



CHARTERS TOWERS

CENTRAL STATE SCHOOL

Newsletter

Produced for the Charters Towers Central State School Community



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Central Chatters



From the Principal

The school term is literally flying past with the students now starting to complete their first classroom assessment items. Next Friday marks the half way point of the school term, and with only 6 weeks of school remaining, it is essential that your child continues to attend school all day, every day. Children who regularly miss days of school continually fall behind their class members and struggle with their school work. I would like to congratulate the Central SS children for their impressive efforts in the classroom to date this term. With the continued implementation of the Australian Curriculum, the children been introduced to many new concepts, activities and assessment items in their classrooms. The learning curve has been quite steep for many students, yet most children at Central are enjoying the new challenges. I would like to congratulate our teachers and teacher aides for their professionalism and dedication. Students are focused in class and enjoying school; classrooms are settled and productive; and students are learning new concepts each session, every days.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Playgroup

Commences Friday
28th February

Student Reading

Every morning from
8.30am in the Library

Parade

Now held every Friday
morning starting 9.00
in the Hall

Active After School

Every Monday &
Tuesday

Tuckshop

Open every Thursday.

Arts Council

Thursday 6th March
2pm in the Hall

Cross Country

Thursday 3rd April

Breakfast Club

Recently we have had to make some changes to the way our school's breakfast program operates. Sadly, the funding that our school was receiving to employ Mrs Carol King has unexpectedly ceased, meaning we are no longer able to fund Carol to operate our breakfast program. Children are now provided a breakfast each morning that consists of a variety of cereals and is supervised by the teacher-aide on duty each morning. There will not be any supervision at the tuckshop until 8am each morning therefore children are not to arrive at school until after 8am. Fortunately our school is sponsored by Sanitarium, who provide cereals for the children to eat, and also the Enterprise Hotel, which covers our milk and consumables, therefore our Breakfast Club operates almost cost neutral. Importantly children can still enjoy breakfast at school and thus be ready to learn to the best of their ability each day. This is the goal of our breakfast program.

Reading at Home

Improving each child's reading ability is our number one focus at Charters Towers Central State School. This does not mean we are not addressing other important curriculum areas such as mathematics and writing—we are still focusing heavily on these areas. What we are doing at Central is placing an even greater emphasis on improving each child's reading levels at school. We are doing this by providing the following:

- Dedicated reading instruction time in each classroom each day, supported by additional teacher aide support
- Children are reading to teachers each morning in the Library from 8.30am
- A research proven intervention program has been developed for children requiring further support
- We have purchased additional teacher aide time to assist students
- We have also purchased additional Guidance Officer time to assist students who require detailed intervention and support
- Mrs Bojack will now support Prep to Year 4 teachers with reading and literacy, and provide coaching and targeted programs to address individual learning needs.

We are committed to improving each child's reading abilities however we require your help. Research proves that children who read at home each day experience greater success academically at school. Every child at Central is now bringing home a book to read each night. Younger grades are taking home daily readers; senior grades are taking home a book to read each week. We ask parents to read with their child each night for 15–20 mins. Readers must then be returned to school the next day for changing. 15–20mins each night will greatly assist your child to improve their reading abilities. I'd like to thank the families who read with their children each night and assist them with their learning each day. This really does make a difference.

**Remember our
school's number:**

4756 2333

**Student Absentee
Line:**

4756 2366

P&C AGM

The Charters Towers Central State School P&C AGM will be held this Tuesday 4th March, commencing at 3.15pm in the Staffroom. All families, friends and community members are welcome, and encouraged, to attend. Please join the P&C in working productively to achieve even greater successes at Central. The tuckshop is also seeking some volunteers to assist each week. If you are able to donate any time, please see Kaylene at the front office. Thanks to Melissa Griffiths for operating the tuckshop each week also.

Regular school attendance - Information for parents and carers*Did you know?*

Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement. Why is regular attendance at school important? Regular school attendance will mean that your child has a better chance in life. Your child will achieve greater results when they go to school all day, every school day as they learn better, they make friends, they are happier and they have a brighter future.

Why must I send my child to school?

Under Queensland law, you must make sure your child of school age is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day unless they have an acceptable reason. Illness, doing work experience or competing in a school sporting event are acceptable reasons for being absent from school. Principals decide if the reason given for your child's absence is acceptable. Avoid keeping your child away from school for birthdays, shopping, visiting family and friends, if they sleep in, looking after other children, minor check ups or care such as hair cuts. Routine medical or other health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

Safe School Environment

As part of ensuring we have a safe school environment for our students, staff, parents and volunteers, we would like to remind everyone that all visitors to the school must report to the front office and sign in the Visitor's Book. If in the event of an emergency, there are visitors in the school that we are not aware of, we may not be able to undertake appropriate searches. In addition to this, we are looking for volunteers to assist with different programs, so if you have any time and you would like to give a hand, please come and see us. Volunteers who are not parents of children at Central will be required to apply for a Volunteers Blue Card, however Kaylene in the office will be able to help you with that.

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. The school also has a sensational breakfast program that operates each morning from 8am, and is held at the school tuckshop.

Have a lovely weekend.

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

Firstly, let me congratulate everyone for a great week in Prep. Most routines are running smoothly and the children's enthusiasm for learning is simply outstanding. Thank you everyone.

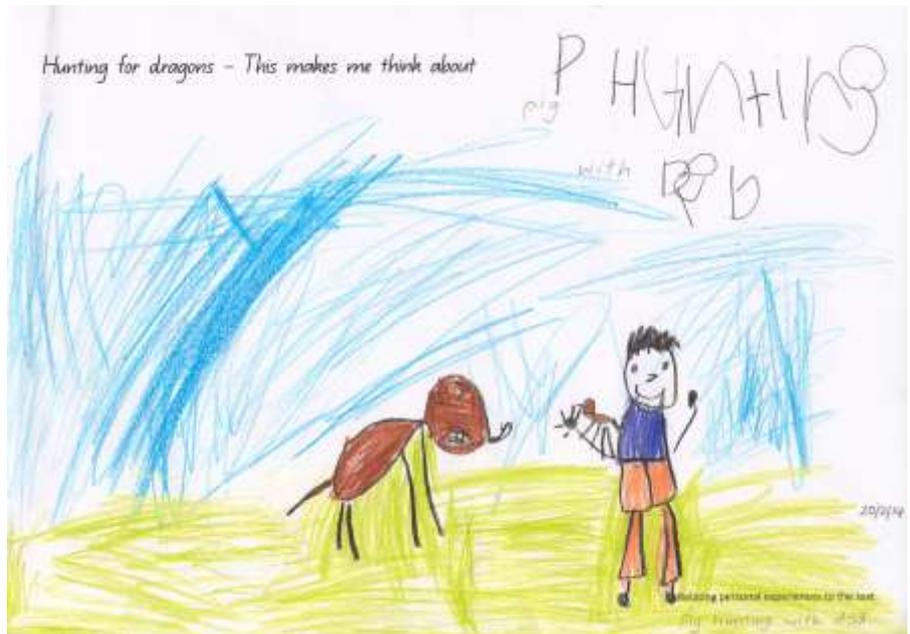
You may have noticed in your child's homework folder a laminated card with 30 sight words printed on one side and a jumbled ABC on the other. This is to complement homework each night. With an ever increasing reading target in Queensland, we need to help our preppies reach their full potential. It is hoped that most children will know about 25 words by the end of term. This is to coincide with our end of year goal of 100 words.

This week we welcomed some tiny mealworms to prep. Sadly, our tadpoles needed to return to the pond but our mealworms will be welcome to stay for their full life cycle. Already we have enjoyed observing their daily movements.

In English, we have begun to prepare for our end of term task – Talking about stories. Each day we have been sharing our personal thoughts, likes and dislikes about particular books. Next week, we will explore this concept further by linking our own personal experiences to story characters and the events in stories.

Finally, please keep an eye out for any household items that we can recycle in prep. Cereal boxes, paper off cuts or anything of a similar nature are wonderful treasures to prep and we will put them to good use.

Have a great weekend. Kind regards, Miss Mathews.



Picture by Grace Brown

Year 1—Miss Jensen

Another 2 weeks have passed us by and we have been working very, very hard in Year 1! In addition to our Science unit where we are learning about habitats, we are also learning to think like Scientists and use our 5 senses when conducting experiments. This week, we performed an experiment using baking soda and vinegar. We were amazed at the results! We used a wide range of words to describe our findings when we mixed the two ingredients together. Here are some photos of our experiment.

Next week is Week 5 and students will be tested on their sight word and reading knowledge. Students have been made aware of this and I have encouraged them to work extra hard on their homework this week to ensure they see great personal results. Finally, a couple of items were left off of the booklist. Please ensure your child has a pair of scissors, a couple of sticks of glue and a sharpener.

Thanking you and have a great week!



Year 2—Miss Cran

We have some exciting things happening this term including an investigation of how Technology has changed familiar objects over time, and a study of poetry. In Science we are investigating a range of materials and looking at their properties. The students will meet a design challenge at the end of the investigation that will use a variety of everyday recyclable materials. At the end of term students will design and make a lunchbox from these recycled materials, so it would be great if you could start to make a collection at home of any clean plastic bottles, cardboard, aluminium foil, fabric, wool or string. I will let you know later in the term when these materials need to be at school.

Homework will continue to be sent home every Monday and will be due back at school every Friday morning. So many students have been returning their completed homework on time, which is wonderful! Our library borrowing day has changed to Thursday, however if your child forgets their library bag on the day, they are still able to borrow a book during lunch breaks.

Year 3—Mr Moore

We are already at Week 4 and the students are in to the swing of our weekly and daily routine. I would like to again congratulate the students that are doing the right thing every day and making the daily life in class very enjoyable. We need to continue to raise expectations of our students' behaviour and academic ability.

Could we please make sure all students are reading nightly at home for at least 5-20mins and handing in completed homework on Friday every week. Congratulations also go to Samara Pehi for her Student of the Week for great writing.

I look forward to the next two week and the remainder of the term.

Congratulations to our 2014 Student Leaders and Student Councillors

- ***School Leaders** Alexis Nibbs and Crystal-Lee Walsh
- ***Sports Captains** Matthew Foster, Clay Moore and Skye Telford
- ***Student Councillors** Mea Telford, Samara Pehi, Crystal-Lee Walsh, Alexis Nibbs, Stephanie Lowe, Connor Abraham, Matthew Shepardson, Aaliyah Butler and Penny Grimshaw.



Year 4—Mrs Thomas & Miss Blanch

Well, this school year has certainly started with a bang! Year 4's are continuing to give their best effort throughout the week. It is exciting to see and hear their zeal for learning. Keep it up, year 4 !!

Please continue to encourage your child to read, read and read some more - the more you read the better you get! Just a reminder, Miss Blanch requires homework to be back on Fridays and Mrs Thomas's class back on Thursdays.

Year 5/6—Miss Boyle

Congratulations to year 5/6 on a great start to the year. Over the past 4 weeks students have begun to settle into new routines and adjust to the expectations of their year level. Next week is the start of our first assessment cycle, therefore it is crucial that students attend every day next week in order to participate and achieve success. In saying that, attendance in our class has been excellent and lots of students have already earned three attendance tickets to go into the draw at the end of the term.

Students are responsible for their own home readers this year and need to be exchanging them at the library when they have read them all. If your child is bringing home books that are too difficult then please remind them that they need to get a lower level. Reading at home should be enjoyable and students are encouraged at school to take home books that are slightly under the level they are currently reading to minimise stress and frustration.

Our school has recently purchased the license for ABC reading eggs, which can be accessed via the internet. I will be sending home a copy of the students log in cards next week so that students can also access this program from home. This is a fantastic resource, which is simple to use and effective in encouraging reading.

Mr Barath

Mr Barath has free books to give away if you are in **Prep or Grade One**. These books are brand new and have never been read by anyone else. Some of the books are Blues Clues, Dora the Explorer, and DK Animal books. There are 30 to give away.

All you have to do is bring in a copy of a picture of you reading with someone in your family for Mr Barath's reading wall. It can be with Mum, Dad, Nanna, Grandad, Uncle, Aunty, Sister or Brother. It can be anyone reading a book with you at home. If you don't have any books to read at home, head down to the library where Mrs Bojack is giving away free library books. There are plenty to choose from.

You (or Mum or Dad) can bring your picture in on a usb, a disk or printed out already and then you can choose your book. The first people in with a photo get first choice of the books. But don't panic as there are 30 books available.

SEP News

Unfortunately, we have not received enough funding to keep Mrs Thomas on full time as an SEP teacher, this year. This means that on Fridays, Mrs Thomas' class will combine with Miss Blanche and Miss Marlene. This is very similar to what happened last year. Luckily, the class will still only have a total of 21 students and as mentioned before they will have an experienced, full time aide with them on that day.

If you have any concerns regarding the SEP please visit the office and make an appointment with either Mr Barath or Mr Shirley. Rest assured, your child's education in the SEP is still of the highest importance.

Year 6/7—Mr Crow

This week the students have been working on their English assessment task; an analysis of the persuasive techniques used in advertising. The advertisement the students are deconstructing is the 2007 Clean Up Australia Day television ad. The students have to produce a multi-modal presentation using PowerPoint.

Over the next few weeks in History the Year 7's will be investigating an ancient artefact. They will be choosing from Tutankhamen's death mask, the Terracotta Warriors or ancient Greek coins. Which one would you choose?

In Science the Year 7's have been investigating separation techniques for mixtures. The students enjoyed chromatography – a technique used by the police to solve crimes. Ask your son or daughter to demonstrate this technique. It is simple kitchen science.

Each night for homework students are expected to read. An adult needs to sign the reading sheet which has been pasted on the cover of their homework book. Please try to find some time to listen to your son or daughter read. The reading abilities of the students in Year 6/7 this year have a range of 6 years. That means some students are reading and comprehending text suitable for an 8 year old (Year 3) while others are reading materials suitable for high school (Year 9) students. Which students are going to be better prepared to cope with the demands of high school next year? Which students are more likely to become disengaged? Which student will be able to write more cohesively and imaginatively? Which student will have a larger vocabulary at their disposal? Which student will feel more confident and have a greater self-esteem? Does this sound like your child? It is never too late to start reading....

Resource Centre News

Home Library

The library has commenced a cull of some of our older resources.

We would like to offer these books to our students to take home and become part of their 'Home Library'.

During next weeks' library classes, students with a library bag will be able to choose 2 books to take home.

Each book will have a label inside the front cover that will identify if it is a 'Keep at Home Book'.

(Normal books borrowed from the library will not have the label.)

Reading Tips

1. Find a quiet place - perhaps ask your child where they would like to read.
2. Encourage all attempts and praise often.

School-Wide Positive Behaviour

School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) is a program that Central runs to encourage and promote positive behaviours. Many schools throughout Queensland identify as being a SWPBS school and some great improvements have been noted in student behaviour since it began. Each week, teachers discuss specific behaviours with their class that will enable students to make sure they are following Central's overarching school rules of "I am Safe, I am Responsible, and I am a Learner". These same behaviours and rules are also reinforced in the playground, on parade and hopefully at home!

This year we welcome Hannah Blanch (Year 4 teacher) and Deb Jenson (Year 1 teacher) to the SWPBS team as coach and team leader. We look forward to organising some great reward activities throughout the year for those students who are displaying positive and pro-social behaviours. Kids who are able to display our school rules make Central a safe and happy environment for students and staff!



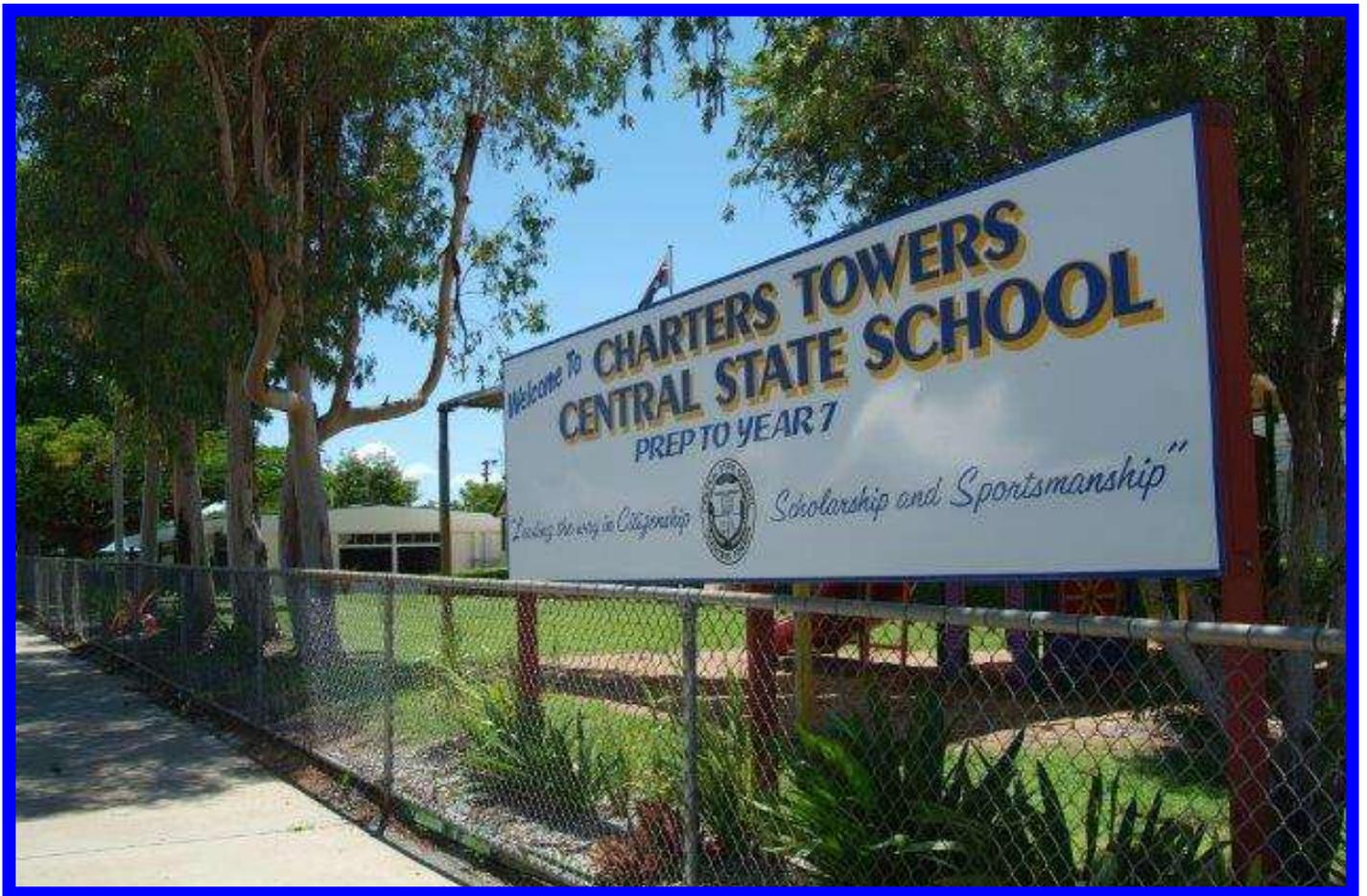
SIGN ON DAY

**SATURDAY 22ND
Feb**

Now being held at

RICHMOND HILL S S

9am to 12pm



I am Safe

I am Respectful

I am a Learner

