11 March 2014

From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers

POSITIVE SCHOOL CHANGE

Recently, the Grattan Institute released a report based on studies in 4 Australian schools on “Turning around schools; it can be done.” The report, which runs to some 26 pages, is too comprehensive to publish here but I noted with some interest, the 5 key points which were hallmarks of schools which had turned around from poor performance to excellent performance across a range of measures. The 5 key points were:

• Strong leadership that raises expectations.
• Effective teaching with teachers learning from each other.
• Development and measurement of effective learning.
• Development of a positive school culture.
• Engagement of parents and community.

At Kirwan, we are certainly on the right journey along the right path. Our depth of leadership across the school and the commitment by ALL to a high standard is exemplary. Your child’s teacher enjoys at least 4 off-line days each year (this is not normal practice in most schools) to work with colleagues to develop shared understandings about quality work and quality teaching and to learn from each other. We have an outstanding SWPBS team which is committed to upholding a positive school culture through a structured and focused plan. I would also say that, based on our level of volunteerism in the school and judging by the enormous effort produced by our P&C and parent committees, that our community engagement is well and truly alive.

Note that I said we are on a journey. There is no point in a school’s history where everything is perfect and you can stop striving for more success. We still have work to do. We intend to keep doing it.

If you are new to our school and you would like to see some of the evidence that we have high standards and expectations at Kirwan State School, then I encourage you to go to our school website and have a look at our Teaching and Learning Audit from 2013 and our Discipline Audit from 2013.

SCHOOL WIDE EXPECTATIONS

If you have been at Kirwan for some time or even if you haven’t, then you will probably know that we only have 3 simple school “rules”:

- Be Safe
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible

This year, in keeping with our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support initiatives, we have added another dimension to our school wide matrix of behaviour expectations. We have always expected that our students and members of the school community act in a safe, respectful and responsible way, but we have narrowed down what this looks like in terms of our expectations for parent behaviour. I am pleased to be able to say that Kirwan parents are generally a positive, caring and considerate group who show their support for our school in the following ways:

- SAFE
  Wait in designated area; Park in allocated areas; Use pick up/drop off zone correctly; Use supervised crossings; Report concerns to the office.
- RESPECTFUL
  Use appropriate language with all staff and students; Respect the school rules; Show respect to self and others; Book an appointment to see class teacher/administrator.
- RESPONSIBLE
  Ensure your child has all his/her learning equipment; Ensure students arrive on time; Inform office of all absences; Ensure your child has a healthy lunch and water bottle; Encourage your child to learn; Value education by assisting with homework and reading; Attend parent teacher meetings; Support your school community.

Until next week ... kind regards

Melissa Jackson
Principal
From the Deputy Principal - Tony Woodhouse

READING
I often catch children in the morning reading with their friends. This love of reading is starting to spread which is great to see.

Last week I wrote about predicting as a strategy to help when reading at home. Another strategy you or your child can use before reading is a book walk; great for beginning and emergent readers. If your child chooses a new book, walk through the book together. Look at the cover illustrations and ask your child to predict what they think the book might be about, and share the reasons why.

Look at the illustrations; discuss some of the words they might encounter on each page. Share the text, pointing out repeated phrases or words, (like in The Three Pigs – I’ll Huff and I’ll Puff...)

Come up with a few questions about the whole book and once you have shared the book, see if your predictions were correct.

Above all, enjoy reading with your child!

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS
This term, we are moving to an online booking system for our Parent-Teacher Interviews in weeks nine and ten of this term (Tuesday 25 March to Thursday 3 April).

Fifteen minute Parent-Teacher Interview sessions will run at various times during this period in the morning and/or afternoon unless a teacher is not available. (Times when teachers are not available will be identified on the website.)

The smooth running of our event relies on all parents keeping to the timetable. Please consider other parents and end on time. If you need more time with a particular teacher, please arrange a separate meeting time or phone call.

To book a session with your child/ren’s teacher/s please use the following steps:
2. Enter the code LY5US.
3. Enter your name and email address.
4. Select suitable times for your interview/s.
5. Check your inbox (or junk mail) for your confirmation email.

A confirmation of your interview/s time/s with your selected teacher/s will be sent to your email account. Please check your junk mail if this does not come through within a short period of time.

If you are unable to access the internet, please see your child’s class teacher or our office staff, who will be able to book an available interview time for you.

Have a great week!

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 Bree Hughes 3D Kiera Ryan
PrepB Koby Goodwin 3E Jypsi Trefgers
PrepC Yusuf Mohideen 4A Brandt Ramsay
PrepD Haylee Graham 4A Georgina Watt
PrepE Alexander Haberstroh 4B Olivia Little
Prep/1F Abigail Maria 4C Tanhee Massaro
1A Elliot Tarca 4D Ashlynn Lott
1B Julianne Gurney 5B Gabriel Tucker
1C Douglas Harrison 5B Chloie Alloway
1D Xaviiah Simensen 5C Sule Tschirpig
1E Plamari Nawara 5D Victoria Aaron
2A Ross Free 6A Teresa Edgar
2B Jack Lloyd-Jones 6B Hannah Pettit
2C Kassandria Craigie 6C Emily Oli
2D Sarah Mitchell 6D Troysha Hoyle
2E Zakk Giezendanner 6D Jacob Boyle
3A Zachary Taylor 6E/7C Sophie Jones
3B Shaun Clarke 7A Willow Simmons
3B Cody Rigg 7A Kiana Ward
3C Connor Van Antwerp 7B Aidan Mesken

Mosquito Awareness
Please be vigilant and protect yourself and your family from mosquito-borne diseases.

- Get rid of mosquito breeding sites in homes and yards, especially near 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.

From the HPE Department

FUN NOVELTY CARNIVAL RESULTS
1st Freeman 336 points
2nd Wilson 279 points
3rd Perkins 256 points
4th Border 253 points

The swimming carnival was very successful. Everyone who attended had a great day and showed excellent sportsmanship and team spirit! Behaviour was outstanding too. A big thank you to the teachers from Year 3-7, office staff and Mrs Reid who helped make the carnival a success.

On another note, it is extremely important that all MONEY and FORMS are returned by the due date. Last Wednesday morning we had over 30 families in the office before school trying to pay for their carnival and complete forms. Please note that we are unable to extend due dates due to booking of coaches and organisational matters.

LEFT OVER EXCESS PE STOCK FOR SALE
We have a few more items left for sale from the PE stock sale. If you are interested please see Mrs Talbot; first in, first served.
- 2 mini trampolines - $10 each
- Flippers in the following sizes ($5 a pair) - adult sizes - 7-9 (5 pairs) - 9-11 (1 pair) - 11-12 (1 pair) - 13-15 (2 pairs)
- 5 tennis bats - $2 each
- 11 tennis balls - 3 for $1
- 10 hockey pucks and 2 hockey balls - $5 for the lot
- 1 orange kickboard - $5
- Softball catcher’s gear - $10 for the lot

IMPORTANT DATES
18 March – Interschool Swimming Carnival
28 March – Run Fun
04 April – Bill Nettle Rugby League and NQ Netball Cup
29 May – 800m Races & March Past
30 May – Athletics Day
18 June – Champions Day
Week 5 Term 3 – Red Track

Emma Talbot – HPE Teacher

Donations for Prep Playground
We are looking for donations of any old/used paint brushes so that the Prep Year students can ‘pretend’ to paint (with water) outside. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Term & Vacation Dates For 2014 and 2015

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Term Dates</th>
<th>Vacation Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>28 Jan – 04 Apr</td>
<td>05 Apr – 21 Apr</td>
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<td>Term 2</td>
<td>22 Apr – 27 June</td>
<td>28 June – 13 July</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>14 July – 19 Sept</td>
<td>20 Sept – 06 Oct</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>07 Oct – 12 Dec</td>
<td>13 Dec – 26 Jan 2015</td>
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2015

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Term Dates</th>
<th>Vacation Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>27 Jan – 02 Apr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>20 Apr – 26 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>13 July – 18 Sept</td>
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School Hours
OFFICE HOURS STRICTLY – 8:00am – 3:30pm

Hours of School:
- All year levels: 8:00am 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
- Afternoon Session: 2:50pm

Classes are dismissed at 2:50pm.

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.

When walking around the school grounds please use the designated pathways. This is part of our school’s Workplace Health and Safety Policy.
The Kirwan State School Craft Group has once again formed to make items for the upcoming fete. If you are crafty,arty, and good with your hands or would just like to meet some new people over a cuppa, the craft group want you! 

When: Every Tuesday after school drop off
Where: 79 Burnda Street, Kirwan

For more information please contact Laurelle Jones – P&C Secretary at admin@kirwans.eq.edu.au

Kirwan School Phone Number - 4799.1888

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