

Central Chatters

From the Principal

I'd like to firstly congratulate the children at Central for their fantastic efforts in the classrooms. All classes are now beginning to revise the concepts that have been taught in term, and will shortly commence their mid term assessments. Student attendance at present is becoming a concern at Central, with a number of children beginning to regularly miss school days. As a state school, we are required by law to report to police any children who have frequently unexplained absences, which can result in parents being charged for not ensuring their child attends school. Parents and guardians, it's vital that your child continues to attend school every day, especially at this vital time in the term. If children miss just one day from school, they will quickly begin to fall behind their peers, which only makes learning more difficult. Classroom teachers are now sending home Student Unexplained Absence Letters each Monday. These letters contain details of unexplained student absences for the previous week and include a section whereby parents/guardians can state the reasons for their children's absences. The completed letters must be returned to school ASAP so that our school records can be amended and remain up to date. Thank you to those parents who have already returned their letters.

Country Music Festival

The annual Charters Towers Country Music Street Parade will be held this Friday afternoon from 5pm. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all who have been involved in this year's float. Children are asked to come dressed in a gold mining theme—old country clothes, old hats, old boots, belts etc—basically worn country work wear. A special Country Music parade will be held tomorrow morning, starting just after 9am. Country Music Festival judges will be at school to award best dressed prizes to children who are in costume.

All children from the school will be involved in this year's parade, with children asked to meet at the park near the Fire Station by 5pm tomorrow afternoon. Children must be collected behind the World Theatre at the conclusion of the parade, which is expected around 6pm. Parents are requested to see staff members at the park before the parade commences and ensure correct mobile phone details are provided.

ANZAC Day

I would like to congratulate all children who attended the ANZAC Day services, held in Charters Towers last week. I would especially like to congratulate our School Captains Jack and Amy, and Chrystal-Lee who also attended the both the ANZAC services. Central State School had 59 students participating, which was a real credit to our school community. Congratulations Central SS for showing your respect to the ANZAC's.



NAPLAN

Parents are reminded that NAPLAN testing will be held from Tuesday 14th May through to Thursday 16th May, with Year 3, 5 and 7 students sitting the tests. Students in Prep, Year 1, 2, 4 & 6 will have normal school classes. Our Year 3, 5 and 7 teachers have been working hard to ensure the students are well prepared and ready to do their best. Attendance, leading up to and on the day of the tests, continues to be of vital importance. High levels of absenteeism have a huge effect on student achievement and student engagement. Please help us by encouraging your child to attend school every day. **Every Day Counts!**



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

Tuesdays & Wednesdays. Must return permission form before students can participate

P&C Meeting

Wednesday 15th
3.15pm May

Family Photo Day

Saturday 1st June
Book your place now

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

**Student Absentee Line:
4756 2366**

Student Details Forms

Earlier this term blue coloured Student Details forms were sent home to all parents. 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.

District Cross Country Trials

Earlier this week, the Charters Towers District Cross Country trials were held at All Souls. I would like to congratulate Skye, Ella, Jayden, Cadeem, Tedi, Storm, William, Clay, Chrystal-Lee, Kyron, Montana, Stephanie and Jester who represented Central proudly on the day. The course was challenging and the competition fierce. While Charters Towers Central SS did not have any children selected to represent Charters Towers, all children tried their best on the day. Congratulations students.

**Tuckshop Resumes**

Tuckshop has resumed at Central. New menus have been sent home and are available from the office. Kaylene will be operating the tuckshop each Monday during Term 2.

Numeracy – how families and schools can work together

To support your child's efforts at school you can continue the lessons they learn in the classroom by helping them to develop their numeracy skills at home. You may feel that the maths your children do at school is different to what you were taught, but you can help in many ways:

- * Help your child to enjoy the maths they do at school by offering encouragement and asking about the work they bring home from school
- * When travelling, play games such as counting the cars by colour or if you are travelling by bus or train ask your child to read the timetable to decide what time you'll get home
- * Talk to you child about how numeracy is related to sports – to keep score, measure distance and indicate time
- * Involve your child when preparing a meal and help them decide how much food to prepare for the whole family and whether there will be enough ingredients
- * When shopping, use the catalogue specials to talk about discounts and whether it is cheaper to buy larger-sized products or a few smaller products
- * Talk with your child's teacher about numeracy at home and at school and raise any concerns with them.

For more ideas on helping your child with their numeracy visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

Have a wonderful week everyone.

Nick Shirley—Principal Charters Towers Central SS

THANK YOU.

The staff of the Learning Centre would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to the whole school for their participation in Blue Day. It was a great success and lot of fun. We all love a chance to dress out of our uniforms.

Prep- Miss Mathews

Prep has had another great week and we are all really happy to be back in our old building. At times it has felt like the first week of school again but that is to be expected with everyone getting to know the routines and expectations of our environment.

This week we continued learning about recounts and how to write a good story. We have been sequencing stories and discussing time order words, such as first, next, then, after that and so on. Please support your child at home by getting them to orally re-tell a special event. They could talk about their birthday or a family outing for example. Encourage them to say who, when and where for the beginning of their story, as well as using some time order words.

SNACK TIME

As winter approaches, we would like to add snack time into our morning routine. Please place one item in the snack bowl for your child to eat. This will sit on the bench so items not needing the fridge are best.

FAMILY PHOTOS

Please remember to bring in some family photos for your child to use at school. We will photocopy them and return your originals safely.

Have a great weekend everyone and enjoy the Country Music Festival. Kind regards, Libby, Jenny and Emma.

Yr 1- Miss Bowen

Thank you to everyone who has brought in their boxes, milestone sheet, important keepsakes and baby photographs for our 'time capsule' in History this Term. The year ones were very cute little babies! If you have not yet brought in any of these items please do so ASAP. If you have misplaced the milestone sheet please let me know so I can send home another.

I will shortly be sending home a note asking for additional equipment your child may need during this term as they have already finished some of their original supplies. Please check with your child if they need anything else at school.

It is fantastic to see how great our attendance is in Year one, with the majority of students coming every day. Each day at school counts and will reflect in your child's understanding of the different concepts we are learning. Remember homework is due on a Friday and it is expected home readers be returned each week so a new book can be sent home. Homework is a great chance to see how your child is going with the concepts being taught at school each week.

Please keep reading at home and practicing sight words. The Year one benchmark for the end of Semester 1 in Sight Words is List 15, and for PM home readers we hope to be reading at level 8. It's exciting to see a few of us already past those targets. Well Done!



Year 2—Miss Cran

We are well into the swing of things this term and are very busily working on many exciting tasks. In English we have been looking at breaking stereotypes and have read and discussed many stories that have non-stereotypical characters, including a dragon that loves to do ballet.

2D and 3D shapes have been a focus for maths, as well as investigating the layout of the classroom and how objects best fit within the space.

For science we are learning about different types of movement and have started by discovering how a variety of toys move. This has been linked with the topic of the weekly talks that the children do.

In history we are learning how to make timelines and looking at how common items have changed over time.

Another reminder to please purchase any school supplies that you child has run out of or is missing.

Year 3—Miss Boyle

This week grade three has been excited to have Mrs Thomas's class move up beside our room. There are many wonderful benefits of having the two classes working side by side as the opportunity for integration increases.

Our History lessons are proving to be very interesting as we begin to learn about culture, celebrations and commemorations around the world. Students are beginning to ask questions about their own culture and family history, which has led to fantastic discussions within the classroom and hopefully this will occur at home as well.

NAPLAN testing will begin on the 14th of May and over the next two weeks grade three will continue to practice their persuasive writing, problem solving skills and spelling strategies. Best of luck to all students.

Year 4—Miss Williamson

Thank-you to those students who participated in the ANZAC Day march last Thursday. I hope to see a little more of the class represented this Friday in the Country Music Festival.

In Science at present, students are growing grass, radishes and coriander. We are learning about the needs of living things and whether environmental factors such as temperature affect their growth.

In Maths, the students are learning strategies to assist them with multiplication facts, which they have been reinforcing through homework tasks. The students have been issued with a challenge in regards to learning their times tables. It will be interesting to see who takes up the offer!

The students are really enjoying learning about the journey of the First Fleet. We have had many interesting discussions about life in England during the 1700's and conditions aboard the transport ships.

Learning Centre - Mrs Wood-Brown

Winter is coming—please ensure your child has a jacket on cooler mornings as our classrooms take a little longer to heat up.

In English we are working on creating a cartoon. The kids are using the short stories they wrote last term as the basis of their cartoon. To assist them in this area we made 'Thumbatrons' which amazed us all.

Homework is going home every Monday and needs to be returned every Friday. Please ensure your child takes their time and LEARNS their spelling words. Unfortunately, due to rushing I can not read some homework and students are having to re-do in their lunch break.

Math is a bit of a challenge this term as we are doing multiplication. Thank you to Karen Louk for lending us the CD. Measurement is interesting with little real life tidbits that are amazing the students. Please ask them about the correlation between their foot length and wrist to elbow length.

I am really impressed with Tyreece, Anna and Colin as they are working extremely hard to improve their education. Fantastic work!

Yr 5/6 Mr Moore

Year 5/6 are continuing their hard work throughout all aspects of the school. We have some students participating in the upcoming Friday afternoon touch football and training for the soccer trials which will be coming up on the 10th May. We also had 6 students from the class go interschool cross country trials on Tuesday with some pleasing results. I congratulate each of the students who participated and hope that next year we see even more involved.

As we all know this term is going very quickly and it won't be too long when all of the student's assessment is done and we will be ready for reports. I hope the students can continue their hard work 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.

I hope everyone enjoys the Ten days in the Towers and makes the most of these celebrations.

Yr 6/7 Mr Crow

Well done to all the students (especially the twelve students from Year 6/7) who participated in the Anzac Day parade. Thank you to the parents who supported and encouraged their children to march. ANZAC Day has arguably become the most important day on the Australian calendar. It is vital that the ANZAC message is fostered with our youth and that those members who have made the ultimate sacrifice be remembered.

It was also wonderful watching our School Captains, Amy and Jack, perform their official duties at both the Dawn Service and the Main Service with poise and respect.

Both the Year 6 and Year 7 students have been studying History for the past three weeks. From the discussion in the Year 7 History lessons it appears that the students are enjoying learning about the roles of archaeologists and historians in uncovering our past.

The students have begun investigating how to transform their mouse trap into long distance 'racers'. The students have to overcome the major problem of how to attach their wheels so that they run smoothly if they are to create the best racer possible.

Don't forget the Country Music Festival Parade this Friday. It is a great afternoon! Join in! When else can you dress up as miner and walk down Gill Street? I look forward to seeing as many Year 6/7 students as possible participating in this fun school event.

