PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS
TUESDAY 7TH AND WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY

Appointments are available for parents to meet with their student’s teacher between 3.30pm and 7.15pm on both Tuesday 7th May and Wednesday 8th May. The interviews will be held in the Humanities and Communication blocks.

Your student is to see their teacher to make appointments. If there is a problem with this you could ring the school on 4773 8111.

ANZAC DAY

On Wednesday 24th April we commemorated ANZAC Day with a full school parade. Students were arranged into House Groups and wore their coloured house hats. The visual effect of the hats was impressive – a sea of white, blue, green, orange, purple and yellow. The proceedings began with a Welcome to Country by Samara Luta. This was followed by Jono Bell singing the National Anthem. To mark the official start of our ANZAC ceremony, the Army, Navy and Air Force cadets marched out and lined our stage area. Then Mr Murray James, our Deputy Principal, shared an excerpt from his grandfather’s war diary. It was very special to hear a firsthand account of the complexities of war from a World War One soldier. Our School Vice Captains, Ashley Gregori and Daniel Hales, shared the poem, “The Young Dead Soldiers”. A wreath and slouch hat was laid by members of the captains team. “The Unknown Soldier” was read by our School Captain, Michael Barclay. Year 12 student, Jordyn Zahner played the Last Post to mark the beginning of the minute silence. Mrs Wenta, our Principal, followed this with the “Soldier’s Oath”. School Captain, Michelle Liu, gave a stirring performance of “Amazing Grace”, accompanied by Mr Andrew Higgins on guitar.

To conclude the proceedings, we heard a message from Year 10 student, Kyle Walsh; our talented winner of the ANZAC Premier’s prize who attended the ANZAC ceremony in Gallipoli. Finally, our School Chaplain, Ev Aguilera, shared a blessing. It was a moving ceremony and our students respectfully gave their thanks to those brave men and women who gave their lives that we live in safety.
Persuasive Writing: Beyond Formulas
All Year 9 Top Scholar students participated in a Persuasive Writing Workshop run by educational consultant Lindsay Williams earlier this term. Students learnt a range of extremely valuable techniques for improving their writing in NAPLAN and in their general curriculum areas.

Students were able to use their knowledge to expand noun groups, build more elaborate sentences and use nominalisation to improve the overall complexity of their writing.

Brainology
Year 8 Top Scholar students are currently participating in an online program to develop their ‘growth mindsets’. Mindsets are the beliefs people hold about their attributes. When students believe that their attributes (their intelligence or ability) are unchangeable, they hold a Fixed Mindset. Our students are learning how the brain works and how particular strategies can improve their learning. They are learning about how to develop a Growth Mindset. If you would like further information, please visit the website www.mindsetworks.com.

ICAS Competitions
The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools will begin running this term. These tests provide all Top Scholar students with valuable test experience and the data provides teachers, students and parents with insights into the strengths and weaknesses of individual students across core areas.

Test Dates are as follows:

Science  5th June
Writing   17th June
English   31st July
Mathematics 13th August

All competition entry fees are covered by the Top Scholar student fee which was payable at the start of the year.

CHAPPY WEEK – MAY 19TH-26TH, 2013
Greetings Kirwan High Community. Chappy Ev here. Do hope you’ve all had a good start to the year.

Chappy Week is an annual event run by Scripture Union Queensland to raise awareness of the value of school Chaplains and to raise funds to support school Chaplain. Scripture Union Queensland Chaplains provide spiritual, physical and emotional support to school communities.

I will be running some fun and exciting activities for the week at school and also providing information for students and my community about what the Chaplaincy service here at Kirwan High provides and raising the awareness of the role of Chaplaincy in our school.

I currently run lunchtime activities from the Chappy Lounge and programs specifically tailored for students with specific needs and support. Some new activities I have kicked off this year are Conversational Spanish lessons and a Resilience program for students of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. I also provide ukulele lessons.

If you are interested to know more about the Chaplaincy service here at Kirwan High or would like your child to be involved or participate in Chappy activities, please do not hesitate to call me, Chappy Ev, at school directly on 47738148 or email eagui7@eq.edu.au or if you would like to contribute financially to help support the Chaplaincy service please contact the school office on 47738111. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Please watch this space for more Chappy Week information to come.

Wishing you all a great week.
Chappy Ev

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE TO BE STRENGTHENED
The Queensland Government has announced a plan to strengthen school discipline in state schools. The plan is the first of 15 strategies to be developed from the recently released Great teachers = Great results direct action plan. It will reduce red tape and provide principals with the flexibility to work with the school community to implement a range of new and strengthened disciplinary approaches. For more information on Great teachers = Great results visit: http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/government-responses/great-teachers.html
The Parents and Citizens’ Association meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month commencing at 7.30pm in the school Library. Meetings for 2013 are:

- Tuesday 14th May
- Tuesday 11th June
- Tuesday 9th July
- Tuesday 13th August
- Tuesday 10th September
- Tuesday 8th October
- Tuesday 12th November

2013 QCS TEST

Chief Community Representatives & Community Representatives

Call for Expressions of Interest for Chief Community Representatives and Community Representatives for the 2013 Core Skills Test

Expressions of interest are now invited from members of the community who are interested in being selected for the positions of Chief Community Representatives and/or Community Representatives for the 2013 Queensland Core Skills Test. The test is to be held on Tuesday 3 September and Wednesday 4 September, 2013. Persons nominated by this school will not necessarily be located at Kirwan High, but may be required to supervise the QCS test at another school in the Townsville area.

An information package regarding these paid positions is available for personal collection from the Administration Office, Hudson Street. The package contains details such as position descriptions, forms for completion, and rate of pay. Details and forms are also available on the QSA website at https://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/qsa_secure/memos.act.

All completed expressions of interest must be returned to the school office by close of business (4.00 p.m.) on Friday 10 May, 2013.

Andrew Carter
Head of Department