisbane. Welcome ladies.

2014 Classes

I am very pleased to announce that our school's Day 8 numbers have been sustainable and our classroom structures will remain as follows:

- Prep—Miss Mathews—Located in old Preschool building on Boundary Street
- Year 1—Miss Jensen—Located in classroom D002/D003 (Near Library)
- Year 2—Miss Cran—Located in classroom A007 (next to Staffroom)
- Year 3—Mr Moore—Located in A004 (near Staffroom)
- Year 4—Miss Blanch—Located in C001 (upstairs past Year 6/7 classroom)
- Year 5/6 & SEP Upper—Miss Boyle and Mr Barath—Located in D006
- Year 6/7—Mr Crow—Located in A001—Next to Admin
- SEP Middle—Mrs Thomas—Located in C002 next to Year 4
- SEP Lower— Miss Larsen—Located in the Learning Centre near tuckshop

This will mean Central State School will have the smallest class sizes of all the state schools in Charters Towers, resulting in a wonderful learning environment for each child at Central.

Charters Towers Central State School's Explicit Improvement Agenda

This year Charters Towers Central State School has undertaken an explicit improvement agenda aimed at delivering improved academic student results across all grades. Improving reading abilities of each student at Central is our number one aim for 2014. Research verifies that by when a child's reading ability improves, the child also improves in all other academic areas at school. Improving each child's reading abilities is therefore the most important factor in a child's education. Simply by reading to your child every night will have a substantial impact on their education. Studies show that children need to have read, or be exposed to, 1000 books by the time they start school. 1000 books seems like a lot but when you break this down, it equates to 250 books per year, or less than one book per day. When you consider books can be borrowed for free from local libraries, and also reread to children, it is very easy to read 1000 books to your child before they start school. At Central, every class has dedicated reading times, supported by trained teacher aides and teachers. We have now also developed a research based, results proven intervention program for children who require additional reading support. We do however require your help. We ask that you read to or with your child, regardless of their age, for a minimum of 10-15 minutes every night. All children should be taking home a Home Reader or a book from the Library therefore no child should be without a book to read each night at home.

**Remember our
school's number:**

4756 2333

Student Absentee

Line:

4756 2366

Great Results Guarantee

Commencing this year, Charters Towers Central State School will be receiving additional funding from the Queensland Government to form a 'Great Results Guarantee'. I am pleased to announce Central SS will receive just over \$75 000 worth of funding which must be used towards improving academic results in our Prep to Year 2 cohort of children. By utilizing these funds, our school guarantees parents that each child in the Prep to Year 2 cohort will achieve academic outcomes that are on par with the National Minimum Standard of education. Children who are unable to achieve the National Minimum Standard will be offered further support and assistance at school.

For Charters Towers Central State School this is an exciting time. While the project commences officially in early March, Central SS will be commencing our Great Results Guarantee next week. Cathy Bojack who has previously worked in our school's Library, will now support our Prep to Year 2 teachers and drive our school's Reading Improvement agenda in the lower school. Mrs Tracey Barath will rejoin Central State School from next week as our intensive reading intervention aide, and will work with targeted students in the afternoons. With the additional guidance and support of Cathy and Tracey, along with our already well trained school team, I am very confident our student's reading results will continue to improve. Read more about the guarantee at

www.education.qld.gov.au/resultsguarantee.

How you can help your child with reading

To get your child interested in reading, it's important to vary the books you read together and to talk about the types of material you read each day. Our school encourages parents to work with us to develop children's reading skills. Here are a few tips to get you started:

- Play number plate games in the car by looking at different number plates and making sentences starting with the same letters
- Encourage children to re-tell stories they have read and to share these stories with other family members.
- When reading to your child, stop and ask "what do you think will happen next?" and occasionally ask "why do you think the author included that part in the story?" to ensure they understand what they are reading.
- If your child makes a mistake when they read aloud, give them time to correct the mistake themselves.

School Leaders Induction Parade

Our annual School Leader's Induction will be held at Charters Towers Central State School on Friday 14th February, commencing at 9am. Our 2014 school leaders will recite their leadership pledge to the school, and will be presented with their leadership badges. All parents, community members and friends are invited to attend this very special parade. The parade will commence at 9am and will be held in the new Hall.

Remember, parents, guardians and family are always welcome to visit the school at any time. Teachers are always willing to discuss your child's progress and are generally available in their classrooms before school from 8.30 each morning.

Nick Shirley

Principal—Charters Towers Central State School

Insurance Cover for Students

Some school activities and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury. Parents are advised the Department of Education and Training does not have student accident insurance cover for students. This affects all State Schools in Queensland, not just Charters Towers Central State School.

If your child is injured at school as a result of an accident or incident, all costs associated with the injury, including medical costs are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver. Some incidental medical costs may be covered by Medicare. If you have private health insurance, some costs may also be covered by your provider. Any other costs must be covered by parents. Student accident insurance pays some benefit in certain circumstances should your child have an accident.



Prep—Miss Mathews

Welcome to the new school year everyone. It is great to see the children excited about their learning and happily coming to school each day. This fortnight we have been concentrating on routines and fine motor development with a particular emphasis on pencil grip. Daily activities include cutting, gluing, play dough, manipulatives and drawing.

We have also noticed how easy it is for the children to misplace their hats and water bottles after lunch times. Jenny and I will endeavour to locate them each day but please bear with us if your child's belongings go missing for a day or two.

This term we are learning about our families and we would really appreciate a few family photographs to discuss in class time. Pictures of Mum, Dad, siblings, grandparents and perhaps a baby photograph would be wonderful to bring in to prep. I can colour photocopy them for later use when we make a family tree.

Homework should go home next week. Have a great weekend everyone.

Kind regards, Miss Mathews.

Year 1—Miss Jensen

Welcome to Grade 1 in 2014! We have all settled in very well and have already been very busy working each day. For our first newsletter article of 2014, I thought I'd let you know what we are learning about in each subject area. To begin the Term, in English we are learning about how characters show emotion in picture books. At the end of the Unit, we will be giving a short talk in front of our class about a character from a story we enjoyed and the emotions the character displayed. Our learning in the area of the Arts will tie into English as we learn about emotion in

dance. Our main focus in Maths will be on working with numbers and patterns. In Science we are learning about living things and their features and habitats. Technology will tie into this Unit and we will be creating a habitat for an animal. In History, we are studying how time is sequenced...and much, much more! Can you help us? We need boxes and cartons of all different shapes and sizes, such as cereal or tissue boxes and egg cartons. We also would like plastic bags, ice cream and margarine containers. If you have any of these items you no longer need or want, Grade 1 will be happy to have them. Please drop them into the Grade 1 classroom. We are looking forward to a great year in Grade 1!



Congratulations to our Students of the Week



Year 2—Miss Cran

Welcome back to 2014! It was really great meeting so many parents and guardians on the first day and throughout the week. We are well into the swing of things and have started working in all subject areas. As we use at least one of our books for each subject area, a small number of students are finding that they have not got enough of their books (especially scrapbooks) at school to use for each learning area. This does not apply to students who have their full booklist allocation at school. Also for some reason a few bits of equipment were missing from the booklist; scissors, glue sticks (4 large), a sharpener and erasers. If you haven't already sent these along could you please do so when possible. Homework has commenced this week as well as home readers. Please remind your child that completed homework comes back to the class on Friday morning and if there is anything that your child is unsure of with the homework that they see me during the week so I can assist them before it is due. I am really pleased with the great effort that students have put in so far and I'm looking forward to a very productive and rewarding year!

Year 3—Mr Moore

For those of you I haven't had the chance of meeting yet, my name is James Moore and I will be the Year 3 teacher in 2014. This year is bound to be an exciting year and a tough year at the same time for the students, as expectations increase and the curriculum demands expand. It has been a very good couple of weeks and I congratulate a majority of the class on their behaviour and dedication to their work.

Readers have gone home this week and will be expected to be at school every day. I have sent home a note and would like those returned as soon as possible so that I can send books home with the students to read. I have included a bookmark in the folder to help the students with their reading strategies and for you or them to ask some questions about the book after completion. The students will receive 4 books each week and they should be finished by the end of the week. Homework will start next week and will be handed out each Monday. This will need to be handed in completed by Thursday.

The students will be learning about many different concepts this term, with many being brand new. In English the students will be learning about persuasive and narrative writing. In Maths the students will be revising old concepts of number and extending to new areas. In History we will be looking at celebrations and commemorations and their differences. In Science the students will be grouping different aspects of the world around them and thinking scientifically about their features. The rest of the curriculum and learning opportunities are broad and exciting and therefore the attendance of students at school every day is of paramount importance.

It has been great so far this year and I hope all the students are enjoying themselves and coming home with something new and enjoyable every day.

Looking forward to a great year.

Before School Reading Program

We are trialing a "Before School Reading Program" starting next week. We are going to begin with Year 3 students and hope to include other lower grades in the future. Some year 6/7 students have volunteered to come and help. For parents of these year 6/7 students, please note that it is voluntary and if your child is unable to make it to school regularly at 8.30 on their rostered day – that is perfectly fine – we just ask the students let us know that they will be unable to volunteer.

Year 3 students have been reminded that they are to go to the library after 8.20 in the morning to do their reading before they go out to play. Evidence suggests that the more reading students do, the better readers they become, so it is hoped that our students benefit from this program. The Before School Reading Program runs from Monday to Thursday. It starts at 8.30 and goes until the bell rings for school to start.



Meeting 18th Feb 6pm

@ CT Golf Club

All welcome

Come & Try Sign On Day

@ Central State School

Saturday February 22nd

9am to 12pm

**We will be holding a
Sausage Sizzle on the
day**

Year 4—Miss Blanche

Hello everyone welcome to a new school year and a special welcome to our new students Elliott, Olive and Harley. I trust you all had a great break.

So far we have had a great start to the year with all students focused and motivated towards their learning. We have a busy term ahead so please make sure your child is attending every day.

This year we are focusing on reading therefore it is really important that your child is reading every night. Home readers will be sent home along with library books. Mrs Bojack our Librarian has an incentive for students who are borrowing and returning their books consistently so please make sure all children are bringing their library books and bag in on a Tuesday for returning and borrowing.

In class we are covering a lot of interesting topics that the students are enjoying. In English students are working towards writing their own chapter for the Twits by Roald Dahl. We are currently half way through reading the book and have discovered how disgusting Mr and Mrs Twit are. In History we are exploring the First Fleet and lives of convicts. While in science we are investigating weathering and erosion.

Thank you for supplying your students with the required equipment for the beginning of the school year.

Year 5/6—Miss Boyle

Welcome students and parents to year 5/6. Thank you parents for supplying everything your child needs to be successful in the classroom. Students have settled in very well and most have demonstrated self control and mature behaviour towards their learning and interactions with other students.

It has been a busy start already with units of work commencing across all subject areas. English during the first half of the term will involve comprehending, analysing and comparing short stories. Maths will cover a broad range of concepts including mental computation strategies, ordering, comparing, converting and adding fractions, measurement of perimeter, length and area and collecting and interpreting data.

For the upper grades students are split into their individual grades for science, history and geography. This term Year 5 students are with Mrs Bojack for Science every Tuesday and Wednesday and Year 6 students will have science with me. History is every Tuesday and Thursday and Year 5 students will be with me, and Year 6 students will have Mr Shirley.

Homework has now started and students are expected to complete it twice a week. There is a note in the front of students books explaining the process.

Mr Barath

A word of warning – This year, myself and all of the staff at Central are going to be really annoying. We are going to go on and on and on about reading. Incessantly! Mr Shirley is going to bang on about it on assembly. Mr Barath is going to run competitions and challenges for it. Mrs Bojack is going to be giving away free books and urging kids to read them every night. Every class will read with a purpose every day. Teachers will be reading with and to students as well as listening to students and analyzing and improving their reading. Teacher Aides will be running extensive reading programs to help catch readers up every day. Students will be accessing Reading Programs online. They will be reading in Maths, Science, Geography, HPE, Art, History, Music and English.

Why?

Because READING IS YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE IN OUR HANDS.

I write 'OUR HANDS' because we can't do it alone. We need you to read with your children at home, as well. Show them it is important to know how to read. Show them it is useful to know how to read. Show them it is fun to know how to read. Without age appropriate reading skills we are sending kids out onto the football field of knowledge with their shoelaces tied together. They can't run and they can't kick the ball without falling over every time. We want all our kids to be Matty Bowen's on the Central Football Knowledge team. Give them the skills that they need. READ TO YOUR KIDS TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT.

Year 6/7—Mr Crow

Welcome back to Central for 2013. A special welcome to Azarah Gilligan who has re-joined us at Central this year.

Thank you to the parents who have purchased all of the items on your child's booklist. This has allowed us to set up our books and commence work immediately.

Year 6/7 students will have homework each night from Monday to Thursday. Students will be asked to regularly undertake spelling, mathematics and reading homework. Our homework will reinforce work undertaken in school. I am available before school to assist students who experience difficulty with homework tasks. Any student who fails to complete or 'hand-in' tasks will be asked to complete these during their break times.

Being an effective reader is essential to achieving high levels of both literacy and numeracy, so please encourage your child to read on a daily basis.

This term Year 6/7 is studying separation techniques (Science) while for Technology the students will be designing and constructing their own toy or game. In English the students are investigating the techniques used in advertising to persuade us to a certain point of view.

A reminder that your child needs to have a hat to participate in: PE lessons, Friday afternoon sport and lunch time play. Sun screen is available in our classroom. Year 6 and 7 students are encouraged to participate in interschool sports which are organised by the Charters Towers Primary School Sports Association. However this is also a privilege. Students who do not comply with the school's behaviour expectations, or who don't complete all of their work tasks will lose this privilege until an improvement is observed.

Finally, my door is always open to parents. If you have any questions or concerns please call in or phone to discuss these with me as soon as they arise.

Resource Centre News

Have you ever sat back and asked yourself – 'Is reading important? Is it something that I will need to use for the rest of my life?'

If you answered "Yes" to both questions, then you would be right.

Everyone reads - often many times a day and we may not even realize it - it may be a sign down the street, the BIG M at McDonalds, the notes the teachers send home, something on TV, or the many and varied forms we need to fill out on a regular basis.

Reading skills need to start at an early age in order to cope with the demands of reading various formats throughout our lives.

That is why it is so important to help your child or children with reading EVERY DAY. Even if it is only for a few minutes!

10 minutes make a difference!

Reading Tips for Parents

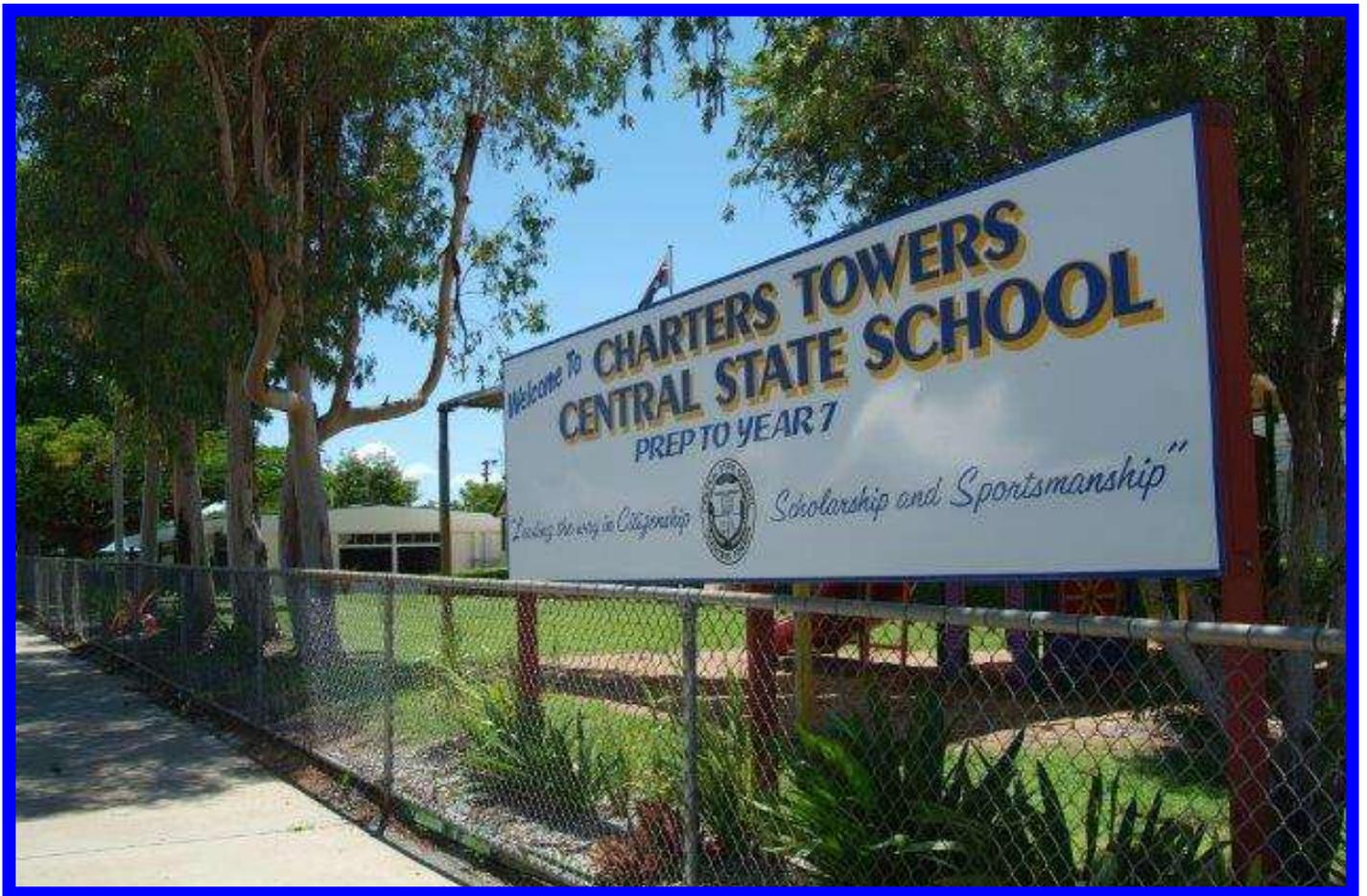
Each newsletter will have a helpful tip or two, to help guide you through the sometimes difficult task of helping our children to read.

1st tip – Encourage your child – but make it fun! Reading should always be enjoyable.

2nd tip – You are not alone. Talk to your child's teacher about what is being done at school and how you can support this at home.

Does your child have a LIBRARY BAG? If not, they will be unable to borrow, so please assist your child in finding something suitable to carry books from school to home and back again.

WANTED – Old Pillow cases or Library bags. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.



I am Safe

I am Respectful

I am a Learner

