04 February 2014

From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers

PARENT TEACHER EVENING
We are trialling a different format this year for our Parent Teacher Evening. This year will be more of an “information” session (2 sessions in fact) with each teacher providing a brief half hour overview of their classroom expectations, year level curriculum and what to expect generally for the year. These sessions will be held on Tuesday 18 February.

There will be two sessions run by each class with time slots from
♦ 5:30pm – 6:00pm and
♦ 6:10pm – 6:40pm
...so that families with more than one child can have the opportunity to attend two different class presentations.
The P&C meeting will be held almost immediately afterwards in the staffroom commencing at 7:00pm. All welcome.

YEAR 6 AND 7 PARENT MEETING
Calling all parents of Year 6 and 7 children.... there will be a meeting this Thursday afternoon at 2:00pm in the staffroom. Agenda items include:
• Booking for Graduation Party,
• School shirts,
• Update on School Camps.

Many thanks to the mums who have done some research over the holidays!!

GREAT RESULTS GUARANTEE
You may have heard some announcements in the media in recent days regarding the Great Results Guarantee for Queensland State Schools.

Our school will be receiving additional funding from the Great Results Guarantee and we need to decide how we can use this money to better support our students and improve their outcomes.

We are now working to develop our own Great Results Guarantee with evidence-based strategies and actions to improve literacy and numeracy.

Read more about the guarantee at www.education.qld.gov.au/resultsguarantee.

This topic will certainly be up for discussion at the next P&C meeting which will be held on 18 February at 7:00pm in the staffroom. All are very welcome to attend. New members of our school community are especially welcome. We love having new “blood” in our friendly, productive group.

DAY 8 AND STAFFING
As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, this Thursday is “Day 8”. At this stage, I do not anticipate that there will be any changes to classes for the year. If this situation changes, I will let you know as soon as practical.

I trust that your child has settled in well to their new classroom, establishing new friendships and coming to terms with new standards of work.

Until next week ... kind regards
Melissa Jackson
Principal
POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

Our school and community are very proud of how we support and manage positive student behaviour. As a school, every staff member aims to catch our students doing the right things each and every day. As a thank you, students will receive a ‘gotcha’. Students then take the ‘gotcha’ to their class where they show their teacher and lodge the gotcha onto their ‘gotcha passports’. Students then take their ‘gotchas’ and put them in the gotcha box (outside the office). We have weekly gotcha draws for our P – 3s and our 4 – 7s on assembly. We keep track of student gotchas and there are special certificates for students who receive 50 and 100 gotchas.

Our school has high expectations of student behaviour and has the philosophy of rewarding positive behaviours. Each and every class has a positive reward structure. We have our gotcha system, class awards on assembly and special certificates for attendance and academic efforts. As a school, we importantly believe that every moment of ‘non-teaching talk or behaviour management talk’ we can save is more time spent on ‘classroom learning talk’. Thank you for your support.

Safe, Respectful, Responsible, that’s us.

John Kratzmann – Deputy Principal

From the Deputy Principal - Tony Woodhouse

Week two is already upon us and already it is great to see students on time and ready for learning each and every day. It is also great to see everyone proudly wearing our school uniform.

It has been great to see students quietly reading each morning in the shed area. Reading is a life skill, and there are many ways you can assist and support your child to help improve their reading skills.

- Have a set routine where the family reads together and set aside time to read with your child each day. This will assist your child with comprehension, vocabulary, fluency and decoding skills.
- Surround your child with reading material – newspapers, magazines, appealing books.
- Praise your child when reading. This can have a great influence on how hard they will try.
- When reading a book where the print is large, point word by word as you read. This will help your child learn that reading goes from left to right and understand that the word said is the word seen.
- When reading stories with rhyming words and repeated lines, invite your child to join in on these parts.
- Play games with the things that you and the child can see on the page, such as letting kids finish the sentence and finding the letters that start the child’s name and yours, remembering that it’s never work, it’s always a fabulous game.

Sadly, with our ever-increasing busy lives, the television becomes the easy option to entertain our children. Those 10 to 15 minutes that you can find to read to your children every day is one of the most valuable gifts you can give them.

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.

1A Sienna Lloyd-Jones 3E George Ling
1B Kayden King 3E Emily Ryan
1C Natt Sommerville 3E Irene Mullio
1D Alissia Taylor 4A Seth Johnson
1E Casey Fewings 4A Chinsia Burns
1F Nathan Stewart 4B Paige Stanek
2A Sam Conroy 4B Andrea Scarfidi
2B Paige Daly 4C Jaylee Jensen
2C Tyson Barry 4D Jayde Brown
2D Renae Lamb 5A Matthew Schulz
2E Emily Yule 5B Hayley Maskell
3A Talik MacDonald 5D Tylor Winnett
3B Jace Rizos 6A Caleb Mario
3B Blaze Buchanan 6B Zeke Holderness
3C Cecil Milton 6D Andrew Talbot
3D Kodi Leysley 6E Taneesha McDonald
3E Rachel Browning 7A Jett Manning
3F Phoebe Hughes 7A Chris Maskell

Gentle Reminder

Please pay your school supplied resources from your book lists as soon as possible:

- Prep – LEM Phonics/Numeracy 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

P&C 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.

Laurelle Jones – P&C President

Medication at School

At times it is necessary for children to take medication during school hours. We are aware of this need and are willing to assist you in this situation. However, due to directives from Education Queensland, and in conjunction with current regulations, prescription medicine only can be administered by school staff and under doctor’s instructions. This means that all medication must come to school in a container, which is clearly labelled by the pharmacist with the child’s name, dosage and instructions for dispensing, together with the doctor’s name. If the medication is not prescribed by a medical practitioner, we are unable to administer this during school hours to him/her. Parents are very welcome to come along to the school and administer the medication at the appointed time, or alternatively, seek medical advice from their doctor re a prescription for the required medication. We appreciate your cooperation in this important matter.

If your child already has medication here at school (eg. ventolin puff) and you have not yet filled out a new medication form for 2014, please call into the school office to do so. Thank you all for your cooperation in this matter.

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.
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</td>
<td>05 Apr – 21 Apr</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Term 2: 22 Apr – 27 June</td>
<td>28 June – 13 July</td>
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<td>Term 3: 14 July – 19 Sept</td>
<td>20 Sept – 06 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Term 1: 27 Jan – 02 Apr</td>
<td>03 Apr – 19 Apr</td>
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<td>Term 2: 20 Apr – 26 June</td>
<td>27 June – 12 July</td>
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<td>Term 3: 13 July – 18 Sept</td>
<td>19 Sept – 05 Oct</td>
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Defence News

- Hi everyone! Geckos are hosting a BBQ on Saturday 8 February from 11:00am-3:00pm. Entry is free. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.
- Our next Parent Chat Group will be on Tuesday 11 February starting at 2:00pm in the Defence Room. Babies and toddlers most welcome. If you have any school related matters or concerns please drop in or leave a message for us at the office.
- See you all out and about...

Jenny & Leigh – DSTAs

The Student Resource Scheme will be operating at Kirwan this year and the forms were distributed last week. The letter explains what the Student Resource Scheme covers.

There is a blue form (one 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 2014.

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

Karen Finnigan – Business Services Manager

“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

Become A Volunteer – Join Your P&C

P&C volunteers are dedicated parents and community members who want to contribute to the management and improvement of their school. Volunteers significantly enhance community spirit and volunteering promotes enduring social, cultural, environmental and economic value to the school community as well as the volunteer.

Show your children how much you value their education by being involved in your P&C. It’s free and even if you are not able to attend all meetings, being a P&C member is a great way to get actively involved in your school community and have your say. You might even consider a more structured formal role as a P&C Executive member, working closely with the school principal for the benefit of the students at the school.

Indigenous News

Hi and welcome to all our new and old families who have joined us at Kirwan for 2014. We are holding a meet and greet morning tea in the Indigenous Room (located at the back of the hall) on Wednesday 5 February (tomorrow) from 8:30am. All family members are welcome – we look forward to meeting you all. Strong, smart and deadly.....every day counts at Kirwan.

Michelle Lowe – Community Participation Officer

Tuckshop Talk

Students in Year 2 and 3 will be participating in a learn to swim program at the Glenn Buchanan Swim School. Details are below and letters were sent home last 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).

**Tuesdays**

- 12:00noon…..2C
- 12:30pm…..2B
- 1:00pm…..2A
- 1:30pm…..2D
- 2:00pm…..2E

**Thursdays**

- 12:00noon…..3A
- 12:30pm…..3B
- 1:00pm…..3C
- 1:30pm…..3E
- 2:00pm…..3D

The total cost of the program is $45 for 8 x 30 minute lessons. To allow your child to participate in the learn to swim program please return forms and money to the school office by Friday 7 February 2014.

NO PAYMENT AND FORMS = NO SWIMMING LESSONS!

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 swimming team for 2014. We are holding one trial morning at the Kirwan Aquatic Pool on Tuesday 11 February from 7:15am to 8:00am 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 have been sent home for you to sign and nominate your child/ren.

Emma Talbot – HPE Teacher

Kirwan School Phone Number - 4799.1888

Kirwan’s email address: admin@kirwanss.eq.edu.au

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