04 November 2014

From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers

FETE FEEDBACK
My sincere apologies to Mrs Michelle Lowe, one of our amazing fete conveners; unfortunately, I inadvertently left your name out of my congratulations and thanks last week. Well done Mrs Lowe. We couldn’t have done it without you.

PLANNING FOR TRANSITION
If you are new to our school, then you may not be aware of our end of year procedures regarding transitions. On Monday 8 December in the morning session, all children at Kirwan State School and some new students for 2015 who are coming from other Townsville schools, spend the morning in a classroom which could be theirs in 2015.

This means that, for example, all Year 1s go to a Year 2 class with a Year 2 teacher.
All Year 3s go to a Year 4 classroom with a Year 4 teacher.
All Year 5s go to Year 6 class with a Year 6 teacher etc., etc.

New Preppies for 2015 will also be part of the program, joining us for the morning to spend a prep morning with their new teacher in 2015. Year 6s and 7s will be spending the day in transition at Kirwan State High School if that is their chosen school for 2015. Year 6 and 7 students who do not wish to attend the Kirwan State High School transition are expected at school as per usual.

A few notes about this arrangement:
• We spend a great deal of time and effort to make balanced classes, taking into consideration a range of factors in making our decisions about class groupings for 2015.
• We do our very best to make the transition day class groupings as close as possible to the real thing for 2015 but, as many of you might know, given fluctuating enrolments over the Christmas vacation, sometimes we are forced to form new classes and move students across to other classes if numbers in one class become unbalanced.
• If your child has to move classes next year, we will do this as quickly as possible and with as little disruption as possible. Classes for the start of the year will be posted on the windows of the admin block from about 20 January. You are free to come in and check to see where your child is placed. Please remember that no classes are final until AFTER DAY 8 as it is our enrolment at 11:00am on Day 8 of the school year which determines our staffing for the year.

MINISTER’S VISIT
This Thursday 6 November, we are very privileged to be receiving a visit from the Honourable Minister for Education, Mr John Paul Langbroek. Minister Langbroek will be in the school for approximately an hour looking at some of the fantastic programs which we are able to offer students including our Author in Residence, Inquiry Cycles for Teachers, LEM and Dance Troupe.

I look forward to showcasing the school on your behalf;

Until next week ... Kind regards

Melissa Jackson
Principal
From the Deputy Principal - Tony Woodhouse

ARE YOU RECEIVING OUR NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY?
We issue a lot of newsletters each week with over 300 electronic newsletters being emailed to parents. This saves time, paper, and ensures you get the newsletter every week. Contact the office to join the list.

JUST A REMINDER...
The keyhole staff car park is not for pick-up and drop-offs. This area can become very easily congested and can make it difficult for taxis and emergency services. Thank you for assisting with this.

GET SET FOR PREP
Last week, we held two information sessions and a come and try morning for our prep students coming to Kirwan in 2015. It was great to see all of our new prep students settle right into the morning routine and make new friends.

If you know of anyone who has not yet contacted the school to enrol their child for prep next year, it would be appreciated if you could remind them. This assists us greatly in preparing our classes for next year.

HELPING WITH HOMEWORK

Homework is a common expectation for most students. Reading is the most valuable homework item a child can do and should become a daily habit. Parents can help children develop sound study habits from a young age which include establishing a predictable routine, encouraging effective use of time and helping them to be organised.

Bright Ideas

• Establish a predictable routine. If homework is done at the same time each night, getting started is usually easier.
• Make homework time as enjoyable as possible. When sharing a book, make yourself comfortable, be involved in the story and enjoy yourself. Don’t make reading a test.
• Establish a good working environment for students. Make sure they have a quiet area (away from distractions) that is well lit and with good ventilation. A table or a desk makes a good work space.
• Encourage children to work reasonably quickly and efficiently.
• Have a set time limit which they should stick to. A little work each night is more productive than packing it all into one weekly session.
• Encourage children to become organised by planning homework around their extra-curricular activities. A weekly planner or diary will help older students to organise themselves.
• Keep explanations simple and practical when helping a child if they become upset or frustrated and the atmosphere becomes tense, stop helping.
• If your child has a problem, talk about the best way to find a solution. Perhaps between the two of you it can be worked out.
• Be realistic and don’t expect to solve all homework difficulties. When in doubt, write a note to your child’s teacher letting him/her know the problem. They will appreciate being informed.

Tony Woodhouse – Deputy Principal

Sunbus Passes – Message from Sunbus

Parents, please be advised you are able to pick up your children’s bus passes from 19.01.15 from the Sunbus office at 451-459 Woolcock Street in Garbutt. Opening hours are 8:00am to 4:30pm. Sunbus will not mail the passes, as they had so many missing ones this year. If you have any questions please contact Sunbus on 4771 9800.

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  Jacqueline Bell  2E  Emily Yule
PrepA  Bree Hughes  3A  Talik MacDonald
PrepB  Holly Richards  3B  Kaylee Steel
PrepB  Latham King  3B  Alex Trueman
PrepC  Isabel Syzmanski  3C  Danielle Hopkins
PrepD  Ethan Whitney  3D  Sarah Rogers
PrepE  Cruz Shelton  4A  Ethan Finlay
PrepF/1F  Chloe Verhaaf  4B  Cobey Sawyer
1A  Isadora Rasmussen  4B  Jessica Sinclair
1B  John Davis  5C  Monique Kellher
1C  Sarah Murdoch  5C  Lilly-May Voysey
1D  Emily Kenny  5D  Sammi Cheadle
1E  Jazmyn Allen  6B  Danielle Connolly
1E  Madison Stevens  6C  Tahlia Spratt
2A  Izaih Cutmore  6C  Miah Johnson
2C  Cooper Hovasapian  6D  Ryan Birbeck
2D  Lucy-Anne Thomas  7B  Gabrielle Cowley
2D  Ryan White  7B  Darian Murdock
2E  Nathaniel Kimber  7B  Tysun Stankovich

From the Deputy Principal – Trish McEvey

AUTHORS IN RESIDENCE

This week Kirwan is hosting two of our Authors in Residence, Boori Pryor and Sally Murphy. We are very privileged to host these two Australian authors and our students are very excited. Sally Murphy’s texts, Pearl versus the World, Roses are Blue, and Toppling have all been studied to varying degrees with our Year 4 and 6 students. Our Year 5 students have worked with Boori’s Shake-A-Leg text earlier this year and our Year 6 students have been studying My Girragunji, and our Year 7 students studied Binna Binna Man. Later this week they will participate in workshops with Boori and culminate the event with a trivia quiz focused on these texts.

LIFE EDUCATION REMINDER

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 (cash only) 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.

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

Icy Cup Fundraiser for Leukaemia Foundation’s “Shave for a Cure 2015”

Alice Edgerton from 3A is selling icy cups at the Shed on Friday afternoons for 50c each.

It is to raise money for the World’s Greatest Shave. Alice is hoping to raise $1000 before March next year before she shaves her head.

Leukaemia is a blood cancer that can affect anyone, anytime and any age.

World’s Greatest Shave raises about half the money the Leukaemia Foundation needs to fund its important work, providing practical and emotional support to families facing blood cancer, as well as investing in life-saving research.

$27 can provide a pack to help someone understand their disease and the challenges ahead.
$36 can give emotional support to help someone overcome the initial shock of being diagnosed.
$58 can provide free transport to someone who is too ill to drive before and after chemotherapy.
$80 can give a regional family a free place to stay close to treatment in the city, for one night.
$120 can fund a scholarship to give essential support to a major blood cancer research project, for one day.

Donations can also be made at http://www.worldsgreatestshave.com.au/
Search for Alice Edgerton to make a donation.

Thank you for your support.

When walking around the school grounds please use the designated pathways. This is part of our school’s Workplace Health and Safety Policy.
Kirwan's email address: admin@kirwanss.eq.edu.au

Kirwan School Phone Number - 4799.1888

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**P&C Pieces**

- **Our final meeting** for the year will be held on Tuesday 18/11/14 commencing at 6.30pm with dinner at the Kirwan Tavern followed by the meeting.
- **Kirwan Christmas Concert** – the P&C will once again be selling refreshments at the concert. There will be a sausage sizzle, drinks, chips, popcorn and ice-creams. A price list will be published closer to the event.

_Laurelle Jones – P&C Secretary_

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**Tuckshop Talk**

Nov 05   Carol, Fiona, Sandra, Michelle (½ day)
Nov 06   Leanne, Leigh
Nov 07   Jo, Belinda
Nov 10   Brett, Leanne
Nov 11   Jenni

*A BIG thank you to Belinda Green, Leanne Blud, Sandra Sellen, Michelle Lowe, Laurelle Jones, Tammy Jones, Helen Murdock, Jo Ohl and Emma Watt for their effort in helping Tuckshop during the Fete week.*

*There are no Slushies or Playwaters.

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**Defence News**

- Hi everyone...
- Our next Parent Chat Group will be on Tuesday 18 November starting at 2:00pm in the Defence Room.
- 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 is on Friday 28 November from 1800h at Geckos. BBQ, food and drinks available for purchase.
- See you all out and about.

_Jenny & Leigh - DSTAs_

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**Are You Transferring?**

It’s that time of the year! 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 out the form at the end of Kirwnews and return it to the school office for processing. This will help the smooth running of the office and with the great load of paperwork at this very hectic time of the year. Thank you.

**Year 6/7 Parent Committee**

- Dinner Dance notes have gone home. Payment is required by 07 November if your child wishes to attend. The Dinner Dance is being held on Wednesday 10 December at the Mercure Inn.
- The next Year 6/7 Parent Committee meeting is on Thursday 06 November at 2:00pm in the Staffroom.
- CHOCOLATES AND MONEY ARE NOW OVERDUE! If you haven’t returned your chocolate money please do so ASAP!

**Dental Van On-Site**

The Dental Van is currently on-site. 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.

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**Finalisation of Student Accounts**

As we commence preparation for 2015 classes, it will be necessary to close each student’s account. We ask that all outstanding monies be forwarded to the school office (Student Resource Scheme, LEM Phonics Books, etc) as soon as possible. Thank you.

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**Fete Feedback**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Ethan Jeffery Prep F/1F who was our highest dodger seller and has won a gift voucher from Big W.

**FEEDBACK**

The fete committee is looking for ways to make our fete bigger and better next time. If you have any feedback or suggestions from this year’s fete please email fete@kirwanss.eq.edu.au. We would love to hear your comments.

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**3E & the Tuckshop Present**

**3E Milkeys - Milkshakes**

One day only!!

Friday 7 November @ First Break
4 choices of yummy flavours
Vanilla, Strawberry, Chocolate & Caramel
With a scoop of ice-cream!
Don’t miss out – only $3.00

Milkeys MUST be ordered via your tuckshop basket on Friday 7/11

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**2015 Prep Year Reminder**

**Monday 08 December**

**Transition Day**

9:15am – 10:50am

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**Term & Vacation Times for 2014 and 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Term Dates</th>
<th>Vacation Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Term 1: 28 Jan – 04 Apr 2015</td>
<td>Term 1: 05 Apr – 21 Apr</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Term 1: 27 Jan – 02 Apr 2016</td>
<td>Term 1: 03 Apr – 19 Apr</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Term 2: 20 Apr – 26 June 2016</td>
<td>Term 2: 27 June – 12 July</td>
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**Children Returning Late in 2015**

If your child/ren is/are not returning on Day One 2015 (27 January), please advise the school office of details and expected return date. Advising of your late return ensures a place is reserved for your child/ren.

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**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):

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