28 January 2014

From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers

WELCOME

A huge welcome to the many new families who have joined the Kirwan Community for the 2014 school year. I trust that your experience with our school is rewarding for both you and your child. I must also say a big welcome back to our “old” families. It’s great to have you back on board.

This year marks the beginning of our new Strategic Plan which will shape and guide us for the next 4 years. It also marks the beginning of our foray into Tier 2 of School Wide Positive Behaviour Support which will focus on the classroom systems we have in place to support children both academically and behaviourally. This stage also asks for greater support and input from parents……..watch this space.

NUMBERS

As per usual we have to play something of a waiting game for the next few days to get a sense of the actual enrolment in our school so that staffing can be finalized. NO CLASSES HAVE CHANGED since the end of last year but, as we count heads and received advice from families who may have moved over the holidays without our knowledge, or indeed, receive more enrolment requests, there may be class shuffles.

At this point in time, our numbers across the school appear to be very high with unusually large enrolments across the school. I would predict that, if there are to be changes, then it will be in the form of MORE (smaller) classes, not less classes. Final staffing will be determined based on our numbers on DAY 8 which is next Thursday 6 February.

Please know that we will endeavour to minimize any disruption caused by necessary class changes.

CYCLONE

As I write this, a tropical low is sitting in the Coral Sea……..not an unusual circumstance for our tropical location!! Some weather modelling predicts that this tropical low could form into a cyclone by the end of the week with the possibility of crossing the North Queensland coast in the next few days.

Our school has a detailed emergency plan and we will take our advice from the region as to the possible effects on our school as this advice is coordinated with various emergency services. If the school will be affected (ie. School closure etc) I will let you know as soon as possible. In the meantime, it is business as usual.

STAFF

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr Tony Woodhouse who is our new Deputy Principal. Mr Woodhouse has come from Acting Deputy positions at both Rasmussen and Bohle vale. He is thrilled to be on board at Kirwan.

I would also like to welcome back Mr John Kratzmann into the Deputy Principal’s chair. Mr K has been busy keeping Wulguru State School running smoothly. Please note that Mr Kratzmann will be managing the senior school (Years 4–7) and Mr Woodhouse will be managing the junior school (Years P–3).

We also have welcomed a number of new staff to our ranks:

Miss Samantha Bateman (Year One)
Mrs Donna Miller (Year Three)
Ms Chantelle Caulfield (Year 4)
Miss Sarah Bowden (Year 4)
Miss Amy Peace (Year 6)
Miss Jodie Wright (Year 6)
Mr Jared Savage (Year 6)
Mrs Helen Hewitt (Guidance Officer)

I would like to welcome our new teachers and their families. We have already had a very productive three days of Professional Development setting the scene for our best teaching in the area of literacy in particular.

Lastly, I trust that everyone has a smooth start to the year. I look forward to working in partnership with you and your child to offer the very best education we can.

Today we learn; Tomorrow we lead.

Until next week … kind regards

Melissa Jackson

Principal
**From the Deputy Principal - John Kratzmann**

**AN EXCITING TIME...**

The start of the school year is a very exciting time for all. Every single member of our school staff is enthusiastic and motivated to get back to the business of teaching and learning. As teachers, we certainly value the start of each year, each term, actually each weekly period and each day. I can vouch for our teachers when I say that it was wonderful to see our students arrive this morning in uniform with beaming smiles and enthusiastic energy for the holidays, new shoes and bags, heavily loaded with the new year’s treasures. We are eager to get back to the business of learning with your children. In order to settle in as quickly as possible please remember:

- The focus of every member of our school staff is always a ‘what’s best for each and every child’ in our school. We are here to support you and your children. All conversations are aimed at solving problems and always put the best interests of students first.
- We expect all members of our school community to act in the best interest of each and every student. We have high expectations - safe, respectful, responsible. This includes drop-offs, pick-ups and while visiting our school.
- We value working together. Any concerns should be addressed with your class teacher or a member of Admin sooner rather than later.
- Please remember to wait in the correct spots before and after school. Starting making good and safe arrivals and departures is very important.
- Expect the best from your children – WE DO.

**SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR**

At Kirwan, every teacher, teacher aide, member of admin, relief teachers, specialist teachers and ancillary staff focus on ‘sourcing our students’ doing the right things. Focusing on the positives and rewarding students for making the correct choices is proven to have an 80% chance of changing behaviours as opposed to changing behaviour through grappling. Your child may receive a ‘Gotcha’ for doing the right things. Each child has their very personal reward structures. Your child will learn to enjoy a ‘well done’, or a ‘thank you’ from staff when they have displayed great behaviour. Our rules are simple; ‘Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful’. In classrooms our teachers will explicitly teach our school rules and exactly what behaviours we are looking for. High expectations of behaviour are reinforced daily.

Our focus for the first week will be setting classroom expectations and setting the standards for safe, responsible movement around the school. All staff look forward to catching your kids showing us the correct behaviours.

Unfortunately, if we also catch your kids not doing the right things then they may have to spend some time in the ‘Reflection Room’. This is a lunchtime program that is aimed at re-teaching our students the correct choices they should have made. Stay tuned. See you out there... enjoy the start of an exciting school year.

*John Kratzmann - Deputy Principal*

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**Student Resource Scheme - $40 per student**

The Student Resource Scheme will be operating at Kirwan this year. You will find the forms attached to this week’s newsletter. The letter will explain what the Student Resource Scheme covers.

There is a form per family that will need to be completed and returned to the school by Friday 14 February. There is a section on the back of the form for card details. Please make sure all sections are filled in correctly as you will be receiving invoices for the amount owing.

*The Student Resource Scheme needs to be paid to the school in full by 28 March 2023.*

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact Karen Finnigan. There will be extra forms available from the office.

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**ATTENTION YEAR 7 PARENTS!**

There was a misprint in the Year 7 booklet – the New Wave Mental Maths Book required for Year 7 is Book G not Book F. (Book F is required for Year 6.) If you have purchased Book F and written your child’s name or covered the Book F with contact making it unable to be exchanged, give your book to Mr Himmelman and she will purchase the correct book for you. If your book can be returned and exchanged, please return it to your place of purchase and exchange it for Book G. We apologise for any inconvenience.

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**P&G Pieces**

- Our first general meeting for 2014 will be held on Tuesday 18 February at 7:00pm in the Staffroom.
- The AGM will be held on Tuesday 18 March at 7:00pm in the Staffroom.
- Our new shed located at the rear of the staff car park was finished over the holidays. This was made possible using the proceeds of our 2012 fete.

*Laurelle Jones – P&C President*

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**From the Chaplain**

Welcome back to school everyone, and a special welcome to all the new students and their families! I work at Kirwan SS on Mondays and Tuesdays and I’m employed by Scripture Union Queensland and funded by the Federal Government, commencing operations and fundraising. I provide pastoral care and support to students, staff and families. Much of my time is spent building relationships. You might see me in the “Meet n’ Greet” area before school, playing games at lunch times, or providing classroom support. I also run a lunchtime program called “JAFFA Club.” If parents or caregivers wish to contact me please leave a message at the school office. I look forward to meeting you around the school.

*Trudy Godwin – School Chaplain*

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**From the Deputy Principal - Tony Woodhouse**

Welcome back to everyone and a warm welcome to our new Prep students who commence their first year of formal schooling this week.

Thank you to all parents and carers who ensured their children were dressed in their uniform and arrived with all their school supplies, which guarantees the children are fully prepared for the year.

At the start of the school year it is always important to remember that **Every day Counts**.

- **Every day counts...because children achieve better when they attend school all day, every day.**
- **Every day counts...because going to school means getting a better chance at life.**
- **Every day counts...because school helps children build social and emotional skills such as communication, teamwork and resilience.**

Establishing good routines around school can assist with regular school attendance. These include:

- having a set time to go to bed
- having a set time to get out of bed
- having their uniform and school bag ready the night before
- having a set time for breakfast
- setting a time for daily homework activities
- speaking about school positively
- sending your child to school every school day including their birthday and the last day of term.

If your child is away, remember to notify your child’s class teacher or phone the office.

Now, a little about me. I have had the privilege of teaching as a classroom teacher and music teacher firstly on the Gold Coast and London and now here in Townsville. I was the music teacher and Deputy at Rasmussen State School and Deputy at Bohleval State School. I am proud to join the Kirwan State School community. I believe that music and performance are very important and that together we will continue to ensure a positive and productive learning environment for our students. The early years of schooling are critical times of development for students and families and I look forward to working with all of you to make this school year successful.

*Tony Woodhouse – Deputy Principal*

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**From the Business Services Manager**

**ATTENTION PARENTS/CARERS AND STUDENTS**

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

This is part of our school’s Workplace Health and Safety Policy.

**PAYMENTS**

Payments are to be made directly into the bank account that is located in the Business Services Manager’s office (via the barred window). Please use correct change and place your money in an envelope with your child’s name and class written clearly on the front of the envelope. EFTPOS payments are to be made at the front office.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

If you wish your child to be exempt from Religious Education classes, you will need to advise your child’s teacher in writing as soon as possible. Thank you.

**UNIFORM**

Unless you are a Kirwan State School staff member, please do not use the school grounds to park in. The car park will be monitored daily. Do not use the Admin Keyhole for collecting students.

**EMERGENCIES**

If there is a cyclone threat please listen to your local radio station for information on school cancellation or closure.

**SAFETY ISSUES**

If you have any safety issues, please contact Melissa Jackson, Principal.

**COLLECTION OF CHILDREN DURING SCHOOL HOURS**

If you need to collect your child/ren from school early, you must do so via the school office and sign your child out. Students are not to be collected early from the classrooms. This applies to all year levels – PREP to YEAR 7!!!

**ACCEPTABLE DRESS STANDARDS**

Thongs, slide-on shoes, singlets as outer garments and 2-piece (bare midriff) outfits are considered unsuitable due to safety and health reasons and should not be worn. Nail polish, lipstick and coloured lip gloss are not part of the accepted dress code for students. A sun-smart hat with a broad brim or a legionnaire style cap (no visors) should be worn.

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR STUDENTS AFTER SCHOOL**

Please ensure you organise your children in the morning as to student collection arrangements after school. You will be advised by the number of phone calls taken daily regarding after-school student arrangements. This creates fewer phone interruptions as well as putting enormous pressure on the office staff. If there are to be different arrangements after school, which are beyond your control, please email admin@kirwans.qld.edu.au.

*Karen Finnigan – Business Services Manager*

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**School Hours**

**OFFICE HOURS STRICTLY – 8:00am – 3:30pm**

**Hours of School:**

- All year levels: 8:00am to 3:30pm

**Supervision commences at 8:15am in the Shed.**

*For all safety concerns email: safety@kirwans.qld.edu.au*
**Defence News**

Hi everyone! Welcome back to our families and a big hello to all the new families who have been posted in or have just arrived at Kirwan State School. We are fortunate to have 2 DSTAs here at Kirwan – Ms Leigh Dwyer – Prep-Year 3 and Mrs Jenny Sheehan – Years 4-7. We are both on hand 5 days a week and can help you with your child in all year levels. We run a Parent Chat Group on the Tuesday of Defence pay week starting at 2:00pm in the Defence Room at school. The First Parent Chat Group for this year will be on Tuesday 11 Feb starting at 2:00pm. Babies and toddlers most welcome. Looking forward to meeting you all.

Jenny & Leigh – DSTAs

**Gentle Reminder**

Please pay your school supplied resources from your book lists as soon as possible:
- Prep – LEM Phonics/Numercy Book – $5.00
- Year 1 – Year 4 – LEM Phonics Book – $5.00
- Year 1 – Student Assessment Folder – $1.00
- Year 6 – School supplied diary – $3.00
- Year 7 – School supplied diary – $3.00

Karen Finnigan – Business Services Manager

**Health Room – 2014**

If your child is sent to the Health Room, they will be kept there for a period of 10 minutes and monitored. If their condition improves, they will return to their classroom. If they present for a second time that day will be contacted. If your child presents with a head / fever, we will contact you immediately to inform you of the incident; you then make the decision to collect your child from the school and seek further medical advice. If there is an accident, we will contact you immediately, or an ambulance will be called. PLEASE REMEMBER WE DO NOT HAVE A HEALTH NURSE ON STAFF. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KEEP YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE AT THE SCHOOL.

**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.

**Tuckshop Volunteers Needed!!**

Benefits of being a tuckshop volunteer:
1. Get a voucher per child
2. 1 volunteer day a week for a whole term pays off 1 child’s Student Resource Scheme
3. Meet great people!

**Attention Year 2 & 3 Parents**

Students in Year 2 and 3 will be participating in a learn to swim program at the Glenn Buchanan Swim Centre. More information will be sent home next week. Classes will begin in Week 3 (11 Feb Year 2 and 13 Feb Year 3) and finish in Week 10 (01 Apr Year 2 and 03 Apr Year 3).

**Interschool Swimming Trials for 8-13 year olds**

Tuesday 11 February 7:15am – 8:00am

Due to the success of our morning swimming trials in 2013 we will be using the same selection trials to select our school swim team for 2014. We are holding one trial morning at the Kirwan Aquatic Pool on Tuesday 11 February from 7:15am to 8:00pm for 8-13 year olds only. If your child wishes to trial to make the school swimming team, they must attend this morning trial. If selected for the team they will compete at the interschool swimming carnival to be held on Tuesday 18 March at Long Tan Pool. All students will be trialling for 25m Freestyle events only. Some students will also be selected for the relay team.

Students wishing to trial for the interschool swimming team will need to complete a nomination and medical form and return them to the office by Friday 07 February. Parents are most welcome to attend and will need to arrange to take children to and from the pool on the morning of the trials. The cost will be pool entry only of $2.50, to be paid at the front desk as you enter the pool.
Letters will be coming home this week for you to sign and nominate your child/ren.

Emma Talbot – HPE Teacher

“Fun Novelty” Swimming Carnival

All students from Years 3-7 will be invited to attend our annual school ‘Fun Novelty’ swimming carnival on Wednesday 5 March. Information about this event will come home soon.

Emma Talbot – HPE Teacher

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