12 February 2013

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers

READING READING READING READING
It is that time of the year when we set in place some plans for the year for school improvement. As has been the case at Kirwan for the last few years, Reading and the teaching of reading are two BIG TICKET items.
Children who can read well experience success not just at English but at every other Key Learning Area. It should be no secret that kids who read and understand what they are reading, do well at Maths, History, Science etc., etc.
At Kirwan State School, our improvement data on Reading is excellent. Children who stay at our school through two NAPLAN cycles generally have an effect size improvement of between 1.05 and 1.35. In layman’s terms, this is good improvement; much better than the average of 0.6.
However........ we need your help. We know that, statistically, kids whose parents are engaged in reading as well improve and read much better than kids whose parents don’t. So... here’s a few tips:
✓ Read to your child when they are little. This includes “environmental” print such as road signs, shop signs etc.
✓ Read in front of your child......if they see you reading then that forms their impression of the importance of reading.
✓ Listen to your child read. Ask them questions. Get them to tell you the story back to you.
✓ Remember that reading is much more than just a mechanical process of saying the words in the story. Reading is about UNDERSTANDING what the text is telling you.
✓ Volunteer in a classroom to help with reading groups if you have the time. Our guided reading lessons rely on the fact that the teacher can spend quality time with a smaller group of students in their class working on what they need at this point in time. Helping to make this happen by supporting other groups in the classroom is VERY WELCOME.

LEM PHONICS WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS
This Saturday, our LEM phonics consultant Mr Greg O’Keefe, will be hosting a parent workshop at Cranbrook State School. The cost of this workshop is $30.00 per participant. I am offering FREE REGISTRATION to the first 10 parents from Kirwan State School who register at our school office.
If you have been dying to know more about the phonograms and how to help your child with the important business of decoding words and learning to be a proficient speller, then this workshop is for you. Don’t miss out. First come, first served!!

SCHOOL RESOURCE SCHEME
As I mentioned last week, you should receive an invoice from the school in the near future (if you have not already done so) for our School Resource Scheme and also for our LEM workbooks which we produce here at school:
School Resource Scheme $40.00 per child
LEM Workbook $5.00 per child
The funds which you provide to the school allow us to provide curriculum materials to all students which gives them access to high quality resources at Kirwan State School. It is our intention to give your child the VERY BEST we can. We ask that you pay these amounts as soon as possible.
A huge thank you to the parents who have already paid these two fees. There has been an outstanding response to this payment to date.

DARE TO LEAD
I have asked members of the DARE TO LEAD team to conduct a SNAPSHOT of our school on Friday 15 March. During this time, Lyndall Hill from Dare to Lead will interview various members of the school community including teachers, staff, parents and students. The “snapshot” will capture our school’s perception of Indigenous Perspectives and how they are embedded within the school community.
If you are interested in being part of the consultation parent group on this day, I would appreciate an email or a phone call to register that interest. Please use admin@kirwanss.eq.edu.au or phone the office on 4799.1888.
Until next week... kind regards

Melissa Jackson
Principal
From the Deputy Principal – John Kratzmann

IN EVERY CLASSROOM EVERY DAY
I enjoy coming to work at Kirwan every day for many reasons. I thoroughly enjoy being part of the learning process for all students, and seeing students achieve and making the most of fantastic opportunities is important to me. At Kirwan we have high expectations all round. Your child will have learning goals to work on, including reading, spelling, writing and maths. Students will work towards these goals and staff will give feedback to students on their learning. I encourage all parents and carers to know your child’s learning goals and to work alongside our staff to make sure we get the best learning (and behaviour) from every student in our school.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR
In every classroom, teachers have established expectations and classroom rules. Throughout the school and in classrooms we have reward structures in place to reward students who are demonstrating the desired behaviour. Gotchas, stickers, raffle tickets, going for gold, working hard towards a prize from the prize box, daily rewards, etc. happen every day in every room to reinforce the great choices our students make. Our teachers will be on the lookout for students moving sensibly around the school, taking care of their belongings and lining up well. Next week our whole school Bullying program will start with every teacher in every class teaching a sequential series of lessons on what bullying is and what we can do about it at Kirwan. Be confident → great things happen here.

SOLVING PROBLEMS
If you have any queries or concerns please feel free to talk to your class teacher, myself or a member of Admin. All staff model a problem solving approach and work tirelessly to ensure what is best for each and every student, happens.

Yours in education…

John Kratzmann – Deputy Principal

From the Deputy Principal – Donna Cockrem

MOBILE PHONES
Students MUST hand in and register their phones in the morning upon arrival at school. This can be done at our BSM office. Students are not permitted to have the phones in their possession during the day. Students found breaking this rule will have their phones confiscated and kept in safe custody until “going home time”. Parents will be contacted and consequences will apply for breaking school rules.

MEDICAL FORMS
Thanks to those who have sent medical forms to the office. If you have not filled in a medical form please do so as soon as possible. More forms can be collected from the office.

SAFETY
Just a few reminders regarding safety around our school.

★ Parents/others are requested not to drive into the staff car park, particularly between 2:30pm and 3:30pm when the footpath is being used by parents, students, and staff exiting.
★ Vehicular access to Out of School Hours Care facility via the staff car park is allowed before 8.00am and after 3.30pm. Generally the public would not require access between these hours.
★ Please use the designated pedestrian gates to exit school in the afternoon. (These are supervised by school staff to ensure orderly conduct of students.)
★ Please use the lolly-pop crossing to cross the road. (It is unsafe to cross immediately adjacent the ABC Learning Day Care centre on Burnda Street for the sake of convenience.)
★ Please follow the parking advisory signs in the front of the school because this assists traffic flow and does not cause inconvenience to all other road users.
★ Please use the proper exit from the pick-up, drop-off lane in front of the school. Double parking in this area is extremely dangerous and causes obvious traffic congestion.

MUSICAL
The very first after school rehearsal of ‘Annie’ will be held tomorrow (Wednesday) in the hall from 3.00-5.00pm (Preps 3.00-4.00pm). Kirwan musicals are always exceptional and it is a very exciting time for all involved. Start putting $$$$$ away to purchase your family tickets. Mark off June 4 & 5 on your calendar!!!

Donna Cockrem – Acting Deputy Principal

“Fun Novelty” Swimming Carnival
All students from Years 3-7 will be invited to attend our annual school ‘Fun Novelty’ swimming carnival on Wednesday 6 March. Information about this event will come home soon.

Emma Talbot – HPE 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.

1A
1B
1C
1D
1E
2A
2A
2B
2C
2D
2E
3A
3B
3C
Laura Shaw
Lara Parter
Leilani Tanna
Amyelle Partridge-Wregg
Ashley Parrish
Jai Clark
Zachary Taylor
Madeleine O’Neill
Eliza McCarthy
Bree McCallion
Dakota Aleo
Leila Steffen
Latoya Carroll
3D
3E
3F
4A
4B
4C
4A
4B
4C
4C
4C
4A
4D/5E
5A
5B
5C
5D
5A
6B
6C/7D
7C
Andrea Scarfidi
Nathan Simpson-Rushton
Lachlan McCluclo
Jahmai Mabo
Roark Newman
Shakira Langley
Joshua Wylie
Brayden Ross
Brooke Parra
Deklyn Brown
Riley Davis
Jennifer Hepburn
Ziah Hulet

Welcome to the Kirwan Aquatic Carnival

P&C AGM/Election of Officers 
& General Meeting
Tuesday 19 February 7:00pm in the staffroom

Gentle Reminder
Please pay your school supplied resources from your book lists as soon as possible:-

Prep – LEM Phonics/Numeracy Book – $5.00
Year 1-Year 7 – LEM Phonics Book – $5.00
Year 1 – Student Assessment Folder – $3.00
Year 6 – School supplied diary – $3.00
Year 7 – School supplied diary – $3.00

Karen Finnigan – Acting Business Services Manager

Interschool Swimming Trials for 8-13 year olds
Tuesday 19 February 7:00am – 8:00am

Due to the success of our morning swimming trials in 2012, we will be using the same format to select our school swim team for 2013. We will hold a trial morning at the Kirwan Aquatic Pool on Tuesday 19 February from 7am to 8am for 8-13 year olds only. If your child wishes to trial for possible selection in the school swimming team, they must attend this morning trial. If selected for the team they will be competing at the interschool swimming carnival to be held on Tuesday 19 March at Long Tan Pool.

All students will be trialling for 25m Freestyle events only. Some students will also be selected for the relay team.

Emma Talbot – HPE Teacher

Student Resource Scheme – $40 per student

The Student Resource Scheme is operating at Kirwan this year. There is one form per family that will need to be completed and returned to the school by Friday 15 February. There is a section on the back of the form for card details. Please make sure all sections are filled in correctly as you will be receiving invoices for the amount owing.

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact Karen Finnigan. There are extra forms available from the office.

Karen Finnigan – Acting Business Services Manager

When walking around the school grounds please use the designated pathways. This is part of our school’s Workplace Health and Safety Policy.

SafeST Committee Email Address
For any safety concerns email: safety@kirwans.qld.edu.au
Shave for a Cure

Rose Dolger (one of our School Crossing Supervisors) is participating in this year’s Shave for a Cure. Rose will be getting shaved between 14 and 17 March. If you would like to sponsor Rose you can leave your donation with your details (so that Rose can issue you a receipt) at the office.

Tuckshop Talk

Feb 13 Sandra, Michelle (½ day)
Feb 14 Leanne, Leah, Elaine
Feb 15 Rayleen, Carley (½ day)
Feb 18 Jenny, Robert, Brett
Feb 19 Carley, Jenna

**TUCKSHOP DOES NOT ACCEPT FOREIGN CURRENCY.**

**Please ensure that you are ordering the specials for the correct day.**

Defence News

Hi everyone! Our next Parent Chat Group for the year will be on Tuesday 26 February starting at 2:00pm in the Defence Room. This Saturday 16 February there is a Defence Welcome to Townsville Expo at the Townsville RSL Stadium from 10:00am – 3:00pm proudly presented by DCO North Qld. For further info please call the DCO Office on 4753.6539. See you all out and about...

Jenny & Leigh - DSTAs

From the Chaplain

**JAFFA CLUB - (Years 4-7)**

Wednesdays 1st break – Multi-Purpose Hall

JAFFA club will commence again on Wednesday 13 February. JAFFA club is Christian-based and is part of Scripture Union’s network of ‘Supa Clubs’ that meet in primary schools throughout Australia. ‘JAFFA’ stands for Jesus a Friend for All. Activities include games, stories, songs and drama.

Trudy Godwin – School Chaplain

**LITERACY WORKSHOP**

**PARENT ONE-DAY TRAINING**

**Saturday 16 February 9:00am-3:30pm**

For parents wanting to learn more about the program and be given skills and training to effectively understand the program so that they may support their children’s learning, Cranbrook State School will be hosting a One-Day Workshop on Saturday 16 February 2013.

The workshop concentrates on the skills and knowledge that parents can learn to substantially improve their children’s learning. The workshop is geared to cater for parents and teacher-aided and no prior skills or knowledge are necessary for participants to attend.

The workshop will be conducted by Mr Greg O’Keefe.

**Venue:** Cranbrook State School, 2 Alice Street, Cranbrook.

**When:** Saturday 16 February 2013, 9:00am-3:30pm.

**Costs:** $50 per participant (payable by cash or cheque on the day).

**Meals:** Participants will be responsible for their own meals. Tea, coffee and ‘nibbles’ will be supplied.

**What to Bring:** All you need is a pencil/pen and water bottle.

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

**FIRST 10 REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED IN PERSON AT KIRWAN SS WILL RECEIVE THEIR TUITION COSTS RE-IMBURSED.**

**Music Corner**

**OUR SCHOOL MUSICAL ‘ANNIE’**

This Wednesday 13 February sees our first Musical Rehearsal from 3 - 5pm (Preps 3-4pm). The lead roles and understudies will be announced at this rehearsal. Please make sure that your forms and production levy are handed into the office before rehearsals start. The production levy helps cover the costs for buses over the three days of performances and your Annie t-shirt.

**MUSICAL TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

MUSICAL REHEARSALS ARE FROM 3:00pm – 5:00pm (Preps 3:00-4:00pm) EVERY WEEK. Please note that these times are different from the times advised in the original letter sent home.

**P&C Pieces**

Don’t forget the P&C Annual General Meeting next Tuesday 19 February at 7:00pm in the staffroom. We are calling for nominations for all executive positions. Interested parents can contact the P&C on pandc@kirwanss.eq.edu.au or call into the office.

**Lyndal Humphreys – P&C President**

**Year 7 News**

- The next Year 7 Parent Meeting is on Wednesday 20 February – location and time to be advised – keep an eye on Kirnews.
- Senior shirt money is due by Friday 22 February. Shirts are to be paid by either cash or cheque ONLY. Sorry NO EFTPOS.

**All graphics supplied by Microsoft and Eureka**

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

Kirwan School Phone Number - 4799.1888