From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

With three weeks to go until the end of Term 2 our school is very much in full swing. As you have heard me say before, I value effective teams and of course, successful organisations. Kirwan is a successful school. Please read on and be informed.

Reporting

Please keep in mind that student report cards will be issued at the start of Term 3. This enables student reports to be written on the entire first two terms and all units of work taught. It also gives our students more time to demonstrate their understanding of the assessment tasks.

Saturday Professional Development

On Saturday our whole teaching staff attended a full day of professional development delivered by Dr Anita Archer – a world renowned educational consultant. Feedback from staff was excellent. I believe your children will come home this week saying their teacher was trying new techniques of ‘explicit instruction’. As a school we value the research around Explicit Instruction and its impact on student learning.

Staffing

For the remainder of the term Mrs Morath (Head of Special Ed) and Mrs McEvey (Acting Deputy Principal) are on leave. They are enjoying their own early holidays and will return in Term 3 refreshed and ready to go. Mrs Hodges (our Master Teacher) will be Acting Deputy Principal for these next three weeks.

The Little Mermaid Jnr

Have you got your tickets yet? Our musical promises to be an amazing spectacle. With over 115 students in the cast and supported by our entire staff, this event is huge. See you there.

Dates to keep in mind...

- Monday 15 June - Kirwan League Team play The Willows at Brothers – 6:40pm
- Tuesday 16 June - 800m and March Past
- Wednesday 17 June - Sports Day – wear your team colours
- Friday 19 June - Under 8’s Day
- All next week – ICAS Testing
- Tuesday 23 June and Wednesday 24 June – The Little Mermaid Jnr (Civic Theatre)
- Thursday 25 June - Bravehearts (Years 1 – 3)
- Teaching and Learning – every day…..

Yours in Education...

John Kratzmann
Acting Principal
Helping your child to read at home is very important, after all most of our lives involve reading and then comprehending what we have read (across a range of subject areas and genres). Below is an excerpt from the NSW education department – Language Support, with ways you can support your child with reading at home. 


Reading has always been an important skill. In our modern world it is more important than ever. Children learn about the importance of reading as they see family members use reading and writing for everyday purposes. Reading with your child at home will help your child in all learning areas of school.

Children see you reading and writing in everyday life – reading for pleasure, sharing a story with your child, using a recipe, making a shopping list, writing a birthday card or reading street signs. This teaches them that reading and writing are useful skills in today’s world. Often parents are asked by the school to listen to their child read at home. It’s a good way of supporting your child’s reading. Books may be borrowed from your school library or your local library. Be confident that your child will learn to read.

What you can do at home to help:
• Be yourself. Involve children in everyday conversations.
• Read aloud to children. It helps them to learn the language of books and will encourage them to enjoy books and reading.
• Talk about books, read together and make reading an enjoyable, shared activity.
• Make sure there is a wide range of reading material for your child at home, both fiction and non-fiction.
• It is important to read to your child in your home language if your first language is not English. Experience shows that using your home language will help your child to learn to read in English. Try not to let television intrude on reading time. Make a special time for reading with your child, away from interruption.
• Listen to your child every day, even for a short time.
• Give books as treats and presents.

Hints for listening to your child read:
Before reading, talk about the cover, the title, the pictures, and discuss what the book may be about.
• During reading, discuss what has been read up to that point, and imagine what will happen next time.
• After reading is finished, talk and ask questions about the story and the pictures.

On finding an unknown word:
• Pause to give your child time to work out the word.
• Prompt.
• Go back to the beginning of the sentence, or read past the difficult word to the end of the sentence.
• Look for a clue in the pictures or the words.
• Look at the first letter and think about what the words could be.
• Ask “Does this make sense?”
• Try to sound out the word.
• If necessary tell your child the word.
• Praise your child for trying even if mistakes are made.

Tony Woodhouse – 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.

PrepA Corey Considine 2A Brayden Townsend Carroll
PrepB Taylo Brooks 2B Casey Ferdings
PrepD Connor O’Keefe 2D Dylan Allen
PrepD Jack Wright 2E Zac Gibson
PrepE Cooper Leeson 2F Madison Stevens
1A Alex Haberstroh 3A Wyatt Hamilton
1B Chelsea Kettles 3B Ezra Shield-Schumacher
1C Madison Green 3B Nate Kimber
1C Annaleisse Billg 3C Matthew Lorber
1D Cannon Mullio 3C Malakide Billg
1E Taylor Tassell 3D Leilani Tanna

50 Gochas

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved 50 Gochas!
Sports

The Children

Choir

Thanks…

ICAS

Katrina Jeffery – P&C Secretary

Hats

Sports

Extra

Uniform

Next

Hours

P&C Pieces

Next P&C Meeting

Our final P&C meeting for this term will be held on Tuesday 16 June at 7:00pm in the staffroom. All new members are welcome. See you there!

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is OPEN every Wednesday from 8:15am-8:45am in H Block selling second-hand uniforms. We are in need of more second-hand uniforms so if you have some spare, please consider donating them to the school. Please be advised that we are unable to swap uniforms or sell uniforms on your behalf.

• Music polo shirts & long black pants – all $10 each
• Polo shirts, skirts & skorts – all $5 each
• Check dresses and skirts – all $10 each

Extra Hours for Uniform Shop Next Week

The Uniform Shop will be open extra hours next week leading up to Sports Day. Hours next week are:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday – 8:15am-8:45am.

Sports Day Bandannas – Get in Early!

Purchase your sports day bandanna in your team colours from the Uniform Shop.

Border = Green; Freeman = Red; Perkins = Blue; Wilson = Yellow

Embroidered with your team name - $5 each.

Hats

The uniform shop is selling new reversible hats in the four house colours for $12 each.

Katrina Jeffery – P&C Secretary

Kirwan Community Adult Choir

We are starting a Kirwan Community Adult Choir exclusive to our Kirwan teachers, parents and caregivers. It will start in Term 3 on Tuesday afternoons from 3:00pm – 4:00pm. If you are interested in being a part of our Kirwan Community Adult Choir please email Sharon Ransom at srans31@eq.edu.au.

Defence News

• Our next Parent Chat Group will be on Tuesday 16 June starting at 2:00pm in the Defence Room.
• If you have any school or defence related matters please come in and see us or leave a message for us at the office.
• See you all out and about.

Jenny & Leigh – DSTAs

Curriculum Corner

ICAS

Thank you to all parents who have enrolled their students in the ICAS testing. All test booklets have now been purchased. ICAS sitting dates for testing are as follows:

ICAS Science – Wednesday, 3rd June [completed]
ICAS Writing – Monday, 15th June [1st session – Years 3 and 4; 2nd session Years 5 and 6]
ICAS Spelling – Tuesday, 16th June [Years 3-6]
ICAS Writing – Thursday, 18th June [catch up for Years 3-6]
ICAS English – Tuesday, 28th July
ICAS Mathematics – Tuesday, 11th August

Students are being provided with 2B pencils, but will need to supply an eraser, ruler [mm] and a calculator [Maths]. All testing is being held in the Resource Centre (Library).

Hearing Health Screening Program for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children

The Hearing Health Screening team will be visiting our school on the 3rd and 4th August. This will involve group education on the 3rd and screening on the 4th. The Health Service have updated their parent consent forms since last year and this will mean that we need to send out another round of parent consent forms. Our sincerest apologies for any inconvenience this will cause, especially for those parents whose forms have already been returned. All forms need to be returned before the holidays for processing by the Hearing Health Team.

Thanks…

Leanne Moore – Acting Head of Curriculum

Musical – The Little Mermaid

Foam Wig Holders Wanted

We are looking for 10 foam wig holders. If anyone has any to loan or donate please bring them to the music block.

Kind regards…

Sharon Ransom – Music Teacher

Senior Shirt

If you pre-ordered a senior shirt for your child/ren, they are now ready for payment and collection. Please put $36/shirt in an envelope with your child’s name and details clearly marked and bring it to the payment window as soon as possible to collect the shirt/s. Thank you.

Tuckshop Talk

Jun 10 Carol, Sandra, Michelle (½ day)
Jun 11 Leah, Leanne, Belinda
Jun 15 Leanne, Helen, Brett
Jun 16 Fiona

* We do not accept foreign currency.
* Icy Cups available Friday afternoon 2:50pm – 3:00pm – 50 cents.

Kirwan keepers

12 June ……… End of Semester Music Concert & Art Show in the Hall
16 June ……… Defence Parent Chat Group – 2:00pm Defence Room
16 June ……………………… March Past Practice & 800m
16 June ……………………… P&C Meeting – 7:00pm in the Staffroom
17 June ……………………… Athletics Day
19 June ……………………… Under 8’s Day
23 & 24 June ………………….. School Musical “The Little Mermaid”
26 June ……………………… Last Day of Term 2
13 July ……………………… First Day of Term 3
17 July ………………………………. Champions Day
14 August ……………………… Interschool Athletics (Red Track)

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jack Humphreys who rode in the BMX Far North Queensland Zone Championships on the weekend. Jack came 3rd in the 10-Year Boys Class and 5th in the 8-10 Year Boys Cruiser Class. Well done Jack!

Swimming News for 2015

As part of our Physical Education program, Year 2 and 3 students have the opportunity to be involved in a Learn to Swim program to be run by professional swimming coaches from Glenn Buchanan Swim School.

The children will be assessed at their first lesson and placed into groups according to their swimming ability. The program will consist of water safety, freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke activities, depending on the students’ ability level. Classes will begin Term 3 Week 2 and conclude Term 3 Week 9.

There will be a cost of $45 which will need to be paid before your child attends swimming lessons. An invoice will be sent home before the end of this term.

You are invited to our
End of Semester Music Concert
THIS FRIDAY 12 June @ 2:00pm
in the Multi-Purpose Hall

Musical

JUST 2 WEEKS TO GO!
All families received one free adult ticket with their Kinecs recently to make it very easy to take every Kirwan Student along to see this great event!