

Central Chatters

From the Principal



The school term is literally flying past, with the teachers already planning their end of term assessment items and planning for report cards. This Friday marks the halfway point of the school term, and with only 5 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.

Parental Behaviour at Central

Over the last week there have been a very small number of cases in which parents have behaved inappropriately at Central SS and have been abusive towards school staff. This behaviour has not been experienced at Central for a number of years and is concerning. Most incidents have occurred after school. Incidents whereby parents/carers verbally or physically abuse school staff members or students will not be tolerated and may be referred to the Police for investigation. This includes the following:

- The person has committed or is about to commit an offence
- Has used or is about to use threatening, abusive or insulting language towards another person
- Has engaged in or is about to engage in threatening or violent behaviour towards another person
- Does not have a lawful reason to be at the school.

Staff working at schools, not just Central, deserve to feel safe and must be treated in a respectful manner at all times. All school principals have powers to exclude adults from school facilities for periods of 24 hours or longer if it is deemed the adult poses a verbal or physical threat to students and staff at the school. This directive is called an EGPA Directive and bans the offending adult from entering or being near school facilities for a period of time. Central SS teaches children to be Safe, Respectful Learners at school and it is expected the school's parent/guardian community will follow these expectations while within the school's vicinity. I would like to applaud the 99% of Central parents/carers who behave in a respectful manner while at Central at all times. This is valued and appreciated by our school community.

Teaching and Learning Audit

Last week our school undertook a Teaching and Learning Audit to determine whether our school's curriculum and assessment practices were satisfactory, or required further development. The Audit was completed by an Education Queensland appointed Principal from the Capricorn region and was independent of the school. Almost all teaching staff, some parents and also a number of students participated in the Audit, providing feedback to the auditor, based on 8 key areas. These 8 areas have a grading system ranging from Low, Medium, High to Outstanding. The auditor undertook professional discussions with our school staff and students, and the feedback was very honest and directed. I am very pleased to announce our school was awarded Highs in all areas of the audit—8 highs in total. This means our school, when compared to other state schools across QLD, has very high curriculum, teaching and learning practice. Our school's reading program, SWPBS, use of student achievement data to inform planning, and assessment practices were all nominated as outstanding practice - on par with the best in the state. Further audit findings, including commendations, affirmations and recommendations will be forwarded to the school over the next two weeks. The initial audit findings were shared with the school P&C during this week's meeting. The results further indicate that Central SS is a great school that is an educational leader both in the Charters Towers region and also the state. I would like to congratulate our school staff for their dedicated efforts both in the classroom and throughout the school, as the audit findings are a direct reflection of the passion our team has for our students.

NAPLAN testing

I'd like to congratulate our Year 3, 5 and 7 students who sat the nationwide NAPLAN tests this week. The tests were very challenging, particularly for the Year 3 students who sat their first formal school tests. I'd like to commend our Year 3, 5 and 7 students who sat the test for trying their hardest to complete the tests to the best of their ability. Well done students. I'd like to also acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Year 3, 5 and 7 teachers who have prepared our students for the tests. The tests have now been posted to Brisbane for marking, with the school due to receive the results in Term 4 this year.

School Break Ins

Over the last few days our school has been broken into on numerous occasions, resulting in a number of windows smashed and general school vandalism. The offenders stole student fundraising materials (icy cups, toffees etc) and appeared to be looking for small change and money at the school. The police were involved on all occasions and early information indicates the offenders have been dealt with. I'd like to thank our teachers, cleaners, students and also parents/guardians for supporting us during this difficult period.

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 19th 3.15pm June

Family Photo Day

Saturday 1st June
Book your place now

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

**Student Absentee Line:
4756 2366**

Soccer Trials

Last week a number of Charters Towers Central SS students attended the district Soccer Trials, held at the PCYC. During the trials, our students played games against each primary school in Charters Towers with selectors viewing the games to determine which students would be chosen to represent the Charters Towers District. Cadeem, Stephanie and Faith were selected into the Charters Towers District Soccer Team. Congratulations students.

**Parents/Guardians Visiting School**

Parents/Guardians are gently reminded that they must visit the school Office when collecting their child or delivering items to the classroom. Parents are not permitted to visit classrooms during the day without firstly notifying the Office. This is to ensure the school is aware of which parents/guardians/visitors are on the school site in the event of an emergency, and it also ensures disruptions to classrooms are kept to a minimum. Parents/Guardians are also reminded they that are not to confront students at the school about any concerns you have. If Parents/Guardians have concerns they must visit the Office to discuss these with Mr Barath or myself.

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.

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. 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, which is valuable learning time.

Finally, I would like to conclude by congratulating the children on their overall excellent behaviour at school this term. Playground incidents have reduced dramatically this term, creating a calm, pleasant atmosphere within the school. There are still a small number of incidents occurring during play times but overall, these are relatively minor.

Have a wonderful week everyone.

Nick Shirley—Principal Charters Towers Central SS

Woolworths Earn and Learn

We're back - and it's now easier than ever to participate in Woolworths Earn & Learn.



Simply start collecting stickers at the checkout of your local Woolworths supermarket (self-service too) until **August to place on your child's sticker card. There'll be one sticker for every \$10 spent, excluding purchases** of liquor, smoking/tobacco products and gift cards. Once completed, simply drop the sticker card into a collection box, either at your school or at your local Woolworths. Last year our school received nearly \$10000 worth of resources, including books, games and sporting equipment., which have been very much appreciated.

Prep—Miss Mathews

Hi everyone. This week the preps completed some wonderful story writing. Please see the pictures below... Brooke wrote a very funny sentence about her dad and Isabel wrote an excellent recount of what she did at the Strand. Congratulations to everyone. We are very proud of your work this week.

In mathematics, we have been further extending our understanding of number and pattern. We spent some time matching numerals to numbers and representing what each amount means, as well as making and extending patterns.

SCIENCE NEWS

Next week we will begin our assessable project – Making a wind ornament. Please assist your child in finding different objects around the home. We will begin sorting and discussing their objects next Tuesday afternoon. We have lots of collage at prep too so please don't go to any trouble. Jenny, Emma and I thought the hunt around home would be a fun activity to share together.

Finally, I would like to welcome Nickeisha and her family to Central and Charters Towers.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Miss Mathews will be on Long service from 28th May till 5th June.



Congratulations to
our Students of the
Week



Year 1—Miss Bowen

Well it's May and we are halfway through the second term of Year One already! Over the next few weeks assessments will be completed and I will commence writing report cards. It is very important your child attends every day till the end of term, so they do not miss any vital concepts taught and in order for them to complete all of their assessments.

I'm proud to say there are five students already working past the Semester One, Year One benchmark in reading. Congratulations Steven, Mika, Felicity, Carla and Thomas! Those of us not yet at this mark are also progressing well, with some students jumping up three reading levels since last term! Well done to everyone in Year One!

Thanks to those of you who have brought back overdue homework. Homework can be extremely helpful in reinforcing the maths, reading and spelling concepts we learn in class each week. Please remember to return the home readers with your homework so a new one can be sent home each Monday.

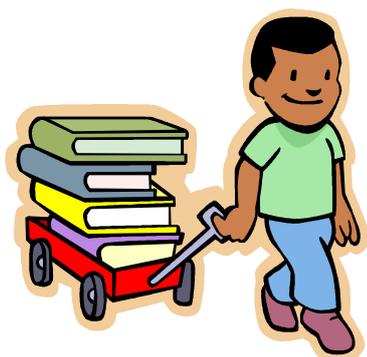
Year 2—Miss Cran

Busy times for year two, as we are working on our character descriptions for our English unit on stereotypes and are investigating special places within our local community for SOSE. Our history and science units are continuing and assessment for those units will occur later in the term. We have been trying really hard to learn more sight words and each student has a mini sight word folder that has been sent home this week. It has been great to see some children so keen to move up the lists that they are bringing them back for me to test them on a daily basis. Congratulations to Sarah, Harry, Maddy, Mystique, Samara and Mea for a great improvement in their addition number facts since the beginning of term. Also congratulations to Nathan, John and Isabelle for an improvement in their 'no excuses' spelling test. Keep up the great work!

Year 3—Miss Boyle

This week marks the end of our five week units in both English and Maths. Students have just finished completing their assessment items and although students are working at different levels within the classroom, everyone has made their own improvements.

Comprehension is the next major focus in our classroom over the remainder of the term. Many students are now achieving great success in reading, however understanding what they read is also important. To improve comprehension, students will learn strategies to help them answer questions about different texts. When reading a book at home with your child it can be helpful to talk about the story and ask questions. Working out the meaning of the story or just the meaning of a word is the next step for children to become confident and independent readers.



Book Fair

School Library
20th—30th May



Year 4—Miss Williamson

Only 5 more weeks till the end of term 2!

By the end of this week, students will have written a traditional story for a younger audience with a clear moral/message.

Last week, another component was added to homework. Students have one comprehension/grammar unit to complete throughout the week. Nightly spelling, maths and reading is still expected.

In the back of each child's homework book is a list of times tables facts that they need to learn and master.

It is pleasing to say that the majority of the class continue to exhibit a positive work ethic and strive to work to the best of their ability.

Please remember to return Religion permission notes if you wish your child to participate in this program.

Year 5/6—Mr Moore

The last two weeks in Year 5/6 have been particularly busy leading into NAPLAN. We have focussed particularly on the skills the students require while continuing our normal routine and curriculum. The hard work from the students has been commendable.

Some students in the class are really flourishing at the moment in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics. Well done to those students who have particularly been given that recognition by me or on parade through the 'Student of the Week'.

We are coming toward the end of another cycle of assessment and also toward the end of the Semester, which means added stress and workload on the students. Please be mindful of this and let me know whether your student is showing the stress at home.

Student stationery is becoming to be an issue within the classroom. This is becoming prevalent where some students do not have pencils or books. Please be aware of this issue with your student as these are necessary items at school to progress learning.

Learning Centre - Mrs Wood-Brown

Naplan, comics, times tables, algorithms, reading and cooking the list continues on what we are working on this term. I am really impressed with Colin and Anna for constantly handing in their homework every week. Mrs. Kym and I would like to thank those parents who are ensuring their child has the necessary stationary for school, please check with your child over anything they may require. With all the extra curricula activities that are happening it is great to see our students participating.

Introduction to the world of high school started last week for year 6 and 7, we were fortunate that some of the high school students, Principal and a teacher visited to discuss high school with the students. There is quite a few more transition days throughout the year.

Mr. Moore and I are extremely impressed with the interest shown in the class camp. Fundraising has been a hit and we thank everyone who is supporting this great activity.

FREE DRESS — Colour

RELAY FOR LIFE: "Fight for Life" team is holding a fundraising event.

COLOUR DAY: Wear colourful sun safe school appropriate clothes.

COST: Gold coin donation

WHEN: Wednesday the 22nd of May

I am Safe I am Respectful I am a Learner

Year 6/7—Mr Crow

The students have designed and trialled their mouse trap racers on the computer. Next Monday they need to have all the materials to modify their mouse trap. Please encourage your child to collect their materials as the deadline for the trial day is only a couple weeks away.

On Tuesday the Year 7 students commenced NAPLAN testing. I'm sure everyone wishes our students the best and hopes they do the best that they can do.

The students are currently writing and editing a memoir. This has been very challenging for the students as they are so young and do not have a repertoire of dramatic memories they can fall back on.

Our classroom was broken into earlier this week. This is a timely reminder to the students not to leave valuables or money in the classroom.

A letter will be coming home soon explaining how your child will be involved in the Transition to High School program. The first visit to the High School for the students of Year 6/7 will be in week 8 of this term.

Resource Centre News

As part of 'Read More in May' month, the Resource Centre will be holding the following events:

* 20th – 30th of May Book Fair

Items will be for sale during lunch breaks, library lessons and before school

* 22nd May National Simultaneous Storytime

The story chosen for this year's event is, 'The Wrong Book' by Nick Bland and will be read at 11am.

The Premiers Reading Challenge is on again.

Awards are given to participating students.

For more information please see Mrs Bojack.

Each week the Resource Centre plays host to many different classes. These include Science, History, Reading and Music. Many students also take the opportunity to spend quiet time playing board games or creating masterpieces with blocks and puzzles. Here are some photos of students being creative, both in class and during play times.



