26 August 2014

From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

My sincere congratulations to Mr Michael Browne who entertained, educated and enlightened (no pun intended) all students in the school last week with his sensational presentation about gas. Most teachers would agree that it is very difficult to keep a class of 25 students engaged and learning for a 30 minute lesson, yet I saw all students well and truly attentive for 50 minutes.

Thank you and well done!

CYBERBULLYING AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Once again, I am obliged to write about this ever pervasive social issue which unfortunately does not stop at the school gates. Thankfully, most children use their accounts for positive reasons and to keep in touch with friends and family. A very small number of students forget their responsibilities at times and post material which can be offensive and hurtful.

I urge you to talk to your children about their social media use – my rule of thumb is....if your child doesn’t want you as a “friend” then there’s a good chance that they may not be using the social media wisely.

If you would like further advice regarding cyberbullying, the following website is very useful:
www.cybersmart.gov.au

ADOPT A COP NEWS

My congratulations to our Adopt a Cop Constable Bianca Cortez who has been very active and proactive at helping our school community park and drive safely around our school zone. Please take note of her “Tip number 2” which is included in this week’s newsletter.

It is the responsibility of the entire school community to ensure that all our children are safe as they enter and leave the school grounds.

Until next week ... Kind regards
Melissa Jackson
Principal
From the Deputy Principal - Tony Woodhouse

INSTRUMENTAL RECRUIT

It is great to see the number of students who are keen to learn an instrument. Learning an instrument requires support, encouragement and enthusiasm from the parents to ensure success, as well as commitment from the student.

Research suggests many benefits from learning an instrument. Discipline, stress relief, sense of achievement and fun are just some of the benefits that can be gained.

Students in Year 2 are able to learn a String instrument in Year 3 in 2015 and students in Year 4 are now able to learn an instrument from either the Woodwind (Clarinet, Flute, Saxophone), Brass (Trumpet, Tuba, Trombone, French Horn) or Percussion family (Drums and tuned percussion – Glockenspiel).

Children will be tested on their choice of instrument to see if they are suited. Although your child might really like to play a trumpet, their embouchure (shape of the lips), might not suit the instrument and therefore they may not be able to produce a good sound.

Places are limited in the program, and if you have any questions or if your student is interested, please see Mr Curro.

WORLD TEACHERS’ DAY STUDENT CHALLENGE

The World Teachers’ Day student challenge is open for any Queensland school student or group of students from Prep to Year 12 to create a digital product that expresses the theme, A teacher’s commitment to their students’ learning is inspirational.

Students need to create a digital product showing how their teacher is inspirational and send this to the QCT before 10 October 2014. Visit www.qct.edu.au/wtdstudentchallenge for more information. Within each school sector there are two prizes of $500 and a major prize of $1500 courtesy of QT Mutual Bank.

What to create?

Simply create a digital product showing how your teacher is inspirational and complete the entry form and ask your school to upload both of them here.

Digital tools

Use any digital tool to convey your message. For example, a story with iMovie, Microsoft Moviemaker or Microsoft Photo Story, a song about a teacher using Garage Band or Audacity, a presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint or Prezi, a poster, banner, animation or cartoon. Students may use their own apps, work alone or in a group. The digital product may provide opportunities for teachers to link to existing units of work or other curriculum contexts.

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 Jasper McRohan 3E
PrepB Maddison O’Meara 4A
PrepC Maddison Mow 4A
PrepC Jack Mounsey 4B
PrepD Alisia Poole 4C
PrepE Isak Henderson 4D
PrepF/1F Abigail Mair 4D
1A Maxwell Kendall 5A
1B Luke Packwood 5A
1C Bailey Hogan 5B
1D Seth Treffers 5B
1E Dyllon Bowman 5C
1E Abby Collins 5C
2A Jackson Vickery 5D
2A Lucas Dillon 6A
2B Ammon Pihesna 6A
2C Bryan Scott 6B
2D Caitlin Pickens 6C
2E Belle Stank 6C
2E Maia Dixon 6C
2E Ashton Bellert 6C
3B Felicity Thompson 6D
3C Rebecca Ellis 6D
3D Bridie Allen 6E/7C
3E Sophie Everett 7B

From the Deputy Principal – Trish McEvey

PROVIDING A BALANCED READING PROGRAM

Last week I outlined the importance of a balanced reading program and provided a snapshot of what Modelled Reading is and why teachers would use it as an instructional approach. This week I will focus on Shared Reading.

SHARED READING – WHAT IS IT?

Shared reading is an approach to teaching reading that allows the whole group to engage with the text and the aspects of reading that have been chosen as a focus for the lesson. Shared reading may be used in a whole class lesson, or in group work. It models and practises problem solving and clearly demonstrates the reading process. It highlights and foregrounds the conventions of print, making explicit to students the thinking and behaviours that occur throughout reading. Teachers may use shared reading to practise fluency, expression, decoding strategies and/or focus on aspects of the text as chosen by the teacher; for example cohesion, structures, links between language and images, etc.

THE TEACHER

✓ Selects a text that allows for demonstration of the lesson focus.
✓ Introduces the text.
✓ Discusses the purpose of the lesson.
✓ Models the reading.
✓ Asks students to share the reading when appropriate.
✓ Listens to whole class, group or individuals as they practise the strategy.
✓ Observes and records how students are progressing.
✓ Provides feedback to students.

THE STUDENTS

✓ Listen to the teacher model reading.
✓ Respond and read where appropriate.
✓ Listen to how others practise the reading.
✓ Identify aspects of focus, e.g. punctuation, syntax, fluency.
✓ Develop reading strategies.
✓ Develop an understanding of language conventions in context.

Next week I will outline Guided Reading as part of a balanced reading program.

Trish McEvey – Acting Deputy Principal

Red Track Results

Congratulations to the Kirwan Red Track team who competed on 15 August. All students did their best and behaved beautifully. We were proud to take them to the red track as ambassadors for Kirwan! Thank you to all the teachers, aides and parents who helped on the day and with training leading up to the event. Special thanks to Tracey O’Connor, Alan Hunt, Heidi Merritt, Carolyn Hallam, Renee Burns, Jodie Wright, Chantelle Caufield, Kerri Jackson, Jenny Sheehan and Lorrenne Stick. Without your help the day would not have run so smoothly.

Thanks to all those students who filled in for our depleted team with the school camps being held in the same week, and to those students who competed in their events who were exhausted from camp too.

We had 6 students nominated to trial for the NQ team this year: Holly Doran, Luke Bolton, Tyler Cope, Tyler Boyce, Trent Austin and Ashlyn Lott. I wish them luck as they are competing today.

Please see the results of all the students who finished in top 3 places in their events. Only students who compete in Division 1 track events and all field events receive a certificate from the TPSS committee. These were handed out on Parade this week on Monday.

Students who finished in top 3 in their events at the Red Track on 15 August.

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When walking around the school grounds please use the designated pathways.
This is part of our school’s Workplace Health and Safety Policy.
Prep Enrolments - 2015
Enrolment paperwork is available for collection from the office at which time an interview for you and your Prep child will be arranged.

Important Dates - Prep Enrolments 2015
- 21 July - 2015 Prep Bookings Opened
- 1 September - Prep Interviews with Admin
- 30 October - Prep Information Sessions - 9:30am & 6:30pm
- 1 November - Prep Come and Try Day - 9:15-10:50am
- 8 December - Whole School Transition (Preppies 9:15-10:50am)

Uniform Free Day
There will be a uniform free day on Friday 05 September to raise funds for the fete. This money will be used to buy items that are required by classes to run their stalls.

Kirwan's email address: pandc@kirwanss.eq.edu.au

Father’s Day Stall
The Father’s Day Stall will be held next week from 1/9/14 until 5/9/14 in the Hall. Gifts will range in price from $2.00 to $5.00. Teachers will bring their classes to the stall during the day by gift.

Defence News
Hi everyone... Our next Parent Chat Group will be on 09 September at 2:00pm in the Defence Room. Tomorrow, Wednesday 27 August, from 10:00am-12:00noon at the Lachlan Wilson Centre, Lavarack Barracks, in Conference Room 1 & 2, there will be a Removals Information Session for anyone posting out. Featured speakers are DCO, DHA, Toll Transitions and the Defence Relocations and Housing Manager. If you have any questions regarding postings, this is the information session for you! Spouses or partners welcome. There is NO child-minding service available. Seating is limited so please RSVP to Robyn Edwards – Shipway on 4411.1518 or email drhm.nq@defence.gov.au. See you all out and about...

Jenny & Leigh – DSTAs

P&C Pieces
- Our next general meeting is Tuesday 16 September in the staffroom. See you all there.
- UNIFORM FREE DAY – will be held on Friday 5/9/14 with all proceeds going to the fete. This money will be used to buy items that are required by classes to run their stalls.

Laurelle Jones – P&C Secretary

Weekly Road Safety Tip #2
Driveway Safety - Children under five years of age are more susceptible to driveway danger because of their low height and difficulty recognising hazards. Talk to your child about being careful around driveways and always watching out for cars reversing out of driveways. Children should be taught to stop at driveways when they are walking or riding to check if there are cars coming in or out.

Constable Cortez, Adopt-A-Cop, Kirwan Police Station

Music News

Instrumental Music Recruiting
Now is the time for students to sign up for instrumental lessons for next year.
- Students currently in Year 2 can sign up for Stringed instruments only.
- Students currently in Year 3 and 4 are eligible to sign up for Brass and Woodwind instruments, and Percussion instruments.

There is a limited amount of places still available. Please see Mr Curro for an enrolment form.

Thomas Curro – Music Teacher

Year 6/7 Parent Committee
- CHOCOLATES AND MONEY are now overdue. Please return all money and unsold chocolates ASAP.

Fete - 24 October 2014
There are only 8 weeks until the fete. Please consider if you are able to help on your child’s class stall and let your child’s teacher know.

Next fete meeting is TONIGHT at 7:00pm in the staffroom.
RIDES WRISTBANDS will be ON SALE every Thursday only from 8:15am – 9:00am in the shed. Pre-sale wristbands are $30.00 each and gives your child unlimited rides at the fete.

OUTSIDE STALLS – Would you like to have your own market stall at our fete? For more information please email pandc@kirwanss.eq.edu.au.

Showbags – An order form has been sent home for pre-ordering showbags. A selection of showbags can be pre-ordered at a cost of $8.00 each prior to the fete for collection at the fete. Showbags will be available for purchase at the fete for $10.00 each. Please place orders in the P&C box in the office.

DODGERS – A book of 10 dodgers will be sent home to sell with every student this week. Dodgers are $2.00 per ticket and will be drawn at the fete on 24/10/14. All sold dodgers and money should be placed in an envelope and placed in the P&C box in the office. Unsold dodgers also need to be returned and placed in the P&C box. There will be a prize for the child who sells the most dodgers.

DONATIONS REQUIRED – the following items are required to help make our stalls a success.
- Packs of serviettes and paper plates
- Tattoos
- Brown paper bags
- Clear cellophone
- Bags of balloons
- Coloured hair spray (half tins OK)
- Second-hand books

Please leave all donations with Kim at the tuckshop. Closer to the fete we will be asking for donations of plants and cakes/sweets.

Fete Sponsor Of The Week
A huge thank you to Second to None Nutrition for their kind donation. Please support those who support us.

Second to None Nutrition
Cnr Thuringowa Drive & Charles Street
Kirwan 4817
4723 4491

Tuckshop Talk

- There are no PLAYWATERS, FROZEN YOGHURTS or SLUSHIES until further notice.
- A big thank you to Mr Woodhouse for fixing our online menu.
- Please check you have a current 2014 menu.

Office Hours Strictly 8:00am – 3:30pm