2012 London Olympics Display by students in the Purple Stars and Yellow Squares classes

2012 DIARY DATES

TERM 3, 2012
Friday 7 September
School Closure (Adelaide Show)
Monday 10 September
Pupil Free Day
Wednesday 5 September
11:00am Term 3 Assembly

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Over the last holidays we had solar panels installed on the gym roof. These panels were made available through the National Solar Schools project funding received by Kilparrin. These panels will provide electricity to all three schools on this site. Through the school holidays the power generated through the solar system will feed back into the electricity grid. Although they have been installed they have not yet been officially handed over. When this happens we will be holding a promotional event to recognise the benefits that the project will achieve for Kilparrin and the wider community. Once the final hand over takes place we will be able to set a date for the ceremony.

The term began with a week with our Educator in Residence consultant Jane Farrall. Jane’s expertise is a valuable asset for Kilparrin and we are ensuring that all staff and students benefit from her very generous sharing of knowledge and experience.

This week we met with Jane Thistlethwaite an Education Consultant and Director of Positive Path International. Jane contributes to international research on children with complex learning difficulties and is in Adelaide to work with DECD. She shared her information in a presentation to parents and staff from Kilparrin and SASVI.

This morning we were delighted to welcome the Acting Prime Minister, The Hon. Wayne Swan accompanied by Mr Steve Georganas, Member for Hindmarsh and a media contingent. Ms Denise Hatzi Chairperson of the Governing Council, students and staff were excited to show our visitors the wonderful environment where we learn and work.

Congratulations to the staff and students for being part of such a successful visit.

Alison McWilliams, Principal
CLASSROOM NEWS

Introduction to Term Theme: Communication Technologies’

ORANGE CIRCLES
The term is flying past already. We went on an excursion in Week 1 to Bunnings to purchase some new plants for our vegetable garden.

We have also enjoyed having some students from Immanuel College visiting our classroom and helping us with our math lessons.

We are all looking forward to an exciting Term 3 and look forward to catching up with all families at some point during this term for NEP meetings.

Orange Circles join us each morning for a movement and music group. These fun and active sessions provide us with more opportunities to share and further develop new literacy and numeracy skills.

Green Triangles are continuing their science experiences in the garden plot. The broad beans are growing taller and taller and continue to need water food and sunshine.

Karen, Jess & Marina

GREEN TRIANGLES
Green Triangles have started Term 3 with enthusiasm and action! We are continuing to build on our song repertoire and we are linking our experiences with our theme book, My cat likes to hide in boxes.

The Gym Program is following 10 Gems for the Brain. This ‘Move to Learn’ movement program is a sequence of movement activities that encourage the brain to work efficiently.

Other routines in our learning include pre-Braille activities. These activities are designed to encourage and strengthen the learners’ hands and finger strength.

Adele and Amanda
PURPLE STARS

Well here we are already at Week 3 of Term 3!! 2012 is flying by!!

The learners have come back from holidays ready and raring to go. As a class we have jumped straight back into our routine and continued on with our literacy program, the Four Blocks.

This term’s theme is Communication Technologies and this fits in perfectly with our Four Blocks program.

During our literacy block the learners have been making use of some high and low tech communication technologies. These have included using the iPad for self-selected reading and as individual communication devices, the interactive whiteboard for group stories and using group and individual PODDs for communication.

The learners in the Purple Stars have also been focusing on their own theme of ‘The Olympics’. The learners have been introduced to what the Olympic Games are and where they are going to be this year. As a class we have been busy during art making the Olympic rings and some Olympic torches. These are now on display in the front office corridor. We hope to hold our own classroom mini Olympics in a few weeks time. The learners are getting very excited about this event!!

This session has been a fantastic way for the learners to start the day. The use of a variety of communication technologies has allowed each of the learners in the Purple Stars to contribute meaningfully to classroom discussion and enhance their learning experience.

Each of the learners now has a ‘voice’ and the use of communication technologies has allowed learners who would normally sit quietly to communicate their feelings and opinions. This has been prominent particularly during Guided Reading sessions.

The learners and staff in the Purple Stars are looking forward to a busy term full of hard work, communication, Olympics and excursions!!

Beccey, Elisha and Christina

YELLOW SQUARES

We have crossed the half-way point of winter, and the Yellow Squares have celebrated by pulling up all but one cabbage from our garden beds. We are currently looking through pictures of potential veggies and fruit for our summer garden. The learners will each choose what they wish to plant. We hope to send home some lovely produce for you in Term 4!
This term our theme is Communication Technologies. The Yellow Squares have already become quite competent in the use of iPads for self-selected reading and most learners have favourite books. We are working on the use of a few different applications (apps) for our nonverbal learners, using them mainly for answering questions during English lessons.

You can continue this learning at home over the next week by watching some of the Olympics with your child and finding out what they have learned. Perhaps we will be able to show you some of the amazing acting moments from “Olympic Charades” at the end of term assembly!

Jess, Sarah and Karly

iPad apps suitable for our learners, using voice output devices such as switches, giving learners opportunities to access individual communication systems such as the auditory PODD (Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display) an electronic communication device.

The interactive whiteboard is used in many lessons. PowerPoint presentations continue to be an engaging option for delivering new content to learners, and with the option of displaying the iPads on the “big screen”, learners with vision impairment can have equal access to fine print apps. All of the learners have different skills and abilities in the use of technology and we have two lessons a week dedicated to developing these skills.

For the first half of this term the Yellow Squares will be looking into the London Olympics quite intensely. We have been drawing pictures of different sports, talking about the world map and playing “Olympic Charades”.

BLUE DIAMONDS
Welcome back to Term 3 at Kilparrin and The Blue Diamonds. This term Allira joins us for 2 days per week, and we look forward to providing lots of stimulating learning opportunities for her and all of the learners. Welcome Allira!

Our focus this term is Communication Technologies and will incorporate much of the fantastic knowledge I gained from attending the 2012 Inclusive Learning Technologies Conference last term. This includes accessing the many

We will continue to provide learners with many opportunities throughout the day to develop their yes/no responses, such as what stories will be sung, what books will be read, what learning experiences/activities they would like, and during meal times and personal hygiene routines.

For the remainder of the year, as the weather improves, we would like to take the learners on various excursions such as to the Adelaide Central Market, Botanic Gardens, Glenelg, Marion Shopping Centre and parks/playgrounds. If you have any other ideas of where your child may like to go, please let us know.
We have been enjoying learners sharing significant events, weekend activities and special and/or favourite things from home with us, so keep them coming! This helps connect school and home life, adds meaning and develops awareness of self and others.

Over the coming few weeks, I will be organizing NEP review meetings with you, and look forward to catching up with you and reviewing your child’s progress and development.

We have already introduced and began to practise a song called Mouth Sounds. This is a great song, which gives the opportunity for each individual learner to contribute and produce their own vocal sounds, or the sounds we hear during the song. We practise: tongue clicking, blowing, humming, whispering and blowing raspberries. For this activity we have begun to use a microphone, which amplifies even the very soft sounds.

On a regular basis, when singing the opening and closing music session songs, some learners will use their switches with pre-recorded ‘hello’ or ‘goodbye’.

Kilparrin teachers have been looking at the South Australian Teaching for Effective Learning (TfEL) framework guide; Domains 1, 2 and 3. This term we will focus on Domain 4 the final phase.

Domain 4 looks at Personalising and Connecting Learning with the sub headings;
• build on learners’ understandings
• connect learning to students’ lives and aspirations
• apply and assess learning in authentic contexts
• communicate learning in multiple modes

What does this mean for Kilparrin students and how do teachers do this?

The key actions for teachers are to value each student’s prior knowledge, seek out just what they know already, what they can do and what they understand and use the information to inform planning. It is important to recognise and value students’ interests, individual expression and capitalise on each student’s unique strengths.

Learning in multiple modes;
The Kilparrin students share their learning in multiple modes. The teacher organises the space and the curriculum to encourage each child...
to work with new technologies, traditional modes, sign, pictures, role play, verbal and non-verbal communication and even playing an instrument or using their voice!

Teachers recognise that the students are all expert in something, which may be demonstrated in a range of different ways. It is through knowing and understanding each student that teachers are able to share each achievement in such a positive light.

A thought by Michael Smull

When we listen with skill and respect, we can learn what is important to each person regardless of severity of disability

Lea Thorpe, Coordinator Curriculum and Pedagogy

Hearing Awareness Week 19-25 August 2012

Have you heard?

Hearing loss affects everyone

Hearing Awareness Week is Australia’s annual event to raise community awareness of hearing impairment and ways to protect your hearing. ‘Have you heard? Hearing loss affects everyone’

One in six Australians is Deaf, deaf/blind, hearing impaired or has a chronic ear disorder.

Hearing Awareness Week provides an opportunity for the 22 per cent of Australians aged 15 and over who are Deaf or have a hearing impairment to share their experiences and knowledge and help to create a greater understanding of their needs, aspirations and the contributions they can make to our nation.

Hearing Awareness Week is hosted by the members of the Deafness Forum of Australia

Damage to your hearing is often a gradual process. Some of the early warning signs are: you can hear but not understand; you find it hard to hear in noisy situations or groups of people; you think people mumble; you need turn the TV up louder than others or, you don’t always hear the doorbell or the phone.

How can I manage noise in my workplace? Examine quieter alternative work practices. The ultimate outcome is to help create a safer, low noise, working environment.

What is excessive noise? Noise is considered excessive when you must use a raised voice or shout in order to be able to speak to someone at an arm’s length. It is important to note that a hearing impairment does not protect a person from further noise damage nor does it give a person less susceptibility to noise induced hearing damage. In fact, it is quite critical to protect what hearing remains.

Deaf Australia Week in October is also a special time to celebrate the achievements of Australians whose first language is Auslan.

Information for Families

Please find below the details of the planned community forums regarding the Every Chance for Every Child – Have your Say Policy Discussion Paper

Have Your Say – 2012 Forums

Join the Minister for Education and Child Development and the Chief Executive of the Department for Education and Child Development at a community forum and have your say. Take this opportunity to share your thoughts on issues relating to children and young people, parenting, education and family life and how we can work together to make a difference.

Tues. 7 August, 4.30pm-6.00pm
South Adelaide Football Club
1 Lovelock Drive
Noarlunga Downs

Wed. 8 August, 4.30pm-6.00pm
Playford Civic Centre
10 Playford Boulevard
Elizabeth

Frid. 10 August, 9.30am-11.00am
State Library of South Australia
Corner North Tce. & Kintore Ave
Adelaide

For further information and registration details please go to http://www.everychild.sa.gov.au/

Caroline Warner
Manager Legislation Reform, DECD

Go for 2&5 Recipes for Families

Warm Up this Winter with Fruit and Veg! and Fresh Food to Fuel your Day! booklets are included with this newsletter.

The Kilparrin Governing Council is running a Father’s Day Goodie Basket Raffle for Father’s Day 2012. Donations of prizes would be much appreciated. Suggested items include; wine, books, mugs, magazines, car wash products

Items can be sent to school clearly marked “Donations for Father’s Day Raffle” by Friday 17 August, 2012. Prizes will be drawn in the first week of September.

Thank you.
Kristy Sander,
Fundraising Committee