**2010 DIARY DATES**

**Special events for parents/caregivers**

**TERM 1**

*Friday 5 March*
- Pupil Free Day

*Monday 8 March*
- Public Holiday: *Adelaide Cup*

*Wednesday 24 March (Week 9)*
- 10:30am Morning Tea**
- 11:00am Term 1 Assembly**

*Thursday 1 April*
- 2:00pm Term 1 ends

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**Reports to 2009 AGM, held on 24 February 2010**

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**Principal’s Report**

In the Annual Report there is information relating to all aspects of Kilparrin Teaching and Assessment School and Services for the year 2009.

Issues which relate beyond 2009 focus on the attraction, recruitment and retention of staff. In 2009 Kilparrin appointed a further 3 permanent School Services Officers, this is in addition to the 4 School Services Officers appointed to permanent positions in 2008.

These new positions may be deployed across the service but are mainly based in the Statewide service which currently supports more than 170 learners from early intervention to end of schooling across the state.

While Kilparrin School including KELC is most visible with the facilities and parent body and indeed a Governing Council, the educational support service is the much larger component of Kilparrin where ¾ of the staff are deployed.

With end of tenure and pending retirement, Kilparrin advertised for 4 permanent teachers in 2009 to commence their tenure from 2010. We were fortunate to appoint Ellen Ker and Rachel Swetenham both well known to Kilparrin as capable, creative, well qualified teachers. However, we were unable to fill the other positions. These positions and others which result from end of tenure will be advertised in 2010.

Kilparrin requires its teachers to be not only qualified and experienced in vision and/or hearing impairment and additional disabilities but also to have qualifications and experience in mainstream education theory and practice, preferably in the early years.

This set of understandings has been observed over time to be the most successful pre-requisites to provide support required across the state. It is difficult for Kilparrin to find teachers with this set of knowledge as there is no teacher training course offered in South Australia for Teachers of the Deaf and the teacher training for teachers of the Vision Impaired is very limited.

Currently DECS offers a scholarship program with the University of Newcastle for studies in Hearing Impairment and in the recent past offered a similar program for studies in Vision Impairment with Flinders University. Kilparrin teachers have accessed both programs. In 2009, 6 teachers completed subjects at the University of Newcastle.

At Kilparrin we support a high level of professional learning. Teachers and support staff are supported financially and with release time and are encouraged in planned performance development, to participate in relevant professional learning. More experienced teachers are utilized as mentors to new teachers and staff share expertise regularly.

To maintain staff expertise and to ensure sustainability of specialist knowledge and expertise, Kilparrin is required to provide ongoing professional learning, to source professional learning and to provide support to staff both at Kilparrin and across the state. Kilparrin also requires staff that are both willing and able to take on such further learning and further, to demonstrate the practical application of this learning.

Successful recruitment ensures the sustainability of Kilparrin Services as a centre of expertise for learners with hearing and/or vision impairment and additional disabilities both enrolled at Kilparrin School and KELC and referred to Kilparrin Services in homes, preschools and schools across the state from early intervention to end of schooling.

Kilparrin has no peer service in Australia and therefore is required to seek professional support from various sources across Australia and the world.
As Principal my role is to encourage and develop the potential of teachers and support staff, just as their role is to encourage and develop the potential of Kilparrin learners.

Further, as Principal I take the view that Kilparrin must lead research to develop further learning in the field.

This is the challenge for the future.

Alison McWilliams
Principal

Chairperson Report 2010

It is a pleasure and a privilege to present the Chairperson's report.

My son Oliver has graduated from Kilparrin and moved on, so I will no longer be on the Governing Council. Accordingly this will be my final report as Chair of the Governing Council.

This year the school has worked smoothly and efficiently. The financial position is sound. School functions have been well organized and attendance at these events has been excellent.

The teachers and the support staff have a huge challenge every day teaching and caring for our sons and daughters. All the staff are to be congratulated for their professional approach, dedication and industry.

I would like to express thanks on behalf of the Governing Council, the teaching staff, parents and learners, to the administration staff. Their work is important and most of it is done quietly in the background and unseen.

Alison McWilliams is our Principal. I feel that over the years I have come to know her reasonably well. I consider that we are really fortunate to have her as our leader, mentor and guide. On behalf of us all, I would like to sincerely thank Alison for all she has done.

On a sad note: Life is fragile, especially for children with disabilities. One of my duties this year was to express the sympathy of our school community to the families of three of our enrolled learners who passed away.

I have been on the Governing Council for many years. It has been a wonderful experience. I have appreciated the opportunity to meet staff, parents and learners. I have enjoyed being involved with the school, seeing how things work and being in a position to give an input. It has been rewarding to be able to help with the organization of events and fund raising. I recommend all parents to consider standing for a position on the Governing Council. The meetings are friendly and the duties are not onerous.

I have enjoyed the support of the other Governing Council members: Denise Hatzi, Tina Moustakitis, Stavros Vasilikiotis, Georgina Richardson, Alison McWilliams, Roly Stuart and Pam Dunnett.

I would like to express my thanks to them all for their input, enthusiasm and cooperation. Governing Council Meetings have been well attended and the members have developed a real esprit de corps.

Now it is time for me to close.

I will remember:
- the move from the Townsend House site to the current location here at Park Holme
- the Swimming Galas and Christmas Assemblies
- class names like Green Triangles, Orange Circles, Silver Squares and Blue Diamonds.

- Oliver's Graduation Ceremony, which Ann and I found to be a really emotional occasion.

On a personal note, Ann and I would like to sincerely thank the school for the DVD of Oliver's graduation ceremony and the magazine subscription for Oliver, which Oliver really enjoys.

I will miss the Student's folder (portfolio): Ann and I have kept all of Oliver's folders. The folders are a wonderful permanent record of the student's school life and achievements.

I will miss the school newsletter, Pam on the phone and her emails, and documents for signature coming home with Oliver.

I will miss you all and I wish you all well for the future.

It has been a privilege to serve on Governing Council as the chair for the past year.

Dr Ken Fryer
Governing Council Chairperson

CLASS NEWS
Focus: Swimming & Aquatics

ORANGE CIRCLES
What an action-packed beginning to the year! Three of the learners in the class have been attending swimming at Marion Pool.
Our skills in the water have improved greatly and we really enjoyed going down the waterslide all by ourselves! We learned freestyle, survival backstroke and even got to jump in the deep end of the pool! We enjoyed eating our recess at the pool before walking all the way back to school.

Our theme for this term is *Me and Water* and we have also been lucky enough to attend two aquatics sessions at West Lakes. We have been sailing and ridden on the rescue boat with the learners being allowed to have a go at steering both the boats. The weather has been perfect for sailing and all of the learners have really enjoyed the water. Jessica on the other hand appears to be petrified of sailing boats but has bravely participated in both sessions!

We have been busily working on booklets entitled *All About Me* in which we have answered questions about our characteristics, families, houses and school. We will be continuing this work with a look at some coping strategies for sadness, difficulties and frustration.

In Week 5 we attended a Fringe event with the Green Triangles called *The Ticklish Allsorts*. It was really exciting and we were all able to be involved in the singing, dancing and answering questions. The performers came and danced with us and we were able to join them on stage as well! It was great fun and we all had our photo taken with the performers afterward.

The Orange Circles are also learning a lot about gardening at the moment and have some fantastic broad bean plants in pots. We are looking forward to helping Kilparrin create our own school garden this year.

Jess and Jessica

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**GREEN TRIANGLES**

It’s hard to believe we are half way through Term 1!

Over the past week, we have seen the end of swimming at Marion Pool. The learners certainly enjoyed their time at the pool during the last few weeks, developing their awareness and skills in the water. One of our learners even went on the waterslide – what an experience! When it wasn’t too hot, we walked back to school, which was a good chance to develop O&M skills, and to talk about different sights and sounds in the environment.

We have enjoyed aquatics at West Lakes for the past two Wednesday afternoons. With perfect weather for sailing and a picnic lunch beforehand, it has been a great experience for all. Some of the learners had a turn at steering the boat too!

Last week, along with the Orange Circles class, we attended an Adelaide Fringe performance *The Ticklish Allsorts* at the Fullarton Park Community Centre, which was interactive, musical, educational and lots of fun. To see the joy on the learner’s faces, especially when they recognized some familiar songs we sing at school, was delightful! As you can see, we were lucky enough to have a photo taken with the cast after the show.

From Wednesday, 3 March, and on a fortnightly basis thereafter, we will be accompanying the learners across the road to the Park Holme Library, for literacy sessions with a library staff member. This will include listening to various stories in a variety of ways, including rhyme, repetition, using props and music. We will also visit the toy library, where we will help the learners borrow some toys to take back to the classroom.

It has been good to talk with you over the past week, to jointly plan some learning goals for your child, and please feel free to contact me at any time to arrange a time to discuss any other aspect of their development.

Rachel, Hayley and Lyn

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**PURPLE STARS**

How fast this term is moving!

Swimming has finished for Term 1 for Karoo and Angela and in Term 4 they will have another swimming block. The last lesson at Marion Swimming Pool was fantastic as the learners had choice to go on the water slide...
with their instructors. Watching the learner's faces as they came down the slide was brilliant! Karoo had the opportunity to go sailing in Week 4 and Angela will have the same chance in the coming weeks.

Karoo, Krystyna and Stuart
Sailing at West Beach

Stephi and Angus have been working well with their swimming instructors at Minda Pool each week and seem to be having a blast!

Stephi, Angus and Tom swimming

These past few weeks, the learners have been participating in weekly local excursions to the shops to purchase ingredients for cooking in the Independent Living Skills kitchen. Last week, the Purple Stars teamed up with the Yellow Squares to make pancakes which were very popular! Learners have also had the opportunity to try different seasonal fruits such as nectarines and plums.

Stephi shaking the pancake mixture.

On Fridays, the Purple Stars have been going to the Kilparrin Library to return and borrow talking books and to use the Interactive Whiteboard. Please send along any books that you and your child are finished with, to be returned each Friday.

Jodie, Bruna and Hayley

WANTED!

For construction, sensory and art activities, the Purple Stars are looking for clean, used boxes and containers such as margarine containers, cereal boxes and jars. Please feel free to send some along to school with your child if you have the opportunity. Thank you!

YELLOW SQUARES

As a teacher I have had a wonderful time seeing the joy and happiness that swimming and aquatics brings to the learners. To see children transform into swimmers and bearing some form of weight is exciting for some children and for me also.

Jodie and Logan making pancakes.

Laughter and enjoyment heals and enhances educational experiences. This is evident in the class room activities and has helped their appetites, promoting healthy living and exercise. We have borrowed books from the library on this theme and the children have really enjoyed reading them.

I have also given the learners the opportunity to pick activities for our class room. This not only empowers the child to make choices but also gives me an opportunity to see their areas of interest. I use these interests to engage learners in their educational experiences. It is a joy to teach the learners in the Yellow Squares and to have met with the parents to determine their educational goals.

Tanya and Karly

KILPARRIN EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

We have all settled into KELEC and have been doing some exciting learning using our senses. We have been looking at ice with the kindy children; feeling it, talking about how it feels (eg. cold, hard) and watching it melt. We have also been joining in with the other kindy children at mat time to sing songs and do a variety of activities.

We have been enjoying the great weather and making the most of it, spending time outside exploring the use of different gross motor skills and social activities.
Swimming activities are reinforced during music sessions. At present we are learning a new song called Three Little Fishes. This is a story about three little fishes and their adventures—swimming all over the dam into the sea. They suddenly meet a shark so they have to swim back quickly to the dam. The nonsense syllables in the chorus, ‘Boop boop diddem daddem whatem chu’ are great fun to sing! Many learners are joining in especially with the word ‘chu’ and with movement of both hands to represent the swimming action. To support the key words we use pictures and models of fish and also sign ‘fish’.

Another song that reinforces swimming is Lets Go to the Beach for the Day. We use props such as bathers, hats, sunscreen, towels and balls. We move our hands and pretend to be ‘swimming’ when we sing ‘Let’s go for a swim in the sea’.

The Kilparrin Independent Living Skills room was a wonderful facility in which to put into practice the concepts and ideas presented. Each parent left with a package of information including some healthy recipes. A number of parents were unable to attend and handouts can be made available to anyone who requests them.

For those who did attend, the workshop gave the opportunity to gather factual information and to ask specific questions with their individual child’s needs in mind. In a number of cases the workshop proved helpful to parents because it confirmed that their approach to their child’s eating was appropriate and on track.

Due to the high quality of the presenters and the appropriateness of the information provided, Kilparrin may consider repeating the workshop in 2011 if parents expressed interest.

Please leave a message with Pam at reception if you would like a package of information sent home with your child and if you would be interested in attending a similar workshop next year.

Roley Stuart
Expand your family internationally! Volunteer to host an international exchange student with Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Students are arriving in July 2010 from Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the USA – staying for a limited time only!
Contact Southern Cross Cultural Exchange today – 1800 500 501 or visit: www.scce.com.au

Attached to this newsletter is the Kilparrin Annual Report 2009 information brochure for parents. The full Annual Report will be available on the Kilparrin website.

Please find below a list of the 2010 Governing Council members. These parents and staff make a valuable contribution towards the governance of our school and we are delighted that they are prepared to give of their time and energy.

Denise Hatzi, Parent
Stavros Vasilikiotis, Parent
Kristy Sander, Parent
Alison McWilliams, Principal
Rachel Elliott, Staff Representative
Pam Dunnett, Minute Secretary

We still require 2 parents/caregivers to sit on the Governing Council for 2010. If you are interested please contact Pam (82775999).

This year Kilparrin has trialled a ‘Block Swimming’ option for those learners teachers felt were able to access a range of physical activities and who would also benefit from the exercise of walking to and from the swimming pool.

‘The DECS Swimming and Aquatics Program provides support to schools in delivering a high quality program designed to develop essential water safety and confidence knowledge, skills and understanding.

Students with Disabilities
The Students with a Disability Extended Water Safety Program provides a specialist service to Students with a Disability who are unable to participate independently in other forms of physical activities and who are likely to benefit from additional swimming lessons. Students need to be approved before they can access this program.

Length of the Program
It should be noted that the Students with Disabilities Swimming Program provides for an extended program of up to a maximum of 30 hours annually.

A school may determine that a student should access the program for one, two, three or four terms depending on:

- the learning program identified
- the learning that is demonstrated in any one term
- the other learning priorities for the student as identified in the N.E.P.

Please Note:
Schools have flexibility in determining the length of the program for any student and the program should not be accessed for the whole year just because it is available.’

Reference
http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/docs/docus/3.5/theProgram.doc Section 3.5 p18

At Kilparrin we also access an Aquatics program at the West Lakes Aquatic Centre as part of the annual 30 hours allocation.

VEGETABLE TIPS for Breakfast
Top toast with cooked mushrooms, tomatoes, capsicum or sweet corn.
Chop and add to an omelette or savoury pancake.

FRUIT TIPS for Breakfast
Add fruit to breakfast cereal or yogurt.
Top toast with sliced bananas.
Grate apple or pear into pancake mix.
Blend soft fruit like bananas, strawberries or tinned fruit with skim milk, yoghurt, and ice for a frothy fruit smoothie.

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