09 July 2013

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to Semester Two at Kirwan State School. I would like to extend a particular welcome to the many new families who have joined the Kirwan State School Community. I trust that you will feel welcome and confident in your child’s education.

STAFF NEWS

At the end of last term, Mr Kratzmann was offered the chance to act as the Principal of Wulguru State School until the end of the 2013 school year and he has taken up this opportunity. While I know that there are many who will miss Mr K’s work for the duration, I am also acutely aware that the opportunity to grow and develop leadership skills is very important to both personal and professional development.

Mr K will continue with his commitment to the Rugby League team which has enjoyed amazing success in the ARL Development Cup so far this year. He is looking forward to taking the team as far as they can this year!

Ms Hanne Secher will be acting as Deputy Principal for the first two weeks of this term after which time, the position will be filled through an application process. I will let you know as soon as I can, who will be taking this position until the end of the year.

REPORT CARDS

These are being proof-read and finalized this week. They will be printed and sent home with your child next week.

On that subject………..what is an “A”?? Since the introduction of the Australian Curriculum, I have fielded many queries from parents who feel that their child’s marks aren’t quite as good as they used to be.

The Australian Curriculum, which was launched in Queensland schools last year through our C2C (Curriculum into the Classroom) units, has certainly lifted our expectations, standards and teaching practice…..that is exactly what it was meant to do. The work is challenging, interesting and relevant.

If your child gets a “C” on their report card, then that means that they are WHERE THEY SHOULD BE IN TERMS OF THE CURRICULUM FOR THEIR YEAR LEVEL. This is not a bad mark at all!! Big high 5 if you get a “C”! A “B” on a report card means that your child is ABOVE where they should be. Extra big high 5 if you get a “B”! An “A” on a report card means that your child is SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE where they should be. Take your child to Maccas or Sizzler if they get an “A”….they’ve earned it!!

A “D” means that your child requires support and is, perhaps, struggling to achieve the standard. A hug and some encouragement is needed! In some cases, a “D” may be related to effort rather than ability. This should be clear in the comments made by the teacher. An “E” means that your child is having significant difficulty in even attempting the work. In some cases this may be related to a disability or even to behavioural issues. Your child needs you to support, plan and work with their teacher to achieve the best possible outcome.

Don’t forget to look at the mark for effort………..this will tell you if your child is really having a go at the work!!

Use your child’s report card as a conversation starter. Celebrate the successes and talk about how they can improve. This should be a positive and exciting time for you and your child.

CAN YOU HELP??

We are hosting a Working Bee this Saturday, 13th July from 8 am onwards to install some of the aluminium seating around the oval before sports day. All welcome!! Please let us know by calling the office or sending an email to admin@kirwanss.eq.edu.au if you can attend. This will help with our planning.

I trust that this semester will be a positive, rewarding, challenging and engaging time for you and your child.

Until next week … kind regards

Melissa Jackson
Principal
From the Deputy Principal – John Kratzmann

FAREWELL AGAIN

In the last week of school I was offered a position as Acting Principal at Wulguru State School for the remainder of the school year. I accepted this opportunity and confirmed this as of mid-week during the last week of Term 2. Unfortunately I did not get the opportunity to say much of a farewell to students, parents and teachers.

I wanted to let Kirwan’s school community know that I value our great school and have proudly served Kirwan as Deputy Principal. I also value opportunities that come my way and see Wulguru as a fantastic opportunity to put into practice the learning and leadership skills I have grown here at Kirwan. I look forward to the challenge.

I will be back to coach our league team – a reminder we play on Sunday 14 July at Brothers Leagues Club – kick off at 11:00am. I look forward to seeing you at the game next Sunday and to hearing about the fantastic future success of every student here at Kirwan.

John Kratzmann – Deputy Principal

From the Deputy Principal – Donna Cockrem

SAFETY

It’s that time of the year for a reminder to our parents/carers collecting students from school by car. Patience is the first word that springs to my mind. When waiting to collect children, (before 3:10 – as this is the finish time we have supervision for our students in the pick-up area) please be patient and considerate. Holding up traffic, blasting horns and being ‘hot and bothered’ does not solve the traffic congestion. Students must be collected from the pick-up area at the front of the music block. There is a staff member on duty until 3:10 each afternoon. I understand some students are collected from the back prep area. There is no supervision in this area of the school. Students are not permitted to play in the school grounds after school unless they are part of the afterschool program or specific duty will re-direct students to this area at 3:10pm.

Parents/carers collecting students from the designated pick-up area please collect your children, (before 3:10 – as this is the finish time we have supervision for our students in the pick-up area) please be patient and considerate. Holding up traffic, blasting horns and being ‘hot and bothered’ does not solve the traffic congestion. Students must be collected from the pick-up area at the front of the music block. There is a staff member on duty until 3:10 each afternoon. I understand some students are collected from the back prep area. There is no supervision in this area of the school. Students are not permitted to play in the school grounds after school unless they are part of the afterschool program or specific duty will re-direct students to this area at 3:10pm.

Congratulations to Harley Taylor 4A and William Hebei 7A who received their Gotchas. These students have or will receive a fabulous musical please send along $5 with the order form (located in the Staffroom). Order forms will be in Kirnews this week.

Shoe Boxes Wanted

Year 5 students need shoe boxes for science experiments. Please drop off at the office. Thank you...

Tracey O’Connor – Year 5D Teacher

GOTCHAS

Congratulations to Tomas Chester and Hannah Pearson for making NQ touch teams. Tomas has now been selected in 4 North Queensland teams for different sports.

16 Jul

Next P&C Meeting

7:00pm in the Staffroom.
All Welcome!

P&C Pieces

Next general meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 July at 7:00pm in the staffroom.

P&C/Fundraising News - Second Hand Uniform Shop is open every Wednesday from 8:15am to 8:45am. Donations of uniforms are welcome.

Fundraising Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2:00pm in the staffroom. Many hands make light work so please come along to a meeting or let us know how you can be of help.

Laurelle Jones – P&C Secretary

Year 7 Parent Group

* We are looking for helpers to sell icy cups on sports day next week. Please email Lindah (linsurgeon@bigpond.com) or see Kim in the Tuckshop if you can help out!

* Year 7 students – We hope you were able to take a look through your photos over the holidays? Please send along a photo from your first year of school (not baby) to your class teacher or email to Carol (carol.stanek@bigpond.com). We hope to include it in the Yearbook which will be a wonderful keepsake for years to come. Thanks!

* Our next meeting will be held this Friday 12 July at 2:00pm, in the Resource Centre. We hope to see you there!

Years 2 & 3 Swimming Lessons

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Attention Year 2 and 3 parents: Swimming begins this term. Letters have been sent home and should be returned with full payment of $45.00 by Friday 12 July. Classes begin in Week 3 (22 & 25 July) and finish in Week 10 (9 & 12 September).

Emma Talbot – PE Teacher

Kirwan Keepers

12 July............... Year 7 Parent Group Meeting – 2:00pm Resource Centre
16 July............... Next P&C Meeting – 7:00pm in the Staffroom
18 July................. Year 2 Swimming Lessons start today
19 July............... Interhouse Athletics Carnival
22 July................. Year 2 Swimming Lessons start today
25 July................ Year 3 Swimming Lessons start today
27 July............... P&C Movie Night – 5:00pm Multi-Purpose Hall
01 August............... NAIDOC Day
08 July................ Athletics Champions Day

Fundraising Meetings

Next meeting will be held this Friday 12 July at 2:00pm, in the Resource Centre. We hope to see you there!

SafeST Committee Email Address
This is part of our school's Workplace Health and Safety Policy.
For any safety concerns email: safety@kirwanss.eq.edu.au

When walking around the school grounds please use the designated pathways.

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All Welcome!

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Tracey O’Connor – Year 5D Teacher
From the Guidance Officer – Food for Thought

Helping kids become resilient

Definition: ‘Resilience – the ability to cope in times of stress or hardship.’

As parents we work to equip our children with the tools they need to solve their own problems, to respond to difficulties, to feel good about themselves and others, and to perceive the future in a hopeful and confident manner.

It would be great if all children arrived with a Do it Yourself Manual but here are some ideas to help your child become resilient.

• Be empathetic – teach understanding of how another person might feel; recognize your own feelings.
• Communicate and listen effectively – and respond to what your child is saying.
• Love your children in ways that make them feel special and appreciated – let them know you love them unconditionally.
• Accept your child for who they are and help them to set reasonable goals – goals for today, and goals for the future. It’s good to work towards something.
• Help them experience success in whatever they show competence in (even if it’s collecting bugs).
• Focus on positives; re-word negative talk – sometimes the positive may be hard to see, but it’s there. Always end a conversation with something positive; Instead of saying ‘don’t do ‘y ‘, say what you want your child to do.
• Help them to understand that ‘mistakes’ are just things yet to be learnt.
• Develop responsibility, compassion and social awareness by providing opportunities where you child can contribute or give back to others.
• Teach your child to solve their own problems and make appropriate decisions. (What’s the problem? What are the choices? Which is the best choice? Try it. If it doesn’t work review your choices.) This also helps them to take responsibility for their actions.
• Discipline in a way that promotes self-discipline and self-worth. Punishment is one form of discipline and often a least effective form as it teaches the child what not to do rather than what to do, and can often build resentment. It is difficult to teach your child a better way to behave when you yourself are angry and upset. So be calm, tell your child what you want them to do, and praise your child for doing the right thing. Have though, a plan in place for dealing with noncompliance, but STAY CALM. Your child is watching you and will copy how you behave.

In following these principles we will contribute to helping our children be resilient, to be emotionally healthy, and equipped to successfully confront challenges, and bounce back from setbacks. Adapted from ‘Raising Resilient Children’ by R.Brooks and S. Goldstein

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

| Music Corner |

♫ ESTEDDFOD SINGERS REHEARSALS START THIS WEEK
Rehearsals will be every Tuesday and Thursday at 2nd Break. Years 3–7 are welcome and all Year 3,4,5 musical cast members are invited to come along.

Sharon Ransom – Music Teacher / Instrumental Co-ordinator

Indigenous News

Homework Club has started again this term. It runs Monday–Thursday from 2:50pm-3:30pm. If your child has no homework, they do not need to attend. Parents please collect your children as close to 3:30pm as possible. If you are late, your child will need to be collected from the covered area, outside the school office. If you are unable to do so please contact Michelle at the school so other arrangements can be made.

Michelle Lowe – Community Participation Officer

Head of Curriculum News

Are you interested to know more about how to support your child’s reading at home? Or do you have spare time to support student learning in the classrooms and would like to know more about how? If the answer is yes to either of these questions, then one or both of these workshops might interest you. Our fabulous Support Teachers of Literacy and Numeracy will be holding two workshops in Weeks 3 and 4 of this term. The first of these will focus on how to support your child with reading at home, and the second will focus on strategies to use as a parent helper in the classroom.

- Supporting Students Reading at Home Workshop – Tue 23/7.
- Supporting Students Reading in the Classroom Workshop – Tue 30/7.

Both workshops will be held in ICT room 1 in the Resource Centre, between 2:00 and 2:50pm.

Name: ________________________ has students in Year ___.

○ I am interested but unable to attend due to work commitments. Another time would suit me better. (Please indicate suggested time.) _______________________

○ I am planning to attend the workshop on Tuesday, July 23.

ο I am planning to attend the workshop on Tuesday, July 30.

ο I am planning to attend both workshops.

Trish McEvey – Head of Curriculum

Tuckshop Talk

Jul 10 Rayleen, Michelle (½ day)
Jul 11 Leanne, Leah
Jul 12 Rayleen, Belinda
Jul 15 Jenni, Brett
Jul 16 Carley, Helen

• Tuckshop does not accept foreign currency.
• Sports Day menu will be in next week’s Kirnews.
• Preps – Year 2 can pre-order for Sports Day.

Defence News

• Hi everyone! Welcome back to another fabulous term here at Kirwan Primary. We hope you all had a safe and relaxing break.
• Our next Parent Chat Group is on Tuesday 16 July starting at 2:00pm in the Defence Room. Babies and toddlers are most welcome.
• See you all out and about.

Jenny & Leigh – DSTAs

Annie Photo CD Order

| Student Name |
| Class |
| Number of CDs @ $5 each |
| TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED |

All graphics supplied by Microsoft and Eureka.

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