03 September 2013

From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers

**DISCIPLINE AUDIT**

Yesterday we welcomed to our school, Ms Gayle Alessio, who is conducting a Discipline Audit of our school over these two days. All state schools in Queensland will be asked to complete a Discipline Audit by the end of next year. Our school has been selected to participate in this process a little early because of our recent high results in our Teaching and Learning Audit.

So far, Ms Alessio has been very impressed with the behaviour of our students, our processes for dealing with behaviour and our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support strategies.

I look forward to sharing the results of the Discipline Audit with you in the next few weeks. I intend to use the feedback from both audits to continue to grow, improve and strengthen our school in the foreseeable future.

**PREP ENROLMENT 2014**

I was very pleased to be able to meet new parents and Preppies briefly last week at our Prep information sessions.

If you were unable to attend those sessions and have missed the information about our Prep Come and Try Days, please note the following:

- **Thursday 19 September 9:30 until 10:50am** - Prep Come and Try.
- **Friday 8 November 9:30 until 10:50am** - Prep Come and Try.
- **Friday 6 December** - Full School Transition. This is the day where ALL classes move up one year level (7s to Kirwan State High) and our new Preppies go into their (almost certain) new class for 2014.

A few tips:

- We need proof of birth date before your child starts school. This may take the form of a birth certificate, immunization record, passport, visa etc. Your child MUST turn 5 before the end of June 2014 to be eligible for Prep.
- All preppies and a parent/caregiver must have an interview with a member of the administration team as part of our enrolment process. This interview will take approximately 30 minute. We will start gathering information about your child from this interview. It’s NOT a test. It’s a chance for us to get to know your child and what skills, understanding and knowledge they have before they start.
- Start talking to your child about Prep in a positive way.
- Start getting your child to be independent about day to day things such as putting shoes on, opening lunch boxes, choosing healthy food, putting on a hat, drinking plenty of water, recognizing name on objects such as hats and water bottles, toileting, using manners and asking for help. Preppies who start with some independent skills are well and truly ready for the business of learning.
- If you have any health concerns about your child in terms of vision, hearing, speech etc, NOW is the time to seek medical or specialist intervention. Don’t wait until your child starts school.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

My sincere congratulations to the Kirwan Athletics team who competed in such a positive way at the Red Track meet last week. Reports of outstanding courage and determination and sensational behaviour have filtered back to me from staff and parents who were in attendance – well done. In particular, I would like to congratulate the following students who have been selected to compete at NQ trials:

- **Chloe Whitten**, **Denzel Tate**, **Hannah Pearson**, **Tareq Parter**, **Holly Doran**, **Patrick Hebei**, **Harley Taylor**, **Jayda Blackman** & **Madison Noseda**.

Best wishes to all these students at the next level of competition.

*Until next week ... kind regards*

Melissa Jackson
Principal
Standing Together Against Bullying

What is bullying?
It is a deliberate, repeated act by one person or persons to intimidate others or cause them harm. Bullying can be carried out by teasing, exclusion, physical contact and harassment. Bullying is of no benefit to anyone involved! Those being bullied often suffer from anxiety, depression and even suicidal thoughts. The perpetrator/bully also suffers from their own insecurities and struggles in life.

Kirwan State School has strong policies in place against bullying, and it is not tolerated. It is important to realise such bullying behaviour may lead to further threatening and harassing actions later in life. Police take this behaviour seriously as it is an offence to harm and threaten another person.

As the ADOPT-A-COP of Kirwan State School, I therefore encourage parents to help MAKE A STAND AGAINST BULLYING. Some actions parents can take against bullying are:

EXPLAIN BULLYING - Tell your children regularly that you disapprove of bullying and why.

FORBID BULLYING - Do not allow any type of bullying at home.

ENCOURAGE POSITIVITY - Encourage your child to see the positive side of other students rather than expressing things they don’t like.

MODEL & ENCOURAGE RESPECT - Model and encourage respect for others with compassion, co-operation, friendliness and acceptance.

EXPLAIN RIGHT TO OTHERS - Encourage child to put themselves in the other person’s place; how they might be feeling; what their rights are.

REPORT INCIDENTS - Report all bullying incidents to school teachers first; – Assist them to develop ways to deal with bullying.

HELP BUILD FRIENDSHIP - Help your child create caring, healthy and genuine friendships.

DEAL WITH FEAR & ANGER - Assist them to develop ways to deal with anger, to ensure they don’t lash out, let their feelings build up inside, or allow their feelings to spill out causing them further embarrassment.

Your children all have the right to enjoy their primary school days and feel safe whilst doing so. Please direct your concerns firstly to your child’s class teacher and the Kirwan School Principal or Deputies. Should you have any further concerns contact myself or Kirwan Police Station.

Constable Bianca CORTEZ - Kirwan Police Station - 4726.1000

SWPBS – School Wide Positive Behaviour Support
Playtime is an important time for children to practise their social skills, and in the classroom teachers are constantly building social skills into their lessons. This week we have been focusing particularly on sportmanship and playing for fun. All students are encouraged to use these skills in the break time soccer and football games.

Tips for home - Reinforce the notion of playing for fun at home. Winning isn’t everything; it is how you play the game.

Prep Open Day
Last Wednesday we had our Prep Open day presentations and we met many of our new families for next year. It was great to see so many of our current families also. Just a reminder...
- Prep Come and Try sessions will be held Thursday 19 September OR Friday 8 November from 9:30am to 10:50am.
- Friday 6 December we also invite your child along to the Kirwan State School Transition Day from 9:15am to 10:30am.

Kirwan High 2014 Top Scholar Program
We have been advised by Kirwan State High School of the procedures (see below) that need to be followed to gain entry into the 2014 Top Scholar Program at Kirwan High:

Complete application form with –
- Recommendation from Year 7 teacher.
- Results of NAPLAN tests (if available) as well as any academic competitions such as Australian Mathematics Competition for the Westpac Awards or ICAS Testing Results.
- Sit Middle Years’ Ability Test in the Performing Arts Block, Kirwan State High on Tuesday 10 September, from 9:15am to 10:45am. Parents to register by email to ncrab5@eq.edu.au or telephoning Nadine Crabb on 4773.8152.

Application forms for the Top Scholar Program are enclosed with the Year Eight Enrolment packages which are available from the Kirwan High school office.

Kirwan’s Achievers
Congratulations to the following students who were the proud winners of the Student of the Week award for their class recently.


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

Our next general meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 September at 7:00pm in the staffroom. See you all there.

Laurelle Jones – P&C Secretary

P and C Fundraising News

- Pictureproducts – It was a long wait, but the plates and clocks finally arrived and have been distributed. Many thanks to Jenna who jumped in to help on Friday afternoon with sorting and delivering to classrooms, along with Isabella, Emily and Chelsea. Many hands make light work and your assistance was appreciated!
- Prep Tea Towels – Orders have now closed. It will now take a couple of weeks for drawings to be scanned and printed on to our tea towels. Keep reading KINNEWS for updates.
- Election Day Sausage Sizzle – is on this Saturday 7/9/13 from 8am in the covered area next to the hall. If you are voting at the school please come along buy a sausage and drink. If you would like to volunteer to help out on the day please email panic@kirwanss.eq.edu.au. For those who have already volunteered we will be emailing out the roster on Wednesday.
- Father's Day Stall - Thank you to all those involved in organising and running the stall. I hope all the dads enjoyed their gifts.
- Father's Day Bowling and Breakfast - A great time was had by all who attended.
- Second Hand Uniform Shop – Open every Wednesday 8:15am-9:00am in F Block.
- Meetings are held every Tuesday 2:00pm in the staff room. All are invited to help plan and prepare for the Christmas Stall.

Laurelle Jones – P&C Secretary

Term 3 Oral Reporting - Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parent-Teacher interviews are generally scheduled to take place in the last two weeks of Term 3 (9 - 20 September). In some cases, teachers have made adjustments to this schedule by offering appointments earlier or later, depending on the impinging factor. Parent-Teacher interviews provide parents with an opportunity to discuss their child’s progress against the set achievement standard at this point in time. This is also a great time to ask your child’s teacher how you can best support your child’s learning from home. Notes went home with students last week for you to make an appointment at a mutually suitable time. For any queries on this process, please contact the class teacher or Trish Mcevey on 4799 1388.

Trish McEvey – Head of Curriculum

Defence News

Hi everyone! Our next Parent Chat Group is on Tuesday 10 September starting at 2:00pm in the Defence Room. Babies and toddlers are most welcome. See you all out and about.

Jenny & Leigh – DSTAs

Music Corner

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Big changes are happening across the region to ensure a standard of excellence is achieved and maintained. Therefore, we have altered our recruiting criteria, recruiting process and expectations of instrumental music students for 2014.

To achieve a position in our Instrumental Music Program, the process is as follows:

- Expression of Interest letters have gone out to students who have a desire to excel with a musical instrument in years 2-6.
- Interested students will be tested before the end of Term 3, 2013.
- Acceptance letters will be handed out at the beginning of Term 4, 2013.
- All new parents are expected to attend a music information night in Term 4 on Wednesday 13 November at 7:00pm. Parents and students will sign their music contract, hiring agreements (if applicable) and receive equipment lists at this meeting. Students will lose their place in the program if this meeting is not attended.
- Instrumental Teachers will be sending home letters of concern if students are not progressing at the expected rate.

Sharon Ransom – Music Teacher / Instrumental Co-ordinator

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:

- September 19 – Prep Come and Try Session 1 (9:30am – 10:50am).
- October (Date TBA) – Prep Information Session Day (2nd sessions) in the Resource Centre.
- November 8 – Prep Come and Try Session 2 (9:30am – 10:50am).
- December 6 – Kirwan State School Transition Morning (9:15am - 10:50am).

Tuckshop Talk

Sep 04 Rayleen, Sandra, Michelle (½ day)
Sep 05 Leanne, Leah
Sep 06 Jenna, Belinda, Rayleen
Sep 09 Brett, Jenni, Robert
Sep 10 Helen, Carley, Jenna

TICKETS – NO FOREIGN COINS!
There are NO Vanilla Malt Milks.

Bookings for Vacation Care

Bookings for Vacation Care are now open. Vacation Care is paid for in advance. Bookings will not be accepted until paid for. Enrolments and bookings slips are available from Kirwan OSHC or email Barbara at koshc2@bigpond.com. Bookings close on 18 September but will close earlier if positions are filled.

Year 7 Parent Group

- Don’t forget to bring in your donations for the cake stall this Saturday! Any assistance will be appreciated so please help if you can.
- We will be gathering in the Tuckshop on Friday 6 September at 2:00pm, to sort and price items for the cake stall. We hope to see you there!

Laurelle Jones – P&C Secretary

KIRWAN SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER – 4799.1888

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