11 June 2013

From the Principal’s Desk
Dear Parents and Caregivers

QUADRENNIAL SCHOOL REVIEW

Don’t forget that between now and the end of Term 3, we will be providing several opportunities for parents and community members to “have their say” on shaping the direction of our school for the next 4 years. Our strategic plan for the next 4 years will help to guide our decision making so that, while we continue to provide quality education for all students at Kirwan, we are also keeping in mind the qualities that parents look for in a good school. Please watch out in the newsletter in the coming weeks so that you don’t miss out on the opportunity to play your part. At the next P&C meeting on Tuesday 18 June, I will be asking those present to look briefly at our current strategic plan (which finishes this year) and reflect using the following questions:

- What do we keep?
- What do we discard?
- Where to next?

HEAD LICE

Unfortunately, we seem to have more than our fair share of these annoying little critters at the moment. While they are not fatal, they are certainly very difficult to eradicate and highly contagious. Please help us to minimize the spread of head lice at school by taking note of the following points:

- There is no shame in contracting head lice. In fact there is some evidence to suggest that they prefer squeaky clean hair.
- Head lice can look different depending on what stage of their life cycle they are at. If they are new eggs then they will appear as silvery/white tiny objects firmly STUCK to the hair shaft. It is easy to tell the difference between lice eggs and dandruff because of this – dandruff will move when pushed with a comb or finger nail; eggs won’t.
- As the eggs (larvae) grow they change colour and can appear coffee coloured towards the end of this stage before they hatch.
- Adult lice will move away quickly from any disturbance in the hair (e.g. when you part the hair to have a look for them). They are not always easy to find.
- If your child is scratching and complaining of being itchy then there’s a good chance they have head lice.

TREATMENT

- There are several treatments available from the chemist.
- Conditioner and comb treatment is also effective, cheap and less damaging to skin and hair. This involves using a “nit comb” and inexpensive, pale conditioner, sectioning the hair and combing each section through several times. The conditioner immobilizes the head lice so that they can be removed. Use an old towel to wipe the comb after each strand is combed. You will see the head lice easily as they are wiped on the towel. This treatment will remove adult head lice but NOT necessarily the un-hatched eggs. You will need to back this up with a chemical treatment or use conditioner and comb several times over to catch the lice at every stage.
- Please TREAT YOUR CHILD before sending them back to school and check other members of the family as well.

PREVENTION

- There are several spray-on treatments which appear to be effective in preventing head lice infestation. They often contain essential oils such as lavender oil and Neem oil.
- Tie hair back.
- Check hair regularly.
- Discourage sharing of hats, combs etc.

If you receive a class letter regarding head lice, this means that someone in the class may have head lice. This is a signal for you to check your child’s hair.

Until next week ... kind regards
Melissa Jackson (Principal)
From the Deputy Principal – John Kratzmann

ANNIE

Dedication, perseverance, commitment, enthusiasm, camaraderie, cohesion, organisation, opportunity, community, celebration – well done Kirwan. It is easy to be proud of our school.

SWPBS

Classroom lessons this week will focus on ‘including others’. Including others in games and activities makes everyone feel good. We expect all our students at Kirwan to demonstrate the skills taught weekly in classrooms. When I walk around the playground and see our 860 students playing peacefully, I know that our students are putting their learning into practice. During this month our teachers will be targeting and teaching the skills around managing conflict in the playground. The unit of work is around ‘conflict is inevitable, bullying is NOT.’

JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE

Our team played Richmond Hill State School (Charlers Towers District ARL Development winners) last Thursday. We were far too strong and ran away with the game convincingly. Our next game is this Thursday at 6:00pm at Brothers Rugby League against The Willows State School. We drew 3 tries each against The Willows in the Bill Nettle Challenge earlier this year. This Thursday promises to be a great game of junior football. This is a knockout competition so the winner goes on to the next level. Our players are excited about the challenge. Your support on the night will certainly help us get on top of The Willows. See you there.

John Kratzmann – Deputy Principal

From the Deputy Principal – Donna Cockrem

ANNIE

What a wonderful performance! To the students and teachers involved, congratulations on presenting such an outstanding musical. Thanks to the many parents and grandparents who did their bit to help out with costumes, make-up, hair and general ‘bits and pieces’. The entire staff at Kirwan contributed and I thank them all for their patience and understanding during such a huge commitment. A massive thanks to Mrs Ransoms and Mrs Brodie. It's their vision and passion that makes a musical production. Well done Kirwan community!

ANNIE PHOTO CD

We are currently organising an ‘Annie Musical’ CD. Photos will include rehearsals at the Civic Theatre and production shots. I have looked at the photos and they are fantastic. By next week we will have all costs, legal and copyright issues resolved and will be able to advise of the ordering process. Stay tuned for next week's Kirnews.

50 GOTCHAS

Congratulations to Jiana Bruhn Prep A (our very first prep), Victor Cham 7C, Rory Hoad 7C and Seraph Treffers 4D who have received their 50 Gotchas. A huge congratulations to Tenason Stark 4B who has received 100 Gotchas! These students have or will receive a certificate and a prize for their fantastic efforts on their respective assembly!

ATHLETICS PROGRAM

On Thursday 1 August we will hold the 800m and March Past practice starting at 9.00am. Interhouse Athletics Day is on Friday 19 July. Champions Day will be held following these events (date TBA). This year there will be no sprint trials in year levels. As participation is our main focus on Interhouse Athletics Day, students will compete in sprint races (60m, 80m, 100m and 200m – depending on age group) randomly. Preps, 1s and 2s will race in year levels, not age groups. Students in Year 3 – Year 7 will compete in age groups in whole day events as per previous years. All Prep – Year 3 will receive a sticker after racing. No ribbons will be distributed during Interhouse Athletics Day. Ribbons will be presented to 800m winners and winners on Champions Day. The red track team will be selected from the Champions Day. Age Champions will be calculated for students 10yrs – 13yrs from all Champions Day results.

LOST PROPERTY

Each day, we get additions to the lost property bins which are located at the front of the administration block. Now with winter approaching fast, a number of jackets/jumpers have already appeared in the lost property bins. Please ensure your child brings home their discarded jacket/jumper. We put the contents of these bins out at least twice a term. Lost property owners have the opportunity to retrieve their property.

Donna Cockrem – Acting Deputy Principal

Congratulations to the following students who were selected for the Thuringowa Softball Team: Chloe Whitten, Holly Doran, Jayda Blackman, Kyla Gordon, Hannah Pearson, Stephanie McDougall and Taleesha Geia.

Emma Talbot – PE Teacher

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
- Kymani Mallard
- Sarah Rogers

Prep B
- Julianne Gurney
- 2D Lachlan Townsend

Prep C
- Ava Shihong
- 1E Chelsea-Lee Stroud

Prep C
- Jessica Fraser
- 3A Jaylee Jensen

Prep D
- Lucas Arkell
- 3A Sienna Wallis-Hage

Prep D
- Olivia Hansen
- 3B Alannah Cowley

Prep E
- Sienna Tabacchi
- 3C Shane Thomson

Prep F
- Oscar Thomas
- 3C Shamaigho-Rae Metcalfe

1A
- Bella Splawinski
- 3D Logan Quirk

1A
- Bridie Marshall
- 4A Lauren Bennie

1B
- Gokisa Tapau
- 4B Ashlee Partridge-Wregg

1C
- Heath Harris-Galagher
- 4C Jaydin Salii

1D
- McKinlee Mashman-Burton
- 4D/5E Connor Campbell

1E
- Roi Aaron
- 5B Natasha Van Antwerp

2A
- Brianna Atfield
- 5B Connor Price

2A
- Dana Andiow
- 5D Kalen Ryan

2B
- Kristina Harris

Kirwan keepers

14 June .............................. Year 7 Parent Group Meeting – 2:00pm Resource Centre
18 June .................................. Defence Chat Group – 2:00pm Defence Room
18 June .................................. P&C Meeting – 7:00pm Staffroom
20 June .................................. School Disco
20 June .................................. Under 8’s Day
19 July .................................. Athletics Carnival
1 August .................................. NAIODC Day

P&C Pieces

Our next general meeting will be held next Tuesday 18 June at 7:00pm in the staff room.

Pictureproducts - We still have plenty of plate and clock templates available, so we will accept orders until Friday 14 June. Finished templates can be handed in at the office by Monday 17 June. If you have any queries about Pictureproducts, please contact Lindah (phone 47229450 after school hours).

Laurelle Jones – P&C Secretary

A letter from the P.C.

The school received the following letter from Mr Ken Ellis, President of the P&C Association.

“... Dear Mrs Jackson

On behalf of the Kirwan Primary School P&C, I would like to offer congratulations to the wonderful students and dedicated staff that put on a wonderful production of Annie last week.

The enthusiasm of the children, and their hard work and commitment to the production are to be commended. What a wonderful group of kids who all seemed to enjoy themselves; they are a credit to the school and their families. Sitting in the audience, it was hard to believe that the performers are all aged between 5 and 12.

A huge thank you and congratulations should go to the staff that put in additional hours for rehearsals, encouraging and developing the singing and dancing talents of the students, and bringing the production to life. Not an easy job, but one that showed results on the stage. A big thank you should also go to
the parents who volunteered their time to help out. It was a great team effort.

The students, school community and parents should all be very proud of such a wonderful production ... “

Can you help?
If you can help with washing of musical costumes, please drop into the office. There are a number of items that need laundering before they are stored away for future use.

Guidance Officer News

FOOD FOR THOUGHT – PARENTING AS A TEAM – CO-PARENTING TIPS FOR DIVORCED OR SEPARATED PARENTS

Parenting is full of decisions you’ll have to make with your ex. Cooperating and communicating without blow-ups or bickering makes decision-making far easier on everybody. If you aim for consistency, geniality, and teamwork with your ex, co-parenting and the children’s well-being will be more successful for all involved. It’s healthy for children to be exposed to different perspectives and to learn to be flexible, but they also need to know they’re living under the same basic set of expectations at each home. Aiming for consistency between your home and your ex’s avoids confusion for your children.

Rules: Rules don’t have to be exactly the same between two households, but if you and your ex-spouse establish generally consistent guidelines, your kids won’t have to bounce back and forth between two radically different disciplinary environments. Important lifestyle rules like homework issues, curfews, and off-limit activities should be followed in both households. This helps create safe, consistent and predictable environments, where children can thrive.

Discipline: Try to follow similar systems of consequences for broken rules, even if the infractions didn’t happen under your roof. So, if your kids have lost TV privileges while at your ex’s house, follow through with the restriction. The same can be done for rewarding good behaviour.

Schedule: Where you can, aim for some consistency in your children’s schedules. Making meals, homework, and similar bedtimes can go a long way toward your child’s adjustment to having two homes. The actual move from one household to another, whether it happens every few days or just on weekends, can be a very hard time for children. Transitions represent a major change in your children’s reality. Every reunion with one parent is also a separation with the other; each “hello” is also a “goodbye.” In joint custody arrangements, transition time is inevitable, but there are many things you can do to help make exchanges and transitions easier, both when your children leave and return.

Some ideas:
As kids prepare to leave your house for your ex’s, try to stay positive and deliver them on time. You can use the following strategies to help make transitions easier:

- Help children anticipate change. Remind kids they’ll be leaving for the other parent’s house a day or two before the visit.
- Pack in advance. Depending on their age, help children pack their bags well before they leave so that they don’t forget anything they’ll miss. Encourage packing familiar reminders like a special stuffed toy or photograph.
- Try just dropping off—rather than pick up the child on “switch day.” It’s a good idea to avoid “taking” your child from the other parent so that you don’t risk interrupting or curtailing a special moment. Drop off your child at the other parent’s house instead, or at a neutral place and drop over children’s belongings later or when the other parent is not home (if difficulties are still present in the ex-relationship).
- The beginning of your children’s return to your home can be awkward or even rocky.
- Keep things low-key. When children first enter your home, try to have some down time together—read a book or do some other quiet activity.
- Double up. To make packing simpler and make kids feel more comfortable when they are at the other parent’s house, have kids keep certain basics—toothbrush, hairbrush, pjamas—at both houses.
- Allow the child space. Children often need a little time to adjust to the transition. If they seem to need some space, do another something else nearby. In time, things will get back to normal.
- Establish a special routine. Play a game or serve the same special meal each time your child returns. Kids thrive on routine—if they know exactly what to expect when they return to you it can help the transition.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT – WHAT I NEED FROM MY MUM & DAD: A CHILD’S LISTS OF WANTS FROM DIVORCED OR SEPARATED PARENTS

Dear Mum and Dad

I need both of you to stay involved in my life. Please write letters, make phone calls, and ask me lots of questions. When you don’t stay involved, I feel like I’m not important and that you don’t really love me. Please stop fighting and work hard to get along with each other.

Try to agree on matters related to me. When you fight about me, I think that I did something wrong and I feel guilty. I want to love you both and enjoy the time that I spend with each of you. Please support me and the time that I spend with each of you. If you act jealous or upset, I feel like I need to take sides and love one parent more than the other. Please communicate directly with my other parent so that I don’t have to send messages back and forth.

When talking about my other parent, please say only nice things, or don’t say anything at all. When you say mean things about the other parent, it makes me feel like you are expecting me to take your side.

Please remember that I want both of you to be a part of my life. I count on my mum and dad to raise me, to teach me what is important, and to help me when I have problems.

I am at school Monday, Tuesday and every second Wednesday. If you have questions or concerns regarding your child’s social, emotional or educational well-being, please feel free to contact the school and make a time to catch up. Cheers.

Maria Musumeci – Guidance Officer

Music News

An end of semester instrumental concert featuring our Concert Band, Senior & Junior String Orchestras and Percussion Ensemble will perform for the whole school on Thursday 20th June at 2pm on the assembly stage. Parents are welcome to come. Performers, please wear your hair in a bun and wear full music uniform (music shirt, long black pants, black shoes).

Our Eisteddfod choir will start training week 1 of Term 3, every Tuesday at 2nd break. Our Eisteddfod choir will include our Year 3, 4 & 5 Annie Cast members and any other interested students from Years 3-7 who love to sing and would be proud to represent our school on the Civic Theatre stage in the Townsville Eisteddfod during the last 2 weeks of Term 3. If you are interested, book it in and come along.

Year 7 Parent Group

Our next meeting will be held this Friday 14 June at 2:00pm in the Resource Centre. We hope to see you there!

Tuckshop Talk

Jun 12 Sandra, Rayleen, Michelle (½ day)
Jun 13 Leanne, Leah, Robert
Jun 14 Rayleen, Belinda
Jun 17 Jenni, Robert, Brett
Jun 18 Carley, Helen

Student Council Disco

The next disco will be held on Thursday 20 June in the Multi-Purpose Hall. Students in Prep and Years 1, 2 & 3 can attend from 4:00pm – 6:00pm. Students in Years 4, 5, 6 & 7 can attend from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. Tickets are $5.00 and will go on sale tomorrow from Mrs Taylor’s room in C Block. Prep children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the disco. ALL children attending MUST be dropped off and collected from the Multi-Purpose Hall. No child will be permitted to leave without an adult accompanying them.
**Defence News**

- Hi everyone. Our next parent chat group will be held on Tuesday 18 June starting at 2:00pm in the Defence Room. Babies and toddlers most welcome.
- Starting on Monday 2 June, there will be a ‘CAMO KIDS’ holiday program at the Museum of Tropical Queensland. There will be an array of different activities including LARC V, artillery guns, trucks and explosive detection dog demonstrations. This program will be running all week.
- See you all out and about.

*Jenny & Leigh – DSTAs*

**ICAS News**

The ICAS Writing and Spelling Assessment will be held next Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 June at 11:30am in ICT room 1. Registered students will be reminded to attend by their class teachers.

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