Dear Parents and Carers

One of the ways to ensure a successful and productive school year for your children is for parents and teachers to have a very good shared understanding about student needs, school programs and class operations. To develop this shared understanding our Parent Teacher Information Evenings will be next week. These meetings will outline in more detail the class and stage arrangements for the year, major events your child will participate in, syllabus requirements and homework expectations among other topics. It is important that parents establish early contact with the class teacher to ensure good communication and a smooth start to the new school year. In circumstances where parents or teachers need to share personal information, an additional time should be arranged early in the term to do this.

All meetings will be held in your child’s 2014 classroom.

- Early Stage 1 - Kindergarten classes: 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm Monday 17 February
- Stage 1 - Year 1 & 2 classes: 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm Tuesday 18 February
- Stage 2 - Year 3 & 4 classes: 5.00 pm - 6.00 pm Tuesday 18 February
- Stage 3 - Year 5 & 6 classes: 5.00 pm - 6.00 pm Monday 17 February

Please see information later in this newsletter inviting you to meet our Language Teachers in Week 5 to share information about our Community Languages Program.

At the meetings next week the teachers will ask you to complete a very short questionnaire about Parent Teacher Interview sessions. We want to know when you think is the best time of year to conduct personalised interviews about your child. Currently the interviews are held at the end of Term 2 following the publication of the Semester 1 Student Report. Some parents and staff believe that the end of Term 1 would be more productive. What do you think?

Please let us know by completing the sheet next week and handing it to the teacher. If you can’t make it to the meetings you can let me know your views about interviews by sending an email to carlton-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au and including the heading Parent Teacher Interviews in the subject line.

Of course, regardless of when the formal interviews are conducted you can always request an interview with a teacher or member of the executive by making a request directly to the teacher, by an email to carlton-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au or by making an appointment through the office on 95873717 and leaving a request message for the teacher.

Parents Matter - Helping Parents Connect

The focus of our Kidsmatter initiative in 2014 is titled Working with Parents and Carers and many of our school activities this year will be concerned with ways of supporting our children by finding the best ways to work with their parents and carers. One opportunity for parents of new kindergaten children will be available from Term 1 onwards. Some parents of kinder children, with the support of the P&C, are organising a system using email and phone contacts to establish positive connections between families using a class directory. The
aim is to allow parents to get to know other families of the children in your child’s class and therefore share
information and possibly arrange social or play opportunities.
Parents who wish to connect with other families in their child’s class can complete their details on a sheet that
will be available at the Parent Information Session on Monday and put in in the collection box in the school
office. You may also consider being the Class Parent contact for the class group and this can be indicated on the
return slip as well. Once the slips are collected, the parents involved will be contacted with further details.

Congratulations

- And thank you to the parents who attended our first P & C Meeting for the year. See the report below
for more details and the important information about the Annual General Meeting of the P&C to be held
on 11 March at 7.30pm. A new executive will be elected at this meeting and the parent group is seeking
some new members to fill these roles. Please consider how you may be able to contribute to supporting
the school through active participation in the P & C.

- To the many parents who take the care to drive carefully, safely and legally around our school every day.
Please ask yourself whether you do that each time you come to school in your car. After all, the safety
of our children, parents and staff is the first priority we have each day. The photo below shows the
‘Kiss & Drop’ zone alongside the fence in Cameron Street. Are you aware you cannot park in this zone as
indicated on the sign? You are allowed to stop briefly, drop off or pick up your children and drive off.
You cannot leave your vehicle or remained parked. Parents have been fined by the parking rangers this
week. Please be aware that the school is not responsible for any traffic infringements that you may
incur. Please drive carefully, safety, legally and without penalty!

Important Reminders

- The Annual Swimming Carnival (Years 3-6) will be held on Monday 17 February. Late permission notes
and payments must be made by TOMORROW Friday 14 February. No payments will be accepted on
Monday as participation lists need to be finalised before the buses leave.

- Would you like to receive the school newsletter via email rather than a paper copy? If so please follow
this link to complete your details: http://school.schoolenews.com.au/carltonps/

- Have any of your family details changed? Does your child have a medical issue? Changes of address,
home and mobile phone numbers, email address and emergency carer details need to be advised to the
school so that we can contact you easily in case of emergency. Please advise the school of any changes
by calling the office on 95873717 or by email to carlton-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au. This is particularly
important if you have children who may have medical situations, allergies or medication requirements
that we need to be aware of.

School banking starts Tuesday 18 February. See the P&C section for all details
Term 1 - Week 3

Thursday 13 February 2014

- The first combined assemblies commenced this week. They are held in the odd weeks of Term. The Year 1-2 Assembly on Monday’s at 2.00pm and the Year 3-6 Assembly on Friday’s at 11.30am. All parents are invited and welcome to participate in these assemblies to hear school news and watch class presentations and award ceremonies. Kindergarten children will join the K-2 Assembly later this term.

- School Band recommenced today! We now have two bands; the senior band and the training band. The band and tutorial sessions will be held in Demountable 5 and H Block classrooms on Thursday mornings at 8.00 am and Thursday afternoons at 3.15 pm. You need to make sure that your child is on time and ready to start for these sessions.

- Do you have a child in Years 4-6? The information about the ‘Child Tax Offset’ below may be of interest and value to you

Regards

Steve Cooper

Kidsmatter “Off the Shelf” Concert DVDs and Photographs

We are pleased to inform you that we now have a copy of the DVDs of the Tuesday and Thursday concerts of 2013. If you ordered a DVD late last year, please come to the office to collect your order. DVD’s will be available for purchase from the office for $10 each at the beginning of Term 1 2014. Photographs of these events are on display in the office for a few more weeks for you to place an order of the photo/s that you’d like. Order forms will be available at the office.

P&C News

P&C meeting

Our P&C meeting was well attended on Tuesday night. It was great to see so many new faces and to hear varying points of view. A number of topics were up for discussion including the focus of fundraising, the idea of parent contacts and the Uniform Shop Tender process. This process should be underway in the next couple of weeks when ads will go into our local and daily papers.

If you wish to make contact with the P&C please email us at carltonpandc@gmail.com

P&C Annual General Meeting – Tuesday, 11 March 2014

Don’t forget that all positions on the P&C will become vacant at our AGM in March. Some current office-bearers will not be re-standing for their positions. Please consider giving something back to our school by taking on a role in 2014. Being a part of the P&C allows you to discuss and make decisions about what happens in our school that affects all students, not just your own child/children.

Members of the P&C executive need to be able to represent and consider the wide variety of views held by our school community not just their own personal view. Much of the work of the P&C happens behind the scenes not just at our big events or at the actual meetings, so it is important to remember that being part of the P&C executive is an important but rewarding commitment.

To nominate for a position at the AGM you need to be a financial member of the P&C. If you wish to vote or nominate for a position at the AGM $1 membership will need to be paid on the night which is in accordance with our constitution. Please see Mr Cooper or a member of the current P&C executive to discuss the responsibilities involved in the various roles and/or request an information pack outlining the specific roles and responsibilities of each position.
School Banking

School banking will begin on next Tuesday, 18 February (Week 4) for Years 1-6 only. Kindergarten will be able to start school banking later in the term.

School banking parent packs will be given out this week to Years 1, 2, 3 and some classes in Year 4. The remainder of the Year 4 classes, Year 5 and Year 6 will receive their packs as soon as our additional order arrives. We apologise for this inconvenience but the children in these classes will still be able to start school banking next week if they already have a Youthsaver account.

Do you want to begin School Banking and be in the running for lots of prizes? We have a random draw that happens monthly, a frequent savers award for the most consistent class of savers in addition to the many rewards that are on offer this year. Make sure you read the letter in the school banking parent pack. The letter tells you how to join up and start saving.

Are you already a School Banker? Make sure you open the school banking parent pack so you can find your 2014 redemption card and reward tracking sheet.

Packs will be given out to children in Kindergarten later in the term.

Rewards can be claimed from the beginning of March once the new computer redemption system is up and running. There are some wonderful rewards up for grabs this year including the popular handballs, flashing glasses, pool toys, pencil cases, plush bag tags and more. Remember only silver tokens can be used to claim your rewards. Ten silver tokens are needed to claim a reward.

Uniform Room

This term the uniform room will be opened each Monday and Thursday morning between 8.25am – 8.55am. Please note that we close at 8.55am not 9.00am or later as we have other commitments to go to. We are pleased to advise that school caps and hats have arrived and are available for purchase. Please label all uniform items clearly - please go over the names with a permanent marker and check regularly. We have lots of items with either no name or a name we can’t read which makes it very hard to return the item to the correct owner.

Rainforests- by Thomas H 5B

It's a place like no other, it has sky high trees fighting and racing for the sunlight at the top. Animals coming in and out of vision; it's the rainforest.

The spectacular trees of the untouched land. The trees hold an enormous part in the rainforest ecosystem for the animals that shelter in them. The canopy of trees over the understorey of the rainforest, from above and below it should be the most amazing sight you would ever see. Trees provide a sense of tranquillity.

The adventurous animals are wonders of the world coming in and out of their home to hunt and to protect their babies. When the day is done the nocturnal animals have come and the frogs are waiting patiently for the time in which they mate. The arboreal creatures will come out of their hiding places but will stay in the good safety of the trees. They will survive.

It flows, it drops, it falls, it's a beautiful crystal clear waterfall. The beautiful free flowing water drops down from the blackened sky. All the drops and droplets come down from the many leaves. Water is the veins and arteries of the ecosystem of the rainforest. The water hails down as all the animals' shelter before it.

The rainforest is the lushest most free flowing, adventurous place on Earth.
Rainforests - By Thomas L 5B
It's lush, spectacular, hidden and adventurous. The rainforest is natural.

Trees are tall, lush enormous things which build the canopy. They reach high up reaching to the sun. Trees shelter the animals and plants below but still a home for birds and monkeys.

Night comes and all the nocturnal animals come to play. Spiders build their webs, possums go hunting and insects go crawling. At night all the animals hunt for food to survive.

Light comes and the birds do their morning humming. The wonderful waterfalls splash down to the river. The water is crystal clear and so free flowing.

The rainforest is beautiful, full of animals and full of nature.

Welcome to Carlton Public School’s Language Program

Five community languages are taught at Carlton Public School: Arabic, Greek (not all year groups), Maori, Macedonian and Mandarin. Only students from these cultural backgrounds are able to learn these languages. Students from other backgrounds learn Indonesian as a language other than English (LOTE). Students will attend languages two hours per week.

Our Language teachers are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Teachers</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>Mrs Liang, Mrs Lamb &amp; Mrs Li</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macedonian</td>
<td>Mrs Mihajlova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>Miss Sergiou &amp; Mrs Karamihalis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Mrs Awad &amp; Mrs Sabra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesian</td>
<td>Mrs Carnell &amp; Mrs Peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maori</td>
<td>Miss Tahapeehi</td>
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You are invited to the meet the language teachers at the Languages Information morning held in the language rooms on Monday, 24 February, 2014. These meetings will take place in the language rooms at 9.30am to 10.30am followed by morning tea in the staffroom. All parents are welcome to bring a plate of cultural delicacies, to share with others for morning tea.

Why learn a foreign language? Benefits of Bilingualism

Physiological studies have found that speaking two or more languages is a great asset to the cognitive process. The brains of bilingual people operate differently than single language speakers, and these differences offer several mental benefits.

Below are seven cognitive advantages to learning a foreign language. Many of these attributes are only apparent in people who speak multiple languages regularly - if you haven’t spoken a foreign tongue since your A levels, your brain might not be reaping these bilingual benefits. However, people who begin language study in their adult lives can still achieve the same levels of fluency as a young learner, and still reap the same mental benefits, too.

You become smarter

Speaking a foreign language improves the functionality of your brain by challenging it to recognise, negotiate meaning, and communicate in different language systems. This skill boosts your ability to negotiate meaning in other problem-solving tasks as well.

Students who study foreign languages tend to score better on standardised tests than their monolingual peers, particularly in the categories of maths, reading, and vocabulary.

You build multitasking skills

Multilingual people, especially children, are skilled at switching between two systems of speech, writing, and structure. According to a study from the Pennsylvania State University, this "juggling" skill makes them good multitaskers, because they can easily switch between different structures. In one study, participants used a driving simulator while doing separate, distracting tasks at the same time. The research found that people who spoke more than one language made fewer errors in their driving.
You stave off Alzheimer’s and dementia
Several studies have been conducted on this topic, and the results are consistent. For monolingual adults, the mean age for the first signs of dementia is 71.4. For adults who speak two or more languages, the mean age for those first signs is 75.5. Studies considered factors such as education level, income level, gender, and physical health, but the results were consistent.

Your memory improves
Educators often liken the brain to a muscle, because it functions better with exercise. Learning a language involves memorising rules and vocabulary, which helps strengthen that mental “muscle.” This exercise improves overall memory, which means that multiple language speakers are better at remembering lists or sequences. Studies show that bilinguals are better at retaining shopping lists, names, and directions.

You become more perceptive
A study from Spain’s University of Pompeu Fabra revealed that multilingual people are better at observing their surroundings. They are more adept at focusing on relevant information and editing out the irrelevant. They’re also better at spotting misleading information. Is it any surprise that Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot are skilled polyglots?

Your decision-making skills improve
According to a study from the University of Chicago, bilinguals tend to make more rational decisions. Any language contains nuance and subtle implications in its vocabulary, and these biases can subconsciously influence your judgment. Bilinguals are more confident with their choices after thinking it over in the second language and seeing whether their initial conclusions still stand up.

You improve your English
Learning a foreign language draws your focus to the mechanics of language: grammar, conjugations, and sentence structure. This makes you more aware of language, and the ways it can be structured and manipulated. These skills can make you a more effective communicator and a sharper editor and writer. Language speakers also develop a better ear for listening, since they’re skilled at distinguishing meaning from discreet sounds.

Anne Merritt is an EFL lecturer currently based in South Korea. She writes at http://annemerritt.com/
## Term 1 Calendar 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 3 - 10 February - 14 February</th>
<th>Week 4 - 17 February - 21 February</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 1 Calendar 2014</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thursday 13 February 2014</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 17</strong></td>
<td>Y3-6 Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Information meeting:</td>
<td>Stage 3: 5-6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3: 5-6pm</td>
<td>Kindergarten: 6-7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tue 18</strong></td>
<td>School banking starts today 9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Information meeting:</td>
<td>Stage 2: 5-6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2: 5-6pm</td>
<td>Stage 1: 6-7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 19</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 14</strong></td>
<td>PSSA, Tennis and Gymnastics commence for Years 3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sat 15</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Term 2 commences for all students on Tuesday 29 April 2014</strong></td>
<td>Term 2 commences for all staff on Monday 28 April 2014</td>
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## Week 5 - 24 February - 28 February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 24</th>
<th>5/6F &amp; 6KM Excursion Meet the Language Teachers Years 1-2 Assembly 2.00pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 25</td>
<td>School Banking 9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 26</td>
<td>Y3 Botany Bay Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 27</td>
<td>Y4 Botany Bay Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 28</td>
<td>Years 3-6 Assembly 11.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 21</strong></td>
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## Week 7 - 10 March - 14 March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 10</th>
<th>Arabic Parent Workshop 9am Years 1-2 Assembly 2.00pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 11</td>
<td>School banking 9:00am P&amp;C AGM 7:30pm in Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 12</td>
<td>Selective High School Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 13</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 14</td>
<td>Years 3-6 Assembly 11.30am</td>
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## Week 9 - 24 March - 28 March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 24</th>
<th>Arabic Parent Workshop 9am Years 1-2 Assembly 2.00pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 25</td>
<td>School banking 9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 27</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 28</td>
<td>Years 3-6 Assembly 11.30am</td>
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## Week 11 - 7 April - 11 April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 7</th>
<th>Y6 Excursion to Minnamurra Years K-2 Assembly 2.00pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 8</td>
<td>School banking 9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 10</td>
<td>Pedlars Parade (Kindergarten/Stage1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 11</td>
<td>Years 3-6 Assembly 11.30am Last Day of Term 1</td>
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**NSW Education & Training**

**Term 2 commences for all students on Tuesday 29 April 2014**

**Term 2 commences for all staff on Monday 28 April 2014**
Parent involvement – the secret ingredient to children’s school success

Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as holding their school in high regard.

If you want the best outcomes for your child or young person then it’s important that you become involved in as many aspects of your child’s education as practical.

The involvement of parents helps break down the mystique about school that can exist for some children. Their chances of success are better when they see school as an extension of home rather than merely an institution for learning.

Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as their school. Children copy many of their parents’ views so your positive attitude to school and learning is catching.

Parent involvement takes energy

Many primary schools offer parents classroom jobs such as hearing kids read, taking small groups in elective activities and assisting children when writing stories.

Unfortunately, finding parents who are willing to take part in these activities is increasingly difficult. Many parents find themselves worn out from working too hard or being involved in a variety of activities. They find themselves with no energy left to be involved in their child’s school.

Make sure kids are school ready every day

Participating as a parent can be much broader than helping out in the classroom. There is a range of simple things you can do at home that will assist teachers to maximise the learning of your child.

These include: talking with your child about their day, hearing young learners read, helping with homework and making sure kids go off to school happy, healthy and having had plenty of sleep.

Here are some more ideas to help you participate in your child’s education in positive ways:

- **Find out** what your school is trying to achieve for your child and show your support for its aims. Discover what sets your child’s school apart from others.
- **Support** a broad, balanced curriculum that offers children a variety of educational experiences rather than a program that focuses narrowly on the traditional 3 Rs.
- **Direct** conversations through the correct channels such as your child’s teacher, the principal or the school’s governing body. Gossip or thoughtless criticism within the general community can easily tarnish a school’s reputation.
- **Become an advocate** for your child’s school and promote its positive features throughout the wider community. Encourage your child to take pride in their school through your example.
- **Attend** school activities such as open days, concerts, sports events and celebrations. Invite other members of the community along as well.
- **Consult** with your child’s teacher about practical ways that you can assist both at home and at school.

Positive parent participation in school and learning is a proven contributor to student success. One practical way to assist your child as a learner is to become actively involved in his or her school life.

Parenting ideas just got better! Parenting Ideas Club has just been launched and has all the answers you need. There are 100’s of articles, videos, guides, how to’s, book reviews and more available for members. Become a member today at parentingideasclub.com.au.