PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

Kindergarten start
Our kindergarten students have had a wonderful start to their school life this week. I have seen so many happy faces smiling back at me. It has been so lovely to meet some of the new families that have joined the school and I am looking forward to meeting everyone else.

P & C Meeting
I would like to thank all the parents who were able to attend the P & C meeting last night. It was great to see so many attend and to have so many new faces at the table. Thank you for your contributions. I am looking forward to working with you this year. I have attached the Principal’s Report from the meeting to this newsletter.

Canteen
I have received several EOIs for Canteen supervisor and a few EOIs for helpers. If you are interested please collect a form from the office. I will be meeting with the applicants for the position of supervisor next week.

Star Struck
Students have donated their lunchtimes to perform in an audition tape for Star Struck this year. This tape will be submitted at the end of February and we will be notified if we are successful in March. If/when the school is successful we will send out information and EOIs to interested students.

I look forward to seeing you at our Meet the Teacher Night next Thursday at 5.30pm

Warm regards
Meredith Lindsay

KT Possums
A warm welcome to the new families who have joined us at Carrington Public School – it’s so great to have you join our educational community. Kindergarten students have all settled in extremely well and really appear to be enjoying their first days at school. They are relaxed and happy. Special thanks to parents who have prepared them for “big school” so well. Thank you also to the Year 5 and Year 6 “buddies” who are doing a great job looking after their new friends.

KT have been busy exploring the school, working in groups, learning how to write their name, listening to stories, creating collages and making new friends. Starting school is a busy and exciting time for all. So make sure you relax on the weekend and share some school stories together!

KT Possums at work!
Ms Skehan’s Super Stars
What an exciting start to the term. The children are working so hard in the Year 1 classroom. Each morning we start the day with SSP and literacy groups. I work with the students as a whole group and also individually to determine the point where the children are all working at in order to set learning plans. I am so proud of their effort and beautiful sounding out with their “duck hands”.
In mathematics, the children have been practising their counting forward and backwards every day. We count and do exercise to music creating a lesson break. They have also been learning about the months of the year, the order in which they come and the number of days in each month. We have been learning a poem to help us remember these facts. Please come and visit the class blog. http://msskehan.edublogs.org/
There are lots of helpful links to websites and in time your child’s work will be posted for you to see. If you would like regular updates you can subscribe to receive a message when new work is posted. Should you have any questions do not hesitate in contacting me.

Ms Skehan
Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)
Carrington Public School has a focus on Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL). This is a program run across the school to develop positive learning habits. The children are explicitly taught skills and strategies that, if applied, allows children to learn to their full potential. This week we have been focusing on Listening and in particular whole-body listening. Please see the attached photo to see the eight things the children are focusing on.

Mrs Cunningham’s Class 2/3
Welcome back! Class 2/3 are beginning to settle into our new class and routines.
Over the past few days 2/3 has viewed the picture book Have you filled a Bucket Today? This book explains that everyone has an invisible bucket. You feel happy when your bucket is full and you can feel unhappy when your bucket is empty. Everyone can choose to be a bucket filler by saying and doing kind things for other people. Being a bucket filler fills your bucket as well. Being a bucket dipper means that you have said or done something mean to someone else, emptying their bucket. In 2/3 we are all striving to be bucket fillers. We have a class bucket where we place a fluffy ball whenever someone from our class has filled their bucket. However, if someone does something to dip into our bucket we will take a fluffy ball out. When our class bucket is full we will celebrate being bucket fillers! Ask your child about some of the ways they have been practising to be bucket filler.

Mrs Cunningham
Welcome back everyone! I am delighted to be the Stage Two teacher for 2016. All students have settled in well and have demonstrated they are very eager to learn. This week we have been busy completing assessment tasks in literacy and numeracy so I can get a better understanding of where students are on the learning continuums and of the learning needs of the class. I would like to share Scott’s narrative that he wrote on Monday as an assessment task.

Once upon a time, a long, long time ago, about 4000 years ago, there was a pirate ship. The captain of the ship’s name was Bob.

Bob was a nice pirate. He set sail to the mysterious island. It took him 6 months to get there.

When his ship got there, there was a cave. He went in and found the sword and the stone. He pulled it out and the monster woke up. He was angry until the pirate gave him a cake.

The pirate and the monster became friends.
By Scott Osland

Next week we will be starting reading groups and differentiated Math’s groups. These will be a mixture of mixed ability and ability based depending on the activity. We have also started our Science unit Feathers, Fur or Leaves and have been looking at some of the characteristics all living things have in common.

Thank You
Mrs Durie

What a charged first week of learning in the 5/6 classroom! With heads down and pens poised, students have bowled us over with their creative writing, as they have investigated the work of renowned author, Shaun Tan.

Problem solving has been the focus in maths this week. Students have been confronted with the task of articulating how they got their answer, not just the answer itself. This process helps students become more aware of what strategies they are using and gives us, as teachers, a more thorough understanding of what is going on inside those wonderful brains.

The first geography lesson of the year ensured adrenaline was high, as students raced to score the most continents found, to beat the timer. Edward is the current champion, with Malia close behind. Hopefully our globe can withstand the constant spinning!

5/6 has been combining their technology skills and creativity to produce their own class video clip. The students were responsible for combining their ideas and even the occasional prop, to illustrate the meaning behind an inspirational song. There were lots of ideas floating around the room and team work was the key to success.

Thank you
Ms Low
School banking
School banking resumes on Tuesday 9\textsuperscript{th} February.

SRC students
Congratulations to the following students on being selected as SRC students for Term 1.
Kindergarten – Armelie, nathan
Class 1S – Ella, Emmanuel
Class 2/3 – Ellie, Charles
Class 3/4 – Eliza, Sunni
Class 5/6 – Azland, Cooper

Monitors
Congratulations to the following students on being selected as Monitors for Term 1.
Sandpit – Gypsy, Finlay
Cubbyhouse – Lauren, Maxine
Chickens – Phoebe, Jack, Finn
Chess- Henry

Chess Lessons
We have been very lucky to have been offered the expertise of Abs Swadling in teaching our students chess on a Monday afternoon in the Library 3.30 – 4.30. Abs played chess in his school Chess Club at Singleton heights Public School. His team won the Hunter Regional Finals and Abs went on to be placed 2\textsuperscript{nd} in the state finals in the Individual Competition in Sydney. Abs is volunteering his services to the school, however, there will be a box placed in the Library if anyone would like to make a gold coin donation.

Binless Tuesdays
Every Tuesday at CPS is Binless Tuesday where no garbage bins are placed in the playground and students are encouraged to bring fresh food to school with limited packaging. This is to help children become more knowledgeable about healthy food choices and the amount of packaging waste that is produced in our society and its impact on the environment. Students will have to take home with them any packaging they bring to school on that day.