10 July 2012

From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Term 3. We especially welcome new families to our school community. I trust that you will have a positive educational journey during your time here.

PREP 2013 – ARE YOU READY????

I am always buoyed by the excitement of new Preps and their families. This year promises to be no exception with a significant number of names on our enrolments for next year already. To answer a few frequently asked questions:

- Prep (and new families) Open Day/Information Sessions will be held this year on Thursday 16th August. There will be two sessions – 9.30am and 6.00pm in the school resource centre.
- Prep Interviews will be held commencing from 20th August. Prep interviews take approximately 20 – 30 minutes to complete. Your child will need to be present for the interview which will be conducted by myself or one of the deputy principals. It’s not a “test” but we do ask your child questions to gauge their understanding of some key concepts.
- I welcome ALL preps who enrol this year for commencement in 2013.
- Preps MUST turn 5 by the end of June in the year they commence Prep. Proof of date of birth (birth certificate, immunisation record etc.) must be provided before your child can start.
- Prep is VERY important. No longer is Prep the “play doh and sandpit year”. English and Maths formal learning start in the Prep year.

If you have a Preppie ready to start for next year, there is no magic formula for readying them for Prep but if I had to give one piece of advice, it would be: READ, READ, READ, READ, READ, READ.

WE DON’T TOLERATE BULLYING!

Starting next week, led by our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Team, we will be commencing a school-wide program specifically targeted at bullying.

Under the “Peel Health Bullying Prevention Initiative”, each month we will focus specifically on a virtue through a series of lesson plans which deliver a consistent Key Message in every class from Prep through to Year 7. Starting next week, our virtue for the month will be:

RESPECT

Our consistent key message will be EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE AT SCHOOL.

As a staff we will be rewarding children who embody the virtue of the month and who can demonstrate through their actions that they believe that everyone has the right to be safe at school. I expect that your child should be able to talk to you about this and what they are learning in their classroom.

As a final note, can I say that, we have not decided to implement this initiative because we have a school full of bullies; indeed, by and large, we have a school full of polite, caring children who do their best to get along with others. We can, however, always improve. Our goal is to eliminate bullying and build resilience and strength of character in our students.

Until next week ... kind regards ...

Melissa Jackson
Principal
From our Deputy – Helen Yench

VISITING JAPANESE STUDENTS
We are having a visit from 20 students from the Kokugakuin School in Tokyo on August 2nd for half a day. Some of our Year 7 students will have the opportunity to interact with them on the day and participate in English activities and games that promote the use of the English language.

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN
Our box at the Avenues is full and we will be arranging for the pickup and counting of those cards in the next day or two. Is there anyone who may be able to pick up our box contents at Parkside and the Willows shopping centres? If so, please contact the school and let us know so we can inform those centres of the name of the person collecting them on our behalf.

COLES VOUCHERS
We are collecting and counting these as they arrive at school. Thank you to all parents and friends who are collecting the stickers and the vouchers to support our school.

OPEN/INFORMATION DAY
Our annual Information Day will be held on Thursday 16th August in the Resource Centre at 9:30am and at 6pm for those parents interested in enrolling their children for Prep and other year levels in 2013. You may collect enrolment forms from the school office prior to this date if you wish and they may be returned with a copy of the child’s birth certificate, at your convenience.

An appointment for an interview with the child and parent/s will be required, and these appointments will begin from 20th August.

Please let your neighbours and friends know about this date. This is the only time that we will be conducting an information session. Prep ‘come and try’ days will be held towards the end of the year and a transition day will be held in the last week of school.

We look forward to seeing new families and already-attending families take advantage of our Information Day.

Helen Yench (Deputy Principal)

From our Deputy – Donna Cockrem

KIRWAN DANCE PERFORMANCE
What a fantastic night it was! Huge stage! Beautiful evening under the stars! Great music! Awesome students with bearing grins and fancy footwork!

A huge thank you is due to Mrs Nicole Brodie who ran the dance program at Kirwan this year. Thanks to Mr Browne for organizing sound and lighting and to Mrs Taylor for running the Student Council stall. Thank you also to all staff at Kirwan State School for running your rehearsals, organizing students and coming to support their students. And … a massive thanks to the audience who made the night very special for all our wonderful students at Kirwan.

WELL DONE
Our students and staff are always involved in a variety of extra-curricula activities. I am impressed by the dedication and commitment of our students, and their families, and importantly the devotion and enthusiasm of our Kirwan staff. Our staff genuinely care for your child/ren and give generously of their talents and time during school, before and after school, at nights and on weekends. We have a range of wonderfully talented staff investing their own time in providing academic, cultural and sporting opportunities for students. I need only mention last term’s exciting dance performance. This term staff are involved in:

- Literacy and Numeracy activities;
- NAIDOC celebrations;
- Ongoing curriculum planning and delivery;
- Hosting Japanese visitors;
- Organizing Interhouse/Interschool Athletics;
- Eisteddfod preparation;
- Dance troop activities at lunchtime;
- Organising discos, concerts, excursions and events for students;
- And much more....

SWPBS
As you know Kirwan has a committed approach to learning. Recently our PBS team surveyed students on various safety aspects within the school. Data collected has directed us towards implementing a fabulous program called the ‘Peak Health Bullying Prevention Initiative’. Research has suggested this Canadian program will be a proactive approach to making our school even safer. Students will be involved in a yearly program which we plan to begin in Week 2 of this term.

Our first key message is “Everyone has the right to be safe at school”. Classrooms will teach lessons around the virtue, Respect (self-respect and respect for others). ‘Gotchas’ will target these virtues. Hopefully your child will come home excited about receiving Gotchas. We look forward to improvements!

Donna Cockrem (Acting Deputy Principal)

Kirwan Prep Year 2013

Enrolments are now open for the 2013 Prep Year. Please contact our office staff to put your child’s name down for the Preparatory Year and to collect an enrolment form. (All additional paperwork will be available at a later date.)

Information sessions for our new Prep parents will be held on Thursday 16 August and will include information about the school and the enrolment procedure for Prep and all other year levels. The morning session, (but not the evening session), will also include a student-led tour of the school.

Location: ICT Room 1 in the Resource Centre
Session Times: 9:30am – 10:30am; and 6:00pm – 6:40pm

Interviews of Prep students and their families, (please note that it is mandatory for your prep child to attend the interview with you), will then begin from Monday 20 August.

P&C Pieces

P&C Meeting
Come along to our next P&C Meeting which will be held in the staffroom on Tuesday 17 July commencing at 7pm.

Year 7 Committee
A quick reminder that the flat fee payment of $50 is due no later than next Friday 20 July 2012. This payment will cover yearbook and graduation expenses, so please be prompt with your payment.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 24 July from 6:00 – 7:00pm in the staffroom. This meeting will be to discuss Sports Day and a few graduation night ideas.

Fete Committee
There will be a meeting on Tuesday 24 July at 7:00pm in the staffroom. Please come along and share your terrific ideas.

Lyndal Humphreys – P&C President

Can You Help?
Each week we will be asking for donations of various items to help our fete class stalls. Please help if you can! This week we are looking for:

- Shoe boxes;
- Icecream containers or a box that may have an attached hinged lid;
- Beads – glass, wooden, plastic – large or small. (We need lots of beads!)

If you can help with any of these items, please leave them with the lovely Admin ladies. Thanks!

Fete Craft Group
There will be no Craft Group this week. We hope to get together again for more crafting fun next Wednesday 18 July. Please register your interest with Leanne (4723 8278) or Lindah (4723 9450) so we know how many to cater for. All you need to bring is your enthusiasm and we look forward to seeing you!

School Fun Run
All Fun Run money and sponsorship forms are due back by this Friday 13 July. Please note that if you have done an online sponsorship you will still need to hand the form in to be able to claim your prize.

C&K Kirwan Community Kindergarten Open Day

C&K Kirwan Community Kindergarten OPEN DAY
Saturday 14 July 2012

You’re invited to come along and see what C&K Kirwan Community Kindergarten is all about.

You’ll meet our teachers and assistants;
Look at our learning and teaching display;
See the children at play;
Meet the children and our families;
Find out about C&K Kirwan Community Kindergarten;
Find out how you can become involved;
Find out how you can enrol your child for 2013.

Date: Saturday 14 July 2012
Where: C&K Kirwan Community Kindergarten

Time: 9:00am – 11:00am

PLEASE NOTE: The email address for Kirwan & C&K Community Kindergarten is kirwan@candk.asn.au (and not info@candk.asn.au as listed above).

When walking around the school grounds please use the designated pathways. This is part of our school’s Workplace Health and Safety Policy.
School Fun Run Everyday Hero Fundraising Page
EVERYDAY HERO FUNDRAISING PAGE – DO YOU HAVE ONE??
Go online to http://www.schoolfunrun.com.au and set it up by clicking on the mi adzone tab!
WHY? You go in the draw for a Wii Fit Plus gaming system and it allows family and friends who live all over Australia or the world to get behind you and support you and our school.
HOW? They can use credit card, direct deposit, pay at Australia Post or even use PayPal.
REMEMBER – HIGHEST FUNDAISER IN THE SCHOOL WINS A 16GB IPOD NANO!

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

Kirwan School Phone Number - 4799.1888

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

Shop for Our School
♦ Earn and Learn
We have boxes at The Avenues, Parkside and The Willows for completed cards of stickers from Woolworths. If you require another card, either ask at the service counter or the school has a small supply available from the office. This program runs now to the extended date of 12 August.

♦ COLES Sport for Schools
We have registered for the COLES Sport for Schools program which runs from 13th June until 14th August. For those of you who shop at Coles Supermarkets, Bi-LO, Pick’n’Pay and Coles Online, collect the vouchers and bring them to the office and put them into the box provided. At the end of the promotion, the school will be able to choose sports equipment which will reflect the number of vouchers collected.

♦ School Dollars
Our school is participating in the Willows Shopping Centre’s “School Dollars” which runs from 24 May to 21 July 2012. When you shop at Willows Shopping Centre your can allocate every dollar you spend as points towards our school. The local school with the most points wins!! Customers are asked to present their shopping receipts to the Customer Service Desk and select our school to allocate their points to – each dollar spent equals 1 “School Dollar” point.

GO KIRWAN!!

Tuckshop Talk
Jul 11 Sandra, Michelle
Jul 12 Rayleen
Jul 13 Rayleen, Carley (am)
Jul 16 Rayleen, Brett
Jul 17 Carley

♦ No foreign currency please!!
♦ Please order food on the correct days as per the menu or orders will be substituted.

Semester 1 Student Reports
All Semester 1 Written Reports that were not collected at the end of last term will be sent home with students this week.

As you read your child’s report card, please keep in mind the following message. In the subject areas of English, Maths and Science, for the first time teachers are now reporting against National Achievement Standards. These standards are written for the end of the school year and a grade of a C reflects what a solidly achieving student would be expected to demonstrate. If it appears that your child’s grades are not what they have been previously, it may reflect this sharper focus on standards, and it does not necessarily mean your child is not progressing well.

Should you have any queries regarding any reporting processes, please don’t hesitate to contact either myself or your child’s teacher.

Trish McEvey (Acting Head of Curriculum)

Kirwan OSHC – Are You Looking for Work?
Kirwan OSHC is looking for a quote to put toilets into OSHC. If you are looking for work and are able to do this could you please call Barbara on 4799.1853 or call into OSHC.

Defence News
Hi everyone! Hope you all have had a great and relaxing holiday. Our next Parent Chat Group will be on next Tuesday 17 July commencing at 2pm in the defence room. See you all out and about.

Jenny & Leigh – DSTAs

Free Parent Workshops
Workshops are being offered by SPEDL for parents who have a child with a learning difficulty or a learning disability.

Where: The Salvos @ Riverway 41 – 69 Beck Drive Nth Condon, Townsville
When: Wednesday 25 July 2012
Time: 9:45am – 12:30pm

For more information, contact Hanne (at school) on 4799 1826, phone the organisers on (07) 3394 2566 or email the organisers at admin@speld.org.au.

School Fees
Please pay all outstanding school fees as soon as possible.

⇒ School supplied resources:
  • Prep – LEM Phonics/Numeracy Book --------------------------- $5.00
  • Year 1 – Student Assessment Folder -------------------------- $1.00
  • Year 4 – School produced planner diary -------------------- $2.00
  • Year 5 – School produced planner diary -------------------- $2.00
  • Year 6 – School supplied diary ----------------------------- $3.00
  • Religious Education (for Religious Education Books) ------- $7.00
  • Moving Arts (per student) ---------------------------------$10.00
  • Voluntary Contribution Scheme (per student) ---------------$30.00

Karen Finnigan – Acting Business Services Manager

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

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.

16 July .................................................Fun Run Money & Sponsorship Forms Due
14 July .................................................C & K Kirwan Community Kindergarten Open Day
17 July .................................................Defence Parent Chat Group – 2pm in Defence Room
17 July .................................................P&C Meeting – 7pm in Staffroom
18 July .................................................Fete Committee Meeting – 7:00pm in Staffroom
20 July .................................................$5.00 Flat Fee Payment Due – Year 7 Students
24 July .................................................Year 7 Committee Meeting – 6:00pm in Staffroom
24 July .................................................Fete Committee Meeting – 7:00pm in Staffroom
27 July .................................................Interhouse Athletics Day
02 August .................................................Japanese Student Visit
16 August .................................................Information Sessions – Prep 2013 – 9:30am and 6:00pm
20 August .................................................Beginning of Prep Interviews
27 October .................................................School Fete