From the Principal

Hi everyone,
I hope that you’ve had a great start to the week. It is wonderful to be back at Central SS after a couple of week’s Long Service Leave. I’d like to thank Miss Lisa Pitt, Troy Barath and the school team for ensuring Central SS continued to operate as smoothly as possible during my leave. It’s hard to believe that we’re almost at the halfway point for our term.

New Enrolments
Our school has experienced a growth in enrolments this year, which I am sure most parents are aware of. We started 2014 with 155 children enrolled and we currently have 195 children attending Central which is an increase of 40 children in just over six months. A large increase in enrolments in a short period of time can create some challenging situations for a school, especially around class sizes and playground dynamics. I am aware that a number of class sizes are currently quite full at present, especially in the Year 3 to 7 grades, and this is a situation that we are monitoring closely at the moment. It is wonderful to see our school growing in size—our school records indicate that the last time we were this size was around 2005.

Regular School Attendance
I’d like to thank our parents and guardians for ensuring your child attends school every day and for notifying the office or your child’s teacher if your child is absent. The phone number to call if your child is absent is 47562366. Regular school attendance has become a concern lately, with an average 18% of children away from school each day at present. Most absences are for sickness which is unavoidable however we have a number of children who are away from school each day without a valid reason. Attending school ‘every’ day really does count and make a difference. When children are absent from school they are missing crucial learning time and quickly fall behind their peers. It is therefore vital that your child develops a regular school routine and attends each day. It is the law that all primary school children attend school ‘every’ day.

Once again, I’d like to thank parents/guardians who ensure their children attend school each day. You are making a real difference to your child! Remember, children learn best when they go to school, all day, every day!

Homework and Home Readers
Each week children are given homework by their class teachers which is to be completed at home and returned to school for marking. Homework is a vital revision tool for students as it allows children to revise new concepts that have been taught in class that week. Students are encouraged to talk to their teachers if they are having difficulty with their homework. Homework should be returned to school either the next day, or by the end of the week for marking. All children at Central should also be taking home a Home Reader, which must be read and returned to school accordingly. Younger children should be taking home a reader each night, and returning the next day for changing; older students should be taking home a novel and reading the book over a period of a week or longer if required. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to contact their child’s teacher if there are concerns or questions regarding homework/readers.

Electronic Newsletters
This edition of our newsletter will be the last edition that will be printed and sent home to families. In future newsletters will be placed onto our school’s website and Facebook pages. If you would like a printed newsletter we ask that you contact the school office and this will be organised for you.
Collection of Children
Lately quite a large number of children are being collected late from school of an afternoon. Two occasions last week children were at Central until well after 3.40pm which is not acceptable. Sometimes circumstances change and families need to make alternative arrangements to collect their children in the afternoon. The school understands this. We do however ask that families inform the school of any changes so that we can notify children. Last week a staff member supervised children for 40 minutes after school as parents were unable to be contacted. Eventually it was determined the children were instructed to walk home by their parents however the school was not informed and the children had forgotten during the day. Unfortunately we are not allowed to accept verbal messages from older siblings either. If circumstances change the school simply asks parents to ring the school as early as possible and inform us of the new arrangements. The school will then inform your children and all families can make it home from school safely and on time. Central SS would like to thank the parents that regularly inform the office of any changes as they occur. This is appreciated and makes the busy 3pm student collection period must smoother.

Central SS NAIDOC Day Celebrations
Charters Towers Central State School will be hosting the annual NAIDOC Day celebrations on Friday August 15th. The celebrations will begin at 11.30 with each class preparing special activities for the day, and will conclude around 1pm. Parents/Guardians/families are encouraged to visit Central on August 15th and participate in the NAIDOC Day celebrations. Uncle Kenny is presently organising a Kup-Murri for our school to enjoy on the day also.

Playgroup
I would like to congratulate Mrs Deb Waddling, and the Mums and Dads for the outstanding Central SS Playgroup. Central has a playgroup that operates each Wednesday and Friday morning from 9 to 10.30 in the PMP room near the tuckshop. All children under Prep age are invited to attend as long as a parent/guardian stays with the child at all times. Playgroup is a brilliant way to assist your child to learn socialisation skills, improve their fine and gross motor development and prepare them for Prep.

Prep Enrolments 2015
Charters Towers Central SS is now taking Prep enrolments for 2015. If your child is turning 5 by June 30 next year, or has not started school as yet, they are eligible to attend Prep next year. It is important that your child is enrolled as soon as possible, so that the best programs and support can be prepared for your child. Enrolment forms can be collected from the school office or are available from our school’s website.

Come Visit!
Finally parents/guardians, please feel free to visit the school and discuss your child’s education with teachers or the administration team at any time. The school is fortunate to have such a fantastic staff working at the school and together, we’re all keen to achieve the best results we can for your children. If there’s anyway we can help support or assist you and your family please do not hesitate to visit or phone the school.

Finally I would like to wish the students that are representing our school at the regional Athletics Carnival that is being held in Charters Towers tomorrow the very best of luck. Congratulations on being selected to represent your school.

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

This fortnight we investigated both number and pattern. Yesterday we made terrific growing patterns using number, where our patterns grew by one. This was fun because we played with lots of hand on materials and investigated lots of different ways of making patterns. This week we also talked about the sounds /y/ and /x/ and began our first English assessment item – Making a rhyme. Hopefully we will present our rhymes to a small group of peers later this week.

Finally, I would like to extend a special congratulations to Grace, Vivienne, Paxton, Brooke, Bailey and Rayne for terrific reading this term. Well done. Keep up the great work, especially in homework.

Quote of the week goes to Clancy. During reading groups this week Clancy remarked, “The alphabet just doesn’t end!” Good point Clancy. After we learn all 26 letters it seems that the letters start blending and change to make new sounds. Hope this makes you smile.

Prep—Miss Stowe

What a great week it’s been.

The students have been very busy this week. We have been learning about patterns and about adding items together. In geography we have been learning about special places and what we can do to look after them. In English, we have been learning about rhyming words. Everyone then created their own short rhyme and read them out to the class. I was very proud at how much effort the students placed into their presentations and listened to each other’s rhyme.

A big congratulations to Bradly who was our Student of the Week. It is great to see the effort that he is placing into his rhyming.

Year 2—Miss Cran

Almost halfway through the third term already! Students have been really engaged in our English unit, which has us working on procedures. We have read George’s Marvellous Medicine and students have found this really entertaining. We are beginning our assessment shortly and students will be writing their own procedure based on the book that we’ve read. We have also been learning computer skills that will help us to present our procedures in a colourful and well-designed way.

We have had lots of awards presented over the last few weeks. Temia, Corbyn, Kayesla and Tara have now completed the LLI program. They are more confidently using a variety of reading skills that have helped to improve their reading from the beginning of the year! Tara also received an award last week for trying harder to concentrate on her school work.
Year 1—Miss Jensen

The next few weeks will be a busy time in Grade 1 as we begin the assessment period. In English this Term, we have been learning about poetry. So far, we have learnt about the features of poems. From this week, we will be learning to perform poems. Our assessment piece will be to perform a poem in front of the class. This week, students will be bringing home a poem of their choice. These poems will be performed towards the end of next week. While students will be given opportunities to practice their poems in class time, it is also advisable that student regularly practice their poems at home.

While the number of homework folders being returned each week has increased, still less than half of the class are regularly returning their homework completed. Homework goes home on Mondays and is to be returned on Friday. Homework should be completed across the week, with a little bit completed each night, as per the worksheet. If there are any problems with completing the set homework, please see me. Students who have completed homework regularly throughout the Term will be invited to celebrate their achievements at a ‘Cupcakes and Milkshakes’ morning tea at the end of the Term.

Also with assessment week not that far away, we are focussing heavily on our sight words. Our goal by the end of Grade 1, is to know up to List 20. Each time the students know a whole list of sight words, they will earn themselves a prize, which has been chosen by the students themselves. I want to encourage you to daily practice your child’s sight words.

Year 3—Mr Moore

This week brings with it the Interschool Athletics Carnival and therefore some excitement for the students. We are lucky enough to have a number of students from the class representing the school at the carnival in the sprints and relay. I congratulate and wish the students all the best and hopefully I will be able to watch them compete, as I will be there as a representative from the school. Good luck; John, Jodie, Edward, Justice, Sarah, Brandy-Jay and Isabelle.

Coming into Week 5 we are also toward the end of our first assessment period and we will be hoping to complete our retell of ‘The Lorax’ from a different perspective and a number of ongoing assessment tasks. With the end of this assessment period we also need to be looking toward Parent/Teacher Interviews which I will hope to hold in Week 8 and 9. I will send letter home in the coming weeks. Could I please ask that the letter is returned and is indicating whether you would like an interview or not.

Please all remember that Tuesday is borrowing day for our home readers and Friday the student’s homework is due. There are also a number of students who are running low on writing books and stationery.

Looking forward to seeing our results.

Learning Centre Upper—Mr Barath

For the next two weeks there will be letters and emails flying left and right out of our classroom. We have drafted some personal letters to classmates that will be sent in the post and formal letters for our first English assessment piece for this term. The boys are also all looking forward to sending our email about Minecraft and Asteroids to Bajo and Hex on Good Game SP at the end of next week as well.

You may have heard about one of our boys in the class breaking his arm this week. As we all know, our class is a room full of testosterone at the best of times and accidents happen but one good thing to come out of this event was the way that all of the boys supported Nick during and after the event. They quickly sought teacher assistance when Nick appeared to be seriously hurt and were supportive of him until the ambulance arrived. They were concerned for him on the day and welcomed him back happily on his return to school on Wednesday. Well done, boys!
Central Chatters

Year 4—Mrs Thomas & Miss Blanch
Year 4 - Mrs Thomas & Miss Blanch.

Wow! - How the year has flown by – August is here already. The show has come and gone and the excitement of it all has finally subsided. By the sounds of it – a great time was had by all who attended.

The year 4 class are currently undertaking a drama unit. The assessment for this unit is a spoken presentation. Your child will present a recount of a character in the past, from the time of the First Fleet. The presentation will be in the first person, so your child will present in character. There were 6 character profiles given. To help them with their presentation, the class are invited to dress in the costume of the day. Below are some suggestions.

There will be a selection of accessories, supplied by the teacher, that your child will be able to access, also. Dressing up helps your child to ‘be in the character’ – their dialogue is to be spoken in the first person. Thanks for your assistance. The plan is to present next Thursday (14/8) afternoon to the class. Please, see me (Mrs Thomas) if you require more details.

Year 5/6—Miss Boyle
We are almost halfway through term 3 and students are working towards completing their first lot of assessment by the end of week 5. Our Literacy assessment for this term requires students to write a letter to future children at the school. To prepare for this task we have been reading letters written between 1940 and 1970. Many students have been interested in the changes to schooling, technology and home life that have occurred since the mid 1900’s. We are certain that when our letters are read in twenty years’ time, future students will also be surprised when they learn about daily life in 2014.

Congratulations to all the students in Year 5/6 who are attending the interschool athletics carnival at All Souls this Friday the 8th. We have many students attending who will be representing Central and I wish all of them good luck.

I am Safe, I am Respectful, I am a Learner
What is **Get Started**?

Get Started is one of three funding programs that comprise the Queensland Government’s **Get in the Game** initiative to support sport and recreation at the grassroots level.

Get Started assists children and young people who can least afford, or may otherwise benefit from, joining a sport or recreation club.

Before applying for a voucher

- Confirm that the club your child/young person is interested in joining is registered for Get Started by checking the club locator available on our website.

- Contact the club to find out details of the activity – cost of membership and/or participation fees, and any additional costs and equipment required for the activity.

- Read and understand the terms and conditions on our website.

I am Safe

I am Respectful

I am a Learner