21 August 2012

From The Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I never cease to be amazed at the range of Information Technology which is available and how its ready availability has changed the way we learn, communicate and generally do business. The Department of Education has developed a range of apps to help children, one of which I have outlined below.

Out And About App Helps Children Learn
Parents and caretakers can download a range of DETE’s popular free apps. One of the department’s most popular apps is Out and About sight words kit aimed at Prep to Grade 2 students to help them master the first 100 sight words to which they are typically introduced.

Out and About has been designed for young children.

Kids love using their parents’ smart phones and they love mastering each set of the Out and About App sight words. In no time at all, your younger children will be ready to zoom through entry-level books.

Out and About can be downloaded from the iTunes App store.  

Prep Interviews
These commence this week with all members of the administration team busy meeting and getting to know our incoming Preps and their families for next year. This is certainly not seen as a chore!! It is one of the most enjoyable times on the admin calendar. Please bear with us while these are taking place as we may be tied up quite heavily during school hours.

Behaviour, Learning and Bullying
Our antibullying program, the Peel Health Bullying Prevention Initiative is well and truly up and running in all 33 classes. Your child may have talked about the “Peace” place they have created in their class; they should have talked about the virtues of respect, consideration, understanding, cooperation, forgiveness, justice peacefulness.

Our current unit “Empathy Development and Friendship Skills” focuses on the virtues of friendliness and compassion. Its key message is that “Conflict is inevitable, bullying is not!” There is a difference, and part of this program is teaching children to recognise the signs of bullying: Bullying is repeated, targeted imbalance of power. It is not a single incident. Nor is it conflict between two parties who have equal rights and “power”.

We as a staff are committed to reducing and eliminating bullying. This is NOT a quick fix solution. It requires good quality teaching of sound social skills and a commitment by the entire community.

Until next week ... kind regards ...

Melissa Jackson
Principal
From our Deputy - Donna Cockrem

KIRWAN IDOL

A few reminders:
To be a contestant in this awesome event all you do is collect a nomination form from your class teacher, bring along $1 when your act is on and provide your own music if your act requires it. Heats are conducted on Fridays at first break. Semi-Finals and the Grand Final will be held at the Kirwan Fete (27 October). You will be notified when you are on by your teacher the week of your heat. You will receive a written reminder in that week as well. NO spectators are allowed during the heats.

PBS

As you are aware our students are engaging in lessons for our bullying prevention program. This week is part two of Unit 3 “Everyone needs to learn to live in peace”. Virtues such as cooperation, forgiveness, justice and peacefulness are being investigated.

The PBS team is working hard to provide an even better learning environment for our students. We are currently revamping our Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students. There are three levels of behaviour: Minor (classroom managed), Major (classroom, office and Reflection Room managed) and Extreme (office managed). If your child receives a behaviour card they may receive reflections for their actions. The following are examples of exhibited behaviours with their set consequences.

- Disruption, Defiance, Disrespect = 2 reflections with contact to parents/caregivers.
- Bullying/harassment, fighting/physical aggression, unsafe behaviour = reflections with contact to parents/caregivers.

Congratulations to the following students who have received 50 Gotchas recently:

- Rawiri Roberts Prep C
- Joanie Garbutt Prep C
- Ella-Paige Rizos Prep C
- Franki Yates SA
- Raven McDonald SA
- Amelie Evans 1A
- Dakota Aeo 1A
- Morgan Cameron 1/2E

SPARE CLOTHES

We have had a number of toilet accidents of late. Please remember to provide a change of underwear for your ‘little’ ones.

BEFORE SCHOOL

Just a reminder if you need to see your class teacher please make an appointment in advance. Teachers are extremely busy in the mornings preparing for their day. We appreciate keeping communication lines open but quick chats or lengthy meetings must be organized in advance.

SCHOOL OPINION SURVEY

If you received a School Opinion Survey please return it to the office as soon as possible.

Donna Cockrem (Acting 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.

- Prep A
  - Carlo Vanguglia
  - 3B
  - Kyron Cherry
- Prep B
  - Juélz Iva-Julian
  - 3C
  - Michael Costello
- Prep C
  - Charlie Benz
  - 3D
  - Jacob Graham
- Prep D
  - Lily-Rose Krieger
  - 3D
  - Toch Jorgensen-King
- Prep E
  - Jacqueline Reminis
  - 4B
  - Liam Freese

1A
- Cody Rigg
- 4D
- Hayden Abrahams

1B
- Sophie Everett
- 5A
- Marcus Cowan

1C
- Tshaan Steen
- 5D
- Shy Tuliy

1D
- Kodi Leyssle
- 5D
- Charley Struthers

1E/2E
- Elyse Franklin
- 5D
- Jennifer Hepburn

2A
- Flynn Currey
- 6A
- James Aldridge

2B
- Amelia Kugler
- 7A
- Jasmine Boulton

2C
- Dane Jampolski
- 7A
- Jackson Lott

2D
- Tylr Brown
- 7C
- Caleb Allen

3A
- Keely Harrison
- 7D
- Matthew O’Shea

P&C Pieces

Due to a change in circumstances, our secretary, Mrs Carle Merrett, has had to resign from her position as P&C Secretary. We thank her for her service and appreciate her giving up her spare time. Therefore, we are calling for nominations for the position of Secretary. Duties include: attending the monthly general meeting, taking and distributing minutes, monitoring correspondence and helping with the Kirnews insert. Being part of the P&C is very rewarding and is an opportunity to help improve our fantastic school. You will have the support of a great team who all enjoy helping around the school. Please submit nominations to pandc@kirwans.eq.edu.au or contact any P&C member on 0408 797 826.

Don’t forget our general meeting tonight is on in the staffroom at 7:00pm. Meetings are friendly and casual and are generally finished by 8:30pm. Everyone is welcome!

FETE SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

JINGO ICE-CREAM CAFE

Located at Cannon Park
(07) 4700 7937

TICKETING HOURS:
- Tues-Sun: 12.00pm – 10.00pm

FETE COMMITTEE

- This Thursday, 23 August 2012 we will be pre-selling ride wristbands and showbags for the fete. They will be on sale from 8.15am - 9.00am every Thursday until the end of term in the shed and will be cash sale only - they will not be sold through the admin office.
- Please note wristbands and showbags will not be given out prior to the event. All monies will be receipted and documented for ease of collection on Fete Night.
- Wristbands will cover unlimited rides on the jumping castle, merry-go-round, rock wall, giant swings, ripper dipper and necklace slide just to name a few and if pre-purchased at school prior to the fete will only cost $23.00 per person or $28.00 on fete night.
- Showbags will also be available to pre-order and there will be 6 different bags to choose from. If pre-ordered at school, prior to the fete, they will only cost $8.00. Bags on the night will cost $10.00 each.
- Drop Off Days – we will also be taking any donations on Thursday mornings from 8.15 – 9.00am every Thursday for the rest of term. We are still in need of pre-loved books, dvds and cds, as well as any items for our White Elephant stall. (Please note, no electrical items or clothing please). We also still need “dolmos” jars, so please wash your larger jars and bring them to school for use on Prep D’s tombola stall.
- Thank you to all families who have been collecting milo and coffee tins. We now have plenty of tins and won’t be needing anymore.

YEAR 7 PARENT COMMITTEE

- Due to illness, our last meeting was cancelled. We apologise for the late notice of this cancellation and any inconvenience it may have caused. Another meeting will be held soon. Please stay tuned for details.
- Thank you to all those families who have paid the flat fee payment. We are now approaching 5 weeks OVERDUE and still have numerous payments outstanding. All yearbook and dinner dance bookings have been put on hold until these payments have been made. Please contact the committee ASAP if your child is NOT attending the dinner dance or ordering a yearbook, or if you need any assistance.
- Due to the many requests from new students and parents who are tired of washing the same shirt every night, it has been decided to look into ordering a second run of senior shirts. These shirts will be an additional cost to the flat fee payment and will cost $45.00 each. Please be aware that before an order can be placed, we need to reach the required minimum of 20 shirts. If we don’t reach the minimum we are unable to place an order. Please contact me via email at thelowefamily2012@bigpond.com or phone 0407 291 626 ASAP if you would like to place an order.

Lyndal Humphreys – P&C President
Fete Craft Group
Come along and join us for a social morning of craft to make items for our fete stall; tomorrow, Wednesday 22 August, from 9:30am–12:00noon at 19 Daytona Drive, Kirwan. This week is free choice from a range of assorted projects! Morning tea and craft supplies will be provided and children are also very welcome. Please register your interest with Leanne (4723 8378) 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!

Year 7 into 8 Information Nights
William Ross State High School – Year 7 into 8 Information Night:
When: Tuesday 21 August 2012
Time: 5:30pm – Registration
6:00pm – 7:00pm – Information Session
Where: William Ross State High School Performing Arts Block

Townsville State High School – Year 7 into 8 Transition Night:
When: Tuesday 21 August 2012
Time: 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Where: Townsville State High School Library
Address: 36 Boundary Street, Townsville

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 enrolment paperwork. Interviews of Prep students and their families have commenced this week. (Please note that it is mandatory for your prep child to attend the interview with you.)

Defence News
- On Wednesday 15 August our DSTAs, Mrs Leigh Reid and Mrs Jenny Sheehan along with 2 of our Defence students, Callum McConkey 3A and Raven McDonald 5A attended the end of World War 2 Commemorative Service at the Cenotaph Anzac Park, The Strand. They laid a wreath on behalf of Kirwan State School in memory of Australian soldiers.

- Our next Parent Chat Group will be on Tuesday 28 August commencing at 2:00pm in the defence room.
- If your husband/partner has or will be deployed, can you please let us know as we will be there for your child during this time.
- If you have any queries or questions please come in and see us or drop us a line.
- See you all out and about.

Jenny & Leigh – DSTAs

Tuckshop Talk
Aug 22 Michelle
Aug 23 Rayleen, Leanne
Aug 24 Rayleen, Carley (½ day)
Aug 27 Brett, Rayleen
Aug 28 Carley

PLEASE NOTE – No foreign currency at Tuckshop please.
Brown paper bags are 10c each.
No Vanilla Malt milk – they are no longer available. Please cross off your price list.

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