Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to Term 2 and a particularly warm welcome to new families who have joined our ranks from near and far.

This promises to be a busy and engaging term for our school community with some serious events and some fun events in the pipeline. If you are new to our school, I urge you to participate as fully as possible in the life of the school. We welcome everyone with open arms. Our newsletter is the first point of contact for many families and it contains the bulk of the information you will need about up and coming school events.

ANZAC Ceremonies
I am always proud to say that Kirwan State School enjoys strong links with our defence community given that many of our families are involved in the armed forces and indeed participate in offshore deployments. This Thursday, 24 April, our school will come together to commemorate the bravery of those members of the armed forces who paid the ultimate price for the freedoms we now enjoy. This ceremony, which will commence at 10:00am, is open to any members of the Kirwan Community who wish to join us. This is a solemn occasion which mirrors the “real” ANZAC ceremony on Friday. I must congratulate our Defence and Indigenous Aides for their work in organizing this event this year; many thanks to Leigh Reid, Jenny Sheehan, Michelle Lowe, Debbie Norford and Lorna Savage.

On Friday 25 April, our school will, as it has done for many years, join with the Thuringowa ANZAC march. All students, staff, parents and caregivers are very welcome to attend and march with our school. Children must wear full school uniform, hats and bring a water bottle. The march commences in the car park near the Shell Service Station at the rear of The Willows Shopping Centre with a meeting time of 9:45am. This march concludes in the gardens near the Council Chambers on Thuringowa Drive. Parents need to collect children from this area at the end of the march. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

NAPLAN
Testing for children in Years 3, 5 and 7 will commence in the week of May 12th. The following schedule will apply:

Tuesday 13 May    Language Conventions and Writing
Wednesday 14 May  Reading
Thursday 15 May    Numeracy
Friday 16 May     Catch up tests

No doubt, there will be lots of talk in the media as the NAPLAN testing program gets closer. This is often a topic of much debate and interest in the general community. If your child is involved in the NAPLAN tests, I ask that you keep the following in mind:

• We expect children to do their very best on the tests but NAPLAN tests do NOT count towards Report Card results or indeed, OP results later in schooling life.
• The best preparation for NAPLAN testing is good quality teaching and learning. Your child’s teacher is well aware of the anticipated content of the tests and will do everything possible to ensure that your child is well prepared.
• Make sure your child has a good breakfast on testing days and make sure they arrive with plenty of time to spare. Children who arrive late will NOT be permitted to join in the test with their classmates.
• If your child is sick on NAPLAN test day/s, let the school know as soon as possible so that we can arrange for a catch up test if possible.
• If you have any concerns about your child’s participation in NAPLAN tests, please don’t hesitate to speak to your child’s teacher or a member of the administration team.

Until next week ... Kind regards

Melissa Jackson
Principal
**From the Deputy Principal – John Kratzmann**

**BILL NETTLE RUGBY LEAGUE CUP**

On the last Friday of Term 1, Kirwan SS participated in the Bill Nettle Rugby League Challenge Day, held at Brothers Rugby League ground. Thirty-two Kirwan SS students represented our school in two league teams – one in the Open Tier competition and one in the Development team competition. Mr Savage, myself, Mrs Norford and a very supportive group of parents were all very proud of our players. The Open Tier team narrowly missed out on a spot in the grand final going down in the semi, 4 – 0, while the development team were competitive in every game. There is something special about our Kirwan sporting teams – all players displayed great sportsmanship and effort, and grew each game in their technique. Thank you also to our fantastic parents and families for your support; very much appreciated.

**ADOPT A COWBOY PROGRAM**

As you know, we value JT as our Adopted Cowboy. He visits our school each month. Mrs Newman (our Adopt a Cowboy Coordinator) works with teachers to arrange real life learning experiences for students during his visits. On his last visit last term, JT provided the motivation and real life examples for students to enrich their writing through brainstorming verb groups, noun groups, similes and metaphors (round his life as a professional sportsman). He had a ball and more importantly, our students ended up with fantastic ideas for their writing. Keep in mind that we use JT to sell the messages to all students that reading and writing is a MUST. It is also important to note that the Cowboys are the only NRL club that promote the Adopt a School program. Every Cowboy player is attached to a school and regularly visits during the season.

The day before the carnival, Johnathan Thurston visited Kirwan and spoke to the players. He reminded the players of the things that go through his head before he makes a tackle, runs the ball, sets up a play and how he manages a win and a loss. Our players asked some very interesting and probing questions of JT. We all spoke of the strategies he gave us on the day of the carnival; good advice.

**GOTCHAS**

Our school values our school-wide Positive Behaviour Program. Research directly notes that positive reinforcement of desired behaviours has a greater impact on changing behaviour than negative influences or punishment. This morning I had a very positive conversation with a teacher who was excited about how much positive change she can see on playground duty when she hands out Gotchas to students who are doing the right things. At Kirwan we celebrate the positive, reward students who show effort and the desired behaviour, and also train students to understand what the desired behaviour looks like.

I look forward to a very productive term of learning in our wonderful safe and supportive school environment.

**From the Deputy Principal – Tony Woodhouse**

**WELCOME BACK TO TERM 2**

Firstly, a big thank you to those families and carers who came to the Preps’ Easter Bonnet Parade on the last day of term one. It was great to see so many wonderfully creative bonnets. I know that the children had a great time parading their bonnets, not only to the families who came but to all the other students at our school.

Remember that every day counts and it is important for your child to attend school every day. I have included a chart which shows just how many days of school could be missed by absences over a few days and across the year. If your child is absent, please let the school/teacher know as soon as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>He/She is only missing just...</th>
<th>That equals...</th>
<th>Which is...</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that's...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>50 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly Half a year</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 minutes per day</td>
<td>1 hour 40 mins per week</td>
<td>Over 2.5 Weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Half an hour per day</td>
<td>Half a day per week</td>
<td>4 Weeks per Year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 and a Half years</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>8 Weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2 and a Half years</td>
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**WHAT IS ICAS?** ICAS is a highly regarded assessment program for schools in English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing which enables schools to identify students’ levels of academic performance. Schools and students receive comprehensive hard copy and online reports on their students’ performance in each subject. Students also receive a certificate to recognise their achievement. Achievement certificates are awarded to all students at a range of levels:

1. **High Distinction** to the top 1% of students
2. **Distinction** to the next 10% of students
3. **Credit** to the next 25% of students
4. **Merit** to the next 10% of students
5. **Participation** to all other students

Results are also available to parents and students online; these online reports and analyses remain available indefinitely. ICAS reports indicate which questions were answered correctly, compare student performance to that of the other students tested and are highly suitable for inclusion in a student’s portfolio for future tertiary entrance or job opportunities.

Details of the 2014 tests, fees and dates are listed below.

**Subject/Paper** | **School Years** | **Official Sitting Date** | **Entry fee, incl. GST**
--- | --- | --- | ---
Science | 4 – 7 | 4 June 2014 | $8.80
Writing | 4 – 7 | 16-20 June 2014 | $18.70
Spelling | 4 – 7 | 17 June 2014 | $12.10
English | 4 – 7 | 29 July 2014 | $8.80
Mathematics | 4 – 7 | 12 August 2014 | $38.90

**TOTAL (for all)** | **$57.20**

For any further information, please contact Trish McEvey on 4799.1888 or pmcev2@eq.edu.au.

Tony Woodhouse – Deputy Principal

**From the Head of Curriculum**

Kirwan students in Years 4-7 are encouraged to participate in the 2014 ICAS program. Students wishing to participate in the 2014 ICAS program will need to complete the entry form and return with fees by Tuesday 6 May, 2014. Entry forms are available from the office or attached to the electronic edition of Kirnews. ICAS is a highly regarded assessment program for schools in English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing which enables schools to identify students’ levels of academic performance. Schools and students receive comprehensive hard copy and online reports on their students’ performance in each subject. Students also receive a certificate to recognise their achievement. Achievement certificates are awarded to all students at a range of levels:

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**From the Deputy Principal – John Kratzmann**

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

This is part of our school’s Workplace Health and Safety Policy.
Congratulations to the following students who participated in BMX in the NQ Games over the holidays.

- Tyler Andersen – GOLD MEDAL (10 Yr Boys)
- Tyler Andersen – GOLD MEDAL (8-10 Yr Boys Cruiser)
- Jack Humphreys – BRONZE MEDAL (9 Yr Boys)
- Jack Humphreys – 5th PLACE (8-10 Yr Boys Cruiser)
- Jack Kenny – 8th PLACE (9 Yr Boys)

Well done also to Tyler Andersen and Jack Humphreys who competed in the Qld Country Championships at Biloela in the holidays. Tyler placed 1st in 10 Yr boys and 3rd in 8-10 Yr Boys Cruiser. Jack placed 5th in 9 Yr boys and 9th in 8-10 Yr boys cruiser. Congratulations boys!!

Always All Kirwan Runners & Cross Country Team

See details below for the Road Runners Cross Country Series - all keen students who are born 2004-2001 are welcome to come along and have a run! All members of the school cross country team - this is a good opportunity to practise the course.

The 7th annual Townsville Road Runners Northern Schools Cross Country Series is fast approaching.

This year the series will consist of two races to be conducted on Friday 2 and 9 May. It is intended that this series offers all Northern Region schools (primary and secondary) the chance to participate in trial cross country races prior to the interschool and regional events. This year both races will be conducted at Bicentennial Park.

Dates and Course Location – to be confirmed depending on course conditions and weather.

- Race 1 Friday 2 May Bicentennial Park Queens Rd
- Race 2 Friday 9 May Bicentennial Park Queens Rd

Start times
- Students born 2002 – 2004: Start time 3.45pm
- Students born 1996 – 2001: Start time 4.00pm

Distances - Age groups and distances are listed below:
- Boys & Girls born 2004 2 Km
- Boys & Girls born 2003 3 Km
- Boys & Girls born 2002 3 Km
- Boys & Girls born 2001 3 Km

Yours in sport...  
Emma Talbot – HPE Teacher

PC News

THURINGOWA AND NQ SELECTION CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Isabella Sawyer for making the Thuringowa Netball team recently. Isabella will be competing at NQ trials early next term with the aim of being selected in the NQ team.

UPDATED FUN RUN AND CROSS COUNTRY TEAM SELECTION NEWS

Due to Townsville Primary School Sports changing the nomination date for our school competitors for the Interschool Cross Country we are able to use the Fun Run as our selection as previously planned. We were going to hold trials this Wednesday in order to get nominations in on time; however there is no need to do these trials.

Fun Run will be the selection process for the interschool cross country team. Year 4-7 students will run in their age groups and students who are 10-13 this year are eligible for selection.

Prep - Year 3 students will run in their year levels, so that the run is more about fun.

Fun Run will be held on Thursday 01 May. Year 4-7 students will run in the morning session and Prep – Year 3 in the middle session.

Yours in sport...  
Emma Talbot – HPE Teacher
There will be a meeting next Thursday 01 May at 2:00pm in the staffroom to finalise the Mother’s Day stall and discuss the venue for the end of year dinner dance. See you all there!