The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. More information about the survey is available at: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 11 March. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

Last year the Federal Government committed to a new funding model for schools. Funds are now being allocated to schools according to need. For the first time in many years money is being given to schools that have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Schools will receive additional funding if one or both parents speak another language at home. Parent’s employment also directly effects funding our school receives. The government collects this statistical information from the student enrolment forms. (Continued over page)
For most parents these enrolment forms are completed prior to Kindergarten and never looked at again until you enrol your child in high school, a period of 7 years. If your employment circumstances have changed or you chose not to list which language you speak at home or left off information about your Aboriginal background we would like to know. Please ring our school or drop a note off at our office so we can adjust our records. This information is confidential and will not be shared with other parents. Your information could increase the funds of our school.

Community Sausage Sizzle
We are looking forward to welcoming our school community to the Community Sausage Sizzle to be held on Thursday 17 March commencing at 5pm till 6:30pm. We will have open classrooms, an art exhibition and be performing a dance. The children are very excited about showing off their awesome school! This event has been organised by the teachers and staff of Carool Public School to enhance our community ties and profile. All children are asked to wear their school uniform to this event.

Go4Fun
Children and their families are registering for NSW Health’s Go4Fun program in Tweed Heads South. Go4Fun is a free healthy living program for kids to become more active, healthier and happier. The program encourages children to feel more confident and boost their self-esteem, while learning to set goals to reach and maintain healthy weight. If you would like more information, contact Martina Pattison, Go4Fun Program Coordinator, on 02 6620 7502 or free call 1800 780 900.

Hats
Please remind your child/ren to bring their hat to school every day. Hats must be worn for sun protection during fitness, sport and play. If students do not have their hat they will have to stay undercover and unfortunately may miss out learning important skills during fitness activities.

Crunch & Sip
The latest guidelines advise, for optimal health, that the recommended vegetable intake is at least:
- 2.5 serves per day for children aged 2-3 years
- 4.5 serves per day for children aged 4-8 years
- 5 serves per day for children aged 9-11 years
- 5.5 serves per day for boys aged 12-15 years
- 5 serves per day for girls aged 12-12 years
One serve is equivalent to ½ cup of cooked vegetables or 1 cup of salad vegetables. Attached is an overview of what can be packed for students to consume during Crunch & Sip at school.

Canberra Excursion- Year 6
Please ensure that payments are made in full BEFORE we depart. If you need an updated balance, please see Mrs Flaherty in the office. There are a few planned transition activities between Carool and Bilambil for the girls coming up over the next month that link in with the curriculum. They will be given opportunities to meet other students which will be fantastic. I have booked in an online videoconferencing program through our connected classroom for Years 5 and 6 based on the NSW History Syllabus, Civics and Citizenship. Students will learn about the development of democracy in the early colony of NSW, the levels of government and how the bicameral system with its two houses works together to make laws. This will be another fantastic learning opportunity to prepare the students for our excursion.

Sophie Davies
Principal
‘Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world’ Nelson Mandela
**TUTTI FRUITY**
Tutti Fruity will commence on Thursday 10 March. Order form with menu attached. The cost is $5.00 for recess and lunch. Make sure you return the Tutti Fruity Program Permission slip so that your child can help out in the kitchen. We need parent volunteers to run this program so please put your name down to do one Thursday a term.

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**P&C COMMITTEE FOR 2016**
The P&C Annual General Meeting was held yesterday and the following people were voted in as the new committee for this year:

- **President:** Anna Scanes
- **Vice President:** Tania Brown
- **Secretary:** Dinah Williams
- **Treasurer:** Louisa Dunning

Thank you ladies for filling these positions and we look forward to a great year.

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**SCHOOL PHOTOS**
School photos will be taken on Thursday 24 March. Envelopes for order photos will go home soon. These are to be returned to the office before photo day. All orders and monies are handled by the school photographer, not the school office so please include correct change in the envelopes.

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**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HIGH SCHOOL 2017**
Next week Year 6 students will receive an Expression of Interest for High School form for parents to complete and return to the office. Please contact the office if you have any questions regarding this form.

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**BOOK CLUB**
Book Club catalogues are attached to the newsletter. If you wish to place an order please complete the order form on inside of back page of catalogue and return to the office in an envelope, with correct money, by Friday 18 March. Please ensure your child’s name is on order form and envelope. Parents can also order online with their credit card using LOOP (Linked Ordering & Online Payment). See instructions on order form.
Kids’ fishing workshop

LOCATION: Ray Pascoe Park, Norman St (river end), Tweed Heads
DATE: 22nd of April 2016
BOOKING CLOSE: 15th of April 2016

CONTACT: Milan Duwenhoger-Lange
02 6626 1381 or 0458 274 876 (please leave a message)
milan.duwenhoger@dpi.nsw.gov.au
What to include in Crunch&Sip

Crunch&Sip aims to increase the consumption of vegetables and fruit and promote them as a delicious snack food for students.

Crunch&Sip also aims to encourage water as the best drink. Fresh is always best when it comes to vegetables and fruit but some other choices are suitable.

**ALLOWED**

- All fresh vegetables
- All fresh fruit
- Frozen vegetables and fruit without other additives such as sauces or coatings
- Tinned fruit in water or natural juice on limited occasions
- Tinned vegetables without sauces (preferably no added salt) on limited occasions
- Dried fruit in small amounts and on limited occasions
- Plain water

**NOT ALLOWED**

- ‘Fruit’ products (e.g. fruit leathers, fruit roll-ups, fruit straps)
- Fruit jams or jellies
- Fruit pies or cakes
- Tinned fruit in syrup
- Vegetable or potato crisps
- Hot potato chips
- Olives
- Vegetable pastries (pies, pasties)
- Baked vegetable breads
- Vegetable cakes, fritters, quiches or similar
- Popcorn
- Flavoured and/or carbonated water
- Fruit or vegetable juices
- Fruit cordial
- Any drink other than plain water

Dear Parents and Carers

In Term 1 2016, your school is taking part in the *Tell Them From Me* student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help them improve. The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, *The Learning Bar*, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will **not** be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes 30 minutes or less to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), has access to data from across NSW and is running a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research is looking at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students and schools will **not** be identified in any CESE publications, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Students' personal information will not be disclosed by the Department to any other person or body other than as required by law.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next question. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you **do not want your child to take part** in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child's school by Friday 11 March.


Sophie Davies  
Principal  
Carool Public School

Dr Jenny Donovan  
Executive Director  
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation
2016 Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey non-consent form

If you do not want your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school by Friday 11 March. If this form is not returned, your child/ren will participate in the survey.

I DO NOT give consent for my child/children to participate in the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey.

Name of student/s ...........................................................................................................

Name of parent/carer ......................................................................................................

Signature of parent/carer ..............................................................................................

Date ...........................................
The survey questions relate to the following 22 measures for secondary schools:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation in sports</th>
<th>Homework behaviour</th>
<th>Expectations for success</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive learning climate</td>
<td>Participation in clubs</td>
<td>Behaviour at school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experience of being bullied</td>
<td>Truancy</td>
<td>Sense of belonging</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest and motivation</td>
<td>Effective learning time</td>
<td>Aspirations: finishing Year 12, University, TAFE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Positive relationships</td>
<td>Effort</td>
<td>Teaching relevance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellness</td>
<td>Valuing school outcomes</td>
<td>Positive learning climate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching rigour</td>
<td>Advocacy at school</td>
<td>Advocacy outside school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Positive teacher student relations</td>
<td>—</td>
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</tbody>
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3. How have schools been selected to take part?

The survey is open to all NSW government schools at no cost to them. Your child’s school has decided to participate.
4. How will taking part in this survey benefit my child’s school?

The Tell Them From Me student survey will provide school principals and school leaders with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at their school, from the perspective of students.

Data collected from the survey responses are quickly compiled into reports for school leaders. Principals can then use this information to help them identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.

5. What does my child need to do to participate in the survey?

The survey typically takes less than 30 minutes and is conducted entirely online through a secure website operated by the survey developers, The Learning Bar. Schools will make computers or laptops available so that students can complete the survey during school hours.

6. Does my child have to participate?

No, participation in the survey is optional. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable, he/she can choose to stop the survey at any time. The majority of questions in the survey can be skipped. Parents/students have a right to apply for access to, and correction of, a student’s information.

7. Will the school be able to identify my child from their responses?

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will not be made available.

8. What sort of analysis will be done of the survey data?

Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days. School leaders can use the data to better understand the experiences and views of students at their school. The results will help all schools better understand the relationship between wellbeing, engagement, effective teaching and student learning. Results from CESE’s analysis of this data will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes. This supports the Department’s continuing focus on quality teaching and leadership. The data will be retained for future analysis to help us better understand the nature of student engagement and wellbeing over time.

9. Can all school students participate in the survey?

The primary school survey is designed for students in Years 4 to 6. Schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in these Year groups to participate. Secondary schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in Years 7 to 12 to participate.

10. When will the Tell Them From Me survey happen?

The surveys will be conducted in all participating schools at the end of Term 1 and (optionally) Term 3.

What is CESE?

The Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) is part of the Department of Education.

CESE has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in New South Wales. CESE will identify and share what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all of education.

More information about CESE is available at: www.cese.nsw.gov.au

What is The Learning Bar?

The Learning Bar is a Canadian education company that specialises in school surveys for both primary and secondary students. Its survey, Tell Them From Me, is the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of Canada’s ten provinces. More than 2,600 schools and 1.7 million Canadian students have participated in the survey over the last nine years. Australian schools have been participating in the Tell Them From Me surveys since 2012.

The Learning Bar is led by Dr J Douglas Willms. Dr Willms is a Professor and Director of the Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy at the University of New Brunswick, and holds the Canada Research Chair in Literacy and Human Development. Dr Willms led the development of questions on student engagement for the OECD’s Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

More information about The Learning Bar is available at: www.thelearningbar.com

If you have any questions about the parent survey, please contact CESE via email: TTFM@det.nsw.edu.au or by telephone: 9561 8056 /9561 8688 /9561 8370.