2012 DIARY DATES

Note:
In 2012 there are four 10 week Terms

TERM 1, 2012
Thursday 5 April
2:00pm Term 1 ends

TERM 2, 2012
Monday 23 April
Term 2 begins
24th and 25th May
Pupil Free Days
Monday 11 June
Public Holiday: Queen’s Birthday
Friday 29 June
2:00pm Term 2 ends

TERM 3, 2012
Monday 16 July
Term 3 begins
Friday 7 September
School Closure
Monday 10 September
Pupil Free Day
Friday 21 September
2:00pm Term 3 ends

TERM 4, 2012
Monday 8 October
Term 4 begins
Friday 14 December
2:00pm Term 4 ends

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We have had a very productive and engaging term.

We continued with the Guide Dogs Paediatric Low Vision Clinic on site. This is a valuable resource to enable teachers and families to have a greater understanding of the functional, visual capabilities of the learners.

We began our consultancy with Jane Farrall who has proven to be an excellent fit with Kilparrin. Not only is Jane a highly experienced paediatric speech pathologist, Apple consultant (Technology) but also a Master of Special Education. Jane has advised not only our practice but also our planning for the future in terms of communication, literacy and technology. Jane is also well qualified to advise on classroom organisation and implementation and development of modified curriculum. She is approachable as you will know from attending her parent information session prior to the Annual General Meeting.

We participated in the MOVE training that is Mobility Options via Education on a Friday and Saturday. All staff and parents of children who use wheelchairs were invited to attend. This program provides opportunities for children to learn to move in a safe, supported environment, with clear goals and structured program. While it may not be for every child there will be aspects of the program which will be able to be applied as appropriate. This is an exciting development for some of our learners who have not had a structured educational program for physical development in the past. Kilparrin will not begin the program until we have had a review of the learners’ current support from their physiotherapists. We will be working collaboratively with families and physiotherapists to gain the most positive outcomes through this program.

We have initiated a regular fortnightly playgroup in conjunction with the Kilparrin Early Learning Centre (KELC). On Wednesdays the KELC is held at Kilparrin school site to make use of the specialised equipment and resources on site. The playgroup has joined in and together with the KELC has enjoyed lively interaction with Early Intervention teachers, support staff, parents and children. It is a lovely environment for an introduction to preschool and school. Congratulations to Lea Thorpe for this initiative.

Kilparrin learners, who are able to walk and certainly need to practice, have attended the swimming block at the local Marion Pool. This has been an opportunity for social interaction, skills acquisition, mobility practice, and for those learners with vision impairment, orientation and mobility. Independence, organisation, self-reliance, cooperation, motivation and resilience are all tested through this program. Getting to school on time with the correct equipment, getting onto the bus, being with the group and being expected to participate are challenges for some of our learners. They are challenges which we know that they are capable of achieving and we support them to do so.

We have been delighted with the development of some learners towards more independent learning. Their achievements have been celebrated and were clear to see at the assembly hosted by the Purple Stars class this morning.

Congratulations to all learners and staff for a wonderfully productive and successful term.

Enjoy the holidays!

Alison McWilliams
Principal
CLASSROOM NEWS

End of Term ‘Wrap-up’

ORANGE CIRCLES

We have had a very busy term in Orange Circles.

We have been joining a class at Ascot Park PS for gym each week and we have been regularly going shopping (both walking to the local shops and catching the bus to Marion). We also visit the library across the road to explore the different resources they have there.

We have been doing a variety of different activities during literacy including using the iPad, switching with the interactive whiteboard and Shaun has been working on his Braille. We have also all enjoyed listening to stories. All of the learners have also enjoyed both writing letters to other learners and receiving letters from other learners.

We have also been working on our fine motor skills this term.

Karen, Jess, Peter

GREEN TRIANGLES

As we near the end of the term, it’s good to reflect on what has been a smooth and busy start to the school year in the Green Triangles class.

With the input of Jane Farrall, and the learners’ speech pathologists, we have had a strong focus on literacy and communication, including a focus book of the week/fortnight, alphabet flip charts, literacy packs and encouraging choice making and developing ‘yes’ and ‘no’ responses.

Recently the whole staff team attended a two-day training session on the MOVE (Mobility Opportunities Via Education) program, which was very informative and very appropriate to our learners. MOVE is an activity-based program that emphasizes the need to offer frequent opportunities for learners to practise movement skills within daily routines and activities. It has given us as a staff much to think about and we look forward to planning and implementing the program within our team.
We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a Happy Easter and holiday break. We are looking forward to Term 2 at Kilparrin.

Rachel, Lyn and Christina

PURPLE STARS

Well here we are at the end of Term 1 2012 already!! What a term it has been!!
The learners in the Purple Stars class have been working extremely hard this term in the classroom. One particular subject they have been working very hard on is Literacy.

During literacy block every morning the learners listen carefully and concentrate on the tasks that they are set. The learners seem to be enjoying writing and have responded well to self-selected reading. The learners enjoy the chance to sit by themselves listening to a story, flipping through a book or scrolling through the iPad stories. Mornings are a very successful part of the school day.

The learners have also enjoyed learning how to say ‘hello’ in different languages during good mornings. We hope to continue this learning next term.

Overall it has been a fantastic start to the year and we are already looking forward to next term!

Beccy, Hayley and Elisha

YELLOW SQUARES

The first term has been an exciting and eventful beginning to 2012.
The Yellow Squares have become used to their literacy routine and are reading, writing and spelling better than ever before! Our favourite writing task is ‘Wednesday letters’ when we write letters to our friends in other classes at Kilparrin. We are getting really good at coming up with sentences that we want to put in our letters.

Our winter garden is surviving really well so far, despite some watering problems early in the piece! Omer’s onions, Zane’s and Lefisha’s lettuce, Logan’s carrots and Jake’s cabbages are all looking very healthy and well maintained!
The learners have been taking some beautiful photos in the garden for our records.

**Jake’s photo**

Our excursion to Bunnings was fantastic, and we have set up the worm farm in our courtyard. We feed the worms some of our leftovers and some bits and pieces from the garden.

We also participated in 4 wonderful weeks of aquatics. The weather was fantastic and some of us got to try steering the boats. We were pretty good at it!

Our friends from Ascot Park PS are visiting us on Wednesdays and we are taking on challenges in groups made up of learners from both Kilparrin and Ascot Park. We built towers out of different materials, played some games with rules, and even made letterboxes for all of the classrooms!

On Harmony Day, our Ascot Park visitors plus staff and Kilparrin learners represented eleven nationalities: Russia, Cambodia, Italy, Philippines, Pakistan, Eritrea, Korea, England, Poland, Greece and (of course) Australia!

The term is nearly finished. We have had a great start to the year. Dylan will be going to school next term to join the Green Triangles Class at Kilparrin School. It has been great to get to know Dylan and see the delight he has in joining in with the other Kindy children.

**Lunch Time**

Dylan meeting Maisy the Guinea Pig.

Dylan painting on a bubble wrap surface.

*Jess, Marina and Sarah*
Madi is getting a taste of school life joining in with the Green Triangles in music and being part of their morning on a Wednesday. Madi enjoying the floating mattress.

To acknowledge Harmony Day which is on Wednesday 21 March in group music sessions we are practising a song called Imagine If. We support our singing with Auslan key word signs. We are also working on creative movement using orange scarves (orange is the harmony colour).

We have already started our whole school rehearsals to be ready for end of term assembly on Wednesday 28th March at 11.00am. Looking forward to see you there.

Krystyna Misiara, Music Teacher

For the next 2 weeks KELC will be at Kilparrin School.
I will be on Maternity leave next term. ‘Thank you’ to the staff, parents and learners for your support this term.
Nalani, Kay and Jess

In our program this term we have also included the song Come the Day from the repertoire of a very popular Australian folk group The Seekers. They sing about tolerance, freedom and living peacefully together. Some of our learners shake different tone hand bells to the chorus which is repeated many times.

In February Palmerston North, a small university town in the North Island of New Zealand, hosted the International Mobility Conference (IMC) 14. IMC brings Orientation and Mobility (O&M) professionals together every two to three years with the next conference being planned for Montreal in 2015. The conference in NZ was only the third IMC to have been presented in the southern hemisphere.

The IMC brings practitioners and academics together to share advances and techniques and also to look at the shape and future of a relatively young profession. The O&M profession developed when treating soldiers returning from World War II. 250 delegates from around the world converged on ‘Palmy’ for four days of presentations, trade displays and networking. Delegates came from as far afield as South Africa, Europe and the US with a healthy contingent from Australia and NZ.

The opportunity to attend such conferences is highly valued for Australians and New Zealanders as the costs and distances to attend similar conferences in Europe and North America are restrictive. Having had a paper accepted, my
attendance was approved by DECD and Kilparrin and I spent the four days focusing on children’s mobility and gathering insights that could improve the programs on offer for our learners at Kilparrin and also those supported through the Statewide Support Service.

The general standard of papers was excellent and many were practical in nature with instructors outlining their programs and successes. The large numbers of Americans in attendance were often from university programs that prepared instructors and many of their papers focused on research into the ways people who are blind or vision impaired travel.

Of particular interest to me as an Orientation and Mobility specialist working in a school was to see the parallels between our learners and programs worldwide. Certainly the demands on learners across the world are similar with the environment becoming more and more complex and the demands on the independent traveler increasing as the roads, footpaths and pedestrian spaces are designed to handle more and more traffic. Corner shops, for example, are disappearing and individuals who are blind and vision impaired have to negotiate large centres such as Westfield Marion on a regular basis. Pleasingly the program provided at Kilparrin was similar to many across the world and while watching a range of presentations it became apparent that the complex needs of learners and the similar issues around giving and supporting independent travel were the same the world over.

I found the whole conference most valuable and over the next few months will endeavour to include much of my learning into learners’ programs. My paper which focused on the use of PowerPoint with several learners at Kilparrin was well received and I have been asked to share the information with instructors as far afield as the Netherlands. One wonderful opportunity provided by attending conferences such as IMC is the chance to make real connections with other professionals worldwide and I was able to make good solid contacts with instructors across the world that I hope to keep in contact with to share and discuss ideas.

Roley Stuart, O&M Teacher Coordinator, Hearing & Vision, Professional Learning

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to those families who ordered bulbs as part of our fundraising. We raised $172.00 from only five orders.

Thank you.

Mia Nicholson, Finance Officer

Information from DECD: Parent Complaint Policy

Parent guide to raising a concern or complaint

We all expect quality and expert care and teaching for your child in order that they achieve their potential. Working together will give us the best chance of solving a problem that may arise during your child’s years in preschool and school.

We also recognise that at times things may go wrong. If you have a concern or a complaint, we want you to let us know. It’s important to learn from mistakes or misunderstandings so that we can improve your child’s experience and learning, and also improve processes where possible.

The first step in working through a complaint is to talk to your child’s teacher, and then the principal if you still are not happy.

A copy of the school’s Parent Guide to Raising a Concern or Complaint brochure is attached for your information. Steps guiding how complaints should be made are explained in the brochure.

Use this guide to help you think through what you are concerned about and how to resolve the matter respectfully and effectively.

About complaints or concerns

This information may be helpful in explaining what a complaint is:

A complaint may be made by a parent if they think that the school has, for example:

• done something wrong
• failed to do something it should have done
• acted unfairly or impolitely.

Your concern or complaint may be about:

• the type, level or quality of services
• the behaviour & decisions of staff
• a policy, procedure or practice.

Sometimes a complaint is about something we have to do because of state or federal law. In such cases we are able to talk to you about the matter and help you understand the requirements and why they exist.

If you’d like more information contact the Principal or visit the department’s website at www.decd.sa.gov.au/parentcomplaint or email DECD parentcomplaint@sa.gov.au. There is also a Freecall number 1800 677 435.

The Kilparrin Policy and Planning Committee are currently reviewing the Kilparrin Grievances and Complaints Resolution Policy to align with the new DECD Parent Complaints Policy and Procedures

Free Recipe Book

It’s tasty: with Autumn Fruit & Veg! recipe book is attached as part of the eat well be active strategy.