INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International Student Program –
Bringing the World to Kirwan!

Kirwan High has a thriving International Student Program.

After gaining accreditation from Education Queensland International, Kirwan has attracted more than a hundred young men and women from Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Norway, Italy, Brazil and the United States. The students come to study at Kirwan for three, six, nine or twelve months.

Kirwan High Executive Principal John Livingston said it was a win – win program. The International students benefit greatly by experiencing the Australian way of life while our Australian students and families gain the unique opportunity to learn about other cultures.

The International students homestay with Australian families during their stay at Kirwan. New homestay families are always wanted. If you would like to host an International student please contact Elena Hawkins on 4773 8189, email ehawk19@eq.edu.au or Lorraine Duve on 4773 8165, email lduve1@eq.edu.au.

NEW MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

The State Election might still be weeks away but Thuringowa already has a new member.

Kirwan High Year 12 student Jayden Parsons has been selected to represent the seat of Thuringowa at this year’s Youth Parliament. The program begins when Parliament convenes in Brisbane this April.

Jayden is an enthusiastic member of the Kirwan High community and is also involved in a number of sporting and charity groups. He was selected on the basis of his willingness to make positive changes within his community.

The Youth Parliament provides an opportunity for motivated and passionate students to meet and discuss issues affecting their communities. Jayden will be involved with drafting and passing a law relating to an issue of importance to him.

The staff and students at Kirwan High believe Jayden will have great success as the member for Thuringowa and wish him all the best.
QTAC OFFERS
YEAR 12, 2011
COHORT
The following is a summary of the statistics QTAC provided to the school regarding our 2011 Cohort and their offers as of 24 February 2012.

⇒ 109 students applied through QTAC
⇒ 103 (95%) received an offer (10% increase from 2010)
⇒ 87 students (79.8%) received their first preference (12.8% increase from 2010)
⇒ 9 students (8.3%) received their second preference
⇒ 6 students (5.5%) received their third preference
⇒ Of the 103 students 61 were female and 42 were male
⇒ 242 (92%) students attained a QCE (5% increase from 2010)
⇒ 225 (76%) received a VET qualification.

These are outstanding results. Congratulations to our Seniors of 2011.

REMINDER—Parents, for the safety of students, do not park in the bus bay area of an afternoon. Traffic patrols will be conducted at random times. Convenience causes congestion and will cost you. Thank you to all parents for doing the right thing.

PRACTICE NAPLAN TEST

All Year 9 students will sit a practice NAPLAN test on Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th of March. This is a valuable opportunity for students to become familiar with the format, language, question types and the time constraints of the tests. It will also allow students to develop the understanding that they must complete the tests without communicating with other students and without teacher assistance. The results of the practice test will provide valuable information to both students and teachers.

Students are allowed to take the following items into the testing room:
- 2B or HB pencils
- pencil sharpener
- eraser
- blue or black pens
- blank working paper
- A calculator [for one of the Numeracy tests]

The dates for the actual NAPLAN test are the 15th, 16th and 17th of May 2012. Please direct any concerns or questions to Karen Watson on 4773 8164.

PLEASE NOTE

Term 2 commences on Monday 16th April.
Not the 10th April as printed in the Student Planners.

State Honours for Kirwan High Musicians

Over the weekend of 9th, 10th and 11th March 2012, nineteen of Kirwan High’s most talented music students attended the Griffith Conservatorium of Music State Honours Ensemble Program. The state Honours Ensemble Program is run each year at the St Mary’s Catholic College in Cairns. Students attend rehearsals and workshops run by leading music educators and teaching staff of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in Brisbane.

The students from Kirwan high participated in two of the ensembles on offer over the weekend. The Wind Symphony was conducted by former Townsville Trombone player Greg Aitken and the String Ensemble conducted by Emma Dron.

Following the rehearsals on Friday night, all day Saturday and Sunday morning, the State Honours Ensemble Program concluded with a spectacular concert featuring performances from all of the ensembles. The Kirwan High Students proudly represented their school in this concert and brought back their development and experiences into the Kirwan High Music Department as they continue to prepare for FANFARE 2012.
**Switch on with Breakfast!**

**Get off to a great start – eat breakfast!**

Kirwan High now has a Breakfast Club for all students offering a simple healthy breakfast everyday before school, 7.30am – 8.30am in the Student Support Centre. This is for all students and for staff who have missed breakfast at home.

It’s very important to eat a healthy breakfast every day.

**Why?**

Eating Breakfast improves academic performance, concentration and muscle coordination, improves behaviour and helps maintain a healthy weight range.

The program aims to model the importance of eating breakfast every day, encourage young people to choose healthy breakfast foods, promote skills to prepare simple healthy foods, develop social skills and hygiene skills. It’s a great way to learn about nutrition and to strengthen community spirit with the student group.

Many of the school’s support network are at Breakfast club so it’s a great way for students to become familiar with them, as well as make new friends.

So come on Switch on with Breakfast – it is the most important meal of the day.

Everyone is welcome.

Healthy Body, Healthy Life

Staying healthy,

Debbie

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**EVERY DAY COUNTS**

As we reach the end of Term 1, parents are reminded of the importance of sending children to school on every school day unless there is a reasonable excuse for the student to be away, such as illness. Research shows that students who have a good attendance record are more likely to achieve high results. Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late, being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school. Visit the Department of Education and Training website for more information: www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts.
Term 1
22/03/12 Smart Futures 4 North Queensland-Reid Park Pit
Complex—Skills on Show
23/03/12 End of Term 1 Music Concert
27-30/03/12 Year 12 Leadership Camp
31/03-15/04/12 Easter Holidays
06/04/12 Good Friday
09/04/12 Easter Monday

Term 2
23-28/04/12 Fanfare Camp
25/04/12 Anzac Day Public Holiday
01/05/12 Fanfare
03/05/12 Cross Country Trials
03-05/05/12 QSSRL 15 Years Championships—Roma
07/05/12 Labour Day Holiday
08/05/12 Parents and Citizens’ Association meeting
09/05/12 Interschool Debating—7/8s Round 2—Townsville
Grammar School
15-18/05/12 NAPLAN testing
15/05/12 Interschool Debating-Seniors Round 2—Kirwan SHS
17-18/05/12 Immunisations—Year 8 (HPV and VZV)
17-20/05/12 QSSRL 18 Years Championships-Sunshine Coast
22/05/12 ICAS Competition—Computer Skills
22/05/12 Interschool Cross Country
22/05/12 Interschool Debating-9/10s Round 2—St Margaret
Mary’s College
26-27/05/12 Relay for Life
28/05-02/06/12 School Musical—All Shook Up
06/06/12 ICAS Competition—Science
11/06/12 Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Holiday
12/06/12 Parents and Citizens’ Association meeting
14/06/12 National Schoolboy Rugby League Cup NQ & SQ Quarter
Finals
21-22/06/12 Year 12 QCS Practice
23/06-08/07/12 School Holidays

Term 3
10/07/12 Parents and Citizens’ Association meeting
18/07/12 National Schoolboy Rugby League Cup NQ & SQ
Semi-finals
18-20/07/12 Year 11 Girls Camp-Magnetic Island Recreation
Centre
18-20/07/12 Year 11 Boys Camp—Gumburu Environmental
Education Centre
25/07/12 National Schoolboy Rugby League Cup X-Pools
27/07/12 School’s Tree Day
31/07/12 ICAS Competition—English
02/08/12 Australian Maths Competition
10/08/12 Secondary Japanese Speech Competition
13/08/12 Townsville Career Expo—RSL Stadium—10.00am—
1.30pm & 4.00pm to 7.00pm
14/08/12 Parents and Citizens’ Association meeting
14/08/12 ICAS Competition—Mathematics
14/08/12 Interschool Athletics—Gold
15/08/12 Interschool Athletics—Blue
16/08/12 Interschool Athletics—Both
17/08/12 National Schoolboy Rugby League Cup Queensland
Final
24-25/08/12 QCS Test
04-05/09/12 National Schoolboy Rugby League Cup QLD
Semi-finals
11/09/12 Parents and Citizens’ Association meeting
22/09-07/10/12 School Holidays
01/10/12 Queen’s Birthday Holiday

Term 4
09/10/12 Parents and Citizens’ Association meeting
11-14/10/12 Queensland All Schools Touch Football
22/10/12 Ministerial Pupil Free Day
22/10/12 Sports Awards Night
24/10/12 Vocational Education Awards Night
31/10/12 Graduation and Awards Night
02/11/12 Rugby League Awards and Reunion
13/11/12 Parents and Citizens’ Association meeting
15-16/11/12 Immunisations—Year 8 (HPV & HEP B)
17/11/12 Year 12 Formal
26-29/11/12 QCS workshops and practice for Year 11
13/12/12 Year 8 and 9 Awards Morning

YEAR 12 COMPLETION DATE
For 2012 - 16 November

YEARS 10/11 COMPLETION DATE
For 2012 - 30 November

YEARS 8 and 9 COMPLETION DATE
For 2011 - 14 December

From the Roll’s Office
Student absences are to be explained by a parent/caregiver to
one of the Rolls Officers (Karen Conner, Renee Curley). This
may be done by phoning the school on 4773 8108 or 4773 8105
or by emailing absences@kirwanshs.eq.edu.au. Student
absences of two or more days due to illness require a medical
certificate. Medical Certificates should be emailed to the above
email address or hand delivered to the Rolls Office. Your
prompt assistance with explanation of absences will be greatly
appreciated.

Harmony Day—On Wednesday 21st March, Kirwan will celebrate Harmony Day—a day that celebrates cultural diversity around Aus-
tralia.

The logo for Harmony Day is, “Everyone Belongs” and as a Ecuadorian born Australian, I have felt like I belong to this great southern
land and look forward to celebrating the many cultures we have within our great community.

So on Wednesday 21st at lunchtime we will be celebrating our cultural diversities at Kirwan High through many activities and tasting
many diverse foods from around the world.

Looking forward to a great day.

Have a great week. Chappy Ev
PARENTS AND CITIZENS’ ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENT’S REPORT 2011

Context
For Kirwan State High School Parent and Citizens Association, 2011 was a highly successful year. This success was built on significant work by John Phillips’ 2010 committee. The current strength of the committee should be viewed with an understanding that the committee is three years into a four program to return the Kirwan State High School Parent and Citizens’ Association to health (from near dissolution).

Challenges
The committee faced a variety of challenges during 2011. In addition to the drive for profitability, the Kirwan State High School Parent and Citizens’ Association spent considerable time and effort in advocating for the pool contract, resolving a workplace dispute and engaging the services of a new tuckshop manager.

Financial
As outlined in the audit, the financial position of the Kirwan State High School’s Parent and Citizens’ Association experienced an almost complete turnaround in 2011. The Kirwan State High School Parent and Citizens’ Association began the year in a perilous position with liabilities exceeding funds. With significant assistance from our book keeper and strong management from the previous Tuckshop Convenor, our core business was driven to profitability and by the end of the year had contributed significant profits to our school community.

As significant as this achievement was, there is every reason to be optimistic that profits from the school canteen will continue to rise. Though it is admittedly early, sales this year are well up on last year and this suggests that a record year is not unrealistic.

Significant events for 2011
The 2011 committee:

♦ Helped fund the Music tour to Melbourne.
♦ Resolved a workplace dispute with a Canteen staff member.
♦ Assisted the AFL team.
♦ Assisted the Netball team.
♦ Assisted the Basketball team.
♦ Assisted Interact to paint a mural on the wall of the Special Education Program.
♦ The canteen is now properly structured, documented and in full compliance with all legislation.
♦ Cleared the tax debt and repaid the loan from Kirwan High School.
♦ Worked with the Townsville City Council to ensure the pool contract remained viable. The process included largest ever meeting held by the Kirwan State High School Parents and Citizens’ Association. Our pool now has amongst the highest paid admissions of any pool in Townsville. It is being expertly run by the current management and provides a first rate service to the school and wider community.
♦ Donated $50,000 for the SMITP program. The SMITP program offers a ‘dollar for dollar’ arrangement and as such, there is $1000k net benefit for our school.
♦ Locked in previous tuckshop improvements and continued to drive the business to profitability without compromising the offer of high quality, affordable food for students.
♦ Had a successful Audit ready in time for the Annual General Meeting.
♦ Overseen fundraising for the RSPCA, The Cancer Council, Headspace, Amnesty, Blue Dragon and many more.
♦ Successfully hired an excellent new tuckshop manager.

Future
The future for the Kirwan State High School Parents and Citizens’ Association is a bright one. The structural and procedural changes that were required are completed and the focus for the new committee should be to continue to drive canteen profits and to find ways to spend these funds for the greatest benefit to our school.

Rob Hamilton
President, Parents and Citizens’ Association

PARENTS AND CITIZENS’ ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to the newly elected Kirwan State High School Parents and Citizens’ Association Executive Committee:

President Rob Hamilton
Vice President Shan Delaney
Treasurer Wade Moore
Secretary Peta Hamilton

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 2012 are:

Tuesday 8th May
Tuesday 12th June
Tuesday 10th July
Tuesday 14th August
Tuesday 11th September
Tuesday 9th October
Tuesday 13th November
Sayonara from Urawa Junior High School Study Tour

Sadly the 40 students from Urawa Junior High School have left. They had a whirlwind trip to Kirwan State High School, staying only 5 days. During this time they showed our students many Japanese games, quizzes, origami etc. In turn they enjoyed Bush Dancing with Mr Davis’ Year 9 Dance class and their buddies; learnt to throw boomerangs and spears with the help of Mrs Ross and XXXX; were shown how to make pavlovas and fairy bread by Mrs Shaw’s and Ms Watts’ Hospitality classes; were treated to an Aussie Sausage Sizzle compliments of Mr Gage (chief BBQ-er) and Ms Austen’s Hospitality class who made fruit platters and hot savouries and were waiters at the Welcome and Farewell ceremonies.

Our excellent School Captains performed superbly at the Welcome and Farewell ceremonies, and proved that they truly are great ambassadors to our school. Our music department provided exceptional musicians for these important ceremonies.

Finally, our School and Homestay buddies need recognition as they helped to make the students stay so special. The Homestay families played a pivotal role in the success of this Study Tour and truly provided memorable experiences for the Japanese students.

Here is one ……

Dear Mrs Liz Hennig,

Thank you for the lovely boy’s picture and many wonderful gifts. I am very glad to get your letter with your heart-warming message too. Kohta talked me about his experiences in your home in excitement. How tender Kyle and Kurt are! How delightful the fishing trip was! I was surprised to hear that he ate Kangaroo. In Japan, we can see Kangaroos at zoo only. I felt he was so much happy during his visit to Australia. Please extend my gratitude to your family.

Lastly, I’m sorry that my reply to you was delayed. I’m poor in English, and so I need much time to write a letter. But I enjoy learning English now.

Yours sincerely, Yuko Matsuura

Kirwan State High School truly is a fantastic school, offering amazing opportunities for our students as well as students from across the world.