The three strategic directions in the Site Improvement Plan have been established this year.

No. 1 MOVE
All of the staff were introduced to the MOVE program, Mobility Options Via Education. This program aims to develop independence in movement in learners with physical impairment. The goal is for the learners to contribute to their own care rather than remain totally dependent for personal care support. The MOVE program is designed to be used functionally throughout the day and is not a stand-alone program but integrated into regular activities. An example of this is using a walker to come into school from the taxi, which is simple and significant.

No. 2 Literacy and Communication
Jane Farrall’s consultancy has also led to achievements in all classes. Jane has shared her profound knowledge of speech and literacy development and the supporting use of technology generously throughout the year. The outcomes from Jane’s consultancy have been significant and are a foundation for Kilparrin in 2013. We have further developed our knowledge of speech support with the assistance of Janelle Sampson Speech Pathologist of Two Way Street who has led us in training in the use of the PODD – Pragmatic Organised Dynamic Display. This has led to a marked increase in development of the learners’ language.

No.3 Communication Technologies
All of the teaching staff and Marc (ICT SSO) attended the Spectronics conference in May which linked with Jane’s Educator in Residence program of Communication, Literacy and Technology. Teachers have been feeding back to their colleagues about their learning from this conference for the remainder of the year. Teachers have been able to learn from the conference and apply their learning to their class or support teaching and demonstrate this learning to their colleagues.

2012 has been a significant year for many of our learners. Angela, Karoo and Stuart, led by their teacher Beccy have been successful in their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) subjects. They have undertaken subjects towards the new SACE for students with disabilities. We anticipate that all of the learners who stay at Kilparrin until the end of schooling will be able to take part in the SACE. It is a credit to Beccy that these learners have had the opportunity to participate and to be successful.

We were successful in our application for funding under the National Solar Schools project. Solar panels were installed on the gym roof in the mid-year holidays and we are now generating solar energy for use across the campus. Kilparrin is contributing to the wellbeing of the community as essentially the greatest amount of power will be generated over the summer holidays when it will be fed into the grid and be available to reduce the pressure on the traditional power sources for the state.

2013 DIARY DATES

TERM 1, 2013
Tuesday 29 January
Term 1 begins
Monday 11 March
Public Holiday: Adelaide Cup
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
Friday 27 September
2:00pm Term 3 ends

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

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2012 was the year for an external validation of the school. The commendations from the validation team were: The strategic actions undertaken encompass a whole site approach with expertise developed and sustained through an inclusive and effective provision of quality professional learning.

The school culture is unashamedly focussed on achievement for all learners engaged with Kilparrin. There exists a strong alignment of translating theory into practice and making learning authentic for each learner. Being able to ‘walk the talk’ was a strong component of teaching and learning at Kilparrin.

The staff demonstrated an intimate knowledge of the learning needs of each student, the professional expertise to engage each learner with the various curricula (Early Years Learning framework, Australian Curriculum and SACE) as appropriate, and the capacity to assess the learning growth of each student.

There was an effective culture of improving students for life beyond schooling through learning design to promote independence as an important attribute.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Morning Tea and End of the Year Assembly next week. Invitations have been sent and responses are flowing in. It is always an enjoyable way to celebrate another very successful year.

Alison McWilliams
Principal
ORANGE CIRCLES

2012 has been a productive and happy year for the Orange Circles. Our class has enjoyed our regular shopping trips and cooking lessons throughout the year. These activities have helped us with our social skills and link the shops to our cooking program as we see where the food we cook comes from.

This term, Brooke and Shaun have been enjoying their swimming lessons during Week 8, it has been nice having warmer weather for swimming.

The whole class has also enjoyed painting this term and have tried to produce some masterpieces!

Brooke has enjoyed helping her class mates whenever possible.

Our library lessons have been full of fun and learning this year; thank you to Gloria for all her great work.

The Orange Circles would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Karen, Jess and Marina.

GREEN TRIANGLES

Christmas is coming ….. shout “Hooray!”

Green Triangles are shaking their bells and we are singing Christmas songs in our music and movement group times.

Christmas is coming….Shake your tinsel! We have started preparing for the assembly, with some Christmas presentations.

Christmas is coming….Make some biscuits!

We have started making Special Christmas biscuits in our cooking sessions.

Christmas is coming ….. grow the vegetables!

With the very hot weather, we have been making regular trips to the garden to do the watering.

Our sunflowers are over our heads!

Christmas is coming…

But we still do our work!

Christmas is coming…….SPLASH! SPLASH! SPLASH!

Adele and Amanda.

PURPLE STARS

What a fantastic year it has been at Kilparrin and what fantastic work the learners in the Purple Stars have produced all year!

The learners worked hard from the start of Term 1 and continued to work hard throughout the entire year. The effort that the learners put in throughout the year has definitely contributed to the fact that all the learners have demonstrated improvement throughout their subject areas.

In English in particular, all learners have shown improvement in their literacy knowledge. Educator in Residence, Jane Farrall, has provided both learners and teachers with support throughout the year and her input has definitely contributed to learner improvement.

We look forward next year to continue on with our work using the Four Blocks to Literacy Program.

Another improvement that the Purple Stars learners have made is in their personal communication skills whether it is using Auslan sign, a PODD or audible speech. The increased fluency of communication has contributed significantly to a range of improvements demonstrated across the classroom. All learners are now active participants and are able to provide answers and give opinions in lessons and in most other social situations.

The end of Term 4 has been jam packed with excursions and swimming for some of the learners.

Week 8 has been all about swimming at Marion Swimming Centre. It was a perfect week of weather for the learners as it was quite hot so the water would have been fantastic!! All the learners seemed to enjoy themselves.

In Week 9 the learners attended the Bonython Park Playground grand opening and the Variety Club Christmas Party.

It has been a wonderful year with lots of fun, laughter and learning taking place. We look forward to seeing you all next year after the break! Happy Holidays!!

Beccy, Elisha and Christina!!

YELLOW SQUARES

As the 2012 school year winds down, the Yellow Squares class has continued with their hectic schedule of learning. Swimming was a focus of Week 8 and we enjoyed lovely weather as we learned about water safety. The learners enjoyed throwing objects out into the pool to “save” their friends from drowning!

Our math lessons are currently based on the Clarke Road Money System, and everyone’s skills are really improving. We really hope that you can join us at assembly next week so that you can see our video about Numbers in Action!

Everyone in the class is working on a different skill, but there has been rapid improvement across the board.

Thank you for all of your support and fabulous communication this year. I have really appreciated all of our conversations and diary communication. These things make it so much easier to be on the same page when it comes to your child’s education.

It is with sadness that Letisha’s friends from Kilparrin say goodbye and good luck, as she embarks on a new learning journey at a different school. We hope that you make many friends in your new school, Letisha!

Jess, Sarah & Karly.

BLUE DIAMONDS

It is so hard to believe the end of the school year is drawing near, and it has certainly been busy in the Blue Diamonds. We saw the class numbers grow in Term 2 to include Kilparrin Early Learning Centre (KELC) learners, and we have also
welcomed a new learner, Hudson, this term.

Implementing the MOVE (Movement Opportunities Via Education) program across all areas of the curriculum and developing functional motor skills such as weight bearing, transfers, walking and sitting has been a strong focus this year and will continue in 2013. Although much practise and repetition is required to develop these skills, we have already seen some improvements and development.

Developing communication skills has also been a strong focus with not only the class but across the school, and for the Blue Diamonds this has included developing ‘yes’ and ‘no’ responses, implementing the Four Blocks approach to literacy development and implementing individual communication systems. We have been using a class Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD) book, modelling the communication pathways and using it as an adjunct to learning experiences.

Over the past few weeks we have been busy with the Green Triangles class practising for our Christmas assembly item, and completing some Christmas art activities.

We have also made the most of the warm weather recently with water play, and learners have seemed to enjoy their weekly swimming sessions at Minda Pool.

It has been a pleasure to be involved with the development of all learners this year, and on behalf of all of the staff in the Blue Diamonds, we wish you a wonderful Christmas and a happy 2013!

Rachel, Lyn, Sophia, Kay and Jess.

2013 was a year of many Musical highlights at Kilparrin.

Indonesian percussion group ‘Makukuhan’ supported by the Musica Viva In Schools Program took our learners on an exotic journey through a variety of musical styles focusing on melodic percussion and rhythm.

Kilparrin learners participated with learners from Ascot Park Primary School in the 2012 Primary Schools Festival of Music. Letisha, Jake and Omer sang with the Park Holme Primary School choir in a concert at the Festival Theatre as part of a very large choir made up of students from 20 other schools from around South Australia. It was the 5th consecutive year that Kilparrin learners had participated in this celebrated event. Thank you to Eileen for your support during choir rehearsals and the final concert.

Kilparrin learners participated in the Australia wide event Music! Count Us In. Students learnt and sang a new composition “Different People” together with thousands of learners from right across Australia.

Throughout the year our learners were involved in various activities involving songs, percussion instruments and movement related to the term themes, special days and events; Literacy & Communication; Harmony Day; Social Skills; Communication Technologies; MOVE and Christmas.

In Term 4 the whole school have been involved in a range of musical activities in preparation for the End of Year Assembly which will be held on Wednesday 12 December. Looking forward to seeing you there.

As this is our final newsletter for 2013, I would like to thank our staff and volunteers for their help during group music sessions and assemblies.

Also special thanks to Dot for making many resources and organising various props.

Merry Christmas
Krystyna
Music Teacher

Holidays can be an opportunity for children to be amongst their immediate family, extended family, other families, friends and neighbours. Holidays and celebrations are part of children’s home and school lives. Although holidays and celebrations are often happy times and can generate positive experiences they are also times of excitement, unusual stimulation, and perhaps even anxiety for some children. The Early Years Learning Framework talks about children’s lives being characterised by belonging, being and becoming. Children are connected to family, culture and place. Their earliest development and learning takes place through these relationships, particularly within families who are children’s first and foremost influential educators.

PLAY is communication and expression, combining thought and action; it gives satisfaction and a feeling of achievement. PLAY is instinctive, voluntary, and spontaneous. PLAY helps children develop physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially. PLAY is a means of learning to live, not a mere passing of time. (International Association for the Child’s Right to Play: 2002)

Remember playgrounds
• They are free
• Great for the whole family
• An opportunity to enjoy an activity together with your extended family
• A safe place to catch up with friends
• Allow plenty of time to get ready and arrive at your destination. The pressure of time can add more stress for you and your child
• Think about the needs of each member of the family when planning your outing, and if you can, take the opportunity to have a quiet coffee or a chat with a friend while the children are safely playing.
Some of the fenced playgrounds around Adelaide:

- Marshmallow Park, Glen Osmond Rd, Adelaide
- Bush Magic (Adelaide Aquatic Centre Playground), Jeffcott Rd
- East Terrace Glover Playground, East Tce, Adelaide
- Orphanage Park, Parish Ct, Millswood
- And remember our new inclusive play space at Bonython Park, opening on Monday 3rd December to celebrate Disability Awareness Day 2012.

Lea Thorpe & Jenny McGinn
Statewide Support Teachers

End Of Year Assembly

Wednesday 12 December is the final assembly for 2012. Bring your family and come and support your child as we end another busy year. Learners will receive awards and certificates. Please be part of our celebration of 2012.

Morning tea - 10:30am
Assembly – 11:00am
Lunch – 12:15pm
RSVP to Pam by Monday 10 December

AGOSCI Conference

Parent Scholarships

In May 2013 one of our classroom teachers, Beccy Hayes, and our Educator in Residence, Jane Farrall, will present a paper on the work done on communication at Kilparrin. AGOSCI is a professional association of teachers and other professionals who work with individuals who have complex communication needs.

If your child has complex communication needs and you would like to attend the fabulous 2013 AGOSCI conference apply now for a scholarship! Successful applicants will receive a scholarship for conference registration thanks to support from FaHCSIA and AGOSCI.

Applications must be received by 5pm, 24 December 2012. Further information and application forms are on the website www.agosci.org.au/conf2013/scholarshipinfo.htm

Bonython Park

Kilparrin was invited to attend a pre-opening of the new Bonython Park play space on Monday 3rd December to celebrate ‘International Day of Persons with Disabilities’. Channel Seven attended and filmed some of our staff and learners for the news!

Adelaide City Council has worked hard to produce a play space that is inclusive of all abilities and our staff commented that there was something for everyone. The inclusive design has incorporated communication boards to raise the profile of Augmentative and Alternative Communication in the community, multileveled sand and water play to enable a child in a wheel chair to be involved in play and the use of rubberised paths for ease of movement.

Despite the cloudy weather the learners and staff had a wonderful time exploring the play area and in particular, the inclusive roundabout and multileveled water play area were a big success.

The playground is officially opening on 16th December and is worth a visit!