From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Thank you to those families who were able to attend the annual “Meet the Teachers” barbecue last Thursday evening. It was a pleasure to welcome you to 2012 at Kirwan State School. I was very impressed by the large number of new families who availed themselves of the opportunity to meet their children’s teachers and also to catch up with other new families to the school. One of my sincere beliefs is that a school is much more than just a collection of buildings where learning takes place; a school is also a focal point for a community. I’m glad that OUR community is thriving!

HOMEWORK
I field many queries about homework throughout the school year. If you read my article on this subject in 2011, you will remember that I stated quite clearly that, as a busy Mum myself I hate it BUT I would also be the first one to complain if my children didn’t have any. The value of good quality homework cannot be underestimated. It has the benefits of being good training for life, good self discipline and an excellent way for you to keep in touch with your child’s learning. Homework should not be NEW work. In other words, we don’t expect you to have to teach the homework content to your child. Your child WILL, however, benefit from your checking their work, hearing their spelling and certainly listening to them read.

At Kirwan, we expect that children will do their homework. As a guide, the following times form part of our homework policy:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Time for Homework (plus reading)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year One/Two</td>
<td>5 minutes plus reading time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Three</td>
<td>10 minutes plus reading time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>15 minutes plus reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>20 minutes plus reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>30 minutes plus reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>45 minutes plus reading</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This Year, our Year 7s have made their homework completely available online with homework classes available after school for assistance. Feedback on this has been very positive to date with a number of children taking the opportunity to seek individual help and make the most of their time.

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR PLAN
This year, as part of our ongoing commitment to improvement, Kirwan State School will be renewing the current Responsible Behaviour Plan which is 4 years old. In the last couple of years particularly, Kirwan State School has implemented a highly effective program called School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS). Our Responsible Behaviour Plan needs to reflect the changes and progress which have been a feature of SWPBS.

Part of the process of renewal will include, very necessarily, input from parents. This will take two different forms:
- A stakeholders’ meeting in Term Two
- A questionnaire which will be sent home this term

We will use the information from both the Questionnaire and also the Stakeholders’ meeting to drive changes in our school’s policy.

CURRICULUM
Our students are coming to the end of their first unit under the new Australian Curriculum. Teachers are assessing their work to date and getting ready to teach the next unit of work also.

Have you asked your child what their goals are for this term?? Have they achieved any of them yet?

SNAKES ALIVE
We have had reports of a near miss with a snake not far from Kirwan State School. Children will be reminded this week NOT to touch snakes and to stay away from areas (such as long grass) where they might inadvertently step on one. Please remind your child of these simple measures to help keep them safe.

Until next week … kind regards …

Melissa Jackson – Principal
Kirwan’s Achievers

Congratulations to the following students who were the proud winners of the Student of the Week award for their class recently.

PrepA Matthew Surgeon 4A Andrew Talbot
PrepB Claire Tindall 4B Natasha Van Antwerp
PrepC Rawiri Roberts 4C Brooke Parrar
PrepD Jasmin Kennedy 4D Ella Vateiteit
PrepE Adelaide Steele 5A Gabrielle Cowley
1A Connor Clancy 5A Jessica Price
1B Brath Tulk 5B Connor Anderson
1C Clayton Davison 5D Shy Tully
1D Amber Glauser 6B Rosanna Nobile
1E/2E Quinta Te Whata-Daniels 6C Samara Southey
2A Hope Nolan 7A Emma Nolan
2B Chisina Marshall 7B Alison Cowan
2D Chloe Marshall 7C Caleb Pounder-Collins
3A Cody McCall 7D Robert Avins
3B Seraph Treffers 5/6/7 Connor Dearden

P&C Pieces

♦ P&C Annual General Meeting: Our AGM (originally planned for tonight) has been postponed due to the necessary audits not being available. The meeting will now be held on Tuesday 20 March 2012 at 7:00pm in the staffroom. We are taking nominations for Executive Positions; these can be emailed to pandc@kirwanss.eq.edu.au or dropped into the office. Being a part of the P&C (in however a big or small way) is very satisfying and rewarding, and we are always looking for more helping hands.

♦ Used Uniforms: Many thanks to everyone for donations of used uniforms; please keep them coming in. A special thanks to Mrs Michelle Haynes and Mrs Rayleen Currey who have been washing all the donated items and getting them ready for sale. Watch this space for further details.

♦ Fete News: Our next fete meeting will be held at 7:00pm in the staffroom on Tuesday 13 March 2012. Please come along and contribute in any way you can. In the meantime, there are a number of classes who are seeking donations for their fete stalls...

♦ It’s time to rummage!! Class 1D are holding a trash ‘n’ treasure stall and Class 4D is in charge of the book stall at this year’s fete and are looking for clean, good condition second-hand items – toys, bric-a-brac, books, DVDs, CDs, games, clothing, jewellery etc; everything except electrical items. So please start putting these items aside ready for our first collection day.

♦ Are you craft minded?? Class 6B may need your help. A craft group will be starting soon so we can begin making some wonderful items for this great stall. If you are interested in participating or have any spare craft items for these crafty sessions please email fete@kirwanss.eq.edu.au.

♦ Sponsorship: Are you or your company interested in being a sponsor? Have your company’s promotional material distributed on the day or host a stall, from as little as $50.00. Email your enquiry to fete@kirwanss.eq.edu.au.

Lyndal Humphreys – P&C President

Fete Craft Stall

6B are seeking donations of any fabric scraps, etc to make craft items to sell at our fete stall. If you are interested in joining our craft group please call Leanne (47238278) or Lindah (47239450) for details. Morning tea will be provided and children are very welcome!

Voluntary Resource Scheme - $30 per student

♦ A voluntary resource scheme of $30 per student operates at Kirwan whereby parents pay a contribution for their students and the school provides them with an enhanced range of materials and equipment.

♦ The funds assist this school to enhance the level of resources available for student learning so that maximum student outcomes can be achieved.

♦ Payment covers items required by the school to help it provide an excellent educational service to students e.g. art materials and supplies, resources for Information Technology e.g. internet time, computers for classrooms, software and hardware.

♦ Payment does not cover items such as stationery, purchase of LOTE and Religious Education workbooks, admission to sporting venues and excursions and transport costs. Please refer to the school book lists.

♦ Voluntary Resource Scheme invoices will not be issued but a receipt will be provided upon payment.

♦ The Voluntary Resource Scheme is for students from Prep to Year 7.

Karen Finnigan – Acting Business Services Manager

P&C Annual General Meeting / Election of Officers & General Meeting

NEW DATE ~ Tuesday 20 March

** Please note change of date!! **

Letter Received from the Deputy Mayor

Below is an excerpt from a letter received from the Deputy Mayor last week...

“...Dear Melissa

Thank you for your offer to attend your Leadership Induction Ceremony this week. I was very impressed with the quality of the ceremony and your student body.

Can I commend you on a well presented school and what appears to be a fantastic culture. This year’s school captains are a shining example of what our future should be.

Regards
David Crisafulli
Deputy Major Townsville City Council…”

Defence News

♦ Hi everyone! Our next Parent Chat Group will be on Tuesday afternoon 06 March starting at 2:00pm. There is a program called FAMILY SMART. This program is for members and partners and it is designed to assist them to identify strategies and supports to build psychological resilience throughout the military career. The next session is on Re-integration (Post Deployment). Topics include: Issues for couples and children, Reactions to look out for in yourself, Techniques to deal with these reactions. Where: Geckos, Lavarack Barracks (light refreshments provided) When: Tuesday 06 March, 6:00-8:00pm RSVP: If you are interested and wish to register, contact Jane or Rachel at DCO by Tuesday 28 February on 4753.6539 or email dco.townsville@defence.gov.au.

♦ On Wednesday 15 February our Defence Aides, Leigh and Jenny, along with Madelynn (Year 7), Zack (Year 6), James (Year 6) and Jenny (Year 4) attended the 70th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore at the Townsville RSL. Our students were photographed with Sid King who is thought to be the North’s oldest living survivor of the Singapore campaign. He is 92 years old.

♦ See you all out and about. Jenny & Leigh – DSTAs

Bike Safety

Be part of Bike Week 2012 and celebrate all that’s great about riding bikes. The event is at Sheriff Park, Mundingburra on Sunday 11 March from 7:00am until 12:00pm. Activities include information about the Townsville Bicycle Users Group, safe cycling tips for adults and children, information on bike riding in Townsville, information about bike clubs
Class Assembly Items

Students will be presenting class items on assembly this year and we encourage our parents and family members to attend on the following dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 February</td>
<td>Prep–3</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 March</td>
<td>Prep E</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 March</td>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 March</td>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note:
Year 4–7 Assemblies are held each Monday afternoon at 2:00pm.
Year Prep–3 Assemblies are held each Wednesday afternoon at 2:00pm.

Kirwan’s email address: admin@kirwanss.eq.edu.au

Tuckshop Talk

Feb 22 Jo (½ day)
Feb 23 Leanne
Feb 24 Rayleen
Feb 27 Rayleen, Lyn
Feb 28 Carley

NEW!!!!
Our school choir has a new name and a new groove. Come along and experience our NEW Kirwan Glee Club every Tuesday at 2nd Break for students in Years 4–7 starting this week and our Kirwan Talent Time for students in Years 1–3 every Friday at 2nd Break starting this week. Students can expect to learn great vocal technique and harmony singing using modern and engaging songs with movement.

Sharon Ransom – Music Teacher / Instrumental Co-ordinator

PARENTS – If ordering for more than one child, please state on all bags which order has the money in. Thank you.

Environmental Message

Plants are living, they are NOT dead, They need water and to be fed!

Interhouse Swimming Carnival - Years 3–7

The Kirwan State School Swimming Carnival for all Years 3-7 students is on Friday 02 March at the Kirwan Aquatics Centre. **COST IS $4!**

Parents are most welcome to attend on the day.

Swim times for each year level are:
- Year 7: 9:00am – 9:45am
- Year 6: 9:45am – 10:30am
- Year 5: 10:30am – 11:15am
- Year 4: 11:15am – 12:00noon
- Year 3: 12:00noon – 12:45pm

The following are a MUST for the carnival:
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- T-shirt (to swim in)
- Water bottle

TOWNSVILLE L.E.M. PHONICS

PARENT ONE-DAY TRAINING

Saturday 03 March 9:00am-3:00pm

Come and hear how you can make a real difference at home to assist your child/children to better grasp the concepts to confidently approach spelling, reading, writing and handwriting.

Venue: Belgian Gardens State School, 43 Potts Street, Townsville
When: Saturday 03 March 2012, 9:00am-3:00pm
Tuition Costs: $50 per participant
Materials: A full range of L.E.M. Phonics products will be on display and are available for purchase at the seminar or may be ordered for later delivery.
Meals: Participants will be responsible for their own meals. Tea, coffee and ‘nibbles’ will be provided.
What to Bring: All you need is a pencil/pen and water bottle.
Closing Date: Friday 02 March 2012 or until full

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL as numbers are limited and are taken on a FIRST-IN BASIS!

FIRST 10 REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED IN PERSON AT THE SCHOOL WILL RECEIVE THEIR TUITION COSTS RE-IMBURSED BY THE SCHOOL.

TOWNSVILLE L.E.M. PHONICS
REGISTRATION FORM

Saturday 03 March 9:00am-3:00pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School/Individual:</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post Code:</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
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<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
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<td>Email:</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enclose $50 payment:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of participants:</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature:</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Cheques should be made payable to: **Ark Education Consultancy**

Detach and return this section with the payment to the school ASAP.

FIRST 10 REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED IN PERSON AT THE SCHOOL WILL RECEIVE THEIR TUITION COSTS RE-IMBURSED BY THE SCHOOL.

Office Use Only: Date and time received in person at school: ____________________________