Dear Parents, Grandparents & Friends,

Thankyou very much to those parents who responded to our questionnaire ‘Working Towards A Better School’. Your responses are highly valued and we will be looking at them in depth next week in order to begin our planning for next year. A school bus topped the priority list followed by a vegetable garden, cooking lessons, kitchen up-grade, chook pen and better utilisation of the area underneath the school’s main buildings.

Students would like to have a vegetable garden, a swimming pool, a hall with a stage, a video arcade, a bigger library, multi-media room and designated playground equipment areas (a play equipment area for younger students and a play equipment area for older students). The older students would also like to see a specialist art teacher come in and actually teach them how to draw.

Apart from most of the above, staff would like to see a bigger sandpit area, increased opportunities for inter-sport challenges, improved website management, better ICT software and hardware, a separate art and music room. Professional development for all staff is also high on the agenda.

At our staff meeting next Monday afternoon, we will be collating all responses and prioritising them. Our School Plan for 2015 does not have to be finalised until the end of Term 1, 2015. By then we will know our funding for the year and our staffing entitlements. In the meantime, I will keep you updated on our progress towards achieving at least some of these ideas and programs.

I have taken the liberty of nominating our next year’s 4, 5 and 6 students to participate in the Sydney Writer’s Festival School Day Program at Sydney Theatre, Walsh Bay, Sydney. Our nomination for participation was confirmed early this morning. I am very excited about this opportunity for our students as they will be meeting and interacting with Andy Griffiths (a really funny author), Leigh Hobbs (inimitable author and illustrator), Jacqueline Harvey (much-loved writer) and international bestselling author, Anthony Horowitz. This will culminate in a two-night, three day trip to Sydney for these students from May 19th - 21st. Please see attached literature which outlines the day program for our students. We are in the process of putting together an itinerary and cost for this excursion, which will be available in next week’s newsletter. The cost of the Writer’s Festival Day is only $25 per child which is absolutely fantastic!!
I am also in the process of organising our Intensive Swimming Instruction which will run over a five week period each Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon (just waiting for two final confirmations). The good news is that we are hiring the Council’s Community Bus for a cost of only $20 per child for the entire 5 week period! All details will be in next week’s newsletter.

I would like to extend a very special thankyou to Mr and Mrs James Hyem who visited our school on Wednesday to talk about Carroll’s famous Kibah Tic Toc and Mr Scott Davis from Carroll Cotton Gin who brought in a big bag of cotton for us to use in our upcoming Gunnedah Community Recycled Art competition. Details of the competition and our purpose for inviting these people to school and enlisting their support, is mentioned later on in our newsletter. I would also like to thank and congratulate Trudy Fry who is of course co-ordinating this exceptional project for our students and who also organised these visits and support.

And as if we weren’t busy enough, I have also accepted an invitation from David Ground (Salvation Army) to participate in this year’s Gunnedah’s Carols which will take place on Friday 5th September, 2015. More information as the date draws closer.

Enjoy a lovely weekend everyone,

Kind regards,

Christine

Congratulations to students Shakeem, Corey, Frankee, Taleigha, Stephanie and Isiah for receiving well-deserved awards at this week’s meeting of Talk Time!

**DAY for DANIEL**

Today we spoke to the children about **Day for Daniel**. This day has now become a national event in Australia’s Calendar and a Day for Daniel Foundation has been established to support the education of children and adults in keeping kids safe through child safety and protection initiatives. It aims to help empower children to ‘Recognise, React and Report’ if they feel something is not right.
For the students, the phrase ‘more of the same’ would sum up the week. For me it has been a week of progress towards a goal of establishing communication, reasoning and problem solving in all aspects of their work. These are the ingredients of what the syllabus calls Working Mathematically and they are notoriously hard to achieve. Why? Because students usually like to focus on processes, for example, a page of times table practice is often preferred over three, good, word problems like the ones given in harder NAPLAN questions. It is a sad, but observable, feature in many of today’s students that they prefer repetition over creatively applying their accumulated knowledge. The good news is that I believe change is on the way for our students!

Technology

It may sound strange to you but the homework for this week for Year 3,4,5,6 is to ‘road test’ some online games. As you are probably aware, almost all want to play online games in their free time. The task I would like us all to adopt is supervising them and firstly, directing them towards games that have learning challenges and secondly, encourage responsible attitudes to online games. Let’s face it, we are not going to ever achieve a 100% blackout!

I have directed them to the online site ‘Cool Maths Games for Kids’. It is one I have used regularly, even in High School. As the title suggests the games are based on scientific and mathematical principles that are usually evident to the watcher and player. For example, some involve demolishing structures and require the students to select appropriate tools (having different weight, size, shape etc.) and set appropriate force, angle and distance. They are guided in their settings by faint, broken lines on the screen that illustrate the approximate path that will be taken towards the target. Until these are pointed out to students it can be just a “smash ‘em!” game. I want them to see beyond that. Why? Because they can increase their chances of winning if they understand how the game works and can then execute a plan.
CARROLL CASH COWS UPDATE.....

Thank you to all the parents & staff who supported our Sausage Sizzle on Wednesday.

Thanks to Robyn, Miss Constable and Trudy for organising and cooking! We raised $85.50 for the day!

The next meeting of the Cash Cows is next Wednesday 6th November at 3.15pm

Everyone is more than welcome!

Last term, Robyn and Trudy (aka Light Bulb Moments) made a bird seed feeder for the Tamworth Recycling Competition.

Ms Patison liked it so much, the ladies donated it to the school for everyone's enjoyment (instead of selling it at the markets). It’s hanging in the cubby house!

Countless birds have visited - this beautiful King Parrot was spotted enjoying his breakfast last week.

Donations of wild bird seed will be appreciated.

Please respect the birds feeding and keep your distance!

GUNNEDAH SHIRE COUNCIL WASTE/RECYCLING COMPETITION

This event will be held late November and entries will be on display until late December.

Carroll Public Schools entry will pay homage to Kibah Tic Toe, the Carroll Cotton Gin, and hopefully the Namoi River. The children are making a paper Mache statue of Kibah Tic Toe, wearing a (beer bottle top) saddle, with (ring pull) reins, surrounded by a field of bottle tops, with the Namoi river (made from old glass) running through it. The whole thing will be framed in a gabion of old chicken mesh and cotton from the Carroll Cotton Gin.

We have 3 Fridays to make it starting today.... Stay tuned for progress reports.
We would like to thank Mr. Scott Davies from Carroll Cotton Gin for his support of our recycled art project. With the cotton season well and truly over, Scott came to our rescue, somehow finding and delivering a big bag of cotton to us on Monday!
Not only did we get the cotton for our project, but Scott also gave us a whole heap of cotton seeds, so we can plant them and watch them grow!

Thanks Scott for helping us out!

On Wednesday Mr and Mrs James Hyem visited the school, to talk to us about the very famous Carroll horse, Kibah Tic Toc. Mr Hyem is the son of the late Bud Hyem who owned Kibah Tic Toc and was an amazing lady too!

Mr Hyem told us many interesting facts and tales about Kibah Tic Tocs life. What an amazing horse! We were shown photos of Tic Toc show jumping, taking part in the Olympic torch relay, and many more. We found out that Kibah Tic Toc spent many years in England, but preferred the warmer weather of Carroll, and to be able to roam around the paddocks! Who could blame him....

The insight into this wonderful horses life has inspired us in many ways, and with the pictures that Mr Hyem left with us, it will hopefully translate to a very unique and albeit recycled, replica of Kibah Tic Toc. We have invited the Hyems back to the school so they can give the final approval of our artwork!
Thanks again for taking time out of your busy day to help us understand a bit more about Kibah!