22 October 2013

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

With only eight very short weeks until the end of the school year, there is certainly an air of urgency about the school at the moment.

It is at this stage of the year that we start preparations and planning for classes for the 2014 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@kirwanss.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 2014. 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 request need to be delivered to the school no later than Monday 04 November. Requests received after this date may not be considered.

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 certainly not the be all and end all. 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 A’s 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 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 the school;
• The recipient may have demonstrated outstanding perseverance, determination and, through these qualities, has achieved noticeable improvement in any aspect of school life.

Until next week, kind regards
Melissa Jackson – Principal
Students have commenced their units for term 4 this week. The last two newsletters we have mentioned what our students will be doing in Maths and English. This week we look at Science.

**Prep - Move It, Move It**
Prep students engage in activities from the five contexts of learning-play, real life situations, investigations, routines and transitions and focused learning and teaching. This unit involves students observing and asking questions about how things move. Students gather different types of information about factors influencing movement and apply and explain knowledge of movement in a familiar situation.

**Year 1 - Light and Sound**
This unit provides opportunities for students to discover that light and sound are produced by a range of sources and can be changed. Students organise and create a record to communicate their developing scientific thinking about sensory explorations of light and sound. This unit involves students reflecting on the advances and applications of sound and light in real-life contexts.

**Year 2 - Save Planet Earth**
In this unit students investigate Earth’s resources, reflecting on how Earth’s resources are used and the importance of conserving resources for the future of all living things. Students propose and explain actions that can be taken to conserve Earth’s resources.

**Year 3 - What’s the Matter?**
In this unit students will investigate the properties of solids and liquids and the effect of adding or removing heat. Students will evaluate how adding or removing heat affects materials in everyday life.

**Year 4 - Speedy but Safe**
In this unit students investigate how forces affect objects through direct contact or from a distance, and relate this knowledge to the use of forces in everyday life.

**Year 5 - Matter Matters**
Students will broaden their classification of matter to include gases and begin to see how matter structures the world around them. Students will investigate the observable properties and behaviour of solids, liquids and gases, and the development of composite materials to meet the needs of modern society.

**Year 6 - Life on Earth**
In this unit students will explore their local environment, investigating the relationship between the growth and survival of living things and the physical conditions of the environment. Students investigate the impact of the surrounding environment on living things and the implications for decision making. Human impact on the environment and implications for growth and survival of living things will also be explored.

**Year 7 - Organisms**
This unit involves students classifying organisms based on their physical characteristics. They construct and use dichotomous keys to assist and describe classification. Students analyse the effectiveness of dichotomous keys and suggest improvements. They explore feeding relationships between organisms in an environment using food chains and food webs and will apply these understandings in Unit 8, Affecting Organisms.

**Year 7 - Affecting Organisms**
In this unit students identify how human activity can impact food webs in the marine environment. Students will examine the work of scientists in Antarctica. They will explore native food webs and how these were understood and used by Aboriginal peoples. These understandings follow on from Unit 7 where students classified and explored the interrelationship between organisms in an environment through food chains and food webs.

**P and C Pieces**

- **GOTCHAS** - Congratulations to the following students who received their 50 Gotchas!
  - Connor Dearden 6A .................................................. Meah Johnson 5D
  - Taleesha Gela 7C .................................................. Sharni Rajan 7C
  - Diesel Taylor 1D .................................................. William Lestro 7C
  - Chloe Hogan 6A .................................................. Hayley Fraser 6A

A huge congratulations to Jessica Shaw 7C who received her 100 Gotchas! These students have or will receive a certificate and a prize for their fantastic efforts on their respective assemblies.

**Braveheart Performance**
On Wednesday 20 November there will be a performance from Braveheart’s *Ditto’s Keep Safe Adventure Education Program!* Students in Prep to Year Three will be provided with the basic principles of personal safety and tools to stay safe. There will be no cost for the presentation.

**Laurelle Jones – P&C Secretary**

**From the Deputy Principal - Donna Cockrem**

**Year 7 Parent Group**
- **Graduation Dinner/Dance & Yearbooks** – Please send in your payment for a Yearbook and dinner/dance ticket before the end of the month so you don’t miss out. Please email lmsurogeon@bigpond.com if you have any queries.
- **Photos** – If you have any photos of year 7 students from throughout the year (ie. Sports day, camp, swimming carnival, etc.) please send them in. We may be able to include some in the Yearbook!
- **Our next meeting** will be held this Friday 25 October, at 2:00pm in the Resource Centre. We hope to see you there!

**Laurelle Jones – P&C Secretary**

**Halloween Disco**
The P&C will be holding a Halloween themed Disco on Thursday 31/10.

- **Prep – Year 3** from 4pm – 6pm and Year 4-7 from 6.30pm – 8.30pm. The P&C will be holding a sausage sizzle from 5:30pm-6:30 outside the hall. Disco tickets will be on sale in the shed before school from Thursday 24/10/13 until 31/10/13. The cost is $5 per ticket.
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**Laurelle Jones – P&C Secretary**

**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: Kalara Jensen 1E
- Prep B: Madison Ross 2A
- Prep C: Daniel Craigie 2B
- Prep D: Abby Collins 2C
- Prep E: Matthew Antoniutti 2D
- Prep F: Nicola Marsace 2E
- 1A: Jade McGrath 3A
- 1B: Remi Harvie 3B
- 1C: Austin Wood 3C
- 1D: Lachlan Cains 3D
- 2A: Leoba Stelfen 4A
- 2B: Latoria Carroll 4B
- 2C: Reece Hall 4B

**Donna Cockrem – Acting Deputy Principal**

When walking around the school grounds please use the designated pathways. For any safety concerns email: safety@kirwanss.eq.edu.au

This is part of our school’s Workplace Health and Safety Policy.
Prep Enrolments - 2014

Names for the 2014 Preparatory Year at Kirwan State School are now being taken. Please call into the school office, or phone to speak to one of our office staff, if you would like to add your child’s name to the Prep list for next year. (Children born between 1 July 2008 and 30 June 2009 are age-appropriate for Prep in 2014 – original birth certificate required.) Enrolment paperwork is available for collection from the office at which time an interview for you and your Prep child will be arranged. Please note the following dates:

- November 8 - Prep Come and Try Session 2 (9:30am – 10:50am).
- December 6 – Kirwan State School Transition Day (9:15am - 10:50am).

From the Guidance Officer - Food for Thought

THE LANGUAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Encouragement helps children believe in themselves. This is known as “internal gratification.” “Praise” such as good, great, better, best, and excellent, condition children to look for “external gratification.” Praise keeps your child dependent on the authority figure to feel good about himself. On the other hand, encouragement allows your child to focus on how she feels from the inside out. For example phrases like, “It looks like you enjoyed drawing that picture,” rather than “You’re a good boy” gives the child responsibility for his happiness rather than looking for someone or something to bring him happiness. Children realize that it is their challenge to do things to make themselves happy.

Adults who did not learn this lesson in childhood often disturb relationships later because they expect others to make them happy. Praise can be a disguise for expressing our personal values and opinions. Praise focuses on the person who encourages for the sake of the effort. Through encouragement we are teaching children to look inside themselves for their motivation, for the answers to their questions, and for knowing their purpose and direction. Encouragement has its own language. Here are some examples of phrases that express encouragement:

- “You seem to like that.”
- “How do you feel about it?”
- “I need your help on...”
- “What do you think?”
- “Thanks, that helped me a lot.”
- “You can do it.”
- “You’re getting better at...”
- “I like the way you...”
- “You really worked hard on that.”

I am at the 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

Prep Corner

All new and continuing parents to attend.
Wednesday 13 November – School Multi-purpose Hall – 7:00pm

Sharon Ransom – Music Teacher / Instrumental Co-ordinator

Kirkman Keepers

Music Information Night

31 October ..........................................................Halloween Disco
08 November .......................................................Second Prep Come and Try Session – 9:30-10:50
12 November. Fundraising Committee Meeting – 2:00pm Staffroom
13 November ......................................................Music Information Night – 7:00pm
19 November ......................................................P&C Meeting – 7:00pm in the Staffroom
23 November ......................................................Working Bee – 8:00am
06 December .....................................................Kirwan State School Transition Morning
06 December .....................................................Awards Ceremony Years 3-6
09 December .....................................................Kirwan’s Christmas Concert
11 December .....................................................Year 7 Graduation
11 December .....................................................Report Cards Issued
13 December .....................................................Last day of Term 4

Tuckshop Talk

Oct 23 Rayleen, Michelle (½ day), Sandra
Oct 24 Leanne, Leah
Oct 25 Rayleen
Oct 28 Jenni, Brett
Oct 29 Carley, Jenna, Helen

PLEASE NOTE: There are no Slushies or Playwater until further notice – orders will be substituted.

Defence News

Hi everyone! Our next Parent Chat Group will be on Tuesday 05 November starting at 2:00pm in the Defence Room. As this will be Melbourne Cup Day, please bring a plate of nibbles to share.

Don’t forget Geckos Halloween Party on 31 October. Please purchase your $10 tickets before the 31 October as there will be no tickets available on the night. RSVP to Geckos on 4411.7931.

See you all out and about.

Jenny & Leigh– DSTAs

Have you paid all of your school levies??
(Students Resource Scheme & LEM Phonics Books)

Are You Transferring?

It’s that time of the year again! The end of the school year is in sight and many of our students will be transferring to new locations. If you happen to be one of those families who know that you will be relocating at the end of the year, (or think you may be), we would love to hear from you. We ask that you fill the form out at the end of Kirnies and return it to the school office for processing. This will help in the smooth running of the office and with the great load of paperwork at this hectic time of the year. Thank you.

Transfer Notice

Yes, our family will be transferring from Kirwan Primary at the end of the school year.

Name _____________________________ Class ________

His/Her/Their last day at Kirwan Primary will be:

We will be transferring to (name of school/town):

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

Kirwan School Phone Number - 4799.1888

Office Hours – Strictly 8:00am-3:00pm

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