16 October 2012

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers

It is that time of the year when we start looking for the possible recipients of our school awards which will be announced at a special ceremony on 11th December. I have published the criteria below (as I did last year) so that you can have an idea of the standard we are looking for. These standards are unashamedly HIGH. To receive one of these awards is something of an achievement.

A few clarifications:
- I DO NOT select the Principal's Award. This is selected by the teachers of the year level. The award is given for qualities which any Principal would look for in a student of high calibre.
- Children DO NOT have to have completed an ICAS test to receive an academic award. Results from ICAS testing may be used as a layer of evidence but are certainly not the be all and end all. As I stated at our inaugural ceremony last year, everyone has the potential to be a super star. Our awards ceremony is about recognizing specific achievements in these fields.

Academic
- Years 3 – 7 only;
- 1 Child per Year Level; (In exceptional circumstances there may be 2 who cannot be separated.)
- Recipient will have “vast majority” of As on Semester One Report Card;
- Recipient will be on track for similar achievement levels in Term 4/Semester Two;
- Where applicable, high level of performance on the Year 3, 5, 7 test OR if absent for this test, the teacher can demonstrate a high level of performance in reading, spelling and maths through standardised tests and workbooks;
- Credit, Distinction or High Distinctions in the University of NSW Competitions where applicable;
- The recipient may have demonstrated a keen thirst for knowledge through participation in extra-curricular such as Author in Residence Programs, Science Club etc.

Sporting
- Years 3 – 7 only;
- 1 child per Year Level; (In exceptional circumstances there may be 2 who cannot be separated.)
- In non-representative Year Levels (3–4), the sporting award will be negotiated with the PE teacher;
- Regardless of Year Level, the recipient will be a child who engages in school sports with a positive attitude and demonstrates the characteristics of a “good sport”;
- In non-rep Year Levels, the recipient will be a child who demonstrates the most potential and enthusiasm in a number of sports;
- In representative Year Levels, the recipient will be the child who has represented the school at the highest level at ANY sport or sports.

The Arts
- Years 3 – 7 only;
- 1 child per Year Level; (In exceptional circumstances there may be 2 who cannot be separated.)
- The recipient will be a child who has achieved outstanding success in a field of The ARTS through school based programs (eg. Artist in Residence, Choir, Instrumental Music, School Music and through classroom activities);
- Regardless of the Year Level, the recipient will be a child who engages in the ARTS with enthusiasm and represents the school in a positive light through this medium.

Principal's Award
- Years 3 – 7 only;
- 1 Child per Year Level; (In exceptional circumstances there may be 2 who cannot be separated.)
- The recipient will be a child who DOES NOT qualify for any other award;
- The recipient will be a child who upholds the school values at all times;
- The recipient will be a child who interacts well with staff, students and visitors; an excellent role model who conducts themselves in such a way both in school and out of school, that the school is reflected in a positive light;
- The recipient may have demonstrated leadership qualities in class, through Helpmates or in a captaincy role or in any other aspect of school life;
- The recipient may have demonstrated outstanding perseverance and determination and, through these qualities, has achieved noticeable improvement in any aspect of school life.

PLANNING FOR 2013

It is at this stage of the year that we start preparations and planning for classes for the 2013 school year. If you know that you will be leaving Kirwan SS at the end of the year, please let us know via phone or email to admin@kirwans.eq.edu.au so that we can have a fairly accurate appraisal of our numbers for the new year.

Now is also the time when I ask parents to put in writing any special consideration in terms of their child’s placement for 2013. If you have an individual request, this should be written, enclosed in an envelope, addressed to the The Principal, Kirwan State School and marked “private and confidential”. I would like to stress that requests for individual teachers are not valid special considerations. Special consideration may be given for a range of individual, personal circumstances. Please note that all requests will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Special requests need to be delivered to the school no later than Monday 29 October. Requests received after this date may not be considered.

DATE CHANGES

Please note two important date changes for this term.
- Our ICAS special assembly will now be held NEXT Wednesday 24 October at 2:00pm.
- Our community Christmas Carols will now be held on Tuesday 13th November on the school oval.

My apologies for any inconvenience caused by these unforeseen changes.

Until next week … kind regards

Melissa Jackson
Principal

Only 11 more sleeps until the fetell!
From our Deputy - John Kratzmann

SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

This week our whole school continues to focus on the behaviours students need to show when they are lining up before school and after breaks – sitting quietly, using manners, collecting lunchboxes and being on time are all behaviours that attract a ‘Pink Gotcha’. I am very pleased to say that before school our Meet and Greet area is fantastic and that our lining up is really improving. Please discuss this with your kids and reinforce with them that we have HIGH expectations of EVERY student’s behaviour.

50 GOTCHAS – THIS WEEK

Ashton Belleter – Prep C
Hannah Buchanan – Prep C
Alexandra Plant – Prep C
Harrison Carr – Prep C
Lucy Duncan – 1A
Flynn Currey – 2A
Jade Brown – 2C
Jessica Shaw – 6A

UNDER 11 RUGBY LEAGUE

There has been lots to celebrate lately. We will be formally handing over the ‘Winners’ trophy to our Under 11 League team on Assembly on Monday 29 October at 2.00pm. Jason Gray, the ARL Development Manager from the Cowboys will be present to hand out medals to our players.

PARTNERSHIPS

In Term 3, along with our dedicated teachers, I supported many students by strengthening partnerships between school and home. I encourage and challenge all parents to:
- Know what your child is learning – and can do and needs to work on...
- Read at home daily...
- Talk to your child’s teacher regularly...
- Jump in early to solve any issues your child may have at school...
- Be an active part of our school community and your child’s learning...

WHOLE SCHOOL BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAM

Making sure our school is a supportive, encouraging and safe learning environment for each and every student is a MUST. We do well at this here at Kirwan. In each and every classroom this year every teacher has explicitly delivered lessons to students on playing fairly, being a good winner, taking turns and negotiating and making decisions in a group. In Term 3 all classrooms focussed on our Whole School Bullying Prevention Program. This was the result of a Whole School Bullying Audit and the interesting findings from this informative process. This term every classroom in the school will focus each week on a different aspect of bullying. Teachers will deliver explicit, planned lessons aimed at the prevention and eradication of bullying from Kirwan SS. We then catch kids doing the right things, reward these and celebrate great choices. The term looks like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 4</th>
<th>Unit / Key Message</th>
<th>Focus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Unit 6 – ‘Telling an Adult About Bullying is not Tatting’</td>
<td>Difference between tatting and telling and assessing dangerous situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Unit 7 – ‘Bullying can be stopped’</td>
<td>How to deal with bullying.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Unit 8 – ‘If you’re part of the solution, you’re part of the problem’</td>
<td>Bystanders need to be witnesses. Responsibility is to help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Unit 9 – ‘Bullying is NOT a normal part of growing up’</td>
<td>Why people bully others. Anger management skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Unit 10 – ‘It’s important to communicate well’</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Revision</td>
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Stay tuned...

John Kratzmann - Deputy 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 Scarlett Sagacio 4A Danielle Price
PrepC Ava Leeson 4A Lyle Norris
PrepD Zak Giezendanner 4B Paige Gordon
PrepE Emma Jones 4C Sophie Jones
1A Rhys Bligh 4C Demica Tarrett
1B Brock Patterson 4D Corey Hopkins
1C Taj May 5B Zane Nelson
1C Rebecca Ellis 5D Kyle Bitossi
1D Jai Russell 6A Taylor Barry
1F Angus Smart 6B Bailey Gifford-Carpene
2A Lachlan Martin 6C Jake Spencer
2C Harrii Nowara 7A Samuel Taylor
2D Porcha Egginton 7B Aggie Vateihe
3A Jack Wicks 7D Madeline Myers
3B Emily Rogers 5/6/7 Holly Doran

From our Deputy – Helen Yench

EARN AND LEARN POINTS

We have had confirmation that the Earn & Learn promotion through Woolworths has given the school 201000 points to spend. What a wonderful total. Thank you to all who participated and brought their stickers in to the school. I have used the points to increase the resources in the school. Arriving during Term 1, 2013 will be 120 new student chairs (to replace old ones where necessary throughout the school); 6 adjustable student tables (to cater for up to 6 students at each table); a collage trolley, craft trolley, double level bookshelf and double sided book stand; 3 class sets of magnetic white boards with a large set of magnetic letters; 3 stereo microscopes; 4 digital hand-held microscopes with USB adapters; 5 world globes; 10 trapezoid tables and a selection of charts for classrooms. These resources will greatly benefit the students.

CAROLS NIGHT

Our Christmas Carols night has been booked as November 13th (Tuesday). We were rained out last year, so the decision has been made to bring it forward. There will be a stage and all classes will be performing on the night. Begin informing family members and neighbours of this wonderful community night. There could even be a visit from a man in a red suit!!!! There will be food and drinks available and glo products on sale.

STUDENT FREE DAY

Next Monday is a student free day so no students will be at school. All staff will be participating in a day of professional development on varying subjects. We hope you enjoy the day with your child/children.

Helen Yench - Deputy Principal

4C Have Become Environmental Artists

Year 4C have become environmental artists. They have taken on the important tasks of stenciling messages around our storm water drains and decorating them with fish, turtles and starfish. The message “This drains to the Great Barrier Reef” helps us realise that any rubbish, plastics and oils thrown down the drain will end up on the reef and harm all the creatures living there. We only want rain down our drains.

When walking around the school grounds please use the designated pathways.

This is part of our school’s Workplace Health and Safety Policy.
From the Head of Special Education

Special Christmas Party invitations have arrived and were sent home on Friday afternoon with your child. Please be advised that only the invited child will be catered for and receive gifts. However all family members are welcome to attend and enjoy the festivities of the day. Choosing to bring a picnic basket will greatly assist the caterers. The invited child will receive up to 3 quality gifts that are generally shared to support the family. Parents of children who are unable to attend on the day due to varying circumstances may bring their child’s invitation to the party and visit the toy room on their behalf. Enjoy the day.

Hanne Secher – Acting HOSES

Kirwan Student Council is holding a uniform free day on Friday 19 October. All funds raised will be donated to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Please remember the dress code of Kirwan – no singlets, midriff tops, offensive t-shirts, thongs or jewellery to be worn. Thank you for supporting your School Council.

Kirwan School Phone Number - 4799.1888

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