Dear Parents and Caregivers

IT’S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS...
A huge thank you to the many volunteers and school community members who enjoyed a very “Christmassy” evening on our oval last night. Our student super stars, both big and small did an outstanding job. Congratulations!! I must thank Mrs Nicole Brodie once again, for her sterling efforts in choreographing dance pieces for an entire school of over 900 children. No easy feat let me assure you.

REPORT CARDS
These will be distributed tomorrow at the close of the school day. Please take the time to reflect on the positive achievements of 2014 with your child and perhaps set some goals for next year.

GRADUATION
Primary school days are fast coming to a close for the 184 students currently enrolled in Years 6 and 7. I have received positive reports about transition programs to our major high school Kirwan State High and I know that their planning to accommodate both Year 7s and 8s next year has been a central focus. I would like to wish every child who graduates this year all the very best for the future. I trust that you have been well equipped to cope with the challenges and opportunities that high school brings. Let us know how you are going; we love hearing of your successes at high school.

Our Graduation Ceremony will be held in the hall tomorrow morning commencing at 9:00am sharp. Given that we have two cohorts (both 6 and 7) to get through, the program will run without interruption so that we can get through hopefully by approximately 11:00am. I look forward to seeing you there.

YEAR 6 AND 7 STUDENTS SHOULD WEAR THEIR SENIOR SHIRTS UNLESS THEY DO NOT HAVE ONE IN WHICH CASE THEY SHOULD WEAR THEIR NORMAL KIRWAN SHIRT.

VOLUNTEERS
This morning we celebrated a fantastic year with our volunteers’ morning tea. As I said to the assembled group (just under 100!!!) it takes a village to raise a child and I see that in evidence at Kirwan State School every day. Thank you for your efforts this year. We could not have done it without you.

The school office will be open from Monday 19 January. Class lists will be displayed on the windows of the administration block during that week also. Please take the opportunity to check if there are changes.

SCHOOL RECOMMENCES ON TUESDAY 27 JANUARY

I would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of the school community for what has been an amazing year. While I am looking forward to the break, I am also excited about 2015, our first year as an Independent Public School.

Have a safe and restful holiday, watch our school if you live nearby and return safe and happy to us next year. Rest assured we are looking forward to it!!

Take care … until next year … kind regards

Melissa Jackson
Principal
NEW SMOKING LAWS FOR 2015
The Queensland Government has passed amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act (1998), banning the use of smoking products, including tobacco and electronic cigarettes, in all enclosed and outdoor areas at state and non-state schools in Queensland - including primary, secondary and special education facilities - and for five metres beyond the boundary of school land.

- The new laws take effect from 1 January 2015.
- These laws offer further protection to the Queensland public and in particular, children and young adults from exposure to harmful environmental tobacco smoke.
- Children’s health is particularly affected by environmental tobacco smoke, with exposure increasing the risk of ear infections, respiratory illness and asthma.
- The new laws apply at all times - during and after school hours, on weekends and during school holidays.
- The five metre ‘no smoking’ buffer will ensure that smokers extinguish their smoking products well before they approach school land.
- Smoking in motor vehicles where children under the age of 16 are present has been banned in Queensland since January 2010.


CAROLS
A big thank you to everyone who came to last night’s Carols. It was impressive to see so many families attend to listen to the carols played by very talented musicians from Thurinigowa Brass Band (a very big thank you to them), and listen to our students sing and watch them dance.

There was considerable behind the scene setting up and organising from many people; from bringing the portable lights, setting up the stage, setting up the stage lights, teaching the dancing and teaching the singing and organising and selling the food. To each person who contributed to the success of the evening, a mighty big thank you!

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
After a very busy year, we have finally reached the end point. Thank you to everyone for a great year and I look forward to seeing you all.

SCHOOL SHIRT
Dress:  Year 6
School Shirt

Dress:  Year 7
School Shirt

World’s Greatest Shave Update
Alice Edgerton is raising money for the World’s Greatest Shave. Alice is hoping to raise $1000 before March next year before she shaves her head. As you read this we have 93 days to reach Alice’s target of $1000 to have her shave on 11 March 2015.

We would like to thank all the members of the school community for the support over the weeks at our icy cup stall. So far from icy cups we have raised a total of $335. The total overall raised from icy cups, donations, raffle, sale of toys & guess the lollie jar is $664.10, so we are on the way. Looks like myself and Amy will be losing our locks also.

Anyone looking for a last minute momentum for the end of Year 6 or 7 - we have for sale a bear and 2 dogs, homemade signature toys. If you would like one for your friends to sign, you can purchase them for $20.00, by calling Rosanne on 0408 985 070.

Summer Reading Club
GET READY TO EXPLORE FORGOTTEN WORLDS, DODGE DANGER, OUTWIT CRAFTY VILLAINS AND WIN SOME GREAT PRIZES ALONG THE WAY WITH THE SUMMER READING CLUB.

READ AND BE REWARDED
Read 5 books and claim a FREE book for your own personal library at home. For every 5 books after that, up to 20 books, collect a prize from your local CityLibraries’ Townsville branch. Read a maximum of 25 books and be rewarded with a piece of bountiful booty at the Summer Reading Club Finale. Your reading log must be finalised by 5pm Wednesday 28 January, 2015. The winners will be drawn and will receive a major prize draw for each age group at the Summer Reading Club Finale.

RECORD YOUR READING
Visit CityLibraries’ Townsville’s webpage www.townsville.qld.gov.au/facilities/libraries and click the Summer Reading Club button.

- Click the ‘register or login here’ button.
- Log into your Summer Reading Club home page by entering your Username and Password, then click the ‘Login’ button.
- Remember to write down your Username and Password.
- Click the ‘Add/View log’ button.
- Record the title, author and your rating. If you would like to add a review, enter your comments here. Each week the three best reviews will win a FABULOUS prize.
- Click the ‘Save’ button.

But wait, there’s more!
Love Andy Griffiths? Come to Alkentvale Library on Saturday 6 December, 2014 from 10:30am and laugh till you fall over. Stig Wemyss, the voice of Andy Griffiths’ audiobooks will tell heaps of Andy’s hilarious stories and give away lots of amazing prizes.

To see what other awesome adventures are happening in Townsville over the summer school holidays, download a copy of the Summer Hot Pocket at www.townsville.qld.gov.au.

For more fabulous fun, perplexing puzzles and remarkable rewards check out the State Library of Queensland’s Summer Reading Club website www.summerreadingclub.org.au.

All school personnel wish members of the Kirwan School community a bright and happy Christmas, a prosperous New Year and a safe return to school following the vacation. For those students, parents and staff leaving us, thank you for your valued contribution to our school. We wish you well in your future endeavours.

Tony Woodhouse - Deputy Principal

When walking around the school grounds please use the designated pathways. This is part of our school’s Workplace Health and Safety Policy.

SafeST Committee Email Address
For any safety concerns email: safety@kirwanss.eq.edu.au
Donations can also be made at
Search for Alice Edgerton to make a donation.

Thank you for your support and have a safe break.

Rosanne and Alice
Chris Reid's trip to Osaka
Japan
Playing Soccer with the Fury

Chris is due back tomorrow around lunchtime and he has had an incredibly wonderful time – from a sporting and cultural point of view. The weather has been absolutely freezing, like nothing he’s ever experienced before. This past weekend, when Chris played 4 games in a carnival tournament, the MAXIMUM temperature was 1 degree!!! It even snowed at the end of one of their games!

Kirwan Keepers

10 December .................................................. Year 6/7 Graduation
10 December .................................................. Report Cards issued
10 December .................................................. Year 6/7 Dinner Dance
11 December ............................................... Rock, Pop, Mime – 9:00am
12 December ............................................... Last day of Term 4
27 January 2015 ........................................... First day of Term 1 2015

P and C Pieces

• The P&C Executive Committee would like to thank everyone who has helped throughout the year. Without volunteers it is not possible to run events successfully. We would also like to thank the wonderful office ladies for all their support and help over the year.
• The first general meeting for 2015 will be held on Tuesday 17/2/14 at 7:00pm in the staffroom. All new members welcome.
• Merry Christmas and a Safe and Prosperous New Year from the P&C.

Laurelle Jones – P&C Secretary

2015 Musical – The Little Mermaid

The 2015 Musical will be The Little Mermaid. Auditions for lead roles will be held in the music room at 1st and 2nd breaks Wednesday Week 1 Term 1 2015 for students from Years 3-6.

Library News

All Library books and readers were due back to the Resource Centre last Friday. If your child/ren have books at home, or have a lost/damaged book from our school Library, would you return/pay/replace the books ASAP please.

Resource Centre Staff

Tuckshop Talk

Tuckshop is now closed for the remainder of 2014.

A BIG BIG thank you to all the tuckshop volunteers. Tuckshop would not have run as smoothly without your help. Thank you!! We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year. See you next year!

School Resumes
Tuesday 27 January 2015
Defence News

Hi everyone! We would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and for those who are leaving us, safe travels and see you later! Looking forward to seeing you all next year!

Jenny & Leigh – DSTAs

Year 6/7 Parent Committee

The Year 6/7 dinner dance is on tomorrow night at the Mercure Inn from 6:00pm – 9:30pm. Parents will be required to sign their child in and out of the event. A great night is planned for the students.

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.

Term and Vacation Times

<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>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 Sep – 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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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term 2: 20 Apr – 26 June</td>
<td>27 June – 12 July</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Term 3: 13 July – 18 Sept</td>
<td>19 Sept – 05 Oct</td>
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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): ________________________________