



# CHARTERS TOWERS CENTRAL STATE SCHOOL

# Newsletter

Produced for the Charters Towers Central State School Community



39—47 High Street

PO Box 64

Charters Towers Qld 4820

Ph: (07) 4756 2333

Student Absence Line: (07) 4756 2366

Fax: (07) 4787 2481

Email: [admin@chartowess.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@chartowess.eq.edu.au)

# Central Chatters



## *From the Principal*

Even though there are now just 10 days of school remaining for Term 1, it's still a very busy place in our classrooms at Central. All classes are about to start their end of term tests and assessments therefore this is vital that your child attends school every day right up until the school holidays. The rapid pace of the Australian Curriculum means even missing just one school day puts your child at risk of falling behind their peers. It's certainly not acceptable to have a day off each week, unless your child is sick, or has a legitimate reason.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Playgroup

Held Every Friday at  
the Prep Room

#### 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.

#### Cross Country

Thursday 3rd April

### **Reading at home**

Parents and guardians, it is vital that your child is reading at home each night, every night, regardless of their age or class. Children in the younger grades should have a home reader to read each night. These need to be read each night and returned to the school the next day for changing. Older children should be reading a small novel each week and changing this when finished at the Library. Please take a few minutes to read with your child each night, as it is vital that your child develops healthy reading habits early. Spending 20 minutes each night reading with your child equates to nearly 3 hours of reading over a 7 day period This is vital learning time.

### **Homework & Study**

Each week, students are set homework by their class teachers. It is expected that homework is completed each week, as required by their teachers. Younger grades have weekly homework that is given to students on Monday and is due back to school on Friday. Upper grades are given daily homework that must be completed every night. Homework reinforces concepts that have been taught in class that week therefore your child should be very familiar with their homework requirements. Importantly, children are well aware that if they have difficulties with their homework they must see their class teacher early in the week for support and assistance. All teachers are available before school each day to assist with homework if required. Parents, we need you to reinforce the importance of homework with your children. There are a number of cases at present whereby homework is repeatedly not being completed, resulting in these particular children falling behind their peers. Year 4 to 7 students have a number of tests and tasks that they will complete during school time over the next two weeks. All Year 4 to 7 students are aware of them and should now be preparing and studying for them to ensure they can achieve the best grade possible. Your child should not be telling you that they don't have any homework, or don't have any study to do. As the end of the term approaches, and school assessments commence, all children, especially older children, should be revising the topics covered in class time and also preparing for any assignments and tests that may have been set.

### **Interhouse Cross Country**

Charters Towers Central SS's Interhouse Cross Country will be held on Thursday 3rd April, starting just after 9am. Family members are encouraged to visit the school and cheer on the students as they complete the course. Students will need to wear suitable footwear while competing in the cross country. More information will be sent home shortly.

### **Student Details Forms**

Recently Central SS has sent home a yellow Student Details Form for families to complete. Throughout the year families change their addresses and phone details and often the school's contact information becomes incorrect. It is vital that the school is notified if you change your address or phone numbers, as if your child is involved in an emergency situation at the school, the school needs to be able to contact you immediately. Your assistance in completing the yellow Student Details forms and returning them to the school as soon as possible is appreciated. This ensures our school's records are accurate and up to date. Thank you to those families who have already returned their forms.

**Remember our  
school's number:**

**4756 2333**

**Student Absentee**

**Line:**

**4756 2366**

**Religion**

Religious Instruction is offered to all Year 1 to 7 classes at Central. RE lessons are taught by dedicated Religious Instruction teachers at Central, with lessons generally occurring in the afternoons. *If you do not want your child to participate in Religious Instruction, please send along a note to the school, or return the yellow Student Details Form, as this record needs to be updated annually.* For those students not participating in the Religious Instruction lessons, the classroom teacher remains present with these children and provides revision style activities. Contact Admin if you require further information.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**

Parent Teacher Interviews have commenced at Charters Towers Central SS. All teachers are offering interviews over the next two weeks. Your child should have already brought home an interview booking request form. If you have not received this form, and you would like to make an appointment with your teacher, simply contact our school on 47562333 and we can organise an appointment for you.

**Headlice**

Schools are places where young children gather. The very nature of their play and close proximity means they share many things. Lately we've had a number of cases of headlice at school. I would like to share some information for you regarding headlice to assist all families in treating any potential headlice outbreaks.

- Having headlice is not a sign of unhealthy habits or dirty hair.
- There is no known link between headlice and transfer of diseases.
- Anyone, any age, any gender, any ethnicity, anywhere can catch headlice.
- Schools have a greater occurrence of headlice because children play closely and share items readily.
- Nits (the eggs of head lice) are yellowish-white, oval-shaped that attach at an angle to the side of the hair shaft by glue.
- Nits (the eggs) must be laid by live lice – you cannot 'catch nits'.
- Once laid, it takes 7 – 10 days for a nit to hatch and become a louse. It then takes another 7 – 10 days for a female to mature and begin laying her own eggs.
- Head lice are clear in colour when hatched, but they develop a reddish brown colour after feeding.
- Head lice are small, wingless insects which feed on human blood and do not thrive on pets.
- Head lice are about the size of a sesame seed and have six legs with claws to grasp the hair shaft.
- They are crawling insects.
- Headlice, once removed from their human host, will starve and die in 24 hours.
- There is no 100% proven remedy for headlice. The greatest success reported is the use of hair conditioner and physical and frequent removal with a lice comb.
- Headlice will not treat themselves. If your child has headlice they will require a treatment that is readily available from a chemist or doctor. Most headlice require multiple treatments to kill the lice and their eggs.
- Schools are not allowed to send students home or segregate children who have headlice.

For more information, please contact the school office, pharmacist or your doctor.

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

It is hard to believe that the term is quickly coming to an end. Bring on Easter! This week we released our mealworms and beetles into the natural environment. Watching the mealworms grow and change was most enjoyable and placing them outside was a fitting end to our Living Things unit in Science.

Similarly, in History, Jenny and I have been finishing off our unit assessment with a brief discussion about families. We still have lots of photo collages to finish in the coming weeks.

Congratulations to Meliegha, Bradly and Grace for a great week in prep.

Kind regards, Libby Mathews.

P.S. We have noticed lots of 'things' going home in children's bags. If any little toys make it home such as animals, cars or pencils etc. please return them. All children want to play with favourite things later and don't really know what they are doing.

And finally, if the front door is closed next week please ask your child to play on the oval, with the teacher on duty. Term 1 interviews begin next Tuesday morning.

## Year 1—Miss Jensen

We have been very busy little bees in Year 1 this past fortnight. We are beginning to revise all of our learning from the Term to be ready to begin our Unit assessment pieces over the next few weeks. Our assessment items include creating a habitat for an animal, creating a dance to reflect different emotions, discussing our ideas of what makes a great story and much more!

We have begun a new classroom reward system in line with our whole-school rules: I am Safe, Respectful and a Learner. As well as receiving a ticket to Friday's draw on Parade, students in Grade 1 also receive a "Reward Face" which is placed on their chart in the classroom. When students have obtained 5 Reward Faces, they are able to swap them for a Reward Card. Reward Cards are then used during our 10 minutes rest time after Big Lunch, with prizes such as wear a crazy hat, play a musical instrument, do a painting, wear a dress-up costume, play the iPad. The favourite reward card chosen is to use the camera. We have some budding photographers in our Year 1 class and I wanted to share some of their photos they have taken during this time.



## Year 2—Miss Cran

Congratulations to Mirabel and Kayesla for receiving class student of the week awards for their improvements in reading. We have had a few students bring in their materials to make their lunchboxes. We will be making these lunchboxes next week, so there is still time to gather any clean plastic bottles, cardboard, aluminium foil, fabric, wool or string.

We had a very successful Crazy Hair Day to help raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation. Almost everyone in the class had their hair looking fabulous to contribute to this very important cause.

Parent/Teacher interview confirmation notes have been sent home to those who have requested an interview. Please let me know if you are no longer able to attend the allocated time so other arrangements can be made. Also a reminder about the Easter raffle; tickets will now be on sale before school in my classroom, as well in Mr Crow's.



## Year 3—Mr Moore

It is now the end of Week 8 and therefore we are near the end of Term 1. This means the students are coming to a very busy time when most final assessment pieces will be due for the term. This is a very important part of the term and therefore students need to be at school as much as possible.

Parent/ Teacher interview notes have been handed out this week and will be commencing in Week 9 and finishing in Week 10. If you have not received a note please let me know and I will print out a new one. These interviews are a great way for us to keep in contact and make sure we both understand what the student's strengths and weaknesses are and what they need to focus on.

Next term the students will also be completing their Technology assessment. They will need to start collecting items and thinking about their design for a boat that travels over the Great Barrier Reef.

Some students at this point in the term still do not have all the required equipment to complete tasks at school, which is making it quite difficult for all. Could you please ask your child if there is anything they are missing at school and need? The main items needed are glue, scissors, ruler, rubber and books.

Student behaviour is improving and that is a testament to the work being done at home and in the classroom. Well done all!

## Year 4—Mrs Thomas & Miss Blanch

The end of the term is in sight and Year 4 have begun working on final assessment pieces for most subjects. In English we are investigating humour in poetry. Ask your child about Spoonerisms, a device poets use to create fun! (Hint: this is one - Runny Babbit). Year fours were looking funky last week. Many of them supporting the student council with their coloured crops of hair!

Parent/teacher interviews are in progress this week and next. If you want to know how your child is going at school, this is the time. See your teacher for availability.

### Reading Tip!

“Are we there yet?”

Use the time spent in the car or bus for wordplay. Talk about how jam means something you put on toast as well as cars stuck in traffic. How many other homonyms can your child think of? When kids are highly familiar with the meaning of a word, they have less difficulty reading it.



## Year 5/6—Miss Boyle

Grade 5/6 has been very busy in the last few weeks as we try to complete assessment items and begin to learn about new topics. The majority of students are maintaining a positive attitude and are producing some great results. Over the term we have been having class discussions about how the students are now at an age where they are ‘reading to learn’ rather than ‘learning to read’. We discuss how we can find new information, things we have learnt from reading, something we have found interesting or funny in a book and also share our favourite authors and stories. These conversations are all meant to encourage and inspire students to want to read. Many students are jumping ahead in leaps and bounds due to the amount of literature that they read and are exposed to. I encourage all parents to have these conversations with your children and show them the benefits of reading.

## Mr Barath's Reading Rampage

With the end of the term fast approaching students are getting into the serious mode of consolidating what they have learnt so far this year. Homework becomes very important in reinforcing basic spelling, tables and reading : the building blocks of your child's literacy and numeracy and the platform from which their education rocket launches. If these basic skills are not reviewed regularly their rocket won't shoot for the moon and instead end up bobbing in the ocean.

Sometimes doing these basic drills with someone other than the teacher each day is all it takes to give your child that little edge she/he needs to improve their skills exponentially. So here are Mr Barath's top homework time tips.

**Number 1 – Quality over quantity – Set a time limit** and stick to it. If you are doing more than twenty minutes each day you may need to see your teacher.

**Number 2 – One at a time – One child : One Parent** if possible when it comes to homework. It makes the time a little bit less stressful for everyone and a little bit more special for your child.

**Number 3 – Plan for it – Days, times and places** should be set if possible on at least a weekly basis. We all have unexpected things happen but if the schedule is usually applied it will usually be successful.

**Number 4 – Make it fun – Join in and have a laugh.** Have milk and biscuits while you/they work through it. Swap roles and you read to them (making mistakes they have to pick up), give a smartie for every correct table or make up funny sentences with your spelling words.

## Year 6/7—Mr Crow

This is an extremely busy time of the term with both Year 6 and Year 7 students completing assessment tasks. All students have received a task sheet and a Guide to Making Judgements which explain what is required and what they need to do to achieve certain results. There is no excuse for any child not knowing what they have to do and when it is required to be finished. These deadlines have to be met or their overall grades will be affected.

Every day a number of students are asked to remain in class during first break to correct homework which has been carelessly done or poorly presented. Some of the problem stem from poor listening skills and poor proof reading skills. However, of greater concern is an attitude that the student think they know best and fail to set out work as shown. These students invariably always get their work wrong. In addition, there are several students who are failing to read each night. Did you predict that these are the students who can least afford to not be reading?

One of my teachers had a saying: “You can take a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink.” The same applies to children – we can facilitate their learning, offer them all the support in the world but if they don’t want to listen and try to do what you ask, then learning will not occur. Hopefully there will be a noticeable improvement in attitude towards schooling in Term 2.

A reminder to parents and students: those students wishing to attend both the Year 6 and Year 7 camp must display appropriate behaviour and meet all school work requirements to be able to participate in these excursions. The students are required to bring a piece of thin material (cotton) approximately 50cm by 50 cm and several pegs to school to work on our next art activity. If you don’t have material at home other relatives or friends may be able to assist.



**Under 20's Cowboys Players**

## From the Sports Shed: Mrs Miller

This week, we had a visit from some of the Under 20's Cowboys Players. This was our first visit as part of the Cowboys Adopt a School Program. These players, Ben and Hayden, were given the chance to look at students work across the school and see the wonderful writing, reading, maths and art activities each class has been doing. They then enjoyed kicking the footy on the oval at morning tea. The students really enjoyed sharing their school work and asking the players questions about their training and health.

This Friday, both our Rugby League and Netball teams will be out all day at the trial matches. This is a very big day and at the end a Charters Towers team for both sports will be selected. Well done to all the boys and girls in these teams for their wonderful dedication to training and the great sportsmanship they have displayed so far. A little motto that I like to live by when competing in team sports and training various teams is: "Win without boasting, Lose without excuses." I believe both these teams have followed this motto in there last few games. Keep it up and good luck! A huge thank-you to Mr Moore and Miss Blanch who have also helped to train both teams.

Don't forget cross country is on in week 10 of this term (Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April). This will take place between 9:00am and 11:00am. All students who attend school on that day will participate. We have spoken about "trying your best" and "giving it a go" so students can come along and enjoy the morning and earn some valuable points for their sports house. All classes will walk/run the course next week.

Keep coming down to the oval on Thursday and Friday mornings for our Walk Around Australia. Next week we are going to have "double" points for all students and adults who turn up. I am not going to share how far each house has walked as it is getting close to revealing the winning house. Keep on walking everyone!!!!

