Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the 2015 school year!

I extend a special welcome to all families who are new to the area or the school and to our continuing families returning after the vacation. I am very excited and honoured in my new role as Principal of Carlton PS. The timing for change is perfect as we are currently in the planning process for a 2015 – 2017 School Plan. Late last year I was fortunate to meet with the Carlton staff and parent groups to update the school’s vision statement that will direct all of our future programming and planning.

“Our vision is to educate students to become creative and critical thinkers, motivated and engaged learners. They will become proud, resilient, responsible and active local and global citizens. We will achieve this through the provision of challenging, innovative learning programs delivered by high performing staff in an inclusive, safe and supportive learning community”

In the coming weeks I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible and keeping you informed about school programs and practices. We look forward to making 2015 a successful year for all the children and staff in the school and in the spirit of our continuing Kidsmatter initiative, making it an inclusive, participatory and supportive year for all parents.

2015 Enrolments and Classes

Thank you to those parents and family members who assisted us yesterday morning while the new classes were announced. I’m happy to say that the process went quite smoothly as we placed children in the 35 classes we have planned.

You will recall from information in last year’s newsletters that the staff go through a detailed process to allocate children to new classes. I understand that some children and parents do become anxious about class placements for a number of reasons including being in different classes to friends, adjusting to new teachers and even being in different parts of the school, so I seek your support and patience while any adjustments occur. I would much rather have a small period of disruption now than a major disruption and restructure later in the term. Encouraging and supporting your child to adjust to any changes is a key part of making the year a successful one for them and we are very grateful for your support during this transition period.

I am looking forward to welcoming all the new Kindergarten children and their families when they commence school from today. I’m certain they will make a terrific start to their school time and we all look forward to a very successful year with them.

Best wishes for a very successful 2015!

Regards

Stephen Vrachas
Principal
P&C News

The first P&C meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday, 10 February at 7.30pm in the staffroom in the Administration Block. Come along and meet other parents and discuss what’s happening at Carlton PS. More details in the next newsletter.

Bookclub – help needed

We still need a volunteer to help support the bookclub coordinator once or twice a term. This year this it be a very straightforward task. There will be no collection of money or orders as this will all be done on-line by parents and teachers. The support role will involve helping to distribute brochures, which will be in booklet form (so each child will get only one booklet) and then distributing orders (which will be already sorted by Scholastic). If you are interested please email us at carltonpandc@gmail.com with ‘Bookclub’ in the subject line.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

YEARS 3-6 (plus any year 2 student who is turning 8yrs old in 2015 and can swim 50m competitively)

On Tuesday 17 February, 2015, the school will be holding the Swimming Carnival at Carss Park War Memorial Swimming Pool and Gymnasium located at Carwar Ave, Blakehurst. This year we will be taking ALL students in years 3-6 and any student in year 2 who is turning 8 years old in 2015 and can swim 50m competitively.

Due to the early date of the carnival and the need to organise race entrants, notes will go out this week. Students who wish to enter race events, must be entered into each race by completing the entry form and returning it by Wednesday 11 February (no late/on the day entries will be accepted). Parents must complete the permission slip for your child to participate in the events and sign the consent form to verify the child’s swimming ability.

All students are expected to attend on the day, even if they are not competing. These students will have the opportunity to participate in novelty events and be a part of the cheer squad. Children will be expected to wear school sports uniform, a school hat and sunscreen. All children should bring their recess, lunch, drinks, towel, swimmers and a bottle of water. Students will return to school by 3pm. The pool canteen will be available on the day to provide snack food and drinks.

We will accept entry forms, permission notes and money to the office until Wednesday 11 February 2015.

All parents are invited to attend but must make their own way to the pool and pay their pool entrance fee when they arrive.

HOUSE COLOURS FOR 2015

BLUE: A, B, C, D, E
RED: L, M, N, O, P, Q

If there are any questions or you require a permission note or entry form please see the office or Mrs Hanley.

Please also note Mrs Hanley will be available on Friday 6 February from 3:00-3:30pm in the COLA area to accept any entry forms and to assist any parents with completing the entry form.
Chess Lessons

Learn to be a chess champion! Coaching for students at Carlton Public School is held on Mondays from 8:00am – 9:00am in the library. Term 1 lessons will commence on Monday 2 February, 2015.

Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment. Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games. Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop. If your child is interested in taking part, you can collect an enrolment form from the school office, or email enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au for a copy. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.
# Term 1 - Week 1

**Thursday 18 August 2011**

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**Week 10 - 30 March - 3 April**

| Mon 30 | Tue 31 |
| Wed 1 | Thu 2 |
| Fri 3 |

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**Parents Ideas**

**Building parent-school partnerships**

**Help your child ACHIEVE!**

WORDS Michael Grose

One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child’s teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help.

1. **Know what your child’s teacher is trying to achieve**
   - Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child’s teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child’s class.

2. **Keep your expectations reasonable and positive**
   - If your expectations are too high your teacher may give up. Too low and they will need them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and their interests. Also be realistic about what your child’s school can deliver. Sometimes our expectations of schools are not in line with their capabilities or their roles.

3. **Support your teacher’s expectations & activities at home**
   - One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their learning. One way is to provide a quiet place for them to work that is free from distractions. Also, use your child’s learning at home to improve their understanding of their learning at school. For example, if your child is learning about science, find out how they can apply it in real-life situations.

4. **Send kids to school ready to learn and on time**
   - Maximum your child’s chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It’s estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.

5. **Inform teachers of your child’s challenges and changes**
   - Life’s not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can change. Friends move away. Illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child’s teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

6. **Skill children to work with others**
   - Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners, social skills, such as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others, is an important skill. Help kids to think about how they can help their peers and to develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. **Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties**
   - Resist the temptation to solve all your child’s problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8. **Participate in class & school activities**
   - There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child’s schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve his learning from an individual perspective, get involved in the learning that goes on their learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child’s teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

9. **Trust your teacher’s knowledge, professionalism and experience**
   - Your child’s teacher is their greatest ally. Their training, their experience around kids, and their objective professionalism makes them in a strong position to make judgement calls about your child.

10. **Talk up what happens at school**
    - Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school, then you need to support your school and make sure you are the child. Positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

This type of 10-point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you’ll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child’s teachers.

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**Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael’s NEW ParentingIdeas Club today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.**

parentingideas.com.au

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