



# Kirkton Public School

## Newsletter

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Term 1, Week 10

Achieve With Pride

4th April 2014



# say cheese

## School Photo Day is 8 April 2014

*Have your child's school memories captured forever*

PLEASE BRING PHOTO ENVELOPES (TOGETHER  
WITH CORRECT MONEY) TO SCHOOL ON PHOTO DAY

### Student Safety

We have again had reports from parents, staff and the public of cars needing to slow down drastically and in some cases actually stop as they attempt to pass our school in the afternoons. The reason for this has been children running across or close to the road.



**PLEASE – once the children are picked up of an afternoon sit them in the car for safety;**

- continue to instil in them knowledge of traffic safety, to be aware of the possibilities of danger and the expectations on them;
- be aware at all times where your children are;

Although this is not a busy road as such – it is very dangerous of an afternoon with so many cars parked blocking the view of cars that are leaving the school or approaching from either direction.

**An accident would be devastating for all –**

**even more-so when it could have been avoided.**

### Calendar of Events

#### April 4

- Soccer Trials
  - Singleton
  - EnviroMentors visit
  - Assembly
- Hosted by K/1**

#### April 8

- School Photo Day
- P&C Meeting 6:30pm

#### April 11

- Easter celebrations
- Last day Term 1

#### April 25

- ANZAC Day March

#### April 29

- Term 2 commences for students

#### May 14th-16th

- NAPLAN for years 3 and 5

#### June 13th

- Small Schools Athletics Carnival

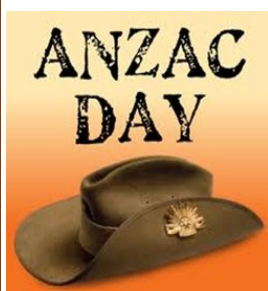
FLORA

FRIENDSHIP LEARNING OPPORTUNITY RESPECT ACHIEVEMENT

## Working With Children Check

**ALL volunteers** at our school now need to apply for a Working With Children Check through the RTA before you can volunteer. This can be found on line at [www.kids.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children/New-Working-with-Children-Check](http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children/New-Working-with-Children-Check) where you will receive a number. Once you have your number please take this number to the RTA and the process will be completed there. The school will need to sight your certificate once you have it then it will be recorded on a register.

## ANZAC March



It would be extremely pleasing to have a big roll up for this very special event.

As in most years not all students can stay for the entire service but do take the time to march for the school or other organisations. This is not a problem. We will gather at Bailey Park and join the march there. Starting time is usually 10.30 a.m.

Uniforms to be worn –winter and as this is a formal occasion the girls' winter tunic would be preferred. Hats would also be a necessity. For those staying for the service drink bottles would be beneficial. The weather can be fickle – we've had some very hot days and some very cold/wet. Make adjustments where required.

## SPORT

### Cross Country



Fingers crossed today for our Cross Country representatives who have been pounding it out at Muswellbrook today. We hope you greatly enjoyed the experience. All should be very proud of their 'give it a go attitude' – they're all winners regardless of placings.

*Good luck to all.*

### Soccer



We have had an excellent rollup of students, trialling to be part of our school soccer team which will be competing in the state wide soccer competition next term. Mr Tonan has been running them through numerous skill drills to ascertain the strengths and weaknesses of the team.

Also, many students have put up their hand to trial for the combined Small Schools Soccer Team. There is a boys and a girls team. These teams will be made up of selected representatives from our local small schools and will compete in a different competition to our school team.

Good luck to all those trialling.

## Kinder Enrolments for 2015

If you have a child that will be starting school in 2015 or you know of one—please contact the office to record your their name on the Kindergarten list.

# Apple Slinky Day - every Wednesday

FLORA

FRIENDSHIP LEARNING OPPORTUNITY RESPECT ACHIEVEMENT

## From KidsMatter- Things I would like to know more about.....

### Helping kids create positive change

Stephen Balkam is the CEO of the Family Online Safety Institute (FOSI) in Washington and advocate of good digital citizenship. He highlights the positive aspects of children's digital usage, and explains why he believes fear is getting in the way of their natural capacity to be responsible, creative online citizens.

- **What is 'digital citizenship'?**

I'm a big believer in the concept of digital citizenship, though it can take some explaining! I like to think about it as a pyramid with online safety, security and privacy as its base layer. Built on that foundation, you develop digital and media literacy skills, and on top of that comes the basic rights and responsibilities of being a digital citizen. We are good at demanding our rights (to free speech, assembly, religion etc) but not so good at fulfilling our responsibilities to each other online – whether that means being an upstander to a cyberbully, or reporting abusive or sexist comments, or simply deleting inappropriate content sent to us rather than passing it along. We have a long way to go to instill digital citizenship in our kids, but also in ourselves as adults. We need to model more responsible online behaviour to our students and our children.

- **Do you believe children are capable of being good digital citizens?**

I would take the word 'digital' out of that question and say yes. Kids under 12 can comprehend the basic notion of what it means to be a member of a society or nation or region or province. I think any 11-year-old would know what to do if he or she saw a fire or witnessed an accident – to call the police or fire services. That's a fundamental activity of a good citizen. Apply that online and kids can quickly grasp the same concept by using a report button or telling a trusted adult if they see something inappropriate. Beyond reporting abuse, kids that age can also grasp the idea of 'doing good' online, and can sometimes be incredibly creative and empathic when it comes to responding to calls by charities or in response to an urgent issue or problem.

- **What are the positive impacts of children interacting with the internet?**

We have worked hard here at FOSI to eradicate the fear-based messaging of the past decade. We've only just emerged from a decade-long 'techno-panic' around online predators, which the media did its best to keep on the front pages and in the evening news. Not only do we emphasise the positive nature of the internet, we've created an initiative called **A Platform for Good**, which highlights all the great things kids are doing online – from standing up to cyberbullies, to raising cash for charities online, to becoming social and political activists. [These are] lively and positive examples of good digital citizenship. Kids switch off to fear messaging by clueless adults. They respond to positive pointers to ways they can use their online powers for good.

## A Platform for Good

A Platform for Good (PFG) is a project of the Family Online Safety Institute (FOSI) designed to help parents, teachers, and teens to connect, share, and do good online! At FOSI we work with leaders in the field of online safety and, regularly, we hear about incredible stories and exciting opportunities in our digital world. We hear stories of parents, teens, and teachers using technology to raise social awareness, encourage activism, enhance our education system, and of course, have fun!

What we have noticed, however, is that the stories reported in the news and infusing public conversation are focused heavily on the negative notions that don't support the research that says the majority of people's online experiences are positive. Given this climate, it is our hope that PFG will create a place to have a more balanced discussion about the role digital technology can play in our lives.

Our vision for A Platform for Good is to start a dialogue about what it means to participate responsibly in a digital world. While recognizing the potential risks, we will celebrate technology as a vehicle for opportunity and social change. We hope to achieve this goal by providing parents and teachers with the resources to learn about and interact with new technologies, and by giving teens the ability to engage and teach their peers, family members and educators. Through this approach, we hope to encourage good digital citizenship, responsible online behaviour, and the use of technology for positive change and making a difference.

Visit [www.aplatformforgood.org](http://www.aplatformforgood.org)

## Envirosmart Grant

Mrs Walter 's application for an Envirosmart grant offered by NSW Mining was successful and as a result our school was awarded \$1,000.

Some of these funds were used to purchase a water tank for our vege garden etc. which was delivered today.



We'd like to say a **BIG**  
thank you to  
NSW Mining.

The tank will soon be  
connected & filled  
ready for business!







## Easter Activities

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April we would like to invite family and friends of students to join us for our Easter celebrations.

12.00 - End recess – students return to rooms/prepare for Easter Hat parade.

12.15 – Hat parade K-1, Yrs 1,2,3, Yrs 4,5,6.

12.30 – Egg Drop

1.00 - Easter Raffles drawn

1.15 – Treasure Hunt

1.30 – Picnic Lunch – student family and friends.

(Times are only a guide) Please find time to view the decorated 'bunnies'.



## PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

We are taking part in the Premier's Reading Challenge. The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.



All of the information and booklists can be accessed online by Googling

**prc**. The children have accessed the site at school and are familiar with how to log in and add books. Any books the students have read this year are able to be used on the challenge. They have a reading log, to write down the books they've read with a column for you to initial acknowledging books they have read at home.

K/1 are doing their challenge with Mrs Walter in class but are most welcome to read more books on their own at home with their families.

K-2	30 books	25 PRC	5 Personal Books
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3-4	20 books	15 PRC	5 Personal Books
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5-6	20 books	15 PRC	5 Personal Books
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Discussing and showing interest in your children's reading material is a great way to encourage a lifelong love of reading. As a special incentive this year if all of the Kirkton students complete the challenge we will have a movie/popcorn session here at school.

*Happy Reading!*

## Surveys

A big thank you, to those who were able to complete the surveys, pre/post their parent teacher interviews. The analysis of these will assist us in understanding community perspectives and helping us determine actions needed to enhance school function especially in regard to further development of a 'positive school community'.

## Staff Development Day Term 2

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April is the Term 2 staff Development Day. We will be hosting teachers from our local small schools as we 'get together' to develop our skills and understandings across a number of educational areas.

Students will all begin Term 2 on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

## Weekly Assemblies

**3.00pm. start**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April will be hosted by K/1.

Nutrition Snippet

# The simplest way

to bust hunger after school

Try these great vegie filled recipes that will top up their tank until dinner time.



**Speedy Pizza**  
A wholegrain English muffin with tomato, corn, capsicum and reduced fat grilled cheese.

**Fast Toasty Fingers**  
A slice of wholegrain toast cut into soldiers served with 'reduced salt' or 'no added salt' baked beans.

**Vegie Kebabs**  
Kebab skewers with reduced fat cheese, cherry tomatoes & cucumber slices.

**Macho Nachos**  
Corn tortillas and sprinkle with quartered cherry tomatoes, kidney beans and reduced fat cheese. Bake in oven for 15 minutes and serve with mashed avocado.

For more information visit  
[www.eatittobeatit.com.au](http://www.eatittobeatit.com.au)  
or join us at [facebook.com/eatittobeatit](https://facebook.com/eatittobeatit)

**Eat It To Beat It**

# Uniform Shop open Tuesday 2:30 to 3:30pm



## Guessing Competition



The Student Council is holding a guessing competition, starting on 28<sup>th</sup> March and it will be drawn on 7<sup>th</sup> of April.

If you participate and have a guess you could win a jar of delicious lollies. Each guess will cost you 50c. Money raised will go to purchase of a needed item for the school.

## GOOD LUCK GUESSING!!!!

## Kirkton Public School P&C News

**Next meeting: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April @ 6.30pm**

**Easter Raffle – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

All tickets need to be returned as soon as possible. Thank you.

Thank you to everyone who has donated prizes for the raffle. There are lots of goodies to be won.

**Kirkton P&C Market Stall - Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

The market group are seeking donations of plants, produce, arts, crafts etc... for the stall. Also seeking volunteers to assist with the stall on this day. Please see Kylee Lane for more information.

### Can Recycling

There is a bin located near the 4/5/6 room for any cans to be placed in. Thank you to those that have already been placing cans in there. Money raised from this will go towards the P&C purchases for the school.

**Mother's Day Stall - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May**



The P&C have purchased some gifts for the stall but if there is anyone who has something they would like to donate to the stall that would be much appreciated. Thank you to those that have already left some gifts at the office.

**Thank you to all those people that were able to help with the Masters BBQ fundraiser.**

**Uniform Shop open Tuesdays 2.30-3.30pm**

## Upcoming Events



**April 8**

P&C meeting @ 6.30pm

**April 11**

Easter Raffle

**April 13**

Sacred Tree Markets

**May 9**

Mother's Day Stall

### Minutes and Agenda

P&C minutes can be found on the school website.

Agenda items can be placed in the P&C box in the office or alternatively emailed to: [carmo2228@yahoo.com.au](mailto:carmo2228@yahoo.com.au)

The agenda will be emailed to members prior to each meeting.

