Term 1 Theme: People Who Help Us - -- Responsibility

2013 DIARY DATES

TERM 1, 2013
Monday 11 March
Public Holiday: Adelaide Cup
Thursday 28 March
Pupil Free Day
Friday 29 March
Public Holiday: Good Friday
Monday 1 April
Public Holiday: Easter Monday
Friday 12 April
2:00pm Term 1 ends

TERM 2, 2013
Monday 29 April
Term 2 begins
Monday 10 June
Public Holiday: Queen’s Birthday
Friday 5 July
2:00pm Term 2 ends

TERM 3, 2013
Monday 22 July
Term 3 begins
Monday 29 July
Pupil Free Day
Friday 6 September
Pupil Free Day
Monday 9 September
School Closure
Friday 27 September
2:00pm Term 3 ends

TERM 4, 2013
Monday 14 October
Term 4 begins
Monday 21 October
Pupil Free Day
Friday 13 December
2:00pm Term 4 ends

2012 AGM PRINCIPAL’s REPORT

In 2012 we planned for significant intervention in curriculum development which was recorded in the Site Improvement Plan. The outcomes achieved reflect the concentrated effort of staff and learners throughout the year. These achievements illustrate a relentless focus on improving teacher skills and keeping up to date with current educational practices in the teaching and learning of children and students with vision and/or hearing impairments and additional disabilities. This focus is for the primary purpose of improving the learning outcomes of enrolled students and identified learners in client sites.

Priority 1: MOVE Program
All staff and some parents attended basic training in the Mobility Opportunities Via Education (MOVE) program. This was then introduced across the school. As equipment for learners is reviewed by NOVITA consideration is now being given to the principles of MOVE.

Priority 2: Literacy and Communication
The Educator-in-Residence Jane Farrall visited Kilparrin for 10 sessions, each of 4 days duration. Jane has led the adoption of the Four Blocks literacy framework as the whole school approach for literacy at Kilparrin. We have been fortunate to secure Jane as Educator-in-Residence as her skills and abilities have matched our aspirations so well.

Jane has assessed each learner’s literacy skills and also supported the development and provision of group and individual Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Displays (PODDs) to support communication and the development of language. Jane liaised with speech pathologists from Novita to provide a coordinated approach to communication and literacy and assisted in the linking of Kilparrin with Janelle Sampson who provided training in the use of the PODD to parents and staff. The improvement in all learners in communication and literacy is evident from the data collected in assessments.

Dr Karen Wolffe (USA) presented workshops to Kilparrin staff and parents, around social skill development for children with vision impairment and additional disabilities.

Priority 3:
Communication Technologies
All teaching staff and the ICT SSO, attended the ‘Inclusive Learning Technologies Conference’ on the Gold Coast in May and subsequently provided feedback presentations to colleagues. Jane Farrall, who was a presenter at the conference, has advised Kilparrin on a coordinated approach for the inclusion of communication technologies across the curriculum.

A change in the contract for web hosting created the opportunity for Kilparrin to construct a new website and review existing web content.

Other Highlights
Successful initiatives in the school include the establishment of a low vision clinic with a team, including an orthoptist, from Guide Dogs Association SA & NT who undertook functional vision assessments of Kilparrin learners and presented detailed reports to teachers.

A successful beginning to our relationship with Riding for the Disabled was initiated with 3 positions a week secured.

Kilparrin learners were invited to trial the Adelaide City Council Bonython Park Playspace, a new accessible playground as part of its official launch in December.

Kilparrin hosted several notable visits during 2012:

- Education Consultant Jane Thistlethwaite (NZ) working with DECD, who met with
leadership and addressed staff and parents;
• the Acting Prime Minister, The Hon. Wayne Swan accompanied by Mr. Steve Georganas, Member for Hindmarsh;
• the Minister for Disability Reform The Hon. Jenny Macklin MP
• a Delegation of educationalists from Malaysia.

DECD Initiatives which have impacted on school include the introduction of the Education Support Matrix and the Australian Curriculum. All teachers attended professional development in the use of the DECD Education Support Matrix and ongoing professional development in the Australian Curriculum.

Presentations of note by Kilparrin staff included, the Kilparrin Orientation and Mobility Teacher’s paper presented at the International Mobility Conference 14 in NZ, and Kilparrin provided a statewide professional development day on Curriculum Adaptation for Learners with Sensory Loss and Additional Disabilities attended by 30 teachers.

To build on our knowledge of early intervention support and school based support for learners with vision and additional disabilities two members of the Leadership Team visited the Blind and Low Vision Network New Zealand (BLENNZ) School at Homai in Auckland, NZ.

2012 was the year of review, by a DECD panel, of the teaching and learning, curriculum, learner outcomes and improvement processes at Kilparrin. Each year schools undertake a self-review and each third year a team undertakes a comprehensive review to validate all school processes. The very positive Validation Team Report is included in the Annual Report.

Also included in detail in the Annual report is the feedback from sites and homes supported by the Kilparrin Statewide Support Service. This feedback is exceptional. It reflects the benefit of the service and the high regard in which the service is held. All staff are to be highly commended for this excellent feedback for Kilparrin school and services.

Alison McWilliams
Principal
February 2013

GOVERNING COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2012 Kilparrin Teaching and Assessment School and Services Governing Council Chairperson's report.

Let me begin by saying that the dedication of the Kilparrin staff is wonderfully inspiring. All staff continue with their want for learning in order to progress the learning of our children. Supported by Alison McWilliams, staff in all areas of Kilparrin, be it leadership, teaching, support staff or administration, are to be commended on their desire and drive to provide a positive culture of care and teaching in order to foster and enrich our children’s love for learning and for life.

2012 was the year that Kilparrin underwent its Validation. Having being part of the process, I can truly say that I was very proud as the Chairperson of the Governing Council, to be in attendance at the presentations by the staff and to witness the coherency and ethos of the school as a whole. The foundations for the students, for a love for learning, were easily demonstrated and the teaching of the curriculum, commitment and dedication of the staff was very transparent and apparent. Kilparrin was recognised as an exemplary example of what good leadership and teaching, or should I say, great teaching is all about, not only for the Kilparrin School but also for the Statewide Support Services.

This year has been a year where as a school community we have experienced some wonderful and notable firsts.

We eagerly anticipated the strong foci for 2012 that we had set in 2011, being, the MOVE Program, Literacy and Communication with Speech Pathologist & IPad guru Jane Farrall and the Four Blocks program. As well as Information Communication Technologies (ICT) with the purchase of iPads for some learners and other ICT resources. We were not disappointed as demonstrated at the many school assemblies, through iMovies, song and dance, the students of Kilparrin have thrived with the focus. We have been delighted to see the ‘happenings of each term’, sponsored by a different class, in performances, in their portfolios and in their outings.

Kilparrin was fortunate to be the stage for the Acting Prime Minister, The Hon. Wayne Swan and Federal Member Mr. Steve Georganas to comment on the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Acting Prime Minister and his press party had the opportunity to tour the school and meet the students and class teachers. All were impressed by the classroom environments and in particular, all were captivated by the precociousness of the students and all were well behaved.

For many years, Kilparrin has been endavouring to have Riding for the Disabled as an initiative for the students. This year we were successful. Whilst not all the students are able to participate, due to the number of available volunteers, for those that do, it has proved a wonderful experience and a great way to gain confidence in themselves.

Another first, was the 3 senior students who participated in the SACE program. All were successful in completing their subjects. Congratulations must go both to their families and the school in providing the forum for them to achieve.

The Governing Council also held its first Quiz Night and Silent Auction in the Ascot Park Gymnasium. It was a fun night attended by the Kilparrin
community of family, teachers and friends, with many awaiting another opportunity to ‘show their intelligence’ again. Many thanks must go to Sallie and Kristy for this event. Not only for the Quiz Night but for the other fundraising opportunities throughout the year, such as entertainment books, bulb fundraising, Mother’s Day raffle, and Christmas raffle, on behalf of the Council, I would like to extend a huge thanks to those who have supported us in not only purchasing but donating to the fundraisers. We are always looking for new and exciting ways to raise funds to support the school, and we hope to have another first for 2013, with our application to Bunnings to host a BBQ sausage sizzle stand on a weekend being approved.

A half day workshop was again held this year by Siblings Australia. Siblings Australia provided information to assist parents to understand the experience of brothers and sisters of a child with disability and how to support them. Given the growing interest of parents and carers for information to help support their children, we as a Council, are endeavouring to organise workshops and/or ‘information sharing opportunities’ for parents throughout the year. We welcome any topics of interest from families.

Not least, I would like to extend my gratitude to the other Governing Council members, Stavros McWilliams (Treasurer), Alison Vasilikiotis (Treasurer), Alison McWilliams (Kilparrin Principal), Kristy Sander and Sallie Willis. Special thanks also to Pam Dunnett (who has been invaluable as the minute secretary and ‘action controller’). The Governing Council met twice each term and the Finance Committee chaired by the Treasurer, including the Principal and the finance officers, have met regularly throughout the year.

The Governing Council continues to strive towards raising the profile of Kilparrin and ways to continue to grow for and with our children. As a Council, we function in a manner, which supports the educational needs and social development of our children. Finally, being part of the Governing Council, allows me to be closely involved with the life of Kilparrin and I thank you for the privilege to serve as the Chairperson for the past year.

Denise Hatzi
Chairperson,
Kilparrin Governing Council

CLASSROOM NEWS

ORANGE CIRCLES
Welcome back to Kilparrin for 2013 in a new-look Orange Circles class! I have had the pleasure of teaching each of these learners in a previous year. It’s lovely to be back together again! We are in for an exciting and challenging year, as we tackle both the Australian Curriculum and the South Australian Curriculum and Accountability Framework (SACSA).

The theme for this term is People Who Help Us and Responsibility. We have already begun to make a list of the people who help us, and started talking about what responsibility means. The first few weeks have been very busy with both swimming at Marion Outdoor Pool, and aquatics at West Lakes. The learners have been very responsible for their own belongings, getting themselves ready, and putting on sunscreen.

This term we will also be looking at 4 blocks literacy, patterns, natural and man-made disasters, Aboriginal connection to country, immigration and dance. The Orange Circles class will also have a strong focus on communication in 2013. We will continue to build skills in English, Auslan and Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD).

We look forward to watching the Orange Circles learners grow and develop in what will be a challenging year for them. We look forward to communicating with you throughout the year.

Jess, Karly and Sarah

GREEN TRIANGLES
Green Triangles would like to welcome back Dylan, Hudson, Georgia, Nasser and Tom.

My name is Nalani Aitken and I have returned to Kilparrin from Maternity leave. I look forward to the new school year being part of the Green Triangles team. I will be working 3 days a week, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Rachel Elliott will be combining KELC students and Green Triangle students on Thursday and Friday. Hayley and Kay are our SSOs.

Throughout the school we are looking at People Who Help Us and Responsibility. As part of this theme I will be taking the students to the shops, on a weekly basis, to shop for our cooking lesson. We will also be doing learning stories on the people in our environment who are there to help and support us.

So far this term we have been establishing our routine and getting to know one another.

The learners have enjoyed the start of swimming again and doing individual music lessons.

We have also ventured into the kitchen where we had fun making play dough.

Nalani, Hayley and Kay

PURPLE STARS
Welcome back everyone!! 2013 is going to be a great year for the learners and staff at Kilparrin! There are many exciting things happening this year and many learning experiences and opportunities programmed for the learners in the Purple Stars.

Our theme for this term is People Who Help Us and Responsibility. The learners in the Purple Stars are going to be looking in depth at people in the community who help us, eg. doctors, police officers, paramedics, shop assistants. As well as this the learners will also be
discussing what it means to be responsible. This will involve each of the learners being assigned jobs for the week and learning to be responsible for themselves and their behaviour.

As well as learning about different people in our community the learners will also be studying Aboriginal Culture in society and environment lessons. The learners have already studied the Aboriginal flag and the meaning it conveys. This has involved making individual flags in art lessons. As well as this the learners have made damper during cooking lessons and will be doing this for the rest of the term.

As the Purple Stars is the senior class of the school we now have 5 learners working towards completing their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE). The learners are: Angela, Karoo, Chloe, Patrick and Stuart. This is a very exciting time for the learners. SACE begins in Year 10 and will be completed by Year 12. It is a time where the learners should feel proud of what they are achieving and working hard for. It is a time of growth and development where the learners move into the high school phase of learning and achievement. I wish these learners luck and look forward to supporting them during this time.

2013 is definitely looking very exciting!!

Beccy, Elisha and Christina

**YELLOW SQUARES**

Hello and welcome to Yellow Squares for 2013! My name is Christina, and I am a new teacher to Kilparrin. I have just completed my Masters in Teaching (Special Education) (Primary R-7) and undertook my final placement at Kilparrin last year. I am thrilled to be back here and look forward to further developing positive relationships with all learners and their families.

This year has got off to a swinging start, with our learners straight into swimming, aquatics and horse riding, all of which they are thoroughly enjoying, even if it does leave them rather tired by the end of the day!

The theme for Term 1 will be People Who Help Us and Responsibility, and Yellow Squares will be looking at ways we can be responsible both at school and at home, as well as identifying safe people in our community.

Our main curriculum foci this year will be on literacy and numeracy, and ensuring all learners have access to a variety of communication methods. Already, we have used an assortment of assistive and augmentative technologies, including the interactive whiteboard, flip chart, Brailler and PODD, and it is great to see everyone ‘giving these a go’.

We will also be developing independence and motor skills, through cooking, Orientation and Mobility, and sensory activities, as well as Karen’s daily fitness activities.

Looking forward to a fantastic (albeit busy) term!

Christina, Jess, Lyn and Kay

**KELC**

Welcome back to KELC in 2013! My name is Rachel Elliott and I am the KELC teacher this year, as well as the class teacher of the ‘Green Triangles’ on Thursdays and Fridays.

This term will see a strong focus on re-establishing routines, well-being and developing awareness of self and others and sensory play, as well as developing physical skills, communication skills and experimenting with technology

KELC learners will join the ‘Green Triangles’ each day after the morning fitness session, where we will, as a group, carry out a variety of interactive songs to develop awareness of self and others, as well as choice making of some favourite songs, followed by a story.

We will also join the Green Triangles class for regular gym time on Wednesdays, music with Krystyna on Tuesday afternoons, and library time with Karen on Wednesday afternoons.

The term has got off to a smooth start and I look forward to implementing a variety of fun learning experiences for the children.

Just a reminder to please use the school diary to communicate anything you feel we need to know, and I will also endeavour to write in it daily. It’s also great to hear about your child out of school (eg going to the park, friends visiting etc)

Rachel

**MUSIC**

Welcome to another exciting year at Kilparrin filled with many music activities. This year all of our learners will be involved in weekly group and individual music sessions. For some learners the main focus will be on communication using a PODD and practising their Yes/No response when choosing instruments or songs.

This term in group sessions we will be exploring a theme People Who Help Us and Responsibility. To support the key words in the songs we are planning to use pictures with the specific vocabulary e.g. fireman, doctor, dentist, teacher. We will also be concentrating on 2 songs acknowledging Harmony Day, which will be celebrated this year on Thursday 21 March.

Again this year three of our learners will take part in the 2013 South Australian Primary Schools Festival of Music. Our weekly rehearsals directed by an Ascot Park Primary School teacher are scheduled on Thursdays after lunch time.

As a part of the 2013 Musica Viva In Schools Education Programme we have invited a group called AMANASKA to perform for us. They will demonstrate to students the profound impact technology and culture have on music.
AMANASKA will present their program at Kilparrin in Term 2.

Krystyna Misiara
Music Teacher

RESOURCES CENTRE NEWS

This year all students will be having a library lesson each week. Yellow Squares and Orange Circles will be on a Tuesday, Green Triangles, KELC and Purple Stars will be on a Wednesday.

During these lessons all students will have the opportunity to borrow books to take home and share with families. Students need to return their books the following week to be able to borrow new ones to bring home and share with you. During these lessons we will be sharing a variety of different text types following along the topic for the term.

Each class has also chosen a novel to read over a number of lessons.

Karen

RDA NEWS

We will be continuing with riding for the disabled this year, we had our first lesson in Week 2.

All of the learners who attended settled back into the routine of riding and seemed to enjoy their lesson.

Karen

FITNESS NEWS

Fitness has been a great way to start each day with all of the learners seeming to enjoy the variety of activities that have been set out.

It has been great to see those learners, who have walkers, regularly in their walkers during this time giving them the opportunity to choose which equipment they would like to explore.

Karen

CURRICULUM NEWS

The implementation of the Australian Curriculum provides us with new opportunities to focus on designing quality learning for all of the learners at Kilparrin. In 2012 the teachers reported on learner achievement in English, Mathematics and Science. This year we will also add History.

The teachers in each class will program according to their class group and curriculum goals will be documented. Together we will look at fresh and exciting ways to engage the learners, to make the curriculum meaningful and to modify the programs to meet the learning needs of each learner.

An example of the History Curriculum looks like this:

**Foundation Year Level Description:** Personal and Family Histories.

The Foundation curriculum provides a study of personal and family histories. Students learn about their own history and that of their family; this may include stories from different cultures and other parts of the world.

Key inquiry questions

1. What is my history and how do I know?
2. What stories do other people tell about the past?
3. How can stories of the past be told and shared?

**Content Descriptions:** Personal and Family Histories

- Who the people in their family are, where they were born and raised and how they are related to each other
- The different structures of families and family groups today, and what they have in common
- How they, their family and friends commemorate past events that are important to them.

On 10 February 2013 the Chinese welcome the Year of the Snake.

This week at Kilparrin we had our own celebrations for Chinese New Year. A Dragon Dance is symbolic to the Chinese New Year festivities. During music sessions with Krystyna the learners experienced a range of different sounds for example crashing cymbals and loud banging drums together with a lion puppet.

The lion puppet performed a dance to the sounds of the cymbals and drums. As the learners played the instruments the puppet danced and moved.

There were many learning opportunities during the activity such as:

- using vision to locate the yellow and red lion puppet
- using listening skills to hear the different sounds of the instruments such as the cymbals and drums and loud and soft sounds
- fine motor skills to hold the handles of the cymbals and the drum stick
- touch to feel the skin of the drum
- colour recognition and the signs for red and yellow
- anticipation – of the loud and soft sounds
- turn taking
- choice making with instruments.

As this year is the Year of the Snake we incorporated the sign for snake and the finger spelling for ‘S’ for snake.

Lea Thorpe, Coordinator Curriculum and Pedagogy

A thought by Helen Keller

Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.

SPEVI CONFERENCE

January saw 11 teachers and the Principal from Kilparrin attend the
South Pacific Educators of the Vision Impaired (SPEVI) conference in Auckland.

Held bi-annually these conferences are considered one of the peak professional learning opportunities in the area of vision impairment for teachers from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Countries.

The five-day conference saw over 200 teachers gather for a series of keynote addresses and presentations from colleagues in the field. The conference also provides an outstanding opportunity to network with other professionals not only from around the region but also across the globe.

Highlights of the conference were the presentations of Gordon N Dutton, an Ophthalmologist from Scotland and Dr Kay Ferrell, an educator and researcher from the USA.

Professor Dutton focused on *Cerebral Vision Impairment* and while expanding our thinking on the subject also challenged our beliefs and how we present information on this complex field to teachers and families.

Dr Ferrell looked at the research into the effectiveness of teaching programs for students with vision impairment and the success of these programs in preparing individuals for life after school.

Kilparrin teachers Lea Thorpe and Roley Stuart presented a case study chronicling the interventions for a learner who is totally blind and who has additional disabilities. The paper looked at the challenges of the families involved and the complexities of support for a learner in the country, the paper was well received.

Teachers will revisit their learning from the conference throughout the year with presentations to staff.

Roley Stuart, Coordinator Vision & Hearing Professional Development

---

It is that time of the year again when we can look forward to the cooler autumn months and planting bulbs in our gardens to create a colourful spring show and at the same time raise money to support Kilparrin.

Please take the time to peruse the brochure included with the Newsletter and then send back the completed form with the correct money, in the attached envelope, to Naomi by **Friday 8 March**. This will ensure delivery of your bulbs before the end of the term.

If you require extra brochures (for your friends, neighbours and relatives!) please let the front office know via a note in the diary or by phoning during office hours.

*Cheryl Elwood, Deputy Principal*

---

**Parent Workshops**

**DIRC DISABILITY FORUM**

**Carers SA**

Supporting family Carers in SA and Better Start Funding for Carers of Children with a Disability

Presented by Filomena Occhiodoro, Carer Advisor (Carers SA) and Annie John, Better Start Advisor (Carers SA)

Carers SA will present issues and facts concerning family carers and ways in which they provide specialist advice, emotional support, counselling and referral to a wide range of services and supports available. Carers SA will present updated information regarding the Better Start Funding for Carers of Children with a Disability Program.

**Tuesday 5 March**

10:30am-12:30pm

195 Gilles Street Adelaide

$10 General Admission

$5 Concession Card Holders

**RSVP:** 08 8236 0575

events@dircsa.org.au

facebook.com/dircsa.org.au
Parent Workshops

Parent Workshops to be presented by Madhavi Nawana Parker, Behaviour Consultant

Identifying the Underlying Causes of Behaviour Difficulties
Wednesday 20 February 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Developing Resilience to Encourage Positive Behaviour
Wednesday 20 March 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Guiding Positive Behaviour In Home and School
Wednesday 3 April 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Anxiety and Anger Management
Wednesday 15 May 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Relaxation and Stress Management
Wednesday 5 June 7.00pm – 9.00pm

It is recommended that participants attend the first introductory workshop in order to develop a foundation for the others that follow.

These workshops will be held at
Mitcham Primary School – Kurruka Building
Hillview Road Entrance
Kingswood

RSVP – Email – info@goldfoundation.com.au or phone Caroline on 0412 999 906

About Madhavi
From 1996 and 2001 she worked as the Social Skills Program Coordinator for Autism SA. Her role involved developing and facilitating social skills programs throughout Adelaide as well as advising schools and other organisations of appropriate ways to encourage the social and emotional development in this client group. Madhavi commenced private practice in 2001 Madhavi extended her practice to offering service to children and adolescents with Attention Deficit Disorder and Anxiety specialising in social skills training and positive behaviour management principles. Madhavi, in conjunction with Mark LeMessurier, developed the ‘What’s the Buzz?’ social skills program. Madhavi presents regularly at conferences to teachers, special education workers, community workers, parents and Allied Health professionals.