Dear Parents, Grandparents & Friends,

**PLEASE READ THIS NEWSLETTER CAREFULLY AS THERE ARE A LOT OF DATES & ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NOT NECESSARILY WHOLE-SCHOOL (K-6) RELATED**

As is typical of this time of year, a number of things are happening and our calendar for students and staff in particular, is exhaustingly full. Planning for next year is taking place with the formulation of the 2015 School Plan, whole-school evaluations of programs and management procedures are under way, student assessment and reporting has commenced and mandatory staff training in Anaphylaxis is in progress, so too Emergency First Aid and Management Procedures. The Intensive Swimming Instruction program commences next week, Annual Presentation Day planning is in progress and Snake Surveillance is a daily event...... as well as the usual teaching and learning programs!!

**Some good news.....**

On Monday I was informed by David Sim (Principal of Learning) that we have been selected as an Early Action for Success (EaFS) School. The EaFS strategy aims to improve students’ performance through a highly targeted approach in the early years.

The strategy involves:

- Early identification of the level of attainment in literacy and numeracy of each individual child (K-2) and tailoring very specific programs of learning to that child’s needs
- Changes in teaching practice from a small group focus to a focus on the needs of the individual student
- On-going and close monitoring of individual student progress against the Literacy and Numeracy continuums
- Evidence-based tiered interventions in literacy or numeracy according to need.
There will be a significant allocation of funding to address identified literacy and numeracy need in K-2.

We will receive:

- An instructional leader who will work with a small cluster of schools
- A training grant to support the professional learning needs of staff in differentiating instruction
- A staffing allocation to provide tiered interventions in literacy and numeracy
- An establishment grant to support the establishment of an Instructional Leader position in the school
- An innovations grant to assist with planning local initiatives to address new ways of resourcing identified intensive student needs in literacy and literacy in the early years.

Needless to say, I am thrilled that we have been included in this program. I sent an email to my School Director, Ruythe Dufty stating that this will be a ‘breath of fresh air for the school and such an amazing educational opportunity for not only our K-2 students, but also for all of our staff in regard to professional learning.

On Tuesday 25th November I will be attending a professional meeting about the Early Action for Success Program.

Moving along…..

Obviously it has been hot for quite some time now and still some students do not have a hat. Yesterday I spoke quite seriously to students about the need for them to have a school hat and the associated responsibility of parents to provide their children with hats.

Could all parents please ensure that children have a wide brimmed navy blue or royal blue hat by Monday please.

Swimming Instruction commences on Tuesday 18th November, 2014 which is next week. All money for the bus needs to be in by Monday 17th November, 2014. Thankyou to those parents who have already returned the permission note and bus money.

I need to let all parents know that the Intensive Swimming Program is mandatory for those children who cannot swim. Please do not think that if your child is one of our older students who cannot swim that he/she is going to be tormented in any way.

I can assure you that this will not be the case. Our students are very, very supportive of one another and will try to help another student in any way they can. This is, I believe, the culture of Carroll Public School.

DUE TO SWIMMING INSTRUCTION, ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS WILL NOW BE ON MONDAY.
THE LAST DAY FOR ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS WILL BE THURSDAY 27th NOVEMBER, 2014.
Principals message continued…

Next Thursday **Pete the Sheep** will be presented at the Civic. Please read details and return permission notes early next week, please. This is not a compulsory activity. There will be supervision at school for those students who do not attend. I need however to know by Monday if your child will or will not be attending.

Another seven students will be taken into town to have a **dental check-up on Friday 21st November, 2014**. I shall distribute information, permission notes and forms to those seven children only. It is hoped that by the end of the year all children will have had the opportunity to see the dentist and have any dental work carried out at no cost to parents. I know that a number of our children visit the dentist quite regularly. If your child is one of these then it will not be necessary for your child to see the dentist again.

The following students will hopefully be going to the **Sydney Writer’s Festival** next year—Harry Woodhead, Haley Wheeler, Corey Wheeler, Breeana Ward, Amarnia Elphick, Lindsey Ward, Zak Fry, Kiara Harris, Courtney Hattam, Shakeem Bartman & Madisen Wheeler.

Attached to this newsletter is the cost of the excursion and the itinerary. The school, in their planning for next year has allocated $1000 to the cost of this excursion. I ask please that parents of these children please read the information carefully and bring in their deposit by the due date. If no deposit is received by this date, we will assume that your child is not going. **We have not confirmed any bookings so if you know your child will not be attending, you will need to let us know NOW please as the deposit will be non-refundable.**

So much happening.....

Please enjoy a lovely cool weekend. Hope we get some much needed rain.

Kind regards,

Christine

**TIMETABLE FOR RETURN OF NOTES, FORMS AND MONEY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT / ACTIVITY</th>
<th>RETURN</th>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>COST</th>
<th>BY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Instruction</td>
<td>Bus Money / Permission Note</td>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>$20 p/child</td>
<td>Monday 17th November, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pete the Sheep (Not Compulsory)</td>
<td>Permission Note &amp; Money</td>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>$11</td>
<td>Monday 17th November, 2014</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 19th November, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dental Note</td>
<td>Permission Note &amp; Forms</td>
<td>Connor, Matthew, Corey, Haley, Harry, Amarnia, Breeana,</td>
<td>NO COST</td>
<td>Monday 17th November, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015 Sydney Writer’s Festival Excursion</td>
<td>Notification Note</td>
<td>Madisen, Courtney, Kiara, Zak, Shakeem, Lindsey, Amarnia, Breeana, Haley, Corey, Harry</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Friday 21st November, 2014</td>
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For the past few weeks Kinder and Year 1 have been working very hard in their literacy and numeracy lessons. Kinder have done an excellent job learning their 'at', 'og' and 'an' words. Kinder have also been building on their sentence building skills. In numeracy we have learnt to use a number line to help us add and subtract and this week we made groups of items to count.

Year 1 have worked very hard on nouns. We have learnt about common, proper and pro nouns and had lots of fun exploring for these nouns in our classroom book Charlie Cook's Favourite Book by Julie Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. In completion of our book the students recreated their favourite page, Incredible stories of real birds, which is on display in the classroom.

In Maths Year 1 have learnt about counting in groups and number patterns.

Rhys has found lots of things in magazines and around the classroom starting with the sounds s, a, t. He has also had fun finding items which don't belong together and our counting to 10 activities.

From TRASH to TREASURE

Last markets for the year on Saturday 15th November

Hurry down (before they melt in the heat) and grab a Christmas decoration or a bargain priced gift.

Thank you for your support throughout the year and to all of you who donated throwaways to be recycled into the children's beautiful art pieces - thank you, thank you, thank you!

We really appreciate your help and look forward to doing it all over again next year!
Year 4,5,6 Mathematics

Next week will be our assessment week and this year it will be quite different to what has been done in the past. On Monday students will complete a written test in which addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division will be required to answer everyday questions written as word sentences. We have been working with these for some time now and students are aware that they must show their thinking through the formatting of their answers.

On Tuesday, students will have the whole lesson to complete an investigation using their knowledge of Data. They will need to decide on a question to research, prepare and conduct a survey, organize their collected data, present a picture of their data as a graph, and interpret their results. They should be thinking about that question now!

An important component of Working Mathematically is being able to communicate with others in a mathematical way. On Wednesday Ms. Patison will interview students individually. They have prepared three questions of the same type as they will answer on Monday and will read one of the questions to her and then talk through how they found a solution. They will then be given another question of similar difficulty they have not prepared and will be asked to talk through and show how they can find the answer to it.

Alternatives to a written test are encouraged because not all students perform well in them. In latter years of schooling they can become a major source of stress as we all know. With a whole lesson (105 minutes) to complete Tuesday’s task, students can demonstrate how they manage time and complexity. A simple research question will be manageable within the time but, a very competent student will take on a more difficult question requiring working at a faster pace to finish on time.

During an interview, students are able to use their language skills to communicate their knowledge and understanding as well as their written work.

I am looking forward to these assessments as is Ms. Patison. We will see how the students respond. Discuss them with your child before and after they are done and give us any feedback you think will guide us to improve assessments in the future.