Welcome to Central—2015

It is great to be back at Mount Isa Central after having the summer break. The teachers and I are looking forward to building on the great outcomes achieved by the students and teachers in 2014.

I would like to warmly welcome those families who are new to Central. I know that you will settle very quickly into our school community and I look forward to working together in 2015 to further develop our wonderful school.

This year we are introducing a new social skills program “Play is the Way”. This program uses play activities to teach very important social behaviours. Our school rules of Respect, Responsibility and Safety will continue to be the underlying values of our school, but learning about these essential behaviours will now follow the “Play is the Way” theory and practice.

At Mount Isa Central the teachers and I have very high expectations for the academic achievement and behaviour of every student. These high expectations also apply to levels of attendance and punctuality.

The rules on the posters at the bottom of this page highlight our Play is the Way language. The first focus rule which will be taught is to “Be brave—participate to progress” and the second rule is to “Treat others as you would like them to treat you.” Parents and carers can help a great deal by reinforcing these rules with discussions at home.

Every Day Counts—Target 93%

Our attendance target for 2015 is at least 93%. This allows for an average of two and a half days of sickness each term. Children cannot achieve if they are not at school! Morning is prime learning time so please ensure your children are at school and on time every day that they are well. Every Day Counts, Every Minute Counts!

Staff Update

Sadly for Central, Frank Nastasi received a late transfer to Walkervale State School in Bundaberg. Although it is great for Frank, who has given 8 years of excellent service to Mount Isa schools, it is a great loss for Central.

Frank has been replaced by Emily Stanton who will teach the Year 4/5 class. Jodie Wright and Ann Christiansen also join the Central team. Jodie will replace Chris Ford as our HPE teacher and Ann will join Alex Reader as a Guidance Officer.

Emily, Jodie and Ann join our other new staff member Yasmin, who was appointed in 2014. Yasmin is teaching the Year 4 class.

As usual we give a warm welcome to all new staff and look forward to working together as a team to continue building great successes for our students. Please see page 2 for our 2015 staff.

Make a Difference—Join your P & C!

The first P & C meeting this year has been set for a 1.30pm start on February 3. This new time is being trialled to see if an afternoon time is better for parents and carers.

The P & C is a very important body. It helps to set direction for the school and acts as a reference group of parents who can support and influence the school’s strategic direction.

In week 2, a survey will be issued to gather information about how we can grow our P & C and also seeking the best time for parents to attend P & C meetings.

Any involvement in your P & C does not have to be extensive. You can participate in any capacity that suits your circumstances. Please become involved, as our vibrant, successful school will be greatly enhanced with involvement in your P & C.
Prep Central

Pictured below are our newest students settling in to Prep. What a great week they have had!
It has been great to reconnect with the children and hear stories of their exciting holiday activities. It is also great to see our parents and carers preparing the children for another year of learning. This year a major goal of our school is to have more parents and carers join the P & C.

I really encourage you to join us in the quest for providing the very best education for our Central children. I intend to refurbish the old library so that it can be used by parents as an informal place to meet over a cup of tea or coffee while waiting for students and I hope that it will become a hub for Parents, Carers and Staff to meet, share, bond and work together to achieve the best outcomes for the children.

Our classes have had a great start to the new school year and please, if there is anything you would like to discuss with either myself or your child’s teacher, do not hesitate to contact us by either phone, email, note or arrange a time to meet in person.

I would also like to explain that our classes are formed with children who have a range of abilities. Each class has children who are operating below, at and above average as research proves that this is the best way to form classes and achieve maximum progress for all children.

Finally I urge all parents and carers to refrain from double parking. Expecting children to walk into a car which is double parked is placing children at risk of an accident and my duty of care to your children means that I cannot allow a child to do this.

The parking at the front of the school is intended for parents to pick up and drop off as quickly as possible. If you need to park for a longer period of time please use the centre parking. I am sure you will agree that safety must be our first priority.

Kind regards,
Kathy King
Principal.

From the Chappy’s Desk
I am pleased to be part of the support team at Central again this year and look forward to catching up with students, staff and families as we move into the year. I look forward to meeting new families and in my role as School Chaplain be a support and someone to chat with at anytime. I’m married and have two daughters and enjoy living in this great community of Mt Isa. A quick overview of my role is to provide social, emotional and spiritual support to students, parents and staff taking into account specific needs of the school. SU Qld Chaplains operate in a framework of Christian belief and personally model and own their own faith position. Our vision is to see each child and young person connected and supported in community, serving others and experiencing life to the fullest.

Key Areas of Support: Social and emotional support, Spiritual Support, Mentoring, Community Development, Educational Support, Extra-Curricular Activities, and Team Contribution. This year I’m looking forward to pancake breakfasts, helping out in the classroom and having fun with lunchtime activities so please call in and say hello.

Graeme Foster,
Chappy.
Smoke free five metre buffer zone now in place around schools

New legislation requires that there is no smoking within the 5 metre buffer zone around the perimeter of the school, beyond the school land boundary; including all structures in this area, such as bus shelters and car parks. This area does not extend into residential or business premises that share a boundary with school land. Please observe these regulations for the health and safety of our