

Central Chatters

From the Principal



I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to all our families and community members and trust that you had a relaxing and rewarding Easter holiday. Term 2 is ten weeks in duration and already the school calendar is filling up fast with activities. As always, it is very important that your child attends school every day, all day, as this is the best method of ensuring your child has a quality education.

Prep Classroom Upgrade

Over the Easter vacation the Central SS Prep classroom commenced an extensive upgrade. The work was due to be complete in time for Term 2 however there have been a number of unexpected and unfortunate delays. As this newsletter goes to print, the new lino floor covering have been laid and the new air-conditioning units are almost installed. The contractors are planning to work over the weekend to endeavour to have the room ready for Prep to use from Monday next week. It is unfortunate that Prep have not been able to use the upgraded facilities this week however it is anticipated that students will return to the Prep room early next week.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN testing will be held this term from Tuesday 14th to Thursday 16th May. NAPLAN is a valuable tool for schools and parents to understand and improve the literacy and numeracy outcomes of our students. Upon completion of the NAPLAN testing, parents will be provided with a report on how well their child is performing in literacy and numeracy against the national average. Schools and teachers also use NAPLAN data to improve teaching and learning in the classroom. NAPLAN is not a pass/fail test. It is one of a number of important tools used by teachers to measure student progress. The NAPLAN test is also a 'point in time' test – the school conducts regular, ongoing assessment throughout the school year to monitor each child's progress. NAPLAN tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. It is not a test students can 'prepare' for. As a parent or carer of a student participating in NAPLAN, you can best help your child before the tests by making them feel comfortable about the nature and purpose of the tests. You can reassure your child that the tests will contain questions similar to those that they have completed in their regular classroom learning and assessment. You can also reassure them that the assessments will give them an opportunity to show what they have learned in class. As mentioned above, the testing will occur for all children in Years 3, 5 and 7 from Tuesday through to Thursday in mid May. It is therefore vital that your child attends school on each of these days to enable them to participate in the testing. If, for any reason that your child is away during the testing period, please let the school know ASAP, as we can then reschedule the testing for your child. I'd like to wish our Year 3, 5 and 7 students the very best of luck with their NAPLAN.

ANZAC Day

This Thursday, 25th April, is ANZAC Day, and as such the school will be closed for the public holiday. Charters Towers Central SS Leaders will attend the Dawn Service at 5.40am at the ANZAC Memorial on the Gregory Development Road, just north of Charters Towers. All students are invited to attend the Dawn Service. Students are also requested to attend the ANZAC Day march. Students are asked to meet outside Tony Ireland Holden at 9am, with the march commencing at 9.15am. The march will conclude at the Cenotaph near the hospital for the traditional ANZAC Day service. Students are asked to wear their full school uniforms, closed in shoes, wear a hat and bring a water bottle. A permission note will be sent home early next week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Playgroup

Held every
Wednesday and
Friday. Everyone is
welcome to attend

Parade

Held every Monday
afternoon starting
2.40 in the Hall

Active After School

New forms will be
sent home at the
start of term 2

P&C Meeting

Wednesday 24th
3.15pm April

Family Photo Day

Saturday 1st June
More information
will be sent out in
term 2

**Remember our
school's new
number:
4756 2333**

**Student
Absentee Line:
4756 2366**

Student Details Forms

Attached with today's newsletter are Student Details forms. They are pale blue in colour. It is vital the school has the most up to date, current parent/guardian contact information, including phone numbers and addresses. In the event of an emergency, the school needs to be able to contact parents/guardians as quickly as possible, and therefore having correct contact information is crucial. If there are any changes to your child's custody arrangements, or you would like to include members of the public who are able to collect your child on your behalf, these details need to also be included on the forms. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Tuckshop Resumes

Tuckshop commences next week on Monday's at Central. New menus have been included with today's newsletter. Kaylene will be operating the tuckshop each Monday during Term 2.

Autism Awareness Day

Charters Towers Central State School will be celebrating Autism Awareness Day on Tuesday 23rd April. All students and staff are encouraged to wear blue on Tuesday to celebrate Autism Awareness Day. Further information is contained within today's newsletter.

Playgroup Relocation

Playgroup will recommence shortly at Central and will now be housed at D Block, near the tuckshop. This area provides close access to toilets, a fenced play area, quiet learning areas away from student classrooms and space for parents to socialise and interact. Miss Deb will be contacting playgroup families shortly to advise when playgroup will recommence. Remember playgroup is open to all families in the Charters Towers area provided an adult family member stays with the child at all times for insurance purposes.

Pre-Service Teachers

This term four Student Teachers from James Cook University will be joining our school Stacey Reiffel, Lauren Germanotta, Claire Brierley and Kaitlan Bowman are studying to be teachers at university and will be based in the Prep, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5/6 classrooms. Welcome ladies.

History Commences

From this term, all classes at Central SS will be teaching History lessons each week, aligning with the National Curriculum. This is the first time History has been taught at Central officially for many years and most teachers are eagerly planning their new lessons. Students will be learning about the colonisation of Australia, ancient civilizations and family trees. It is an exciting new phase for our students at Central SS and further cements our school's focus on providing quality educational outcomes for all students that are consistent with other schools right across the country.

Nick Shirley
Principal

We will remember them
ANZAC DAY
25 April 2013



Prep- Miss Mathews

Hello everyone.

I trust you had a wonderful break over Easter and like me, are looking forward to the term ahead.

Hopefully, we will be back in our building sometime next week. My fingers are crossed for Wednesday. With this in mind, please come up to the big school again on Monday. I will let you know how everything is going Monday afternoon.

We have an exciting term planned as we will be introducing History into the prep curriculum. A first for me and the preppies. As our History unit is about our family, I will need your help to start collecting special family photographs and baby photos. I will bring in my scanner so I can scan photos and hand them straight back to you. In this unit, we will need lots of photos to stimulate discussions and complete personal timelines and family trees. Please collect a small collection of photos e.g. a baby photo, a toddler photo, a photo from a holiday or special event, siblings, extended family and so on and bring them into prep when you have a chance.

ANZAC Day and Country Music Parade

Please keep in mind the ANZAC Day March and Country Music Parade. All children are welcome to participate. The ANZAC march starts at Tony Island Holden at around 9.00am on Thursday 25 April and the Country Music Parade is on Friday 3 May. A permission note will go home soon.



Yr 1- Miss Bowen

It's good to see everyone back safe from holidays and I'm looking forward to settling into our routine once again.

In Term 2 we are going to continue to focus on comprehending texts and understanding the features and descriptions of characters. In our first Math unit we will be looking at directions, patterns, telling time, place value and fractions. In Science our focus is on the properties of materials and finding out why items are made out of certain things, like why a saucepan would be no good if it was made out of rubber! In History we will be looking at the similarities and differences in family life by comparing the past and the present and looking at the different words that describe time. Some items will be required to be brought in from home in order for your child to complete their assessment.

It is going to be very busy in class each day and it is important to make sure your child comes to school every day to ensure they do not miss any lessons vital for final assessments for this semester.

Homework will continue and students will now have math consolidation each week for the topics we are learning in class, as well as spelling, home reading and sight words as usual. If you have any concerns please make a time to see me. Thank you very much to those parents who are giving extra support and help at home in the areas that need assistance, it is great to see so much involvement in learning.



AUTISM AWARENESS:

23rd April

I'm BLUE ba ba de da dum.

Come and join in the fun.

Totally no cost.

Wear sun safe school appropriate BLUE clothes.

Year 2—Miss Cran

Welcome back to term two! I'm sure everyone had a lovely break. We have a very busy term ahead of us so it is really important that your child's attendance is consistent. There are a few children that have lots of outstanding in class assessment from last term, due to high levels of absenteeism. Also if your child happens to be away please let me or the office know so it is not marked as an unexplained absence.

This term we are starting our first history unit which investigates daily life and items from the past. Also a reminder from my last newsletter message, there are still a few students that need to bring along some additional or replacement supplies. Glue is one of the main items that a lot of children seem to have run out of. Please check with your child to see if they have run out of anything they need for school.

Year 3—Miss Boyle

This term we gladly welcome back Mrs Stacey Reiffel who is continuing her fourth year prac placement at Central. She will be working in our classroom until the end of week two. This term we will be focusing on persuasive writing, the history of celebrations and commemorations, 3D shapes, two digit subtraction, times tables and observations of shadows created by the Earth's rotation and the sun.

A gentle reminder that homework is due every Friday and students are encouraged to read a book every night. If your child has lost their sightword book please ask them to tell me so that I can make them a new one. If they would like to be tested to get a new list then please place the sightword book on my desk. Thank you.

Year 4—Miss Williamson

In English this term, students will read and analyse traditional stories from Asia. For the assessment task, they will write a traditional story with a moral or message for a younger audience. The students will also listen to, read and view information and stories from Aboriginal peoples' and Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories and cultures. For this assessment task, they will create an informative multimodal presentation.

In Maths, the focus for the first 5 weeks will be on number and place value, fractions and decimals and shapes.

Our unit for science is called Ready, Set, Grow. Students will investigate life cycles. They will examine relationships between living things and their dependence on the environment.

We commenced our first History unit this week. Students will:

- recognise connections between world history events and the history of Australia
- investigate the journeys of the great explorers from the 1400s to the late 1700s and how these resulted in colonisation and the building of empires around the globe
- use provided sources to examine the journeys that led to Australia's colonisation by the English through the arrival of the First Fleet, the establishment of the first settlement in Sydney Cove and the early days of the colony
- sequence key events related to the colonisation of Australia
- describe the experiences of a convict who travelled on the First Fleet and identify how life changed.

New reading sheets have been glued into homework books to be signed nightly. Please encourage neatness.

Thank-you to those parents who have provided their children with the required materials ready for the commencement of this term. Essential items are lead pencils, a ruler, rubber, glue and scissors.

Yr 5/6 Mr Moore

Welcome back Year 5/6. I hope everyone enjoyed their break and are ready to come back to school. As we all know this term will go very quickly and it won't be too long when all of the students' assessment is done and we will be ready for reports. I hope the students can continue their hard work they showed they could do in first term and produce on our final Semester One pieces of assessment. I congratulate the same students who continue to complete their homework on time and in a well presented manner.

In the next couple of weeks our Year 5 students will complete the NAPLAN standardised assessment. These couple of days will be quite stressful for the students and I do encourage them to get a very good night's sleep and a have a hearty breakfast so that they are in peak condition.

Learning Centre - Mrs Wood-Brown

Welcome back to school. We are going to be very busy this term with extra curricula events and school events. Next week is ANZAC Day. I would love to see my whole class in uniform marching with our school. We meet at the corner near Holden at 9:15 on the 25th of April. We also have Autism Awareness day on the 23rd of April. Your child simply needs come dressed in sun safe blue clothes. No money is required.

Next week, we are going to be going on weekly excursions to Woolworths and cooking. This is to assist us with money, time, social abilities and our mental computations.

I am really impressed with the attitudes and behaviour of my students the last couple of days. They have been working hard and trying their very best.

Please ensure your child comes to school with everything they need for school as this makes it easier for them to be successful.

Learning Centre - Mr Barath

Welcome back to Term 2 and a very special welcome to our new student Harley who joins our group this term. At the start of this term we will be focusing on the two significant cultural events that are quickly approaching on our calendar; ANZAC Day and the Charters Towers Country Music Festival.

We will be trialling a new reading resource called "Reading Our Way" which has been designed by the Down Syndrome Association of Australia. We will be using the activities it provides to learn whole word shapes rather than learning the words phonetically, which proves to be ineffective for some students. We will be continuing our mathematical focus on number and be exploring 2d and 3d shapes. In Science, we move away from plants and begin to learn about energy and the different forms it can take.

Later this term we hope to dazzle parents and friends with a special afternoon of art, technology and cooking skills. Details of this prestigious event will be revealed in the very near future.

Looking forward to seeing you all dressed in your blue outfits to support Autism Awareness on 23rd April.

Yr 6/7 Mr Crow

Welcome back to Term 2. This is a busy term for many of our upper school students who participate in with cultural and sporting events. The Country Music Festival is just around the corner. There is also the interschool cross country, and an interschool touch competition. Add to this, Charters Towers trials for tennis and soccer.

While all these extra-curricular activities are on offer it is important that the students focus on their academic work. In week five of this term our Year 3, 5 and 7 students will undertake NAPLAN tests. These tests provide a point in time snap shot of where your child stands in relation to other students in their year level. However, of equal importance is the need for your child to focus on their classroom units of work, and strive to do their best. It is most important that all activities are completed and handed-in by the due deadlines.

This term the students will learn how historians and archaeologists investigate the past- how they gather evidence, and how they analyse and interpret the past. In English they will continue to develop their persuasive writing and will write a memoir. In Science we will investigate forces, gravity, friction and simple machines. In Technology the students will be challenged to build a 'mouse trap racer' which travels over the longest distance possible. Who will be our mouse trap racer champion?

From the Sports Shed— Mrs Miller

What a busy term we had in the sports department last term. It has been wonderful to see all children participating in their PE lessons. Keep it up!

Last term, we saw many students in Years 5, 6 and 7 try out for the Charters Towers District team for Rugby League and Netball. It was pleasing to see the improvements each week and the dedication and commitment the students had during all their training sessions and the many games that they played during the trial day. Special congratulations goes to Tedi-Annah Pehi, William Reid and Ethan Kerr who made it into the possible/probables matches.

This term there will be trial days coming up for girls and boys soccer, girls and boys touch football, tennis and girls softball. I will get more information out to those interested when the packages become available.

A huge congratulations must go to all students who participated in our Interhouse Cross Country. We had a beautiful day with perfect running conditions. A special thank you to all staff who helped out on the day and encouraged each child to finish. The cheering from each house was amazing and really helped everyone to run faster and finish. The winning house of the day was Matilda on 102 points, Billabong came in second on 80 points and third place went to Coolibah on 68 points. The new Run Around Australia trophy went to Matilda. A special congratulation to our 2013 age champions:

9 year old boy: Patrick Pehi	9 year old girl: Yasmin Petchprasit
10 year old boy: Jester Petchprasit	10 year old girl: Crystal-Lee Walsh
11 year old boy: Avan Thomson	11 year old girl: Stephanie Lowe
12 year old boy: Cadeem Morganson	12 year old girl: Tedi-Annah Pehi
13 year old boy: Daryl Wenn	13 year old girl: Antonia Foster

Most of these students are now off to the Interschool Cross country on Tuesday 30th April. It is going to be held at Columba Catholic College, Mt Carmel Campus. More information will be handed out this week.

This term in our PE lessons, we will be focusing on athletics in preparation for our carnival which will be held in Term 3 on the 25th July. Our health lessons all have a food focus this term and students will be looking at the healthy food pyramid, ways in which food can help fuel our bodies, why breakfast is important and setting food goals.

Looking forward to another busy term.

Country Music Parade

The theme for this year's parade is 'Digging For Gold'. The parade will be held on Friday the 3rd of May. We have chosen to decorate the truck as a scene from the Goldfields and will be called 'Life on the Goldfields'. As part of our presentation we are including the Chinese miners as they were a big part of rush to find gold.

We are asking students to come dressed as either a Chinese miner or Market Gardener, or a miner from Australia or Europe. (We will label the backs of shirts prior to the parade to pretend they have come from various countries.)

Miners Costumes could include:-

- * Old faded hat, old faded shirts, scarf, beard, old long pants, some wore vests
- * The Chinese miner and gardener wore similar clothes
- * Large hats with point at top, some had long dark beards, cotton tunic and $\frac{3}{4}$ or long cotton pants (similar to summer pyjamas with no collar)
- * Women and children on the goldfields helped as well by mining alongside their men folk.

Below are some pictures to guide you. If you are able to assist in anyway please contact the school.

