29 January 2013

From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to the school year at Kirwan State School. I would like to extend an especially big welcome to those families who have joined us from localities near and far. It is always a pleasure to hear people say that they have heard good things about our school and that they are keen for their children to join the Kirwan ranks.

DAY 8
As most of you would be aware, staffing at all state schools is based on the effective enrolment at Day 8 of the school year which is next Thursday February 7th. We have already made one change to one class making the 2/3 composite class a straight Year 2 class and redistributing the Year 3s based on unexpected enrolments in Year 2 and loss of some numbers in Year 3. As I write this (before school) our numbers appear to be very high especially in the year ones. This may mean another extra class and redistribution of the Year 1 children into a SIXTH year one class.

If there are to be changes, we will make the decision as soon as possible and keep you informed. We aim to minimize disruption and settle our children into the school year as smoothly as possible.

A BIG YEAR!!
There are many things to look forward to this year at Kirwan State School. The school’s production of “Annie” which will be held in June promises to engage us all in the delights of music and drama. This is also a Quadrennial School Review year for Kirwan State School which means that we will have a Teaching and Learning Audit and the chance to reflect on our good practices and make plans for the next 4 years so that we can do EVEN better. Our Year 7s will be trialing a new camp at Tallebudgera Camp School on the Gold Coast (very exciting). We also welcome a number of new teaching staff to our school. Having just spent 3 fulfilling days with staff, both old and new, I have been gratified by the level of professionalism and dedication which is in abundance.

THE WEATHER
Two years ago, none of us had any idea that Cyclone Yasi was just around the corner. Thankfully, today, we are not mopping up or dealing with rising flood waters as many in Bundaberg, Rockhampton, etc will be doing. We are aware though that temperatures at the moment are well above normal. Our classrooms are all air conditioned and we do monitor children in the playground to ensure that they are not overheating. Children are reminded regularly to drink plenty of water – probably the most important part of living in a hot climate.

Please note that there will be NO PARADES this week. We will recommence parades next week with Upper School (4 – 7) on Monday at 2pm and Junior School (1 – 3) on Wednesday at 2pm. You are VERY WELCOME to attend.

I look forward to working with all of you throughout 2013 to provide your child with the best possible opportunities we can offer.

Until next week ... kind regards

Melissa Jackson
Principal
AN EXCITING TIME

This is part of our school’s Workplace Health and Safety Policy.

Our teachers and aides are keen to get back to the business of teaching and learning, our grounds and cleaning staff have the school looking great and from the great smiles and the way our students settled in so quickly this morning. I can tell our ‘eager learners’ are ready to ‘get back into it’ as well. In order to settle in as quickly as possible please remember:

- The focus of every member of our school staff is always a ‘what’s best for each and every child’ in our school. All conversations are aimed at solving problems and promoting the learning of your child → every lesson, every session, and every day.
- If you wish to meet your child’s teacher or a member of Admin, please phone through to arrange a suitable time for a quality conversation.
- Remember to wait in the wait spots in the afternoon. We need our kids to finish the day as well as they start it.
- Please – remember to be patient when dropping off and especially when collecting students in the afternoon. We need your cooperation to make sure we model what we want to see in our kids – that is all of us to be SAFE, RESPECTFUL and RESPONSIBLE.
- Our School, State School, Great School.

PREP NEWS

Our Prep classes will not be attending weekly assemblies until Week 5 at which time the Prep Student of the Week will commence also.

SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

At Kirwan every teacher, teacher aide, admin, relief teacher, specialist and ancillary staff focus on ‘catching our students’ doing the right things. Once ‘caught’ your child might receive a ‘gotcha’ or similar classroom reward. Our rules are simple... Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible. In classrooms our teachers explicitly teach our school rules and exactly what behaviours we are looking for. Our school’s high expectations of student behaviour are also reinforced daily.

Our ‘Gotcha’ focus for this week will be on lining up after breaks, moving sensibly around the school as a class and also for respecting our own and others’ belongings. Our teachers will let the kids know what we will be looking for in class and then be on the look out and be openly handing out ‘Gotchas’ to reward the targeted behaviours. If we also catch kids not doing the right things then they may have to spend some quality time at lunchtime with our reflection room staff teachers on duty or myself in order to revise what behaviours they need to show.

Stay tuned... John Kratzmann – Deputy Principal

Car Parking

PARENTS:-

- DO NOT PARK IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS WHEN DROPPING OFF AND COLLECTING CHILDREN.
- PLEASE DO NOT USE THE HANDICAPPED ZONES UNLESS AUTHORIZED.
- LEAD BY EXAMPLE BY NOT JAY-WALKING OR PARKING IN “NO PARKING” ZONES, ETC.

Your co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Student Resource Scheme - $40 per student

The Student Resource Scheme will be operating at Kirwan this year. You will find the forms attached to this week’s newsletter. The letter will explain what the Student Resource Scheme covers.

There is a 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 Finningan.

Karen Finningan – Acting Business Services Manager

School Hours

OFFICE HOURS STRICTLY – 8:00am – 3:30pm

Hours of School:

All year levels: 8:50am to 2:50pm
Supervision commences at 8:15am in the Shed.
All students should be at school no later than 8:45am.

Sessions:

Morning Session: 8:50am – 10:50am
Middle Session: 11:30am – 1:30pm

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

Afternoon Session: 2:00pm – 2:50pm. Classes are dismissed at 2:50pm.

From the Deputy Principal – Donna Cockrem

MEDICAL FORMS

Included with the Kirnnews this week is a medical form. All students will need an updated medical form. Please fill it in promptly and return to the school office. This medical form will be used for those students involved in the school musical ‘Annie’, swimming carnival (week 6), and for classroom and office information. If your child’s medical situation changes please ask for another medical form as this form will be presumed current for the term.

PACKING A HEALTHY LUNCH

With school back in, it’s a great time to think of healthy and nutritious lunch ideas. Good nutrition is important throughout life. Young people need the right foods for many reasons: to give energy to participate in activities; to provide essential nutrients to ensure correct growth and development; to supply fuel for concentration and learning; to create healthy habits that will last all their lives.

Lunch can provide a major part of the daily nutrient intake, so it needs to be healthy and filling. Think about the following food ideas to be included for a healthy, nutritious and interesting lunch that provides bursts of energy throughout the day: crisp salad veggies; fruit (cold and delicious); dried fruits (great brain food to mumble on); cheese sticks and slices (good calcium source); healthy snack packs (tuna & crackers or cheese & crackers); low fat muffins or slices; pretzels & popcorn; frozen juice, water or long-life milk drinks (helps get children through the afternoon)

Let’s encourage healthier eating with exciting lunch choices!

Donna Cockrem – Acting Deputy Principal

From The Acting Business Services Manager

ATTENTION PARENTS/CAREERS AND STUDENTS

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

PAYMENTS

Payments are to go directly into the box that is located in the Business Services Manager’s office (via the barred window). Please use correct change and place your money in an envelope with your child’s name and class written clearly on the front of the envelope. EFTPOS payments are to be made at the front office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

If you wish your child to be exempt from Religious Education classes, you will need to advise your child’s teacher in writing as soon as possible. Thank you.

PARKING

Unless you are a Kirwan State School staff member, please do not use the school grounds to park in. The car park will be monitored daily. Do not use the Admin car park for collecting students.

EMERGENCIES

If there is a cyclone threat please listen to your local radio station for information on school cancellation or closure.

SAFETY ISSUES

If you have any safety issues, please contact Melissa Jackson, Principal.

COLLECTION OF CHILDREN DURING SCHOOL HOURS

If you need to collect your child/ren from school early, you must do so via the school office and sign your child out. Students are not to be collected early from the classrooms. This applies to all year levels – PREP to YEAR 7!!

ACCEPTABLE DRESS STANDARDS

- Things, such as, singlets, singlets, as outer garments and 2-piece (bare midriff) outfits are considered unsuitable due to safety and health reasons and should not be worn. Nail polish, lipstick and coloured lip gloss are not part of the accepted dress code for students. A sun smart hat with a broad brim or a legionnaire style cap (no visors) should be worn.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR STUDENTS AFTER SCHOOL

Please ensure you remind your children in the morning as to student collection arrangements after school. You would be amazed by the number of phones ringing as mothers and fathers call regarding after-school student arrangements. This creates classroom interruptions as well as putting enormous pressure on the office staff. If there are to be different arrangements after school, which are beyond your control, please email admin@kirwanss.qld.edu.au

Karen Finningan – Acting Business Services Manager

Gentle Reminder

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

- Prep – LEM Phonics/Numercacy Book $5.00

For any safety concerns email: safety@kirwanss.qld.edu.au
P&C AGM/Election of Officers & General Meeting
Tuesday 19 February 7:00pm in the staffroom

Changes to Family Details

Changed your home address or phone number recently? Perhaps a new job location! If you have changed any of your family details in the past few months, the school office staff would love to hear about it. These details are extremely important, particularly in the case of emergencies. Please send along advice of any changes to the office or email us at admin@kirwanss.eq.edu.au. We thank you in anticipation of your support.

Kirwan School Access Times

Please note the following gate opening and closing times.

- All external perimeter gates: - will be locked daily at 4:00pm.
- Gate at rear of school (Overtown Circuit): - Weekday mornings – Gate opened 7:45am and closed 9:30am.
- Weekday afternoons – Gate opened 2:00pm and closed 3:30pm.
- Admin Carpark / Keyhole: * will be closed daily at 2:00pm.

School Crossing Supervision – Kirwan SS

School Crossing Supervisors will assist students to safely use the following crossings during the following times, each school day.

- Burnda Street 7:50am - 8:50am
- Tooney Street 7:50am - 8:50am
- Thuringowa Drive 7:45am - 8:45am

Please encourage your child/ren to use the supervised crossing, and to obey the supervisor’s directions while at the crossings.

Medication at School

At times it is necessary for children to take medication during school hours. We are aware of this need and are willing to assist you in this situation. However, due to directives from Education Queensland, and in conjunction with current regulations, prescription medicine only can be administered by school staff and under doctor’s instructions. This means that all medication must come to school in a container, which is clearly labelled by the pharmacist with the child’s name, dosage and instructions for dispensing, together with the doctor’s name. If the medication is not prescribed by a medical practitioner, we are unable to administer this during school hours to him/her. Parents are very welcome to come along to the school and administer the medication at the appointed time, or alternatively, seek medical advice from their doctor re a prescription for the required medication. We appreciate your cooperation in this important matter.

IF YOUR CHILD ALREADY HAS MEDICATION HERE AT SCHOOL (eg. ventolin puffer) AND YOU HAVE NOT YET FILLED OUT A NEW MEDICATION FORM FOR 2013, PLEASE CALL INTO THE SCHOOL OFFICE TO DO SO. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER.

Kirwan Keepers

01 February Year 7 Parent Group Meeting – 2:00pm in the Library
12 February Defence Parent Chat Group – 2:00pm Defence Room
15 February Student Resource Scheme paid by 28 March
15 April Last Day of Term 1
16 April & 24 April First Day of Term 2

Term & Vacation Times For 2013 and 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Dates</td>
<td>Vacation Dates</td>
<td>Term Dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>29 Jan – 28 Mar</td>
<td>29 Mar – 14 Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>15 Apr – 21 June</td>
<td>22 June – 07 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>07 Oct – 12 Dec</td>
<td>13 Dec – 26 Jan 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 7 Parent Group Meeting

There is a Year 7 Parent Group Meeting this Friday 01 February at 2:00pm in the Library. All welcome.

Mosquito Awareness

With all of the recent rain, please be vigilant and protect yourself and your family from mosquito-bome diseases.

Kirwan School Phone Number - 4799.1888

Karen Finginnan – Acting Business Services Manager

Sharon Ransom – Music Teacher / Instrumental Co-ordinator

Kim Rush – Library Teacher

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

Kirwan's email address: kirnews@kirwanss.eq.edu.au

Our 2015 Musical Annie Jr

MUSICAL TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

MUSICAL TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!

MOSQUITO AWARENESS

With all of the recent rain, please be vigilant and protect yourself and your family from mosquito borne diseases.

Kirwan School Phone Number - 4799.1888

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

September - 2013

HEALTH ROOM – 2013

If your child is sent to the Health Room, they will be kept there for a period of 10 minutes and monitored. If their condition improves, they will return to their classroom. If they present for a second time that day you will be contacted. If your child presents with a head / eye injury you will be contacted immediately to advise you of the injury; then you may make the decision to collect your child from the school and seek further medical advice. If there is a major incident you will be contacted immediately, or an ambulance will be called. PLEASE REMEMBER WE DO NOT HAVE A HEALTH NURSE ON STAFF. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KEEP YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE AT THE SCHOOL.

Change of Clothes

Parents, could you please ensure that you include a change of clothes in your child’s school bag to assist us in providing quality care for your child. Unfortunately, we are unable to always provide a change of clothes and students having a change with them will save a lot of heartache for your child, yourselves and for us here in the school office. Thank you everyone for your assistance with this.

Tuckshop Volunteers Needed!!

Benefits of being a tuckshop volunteer:

1. Get a voucher per child
2. 1 volunteer day / week for a whole term pays off 1 child’s Student Resource Scheme.
3. Meet great people!

Defence News

Hi everyone! Welcome to our new families and a very special welcome back to our not-so-new families. Our first Parent Chat Group for the year will be on Tuesday 12 Feb starting at 2:00pm in the Defence Room. For the new families who have just moved into Townsville, we run a Parent Chat Group once a fortnight and all family members are welcome. Please see Kirwens for more details every week. Looking forward to meeting you all.

Term 4

08 Oct – 13 Dec

14 Dec – 27 Jan 2014

Term Dates

Vacation Dates

Term 1

28 Jan – 04 Apr

05 Apr – 21 Apr

Term 2

22 Apr – 27 June

28 June – 13 July

Term 3

14 July – 19 Sept

20 Sept – 06 Oct

Term 4

07 Oct – 12 Dec

13 Dec – 26 Jan 2015

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

All music contracts need to be returned to the music block before Friday 01 February. If you know you have been accepted into the instrumental program but are not sure if you are listed in your music contract, please email Sharon Ransom on sransom65@eq.edu.au. All communication will be delivered via instrumental group email with reminders in Kirnews throughout the year. Email will be the best way to communicate with Mrs Ransom and any of the instrumental teachers. A list of email addresses will be in your first e-newsletter in a few weeks.

OUR SCHOOL MUSICAL ‘ANNIE’

Included with the Kirnews this week is the musical acceptance letter. This letter needs to be returned and the fees paid before the first rehearsal on Wednesday 13 February.

MUSICAL TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Musical tickets are now on sale from the Civic Theatre!

Kirwans email address: admin@kirwanss.eq.edu.au

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

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

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

Kirwan’s email address: kirnews@kirwanss.eq.edu.au
- Get rid of mosquito breeding sites in homes and yards, especially pot plant bases, tyres, and buckets used for striking plant cuttings.
- Use insect repellent - wear personal repellent during the day and reapply it according to the label.
- If you, or anyone in your household have any symptoms of a mosquito-borne disease, apply insect repellent and see a doctor immediately.