2012 DIARY DATES

Note:
In 2012 there are four 10 week Terms

TERM 4, 2012
26 November - 30 November
Swimming Block
(Ambulant Learners Only)
Wednesday 5 December
Variety SA Christmas Party
Wednesday 12 December
End of Year Assembly
Friday 14 December
2:00pm Term 4 ends

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Next week will be the last visit for the year of our Educator in Residence, Jane Farrall. We will begin the week with a full day conference at the Education Development Centre at Hindmarsh, where we will share the experience of introducing the Four Blocks Literacy Framework and comparing the results before and after the introduction of the Four Blocks Literacy Framework with teachers from other sites. There has been a great deal of interest generated by Jane’s work at Kilparrin and now that we have had a full year of implementation of the whole school approach to literacy we are in a position to share. Although each learner has individual needs and strengths the progress can be measured. Jane began the assessment process last visit but was unable to complete it because some learners had made so much progress that the assessment took much more time than anticipated. The first time that Jane came to Kilparrin was late in 2010 when she spent time observing in each classroom to see what was already happening. She then conducted a two day workshop with the teachers on literacy intervention for the range of learners in the school, and we spent the final afternoon of those two days planning the literacy program for the first three weeks of 2011.

In the new school year Jane assessed the learners. Every learner with formal literacy skills was assessed for word identification, reading and language comprehension. She also did a formal measure of language output and while Jane was assessing the learners, the teachers began implementing the literacy program in the classrooms.

Once the assessment was completed Jane began a more regular schedule of visiting twice a term for four days each visit. During the visits she did a range of things –working with staff to accommodate learning needs, assisting with program implementation, running some lessons and problem solving with teachers. She also ran a staff meeting each visit and led an Afternoon Tea with a Purpose to work on using different resources as supports for the program. Jane also advised me on purchasing resources and equipment to enable learners’ access to aspects of the literacy program. Jane’s influence has been remarkable. We have seen not only literacy but also communication and language development enhanced through this whole school literacy and communication intervention.

We have had some excellent results and feedback – the learners have come so far in such a short time. Having good literacy models throughout the whole school has made an enormous difference as well. While we have been focussing on literacy throughout the school we have also been continuing to work on communication. Many of the learners have individual communication devices and modes. Jane has been an excellent support in ensuring each learner has an appropriate means of communication and that the communication device is up to date and accessible for each learner. We have been able to update PODDs through Jane’s contact with the developer of the PODD Gail Porter and we have been trained in the use of the PODD by Janelle Sampson, who was highly recommended by Jane.

We have been able to support our learners at Kilparrin in both literacy and communication to a high degree this year. Children who do not have a means of communication cannot become literate. Language development is enhanced through literacy and we have been able to demonstrate this through our developing skills using the PODD both as a class and on an individual basis. It is satisfying to reflect on the planning for the year and to compare the anticipated to the real outcomes of the interventions that we have put into place this year.

At this time in the term teachers are finalising assessments and preparing reports on the year of teaching and learning. Beccy our senior class teacher attended a day of SACE Moderation this week at UniSA. We have three learners who have submitted SACE subjects in 2012.

Please note the diary dates for the end of the year celebrations - it is going to be a fast finish.

Alison McWilliams
Principal
We have been cooking twice a week with some friends from Blue Diamonds. Soon we will start our Christmas cooking.

Gym each week is loads of fun. We have been climbing, balancing, rolling, and getting active with the new big colourful ball. Blue Diamonds join us and we enjoy these sessions together.

Purple Stars join us on Thursdays for Art and some listening and social skill activities. It’s great to have some effective and fun role models.

We continue to enjoy our selected reading time, especially with the talking books. We have been expanding our switch use with repetitive lines in stories. This has been giving our groups many opportunities to participate in the stories. Orange Circles and Green Triangles love “Pig in the Pond”.

Orange Circles helped Green Triangles make some lovely happy faces for our friend Georgia, who has been absent and we hope she comes back soon.

Adele and Amanda.

Halfway through Term 4 and the learners in the Purple Stars continue to work very hard during lessons! Despite the fact that the weather has been somewhat variable the learners have managed to cope with the changeable temperature and conditions.

The learners continue on their classroom themes. Literacy is continuing to be a success using the Four Blocks for Literacy method. The use of the group PODD during guided reading sessions has been a major benefit to the learners in the class. Not only has using the PODDs supported the learners during literacy but it has also encouraged them to make use of them in other areas of the school, improving their communication.

The learners have been continuing their work on the seasons during math lessons. The learners have been exploring different types of clothing that people wear during summer and winter. This involved tracing around two of the learners and dressing their outline to suit the season. This was an interactive lesson that the learners thoroughly enjoyed.

In art lessons the learners are starting to prepare for their assembly performance. They have been very busy making props and costumes to wear!!

During Week 5 the learners participated in Physical Education week. This included a whole school health hustle to start each morning. This was a very energetic and positive way to start the day for everyone!!

The learners are working so hard I think that they are looking forward to the break!! Not long to go now! Beccy, Elisha and Christina!!

Kilparrin’s recent visit by Dr Karen Wolffe (Texas, USA) has allowed the Yellow Squares class to reflect further on our learning about social skills. We have come a long way this year from a group of learners who were very adult focused, to a group of learners who are willing to ask each other for help, or offer to help a friend. We have also grown in our personal independence throughout 2012, by capitalizing on natural opportunities to practice skills such as putting on our own shoes, washing the dishes, and organizing our own belongings. Social skills are such a vitally important thing! Our ability to perform appropriately in public will shape others opinions of us and help us to get along in the world.

In Term 4 we have begun another art project, and so far our paintings are looking beautiful. Our garden has been planted with plenty of different herbs, veggies, and even some sunflowers! In maths this term we have begun to look at the Clarke Road Money Program with all of the learners able to focus on different skills at their own level.
Continuing programs include SOSE visits from the Ascot Park Primary School Students. We have made some wonderful movie trailers with them and everyone in the school really likes them! English is still being learned using the Four Blocks to Literacy Program. We are getting really good at coming up with our own sentences in writing tasks. Our invented Bat-Ball game in the gym has evolved dramatically since the beginning of the year and all students now participate with minimum prompting. Jess, Sarah & Karly.

BLUE DIAMONDS
Wow we are half way through the term already!! In Week 7, we celebrated PE Week heading outside each morning and carrying out activities to promote physical development. Learners spent time in walkers, throwing discs and ten pin bowling, it was lots of fun and a great start to the day! We have also been spending time in the gym and O&M area as well as time out of wheelchairs in the classroom.

Our fortnightly books this term have been ‘We’re Going on a Bear Hunt’ and ‘Our Granny’. To help add meaning to the stories, the learners went on a bear hunt, feeling grass, mud and water etcetera and pretended to hide in bed from the bear. We also asked families to share information and send in photos of the learners’ grannies, which we shared during morning group time. It was nice to find out grannies hobbies and what they like to do with their grandchildren.

Sensory play continues to be a focus in Blue Diamonds, exploring media such as jelly, magic sand, water and play dough, to develop body awareness, hand skills, reduce any tactile defensiveness and...enjoy! Rachel, Lyn, Sophia, Kay and Jess.

MUSIC
Music Count Us In
Since 2007 Australian composer and musician John Foreman together with a team of mentors have worked with high school students from around Australia to compose and record a song that engages and excites students from Reception to Year 12. This year was no different.

At Kilparrin on Thursday 1 November at 10.30, learners and staff came together in the courtyard to sing a new song composed for 2012, “Different People (stand together)”. Prior to this event our learners were involved in preparatory work and since the end of Term 3 have practised the song; singing, memorising the lyrics, focusing on signing the chorus and playing percussion instruments as part of their group music sessions.

This event is a great celebration that recognises the value and importance of music education in Australian schools and Kilparrin is proud to be a small part of a national program that gains media exposure across the country.

In our weekly music group sessions we continue with planned activities linked to the theme Move and we have begun to focus on new Christmas songs. We are looking forward to present the items at the end of year Term 4 School Assembly in Week 10.

Krystyna
Music Teacher

PE Week
In Week 5 our school joined many schools throughout South Australia in celebrating ‘Physical Education Week’. The Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (ACHPER), supported this initiative to promote healthy eating and physical activity in young people.

Each day all the Kilparrin learners and staff participated in a health hustle. Children who are ambulant participated in movement to music while the other learners participated in a number of activity stations to improve their upper body strength while listening to music. A number of learners were able to state that they enjoyed exercising. Staff and learners all got active together for 20 minutes each day and enjoyed getting out into the sunshine as a whole school!

Premiers Reading Challenge
On Friday the 9th of November two learners, James and Jake were able to attend the Premiers reception for the Premiers Reading Challenge.

We were invited to attend this event because every learner at our school participated in the reading challenge. At the reception we were presented with a certificate and some new books for our library. The titles of these books are, ‘I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato’, ‘Amazing Spot What!’, ‘The Truth About Penguins’, ‘How The Birds Got Their Colours’, ‘Vintage Twain’, ‘Clarice Bean Spells Trouble’, ‘Whiffy Newton in the Case of the Dastardly Deeds’ and ‘The Hunger Games: Catching Fire’.

While at the reception we also had the opportunity to meet Humphrey Bear and some animals from the zoo.

Well done to everyone for participating in the reading challenge this year and we look forward to participating in the Challenge again next year and hope that everyone will continue to enjoy reading.

Karen Colliver

Swimwear
Recently Kilparrin has been made aware of a range of re-usable swim pants. The website lists a number of incontinence products that will suit both children and adults. Look for Conni Togglz swim pants in the left hand margin.

Website link: www.conni.com.au
Wholemeal Banana Pancakes
- 2 large bananas
- 1 1/2 cups wholemeal self-raising flour
- 1 1/2 cups buttermilk
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 tablespoon honey
- Olive oil cooking spray
- Honey and reduced-fat passionfruit yoghurt, to serve

Step 1
Mash 1 banana in a bowl (see note). Place flour in a bowl. Make a well in the centre. Combine buttermilk, eggs, honey and mashed banana in a jug. Pour into well. Whisk until smooth. Stand for 10 minutes.

Step 2
Spray a large, non-stick frying pan with oil. Heat over medium heat. Spoon 1/4 cup batter into pan. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes or until bubbles appear on the surface. Turn. Cook for 1 to 2 minutes or until golden and cooked through. Transfer to a plate. Cover to keep warm. Repeat with remaining batter to make 12 pancakes.

Step 3
Thinly slice remaining banana. Place pancakes on plates. Top with sliced banana, honey and yoghurt. Serve.

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