21 October 2014

**From the Principal’s Desk**

Dear Parents and Caregivers

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2015**

It is at this stage of the year that we start preparations and planning for classes for the 2015 school year. If you know that you will be leaving Kirwan SS at the end of the year, please let us know via phone or email to admin@kirwanss.eq.edu.au so that we can have a fairly accurate appraisal of our numbers for the new year.

Now is also the time when I ask parents to put in writing any special consideration in terms of their child’s placement for 2015. If you have an individual request, this should be written, enclosed in an envelope, addressed to the The Principal, Kirwan State School and marked “private and confidential”. I would like to stress that requests for individual teachers are not valid special considerations. Special consideration may be given for a range of individual, personal circumstances. Please note that all requests will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Special requests need to be delivered to the school **no later than Monday 3 November**. Requests received after this date may not be considered.

I often field queries regarding “repeating” or “retention” (as it is more commonly referred to these days). We have an in-depth process to determine the best outcome for these requests and any requests for retention MUST be delivered to the office in writing by the close of business on Monday 3rd November.

If you are considering a request to “retain” your child, please note the following:

- You should discuss this with your child’s teacher in the first instance;
- You should approach the office staff for a copy of an article published by Deakin University who have conducted an in-depth study into the effects of retention;
- You should realise that the principal can only approve ONE year of retention for any child. That is to say, you cannot repeat year one and then year 12 approved by a school Principal.
- Retention is RARE. In this school, with a population of over 900 students, we would retain about one or two students a year. There is a reason for this....it’s not that we are against retention....it’s that retention is not always the answer....in fact, in many cases it can do more harm than good.

And lastly...

**IT’S KIRWAN CARNIVALE THIS FRIDAY...SEE YOU THERE FOR AN EVENING OF FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT.**

Until next week ... Kind regards

Melissa Jackson
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 Nala Iosefo
PrepA Toby Gaudreau
PrepB Sacha Fish
PrepB Keely Laffin
PrepB Naomi Mak
PrepB Christian Tapaitau
PrepC Grace Mertz
PrepC Shelby Sellen
PrepD Seth Werbel
PrepD Harley Dainer
PrepE Toby Manders
PrepE Hannah Buchanan
PrepE/1F Stella Spiteri
PrepB/1F Bradley Broom
1A Max Kendall
1B Luke Bennie
1B Oliver Rokesky
1C Shaun Clarke
1C Darius Topp
1D Danielle Hopkins
1D Isra Tschirpig
1E Uriel Tucker
1E Shane Smiley
2A Ella-Paige Rizzos
2A Zoe Patroni
2A Matthew Lorber
2A Jet Smalley

From the Deputy Principal –
Tony Woodhouse

RESILIENCE!

Personal resiliency is about our assets – the resources, attributes and skills that help us recover from negative events or feelings, cope with challenges and adversity, and look after ourselves when things aren’t going well. For our students being resilient helps them:
  • Stay calm and feel better;
  • Stop from getting angry and helps them keep friends;
  • Control their behaviour when they are upset;
  • Bounce back after disappointment.

Ways students can be resilient at school:
  • When someone treats them unfairly, they stop getting too angry or lashing out;
  • When they make mistakes, they stop themselves from getting down and withdrawing;
  • When they do not understand something, they stop themselves from getting angry or upset;
  • When they are teased or ignored, they stop themselves from turning a small problem into a big problem;
  • When they have an important test or speech, they stop themselves from getting extremely worried.

INTERNET TIPS FOR PARENTS

In this age of technology into which children have been born, they are often more knowledgeable and skilful in using computers than parents are. There are many things parents can do to help and guide their children in using the Internet even though they may be less knowledgeable about how to actually access and use the Internet themselves. Parents/carers need to talk to their children about a number of things:

1. The house rules – establishing rules about the amount of time they are permitted to spend online and when they can do it, e.g. after homework, when chores are done, after some outside activity etc.
2. Stranger Alert - your children already know about not talking to strangers. You need to remind them that people on the Internet that they don’t know are strangers too and they must not give out any personal information. Ensure their Email address doesn’t give their name away.
3. Place the computer in a central place where there is plenty of family activity and you can monitor your child’s work. A computer in a child’s bedroom is out of sight.
4. Surf the net together so you can explore and assess the sites visited together.
5. Teach your children what to do if someone says something inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable on-line. Encourage your children to tell you about anything inappropriate they come across.
6. Blocking and filtering software is readily available to help prevent undesirable material entering your home via the Internet.
7. Do not let your child give out their email address without permission. Much unsolicited material can come into your home as junk mail. Often this junk mail is very inappropriate.
8. Never let your child use a credit card online without your direct supervision and permission.

Enjoy together the enrichment that the Internet can bring to your children’s learning in a safe, positive, educational and fun way.

Tony Woodhouse - Deputy Principal

From the Deputy Principal –
Trish McEvey

LIFE EDUCATION – A REMINDER TO PAY YOUR FEES

A reminder that The Life Education Mobile Learning Centre has been organised to visit Kirwan State School from 14 November – 2 December. Please return your envelope with the $7.00 cost for your child to attend. If you have misplaced the envelope simply write your child’s name, class and Life Education fees on an envelope containing the relevant money. Children not attending will be supervised back in the classroom during these sessions.

Life Education is about prevention through education – providing your child with important knowledge, skills, confidence and self-esteem to help them live a healthy, safe life. The mobile classrooms make the program accessible, exciting and memorable. Educators use up-to-date technology and teaching methods, and engage students through interactive games and activities. Healthy Harold the giraffe, a much loved mascot, helps to deliver the messages to primary school children.

What your child will learn….

The Life Education program is delivered by specialist educators in a fun learning environment. The age appropriate material covers various topics including:
  • Nutrition
  • Physical Activity
  • Personal Safety
  • Effective Communication Skills
  • Bullying and Cyber Safety
  • Smoking and Alcohol

The program roll out for classes will be organised once numbers have been established and published in KIRNEWS on Tuesday 11 November.

Trish McEvey – Acting Deputy Principal

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Trish McEvey – Acting Deputy Principal
Kirwan’s email address: admin@kirwanss.eq.edu.au

Kirwan School Phone Number - 4799.1888
P&C Pieces

- Our next general meeting is tonight Tuesday 21 October at 7:00pm in the staffroom. See you all there.
  
  Laurelle Jones – P&C Secretary

Tuckshop Talk

Oct 22 Carol, Fiona, Sandra
Oct 23 Leanne, Leah
Oct 24 Jo, Belinda
Oct 27 Mad Murdock Monday
Oct 28 Jenni

**# TUCKSHOP IS CLOSED AFTER 1ST BREAK ON FRIDAY DUE TO FETE PREPARATION!**

Tuckshop Fete Menu

- Large Chips – $6
- Cup of Chips – $3
- Chips – $3
- Calamari & Chips – $7
- Fish & Chips – $7
- Hamburger – $5

Defence News

- Hi everyone...
- Our next Parent Chat Group will be on Tuesday 04 November starting at 2:00pm in the Defence Room. As this is Melbourne Cup Day, we would like everyone to bring a plate of nibbles to share.
- Sunday 26 October starting at 6:00am is the Geckos Monster Garage Sale held at Annandale State School so come along and grab a bargain.
- The Defence Children’s Christmas Party is on at Geckos on 22 November from 1500h-1800h. Cost is $25 per child. RSVP to Geckos at Lavarack on 4411.7031 before 07 November.
- Carols at Lavarack are on Friday 29 November from 1800h at Geckos. BBQ, food and drinks available for purchase.
- See you all out and about...

Jenny & Leigh - DSTAs

Are You Transferring?

- It’s that time of the year again! The end of the school year is in sight and many of our students will be transferring to new locations. If you happen to be one of those families who know that you will be relocating at the end of the year, (or think you may be), we would love to hear from you. We ask that you fill the form out at the end of Knews and return it to the school office for processing. This will help in the smooth running of the office and with the great load of paperwork at this very hectic time of the year. Thank you.

21 October

Dental Van On-Site

The Dental Van is currently on-site and will begin student consultations very soon. Year 6 and Year 7 students will be the first classes seen before they leave for high school at the end of the year, followed by other year levels if time permits. Please note that the dental van will still be on-site at the beginning of the 2015 school year and staff will then catch up with any students who missed out on an appointment time this year.

Important Dates for 2015 Prep Enrolments

- 30 October – Prep Information Sessions – 9:30am & 6:30pm
- 31 October – Prep Come and Try Day – 9:15-10:50am
- 8 December – Whole School Transition (Preppies 9:15-10:50am)

3E Fete News

**KNOCK ‘EM DOWN**

Come and see Mrs Flynn and 3E at the fete!! Only $2 for 3 throws – every child wins a prize!!

I would like to sincerely thank those parents who have donated prizes for our KNOCK ‘EM DOWN stall. Without your generosity there would not be success. Mrs Flynn

Transfer Notice

Yes, our family will be transferring from Kirwan Primary at the end of the school year.

Name ___________________________ Class ___________________________

His/Her/Their last day at Kirwan Primary will be:

We will be transferring to (name of school/town):
Kirwan’s email address: admin@kirwanss.eq.edu.au