Dear Parents and Community Members,

Welcome everyone to Term 3. We are all really looking forward to working with the children this term and again the term’s calendar is already becoming quite full.

We were thrilled during the holidays to be notified of Rory Hattam’s success in the recent Selective High Schools Placement Examination which was held in March of this year.

Selective high schools cater for gifted and talented students who have superior to very superior academic ability which is matched by exceptionally high classroom performance. These schools can provide intellectual stimulation by grouping together gifted and talented students who may be otherwise isolated from a suitable peer group.

In NSW there are seventeen fully selective high schools and twenty five high schools in NSW have both selective and community classes.

Year 7 entry into these schools is determined by the student’s results in the Selective High School Placement Test in English (including reading and writing), Mathematics and general ability, together with their primary school’s assessment of their performance in English and Mathematics (NAPLAN).

Rory’s school of choice is Peel Technology High which is both a selective and community school.

We are obviously very proud of Rory and also very proud of all staff at Carroll Public School who have guided and supported Rory in his academic progress and development since kindergarten. We hope that Rory makes the most of this wonderful opportunity. He knows that we will be following his secondary school career with great interest and very high expectations for continued success.

As you are all aware this Monday, 21st July, 2014 is our Small Schools Athletics Carnival which is being run by our school. At the helm of all organisation for this day is Rob Hattam and I take this opportunity to sincerely thank Rob for her commitment to this day and her thorough preparation will no doubt ensure that it is a highly successful and enjoyable day for all students, parents and staff. We attached the carnival program and canteen menu for you to peruse.

In next week’s newsletter I shall outline some of the learning programs which will be taking place in the classroom this term. Please don’t forget to visit our Trash to Treasure Store at the Gunnedah Markets tomorrow. Again Trudy has done an exceptional job in working with the children to ensure that we have some great innovative items for sale.

Enjoy your weekend everyone,
Christine
SMALL SCHOOLS SPORTS CARNIVAL
CANTEEN PRICE LIST

**DRINKS:**
- Bottled Water $1.50
- Flavoured Milks $2.00
- Poppers $1.50
- Tea & Coffee $1.50
- Nescafe Instant, Cappucino Sachet
- Soft Drink $2.00

**SNACKS:**
- Fruit 50 cents
- Chips $1.00
- Bags of Lollies 50 cents

**COLD FOOD:**
- Sandwiches $2.50
- Homemade Cake Slice $1.00
- Muffins $1.00

**HOT FOOD:**
- Sausage Rolls $2.00
- Meat Pies $2.50
- Pasties $2.50
- Cup of Noodles $2.00
- Hot Dogs $2.00
- Cup Homemade Soup $2.00
- Hot Roast Beef & Gravy Roll $4.00

**FUNDRAISING EVENT BY**
**THE CARROLL CASH COWS!**
FROM TRASH TO TREASURE

On Wednesday the children were very busy cutting plastic bottles up. We are recycling the bottom of the bottles, and turning them into beautiful sun catchers. Under supervision, I demonstrated to the children how I melt the cut edges of the bottle using a tea light candle. The effect is fantastic. This afternoon we are going to bead them up, add some crystals and hopefully sell them at the markets on Saturday.

Side-tracking slightly, if anyone is missing a brand new bottle of perfume, I found one in some of the recycled gear under the school. Either you have thrown it out by mistake, or maybe you are giving me a message?? Let me know whose it is and I will return it to you!

This term, with time permitting, I really want to get the children into making our own candles, have some fun with material and do some tie-dying. If only there were more hours in a day.

At the moment my house is full of recycled gear (thank you again) - but I am still after any old candles, washed plastic bottles, cd’s, or anything else that we might be able to use.

Hope to see you at the markets this Saturday!

CARROLL CASH COWS…

**Unfortunately Bunnings didn't have us booked in to do a sausage sizzle last Thursday, so we didn't get to make any money!**

**There are the markets on Saturday with Trudy and the children selling their arts and recycled items. They have lots of items, all ridiculously low priced, so why not pop on down and grab a bargain (that your child probably made).**

**On Monday there is the Small Schools Sports Carnival, of which we are running the kitchen. Trudy has been very busy preparing and organising the kitchen - Zoie & Toni have put their hands up to help out, but more help would be appreciated. If you can help the girls out, even for an hour or so, please let Trudy know on 0428 842 921. Hopefully we will be able to make some good profit on the day.**

**The next money raising event will be the garage sale at Trudy's house. A date is still to be set, we will let you know with plenty of notice so you can book a stall if you want, or clean out those cupboards and donate stuff to the school. A few of the items already donated are going to be listed on Gumtree for sale to see if we can get a bit more money!**

**There are still a few numbers left on the 100 club. If you have a few spare dollars, you might like to buy a few. Remember, you need to be in it to win it!**
This Term we have started Data. I love this Unit - so much opportunity for activities. On Wednesday next week I would like students to bring a rolling pin, cutting board and two small (plastic) bowls or containers. Let me know if you cannot provide them.

What will we do with this equipment? Wait and see!

I will share an observation with you. One of the assessment areas was a student’s ability to work with money. On paper most students made at least one error in addition, subtraction (calculating change) and rounding. Despite revision, students continued to make mistakes on paper when re-tested. However, when I sat several of them down at a table with pretend notes and coins they were able, with one exception, to demonstrate that they could work correctly. When asked why they did not use the same strategies with written problems all I got was shoulder shrugs. A suggestion: when giving your children practice handling money can you ask them to write the sums on paper.

The exception was rounding money. Many students have learnt how to round numbers so well that they cannot see rounding money when paying with cash has its own set of rules. Thirty-seven cents, for example, becomes thirty-five cents cash, not forty, even though ‘seven’ is larger than ‘five’. Another suggestion: quiz your children to round cash prices when next doing the rounds in the supermarket.

The observation that there are differences between the ability to correctly answer problems on paper and competency in real-life is not uncommon in mathematics because many students do not connect the two contexts. Their performance in written assessment tasks will be improved once they start making these connections.

The games we play...

I have introduced students to Lovatts’ Puzzle Fun For Kids’ using a selection of activities for students to use in idle-time. Some students have seen and used them before but my purpose is to give them ideas to use when applying their digital technology skills.

Crosswords, spell checks, find-a-words, trackers (a find-a-word in which letters are arranged in geometric patterns), brick walls (form as many words as you can using a letter from each row in a brick wall), break the code and Sudokus. Apart from putting math’s and literacy skills into a fun context, it should stimulate creative and imaginative opportunities for use of digital technologies.

Another possible outcome is the generation of puzzles and games for the younger grades. We shall see!