SERVICE LEARNING AT KIRWAN HIGH

Kirwan High Chaplain David Spark with Jimmy Spradbrow and Brooke Valinoti

Kirwan State High School Year 10 students along with our new School Chaplain, David Spark, have been busy putting a smile on people’s faces as they assist with the deliveries for ‘Meals on Wheels’. This is part of the school’s Service Learning program which encourages students to give back to their community.

St. Andrew’s Meals on Wheels is a service that relies heavily on volunteers. Students are on a rotating roster every Friday morning when they help to deliver meals to elderly and disabled members of the local community.

Students have found the experience very rewarding and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the people they are serving. The community is certainly benefiting from these enthusiastic young leaders.

JUNIOR SECONDARY LEADERSHIP CEREMONY

Friday 27th March
at 10.30 a.m.
in the Performing Arts Centre
All Year 9 students

Presentations to be made to all junior secondary captains, Indigenous young leaders and junior Interact members. All Year 9s will take their leadership pledge.

Parents welcome. Limited seating

MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY FORUM FOR PARENTS

We are holding a Community Forum to provide parents with information on how to better support their children to move forward from grief and loss.

We have invited specialists from Head Space and Child and Youth Mental Health Services to give parents expert information on this area.

It is most important that we look after the mental health and wellbeing of our young people to ensure that they develop resilience and coping strategies when they are facing difficult times.

When: Thursday 26 March
Time: 7.00pm
Where: Kirwan High School Performing Arts Block

Please register your attendance to Heather Dearness on 47738134 or hdear3@eq.edu.au
**CONGRATULATIONS**

**TO**

- Hayley Buchanan, Kyla Buchanan and Janaye Williams who were selected in the North Queensland Hockey team
- Abbey Caris and Annalise Tyrrell who were selected as shadows for the North Queensland Hockey team.
- Harrison Farrell, Daniel Brown and Nicolaas Smith who were selected in the 19 Years North Queensland Hockey Team.

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**FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER**

**TEACHING TOLERANCE**

At a wedding recently I listened in to the Minister talking about the importance of tolerance if a marriage is to succeed. He did not devalue the importance of love but stated that love without tolerance was not enough, and confirmed his belief by stating that if one party doesn’t learn to tolerate the others opinions and practices (including differing habits) it will be the downfall of the marriage.

The dictionary defines tolerance as ‘showing respect for the rights or opinions or practices of others’. In short it is about accepting people for who they are and treating others the way you would like to be treated. In marriage, tolerance is about respect shown by: accepting difference of opinion, of family and culture, of beliefs and religion, and most importantly, of habits.

Today, more than ever, our children interact with people of differing ethnicities, religions, and cultures, and ability levels. Classrooms are increasingly diverse, and reflect the communities where families live and work.

Having tolerance not only improves our relationships with people but it also opens up more opportunities in education, business, and many other aspects of life.

**Teaching Tolerance**

*Live it*: Children develop their own values, in great part, by mirroring the values and attitudes of those they care about. Parents’ attitudes about respecting others are often so much a part of them that they rarely even think about it. Parents who demonstrate tolerance and respect in their everyday lives give out a powerful message – I accept and respect your uniqueness. As a result, their kids learn to appreciate differences in others as well as themselves, as well as acknowledge and respect differences within their own family.

*Talk about tolerance and respect*: When media or life experiences present opportunities regarding tolerance or lack thereof, talk to your child about the values you would like them to exhibit. Answer kids’ questions about differences honestly and respectfully. This teaches that it is acceptable to notice and discuss differences as long as it is done with respect. Point out and talk about unfair stereotypes that may be portrayed in media.

Remember that tolerance does not mean tolerating unacceptable behavior. It means that everyone deserves to be treated with respect — and in turn should treat others with respect as well.

*Provide opportunities*: Give them opportunities to play and work with others of diverse backgrounds. Children learn firsthand that everyone has something to contribute and we really aren’t that different in our thinking and living. Select books, toys, music, art, and videos carefully. Keep in mind the powerful effect that the media and pop culture have on shaping attitudes.

*Build self-esteem*: Help your children feel good about themselves. Kids who feel badly about themselves often treat others badly. Kids with strong self-esteem value and respect themselves and are more likely to treat others with respect, too. Help your child to feel accepted, respected, and valued.

*Learn about traditions*: Learn together about holiday and religious celebrations that are not part of your own tradition. Honor your family’s traditions and teach them to your kids — and to someone outside the family who wants to learn about the diversity you have to offer.

When parents encourage a tolerant attitude in their children, and talk about their values, and model the behavior they would like to see by treating others well, kids will follow in their footsteps.

If we all could take on board that:

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EVERYBODY IS DIFFERENT
EVERYBODY IS SPECIAL
EVERYBODY IS IMPORTANT
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the world would be a better place.

Adapted from Kids Health - http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/talk/tolerance
OPERATION SLIPPER
As many of you may have heard over the radio or read in the newspaper, the Australian Defence Force is conducting a Parade for all the returned soldiers, sailors and airmen from Operation Slipper, the operation that saw the Defence Force deploy to Afghanistan.

The Parade is taking place along the Strand in Townsville on Saturday 21 March, commencing at Strand Park at 10.00 am and marching to ANZAC Park. The Governor General, Assistant Defence Minister, Deputy Premier, and Mayor of Townsville will be present for the march and commemorative service afterwards.

The end of 2014 marked the conclusion of Operation Slipper, Australia’s military contribution to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan, and the International Coalition against Terrorism mission across Afghanistan and the Middle East. Since Australia commenced operations in the region in October 2001, more than 34,500 Australian Defence Force personnel, Australian Public Servants and Australian Federal Police have deployed to the Middle East Area of Operations.

Australia committed forces to Operation Slipper to ensure Afghanistan would never again become a safe haven for terrorism that threatened Australia and the world.

We’d like to encourage as many spectators to come down to the Strand on Saturday and show their support to these brave veterans.

Diane Jensen
Defence Transition Mentor

LOWES DISCOUNT DAY
Ezy Way and Rewards Day at Lowes.

19th March—one day only

20% off everything including schoolwear for Ezyway and Rewards card members Instore and Online

KIRWAN STATE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS EXCELLENCE PROGRAM FUNDRAISING RAFFLE
Congratulations to the following winners of our Sports Excellence Raffle:

1st Prize: Tania Sinclair
Trip for two to State of Origin III in Brisbane including airfares, accommodation and tickets to the game

2nd Prize: John Jenkins
Framed & Signed 2015 Toyota NQ Cowboys Jersey

3rd Prize: Ian Pott
2014/2015 Townsville Crocodiles Jersey

Thank you to everyone who supported our Sports Excellence Program by purchasing tickets in this raffle.

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