PRINCIPAL NEWS

Our student leaders spent Sunday, Monday and Tuesday at a Future Leaders Camp at Myuna Bay. They were there with student leaders from other local schools. The Camp was a mixture of learning and reflection on leadership and working with others, as well as enjoying a range of other outdoor activities. Our students received many compliments on the way they interacted with both staff and other children. They report that they had a great time as well. They have come back with a project to implement for beautification of an area of the school. We can be very proud of our leaders. I know they are also grateful to Miss Allport who supervised them at the camp, as am I. I am sure we will have a newsletter item with more information and photos coming up. I will be taking some leave in June. I am undertaking study in educational leadership through the University of Melbourne, and I am giving myself a little time to focus on my studies. Mrs Doran will be relieving as Principal in my absence. Mrs Kristenhal will be relieving as Deputy Principal. As well as teaching her class she will be released to support teachers in the implementation of the Ann Morrice Literacy Cycle, which was featured in last week’s newsletter.

Congratulations to all scholars for their public speaking this term. Next week we will be holding grade finals, to be followed by stage finals in week 7. Thank you to Mrs Oliver for her support and organisation of the public speaking across the school.

Warm regards
Eve Field

LITTLE LEARNERS

On Monday 18th May we had 12 pre-school aged children attend the first Little Learners session. This session was the first computer session where the children and their parents and carers were introduced to some helpful starting kindergarten links found on our school website. They listened to a virtual book and then had practical hands on experience with an introduction to some of the computer programs that are used within the school. On Thursday 21st May our weekly Little Learners Playgroup will begin with craft activities, music, games and stories between 2.00pm-3.00pm. To register please call the office on 4937 1235.

ROBOTICS WORKSHOP

On Wednesday 20th May Ms Oliver accompanied two students from 5-6MO, Hudson F and Dylan G, to Sydney for a Robotics Workshop. The students enjoyed a fabulous day of learning and programming a robot to dance. Both boys displayed positive and collaborative behaviour and were a pleasure to spend the day with.

YEAR 4 NEWS

This week, students have been visiting the Book Fair, looking at all the lovely books on display and filling in their wish lists. It has been great to see Year 4 students so keen to discover and read new books.

Year 4 teachers have been excited to hear their students’ speeches this week. So far the speeches have been fantastic, with a range of engaging topics. Well done to all students who have already presented their speech!

Last Friday, Stage 2 students had their first sport session with Paul, a specialised coach who is coming to Kurri Kurri Public School each week to focus on improving our athletics skills, in preparation for the Athletics Carnival in Week 7. Looks like there will be some great shot putters this year!

Students are excited to be involved in ‘Raw Art’ at the end of this term. We will be sculpting some Australian animals from clay which fits in nicely with our HSIE and Literacy unit this term based on travelling around Australia. Please remember to send in the note and money so your child doesn’t miss out.

Year 4 Teachers

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

Part of Instructional Leadership is to provide professional learning for teachers in the identified areas of need. Here is a picture of Mr Tweedie and Mr Trenter working hard during their Targeted Early Numeracy Training. Such a dedicated group of teachers at KKPS! In saying this though - it's not just about the teachers working hard to extend themselves but our students too, even our very young ones! As an Instructional Leader, it is common practice to use data walls to focus in on areas of need. It is very exciting that all of our teachers are beginning to put “faces to the data” to motivate students to take responsibility for their own learning. Sounds scary? Not at all! This is just a way to make their learning visible and so they know what they need to practise and what they will need to master next. As the teachers and parents around the learning we so often discuss it in detail and depth however to the child their learning journey may still be hazy. One particular data wall that is taking off in our school is the “Numeracy Ninja”. Children are given a belt colour that shows them the things they can do and are practising. The data wall shows them what they need to learn to move to the next belt. It is very powerful for them to take ownership of their own learning and we are already seeing motivation, engagement and effort on the rise! I have included some pictures for you.

BOYS & GIRLS SOCCER MATCHES

On Wednesday 20th May both our boys and girls soccer teams were to play Pelaw Main Public School at Centennial Park, Pelaw Main. This match was cancelled due to wet weather. The teams had a quick match against each other as a training session.

21st May 2015, Week 5 Odd Week
STAR LEADERS

This term has seen the introduction of the Year 6 Star Leaders in the playground in the 2nd half of lunch. Thirty of our fabulous year 6 students set up activities in the 1st half of lunch and ran these activities for the 2nd half of lunch. Activities include: Stage 2/3 soccer, Stage 2/3 touch football, cricket nets, basketball games, Stage 3 art, hall dancing and music, Year 2 soccer, Year 1 ball games, Year 1 art and Kinder buddies. You may see the Star Leaders running these activities at lunch time in their bright pink vests! They have had a fabulous start to the term and have engaged many children in their games. Well done Star Leaders!

STAGE 3 READING + UNIVERSITY = CAREER CHOICES

The University of Newcastle’s Aim High Team is in our school running the Careers Through Reading program. University students will lead small reading group sessions and start conversations about lifelong learning and post-school education opportunities.

The program is used to strengthen the existing literacy block already provided in the school. During the five visits students will continue to learn to:

- Interact confidently with their peers
- Speak confidently in group discussions
- To listen strategically
- To read with comprehension

The cross-curricular activity-based model for Careers Through Reading aims to strengthen the students’ love of reading whilst linking the importance of reading for positive educational outcomes.

WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY

On Friday 22nd May, we want you to participate in Walk Safely to School Day. Please enjoy this community event to walk to school with your primary school age children. We hope you will take the opportunity to reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour and help children develop the vital road-crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians. The walk will promote health benefits and help create regular walking habits of your children. Make sure however, that children up to 10 years old hold an adult’s hand when crossing the road. Walking to school can reduce car dependency habits, which will be difficult to change as children become adults. If walking is not an option then try Public Transport. That will reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles and help to reduce the level of traffic congestion around our school. Parents and carers who drive, may like to park the car at least 10 minutes away from the school and accompany their children to the kiss and drop zone instead.

BOOK FAIR

This week scholars, staff, parents and carers browsed the hundreds of books available for purchase at the Book Fair held in our School Assembly Hall. Having the Book Fair is an excellent opportunity to purchase excellent quality books for scholars to read to encourage and develop an enthusiastic attitude to reading.

The Book Fair also raises money that is utilised to purchase fresh reading materials for our School Library to enable and nurture a continuation of ignited reading interests. A huge thank you to Mrs Gilbert and Mrs Allen, an enormous amount of work goes into organising the Book Fair, this includes sending home the personalised Wish Lists, helping write out the orders for scholars, collecting money and processing the orders ready to take home.

PBL

This fortnight in PBL the focus is “Looking after yourself and not getting involved in things that don’t involve you”. This focuses around teaching students about minding their own business and telling a teacher when they hear or see something that they feel is not right, rather than get involved or start gossip. At home you can support your child with this by:

Reminding your child when it is appropriate to get involved in or listen to adult conversations

Encouraging your child to stop and think if they need to become involved in an issue before they act

Supporting them to work through and solve problems that they have, rather than solving it for them

THE ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

Kurri Kurri Primary School is selling the Entertainment Books for the 2015/2016 period Discover Real Value. We receive $12.00 from each Membership sold, so order yours today. To order your Entertainment Book please visit http://www.entbook.com.au/340m20 or email kurrikurri-p-school@det.nsw.edu.au or contact Julie Gilbert on 4937 1855. Thanks for supporting our fundraising!

P&C NEWS

Photographic Fundraiser

Sunday 31st May 2015 is our Photographic Fundraising Day from 9.00am – 5.00pm. Family Portraits are $20.00. Please book and return money to the school canteen as soon as possible so we can finalise our schedule.

The next P&C meeting will be an evening meeting on Tuesday 26th May starting at 6.00pm in the staffroom.

Email: kurrikurripublicschool@pandafacilitate.org.au

or find us on Facebook

CANTEEN NEWS

Canteen Cupcake Day is on Tuesday 2nd June cost is $2.00 per Cupcake limit of 1 per student. Orders must be returned to the canteen by 9.30am Friday 29th May. No refunds can be given.

CANCELLATION NEWS

Canteen Cupcake Day on Tuesday 2nd June is cancelled due to lack of orders. Thank you for your support.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Kurri Kurri Fire Station – Open Day

Kurri Kurri Fire Station is having and Open Day on Saturday 30th May 10.00am – 2.00pm at 119 Lang Street Kurri Kurri. For more information visit fire.nsw.gov.au

The Real Life Self Defence Classes run from 6.30pm each Tuesday evening at Kombat Academy at East Maitland. These classes are for women over the age of 14 years. The classes teach real situations and real responses to ensure your safety. You will walk away feeling more capable and more confident.

For more information please contact Belinda on 0407 655 594.