05 November 2013

From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers

A huge thank you to the P&C executive and members who held a highly successful disco last Thursday night. The evening was characterized by highly inventive costumes, exceptional behaviour from our students and a “many hands make light work” philosophy. It would be timely of me to say a big thank you to the wonderful P&C at Kirwan who dedicate themselves in a spirit of cooperation which is exemplary. As we wind up this year, it might be time to think about your own membership of the P&C for next year. All are always very welcome. I would like to particularly thank Mr Michael Browne for his work, not just at this disco, but at all our discos this year. We couldn’t do it without him.

SCIENCE EDUCATION
Planning for the 2014 school year and our staff structures are very much underway with class groupings and locations currently being decided. For the 2014 school year, we will be offering some year levels a specialist science lesson/s every week (similar to our model for Physical Education, Music and Languages Other Than English LOTE).

We will also be refurbishing one of our unused classrooms in F Block as a dedicated Science Lab where classes will go to complete their science work.

This is an exciting learning project which will largely be led by Mr Michael Browne who will be teaching the science curriculum to those year levels who participate.

Our ICAS testing data for this year would indicate that we certainly have some budding young scientists who will benefit from the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills. Congratulations.

TRANSITION AND RESILIENCE

Kirwan State School has, for the last 3 years, offered a whole school transition morning in the last couple of weeks of the school year. For those of you who have been at our school for many years, you will understand that we make up our classes for that day based on our best current knowledge of our student body. We don’t always get it 100% right for the start of the year and sometimes changes have to be made right up until DAY 8 which is Thursday 05 February 2014, but in most cases we get it right.

During the transition process, the vast majority of children are excited and positive about their new year, but, for a small number of children, this process, and the thought of change, can be a source of high anxiety and stress.

We are very adept here at Kirwan in managing transition for all our students but we need your help:

- Remind your child that they were nervous about the start of THIS year (2013) and that they are now fine and settled; the same will happen next year.
- Encourage your child to find positives about the new move. For example, if they say something like “Amy’s not in my new class in 2014”, you might respond with “Yes, but now you’re back with Emily who was your best friend in 2012”.

Transition morning is Friday 06 December. Year 7s will be at Kirwan State High for the day and our new Preppies will join us........2014 looks to be very exciting.

Until next week, kind regards

Melissa Jackson – Principal
In recent newsletters I have included a description of what is being taught in the classroom for English, Math and Science. Below is a description of what is happening in the classroom with History which has been strongly emphasised in the National Curriculum.

Prep - Tell me a story about the past

In this unit students:
- understand how they, and the stories of others communicate information about the past;
- recognise that families have stories to tell, remember the past and signify importance;
- recognise that families commemorate different and similar events according to their beliefs and what is important to them;
- listen to and appreciate family stories, and recognise how the past is communicated;
- listen to and appreciate the stories of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognise how the past is communicated;
- compare their own family commemorations to those of others;
- discuss, create and order pictures of significant commemorations.

Prep students will develop skills and understandings by engaging in activities associated with the five contexts for learning — focused learning and teaching, investigations, real-life situations, play and routines and transitions. Historical understandings and skills will be developed through social and personal learning, language learning and communication, early mathematical understandings and active learning processes.

Year 1 - Exploring yesterday and today — my grandparents, my parents and me

In this unit students:
- identify elements of significance in the childhood lives of their parents and grandparents;
- compare and contrast the childhood of their parents and grandparents with their own;
- recognise elements of childhoods that may have changed or remained the same;
- pose questions about what life was like in grandparents’ childhood;
- examine sources showing family life over generations;
- interview grandparents or special older person to gain information to use in a narrative about how family life has changed;
- tell a narrative supported by images contrasting the experience of childhood from their grandparents’ day to present day.

Year 2 - Exploring my local community

In this unit students:
- appreciate that history involves the study of the remains of the past;
- examine the remains of the past in the local area through a focus on an historical site and/or a significant person;
- investigate a person and/or site of significance in the local community;
- ask questions of a historical site and/or person to appreciate its value or contribution to the community or significance to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- sequence key events in the history of the historical site and/or person over time;
- discuss why a historical site and/or person has heritage value or is significant;
- present a report on a person and/or site of significance to the local community.

Year 3 - Exploring continuity and change in local communities

In this unit students:
- plan and conduct research about continuity and change in the region or state/territory;
- pose a range of questions to guide research;
- identify sources and locate relevant information in sources to answer questions about the past;
- locate information in sources to explore the importance of Country and Place to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples who belong to a local area or region;
- recognise and appreciate the historical features and remains of the past in a local area;
- record information from sources, including oral stories from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Elders;
- use a range of communication forms including texts to explain aspects of continuity and change over time in the region or state/territory.

Year 4 - Investigating the impact of colonisation

In this unit students:
- recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories as part of the shared history belonging to all Australians;
- appreciate the longevity and richness of the history of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- investigate the histories, cultures and daily lives of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples prior to contact with others;
- pose questions about the effect of colonisation, particularly the arrival of early traders, explorers and settlers with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- use provided sources to identify points of view and examine the impact of these interactions on families and the environment;
- describe the experiences of a group over time identifying events that brought change.

Year 5 - Investigating the colonial period in Australia

In this unit students:
- recognise key events in Australia of the 1800s;
- appreciate how Australians came to live together and were governed over time.
- Investigate the causes and effects of significant developments or events affecting development of the Queensland colony, for example, frontier conflicts and the Gold Rush;
- pose questions about the reasons people migrated to Australia from Europe and Asia;
- use provided sources to examine and describe the experiences of and the contributions of significant individuals or groups to life in the colonies;
- compose and present a description of the contribution of a significant individual or group to shaping colonial Australia.

Year 6 - Investigating the emergence of Australia as a diverse society

In this unit students:
- appreciate how Australians came to live and work together;
- examine the growth of the Australian population in the twentieth century;
- appreciate how world events affected the development of Australian society during this time;
- compare the factors which contributed to people migrating to Australia;
- identify the reasons behind migration stories;
- explore the significance of individual narratives from oral and written histories.

Year 7 - The Mediterranean world - Rome

Focus question:
- What are the defining characteristics of ancient Rome and what are its legacies?

In this unit students:
- explore the physical features of ancient Rome and Italy and how they influenced the civilisation that developed there;
- investigate significant beliefs, values and practices of Roman society;
- identify and understand the roles of key groups in ancient Roman society;
- investigate the role of a significant individual and how they have been perceived by contemporaries and later historians;
- examine the extent of contacts and conflicts within and/or with other societies and the resulting developments.

PREP PLAYGROUND

Just a reminder to parents waiting for their children to finish at the end of the day that the prep playground is out of bounds to children unless there is a staff member supervising. Staff members are also only there to supervise enrolled Prep students in this area.

SCHOOL ARRIVAL

A big thank you to all of our families who are getting our students to school and in classrooms on time. Walking around the school I can see that our learning is starting promptly at 8:50am. Please continue to encourage our students to ensure that they have had their drinks and toilet visits before 8:50am so that they don’t have to leave the classroom soon after entry.

Patricia Winter – Acting Deputy Principal
From the Deputy Principal - Donna Cockrem

GOTCHAS - Congratulations to the following students who received their 50 Gotchas!
Liam Percival Prep F .................Luke Packwood Prep F
Talk MacDonald 2C ..................Cody Harris 7A
Roi Aaron 1E ..........................Reanna Winter 3C
Leilani Tanna 1C ........................Jai Cope 2B
Keely Blackford 2B .................Mitchell Hutchins-Norton 7A
John Garcia 7B ........................Bree McCallion 2D
Joshua Smart 5B ........................Angela Haddow 7C
Ebony Harris 7C ........................Lucas Aleman 3C
Lachlan Cains 1D ........................

A huge congratulations to Tayla Chong 7C, Michael Maskell 7C, Imogen Murdock 7C and Tyler Caris 5C who received their 100 Gotchas! These students have or will receive a certificate and a prize for their fantastic efforts on their respective assemblies.

Donna Cockrem – Acting Deputy Principal

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
Dane Bates 2D
Amity Burow
Prep
Sarah Murdoch 2F
Ben O’Connor
Prep
Cindy Chedale 3A
EJ Ober
Prep
Zoe Burgess 3B
Kayla Walker
Prep
Caiden Green 3C
Cimarra Reilly
Prep
Bonnie-Jane McBride 3D
Cameron Smith
Prep
Eliot Tarca 4A
Apryl Noseda
Prep
Chevy-Lei Gilmore 4B
Lachlan McCulloch
Prep
Hirani Steven 4C
Danyon McDougall
Prep
Jessica Harrison 4D/SE
Callum McConkey
Prep
Kassandra Craige 5D
Lewis Simpson-Rushton
Prep
Cloe Manning 6A
Sasha Taylor
Prep
Ashley Parrish 6A
Shy Tully
Prep
Sophie Everett 6C/D
Marcus Cowan
Prep
Keely Blackford 7C
Anfernee Star
Prep
Tshana Steen

Book Fair – Change of Date!!

Due to delay in delivery of Book Fair, the fair will now run for the week from 11 November to 15 November. The fair is open in the Resource Centre during the following times:
8:00 – 8:45am (Monday to Friday)
1st & 2nd Breaks (Monday to Friday)
3:00 – 4:00pm (Tuesday till Thursday)

This fair will be full of fantastic Christmas reading gifts and stocking fillers. All purchases at this fair support our school Library.
Resource Centre Staff

P and C Pieces

Disco – A big thank you to everyone who helped with the disco last week. It was a huge success.
Working Bee – this will be held on Saturday 23/11/13 from 8am to help Clarrie install new irrigation. Please email pandc@kirwans.eq.edu.au if you are able to assist. The P&C has donated approximately $4000.00 towards buying the irrigation equipment required.
Christmas Hamper – we will be running a Christmas hamper raffle which will be drawn at the Christmas Concert and we would like donations of non-perishable items for this. Donations can be left at the office.
Fundraising Committee meets every Tuesday at 2pm in the staffroom. If you would like to help please come along.
FETE in 2014 – we will be holding a fete meeting on Tuesday 12/11/13 at 7pm in the staffroom. If you would like to be involved in organising a fete for next year please come along. The tentative date is Saturday 29/10/14. To make the fete happen we need volunteers – fete coordinators, dodger coordinators, rides coordinator. If you think you would like to take on one of these positions please come along next week.

Kirwan’s email address: admin@kirwans eq.edu.au
Kirwan School Phone Number - 4799.1888

Music Corner

Music INFORMATION NIGHT
All new and continuing parents to attend.
Wednesday 13 November – School Multi-purpose Hall – 7:00pm
Sharon Ransom – Music Teacher / Instrumental Co-ordinator

French News

Bonjour! Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Language Perfect World Championship. This competition is a worldwide competition conducted online against schools all over the world in all different languages. A fantastic effort from many students helped Kirwan obtain a great score. Holly Doran put in extra effort and scored high enough to obtain a Credit Award.

Merci (Thank you) to the students who participated in the Alliance Française Competition. This competition in which both public and private schools participate is Townsville wide. In the poetry competition Ayden Wood, Tayla Chong and Jade Stanek received a Certificate of Participation. Jade Stanek also received a certificate for her essay on “The Importance of Learning a Language”. There was a great response to the cartoon competition. William Hebi won 2nd prize. Bailey Cornish, Shylia Carroll, Jake Bennie, Riley McCarthy, Adem Salim, Isaac Stankovick and Jade Stanek all received a Certificate of Participation.

C’est Fantastique!!!!!!

Mademoiselle Smart – LOTE Teacher

Tuckshop Talk

Nov 06 Rayleen, Michelle (½ day)
Nov 07 Leanne, Leah
Nov 08 Rayleen, Belinda, Jenna
Nov 11 Jenni, Brett, Robert
Nov 12 Carley, Jenna, Helen

Defence News

Hi everyone! Our next Parent Chat Group will be on Tuesday 19 November starting at 2:00pm in the Defence Room.

Don’t forget to buy your poppies for Monday 11 November (Remembrance Day). The poppies will be on sale before school (in the Meet and Greet area) and at both breaks.

Prep Enrolments - 2014

Enrollment paperwork is available for collection from the office at which time an interview for you and your Prep child will be arranged.

2014 Prep Year Reminders

Friday 08 November Prep Come and-Try Session
9:30am – 10:50am

Friday 06 December Transition Day
9:15am – 10:50am

All graphics supplied by Microsoft and Eureka.

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